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The

Official Year Book

of

New South Wales.

1925-26.



T. WAITES.

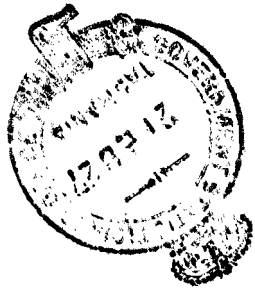
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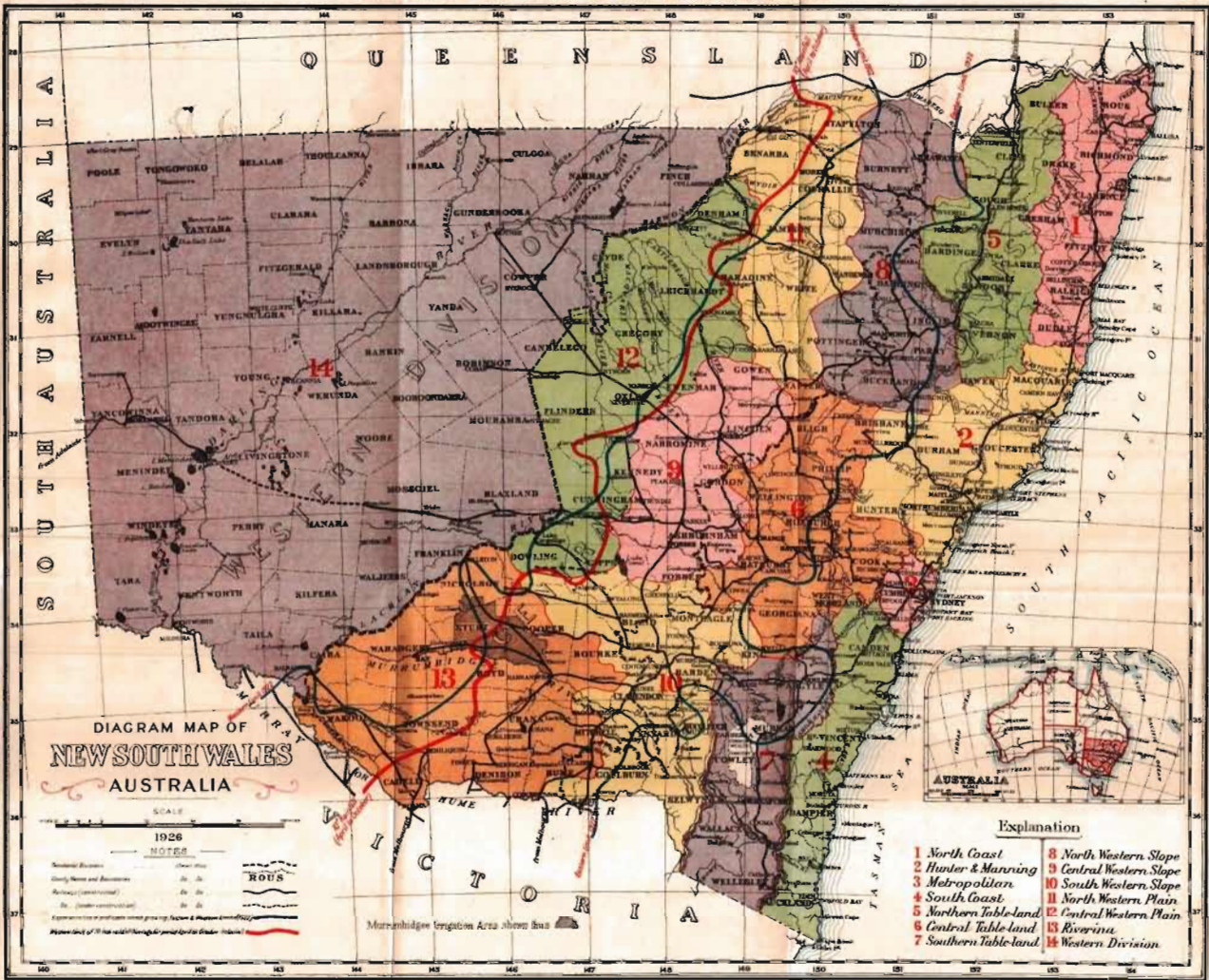
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THE
OFFICIAL YEAR BOOK
OF
NEW SOUTH WALES.
1925-26.



T. WAITES,
GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF
NEW SOUTH WALES.

ALFRED JAMES KENT, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1926.

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PREFACE.

THIS is the thirty-third issue of the Official Year Book, which from the first issue in 1886 to 1904 was known as the "Wealth and Progress of New South Wales."

In order to render as prompt service as possible, the contents of the volume have been published already in fifteen parts, as they became available from the printer at dates between April and November, 1926. Each part contains the latest information available at the time it was sent to press. Much of the text, therefore, relates to the year 1926.

Every care has been taken to keep the work free from errors, but if any be noticed by readers, notification regarding them would be appreciated.

A diagram map of New South Wales is published with the volume to show the railways, the land and statistical divisions, and the wheat belt. The boundaries of the statistical divisions coincide with those of Shires instead of Counties as in issues prior to 1923, because it is thought desirable that statistics generally should be compiled with the local governing area as the geographical unit.

Most of the graphs and diagrams introduced into the previous issue have been retained, but in some cases ratio graphs have been substituted for those formerly published.

The "Statistical Register of New South Wales," published annually from this Bureau, will prove serviceable to those who wish to obtain more detailed information regarding the matters treated generally in this Year Book. The "Statistical Bulletin," issued quarterly, contains a summary of the latest available statistics of the State.

My thanks are tendered to the responsible officers of the various State and Commonwealth Departments, and to others who have kindly supplied information, often at considerable trouble.

Finally, I wish to express my appreciation of the services rendered by those officers of the Bureau who have been associated with me in the preparation of this volume.

T. WAITES,
Government Statistician.

Bureau of Statistics,
Sydney, 19th November, 1926.

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GEOGRAPHY.

NEW SOUTH WALES is situated entirely in the temperate zone of the Southern Hemisphere, and is on the opposite side of the world from the seat of the British Empire, of which it forms a part. It is distant from London 11,200 miles by the Suez Canal—the shortest shipping route.

The name “New South Wales” was given to the eastern part of Australia (then known as New Holland) on its discovery by Captain Cook in 1770, and for fifty-seven years all Australian territory east of longitude 135° east was known by that name. In 1825, shortly after the separation of Tasmania (Van Diemen’s Land), the western boundary was moved to longitude 129°. The steps by which the territory of the State assumed its present boundaries and dimensions are shown below:—

Date.	Nature of Territorial Adjustment.	Area involved in adjustment.	Area of New South Wales after adjustment ‡	Population of Territory known as New South Wales at end of year.
1788	New South Wales defined as whole of Australasia east of longitude 135° east.*	sq. miles. ...	sq. miles. 1,584,389	1,024 (26th Jan.).
1825	Tasmania practically separated from New South Wales.	26,215	1,558,174	} 33,500†
1825	Western boundary of New South Wales moved to longitude 129° east.	518,134	2,076,308	
1836	South Australia founded as a separate colony.	309,850	1,766,458	78,929
1841	New Zealand proclaimed a separate colony...	103,862	1,662,596	145,303
1851	Victoria proclaimed a separate colony ..	87,884	1,574,712	197,265
1859	Queensland proclaimed a separate colony ...	554,300	1,020,412	327,459
1861-3	Northern Territory and territory between longitude 129° and 132° east separated.	710,040	310,372	377,712
1911	Federal Capital Territory ceded to Commonwealth.	912	309,460	1,701,736
1915	Territory at Jervis Bay ceded to Commonwealth.	28	309,432	1,895,603

* Literally interpreted the boundaries defined included Fiji, Samoa, and some neighbouring islands.
 † Approximate. ‡ Exclusive of area of Pacific Islands, except New Zealand.

The area of New South Wales in the years 1788 to 1841, as shown above, is approximate only.

BOUNDARIES AND DIMENSIONS.

The present boundaries of New South Wales are as follow:—On the east, the coastline from Point Danger to Cape Howe; on the west, the 141st meridian of east longitude; on the north, the 29th parallel of south latitude, proceeding east to the Barwon River, and thereafter along the Macintyre and Dumaresq Rivers to the junction with Tenterfield Creek; thence along the crest of a spur of the great Dividing Range, the crest of that range north to the Macpherson Range, and along the crest of the Macpherson Range east to the sea; on the south, the southern bank of the Murray River to its source at the head of the river Indi, and thence by a direct marked line to Cape Howe.

From Point Danger, along a diagonal line, to the south-west corner of the State—a distance of 850 miles—the greatest dimension of the State is found. The length of coast, measured direct from Point Danger to Cape Howe, is 683 miles, the actual length of seaboard being 907 miles. The greatest breadth, measured along the 29th parallel of latitude, is 756 miles. The shortest dimension, along the western boundary, is about 340 miles.

AREA.

The total area of New South Wales, including Lord Howe Island, but excluding the Federal Territory, is 309,432 square miles, or 198,036,480 acres, being rather more than one-tenth of the area of Australia. About 4,639 square miles, or 2,969,080 acres, of the total surface is covered by water, including 176 square miles, or 112,750 acres, by the principal harbours. The area of Lord Howe Island is 5 square miles.

The area of New South Wales in relation to the total area of Australia is shown in the following statement:—

State or Territory.	Area.	Per cent. of total Area.
	sq. miles.	
New South Wales	309,432	10·40
Victoria	87,884	2·96
Queensland	670,500	22·54
South Australia	380,070	12·78
Western Australia	975,920	32·81
Tasmania	26,215	·88
Northern Territory	523,620	17·60
Federal Capital Territory	912	·03
Federal Territory at Jervis Bay	28	·00
Commonwealth	2,974,581	100·00

New South Wales is approximately three and a half times as large as Victoria, nearly twelve times as large as Tasmania, and somewhat smaller than South Australia. Queensland is about twice and Western Australia three times as large as New South Wales.

The following table shows the extent of the State of New South Wales and of the Commonwealth of Australia in comparison with the total area of all countries of the world, the British Empire, and certain individual countries:—

Country.	Area.	Ratio of Area to Area of New South Wales.	Ratio of Area to Area of Australia.
	sq. miles.		
New South Wales	309,432	1·000	·104
Commonwealth... ..	2,974,581	9·613	1·000
United Kingdom	121,633	·393	·041
Canada	3,729,665	12·053	1·254
Argentina	1,153,119	3·729	·388
United States	3,026,789	9·782	1·018
British Empire	13,257,584	42·845	4·456
The World	52,055,879	168·231	17·500

LORD HOWE ISLAND.

Lord Howe Island is a dependency of New South Wales, and is included in the electorate of Sydney; it is situated about 300 miles east of Port Macquarie, and 436 miles north-east of Sydney. The island was discovered

in 1788; it is of volcanic origin, and Mount Gower, the highest point, reaches an altitude of 2,840 feet. The climate and soil are favourable to the growth of subtropical products, but on account of the rocky formation of the greater part of the surface of 3,220 acres, only about 300 acres are arable. The land has not been alienated, and is occupied rent free on sufferance, being utilised mainly for the production of *Kentia* palm seed. A Board of Control at Sydney manages the affairs of the island and supervises the palm seed industry. At the Census of 1921 the population numbered 111 persons.

PHYSICAL FEATURES.

Coastline.

The coastline of New South Wales is remarkably regular, trending almost uniformly from north-north-east to south-south-west and displaying few striking topographical features. It consists of rugged cliffs, alternating with sandy beaches and numerous inlets, with here and there a river estuary.

The operations of important physiographical factors have prevented the coast from acquiring features such as projecting deltas and wide river valleys and estuaries, which so commonly give natural access to the interior of other countries. These factors are the close proximity of the watershed to the coast, the consequent shortness of the rivers, and the presence of a constant though slow-moving southerly ocean current, which sweeps along the coast and prevents the formation of deltas beyond the line of protection afforded by headlands. In a number of instances the volume of the coastal rivers is not great enough to carry their silt far to sea, with the result that, where they meet the dead water of the coast at their mouths, matter is deposited, forming a ground-work for "sand-bars," which constitute impediments to navigation even by coastal vessels.

The central portion of the coast, however, is well furnished with spacious inlets, distinguished by winding foreshores and ample roadsteads, so that within a space of about 150 miles there are four large natural harbours. Some of them rank among the finest in the world, and only await economic development. Port Stephens, the most northerly, lies a little to the north of the central point of the coast; it possesses a great expanse of water exceeding 30 feet in depth. Broken Bay is a submerged river valley, with three arms and spacious anchorage, at the mouth of the Hawkesbury. Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour), perhaps the finest harbour in the world, is the commercial centre of the State, and an important shipping port with a large volume of trade. Jervis Bay possesses deep water throughout its great extent, and is a naval base destined to be the port of the Federal Capital at Canberra, with which it will be connected by rail. Further south, Twofold Bay, near the southern boundary, is a potential harbour, with a convenient entrance.

The coastal formation of Port Kembla and the estuary of the Hunter River (Port Hunter) have been converted into harbours serviceable to growing manufacturing centres. At frequent intervals along the coast numerous inlets provide shelter and facilities for coastal shipping.

Further particulars regarding the harbours and anchorages are shown in the chapter relating to shipping.

Strewn along the coast at intervals there are eight lakes, partly marine and partly estuarine, connected with the sea by narrow channels. It is believed that they were formerly coastal valleys at a higher level than they occupy at present, and that they became "drowned" by the sea when the

subsidence occurred which formed the existing harbours and the present coastal levels. Their entrances in most cases are narrow and shallow, and are usually blocked by the action of the sea and wind upon the sand.

Most of these lakes are surrounded by picturesque scenery. They attract tourists and holiday-makers, and provide extensive fishing grounds. The largest, Lake Macquarie, 8 miles south of Newcastle, is 44 square miles in area. A chain of beautiful lakes, of which the principal are the Myall and Wallis Lakes, lies between Port Stephens and Cape Hawke.

The Surface.

The story, as told by geologists, of the manner in which the surface of New South Wales assumed its present shape is very interesting.

In past ages a great part of the interior of Australia was occupied by a vast mediterranean sea, bounded by a line of highlands, which probably extended considerably to the east of the present coastline. Their slope was towards the west, and rivers flowed down from them into the inland sea, carrying thither the sand and silt which now seals down the artesian basin. In a later age a gradual uplift took place in the northern part of Australia, accompanied by a depression in the southern portion; and streams which formerly flowed north-west and entered the sea by separate mouths became diverted to the south and conjoined with the Darling River.

The southern depression allowed the sea to encroach inland from the south and to spread over the region now known as the Riverina, but a subsequent uplift pushed the southern sea back to its present boundary and caused a combination of the western rivers into the one great system of Australia—the Murray-Darling.

During the upward movement in the interior a marked elevation took place in the coastal portion, the uplift being greater towards the coast, and an elevated plateau with a short steep slope to the eastern seaboard was produced. Rivers which then commenced to flow down this slope evidently possessed great erosive power, and, by a gradual process of denudation, worked their way inland, extending the coastal district into what were formerly the eastern portions of the Great Dividing Range.

Subsequently a submergence of the coast took place and the valleys of the coastal rivers were converted into harbours, such as Port Jackson, Broken Bay, and Port Stephens.

The surface of New South Wales bears signs of having passed through lengthy periods of erosion. It possesses less diversity than any of the continents, and there are no lofty mountain ranges, few peaks of importance, and no large lakes of permanent fresh water. Nearly the whole of the State consists of extensive plains and hilly patches at varying levels. The surface is divided naturally into four main divisions—the Coast District, the Tablelands, the Western Slopes, and the extensive Plains. The tablelands form the Great Dividing Range, which traverses the State from north to south, and marks the division between the coast district and the plains.

The coastal strip is undulating and well watered. The average width is about 50 miles in the north and 20 miles in the south. At Clifton the tableland abuts on the ocean, while the widest part (150 miles) is in the valley of the Hunter River, where the relatively soft rocks of the coal basin have offered least obstruction to river erosion.

The coastal region is bounded on the west by steep, often inaccessible, escarpments, where the highlands rise suddenly from the lower levels of the coast; the declivities are furrowed by deep and rugged valleys sloping toward the sea, and here and there a mountain spur projects eastward.

These natural features have made access to the tablelands from the coast a matter of formidable difficulty in many districts, so that the highlands are crossed only at three points by the railway and at few more by roads.

The coast line is fringed with a narrow and fertile plain extending from north to south and broken only at Clifton. This plain juts along the Hunter Valley for a distance of 60 miles. A considerable strip north and south of the Clarence River is 30 to 40 miles wide, thence south to Port Stephens it is 10 to 15 miles in width; thereafter it gradually broadens to a width of 35 miles, until it is broken at Clifton. The South Coast continuation of the plain is nowhere wider than 15 miles, the average width being about 10 miles.

There are two tablelands—the northern and southern—comprising an extensive plateau region, divided near the middle by the Cassilis or Hunter Gap. Generally they present on the eastern side a steep descent towards the ocean, while on the west they slope gradually towards the plains. They vary in width from 30 to 100 miles. The northern tableland commences in Queensland and terminates on the northern side of the Peel River Valley; its average height is 2,500 feet. The southern tableland extends from the Victorian border, and slopes gradually to the Cudgegong and Colo Rivers; its average height is slightly less than the northern tableland, although the Kosciusko Plateau, the most elevated portion of the State, is within its limits.

At various levels gently undulating upland plains occur throughout the tableland division, such as the Dorrego, which forms the elevated hinterland of the coastal tract around Coff's Harbour; and the Bathurst, Goulburn, Yass, and Monaro Plains on the central and southern tablelands. Notable features of the southern tableland are the limestone belt, in which the famous Jenolan and other limestone caves occur, and the grandeur of the scenery in the numerous sunken valleys, such as those of the Blue Mountains, the Burragorang Valley, through which the Wollondilly River flows, the Kangaroo Valley, between Moss Vale and the Shoalhaven River, and the Araluen Valley further south.

The Great Plain district covers nearly two-thirds of the area of New South Wales. It stretches from the base of the slopes of the tablelands to the western boundary of the State, and thence north, south, and west as the Great Central Plain of Australia. The plains are not quite level, but rise very gently from the bed of the Darling eastward towards the Great Dividing Range and westward towards the South Australian border. Only a few trifling elevations occur, but in the centre the Cobar plain, 150 miles wide, stretches for 300 miles in a north-westerly direction towards the Darling River, its altitude ranging from 500 feet to 1,000 feet above sea level. Owing to scanty rainfall the plains are devoid of forests.

The plains are watered by the rivers of the Murray-Darling system; the Darling and its tributaries are liable to considerable shrinkage in periods of dry weather; but, on the other hand, in wet seasons, these streams overflow their banks and flood the surrounding country for miles, producing a luxuriant growth of grasses.

The surface of the plains consists of fertile red and black soils, the former being particularly rich in plant food. The black soil formations represent the silted-up channels of old rivers which, when flooded, spread a fertile silt over the surrounding district. The black soil plains occupy large areas along the middle courses of the Macquarie, Castlereagh, Namoi, and Gwydir Rivers.

Several portions of the plains are distinguished by special names, such as the Liverpool Plains, between the Peel and Liverpool Ranges; the Riverina, stretching northward from the Murray and intersected by a network of streams; the Bulloo Plain, between the Paroo River and the Grey and Barrier Ranges; the Bland, between Cootamundra and Lake Cowal; and the Pilliga Scrub, between Narrabri and Coonabarabran. The name Western Plains is applied generally to the Western Division as shown on the map in the frontispiece, while the plain country of the Central Land Division is referred to as the Central Plains, the southern portion receiving the special name Riverina.

Particulars relating to the economic condition and settlement of the various divisions of the State are published in the chapter "Rural Settlement" of this Year Book,

Mountains.

The mountains of New South Wales may be classified in two main groups—the Great Dividing Range with its coastal spurs, and the ranges of the interior.

The Great Dividing Range is the name given to a continuous chain of highlands stretching along the whole eastern portion of Australia. In a strict acceptance of the term the portion within New South Wales is not a range of mountains, but a succession of extensive plateaux. Except for a westerly bend skirting the valley of the Hunter River, it runs for the most part parallel to the coast-line, and a number of lateral spurs branch from either side.

Proceeding from north to south, the names distinguishing the various portions of the Great Dividing Range in New South Wales are:—Macpherson, New England, Liverpool, Main or Blue Mountain, Cullarin, Gourock, Monaro, and the Muniong Ranges.

The Northern Tableland, comprising principally the highlands known as the New England Range, is the largest positive physical feature of the State. It has a considerable area at a greater altitude than 4,000 feet, and its highest point, Ben Lomond, is 5,000 feet above sea level. The highest parts of the Great Dividing Range are situated in the extreme south of the State, and are known as the Muniong Range. Several peaks attain an altitude of about 7,000 feet, the highest being Mount Kosciusko, 7,328 feet.

The other mountains of the State, representing the remnants of ancient ranges, possess little importance.

The Warrumbungle Range is practically a continuation of the Liverpool, extending in a north-westerly direction for a distance of nearly 100 miles. These mountains represent the denuded stumps of a series of volcanoes, which burst into activity near the shores of the old inland sea before it became silted up. The sandstone beds of the Warrumbungle Range form part of the intake beds of the great artesian basin.

Two ranges—the Barrier and Grey—of an average elevation of about 1,500 feet, and rising 800 feet above the surrounding plains, lie near the extreme west and north-west of the State. They form the western boundary of the vast depression through which the Darling River and its tributaries flow. The Barrier Range contains rich silver-lead deposits, and some of its rocks are possibly the oldest in Australia, if not in the world.

Rivers.

New South Wales does not possess any great rivers, and for this there are three main causes, viz., the position of the watershed; the absence of lofty peaks, whose snowy caps in melting might feed large streams; and the spasmodic, and unreliable nature of the rainfall in the western interior.

The Great Dividing Range, which constitutes the main watershed, has formed an absolute boundary between two river groups—the eastern or coastal, and the western—which are entirely distinct and possess dissimilar characteristics.

The coastal rivers flow east into the Pacific Ocean, and, on account of the proximity of the mountains to the ocean, the majority are short, rapid, independent streams; the Hunter (340 miles) and the Hawkesbury (335 miles) by reason of their winding courses are the longest. Generally, the rivers south of Sydney, where the coastal strip narrows considerably, are of less importance than those of the north.

The physical aspects of all the eastern rivers are similar. Their upper courses are amidst broken and mountainous country, and the lower basins consist usually of undulating land with rich alluvial flats. Where uncultivated, the land is densely timbered.

There are eight principal coastal rivers and numerous minor streams. Some are navigable for various distances; thus ocean-going vessels may proceed along the Richmond for 65 miles, the Clarence 45 miles, the Macleay and Manning 30 miles, and the Hunter 35 miles. Ocean-going vessels may penetrate the Hawkesbury for 70 miles, but the Shoalhaven is navigable for only 5 miles from its mouth.

The rivers of the western slope belong to the Murray-Darling system. The Gwydir, Namoi, Castlereagh, Macquarie, and Bogan discharge their waters into the Darling, which in turn carries them to the Murray, which receives also the waters of the Lachlan and Murrumbidgee. They drain an immense area, including the whole of the western portion of New South Wales, and large portions of Queensland and Victoria, and they discharge into the sea through a single mouth. In consequence of the gradual slope of the plain country, these rivers, unlike the coastal, are long, meandering, and slow in discharge. They wind for the most part through loose, absorbent soils. In many places they have cut deep channels, which at times are full of heavily-charged, fast-moving water, emptied from their upper basins after heavy rains. On such occasions these streams are impressive rivers. Normally they have not a great volume of flow, being sluggish, clear, shallow streams flowing at the bottom of channels, as much as 30 feet below the ground level. Sometimes, in dry seasons, the flow ceases and there remains nothing but a chain of water-holes. These curious variations in the condition of the western streams are due to the variability of the rainfall at their sources, the scanty rainfall in their lower basins, the absence of large feeding streams, the great evaporation, and the absorbent nature of the soils, particularly over the artesian basin.

The most important river is the Murray, which forms part of the southern boundary of the State. It has a total length of 1,609 miles, of which 1,200 are within New South Wales, and along this course a more or less regular stream flows, fed by the snows of the southern highlands. For about seven months of the year the river is navigable as far as Wentworth for large riverboats, and for smaller craft as far as Albury. The Murrumbidgee, 980

miles in length, ranks next to the Murray in regularity and volume of flow. In its lower course it receives the Lachlan, 922 miles in length. The longest river in Australia is the Darling, which measures 1,702 miles, the total length from its source to the mouth of the Murray being 2,260 miles. The Darling flows across western New South Wales from north-east to south-west to join the Murray 150 miles from the South Australian border. It receives a number of rivers from South Queensland when their volume is sufficiently great, and in New South Wales receives successively the following rivers whose lengths are as shown:—Gwydir, 350 miles; Namoi, 526 miles; Macquarie, 590 miles; Castlereagh, 340 miles; and Bogan, 370 miles. Particulars of the water storage schemes in connection with these rivers are published in chapter "Water Conservation and Irrigation" of this Year Book.

The relative magnitude of rivers as shown by the average annual volume of water which they carry may be ascertained in respect of some of the more important streams from the records of river gaugings extending in some cases back to 1885.

The following comparison is based on the records of the period 1905-1924:—

River.			Gauging Station.	Distance from Source of River.	Drainage Area.	Average Annual Run-off of Water.
				miles.	sq. miles.	acre-feet.
Murray ...	...	...	Tocumwal ...	435	10,160	5,072,618
Murrumbidgee	...	...	Wagga ...	396	10,700	2,850,856
Darling ...	...	...	Memindie ...	1,383	221,700	1,620,194
Macquarie ...	...	...	Narromine ...	318	10,090	623,180
Lachlan...	...	...	Condobolin ...	380	10,420	411,875
Namoi ...	...	...	Narrabri ...	302	9,820	408,387

In making the above comparison gauging stations have been selected with drainage areas of approximately equal extent, except in the case of the Darling. The range of choice has been limited by the number of stations with available records. In the case of the Lachlan River the average run-off at Forbes, 126 miles above Condobolin, is 584,582 acre-feet per annum. Similar particulars are not available in respect of coastal rivers, except the Hunter, which at Singleton has a draining area of 6,580 square miles and an average annual run-off of 609,636 acre-feet of water. An acre-foot of water is such a quantity as would cover an acre of land to a uniform depth of 1 foot.

Lakes.

The lakes of New South Wales are unimportant, but may be classified in five groups,—the coastal lakes or lagoons, those of the tablelands, and of the Western Plains, the lakes and tarns of the Kosciusko Plateau, and the great artificial lake at Burrinjuck used for irrigation purposes.

The coastal lakes have been described already.

The lakes of the tablelands owe their origin to volcanic and other geological disturbances of former ages, and nearly all are situated in the southern tableland. Lake George, sometimes termed the largest freshwater lake in New South Wales, occupies a depression in the Cullarin Range; it is fed by several small streams, but has no visible outlet. Except after a succession of wet seasons, the lake is shallow, its waters being lost by evaporation and by soakage through the slate formation of its bed. If full, Lake George

would cover an area of 60 square miles, but in average seasons a large proportion of its bed is dry and is utilised for grazing stock. Lake Bathurst lies in a circular depression about 7 square miles in area, 10 miles east of Lake George. Both lakes are situated more than 2,000 feet above sea-level.

The lakes of the Western Plains occur usually along the courses of the western rivers. They are mostly natural shallow depressions of considerable extent, which are filled during floods by the overflow of the rivers. Like the western rivers, these lakes vary with the seasons, presenting an appearance of great size in wet seasons, and dwindling to a succession of ponds and mud basins in continued dry weather, but they serve a useful purpose in dry seasons by maintaining the flow of the rivers below the lakes for some months after the upper courses become dry.

Along the Darling River the largest lake beds on the right bank are:—Narran, above Brewarrina; Cawndilla, Menindie, and Tandon, near Menindie; and, on the left bank, Gonyulka in the Wilcannia district.

Within the Lachlan basin the most important are Lake Cowal, which is situated about 40 miles from Forbes, receiving the drainage of the Bland Plain and the overflow of floodwaters from the Lachlan River, and Lake Cudgellico, which also receives the floodwaters of the Lachlan in wet seasons.

Lake Victoria, on the right bank of the Murray River, in the south-western corner of New South Wales, is connected with the Murray by Frenchman's Creek. It covers an area of 26,000 acres, and holds 17,000,000 cubic feet of water when full. It has been converted into a reservoir in connection with the River Murray Irrigation Scheme.

The Kosciusko Lakes are due to the formation of barriers of moraine material left behind by glaciers. They are situated about 6,000 feet above sea-level. The principal are the Blue Lake, Lake Albina, Cootapatamba and Club Lakes, and Hedley Tarn.

The Burrinjuck Dam, near the head of the Murrumbidgee River, is a large lake covering 12,740 acres, with a capacity of 33,612,000,000 cubic feet of water impounded by a retaining wall 240 feet in height. Its outlet is by the Murrumbidgee River, whose flow is regulated thereby to meet the needs of an extensive irrigation area on its bank 240 miles below the dam.*

Mineral Springs.

Mineral springs of varied composition are found in many parts of the State; in some cases the waters have been marketed as table-waters, and some are of medicinal value. Such springs occur at Mittagong, Ballimore, Rock Flat, Bungonia, Jarvisville, and Yarrangobilly.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION.

The problem of establishing an efficient system of transport in New South Wales is rendered difficult by several causes, viz., the existence of a belt of rugged highlands comparatively near the coast readily passable at only a few points; the consequent difficulty in connecting the coast with the interior; the absence of navigable rivers and waterways; and the scattered nature of the settlement.

The rugged approaches to the Great Dividing Range defied the efforts of explorers until 1813, when an expedition succeeded in crossing the mountains, and the first road over the range was opened in 1815. Shortly after-

* See Chapter "Water Conservation and Irrigation."

wards a way was discovered across the mountains in the vicinity of Lake George, near the spot where Goulburn now stands. These routes remained the easiest lines of communication with the interior to the west and south, and when railways were built they followed the roads. Strangely enough, the only real gap in the mountains, situated opposite Newcastle, and discovered by Cunningham in 1825, has not yet been utilised for traffic. The Great Northern Railway traversed the mountains by way of a higher gap at Murrurundi. The interior is connected with the sea by rail at only two points—Sydney and Newcastle.

The early policy of government made Sydney the centre of the whole settlement commercially as well as politically. With its advantageous situation on an unrivalled natural harbour, it became from the earliest times the point from which the roads radiated, and to which trade and commerce were drawn, despite the facts that its immediate district was not well adapted for agriculture and that access to the fertile interior was impeded by difficult mountains. In point of situation Port Stephens and Jervis Bay, excellent natural harbours situated respectively 85 miles north and 82 miles south of Sydney, are both qualified to constitute commercial outlets for the interior, and this remark applies with especial force to Port Stephens, which is the most central port of the State and has the advantage of large coal supplies in close proximity. The development of this port is urged strongly as part of a decentralisation scheme, and it is probable that Jervis Bay also will become a shipping centre when it is opened up in connection with the establishment of the Federal capital at Canberra. There is not a good harbour north of Port Stephens; and Twofold Bay, on the far South Coast, is probably too difficult of access from the interior to develop into an oversea shipping port.

Railway, shipping, postal, cable and telegraphic services all have their centre in Sydney, which with its environs contains more than 1,000,000 inhabitants, nearly one-half of the population of the State.

Localities such as the southern Riverina, the Broken Hill district (which are not yet connected by rail with the metropolis), and the far North Coast, find their outlet in other States, but the railway system of New South Wales is gradually extending into these districts.

In view of its vast open spaces, New South Wales is specially adapted for aviation; air routes between Sydney and the capital cities of other States have been prepared and other work in connection with the organisation of air services is in progress.

Particulars regarding roads, railways, etc., in New South Wales are given in the chapters of this volume, entitled Local Government, and Transport and Communication.

GEOLOGY, FAUNA, FLORA.

A description of the geological formation of New South Wales, the fauna and the flora, was published in the 1921 issue of this Year Book.

CLIMATE.

NEW South Wales is situated entirely in the temperate zone, and its climate is generally mild and equable, and free from extremes of heat and cold. Abundant sunshine is experienced in all its seasons, and this factor exercises a strong influence on the lives and character of the people. On an average the capital city is without sunshine on only twenty-three days per year, and the average range of temperature between the hottest and coldest months is only about 17° Fah. In the hinterland there is even more sunshine, and the range of temperature is greater, but observations with the wet bulb thermometer show that the temperature is not maintained at so high a level as to be detrimental to the health and physique of persons engaged in outdoor labour in any part of the State.

Practically the whole of New South Wales is subject to the bracing influence of frosts during five or more months of the year, but although snow has been known to fall over nearly two-thirds of the State, its occurrence is comparatively rare except in the tableland districts. Perennial snow is found only on the highest peaks of the southern tableland.

The seasons are not so well defined in the western interior as on the coast, but are generally as follow:—Spring during September, October, and November; summer during December, January, and February; autumn during March, April, and May; winter during June, July, and August.

Meteorological Observations.

Meteorological observations in New South Wales are directed from Sydney as the centre of a subdivision of Australia, which includes the greater part of New South Wales. A special climatological station is maintained also at Dubbo, and there are many reporting stations throughout the State. Bulletins and weather charts are issued daily from the Meteorological Bureau, and rain maps and isobaric charts are prepared.

Particulars of meteorological observations at various stations in New South Wales are published annually in the Statistical Register of New South Wales. In some cases rainfall records from the year 1860 are given.

Signals are displayed in Sydney to give warnings of storms and to indicate fair weather, rain, and cold or heat waves; forecasts are telegraphed daily to towns in country districts, and the city forecasts are published in the early editions of the press. Special forecasts regarding cyclonic conditions are issued to the press and to the Commonwealth and State Departments of Navigation; this arrangement enables precautions to be taken in regard to shipping. Flood warnings also are given in urgent cases.

Winds.

The weather in New South Wales is determined chiefly by anticyclones, or areas of high barometric pressure, with their attendant tropical and Antarctic depressions, in which the winds blow spirally outward from the centre or maximum. These anticyclones pass almost continuously across the face of the continent of Australia from west to east, and the explanation of the existence of such high-pressure belts lies probably in the fact that this area is within the zone in which polar and equatorial currents meet and circulate for some time before flowing north and south. The easterly movement depends on the revolution of the earth.

A general surging movement occasionally takes place in the atmosphere, sometimes towards, and sometimes from, the equator. The movement

causes sudden changes in the weather—heat when the surge is to the south, and very cold weather when it moves towards the equator. Probably these sudden displacements of the air systems are due to thermal action, resulting in expansion or contraction in the atmospheric belts to the north and south of Australia.

New South Wales is peculiarly free from cyclonic disturbances, although occasionally a cyclone may result from monsoonal disturbances, or may reach the State from the north-east tropics or from the Antarctic low-pressure belt which lies to the south of Australia.

In the summer months the prevailing winds on the coast of New South Wales blow from the north, with an easterly tendency which extends to, and in parts beyond, the highlands; in the western districts the winds are usually from the west. Southerly winds, which are characteristic of the summer weather on the coast, occur most frequently during the months from September to February, and between 7 p.m. and midnight. These winds, which blow from the higher southern latitudes, cause a rapid fall in temperature, and are sometimes accompanied by thunderstorms.

During winter, the prevailing direction of the wind is westerly. In the southern areas of the State the winds are almost due west, but proceeding northwards there is a southerly tendency, while on reaching latitudes north of Sydney the direction is almost due south. When they reach the north-eastern parts of the State, these winds are deflected in a westerly direction, and are merged in the south-east trade winds north of latitude 30°. During the cold months of the year, Australia lies directly in the great high-pressure stream referred to previously, and the high pressure when passing over the continent tends to break up into individual anti-cyclonic circulations.

Rainfall.

New South Wales is dominated by two rain belts—the tropic and the Antarctic. The amount of rainfall varies very greatly over the wide expanse of territory, the average decreasing from more than 80 inches per annum in the north-eastern corner to less than 7 inches in the north-western corner. This vital factor plays a very powerful part in determining the character of settlement.

Generally, the wet season extends over the first six months of the year, although occasionally the most serviceable rains occur in the spring. The coastal districts receive the heaviest falls, ranging from 30 inches in the south to 80 inches in the north. Despite their proximity to the sea, the mountain chains are not of sufficient elevation to cause any great condensation; so that, with slight irregularities, the average rainfall gradually diminishes towards the north-western limits of the State.

An approximate classification of areas in New South Wales (including the Federal Territory) in accordance with the average annual rainfall shows the following distribution:—

Annual Rainfall.	Area.		Proportion per cent. of total area.	Annual Rainfall.	Area.		Proportion per cent. of total area.
	Sq. Miles.	Acres.			Sq. Miles.	Acres.	
inches.				inches.			
Over 70	668	427,520	·2	20 to 30	77,202	49,409,280	24·3
60 to 70	1,765	1,129,600	·6	15 to 20	57,639	36,838,960	18·6
50 to 60	4,329	2,770,560	1·4	10 to 15	77,268	49,451,520	24·9
40 to 50	15,804	10,114,560	5·1	Under 10	44,997	28,798,080	15·0
30 to 40	30,700	19,648,000	9·9				
				Total ...	310,372	198,638,080	100·0

It is apparent that only 42 per cent. of the area of the State receives rains exceeding on the average 20 inches per year. Over the greater part of the State the annual rainfall varies on the average between 20 per cent. and 30 per cent. from the average, and protracted periods of dry weather in one part or another are not uncommon.

Three clearly defined seasonal rain-belts cut diagonally across the State from west to east with a southerly incline. A winter rain region, which includes the southern portion of the Western Plains and about two-thirds of the Riverina, is bounded on the north by a direct line from Broken Hill to Wagga with a curve around Albury. A summer rain region, including the whole of the northern subdivisions, is bounded on the south by a line which waves regularly, first south and then north of a direct line from the north-western corner of the State to Newcastle. Between these, where the two dominating rain-belts merge, there extends a region, including the central and south-eastern portions of the State, where the rains are non-seasonal. A narrow coastal strip between Nowra and Broken Bay receives its heaviest rains in the autumn.

The chief agencies causing rainfall are Antarctic depressions, monsoonal depressions, and anticyclonic systems. Antarctic depressions are the main cause of the good winter rains in the Riverina and on the South-western Slope. A seasonal prevalence of this type of weather would cause a low rainfall on the coast and tablelands, and over that portion of the inland district north of the Lachlan River. A monsoonal prevalence ensures a good season inland north of the Lachlan, but not necessarily in eastern and southern areas. An anticyclonic prevalence results in good rains over coastal and tableland districts, but causes dryness west of the mountains.

The distribution of rainfall is dependent on three factors—(1) the energy present in the atmospheric systems, (2) the rate of movement of the atmospheric stream, and (3) the prevailing latitudes in which the anticyclones are moving.

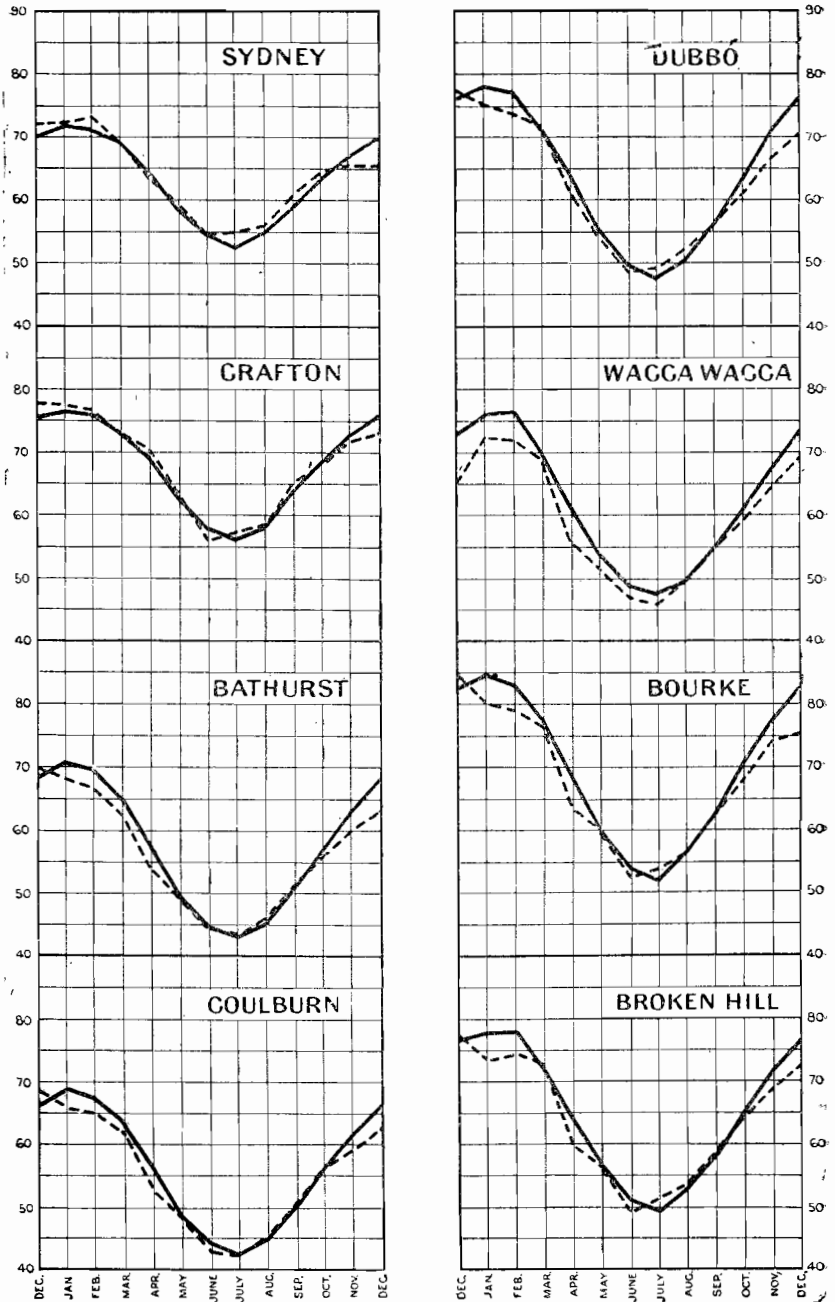
A map published in the chapter "Rural Settlement" of the 1924 edition of this Year Book shows diagrammatically the distribution of rainfall in New South Wales.

Floods of 1925.

In consequence of heavy falls of rain on the Southern Highlands between 25th and 27th May and of widespread heavy rains between 18th and 23rd June, 1925, extensive floods affected practically the whole of the rivers of the central and southern districts of the State, but more especially the Murrumbidgee and Hawkesbury.

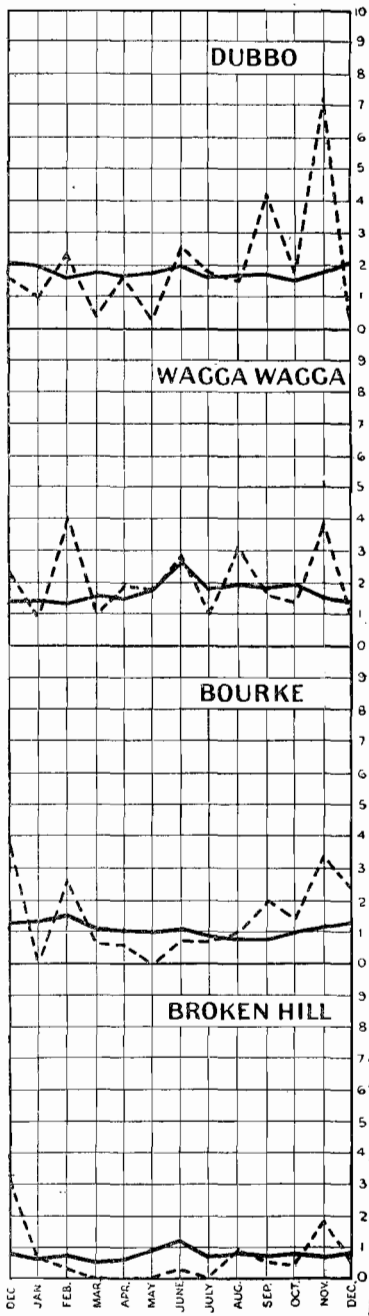
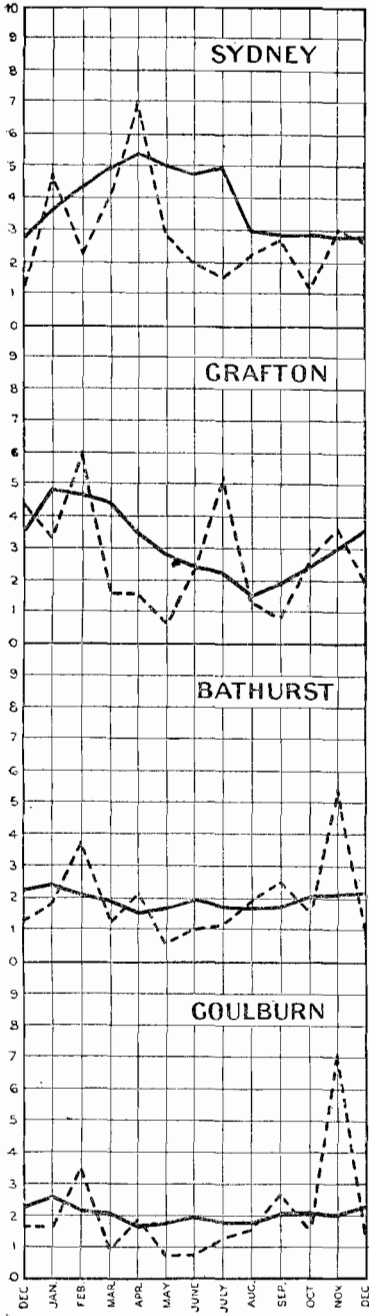
The immediate cause of the flood in the Murrumbidgee River was the torrential downpour in its basin from Cooma northwards to Queanbeyan on 27th May. The day's registrations in this district ranged from 4 to 8 inches, and, following upon the heavy rains of the preceding two days, caused the upper tributaries of the Murrumbidgee to rise suddenly to unprecedented heights. Reports indicate that at Queanbeyan the water rose 5 feet higher than during any previous flood, and many residences were inundated and severely damaged. By reason of the high level of the Burrinjuck Dam, where the outflow had been restricted while works were being constructed, the flood could be checked but little, and the houses on the low-lying lands in the towns of Gundagai and Wagga were severely damaged, while at Gundagai also extensive crops of ripening maize were destroyed. The river rose to a maximum height of 37 feet at Gundagai on 28th May, and to 33 feet at Wagga on 29th May. In both cases flood-level was exceeded by 13½ feet, and the water reached the highest level since 1891.

MEAN MONTHLY TEMPERATURE.



Continuous Line shows Mean Monthly Temperature in shade (Deg. Fah.) over a series of years.
 Dotted Line shows Mean Monthly Temperature (Deg. Fah.) from December, 1923 to December, 1924.

MONTHLY RAINFALL.



Continuous Line shows Average Monthly Rainfall (inches) over a series of years.
 Dotted Line shows Actual Monthly Rainfall (inches) December, 1923, to December, 1924.

Inquiries among the Police, Local Government and Public Works officers, and the stock inspectors indicate that the total amount of damage to public and private property was about £250,000. On the other hand, it was reported from many centres that the flood did a large amount of good by filling watercourses and stimulating the growth of fodder on flooded land.

Owing to the fact that timely warning was given of the approach of the flood, the losses of live stock and of movable property in the southern districts were comparatively light, amounting only to 50 horses, 250 cattle, 3,000 sheep and 400 pigs, valued in all at about £9,000. The principal damage was to fencing, and it amounted to £77,000. In addition, local government property suffered damage to the extent of £45,000, and a large national work—the Taemas Bridge over the Murrumbidgee River, near Yass—was swept away, the damage being estimated at £50,000. The most serious aspect of the floods, however, was the loss of human life, six persons being drowned in flood waters.

The floods on the rivers of the central interior were less severe and the damage was inextensive. However, on the Bogan River heavy rains rendered part of the country impassable for sheep, and the flood waters overtook and drowned approximately 8,000 sheep, valued at £15,000.

Although a considerable number of persons in the flooded districts had to leave their homes temporarily for places of safety, comparatively few homes were completely destroyed and the distress was not extensive.

Evaporation.

Investigations are being made in order to gauge the amount of evaporation in New South Wales, and it has been found that the amount of evaporation is so great as to make it a climatic element only second in importance to rainfall in its influence upon the State. Results so far obtained show that the rate of evaporation (measured by the loss from exposed water) increases from 40 inches per annum on the coast to nearly 100 inches in the north-western corner of the State, that is, the amount of evaporation is inversely related to the rainfall of the respective districts. Indeed, only on a small coastal patch in the north-eastern corner does the rainfall exceed the evaporation measured as above. This fact sheds light on the special needs of New South Wales in conserving surface water and soil moisture not only for successful agriculture, but also in connection with pastoral pursuits.

CLIMATIC DIVISIONS.

The territory of New South Wales may be divided into four climatic divisions, which correspond with the terrain—the Coast, the Tablelands, the Western Slopes of the Dividing Range, and the Western Plains.

The northern parts of the State are generally warmer than the southern, the difference between the average temperatures of the extreme north and south being about 7° on the coast, 5° on the tablelands, and 6° on the slopes and plains. It should be noted, however, that the length of the State decreases from nearly 700 miles on the coast to about 340 miles on the western boundary. From east to west the average mean annual temperatures vary little except where altitudes are different, but usually the summer is hotter and the winter colder in the interior than on the coast. Thus at Sydney the average temperatures range from 71° in summer to 54° in winter, as compared with 76° in summer and 51° in winter at Wentworth

in the same latitude in the western interior. Similar variations are found in the north. The mean daily range at any station is seldom more than 30° or less than 13°.

Coastal Division.

In the Coastal Division, which lies between the Pacific Ocean and the Great Dividing Range, the average rainfall is comparatively high and regular, and the climate, though more humid, is generally milder than in the interior.

The following table shows the meteorological conditions of the principal stations in the Coastal Division, arranged in the order of their latitude. These stations are representative of the whole division, and the figures are the average of a large number of years:—

Station.	Least Distance from East Coast.	Altitude.	Temperature (in Shade).						Rainfall— Mean Annual. 1906-1924.
			Mean Annual.	Mean Summer.	Mean Winter.	Mean Daily Range.	Highest.	Lowest.	
	miles.	feet.	°	°	°	°	°	°	inches.
<i>North Coast—</i>									
Lismore	13	52	66·7	75·0	56·7	22·4	113·0	23·0	45·88
Grafton	22	40	67·8	76·2	57·6	24·7	114·0	24·9	34·40
<i>Hunter and Manning—</i>									
Singleton	40	135	64·1	76·1	52·1	20·3	113·9	22·0	25·91
West Maitland	18	40	64·4	74·7	53·2	21·4	114·0	28·0	33·16
Newcastle	1	34	64·6	72·2	55·5	14·9	110·5	31·0	42·20
<i>Sydney</i>									
Sydney	5	146	63·2	71·0	54·1	15·8	108·5	35·9	43·45
<i>South Coast—</i>									
Wollongong	0	54	63·0	70·2	54·8	17·0	106·0	33·6	47·19
Nowra	6	30	62·8	71·1	54·0	19·9	110·0	32·6	37·73
Moruya Heads	0	50	61·0	67·9	53·0	18·3	114·8	22·6	32·46
Bega	8	50	60·0	69·0	49·9	26·5	109·0	20·0	34·18

Taking the coast as a whole, the difference between the mean summer and mean winter temperature is about 19° only.

The North Coast districts are favoured with a warm, moist climate, the rainfall being from 40 to 80 inches annually. The mean temperature for the year is from 66° to 69°, the summer mean being 75° to 77°, and the winter mean 56° to 59°. On the South Coast the rainfall varies from 30 to 60 inches, and the mean temperature ranges between 60° and 63°, the summer mean being from 66° at the foot of the ranges to 70° on the sea coast, and the winter from 48° to 55° over the same area.

Coastal rains come from the sea with both south-east and north-east winds, being further augmented in the latter part of the year by thunderstorms from the north-west.

Sydney is situated on the coast half-way between the extreme northern and southern limits of the State. Its mean annual temperature is 63° Fahrenheit. The mean seasonal range is only 17°, calculated over a period of sixty-six years, the mean summer temperature being about 71°, and the mean winter temperature 54°.

The following table shows the average meteorological conditions of Sydney, based on the experience of the sixty-six years ended 1924:—

Month.	Hourly Average Reading of Standard Barometer, corrected to 32° Fah.; Standard Gravity and Mean Sea Level.	Temperature (in shade).			Rainfall.			
		Mean Standard.	Average Reading of Maximum Thermometer.	Average Reading of Minimum Thermometer.	Average.	Greatest.	Least.	Average number of days Rain.
		°	°	°	inches.	inches.	inches.	
January	29.799	71.7	78.4	64.9	3.65	15.26	0.42	14.1
February.. ...	29.874	71.2	77.6	64.9	4.33	18.56	0.34	13.8
March	30.007	69.3	75.7	62.9	4.92	18.70	0.42	14.8
April	30.004	64.6	71.2	58.1	5.42	24.49	0.06	13.4
May	30.152	58.8	65.3	52.2	5.04	23.03	0.18	14.9
June	30.122	54.6	60.9	48.3	4.78	16.30	0.19	12.5
July	30.231	52.6	59.4	45.9	4.97	13.21	0.12	12.6
August	30.091	55.0	62.5	47.5	3.02	14.89	0.04	11.4
September	29.975	59.2	66.9	51.5	2.90	14.05	0.08	12.0
October	29.860	63.5	71.2	55.8	2.91	11.14	0.21	12.5
November	29.902	67.1	74.5	59.6	2.82	9.89	0.07	12.3
December	29.915	70.1	77.4	62.9	2.82	15.82	0.23	12.9
Annual	29.994	63.2	70.1	56.2	47.58	82.76	23.01	157.2

Tablelands.

On the Northern Tableland the rainfall is consistent, ranging from 30 inches in the western parts to 40 inches in the eastern. The temperature is cool and bracing, the average for the year being between 56° and 60°; the mean summer temperature lies between 67° and 72°, and the mean winter between 44° and 47°. The Southern Tableland is the coldest part of the State, the mean annual temperature being about 56°. In summer the mean ranges from 56° to 70°, and in winter from 33° to 44°. At Kiandra, the elevation of which is 4,640 feet, the mean annual temperature is 44.4°. Near the southern extremity of the tableland, on the Snowy and Muniong Ranges, the snow is usually present throughout the year.

The statement below shows, for the Tableland, similar particulars to those already given for the Coastal Division:—

Station.	Least Distance from East Coast.	Altitude.	Temperature (in Shade).						Rainfall— Mean Annual. 1905-1924.
			Mean Annual.	Mean Summer.	Mean Winter.	Mean Daily Range.	Highest.	Lowest.	
<i>Northern Tableland—</i>	miles.	feet.	°	°	°	°	°	°	inches.
Tenterfield	80	2,827	53·6	68·7	46·9	24·2	101·0	18·0	29·63
Inverell	124	1,980	59·6	71·2	47·0	29·6	105·5	14·0	30·05
Glen Innes	90	3,518	56·2	66·8	44·3	24·5	101·4	16·0	30·75
<i>Central Tableland—</i>									
Cassilis (Dalkeith) ...	120	1,500	60·1	72·0	47·5	24·4	109·5	19·0	21·26
Mudgee	121	1,635	60·0	72·4	47·0	28·5	108·0	15·0	24·77
Bathurst	96	2,200	57·2	69·7	44·3	27·9	112·9	13·0	23·31
Katoomba	58	3,349	53·8	63·2	43·2	15·3	98·0	26·5	50·97
<i>Southern Tableland—</i>									
Crookwell	81	2,000	52·8	63·9	41·3	22·1	100·0	20·0	33·14
Goulburn	54	2,129	56·1	67·8	44·1	23·6	111·0	13·0	23·10
Yass	92	1,657	57·2	70·2	44·9	24·4	108·0	21·0	23·37
Kiandra	88	4,640	44·4	55·7	32·6	20·8	91·0	⁴ below zero	64·82
Bombala	37	3,000	52·9	63·1	42·0	24·2	100·5	17·0	23·63

Western Slopes.

On the Western Slopes the rainfall is distributed uniformly, varying from an annual average of 20 inches in the western parts to 30 inches in the eastern; the most fertile part of the wheat-growing area of the State is situated on the southern part of these slopes, where the average rainfall is about 25 inches per annum. The mean annual temperature ranges from 68° in the north to 59° in the south; in the summer from 81° to 73°, and in the winter from 53° to 46°.

North of the Lachlan River, good rains are expected from the monsoonal disturbances during February and March, although they may come as late as May, and at times during the remainder of the year. These monsoonal or seasonal rains are caused by radiation in the interior of Australia during the summer months, when the heat suspends the moisture accumulated chiefly from the Southern Ocean.

In the Riverina district, south of the Murrumbidgee generally, and on the South-western Slopes, fairly reliable rains, light but frequent, are experienced during the winter and spring months.

The next statement gives, for the principal stations on the Western Slopes, information similar to that shown for Coast and Tablelands:—

Station.	Least Distance from East Coast.	Altitude.	Temperature (in Shade).						Rainfall— Mean Annual. 1905-1924.
			Mean Annual.	Mean Summer.	Mean Winter.	Mean Daily Range.	Highest.	Lowest.	
<i>North Western—</i>	miles.	feet.	°	°	°	°	°	°	inches.
Moree	204	680	67·5	80·2	53·4	29·0	117·0	24·0	23·17
Bingara	153	1,200	64·2	77·1	50·4	28·7	112·5	16·0	30·97
Quirindi	115	1,278	61·8	74·0	48·4	30·1	107·6	13·0	27·10
<i>Central Western—</i>									
Dubbo	177	863	63·6	77·4	49·5	27·9	115·4	16·9	20·98
<i>South Western—</i>									
Young	140	1,416	59·4	72·9	46·2	25·3	109·0	21·9	23·96
Wagga Wagga	158	615	62·0	75·7	48·3	25·3	116·8	22·0	20·93
Urana	213	400	63·2	76·6	49·4	26·6	113·0	27·0	17·57
Albury	175	531	60·8	74·3	47·8	27·1	117·3	19·9	27·22

Western Plains.

The Western District consists of a vast plain, its continuity being broken only by the Grey and Barrier Ranges. Owing to the absence of mountains in the interior, the annual rainfall over a great part of this division, which lies in the zone of perpetual high pressure, does not exceed 10 inches. It increases from 7 inches on the western boundary to 10 and 15 inches along the Darling River, and 20 inches on the eastern limits. The mean annual temperature ranges from 69° in the north to 62° in the south; in the summer from 84° to 75°, and in the winter from 54° to 49°.

The summer readings of the thermometer in this district are from 10° to 20° higher than those on the coast. Excessive heat is experienced occasionally, and with many summers intervening, its occurrence in all probability being due to a temporary stagnation in the easterly atmospheric drift. Under normal conditions, air entering Western Australia with a temperature of 70° or 80° would accumulate only 20° to 25° by contact with the radiation from the soil during its passage across the continent.

The winter, with an average temperature over 49°, accompanied by clear skies and an absence of snow, leaves little to be desired from the standpoint of health; while, owing chiefly to the dryness of the climate, these inland regions produce merino wool of the highest quality.

The meteorological conditions of the Western Plains and the Riverina division will be seen from the following statement, corresponding to those given already for the other divisions of the State:—

Station.	Least Distance from East Coast.	Altitude.	Temperature (in Shade).							Rainfall— Mean Annual, 1905-1924.
			Mean Annual.	Mean Summer.	Mean Winter.	Mean Daily Range.	Highest.	Lowest.		
	miles.	feet.	°	°	°	°	°	°	°	inches.
Brewarrina	345	430	68·6	82·4	53·8	26·7	120·0	28·0	13·96	
Bourke	386	350	69·2	83·5	54·1	27·5	127·0	25·0	11·57	
Wilcannia	473	246	66·5	80·2	52·3	26·2	120·8	21·8	9·38	
Broken Hill	555	1,000	64·7	77·7	51·4	23·2	115·9	28·5	10·35	
Condobolin	227	700	65·2	78·9	51·2	26·9	115·0	20·0	16·56	
Wentworth	478	144	63·8	76·5	51·6	24·5	117·0	21·0	12·46	
Hay	309	291	63·1	76·0	50·3	26·8	117·3	22·9	14·32	
Deniliquin	287	268	62·0	74·7	49·6	25·1	116·5	22·0	16·06	

OBSERVATORY.

Sydney Observatory, lat. 33° 51' 41·1" south, long. 151° 12' 23·1" east, established in the year 1856, is a State institution. The work of the Observatory is astronomical and the principal instruments are the transit circle, astrograph, equatorial, and seismograph. Owing to the unsuitableness of the atmosphere in Sydney the astrograph has been removed to Pennant Hills. The principal scientific work is the determination of the position, distribution, and movement of stars in the region allotted to Sydney (viz., 52° to 65° south declination) in the great international scheme. In

addition, occasional observations, such as those of comets, are made with the equatorial, and systematic records of earth tremors are sent to the Earthquake Committee of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. Practical work embraces the determination and notification of the standard time of the State; correspondence of an educational nature on astronomical matters, and day and evening reception of visitors interested in astronomy.

The Government has decided to close the Observatory as a State institution on 30th June, 1926.

STANDARD TIME.

The mean time of the 150th meridian of east longitude, or 10 hours east of Greenwich, has been adopted as the standard time in New South Wales. In the district of Broken Hill, South Australian standard time is generally observed, viz., $142\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ of east longitude, or 9 hours 30 minutes east of Greenwich. In the States of Queensland, Victoria, and Tasmania, the standard time is the same as in New South Wales. In Western Australia the standard time is the 120° of east longitude, or 8 hours east of Greenwich.

TIDES.

A self-recording tide-gauge has been in operation at Fort Denison, in Port Jackson, since 1867. The tidal datum adopted is Low Water, Ordinary Spring Tide. Taking this as zero, the mean sea-level is 2.52 feet; ordinary low water, 0.78 feet; ordinary high water, 4.20 feet; and the mean daily range is 3 feet 5 inches. The lowest tide was recorded on 16th July, 1916, when the gauge fell 1 foot 3 inches below datum. The highest tide was recorded on 26th May, 1880, viz., 7 feet $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; in 1876 the gauge recorded 7 feet $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches on 22nd June, and 7 feet 3 inches on 21st July. On 3rd August, 1921, the gauge registered 7 feet 2 inches, and on that day occurred the greatest tidal range on record— 6 feet $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

At Port Hunter the average rise and fall of ordinary tides is 3 feet 3 inches, and of spring tides 5 feet $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches; the greatest range being 6 feet 5 inches. The highest tide registered was 7 feet 4 inches in May, 1898.

On the coast the average rise of spring tides is 5 feet 6 inches approximately.

HISTORY.

THE name "New South Wales" was given to the whole of the eastern part of Australia in 1770 probably by Captain Cook, and for a short period (1814 to 1840) the distant islands of New Zealand were among the dependencies of the colony founded at Port Jackson in 1788.

The early history of New South Wales traces its transition from a Crown Colony, used as a penal settlement, to a self-governing dominion through a period of sixty-eight years. This period was marked by a process of division of its huge area, nearly half the size of Europe, into six smaller political units and by a slow development of settlement carried out, often in defiance of the Government, by the few hardy pioneers who crossed the world to make their homes in this new land of the antipodes. How slow was this development can be appreciated best by contrast with the phenomenal expansion of the United States of America, which already, by 1856, had a population as great as that of the United Kingdom and 100 times greater than that of New South Wales.

New South Wales inherited current British traditions of government and public institutions, and in 1856 received a flexible frame of government on the English model. The democratic spirit natural in a new land moulded the political constitution and the form of society on modern principles of equality without any bitter struggle for freedom. This fact, combined with the absence of virile native races and of foreign aggression, has rendered the history of the State unusually placid, so that its development, at all events until the European War (1914-18), was moulded almost entirely by economic factors.*

The following statement indicates chronologically the main events in the development of the State up to the introduction of responsible government in 1856:—

- 1770. Captain Cook discovered the eastern coast of Australia.
- 1788. First settlement founded.
- 1791. First grant of land to settlers.
- 1793. Free immigrants arrived.
- 1794. Settlement established on the Hawkesbury River.
- 1795. First plough introduced.
- 1797. Merino sheep imported. Coal discovered at Coal Cliff and Port Hunter.
- 1801. Hunter River coal mines worked.
- 1803. First newspaper published (*Sydney Gazette*).
- 1805. MacArthur began sheep farming at Camden.
- 1807. Merchantable wool first exported (245 lb.).
- 1813. Blue Mountains crossed.
- 1814. Civil Law Courts created. New Zealand proclaimed a dependency of New South Wales.
- 1815. Settlement founded on Bathurst Plains.
- 1817. Exploration of interior begun.
- 1821. Settlement at Port Macquarie.

* A brief review of the expansion of population, and of rural settlement, will be found in later chapters of this Year Book, and of the early forms of Government in the Year Book for 1921.

1823. First Constitution. Trial by jury instituted.
1824. Censorship of press abolished.
1825. First land regulations issued. Tasmania practically separated from New South Wales. Boundary of New South Wales moved westward.
1827. Colony became self-supporting.
1828. Second Constitution. All English laws applicable to New South Wales brought into force. Assisted immigration introduced. Richmond River discovered.
1831. First land sales.
1834. Settlement established at Twofold Bay.
1836. Religious equality established. South Australia founded as a separate colony.
1838. Assignment of convicts ceased.
1840. Transportation of convicts to New South Wales abolished. New Zealand separated from New South Wales.
1842. Third Constitution—Representative Government. Settlement at Moreton Bay proclaimed.
1843. Financial crisis.
1851. Gold discovered. Victoria separated from New South Wales.
1852. First trade union formed. Sydney University opened.
1855. First railway built.
1856. Fourth Constitution—Responsible Government.

1856-1872.

The Constitution Act of 1856 conferred a system of government, closely modelled on that of the United Kingdom, upon a community of one-quarter of a million people in a territory (omitting Queensland) two and a half times as large as the United Kingdom. Of this community one-third had newly arrived in the gold rushes; of the remainder few had been born in the country, and a considerable proportion had unenviable antecedents. With the continuance of gold finds, a very rapid proportional growth of population set in, and in the next fifteen years the number of inhabitants doubled. It is not surprising, therefore, that in these circumstances and in the lack of an intimate knowledge of the workings of the machinery of parliamentary government the new administration was at first unstable and the times were somewhat lawless. In the first five years no less than seven Ministries held office and four Parliaments sat. But gradually the workings of the new constitution became smoother. Manhood suffrage and election by secret ballot were introduced in 1858, and at the first constitutional crisis in 1861, involving the fate of the Land Bills, the will of the electorates gained the recognised supremacy which it has since held.

The lawless instincts of certain elements of the population were excited in some measure by the turbulence of the gold rushes, and found expression in the anti-Chinese riots on the gold-fields of Lambing Flat in 1861; in a revival of bushranging from 1861 to 1867 after thirty years' quiescence; and in the wild scramble for land under the loosely enacted laws of 1861, which created bitter conflicts between free selectors and squatters, and left wide scope for malpractices such as "dummying" and blackmail.

But when the gold fever began to subside in the seventies many newcomers settled down as landholders, and sheep-raising rapidly became the staple industry of the State. The industrial depression of the sixties passed away, the new Government took firm control, and an era of prosperity and rapid progress began. With the separation of Queensland in 1859

the territory of New South Wales became confined within its present limits. Religious equality was consummated in 1862 by the abolition of State aid to religion, and in 1866 all schools receiving State aid were placed under Government control. The construction and working of railways was made almost exclusively a Government function, and lines were opened from Newcastle to Maitland (1857), from Sydney to Penrith (1862), and to Goulburn (1869). Telegraphic communication was established between Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide in 1858 and Brisbane in 1861, while the cable service to England was opened for business in 1872.

1873-1893.

Rapid as had been the disorderly progress since the discovery of gold, the country now settled down to orderly ways, and yet more rapid headway was made in the next twenty years. Although the activity in gold mining subsided, immigrants continued to arrive freely; but after reaching half a million in 1871, the population only attained the first million in 1887. Flocks grew, and New South Wales soon gained importance as one of the main sources of the world's supply of wool. Indeed, in 1891 the number of sheep in New South Wales reached its highest level. The tin-mining fields were opened in 1872, the richest silver-lead fields of the world were discovered at Broken Hill in 1883, and coal mining steadily increased in importance. This rapid expansion of the primary industries produced rapid expansion throughout the country. A vigorous policy of public works was initiated by the Government in 1872 and continued until 1885; during the period of twenty years under review nearly £50,000,000 was borrowed by the Government and expended upon developmental works, principally railways. Rail communication was established with Orange by 1877, and lines were extended to the southern border by 1883, and the northern by 1889. The first telephonic services were established in Sydney in 1880.

Some national ideals began to take definite shape, and settled policy in many provinces of government became the result. The duration of Parliament was limited finally to three years in 1874; the education question was decided in 1880, when a national system of secular and compulsory education for all children between the ages of 6 and 14 years was introduced; in 1888 the further influx of Asiatics was checked effectively, and the principle of "White Australia" firmly established. At the same time the serious difficulties of the community began to assume formidable proportions in the land and labour problems. Although the bitter struggle for the possession of land subsided as years passed, it was found that the policy of disposing of Crown lands by the free and easy methods of earlier years produced a pronounced shortage of land for settlement. Parliament was engaged frequently with the task of promoting genuine and closer settlement, and of reconciling the conflicting rights and interests of landholders and land seekers. The practice of securing possession of land by "dummying" was prohibited in 1875, and in 1884 stability of tenure was granted to pastoral lessees. In 1885 the present system of land administration by local land boards in land board districts and territorial divisions was introduced, placing the disposal of this most important national asset on an orderly basis, although the problem of promoting closer settlement remained unsolved.

The question of fiscal policy was a prominent issue at Parliamentary elections during this period, and a change of Government sometimes involved a reversal of existing tariff arrangements. Thus in 1874 customs taxes were abolished, except for a few specific duties on liquor and narcotics. A Protectionist tariff, introduced in 1886, was repealed in the following year, but was re-imposed in 1892, to be revoked four years later after a Free-trade Party had gained office.

Immigration from Europe to New South Wales was at no period nearly so great as to the United States, and during the period 1877-1886—the most active decade of immigration ever experienced in New South Wales—the net gain of population by migration was only 200,000. Yet, despite the vast territory of the State, people settled in the towns and city rather than in rural districts, with the consequence that the population steadily became urban rather than rural in character, and the predominant interests industrial in the narrow sense. This development largely determined the course of politics, and progress in the country, and its influence became clearly apparent in a growing industrial agitation. These years were affected by frequent strikes, and in the late eighties the effects of industrial ferment apparent in other countries were marked by the spread of socialistic doctrines, the visit of propagandists advocating a new social order and the strong undercurrent of sympathy evinced in the cause of strikes abroad. In 1881 a Trade Union Act was passed removing all existing legal restrictions on combinations of workmen for industrial purposes. These events produced a very rapid growth in trade unionism, which became a most important factor in the economic life of the community, and had its counterpart among organisations of employers.

While these developments were proceeding the commercial prosperity began to show signs of weakening, and after 1885 the volume of trade contracted, the programme of public works was curtailed, and unemployment became rife. These circumstances further embittered industrial relationships, and in the prevailing discontent the efforts of the new unions to improve conditions of employment culminated in the maritime strike of 1890—one of the most momentous industrial events in the history of the State. The strike failed, and unionism began to turn its attention to parliamentary action to further its industrial aims. Recourse to political activity led to the development of a typically Australian form of unionism, and to the rise of the Labour Party as a power in Parliament; it induced a pronounced type of party government, characterised by pledges and "caucuses," and a new cleavage of political interests was formed.

These important events were accompanied by the worst financial crisis experienced in the State. The industrial depression gradually became more severe after 1885, and a series of world financial upheavals, signalised by the Baring crisis of 1890 in England, served to aggravate local conditions. In 1893 the business failures and alarms of two years' duration culminated in the suspension of payments by thirteen out of twenty-five local banks, with consequent disaster to the commerce and industry of the State. This severe experience was productive of much good. More discipline was introduced into the financial system, securities were more carefully scrutinised before acceptance, certain bogus institutions ceased to exist, the banks associated more closely, and an office was opened for daily clearances between banks.

Moreover, the withdrawal of English capital from local investments encouraged local saving and spontaneous internal development.

1894-1900.

After the financial crisis industrial depression became more acute; it was intensified by the continuance of low prices for wool, the withdrawal of British capital from local investments, a succession of bad seasons, and the diminution of Government expenditure from loans. Immigration practically ceased in 1893 and did not revive until 1905, unemployment became prevalent, conditions of employment ceased to improve, and some emigration was evident. At first a number of strikes occurred, with disaster to the strikers; trade unionism lost power and many unions decayed; but although the numerical strength of the Labour Party in Parliament decreased, it was

sufficient to influence the passage of some most important industrial legislation and to effect a change of Government in 1899. This movement was consummated in 1901 by the enactment of provision for a system of compulsory industrial arbitration, which has had a most important influence on the subsequent economic development of the State. These matters and the important questions of federation and fiscal policy dominated politics. The decision in 1899 of the six Australian States to federate ultimately brought about a reversion from the virtual "free-trade," adopted by the State Government in 1896, to "protection," introduced by the Commonwealth Government in 1901. A policy of non-political control of appointments and promotion in the civil service was adopted in 1895.

Most important changes had gradually come about in the primary industries. Wheat-growing expanded steadily, and an export trade was established in 1898; refrigeration was applied to sea cargoes, and an important oversea trade in butter and frozen meat grew up. The prices realised for wool improved gradually after 1896, and as buyers continued to seek wool at its source, growers benefited by the speedy returns from Sydney wool sales. With these developments the industrial outlook brightened, and a period of remarkable prosperity opened.

1901-1910.

In these happy circumstances the Commonwealth of Australia came into being. The new Government was clothed with a wide range of powers, concurrent with those of the State Government, and in a number of important Federal matters, viz., customs, excise, defence, coinage, currency, bounties on production and export, naturalisation, extradition, post and telegraphs, lighthouses, quarantine, and certain minor matters it was given exclusive authority. Henceforward the activities of the Commonwealth were important factors in determining the course of State development. A policy of encouraging local manufactures was adopted in 1901, when, in October, uniform customs duties were imposed; a Federal High Court was established with a general appellate jurisdiction—in some cases final; in 1904 a Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration was established with jurisdiction in interstate industrial matters.

With the introduction of a system of industrial arbitration, there set in more intense development in the political and industrial systems of the State, and an era of sectional combination to secure common objects. Trade unionism spread rapidly as workers combined to obtain the assistance of the Court of Arbitration in improving their working conditions. Employers organised in order to meet the situation unitedly, and an Employers' Federation was founded in 1903. In Parliament a new significance attached to party organisation, so that with the continued advocacy of solidarity, the pledge, party platform, party meetings and caucuses, the system sometimes called "machine politics" developed peculiarly local characteristics. These developments in the industrial and political spheres had their counterpart in the commercial world in the rapid growth of joint stock companies to handle business on a large scale, and in the formation of trusts and combines for the more effective prosecution of business. From time to time restrictive legislation was introduced.

Although the conflict of party interests became more strenuous, a new political and social consciousness seemed to awaken and marked progress was made. State assistance by pensions for indigent aged persons was provided in 1900 and for invalids in 1907; payment of compensation to workmen in cases of industrial accident was prescribed in 1910, and effective measures were taken in 1908 to abolish and prevent a system of sweating female and juvenile workers. An instalment of the principle of

paying wages according to needs was introduced in 1905, and the first official estimate of the living wage was made in 1907. An Act to protect the property of married women (1897) was followed in 1902 by the introduction of the women's franchise. Education again became a topic of vital interest in the community, and, after a strong agitation, a series of far-reaching reforms were begun in 1904, including the introduction of free primary education in 1906 and of reforms in the syllabus, the training of teachers, and, after 1910, the enlargement of the system of secondary and University education.

This period was characterised by unsurpassed economic development, based upon the expansion of the rural industries and the improvement of foreign markets for primary products. Immigration revived in 1905, new tenures of land were introduced, a system of State finance was established to assist settlers, the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Scheme was commenced, and the tenure of land in the Western Division was placed on a liberal basis. Moreover, Local Government, which after the adverse experiences of the premature system of the forties had been confined to a small number of towns, was extended in 1906 to include hitherto unincorporated districts as "shires" covering three-fifths of the area of the State.

1911-1914.

The period of prosperity, during which the State had regained its economic stability and the Federal Government had developed strength, was followed by a new movement towards assuming the responsibilities of nationhood. Much attention was devoted to schemes of local defence under the ægis of the Commonwealth Government. The nucleus of an Australian fleet was established, and a system of compulsory military training was inaugurated for home defence. A system of local coinage was introduced: the Federal Government took charge of the issue of bank notes; and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia was established. In 1911 wireless telegraphy was introduced, and the first aeroplane flight was made successfully.

Social progress continued, and the most important reforms in the primary system of education were followed by a wide extension of facilities for secondary and University education, State aid in the form of bursaries being provided in cases of financial disability. At the same time, the scope of the University was extended and provision made for an elective body of control; technical education received more attention, continuation schools and rural schools were established, and greater provision was made for medical attention to school children. The Government assumed greater responsibility in regard to housing by providing and carrying out schemes for garden suburbs, and by making advances to persons building homes. Baby clinics were opened, and maternity bonuses were instituted by the Federal Government to provide financial assistance at childbirth.

Each election after 1901 saw a greater proportion of pledged labour representatives returned to Parliament, particularly in the Federal Houses. Finally in 1910 the new party assumed office, both Federal and State, and since then has been either in charge of the Government or in direct opposition. Industrial problems constantly occupied the Legislature; much attention was given to matters of arbitration and to the problem of avoiding strikes and lockouts, which were constantly dislocating the course of industry. The principle of the "living wage" was established firmly and provision made for its regular determination. Prices, employment, and monopolies in restraint of trade were all matters of live interest, and were made subjects of close inquiry both State and Federal. The rise in the cost of living, which had been steady during the previous decade, proceeded more rapidly, and with it came the need for frequent re-adjustment of wages,

which, coupled with questions of hours, union principles, and working conditions, led to continual agitation among the new working-men's organisations, which were of greater relative extent in New South Wales than in any other part of the world.

The land problem received further attention. A graduated land tax was imposed upon large estates by the Federal Government to induce closer settlement through their subdivision; additional tenures on a leasehold basis were created to stay the process of alienation; the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Scheme was advanced sufficiently to receive settlers, and an additional scheme on the Murray River was agreed upon.

1914-1920.

The outbreak of the European War in 1914 intruded a dominating external influence into a local situation fraught with great possibilities of economic and social progress. Although the principle of "business as usual" was at first widely urged, it was soon found that the dislocation of trade and the necessary mobilisation of the national resources to meet the demands of the times produced a readjustment of economic conditions and of political parties and policies which diverted the normal trend of development.

The successful prosecution of the war became the dominant issue, and the High Court decided early that the Commonwealth Government could do legally anything which might conduce to the successful prosecution of the war (subject, of course, to Imperial control). As a result wider powers were assumed in the Federal sphere than were exercised ordinarily in time of peace. A War Precautions Act placed power of issuing regulations in many important matters in the hands of the Federal Executive Government. A censorship of the press was established; trade and commerce were regulated closely to prevent trade with enemy countries and to secure adequate supplies of raw materials for the Imperial Government; investment and the import of luxuries were restricted in the interests of finance; unprecedented loans for war purposes were floated and subscribed on the local markets; prices were regulated, and comprehensive schemes of government control and marketing of primary products were initiated. Great numbers of men in the prime of life enlisted for war service, and large military encampments were maintained. Consequently production languished, but the phenomenal rise of prices due to war conditions and to the immense expenditure of money for war services and supplies created an air of artificial prosperity, which endured until the close of 1920.

Domestic politics were disrupted in 1916 on the issue of conscription for service abroad, which was submitted as a referendum to the people. The Labour Party, which held office in both State and Federal Governments, became sharply divided, and with the resultant expulsion from the Labour movement of conscriptionist members of Parliament, including the Premier and most members of the Cabinet, a new party distribution was effected and Labour lost office. The industrial ferment of previous years continued, and was increased by these events and by the failure of wages to rise as fast as the cost of living, although in many cases wartime profits were large. The discontent in certain sections was intensified by the imprisonment of a number of members of a well-known revolutionary body in connection with the outbreak of a series of disastrous fires in Sydney. The prevailing discontent finally burst out in 1917 into the most widespread strike in the history of the State. The strikers were, however, defeated by the introduction of loyalist workers from the country districts and from Victoria, and by the unyielding attitude of the Government, and much bitterness was engendered by the conflict.

This event led in the following year to renewed attempts to secure industrial peace. A Board of Trade was appointed, with power to promote amicable relationships between employers and employees and to declare regularly a living wage. This power was exercised in 1919 to review the whole problem of the cost of living, and a substantial increase in rates of wages resulted immediately.

But the close of the war and the sudden world-wide rise of prices to unprecedented heights led to yet greater economic disorder and to a recurrence of industrial disputes. Amid the prevailing discontent an election was held in 1920, under the system of proportional representation. The Labour Party was returned with a bare majority over the Nationalist and Progressive Parties on a policy of more effective price control, profiteering prevention, land legislation, and adjustment of finance.

Social and industrial progress continued. Further improvements were made in the system of education by providing for compulsory regular attendance of children of school age, by close supervision of private schools, the establishment of a Conservatorium of Music and a State Orchestra. All legal disabilities preventing women from holding public office or entering the learned professions were removed, the benefits of workmen's compensation were extended to all classes of workers, facilities for legal aid to poor litigants were provided, the State Housing Scheme was extended, a Fair Rents Court was constituted, and through private subscription large funds were established for the care of soldiers and their dependents.

1921-

The remarkable boom in trade and commerce which followed closely upon the termination of the war showed signs of collapsing in New South Wales some months after the fall of prices had set in overseas. The resultant reversal of economic fortunes dominated all issues, and industrial and political problems centred around the readjustments necessary to meet the altered conditions. These problems were complicated by the stagnation of trade and industry, with its attendant unemployment. But although the problem of the workless became so acute that frequent demonstrations were made and extensive relief was given, at no period was unemployment so widespread as in older countries. Several industrial conferences were held. Some proved abortive through conflict on fundamental principles of the conferring parties, while others suggested the usual remedy of opening Government relief works, but this course was prevented by financial stringency.

During the early part of the depression, movements, begun in more prosperous times, were continued to maintain and even to improve working conditions. During 1921 the working week in many trades was reduced to forty-four hours after exhaustive inquiries, and in October, 1921, the living wage, which a year earlier had been declared at £4 5s., was reduced to £4 2s., but the Government refused to put the reduction into operation, and considerable controversy was aroused.

In December, 1921, a constitutional crisis was precipitated by the resignation of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and as an outcome the Labour Government was defeated after holding office for two years. A general election was held in March, 1922, again under the system of proportional representation. Large numbers of candidates presented themselves, and a new political group appeared—the Country Party—which gained a number of seats. This party had appeared already in the elections of 1920 as Progressives and in the Federal elections of 1919. It had associated itself with movements for forming separate political units in the northern and southern parts of the State, and had conducted much

propaganda on behalf of country interests. None of the three parties gained an absolute majority, but, upon the resignation of the Labour Ministry, a Nationalist Government was formed.

With the reversal of the state of parties at the elections, extensive changes of policy were made. Economy in administration, enforcement of the reduced living wage, reversion to a forty-eight hour week, modification of industrial arbitration, and the abolition of restrictions on trade and industry became features in the policy of the Government. The problem of land settlement was subjected to considerable investigation, and activity in immigration was revived.

Steps were now taken to introduce a measure of law reform whereby effete laws were removed from the Statute Book. In addition, the extent of arbitration rights was restricted, so that rural workers and civil servants were removed from the jurisdiction of the Arbitration Courts. The education system was modified by remodelling the examination system and imposing fees upon admission to certain secondary schools. The number of applicants for secondary education ceased to increase and the continuation courses of a commercial and technical character became more popular. Rural schools, providing elementary agricultural training, were opened in a number of country centres. The problem of providing adequate accommodation for children in primary schools had become acute, and was vigorously attacked, a sum of £1,000,000 being made available from loan funds for building purposes during the years 1922-23 and 1923-24. The demand for musical education continually expanded, and the Conservatorium of Music found difficulty in accommodating all applicants. However, the State Orchestra, which had operated actively for over two years, was disbanded in September, 1922, through financial failure.

As the year 1922 progressed signs of a revival of trade had become more evident. The market for wool recovered from its temporary depression, and very favourable prices were realised. The seasons had improved, large quantities of wheat and butter were exported at remunerative prices, industry at home and abroad began to resume its normal course, and unemployment decreased, although a number of large manufacturing establishments remained closed.

However, agricultural and dairying operations failed to provide a steady basis for the trade of the State on account of adverse market and seasonal conditions in 1923. Pastoral conditions were not seriously affected by the former cause, and the record prices obtained for wool provided excellent returns to the State. Gradually economic conditions improved, and in 1923 a new stability was attained. The volume of employment increased steadily, certain large works were re-opened, new operations were commenced, and the need for charitable aid diminished. Those remaining out of work were principally unskilled labourers, and in some trades, notably building, there was a shortage of artisans, particularly in Sydney, where very great building activity was manifested. However, the disturbed state of international trade and the prevalence of drought conditions over the northern part of the State reacted adversely upon the general prosperity. Several State industrial undertakings which had been operating at a financial loss were closed down and the assets disposed of.

In 1923 a comprehensive scheme of rural development was propounded, partly as an outcome of the investigations of the Select Committee on Agriculture in 1920 and 1921. A very important migration agreement was made between the State, Commonwealth, and Imperial Governments, with the object of placing 6,000 oversea settlers on land in New South Wales within a period of five years. At the same time a measure was drafted to provide a complete basis for co-operative enterprise for rural and urban

development and credit, to provide new facilities for self-help, and to bring the benefits being reaped from co-operation in other lands within reach of producers and consumers in New South Wales. In response to a lengthy agitation it was decided towards the close of the year to refer the question of establishing new States within New South Wales to a Royal Commission of inquiry.

In the early part of the year an agreement was made permitting the Victorian Government to extend three lines of railway across the border in the south-west Riverina, and in December the North Coast railway was opened for traffic as far as Murwillumbah. Under the auspices of the British Cotton-growing Association much propaganda was conducted in favour of cotton-growing, and, although the area actually cropped was comparatively small, experiments were undertaken by farmers over a wide area. A cotton ginnery was opened at Newcastle and a spinning mill at Wentworthville.

The virtual stability which had been reached in values during 1923 continued during 1924 and provided a sound basis for business. The cost of living also remained steady with a slight downward tendency, but the movement was not sufficient to require adjustment in the basic wage.

However, the improvement which had appeared in industrial conditions towards the end of 1923 was not long maintained, and in the latter part of 1924 unemployment began to increase and conditions in some spheres changed for the worse. There was, unfortunately, an appreciable slackening in the building trade notwithstanding that a shortage of houses still existed.

These circumstances were attributed generally to the financial stringency which arose out of the accumulation of large balances abroad which could not be transferred to meet local requirements owing to the embargo on the movement of gold. This condition was reflected in the rates of exchange. Rates on London had remained steadily in favour of Australia during 1923, but at the beginning of 1924 commenced to rise rapidly, and by November had attained an unprecedented position indicating the existence of growing balances favourable to Australia.

As this caused many financial disabilities, not the least of which was a high impost on the cost of collecting the realisations of sales of Australian produce abroad, many remedies were suggested. As an outcome partly of this condition and partly of the extension of the scope of the Commonwealth Bank, the associated banks agreed to put into operation a scheme for pooling exchange. In addition, a considerable new issue of Commonwealth Bank notes was authorised, if required, to finance the incoming large wool clip and abundant wheat harvest, which were expected to realise high prices. Beyond these ameliorative measures, the various Governments of the Federation agreed to refrain from borrowing abroad, and in November a local loan of £10,300,000 was raised jointly through the agency of the Commonwealth.

Although these events caused some dislocation in the normal course of industry there was considerable activity on important public works. Operations in connection with the city railway and the Hume reservoir on the Murray River proceeded steadily. In March, 1924, a tender was accepted for the erection of the North Shore bridge, the work to be completed by 1930. Construction proceeded on the railways being erected by the Victorian Government across the southern border, and an agreement was made between the Governments of the Commonwealth, Queensland and New South Wales for the construction of a line from Kyogle to Brisbane, thus providing a new and shorter route between the capitals of the two States. In addition, the whole railway system of the State was subjected to close inquiry by two English experts, who made a number of recommendations for improving the scheme of finance, control, etc.

Immigration proceeded steadily during the year, but was confined principally to nominated immigrants, domestic workers and boys for agricultural work under the auspices of various institutions. The land settlement policy was continued in operation and facilities were provided through the Rural Bank for the subdivision of large estates.

During the year great extension occurred in the use of wireless telegraphy and very many installations came into existence for receiving news and musical programmes broadcasted from bureaux conducted by private companies under the general supervision of the Government.

In February His Excellency Admiral Sir Dudley R. S. de Chair arrived to fill the position of Governor of the State in succession to Sir Walter Davidson, who had died in office during the previous year.

A special service squadron of the British Fleet visited the State in April, and during its visit the battle-cruiser *Australia*—the flagship of the first Australian navy—was sunk at sea as part of the scheme of disarmament agreed upon at the Washington Conference in 1923.

The year 1925 was marked by a number of events of unusual significance. At the beginning of the year, by reason of the favourable position of the exchanges, gold had commenced to flow freely into the State, and within four months nearly £6,000,000 worth was received. At the end of April the embargo, which had been placed on the export of gold in the early years of the war, was removed simultaneously with similar action in Great Britain. Although gold became obtainable upon demand at the banks, it did not reappear in general circulation.

The restoration of the gold standard of exchange proved very beneficial to the primary industries, for, by reason of the accumulation of large balances of Australian funds oversea, exchange rates had risen to a point at which they placed a considerable tax—for a time exceeding 5 per cent.—upon the prices received for exports, while at the same time placing a corresponding bounty on imports. With the return of gold, exchange rates reverted virtually to parity, and the transfer of Australian funds proceeded smoothly. Such a development was very fortunate for the primary industries, because the bountiful season of 1924-25 had resulted in unusually high yields of the principal rural products, and this, combined with the high prices for wool and wheat, led to a sudden expansion in the value of exports oversea. These circumstances augmented the national income and produced conditions favourable to economic expansion.

The general level of prices, however, remained comparatively stable, but in accordance with a small rise in the cost of living, the basic wage was increased by 2s. per week in August, 1925. Although unemployment had increased appreciably toward the middle of the year, there was a steady improvement in the third quarter, particularly in country districts, where the number of unemployed was considerably smaller than it had been for more than three years previously. On the whole, industrial conditions continued favourable except for some dislocations in the mining industry and a strike of Australian seamen in June and July, which was followed by a more serious strike of the crews of British oversea vessels in Australia that lasted throughout September, October and November.

Important political developments also occurred during the year. In April the Royal Commission of Inquiry reported that the creation of new States in either the northern, Riverina, or Monaro districts was neither practicable nor desirable, but that it was desirable to extend the system of local government and to further decentralise administration. Upon the expiry of the State Parliament by effluxion of time a general election was held at the end of May, at which a Labour Government was returned to

power. At this election women candidates contested six seats and one was elected as the first woman representative in the Legislative Assembly.

Following the change of Government, the forty-four hour week was brought into operation again, provision was made for the payment of pensions to widows with dependent children, high school fees were again abolished, the Fair Rent's Act was amended and extended to include certain shop premises, and legislation was passed to remove any doubt as to the eligibility of women for appointment to the Legislative Council. Other important measures foreshadowed in the Governor's speech at the opening of the new Parliament were the amendment of the industrial arbitration and workmen's compensation laws, reversion to single-seat electoral areas for Parliamentary elections, and the introduction of adult suffrage in respect to Local Government elections.

A matter having important bearing on the powers and duties of the Governor arose out of the rejection by the Legislative Council of a number of bills introduced by the Government. In order to obtain adequate support in the Upper House the Ministers advised the Governor to appoint twenty-five new members, submitting that the appointment of members and the number of Councillors were matters of ministerial responsibility. The Governor referred the matter for advice to the Dominions Office in London, as he was of the opinion that, in the custom hitherto observed, the Upper Chamber, which then numbered seventy-four, should be numerically smaller than the Lower House. The Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs declined to intervene, and finally the Governor agreed to act upon the advice of the Ministry.

Subsequent to the appointment of the new members, the Government introduced a bill to abolish the Upper House, but leave to proceed with this measure was refused by vote of the Legislative Council on 23rd February, 1926.

In November, 1925, a Federal election was held, and the State of New South Wales returned a majority of Nationalist representatives to both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

In April, 1925, the foundation-stone of Sydney Harbour bridge was laid, and the work of construction proceeded actively. The construction of the underground railway also continued, and additional lines were laid to carry the increased volume of traffic on the suburban lines which were being electrified.

As a consequence of the bountiful rainfall in the Southern and Central districts of the State, heavy floods occurred, particularly on the Murrumbidgee and Hawkesbury Rivers in May and June. Damage estimated at approximately £250,000 was done to property, but in many districts reports indicated that the benefits received from the flood-waters, which refilled watercourses and natural storages and stimulated the growth of fodder, far outweighed the damage done.

Toward the end of July, 1925, an extended visit was received from a large squadron of American battleships manœuvring in the Pacific Ocean. They were warmly welcomed by the public, and the interchange of friendly courtesies still further promoted the cordial relationships subsisting between America and Australia. A large delegation of representatives of the Empire Press Union also visited the State in the latter half of 1925.

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT.

TH**ERE** are in New South Wales three administrations, viz., the Federal, which meets in Melbourne (Victoria), and controls matters affecting the interests of Australia as a whole; the State, which meets in Sydney and deals with the more important questions of State and local interest; and the Local Government bodies, whose headquarters are at convenient centres within their areas, in which they control matters of purely local concern—these areas extend over nearly two-thirds of the State.

The State Government is the oldest, dating in its present form from 1856. Its constitution was modified in 1901, when the Federal Government was established, and in 1906, when Local Government was extended over its present area.

Early Forms of Government.

A brief account of the early forms of government in New South Wales and of the introduction of the existing system was published in the *Year Book* for 1921, at page 25. An account of the Commonwealth Government may be found in the same edition at page 38.

PRESENT SYSTEM OF STATE GOVERNMENT.

The Constitution of New South Wales is not framed completely in the Constitution Act of 1902, and is not entirely written. It is drawn from seven diverse sources, viz., certain Imperial statutes, such as the Colonial Laws Validity Act (1865) and the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act (1900); the Letters Patent and the Instructions to the Governor; an element of inherited English law; some Federal statutes; sundry State statutes; numerous legal decisions; and a large element of English and local convention.

The Imperial Parliament is legally omnipotent in local as well as in Imperial affairs, and it may exercise effective control over the affairs of the State by direct legislation and some indirect control through the Secretary of State for the Colonies, by whom the Governor is directed in the exercise of his powers. Imperial legislation forms the basis of the existing Constitution, and the Imperial Parliament regulates all matters of Imperial concern in addition to controlling the extensive powers which remain vested in the Crown by virtue of its prerogative. These include such important matters as foreign relations in peace and war, and control of the forces. In local affairs the prerogatives of the Crown are generally exercised by the Governor on the advice of the Executive Council, but where Imperial interests are involved the prerogative powers are exercised through the medium of the Privy Council, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and the Governor.

The Governor.

In New South Wales the position of the Governor is primarily that of local representative of the Crown, and through him the powers of the Crown in matters of local concern are exercised. In addition he is titular head of the Government of New South Wales; he possesses powers similar to those of a constitutional sovereign, and he performs the formal and ceremonial functions which attach to the Crown in its august capacity.

His constitutional functions are defined and regulated partly by various statutes, which from time to time cast new duties upon him, partly by the

Letters Patent constituting his office, and partly by the Instructions to the Governor. The Letters Patent and Instructions were given under the Royal Sign Manual in 1900, and amended in 1909. These functions cover a wide range of important duties, but it is directed that "in the execution of the powers and authorities vested in him the Governor shall be guided by the advice of the Executive Council." He may, if he sees sufficient cause, dissent from the opinion of the Council and report the matter to the Imperial authorities through the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The extent of the Governor's discretionary powers, however, tends to contract, though he still possesses important spheres of independent action, such as in granting dissolution of Parliament. He is, moreover, entitled to full information on all matters to which his assent is sought, and in this way he may exercise a general supervision over his officers, and use his personal influence for the good of the State. The general nature of his position is such that he is guardian of the Constitution and bound to see that the great powers with which he is entrusted are not used otherwise than in the public interest. In extreme cases his discretion constitutes a safeguard against malpractice. His more important constitutional duties are to appoint the Executive Council and to preside over its deliberations; to summon, prorogue, and dissolve the Legislature; to assent, to refuse to assent, or to reserve bills passed by the Legislature; to appoint members of the Legislative Council; to keep and use the Public Seal of the State; to appoint all ministers and officers of State; and, in proper cases, to remove and suspend officers of State. He exercises the King's prerogative of mercy, but only on the advice of the Executive Council, in capital cases, and of a Minister of the Crown in other cases.

With respect to responsibility for his actions the Governor does not occupy the same position as the King. He is amenable to the law; and, although the State accepts responsibility for his official acts, he is personally liable for his unofficial actions, civil and criminal. Politically he is indirectly responsible to the Imperial Parliament through the Secretary of State for the Colonies, but in State politics his Ministers take the responsibility for their advice, on which he acts. However, in an extreme case if good reason existed the local Legislature might be justified in asking for his removal.

The Governor's normal term of office is five years, at a salary of £5,000 per annum, with certain allowances for his staff, provided by the Constitution Act out of the revenues of the State.

The periods for which the Governor may absent himself from the State are limited by the Instructions. When he is absent the Lieutenant-Governor acts in his stead in all matters of State. For that purpose the Chief Justice is usually appointed. In the event of the Lieutenant-Governor not being available to fill the Governor's position, an Administrator assumes office under a dormant Commission appointing the Senior Judge of the State as Administrator.

The present Governor is Admiral Sir Dudley R. S. de Chair, K.C.B., M.V.O. He was sworn in on 28th February, 1924.

The Executive.

All important acts of State are performed or sanctioned by the Governor-in-Council, and, except in the limited spheres where the Governor possesses discretionary powers, he is required, in matters of local concern, to act on the advice of the Executive Council or of a Minister of the Crown.

The Council is established by virtue of the Letters Patent constituting the office of Governor, and it is composed of such persons as the Governor

is pleased to appoint. Its members are invariably members of the Ministry formed by the leader of the dominant party in the Legislative Assembly. When a member resigns from the Ministry he resigns also from the Executive Council, otherwise he may be dismissed by the Governor.

The Executive Council meets only when summoned by the Governor, who is required by his Instructions to preside over its deliberations unless absent for "some necessary or reasonable cause." In his absence the Vice-President presides.

The Ministry or Cabinet.

In New South Wales the terms "Ministry" and "Cabinet" are synonymous, since both bodies by custom consist of those members of Parliament chosen to administer departments of State, and to perform other executive functions. The Ministry is answerable to Parliament for its administration, and it continues in office only so long as it commands the confidence of the Legislative Assembly, from which nearly all its members are chosen. An adverse vote in the Legislative Council does not affect the life of the Ministry. The constitutional practices of the Imperial Parliament with respect to the appointment and resignation of Ministers have been adopted tacitly with some minor modifications. Cabinet acts in a similar way to the English Cabinet under direction of the Premier, who supervises the general legislative and administrative policy and makes all communications to the Governor.

Frequent meetings of Cabinet are held to deliberate upon the general policy of the administration, the more important business matters of the State, and the legislative measures to be introduced to Parliament, and to manage the financial business of the State. Its decisions are carried into effect by the Executive Council or by individual Ministers as each case requires.

Administrative matters of minor importance are determined by ministerial heads of departments without reference to the Executive Council, and every Minister possesses considerable discretionary powers in the ordinary affairs of his department.

The members of the present Ministry, which assumed office on 17th June, 1925, are as follow:—

Premier and Colonial Treasurer—The Hon. J. T. Lang, M.L.A.

Secretary for Lands and Minister for Forests—The Hon. P. F. Loughlin, M.L.A.

Secretary for Mines and Minister for Labour and Industry—The Hon. J. M. Baddeley, M.L.A.

Attorney-General—The Hon. E. A. McTiernan, B.A., LL.B., M.L.A.

Minister for Agriculture—Captain the Hon. W. F. Dunn, M.L.A.

Minister of Justice and Assistant Colonial Treasurer—The Hon. W. J. McKell, M.L.A.

Minister for Education—The Hon. T. D. Mutch, M.L.A.

Colonial Secretary—The Hon. C. C. Lazzarini, M.L.A.

Minister for Public Health and Local Government—The Hon. G. Cann, M.L.A.

Secretary for Public Works and Minister for Railways—The Hon. M. M. Flannery, M.L.A.

Assistant Minister for Public Health and Local Government—The Hon. J. J. Fitzgerald, M.L.A.

Vice-President of the Executive Council—The Hon. A. C. Willis, M.L.C.

Honorary Minister—The Hon. J. F. Coates, M.L.C.

The salaries payable annually to members of the Cabinet as from 1st July, 1925, were fixed as follows by the Parliamentary Allowances and Salaries Act, 1925:—

	£
The Premier	2,445
The Attorney-General	2,095
The Vice-President of the Executive Council (and leader of the Government in the Legislative Council)	1,375
Nine other Ministers of the Crown, £1,945 each	17,505
	23,420
Total	23,420

These amounts include the annual allowances paid to Ministers as members of the Legislative Assembly.

The salaries of Ministers were fixed as from 1st January, 1908, at the following rates:—Premier, £1,870; Attorney-General, £1,520; five other Ministers, £1,370 each; Vice-President of the Executive Council, £800. These salaries were increased in 1920 upon the recommendation of a judge of the Arbitration Court to the rates shown above, but, between 1st July, 1922, and 1st July, 1925, they were on the following scale:—Premier, £2,000; Attorney-General, £1,600; nine other Ministers, £1,500 each; Vice-President of the Executive Council, £900.

THE STATE LEGISLATURE.

The State Legislature consists of the Crown and two Houses of Parliament, and all State laws are enacted “by the King’s Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly in Parliament assembled.” It exercises a general power of legislation, and possesses plenary and not delegated authority. The Constitution Act of 1902 provides that “the Legislature shall, subject to the provisions of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act, have power to make laws for the peace, welfare, and good government of New South Wales in all cases whatsoever.” It is a constituent body; it can delegate its powers, and within its territory its actions are restricted only by legislation of the Imperial Parliament intended to apply to New South Wales, and by valid Federal enactments.

The two Houses of Parliament are the Legislative Council (or Upper House), and the Legislative Assembly (or Lower House). Their powers are nominally co-ordinate, but it is provided that bills appropriating money or imposing taxation and bills affecting itself must originate in the Legislative Assembly, which is the elective Chamber, and which, it is recognised, must control taxation and expenditure. However, bills involving money matters may be introduced only by a Minister on the recommendation of the Governor, and in this way the responsibility of the Ministry for financial measures is secured.

Every member of Parliament must take an oath or make an affirmation of allegiance.

By virtue of the Constitution Act it is a function of the Governor to summon, prorogue, and dissolve both Houses of Parliament, but it is provided that both Houses shall meet at least once in every year, so that a period of twelve months shall not elapse between sessions. The continuity of Parliament is ensured by the Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act, 1912 (as amended in 1918), which provides that writs for the election of new members must be issued within four days after the dissolution of the Legislative Assembly, that they must be returned within sixty days after issue (unless otherwise directed by the Governor), and that Parliament shall meet within seven days of the return of writs. The duration of Parliament was limited to three years in 1874.

It is agreed tacitly that the procedure in each House shall be conducted according to its prototype in the Imperial Parliament, but comprehensive Standing Orders regulating the business of each House have been drawn up. When a disagreement arises between the two Houses each appoints "managers" to confer upon the matters in dispute. There is no provision to meet a deadlock other than by dissolution of the Legislative Assembly, which may be granted by the Governor. The new Legislative Assembly is regarded as representing the will of the people; and the overwhelming opinion is that the Legislative Council should recognise it.

Much interest and some controversy centres around the powers of the Governor in granting a dissolution of Parliament. Strictly speaking only the Legislative Assembly is dissolved, but Parliament is ended thereby, because both Houses are necessary to constitute a Parliament. There are two main cases in which a dissolution may be granted in addition to that mentioned above; they arise when, on a question of policy, the Ministry sustains an adverse vote in the Legislative Assembly, and when the Legislative Assembly becomes factious, or will not form a stable administration.

The Legislative Council.

The Legislative Council is a nominee Chamber consisting of a variable number of members appointed for life without remuneration. The Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, may summon to the Legislative Council any person who is of the full age of 21 years, and is a natural-born subject of his Majesty or naturalised in Great Britain or in New South Wales. An Act to authorise the appointment of women as members of the Council received Royal Assent in February, 1926.

In making appointments the Governor acts ordinarily on the advice of the Executive Council, and no special instructions have been issued to him respecting the acceptance or rejection of such advice. In November, 1925, the Governor referred for the advice of the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs a proposal to increase the membership of the Legislative Council. The Imperial Minister in reply expressed the opinion that "established constitutional principles require that the question should be settled between the Governor and Ministers." Subsequently the Governor appointed the additional members, as advised by the Ministers. Not more than one-fifth of the members summoned to the Council may be persons holding office of emolument under the Crown. The seats of members become vacant by death, resignation, absence, accepting foreign allegiance, bankruptcy, accepting public contracts, or by criminal conviction. The presence of one-fourth of the members, exclusive of the President, is necessary to form a quorum for the despatch of business.

The lowest number of members during the past twenty years was fifty-one in 1911. In 1917 there were seventy-one members of the Council, and this number was not exceeded until 1921, when sixteen new appointments were made. The total membership on 31st December, 1925, was ninety-eight.

The Council is presided over by a President appointed from among the members by the Governor. He receives an annual salary of £1,200. There is also a Chairman of Committees, who receives a salary of £700 per annum. As a matter of privilege all members of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly are allowed to travel free on State railways and tramways.

A bill for the abolition of the Council was introduced into Parliament in January, 1926, but leave to proceed with the measure was refused by the Council on 23rd February, 1926.

The Legislative Assembly.

The Legislative Assembly is the elective or popular House of Parliament, and is the most important factor in the government of the country. By its power over supply it ultimately controls the Executive. It consists of ninety members elected on a system of universal adult suffrage for a maximum period of three years. Any person who is enrolled as an elector of the State is eligible to be elected to the Legislative Assembly, except persons who are members of the Federal Legislature or of the Legislative Council, or who hold non-political offices of profit under the Crown, other than in the army or navy. It was provided in 1916 that any officer of the public service of New South Wales may be elected to the Legislative Assembly on condition that he forthwith resign his position in the service. At the close of 1918 all legal impediments to the election of women to the Legislative Assembly were removed. Several women have since contested seats at the elections, and one has been elected. The seat of a member becomes vacant in similar cases to those stated above for Legislative Councillors.

The House is presided over by a Speaker, whose election is the first business of the House when it meets after election. He presides over debate, maintains order, represents the House officially, communicates its wishes and resolutions, defends its privileges when necessary, and determines its procedure. There is also a Chairman of Committees elected by the House at the beginning of each session; he presides over the deliberations of the House in Committee of the Whole, and acts as Deputy-Speaker.

Payment of members of the Legislative Assembly was introduced as from 21st September, 1889. The amount fixed originally was £300 per annum, but it was increased to £500 by an Act assented to on 17th September, 1912, further increased to £875 as from 1st November, 1920, after inquiry and report by a Judge of the Court of Industrial Arbitration, reduced to £600 as from 1st July, 1922, and restored to £875 as from 1st July, 1925. An aggregate amount of £2,700 is provided for postage, each member receiving an order monthly for one-twelfth of his annual allowance. The salary of the Speaker is £1,675, of the Chairman of Committees £1,115 per annum, and, since 1912, the leader of the Opposition has received an annual allowance of £250 in addition to his allowance as member.

STATE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES.

A number of committees consisting of members of Parliament are appointed to deal with special matters connected with the business of the country and of either House; from time to time select committees are chosen

to inquire into and report on specific matters for the information of Parliament and the public. Each House elects a committee to deal with its Standing Orders and with printing, and a joint committee to supervise the library. In addition there are the more important committees described below.

Committees of Supply and of Ways and Means.

These committees consist by custom of the whole of the members of the Legislative Assembly, and they deal with all money matters. The Committee of Supply debates and determines the nature and amount of the expenditure, and the Committee of Ways and Means debates and authorises the issue of the sums from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and frames the resolutions on which taxing proposals are based.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works.

A joint committee of members of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly, called the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, is appointed by ballot as soon as practicable after the commencement of the first session of every Parliament. The committee consists of three members of the Legislative Council and four members of the Legislative Assembly, and it has power, under the Public Works Act, to prosecute inquiries, to summon witnesses, and to compel the production of books, etc.

The Chairman receives as remuneration £3 3s. for each sitting of the committee, and the other members £2 2s. each.

Proposals for public works of an estimated cost exceeding £25,000 must be submitted and explained by a Minister in the Legislative Assembly, and then referred to the Public Works Committee for report.

Public Accounts Committee.

For the better supervision of the financial business of the State a Public Accounts Committee is appointed every session under provisions of the Audit Act, 1902, from among the members of the Legislative Assembly. It consists of five members, and is clothed with full powers of inquiry into any question arising in connection with the public accounts and upon any expenditure by a Minister of the Crown made without Parliamentary sanction. It reports on such matters to the Legislative Assembly.

Committee of Elections and Qualifications.

Within seven days of his election the Speaker is required by the Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act, 1912, to select nine members of the Legislative Assembly to act as the Committee of Elections and Qualifications. His choice is subject to the approval of the House. The Committee is clothed with judicial powers, and each member is required to take an oath of impartiality. Its business is to inquire into and determine matters connected with election petitions and questions referred to it by the Legislative Assembly concerning the validity of any election or the return of any member, and questions involving the qualifications of members.

Its decisions are final, but it must report to the House.

Commissions and Trusts.

In addition to the Ministerial Departments, various public services are administered by Commissions, Boards, and Trusts; the more important are:—

Railway Commissioners for New South Wales.

Metropolitan Water, Sewerage, and Drainage Board.

Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage Board.

Sydney Harbour Trust Commissioners.
 Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission.
 Commissioners of the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales.
 Board of Fire Commissioners of New South Wales.
 Metropolitan Meat Industry Board.
 Forestry Commission.
 Western Land Board.
 Main Roads Board.
 Prickly-pear Commission.

In each case the authority controls a specific service, and administers the statute law in relation to it, subject to a limited degree of supervision by a Minister.

Auditor-General.

The office of Auditor-General is the real security that public moneys will be collected and expended in accordance with the wishes of Parliament.

The Auditor-General is appointed by the Governor, and holds office during good behaviour. In certain cases he may be suspended by the Governor, but he is removable from office only on an address from both Houses of Parliament. He is required to take an oath that he will faithfully perform his duties, and he is debarred from entering political life. He is endowed with wide powers of supervision, inspection, and audit in regard to the collection and expenditure of public moneys and the manner in which the public accounts are kept. He exercises control over the issue of public moneys, and all warrants must be countersigned by him. Matters connected with the public accounts are subject to special or annual report to Parliament by him, and he may refer any matter to the Public Accounts Committee.

STATE ELECTORAL SYSTEM.

The first Legislative Assembly consisted of fifty-four members elected in thirty-two districts. As settlement extended and population increased, provision was made for increased representation, until in 1894 the electorates numbered seventy-four and the members 141. Under the Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act of 1893, the State was divided into 125 electoral districts, each returning one member.

After the federation of the Australian States the question of a further reduction in the membership was submitted to the electors by referendum, and as a result the number of districts and of representatives was reduced to 90 in 1904.

Proportional Representation.

In 1918 an Act was passed to introduce a system of proportional representation in respect of the State Parliamentary elections. Under this system the number of members remained at ninety, and twenty-four electoral districts were constituted; eight constituencies in the metropolitan area, and the City of Newcastle, are represented by five members each, and fifteen districts return three members each. Casual vacancies are filled by the unsuccessful candidate of the same constituency who represented the same party interest as the late member and whose count of primary preference votes was next highest at the last general election. Where such a candidate is not available, the leader of the party concerned nominates a successor.

The proportion of first preference votes cast for candidates of each party and the number of representatives elected at each of the three elections conducted under proportional representation are shown in the following table:—

Party.	1920.		1922.			1925.		
	Valid Votes. Ratio to 90.	Members Elected.	Candidates.	Valid Votes. Ratio to 90.	Members Elected.	Candidates.	Valid Votes. Ratio to 90.	Members Elected.
Nationalist-Coalition ...	26.9	23	96	39.2	42	87	34.1	32
Nationalist Independent	.9	1	3	1.0	1	2	.9	1
Labour ...	33.8	43	88	34.1	36	93	41.7	46
Labour Independent ...	1.6	2	10	2.7	1	29	2.6	1
Progressive or Country	13.9	15	46	8.7	9	35	8.2	9
Democratic ...	2.6	...	4	1.5	1	...	...	...
Soldiers and Citizens ...	1.5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Socialist... ..	.3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Communist ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	6	.1	...
Independent Candidates	3.5	1	56	2.8	...	28	2.4	1
Total	90	90	303	90	90	280	90	90

The party designations employed above are those used at the respective elections, and the candidates are allocated to parties on the authority of current newspaper reports. The Independent Labour group consists of candidates so described in addition to representatives of the Protestant Labour, Majority Labour and Young Australia Parties. Before the elections of 1922 a portion of the Progressive Party coalesced with the Nationalist Party, resulting in a transfer of representatives to the Nationalist-Coalition.

It will be observed that appreciable disparities exist between the proportion of first preference votes cast for the various parties and the number of candidates elected. This is, of course, due to the distribution of the preferences of the large number of unsuccessful Independent candidates. Thus in 1925 six-ninetieths of all the votes polled contained first preferences for 65 candidates outside of the three principal parties, and the polling was such that only three of these candidates were elected. Again there was a wide range between quotas required by successful candidates in the respective electorates. Thus, in Ryde electorate, the possible maximum quota if every vote was polled was 15,933, but, as only 70 per cent. of electors voted, this was reduced to 10,908 which was the highest quota in any electorate. The lowest quota was 4,423 in the electorate of Sturt, representing 60 per cent. of the possible maximum of 7,723 if every vote had been polled. The proportion of electors who voted varied widely between divisions, the highest being 75.5 per cent. in the electorate of Newcastle, and the lowest 58 per cent. in Sydney.

Two women candidates contested the elections of 1922, receiving between them 4,400 first preference votes. In 1925 there were six women candidates, who received in all 15,322 first preference votes, one being elected.

Distribution of Electorates.

The electoral law provides that electorates are to be redistributed whenever directed by the Governor. In the event of there being no direction by the Governor, a distribution must take place on the expiration of nine years from the date of the last redistribution. The redistribution is made by a special commission of three persons appointed by the Governor from the Public Service of New South Wales.

The following table shows at the various dates on which the membership of the Assembly or the franchise was altered, and at election years since 1901 (a) the size of the elective Chamber, (b) the average number of persons per member, and (c) the proportion of the population who possessed the right to vote.

Year of Election.	Number of Members of Legislative Assembly.	Population per Member.	Proportion of persons enrolled to Total Population.
			per cent.
1856	54	5,200	15·8
1858	72	4,500	22·3
1880	108	6,900	25·2
1885	122	7,800	24·5
1891	141	8,100	26·7
1894	125	9,800	24·3
1901	125	10,900	25·3
1904	90	15,900	48·3
1907	90	17,000	48·8
1910	90	18,200	53·3
1913	90	20,500	55·1
1917	90	21,000	58·5
1920	90	22,800	56·1
1922	90	23,800	58·5
1925	90	25,300	58·8

The number of distinct electors cannot be ascertained for any period prior to the year 1894, as the franchise was based on the ownership of property, and electors were allowed to vote in each electorate in which they possessed the necessary qualification. The proportion of the population entitled to vote in those years, as shown above, has been calculated on the total number of votes to which the electors on the roll were entitled; they are, therefore, somewhat in excess of the actual proportions. When women were enfranchised in 1904 practically the whole of the adult population became qualified electors.

After a revision of the electoral rolls the total enrolment in October, 1924, was 1,230,503, which bore a ratio of 55·2 per cent. to the total population at 30th June, 1924. At the election of 30th May, 1925, there were 1,399,785 names on the roll, of whom 60,705 were not qualified to vote, leaving 1,339,080 electors enrolled and qualified to vote. This latter number represented 58·8 per cent. of the population.

The elections of members of the Legislative Assembly are conducted by secret ballot. Adult British subjects, men and women, are qualified for enrolment as electors when they have resided in the Commonwealth for a period of six months, in the State for three months, and in the electoral district for one month prior to the issue of the writs for the election. Persons are disqualified from voting who are of unsound mind, a charge on public charity, criminals, disorderly persons, or defaulters from justice. Each elector is entitled to one vote only. The electoral lists are compiled annually under provisions for compulsory enrolment and revised before a special court under the presidency of a stipendiary or police magistrate.

Electors absent from their districts have been permitted since 1913 to record their votes at any polling-place in the State, and 36,054 votes were so recorded in 1925 as compared with 38,752 in 1922. Postal voting in the case of persons precluded from attendance at any polling-place by reason of illness or infirmity, distance over 15 miles, or travelling was introduced in 1920, when 2,773 votes were so recorded. In 1922 the number rose to 5,019, but fell to 4,495 in 1925.

Where any qualified elector is blind or otherwise incapacitated from voting or is unable to write, he may require the deputy returning-officer to mark his ballot-paper according to his instructions. In 1925 there were 13,490 such "open votes."

At general elections polling is conducted on the same day in all electorates. Polling-day is a public holiday from noon, and during the hours of polling (8 a.m. to 8 p.m.) the hotels are closed.

The following table shows the voting at the elections held in New South Wales since the general election in 1894, when a system based on single electorates and the principle of "one man one vote" was introduced. The number of electors as stated for elections in the years 1894 to 1917, inclusive, represents the gross number enrolled, and the figures for the later elections indicate the number qualified to vote:—

Year of Election.	Electors.		Contested Electorates.					
	Enrolled.	Per Member.	Electors.	Votes Recorded.		Informal Votes.		
				Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	
1894—Males ...	298,817	2,390	254,105	204,246	80·38	3,310	1·62	
1895—Males ...	267,458	2,139	238,233	153,034	64·24	1,354	·88	
1898—Males ...	324,339	2,595	294,481	178,717	60·69	1,638	·92	
1901—Males ...	346,184	2,769	270,861	195,359	72·13	1,534	·79	
1904 {	Males ...	363,062	...	304,396	226,057	74·26		
	Females ...	326,428	...	262,433	174,538	66·51		
Total ...	689,490	7,661	566,829	400,595	70·67	3,973	·99	
1907 {	Males ...	392,845	...	370,715	267,301	72·10		
	Females ...	353,055	...	336,680	204,650	60·78		
Total ...	745,900	8,288	707,395	471,951	66·72	13,543	2·87	
1910 {	Males ...	458,626	...	444,242	322,199	72·53		
	Females ...	409,069	...	400,139	262,154	65·52		
Total ...	867,695	9,641	844,381	584,353	69·20	10,393	1·78	
1913 {	Males ...	553,633	...	534,379	385,838	72·20		
	Females ...	484,366	...	468,437	302,389	64·55		
Total ...	1,037,999	11,533	1,002,816	688,227	68·63	14,439	2·10	
1917 {	Males ...	574,308	...	525,681	328,030	62·40		
	Females ...	535,522	...	487,585	295,354	60·57		
Total ...	1,109,830	12,331	1,013,266	623,384	61·52	5,844	·94	
1920 {	Males ...	593,244	...	593,244	363,115	61·21		
	Females ...	561,193	...	561,193	285,594	50·89		
Total ...	1,154,437	12,716	1,154,437	648,709	56·19	62,900	9·70	
1922 {	Males ...	636,662	...	636,662	466,949	73·34		
	Females ...	614,361	...	614,361	408,515	66·49		
Total ...	1,251,023	13,900	1,251,023	875,464	69·98	31,771	3·63	
1925 {	Males ...	678,749	...	678,749	489,126	72·06		
	Females ...	660,331	...	660,331	435,853	66·00		
Total ...	1,339,080	14,879	1,339,080	924,979	69·07	30,155	3·28	

The analysis shown above indicates that the proportion of electors who fail to record their votes is large, even if due allowance is made for obstacles to voting, especially in sparsely-settled districts. The highest proportion of votes to enrolment, 80·4 per cent., was recorded in 1894, when there was a strenuous contest on the question of fiscal reform; and the lowest propor-

tion, 56·2 per cent. was recorded in 1920. The elections in the latter year were the first under the system of proportional representation, and the method of voting was somewhat complex, the electors being required to sign a statutory declaration before obtaining a ballot-paper and to record a preference for every name on the ballot-paper. Under these conditions an unusually large number of electors refrained from voting.

Before the elections in 1922 the method was simplified, the statutory declaration was abolished, and the recording of preferences was required only to the extent of the number of candidates to be elected. The proportion of voters to enrolment was greater at the elections of 1922 and 1925 than it had been at most elections under the system of single-member electorates. It is probable that provision for compulsory enrolment and the simplification of the method of voting contributed to this result, though there is little doubt that the main factor which influences the size of the polling is the intensity of interest in party issues.

The number of women exercising their right to vote has always been less, relatively and absolutely, than the number of men. At the first elections after enfranchisement 66 per cent. of the women enrolled recorded votes, then the proportion declined. In 1910, when a Labour Government was placed in office for the first time in the State Parliament, and in 1913, the proportion of women who voted was about 65 per cent.; in 1920 it was less than 51 per cent. In 1922 it was practically the same as in 1904, but in 1925 it fell slightly lower.

It is noteworthy that, whereas at the elections of 1910 and previous years a greater proportion of electors enrolled recorded their votes at State than at Federal elections, the proportion has, since 1913, been greater at Federal than at State elections, viz.:—1913, Federal 69·28 per cent., State 68·63 per cent.; 1917, Federal 71·17 per cent., State 61·52 per cent.; 1919, Federal 66·97 per cent., State (1920) 56·19 per cent. The change was due doubtless to the dominance of war issues, for the proportion of votes cast at the State elections of 1922 rose to 69·98 per cent. as against a decline to 56·16 at the Federal elections of that year. At the Federal elections of 1925 compulsory voting was introduced for the first time and approximately 90·4 per cent. of electors voted, the preliminary figures being 1,144,768 votes cast out of 1,266,122 electors enrolled.

A list of the Parliaments since 1889, when payment of members was instituted, is shown below:—

Number of Parliament.	Return of Writs.	Date of Opening.	Date of Dissolution.	Duration.			Number of Sessions.
				yrs.	mths.	dys.	
14	22 Feb., 1889...	27 Feb. 1889...	6 June 1891...	2	3	15	4
15	11 July, 1891...	14 July 1891...	25 June 1894...	2	11	14	4
16	3 Aug., 1894...	7 Aug. 1894...	5 July 1895...	0	11	2	1
17	10 Aug., 1895...	13 Aug. 1895...	8 July 1898...	2	10	28	4
18	13 Aug., 1898...	16 Aug. 1898...	11 June 1901...	2	9	29	5
19	17 July, 1901...	23 July 1901...	16 July 1904†	3	0	0	4
20	20 Aug., 1904...	23 Aug. 1904...	20 Aug., 1907†	3	0	0	4
21	26 Sept., 1907...	2 Oct. 1907...	14 Sept. 1910...	2	11	19	5
22	31 Oct. and 10 Nov., 1910†	15 Nov. 1910...	6 Nov. 1913...	2	11	26	5
23	23 and 29 Dec., 1913‡ ...	23 Dec. 1913...	21 Feb. 1917...	3	1	29	5
24	10, 16, and 23 April, 1917‡ ...	17 April 1917...	18 Feb. 1920...	2	10	8	4
25	21 April, 1920...	27 April 1920...	17 Feb. 1922...	1	10	25	3
26	19 April, 1922...	26 April 1922...	18 April 1925†	3	0	0	5
27	20 June, 1925...	24 June, 1925...	Sitting* .....	.....	.....	.....	...

*31st December, 1925.

†Expired by effluxion of time.

‡Under system of second ballots.

The normal duration of Parliament is three years. Unless previously dissolved Parliament expires by effluxion of time three years after the day prior to the original date of the return of the writs.

On account of war conditions and the disturbed state of public affairs it was deemed advisable to extend the 23rd Parliament to a period exceeding the three years fixed by the Constitution Act, and the Legislative Assembly Continuance Act, 1916, was passed to provide for an extension from three years to four years. The Parliament, however, terminated after 3 years and 60 days.

The various Ministries which have held office since 1894, together with the duration in office of each, are shown below. The life of a Ministry is not co-terminous with the life of a Parliament. In sixty-nine years under the present system there have been forty-seven Ministries, but only twenty-seven Parliaments. Up to 3rd August, 1894, twenty-seven Ministries had held office.

Ministry.		In Office.		Duration.
Number.	Name.	From—	To—	
28	Reid	3 Aug. 1894	13 Sept. 1899	yrs. mths. days. 5 1 11
29	Lyne	14 Sept. 1899	27 Mar. 1901	1 6 14
30	See	28 Mar. 1901	14 June 1904	3 2 18
31	Waddell	15 June 1904	29 Aug. 1904	0 2 15
32	Carruthers	30 Aug. 1904	1 Oct. 1907	3 1 2
33	Wade... ..	2 Oct. 1907	20 Oct. 1910	3 0 19
34	McGowen	21 Oct. 1910	29 June 1913	2 8 9
35	Holman	30 June 1913	15 Nov. 1916	3 4 16
36	Holman (National)	16 Nov. 1916	12 April 1920	3 4 28
37	Storey	13 April 1920	10 Oct. 1921	1 5 27
38	Dooley	10 Oct. 1921	20 Dec. 1921	0 2 11
39	Fuller... ..	20 Dec. 1921	20 Dec. 1921	About 7 hours.
40	Dooley	20 Dec. 1921	13 April 1922	0 3 24
41	Fuller (Coalition)	13 April 1922	17 June 1925	3 2 4
42	Lang	17 June 1925	In office* ...	...

* 31st December, 1925.

COST OF STATE PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT.

The following statement shows the cost of State Parliamentary Government in New South Wales during recent years. Expenses of Federal and Local Governments are not included:—

Head of Expenditure.	1915-16.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
	£	£	£	£
Governor—				
Salary	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Salaries, etc., of Staff... ..	3,549	3,869	3,923	3,601
Other expenses	1,547	1,436	7,159	1,927
	10,096	10,305	16,082	10,528
Executive Council—				
Salaries of Officers ... ..	...	458	481	532
Other expenses ... ..	...	439	186	254
	...	897	667	786
Ministry—				
Salaries of Ministers	11,040	18,000	18,000	18,000
Conferences, Special Reports, etc. ...	5,244	7,332	3,519	822
	16,284	25,332	21,519	18,822
Parliament—				
Legislative Council—				
Salaries of President and Chairman of Committees ...	1,220	1,425	1,425	1,425
Railway passes for Members ...	6,070	14,687	15,262	13,716
Postage for Members ... ..	...	70	60	72
Legislative Assembly—				
Salaries of Speaker and Chairman of Committees	1,740	2,240	2,240	2,088
Allowances to Members*	40,335	47,020	47,062	47,311
Railway passes for Members	10,387	17,055	17,312	17,416
Postage for Members	1,770	2,583	2,650	2,693
Both Houses—Joint expenditure—				
Standing Committee on Public Works—				
Remuneration of Members ...	3,599	3,287	5,026	4,785
Salaries of Staff and contingencies	2,626	2,038	2,185	2,087
Salaries of Reporting Staff ...		8,777	8,383	8,561
Library—Salaries of Staff ...		2,341	2,911	2,486
Contingencies... ..		834	1,708	884
Other Salaries of Staff		20,691	21,058	22,249
Printing—Hansard	6,689	7,355	4,750	8,010
Other	14,967	16,972	8,852	11,175
Other Expenses	24,490	7,314	5,512	6,253
	113,893	154,689	146,396	151,211
Electoral—				
Salaries	1,123	1,826	1,979	2,808
Contingencies	56,491†	16,642	14,157	57,175
	57,614	18,468	16,136	59,983
Royal Commissions and Select Committees	4,114	2,365	4,017	47,001
Grand Total	£ 202,001	212,056	204,817	288,331
Per head of population	2s. 2d.	1s. 11d.	1s. 10d.	2s. 7d.

* Excluding salaries of Ministers, Speaker, and Chairman of Committees.

† Includes £30,244 Liquor Referendum.

The above table has been revised since the last issue of the Official Year Book, with a view to showing more clearly the nature of individual items and additional information, which was not available formerly, has been included. In considering such a table as the above it is necessary to remember that there is no clear line of demarcation between costs incurred in respect of parliamentary government and the costs of ordinary administration. This arises particularly in regard to ministers of the Crown who fill dual roles, namely, administrative heads and parliamentary representatives. Similar difficulties arise in regard to Royal Commissions, which are, in many cases, partly administrative inquiries. In the absence of any means of dissecting the expenditure under these headings the whole of it has been treated as incidental to the system of parliamentary government. On the other hand such factors as the costs of ministerial motor cars and the salaries of ministers' private secretaries are omitted from account as appertaining mainly to administration.

The cost of Parliamentary Government in 1924-25 was swollen considerably by the occurrence of the triennial elections and by the cost of two important Royal Commissions of Inquiry. However, it represented less than 1 per cent. of the Governmental expenditure during that year, that is, the total expenditure from Consolidated Revenue less expenditure on business undertakings.

The foregoing statement does not, however, represent the total cost of Parliamentary Government because it excludes the expense of Federal government. For the year 1923-24 this amounted to £367,479 for the whole Commonwealth, equivalent to 1s. 3d. per head of population.

THE COMMONWEALTH.

A detailed account of the inauguration of Federation and the nature and functions of the Federal Parliament in their relation to the State was published in the Year Book for 1921 at pages 38-40 and 625.

The federation of the six Australian States was inaugurated formally on 1st January, 1901, for their mutual benefit in matters upon which it was agreed joint action was desirable. The broad principles of federation were:—The transfer of limited and defined powers of legislation to a Federal Parliament consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives, the former being a revisory Chamber wherein the States are equally represented, and the latter, the principal Chamber, consisting of members elected from the States in proportion to their population; complete freedom of action for the State Parliaments in their own sphere; a High Court to determine the validity of legislation; and an effective method of amending the Constitution.

The numbers of representatives elected from the various States to the House of Representatives are as follow:—New South Wales, 28; Victoria, 20; Queensland, 10; South Australia, 7; Western Australia, 5; Tasmania, 5. In addition, one representative of the Northern Territory is elected to attend and participate in debates without having the right to vote.

FEDERAL ELECTORAL SYSTEM.

For the purpose of electing representatives to the Senate of the Federal Parliament, New South Wales is treated as one constituency, returning six members, each for six years, three of whom retire triennially. Its twenty-eight members of the House of Representatives are elected for three years

from single-member constituencies under a system of preferential voting. Otherwise the electoral system is similar to that of the State. In 1924 the Commonwealth Electoral Act was amended to make provision for compulsory voting.

An analysis of the voting at Senate elections in New South Wales up to 1919 was published in the 1921 edition of this Year Book at page 40; the voting at elections of members of the House of Representatives from New South Wales has been as follows:—

Elections.	Electors Enrolled (Contested Divisions only).		Votes Recorded.		Percentage of Votes Re- corded to Electors Enrolled.			Informal Votes.	
	Men.	Women.	Men	Women.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Number.	Proportion per cent.
1901	315,962	...	215,105	...	68·08	...	68·08	4,070	1·70
1903	303,254	274,763	164,133	118,381	54·12	43·08	48·88	7,834	2·77
1906	363,723	314,777	216,150	141,227	59·43	44·87	52·67	11,705	3·28
1910	431,702	379,927	294,049	207,868	68·11	54·71	61·84	8,002	1·59
1913	554,028	482,159	405,152	312,703	73·13	64·85	69·28	22,262	3·10
1914	491,086	429,906	351,172	257,581	71·51	59·92	66·10	14,816	2·43
1917	484,854	447,437	370,618	292,925	76·44	65·47	71·17	19,874	2·98
1919	527,779	508,129	385,614	308,183	73·06	60·65	66·97	26,517	3·82
1922	517,388	498,209	330,362	239,980	63·85	48·17	56·16	25,823	4·53
1925*	1,266,122		1,144,768		90·4			73,513	6·42

* Preliminary.

The percentage of voters increased steadily at the elections during the period 1903-1913; the improvement was not continued in 1914, when the electoral contest was modified in consequence of the outbreak of war in Europe, but in 1917, when considerable political feeling was excited by the question of compulsory military service, the percentage was the highest at any Federal elections before the law of compulsory voting was brought into operation.

FEDERAL REFERENDA.

Analyses of the voting on Federal questions submitted to referenda were shown in the 1921 edition of this Year Book at page 42.

SEAT OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

It is provided in the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act that the seat of Federal Government shall be within the State of New South Wales at a distance of not less than 100 miles from the City of Sydney, but that Parliament shall meet at Melbourne until such time as it meet at the Seat of Government. A site containing 912 square miles was chosen near Queanbeyan in 1908, and ceded to the Commonwealth in December, 1910. In 1915 an additional area of 28 square miles at Jervis Bay was ceded for use as the seaport of the capital.

The administration of the Capital Territory is conducted in accordance with the Seat of Government (Administration) Act, 1910-1924. Until the Federal Parliament makes other provision, the Governor-General may issue ordinances having the force of law in the Territory unless disallowed by resolution of either House of Parliament. Laws hitherto in force in the Territory were retained except those relating to industrial arbitration, local government, water supply and sewerage, and those imposing rates and

taxes other than duties on estates of deceased persons; they are administered by the State authorities. All revenue accrues to the Commonwealth, which repays the State for service such as education, police, etc. New licenses to retail intoxicating liquors are not granted, and existing licenses may be renewed for the same premises only. Crown lands in the Territory may not be sold or converted into freehold.

The Seat of Government (Administration) Act of 1924 provided for the establishment of a Federal Capital Commission of three members to be appointed by the Governor-General. The powers of the Commission include the general municipal government of the Territory, the control and management of Crown lands, the levying and collection of rates upon lands alienated or leased from the Crown, the construction and maintenance of tramways, roads, etc., and of public utility services, the construction of works and buildings for the Commission, and, subject to the approval of the Minister for Home and Territories, the construction of works and buildings required by the Commonwealth in the Territory. The Commission was appointed in October, 1924.

In 1913 the name "Canberra" was chosen for the Federal Capital City, and the work of construction was inaugurated. Slow progress has been made, but in 1921 a Federal Capital Advisory Committee was appointed with a view to providing a scheme of works which would enable the early transfer of the Federal Parliament and Central Government offices to the chosen site. The scheme of works drawn up by the Committee provided a programme of works costing £1,799,000, which would enable the transfer of the Government to Canberra in three years. The general principles of the scheme were approved by Cabinet, but subsequently the programme was modified considerably. During the year ended 30th June, 1925, the expenditure in respect of the Federal Capital Territory was £790,260, as compared with £562,997 in the previous year.

DEFENCE.

UPON the inauguration of the Commonwealth the duty of providing for the defence of Australia devolved upon the Federal Government, and the Parliament of the Commonwealth has paramount power, subject to Imperial approval, to legislate for the naval and military defence of Australia, and for the control of the forces to execute and maintain the federal laws. The Constitution provides that the States may not raise nor maintain forces, but enjoins the Commonwealth to protect every State against invasion, and, on the application of the Executive Government of the State, against domestic violence. It is provided in the Defence Act that the Citizen Forces may not be called out nor utilised in connection with an industrial dispute.

In terms of the Defence Act male citizens between the ages of 18 and 60 years are liable for service in the citizen forces for home defence in time of war. Male citizens are liable also to undergo military or naval training between the ages of 12 and 26 years.

The system of compulsory training was brought into operation on 1st January, 1911. The duration of the training in each year is prescribed by the Act, the trainees being liable for service in the following age groups:—Junior cadets, 12 to 14 years of age; senior cadets, 14 to 18 years; citizen forces, 18 to 26 years.

The duration of the training was curtailed during the war period, also in 1921 and in 1922 owing to the resolutions passed at the Washington Conference on limitation of armaments. At present, training is commenced by senior cadets in the year in which they reach the age of 17 years, one year later they are transferred to the citizen forces to undergo courses during a further period of three years. The training of boys under 16 years as part of the defence system was suspended in 1922, though they were still required to register during the months of January and February of the year in which they reached the age of 14 years.

Junior cadet training consists almost entirely of a course of physical drill on modern lines. Legally it is universal and compulsory, but, in practice, it is confined to the larger schools. All boys of the prescribed ages are trained unless physically incapacitated. The system is carried out by school teachers advised by the officers of the Department of Defence. Such teachers formerly received instruction at special schools but, latterly, an instructor has been added to the staff of the Teachers' Training College.

MILITARY DEFENCE.

The Commonwealth is organised for defence purposes into six military districts, corresponding as far as practicable with the political divisions into States. The second military district represents the State of New South Wales, excepting the far North Coast district, the Barrier district, which are attached to Queensland and South Australia respectively, and the Deniliquin, Moama, and Corowa districts attached to Victoria.

A military college is maintained at Duntroon in the Federal Capital Territory for the training of officers.

The following table shows the strength of the military forces of the Commonwealth on 1st February, 1925:—

Military District.	Perma- nent.	Citizen Forces.	Engineer and Railway Staff Corps.	Officers.	Chap- lains.	Total.
				Reserve.		
Headquarters	130	...	5	...	...	135
1. Queensland	150	4,113	10	1,344	58	5,726
2. New South Wales	637	14,783	9	4,313	72	19,962
3. Victoria	496	11,351	10	3,986	142	16,184
4. South Australia	91	3,681	6	1,088	41	4,936
5. Western Australia	129	2,076	8	888	32	3,149
6. Tasmania	64	1,188	4	366	21	1,669
Total	1,697	37,192	52	11,985	366	51,761

NAVAL DEFENCE.

The naval defence of Australia was undertaken by the Imperial Navy under agreement between the Imperial Government and the Governments of Australia and New Zealand until 1913, when the Imperial squadron was replaced by Australian war vessels.

The fleet of the Australian Navy consists of 4 light cruisers, 11 destroyers, 1 flotilla leader, 1 depôt ship, 4 sloops, 2 fleet auxiliaries and a boys' training ship.

The seagoing force consists of 406 officers and 4,219 ratings on active service in the Royal Australian Navy in May, 1925; about 84 per cent. of the officers and 90 per cent. of the men were Australians, the remainder being on loan from the Royal Navy.

Reserves of officers and men for the Royal Australian Navy are provided from four services, viz:—(a) Ratings who have completed periods of service; (b) officers permanently employed in the mercantile marine; (c) compulsory trainees of citizen forces; (d) volunteers enrolled for service in any capacity in time of war or emergency. The personnel of the Reserve in May, 1925, comprised 206 officers and 5,966 men.

Junior officers are trained at the Naval College, Jervis Bay, which contained 49 cadet midshipmen undergoing training in May, 1925. Junior seamen ratings are trained on the H.M.A.S. "Tingira" at Sydney, there being 256 trainees in May, 1925. The general depôt of the Navy is at West-ernport, Victoria, where the more advanced training of officers and men is conducted.

AIR DEFENCE.

An Australian Air Force for defence purposes was established in 1921 by proclamation under the Defence Act. It formed part of the military forces until the Air Force Act was passed in September, 1923, to provide for its administration as a separate branch of the defence system. The present approved establishment of the Permanent Air Force is 71 officers and 453 airmen.

COMMERCE.

POWER to make laws with respect to trade and commerce with other countries and between the States vests in the Commonwealth Parliament, and in the year 1901 control of the Customs and Excise Department was transferred to the Commonwealth. Until the year 1910, particulars relating to interstate trade were recorded by the Federal Government, but it was decided to discontinue the records as from 13th September, 1910, therefore the figures in this chapter relate to oversea trade only—that is, to the trade of New South Wales with countries beyond Australia.

The first Commonwealth Act relating to Customs came into operation by proclamation on 4th October, 1901. It provided administrative machinery in relation to Customs, and prescribed the manner in which duties were to be computed and paid. Prior to the establishment of the Commonwealth a different tariff was in operation in each State, and interstate trade was subject to the same duties as oversea trade. On 8th October, 1901, when the Customs Tariff Act of 1902 was introduced in the Federal Parliament, a uniform tariff for all the States was imposed, trade and commerce between the States became free, and the power of the Commonwealth to impose duties of customs and excise became exclusive, except that the State of Western Australia was given the right to levy duty on interstate imports for a period of five years.

In the administration of matters relating to trade and customs, the Department of Trade and Customs, under the direction of a Minister of the Crown, is assisted by the Tariff Board appointed under an Act which commenced in March, 1922. The Board consisted originally of three members, including an administrative officer of the Department of Trade and Customs as chairman. An additional member was appointed in 1923. The Minister refers to the Board for investigation such matters as the classification of goods; the determination of the value of goods for duty; the necessity for new or increased or reduced duties, or for bounties; proposals for applying preferential tariffs to any country; and complaints that a manufacturer is taking undue advantage of the protection afforded by the tariff to charge unnecessarily high prices. The Minister may request the Board to report as to the effect of the customs and excise tariffs and of the customs laws on the industries of the Commonwealth, and other matters affecting the encouragement of industry in relation to the tariff.

In 1924 it was provided by an amending Act that certain inquiries conducted by the Tariff Board must be held in public, *e.g.*, those relating to revision of the tariff, to proposals for bounties, or to complaints that a manufacturer is taking undue advantage of the protection afforded by the tariff.

In 1925 the Department of Markets and Migration was established to take over the functions of the Department of Trade and Customs relating to the oversea marketing of Australian produce and to immigration, also the administration of the Commonwealth Board of Trade. The functions of the Board of Trade include the collection and dissemination of commercial and industrial intelligence, the control of Trade Commissioners abroad, and the investigation of matters affecting trade, commerce, and industry. The Board, under the presidency of the Prime Minister, includes in its membership representatives of the Customs Department, the Chambers of Commerce, the Chamber of Manufactures, and of other kindred organisations. A section of the Board has been established in each State of the Commonwealth.

Regulations under the Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act, 1905, prohibit the importation and exportation of the following classes of goods if they do not bear a prescribed trade description, viz., articles used for food or drink by man, or used in the manufacture or preparation thereof; medicines; manures; apparel (including boots and shoes) and the material from which it is manufactured; jewellery; seeds and plants.

Customs officers are authorised to inspect imports and exports, and exporters may be required to give notice of intention to export. Special care is exercised in regard to the supervision and inspection of meat, and standard requirements are prescribed for abattoirs and premises where it is prepared for shipment. Goods approved for export are marked with an official stamp; butter and cheese are graded, and frozen meat, rabbits, etc., are classified.

With the object of assisting local industries and promoting oversea trade the Federal Government has made provision for the control of the export and marketing of Australian dairy produce and dried fruits. Particulars regarding the organisation of the boards of control and their activities are published in the chapters of this volume which relate to primary production. The Government has made provision also for the payment of bounties on the export of live cattle, canned fruits, and fortified wines.

In terms of the Export Guarantee Act, 1924, the Federal Government may guarantee bank advances made to boards constituted to control the export of Australian products, the maximum guarantee being 80 per cent. of the market value of the produce. The Act also authorises the Government to grant assistance, upon the recommendation of the Commonwealth Board of Trade, in respect of the export of Australian primary products, the total liability which may be incurred in this manner being limited to £500,000.

OVERSEA TRADE.

The value of the goods imported and exported as shown in the following tables represents the official value as recorded by the Department of Trade and Customs. The value of goods exported is the value in the principal markets of New South Wales.

The value of goods imported represents the amount on which duty is payable or would be payable if the duty were *ad valorem*. In accordance with a provision of the Customs Act of 1901-1925 the value of goods subject to *ad valorem* duty is the sum of the following:—(a) The actual price paid by the Australian importer plus any discount or other special deduction, or the current domestic value in the country of export at the date of exportation, whichever is the higher; (b) all charges for placing the goods free on board at the port of export; and (c) 10 per cent. of the amounts (a) and (b). For the purpose of this provision, special deduction means any discount or other deduction allowed to the Australian importer which would not ordinarily have been allowed to any and every purchaser. In the case of goods consigned for sale in Australia the value is the amount which would be the value if the goods were sold at the date of exportation to an Australian importer.

In reference to the value of goods imported from foreign countries, the Customs Act of 1901 provides that where an invoice shows the value of goods in any currency other than British, the equivalent value in British currency is to be ascertained "according to a fair rate of exchange." Until December, 1920, it was the practice of the Customs authorities to assess the value as in the country of export at the time of shipment, and to convert foreign values on the basis of the mint par rate of exchange, i.e., the standard value of the coin of the exporting country as compared with the pound sterling in gold coin.

This practice caused to be overrated the goods from countries with a depreciated exchange, with the contrary effect where the pound sterling was at a discount, and on 8th December, 1920, the method of converting foreign currencies was changed, in consequence of a decision of the High Court of Australia. Since that date the values for statistical purposes, as well as for duty, have been based on the commercial rates of exchange at the date of exportation.

The total value of oversea imports and exports, as recorded by the Customs Department, during the year before the war and in each of the last five years is shown in the following table, with the value per head of population:—

Year ended 30th June.	Imports.	Exports.			Total Trade Oversea.
		Australian Products.	Other Products.	Total.	
1913*	£ 32,350,663	£ 31,135,169	£ 1,704,620	£ 32,839,789	£ 65,190,452
1921	72,466,388	48,302,717	4,299,039	52,601,806	125,068,194
1922	43,321,478	44,728,907	3,253,948	48,012,855	91,334,333
1923	55,010,083	40,175,208	2,406,714	42,581,922	97,592,005
1924	58,225,040	40,506,465	2,640,681	43,147,146	101,372,186
1925	66,321,747	58,212,750	2,364,455	60,577,205	126,898,952

Per head of Population.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1913*	17 15 6	17 2 1	0 13 9	18 0 10	35 16 4
1921	34 13 4	23 2 2	2 1 1	25 3 3	59 16 7
1922	20 7 2	21 0 5	1 10 10	22 11 3	42 18 5
1923	25 6 3	18 9 9	1 2 2	19 11 11	44 18 2
1924	26 6 11	13 6 6	1 3 11	19 10 5	45 17 4
1925	29 8 8	25 16 9	1 1 0	26 17 9	56 6 5

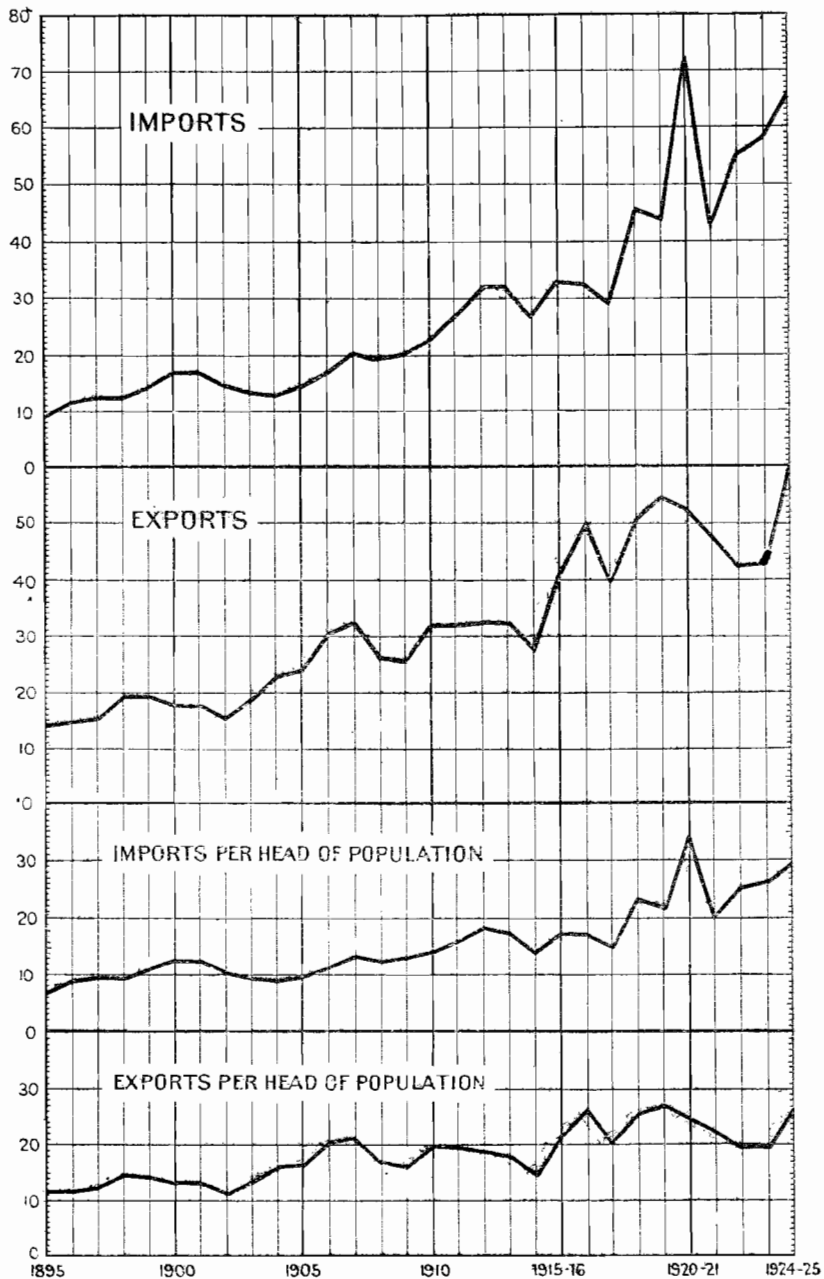
* Year ended 31st December.

These figures do not include the value of exports in the form of ships' stores.

Reference to a table of index numbers in chapter "Food and Prices" of this Year Book indicates that the increase in the aggregate value of trade as shown above is due, in a large measure, to enhanced prices.

During 1920-21 the value of imports was abnormally high, owing to extraordinary conditions affecting Australian trade. Under war conditions there had been considerable delay in the delivery in Australia of goods from abroad, and in many cases a curtailment of the quantities ordered. Anticipating the continuance of these conditions, Australian importers placed large orders during the period of trade expansion which immediately followed the cessation of hostilities. Then a period of depression caused a diminution in demand and the cancellation of contracts in oversea countries,

OVERSEA TRADE, 1895 TO 1924-25.



The numbers at the side of the graph represent £1,000,000 of imports and of exports, and £1 of imports per head of population, and £1 of exports per head of population.

so that the Australian orders were delivered promptly and in full quantity, with the result that the value of imports expanded rapidly. The prompt delivery caused difficulty in financing drafts for payment abroad, and the local banks took action to restrict the issue of fresh credit, so that in the following year the value of imports dropped again.

In 1922-23, trade having been stimulated by the good returns from wool, wheat, etc., of the previous seasons, there was another large increase, and though the value did not reach the high figure of 1920-21, it was 27 per cent. above the value in the preceding year. Under the influence of large public borrowings abroad and of the payment of remittances on account of wool purchased by the Imperial Government during the War, the expansion of imports continued during 1923-24, though the rate of increase slackened.

In the following year there was an increase of over £8,000,000, but the imports included gold to the value of £6,000,000.

The value of the exports during the years 1920-23 does not reflect the seasonal conditions, as in normal times, because the figures include important items of export, e.g., wool, meat, wheat, etc., which were purchased by the Imperial Government during the war period and stored in Australia pending shipment. The last consignment was not despatched until May, 1923. The value of exports exceeded £55,000,000 in 1919-20, and the subsequent decline was due largely to falling prices. In 1923-24 the high prices obtained for the wool clip caused the value of exports to rise above that of the preceding year, notwithstanding a decline in such important items as hides and skins, frozen meat and butter.

In 1924-25 the value of exports rose above all former records. Owing to a favourable season large quantities of wool and wheat were available for export, and prices for such commodities in oversea markets were at a high level.

A comparison of the annual values of imports with those of exports shows that there was an excess of exports amounting to £4,691,000 in the year ended June, 1922. The excess of imports was nearly £20,000,000 in 1920-21, £12,428,000 in 1922-23, and £15,078,000 and £5,745,000 in the succeeding years.

The foregoing figures relating to imports and exports include bullion and specie, gold being an item of domestic produce in Australia. In 1924-25 a large quantity of gold was imported, its value being greater than the excess of the total imports over exports. It must be noted, however, that consignments of specie and bullion which are received at or despatched from New South Wales are to be regarded as affecting the trade of the whole Commonwealth rather than that of New South Wales.

Year-ended 30th June.	Imports of Bullion and Specie.	Exports of Bullion and Specie.		
		Australian Produce.	Other Produce.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1918	1,209,760	3,371,118	1,065,933	4,437,051
1921	29,392	3,770,195	15,275	3,785,470
1922	68,369	2,027,004	1,550	2,028,554
1923	48,023	41,239	600	41,839
1924	61,681	526,617	...	526,617
1925	6,007,967	133,001	3,300	136,301

DIRECTION OF TRADE.

The direction of the oversea trade of New South Wales is indicated in the following statement, which shows the value of imports to, and of exports from the principal countries during the year 1924-25 in comparison with similar information for the years 1913 and 1922-23. Particulars regarding the imports according to country of shipment are not available for recent years, and the figures shown below relate to the country of origin.

Country.	Imports (Country of Origin).			Exports,		
	1913.	1922-23.	1924-25.	1913.	1922-23.	1924-25.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	15,367,423	26,651,718	27,438,475	11,904,424	14,787,084	20,405,113
Canada ...	359,022	2,011,073	1,337,106	145,875	232,887	270,308
South African Customs Union ...	196,206	486,806	566,922	339,207	144,381	331,935
India and the East ...	1,705,526	2,404,128	3,737,477	1,413,093	893,694	904,403
New Zealand ...	1,457,335	892,470	934,087	1,321,989	2,608,236	3,320,377
South Sea Islands ...	454,429	1,022,481	925,478	511,523	1,262,322	1,399,494
Other British Possessions ...	82,790	224,577	213,715	29,947	309,837	539,067
Total, British ...	19,652,736	33,693,253	35,153,260	15,666,058	20,238,441	27,170,697
Belgium ...	456,503	404,496	325,832	2,769,661	1,386,882	2,409,444
France ...	894,186	1,292,233	1,601,030	4,649,474	5,284,278	8,428,073
Germany ...	2,834,038	222,663	852,214	3,659,676	2,024,177	3,816,442
Italy ...	243,134	450,780	522,092	510,433	1,661,932	3,104,812
Netherlands ...	149,599	234,138	288,086	99,261	396,045	995,725
Norway ...	254,019	545,402	488,296	38	971	2,348
Sweden ...	344,833	672,455	716,509	4,825	22,505	304,740
Switzerland ...	469,858	896,583	984,525	3,190	11,743	2,564
Other European ...	276,239	379,302	454,957	432,567	1,998	353,086
United States & Hawaii ...	5,331,032	11,468,179	19,608,105	1,049,389	5,312,213	4,726,384
Japan ...	467,666	2,013,632	2,075,852	1,113,915	4,863,438	7,124,862
China and the East ...	632,249	2,449,025	2,966,876	711,408	901,362	961,162
South Sea Islands ...	184,048	78,328	112,820	605,883	325,465	342,428
Other Foreign ...	160,523	209,614	171,293	664,011	150,472	829,438
Total, Foreign ...	12,697,927	21,316,830	31,168,487	17,173,731	22,343,481	83,406,508
Total, all Countries	32,350,663	55,010,083	66,321,747	32,839,789	42,581,922	60,577,205

The oversea trade of New South Wales is conducted principally with the United Kingdom. In 1924-25 imports valued at £27,438,475 were the product of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and exports shipped thereto were valued at £20,405,113. The increases since 1913, viz., imports £12,000,000 and exports £8,501,000, have not been sufficient to maintain the relative position of the United Kingdom in regard to the oversea trade of New South Wales, as the proportion of imports has declined from 47.5 per cent. to 41.4 per cent. and of exports from 36.3 to 33.7 per cent. The figures shown in respect of trade with the United Kingdom in 1924-25 are exclusive of imports from and exports to the Irish Free State, valued at £7,409 and £357,893 respectively.

European countries, other than Great Britain and Ireland, were the source of imports valued at £6,233,541, or 9.4 per cent. of the total in 1924-25, and the outlet for exports valued at £19,422,234 or 32.1 per cent. The value

of imports to the Continent has increased slightly, and the exports have increased by £7,300,000 since 1913, when the relative proportions were imports 18·3 per cent. and exports 36·6 per cent. A noticeable feature of the trade with Europe in recent years has been the increase in the direct exports to France which were of greater value in 1924-25 than the exports to any other foreign country.

Imports from Canada and the United States (including Alaska and Hawaii) were value at £20,945,000, or nearly 31 per cent., in 1924-25 and exports at £4,997,000, or 8 per cent. Imports from those countries represented only 17·6 per cent. in 1913 and exports 6 per cent. Trade with North America developed rapidly during the war period, but the exports thereto have declined since 1922-23. The value of imports from the United States in 1924-25 was augmented by reason of the importation of gold to the value of £5,588,000.

Imports from Japan increased in value from £467,666 or 1·4 per cent. in 1913 to £2,075,852 or 3 per cent. in 1924-25, and exports from £1,113,915 or 3·4 per cent. to £7,124,862 or 11·8 per cent. Trade with other Eastern countries has not shown similar expansion. The imports increased from £2,337,775 or 7·2 per cent. to £6,704,353 or 10·1 per cent., while exports declined from £2,124,501 to £1,865,565, or from 6·5 per cent. to 3·1 per cent.

Trade between New Zealand and New South Wales fluctuates according to seasonal conditions, as trade in primary products usually increases if local supplies become deficient as a result of an unfavourable season in either country. The imports and exports in 1924-25 showed proportions of 1·4 per cent. and 5·5 per cent. respectively. Imports from the South Sea Islands represent about 1·6 per cent. of the total imports, and exports 2·9 per cent. of the total exports.

The statistics of the import trade of New South Wales in 1913 and in each of the last five years are summarised in the following table in order to show the value of British and foreign goods imported:—

Year ended 30th June.	British Empire.			Foreign Countries.	Total Imports.
	United Kingdom.	Other British Countries.	Total.		
	£	£	£	£	£
1913*	15,367,428	4,285,308	19,652,736	12,697,927	32,350,663
1921	32,960,437	8,279,706	41,240,143	31,226,245	72,466,388
1922	19,969,726	5,492,389	25,462,115	17,859,363	43,321,478
1923	26,651,718	7,041,535	33,693,253	21,316,830	55,010,083
1924	24,639,057	8,114,939	32,753,996	25,471,044	58,225,049
1925	27,438,475	7,714,785	35,153,260	31,158,487	66,321,747

PER CENT. OF TOTAL IMPORTS.

1913*	47·5	13·2	60·7	39·3	100
1921	45·5	11·4	56·9	43·1	100
1922	46·1	12·7	58·8	41·2	100
1923	48·4	12·8	61·2	38·8	100
1924	42·3	14·0	56·3	43·7	100
1925	41·4	11·6	53·0	47·0	100

* Year ended 31st December.

The percentage of imports of British origin which had declined during the war period rose in each subsequent year until in 1923 it exceeded the pre-war proportion. In the following years it declined by nearly 13 per cent. owing to a diminution in imports from the United Kingdom. As stated above, the figures relating to trade with the United Kingdom in 1924-25 do not include the trade with the Irish Free State.

The value of the oversea exports from New South Wales to British and foreign countries in 1913, and in each of the last five years, is shown below:—

Year ended 30th June.	British Empire.			Foreign Countries.	Total Exports.
	United Kingdom.	Other British Countries.	Total.		
	£	£	£	£	£
1913*	11,904,424	3,761,634	15,666,058	17,173,731	32,839,789
1921	20,630,150	11,235,612	31,865,762	20,736,044	52,601,806
1922	18,805,323	7,026,533	25,831,856	22,190,999	48,012,855
1923	14,787,084	5,451,357	20,238,441	22,343,481	42,581,922
1924	13,399,065	5,596,386	18,995,451	24,151,695	43,147,146
1925	20,405,113	6,765,584	27,170,697	33,406,508	60,577,205

PER CENT. OF TOTAL EXPORTS.

1913*	36·2	11·5	47·7	52·3	100
1921	39·2	21·4	60·6	39·4	100
1922	39·2	14·6	53·8	46·2	100
1923	34·7	12·8	47·5	52·5	100
1924	31·0	13·0	44·0	56·0	100
1925	33·7	11·2	44·9	55·1	100

* Year ended 31st December

In the proportionate distribution of the export trade between British and foreign countries the British trade increased materially during the war, but declined subsequently. The United Kingdom receives more exports than any other country, but large quantities of the merchandise consigned to ports in Great Britain are re-exported. Exportation to other British countries has been variable. The increase in the exports to foreign countries since 1921 is due in a measure to the fact that direct communication has been established between New South Wales and foreign countries to which exports were transhipped previously at British ports.

ARTICLES OF IMPORT.

A classification of the goods imported into New South Wales during the three years ended June, 1925, is shown in the following table. The items have been grouped in accordance with a statistical classification of imports adopted by the Department of Trade and Customs in 1922:—

Classification of Imports.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
	£	£	£
Foodstuffs of Animal Origin	735,014	1,005,348	802,417
Foodstuffs of Vegetable Origin, Beverages (non-alcoholic), etc.	2,838,870	3,267,470	3,286,686
Spirituous and Alcoholic Liquors	918,319	1,076,635	1,123,238
Tobacco and Preparations thereof	1,471,117	2,115,740	1,605,897
Live Animals	76,465	65,660	121,983
Animal Substances not Foodstuffs	391,083	514,405	397,979
Vegetable Substances and Unmanufactured			
Fibres	1,837,986	1,786,325	1,937,961
Apparel	3,227,385	2,576,350	2,777,818
Textiles	12,285,389	10,666,995	11,314,650
Yarns and Manufactured Fibres... ..	2,041,921	1,584,619	2,151,246
Oils, Fats, and Waxes	2,377,892	2,837,313	2,984,276
Paints and Varnishes	219,226	266,472	296,680
Stones and Minerals (including Ores and Concentrates)	157,969	291,334	283,304
Machines and Machinery... ..	4,170,004	5,523,119	6,263,112
Metals and Metal Manufactures other than Machinery	8,774,648	10,998,365	11,187,674
Rubber and Rubber Manufactures	949,551	1,324,117	1,217,063
Leather and Leather Manufactures	242,558	245,583	200,432
Wood and Wicker	1,960,827	2,610,406	2,243,132
Earthenware, China, Glass, etc.	901,595	1,002,430	1,073,541
Paper	1,800,911	1,653,753	1,943,242
Stationery and Paper Manufactures	1,038,887	1,072,738	1,090,489
Jewellery, Timepieces, and Fancy Goods	1,149,931	1,143,164	1,274,468
Optical, Surgical, and Scientific Instruments	803,340	975,041	1,031,052
Drugs, Chemicals, and Fertilisers	1,398,407	1,320,366	1,368,123
Miscellaneous	3,192,765	2,243,432	2,339,476
Gold and Silver and Bronze Specie	48,023	55,860	6,005,808
Total Imports	55,010,083	58,225,040	66,321,747

The bulk of the imports consists of manufactured articles. Minerals, metal manufactures, and machinery, the most important group in respect of value in 1924-25, represented 26·7 per cent. of the total value of imports; next in order was the textile group, *i.e.*, apparel, textiles, yarns, and manufactured fibres, 24·5 per cent. Articles of food and drink and tobacco constituted an important class of imports, the value in 1924-25 being 10·3 per cent. of the total, and specie represented 9·1 per cent. The two groups, oils and fats and waxes, paper and stationery each represented between 4 and 5 per cent.

There were some notable increases in the imports of 1924-5 as compared with those of the year 1913. For instance, in the textile group the value of piece goods rose from £3,888,140 in 1913 to £9,057,666, and yarns from £80,008 to £698,730. Of the vegetable substances, the quantity and value of copra rose from 107,144 cwt., valued at £117,873, to 588,921 cwt., £705,196; and linseed from 72,535 centals, valued at £43,049, to 293,846 centals, £313,678. In some cases the increased value was due to higher prices as well as to larger quantities, thus 16,463,466 lb. of tea imported in 1913 were valued at £600,097, and 25,814,906 lb. in 1924-25 at £2,140,583; the figures for

unmanufactured tobacco in the respective years were 8,656,932 lb., valued at £423,902, as compared with 12,539,089 lb., £1,425,365. The value of imports of vehicles and parts rose from £953,108 in 1913 to £5,344,523 in 1924-25, the chief item being motor vehicles; and in regard to petroleum spirits, benzine, etc., there was an increase from 3,845,682 gallons, valued at £194,420, to 31,407,627 gallons, valued at £1,784,737. The value of printing paper imported in 1913 was £450,167 as compared with £1,201,029 in 1924-25.

The chief items of the various classes of imports in 1924-25, are shown below:—

Article.	Value of Import.	Article.	Value of Import.
Apparel, Textiles and Manufactured Fibres—	£	Food, Beverages, and Tobacco—	£
Piece Goods—Cotton and Linen ..	4,100,773	Tobacco, Cigars, etc.	1,605,597
Silk and Velvet ..	2,283,957	Tea	2,140,583
Woolen ..	1,226,694	Whisky	846,651
Lace, etc. ..	232,747	Fish, in tins	422,957
Canvas and Duck ..	353,747	Vegetable Substances and Unmanufactured Fibres—	
Hessians, etc. ..	403,064	Copra	705,196
Other	455,784	Linseed	313,673
Bags and Sacks	1,365,311	Kapok	185,114
Sewing Cottons, etc.	468,528	Paper and Stationery—	
Socks and Stockings	664,668	Printing Paper	1,201,029
Trimmings and Ornaments	850,990	Books (printed)	550,575
Floor Coverings	1,184,155	Writing Paper	217,786
Yarns, Woollen	329,652	Oils, Fats, Waxes—	
Hats and Caps	241,884	Petroleum Spirits	1,784,737
Machines and Manufactures of Metal—		Kerosene	260,472
Electrical Machinery and Appliances ..	3,155,461	Lubricating (Mineral) Oil	347,532
Other Motive Power Machinery	614,439	Other Classes—	
Printing Machinery	309,994	Timber	1,994,631
Sewing Machines	191,329	Vessels	424,388
Other Machinery	1,991,889	Rubber Tyres	897,591
Iron and Steel—		Glass and Glassware	473,154
Bar, Rods, etc.	298,191	Musical Instruments and Parts	568,196
Plate and Sheet	1,422,753	Jewellery and Precious Stones	430,521
Metal Pipes and Tubes, etc.	558,254	Crocery and other Household Ware	314,907
Tools of Trade	433,796	Films for Kinematographs	192,303
Vehicles and parts	5,344,523	Timepieces	309,627
Platedware and Cutlery	364,781	Gramophones, etc., and Records	436,031
Lamps and Lampware	207,160		

The United Kingdom is the main source of supply of nearly all the manufactured articles imported into New South Wales. The principal products of other European countries are as follow:—France, silk piece goods, lace and embroideries, trimmings and ornaments, motor chassis, and toilet preparations; Switzerland, silk piece goods, lace and embroideries, trimmings and ornaments, timepieces, gramophones and talking machines; Belgium, glass; Netherlands, electrical appliances and gin; Norway, fish, paper, timber; Sweden, paper, cream separators, timber, matches, and wood pulp; Italy, motor chassis, silk piece goods, hats; Germany, pianos, gloves, toys. The items of Eastern origin include the following:—From Japan, piece goods of silk and of cotton, crockery, timber; from India, bags and sacks, raw cotton, hessian and other jute goods, goatskins, tea, rice, linseed; from Ceylon, tea; from British Malaya, rubber; from China, tea, rice, and vegetable paint oils; from Netherlands East Indies, kapok, petroleum oils, tea, sugar.

The products of the United States, which are imported in large quantities, include machines and machinery of various kinds, tools, iron and steel, motor vehicles and parts, metal manufactures, oils, tobacco, films for kinematographs, timber, rubber tyres, musical instruments, gramophones and talking machines and records, cotton piece goods, and socks and stockings. The principal imports of Canadian origin are paper, tinned fish,

motor vehicles and parts, machinery, rubber tyres, and timber. Undressed timber is the principal item of import from New Zealand. Copra is imported from various South Sea Islands, rock phosphates from Nauru and Ocean Island, precious stones from South Africa, tinned fish from Alaska, dates from Mesopotamia, and sodium nitrate from Chile.

ARTICLES OF EXPORT.

The exports of Australian produce consist mainly of raw materials. Particulars of the principal commodities exported during 1924-25 are shown below in comparison with the annual average during the five years ended 30th June, 1924. In regard to such commodities as wool, wheat, etc., for which there is constant demand, the quantity available for export depends mainly on local seasonal conditions, but the exportation of industrial metals is influenced to a greater extent by market prices, and a movement up or down reacts promptly on the productive activity. The value of the trade in practically all the commodities enumerated in the table depends on the prices prevailing in the overseas markets:—

Commodity.	Quantity.		Value.		Per cent. of Total Value.	
	Annual Average, 1920-24.	1924-25.	Annual Average, 1920-24.	1924-25.	1920-24.	1924-25.
			£	£		
Wool—greasy ... lb.	209,949,873	209,334,275	14,730,646	23,566,725	32·8	40·5
seoured... lb.	33,331,059	15,469,990	3,150,011	2,395,503	7·0	4·1
tops ... lb.	4,642,518	3,492,004	1,403,360	991,452	3·1	1·7
	...	...	19,284,017	26,953,680	42·9	46·3
Skins and hides... ..	...	...	3,384,495	4,146,858	7·5	7·1
Meats—frozen—						
Mutton and lamb lb.	38,739,265	16,331,310	979,109	506,715	2·2	·9
Other ... ..	...	...	584,125	507,927	1·3	·9
Tinned, etc. ... ..	...	...	527,212	175,222	1·2	·3
Leather ... ..	...	...	610,056	367,547	1·4	·6
Tallow cwt.	309,604	299,892	713,986	608,801	1·6	1·1
Butter lb.	18,648,851	44,243,504	1,799,419	2,935,658	4·0	5·0
Wheat cntl.	7,639,649	19,095,330	4,377,109	11,106,233	9·7	19·1
Flour cntl.	1,982,364	2,626,474	1,337,667	1,924,422	3·0	3·3
Copper—Ingots and matte ... cwt.	255,763	65,954	1,182,430	220,263	2·3	·4
Lead—Pig and matte cwt.	1,271,424	1,857,535	1,857,661	3,280,026	4·1	5·6
Tin—Ingots ... cwt.	29,934	30,975	343,186	386,255	·8	·7
Coal tons	1,310,271	974,704	1,340,702	1,073,560	3·0	1·8
Timber, undressed sup. ft.	19,903,867	37,020,818	339,491	610,824	·8	1·1
Bullion and specie ... ..	...	...	1,655,889	133,001	3·7	·2
All other ... ..	...	...	4,611,055	3,275,758	10·2	5·6
Total ... ..	...	...	44,927,549	58,212,750	100·0	100·0

The value of the exports of domestic products depends mainly on the wool trade, which supplied 46·3 per cent. of the total value in 1924-25. In quantity, the exports of wool in that year were somewhat below the annual average of the previous five years, but the value was greater. The value of the wool sent to the United Kingdom in 1924-25 was nearly 7½ millions sterling, and the direct exports to Continental ports in the aggregate reached over 12 millions sterling, including France £5,631,000, Germany £3,067,000, Belgium £1,957,000, and Italy £1,413,000. Japan purchased wool to the value of £4,809,000, and the United States £2,110,000.

Skins and hides represented 7 per cent. of the exports of Australian produce in 1924-25. The United States received the largest portion, viz., £2,028,826, the United Kingdom £944,150, and sheepskins to the value of £591,885 were sent to France.

The exports of butter and of meat were equivalent to 5 per cent. and 2 per cent. respectively. The United Kingdom received the bulk of these products, viz., butter £2,643,426 and meat £837,188. Meat valued at £107,588 and butter at £121,061 were sent to Eastern countries. The quantity of butter available for export in 1924-25 was the largest yet recorded.

Leather and tallow are important items of the export trade. The leather exported to the United Kingdom in 1924-25 was valued at £95,826, to New Zealand at £46,520, and to Eastern ports at £204,047. The principal countries to which tallow was consigned were Japan £233,156, United Kingdom £174,953, Italy £71,436, and India £49,698.

Wheat and flour represented 22·4 per cent. of the value of Australian products exported in 1924-25. The value of the wheat sent to Great Britain and Northern Ireland was £3,333,510, the Irish Free State £357,513, France £1,813,335, Japan £1,754,571, Italy £1,373,978, Netherlands £759,054, and to Germany £305,773. The principal markets for flour were—United Kingdom £427,282, Egypt £603,801, British Malaya £212,584, Netherlands East Indies £237,154, and Philippine Islands £141,814.

Among the industrial metals, copper, lead, and tin showed a proportion of 6·7 per cent. of the exports in 1924-25, as compared with 7·5 per cent. during the previous quinquennium. The bulk of the trade was with the United Kingdom, viz., copper ingots £192,566, pig lead £2,914,760, and tin £171,533; Germany, Japan, and New Zealand received pig lead to the value of £121,500, £98,647, and £81,316 respectively, and tin valued at £132,167 was consigned to the United States. The figures for New South Wales, however, do not include the products of the Broken Hill mines which are dispatched oversea from South Australian ports.

The value of the coal exported represented 1·8 per cent. in 1924-25. The oversea trade in this product has increased since the removal of war-time restrictions, but a valuable trade with South American countries, upon which an embargo was placed early in the war period, has not been regained. The export of coal to those countries in 1924-25 was only 51,613 tons as compared with 750,937 tons in 1913. New Zealand, which usually provides the main outlet for coal, received 579,087 tons, valued at £645,402, and the exports to Eastern ports amounted to 236,070 tons, valued at £257,886. Undressed timber, 33,684,846 super. feet, valued at £543,025, was exported to New Zealand.

There has been a marked decrease in the export trade in a number of food commodities such as tinned meat, condensed milk, jams, biscuits, etc.,

which were exported in large quantities during the war period. The readiness with which production was increased then to meet the extraordinary demand is evidence of the fact that there is ample scope for development, and the subsequent decline in trade points to the necessity of securing new markets.

There is a fairly large re-export trade in provisions and manufactured articles with New Zealand, New Caledonia, Fiji, and other South Sea islands, but the principal item is copra, which is transhipped at Sydney to European ports. During the year ended June, 1925, copra to the value of £520,062 was re-exported, direct shipments to France being valued at £236,689; to the United Kingdom at £120,907; and to the Netherlands at £91,128. The re-exports in 1924-25 included also six vessels transferred abroad, the value being £66,750. Other important items of foreign produce re-exported during the year were piece goods, £147,863; tea, £223,509; machinery, £127,548; metals and metal manufactures, £226,104; apparel and attire, £39,732; rice, £100,753; oils, £75,016; sugar, £71,043; spirits, £73,032; tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes, £86,482.

Exports—Ships' Stores.

The figures relating to the exports, as shown in the foregoing tables, do not include exports in the form of ships' stores. This is an important branch of the trade of the State, as will be seen from the following statement of the value of ships' stores exported in each year since 1921:—

Year ended 30th June.	Ships' Stores Exported.		
	Australian Produce.	Other Produce.	Total.
	£	£	£
1921	2,028,728	300,969	2,329,697
1922	1,915,084	160,268	2,075,352
1923	2,018,821	118,703	2,137,524
1924	1,859,243	147,861	2,007,104
1925	1,595,305	226,861	1,822,166

The most important items of Australian produce exported as ships' stores in 1924-25 were bunker coal, 953,246 tons, valued at £1,159,523; meat, fresh, 5,008,434 lb., £108,058; other meats, £44,620; fish, fresh or frozen, 470,954 lb., £19,056; butter, 483,572 lb., £32,867; flour, 19,973 centals, £14,645; ale and beer, 80,165 gallons, £20,410. The chief item of foreign produce was oil, 7,327,528 gallons, valued at £130,524.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TARIFFS.

The Customs tariff is contained in the Customs Tariff Act, 1921-1924. A number of alterations were made in September, 1925, when a new tariff schedule was introduced into the Federal Parliament. In view of an impending dissolution, a validating Act was passed to give effect to the proposals for the period of one year, so that they may be considered by the new Parliament.

The Customs Tariff Act, 1921-24, provides for three tariffs, viz., (1) British preferential, (2) intermediate, (3) general. The British preferential tariff applies to products of the United Kingdom, and by proclamation it may be applied, wholly or in part, to any part of the British Dominions, if the Tariff

Board, in view of reciprocal arrangements, has reported upon the question and the Federal Parliament has agreed. Under similar conditions the intermediate tariff may be applied in respect of goods from any part of the British Dominions or from a foreign country. The general tariff is imposed on all goods to which the other tariffs do not apply. In 1925 an amending Custom Act made material alterations in the conditions under which the British preferential tariff is applied.

The tariff list includes a number of duties which may be deferred upon the recommendation of the Tariff Board until the date when, in the opinion of the Board, the goods will be produced locally in reasonable quantities and of satisfactory quality. The items include iron and steel sheets, plain, corrugated, and galvanized; hoop-iron and other items of metal manufactures; aeroplanes; ships; soda, citric and tartaric acid, and cream of tartar; writing paper; woollen yarns.

Preferential tariffs have been arranged with South Africa, New Zealand, and Canada. The South African preference applies to certain goods specified in an Act passed in 1906.

Reciprocity with New Zealand was introduced in 1922. The British preferential tariff has been applied generally to goods produced in New Zealand, and special rates have been fixed in relation to certain commodities. A further measure of reciprocity was authorised in 1924 by the New Zealand Re-exports Act. It provides that when foreign goods are re-exported to Australia from New Zealand the value for duty shall be the sum of the following:—(a) The current domestic value in the country of origin, (b) charges for placing goods f.o.b. at port of export to New Zealand, (c) 10 per cent. of the sum of (a) + (b), (d) 10 per cent. of the sum of the foregoing amounts. The Act will come into force on a date to be proclaimed after reciprocal provisions have been made by the Government of New Zealand.

The preferential tariff treaty with Canada was brought into operation on 1st October, 1925.

The Department of Trade and Customs issues an official guide to the tariff which shows in detail a classification, for purposes of duty, of all articles of import, and the rates of tax.

The Customs Tariff (Industries Preservation) Act, 1921-22, provides for the imposition of special customs duties to prevent the dumping of foreign goods in Australia to the detriment of local industries and to safeguard the preference accorded to the United Kingdom under the tariff. These duties, which are additional to those payable under the tariff, may be imposed on the recommendation of the Tariff Board.

The excise tariff is contained in the Excise Tariff Act, 1921-1924. The dutiable goods are beer, spirits, saccharin, starch made from imported rice, tobacco, cigars, cigarettes, and snuff.

Customs and Excise Revenue.

The following statement shows the net amount of customs and excise revenue collected in New South Wales under each division of the tariff during 1922-23 and 1924-25, in comparison with the figures for 1913. Sydney is an important distributing centre for the whole of Australia, consequently the collections in New South Wales include receipts for goods

which, in the course of trade, were transferred to and consumed in other States. On the other hand, they do not include receipts for goods transferred from other parts of Australia for consumption in New South Wales—

Tariff Division.	Net Collections.		
	1913.	1922-23.	1924-25.
Customs—	£	£	£
1. Stimulants, Ale, Beer, etc.	1,240,524	1,123,733	1,412,432
2. Narcotics	577,828	1,109,487	1,271,286
3. Sugar	61,592	4,629	3,790
4. Agricultural Products and Groceries	394,048	498,565	462,547
5. Apparel and Textiles	931,949	2,352,531	2,173,485
6. Metals and Machinery	700,277	1,363,246	1,821,675
7. Oils, Paints, and Varnishes	120,442	225,230	312,444
8. Earthenware, etc.	182,239	223,466	278,839
9. Drugs and Chemicals	54,741	219,856	213,185
10. Wood, Wicker, etc.	222,475	392,908	478,044
11. Jewellery and Fancy Goods	123,696	397,769	477,594
12. Leather and Rubber	168,874	554,725	768,837
13. Paper and Stationery	103,552	348,283	354,529
14. Vehicles	106,106	621,966	1,021,890
15. Musical Instruments	69,120	121,189	208,213
16. Miscellaneous	131,362	322,069	362,166
Other Receipts... ..	13,852	25,791	25,036
Total, Customs Duties	£5,222,677	£9,905,443	£11,645,992
Excise—			
Beer	282,367	2,074,181	2,074,487
Spirits	188,281	650,100	692,813
Starch ... ..	...	...	10
Sugar	300,877	...	...
Tobacco... ..	204,865	628,757	717,115
Cigars	1,083	17,910	21,566
Cigarettes	383,989	1,517,181	1,676,750
Licenses—Tobacco	} 2,227	{ 3,159	3,314
„ Other ... ..				1,566	1,418
Total, Excise Duties	£1,363,629	£4,898,854	£5,187,473
Total, Customs and Excise Duties	£6,586,306	£14,804,297	£16,833,465

The customs revenue increased by 123 per cent. during the period under review, and the excise revenue by 280 per cent. The excise duties now contribute 31 per cent. of the customs and excise revenue as compared with 21 per cent. in 1913. Nearly 47 per cent. of the customs and excise revenue in 1924-25 was obtained from duties on stimulants, etc., and narcotics, viz., £7,866,449, the figures for 1913 being £2,878,877 or 44 per cent. These amounts were equivalent to £3 9s. 10d., and £1 11s. 8d., per head of population in the respective years.

Notwithstanding marked increases in the rates of duty, the customs collections in respect of stimulants, etc., increased by only 14 per cent. between 1913 and 1924-25. The excise on beer and spirits rose from £470,648 to £2,767,300. The excise revenue from tobacco and cigarettes also has increased in a remarkable degree. The duties in respect of the group apparel and textiles yielded the largest amount of the customs revenue in 1924-25, next in order being metals and machinery, stimulants,

and narcotics. The revenue from Customs duties on vehicles shows the greatest relative increase, viz., from £106,106 in 1913, to £1,021,890 in 1924-25.

The following table shows the net collections of Customs and Excise revenue in New South Wales during five years ended June, 1925:—

Collections.	Year ended 30th June.				
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Customs Duties	£ 9,797,982	£ 7,847,620	£ 9,903,443	£ 10,988,308	£ 11,645,992
Excise Duties	5,023,018	5,052,809	4,894,129	5,105,913	5,182,741
Licenses	4,479	4,885	4,725	4,998	4,732
Total £	14,825,479	12,905,314	14,804,297	16,099,214	16,833,465
Per head of population	£ s. d. 7 1 10	£ s. d. 6 1 3	£ s. d. 6 16 3	£ s. d. 7 5 8	£ s. d. 7 9 5

TRADE REPRESENTATION IN OVERSEA COUNTRIES.

The future of the oversea trade of Australia depends to a large extent upon the opening of new outlets for staple exports, and the development of markets in oversea countries, therefore the question of providing official trade representation abroad has received special attention in recent years. While the bulk of the direct trade was with the United Kingdom, trade representation in other countries was left for the most part to private initiative, and the only official representation was in London. But the steady development of trade with other countries has rendered it advisable to extend the sphere of trade representation. In the East especially a rapid industrial expansion has created an enormous demand for raw materials, and New South Wales and the other Australian States, by reason of natural conditions and geographical position, should become most important sources of supply.

New South Wales is represented in London by the Agent-General, appointed by the State Government, and by the High Commissioner for Australia, who is the official representative of the Commonwealth. These officers undertake important administrative duties on behalf of the respective authorities, *e.g.*, the negotiation of loans and the supervision of assisted immigration. Attention is given also to trade matters; commercial officers collect and supply trade intelligence and conduct investigations in regard to continental markets. A trade representative attached to the High Commissioner's office is stationed in Paris.

Since 1918 the Commonwealth Government has been represented in the United States by a Trade Commissioner whose headquarters are in New York.

A Trade Commissioner, appointed by the British Board of Trade, is stationed in Sydney, and furnishes the Board with commercial information and advice with regard to openings for Imperial trade. A Trade Commissioner for France resides in Sydney, also a representative of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the United States of America.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

Chambers of Commerce have been established by persons engaged in commercial pursuits in Sydney and in other trading centres throughout New South Wales, with the object of promoting the internal and external trade and commerce and the industries of the State. The Chambers consider questions connected with these matters, collect and circulate commercial and industrial information, undertake arbitration in trade disputes, and advance measures for the extension of commercial and industrial enterprise. In addition to individual members, the membership includes representatives of mercantile firms and societies and other organised bodies.

Chambers of Commerce numbering forty-two in the following suburbs and country towns are affiliated with the Sydney Chamber, viz.:—Newcastle, Albury, Auburn, Ballina, Bankstown, Bathurst, Bexley, Bombala, Burwood, Byron Bay, Campsie, Canterbury, Casino, Copmanhurst, Cowra, Cronulla, Forbes, Goulburn, Grafton, Granville, Grenfell, Hornsby, Hurstville, Katoomba, Kempsey, South Kensington, Kogarah, Kyogle, Lismore, Liverpool, Maitland, Manilla, Molong, Mudgee, Orange, Parkes, Parramatta, Punchbowl, Rockdale, Tamworth, Wollongong, Yass.

SHIPPING.

Owing to the geographic position of New South Wales, the progress of the national industries is dependent to an unusual degree upon shipping facilities, and efficient transport services are essential to maintain regular and speedy communication and to place the staple products upon distant markets in a satisfactory condition without unduly increasing the cost. Improvement in the methods of carrying perishable products has promoted the growth of a permanent export trade in such commodities as frozen meat and butter; and in the construction of modern ships special provision is made for refrigerated cargoes.

CONTROL OF SHIPPING.

Prior to the inauguration of the Commonwealth in 1901, the shipping of New South Wales was regulated partly by an Imperial enactment, the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, and partly by the laws of the Parliament of New South Wales. Under the Commonwealth Constitution the Federal Parliament is empowered to make laws with respect to trade and commerce with other countries and among the States, including navigation and shipping, and in relation to such matters as lighthouses, lightships, beacons and buoys, and quarantine.

Special legislation relating to navigation and shipping is contained in the Federal Navigation Act, 1912-20. It is drafted on the lines of the Merchant Shipping Act and of the Navigation Acts of New South Wales and embodies the rules of an international convention for Safety of Life at Sea signed in London in 1914. The commencement of the Act was delayed on account of the war, and it was brought into operation in sections, as it contains provisions involving great changes in conditions, which if proclaimed simultaneously would cause difficulty in administration and would disorganise the shipping services.

The provisions of the Act apply to ships registered in Australia, also to other British ships on round voyages to or from Australia. The Governor-General may suspend its application to barges, fishing boats, pleasure yachts, missionary ships, or other vessels not carrying passengers or goods for hire; and the High Court of Australia has decided that clauses relating to manning, accommodation, and licensing do not apply to vessels engaged in purely intra-state trade.

The portion of the Act relating to the coasting trade was proclaimed on 1st July, 1921. A ship may not engage in the coasting trade of Australia unless licensed to do so, and a license may not be granted to a ship in receipt of a foreign subsidy. Licensees, during the time their ships are so engaged, are obliged to pay to the seamen wages at current rates ruling in Australia, and, in the case of foreign vessels, to comply with the same conditions as to manning and accommodation for the crew as are imposed on British ships. Power is reserved to the Minister for Trade and Customs to grant permits, under certain conditions, to unlicensed British ships to engage in the coasting trade if a licensed British ship is not available for the service, or if the service by licensed shipping is inadequate. A permit may be continuing, or for a single voyage.

An amending Act passed in 1925 empowers the Governor-General to suspend by proclamation the operation of the foregoing provisions, also in cases of national emergency to dispense with any specific requirement of the Act.

The manning scale of officers and seamen which must be provided is set forth in schedules of the Act, and the employment of aliens on British ships is restricted. The accommodation, remuneration, and other conditions, as prescribed for licensed vessels in the coasting trade, are far in advance of the legal provisions for the well-being of the mercantile marine in any other country. Consequently the Navigation Act has the practical effect of excluding from trade between Australian ports all except Australian vessels, though it does not prohibit specifically the licensing of ships of other nationalities, unless in receipt of foreign subsidy.

A section of the Act prescribes that vessels engaged in interstate and oversea trade, of at least 1,600 tons (gross), or carrying more than twelve passengers, must carry an approved wireless installation and one or more certificated operators and watchers according to the class of ship and the nature of the trade in which it is engaged.

On 1st March, 1922, sections of the Act relating to the employment of seamen became operative. Stringent provisions were made for regulating the engagement and discharge of seamen, and to guard against malpractices, such as "crimping," to protect the rights of persons engaged in seafaring occupations, and to ensure efficiency in regard to rating.

Ships engaged in interstate and oversea trade carrying at least 100 persons on voyages where the distance between consecutive ports of call exceeds 650 miles are required to carry a duly qualified medical practitioner, or if carrying ten and less than 100 persons, a person qualified to render "first aid."

During 1923 sections of the Act were proclaimed in relation to the issue of certificates of competency to officers, the seaworthy condition of ships, provision for safety of life at sea, wrecks and salvage, Courts of Marine Inquiry, the supervision of the health of seamen, the protection of their property, and the relief of distress amongst seamen and their families. Practically the only important part of the Navigation Act which has not yet been brought into operation is that relating to pilotage, which is regulated under the State Navigation Act of 1901.

The State Department of Navigation exercises control over the ports of New South Wales, and administers the Harbour and Tonnage Rates Act, 1920, which authorises the collection of shipping rates and port dues, except in Sydney Harbour, which is subject to the control of the Sydney Harbour Trust.

Matters relating to seaboard quarantine are administered by the Commonwealth in terms of the Quarantine Act, 1908-24, and arrangements may be made with the State Government to aid in carrying out the law. The Act defines the vessels, persons, animals, plants, and goods which are subject to quarantine, and provides for examination, detention, and segregation in order to prevent the introduction or spread of disease or pests. Imported animals or plants may not be landed without a permit granted by a quarantine officer. The master, owner, and agent of a vessel ordered into quarantine are severally responsible for the expenses, but the Commonwealth Government may undertake to bear the cost in respect of vessels trading exclusively between Australasian ports. Quarantine expenses in the case of animals and goods are defrayed by the importer or owner.

Vessels arriving from oversea ports are examined by quarantine officers only at the first port of call in Australia unless they have travelled along the northern trade route, when they are inspected again at the last port of call. The quarantine station of New South Wales is situated in Sydney Harbour, near the entrance to the port.

The liability of shipowners, charterers, etc., in regard to the transportation of goods is defined by the Sea Carriage Acts passed by the State and the Commonwealth Parliaments. The State Act passed in 1921 applies to the intra-state trade. It nullifies clauses in bills of lading or similar documents which purport to relieve the shipowner or charterer from liability for loss or damage to goods arising from the improper condition of any part of the ship in which cargo is carried, or arising from negligence in the handling or care of the goods; or to lessen the obligations of the shipowner or charterer to exercise due diligence, to man and equip the ship, to keep it seaworthy, and to keep in a fit state the hold, refrigerating chambers, and other parts in which cargo is carried; or to lessen the obligations of the master, agent, or servants of a ship, to handle the goods carefully, and to deliver them properly.

The Sea-carriage of Goods Act, passed by the Parliament of the Commonwealth, applies to the interstate and the outward oversea trade of Australia. It embodies general rules relating to bills of lading, recommended by an international conference on maritime law in 1922 and adopted in Great Britain and in other parts of the British Empire. The Act provides also that a bill of lading issued in Australia to a place outside is subject to Australian law, and that any stipulation in a bill of lading from a country outside Australia purporting to lessen the jurisdiction of Australian Courts is void. Another important provision of the Act prescribes that a bill of lading issued in accordance with the rules, when the carrier or his agent receives goods for shipment, shall be capable of negotiation as if it were a bill issued after shipment.

OVERSEA AND INTERSTATE SHIPPING.

The figures in this chapter relating to shipping are exclusive of particulars concerning ships of war, cable-laying vessels, and yachts, which are not included in the official shipping records. Where tonnage is quoted it is net tonnage.

Vessels Entered and Cleared.

In compiling the records of oversea and interstate shipping, a vessel is treated as an entry once and as a clearance once for each voyage to and from New South Wales, being entered at the first port of call, and cleared at the port from which it departs. The repeated voyages of every vessel are included.

The aggregate number and tonnage of interstate and oversea vessels which arrived in and departed from ports of New South Wales in various years since 1901, with the average net tonnage per vessel, are shown in the following statement:—

Year ended 30th June.	Entries.		Clearances.		Average Tonnage per Vessel.
	Vessels.	Net Tonnage.	Vessels.	Net Tonnage.	
1901*	2,760	4,133,200	2,853	4,274,101	1,498
1906*	2,893	5,283,719	2,883	5,275,031	1,828
1911*	3,127	6,822,135	3,146	6,833,782	2,177
1916	3,045	6,552,235	3,062	6,574,582	2,149
1921	3,019	7,123,331	3,023	7,122,209	2,358
1922	2,891	7,182,341	2,883	7,065,996	2,468
1923	3,031	8,326,182	3,012	8,260,309	2,745
1924	3,313	8,908,077	3,320	8,985,707	2,698
1925	3,189	9,099,861	3,155	9,014,810	2,854

* Year ended 31st December.

The shipping trade of New South Wales increased rapidly during the three years before the war, and the tonnage entered in 1913 was greater by 4,000,000, or by 96 per cent., than in 1901. During the war period, abnormal conditions caused the tonnage to decline in each year, until in 1917-18 it was only 274,000 tons greater than in 1901. Trade commenced to improve in 1919, and the improvement has continued, so that in 1924-25, although the entries were 204 less than in 1913, the net tonnage was greater by 970,000 tons.

The average size of the vessels engaged in trade with New South Wales rose from 1,500 tons in 1901 to 2,400 tons in 1913, then declined to 1,900 tons during the war period, when scarcity of shipping caused smaller vessels to be commissioned for oversea voyages. The average has since risen above the pre-war figure, and in 1924-25 was 2,854 tons.

A noticeable feature of the shipping records of New South Wales is the large proportion of tonnage entering in ballast and the small proportion which clears without cargo. The majority of empty ships come from ports of the neighbouring States or New Zealand, where, in some cases, they have delivered a general cargo and have cleared for Newcastle, in this State, to load coal. In 1924-25 the tonnage entered in ballast amounted to 1,535,049 tons, or 16·9 per cent. of the total entries, and 509,168 tons, or 5·6 per cent., were cleared without cargo.

Sailing vessels are not engaged extensively in the trade of New South Wales. They represented less than 1 per cent. of the total tonnage in 1924-25 when the entries included 20 sailers with an aggregate tonnage of 20,659 tons, and the clearances 33 vessels, 29,739 tons.

A comparison of the shipping of the Australian States shows that the tonnage trading to and from New South Wales is far in excess of the figures of any other State. The following statement shows the entries and clearances during the year ended 30th June, 1925, excluding the coastal trade:—

State.	Oversea and Interstate.			
	Entries.		Clearances.	
	Vessels.	Net Tonnage.	Vessels.	Net Tonnage.
New South Wales	3,189	9,089,861	3,155	9,014,810
Victoria	2,577	6,807,357	2,605	6,876,355
Queensland	918	2,863,193	913	2,834,728
South Australia	1,280	4,573,822	1,286	4,632,309
Western Australia	807	3,666,226	805	3,657,529
Tasmania	1,144	1,288,636	1,149	1,273,857
Northern Territory ..	56	124,715	52	124,564

NATIONALITY OF VESSELS.

The trade of the State of New South Wales, to a very great extent, is carried under the British flag; the deep-sea trade with the mother country and British possessions being controlled chiefly by shipowners of the United

Kingdom, and the interstate trade by Australian shipping companies. The table below distinguishes British and foreign shipping at intervals since 1901.

Year ended 30th June.	Net Tonnage Entered and Cleared.				Percentage.		
	Australian.	Other British.	Foreign.	Total.	Australian.	Other British.	Foreign.
1901*	3,348,502	3,714,217	1,344,582	8,407,301	39·8	44·2	16·0
1906*	3,899,230	4,920,850	1,738,670	10,558,750	36·9	46·6	16·5
1911*	4,645,195	6,594,649	2,416,073	13,655,917	34·0	48·3	17·7
1916	5,503,406	6,079,371	1,544,040	13,126,817	41·9	46·3	11·8
1921	4,739,555	6,739,914	2,766,071	14,245,540	33·3	47·3	19·4
1922	5,659,061	6,823,443	1,765,833	14,248,337	39·7	47·9	12·4
1923	5,824,694	8,348,022	2,413,775	16,586,491	35·1	50·3	14·6
1924	6,739,951	8,512,086	2,641,747	17,893,784	37·7	47·6	14·7
1925	6,119,983	8,921,552	3,063,136	18,104,671	33·8	49·3	16·9

* Year ended 31st December.

The decline in the percentage of Australian tonnage between 1916 and 1921 was mainly the result of an arrangement by which the interstate steamers were requisitioned by the Commonwealth Government in April, 1918, and were run as one fleet. The steamers were released from Government control two years later, but the owners who are associated as the Australian Steamship Owners' Federation continue to run them as one fleet. During the four years 1921-24 there was a marked increase in the Australian tonnage and in the year ended June, 1924, it was larger by over 1,000,000 tons than in 1913. In the following year the activities of the Australian shipping were hampered by industrial unrest, and there was a reduction of 620,000 tons.

The "Other British" tonnage is increasing slowly, and the volume of foreign shipping shows a tendency to rise.

Particulars relating to the nationality of vessels engaged in trade with New South Wales in 1913, 1922-23 and 1924-25, are shown in greater detail in the following statement—

Nationality of Shipping.	Entries and Clearances.						Net Tonnage— Percentage of each Nationality.		
	1913.*		1922-23.		1924-25.		1913.*	1922-23.	1924-25.
	Vessels.	Net Tonnage.	Vessels.	Net Tonnage.	Vessels.	Net Tonnage.			
British—									
Australian	3,231	5,711,398	3,080	5,824,694	3,222	6,119,983	35·3	35·1	33·8
New Zealand	771	1,359,138	284	248,641	402	794,533	8·4	1·5	4·4
United Kingdom ..	1,589	6,081,117	1,682	7,548,841	1,047	7,799,733	37·5	45·5	43·1
Other British	22	30,459	202	550,540	129	327,286	·2	3·3	1·8
Total	5,613	13,182,112	5,248	14,172,716	5,400	15,041,535	81·4	85·4	83·1
Foreign—									
Denmark	2	768	18	62,317	24	79,200	·0	·4	·4
France	150	313,252	110	230,629	113	216,146	1·9	1·4	1·2
Germany	487	1,533,728	30	81,127	68	219,838	9·5	·5	1·2
Italy	29	47,770	28	101,364	59	228,362	·3	·6	1·3
Netherlands	52	128,870	111	397,372	118	444,361	·8	2·4	2·5
Norway	183	353,843	93	247,778	128	332,321	2·2	1·5	2·1
Sweden	23	57,643	59	166,064	59	169,623	·4	1·0	·9
Japan	103	332,471	186	616,898	228	795,147	2·0	3·7	4·4
United States of America	76	148,853	143	473,728	127	475,855	·9	2·9	2·6
other Nationalities	50	89,292	17	35,598	20	54,273	·6	·2	·3
Total	1,155	3,006,490	795	2,413,775	944	3,063,136	18·6	14·6	16·9
Grand Total	6,768	16,188,602	6,043	16,586,491	6,344	18,104,671	100·0	100·0	100·0

* Year ended 31st December.

The proportion of Australian tonnage in 1924-25 was lower than in 1913. The tonnage owned in the United Kingdom was higher, absolutely and relatively, than before the war, though the proportion was lower than in the year 1922-23. There was a decided decrease in New Zealand tonnage between 1913 and 1923, and it is still more than 40 per cent. lower than before the war, notwithstanding a marked improvement during the last two years. The shipping classified as other British has increased since 1913 mainly as a result of the inauguration of services by Canadian lines, of which the tonnage was 183,003 tons in 1924-25.

In 1913 the largest proportion of foreign tonnage was German, amounting to 9.5 per cent. of the total shipping. German ships were excluded in 1914, and did not re-enter the trade until 1922. Their tonnage represented 1.2 per cent. of the total tonnage in 1924-25. During the war period, Japanese and American tonnage began to take an important part in the oversea trade of New South Wales, and between 1913 and 1920-21 the Japanese tonnage rose from 2 per cent. to 8.1 per cent., and the United States from 0.9 per cent. to 4.2 per cent. In the succeeding years a decrease occurred, but shipping belonging to these two nations represented 41 per cent. of the foreign shipping in 1924-25.

French tonnage declined during the war and has not yet regained its former position in the trade of the State. Italian and Dutch lines have established regular services, and are absorbing an increasing proportion of the oversea trade.

The foreign tonnage in 1924-25 was 16.9 per cent. of the total, as compared with 14.6 per cent. in 1922-23, and 18.6 in 1913. There are indications that foreign shipowners are endeavouring to increase the direct trade between Australia and their respective countries.

In 1924-25, of the Australian tonnage, 5,361,766 tons, or 88 per cent., represented entries and clearances in interstate trade, and 758,217 tons in oversea trade, the tonnage to and from Great Britain being 337,695 tons, and New Zealand 218,826 tons. Of the other British tonnage, including ships owned in the United Kingdom, 2,826,464 tons were entered from and cleared for interstate ports, and 2,630,216 tons plied between Australia and the United Kingdom. The tonnage belonging to other nations was employed chiefly in the foreign trade.

DIRECTION OF SHIPPING TRADE.

The shipping records do not disclose the full extent of communication between New South Wales and other countries, as they relate only to terminal ports and are exclusive of the trade with intermediate ports, of which some are visited regularly by many vessels on both outward and inward journeys. But the following statement of the tonnage entered from and cleared for interstate ports and oversea countries, grouped according to geographical position, indicates, as far as practicable, the growth or decline of shipping along the main trade routes since 1913:—

Country.	1913.		1922-23.		1924-25.	
	Vessels.	Net Tonnage.	Vessels.	Net Tonnage.	Vessels.	Net Tonnage.
Australian States	3,931	8,087,899	3,743	8,780,249	3,791	9,190,619
New Zealand	649	1,453,215	453	995,571	639	1,413,522
Europe	803	3,440,944	663	3,575,734	720	3,951,727
Africa	69	149,074	50	124,470	31	103,718
Asia and Pacific Islands	734	1,566,433	751	1,706,334	769	1,899,507
North and Central America	281	818,301	341	1,307,860	365	1,467,554
South America	301	672,736	42	96,273	29	81,024
Total	6,768	16,188,602	6,043	16,586,491	6,344	18,107,671

Shipping to and from the other Australian States in 1924-25 was greater by 410,000 tons than in 1922-23, and there was a similar increase in respect of the New Zealand trade. The tonnage engaged in trade with North and Central America was much higher than in 1913, but the South American trade, which was mainly for the export of coal, has lost its former importance.

The interstate and overseas trade of New South Wales is confined practically to three centres, viz., Sydney, Newcastle and Port Kembla, and the distribution amongst the ports of the inward trade in 1913, and in the last five years, is shown in the following table. On each voyage a vessel is counted as an entry only at the first port of call in New South Wales and intra-state trade is excluded, therefore the figures do not indicate the total tonnage entered at each port.

Year ended 30th June.	Port Jackson (Sydney).		Port Hunter (Newcastle).		Port Kembla.		Other Ports:	
	Vessels.	Net Tonnage.	Vessels.	Net Tonnage.	Vessels.	Net Tonnage.	Vessels.	Net Tonnage.
1913*	2,275	6,174,321	906	1,771,032	67	87,488	145	84,660
1921	1,869	4,776,182	1,082	2,255,040	42	85,514	26	6,595
1922	1,811	4,984,876	985	2,066,868	53	116,593	42	14,004
1923	2,057	6,104,733	854	2,017,729	76	196,120	44	7,600
1924	2,163	6,371,362	1,013	2,325,187	83	193,672	54	17,856
1925	2,062	6,522,773	1,004	2,368,129	74	181,930	49	17,029

* Year ended 31st December.

Many vessels, including steamers engaged regularly in the trade of New South Wales, discharge cargo at Sydney, then proceed to Newcastle for coal. Such vessels are counted as entries at Sydney only, therefore the inward shipping of Newcastle is greatly in excess of the tonnage stated in the table. The trade of Port Kembla increased as a result of the establishment of important industries in the locality. The decline in the inward trade of other ports, as compared with the year 1913, is due mainly to the omission of Twofold Bay as a port of call for interstate vessels.

HARBOURS AND ANCHORAGES.

Along the coast of New South Wales, there are numerous ports, estuaries, and roadsteads, which provide shelter to shipping and afford facilities for trade.

There are four natural harbours where vessels of deep draught may enter, viz., Port Stephens, Broken Bay, Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour) and Jervis Bay. Port Jackson ranks first by reason of extent, natural facilities, and volume of trade. Artificial harbours have been constructed at Coff's Harbour, Wollongong, Port Kembla, Shellharbour, Kiama, and Ulladulla. With the exception of Port Kembla, they are useful only for small vessels. There are a number of estuarine harbours, but the entrances are usually blocked to some extent by sandbars, formed by the combined action of ocean currents and waves and wind. There are also numerous roadsteads or anchorages which afford shelter to vessels of moderate draught during southerly or south-easterly weather. Breakwaters and training-walls have been constructed to control the sand movement at the majority of the bar harbours, so that the navigating channels may be maintained with little difficulty.

Sydney Harbour.

Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour) is the principal port of New South Wales. It has a safe entrance and deep waters, and its steep foreshores provide good shelter for vessels at anchor. It is almost landlocked, resembling a lake rather than a seaport. The entrance, which is three-quarters of a mile wide, lies between bluff headlands, and faces eastward, so that it is protected from southerly gales, which expend their violence on North Head instead of sweeping directly into the harbour.

At the Heads the depth of water is not less than 80 feet at low water, ordinary spring tide. Near the entrance the fairway divides into two channels about half a mile long and over 700 feet wide. The depth is 40 feet, and it could be increased if required, as the bottom is sand and the channels do not silt up when deepened. Very little allowance need be made for scend, because the channels are protected by the headlands. They are well lighted and, by night as well as by day, they are navigable by the largest vessels afloat.

The total area of Port Jackson is 14,284 acres, or about 22 square miles. The coastline, being irregular, is over 188 miles in length, and gives facilities for extensive wharfage. The area which may be designated the harbour proper, embraced by 7½ miles of foreshores, *i.e.*, below the Iron Cove, Parramatta River, and Lane Cove bridges, and the Spit, Middle Harbour, covers 8,980 acres. About three thousand acres have a depth ranging from 35 to 160 feet at low water, ordinary spring tide, and excluding the fairway and the bays in which most of the shipping is accommodated at present, there are over 1,000 acres suitable for anchoring deep-sea vessels. The rise and fall of the tide in the harbour is from about 3 feet to 6 feet.

The control of the Port was vested in the Sydney Harbour Trust in the year 1901. Previously the wharves, with few exceptions, were under private control. The wharfage had been constructed and the foreshores laid out, without system or co-ordination, to meet individual requirements, and the condition of the waterside had become so insanitary as to constitute a serious menace to the health of the City. Therefore, the Government resumed all the wharves and adjoining properties and constituted the Trust. It consists of three Commissioners appointed for a term of seven years, with control over the port and shipping, harbour lights, buoys and wharves, and authority to undertake works for the preservation and improvement of the port, to appropriate wharves, stores, etc., to special uses, and to levy rates and charges in respect of vessels and goods and for the use of property.

The Trust was debited with the value of the resumed property and improvements, amounting to £4,700,000, and, by reason of extensive improvements effected under a comprehensive scheme of reconstruction, the capital debt, as at 30th June, 1925, was £10,644,468. The shipping accommodation has been largely remodelled, old wharves being replaced and new wharves and jetties and sheds constructed to keep pace with a rapidly increasing trade. The depth of water has been increased in various parts of the harbour, a sea-wall has been built, and the approaches have been improved. A roadway, 100 feet wide, has been constructed along the water-front from Circular Quay to Erskine-street, via Walsh Bay, and it is to be continued to Pyrmont along the frontage of an area which is being reclaimed at the head of Darling Harbour. The Pyrmont Bridge, which is a swing bridge across Darling Harbour, will then be removed.

Amongst the property under the administration of the Harbour Trust is a considerable area adjoining the water-front, embracing dwellings, shops, and stores. The area has been improved greatly by the demolition of old buildings to permit the widening of the streets and the erection of modern dwellings and of business premises and stores.

The principal wharves are situated in close proximity to the business centre of the city, about 4 or 5 miles from the Heads. Excluding ferry wharves and jetties used for private purposes, there are 60,573 feet of wharfage under the control of the Trust. The principal wharves are leased to the various shipping companies whose vessels engage regularly in the trade of the port, and other wharves are reserved for vessels which visit the port occasionally. The location of the wharves and the berthing accommodation as at 30th June, 1925, are shown below. The figures are exclusive of twenty-four ferry wharves with an aggregate berthing accommodation of 3,437 feet.

Locality.	Number of Berths.	Length of Berths,
		ft.
Woolloomooloo Bay	13	5,788
Circular Quay	8	3,677
Walsh Bay	11	7,524
Darling Harbour to Johnston's Bay ..	92	33,896
Blackwattle Bay	25	4,138
Rozelle Bay	10	1,315
Glebe Island and White Bay	12	4,235
Total	171	60,573

The berths in Woolloomooloo Bay are used in connection with a general oversea trade, and the largest vessels visiting the port are accommodated there. Commodious sheds have been erected on the wharves and electric conveyors installed. The southern portion of Circular Quay is used for ferry traffic, but eight berths are available on the eastern and western sides for oversea steamers. In Walsh Bay the waters are deep, and advantage was taken of the steep shore to increase the capacity of the jetties by erecting sheds of two storeys, the upper floors having access by means of bridges to streets on a higher level. Darling Harbour contains 56 berths of an aggregate length of 20,367 feet, and some of them are directly connected with the railway system.

On a spit of land, known as Glebe Island, lying between Rozelle Bay and White Bay, works have been constructed to facilitate the shipment of wheat in bulk. Grain brought by rail from the country districts may be unloaded from the trucks, at the rate of 80,000 bushels per hour, into a large terminal elevator having a capacity of 6,500,000 bushels, and it may be delivered from the elevator into the holds of vessels at the rate of 60,000 bushels per hour, four vessels being loaded simultaneously. With the object of concentrating the shipment of wheat at Glebe Island, sheds and appliances are being provided there for receiving and loading wheat in bags, which at present is handled at Pymont.

New wharfage with rail connection is being constructed at Rozelle Bay for the timber trade which must be removed from Pymont on account of the reclamation of the head of Darling Harbour.

Special facilities are available along the waterside for other important classes of trade, such as wool stores fitted with appliances to expedite the

handling of the staple product, and accommodation is reserved for the storage of hazardous goods. By private enterprise, a plant has been installed at Ball's Head, where bunkers may be replenished rapidly with coal or oil.

The wharves are situated on the southern shore of the port, and the northern is used mainly for residential sites. The ferry steamers on which traffic is carried across the harbour are certificated as to seaworthiness by the Department of Navigation and licensed by the Sydney Harbour Trust. During 1924-25 certificates were issued to 60 ferry steamers with an aggregate tonnage of 8,619 tons and capacity to carry 46,072 passengers. The records of the Sydney Harbour Trust indicate that 42,731,000 passengers were carried during the year.

In 1922 the Sydney Harbour Bridge Act was passed, and in accordance with its provisions tenders were invited for the construction of a bridge to span the harbour from Dawes' Point to Milson's Point. A tender for the construction of an arch bridge was accepted, the contract price being £4,217,721. The bridge will provide for pedestrian, vehicular and railway traffic, and is expected to be completed in 1930. It is estimated that the approaches to the bridge will cost a further sum of £1,275,000, and land resumptions £250,000.

There are nine islands in Port Jackson. Four are reserved as public pleasure resorts. Garden Island is used as a depot by the Australian Navy, and Goat Island by the Harbour Trust, three fire floats, with an aggregate capacity of 9,500 gallons per minute, being stationed there. Large graving docks are situated on Cockatoo Island and at Woolwich. Spectacle Island is used for the storage of explosives. Fort Denison, used formerly for defence purposes, is now a lighthouse and fog signal station.

An account of the dock accommodation provided in Sydney Harbour is shown on a later page.

The number and tonnage of vessels which entered Sydney Harbour during the last five years, as recorded by the Harbour Trust, are shown below. The figures differ from those in the table on page 76, as they include vessels engaged in the coastal trade of the State, also vessels which do not report to the Customs authorities on return from a journey to Newcastle for bunker coal:—

Year ended 30th June.	Coastal (State).		Oversea and Interstate.		Total Trade.	
	Number.	Net Tonnage.	Number.	Net Tonnage.	Number.	Net Tonnage.
1921	6,493	1,634,493	2,205	5,601,760	8,698	7,236,253
1922	6,240	1,532,243	2,242	6,009,118	8,482	7,541,361
1923	5,874	1,611,531	2,503	7,201,901	8,377	8,813,432
1924	5,925	1,657,749	2,593	7,364,288	8,518	9,022,037
1925	5,610	1,605,920	2,482	7,525,755	8,092	9,131,675

In 1920-21 the number and aggregate tonnage of the vessels which entered Sydney Harbour were greater than in any year since 1914. In the following years the tonnage increased, though the number of vessels declined. The net tonnage in 1924-25 was greater by 109,638 tons than in the previous year. The average net tonnage of the oversea and interstate steamers in 1924-25 was 3,052 tons, as compared with 2,476 in 1913.

The proportion of sailing vessels is decreasing rapidly, and the number which entered in 1924-25 was only 48, with a tonnage of 15,484, as compared with 242 vessels and a tonnage of 124,328 in 1920-21.

The following statement shows the latest tonnage figures, including coastwise, for the principal ports of Australasia and the United Kingdom. The figures include tonnage which arrived at the respective ports, although not recorded as entered by the Customs Department:—

Port.	Arrivals incl. Coastwise— Net Tonnage.	Port.	Arrivals incl. Coastwise— Net Tonnage.
<i>Australia—</i>		<i>England—</i>	
Sydney	9,131,675	London	20,691,043
Melbourne	6,940,179	Liverpool (including Birkenhead) ...	15,258,303
Newcastle	5,120,541	Cardiff	11,142,874
Port Adelaide ...	4,935,155	Newcastle and Shields	11,240,469
Brisbane	3,245,938	Southampton ...	9,881,577
Fremantle	3,032,845	Hull	6,867,423
Townsville	1,035,706	Plymouth	5,000,800
Hobart	737,633	<i>Scotland—</i>	
Albany	648,585	Glasgow	6,005,337
Port Kembla	630,429	Leith	2,267,717
<i>New Zealand—</i>		<i>Ireland—</i>	
Wellington	2,985,743	Belfast	3,864,345
Auckland	2,355,124	Cork	3,454,861
Lyttelton	1,867,824	Dublin	3,280,684

The revenue and expenditure by the Sydney Harbour Trust during each of the last five years are shown in the following statement, also the capital debt at the end of each year:—

Year ended 30th June.	Capital Debt.	Revenue.	Expenditure.				Surplus.
			Working Expenses.	Renewals and Re- placements.	Interest.	Total Ex- penditure.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1921	9,449,213	797,211	224,676	20,088	438,210	682,974	114,237
1922	9,868,165	827,122	236,058	25,062	488,552	749,672	77,450
1923	10,129,113	852,242	229,849	23,766	514,756	768,371	83,871
1924	10,417,859	897,357	247,007	29,877	528,743	805,627	91,730
1925	10,644,468	970,402	247,842	35,198	526,944	809,984	100,418

During the year 1924-25, the revenue represented 9·2 per cent. of the capital debt, and the ratio of working expenses to the revenue was 25·5 per cent. After deducting interest charges and the expenditure from the Public Works Fund on renewals and replacements, there was a surplus on the year's transactions of £160,418.

The principal sources of revenue in 1924-25 were wharfage rates, which amounted to £587,157, and rents for wharves, jetties, and stores, £193,274.

Newcastle Harbour.

Newcastle Harbour (Port Hunter) is the second port of New South Wales and the third port of Australia in regard to the volume of its shipping trade. The harbour lies in the course of the Hunter River, and its limits are not defined, but an area of about 990 acres is enclosed by about 8 miles of coastline, extending on the western side as far as Port Waratah, omitting Throsby Creek, and on the eastern side to a point due east of the southern end of Moschetto Island. The area used by shipping is about 570 acres,

excluding the entrance to the harbour and the inner basin, which together cover an area of 162 acres. The width at the entrance is 19 chains, and the navigable channel is 350 feet wide. The minimum depth is 23 feet 6 inches at low water ordinary spring tide, but vessels which draw 27 feet can enter at high water. It is proposed to increase the depth at the entrance to 32 feet.

The harbour is landlocked sufficiently to render it safe for vessels in all kinds of weather, and breakwaters have been erected to improve the entrance and to prevent the ingress of sand from the ocean beaches.

Newcastle is primarily a coal loading port, and the proximity of the coal-fields has led to the establishment of important industries, including iron and steel works, in the district, so that trade in other commodities is likely to develop steadily. Arrangements have been made for the shipment of butter produced in the northern dairying districts. Frozen meat also may be dispatched, and a wharf is available for timber.

Wharfage accommodation to the extent of 23,063 feet is provided; 10,138 feet are used for the shipment of coal, 7,360 feet for general cargo, 2,428 feet for Government purposes, and 3,137 feet are leased. The accommodation is being increased by 300 feet of wharfage under construction. There are 96 mooring dolphins and jetties for vessels awaiting cargo. The general cargo wharves are connected with the main railway system. The railway extends along the coal wharves also.

Other Ports.

The shipping trade of the ports of New South Wales, other than Sydney and Newcastle, is relatively small, and only a brief account of these harbours and anchorages is given hereunder, in the order in which they occur along the coast. Particulars regarding the depth of water at the entrances and the wharfage accommodation were published in the 1921 issue of the "Year Book," at page 283.

The most northerly port is the estuary of the Tweed River. Its entrance is formed by breakwaters, but the channel is almost blocked by a sandy bar, where the average depth at low water is about 6½ feet. Byron Bay provides fair shelter during off-shore winds, the depth of water at the ocean jetty being 19 feet. The estuaries of the Richmond and Clarence Rivers are bar harbours. On the Richmond River bar the average depth at low water is 12 feet, and the river is navigable by small vessels as far as Lismore, 65 miles from the sea. The entrance to the Clarence River is somewhat deeper, and vessels of 14 feet draught may navigate the river as far as Grafton (48 miles). Woolgoolga gives protection to small vessels in southerly weather. At Coff's Harbour breakwaters are under construction to form a harbour for the rich Dorrigo district by connecting small islands in the vicinity with the mainland. When complete, a harbour of 222 acres will be available, and 97 acres will give a minimum depth of 24 feet.

The bar harbours which form the estuaries of the Bellinger and Nambucca Rivers are used only by vessels of light draught. Trial Bay generally affords safe anchorage and shelter for coastal vessels. The Macleay River, which discharges into Trial Bay, is navigable by small vessels for 40 miles. Port Macquarie, at the mouth of the Hastings River, is a bar harbour for coastal vessels, but the entrance is rendered somewhat dangerous by shifting

banks of sand. Between Port Macquarie and Port Stephens small vessels are afforded shelter at Camden Haven, Crowdy Bay, Harrington Inlet (at the mouth of the Manning River), Cape Hawke Harbour (Point Forster), and Sugarloaf Bay.

Port Stephens is 21 nautical miles north of Newcastle. At the entrance the depth is 30 feet and the width between the headlands is about 60 chains, the navigable width being 20 chains. The port extends westward for about 11 miles and is from 1 to 3 miles broad. Excluding the Karuah and Myall Rivers, which discharge into Port Stephens, the area enclosed by a coastline of 92 miles is about 32,000 acres. The eastern portion is somewhat obstructed by sandbanks, but there are channels between them giving access to secure landlocked anchorage. Salamander Bay, 5 miles from the entrance, is a spacious, well-sheltered anchorage, with a depth ranging from 36 to 54 feet. Outside Port Stephens there is an anchorage known as Fly Road, where vessels can obtain excellent shelter in exceptionally heavy southerly weather, if they experience difficulty in entering the port. On account of its natural advantages, its proximity to the Maitland coal-fields, and its favourable position for connection with trunk railways, Port Stephens could be transformed into an important shipping centre.

Broken Bay, at the mouth of the Hawkesbury River, is a good natural harbour, but on account of its proximity to Sydney Harbour it has not been developed. Broken Bay has three large branches, Brisbane Water, Hawkesbury Mouth and Pittwater. The area below the bridge where the main Northern railway crosses the Hawkesbury River, excluding Cowan, Mullet and Cockle Creeks, and Brisbane Water, extends over 14,500 acres and has a coastline of 62 miles. The entrance to Broken Bay is $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles wide, with deep water. The Hawkesbury River is navigable for 70 miles. Vessels of 9 feet draught may enter Brisbane Water. Pittwater is deep, but the entrance is blocked by a bar with a fairway depth of 9 feet.

To the south of Sydney lies Botany Bay, used mainly as a fishing ground and tourist resort. At the roadsteads Bulli and Bellambi, ocean jetties have been constructed for the shipment of coal. Wollongong has a small artificial shipping basin connected by rail with the Illawarra coal mines. A few miles further south a harbour for deep-sea vessels has been built at Port Kembla. The shipping area with a minimum depth of 24 feet is 256 acres, and there are 166 acres with 36 feet of water. Shellharbour is fit for small vessels only. At Kiama a small harbour is available for coastal steamers. At Crookhaven good anchorage may be obtained in 6 fathoms of water. Jervis Bay is 82 miles south of Sydney. Its area is 48 square miles and the entrance is over 2 miles wide. About 38 square miles carry a depth over 24 feet, but only a small proportion of the area is suitable for anchorage in all weather, on account of the almost oval form of the bay and the few indentations in the coastline, which is only 31 miles in length. Darling Road and Montague Road are parts of the bay which afford shelter at all times. At Darling Road an area of land has been ceded to the Commonwealth Government as a port for Canberra, the Federal Capital.

Between Jervis and Twofold Bays there are a number of shipping places where small coastal steamers load dairy produce for the Sydney market, viz., Ulladulla, a small artificial harbour, Bateman Bay, Moruya River, Narooma (Wagonga Inlet), Bermagui, Tathra (the port of Bega), and Merimbula. Twofold Bay is near the southern extremity of the State. It affords good anchorage for fairly large vessels, but on account of the great

width at the entrance, viz., 3 miles, and the comparatively small area of the bay, 7,580 acres, it would require extensive improvement to convert it into an efficient harbour.

RIVER TRAFFIC.

New South Wales has few inland waterways and although there is some river traffic its extent is not recorded. The coastal rivers especially in the northern districts are navigable for some distance by sea-going vessels and trade is carried further inland by means of small steamers and launches.

The use of the inland rivers for navigation depends mainly on seasonal conditions and, normally, the Murray River may be used by flat-bottomed barges and other small craft. Traffic on the Darling is intermittent. At certain times in seasons when the rainfall is sufficient to maintain a fair volume of water, barges carry wool and other products for a considerable distance. A scheme is in progress for the construction of storage dams, weirs and locks on the Murray, Murrumbidgee and Darling Rivers. The works are being constructed under an agreement between the Governments of the Commonwealth and of the States of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia. The scheme has been undertaken with the primary object of supplying water for the purpose of irrigation, but the agreement provides that except in times of unusual drought, sufficient water must be maintained in the weirs and locks to provide for navigation by vessels drawing 5 feet of water.

HARBOUR FERRY SERVICES.

In the ports of Sydney and Newcastle, ferry services have been established by private companies to transport passengers, vehicles, etc., across the harbours, the conditions under which the services are conducted being regulated by license. At 30th June, 1925, seventy-one boats licensed to carry 47,656 passengers were in service, and 1,151 persons were employed. During the year 1924-25 the passengers numbered 44,072,000; and in accidents 3 passengers were killed, and 17 passengers and 85 employees were injured; the total revenue amounted to £721,500 and the expenditure to £661,200.

These ferries are distinct from those to which reference is made in the chapter entitled Local Government, which are maintained by the Central Government or by municipalities or shires for the free transport of traffic across rivers where bridges have not been erected.

RATES OF FREIGHT.

Freight charges represent an important factor in the cost of marketing in oversea countries the products of the industries of New South Wales. Generally the rates charged by British lines of steamships are determined by organisations of shipowners.

During the war period, rates of freight rose to an extraordinary level. The maximum for most commodities was reached in 1919, then the over-supply of shipping led to a general decline and the movement became steadily downward. The decrease is especially noticeable in regard to classes of cargo carried by tramp steamers, *e.g.*, wheat, for which freight was charged at £7 10s. per ton in 1920, and in the following year space was obtained at the rate of £2 6s. 8d. per ton. The decline continued until 1923, then it slackened and the rates during the last two years have been fairly steady.

The following statement shows the range of rates for the carriage of various commodities by steamer from Sydney to London in the last four years, as compared with the rates in 1913-14—

Article.	1913-14.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Butter box 56 lb.	2s. to 2s. 6d.	6s. to 5s.	5s.	5s. to 4s. 6d.	4s. 6d.
Copra ton	42s. 6d.	120s. to 80s.	80s. to 61s. 3d.	61s. 3d.	61s. 3d.
Hides lb.	50s. to 60s. †	1d. to ½d.	¾d. to 5d.	5d.	¾d.
Leather ton	80s.	244s. to 200s.	200s. to 153s.	153s.	153s.
Mutton—Frozen lb.	¾d. to 1½d.	1½d. to 1½d.	1½d. to 1½d.	1½d. to 1½d.	1½d.
Rabbits—Preserved .. ton	55s.	105s. to 85s.	85s. to 70s.	70s.	70s.
Tallow "	47s. 6d.	170s. to 130s.	120s. to 78s. 9d.	78s. 9d.	78s. 9d. †
Wheat "	25s. to 37s. 6d.	40s. 8d. to 35s.	35s. to 30s.	40s. to 25s.	50s. to 30s. †
Wool—Greasy lb.	¾d.	1½d. to 1½d. †	1½d. to 1½d. †	1½d. †	1½d. †
Measurement Goods—40 cub. ft.	40s. to 45s.	105s. to 95s.	95s. to 70s.	70s.	70s.
Timber 100 sup. ft.	6s. 9d.	22s. to 15s.	15s. to 11s.	11s.	11s.

† Per ton.

‡ Plus 5% primeage, less 10% rebate.

A substantial decline occurred during the year ended June, 1923, but at the end of last season the rates were still much higher than in 1914. Wool was carried direct to Continental ports in Europe at the same rates as to London in 1924-25, but for cargo transhipped at London the rates were much higher. The rate for wool from Sydney to Japan was 1½d. per lb., less 10 per cent. rebate.

PORT CHARGES.

The port charges payable in respect of shipping and ships' cargoes in New South Wales are imposed by the Commonwealth Government in terms of the Lighthouses Act and the Federal Navigation Act, and by the State authorities under the Navigation Act of New South Wales, the Harbour and Tonnage Rates Act, and the Sydney Harbour Trust Acts. The various charges are shown in detail in the Statistical Register of New South Wales 1924-25, and only a brief reference to the rates collected by each authority is made in this volume.

The gross collections by the State authorities, *i.e.*, the Department of Navigation of New South Wales and the Sydney Harbour Trust, during the last three years, were as follow:—

Charges.	Year ended 30th June.		
	1923.	1924.	1925.
	£	£	£
Pilotage	76,919	75,604	78,330
Harbour Removal Fees ..	7,399	7,473	7,054
Harbour and Light Rates ..	54,136	54,079	55,589
Navigation Department Fees ..	3,667	2,674	2,083
Harbour and Tonnage Rates ..	172,398	181,463	188,956
Sydney Harbour Trust—			
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates ..	559,520	602,724	650,347
Rents of Wharves, Jetties, etc ..	175,373	181,588	191,770
Rents of other premises ..	77,836	82,654	84,690
Miscellaneous	41,188	33,722	45,826
Total	1,168,436	1,221,981	1,304,645

The light-houses and light dues collected in Australia by the Commonwealth Government during the year ended 30th June, 1925, amounted to £205,170, and receipts under the Federal Navigation Act to £15,505.

Charges levied on Ships.

The principal charges imposed under Federal legislation are light dues and fees for the survey of ships, the adjustment of compasses, etc.

The Commonwealth light dues must be paid in respect of every ship entering a port in Australia. The rate, payable quarterly, is 9d. per ton (net), and payment at one port covers all Australian ports which the vessel may enter during the ensuing period of three months. Vessels calling at only one port in Australia *en route* to an oversea destination are charged at the rate of 5d. per ton (net). If a vessel is laid up for a period of at least one month, a proportionate remission of the light dues may be made.

The Federal Navigation Act prescribes that sea-going vessels must be surveyed at least once in every twelve months, and a vessel may not go to sea without a certificate of survey or equipment issued by the Federal Department of Navigation, or other approved certificate. The fees for survey and for compass adjustment are collected by the Department of Navigation and paid to licensed marine surveyors and compass adjusters. The prescribed survey fees for a twelve-months' certificate in respect of steamers, motor ships, and sailing ships with auxiliary engines range from £4 where the gross registered tonnage does not exceed 100 tons to £13 10s. if the gross tonnage is between 2,100 and 2,400 tons; and a charge is made for each additional 300 tons at the rate of 30s. for passenger ships and £1 for cargo ships. For ships under 1,800 tons propelled by sails only the fee ranges from £3 to £6 with 15s. for each additional 300 tons. The survey fees for dry docking certificates range from £1 to £4, and double rates are charged for vessels without certificates of survey. The fees for the adjustment of a ship's compasses range from £2 2s. to £7 7s.

The certification of ships trading exclusively within the limits of the State of New South Wales is a function of the State Department of Navigation. The fees payable to marine surveyors for surveys in respect of a twelve months' certificate range from £2 to £8 where the tonnage does not exceed 600 tons, with £2 for each additional 300 tons up to a maximum of £20.

Pilotage rates are charged by the Navigation Department of New South Wales in respect of every ship entering or clearing a port in the State. Vessels engaged in the whaling trade and vessels in the charge of a master possessing a pilotage certificate are exempt unless a pilot is actually employed. For ships (a) in ballast, (b) arriving solely for refitting or docking, (c) resorting to port solely on pleasure or for orders, repairs, provisions or coal, or through stress of weather or otherwise in distress, the rate is 1½d. per ton (net) on arrival and on departure; for other ships the rate on arrival and on departure is 2½d. per ton. The maximum rate is £25 and the minimum is £3 at Sydney or Newcastle, and £1 10s. at other ports.

Vessels being removed from one place to another in a port where there is a pilot establishment are charged harbour removal dues unless the master possesses a pilotage certificate. The rate for a removal varies from £1 to £4 10s. according to the size of the vessel; half rates are charged after the third removal.

The harbour and light rate imposed by the State Government is payable half-yearly at the rate of 4d. per ton (net). The exemptions are vessels engaged in the whaling trade, vessels entering port for refitting or docking, for pleasure, orders, repairs, provisions or coal, or in distress, and those in respect of which the rate has been paid at any port in the State during the preceding six months.

Tonnage rates are payable in respect of vessels of 240 tons and over while berthed at a wharf—the charge is $\frac{3}{16}$ d. per ton (gross) for each period of six hours. Vessels under 240 tons are liable for berthing charges, the daily rate in Sydney Harbour being £1 for vessels engaged in vehicular traffic, 1s. to 10s., according to passenger capacity, for vessels engaged in picnic, excursion or passenger traffic, and 2s. 6d. to 10s. for other vessels. Berthing charges in other ports are calculated at the rate of 2s. 6d. for each period of six hours. Where wharves are leased to shipping companies the tonnage rates and berthing charges in respect to their vessels are not charged as they accrue, but are accounted for in rent.

Moorings may be laid down in Sydney Harbour with the approval of the Harbour Trust Commissioners. An annual license fee of £5 is charged for moorings owned and used by shipping companies; and from 2s. 6d. to 10s. for those used in connection with docking premises or for small vessels. In other ports vessels are allowed to occupy Government mooring buoys for a period of two clear days free of charge, thereafter buoyage rates ranging from £1 to £3 per day are imposed. Exemption from buoyage rates may be granted by the officer in charge of a port if a vessel is detained through stress of weather or when an unforeseen circumstance renders it desirable that the vessel should occupy a Government buoy.

Tugs, ferry boats, hulks, and launches plying for hire in Sydney Harbour must obtain a license, for which the charge is £1 per annum. For water boats supplying water to shipping in the port the annual license fee is £5; for lighters, 2s. per ton up to 200 tons and 1s. for each additional ton, the minimum fee being £2; and for watermen 5s. In other ports the annual license fees for ballast lighters and for watermen are £1 and 10s. respectively. The charge for water supplied to a vessel by the Sydney Harbour Trust is 2s. per 1,000 gallons if the water is taken through hoses supplied by the Commissioners; in other cases the rate is 1s. 6d. per 1,000 gallons.

Harbour and Wharfage Rates.

In addition to the foregoing charges levied on the vessels and payable by their owners, harbour or wharfage rates payable by the owners of the goods are imposed on the cargoes landed or shipped in the ports. Goods transhipped are subject to transshipment rates and not to inward or outward wharfage or harbour rates. Passengers' luggage is exempt. The schedules of rates for the port of Sydney are contained in the Sydney Harbour Trust regulations and for other ports they are proclaimed under the Harbour and Tonnage Rates Act.

In Sydney Harbour all classes of goods are subject to inward or to transshipment rates. Unless it is otherwise specified in the schedule, the inward rate is 4s. per ton assessed by weight or by measurement (40 cubic feet) at the option of the Commissioners. There are a number of special inward rates—some apply only to Australian products arriving from another port in the Commonwealth, *e.g.*, 2s. 6d. per ton of dairy produce, fresh fish, poultry, iron or steel, fencing wire, copper or stone; 2s. 6d. per 630 superficial feet of rough or sawn timber. The inward rate on coal is 1s. per ton, and on liquid fuel 2s. per ton, but only the transshipment rate—6d. per ton—is levied when these commodities are shipped in Sydney for consumption as bunker fuel by the loading vessel. Kerosene in the case is charged at the rate of 2½d. per case; green fruit—Australian 1½d. and other 2d. per package; vegetables, 1½d. per case; timber (other than Australian), 3s. 6d. per 630 super feet; copra, 3s. per ton; guano, 1s. 3d. per ton; sugar for

refining, 2s. per ton; wool, 9d. per bale. The general rate on transshipments is 6d. per ton, but there are a number of special rates ranging down to ½d. per ton, which is payable on firewood.

The schedule of outward rates in operation in Sydney Harbour in June, 1925, contained thirty-two items, including the principal primary products, and all other goods are free. The rate in respect of coal is 6d. per ton; wheat and coke 9d. per ton; wool 9d. per bale; ore 4½d. per ton; other commodities subject to outward rate, including pastoral and dairy products, flour and mill offals, cement, copper, tin and fertilisers, 1s. 6d. per ton. Outward rates are not chargeable on consignments under 2 tons.

In Sydney the same rates are applied to coastal and to interstate trade, but in other ports there are separate schedules for coastwise goods. The general inward rate for coastwise goods arriving at these ports is 2s. per ton, and special rates include coal and firewood 6d. per ton; coke and fertilisers 1s. per ton; green fruit 2d. per package; vegetables 1d. per case; ore 4½d. per ton; ore products 9d. per ton; inflammable liquids 2d. per case; maize and oats 2d. per bag. The outward rate on coastwise goods is 1s. per ton, unless otherwise specified; coal and firewood are rated at 3d. per ton; coke 4d. per ton; ore and ore products 4½d. per ton; timber—sawn or rough—1s. 3d. per 630 super feet. Transshipment rates are half the inward rates.

The general rate imposed in respect of interstate and oversea goods arriving at ports outside Sydney is 3s. 4d. per ton by weight or measurement. In most cases the special rates are the same as those levied in Sydney, some of the exceptions being coal 6d. per ton, kerosene 2d. per case, liquid fuel 3s. per ton, ore 4½d. per ton, ore products 9d. per ton, wool 6d. per bale. The schedule of outward rates on interstate and oversea goods contains 24 items including coal and firewood 3d. per ton, coke 4d. per ton, rough or sawn timber 1s. per 630 super feet, and wool 6d. per bale. The rate is 1s. per ton by weight or by measurement on goods for which a special rate is not fixed. The transshipment rates on interstate and oversea goods are in most cases similar to those imposed in Sydney.

Storage Charges.

In order to avoid congestion on the wharves in Sydney Harbour, storage charges are imposed on imported goods landed on a wharf if they are not removed within six days after the final discharge of the vessel, and on goods placed on a wharf for export which are not removed within 48 hours. The charges are at a daily rate of 4d. during the first week, 5d. during the second, 6d. during the third week and 7d. thereafter.

In other ports storage charges are payable on goods left on a wharf for more than 48 hours at a daily rate of 2d., 3d., and 4d. for the first, second, and third week respectively, and 6d. thereafter.

Storage charges are imposed on timber after the first 48 hours at the daily rate of 1d. per ton for the first four days, and thereafter at 3d. per ton in Sydney Harbour, and at 2d. per ton in other ports.

In computing storage charges in Sydney Harbour, Sundays and holidays are not included.

SHIPPING REGISTERS.

Shipping in New South Wales is registered in accordance with the Merchant Shipping Act of the Imperial Parliament, under sections which apply to the United Kingdom and to all British dominions. The Act prescribes that all British vessels engaged in trade must be registered, except those under 15 tons burthen employed in the coasting trade of the part of

the British Empire in which the owners reside. Ships not legally registered are not entitled to recognition as British ships and are not permitted to proceed to sea. Although the registration of vessels under 15 tons is not compulsory, many small vessels are registered at the request of the owners, as registration facilitates the transaction of business for the purpose of sale or mortgage. The flag for merchant ships registered in Australia is the red ensign usually flown by British merchant vessels, defaced with the seven pointed star of the Commonwealth and the five smaller white stars representing the Southern Cross.

The ports in New South Wales at which shipping registers are kept are Sydney and Newcastle. The following statement shows particulars regarding the shipping on the registers, as at 30th June, 1925:—

Tonnage Class.	Steam.		Motor.		Sailing.		Total.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Under 50 tons	255	5,879	206	2,233	204	2,811	665	10,923
50 and under 500 ...	207	33,274	2	167	73	11,410	282	44,851
500 ,, ,, 1,000 ...	23	16,156	...	...	8	6,413	31	22,569
1,000 ,, ,, 2,000 ...	28	46,998	...	...	4	4,776	32	51,774
2,000 and over	20	67,310	...	...	...	...	20	67,310
Total	533	169,617	208	2,400	289	25,410	1,030	197,427

Changes in respect of the registration in consequence of sales show that 51 vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 13,714 tons (net), were sold during the year 1924-25. Forty-eight of a net tonnage of 8,884 tons being sold to British subjects, the transactions did not necessarily involve removal from the registers, as in the case of three vessels of 4,830 tons sold to foreigners. Excluding yachts, launches and boats, ten vessels were imported, all from the United Kingdom, their aggregate value being £423,240. Nine vessels, of a total value of £90,350, were exported, including three built in Australia, two of which were sent to New Zealand and one to Papua. Of the six vessels built elsewhere, one was exported to each of the following countries, viz.:—The United Kingdom, New Zealand, Fiji, Solomon Islands, China, and Greece.

SHIPBUILDING AND REPAIRING.

Accommodation for building, fitting, and repairing ships, has been provided by State and private enterprise at Sydney and Newcastle, and at four other ports in New South Wales.

In Sydney Harbour there are four large graving docks, five floating docks, and seven patent slips. Two graving docks, the Fitzroy and the Sutherland, situated on Cockatoo Island, were under the control of the Government of New South Wales until February, 1913, when they were transferred to the Commonwealth. They are controlled now by the Australian Commonwealth Shipping Board. The Sutherland Dock is 633 feet long, and can accommodate a vessel with a breadth of 84 feet, and a draught of 30 feet. The Fitzroy Dock has an effective length of 490 feet, and its breadth is 45 feet. It can take vessels drawing 18 feet 3 inches. At Cockatoo Island there are also two patent slips, where vessels drawing 9 feet and 4 feet respectively may be slipped. The vessels docked at the Cockatoo Island docks during the year ended 30th June, 1925, numbered 132, including 30 warships; their gross tonnage was 401,047 tons. The vessels slipped numbered 47 with a gross tonnage of 1,410 tons. In addition to warships a large number of mercantile vessels have been constructed at Cockatoo

Dockyard, including the largest Australian-built steamers, viz., the *Fordsdale*, 9,700 gross tonnage, completed in 1924, and a sister ship, the *Ferndale*, launched during the same year.

A private company, *Mort's Dock and Engineering Company, Limited*, owns two graving docks in Sydney Harbour, four floating docks and four patent slips. The *Woolwich Dock* is 850 feet long, and at high tide can take vessels drawing 28 feet; *Mort's Dock* is 640 feet long, and vessels drawing 16½ feet may be floated into it. The largest of the slips is 270 feet long; it can take a vessel weighing 1,600 tons gross, drawing 11 feet forward and 16 feet aft. The works of the *Mort's Dock and Engineering Company* are equipped with plant for shipbuilding, as well as for all classes of repairs.

There is a smaller dock, under private ownership, with a lifting power of 300 tons, and the State Government maintains a slip with a lifting capacity of 100 tons.

At Newcastle there are two patent slips attached to the State Government Dockyard at Walsh Island, and three which are privately owned. Of the latter, the largest is 200 feet long and 40 feet wide; it can take vessels which weigh 800 tons, and draw 8 feet forward and 12 feet aft.

The works at Walsh Island were established on a site which was originally a sandspit, and had been built up by dredging from the bed of the *Hunter River*. In 1913, after the *Cockatoo Dockyard* had been transferred to the Federal Government, workshops were erected at Walsh Island for the construction and repair of Government dredges and other vessels. Subsequently the establishment was extended, and provision was made for the construction of merchant ships and ferry steamers, and for other classes of engineering and iron work. The patent slips are 292 feet in length; one has a lifting power of 900 tons and the other 400 tons. During the year ended 30th June, 1925, sixty vessels, with a gross tonnage of 13,249 tons, were slipped at Walsh Island.

Graving docks under the control of the State Government are maintained at the ports of the *Tweed*, *Richmond*, *Clarence*, and *Manning Rivers* to meet the requirements of vessels engaged in the coastal trade. The largest, at *Richmond River*, is 214 feet long and 45 feet wide; it can accommodate a vessel with a draught of 10 feet. Thirty-three vessels with a gross tonnage of 2,608 tons were docked at these ports during the year 1924-25.

The number and tonnage of steam and sailing vessels built in New South Wales since 1916 are shown in the following statement.

Year.	Sailing.		Steam.		Motor.		Total.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
1916	2	184	8	355	6	146	16	685
1917	4	365	5	8,032	8	104	17	8,501
1917-18	2	300	6	4,132	5	380	13	4,812
1918-19	1	256	9	4,085	4	226	14	4,567
1919-20	2	248	22	31,105	14	487	38	31,840
1920-21	1	7	8	808	6	84	15	899
1921-22	4	37	10	6,619	10	82	24	6,738
1922-23	5	1,433	30	27,831	6	243	41	29,507
1923-24	3	2,850	20	33,615	5	69	28	36,534
1924-25	...	...	4	6,400	7	69	11	6,469

Three steamers built in 1924-25 were made of steel, and the other vessels were of wood.

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT SHIPPING AND SHIPBUILDING.

For the purpose of transporting to oversea markets the Australian produce which had accumulated as a result of the disorganisation of shipping due to the war, the Commonwealth Government Line of Steamers was inaugurated in July, 1916, by the purchase of a fleet of 15 cargo steamers with a carrying capacity of about 106,000 tons, the price being £2,052,654. Three sailing vessels were bought for a sum of £81,494, and 18 ex-enemy ships were placed under the management of the line. Arrangements were made also for the construction of a number of vessels in Australia.

In addition to the fleet of cargo carriers, 5 steamers of the Government Line were built in Great Britain for a passenger and cargo service between Australia and the United Kingdom. Insulated space is provided, and the passenger accommodation is designed to meet the requirements of the assisted immigration scheme. The steamers bear the names of Australian bays, and are known as the "Bay" steamers. They have a displacement of 25,900 tons, and a tonnage of 13,850 gross, or 8,447 net. Provision is made for over 700 third-class passengers. The service was commenced in December, 1921, and the vessels sail at monthly intervals from Sydney, via Suez, making the voyage to London in 37 days.

In each of the first five years of its existence considerable profit was gained by the Commonwealth Government Line and the accumulated profits as at 30th June, 1921, amounted to £2,304,442. During the subsequent period of unusual depression in the shipping trade the financial results became unfavourable. There was a loss of £1,171,569 in 1921-22, of £1,789,651 in the following year, and of £487,140 in the period dating from 1st July to 8th December, 1923. The aggregate net losses as at the last-mentioned date amounted to £1,143,918.

In view of the unfavourable results of the undertaking a Board was appointed in August, 1923, to take over the management of the line and to control the Government dock at Cockatoo Island. The number of vessels vested in the Board when it commenced operations in December, 1923, was 54, with an aggregate net tonnage of 170,744, including 4 vessels, 15,442 tons, under construction. The transfer was effected upon the basis of the market value of the vessels, viz., £4,718,150, which is considerably below their cost. A further loss of £245,474, after providing £101,990 for interest and depreciation, was incurred in respect of the steamers during the period from 1st September, 1923, to 31st March, 1924, and during the year ended 31st March, 1925, there was a loss of £593,879, including £384,515 for interest and depreciation. The Board has sold 38 cargo vessels which were not suitable for the class of trade undertaken by the line, the amount realised being £1,072,880. Prior to the establishment of the Board 3 vessels were sold for £300,450.

SEAMEN.

Matters relating to the employment of seamen are subject to control by the Commonwealth Government in terms of the Federal Navigation Act. Provision is made for the regulation of the methods of engagement and discharge, the form of agreement, rating, the ship's complement, discipline, hygiene, and accommodation. Mercantile Marine offices were established in March, 1922, to undertake functions performed hitherto by State shipping offices at Sydney and Newcastle, where engagements and discharges are registered.

The following statement shows the number of transactions at the offices during the last five years:—

Year ended 30th June.	Engagements registered.			Discharges registered.			Licenses to ship.		
	Sydney.	New-castle.	Total.	Sydney.	New-castle.	Total.	Sydney.	New-castle.	Total.
1921	24,684	4,917	29,601	24,212	4,410	28,622	1,344	439	1,783
1922	23,855	4,912	28,767	23,896	3,556	27,452	925	152	1,077
1923	24,329	3,248	27,577	24,885	3,108	27,993	1,006	234	1,240
1924	24,036	2,936	26,972	24,316	2,916	27,232	1,024	361	1,385
1925	24,148	3,581	27,729	25,140	3,445	28,585	964	305	1,269

The rates of wages, hours of labour, and conditions under which crews work on vessels engaged in the interstate and coastal trade of Australia were fixed by awards and agreements under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act. The rates for seamen were assessed on a labourer's basic wage* and an additional sum of £2 per month for skill. The registration of the Seamen's Union under the Act was cancelled in June, 1925, in consequence of industrial strife, but the rates of wages embodied in the award are still in operation.

The monthly rates payable to officers and engineers vary according to the size of the vessels on which they are engaged. The rates ruling in December, 1925, were as follows:—

Occupation.	Rates of Wages per month.
	£ s. d. £ s. d.
Officers—Chief	21 18 0 to 32 18 0
Second	19 18 0 „ 29 18 0
Third	20 18 0 „ 26 18 0
Junior	£19 18s. 0d.
Engineers—Chief	30 15 0 to 51 5 0
Second	25 5 0 „ 33 5 0
Third	22 15 0 „ 27 15 0
Fourth	19 15 0 „ 24 15 0
Firemen	£18 5s. 0d.
Trimmers	£16 5s. 0d.
Seamen—Steamers	£16 5s. 0d.
Cooks	41 6 0 to 22 16 0
Stewards	14 7 6 „ 16 17 6
Stewardesses	9 13 6 „ 10 16 6

Except where provided specifically in the awards and agreements, the ordinary hours of work for seamen are eight per day, and overtime must be paid for time worked in excess of eight hours. Manning conditions are regulated by committees representing the shipowners and the unions.

Compensation to seamen is provided by the Seamen's Compensation Act, 1911, which applies to ships in the service of the Commonwealth (exclusive of naval and military service), and to ships trading with Australia, or engaged in any occupation in Australian waters, or in trade and commerce with other countries or among the States. The schedules of the Act indicate the amount of compensation payable, in case of death or total or partial incapacity resulting from personal injury by accident to seamen in the course of their employment. Methods of procedure for the recovery of compensation are prescribed by regulations under the Act.

* See Section relating to Wages in Part Employment of Production.

SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA.

The navigation laws contain stringent provisions designed to prevent unseaworthy ships from proceeding to sea, and to ensure that all vessels are manned by competent crews, that life-saving appliances are carried, and that special arrangements are made to safeguard dangerous cargoes. Regulations have been framed for the prevention of collisions, also rules regarding the lights and signals to be used.

On account of the regularity of the coast of New South Wales and the absence of islands, navigation in the seaboard waters is usually safe. Along a coastline less than 700 miles in length there are 29 light-houses, and in the ports of Sydney, Newcastle, Port Kembla, and in many other shipping places, lighted beacons, leading lights, and other guides have been placed for the safety of harbour navigation.

The lights on the sea coast are under the control of the Commonwealth, and a description of the more important light-houses was published in the 1921 issue of this Year Book at page 274.

Pilotage is a State service as the sections of the Navigation Act which authorise its transfer to Federal authority have not been brought into operation. A pilot must be engaged for every vessel entering or leaving a port of New South Wales unless the master holds a certificate of exemption. Such certificates may be granted to British subjects only, for use in respect of British ships registered in Australia or New Zealand and employed in the trade between ports in Australasia and the South Sea Islands, or engaged in whaling.

Wrecks and shipping casualties which occur to British merchant shipping on or near the coast of New South Wales are investigated by Courts of Marine Inquiry.* The majority of wrecks reported are small coasters under 200 tons. The following statement shows the wrecks reported in each of the last five years. The figures do not include vessels which left the ports of New South Wales and were recorded as missing:—

Year ended 30th June.	British Vessels.				Total Tonnage.	Crews and Passengers.	Lives Lost.
	Steam.	Motor.	Sailing.	Total.			
1921	6	...	1	7	1,475	133	36
1922	1	...	1	2	200	16	...
1923	6	1	...	7	3,862	193	46
1924	7	...	...	7	747	69	2
1925	3	...	1	4	10,413	154	2

Lifeboat stations are maintained at Sydney and at Newcastle, and life-saving appliances are kept at certain places along the coast. The pilot vessels are fitted for rescue work, and steam tugs are subsidised for assisting vessels in distress.

The Royal Shipwreck Relief and Humane Society of New South Wales affords relief to distressed seamen and their dependents and to the crews and necessitous passengers wrecked in New South Wales waters. It is maintained by public subscription, without subsidy from the State. The relief given during the year 1924 amounted to £1,421.

* See chapter relating to Law Courts.

RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAYS.

THE first two projects for the construction of railways in New South Wales were originated by private companies, but it was soon recognised that the undertakings were beyond their financial resources, and the works were transferred to the Government. Since then it has become an established policy that all railways shall be under Government control, although a few private lines have been constructed purely for local purposes. One result of this policy is to be seen in the magnitude of the annual receipts and expenditure of the State, and in the growth of the public debt. More than 50 per cent. of the expenditure in 1924-25 was in connection with railways and tramways, and 55 per cent. of the loan moneys expended up to June, 1925, has been for their construction and equipment.

The management of the railways and tramways is entrusted to Railway Commissioners appointed by the Governor. The railway and tramway property is vested in them as a body corporate; they conduct the services on existing lines and construct the new lines authorised by the Legislature. The Commissioners pay all receipts into Consolidated Revenue, and expenditure on services and on construction is limited to the moneys appropriated annually by Parliament.

A Royal Commission appointed in 1924 to report on the railways and tramways of New South Wales recommended that the Railway Commissioners be given full control over their funds, with responsibility for the renewal of loans and the raising of future capital; also that they be recouped by the State Treasury for losses incurred upon developmental lines, for a period of ten years after they have been open for traffic. The Royal Commission made other important recommendations in regard to organisation and administration, of which a summary was published on page 250 of the previous issue of the Year Book.

There are three Railway Commissioners, viz., the Chief Commissioner and two assistant Commissioners, appointed for a period of seven years, in terms of the Government Railways (Amendment) Act of 1924. The Act provides also for the appointment by the Chief Commissioner of four Area Commissioners, to supervise operations within areas allotted to them. Their headquarters are in Sydney, Newcastle, Orange, and Goulburn respectively.

The following statement shows the mileage and cost of the railways and tramways administered by the Railway Commissioners of New South Wales, also the results of working during the last two years:—

Particulars.	1923-24.			1924-25.		
	Railways.	Tramways.	Total.	Railways.	Tramways.	Total.
Lines open for Traffic 30th June—	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
Mileage	5,523	227	5,750	5,656	228	5,884
Cost of Construction and Equipment	£ 93,355,167	£ 10,758,958	£ 104,114,125	£ 99,623,216	£ 11,131,454	£ 110,754,670
Year ended 30th June—						
Earnings	15,616,577	3,633,916	19,250,493	16,769,452	3,619,272	20,388,724
Working Expenses	10,917,491	3,091,531	14,009,022	11,939,686	3,174,862	15,114,548
Balance after paying Working Expenses	4,699,086	542,385	5,241,471	4,829,766	444,410	5,274,176
Interest on Capital	4,693,417	532,187	5,225,604	4,796,829	546,489	5,343,318
Surplus	5,669	10,198	15,867	32,937	(-) 102,079	(-) 69,142

(-) Denotes deficiency.

The capital cost of the railways and tramways open for traffic as at 30th June, 1925, amounted to £110,750,000. On the railways nearly £100,000,000 had been spent, and in 1924-25 they yielded a surplus of about £33,000 over working expenses and interest, while operations on the tramways showed a deficiency of £102,000.

RAILWAYS.

The particulars relating to State railways in New South Wales, as stated in this chapter, are exclusive of the following lines, built for the special purposes of Government departments:—The Goondah-Burrinjuck line, 26 miles, is a two-feet gauge railway running from the main Southern line to Burrinjuck Dam. It is maintained by the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission and used for general traffic. A light line, 10 miles long, also connecting with the main Southern line, is used to convey materials to the Cordeaux Dam, which is under construction by the Department of Public Works. Another line runs from Liverpool to the military area at Holdsworthy, and is operated by the Railway Commissioners of New South Wales. Information relating to the Victorian Government line between Deniliquin and Moama is shown on page 108.

On 26th September, 1855, the first railway line, 14 miles in length, was opened for traffic between Sydney and Parramatta, and communication was established between Newcastle and East Maitland on 11th April, 1857. The subsequent growth of the State railways may be traced in the table given below. The Campbelltown to Camden, Westmead to Castle Hill, and Yass tramways are included in the figures relating to mileage as they are worked with the railways.

Period.	Opened during the period.	Total opened at end of period.	Year ended June.	Opened during the period.	Total opened at end of period.
	miles.	miles.		miles.	miles.
1855-64	143	143	1920	190	5,015
1865-74	260	403	1921	23	5,043
1875-84	1,215	1,618	1922	73	5,116
1885-94	883	2,501	1923	202	5,318
1895-1904	780	3,281	1924	205	5,523
1905-14	686	3,967	1925	133	5,656
1915-19	858	4,825			

The total length of lines open at 30th June, 1925, was 5,656 miles, distributed as follows:—Southern system, 1,953 miles; Western, 2,074 miles; and Northern, 1,629 miles; and in addition there were 1,118 miles of sidings and crossovers.

The progress can be gauged fairly by comparing the population and area of territory to each mile of line open for traffic at different periods. In 1900 the average population per mile of line was 482, and in 1925 it was 402, while the area of territory has decreased from 4,434 square miles in 1860 to 55 square miles in 1925. The following statement shows the extension since 1860.

Year.	Population to each Mile of Line open.	Area to each Mile of Line open.	Year.	Population to each Mile of Line open.	Area to each Mile of Line open.
	No.	sq. miles.		No.	sq. miles.
1860	4,979	4,434	1895	501	123
1865	2,861	2,170	1900	482	110
1870	1,471	916	1905	443	95
1875	1,360	710	1910	443	85
1880	881	366	1915	455	75
1885	548	179	1920	406	62
1890	523	142	1925	402	55

In addition to increasing the facilities by the construction of new lines, provision for the rapidly extending traffic is being made by the duplication of existing main lines.

There are duplicate lines on the main western line as far as Orange; the southern line is duplicated as far as Cootamundra, the northern line as far as Branxton, and the South Coast line to Wollongong, except certain tunnels.

The following statement shows the length of line laid with one or more tracks at intervals since 30th June, 1900:—

At 30th June.	Single.	Double.	Triple.	Quadruple.	Total.
	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.
1900	2,644	158½	...	8½	2,811½
1905	3,079½	193	...	8½	3,280½
1910	3,393	241½	...	8½	3,643
1915	3,692½	406½	8	27½*	4,134½
1920	4,405	567	7½	35½*	5,015
1925	4,997	608½	9½	40½*	5,655½

* Includes 1 mile 9 chains with five tracks.

COST OF RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.

The average cost per mile open for traffic of the Government Railway lines, excluding expenditure for rolling stock, machinery, furniture, and workshops and stores, is £13,742—an amount which is by no means high, considering the physical character of some parts of the country through which the lines have been carried, and the cost of labour and materials.

The standard rails are 100 lb. in the metropolitan area, 90 lb. on the main trunk lines, and 80 lb. on branch lines. Sleepers of Australian hardwood, measuring 8 ft. x 9 in. x 4½ in., are laid at the rate of eighteen per 40 feet of rail along the permanent-way.

The amount expended on rolling stock, etc., to 30th June, 1925, was £21,903,052, viz.:—Rolling stock, £17,094,193; machinery, £1,771,349; workshops, £1,464,474; furniture, £10,036; and stores advance account, £1,563,000.

The total capital expenditure amounted to £99,623,216, an average of £17,615 per mile. The growth of the capital expenditure may be seen in the following table:—

Period.	Capital expended during period.	Total capital expended to end of period.	Period.	Capital expended during period.	Total capital expended to end of period.
	£	£		£	£
1855-9	1,278,416	1,278,416	1905-9	5,324,149	47,612,666
1860-4	1,353,374	2,631,790	1910-4	13,652,203	61,264,869
1865-9	2,049,539	4,681,329	1915-9	15,336,722	76,601,591
1870-4	2,163,217	6,844,546	1920	2,717,326	79,318,917
1875-9	3,561,949	10,406,495	1921	2,985,277	82,304,194
1880-4	9,673,643	20,080,138	1922	3,248,677	85,552,871
1885-9	9,759,029	29,839,167	1923	3,724,000	89,276,871
1890-4	6,016,104	35,855,271	1924	4,078,296	93,355,167
1895-9	2,137,005	37,992,276	1925	6,268,049	99,623,216
1900-4	4,296,241	42,288,517			

Of £99,623,216 expended to 30th June, 1925, an amount of £659,930 was provided from Consolidated Revenue, leaving a balance of £98,963,286 raised by debentures and stock. The net revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1925, after paying working expenses, was £4,829,766, or 5·01 per cent. upon the capital invested.

EARNINGS AND EXPENSES.

As the carriage of goods and live stock constitutes the principal source of railway revenue, the earnings in each year are affected by the seasons experienced in the agricultural and pastoral districts. In unfavourable seasons the carriage of fodder and the transfer of live stock at reduced rates cause a diminution in the earnings, and at the same time an increase in the working expenses. The extension of the lines into sparsely settled districts also causes an increase in the proportion of working expenses to total earnings, as several of these lines earn little more than cost of maintenance.

The following table shows the gross earnings, working expenses, and the proportion of the expenditure to receipts, in various years from 1890 to 1925:—

Year ended 30th June.	Gross Earnings.	Working Expenses.		Year ended 30th June.	Gross Earnings.	Working Expenses.	
		Total.	Pro-portion to gross earnings.			Total.	Pro-portion to gross earnings.
	£	£	per cent		£	£	per cent
1890	2,633,086	1,665,835	63·3	1920	13,083,847	9,570,984	73·2
1895	2,878,204	1,642,589	57·1	1921	14,267,205	11,032,678	77·3
1900	3,163,572	1,844,520	58·3	1922	15,213,019	11,116,302	73·1
1905	3,684,016	2,216,442	60·2	1923	15,221,333	10,649,974	70·0
1910	5,485,715	3,276,409	59·7	1924	15,616,577	10,917,491	69·9
1915	7,616,511	5,311,162	69·7	1925	16,769,452	11,939,686	71·2

The working expenses during the year ended 30th June, 1925, represented 71·2 per cent. of the gross earnings. In 1907 the proportion was 53 per cent., the lowest since the control of the railways was vested in Commissioners, but the percentage has risen steadily since that year. The increase is due mainly to advances in the salaries and wages of the staff, in the prices of coal and other necessary materials, and additional payments for rates on railway properties under the Local Government Act, 1919.

The following table shows the gross earnings, working expenses, and net earnings per train mile and per average mile open at five yearly intervals from 1900 onwards:—

Year ended 30th June.	Per train mile.			Per average mile open.		
	Gross Earnings.	Working Expenses.	Net Earnings.	Gross Earnings.	Working Expenses.	Net Earnings.
	d.	d.	d.	£	£	£
1900	85·36	49·77	35·59	1,139	664	475
1905	84·46	50·82	33·64	1,123	676	447
1910	85·12	50·84	34·28	1,513	904	609
1915	89·52	62·42	27·10	1,877	1,309	568
1920	137·51	100·59	36·92	2,635	1,927	708
1921	150·23	116·17	34·06	2,843	2,198	645
1922	166·82	121·89	44·93	2,996	2,189	807
1923	168·39	117·82	50·57	2,929	2,049	880
1924	173·66	121·40	52·26	2,860	1,999	861
1925	172·70	122·96	49·74	3,010	2,143	867

NET EARNINGS AND INTEREST ON CAPITAL.

The net revenue from railways for the year ended 30th June, 1925, was £4,829,766, while the capital expended on lines open for traffic to that date was £99,623,216, including £659,930 paid from consolidated revenue. The amount available to meet the interest charges on the interest bearing capital invested represents a return of 5·01 per cent. The following table shows the net earnings and the interest returned on the capital expended on railways, including the cost of construction and equipment, for the year 1890 and subsequent periods:—

Year ended 30th June.	Net Earnings.	Interest returned on Capital invested.	Year-ended 30th June.	Net Earnings.	Interest re- turned on Cap- ital invested.
	£	per cent.		£	per cent.
1890	967,251	3·17	1920	3,512,863	4·48
1895	1,235,615	3·31	1921	3,234,527	4·01
1900	1,319,052	3·43	1922	4,096,717	4·88
1905	1,467,574	3·40	1923	4,571,359	5·22
1910	2,209,306	4·58	1924	4,699,086	5·13
1915	2,305,349	3·60	1925	4,829,766	5·01

The next table shows the rate of interest returned on the capital expenditure for each of the years since 1916, with the amount by which such return falls short of or exceeds the actual rate of interest payable on the cost of construction. The rate of return on capital represents the interest on the gross cost of the lines open for traffic:—

Year ended 30th June.	Interest returned on Capital.	Actual rate of Interest payable.	Gain (+) or Loss (—).	Year ended 30th June.	Interest returned on Capital.	Actual rate of Interest payable.	Gain (+) or Loss (—).
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.		per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
1916	3·45	3·78	(-) 0·33	1921	4·01	4·42	(-) 0·41
1917	3·50	4·09	(-) 0·59	1922	4·88	4·60	(+) 0·28
1918	4·10	4·17	(-) 0·07	1923	5·22	4·65	(+) 0·57
1919	4·03	4·10	(-) 0·07	1924	5·13	4·74	(+) 0·39
1920	4·48	4·30	(+) 0·18	1925	5·01	4·88	(+) 0·13

State railways are regarded as a developmental agency in the settlement of the country rather than as a revenue producing enterprise. Therefore freights and fares are reduced when the net earnings are much in excess of the interest requirements. To meet rising costs of maintenance passenger fares and goods rates were increased considerably between August, 1917, and November, 1920. Various reductions have been made since May, 1922.

NON-PAYING LINES.

Many of the railways of New South Wales have been constructed with the view of promoting settlement and developing the natural resources of the State rather than of meeting requirements already existing, and traffic

over a number of lines is conducted at a loss. Even on portions of the main lines the earnings do not cover working expenses and interest on the capital cost, but most of the unprofitable lines are branch lines of comparatively recent construction.

Of the main lines, only the southern line returns a profit over its whole length; the western line from Nyngan to Bourke, the northern line from Tamworth to Wallangarra, the North Coast lines, and the South Coast line from Kiama to Nowra are all worked at a loss.

The Royal Commission of Inquiry in 1924 recommended that the railway finances be relieved of the losses incurred on developmental lines during the first ten years after they have been opened for traffic.

Particulars relating to non-paying lines are shown below, mainly for the year ended 31st December, 1924:—

Line.	Length.	Capital Cost.	Interest.	Working Expenses.	Earnings.	Loss after providing for working expenses and interest.
	m. c.	£	£	£	£	£
Northern—						
Main Line—Tamworth to Wallangarra	211 27½	3,282,316	169,387	389,298	423,348	135,337
Branch lines	536 4	3,213,405	164,020	189,882	195,635	158,267
Total Northern	747 31½	6,495,721	333,407	579,180	618,983	293,604
North Coast	522 67½	8,571,799	405,779	559,916	573,763	391,932
Southern—Branch lines	1,140 22½	8,246,183	424,000	495,912	523,094	396,818
South Coast—Kiama to Nowra	22 59½	428,764	22,127	28,298	23,558	26,867
Western—						
Main Line—Nyngan to Bourke ..	126 43½	730,950	37,721	52,473	53,961	30,233
Branch Lines	1,021 77	7,486,284	386,859	600,230	636,881	349,208
Total Western	1,148 40½	8,217,234	423,580	652,703	690,842	385,441
Suburban—Branch Lines	4 39½	56,393	2,905	12,724	5,251	10,348
Total specified lines	3,580 20½	32,015,994	1,611,798	2,328,733	2,435,521	1,505,010

The non-paying lines, representing approximately 63 per cent. of the total mileage, were responsible for a loss of £1,505,000 in 1924, and as the total surplus on railway operations was £33,000, it follows that the paying lines, which constitute only 37 per cent. of the whole, returned a profit of about £1,538,000. This is shown in the following summary, which has been compiled from the above figures and from the reports of the Railway Commissioners. The particulars of the non-paying lines relate in most cases to the calendar year 1924, and the total figures to the year ended June, 1925, therefore the results as stated are approximate only.

Lines.	Expenditure.			Earnings.	Deficiency (—) Surplus (+)
	Interest on Cost.	Working Expenses.	Total.		
Non-paying lines ...	£ 1,611,793	£ 2,328,733	£ 3,940,531	£ 2,435,521	(—) 1,505,010
Paying lines ...	3,185,031	9,610,953	12,795,984	14,333,931	(+) 1,537,974
Total ...	4,796,829	11,939,686	16,736,515	16,769,452	(+) 32,937

DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENSES AND EARNINGS.

A statement of the various items of working expenses and earnings of the railways during the year ended 30th June, 1925, is shown below:—

Working Expenses.		Earnings.	
	£		£
Maintenance of Way and Works	2,176,435	Passengers	6,186,368
Rolling Stock—		Mails, Parcels, Horses, etc. ...	755,725
Locomotive Power	2,771,181		
General Superintendence ...	156,509	Total Coaching... ..	6,942,093
Maintenance of Rolling Stock	2,779,139	Refreshment-rooms	595,606
Examination and Lubrication			
of Vehicles	65,801	Goods—	
Transportation and Traffic	3,121,001	Merchandise	5,482,686
General Charges	309,995	Live Stock	627,138
Refreshment-rooms	532,219	Wool	1,155,272
Gratuities, etc.	406	Minerals	1,745,833
Fire Insurance Fund	27,000		
		Total Goods	9,010,929
	11,939,686	Rents	138,152
Balance, Net Earnings	4,829,766	Miscellaneous	82,672
		Total	£16,769,452
Total	£16,769,452		

The expenditure on locomotive power amounted to 23 per cent. of the total; maintenance of rolling stock to 23 per cent.; transportation and traffic to 26 per cent.; and maintenance of way and works to 18 per cent. Of the earnings, 37 per cent. was derived from the carriage of passengers, 5 per cent. from mails, parcels, etc., nearly 4 per cent. from refreshment-rooms, and 54 per cent. from the conveyance of goods.

COACHING AND GOODS TRAFFIC.

For the first ten years after the opening of the railways in New South Wales the larger part of the earnings was obtained from the passenger traffic, no doubt owing to the fact that the original lines were entirely suburban. It was not until the line crossed the mountains and opened up the interior that the proportions changed, and the goods traffic became the principal source of revenue.

The following table gives the proportion of earnings from the coaching and goods traffic at intervals since 1890. The percentages shown include earnings from refreshment rooms, and from miscellaneous sources and rents, the greater part being classed with earnings from coaching traffic.

Year ended 30th June.	Proportion of Total Earnings.		Year ended 30th June.	Proportion of Total Earnings.	
	Coaching, etc.	Goods and Live Stock.		Coaching, etc.	Goods and Live Stock.
	per cent.	per cent.		per cent.	per cent.
1890	40·2	59·8	1915	44·7	55·3
1895	35·5	64·5	1920	47·7	52·3
1900	38·8	61·2	1924	48·0	52·0
1905	39·9	60·1	1925	46·1	53·9
1910	39·9	60·1			

During recent years the proportion of earnings from coaching has shown a tendency to increase, but in 1924-25, as a result of a bounteous season, an increase occurred in the proportion earned by the transport of goods.

Coaching Traffic.

The following table shows the number of passenger journeys and the receipts from coaching traffic since 1890:—

Year ended 30th June.	Passenger Journeys.	Gross Earnings from Coaching Traffic.	Per head of population.	
			Passenger Journeys.	Gross Earnings from Coaching Traffic.
	No.	£	No.	s. d.
1890	17,071,945	1,041,607	15·8	19 3
1895	19,725,418	1,001,107	15·9	18 2
1900	26,486,873	1,195,496	19·7	17 6
1905	35,158,150	1,428,190	24·4	19 10
1910	53,644,271	2,124,292	33·6	28 7
1915	58,774,451	3,315,294	47·1	35 2
1920	114,654,660	5,714,131	56·3	56 1
1924	128,101,184	6,797,888	58·0	61 6
1925	128,532,038	6,942,093	57·0	61 7

Particulars are shown below regarding the passenger traffic during the years ended June, 1920 and 1925 on suburban lines, *i.e.*, those within 34 miles of Sydney and Newcastle. Full details are not available for a similar comparison regarding country lines, owing to a recent alteration in the method of estimating the mileage travelled by season ticket-holders.

Description.	Year ended 30th June, 1920.			Year ended 30th June, 1925.		
	First Class.	Second Class.	Total.	First Class.	Second Class.	Total.
SUBURBAN LINES.						
Ordinary Passengers ...	6,814,174	35,680,397	42,494,571	4,840,215	39,796,101	44,645,316
Season Ticket Holders' Journeys ...	10,347,120	22,822,294	33,169,414	8,901,095	24,698,290	33,599,385
Workmen's Journeys ...	...	28,648,006	28,648,006	...	39,366,288	39,366,288
Total Passenger Journeys	17,161,294	87,150,697	104,311,991	13,750,310	103,860,679	117,610,989
Miles Travelled ...	125,834,076	631,092,718	757,926,794	110,007,073	785,606,943	895,614,016
Average Mileage per Passenger ...	7·30	7·25	7·26	8·00	7·56	7·62
Amount Received from Passengers ... £	372,618	1,318,003	1,690,621	344,469	1,901,332	2,245,801
Average Receipts per Passenger per mile d.	0·71	0·50	0·54	0·75	0·58	0·60
COUNTRY LINES.						
Passengers ...	2,762,246	7,580,423	10,342,669	2,622,540	8,298,500	10,921,040
Miles travelled ...	*	*	*	257,755,226	484,011,293	741,766,519
Average Mileage per Passenger ...	*	*	*	98·28	58·32	67·92
Amount Received from Passengers ... £	1,754,125	1,692,501	3,446,626	1,723,623	2,216,944	3,940,567
Average Receipt per Passenger per Mile d.	*	*	*	1·60	1·09	1·27

*Data on comparable basis not available.

On the suburban lines in 1924-25 first-class passengers travelled, on an average, 8 miles at the rate of $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per mile and second-class passengers $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles at $\frac{2}{3}$ d. per mile. On country lines the average journey by first-class passengers was $98\frac{1}{2}$ miles and by second-class $58\frac{3}{8}$ miles, the rates per mile being slightly over $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. respectively.

Information relating to passenger mileage from 1915 onwards is contained in the following table. The figures in respect of mileage in 1924-25 are not strictly comparable with those of earlier years owing to the alteration in the

basis of estimating the journeys of season ticket-holders, to which reference is made above:—

Year ended 30th June.	Passenger Train Mileage. (000 omitted.)	Passenger Journeys. (000 omitted.)	Total Passenger Miles. (000 omitted.)	Amount received from Passengers.	Average Number of Passengers carried per Train.	Average Mileage per Passenger Journey.	Average Receipt per Passenger Mile.	Average Fare per Passenger Journey.	Density of Traffic per Average Mile Worked.
1915	10,699	88,774	1,230,901	£ 2,910,684	122	13·87	d. 0·57	d. 7·87	303,402
1920	11,136	114,655	1,632,627	5,137,247	147	14·24	0·76	10·75	328,761
1921	11,301	120,735	1,620,857	5,736,256	143	13·42	0·85	11·40	322,944
1922	11,379	121,299	1,610,619	5,934,616	142	13·28	0·88	11·74	317,238
1923	11,822	123,715	1,679,903	6,004,702	142	13·58	0·86	11·65	323,264
1924	11,808	123,101	1,721,161	6,076,988	146	13·44	0·85	11·39	315,217
1925	12,616	123,532	1,637,380*	6,196,368	130	12·74*	0·91*	11·57	293,907*

*Not strictly comparable with figures for preceding years.

Goods Traffic.

The following figures show how greatly the goods traffic has expanded, especially in recent years:—

Year ended 30th June.	Goods and Live Stock Traffic.		Per head of Population.	
	Tonnage.	Gross Earnings.	Tonnage.	Gross Earnings.
		£		£ s. d.
1890	3,788,950	1,569,356	3·5	1 9 0
1895	4,075,093	1,855,187	3·3	1 9 11
1900	5,531,511	1,936,217	4·1	1 8 5
1905	6,724,215	2,213,105	4·7	1 10 9
1910	8,393,038	3,290,640	5·3	2 1 3
1915	11,920,881	4,206,234	6·3	2 4 8
1920	13,293,528	6,807,792	6·5	3 6 10
1921	15,563,131	7,270,856	7·4	3 9 7
1922	14,532,811	7,953,909	6·8	3 14 9
1923	13,801,310	7,868,769	6·4	3 12 5
1924	15,693,127	8,096,275	7·1	3 13 3
1925	16,208,476	9,010,929	7·2	4 0 0

The tonnage carried in 1924-25 was the largest on record, being 515,349 tons above the figure for the previous year. The gross earnings were higher by £914,654. The increases in tonnage were due mainly to the larger volume of traffic in respect of grain, flour, etc., and minerals, other than coal and coke. Increased earnings were received for the transport of those articles, also for the transport of general merchandise, though the tonnage of the last-mentioned group was lower than in 1923-24.

The next statement shows the classes of goods carried on the railways in various years since 1900.

Year ended 30th June.	General Merchandise.		Wool.	Live Stock.	Minerals.		Total Goods.
	Grain, Flour, etc. (Up Journey).	Other.			Coal, Coke, and Shale.	Other.	
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1900	361,052	1,151,564	84,678	188,595	3,406,769	338,853	5,531,511
1905	522,755	1,398,443	90,572	174,424	4,169,076	368,945	6,724,215
1910	608,405	2,100,203	138,779	463,669	4,553,965	523,017	8,393,038
1915	482,876	2,849,908	132,895	849,604	6,649,704	955,894	11,920,831
1920	764,457	3,685,983	117,171	900,933	6,732,859	1,092,125	13,293,528
1921	1,216,834	3,375,443	93,760	732,804	8,881,796	1,262,494	15,563,131
1922	1,651,994	3,350,796	128,085	603,067	7,491,001	1,307,868	14,532,811
1923	827,775	3,572,401	124,033	736,895	7,154,346	1,385,860	13,801,310
1924	1,175,533	3,653,111	111,597	742,611	8,501,944	1,508,331	15,693,127
1925	2,065,247	3,502,935	143,175	651,599	8,181,176	1,664,344	16,208,476

The following table contains information relating to ton mileage in 1915, and later years. "Ton-mileage" is the product of the load in tons and the distance in miles over which the load is carried. The average distance in 1924-25 was 102½ miles and the average earnings per ton mile 1·3d., the density of traffic being greater than in any other year for which the details are stated:—

Year ended 30th June.	Goods Train Mileage. (000 omitted.)	* Tons Carried. (000 omitted.)	Ton-miles. (000 omitted.)	Earnings, exclusive of haulage, tonnage dues, etc.	Average Freight-paying Load carried per Train.	Average Miles per Ton.	Earnings per Ton-mile.	Density of Traffic per average mile worked.
				£	Tons.		d.	Tons.
1915	10,321	11,660	916,923	3,633,613	88·84	78·64	0·95	226,010
1920	11,698	13,010	1,394,099	6,106,563	119·17	107·15	1·05	280,729
1921	11,491	15,262	1,418,386	6,501,914	123·43	92·94	1·10	282,603
1922	10,508	14,197	1,365,961	7,851,887	130·00	96·21	1·38	269,049
1923	9,871	13,567	1,166,238	7,761,788	118·15	85·96	1·60	224,417
1924	9,775	15,516	1,392,390	7,976,077	142·44	89·74	1·37	255,005
1925	10,689	16,027	1,647,448	8,872,202	154·13	102·80	1·29	295,718

* Exclusive of coal, etc., on which shunting charges only were collected.

†

EXPANSION OF TRAFFIC.

The expansion which has taken place in the earnings and in the volume of traffic on the railways of New South Wales will be seen from the following comparison. The earnings during the quinquennium 1921-25, show an

increase of £28,704,523, or 59 per cent., as compared with the previous five years. The number of passengers increased by only 25 per cent., as compared with an increase of 61 per cent. in the earnings from coaching traffic, and the volume of goods traffic increased by 24 per cent., while the revenue therefrom increased by 55 per cent.

Particulars.	Five years ended 30th June, 1920.	Five Years ended 30th June, 1925.	Increase.	
			Total.	Per cent.
Earnings—				
Coaching Traffic £	20,836,967	33,454,894	12,617,927	61
Goods and Live Stock £	22,136,506	33,837,175	11,700,669	53
Coal, Coke, and Shale... .. £	3,779,971	6,363,563	2,583,592	68
Refreshment Rooms, Rents, etc. £	1,629,619	3,431,954	1,802,335	111
Total earnings £	48,383,063	77,087,586	28,704,523	59
Passengers No.	497,088,628	622,381,862	125,293,234	25
Goods and Live Stock Tons	30,052,719	35,614,243	5,561,524	19
Coal, Coke, and Shale Tons	30,896,245	40,184,612	9,288,367	31
Total Tonnage... ..	60,948,964	75,798,855	14,849,891	24

†

FARES AND FREIGHT CHARGES.

Passenger traffic is greatest within the Sydney and Newcastle suburban areas, and the fares charged within a 34 miles radius of either of the cities are lower than those for equal distances outside those areas. The following table shows the fares charged for ordinary single journeys at quinquennial intervals since 1911, over stated distances from either Sydney or Newcastle. Cheaper fares are available for journeys to tourist districts and holiday resorts.

Single Tickets.

Distance.	30th June, 1911.		30th June, 1916.		30th June, 1921.		30th June, 1925.	
	First Class.	Second Class.	First Class.	Second Class.	First Class.	Second Class.	First Class.	Second Class.
Miles.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1	0 2	0 1	0 2	0 1	0 3½	0 2	0 3	0 2
5	0 5	0 4	0 5	0 4	0 8	0 6	0 8	0 6
10	0 9	0 6	0 9	0 6	1 3	0 10½	1 2	0 10½
20	1 6	0 11	1 6	0 11	2 5	1 6	2 0	1 6
30	2 2	1 5	2 2	1 5	3 7	2 4	2 10	2 1½
34	2 6	1 7	2 6	1 7	4 1	2 7½	3 2	2 4½
50	4 6	2 11	4 7	3 0	7 7	5 0	6 8	4 9
100	10 9	7 1	11 2	7 4	18 7	12 2	17 7	12 0
200	23 3	14 9	24 3	15 5	40 7	25 7	37 7	25 4
300	35 9	22 1	37 5	23 1	62 2	38 3	56 5	37 11
400	48 3	28 8	50 6	30 0	83 7	49 10	73 8	49 5
500	58 0	33 4	60 9	35 1	100 8	57 10	86 4	57 10

Between July, 1917, and June, 1921, railway fares were increased by 66 per cent. During 1923-24 second-class fares were lowered slightly and first-class fares were reduced to an appreciable extent.

The cost of monthly periodical tickets at the dates mentioned for journeys over the same distances were as follow:—

Periodical Tickets.

Distance.	30th June, 1911.		30th June, 1916.		30th June, 1921.		30th June, 1925.	
	First Class.	Second Class.	First Class.	Second Class.	First Class.	Second Class.	First Class.	Second Class.
Miles.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1	7 6	5 0	9 0	6 0	14 6	9 9	12 11	9 8
5	16 0	10 9	19 3	13 0	30 9	20 6	27 4	20 6
10	22 9	15 0	27 3	18 0	44 0	29 0	38 3	28 8
20	30 3	20 3	36 3	24 3	58 0	39 3	52 3	39 2
30	34 3	22 9	41 0	27 3	66 6	44 9	58 0	43 6
34	35 9	23 6	43 0	28 3	69 3	46 0	59 9	44 10
50	41 0	26 3	49 3	31 6	79 9	51 0	77 0	51 3
100	57 9	34 6	69 3	41 6	112 6	66 9	100 3	66 9
200	83 0	49 0	99 6	58 9	156 3	92 6	138 9	92 6
300	100 6	61 6	120 6	73 9	181 9	112 6	168 0	112 0
400	118 0	74 0	141 6	88 9	207 0	131 3	197 0	131 3
500	135 6	86 6	162 6	103 9	231 0	150 6	225 9	150 6

The above rates represent the maximum charges, but liberal concessions are made to school pupils, youths, and women. Periodical tickets for short distances within the suburban area cost nearly 60 per cent. more than in 1916, but for longer journeys the proportionate increase is less. During 1922 there were slight reductions in respect of second-class periodical tickets, and charges for first-class tickets over long distances were substantially reduced. Further reductions were made in 1924, in rates for distances up to 34 miles.

Workmen's weekly tickets are issued in the suburban areas to enable persons to travel to and from their work. They are available for one journey each way on every week day, the forward journey being by certain trains only. The rates have been as follows:—

Distance.	Workmen's Weekly Tickets—Second Class.			
	June, 1911.	June 1916.	June, 1921.	June, 1925.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1	0 6	0 9	1 3	1 3
5	1 6	1 9	2 11	2 11
10	2 2	2 6	4 1	4 1
20	3 0	3 4	5 5	5 5
30	3 10	4 2	6 11	6 11
34	4 2	4 6	7 5	7 5

Freight Charges.

The system adopted in fixing freights on merchandise and live stock is to charge the lowest scale of freight on commodities of low values and on those which are used to assist production. The charge per ton mile decreases as the distance hauled increases.

The following table gives the charges per ton for haulage of the different classes of freight over distances of 100 and 500 miles at various dates since June, 1911:—

Class of Freight.	30th June, 1911.		30th June, 1916.		30th June, 1921.		30th June, 1925.	
	100 miles.	500 miles.	100 miles.	500 miles.	100 miles.	500 miles.	100 miles.	500 miles.
Ordinary Goods (per ton)—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Highest Class Freight...	44 11	115 9	49 5	137 4	75 0	193 3	76 8	197 6
Lowest „ „ ...	3 7	11 11	3 7	11 11	6 6	15 0	6 9	12 4
Agricultural Produce ...	7 6	12 0	7 6	12 0	11 5	18 2	11 5	19 0
Butter	18 10	56 4	20 9	62 0	31 7	94 0	24 10	77 7
Beef, Mutton, Veal, etc. (frozen)	9 2	45 10	9 2	45 10	14 7	72 11	18 11	43 11
Wool—Greasy	25 0	68 9	25 0	68 9	37 11	104 4	41 8	109 5
„ —Scoured	29 2	75 0	29 2	75 0	44 3	113 10	45 10	115 8
Minerals—Crude Ore— Not exceeding £20 per ton in value	4 2	15 8	4 2	15 8	6 5	22 6	6 5	22 5½
Not exceeding £10 per ton in value ... ..	...	...	...	...	..	...	6 5	17 10½
Live Stock (per truck)—	63 4	173 9	69 8	191 2	110 5	303 4	109 9	299 9

The highest class freight includes expensive, bulky, or fragile articles, such as boots, drapery, drugs, groceries, furniture, liquors, crockery, glass-ware, cutlery, ironmongery, confectionery, and carpets; the lowest class includes fertilisers, coal, coke, shale, firewood, limestone, stone, slates, bricks, rabbit-proof netting, timber in logs, posts and rails, etc.

The freight charges for a distance of 100 miles are from 50 to 100 per cent. higher than in 1916. For a distance of 500 miles the increases have not been so great proportionately, and the charges for frozen meat have been reduced.

GRADIENTS.

In many cases the railways of New South Wales pass through mountainous country over the Great Dividing Range which separates the narrow coastal plain from the interior. Consequently steep gradients and sharp curves are features of many sections, including parts of the trunk lines where the traffic is heavy.

In the southern system, the line at Roslyn, near Crookwell, reaches an altitude of 3,225 feet above sea level; and at Nimmitabel, on the Goulburn to Bombala railway, the height is 3,503 feet. In the western system, at Newnes Junction, on the Blue Mountains, a height of 3,503 feet is attained; and on the northern line the highest point, 4,473 feet, is reached at Ben Lomond.

Numerous deviations have been made during recent years in order to secure easier grades and curves, with the result that considerable economy in working and expedition in traffic have been effected.

The following statement shows the number of miles on different gradients in June, 1925:—

Gradients.	Southern System.	Western System.	Northern System.	Total.
1 in	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.
18 to 30	12½	6¼	3	21¾
31 „ 40	65½	60	54½	179¾
41 „ 50	7¼	53½	87½	215½
51 „ 60	61	80½	62¾	204½
61 „ 70	55	69¼	40¼	164½
71 „ 80	172	142½	178	492½
81 „ 90	44	58¼	47½	149½
91 „ 100	117½	179¼	92½	389½
101 „ 150	222¾	243¾	157½	624
151 „ 200	126	110	91	327
201 „ 250	62½	66¾	43¾	173
251 „ 300	90½	101¼	67½	259¼
301 „ level	849	862½	703½	2,415
Total ...	1,952½	2,033¾	1,628¾	5,615¼

The above table is exclusive of the Government line from Broken Hill to Tarrawingee, measuring 39 miles 41 chains, and that at Wollongong of 1 mile 8 chains.

SIGNALLING AND SAFETY APPLIANCES.

In the matter of signalling and safety appliances the railways of New South Wales have progressed with modern invention. The points are interlocked on all the lines with the exception of a few in remote country districts where the traffic is light. An automatic signalling system is in operation on the suburban lines and is being installed in country districts.

Particulars regarding the various systems employed for the safe working of the lines in 1924 and 1925 are shown below:—

Single Line.	1924.		1925.	
	Mls.	Chs.	Mls.	Chs.
By automatic or track block system ... ..	.....		80	65
electric train tablet	309	67	309	67
electric train staff	2,339	7	2,389	25
train staff and ticket with line clear reports ...	1,405	25	1,405	20
train staff and ticket without line clear reports.	735	66	725	2
train staff and one engine only	76	15	76	15
	4,866	20	4,986	34
Double Line.				
By automatic or track block system	300	8	316	67
absolute manual block system	388	50	376	25
permissive manual block system... ..	4	60	4	60
telephone	0	33	0	33
	693	71	698	25

All passenger and freight vehicles in use on the railways are fitted with automatic brakes.

SYDNEY AND SUBURBAN PASSENGER SERVICE.

The passenger traffic between Sydney and suburbs is conducted by suburban railways and tramways maintained by the State, and by ferry and motor omnibus services conducted by private enterprise.

The railway suburban traffic is principally on the main trunk line, which runs in a westerly direction from Sydney to Granville, where the main

southern and western railway systems separate; the northern system branches off at Strathfield (8 miles from Sydney). The South Coast railway, which has a branch from Sydenham (3 miles) to Bankstown (11 miles), brings passengers from the suburbs situated south of Sydney on the western shore of Botany Bay. The passengers travelling by these lines, however, are served by trams running through the city streets from the Central Station to Circular Quay.

The populous suburbs of the north, western, central, and eastern divisions of the metropolitan area are served by the tramways. On the north shore of Port Jackson there is a railway to connect the ferry service at Milson's Point with Hornsby on the main northern line, and at various points along the shores of the harbour the tramways connect with the ferry services to the Circular Quay.

On account of the expansion of the commercial interests of New South Wales, and the consequent growth of population in and around Sydney, where the trade of the State is centralised, the tramway system has been extended steadily, but the requirements of suburban traffic are gradually outgrowing the capacity of the main city thoroughfares, which were not originally designed for this class of traffic. Thus the extension of the tramway system, combined with the increase in the mercantile vehicular traffic, has resulted in a state of congestion in some of the city streets that demands remedy. Therefore it has become urgently necessary to provide a more effective method of transporting the rapidly increasing traffic than is possible with any system of surface tramways.

CITY AND SUBURBAN ELECTRIC RAILWAYS.

A complete system of electric railways has been designed for the transport of suburban traffic in Sydney. The existing suburban lines operated by steam are being converted to the electric system and the city electric railway, which is under construction, will extend the existing lines through the city to Circular Quay. The scheme includes also the construction of a branch from the city railway to Bondi for the eastern suburbs, and a branch from the main suburban line to Balmain to serve the western suburbs. The completion of the Sydney Harbour bridge with four lines of railway, as well as roadways and footways, will place the northern suburbs in direct communication with the city.

The construction of the city railway was commenced in 1916, but the work was suspended after the cancellation of the Norton-Griffiths contract in 1917. It was resumed in February, 1922, under authority to complete only a portion of the railway—sufficient to accommodate the traffic from only one of the existing suburban systems. This part provides for tracks through the eastern part of the city from the existing lines at Redfern to an underground station at St. James, Queen's Square, and for eastern suburbs tracks from St. James' Station to a cross-over near Park-street. Six tracks are being constructed into the city over a stone-faced viaduct and bridges extending from Eddy-avenue to Campbell-street, and two of the tracks are being carried along the eastern side of the city to St. James', which will be a temporary terminal station. It is anticipated that this eastern part of the railway will be opened for traffic during 1926. Work on the western section was commenced in November, 1925.

As the eastern section of the city railway will be the first to be opened for traffic, it followed that the work of electrifying the suburban services had to be commenced on the most easterly system, viz., the Illawarra lines. The conversion is nearly completed on the section between Sydney and National Park, where a quadrupled track has been laid.

RAIL MOTOR SERVICES.

Rail motors have been provided in a number of country districts where the population is not sufficient to warrant the provision of ordinary services. The first rail motor was put into operation in 1919 on the line between Grafton and Lismore, a distance of 87 miles. Second-class accommodation was provided for passengers, also a trailer for the transport of cream. The experiment proved successful, and the use of rail motors on country branch lines is being extended. In June, 1925, they were in operation on eleven sections of country railways.

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

An agreement has been ratified by the Parliaments of New South Wales and Victoria under which the Government of Victoria is authorised to construct and maintain certain railways and other works in New South Wales.

One of the proposed railways will cross the Murray at or near Golgol, New South Wales, and extend into New South Wales for a distance not exceeding 20 miles; a second line will extend from the north side of the bridge at Gonn Crossing to a point at or near Stony Crossing on the Wakool River; a third will be constructed either from a point on the north side of the bridge crossing the Murray River at Moama or from a point on the Deniliquin-Moama line between Moama and a point 1 mile north of the Mathoura Railway Station, and extend westerly or north-westerly to Moulamein, thence continuing north-westerly to a point within 1½ miles of the Murrumbidgee River, near Balranald; and a fourth will extend from Euston to a point 30 miles north-easterly therefrom, so as to best serve *en route* the Benanee Settlement Area.

The railways will be on the 5 ft. 3 in. gauge, but all the works within New South Wales are to be constructed suitably for conversion to the standard gauge, viz., 4 ft. 8½ in. They will be operated by the Victorian Railway Commissioners, but the fares and rates for the carriage of passengers, goods, and live stock thereon shall not be less than the rates charged for similar mileage on the Victorian Railways. In the construction and working of the lines the same conditions and rates of wages as prevail in Victoria will be observed.

Of the lines authorised under the agreement two are under construction, viz., from Moama to Balranald 120 miles and from Gonn Crossing to Stony Crossing 38 miles.

The Victorian Government has purchased the railway between Deniliquin and Moama, which was constructed by a private company and opened for traffic in 1876. The line is now part of the Victorian railway system. It is 44 miles 33 chains long and the gauge is 5 ft. 3 in. The capital expended to 30th June, 1925, was £189,057. During the year 1924-25 the receipts amounted to £30,155, working expenses to £23,240 and interest to £9,168. The number of passengers was 20,678, the goods traffic amounted to 59,321 tons and the live stock carried numbered 418,646. Of a train mileage of 56,780 miles, 30,852 were by steam traction and 25,928 by rail motor.

PRIVATE RAILWAY LINES.

The established policy in New South Wales has been to keep the railways under State control, and at the present time there are only 112¼ miles of private lines in operation, with the exception of short lines connecting coal and other mines with the main railways, on some of which provision has been made for the carriage of passengers and goods.

In 1874 Parliament granted permission to a company to construct a line from Deniliquin to Moama, where it meets the railway system of Victoria. The line was purchased by the Government of Victoria in 1923 and particulars relating to its operations are shown on page 108. During the year 1888 a line of 3 ft. 6 in. gauge, and 35 miles 48 chains in length, was laid down from Silvertown and Broken Hill to the South Australian border. A short line connects the Government railway at Liverpool with the Warwick Farm Racecourse. During the year 1924 the racecourse was not used as it was being remodelled and only one train was run on the line.

The Seaham Coal Company's line connects the West Wallsend and Seaham Collieries with Cockle Creek. The South Maitland system supplies the mining districts of East Greta, Stanford-Merthyr, and Cessnock. The Hexham-Minmi line runs between the collieries in the townships mentioned. The line of the Commonwealth Oil Corporation extends from Newnes Junction, on the Western line, to the Wolgan Valley. The following table shows the operations of the private railway lines open to the public for general traffic during the year 1924.

Name of Private Railway.	Line.		Total Capital Expended.	Reserve Fund.	Debentures Outstanding.	Passengers carried.	Goods carried.	Live Stock carried.	Train Miles run.	
	Length.	Gauge.								
	m.	ch.	ft. in.	£	£	£	No.	tons.	No.	No.
Silvertown* ...	35	48	3 6	524,717	42,000	...	42,956	896,784	72,155	122,828
Warwick Farm ...	0	66	4 8½	5,700	...	...	9	...	6	1½
Seaham Colliery...	5	30	4 8½	16,000	...	...	19,304	9,054	...	9,010
South Maitland— East Greta, Stan- ford Merthyr, and Cessnock ...	19	35	4 8½	628,515	...	...	996,471	170,413	...	503,984
Hexham-Minmi ...	6	0	4 8½	...	...	...	...	300	...	3,000
Commonwealth Oil Corporation.	33	0	4 8½	194,000	...	373,577	287	1,139	...	6,432
New Red Head ...	12	0	4 8½	102,000	...	...	§	§	§	§

* Year ended 30th June, 1925.

§ Not available.

The Silvertown Company has 20 locomotives, 665 goods vehicles, and 1 passenger carriage; and additional passenger carriages are hired from the South Australian Government railways as required. On the Warwick Farm line Government rolling-stock is used. The Seaham Colliery has 2 locomotives and 4 passenger carriages, and Government rolling stock is hired. On the South Maitland system there are 25 locomotives, 27 passenger carriages, and 45 goods carriages. The Hexham-Minmi Company has 1 locomotive and 1 passenger carriage; and the Commonwealth Oil Corporation has 4 locomotives, 3 passenger carriages, and 67 goods carriages and vans.

In addition to the private railway lines shown in the previous table, there are several branches, connected principally with coal and other mines, with a total length of 153½ miles, a summary of which is given below:—

District.	Length. m. ch.	Gauge. ft. in.
Connected with Northern Line ...	101—55	4 8½
„ Western „ ...	28—8	4 8½
„ South Coast „ ...	{ 3—40 19—77	{ 3 6 4 8½

RAILWAY GAUGES OF AUSTRALIA.

A classification according to gauge of Government Railways in each State as at 30th June, 1925, and private railways open for general traffic as at 31st December, 1924, is given below. The Commonwealth lines have been included with the systems of the States in which they are located. Particulars of private lines used exclusively for special traffic are not included in the figures:—

State.	Miles at each Gauge open for traffic.						Total Miles.
	2ft.	2ft. 6in.	3ft.	3ft. 6in.	4ft. 8½in.	5ft. 3in.	
New South Wales...	36	...	...	76	5,704	44	5,860
Victoria ... ..	...	122	11	...	...	4,379	4,512
Queensland...	188	7	...	6,205	...	...	6,400
South Australia (inc. N. Territory) ...	...	...	...	1,972	597	1,191	3,760
Western Australia ...	...	...	...	4,011	454	...	4,465
Tasmania	41	...	...	827	...	...	868
Total	265	129	11	13,091	6,755	5,614	25,865

In consequence of the diversity of gauge, interstate railway communication is seriously hampered, and in a journey from Queensland to Western Australia breaks of gauge occur at Wallangarra, where the systems of Queensland and New South Wales meet; at Albury, on the border of New South Wales and Victoria; at Terowie and at Port Augusta in South Australia; at Kalgoorlie, where the Commonwealth and Western Australian lines connect.

The necessity of a uniform gauge to connect the State capitals has been a subject of discussion at conferences between the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth and Premiers of the States.

Moreover, the question of the gauge to be used, the scheme which would best meet requirements, and the estimated cost, have been investigated by a Royal Commission including two expert engineers from overseas.

The Commission recommended the adoption of the 4ft. 8½ in. gauge, submitted estimates of the cost of converting all lines to this gauge, and made proposals regarding the order in which the work should be carried out, and the methods by which it should be executed and controlled.

The report was considered by the Prime Minister in conference with the Premiers in November, 1921, when it was resolved that the adoption of a uniform gauge was essential to the development and safety of the Commonwealth; also that the gauge should be 4 ft. 8½ in. The Commonwealth prepared a draft agreement to carry into effect the recommendations of the Commission, but its terms were not accepted by the States. In June, 1923, the Prime Minister submitted to a conference of Ministers an alternative proposal to construct 4 ft. 8½ in. gauge lines between Port Augusta (South Australia) and Hay (New South Wales), and between Kyogle (New South Wales) and Brisbane (Queensland), but again the States were unable to come to an agreement.

Later an agreement was arranged between the Federal Government and the Governments of New South Wales and Queensland for the construction of the Kyogle to South Brisbane Railway. The cost was estimated at £3,500,000, of which New South Wales agreed to pay £1,137,000, Queensland £400,000, and the Commonwealth £1,963,000. A Commission consisting of the Chief Railway Commissioners of New South Wales and Queensland

and the Commonwealth Commissioner was appointed to control the construction of the line, and the first sod of the Queensland section was turned on 17th January, 1925. Subsequently it became apparent that the cost would be greatly in excess of the estimate and the progress of the work has delayed pending further negotiations regarding the payment of the additional cost. In February, 1926, a settlement was arranged.

RAILWAYS OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

In order to illustrate the relative progress during the last thirty-five years the position of the railways, including Government and private lines, as at the end of the years 1890 and 1925, in New South Wales and in other important countries of the world, is shown in the following table. The figures for the Australian States include the Federal Government lines opened in June, 1925, and the private lines available for general traffic and those for special traffic only in 1924.

It is necessary however, to remember that there are vital circumstances which invalidate any effective comparison; for instance, differences in population and in the assistance received or competition encountered from river or sea carriage. In cases where the figures for 1925 could not be obtained those for the latest year available have been inserted.

Country.	1890.			1925.		
	Length of Railways.	Per Mile of Line Open.		Length of Railways.	Per Mile of Line Open.	
		Population.	Area.		Population.	Area.
	miles.	No.	sq. mls.	miles.	No.	sq. mls.
New South Wales	2,263	496	137	5,985	381	52
Victoria	2,471	457	36	4,546	368	19
Queensland	2,142	180	312	7,416	115	90
South Australia and Northern Territory	1,774	183	509	3,776	145	239
Western Australia	505	96	1,933	5,013	73	195
Tasmania	399	362	66	908	233	29
New Zealand... ..	1,956	320	53	3,204	431	32
Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	19,943	1,986	6	21,079	2,125	4
Irish Free State				3,032	1,043	9
France... ..	21,899	1,745	9	33,688	1,164	6
Switzerland	1,869	1,569	8	3,618	1,078	4
Canada... ..	12,628	402	270	40,094	230	93
United States of America ...	154,276	398	19	261,984	420	12
Argentina	3,635	825	319	22,228	430	52
Japan	534	74,171	276	8,503	6,903	17
Italy				12,885	3,008	9
India				33,008	8,400	47
Union of South Africa				11,558	619	41
Mexico... ..				16,406	870	47
Brazil				18,703	1,680	176
Russia (Soviet)				45,044	2,996	179
Germany				34,317	1,777	5
Austria... ..				4,116	1,588	8
Hungary				5,326	1,518	7

Information relating to the year 1890 is not available for the last nine countries mentioned in the table, but the latest figures have been inserted, in order that comparisons for 1925 may be complete.

TRAMWAYS.

With the exception of 2½ miles privately owned, the tramways of New South Wales are the property of the State Government. The standard gauge of 4 ft. 8½ in. has been adopted for all lines. The electric system was introduced into Sydney at the close of 1899, and is used now for nearly all tramways in the metropolitan district. The work of converting the Newcastle lines from the steam to the electric system is in progress, and a portion has been operated by electricity since December, 1923. The length of line open for traffic at 30th June, 1925, was 228½ miles, viz., 161½ miles under the electric system and 67½ miles worked by steam.

Line.	Length of Line.		Length of Single Track.	
	mfs.	ch.	mfs.	ch.
Electric—				
City and Suburban	117	51	214	55
North Sydney	23	12	40	79
Ashfield to Mortlake and Cabarita	8	28	15	9
Rockdale to Brighton-le-Sands	1	20	1	20
Manly to The Spit and Manly to Narrabeen	10	58	15	38
	161	19	287	41
Steam—				
Arncliffe to Bexley	2	50	2	50
Kogarah to Sans Souci	5	45	6	79
Parramatta to Northmead	2	10	2	10
Sutherland to Cronulla	7	32	7	32
Newcastle City and Suburban*	35	32	51	76
East to West Maitland	4	5	4	5
Broken Hill	10	4	11	35
	67	18	86	47
Total	228	37	374	8
Sidings, loops, and Cross-overs ... ..	...	...	57	16

* Including portion under electric system.

The length of tramway opened for traffic during the year ended 30th June, 1925, was 86 chains, viz., 25 chains of single track and 61 of double track.

The capital cost of the State tramways to 30th June, 1925, amounted to £11,131,454, or £48,723 per mile open. The cost of construction was £5,577,236, or £24,412 per mile, and the expenditure on rolling-stock, workshops, machinery, etc., amounted to £5,554,218.

During recent years there has been little extension of the tramway system, in view of the impending electrification of the suburban railways and the competition arising from motor transport. A reduction in the length of tramway lines in 1923 was caused by the conversion of a section of the Parramatta tramway into a railway.

In the following table are given particulars of the miles open, cost of construction, and the financial results of the State tramways since 1880.

Year ended 30th June.	Total Length of Lines.	Capital Expended on Lines open for Traffic.	Gross Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Net Earnings.	Interest Returned on Capital.
	Miles.	£	£	£	£	per cent.
1880	4½	60,218	18,980	13,444	5,536	9·19
1890	39½	933,614	268,962	224,073	44,889	4·81
1900	71½	1,924,720	409,724	341,127	68,597	3·50
1910	165½	4,668,797	1,185,568	983,587	201,981	4·33
1915	219½	7,970,293	1,986,060	1,611,286	374,774	4·70
1920	225½	8,768,548	2,881,797	2,486,121	395,676	4·56
1922	229½	9,505,327	3,610,135	3,015,616	594,519	6·41
1923	225	9,975,081	3,598,114	3,092,306	505,808	5·19
1924	227½	10,758,958	3,683,916	3,091,531	542,385	5·98
1925	228½	11,131,454	3,619,272	3,174,862	444,410	4·06

During the year ended 30th June, 1925, the percentage of working expenses to the total receipts was 87·72, as compared with 85·07 in the previous year. The net earnings amounted to £444,410, or 4·06 per cent. on cost of construction and equipment, as compared with 4·88 per cent., the actual interest payable on the State loan liabilities at the same date. The net return per average mile open was £1,947, as compared with £2,399 in the previous year.

Until recently the tramways usually yielded a substantial surplus over working expenses and interest. In 1921-22 for instance, the surplus amounted to £127,191, and in each of the two succeeding years there was a small surplus. During 1924-25, however, interest charges, amounting to £546,489, exceeded net earnings by £102,079. One of the main causes of the unfavourable financial results now being obtained is the growing competition of motor transport. The annual registrations of motor omnibuses in the Metropolitan traffic district numbered 180 in 1921, and 600 in the year ended June, 1925. Tramway traffic is affected also by the more general use of private motor vehicles.

Working of Tramways.

The following statement shows the results of working in respect of the various sections of tramways during the year ended 30th June, 1925:—

Line.	Cost of Construction and Equipment.	Passengers carried.	Gross Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Excess Revenue (+) or Expenses (-).	Interest on Capital.	Profit (+) or Loss (-) allowing for interest.
	£	No.	£	£	£	£	£
Electric—							
City and Suburban ...	7,713,143	275,900,312	2,923,615	2,416,772	(+) 506,843	378,425	(+) 128,418
North Sydney ...	1,104,050	25,196,154	261,735	260,985	(+) 750	54,484	(-) 53,734
Ashfield to Mortlake and Cabarita ...	240,876	7,475,593	68,109	72,348	(-) 4,239	11,927	(-) 16,166
Manly to The Spit and Manly to Narrabeen ...	333,989	4,909,863	68,659	57,050	(+) 11,609	16,655	(-) 5,046
Rockdale to Brighton-le-Sands ...	23,270	1,181,664	9,583	16,355	(-) 6,772	1,406	(-) 8,178
Steam—							
Arncliffe to Bexley ...	22,196	679,417	6,195	10,505	(-) 4,310	1,113	(-) 5,423
Kogarah to Sans Souci ...	34,101	1,895,213	18,210	24,230	(-) 6,011	1,709	(-) 7,720
Parramatta to Northmead ...	17,317	500,400	4,704	8,227	(-) 3,523	863	(-) 4,391
Sutherland to Cronulla ...	53,805	732,791	13,829	22,789	(-) 8,960	2,698	(-) 11,658
Newcastle City and Suburban ...	1,450,892	10,460,780	219,889	249,342	(-) 29,453	71,004	(-) 100,457
East to West Maitland ...	34,885	830,138	8,881	10,753	(-) 1,877	1,749	(-) 3,626
Broken Hill.	88,840	1,414,451	15,854	25,501	(-) 9,647	4,451	(-) 14,098
Total, All Lines ...	11,181,454	339,576,776	3,619,272	3,174,862	(+) 444,410	546,489	(-) 102,079

The gross receipts of all sections of steam tramways and of two of the five electric tramways were insufficient to cover working expenses, and only one section, viz., the city and suburban electric, showed a surplus over expenses and interest.

Comparison of Tramway Traffic.

The following statement contains a comparison of the passenger traffic and the tram mileage since 1900. With the extension of the system the earnings per tram mile decreased from 2s. 3d. in 1900 to 1s. in 1905, but

rose to 2s. 5½d. in 1922. During the last three years it declined again to 2s. 1¾d. The working cost per tram mile dropped to 10d. in 1905, but increased steadily to 2s. 0¾d. in 1922, then declined to 1s. 10½d.

Year ended 30th June.	Length of line open.	Passengers carried.	Tram mileage.	Earnings per tram mile.	Working cost per tram ile.
	miles.	No.		s. d.	s. d.
1900	71½	66,244,334	4,355,024	2 3	1 10
1905	125¾	139,669,459	16,413,762	1 0	0 10
1910	165¾	201,151,021	20,579,386	1 1½	0 11½
1915	219¾	289,282,845	26,842,974	1 5½	1 2½
1920	225¾	324,884,651	26,889,077	2 1½	1 10½
1921	227¼	337,689,873	28,654,172	2 5	2 0½
1922	229¼	330,938,567	29,318,532	2 5½	2 0½
1923	225	331,001,822	30,071,022	2 4½	2 0½
1924	227¼	340,957,725	32,110,054	2 3	1 11
1925	228½	339,576,776	33,761,796	2 1½	1 10½

During 1924-25 the tram mileage was increased by 1,651,742 miles, but the number of passengers was 1,380,949 less than in the preceding year.

The following comparison shows the traffic on the city and suburban lines and the North Sydney lines; also the profit and loss after allowing for working expenses and interest. All lines which communicate directly with the city of Sydney are included in the category "City and Suburban." The Ashfield, Kogarah, Arncliffe, and Rockdale lines, which act as feeders to the railways, and the Manly lines have not been included:—

Year ended 30th June	City and Suburban.				North Sydney.			
	Length of line.	Passengers carried.	Tram mileage.	Profit after paying Interest.	Length of line.	Passengers carried.	Tram mileage.	Profit after paying Interest.
	miles.	000.	miles. (000).	£	miles.	000.	miles (000).	£
1910	94¼	173,897	17,744	57,927	16¾	13,677	1,651	4,616
1915	110¼	240,545	22,242	129,140	19½	20,744	2,376	(—) 7,148
1920	113	269,256	21,812	78,574	22	25,165	2,706	159
1921	114¼	277,687	23,272	205,258	21¾	26,539	2,859	3,575
1922	115¼	271,335	23,785	284,085	23	26,753	2,979	(—)22,770
1923	115½	272,939	24,261	207,200	23	27,659	3,246	(—)10,040
1924	116¾	280,313	25,769	188,472	23¼	27,135	3,345	(—)15,874
1925	117¾	275,900	26,525	128,418	23½	25,196	3,310	(—)53,734

(—) Denotes Loss.

The city and suburban lines yielded a substantial profit in each of the years for which particulars are shown above. It amounted to £284,085 in 1922-23, but has since declined steadily. The number of passengers was highest in 1923-24, and in the following year there was a reduction of 4½ millions, though the tram mileage was greater by 756,000 miles. For a number of years the receipts of the North Sydney lines have not been sufficient to cover working expenses and interest, and the loss has increased from £10,040 to £53,734 during the last three years. The service provided was slightly reduced in 1924-25, and the passenger traffic declined by 2 millions.

Tram Fares.

The tramways are divided into sections of an average length of nearly 2 miles. The fare on the Metropolitan tramways was 1d. per section from December, 1899, until 1st April, 1914. From the latter date an addition of 1d. per journey of five sections or less was charged on Sundays, and the fare on week days for the second section was raised to 1½d., the charge for

two or more sections being unaltered. On 8th August, 1917, the fare on week-days per all single sections was increased to 1½d. The fares for journeys of more than one section remained unchanged until 1st November, 1918, when the fare for two sections was increased to 2½d. It was increased again to 3d. on 1st January, 1920, and the fare for three sections was raised to 3½d. On 1st November, 1920, the fares on week-days were fixed at the following rates, which are still in operation, viz., 2d. for one section and 1d. for each additional section up to 6d. for a journey of five or six sections. The rates on Sundays were higher by 1d. per journey between 1st November, 1920, and 11th February, 1923, when the extra charge was withdrawn, making the rates uniform for all days.

PRIVATE TRAMWAYS.

There is only one tramway under private control within the State, viz., a steam line, which passes through the town of Parramatta, commencing at the Park and continuing as far as the Newington Wharf at Duck River, a distance of 2 miles 66 chains, where it connects with the Parramatta River steamers conveying passengers and goods to and from Sydney. The line has been constructed to the standard gauge of 4 feet 8½ inches, and was opened in 1883.

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAYS.—ROLLING STOCK.

A classification of the rolling stock of the State railways and tramways is shown in the following table:—

Classification.	June, 1924.		June, 1925.	
	No.	Capacity.	No.	Capacity.
Railways:—		Tractive power.		Tractive power.
Locomotives	1,375	lb. 33,924,000	1,403	lb. 34,933,000
Coaching—		Passengers.		Passengers.
Special and Sleeping	102	2,350	103	2,350
First Class	467	25,883	474	26,612
Second Class	983	59,602	995	60,489
Composite	221	11,796	220	11,742
Dining	1	38	1	38
Motor Passenger	6	290	12	602
Brake Vans	140	78	142	78
Horse Boxes, Mail Vans, etc. ...	274	...	273	...
Total	2,194	100,037	2,220	101,911
Goods—		tons.		tons.
Open Waggon	16,929	276,687	17,027	278,765
Livestock Waggon	2,957	18,370	3,156	19,564
Louved Vans	1,027	13,572	992	14,072
Refrigerator Vans	241	3,494	237	3,430
Brake Vans	643	...	642	...
Other	131	1,175	87	823
Total	21,928	313,298	22,141	316,654
Departmental—				
Loco. Coal, Ballast Waggon, etc. ...	1,948	...	1,617	...
Tramways:—				
Steam Motors	26	...	26	...
Steam Cars	74	...	64	...
Electric Cars	1,495	...	1,510	...
Service and other Vehicles	113	...	115	...
Total	1,708	...	1,715	...

The average tractive power of the railway locomotives, as at 30th June, 1925, was 24,898 lb.; the average capacity of the coaching stock was 46 passengers, and of the goods stock 15 tons. Additions to railway rolling stock during 1924-25 included 28 locomotives, 22 suburban passenger cars designed for use on the electric railways, and 6 rail motors for country services.

WORKSHOPS AND ELECTRICITY WORKS.

A large number of workshops have been established to meet the requirements of the various branches of the railways and tramways. The principal locomotive and carriage shops are situated at Eveleigh, where modern appliances are provided for the building, renewal, and repair of locomotives and other vehicles. Engine repairs are undertaken also at Honeysuckle Point (Newcastle) and at a number of smaller workshops in country localities. There were five large workshops—at White Bay (Sydney), Lidcombe, Newcastle, Goulburn, and Bathurst—to supply the needs of the permanent-way branch by the preparation of structural steelwork, fish-plates, tools, implements, and other articles. New works including locomotive workshops, signalling branch depot, and electric car shops are in course of construction at Chullora. The principal tramway workshops are situated at Randwick, in Sydney, and there is a smaller establishment at Newcastle.

Particulars regarding the railway and tramway workshops are published in the chapter of this volume entitled Manufacturing Industry.

For the supply and distribution of electric current there are three main generating stations, viz., Ultimo and White Bay, in Sydney, and one in Newcastle. A number of substations are in operation throughout the suburban areas. The capacity of the station at White Bay is being increased to meet the requirements of the electric railways. Electric current is supplied in bulk from the power houses to a number of public bodies. During 1924-25 the electric energy generated at Ultimo was 82,759,000 kilowatt hours, at White Bay 91,393,000 kilowatt hours, and at Newcastle 35,825,000 kilowatt hours.

The rolling stock used on the main railway lines is lighted by electricity, the current being generated by axle-driven motors. Work is in progress to convert all gas-lighted carriage to electric lighting.

EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES.

The average number of persons employed on existing lines of railways and tramways is shown in the following statement, also the amount of salaries and wages paid during the last two years:—

Particulars.	1923-24.			1924-25.		
	Railways.	Tramways.	Total.	Railways.	Tramways.	Total.
Persons employed—						
On working expenses ...	30,998	9,062	40,060	32,041	9,513	41,554
On capital ...	6,755	971	7,726	6,984	1,195	8,179
Total ...	37,753	10,053	47,786	39,025	10,708	49,733
Salaries and Wages	£ 9,397,574	2,527,025	11,924,599	9,884,596	2,689,473	12,574,069

The number of persons employed in the various branches on existing lines of the State railways and tramways in June, 1925, was 50,888, and the

staff of the construction branch consisted of 2,747 persons. The rates of salary and wages and other working conditions are based to a large extent on awards of the State or Federal industrial tribunals.

A superannuation fund for officers was established in 1910; particulars are published in the chapter of the Year Book entitled Social Condition.

COAL SUPPLIES FOR RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAYS.

Coal for use in connection with the railways and tramways is an important item of working expenses. In the report of the recent Royal Commission of Inquiry the opinion was expressed that the consumption of coal by railway locomotives was too high in relation to the tractive effort required, and it was recommended that steps be taken to economise it.

During the year ended 30th June, 1925, the quantity of coal used amounted to 1,563,417 tons. The quantity used for locomotive purposes was 1,263,176 tons, for gas-making 8,661 tons, for power houses 243,385 tons, and for other purposes 48,195 tons.

A coal-mine at Lithgow, on the main Western line, is being developed by the Railway Commissioners to supply coal for the railways. The output during 1924-25 amounted to 263,538 tons.

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY ACCIDENTS.

All accidents are reported which occur in the working of the railways and tramways, or on railway or tramway premises, to persons other than servants of the Department, however slight the injuries may be. In the case of employees of the Department all accidents must be reported which cause the employee to be absent for at least one whole day from his ordinary work.

The railway and tramway accidents during each year of the quinquennium ended 30th June, 1925, are shown in the following table:—

Year ended 30th June.	Passengers.		Employees.		Others.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
<i>Railway Accidents.</i>								
1921 ...	19	273	21	5,756	36	179	76	6,208
1922 ...	4	281	30	5,908	43	171	77	6,360
1923 ...	10	258	16	5,737	30	210	56	6,205
1924 ...	9	246	24	5,768	57	211	90	6,225
1925 ...	5	279	34	5,382	35	213	74	5,874
<i>Tramway Accidents.</i>								
1921 ...	8	633	3	1,056	20	279	31	1,968
1922 ...	10	459	3	1,145	21	281	34	1,885
1923 ...	7	527	1	1,156	19	315	27	1,998
1924 ...	3	405	3	1,204	17	345	23	1,954
1925 ...	11	451	3	1,084	23	338	37	1,873

The deaths of three railway employees, of two other persons killed in railway accidents, and of one tramway passenger included in the figures for the year 1924-25 were results of accidents not connected with the movement of the railway or tramway vehicles. The majority of injuries to employees occurred in similar accidents, the number so injured in 1924-25 being 5,022 in the railway service and 874 tramway employees.

The number of passengers carried on the railways during the year ended June, 1925, was 128,532,038, and on the tramways 339,576,776. The accident rates per million passengers were as follows:—

Particulars.	Railway Passengers.		Tramway Passengers.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Accidents connected with the movement of the vehicles	0·04	1·33	0·03	1·00
Accidents not connected with the movement of vehicles ... ..	...	0·84	0·00	0·03
Total	0·04	2·17	0·03	1·03

The amount of compensation paid by the Railway Commissioners during 1924-25 was £56,451, viz., £11,592 for accidents to passengers and £10,989 for damage to goods on the railways; and £33,870 in respect of tramway accidents.

AVIATION.

Civil aviation in Australia is subject to the Air Navigation Act, 1920, which authorises the Governor-General of the Commonwealth to make regulations to control air navigation, applying the principles of the Convention for the Regulation of Aerial Navigation signed in Paris on 13th October, 1919.

The Federal Government has surveyed routes and established landing places in various parts of Australia, and subsidises private aerial services at the rate of 4s. per mile. In New South Wales aerial mails are carried under a contract for a service between Cootamundra and Adelaide via Mildura in Victoria and Narrandera in New South Wales, with branch services between Hay and Melbourne via Deniliquin and Echuca, and between Broken Hill and Mildura.

Particulars relating to aircraft in New South Wales in each of the three years ended June, 1925, are shown below:—

Particulars.	Year ended 30th June.		
	1923.	1924.	1925.
Companies or persons owning aircraft ...	12	9	4
Aeroplanes	19	9	5
Staff employed—Pilots	5	4	3
Others	5	1	3
Flights—Number	927	930	721
Hours	286	314	277
Mileage (approximate)	18,606	20,131	19,915
Passengers carried	1,456	1,403	1,073
Goods carried	156 lb.	525 lb	...

MOTOR AND OTHER LICENSED VEHICLES.

In New South Wales all motor vehicles and drivers thereof must be registered. Public vehicles, whether motor or horse-drawn, and the persons driving them must be licensed if they ply or stand in a public street for hire.

The police issue licenses for motor vehicles and drivers, control the motor traffic, and collect the motor taxes in all parts of the State. In the Metropolitan traffic area they regulate all street traffic, vehicular and pedestrian, and supervise the registration of public vehicles. In municipalities and shires outside the Metropolitan traffic district, the local councils are authorised by the Local Government Act to control public vehicles and to enact by-laws for the regulation of street traffic. In other areas, i.e., in the unincorporated portion of the western division of New South Wales vehicles used to convey passengers for hire must be licensed under the Stage Carriages Act. The police have general authority, under the Police Offences Act, to take action against dangerous or disorderly traffic in any part of the State.

Public vehicles plying within the Metropolitan traffic district only, and the drivers thereof, are registered under the Metropolitan Traffic Act, the annual fees being as follows:—Omnibus, £2; cab, van, dray, wagon, £1; driver or conductor of a horse-drawn vehicle, 5s., or of a motor vehicle, 10s.

Motor vehicles, except those registered under the Metropolitan Traffic Act, must be registered under the Motor Traffic Act. The annual fee payable for a motor cycle is 2s. 6d.; other motor vehicle, £1; driver, 10s.; motor cycle rider, 5s. For a learner's permit to drive 5s. is charged and a similar fee when the registration of a motor vehicle is transferred.

The maximum fee which may be charged by local councils in respect of the license of a public vehicle is £1 per annum, and for a driver's license 5s. per annum.

The licenses issued for vehicles and drivers under the Metropolitan Traffic Act and the Motor Traffic Act during the years 1923 to 1925, are shown in the following table. Information is not available regarding licenses issued by local councils. As noted above the licenses under the former Act apply only to public vehicles plying within the Metropolitan districts. In registrations under the Motor Traffic Act a distinction is not made in regard to private and public vehicles:—

License.	1923.	1924.	1925.	License.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Metropolitan Traffic Act (Public Vehicles)—				Metropolitan Traffic Act (Public Vehicles)— <i>continued.</i>			
Horse drawn—				Driver—Motor—			
Cab	517	447	362	Cab	624	661	899
Van	1,260	937	738	Van	1,536	2,182	2,090
Omnibus	5	1	...	Omnibus	1,142	1,679	2,086
Motor—				Motor Omnibus Con-			
Cab	416	445	503	ductors	903	1,358	1,472
Van	1,990	1,461	1,519	Motor Traffic Act—			
Omnibus	410	568	582	Car	46,427	62,471	82,175
Driver—Horse—				Lorry	7,626	11,970	16,276
Cab	576	494	405	Cycle	14,345	18,112	22,536
Van	1,510	1,107	818	Driver	84,465	115,294	147,532
Omnibus	5	1	...	Cycle Rider	20,319	24,969	28,888
				Learner's permit	31,381	48,159	49,945

The figures in the table show that there has been a remarkable development in motor transport in recent years. The number of public motor vehicles, i.e., cabs, vans, omnibuses, registered for use within the Metropolitan area rose from 1,916 in 1923 to 2,604 in 1925, and the lorries, public and private, registered under the Motor Traffic Act, increased more than twofold, motor car registrations by 77 per cent. and motor cycle registrations by 57 per cent. The expansion of motor omnibus services within the Metropolitan district is illustrated by the increase in registrations from 410 to 582. The number of motor omnibuses which ply outside or beyond the Metropolitan area is not available as they are registered as motor cars under the Motor Traffic Act.

A tax is levied on every motor vehicle and it must be paid annually, by the person in whose name the vehicle is registered, when the certificate of registration is issued or renewed. Until 1st January, 1925, the rates of tax were fixed in relation to horse-power, but since that date they have been based upon the weight of the vehicle and the type of tyre used. Under the Motor Vehicles (Taxation) Act, 1924, the rates per $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. imposed on vehicles with solid tyres are as follows:—Car, 3s. 3d., lorry, 3s. 6d., omnibus, 5s. 6d. If the tyres are pneumatic, semi-pneumatic rubber, or super-resilient, the rate for a car or lorry is 2s. 9d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt., and for an omnibus, 4s. 3d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. The tax on a motor cycle is

22s. 6d., or if a side car is attached £2. Trailers and other motor vehicles are taxable at the rate of 3s. 6d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. Motor vehicles used solely for work on a farm are exempted, and a farmer's vehicles used on the road solely for transporting his own produce are taxable at half rates. A reduction of 6d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. is allowed on vehicles of British manufacture. The following are exempt from taxation, viz.:—Ambulance motor vehicles; those used by manufacturers or dealers for trial purposes; and so much of the weight of a motor vehicle used solely for mining purposes in the Western Division of the State as exceeds 5 tons.

The net proceeds of taxes, fees, and penalties under the Motor Vehicles (Taxation) Act, the Metropolitan Traffic Act, and the Motor Traffic Act, as from 30th June, 1924, are payable into the funds of the Main Roads Board for the maintenance and construction of roads. The total receipts under these Acts during the last three years, as recorded by the Police Department, are shown below:—

Act.	1923.	1924.	1925.
	£	£	£
Motor Traffic	85,874	117,993	199,784
Motor Vehicles Taxation ...	219,952	300,248	656,519
Metropolitan Traffic	6,017	6,659	8,268
Total	311,843	424,900	864,571

The revenue received in respect of the taxation and registration of vehicles increased by 177 per cent. since 1923.

Traffic Accidents.

The following table shows particulars of accidents which occurred in public streets within the Metropolitan Traffic District and were reported by the police during recent years:—

Year.	Accidents in which no persons were injured.	Persons Killed or Injured by—					
		Trams.		Motor Vehicles.		All Vehicles.	
		Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
1914	951	19	515	16	330	48	1,265
1921	1,199	10	318	36	792	62	1,616
1922	1,878	12	556	48	1,071	76	1,972
1923	2,761	7	294	58	1,443	89	2,368
1924	4,396	9	318	63	2,128	88	3,130
1925	6,054	20	289	89	2,510	118	3,317

The table shows that there has been a marked increase in the number of street accidents since 1914, particularly during the last four years. In the case of trams the number of accidents fluctuate, and there appears to be a tendency to decline, though the number of fatalities in 1925 was above the average. Accidents due to motor vehicles are increasing rapidly.

During the year 1925, the motor accidents reported by the police outside the Metropolitan Traffic District numbered 795, and they resulted in the deaths of 50 persons, and injuries to 600.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

The postal, telegraph, and telephone services of New South Wales have been administered by the Commonwealth Government since 1st March, 1901. Previously the services in each State of the Commonwealth were organised separately under the various State Governments, and a variety of rates, charges, and other conditions were in operation. Since the amalgamation a large measure of uniformity has been introduced. The services are administered by a Minister of the Crown, with a permanent salaried officer in charge of the central executive office, and a deputy in each State.

Postal Services.

Post offices have been established throughout the State, even in localities where there are few residents. If the volume of business does not warrant the establishment of a full service, receiving offices are opened for the collection of mail matter for conveyance to and from the nearest post office. The transport of mails in outlying districts has been expedited considerably in recent years by reason of an extended use of motor vehicles, and a few aerial services are being established. The number of inland mail services in operation in New South Wales in 1924-25 was 2,069. The cost of road services amounted to £285,685, and of railway services to £139,220.

Ocean mail services are conducted in accordance with arrangements made between the Commonwealth Government and the steamship owners. Some of the services between Australia and the Pacific Islands are subsidised by the Commonwealth, and the Orient Steamship Company receives £130,000 per annum for a four-weekly service with Europe. Mails are conveyed along other routes at poundage rates. They are despatched at least once a fortnight to Europe, *via* Suez, and there is regular communication with America and with Eastern ports.

The number of post offices and the volume of postal business in New South Wales in various years since 1901 are shown below. Inland postal articles are counted once only:—

Year.	Post Offices.	Receiving Offices.	Postal Articles carried (000 omitted).				Postal Articles Per Head of Population.
			Letters, Post-cards, and Registered Articles.	Newspapers.	Packets.	Parcels.	
1901	1,684	524	82,783	52,318	14,480	736	109.9
1911	1,948	542	189,656	71,619	36,283	1,749	179.7
1915-16	2,074	566	219,526	72,067	33,343	2,538	172.9
1920-21	2,031	578	262,026	63,261	20,932	3,607	167.4
1921-22	2,032	556	240,088	66,381	21,043	3,908	155.7
1922-23	2,040	559	254,196	66,647	30,296	4,273	163.6
1923-24	2,059	584	270,315	71,800	47,240	4,495	178.2
1924-25	2,063	601	296,399	72,711	51,198	5,102	188.8

During the year 1924-25 the average number of postal articles per head of population was as follows:—Letters, etc., 132; newspapers, 32; and packets and parcels, 25. The mail matter carried in 1924-25 included the following articles despatched to or received from countries outside Australia, *viz.*, letters, postcards, and registered articles, 33,201,000; newspapers, 8,591,000; packets, 3,639,000; and parcels, 260,000. The total number of registered articles was 2,667,000, of which 374,000 were to or from other countries.

The postage rates were reduced as from 1st October, 1923, and there has since been a marked increase in the number of letters, etc.

Mainly for the convenience of people who reside at a distance from the trading centres, a system of value-payable parcel post has been established.

The Department accepts for transmission within the Commonwealth parcels or letters sent in execution of orders, and collects from the addressees on behalf of the senders the charges due thereon. The system applies also to registered articles transmitted to or from Papua. During the year ended 30th June, 1925, the number of such parcels posted in New South Wales was 209,265, and the value collected was £347,902, the revenue, including postage, commission on value, registration, and money-order commission being £31,324.

Telegraphs and Cables.

The telegraph system embraces the whole Commonwealth. It has been extended steadily since January, 1858, when the system was opened to the public in New South Wales, and modern equipment has been installed in the chief centres to expedite the transmission of messages.

Cable communication with Europe and other countries is supplied by four main routes. One cable lands in Fremantle (Western Australia) and in Durban (South Africa); and two land in Banjoewangie (Java), viz., one from Roebuck Bay (Western Australia) and the other, which is duplicated, from Darwin (Northern Territory). The fourth route is by the Pacific Cable from Southport (Queensland), via Norfolk Island, Fiji, and Fanning Island to Bamfield (Canada). A branch cable runs from Norfolk Island to New Zealand, and there are two direct cables to New Zealand, which land near Sydney, one at La Perouse, and the other at Bondi. Lines have been laid also between the Australian mainland and Tasmania and New Caledonia. The Pacific cables are maintained by the Governments of the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia.

For cable messages to Great Britain, the ordinary rate is 2s. 6d. per word. Deferred cablegrams written in plain language and subject to a delay not exceeding twenty-four hours may be exchanged at half the ordinary rates with Great Britain and with a number of other British and foreign countries. Week-end cable letters may be transmitted between Australia and the United Kingdom and British North America, the rate to and from Great Britain being 12s. 6d. for twenty words and 7½d. for each additional word. Daily letter telegrams with normal delivery after 48 hours may be exchanged with a number of countries at rates which are much below the ordinary rates, the minimum charge between Australia and the United Kingdom being 15s. for twenty words and 9d. for each additional word. Special conditions, with cheap rates, have been arranged for the transmission of press messages by telegraph or cable.

The following table gives particulars relating to the telegraph business transacted in New South Wales since 1901:—

Year.	Telegraph Stations.	Telegrams (Including Cablegrams).			Revenue Received.
		Transmitted and delivered (Inland counted once).	In Transit.	Total.	
1901	978	3,275,197	174,118	3,449,315	£ 186,135
1911	1,406	5,505,935	413,777	5,919,712	253,398
1915-16	2,107	6,402,092	624,992	7,027,084	331,924
1920-21	2,252	7,851,429	734,406	8,585,835	489,805
1921-22	2,324	7,381,205	734,377	8,115,582	500,116
1922-23	2,411	7,384,616	754,285	8,138,901	513,954
1923-24	2,588	7,790,284	816,742	8,607,026	512,382
1924-25	2,792	8,044,572	857,264	8,901,836	530,726

Excluding the messages in transit, the telegrams in 1924-25 represented 3·6 per head of population. The number of inland telegrams was 4,484,933, the interstate messages received and despatched numbered 2,928,496, and the cablegrams 631,143. Messages to and from Tasmania are classified as interstate telegrams and not as cablegrams.

Further particulars regarding the cable business transacted in New South Wales during the last five years are shown below. Messages in transit are not included:—

Year.	Cable Messages.		Amount Collected.	
	Sent from New South Wales.	Received in New South Wales.	Total.	Portion due to Commonwealth Government.
			£	£
1920-21	249,705	263,482	697,892	62,461
1921-22	252,815	269,138	697,063	62,248
1922-23	272,989	282,953	687,834	65,270
1923-24	275,847	277,803	675,953	63,918
1924-25	320,600	310,543	680,312	67,121

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

A chain of stations has been erected around the coast of Australia and in the Pacific Islands under the control of the Commonwealth to give wireless communication with shipping. Three of the stations, including the Sydney station, are capable of long distance communication. In May, 1922, the commercial radio stations were transferred, under an agreement with the Federal Government, to the Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia), Limited, in which the Commonwealth has a controlling interest. The company undertook to erect in Australia a high-power station capable of direct communication with Great Britain, to arrange for suitable corresponding stations in Great Britain and Canada, and to provide a system of feeder stations for communication between the main high-power stations and the capital cities of Australia and shipping round the coast. Subsequently it was found necessary to modify the agreement, as the British Government refused to allow a commercial wireless station to be erected in the United Kingdom. Under an amended agreement, ratified by the Wireless Agreement Act of 1924, the company has been relieved of its obligations in respect of the high-power stations and has undertaken to erect in Australia a station to be operated under the beam system for communication with similar stations in Great Britain and Canada. The British Government has undertaken to erect a station in England and a station is being erected in Canada.

For wireless telegrams between telegraph offices in New South Wales and an Australian ship the charge is 6d. per word, and other ships 11d. per word. Messages are transmitted between Australian radio stations at the rate of 2s. 8d. for sixteen words and 2d. per additional word.

Private installations for wireless communication and for broadcasting may be operated under license, but they are not permitted to engage in commercial traffic unless authorised to do so. The wireless licenses issued in New South Wales during the year ended 30th June, 1925, included the following: Coast 1, ship 33, broadcasting 7, broadcast listeners 33,785, experimental 611, dealers' listening 813. There has been a marked expansion in regard to wireless telegraphy, the number of licenses in New South Wales having increased from 4,089 since 30th June, 1924.

TELEPHONES.

The telephone system was established in Sydney in 1880. Exchanges have since been provided in many other centres, and the system has been installed in a large number of country districts. In the Metropolitan district a number of automatic exchanges are in operation. Trunk lines serve a wide area of the State, and a line between Sydney and Melbourne was brought into use in 1907, and between Sydney and Brisbane in 1924.

The following table shows the growth of the telephone service in New South Wales since 1901:—

Year.	Exchanges.	Number of Lines Connected.	Public Telephones.	Telephone Instruments connected.
1901	48	9,864	72	13,778
1911	268	34,551	722	43,032
1915-16	705	51,905	1,317	66,532
1920-21	921	74,490	1,693	96,710
1921-22	960	80,042	1,787	104,108
1922-23	1,026	87,352	1,815	113,645
1923-24	1,085	97,310	1,945	125,995
1924-25	1,201	107,497	2,165	139,557

The annual ground rent for an exclusive telephone service ranges from £3 in respect of exchanges, where the number of subscribers' lines does not exceed 300, to £5 where there are over 4,000 lines. For each effective outward call a charge of 1½d. is made unless the number of lines connected with the exchange does not exceed 600, when the charge is 1d. per call.

The telephone traffic during the year 1924-25 included 7,843,000 trunk line calls and 107,245,000 effective local calls. The latter consisted of 97,243,000 calls by subscribers, 4,647,000 by means of public telephones, and 5,355,000 by Commonwealth and State Government departments.

FINANCIAL RESULTS OF POSTAL SERVICES.

Particulars regarding the financial results of operations in the various branches of the post office in New South Wales during the year ended 30th June, 1925, are shown below:—

Branch.	Earnings.	Working Expenses.	Surplus.	Interest on Capital.	Net Profit.
	£	£	£	£	£
Postal	1,929,970	1,772,825	157,145	47,429	109,716
Telegraph	564,169	556,443	7,726	53,638	(-)45,912
Telephone	1,411,341	1,216,284	195,057	301,320	(-)106,263
Total, All Branches...	3,905,480	3,545,552	359,928	402,387	(-)42,459

(-) denotes loss.

The postal services earned a substantial surplus over expenses in the whole Commonwealth, as well as in New South Wales, during each of the four years ended June, 1924. In the succeeding year the net earnings were not sufficient to pay interest on the capital cost. The earnings were

affected by reductions made in postal charges in October, 1923, and expenditure increased owing to expansion of business, higher wages, and additional costs of maintenance.

A comparative statement of the financial results for the whole Commonwealth is shown in the following statement:—

Year. ended 30th June.	Earnings.	Working Expenses.	Surplus.	Interest on Capital.	Net Profit.
	£	£	£	£	£
1921	8,511,494	6,724,543	1,786,951	643,183	1,143,768
1922	9,347,656	7,103,536	2,244,120	703,039	1,541,081
1923	9,898,158	7,651,864	2,246,294	780,235	1,466,059
1924	9,724,801	8,448,777	1,276,024	911,672	364,352
1925	10,074,854	9,230,630	844,224	1,086,546	(—)242,322

(—) denotes loss.

The accounts are exclusive of the figures relating to wireless telegraphy.

POPULATION.

EARLY ENUMERATIONS.

THE growth of the population of New South Wales between 1788 and 1856 is traced on page 223 of the Official Year Book for 1922, and the area and population at each territorial readjustment are shown on page 1 of this issue.

With the exception of the territory ceded to the Commonwealth Government in 1911, New South Wales has occupied its present boundaries since 1859, and census particulars are available at regular decennial intervals since 1861. These particulars furnish a connected and accurate summary of the development of population since that date, and a survey of the growth of the total population of New South Wales, including Lord Howe Island, is shown in the following table:—

Year.	Population.	Index Number of Population.	Increase in Population since previous Census.			Number of Persons per Square Mile
			Numerical.	Proportional.	Average Annual Rate.	
1861†	350,860	100	172,192*	per cent.	per cent.	1-12
1871†	503,981	144	153,121	43-64	3-69	1-61
1881†	751,468	214	247,487	49-11	4-08	2-41
1891†	1,132,234	323	380,766	50-67	4-19	3-64
1901†	1,359,133	387	226,899	20-04	1-84	4-38
1911†	1,648,746	470	289,613	21-31	1-95	5-32
1921†	2,101,968	599	453,222	27-49	2-46	6-79
1922‡	2,174,553	619	72,585	3-45	1-96	7-03
1923‡	2,211,106	630	109,138	5-19	1-86	7-15
1924‡	2,256,090	643	154,124	7-33	1-90	7-30

* Since 1851.

† Census held at end of March or beginning of April.

‡ 31st December.

The annual rate of growth during 1923 was 1-68 per cent. and during 1924 2-03 per cent.

Aborigines are not included in the population shown above for 1861; the numbers included in the totals of subsequent years are 983 in 1871; 1,643 in 1881; 8,280 in 1891; 4,287 in 1901; 2,012 in 1911; 1,597 in 1921. The population of the Federal Capital Territory is excluded in 1911 and subsequent years.

From this table it is apparent that a steady growth of population proceeded until 1891. This growth was especially marked between 1851 and 1861, when the gold discoveries were attracting eager fortune-hunters from other parts of the world, many of whom remained as settlers. After the gold rushes had ceased, the growth of population proceeded at a slower rate, but, though neither the average annual rate of increase nor the proportionate increase of that period was again attained, the actual numerical expansion in later periods has been greater. Indeed, the lull which occurred in the growth of population during the sixties developed gradually into a period of increasingly rapid expansion after 1871, and the next twenty years were, from a relative point of view, a time of unexcelled development.

It is significant that this speedy development proceeded during a period of remarkably flourishing trade, and came to an end when the trade boom ended in the commercial crisis of the early nineties.

The next twenty years were a period of little progress in the development of population, the reasons being the commercial and industrial stagnation which followed the crisis of 1893, the migratory and other losses due to the war in South Africa, and a more potent though, perhaps, subsidiary cause—the heavy decline in the birth-rate which lowered the rate of natural increase.

A new period of prosperity began early in the twentieth century, and the full weight of the trade revival was felt in the period 1911 to 1921, when the tide of population turned more definitely in favour of the growth of the State. Despite the serious effects of the war in diminishing the birth-rate, in temporarily stopping immigration, and in causing an exodus of men of reproductive ages, many of whom did not return, and despite the smaller losses occasioned by the influenza epidemic of 1919, the period showed a greater relative expansion than either of its predecessors, and by far the greatest numerical increase on record. From 1921 to 1923 the volume of immigration was very restricted, and the increase in population depended mainly upon natural causes. Immigration increased, however, in 1924.

The estimated population at the end of the year and the mean population of New South Wales, including aborigines, for the last ten years, were as follow :—

Year.	Estimated Population at End of Year.			Mean Population.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
1915	974,264	921,339	1,895,603	1,891,191
1916	947,287	939,605	1,886,892	1,893,479
1917	961,288	960,200	1,921,488	1,905,194
1918	985,662	977,683	1,963,345	1,943,356
1919	1,042,959	996,764	2,039,723	2,000,573
1920	1,068,568	1,024,421	2,092,989	2,068,585
1921	1,085,275	1,044,230	2,129,505	2,108,369
1922	1,108,582	1,065,971	2,174,553	2,150,862
1923	1,128,089	1,083,017	2,211,106	2,192,146
1924	1,151,639	1,104,451	2,256,090	2,230,166

Population of Australian States.

The following table shows the population of each State of the Commonwealth at the last two censuses, and at 31st December, 1924, also the proportion of population in each State. Aborigines of full blood are excluded from account.

State or Territory.	Population, Census 1911.	Population, Census 1921.	Estimated Population, 31st Dec., 1924.	Proportion in each State or Territory.		
				1911.	1921.	1924.
New South Wales ...	1,646,734	2,100,371	2,254,450	36·96	38·67	38·38
Victoria ...	1,315,551	1,531,280	1,657,095	29·53	28·19	28·21
Queensland ...	605,813	755,972	834,894	13·60	13·92	14·22
South Australia ...	408,558	495,160	538,506	9·17	9·13	9·17
Western Australia ...	282,114	332,732	364,124	6·33	6·06	6·20
Tasmania ...	191,211	213,780	217,839	4·29	3·91	3·71
Northern Territory ...	3,310	3,867	3,597	0·08	0·07	·06
Federal Capital Terr.	1,714	2,572	2,998	0·04	0·05	·05
Commonwealth ...	4,455,005	5,435,734	5,873,503	100·00	100·00	100·00

During the inter-censal period the population of New South Wales increased at an average annual rate of 2·46 per cent., which was faster than that of any other State of the Commonwealth. The next highest rate was in Queensland,

2.24 per cent.; South Australia, 1.94 per cent.; Western Australia, 1.66 per cent.; Victoria, 1.53 per cent.; and Tasmania, 1.12 per cent. The average for the whole of Australia was 2.00 per cent.

Growth of Population of New South Wales.

The extent to which each source—natural increase and net immigration—has contributed to the growth of the population of New South Wales during each census period since 1861 was shown on page 226 of the Official Year Book for 1922. In calculating the increase from 1901 to 1921 the population of the Federal Capital Territory has been omitted, but the aboriginal inhabitants have been taken into consideration throughout.

Natural increase has been by far the greater cause of growth in the population, and, as would be expected, has provided steadily-increasing additions. The rate of natural increase fluctuated with a falling tendency throughout the period, but a very sudden fall occurred after 1890 owing to the rapid decline in the birth-rate. Immigration has always been a subordinate cause of growth, but has intermittently provided considerable additions to the population. During the sixty years 1861–1921 the net immigration amounted to only 500,277, or about two-sevenths of the total increase. Of these immigrants, approximately 300,000, or 60 per cent., were males, and about 140,000 were assisted to immigrate. Immigration proceeded rapidly until 1886, when it declined heavily, and did not revive until the State reintroduced its policy of affording assistance to immigrants in 1905. Between the years 1892 and 1904 the State actually lost more than 10,000 inhabitants by net emigration. The rate of increase due to net immigration, measured in relation to population, has been very variable, and although considerable improvement is evident in the past thirty years the rate is still much below that of former years.

It is probable that the last decennial period would have shown a very considerable improvement in all respects had it not been for the unusual influences brought to bear by the war and the epidemic of influenza in 1919.

The actual growth of population in New South Wales during each of the last ten years was as follows:—

Year ended December—	Increase during Year.			Increase per cent. during Year.		
	Natural.	Net Immigration.	Total.	Natural.	Net Immigration.	Total.
1915	33,275	(-) 20,110	13,165	1.77	(-) 1.07	.70
1916	32,221	(-) 40,932	(-) 8,711	1.70	(-) 2.16	(-) .46
1917	34,498	98	34,596	1.83	.00	1.83
1918	31,860	9,997	41,857	1.66	.52	2.18
1919	22,143	54,235	76,378	1.13	2.76	3.89
1920	33,013	20,253	53,266	1.62	.99	2.61
1921	34,600	1,916	36,516	1.65	.09	1.74
1922	36,036	9,012	45,048	1.69	.43	2.12
1923	33,061	3,492	36,553	1.52	.16	1.68
1924	32,849	12,135	44,984	1.48	.55	2.03

(-) Decrease.

This table reflects very clearly the effects of the war upon the growth of population. During the four years 1910 to 1913 natural and migratory causes had combined to produce a growth which, in point of magnitude, was unprecedented and, in point of rate, was nearly as rapid as that of any similar period in the previous fifty years. In those four years the net immigration was nearly 126,000. But the advent of war in 1914 caused a practical cessation of immigration in the latter part of the year, while at the same time the despatch of forces oversea caused a heavy drain of

emigration, which increased during 1915 and 1916 so much as to cause a large excess of departures over arrivals. From 1917 to 1919 the return of troops caused an increasing flow of arrivals, and restored a temporarily absent element of population. In 1920 the last detachments of soldiers returned, and there was considerable immigration from other States. During 1921 migration returned to its ordinary channels, and the net immigration of the year was inconsiderable. In 1922 a pronounced increase was apparent, but this was not maintained in 1923. The increase during 1924, though greater than in 1922, does not compare favourably with that for the years prior to 1914. After 1914 the annual number of births diminished until 1919 and the natural increase showed a considerable falling off, especially in 1919, when the epidemic of influenza caused heavy mortality. In 1920 and 1921 the number both of births and deaths increased, but the increase of births was the greater. The natural increase in 1922 was numerically the greatest on record, but proportionally was considerably below that of former years. A slight decline both in numbers and population occurred in 1923 and 1924.

MIGRATION.

A very large movement of population takes place each year into and out of New South Wales, but is due more to the movement of tourists, businessmen, and persons following itinerant callings, than to immigration or emigration properly so-called. During the war period and the years immediately following there were very considerable movements of troops. These are included in the figures shown below.

The net immigration to New South Wales is the excess of arrivals in over departures from the State, and is the result principally of intercourse with overseas countries. In recent years until 1920 the greater part of the immigrants to New South Wales came from or through other Australian States; but, in 1921, the direction of interstate migration changed and the number of departures to other States has since exceeded the number of arrivals therefrom.

The interstate and overseas movement of people to and from New South Wales in each of the past ten years is shown in the following table:—

Year.	Arrivals in New South Wales.			Departures from New South Wales.			Excess of Arrivals over Departures.	
	Interstate.	From other Countries.	Total.	Interstate.	To other Countries.	Total.	Interstate.	Other Countries.
1915	315,590	45,939	361,529	303,354	78,285	381,639	12,236	(-)32,346
1916	322,174	49,354	371,528	318,738	93,722	412,460	3,436	(-)44,368
1917	274,768	35,063	309,831	260,616	49,117	309,733	14,152	(-)14,054
1918	299,735	38,744	338,479	288,732	39,750	328,482	11,003	(-)1,006
1919	240,263	93,276	333,539	235,887	43,417	279,304	4,376	49,859
1920	311,068	72,515	383,583	303,222	60,108	363,330	7,846	12,407
1921	284,927	57,190	342,117	288,084	52,117	340,201	(-)3,157	5,073
1922	277,938	53,326	331,264	283,432	38,820	322,252	(-)5,494	14,506
1923	283,014	48,084	331,098	290,691	36,915	327,606	(-)7,677	11,169
1924	300,816	55,066	355,882	304,095	39,652	343,747	(-)3,279	15,414

(-) Denotes excess of departures.

Of the total movement of population, more than 80 per cent. is to and from other Australian States, and one-third of the movement to and from countries outside Australia is with New Zealand.

The movement since 1922 has been such as to suggest that a considerable number of persons (other than assisted immigrants) arrive in New South Wales by sea from other countries and pass thence to other States, either remaining there or departing from other ports of the Commonwealth. This is probably due in part to the fact that Sydney is a terminal port for a number of oversea shipping routes.

Passports.

Under the Passports Act, 1920 (Federal), no person who is or appears to be more than 16 years of age may embark at any place in the Commonwealth for a journey to any place beyond the Commonwealth unless he is the holder of a passport or other document authorising his departure, properly endorsed for the journey or unless he is the subject of any special or statutory exemption in that regard. The fee for issuing a passport is 10s., and it is valid for a period of five years unless specially limited to a shorter period.

The statutory exemptions extend to members of the naval or military forces of any British Dominion on duty, members of the crew of a departing vessel who were members on its arrival or are by occupation seafaring men, any natural born British subject proceeding to New Zealand, any other person proceeding to New Zealand under permit, any officer of the Administration, or any *bona fide* resident or tourist with a return ticket proceeding to Papua or Norfolk Island, any person holding a certificate exempting him from the dictation test, and any aboriginal native of Asia or of any island of the East Indies or of the Indian or Pacific oceans.

Immigration.

At Common Law aliens have no legal right of admission to any British country, and immigration to and emigration from New South Wales are regulated principally by statutes of the Federal Parliament, *e.g.*, the Immigration Act (1901-24) and the Contract Immigrants Act, 1905.

Any person may be refused admission to Australia who fails to write from dictation by an officer not less than fifty words in any prescribed European language; or any person who has not the prescribed certificate of health; any feeble-minded person; any person suffering from serious transmissible disease or defect, tuberculosis or certain other serious diseases; any person convicted of crime in certain circumstances; any prostitute or person living by prostitution; any advocate of revolution, assassination, or the unlawful destruction of property; any Turk of Ottoman race; or any person 16 years of age or over not possessed of a passport as prescribed. Should such persons gain admission, they may be deported. Usually persons formerly domiciled in the State cannot be excluded from return after temporary absence. For a period of five years from 2nd December, 1920, persons of German, Austro-German, Bulgarian or Hungarian parentage and nationality were excluded, but upon the expiration of that period no further restrictions were imposed. Ex-enemy subjects repatriated during the late war are required to obtain approval of their readmission.

In the matter of excluding undesirable immigrants, New South Wales is protected by the Federal authority. The number of persons refused admission to the Commonwealth in 1924 was 50, of whom 18 were Chinese,

7 British, 6 Hindoos, 3 Cingalese, 9 German, 1 Greek, 2 Pacific Islanders, 1 West Indian, 1 Arab, 1 Bulgarian, and 1 North American. No persons passed the dictation test during the year. The number of recorded departures of coloured persons from the Commonwealth during the year was 3,321, including 1,898 Chinese, 366 Japanese, and 149 Hindoos. The number of coloured persons admitted without test was 3,504, of whom 1,917 were Chinese and 240 were Japanese. Of these, 1,891 were admitted on the ground of former domicile, 827 as pearlers, 176 on passports, and 610 on other grounds.

Assisted Immigration.

In the early years of the colony's existence the Governors frequently discouraged free immigration, but in 1832 there was inaugurated a policy of State-assisted immigration, which was maintained until 1885. During the economic depression of the next twenty years no encouragement was given to immigrants, and assistance to migrate was not afforded again until 1905. In 1911 the Federal Government assumed the function of advertising the resources of Australia with a view to promoting voluntary immigration from the United Kingdom, Europe, and the United States of America, but the State continued to assist desirable immigrants. Activities were practically suspended during the war period and not revived until 1919. In view of the industrial position, however, assistance was at first restricted to nominees and domestic workers, but the Imperial Government also arranged to grant free passages to ex-service men and women and their dependents who could produce evidence that they would be acceptable to any dominion, and that provision had been made for them. This scheme operated until the end of 1922.

With the advent of more stable industrial conditions, the system of assisted immigration was reorganised by agreement as from 1st March, 1921, when the Federal Government undertook control of the entire oversea organisation for the encouragement and selection of immigrants, and for the provision of passages to Australia. Under this agreement the State arranged to indicate, from time to time, how many settlers it could absorb. A new agreement was made as from 1st May, 1923, when the Government of New South Wales extended the nomination system to include persons under 50 years of age of approved occupations for whom nominators are in a position to provide maintenance or employment for a period of at least one year. Nominations by church or other community organisations were also allowed.

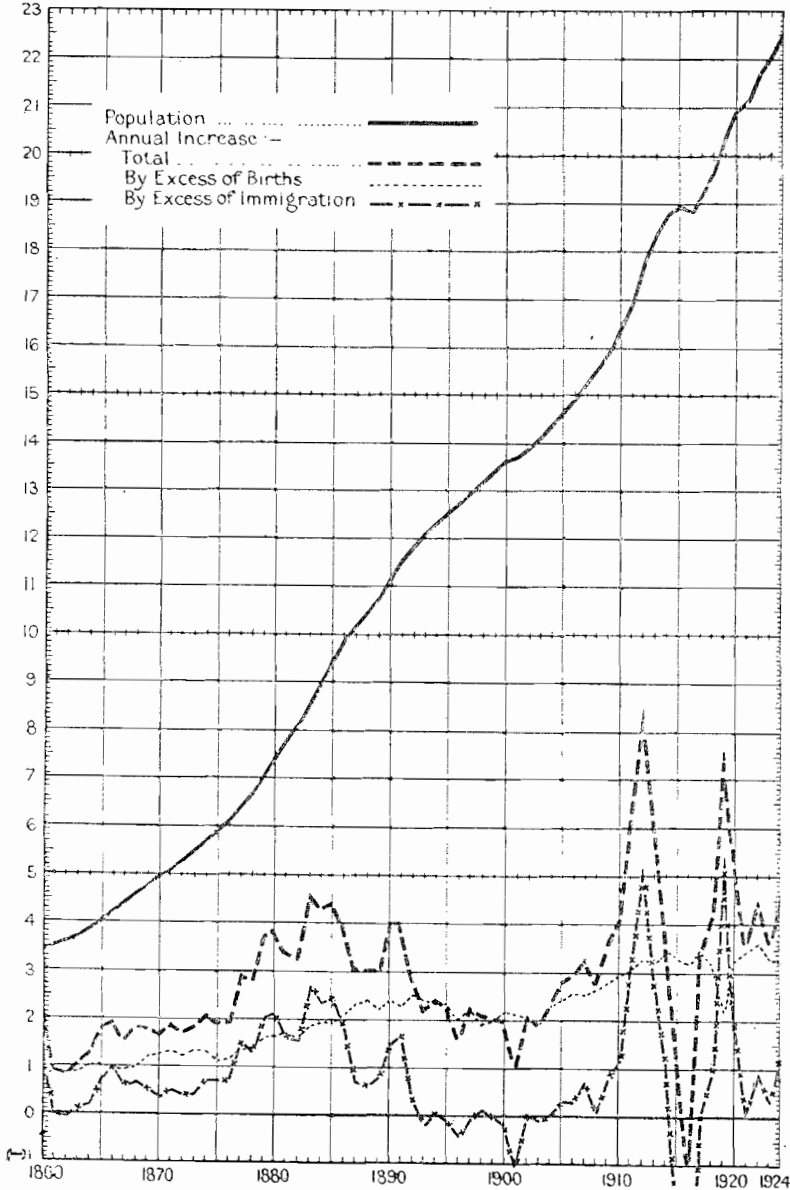
A small number of persons (usually rural or domestic workers) is selected from among applicants for assisted passages annually by the authorities in London. These are introduced on the responsibility of the State. The age limit for women applicants for assisted passages as domestic workers is 40 years.

Under the existing system of immigration, "nominated" immigrants preponderate, and the obligations of the State in receiving immigrants are not considerable. In certain cases immigrants receive instruction in rural work on the Government Agricultural Farm at Scheyville (near Windsor), and suitable employment is obtained in co-operation with the State Labour Exchanges.

Any immigrant who settles upon the land as owner, lessee, or labourer, within a reasonable time of his arrival, may be granted concessions in regard to railway fares and freight when travelling to the district in which he

settlements. These concessions may be granted also to nominated immigrants proceeding to the homes of their nominators, or travelling to take up farm work or domestic service.

POPULATION AND ANNUAL INCREASE, 1860-1924.



The numbers at the side of the graph represent 100,000 of population and 10,000 increase. In 1915 and 1916 there was a large excess of emigration owing to the departure of troops, and the line indicating migration increase fell below the limits of the diagram.

The following statement shows the expenditure on immigration by State grants since 1832, and the total number of assisted immigrants who arrived in New South Wales under various schemes, inclusive of Victoria and

Queensland before their separation. After 1905 the number of immigrants nominated by residents of the State and the number selected abroad by the Immigration Office are shown separately.

Year ended 30th June.	Expenditure, exclusive of Administration.	Immigrants Assisted.				
		Nominated.	Selected.	Total.		
				Males.	Females.	Total.
	£					
1832-1901	3,676,013	...	...	104,106	107,866	211,972
1905-1909	44,925	6,144	2,713	*	*	8,857
1910-1914	221,601	32,406	12,444	23,816	21,034	44,850
1915-1919	44,189	4,123	1,322	2,067	3,378	5,445
1920	3,025	873	214	527	560	1,087
1921	6,847	4,026	560	2,220	2,366	4,586
1922	1,640	5,679	665	3,396	2,948	6,344
1923	2,294	5,058	933	3,362	2,629	5,991
1924	3,526	4,263	939	2,584	2,618	5,202
1925	4,859	4,992	2,177	3,948	3,221	7,169
1832-1925	4,008,919	67,564†	21,967‡	146,026†	146,620†	301,503

* Information not available.

† Excluding immigrants 1905-1909.

‡ 1905 to 1926.

Although there has been a revival in immigration in the past five years, the number of assisted immigrants has been only 29,292 as compared with 44,850 in the quinquennium which preceded the war.

The selected immigrants in the past six years have consisted very largely of boys under the Dreadnought and Barnardo Homes schemes.

Since 1861 the number of assisted immigrants has been approximately 28 per cent. of the net number of immigrants to the State, and between the censuses of 1911 and 1921 the net immigration was 134,692 persons, of whom approximately one-third were assisted.

The figures for the last six years include ex-service immigrants to whom the Imperial Government granted free passages, viz., 663 in 1919-20, 3,394 in 1920-21, 4,260 in 1921-22, 2,407 in 1922-23, 192 in 1923-24, and 25 in 1924-25. Of these, 10,083 were nominated by residents of New South Wales, and 858 (including 628 domestic servants) were selected. Up to the end of June, 1925, the total number of free-passage immigrants who arrived under the Imperial ex-service scheme was 10,941. Activity under the scheme was discontinued at the end of 1922, but passages are provided for the wives and dependent children of ex-service men already received provided applications were made within two years of departure.

The following statement shows the distribution of selected immigrants in their respective occupational classes in each of the last ten years:—

Year ended 30th June.	Rural Workers.	Domestic Servants.	Other.	Families of fore-going.	Year ended 30th June.	Rural Workers.	Domestic Servants.	Other.	Families of fore-going.
1916	8	126	...	18	1921	94	398	6	62
1917	3	51	...	6	1922	354	247	15	49
1918	...	1	...	...	1923	740	191	...	2
1919	...	...	...	...	1924	604	335	...	...
1920	86	102	1	25	1925	1,532	386	...	259

In selecting immigrants choice has been restricted latterly almost exclusively to rural workers and domestic servants. Practically all the assisted immigrants in the last ten years have come from the United Kingdom; the relatively small number from other countries is shown in the following statement :—

Year ended 30th June	Assisted Immigrants from—						Total Assisted Immigrants.		
	United Kingdom.		Other British Possessions.		Foreign Countries.		Nominat- ed.	Selected.	Total.
	Nominat- ed.	Selected.	Nominat- ed.	Selected.	Nominat- ed.	Selected.			
1916	869	145	7	...	12	7	888	152	1,040
1917	515	60	2	...	9	...	526	60	586
1918	189	1	...	...	2	...	191	1	192
1919	118	...	1	...	...	...	119	...	119
1920	868	214	3	...	2	...	873	214	1,087
1921	4,010	560	16	...	...	...	4,026	560	4,586
1922	5,645	665	27	...	7	...	5,679	665	6,344
1923	5,014	933	14	...	30	...	5,058	933	5,991
1924	4,190	939	17	...	56	...	4,263	939	5,202
1925	4,885	2,177	19	...	88	...	4,992	2,177	7,169

Adolescent Migrants.

There are two private organisations which assist the immigration of boys and youths, viz., the Dreadnought Fund Trust and the Dr. Barnardo Homes. The latter organisation now assists girl migrants also.

The Dreadnought Fund was established in 1909 by public subscription to defray the cost of building for the Imperial Navy a war vessel of the Dreadnought type. On the institution of the Australian Navy it was decided to use part of the funds to assist the immigration of lads from 17 to 20 years of age, for the purpose of following rural pursuits. Up to 30th April, 1925, when a new agreement was made as to payment of passage money of all assisted immigrants the trustees paid part of the passage money, and, if necessary, the Commonwealth and Imperial Governments advanced, a sum sufficient to defray the balance of the cost of bringing the lads to New South Wales. The trustees assist the boys during a course of training at one of the State farms. Upon completion of the course the lads are placed in employment through the agency of the State Labour Exchanges, and they repay in instalments any advances made. Operations under this scheme were suspended during the war period, but were resumed recently, 63 boys being brought to New South Wales in 1921, 637 in 1922, 472 in 1923, 620 in 1924, and 736 between January and October, 1925.

The organisation known as Dr. Barnardo Homes works in conjunction with an English institution of that name, which arranges passages and pays the passage money to Australia of boys trained in their homes and on farms in England. The local organisation places the boys with farmers, where the home conditions are found to be satisfactory. A hostel is maintained at

Ashfield, Sydney, to accommodate them until they go to the country. The organisation keeps constantly in touch with them, and banks part of their wages till they reach the age of 21 years. From October, 1921, when the first of these boys were landed in Sydney, to December, 1922, 97 Barnardo boys had arrived in New South Wales. During 1923 a further 123 arrived, 51 in 1924, and 48 during the first half of 1925. In 1923 the State also received 32 Barnardo girls, a further 101 in 1924, and 42 in August, 1925.

During 1923 an additional scheme was inaugurated under which 251 British boys between the ages of 15 and 18 years were received upon assisted passages and provided with rural employment in New South Wales, whilst 48 arrived in 1924. In 1923 the Juvenile Migrants Apprenticeship Act was passed to provide for the supervision and care of the persons and property of juvenile migrants until they reach the age of 21 years, and to empower the Minister for Labour to bind them by indenture to any trade or calling. During 1924 the number of arrivals under this scheme was 609, including 305 Dreadnought boys, whilst during 1925 the number was 540, including 283 Dreadnought boys.

The number of persons assisted to immigrate in each of the past ten calendar years is shown on page 27 of the Statistical Register of New South Wales for 1924-25.

Passage Money.

Prior to the war several steamship companies conveyed immigrant passengers from the United Kingdom at the rate of £14 per adult, and the State Government contributed from £4 to £8 toward the fares of assisted immigrants. Since the war the cost per berth has been much greater, and in January, 1925, was £33 per person over 12 years of age, and half that amount for children between the ages of 3 and 12 years. Children under 3 years of age are carried free. Since 1st May, 1925, under the Imperial scheme, contributions have been made in equal proportions by the Federal and Imperial Governments toward the cost of assisted passages for approved persons from the United Kingdom. Contributions are on the following scale:—

	£	s.	d.
Children over 3 and under 12 years
Juveniles over 12 and under 17 years
" " 17 " " 19 "
Domestics
Married couples, including husbands and wives, widows and widowers, if accompanied by one or more children under 19 years, each
Other approved immigrants

The remainder is paid by the immigrant or his nominator, and ranges from nothing in the case of children under 12 years of age to £5 10s. in the case of juveniles between 12 and 17 years of age, £11 for juveniles aged 17 to 19 years, domestics and married persons accompanied by one or more children under 19 years of age, and to £16 10s. for other approved migrants.

In the case of persons nominated for assisted passages by relatives or friends in the State, nominators are required to guarantee that employment awaits nominees, or that adequate provision will be made for their maintenance.

The following statement shows, in respect of New South Wales, the number of nominations and of nominees, since the inauguration of the present scheme of Commonwealth aid in March, 1921. Persons granted free passages under the Imperial ex-service scheme are excluded from account:—

Year.	Accepted.		Amount of Passage Money.	
	Nominations.	Nominees.	Payable.	Deposited.
			£	£
1921*	237	527	12,375	5,054
1921-22	883	1,923	44,769	18,440
1922-23	1,594	3,508	67,228	28,150
1923-24	2,168	5,732	98,978	24,870
1924-25	2,935	7,871	117,225	30,142

* March to June.

Contract Immigrants.

The admission of immigrants under contract to perform manual labour is regulated by the Contract Immigrants Act, 1905. Such contracts must be made by or on behalf of an Australian resident on the one part. In every case they are subject to Ministerial approval which may be withheld if the fulfilment of the contract is likely to prejudice the public welfare as affecting an industrial dispute or the conditions or standards prevailing in local industry. Except in the cases of contract immigrants who are British subjects born in the United Kingdom or descended from a British subject there born, it must be shown that there is difficulty in obtaining workers of equal skill and ability within the Commonwealth. The Act, however, does not apply to domestic servants and personal attendants accompanying their employers. The number of persons admitted under the Act in 1923 was 6, of whom none were for New South Wales.

Distribution of Immigrants.

A table published on page 91 of this Year Book for 1924 showed how persons born outside Australia and resident in New South Wales at the census of 1921 were distributed in respect of the metropolitan, urban and rural localities of the State. The tendency of migrants to remain in the capital city was shown by the fact that, whereas 97,344 males and 81,145 females born outside Australia were resident in the metropolis, the numbers in other parts of the State were 83,150 males and 53,091 females. The unequal distribution was further shown by the fact that, whereas 22·5 per cent. of all males and 17·5 per cent. of all females resident in the metropolis were born outside Australia, the corresponding proportions in rural districts were 11·8 per cent. of males and 8·2 per cent. of females.

A further analysis is made in the following table relating to persons resident in New South Wales at the date of the census who were born outside Australia and had been resident therein for less than ten years. Distinction

is made between persons resident less than five years and those resident between five and ten years. Train and other travellers and crews of ships are omitted from account:—

Division.	Resident less than 5 years.				Resident over 5 years and less than 10 years.			
	Males.		Females.		Males.		Females.	
	Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.
Metropolitan	8,843	61	11,727	62	26,037	57	21,097	59
Urban, Provincial ...	2,826	19	3,710	19	9,848	21	7,812	22
Rural	2,928	20	3,527	19	10,058	22	6,567	19
Total	14,597	100	18,964	100	45,943	100	35,476	100

Approximately 60 per cent. of all persons resident in Australia less than ten years were living in the metropolis at the date of the census. At the same date approximately 43 per cent. of the population of the State were in the metropolis.

New Settlers' League.

The New Settlers' League is a voluntary organisation with divisions in each of the four eastern States of the Commonwealth. It was inaugurated in New South Wales in March, 1921. It consists of representatives of churches and public bodies interested in migration and land settlement.

Although originally operating under the auspices of the Commonwealth Government it is now subsidised jointly by the Commonwealth and State Governments to the extent of £1,500 per annum.

The objects of the league are, broadly, to stimulate interest in migration and to co-ordinate the efforts of the various bodies of the State in that direction. In addition it welcomes migrants on their arrival and assists them to become established by affording advice and guidance. This work is carried out through a head office in Sydney near the water front and about 200 country branches. These branches extend a welcome to migrants arriving in their district and afford them guidance. They also assist lads placed on farms and visit them to see whether they are content and how they are progressing. The social welfare of women migrants is also promoted by the league.

While assisted immigrants do not generally need the guidance of the league its facilities are available for them and it endeavours to fill the place of nominators who are not able to be present to welcome their nominees. The work of placing new arrivals in employment is done by the Department of Labour, the league advising the Department of all positions vacant. During 1924-25, 217 inquiries were made for farm boys, 195 for farm labourers and 55 for married couples.

DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION.

The population of New South Wales is distributed in a rather remarkable manner. At the end of December, 1924, including shipping, the city of Sydney contained 109,180 persons in a small area surrounded by an extensive group of suburbs with 902,890 inhabitants, making a total of 1,012,070 dwellers in

the metropolis. Outside the boundaries of the metropolis in what is usually termed the metropolitan area there are seven municipalities and three shires, containing in all 119,690 inhabitants. Then scattered throughout the State are 134 of the larger towns incorporated as municipalities with a total population of 472,380; of these, 11 in the County of Cumberland, contained 43,460 persons, for the most part dependent on Sydney for their livelihood, and 14, including the large mining centres of Newcastle, Broken Hill, Lithgow, and Wollongong, contained 138,780 inhabitants, leaving 290,140 in 109 of the larger rural towns. Distributed over the remainder of the State, 99 per cent. of its area, are 651,837 persons, of whom a small number live in the large unincorporated towns, and only 14,807 in the unincorporated portion of the Western Division, which covers 40·5 per cent. of the area of the State.

The distribution of population at the end of 1924, together with the proportion in each division and the average population per square mile, are shown in the following table:—

Division.	Area† (including Rivers and Lakes).	Population at 31st December, 1924, including shipping and aborigines.		
		Total.	Proportion in each Division.	
	sq. miles.		per cent.	per sq. mile
Sydney	5	109,180	4·9	21,836·0
*Suburbs of Sydney	180	902,890	40·0	5,016·1
Metropolis	185	1,012,070	44·9	5,470·6
Extra Metropolitan Municipalities and Shires	515	119,690	5·3	232·4
Metropolitan Area as defined in Local Government Act	700	1,131,760	50·2	1,616·8
Country Municipalities	2,437	472,380	20·9	193·8
Country Shires	180,820‡	637,030	28·2	3·5
Western Division (Part unincor- porated)	125,294	14,807	0·7	0·1
Lord Howe Island	5	113	0·0	22·6
Total, New South Wales ...	309,256‡	2,256,090	100·0	7·3

* Including Ku-ring-gai Shire, area 36 sq. miles, population 22,680.

† Excludes 176 sq. miles being water area of principal harbours. ‡ Excludes Federal Territory, 940 sq. miles.

The population of the metropolitan area as defined in the Local Government Act represents one-half of the total population; one-fifth of the people reside in the country municipalities, and less than one-third in the remaining rural districts.

The density of population diminishes rapidly from city, suburban, country urban to rural districts. The average density of population in New South Wales is greater than that of any other State of the Commonwealth except Victoria and Tasmania.

The lowness of the average in New South Wales—7·3 per square mile—is due largely to the inclusion of the extensive and practically unpeopled Western Division, much of which must remain sparsely settled until means are found to overcome its natural disability of a low average rainfall. The average density of population in the Eastern and Central Divisions of the State is 12·2 persons per square mile.

Municipal and Shire Population.

Slightly more than two-thirds of the population of New South Wales live within municipalities and practically the whole of the remainder within shires. Although the area unincorporated is more than two-fifths of the total

it contains less than 15,000 inhabitants. The number of inhabitants of municipalities, shires, and unincorporated districts of each division of New South Wales at 31st December, 1924, is shown below :—

Division.	Municipalities.	Shires.	Total.
Metropolis	989,390	22,680	1,012,070
Balance—Cumberland	124,010	55,000	179,010
North Coast... ..	33,990	89,420	123,410
Hunter and Manning	126,240	139,220	265,460
South Coast... ..	44,720	44,840	89,560
Northern Tableland	19,640	31,010	50,650
Central Tableland	56,350	73,000	129,350
Southern Tableland	19,890	26,180	46,070
North-Western Slope	18,010	34,240	52,250
Central-Western Slope	17,680	36,000	53,680
South-Western Slope	39,040	59,360	98,400
North-Central Plain	6,560	17,350	23,910
Central Plain	5,890	13,360	19,250
Riverina	12,420	57,190	69,610
Western Division—			
Incorporated	28,490	.....	28,490
Unincorporated ... ..	.....	.....	14,507
Lord Howe Island ... ..	.....	.....	113
New South Wales	1,542,320	698,850	2,256,090

Particulars of the area, population and number of dwellings in each municipality and shire of the census of 1921 are shown at pages 6 to 17 of the Statistical Register for 1924-25 and the estimated mean populations for the same areas for 1924 appear on pages 37 to 43 of the same publication.

Urban and Rural Population.

The population of New South Wales, in common with that of most other countries of the world, tends more and more to congregate in metropolitan and urban centres. A comparison of the number and proportion of inhabitants in metropolitan, urban and rural divisions was published on page 235 of the Official Year Book for 1922.

The outstanding features of the population at the present time are the dominance of the metropolitan element and the diminishing relative importance of the country towns, incorporated and unincorporated, and of the rural districts.

Internal Migration.

Tables published on page 236 of the Official Year Book for 1922 showed that there was considerable migration from the country districts to the city during the last three inter-censal periods.

Throughout the period the flow of population was continuous from the South Coast, from the whole of the Tableland Divisions, and from the Western Division. During the past ten years emigration from country divisions was more pronounced than ever before, and occurred from every rural district of the State considered in a general way, except where special settlement was brought about by the Murrumbidgee Irrigation project.

The Population of the Metropolis.

The Metropolis includes the City of Sydney, forty municipalities surrounding it, the Ku-ring-gai Shire, and the islands of Port Jackson. It embraces an area of 185 square miles. The boundaries may be described as follow :— On the east, the sea coast; on the south, the waters of Botany Bay and George's River; on the west, the western boundaries of Hurstville, Canterbury, Enfield, Strathfield, Homebush, Concord, Ryde, and Eastwood municipalities and the western boundary of Ku-ring-gai Shire; on the north, the eastern

boundary of Ku-ring-gai Shire, the north-eastern boundary of Willoughby, and the northern boundary of Manly municipalities. The habitations within these limits are fairly continuous.

The following statement shows the population of each municipality of the metropolis, and of Ku-ring-gai Shire, at the censuses of 1911 and 1921, and at 31st December, 1924, including aborigines and shipping :—

Municipality.	Population.			Municipality.	Population.		
	Census, 1911.	Census, 1921.	31st Dec., 1924.		Census, 1911.	Census, 1921.	31st Dec., 1924.
City of Sydney ...	119,774	111,059	109,180	Manly ...	10,465	18,507	22,590
Alexandria ...	10,123	9,793	9,980	Marrickville ...	30,653	42,240	44,520
Annandale ...	11,241	12,648	12,740	Mascot ...	5,836	10,929	11,630
Ashfield ...	20,431	33,637	36,960	Mosman ...	13,243	20,063	22,240
Balmain ...	32,038	32,122	32,410	Newtown ...	26,498	28,169	28,340
Bexley ...	6,517	14,746	16,810	North Sydney ...	34,648	48,446	51,660
Botany ...	4,409	8,214	6,660	Paddington ...	24,317	26,364	26,590
Burwood ...	9,382	15,711	17,540	Petersham ...	21,712	26,236	26,980
Canterbury ...	11,335	37,639	51,210	Randwick ...	19,475	50,849	61,080
Concord ...	4,076	11,013	16,440	Redfern ...	24,427	23,978	24,060
Darlington ...	3,816	3,651	3,650	Rockdale ...	14,095	25,190	29,800
Drummoyne ...	8,678	18,764	22,960	Ryde ...	5,281	14,855	19,030
Eastwood ...	968	2,133	2,500	St. Peter's ...	8,410	12,700	13,110
Enfield ...	3,444	8,530	10,840	Strathfield ...	4,046	7,594	10,120
Erskineville ...	7,299	7,553	7,550	Vaucluse ...	1,673	3,730	5,130
Glebe ...	21,944	22,772	22,880	Waterloo ...	10,072	11,199	11,550
Homebush ...	676	1,622	2,460	Waverley ...	19,832	36,797	43,740
Hunter's Hill ...	5,019	7,334	8,510	Willoughby ...	13,037	28,074	35,620
Hurstville ...	6,533	13,394	16,450	Woollahra ...	16,992	25,461	29,440
Kogarah ...	6,954	18,226	22,360	Ku-ring-gai Shire	9,459	19,213	22,680
Lane Cove ...	3,306	7,592	12,020				
Leichhardt ...	24,254	29,356	30,050	Total ...	636,388	906,103	1,012,070

Some of the suburbs nearest the city have attained their maximum development as residential districts and some are even losing population as industrial and commercial establishments extend. The rate of growth of population is now greatest in the more remote municipalities such as Bexley, Canterbury, Hurstville, Kogarah, Randwick, and Ryde.

In addition to the suburbs enumerated above there are, in close proximity to the city, a number of important centres of population of a more or less suburban character, since large proportions of their inhabitants gain their livelihood in the city. An extended definition of the metropolitan area was given in the Local Government Act of 1919 (Schedule Four), and included the following additional localities, whose populations, including aborigines and shipping, are shown :—

Municipalities.	Population.			Shires.	Population.		
	Census, 1911.	Census, 1921.	31st Dec., 1924.		Census, 1911.	Census, 1921.	31st Dec., 1924.
Auburn ...	5,559	13,563	16,070	Hornsby ...	8,907	15,291	17,620
Bankstown ...	2,039	10,670	14,560	Sutherland ...	2,896	7,707	8,710
Dundas ...	1,136	3,523	4,510	Warringah ...	2,823	9,644	12,810
Ermington and Rydalmere ...	1,716	1,981	1,970	Extra-Metropolitan Shires ...	14,626	32,642	39,140
Granville ...	7,231	13,328	15,430	Population of Metropolis as shown above ...	636,388	906,103	1,012,070
Lidcombe ...	5,419	10,524	12,320	Metropolitan Area as defined in Local Government Act.	686,590	1,006,929	1,131,760
Parramatta ...	12,476	14,595	15,690				
Extra-Metropolitan Municipalities ...	33,576	68,184	80,550				

The population of the metropolis, including aboriginals and shipping, at census periods and at the end of December, 1924, is shown in the following table, together with the proportion which the metropolitan population bears to that of the whole State :—

Year.	Population at Census.			Increase.		Males per cent.	Proportion of Population of State in Metropolis.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Numerical.	Per cent.		
1861	47,778	49,283	97,061	43,137	80·00	49·21	per cent. 27·7
1871	68,266	70,913	139,179	42,118	43·39	49·05	27·6
1881	114,936	112,230	227,166	87,987	63·22	50·60	30·2
1891	197,550	189,884	387,434	160,268	70·55	50·99	34·2
1901	241,700	246,232	487,932	100,498	25·94	49·54	35·9
1911	312,074	324,279	636,353	148,421	30·42	49·04	38·5
1921	439,691	466,412	906,103	269,750	42·34	48·54	43·1
1923	478,800	502,600	981,400	25,500	2·67	48·79	44·4
1924	495,180	516,890	1,012,070	30,670	3·03	48·93	44·9

The proportion of the population of the State resident in the metropolis has increased rapidly in the past half-century and especially in the last ten years. Since 1891 the proportion of females in the metropolis has increased, so that at the census of 1921 there was an excess of three females in every hundred of the population.

The populations of the capital cities (including suburbs) of the States of the Commonwealth are shown below :—

Metropolis.	Census, 1911.*	Census, 1921.*	31st December, 1924.†			Proportion to Population of Whole State, 1924.
			Males.	Females.	Total.	
Sydney	629,503	899,059	495,180	516,890	1,012,070	per cent. 44·86
Melbourne	588,971	766,465	418,580	467,120	885,700	53·45
Adelaide	189,646	255,375	139,071	150,843	289,914	53·84
Brisbane	139,480	209,946	117,000	128,015	245,015	29·35
Perth	106,792	154,873	87,524	88,943	176,467	48·46
Hobart	39,937	52,361	27,840	31,110	58,950	27·06

* Excluding Shipping. † Including Shipping.

THE TOWNS OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

As might be expected from the nature of the industries of the State there are in New South Wales comparatively few large towns. Outside the metropolitan area, the only towns of outstanding importance are Newcastle and Broken Hill, and the existence of both is due to the rich mineral deposits in their neighbourhood. Lithgow, the third largest town outside County Cumberland, is also dependent on mining for its existence. Apart from these and the centres in the County of Cumberland closely dependent upon the city, there are only three country centres with a population exceeding

10,000; eleven, including two unincorporated, between 5,000 and 10,000; and twenty, including two unincorporated, between 3,000 and 5,000.

The following table affords a comparison of the populations at the last four censuses and at the end of 1924 of the towns, which at the census of 1921 had more than 3,000 inhabitants, including aboriginals and shipping, the metropolitan and closely-dependent municipalities being shown first :—

Municipality.	Population.				
	Census 1891.	Census 1901.	Census 1911.	Census 1921.	31st Dec., 1924.
Sydney and Suburbs†	387,331	487,900	636,388	906,103	1,012,070
Auburn*†	2,026	2,948	5,559	13,563	16,070
Parramatta†	11,677	12,560	12,476	14,595	15,690
Granville†	4,248	5,094	7,231	13,328	15,430
Bankstown*†	108	1,246	2,039	10,670	14,560
Lidcombe	2,084	4,496	5,419	10,524	12,320
Dundas†	881	1,087	1,136	3,523	4,510
Newcastle and Suburbs	50,662	54,991	55,380	86,267	95,070
Broken Hill	19,789	27,500	30,974	26,333	23,140
Lithgow	3,865	5,268	8,196	13,275	12,990
Maitland... ..	10,214	10,073	11,318	12,009	12,600
Goulburn	10,916	10,612	10,023	12,934	12,150
Katoomba	1,592	2,270	4,924	9,057	10,010
Bathurst	9,162	9,223	8,578	9,441	9,400
Lismore	2,925	4,464	7,382	8,712	9,040
Albury	5,447	5,821	6,309	7,752	8,310
Cessnock§	203	165	3,957	7,343	8,250
Wagga Wagga	4,596	5,108	6,419	7,679	8,130
Wollongong	3,058	3,554	4,673	6,708	7,580
Tamworth	4,602	5,799	7,147	7,264	7,130
Orange	5,064	6,331	6,722	7,398	7,000
Kurri Kurri§ ... ..	...	...	4,154	5,542	6,000
Armidale	3,826	4,249	4,739	5,486	5,480
Dubbo	3,551	3,409	4,455	5,032	5,040
Hornsby†§	423	1,818	2,213	4,096	4,780
Glen Innes	2,532	2,918	4,089	4,974	4,740
Grafton	3,618	4,173	4,685	4,609	4,710
Forbes	3,011	4,294	4,436	4,376	4,600
Inverell	2,534	3,293	4,549	4,369	4,450
Cowra	1,546	1,811	3,292	3,732	4,170
Windsort†	2,033	2,039	3,466	3,808	4,100
Parkes	2,449	3,181	2,935	3,941	4,080
Penrith†	3,099	3,539	3,683	3,605	3,770
Wellington	1,545	2,984	3,958	3,924	3,700
Cootamundra	2,026	2,424	2,967	3,531	3,650
Junee	1,682	2,190	2,531	3,560	3,630
Casino	1,486	1,926	3,429	3,461	3,540
Kempsey	2,194	2,329	2,947	3,613	3,320
Young	2,746	2,755	3,140	3,284	3,320
Mudgee	2,410	2,789	2,942	3,170	3,230
Singleton	2,595	2,872	2,999	3,275	3,270
Moree	1,143	2,298	2,937	3,028	3,260
Temora	915	1,603	3,784	3,049	3,190
Narrandera	1,815	2,255	2,374	3,012	3,190
Towns in County Cumberland	413,910	522,727	679,610	983,815	1,103,300
Newcastle and Suburbs	50,662	54,991	55,380	86,267	95,070
Other Country Towns	125,057	149,941	187,964	214,878	216,360
Total population in towns of over 3,000 inhabitants	589,629	727,659	922,954	1,284,960	1,414,730

* Not incorporated 1891.

† Towns in County Cumberland.

§ Locality, not incorporated, Aborigines excluded.

The total population of these larger towns has grown at a fairly uniform rate during the whole of the period covered, and the towns of County Cumberland have shown an especially rapid increase in the last thirteen years. Newcastle, after twenty years of slow progress, made rapid headway between 1911 and 1921, largely on account of the growth of its manufacturing industries. The other rural towns, on the whole, have maintained a steady growth throughout, but the decline of the silver-lead mining industry—due largely to derangement of the markets of the world—has arrested the growth of Broken Hill, which has actually lost population since the year 1911. Lithgow, a coal-mining and partly manufacturing town, has continued to grow rapidly. Goulburn has developed, after twenty years of stagnation, into the leading town of the interior not dependent on mining; and Katoomba, a residential town, 60 miles from Sydney, has also grown rapidly.

A list of the mining settlements of the State, together with the number of their population at each of the last four censuses, was published on pages 155 and 156 of the Official Year Book for 1923.

SEX DISTRIBUTION.

As is the case in most of the younger countries, the population of New South Wales contains a surplus of males over females, although in older countries females are usually the more numerous.

The disparity in New South Wales is brought about by the operation of several factors. The development of the colony was first stimulated actively by the "gold rushes" and later depended on the pastoral and mining industries. This, combined with its remoteness from the Old World, led to far greater immigration of men than of women. In recent years the predominance of males among immigrants has tended to increase the disparity between the sexes.

On the other hand, despite the excess of male over female births, the higher rate of mortality among males renders the natural increase of females the greater. Thus, during the ten years, 1910 to 1919, the natural increase consisted of 147,640 males and 166,544 females. As a consequence the excess of males diminished, and the diminution was hastened by the war. During the past five years the natural increase of females was 8,591 greater than that of males, but the increase of males by migration was 9,584 greater than the increase of females from the same cause.

The distribution of the sexes at each census from 1861 to 1921, and at the end of each of the last three years was as follows:—

Year.	Distribution of Population in Sexes (including aboriginals).				Males per 100 Females.
	Males.	Females.	Proportion of Males.	Proportion of Females.	
			per cent.	per cent.	No.
1861	198,488	152,372	56·57	43·43	130
1871	275,551	228,430	54·67	45·33	121
1881	411,149	340,319	54·86	45·14	121
1891	612,562	519,672	54·14	45·86	118
1901	712,456	646,677	52·42	47·58	110
1911	858,850	789,896	52·09	47·91	109
1921	1,072,424	1,029,544	51·02	48·98	104
1922	1,108,582	1,065,971	50·98	49·02	104
1923	1,128,689	1,083,017	51·02	48·98	104
1924	1,151,639	1,104,451	51·05	48·95	104

From an analysis of the excess of males at each age-group at the census of 1921, it was concluded* that, although the tendency of the natural increase to maintain the predominance of males was greater between 1911 and 1921 than in the previous decade, it is clear, from the fact that the greatest surpluses of males are now at ages 50 to 65, that as time passes the proportion of females will increase.

AGES OF THE POPULATION.

A summary of the number of persons in quinquennial age-groups at the censuses of 1911 and 1921, and of the proportions in the same groups at successive censuses since 1861, was published on page 244 of the Official Year Book, 1922.

BIRTHPLACES OF THE POPULATION.

Broadly speaking, nationality is determined in New South Wales by the common law principle of locality of birth, although it is also provided that, irrespective of place of birth, any child whose father was a British subject, or a child born on a British vessel, shall be deemed a British subject. The localities of birth of the inhabitants of New South Wales (exclusive of aboriginals of full blood), as stated at the Census of 1921, were as follow :—

Birthplace.	1921.	Birthplace.	1921.
British Empire—		Other Countries—	
Australasia—		Europe	19,270
Australia	1,772,614	Asia	8,081
New Zealand	19,266	Africa	115
Other	231	America	3,471
British Isles... ..	260,426	Polynesia	741
British India	2,469	At Sea	1,283
Union of South Africa	2,191	Unspecified	5,903
Canada	1,519		
Polynesia	910		
Other... ..	1,881		
		Grand total	2,100,371
Total	2,061,507		

The proportion of the population born in Australia was 84.4 per cent.

The table demonstrates the fact that the population is distinctly Australian by birth, still more distinctly British, and that, among the immigrant element, that from the British Isles is overwhelmingly preponderant.

When consideration is given to the period of residence of persons born outside of the Commonwealth some very interesting facts as to immigration are revealed. Thus, in 1921 there were in New South Wales 37,916 persons who had entered Australia between 1916 and 1921, a large proportion being travellers and others than permanent settlers, and 81,736, who entered in the previous five years, making a total of 119,652 for the ten years against a total increase of non-aboriginals by migration of 135,117, indicating that the net number of migrants received in New South Wales from other States during the period was 15,465, excluding from account migrants who died in the period.

POPULATION ACCORDING TO RACE.

The only outstanding racial element in the population is the European, which at the census of 1921 was shown to embrace no less than 99.1 per cent. of the total population as against 98.9 per cent. in 1911. The largest decrease has occurred among Chinese, who constitute by far the greatest non-European element. The total number of persons recorded at the census of 1921 was 2,100,371, and of these 2,082,418 were of the European race, 11,087 were

* Official Year Book, 1922, page 243.

non-Europeans, and 6,866 were half-caste. In the period 1911 to 1921 the number of Europeans increased by 27·8 per cent, that of half-castes increased by 10·5 per cent., while that of non-Europeans decreased by 3·6 per cent. The numbers of males and females of the European and various non-European races at the censuses of 1911 and 1921 are shown below, the figures having been revised to accord with the final statement of the census :—

Race.	3rd April, 1911.			4th April, 1921.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
European	844,014	785,068	1,629,082	1,058,196	1,024,105	2,082,301
Non-European (full blood)*—						
Afghan †	50	2	52	44	3	47
Chinese	7,939	284	8,223	6,903	379	7,282
Cingalese	89	13	102	50	12	62
Hindu	1,119	63	1,182	1,076	87	1,163
Japanese	119	7	126	290	19	309
Malay	28	1	29	18	3	21
Negro	134	23	157	53	7	60
Polynesian	301	42	343	273	59	332
Syrian	654	540	1,194	862	743	1,605
Other	74	25	99	159	41	200
Total Non-European*	10,507	1,000	11,507	9,728	1,353	11,081
Half-caste	3,177	2,968	6,145	3,577	3,412	6,989
Grand Total* ...	857,698	789,036	1,646,734	1,071,501	1,028,870	2,100,371

* Excluding Aborigines of Full Blood.

† Including Baluchis.

Non-European Races.

The distribution of the non-European elements of the population according to age groups at the census of 1921 as shown below is very illuminating :—

Age last birthday.	Non-European Full blood.*		Half-castes.			
	Males.	Females.	Other than Aboriginal.		Aboriginal.	
			Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Years.						
0-14	620	544	482	513	1,069	997
15-44	3,330	640	568	570	832	956
45-64	4,857	138	137	97	183	264
65 and over	623	16	14	7	52	65
Not stated	298	15	9	4	85	85
Total ...	9,728	1,353	1,210	1,191	2,221	2,367

* Excluding 1,507 Aborigines.

Approximately 52 per cent. of the non-Europeans of full blood have passed the age of 45 years, while scarcely more than 20 per cent. of the rest of the population have attained that age. As the further entry of persons of this class is very closely restricted, it is apparent that the proportion of non-Europeans in the population will diminish steadily from natural causes with the effluxion of time. A further significant factor is the smallness of the number of women of reproductive ages. However, the proportion of non-European children under the age of 10 years to the number of non-European women of reproductive ages was approximately twice as great as the corresponding proportion among Europeans.

NATIONALITY OF THE POPULATION.

The nationality of the population of New South Wales is preponderantly British, no less than 2,082,272 persons, or 99·1 per cent. of the inhabitants, having been of British allegiance at the census of 1921. The number of persons of foreign allegiance at the same date was 16,915.

The following table, revised in accordance with the final figures available from the census of 1921, shows the number of persons of each nationality in New South Wales at that date, exclusive of aborigines of full blood :—

Nationality.	4th April, 1921.			Nationality.	4th April, 1921.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.		Males.	Females.	Total.
British—				Russian ...	585	191	776
Australian born ..	880,892	891,722	1,772,614	Swedish ...	512	24	536
Born elsewhere...	172,982	132,070	305,052	Danish ...	351	89	440
Birthplace not stated ...	2,597	2,009	4,606	Dutch ...	313	99	412
Total ...	1,056,471	1,025,801	2,082,272	Norwegian ...	359	25	384
Foreign—				Japanese ...	272	17	289
Chinese ...	5,982	76	6,058	Polish ...	173	71	244
United States of America ...	1,217	412	1,629	Swiss ...	179	69	248
Greek ...	1,133	138	1,271	Finnish ...	243	19	262
French ...	603	556	1,159	Other ...	840	311	1,151
Italian ...	851	266	1,117	Total, Foreign ...	14,905	2,610	16,915
German ...	692	247	939	Not stated ...	725	459	1,184
				Grand Total ...	1,071,501	1,028,870	2,100,871

ABORIGINES.

The number of aborigines in New South Wales for many years after the date of settlement is not accurately known, but it is certain that they have never been numerous.

The first careful enumeration was made in 1891, when it was found that only 8,280 aborigines of full blood were in existence. Since that date the numbers recorded at successive censuses have declined rapidly to 4,287 in 1901, 2,012 in 1911, and 1,597 in 1921.

Certain particulars relating to aborigines are collected annually by the Aborigines' Protection Board through the agency of the police, but, owing to the difficulty of tracing individuals, it is not considered that a complete enumeration is obtained by this means. The number of aborigines of full blood recorded at 1st June, 1925, was 1,081, of whom 628 were males and 453 were females. There were included only 325 under 21 years of age and of these 173 were males and 152 females. The number recorded by the same means at the date of the census in 1921 was 1,281 or 316 less than the total actually enumerated at the census.

Of the aborigines of full blood enumerated in 1925, 397 were receiving aid from the State and inclusive of some of these 435 were living on reserves.

The numbers of half-castes enumerated at successive censuses were as follow:—In 1891, 3,183; in 1901, 3,147; in 1911, 4,512; and in 1921, 4,560, of whom 2,349 were males and 2,211 females. The number recorded at the annual collection of 1st June, 1925, was 6,027, comprising 3,195 males and 2,832 females. However, it is considered probable that this number is considerably overstated through the inclusion of full-bloods, for various reasons, and possibly through the inclusion of quadroons and persons of lesser caste.

Of the half-castes enumerated in 1925, 1,370 (including 931 under the age of 21 years) were receiving aid from the State and including many of these 1,936 were living on reserves. In addition 159 quadroons and 30 octoroons were receiving aid and including these 252 quadroons and 70 octoroons were living on reserves.

NATURALISATION.

Under certain conditions a person of foreign allegiance may be granted a certificate of naturalisation, which entitles him to all the political and other rights, powers, and privileges, and subjects him to all obligations to which natural-born British subjects are entitled, or subject in the Commonwealth of Australia, except insofar as special distinction is made by law between the prerogatives of natural born and naturalised British subjects.

The issue of these certificates is now exclusively a function of the Commonwealth, and they may be granted only by the Governor-General in Council. Aboriginal natives of Asia, Africa, or the islands of the Pacific (except New Zealand) are not eligible for naturalisation.

Any person seeking naturalisation must—

- (a) Declare his intention of settling in the British Empire.
- (b) Have resided within the Commonwealth continuously for at least one year, and within the British Empire during four of the eight years immediately preceding the date of application.
- (c) Must abjure former allegiance and take an oath of allegiance to the reigning sovereign and his successors.

He must, furthermore, advertise his intention to seek naturalisation, produce certificates of good character, declare certain personal particulars, and satisfy the responsible Minister of the Crown that he can read and write English. Certificates of naturalisation may be refused with or without assigning reasons. Letters or certificates of naturalisation issued in the United Kingdom are accepted in Australia on proof of identity and genuineness.

The privileges of naturalisation have not been widely sought in New South Wales on account of the smallness of the non-British element in the population. There were 280 persons naturalised during 1924. Between 1849 and 1924 the total number of persons naturalised was 18,195, of whom 6,657 were of German origin; 1,733 were Swedes; 1,202 Russians; 1,189 Danes; 1,060 Italians; and 827 French. There were also 1,147 Asiatics, of whom 910 were Chinese and 229 Syrians. Certificates of naturalisation issued under former State laws remain in force under the present Federal statute (Nationality Act, 1920). Records of the occupations of naturalised persons show that, in the past ten years, 410 were labourers, 20 were seamen, 81 miners, 97 cooks, 129 fruiterers, 65 tailors, 65 carpenters, and 42 engineers.

VITAL STATISTICS.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES.

CIVIL registration of births, deaths, and marriages was inaugurated in New South Wales in March, 1856, when a general registry was established, and a Registrar-General appointed by the Governor. The laws relating to registration were consolidated by the Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Act, 1899, and the Acts relating to marriage by the Marriage Act, 1899. New South Wales is divided into 217 registry districts, in each of which a District Registrar has been appointed.

The births of all children born alive are required to be registered within sixty days of the birth, and a child is considered to have been born alive if it has breathed and has been wholly born into the world whether it has had an independent circulation or not. After the expiration of a period of sixty days no birth may be registered unless, within six months, a declaration is furnished by the parent, or by some person present at the birth. Usually, however, births are registered promptly in order to obtain the benefit of the maternity bonus. Within six months of the arrival in New South Wales of a child under the age of 18 months, born outside the State, the birth may be registered upon declaration by the parent, if the parents intend to reside in New South Wales. Still-births are not registered.

Before interment, notice of the death of any person must be supplied to the District Registrar by a relation of the deceased, or by the householder or tenant of the house or place in which the death occurs. Such notice must be accompanied by a proper certificate as to the cause of death. When a dead body is found, the death is registered by the Coroner or by the nearest Justice of the Peace.

Marriages may be celebrated only by District Registrars or by ministers of religion registered for that purpose by the Registrar-General. In the former case, the parties to be married must sign, before the Registrar of the district in which the intended wife ordinarily resides, a declaration that they conscientiously object to be married by a minister of religion, or that there is no minister available for the purpose of performing the marriage. Approximately 4 per cent. of the marriages of the past ten years have been performed under these conditions. The proportion increased steadily from 2·8 per cent. in 1915 to 5·2 per cent. in 1924. Marriage of minors is permissible only with the written consent of parents or guardians.

At the beginning of 1925 there were registered 2,008 persons as ministers of religion for the celebration of marriages in New South Wales. Of these 583 belonged to the Church of England, 542 were Roman Catholic, 289 Methodist, 282 Presbyterian, 76 Congregational, 74 Baptist, 51 belonged to the Salvation Army, 24 were Seventh Day Adventists, 25 belonged to the Church of Christ, and 12 to the Latter Day Saints. There were 25 other religious bodies represented.

CONJUGAL CONDITION OF THE POPULATION.

The proportion of married persons living in New South Wales at the census of 1921 was considerably more than one-third of the population, being 37·31 per cent., which represents an increase from 33·50 per cent.

at the previous census. The actual numbers and proportions of the population (exclusive of aboriginals), arranged in groups according to conjugal condition, at the census of 1921 were as follow:—

Conjugal condition.	Number.			Proportion per cent.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Never married—						
Under age 15 ...	343,979	334,385	678,364	32·10	32·50	32·30
Age 15 and over ...	302,574	237,693	540,267	28·24	23·10	25·72
Married ...	391,844	391,886	783,730	36·57	38·09	37·31
Widowed ...	27,851	60,701	88,552	2·59	5·90	4·22
Divorced ...	2,214	2,395	4,609	·21	·23	·22
Not stated ...	3,039	1,810	4,849	·29	·18	·23
Total ...	1,071,501	1,028,870	2,100,371	100·00	100·00	100·00

The persons never married constitute 58 per cent. of the total population, but of these 678,364 (or 32·30 per cent. of the population) were under the age of 15 years. The number of males over the age of 15 years who have never been married was 302,574, and of females 237,693. The higher marriage rate of the decade 1911-1921 as compared with the preceding decade, coupled with the increasing proportion of persons of marriageable age, has had the effect of considerably raising the proportion of married persons in the population. The proportion of married to the number of persons over the age of 15 years rose from 49·2 per cent. in 1911 to 55·1 per cent. in 1921. The number of males never married is considerably greater than the number of females never married, because of the facts that women generally marry at earlier ages than men, and that there is an excess of males over females in the population. The number of widowers is much less than the number of widows, due to the greater mortality of males rather than to any greater tendency of widowers to re-marry.

The following table affords a comparison of the proportions of each of the principal groups to the total population at each of the last seven censuses:—

Census.	Males.				Females			
	Never married.	Married.	Widowed.	Divorced.	Never married.	Married.	Widowed.	Divorced.
1861	69·34	28·23	2·43	*	61·09	35·14	3·77	*
1871	69·96	27·59	2·45	*	62·89	32·82	4·29	*
1881	70·64	26·94	2·42	*	63·52	31·75	4·73	*
1891	69·78	27·41	2·78	·03	62·87	32·11	5·00	·02
1901	68·46	28·69	2·75	·10	62·43	32·00	5·46	·11
1911	65·00	32·18	2·67	·15	59·30	35·03	5·52	·15
1921	60·51	36·68	2·60	·21	55·70	38·16	5·91	·23

* Divorce proceedings were first permitted under Matrimonial Causes Act, 1873.

There has been a steady decline since 1881 in the proportions of both sexes never married, and a corresponding increase in the proportions married. This is the result partly of the higher marriage rate since 1901, which in turn has been due in a large measure to the altered age-constitution of the population consequent on the declining birth-rate. The proportion of widowers has shown no appreciable increase during the period, although the proportion of widows has constantly increased, attaining the high proportion of nearly 6 per cent. of the total female population in 1921. The increase in the proportion of divorced persons of both sexes has been relatively very rapid. The numbers and proportions of widowed and divorced persons shown are exclusive of those who had remarried.

MARRIAGES.

The number of marriages celebrated in New South Wales during 1924 was 18,077, corresponding to a rate of 8.11 per 1,000 of the population. These figures show a discontinuance of the decrease which had been experienced during the previous four years. Rates for the first three quarters of 1925 show a further slight increase.

The following table shows the average annual number of marriages and the rates per 1,000 of the population during each quinquennium since 1880:—

Period.	Average Annual Number of Marriages.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.	Period.	Average Annual Number of Marriages.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.
1880-84	6,738	8.39	1915-19	15,345	7.97
1885-89	7,679	7.67	1920	20,183	9.76
1890-94	7,954	6.80	1921	18,518	8.79
1895-99	8,700	6.74	1922	17,583	8.17
1900-04	10,240	7.37	1923	17,507	7.99
1905-09	12,080	7.97	1924	18,077	8.11
1910-14	15,978	9.17			

A review of the marriage rates during the last forty years shows that, except for five or six years subsequent to 1880, the rates declined steadily. In 1894 they reached the lowest point, being only 6.25 per 1,000 of population. After that year an improvement, remarkable for its regularity, was experienced, until in 1912 the rate (9.55 per 1,000) was the highest then recorded. In 1915 the rate was slightly higher, probably due, in part, to marriages contracted by soldiers prior to their departure for the war. Owing to the absence of many marriageable men the rates for the next three years showed a decline. Coincident with the return of men from active service the rate exhibited an upward tendency in 1919, and this was more strongly marked in 1920. In 1921 the rate fell to a level below the average for the quinquennium preceding the war, and the decline continued in 1922 and 1923. The improvement in 1924 and 1925 was coincident with an improvement in economic conditions through the occurrence of more favourable seasonal and market conditions.

This survey of marriages, considered in conjunction with the industrial history of the State, shows that in the past fifty years, except for the war period, the marriage rate has risen and fallen with the condition of trade, indicating that it is normally a reliable reflex of the comparative prosperity of the State.

The following statement shows the marriage rate per 1,000 of the population in each State, the Commonwealth of Australia, and in New Zealand in 1924, compared with the rates of the previous four years:—

State.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
<i>New South Wales</i> ...	9.76	8.79	8.17	7.99	8.11
Victoria	9.85	8.90	8.27	8.16	8.10
New Zealand	10.32	8.69	7.63	7.90	7.90
Commonwealth	9.62	8.59	8.03	7.83	7.90
South Australia	10.03	8.81	8.19	7.92	7.78
Queensland	8.92	7.80	7.51	7.24	7.55
Western Australia	8.90	7.97	7.21	6.82	7.22
Tasmania	9.50	7.82	7.79	7.39	7.12

Mark Signatures in Marriage Registers.

In 1870 the proportion of signatures made in the marriage register with marks was as high as 188·8 per 1,000 of the whole, but in 1924 the number of persons who signed in this way was only 86, equal to 4·8 per 1,000 persons married. This significant decrease in illiteracy is emphatic evidence of the efficiency of the State system of public instruction.

Marriages according to Denomination.

Of every 100 marriages performed in New South Wales, about 95 are celebrated by ministers of religion licensed under the authority of the Registrar-General. The number of marriages at which clergymen officiated during the year 1924 was 17,129, and the number contracted before District Registrars 948, or a proportion respectively of 94·8 and 5·2 per cent.

As compared with the preceding quinquennial period, the proportion of marriages solemnised by the Roman Catholic, Congregational, and smaller churches decreased in the year 1924. The following table gives the number and proportion per cent. of marriages registered by the several denominations during 1924 in comparison with the preceding quinquennium:—

Denomination.	Marriages, 1924.	Proportion per cent.	Marriages, 1919-1923.	Proportion per cent.
Church of England	7,815	43·23	39,297	43·86
Roman Catholic	3,630	20·08	17,683	19·73
Presbyterian	2,426	13·42	11,918	13·30
Methodist	2,194	12·14	11,070	12·35
Congregational	416	2·30	2,036	2·27
Baptist	242	1·34	1,329	1·48
Hebrew	43	0·24	224	0·25
All Other Sects	363	2·01	1,760	1·97
District Registrars	948	5·24	4,292	4·79
Total Marriages	18,077	100·00	89,609	100·00

The proportion per cent. of the number of adherents of the principal denominations at the census of 1921 to the total population was—Church of England, 49·60; Roman Catholic, 24·27; Presbyterian, 10·62; and Methodist, 8·79.

Thus the proportion of marriages, according to the rites of the two principal churches, was considerably below the proportional number of their adherents, while in the case of the Presbyterian, and more especially the Methodist churches, the position was the reverse.

Condition before Marriage.

During the year 1924, of the males married, 16,640 were bachelors, 1,095 were widowers, and 342 were divorced. Of the females, 16,656 were spinsters, 1,001 were widows, and 420 were divorced. The proportion of males re-married was 7·95 per cent., and of females 7·86 per cent.

The following table shows at quinquennial intervals since 1891 the proportion of first marriages and of re-marriages per 10,000 married:—

Period.	Males.		Females.	
	Bachelors.	Widowers and Divorced Men.	Spinsters.	Widows and Divorced Women.
1891	9,229	771	9,216	784
1896	9,184	816	9,172	828
1901	9,270	730	9,268	732
1906	9,262	738	9,352	648
1911	9,407	593	9,456	544
1916	9,377	623	9,362	638
1921	9,246	754	9,214	786
1924	9,205	795	9,214	786

The numbers of widows and divorced women who re-married in the years 1916 and 1921 were greater than in the case of widowers and divorced men, whereas the reverse has usually been the case; the variation is probably due to the loss of life among married men at the war. Of the contracting parties per 1,000 marriages in 1924, 920 males and 921 females had never been married before. Generally speaking, the tendency to re-marry is no greater among males than among females.

Age at Marriage.

The following statement shows the average age at marriage both of bridegrooms and of brides for each of the last ten years. The ages are as stated at marriage by the contracting parties, without verification. The difference between the ages at marriage of males and females is now on the average about 3½ years, the males being the older.

Year.	Average Age of—		Average Age of—		Year.	Average Age of—		Average Age of—	
	All Bridegrooms.	Bachelors.	All Brides.	Spinsters.		All Bridegrooms.	Bachelors.	All Brides.	Spinsters.
	years.	years.	years.	years.		years.	years.	years.	years.
1913	28·8	27·8	25·5	24·7	1919	29·7	28·7	26·2	25·3
1914	28·8	27·9	25·6	25·0	1920	29·5	28·5	26·1	25·2
1915	28·7	28·0	25·5	25·0	1921	29·7	28·5	26·2	25·2
1916	29·1	28·4	26·1	25·2	1922	29·4	28·4	26·0	25·0
1917	29·7	28·5	26·0	25·0	1923	29·5	28·2	26·0	25·0
1918	30·0	28·7	26·1	25·1	1924	29·4	28·1	25·9	24·8

The average age at marriage of both bridegrooms and brides, which is stated as that at last birthday, has increased by nearly twelve months during the last twenty years and by three and a half years in the past forty years. This change has probably contributed to the decline of the birthrate.

Particulars of the ages of persons married are published in the Statistical Register of New South Wales.

Marriages of Minors.

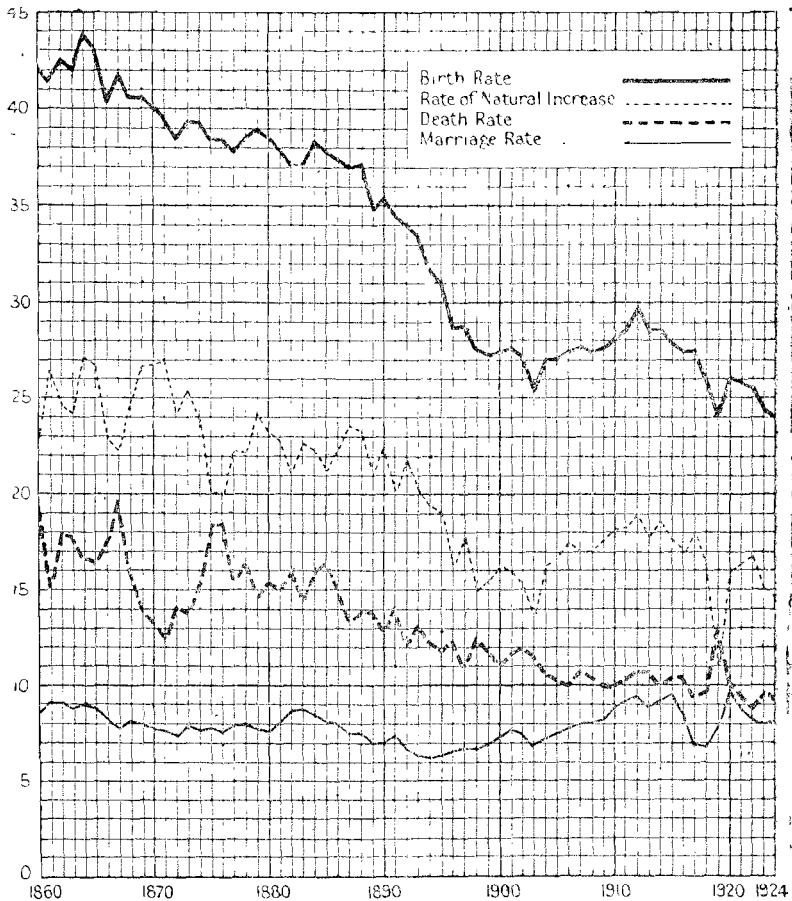
The number of minors married at each individual age is shown annually in the Statistical Register. The number of brides at each age under 21 in 1924 were 1 at 11, 7 at 14, 50 at 15, 219 at 16, 617 at 17, 1,024 at 18, 1,261 at 19, and 1,210 at 20. The corresponding numbers of bridegrooms were 5 at 16, 45 at 17, 167 at 18, 352 at 19, and 575 at 20.

The total number of minors married during 1924 was 5,533, or 15·30 per cent. of the total. The following are the numbers and proportions of brides and bridegrooms married under the age of 21 years:—

Year.	Minors.		Percentage of—	
	Bridegrooms.	Brides	Bridegrooms.	Brides.
1881	149	1,660	2·37	26·42
1891	177	2,085	2·09	24·65
1901	351	2,546	3·33	24·15
1911	701	3,499	4·59	22·92
1921	833	3,870	4·70	20·79
1922	921	3,842	5·24	21·85
1923	950	3,977	5·43	21·95
1924	1,144	4,389	6·33	24·27

Compared with the early years the proportion of minors increased among bridegrooms up to the year 1912, when it gradually decreased for five years, the proportion in 1916 being 3.32 per cent. During the next three years the rates were 4.04, 5.19, and 4.68 respectively; and although a slight decline occurred during the years 1920 and 1921 the proportion in 1923 was higher than any previously recorded, that for 1924, however, was still higher. Among brides the proportion of minors has always been much larger than among bridegrooms, but it decreased continuously, with irregular fluctuations until 1921, since when there has been an appreciable increase.

RATES OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES, AND OF NATURAL INCREASE, 1860-1924.



The numbers at the side of the graph represent rates per 1,000 of mean population.

BIRTHS.

The birth-rate appears to have moved more or less closely in sympathy with the marriage rate. It fell sharply after 1888, and declined continuously until 1903, but after that year there was an improvement, and the rate in 1912 was the highest since 1895. During the war years, coincident with the decline in the marriage rate, there was a falling-off in the birth-rate which

reached its lowest point in 1919, perhaps partly in consequence of an epidemic of influenza. However, despite a slight revival in the marriage rate, the birth rate remained low and fell still further in the years succeeding the war.

The number of births registered during 1924 was 53,670, equal to a rate of 24·07 per 1,000 of the population, which is 5·0 per cent. below the average for the previous five years, and is the lowest rate on record.

The following table shows the average annual number of births and the birth-rate per 1,000 of the total population in quinquennial periods since 1880:—

Period.	Average Number of Births.	Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population.	Period.	Average Number of Births.	Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population.
1880-84	30,417	37·89	1915-19	51,331	26·64
1885-89	36,877	36·85	1920	53,974	26·09
1890-94	39,550	33·80	1921	54,634	25·91
1895-99	37,042	28·68	1922	55,214	25·67
1900-04	37,498	26·99	1923	54,112	24·68
1905-09	41,788	27·56	1924	53,670	24·07
1910-14	50,190	28·79			

The rates shown above are calculated by the usual crude and unsatisfactory method of relating the births to the total population. A preferable method for purposes of strict analysis is to relate the number of mothers at various ages to the total number of women at corresponding ages, or to relate the number of births to the number of women of child-bearing ages.

Unfortunately these methods can be followed with exactitude only at census dates, since at any other time it is very difficult to make a reliable estimate of the number living at various ages, on account of migration and other influences.

The birth-rate per 1,000 women living at various groups of reproductive ages, from 15 to 45 years, have been calculated for the last four census years, and are shown in the following table:—

Ages of Mothers (years).	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	Decrease per cent. in rates, 1891 to 1921.
15-19	35·30	30·87	33·75	32·72	7·3
20-24	170·90	134·65	141·45	146·57	14·2
25-29	247·48	177·95	187·35	169·99	31·3
30-34	238·81	168·42	161·20	140·18	41·3
35-39	196·15	136·60	122·27	101·71	48·1
40-44	96·61	70·79	54·51	43·78	54·7
15-44	161·74	117·46	118·50	109·84	32·1

The crude birth-rate for New South Wales was 9·5 per cent. lower in 1921 than in 1911. The rate, calculated on the basis of the number of women of reproductive age, was only 7·3 per cent. lower.

From the above table it will be seen that the decline since 1891 has been general at all age-groups, although it is more marked at the later than at the earlier stages. The rate in age group 20-24 has shown a persistent recovery since 1901.

The birth-rates per 1,000 of the population of each State of the Commonwealth and of New Zealand are given for the last five years in the following table:—

State.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Tasmania	27·28	26·97	27·07	26·27	25·07
New South Wales	26·09	25·91	25·67	24·68	24·07
Queensland	27·10	26·59	25·53	24·89	23·88
Commonwealth	25·45	24·95	24·69	23·77	23·24
Western Australia	24·73	23·43	23·96	22·55	23·09
Victoria	23·95	23·15	23·10	22·31	22·01
South Australia	24·71	24·07	23·71	22·60	21·88
New Zealand	25·36	23·34	23·17	21·94	21·57

Birth-Rates—Metropolis and Remainder of the State.

During the year 1924 the births recorded in the metropolitan district of New South Wales numbered 22,058, and in the remainder of the State 31,612, or 22·18 and 25·58 per 1,000 of the population respectively. Prior to the year 1893 the metropolitan crude birth-rate was the higher, but since then, with the exception of the year 1913, the country has consistently shown a higher crude rate. The crude rate for the metropolis is declining faster than that of the remainder of the State.

Period.	Number of Births.			Births per 1,000 of Population.		
	Metropolis.	Remainder of State.	New South Wales.	Metropolis.	Remainder of State.	New South Wales.
1880-84	49,058	103,026	152,084	40·16	36·90	37·89
1885-89	65,866	118,517	184,383	41·50	34·69	36·85
1890-94	68,754	128,998	197,752	34·11	33·63	33·80
1895-99	61,224	123,986	185,210	26·73	29·75	28·68
1900-04	63,694	123,795	187,489	25·16	28·05	26·99
1905-09	72,409	136,529	208,938	25·50	28·80	27·56
1910-14	95,529	155,423	250,952	27·66	29·53	28·79
1915-19	100,216	156,439	256,655	25·02	27·81	26·64
1920	22,352	31,622	53,974	25·26	26·73	26·09
1921	22,418	32,216	54,634	24·54	26·98	25·91
1922	22,090	33,124	55,214	23·47	26·55	25·67
1923	21,990	32,122	54,112	22·70	26·25	24·68
1924	22,058	31,612	53,670	22·18	25·58	24·07

The age and sex constitution of the metropolitan population is considerably different from that of the remainder of the State, and comparisons by crude birth-rates are, therefore, to be taken with reserve. They indicate the direction of the general trend, but do not provide an accurate measure of the extent of movement.

The Sexes of Children.

Of the 53,670 children born during the year (exclusive of those still-born), 27,293 were males and 26,377 were females, the proportion being 103 males to 100 females. In no year, as far as observation extends, have the female births exceeded in number those of males, although the difference has sometimes been very small.

The excess of males over females born during the past sixty-two years has ranged from 2 per cent. in 1875, 1876, and 1901, to about 8·7 per cent. in 1864, the average being 5 per cent. The proportion of males born during the war years was very little different from that in the pre-war years.

It is noteworthy that in the case of illegitimate births, the births of males have always maintained the ascendancy, save in the quinquennial period 1885-89 and in the year 1915, when the births of females predominated slightly.

The table below shows the number of males born to every 100 females born, both in legitimate and illegitimate births, during the last forty-five years:—

Years.	Legitimate Births.	Illegitimate Births.	All Births.	Years.	Legitimate Births.	Illegitimate Births.	All Births.
1880-84	104·9	103·9	104·8	1915-19	105·3	104·0	105·2
1885-89	105·4	98·8	105·1	1920	105·4	110·3	105·6
1890-94	105·7	105·4	105·7	1921	104·9	108·0	105·0
1895-99	105·0	105·4	105·1	1922	104·6	106·1	104·6
1900-04	104·3	102·8	104·2	1923	105·1	105·0	105·1
1905-09	105·0	104·9	105·0	1924	103·3	107·4	103·5
1910-14	105·2	105·1	105·2				

Plural Births.

During the year 1924 there were 552 cases of plural births of which one or more was registered. The live children thus born numbered 1,097 (exclusive of twelve still-births) and included 547 cases of twins (537 males and 546 females), and 5 cases of triplets (8 males and 6 females). Of these 552 cases, 16 were classified as illegitimate.

The number of children born at plural births was 2·04 per cent. of the total births.

The following table shows the number of cases of twins and triplets born in New South Wales during the last ten years, excluding those cases in which all were still-born, and distinguishing legitimate and illegitimate:—

Cases of—	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Total.
Twins	5,438	246	5,684
Triplets	43	3	46

The last instance of quadruplets was in 1913.

The total number of confinements recorded during the ten years was 522,547; hence the rates per million confinements were 10,877 cases of twins and 88 of triplets; otherwise stated, there were 11 plural births in every 1,000 confinements.

ILLEGITIMACY.

The number of illegitimate births in 1924 was 2,580, equal to 4.81 per cent. of the total births and to 1.16 per 1,000 of population. A statement of the illegitimate births in New South Wales at intervals since 1900 is given below.

Year.	Number of Illegitimate Births.	Ratio per cent. to Total Births.	Crude Rate per 1,000 of Population.	Year.	Number of Illegitimate Births.	Ratio per cent. to Total Births.	Crude Rate per 1,000 of Population.
1900	2,605	7.01	1.92	1919	2,534	5.22	1.27
1905	2,912	7.37	2.00	1920	2,635	4.88	1.27
1910	2,900	6.37	1.79	1921	2,673	4.89	1.27
1915	2,681	5.07	1.42	1922	2,700	4.89	1.26
1916	2,501	4.80	1.32	1923	2,698	4.99	1.23
1917	2,533	4.82	1.33	1924	2,580	4.81	1.16
1918	2,654	5.23	1.36				

Over the whole State the proportion of illegitimate to total births has declined markedly since 1905. It rose gradually from 4.35 per cent. in 1880 to 7.37 per cent. in 1905, after which a rapid decline occurred to 4.80 per cent. in 1916. The rise and fall of this proportion has followed in a general way the same course as the illegitimate birth-rate per 1,000 inhabitants, which rose between 1884 and 1894 from 1.57 to 2.09 per 1,000 of population. It remained near that level until 1905, since when a continuous decline has occurred to 1.16 per 1,000 of population in 1924.

The most accurate test of the extent of illegitimacy is obtained by relating the total number of illegitimate births recorded to the number of unmarried women of child-bearing age. This test indicates that illegitimacy, which was increasing up to about 1890, has declined very markedly in the past thirty years, the proportion of illegitimate children born per 1,000 unmarried women, aged 15 to 45, having fallen from 18.41 in 1891 to 16.10 in 1901, 14.18 in 1911, and 12.49 in 1921, a decrease of 32 per cent. since 1891.

The Legitimation Act, 1902.

In 1902 an Act was passed to legitimise children born before the marriage of their parents, provided that no legal impediment to the marriage existed at the time of birth. On registration in accordance with the provisions of the Legitimation Act, any child who comes within the scope of its intentions, born before or after the passing thereof, is deemed to be legitimised from birth by the post-natal union of its parents, and entitled to the status of offspring born in wedlock. Since the passing of the Act there have been 7,367 registrations. The number in each of the last ten years is shown in the following table:—

Year.	Registrations.	Year.	Registrations.
1915	416	1920	455
1916	420	1921	444
1917	390	1922	371
1918	447	1923	397
1919	398	1924	396

NATURAL INCREASE.

The excess of births over deaths, or "natural increase," during 1924 was 32,849, equal to 14·73 per 1,000 of population.

The following table shows the natural increase of population since 1890 in the Metropolis, in the remainder of the State, and in the whole of New South Wales:—

Year.	Natural Increase.					Annual Rate of Increase per 1,000 of Population.
	Metropolis.	Remainder of State.	Whole State.			
			Males.	Females.	Total.	
1890-94	38,850	82,787	57,233	64,413	121,646	20·79
1895-99	33,056	74,575	49,885	57,746	107,631	16·67
1900-04	34,470	73,377	49,695	58,152	107,847	15·52
1905-09	42,513	88,132	61,652	68,993	130,645	17·23
1910-14	58,969	101,218	75,648	84,539	160,187	18·38
1915-19	56,584	97,413	71,992	82,005	153,997	15·98
1920	12,923	20,090	15,603	17,410	33,013	15·95
1921	13,725	20,875	16,489	18,111	34,600	16·40
1922	13,665	22,371	17,215	18,821	36,036	16·75
1923	12,600	20,461	15,751	17,310	33,061	15·08
1924	12,824	20,025	15,426	17,423	32,849	14·73

On account of the decrease in death-rates, the rate of natural increase prior to the war period had been improving slightly for about sixteen years. The increase per 1,000 of population for the five years, 1915-19, however, was 13 per cent. lower than that for the previous quinquennium; that for 1922 shows a slight improvement as compared with the years immediately preceding it, but 1923 and 1924 show heavy declines.

Although male births are more numerous than those of females, the increase of population from the excess of births over deaths is greatly in favour of the latter. The male population certainly exceeds the female, but there is a disproportionately large number of deaths among males. There is also a greater mortality among male than among female children, a cause from which alone the natural excess of male births is almost neutralised. During the ten years which closed with 1924, the number of females added to the population by excess of births over deaths exceeded the males by 18,604, or 12·2 per cent.

Analyses of the natural and migratory increases in the population of the State since 1861 and of the various divisions of the State since 1891 are shown on pages 226 and 236 of the Year Book for 1922.

During the year 1924 the birth-rates in most of the Australian States decreased slightly more than the death-rates, consequently there was a further decline from the pre-war rates of natural increase, as will be seen from the table below. The rates are per 1,000 of population.

State.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Tasmania	17·61	16·67	17·78	16·35	15·18
Queensland	16·47	17·25	16·39	15·06	14·99
New South Wales	15·95	16·40	16·75	15·08	14·73
Western Australia	14·45	12·99	14·63	14·14	14·01
Commonwealth... ..	14·95	15·04	15·48	13·88	13·77
New Zealand	15·09	14·61	14·40	12·91	13·28
South Australia	14·27	14·05	14·61	13·01	12·69
Victoria	12·82	12·63	13·45	11·60	11·90

DEATHS.

The deaths during 1924 numbered 20,821, equal to a rate of 9·34 per 1,000 of the population, or 8·7 per cent. below the average for the previous five years. Of the total, 11,867 were males and 8,954 females, the rate for the former being 10·44 and for the latter 8·19 per 1,000 living of each of the sexes. The average annual number of deaths from 1880, with the rate per 1,000 of population, in quinquennial periods, was as follows:—

Period.	Average Annual Number of Deaths.			Death-rate per 1,000 of Population.			Proportion per cent. of Male to Female Rate.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
1880-84	7,286	5,124	12,410	16·55	14·14	15·46	117
1885-89	8,461	6,043	14,504	15·43	13·36	14·49	115
1890-94	8,877	6,344	15,221	14·06	11·77	13·01	119
1895-99	9,002	6,514	15,516	13·11	10·77	12·01	122
1900-04	9,195	6,733	15,928	12·65	10·17	11·47	124
1905-09	9,076	6,583	15,659	11·52	9·04	10·33	127
1910-14	10,598	7,555	18,153	11·59	9·11	10·41	128
1915-19	11,919	8,613	20,532	12·20	9·07	10·66	137
1920	12,120	8,841	20,961	11·46	8·74	10·13	131
1921	11,496	8,538	20,034	10·70	8·26	9·50	130
1922	11,017	8,161	19,178	10·05	7·74	8·92	130
1923	11,978	9,073	21,051	10·72	8·45	9·60	127
1924	11,867	8,954	20,821	10·44	8·19	9·34	127

The death-rate has fallen continuously for both sexes, but faster for females than for males. As shown above, the rate for the five years 1880-84 was over 65 per cent. higher than that experienced during 1924. Many causes are responsible for this improvement, such as the enforcement of Health Acts, the advance of science, and the better education of the people. The remarkable effect of these factors on the death-rates of the population in the early years of life is dealt with later in connection with deaths of children under 1 year and under 5 years.

A table of the death-rates per 1,000 of general population in each of the Australian States and in New Zealand from 1910 to 1923 provides an instructive comparison:—

State.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
New Zealand	10·27	8·73	8·77	9·03	8·29
Queensland	10·63	9·34	9·14	9·83	8·88
Western Australia	10·28	10·44	9·33	8·41	9·08
South Australia	10·44	10·02	9·10	9·59	9·19
New South Wales	10·14	9·51	8·92	9·60	9·34
Commonwealth	10·50	9·91	9·21	9·89	9·47
Tasmania	9·67	10·30	9·29	9·92	9·89
Victoria	11·13	10·52	9·65	10·71	10·05

Death-rates—Age and Sex.

The remarks already made regarding the limitations in the use of crude birth-rates apply also to the conclusions to be drawn from crude death-rates published above. The age and sex distribution of a population are most important factors to be considered in comparing death-rates. In New South Wales during 1924 half the deaths were of persons over 53 years of age, the rates below and above that age being 5·26 and 37·76 per 1,000 respectively. It follows that any variation in the proportion of persons in the various age groups will have a considerable bearing on the death-rate of the whole population.

Again, as shown above, the death-rate of males during the same period was 27 per cent. more than that of females. Consequently an increase in the proportion of females will be reflected in a corresponding decrease in the general rate.

In the following table death-rates are given for each sex in the principal age-groups during the four decennial periods from 1881 to 1920:—

Age-Group, Years.	Deaths per 1,000 Living—All causes.				Reduction per cent., 1881-90 to 1901-10.
	1881-90.	1891-1900.	1901-10.	1911-20.	
Males.					
0-4	44·57	37·65	27·90	23·28	37
5-9	3·62	2·88	2·07	1·95	43
10-14	2·44	2·08	1·78	1·52	27
15-19	3·74	3·13	2·85	2·58	24
20-24	5·83	4·33	3·67	3·83	37
25-34	7·72	5·88	4·51	5·16	41
35-44	10·92	9·13	7·46	7·07	32
45-54	17·65	14·69	12·87	12·65	28
55-64	30·46	29·05	24·95	23·91	17
65-74	63·67	56·58	58·77	52·39	8
75 and over	149·35	148·98	142·43	147·36	4
Total... ..	15·62	13·43	11·77	11·81	24
Females.					
0-4	40·47	32·98	24·21	19·61	40
5-9	3·29	2·77	1·88	1·79	43
10-14	2·18	1·77	1·58	1·25	28
15-19	3·52	2·80	2·53	1·94	30
20-24	5·40	4·12	3·59	3·20	33
25-34	7·44	5·70	4·71	4·52	26
35-44	9·95	8·04	6·82	5·61	32
45-54	13·33	10·86	9·50	8·65	32
55-64	23·12	21·16	18·24	16·43	21
65-74	52·73	43·48	45·91	40·67	10
75 and over	135·66	134·14	123·05	127·15	9
Total... ..	13·47	11·02	9·47	8·96	30
Total.					
0-4	42·56	35·35	26·08	21·49	37
5-9	3·46	2·83	1·98	1·87	42
10-14	2·32	1·93	1·68	1·39	38
15-19	3·63	2·97	2·69	2·25	26
20-24	5·63	4·25	3·63	3·50	36
25-34	7·60	5·83	4·60	4·84	39
35-44	10·53	8·67	7·17	6·37	32
45-54	16·19	13·11	11·42	10·83	30
55-64	27·62	25·83	22·04	20·62	20
65-74	59·39	51·22	53·22	47·07	10
75 and over	144·15	142·68	133·72	137·81	7
Total... ..	14·65	12·31	10·67	10·42	27

Because of the incidence of the epidemic of influenza in 1919, comparison is made between the rates of the periods 1881-1890 and 1901-1910.

The death-rates for females were reduced 30 per cent., as against 24 per cent. in the case of those for males. As regards age, the improvement was fairly constant under 55. Above that age improved conditions naturally had less effect. The ages at which death-rates are most favourable are between 10 and 14 years. But between the ages of 5 and 45 years they are generally considerably below the average.

Deaths—Metropolis and Remainder of the State.

It is not possible to show the exact difference between urban and rural mortality in New South Wales, but an approximate idea may be obtained from a comparison of the experience of the metropolis with that of the remainder of the State, which is, of course, not absolutely rural, as a few large towns are contained therein. During the year 1924 the number of deaths recorded in the metropolis was 9,234, and in the remainder of the State 11,587, equivalent respectively to rates of 9·29 and 9·38 per 1,000 of the living. The average annual number of deaths and the rate per 1,000 in each of these divisions since 1880, in five-year periods, are given in the following table:—

Period.	Metropolis.		Remainder of the State.		New South Wales.	
	Average Number of Deaths.	Ratio per 1,000 Living.	Average Number of Deaths.	Ratio per 1,000 Living.	Average Number of Deaths.	Ratio per 1,000 Living.
1880-84	5,033	20·60	7,377	13·21	12,410	15·46
1885-89	6,181	19·47	8,323	12·18	14,504	14·49
1890-94	5,979	14·83	9,242	12·05	15,221	13·01
1895-99	5,634	12·30	9,882	11·86	15,516	12·01
1900-04	5,845	11·54	10,083	11·42	15,928	11·47
1905-09	5,979	10·53	9,680	10·21	15,659	10·33
1910-14	7,312	10·59	10,841	10·30	18,153	10·41
1915-19	8,727	10·89	11,805	10·49	20,532	10·66
1920	9,429	10·66	11,532	9·75	20,961	10·14
1921	8,693	9·52	11,341	9·50	20,034	9·51
1922	8,425	8·95	10,753	8·89	19,178	8·92
1923	9,390	9·69	11,661	9·53	21,051	9·60
1924	9,234	9·29	11,587	9·38	20,821	9·34

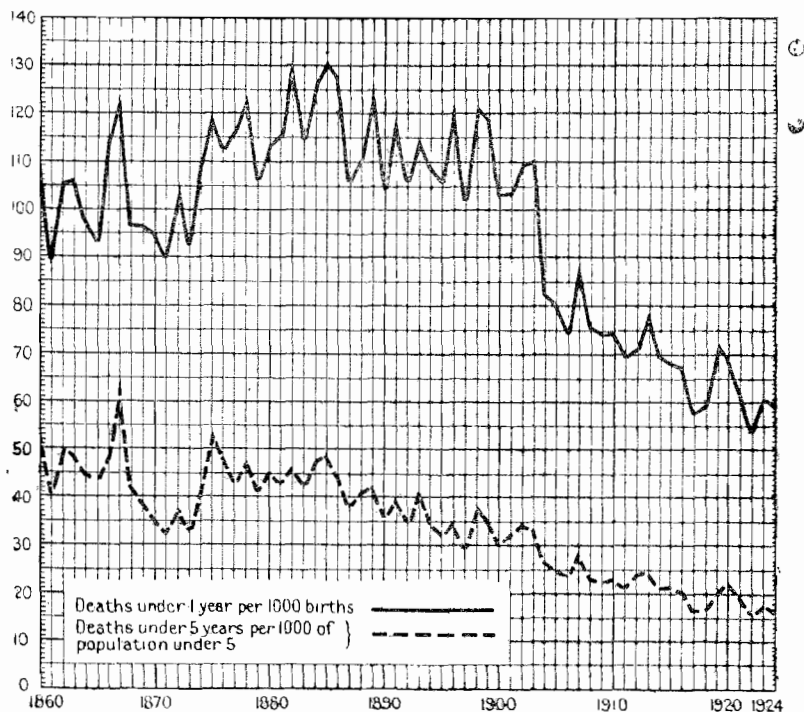
The death-rate has improved steadily both in the metropolis and in the remainder of the State, but notably so in the former, where it is now very little higher than in the latter, whereas thirty years ago it was about 50 per cent. greater. The improvement dates from the quinquennium beginning

with the year 1890, and is coincident with the installation of the modern system of sewerage and the enforcement of the provisions of the Dairies Supervision Act of 1886. The marked decline in the crude rates for each division and for the State as a whole is evident from the fact that the metropolitan crude rate for the period 1880-84 was 20.6 per 1,000, and for the year 1924 it was 9.3, or an improvement of over 50 per cent.; for the same periods the crude rates for the remainder of the State were respectively 13.2 and 9.4, or a difference of nearly 30 per cent., and for the whole State, 15.5 and 9.3, or an improvement of about 40 per cent. Crude rates of death, however, must be taken rather as an indication of the general trend than of the exact extent of the movement.

THE MORTALITY OF INFANTS.

A further and more sensitive comparison of the rates of mortality in the metropolis and in the remainder of the State may be obtained by considering the death-rates of infants.

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1860-1924.



Deaths of Children under 1 Year.

During the year 1924 the children who died before completing the first year of life numbered 3,191, equivalent to a rate of 59.5 per 1,000 births. This rate is 7 per cent. less than the average for the previous five years.

To the total in 1924 the metropolis contributed 1,262 deaths, or 57.2 per 1,000 births, and the remainder of the State 1,929, or 61.0 per 1,000 births.

The following table shows the average annual number of deaths of children under 1 year of age in the metropolis and in the remainder of the State, and the proportion per 1,000 births, in quinquennial periods since the year 1880:—

Period.	Metropolis.		Remainder of State.		New South Wales.	
	Deaths under 1.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Deaths under 1.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Deaths under 1.	Rate per 1,000 Births.
1880-84	1,707	174·0	1,956	94·9	3,663	120·4
1885-89	2,168	164·6	2,256	95·2	4,424	120·0
1890-94	1,908	138·8	2,471	95·8	4,379	110·7
1895-99	1,646	134·4	2,572	103·7	4,218	113·9
1900-04	1,416	111·2	2,399	96·9	3,815	101·7
1905-09	1,255	86·7	2,035	74·5	3,290	78·7
1910-14	1,437	75·2	2,211	71·1	3,648	72·7
1915-19	1,373	68·5	1,959	62·6	3,332	64·9
1920	1,658	74·2	2,112	66·8	3,770	69·8
1921	1,414	63·1	2,022	62·8	3,436	62·9
1922	1,279	57·9	1,701	51·4	2,980	54·0
1923	1,405	63·9	1,897	59·1	3,302	61·0
1924	1,262	57·2	1,929	61·0	3,191	59·5

The remarkable improvement which has taken place in the infantile mortality rate is due in a large degree to the measures adopted to combat preventable diseases by more rigid health laws and by education. The first important step was taken in 1881, when the Infectious Disease Supervision Act became law. In 1896 the Public Health Act was passed, and in 1902 all Acts relating to Public Health were consolidated in the Public Health Act. About this time a world-wide movement drew attention to the benefit of breast-feeding and the dangers attending the methods of artificial feeding then in vogue. A scheme for the preservation of infant health was formulated by the Sydney Municipal Council in 1903, and instructional pamphlets were circulated for the guidance of mothers in the care and feeding of young children. In the following year trained women inspectors were appointed to visit mothers in the populous parts of the city and in the surrounding suburbs.

During the year 1904 infantile mortality showed a marked improvement on the rates experienced for about thirty years. A reference to the principal causes of death during the years immediately prior to and after the year in question will show that in all causes in which care and knowledge could have effect, a decrease was experienced. Thus the mortality from diarrhoea and enteritis dropped from 36·90 per 1,000 births in 1903 to 21·31 in 1904; tubercular diseases from 3·06 to 1·58; and congenital debility from 15·54 to 12·98.

Further efforts to reduce the rate of infantile mortality have been made since 1914 through the establishment in Sydney and other large centres of baby clinics, and through the subsequent formation of such public bodies as

the Royal Society for the Welfare of Mothers and Babies. Particulars of these institutions will be found in Part "Social Condition" of this Year Book.

The decline in infantile mortality has persisted, especially in diarrhœal diseases, as will be seen from the following table, which gives the mortality rate per 1,000 births in each year since 1903 from diarrhœal diseases, and from all causes less those diseases:—

Year.	Deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 Births.			Year.	Deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 Births.		
	Diarrhœal Diseases.	All other Diseases.	All causes.		Diarrhœal Diseases.	All other Diseases.	All causes.
1903	36.90	73.45	110.35	1914	19.88	49.84	69.72
1904	21.31	61.11	82.42	1915	17.28	50.85	68.13
1905	18.76	61.79	80.55	1916	15.02	52.82	67.84
1906	21.39	53.14	74.53	1917	10.79	46.69	57.48
1907	21.23	67.41	88.64	1918	9.25	49.92	59.17
1908	21.89	53.90	75.79	1919	17.45	54.82	72.27
1909	21.86	52.42	74.28	1920	17.42	52.43	69.85
1910	20.54	54.07	74.61	1921	14.62	48.87	62.89
1911	16.82	52.67	69.49	1922	10.27	43.70	53.97
1912	22.37	48.93	71.30	1923	15.00	46.01	61.02
1913	23.27	55.07	78.31	1924	12.19	47.27	59.46

In 1923 diarrhœal diseases caused 20.5 per cent. of the deaths of infants under 1 year of age, whereas in 1903 the proportion was 33.4 per cent.

It is worthy of note that the experience of all the other States of the Commonwealth was similar to that of New South Wales, inasmuch as the reduction in infantile mortality rates which occurred in 1904 has been maintained through a large falling-off in the number of deaths from diarrhœal diseases.

The death-rate is higher for male infants than for females, the rates in 1924 being 65.1 and 53.6 per 1,000 births respectively. The rates for each sex are shown in the following table in quinquennial periods since 1880:—

Period.	Males.		Females.	
	Deaths under 1.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Deaths under 1.	Rate per 1,000 Births.
1880-84	1,992	127.9	1,671	112.5
1885-89	2,405	127.2	2,019	112.3
1890-94	2,413	118.7	1,966	102.3
1895-99	2,304	121.4	1,914	105.9
1900-04	2,077	108.5	1,738	94.6
1905-09	1,832	85.6	1,458	71.5
1910-14	2,037	79.2	1,611	65.8
1915-19	1,892	71.9	1,440	57.6
1920	2,153	77.7	1,617	61.6
1921	1,942	69.4	1,494	56.1
1922	1,749	62.0	1,231	45.6
1923	1,881	67.8	1,421	53.9
1924	1,776	65.1	1,415	53.6

The death-rate of female infants has improved relatively though not absolutely more than the male rate, having declined from 112·5 per 1,000 births in 1880-84 to 53·6 in 1924, or by 52·1 per cent., while the male rate has decreased from 127·9 per 1,000 births to 65·1, or by 49·1 per cent.

During the period reviewed, the excess of the male infantile death-rates per 1,000 births fluctuated from 16·4 in the quinquennium 1890-94 to a minimum of 11·5 in 1924. While the excess in 1924 was the minimum experienced, that in 1922 was equal to the maximum of 16·4.

Of the total number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age, about 40 per cent. occur within a week of birth; within the first month the proportion is about one-half, and within three months, two-thirds. The following statement shows for 1924 the number of deaths and the proportion per 1,000 births during each of the first four weeks after birth, and then for each successive month. The experience in the metropolis is distinguished from that of the State, and the sexes are taken together. A similar table relating to the five years, 1919-23, was published in the Year Book for 1924 at page 120.

Age at Death.	Metropolis.		State.	
	Annual Deaths.	Deaths per 1,000 Births.	Annual Deaths.	Deaths per 1,000 Births.
Under 1 week ...	524	23·8	1,245	23·2
1 week	84	3·8	196	3·7
2 weeks	43	1·9	114	2·1
3 ,,	35	1·6	85	1·6
Total under 1 month	686	31·1	1,640	50·6
1 month	97	4·4	254	4·7
2 months	91	4·1	203	3·8
3 ,,	66	3·0	171	3·2
4 ,,	64	2·9	156	2·9
5 ,,	50	2·3	123	2·3
6 ,,	36	1·6	117	2·2
7 ,,	41	1·9	112	2·1
8 ,,	36	1·6	107	2·0
9 ,,	29	1·3	104	1·9
10 ,,	36	1·6	98	1·8
11 ,,	30	1·4	106	2·0
Total under 1 year	1,262	57·2	3,191	59·5

In the second month the rate of mortality falls rapidly, and thereafter gradually. The rate of infantile mortality is generally higher in the metropolis than in the remainder of the State. In 1924, however, the rate per 1,000 births was 57·2 in the metropolis, and 59·5 in the remainder of the State. During the previous quinquennial period the metropolitan rate was 67·3, as against 61·4 for the remainder of the State.

A further dissection of the experience in regard to infantile mortality discloses the fact that, despite the marked decline in infantile mortality, the proportion of deaths of children under 1 week old had actually increased in the past twenty years, while at all other ages under one year there has been a sustained improvement.

This may be illustrated strikingly by the statement that, whereas the rate of mortality among children within one week of birth was 20·5 per 1,000 births in 1901 and 23·2 per 1,000 births in 1924, the corresponding rates among children over one week and under twelve months old were 83·2 per 1,000 in 1901, and 36·3 per 1,000 in 1924; a decline of 56·4 per cent. It is shown on a later page that the principal causes of death among children in their first week of life were premature birth, congenital debility, malformation and injury at birth, which alone were responsible for 19·57 deaths per 1,000 births out of the total rate of 23·20 deaths in the first week of life. These are causes generally unconnected with post-natal care of children, and they tend, when considered as an integral part of the rate of mortality, to obscure the remarkable improvement which has been effected by the dissemination of knowledge and the promotion of health measures for the care of infants. Although more skilful attention after birth may be able to save a number of infants who die from pre-natal causes, the indications are that any general improvement in the rate of mortality among infants in the first week of life must be attained, if it is to be attained at all, through increased pre-natal care.

The following table shows the rates of mortality among infants in age groups during the first year of life for each year since 1901:—

Year.	Rate of Mortality per 1,000 Births among Children aged—						
	Under 1 week.	1 week and under 1 month.	1 month and under 3 months.	Total under 3 months.	3 months and under 6.	6 months and under 12.	Total under 1 year.
1901	20·5	12·3	22·1	54·8	22·4	26·5	103·7
1902	21·3	12·3	22·2	55·8	24·8	29·1	109·7
1903	21·2	11·3	19·5	52·0	26·3	32·1	110·4
1904	21·8	9·7	14·9	46·4	15·8	20·2	82·4
1905	24·3	10·9	13·0	48·2	15·9	16·5	80·6
1906	21·8	9·0	11·8	42·6	14·3	17·6	74·5
1907	23·1	11·3	17·8	52·2	15·8	20·6	88·6
1908	21·5	9·5	11·9	42·9	15·9	17·0	75·8
1909	21·3	9·8	11·6	42·7	14·9	16·7	74·3
1910	21·1	9·2	13·4	43·7	14·3	16·6	74·6
1911	22·3	9·9	11·9	44·1	11·7	13·7	69·5
1912	21·5	8·4	10·6	40·5	13·1	17·7	71·3
1913	22·9	9·5	11·8	44·2	14·7	19·4	78·3
1914	23·5	8·8	10·1	42·4	11·6	15·7	69·7
1915	25·1	7·6	9·4	42·1	9·3	16·7	68·1
1916	23·5	8·3	10·3	42·1	10·0	15·7	67·8
1917	22·9	7·4	8·5	38·8	7·6	11·1	57·5
1918	25·1	7·8	8·0	40·9	7·9	10·4	59·2
1919	26·2	9·0	9·6	44·8	11·5	16·0	72·3
1920	23·9	8·4	10·8	43·1	11·5	15·2	69·8
1921	23·4	7·4	10·2	41·0	9·6	12·3	62·9
1922	22·2	7·6	7·5	37·3	6·7	10·0	54·0
1923	22·8	7·5	7·7	38·0	9·2	13·8	61·0
1924	23·2	7·4	8·5	39·1	8·4	12·0	59·5

Allowing for the operation of pre-natal causes upon the mortality in the first week of life, it is evident that pronounced improvements took place in the rates of infantile mortality immediately after the adoption of special educative measures in 1904 and 1914, and that, although special factors have operated to increase infantile mortality in certain years there has been a steady and sustained improvement. It is particularly noteworthy that the improvement is greatest among children aged one month and over. Up to that age the operation of pre-natal causes produces the majority of deaths.

The following statement furnishes a comparison of the rates of infantile mortality in the Australian States, in New Zealand, and in various other countries. The rates indicate the deaths under 1 year per 1,000 births.

State.	Year.	Rate.	Country.	Year.	Rate.
New Zealand	1924	40·2	Netherlands	1924	51
Western Australia	„	49·9	Norway	1922	55
Queensland	„	51·3	Sweden	1924	60
South Australia	„	51·3	Switzerland	1922	70
Tasmania	„	55·0	Irish Free State	1924	71
Commonwealth	„	57·1	*United States	„	72
<i>New South Wales</i>	„	59·5	South Africa... ..	„	74
Victoria	„	61·3	United Kingdom	„	78
			Canada	„	79
			Denmark	1922	85
			France	1924	85
			Italy	1923	88
			Finland	1923	92
			Belgium	1923	100
			Germany	1924	108
			Prussia	1923	132
			Spain	1924	142
			Austria	1921	155
			Japan... ..	1923	163
			Jamaica	1922	177

* Registration Area.

Of the rates shown in the foregoing table, that for New Zealand is the lowest; but the rates for Australasia generally are greatly superior to those prevailing in most other countries for which comparable records are available. Wide differences between climatological and economic conditions should be allowed for in considering the relationship between the rates shown for the various countries.

Causes of Infantile Mortality.

A table published on page 104 of the Statistical Register for 1924-25 shows the rates of infantile mortality for each of the principal causes in each year since 1896. This indicates that there has been a heavy decline in the mortality from diarrhoea, enteritis, and other digestive diseases, congenital debility, nervous diseases, tubercular diseases, and bronchitis. A smaller decline has occurred in deaths from minor causes, such as meningitis, diseases of the stomach, accident, and general diseases. On the other hand, deaths from malformation, premature birth, and diseases of early infancy

have become proportionately larger. The mortality from epidemic diseases fluctuates considerably but it appears to have declined slightly.

The following table shows the incidence of mortality caused by the principal diseases among infants at various periods during the first year of life in 1924, showing the experience in the metropolis in comparison with that in the whole State:—

Cause of Death.	Deaths of Children under one year of age per 1,000 Births (1924).							
	Metropolis.				State.			
	Under 1 week.	1 week and under 1 month.	1 month and under 1 year.	Total.	Under 1 week.	1 week and under 1 month.	1 month and under 1 year.	Total.
Epidemic Diseases ...	...	...	2.04	2.04	.06	.17	2.53	2.76
Tuberculosis ...	...	...	.32	.32	...	...	.17	.17
Syphilis ...	.04	...	.23	.27	.02	.02	.15	.19
Meningitis ...	...	.04	.86	.90	...	.04	.76	.80
Convulsions ...	.23	.09	.27	.59	.32	.17	.32	.81
Bronchitis ...	...	.23	.50	.73	...	.22	1.01	1.23
Pneumonia ...	.27	.86	5.17	6.30	.22	.74	4.70	5.66
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	.04	.32	9.79	10.15	.11	.33	11.74	12.18
Malformation ...	1.82	1.13	1.59	4.54	2.20	.95	1.32	4.47
Congenital Debility ...	1.95	.91	2.81	5.67	2.53	1.14	2.16	5.83
Premature Birth ...	13.83	2.58	.91	17.32	12.86	2.37	1.08	16.31
Injury at Birth ...	2.13	.14	...	2.27	1.98	.19	.02	2.19
Other Diseases of early Infancy ...	2.36	.32	.13	2.81	2.42	.39	.18	2.99
All Other Causes ...	1.09	.72	1.49	3.30	.48	.63	2.76	3.87
Total ...	23.76	7.34	26.11	57.21	23.20	7.36	28.90	59.46

On the whole there is little difference between the rates of mortality in the metropolis and those for the whole State, but it is noteworthy that deaths from premature death are rather more numerous and deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis rather less numerous in the metropolis than in the whole State. These two causes combined accounted for 48 per cent. of the deaths of infants during the year.

Approximately 84 per cent. of the deaths during the first week after birth and 49 per cent. of the deaths occurring during the first year after birth were due to exclusively pre-natal causes or accident, viz., premature birth, congenital debility, malformation, injury at birth, or syphilis. Deaths from these causes during the first year of life accounted for 2.9 per cent. of the births during the year. The incidence of diarrhoea and enteritis was comparatively light among children under the age of one month.

Infantile Mortality in Divisions.

The following table shows the number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age from principal diseases per 1,000 births in the principal divisions

of the State, based on the experience of the ten years, 1915-24. The variation shown in the mortality-rate is from 49.7 in the Northern Tableland to 103.4 in the Western Division.

Cause of Death.	Metropolis.	Balance of Cumberland.	North Coast.	Hunter and Manning.	South Coast.	Northern Tableland.	Central Tableland.	Southern Tableland.	North-Western Slope.	Central-Western Slope.	South-Western Slope.	North-Central Plain.	Central Plain.	Riverina.	Western Division.	Total Country.	Whole State.
Epidemic Diseases	3.5	3.8	2.3	3.1	2.7	4.2	4.2	5.2	3.2	3.4	3.1	3.2	2.4	3.2	6.8	3.4	3.5
Tubercular Diseases	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	5	3	3	3	3	3	8	3	4
Veneral Diseases	6	5	3	3	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	4
Meningitis	5	2	5	7	4	3	7	6	6	5	7	10	7	4	5	6	6
Convulsions	1.0	2.0	2.0	1.8	2.1	1.7	2.1	1.3	2.4	2.4	1.9	1.9	2.6	1.1	3.1	2.6	1.6
Bronchitis	1.1	1.2	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.1	2.2	1.4	2.9	1.6	1.3	1.9	1.5	1.5
Pneumonia and Pleurisy	5.7	4.6	4.6	4.6	5.1	4.0	5.6	4.4	4.7	3.5	4.1	4.1	5.7	5.6	4.5	4.7	5.1
Gastritis and Diarrhoea	16.4	10.6	7.8	16.1	9.8	9.0	13.9	14.1	10.9	12.7	10.4	13.5	12.1	10.5	36.0	13.0	14.3
Hernia	5	3	5	4	7	4	5	8	1.1	6	4	3	9	6	1.0	5	5
Congenital Malformations	4.4	3.7	3.9	3.3	3.0	4.0	4.4	2.8	4.1	2.6	3.7	2.5	2.4	2.6	4.5	3.5	3.9
Congenital Debility and Prematurity	24.5	20.6	19.5	25.8	22.2	19.3	25.5	26.8	25.0	23.3	20.8	24.1	29.0	17.7	32.0	23.2	23.7
Other Developmental Diseases	4.4	3.7	5.6	4.6	6.1	4.9	4.9	6.3	4.6	4.6	4.6	5.5	5.2	5.7	4.0	4.9	4.7
Accident	5	8	6	7	7	3	6	8	4	1.1	7	1.2	1.5	1.1	1.5	3	6
All other Diseases	2.3	1.8	2.4	2.1	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.9	1.7	3.1	2.5	1.6	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.3
Total	65.3	53.6	51.2	65.7	57.8	53.6	68.0	69.4	61.4	60.7	54.7	61.2	67.7	53.3	99.8	61.4	63.1

A further dissection of the proportion of deaths in 1924 from principal causes in geographical and industrial divisions gives some interesting results.

Divisions.	Deaths of Children under 1 year of Age per 1,000 Births (1924).								
	Epidemic Diseases	Bronchitis.	Pneumonia.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis.	Malformations	Congenital Debility	Premature Birth.	All other Diseases.	All Diseases.
Metropolis...	2.04	.72	2.63	10.15	4.53	5.67	17.32	14.15	57.21
Country Municipalities ...	3.77	1.34	1.53	14.71	4.63	5.92	15.72	15.24	62.86
Country Shires ...	2.25	2.06	2.15	11.43	4.03	5.99	15.36	14.14	57.41
New South Wales...	2.76	1.23	2.11	12.19	4.47	5.83	16.30	14.57	59.46
Industrial ...	2.62	1.18	2.51	12.52	4.41	5.96	17.66	14.57	61.43
Non Industrial ...	2.91	1.28	1.67	11.82	4.53	5.70	14.84	14.57	57.32

Contrary to usual experience the mortality in the metropolis in 1924 was lower than in the remainder of the State. Despite this fact, the rate of mortality from all industrial localities was higher than that of the non-industrial, due more especially to the heavier number of deaths from premature birth, pneumonia, diarrhoea and enteritis in industrial parts.

Medical opinion is that a favourable summer rainfall reduces the liability to infantile diarrhoea, that premature birth and congenital debility are more prevalent in industrial districts than elsewhere, and that rural districts are most favourable to the rearing of children.

These opinions are borne out in a general way by the experience in New South Wales, although the wide range of geographical conditions and the variability of the seasons intrude irregular factors affecting infantile mortality. The highest rate is that of the Western Division, the greater part of whose population lives in the mining district of Broken Hill, while the remainder is scattered over extensive plains which receive a low rainfall. The most favourable rates are those of the North Coast, Riverina, Northern Tablelands and South-western Slopes, where the population is engaged largely in rural pursuits. On the North Coast and Northern Tableland the rainfall is copious, especially during the summer. The rates of infantile mortality in the North Coast division present a striking contrast with those of the other coastal divisions, where large industrial and mining centres exist, and the rainfall is less favourable in the summer. The low rate for balance of Cumberland is probably due in a small measure to the removal of sick children to hospital or other accommodation in the metropolis, where an appreciable number die.

It is difficult to explain the high average rate of mortality in the Southern Tableland, which is due mainly to deaths from congenital debility, prematurity and other developmental diseases, gastritis and diarrhoea. Perhaps some part of the mortality may be attributable to the greater cold experienced in winter, the comparative lowness of the summer rainfall and the presence of a considerable proportion of the population in urban centres.

Deaths of Illegitimate Children under 1 year.

During the first year of life the death rate of illegitimate children is nearly twice as great as that for legitimates, partly owing to premature birth, infantile debility and inherited diseases, but to an equally great extent to causes arising from neglect.

How these combined causes operate to produce a comparatively high death rate among illegitimate children is shown in the following tables which relate to the year 1924:—

Age at Death.	Deaths per 1,000 Births.			
	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.		Total.
		Rate.	Per cent of Legitimate Rate.	
Under 1 week	22·8	31·8	139	23·2
1 week	3·5	6·6	189	3·7
2 weeks	2·1	3·1	148	2·1
3 „	1·5	2·3	153	1·6
Total under 1 month ...	29·9	43·8	146	30·6
1 month	4·6	7·8	170	4·7
2 months	3·4	11·2	329	3·8
3 „	2·8	9·7	346	3·2
4 „	2·8	5·4	193	2·9
5 „	2·2	4·3	195	2·3
6 „	2·1	3·9	186	2·2
7 „	2·0	4·3	215	2·1
8 „	1·9	2·7	142	2·0
9 „	1·9	2·7	142	1·9
10 „	1·8	1·5	83	1·8
11 „	2·0	1·9	95	2·0
Total under 1 year ...	57·4	99·2	173	59·5

The largest proportional excess of deaths of illegitimate children over those of legitimate children is not immediately after birth, but three months later. Taking the experience of 1924 as a guide, the mortality of illegitimate children exceeds that of legitimates by 39 per cent. during the first week of life. In the first month the excess is 46 per cent., in the second 70 per cent., in the third 229 per cent., and in the fourth 246 per cent., while an average of the rates experienced after the fourth month shows the excess to have dropped to 60 per cent.

The following table shows the causes of death of illegitimate as compared with those of legitimate children. The figures represent the number of deaths of children under 1 year of age per 1,000 births in New South Wales during the year 1924, and are confined to causes resulting in five or more deaths in each case.

Cause of Death.	Deaths of Children under 1 year of age per 1,000 Births.		
	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Total.
Infectious Diseases	3.19	5.04	3.28
Broncho-pneumonia	3.50	4.65	3.56
Pneumonia	2.11	1.94	2.10
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	11.24	31.01	12.19
Congenital Malformations	4.56	2.71	4.47
„ Debility	5.54	11.63	5.83
Premature Birth	15.84	25.58	16.30
Injury at Birth	2.19	1.93	2.18
Other Developmental Diseases	2.90	5.04	3.00
Violence	0.74	3.49	0.88
All other Causes	5.64	6.20	5.67
Total	57.45	99.22	59.46

These figures may be considered as reflecting approximately the difference—first in the care exercised by the parents and then in their respective condition. Thus the rate of mortality from infectious diseases, respiratory diseases, diarrhoea and enteritis, and violence was 120 per cent. higher for illegitimate children than for legitimate, while from congenital causes the excess was 50 per cent.

Deaths of Children under 5 years.

The improvement in rates of mortality has not been confined to children under 1 year of age, as there has been a general improvement in the death-rate of all groups of children under 5 years of age.

The following table shows the mortality in each division, in periods of five years since 1890, of children under 5 years of age:—

Period.	Metropolis.		Remainder of State.		New South Wales.	
	Average Annual Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Living.	Average Annual Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Living.	Average Annual Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Living.
1890-94	2,674	48·5	3,546	32·1	6,220	37·5
1895-99	2,206	40·8	3,487	31·0	5,693	34·2
1900-04	1,846	35·2	3,210	29·6	5,056	31·4
1905-09	1,612	27·6	2,723	23·4	4,335	24·8
1910-14	1,895	26·1	2,986	21·5	4,881	23·1
1915-19	1,905	21·5	2,771	17·8	4,676	19·1
1920	2,341	26·5	2,981	19·8	5,322	22·3
1921	1,886	21·0	2,790	18·5	4,676	19·5
1922	1,609	17·6	2,286	15·0	3,895	16·0
1923	1,930	20·2	2,514	16·1	4,444	17·7
1924	1,668	16·8	2,585	16·5	4,254	16·6

At every period shown in the table the metropolitan rate was higher than that of the remainder of the State, being in some cases over 50, and never below 7 per cent. in excess until 1917, when the excess was only 1·5 per cent. The excess for 1924 was 2 per cent. But the improvement in the metropolis has been greater than in the remainder of the State, the rate having decreased since 1890 by 65 per cent. in the former, and in the latter by 49 per cent. Outside the metropolis the rate did not vary until 1904, when there was a marked decline, which has been continuous. The rate of mortality in 1924, compared with that of a quarter of a century ago, represents a saving of 32 lives in every 1,000 children under 5 years of age in the metropolis, and of 16 in the remainder of the State.

Children are more susceptible to the attacks of disease in the earliest years of life than later, and the death rate steadily decreases until the age of 10 years is reached. Since the rate for preventable diseases is high, there is no doubt that many children succumb through parental ignorance of the proper food or treatment required.

In the following statement the principal causes of death among children, and the rates under 1 year of age per 1,000 births and under 5 years of age

per 1,000 living, are shown for the five years 1919-1923, in the metropolis and in the State:—

Causes of Death.	Deaths of children under 1 year of age.				Deaths of children aged 1 year and under 5.			
	Metropolis.		State.		Metropolis.		State.	
	Average Annual Number.	Per 1,000 Births.	Average Annual Number.	Per 1,000 Births.	Average Annual Number.	Per 1,000 Living.	Average Annual Number.	Per 1,000 Living.
Measles	6	·3	13	·2	28	·40	46	·24
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2	·03	5	·02
Whooping-cough	43	2·0	110	2·1	34	·48	71	·37
Diphtheria and Croup	10	·5	20	·4	56	·79	147	·77
Influenza	13	·6	31	·6	24	·35	51	·27
Epidemic Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.	2	·1	3	·1	2	·03	6	·03
Tuberculosis—Meninges	5	·2	10	·2	18	·26	26	·13
" Abdominal.. .. .	..	..	2	·1	2	·03	5	·02
" Other Organs	2	·1	5	·1	7	·10	12	·06
Syphilis	13	·6	20	·4	1	·01	2	·01
Meningitis	12	·6	31	·6	14	·20	28	·15
Convulsions	18	·8	71	1·3	7	·09	24	·12
Bronchitis	43	1·1	72	1·3	4	·06	21	·11
Broncho-pneumonia	84	3·9	189	3·5	53	·76	116	·61
Pneumonia	38	1·8	87	1·6	38	·55	82	·43
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	381	17·7	786	14·8	121	1·72	326	1·70
Congenital Malformations.. .. .	100	4·6	209	3·9				
Infantile Debility	123	5·7	337	6·3				
Premature Birth	394	18·3	917	17·2	102	1·45	281	1·47
All Others	181	8·4	488	9·1				
Total.. .. .	1,448	67·3	3,399	63·8	513	7·31	1,249	6·51

The high mortality of infants, especially in the first week of life, is largely due to the deaths of children who, either from immaturity or inherited debility, are born unfit for the struggle for existence. Of children under 1 year of age, the deaths from these causes were equal to 27·4 per 1,000, or 43 per cent. of the total deaths of children under 1. A table already given shows that the mortality during the first month of life is about half the total mortality during the whole of the first year, about 70 per cent. of this half proportion of the total mortality of the year is due to deaths from congenital causes.

Among children under 1 year, diarrhœa and enteritis were responsible for 14·8 deaths per 1,000 births, and infectious diseases for 3·4, of which whooping-cough caused 2·1. Respiratory diseases are especially fatal to infants; among children under 1 year of age bronchitis caused 1·3, broncho-pneumonia 3·5, and pneumonia 1·6 deaths per 1,000 births. The death-rate from convulsions in the same group was 1·3, from tuberculous diseases 0·4, and meningitis (not tuberculous), 0·7 per 1,000 births.

The rate of mortality among children between 1 and 5 years of age is only about one-tenth of the rate among children under one year of age, but in both cases the largest individual cause of death among post-natal causes

is diarrhoea and enteritis. Among the older group of children the next most prominent causes of death are epidemic diseases, notably diphtheria, croup, whooping-cough, influenza and measles, while diseases of the respiratory system, such as pneumonia and bronchitis, cause rather more than one-sixth of the deaths.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The system of classification adopted in this most important section of vital statistics is in accordance with the International List of Causes of Death, based on the third decennial revision by the International Commission at Paris in 1920.

The complete list of causes of death grouped as arranged by the International Commission is published in the Statistical Register of New South Wales, which shows the number of deaths from each cause according to age, sex, and month of occurrence.

The table published below affords a summary of the principal individual causes of death in 1924 compared with the average annual number in the period 1919-1923, arranged in order of numerical importance, and distinguishing diseases whose incidence is exclusively or almost exclusively upon children under age 5 from those of general incidence.

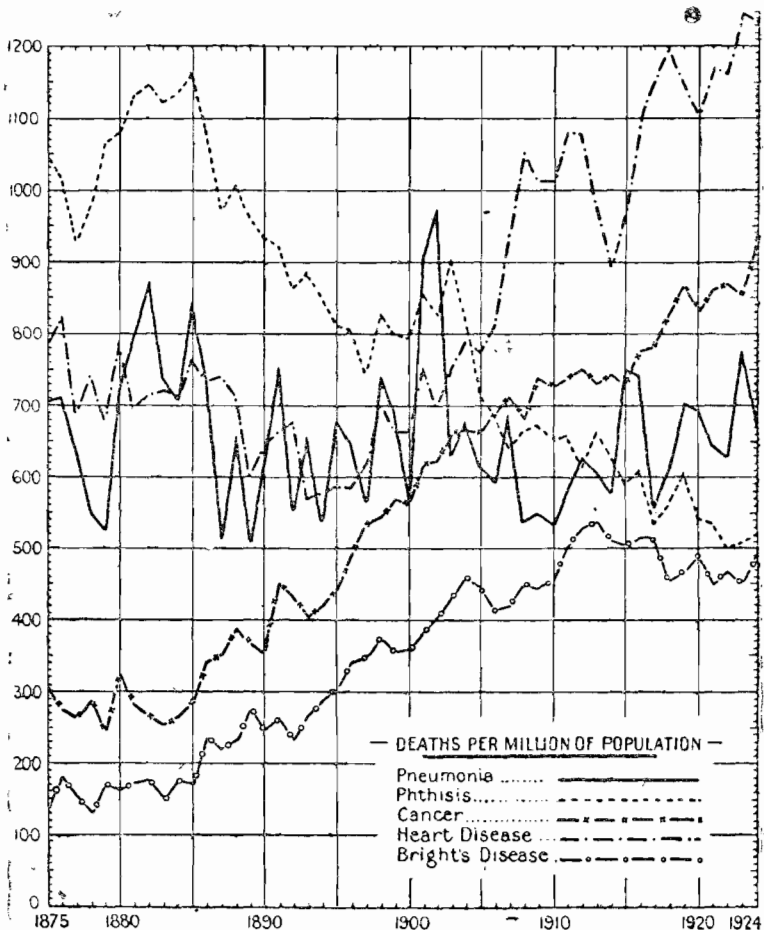
Causes of Death.	Num-ber, 1924.	Average, 1919-23.		Causes of Death.	Num-ber, 1924.	Average, 1919-23.	
		Num-ber.	Propor-tion.			Num-ber.	Propor-tion.
<i>General Causes—</i>			Per cent.	<i>General Causes contd.—</i>			Per cent.
Diseases of the Heart ...	2,756	2,604	11.42	Lethargic Encephalitis .	22	21	.09
Cancer	2,078	1,914	8.89	Scarlet Fever	20	15	.07
Pneumonia	1,511	1,539	6.75	Plague ... ..	...	2	.01
Senility	1,054	1,241	5.44	<i>Diseases of Childhood—</i>			
Tuberculosis, Respira-tory System	1,165	1,199	5.26	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years) ...	854	1,089	4.77
Bright's Disease (Acute and Chronic) ...	1,103	1,018	4.46	Prenaturity	875	972	4.26
Accident	1,072	1,004	4.40	Congenital Debility ...	313	357	1.56
Cerebral Haemorrhage	671	704	3.09	Other Developmental Diseases	278	283	1.24
Bronchitis	414	548	2.40	Malformations	256	239	1.05
Diseases of the Arteries, Atheroma, etc.	674	493	2.16	Whooping Cough ...	83	199	.87
Diarrhoea and Enteritis*	184	364	1.60	Convulsions of Infants...	56	100	.44
Influenza	261	1,649	7.23	Measles	36	83	.36
Puerperal Diseases ...	291	305	1.34	Infantile Paralysis ...	6	11	.05
Diabetes	203	260	1.14	Minor Diseases of the Nervous System ...	575	550	2.41
Suicide	255	240	1.05	Minor General Diseases ...	462	440	1.93
Diphtheria	225	231	1.01	Minor Genito-Urinary Diseases	395	349	1.53
Hernia, Intestinal Ob-struction	218	210	.92	Minor Diseases of the Digestive System ...	286	288	1.26
Leucæmia, Anæmia, Chlorosis	204	209	.92	Minor Diseases of the Res-piratory System ...	288	285	1.25
Appendicitis	156	179	.78	Minor Diseases of the Cir-culatory System ...	126	147	.64
Insanity	118	171	.75	Minor Tuberculous Dis-eases	52	94	.41
Diseases of the Stomach	170	152	.67	Minor Epidemic Diseases	49	45	.20
Meningitis	161	143	.63	All other Causes of Death	473	495	2.17
Typhoid Fever	97	123	.55				
Cirrhosis of the Liver ...	102	118	.52				
Tuberculous Meningitis..	39	66	.29				
Erysipelas	32	33	.14				
Epidemic Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	38	27	.12				
				Grand Total	20,821	22,811	100.00

* Deaths of persons over 2 years of age. † Excluding the year 1919, the annual average was 343.

Generally speaking, the mortality from tuberculosis of the respiratory system, bronchitis, diarrhoea and enteritis, diphtheria and typhoid fever is decreasing, while that from diseases of the heart, cancer, influenza and diabetes is increasing. The mortality from Bright's disease was formerly increasing steadily, but, since 1918, there appears to have been a slight decline. Similarly in the case of cerebral hæmorrhage a steady increase prior to 1909-13 has, in recent years, changed to a decline.

The figures in the above table cannot be compared as absolute numbers of the same relative importance because of the limitations of a system of classification depending upon a large number of independent observers with varying degrees of diagnostic equipment, and again because the age incidence is markedly different for the several diseases. Some, like diseases of the heart and diseases of the arteries, &c., fall mainly on persons of advanced years, and from the standpoint of rate of natural increase are of less relative importance than are diseases like tuberculosis and pneumonia, which cause heavy mortality between ages 20 and 65. Some causes of death, such as pneumonia and senility, are not clearly defined. It is believed that, while pneumonia is the real cause of death in many cases, it is in some instances wholly or partly a consequence of some other disease which

DEATH RATES—PRINCIPAL DISEASES, 1875-1924.



initiated the train of events leading to death, and which therefore is the true cause. The heading senility is unsatisfactory, as it embraces mainly the deaths of aged persons in respect of whom the cause of death is not definitely stated in the returns. Many deaths of aged persons formerly

attributed to senility are now ascribed to some form of heart failure, with the result that deaths from senility, so described, have shown a considerable decrease.

Interesting features of the table are the 14·6 per cent. of all deaths in the quinquennium 1919-23 were due to diseases whose incidence is entirely or almost entirely limited to early childhood. Of the remaining deaths, more than half are due to a limited number of major causes, of which cancer, pneumonia, tuberculosis, and Bright's disease are most prominent.

In the pages which follow the experience in respect of a number of individual diseases is traced. Where the period covered is of considerable length, due allowance must be made for the effect of improvements in methods of diagnosis and classification and the general advance of medical knowledge. In some cases these factors have exercised a considerable influence upon the trend of the figures.

No reliable statistics are available to show the number of cases of the various diseases occurring annually, but statistics have been collected of the occurrence of communicable diseases among school children since 1913. These show that epidemics of such diseases as measles, whooping-cough, scarlet fever, and diphtheria are of periodical recurrence, and, from time to time, assume large proportions. Although approximately 80 per cent. of the deaths from these diseases are among children under school age, it is observed that the rate of mortality from these diseases rises and falls with the recurrence of epidemics among school children. Statistics of the occurrence of infectious diseases among school children are now collected quarterly, with the object of facilitating steps towards preventive and remedial measures.

Typhoid Fever.

Typhoid fever is essentially a preventable disease, and does not obtain a foothold where a proper system of sanitation has been installed and ordinary health precautions have been taken; a great improvement has been attained in these respects during the past four decades, and the mortality from typhoid which was formerly heavy has now been reduced to very small proportions. A steady improvement is still apparent.

The number of deaths from typhoid fever, and the equivalent annual rates of mortality per 10,000 of population since 1884, are stated below.

Period.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.
1884-88	1,356	5·12	1,115	5·13	2,471	5·13
1889-93	959	3·11	714	2·74	1,673	2·94
1894-98	1,107	3·27	731	2·46	1,838	2·89
1899-1903	1,054	2·93	733	2·25	1,787	2·61
1904-08	748	1·93	507	1·42	1,255	1·69
1909-13	773	1·75	464	1·15	1,237	1·47
1914-18	569	1·17	330	0·71	899	0·95
1919-23	353	0·66	241	0·47	594	0·56
1919	76	0·75	53	0·54	129	0·64
1920	81	0·77	51	0·50	132	0·64
1921	76	0·71	53	0·51	129	0·61
1922	63	0·58	37	0·35	100	0·47
1923	57	0·51	47	0·44	104	0·47
1924	57	0·57	40	0·32	97	0·43

The rate of mortality from typhoid fever in 1924 represents only 43 persons per million living. The corresponding rate five years previously was 64, being nearly 50 per cent. higher.

The decrease in the number and proportion of deaths due to this disease after 1888 was very marked, and may be traced to the operation of the Dairies Supervision Act, which became law in 1889. The rates show a further marked improvement as from 1903, and have dropped regularly, until that for 1924 was only 8·4 per cent. of the rate for the period 1884-88. The rate is considerably higher than that experienced in England and Wales, where during 1923 only 12 persons died per million living.

Owing to a superior system of sewage, and to the greater attention given to sanitary inspection and garbage disposal, the rate of mortality from typhoid fever in the metropolis has almost invariably been very much lower than that of the remainder of the State, though it was higher during 1919, and only slightly lower in 1922. The following table provides a comparison of the experience in the metropolis and remainder of the State since 1894. Owing to the incidence of mild epidemics the rates of mortality fluctuate from year to year, and though both are improving the improvement is more marked outside the metropolis.

Period.	Metropolis.		Remainder of State.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.
1894-98	507	2·26	1,331	3·24
1899-1903	426	1·72	1,361	3·12
1904-08	334	1·21	921	1·97
1909-13	363	1·10	874	1·70
1914-18	319	0·81	580	1·04
1919-23	233	0·51	361	0·61
1919	61	0·72	68	0·59
1920	48	0·54	84	0·71
1921	49	0·54	80	0·67
1922	43	0·46	57	0·47
1923	32	0·33	72	0·59
1924	22	0·22	75	0·61

Most deaths from typhoid fever occur during the summer and autumn. In 1924 there were 41 deaths during the summer months of December, January, and February, and 36 during the autumn months of March, April, and May; making a total of 77 out of 97 in the whole year.

Smallpox.

During the last ten years there have been only 4 deaths from smallpox in New South Wales, the last being in the year 1915.

Vaccination is not compulsory in this State, and the precaution is rarely adopted unless an epidemic threatens.

During the year 1913 about 425,000 persons voluntarily submitted themselves to vaccination.

Measles.

Although measles is a very common complaint the resultant mortality is comparatively very small. The following statement shows the deaths from this cause, and the rate per 10,000 living, for each sex, arranged in quinquennial periods since 1884:—

Period.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.
1884-88	166	0.63	165	0.76	331	0.69
1889-93	393	1.28	369	1.41	762	1.34
1894-98	338	1.00	324	1.09	662	1.04
1899-1903	160	0.44	219	0.67	379	0.55
1904-08	82	0.21	107	0.30	189	0.25
1909-13	309	0.70	267	0.66	576	0.68
1914-18	301	0.62	221	0.48	522	0.55
1919-23	207	0.39	183	0.35	390	0.37
1919	4	0.04	4	0.04	8	0.04
1920	95	0.90	94	0.93	189	0.91
1921	21	0.20	18	0.17	39	0.19
1922	6	0.05	10	0.09	16	0.07
1923	81	0.72	57	0.53	138	0.63
1924	19	0.17	17	0.16	36	0.16

The rate in 1924 shows a decrease of 57 per cent. as compared with that of the preceding quinquennium. The high rates during the second and third quinquennial periods were due to severe outbreaks in 1893 and 1898.

Measles is a disease chiefly affecting children, and is periodically epidemic. It was epidemic in 1898-9, when 719 deaths were recorded; in 1912, when there were 371 fatal cases; and in 1915, when there were 324. Of the number first cited, 233 were deaths of children under 5 years of age, and 54 were those of children under 1 year of age. During the year 1924 deaths from measles among children under 1 year of age numbered 8, and among children under 5 years of age 26.

According to returns obtained by the Department of Education, there were extensive epidemics of measles among school children in 1918, 1920, and 1923, and although these epidemics (particularly that of 1923) were more widespread than the outbreak of 1915, the mortality recorded was very much less.

Scarlet Fever.

In 1924 the number of deaths from this disease was 29, equivalent to a rate of 0.13 per 1,000 of the population. The number of deaths in the metropolis was 13, and in the remainder of the State 16—showing rates of 0.13 per 10,000 for each division. The rate for 1924 of deaths from this cause was 93 per cent. above the rate for the preceding quinquennium,

which was a period of very favourable experience. Since 1884 the deaths from scarlet fever and the rates for each sex have been as follow—

Period.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.
1884-88	287	1·08	342	1·57	629	1·30
1889-93	185	0·60	236	0·90	421	0·74
1894-98	162	0·48	218	0·73	380	0·60
1899-1903	84	0·23	114	0·35	198	0·29
1904-08	88	0·23	91	0·26	179	0·24
1909-13	41	0·09	57	0·14	98	0·12
1914-18	112	0·23	161	0·35	273	0·29
1919-23	34	0·06	38	0·07	72	0·07
1919	7	0·07	10	0·10	17	0·08
1920	14	0·13	10	0·10	24	0·12
1921	3	0·03	5	0·05	8	0·04
1922	5	0·05	5	0·05	10	0·05
1923	5	0·04	8	0·07	13	0·06
1924	11	0·10	18	0·16	29	0·13

Like measles, scarlet fever is an epidemic disease which mainly affects children, the rate generally being somewhat higher for females than for males. During 1924, 22 of the 29 deaths were of children under 10 years of age, and of these 9 were males and 13 females. Though not nearly so fatal as formerly, its sporadic recrudescence demands constant vigilance on the part of the authorities responsible for the health of the State. The death-rate from this cause of mortality has fluctuated since the year 1884, when it was very heavy, the rate per 10,000 inhabitants having ranged from 2·59 in that year to 0·04 in 1921.

Scarlet fever was epidemic among school children in 1915 and 1916, in which years 205 deaths were recorded in the State from this disease. Rather more extensive outbreaks occurred among school children in 1923 and 1924, but the total number of deaths from scarlet fever in these two years was only 42.

Whooping-cough.

Whooping-cough is another disease which mainly affects children, and to which, like scarlet fever, females are more susceptible than males. During the year 1924 the deaths from this cause numbered 83. The deaths included 42 males and 41 females. Of the total number, 54 were infants under 1 year, and of the remainder all but 3 were under 5 years of age. The rate was 0·37 per 10,000 living, or 58 per cent. below the average of the preceding quinquennium. The deaths and rates for each sex since 1884, are shown below.

Period.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.
1884-88	327	1·24	472	2·17	799	1·66
1889-93	495	1·61	666	2·55	1,161	2·04
1894-98	343	1·01	502	1·69	845	1·33
1899-1903	573	1·59	726	2·23	1,299	1·90
1904-08	369	0·95	445	1·25	814	1·10
1909-13	377	0·86	436	1·09	813	0·97
1914-18	335	0·69	332	0·82	717	0·75
1919-23	410	0·82	497	0·96	937	0·89
1919	60	0·59	73	0·74	133	0·66
1920	167	1·58	202	2·00	369	1·78
1921	126	1·17	131	1·27	257	1·22
1922	43	0·39	49	0·46	92	0·43
1923	44	0·39	42	0·39	86	0·39
1924	42	0·37	41	0·38	83	0·37

Whooping-cough may justly be regarded as a permanent menace and a constantly recurring ailment of infancy and childhood, for the table shows that periods of decline have generally been followed by increases in the death-rate, which is maintained by epidemic outbreaks, one such occurring in 1907, when 594 cases proved fatal, and the death-rate was the highest since 1878. An examination of the table on a later page showing the seasonal prevalence of diseases indicates that whooping-cough is most fatal during the four months October to January.

Epidemics of whooping-cough among school children are only second in magnitude to those of measles. The records show that, during the past twelve years, this disease has affected large numbers of school children every year and that virulent epidemics occurred in 1913, 1920, and 1921. The total numbers of deaths from whooping-cough in these years was 344, 369, and 257 respectively.

Diphtheria and Croup.

As causes of death these diseases decreased markedly in importance between 1884 and 1904. During the next ten years there was a slight increase in mortality, but the ten years which have since elapsed have shown an appreciable decline.

Diphtheria and croup, under which heading membranous laryngitis is included, caused 225 deaths in 1924. The rate was 1.01 per 10,000 living, or 3 per cent. below the rate for the preceding quinquennium. Deaths from these diseases in the metropolitan area numbered 83, and those in the remainder of the State 142, the respective corresponding rates per 10,000 living for each division being 0.83 and 1.15. The following table shows the number of deaths and the rates in quinquennial periods since 1884:—

Period.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.
1884-88	1,069	4.04	980	4.51	2,049	4.25
1889-93	1,433	4.65	1,399	5.36	2,852	4.98
1894-98	712	2.10	710	2.39	1,422	2.24
1899-1903	310	0.86	299	0.92	609	0.89
1904-08	367	0.95	338	0.95	705	0.95
1909-13	604	1.37	640	1.59	1,244	1.48
1914-18	659	1.36	682	1.47	1,341	1.41
1919-23	583	1.09	509	0.99	1,092	1.04
1919	66	0.65	69	0.70	135	0.67
1920	138	1.31	126	1.25	264	1.28
1921	157	1.46	149	1.44	306	1.45
1922	111	1.01	100	0.95	211	0.98
1923	111	0.99	65	0.61	176	0.80
1924	101	0.89	124	1.13	225	1.01

Mortality from diphtheria was heaviest during two lengthy periods, viz., from 1881 to 1898, and omitting the year 1919, from 1909 to 1921, although the rate was much lower in the latter period than in the former. During the past twelve years diphtheria was most prevalent among school children in 1913 and 1921, but considerable numbers of cases were recorded in other years, the numbers fluctuating from year to year in close sympathy with those of whooping-cough.

The experience of the decennial period 1915-1924 shows the disease to be most fatal during the five months of March to July. Ninety-two per cent. of the persons who died from diphtheria during 1924 were under 10 years of age, and about 75 per cent. were under 5 years of age.

During the year 1923 the Department of Public Health investigated the Schick test for determining susceptibility to diphtheria, and found that at 2 years of age 70 per cent. of children are liable to contract the disease. It is claimed that lasting immunity can be achieved by a simple and inexpensive inoculation, and that properly enforced application of this provision would practically wipe out diphtheria in the State. Although, as noted above, a considerable improvement in the rate of mortality from diphtheria and croup has been effected since 1898, it still remains high, and this, coupled with the knowledge that such a large proportion of children are susceptible to the disease, commends the wisdom of adopting preventive measures.

Influenza.

During 1924 there were 261 deaths due to influenza. Prior to 1891 the average annual number of deaths was 44, but during that year 988 deaths occurred from this cause. From 1892 to 1917 the average number of deaths was 198, but in 1918 a mild outbreak resulted in 372 deaths. This was completely overshadowed by the disastrous epidemic of 1919, when 6,387 persons died from the disease. An examination of the experience of that year will be found in the 1920 issue of this Year Book.

In the following table the deaths at each outbreak are shown together with those in the intervening periods:—

Period.	Deaths.			Annual Rate per 10,000.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	
1876-1890	388	322	710	0·53
1891	549	439	988	8·65
1892-1917	2,799	2,397	5,196	1·27
1918	218	154	372	1·91
1919	3,851	2,536	6,387	31·93
1920	132	127	259	1·25
1921	204	195	399	1·89
1922	124	93	222	1·03
1923	268	243	511	2·33
1924	136	125	261	1·17

} 1·54

Prior to 1919 influenza was essentially a disease fatal to young children and aged persons, but in the severe world-wide epidemic of that year the disease was most fatal to persons in the prime of life (25 to 44 years). Comparing the deaths since 1921 with those of 1918 and 1919 in age groups representing approximately the different stages of life, it will be seen that the character of the disease is reverting to the type experienced prior to 1919.

Age Group.	Deaths per cent. of Total.				
	1918.	1919.	1921.	1923.	1924.
Under 10	13	6	11	10	10
10-24	8	12	6	8	5
25-44	15	53	27	17	18
45-64	17	22	27	29	25
65 and over	47	7	29	36	42
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Tuberculous Diseases.

Of the total deaths in New South Wales during 1924 the number ascribed to the several classified forms of tuberculous diseases was 1,256, or 6·03 per cent. of the actual mortality for the State, and equal to 5·63 per 10,000 living—a rate 8 per cent. below the average for the preceding quinquennium.

A comparison of death-rates from tuberculous diseases in the Australian States and New Zealand for the last five years is given below. The rates are stated per 1,000 of the total population, and do not take account of either age or sex, which have a material influence on the rates.

State.	Death-rate from tuberculous diseases per 1,000 of Total Population.				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Queensland ...	0.51	0.48	0.42	0.46	0.42
New South Wales ...	0.68	0.59	0.56	0.56	0.56
New Zealand ...	0.71	0.65	0.64	0.62	0.57
Commonwealth ...	0.68	0.68	0.61	0.62	0.61
Western Australia ...	0.84	0.85	0.83	0.66	0.68
Victoria ...	0.77	0.80	0.68	0.74	0.70
South Australia ...	0.79	0.79	0.74	0.71	0.72
Tasmania ...	0.62	0.72	0.68	0.75	0.76

Mortality from tuberculous diseases is usually lower in New South Wales than in any other Australian State except Queensland.

Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.

Tuberculosis of the respiratory system, or phthisis, was the cause of 1,165 deaths, or 92.8 per cent. of the number due to tuberculosis during the year 1924, being third in the order of the fatal diseases of the State. The mortality rate per 10,000 living was 5.22, the male rate being 6.17 and the female rate 4.24.

The following table shows the number of deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system and the rates for each sex since 1884. This cause of death was formerly designated tuberculosis of the lungs:—

Period.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.
1884-88	3,132	11.83	2,022	9.30	5,154	10.69
1889-93	3,269	10.61	1,925	7.38	5,194	9.13
1894-98	3,191	9.43	1,933	6.68	5,174	8.15
1899-1903	3,322	9.24	2,304	7.08	5,626	8.21
1904-08	2,985	7.72	2,184	6.13	5,169	6.96
1909-13	3,220	7.31	2,236	5.69	5,506	6.54
1914-18	3,373	6.95	2,194	4.72	5,567	5.86
1919-23	3,484	6.50	2,173	4.21	5,657	5.38
1919	744	7.33	472	4.79	1,216	6.08
1920	700	6.62	418	4.13	1,118	5.40
1921	703	6.54	426	4.12	1,129	5.35
1922	678	6.19	402	3.81	1,080	5.02
1923	659	5.90	453	4.24	1,114	5.08
1924	702	6.17	463	4.24	1,165	5.22

The general rate has decreased by 51 per cent. in the period under review, that for males by 48 per cent., and for females by 54 per cent. The female rate ranges from 62 per cent. of the male rate in the year 1922 to 79 per cent. during the periods 1904-08 and 1884-88.

The improvement in the death-rate is due to many factors, such as the regulation of immigration, conditions of employment, etc., and the enforcement of the various Health Acts, but principally to the adoption of improved methods of medical treatment.

The following table shows the deaths and the mortality-rates of tuberculosis of the respiratory system or phthisis in the metropolis and the remainder of the State. In the quinquennial period 1894-98 the rate for the former was 47 per cent. higher than that for the latter division; since that period the extra-metropolitan rate fluctuated but little until 1920, when the rate dropped about 13 per cent. The higher rate for the remainder of the State during recent years is due largely to the transfer of phthisis patients from the metropolis to institutions situated in the country.

Period.	Metropolis.		Remainder of State.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.
1894-98	2,302	10·26	2,872	6·99
1899-1903	2,490	10·03	3,136	7·18
1904-08	2,184	7·89	2,985	6·40
1909-13	2,171	6·60	3,335	6·49
1914-18	2,006	5·11	3,561	6·38
1919-23	2,229	4·89	3,428	5·75
1924	486	4·89	679	5·49

Pulmonary tuberculosis is a notifiable disease within the metropolis, in the area controlled by the Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage Board, and in the Katoomba Municipality and Blue Mountains Shire.

The table below shows the death-rates from tuberculosis of the respiratory system or phthisis according to age and sex in decennial periods since 1891.

Age Group. Years.	Deaths per 10,000 living—Phthisis.								
	Males.			Females.			Persons.		
	1891- 1900.	1901- 1910.	1911- 1920.	1891- 1900.	1901- 1910.	1911- 1920.	1891- 1900.	1901- 1910.	1911- 1920.
0-4 ..	1·09	1·17	·68	·97	·97	·02	1·01	1·07	·66
5-9 ..	·34	·31	·18	·57	·39	·25	·45	·35	·21
10-14 ..	·54	·62	·28	1·08	1·07	·69	·81	·79	·43
15-19 ..	3·57	2·86	2·24	4·71	5·30	3·25	4·14	4·07	2·75
20-24 ..	10·69	7·97	6·67	9·64	8·94	0·88	10·17	8·45	6·78
25-34 ..	15·93	11·35	9·85	13·75	11·16	8·61	14·81	11·26	9·23
35-44 ..	18·28	14·79	12·08	13·39	11·90	7·70	16·22	13·48	10·00
45-54 ..	19·04	16·56	14·34	10·84	9·76	6·94	15·67	13·63	10·87
55-64 ..	21·93	17·44	14·75	11·17	10·15	6·71	17·60	14·28	11·21
65-74 ..	17·09	17·02	13·00	7·62	9·07	6·85	12·97	13·59	10·21
75 and over ..	4·67	7·45	6·19	2·44	4·64	4·01	3·73	6·19	5·16
All ages..	9·63	8·06	7·00	6·77	6·43	4·81	8·30	7·31	5·94

The decrease shown in female rates is slightly greater than that in male rates. The rates according to age, however, show a remarkable difference when the sexes are compared. For males the rates increase steadily until age 60 is approached, after which a rapid decrease is shown.

For females the rates reach their highest point in the age group 25-34, but do not decline in after life in any marked degree.

The resultant rates for the whole population, while negligible under the age of 15 years, increase from that age to 25 years, and then remain practically constant until 75 is reached, after which age the rate drops quickly.

Other Tuberculous Diseases.

Of the 1,256 deaths other than 1924 from tuberculosis, only 91 were from tuberculosis of organs other than the lungs. Of the latter, 33, equivalent to

36 per cent., were of children under 5 years of age. Taking the age group 0-4 years, and all ages, the following table shows the distinct improvement in the death-rates since the decennium 1891-1900:—

Period.	Deaths per 10,000—Tuberculosis other than Phthisis.					
	Ages 0 to 4 Years.			All Ages.		
	Males.	Females.	Total	Males.	Females.	Total.
1891-1900	15.93	13.41	14.69	2.76	2.62	2.69
1901-1910	7.11	5.93	6.55	1.70	1.51	1.61
1911-1920	3.13	2.96	3.06	1.00	.86	.93
1921	2.29	1.96	2.16	.83	.53	.71
1922	1.36	2.39	1.87	.72	.57	.65
1923	1.72	1.29	1.51	.67	.51	.59
1924	1.62	0.95	1.29	.39	.43	.41

Cancer.

In 1924 the deaths from cancer numbered 2,078, equal to a rate of 9.32 per 10,000 living, which is the highest on record, and 8.6 per cent. above the average of the quinquennial period preceding. The total included 1,087 males and 991 females, the rates being 9.56 and 9.07 per 10,000 living of each sex respectively.

Classified according to the parts of the body affected and arranged in order of fatality, cancer caused the following deaths:—Stomach and liver, 731; peritoneum, intestines, and rectum, 329; female genital organs, 213; breast, 157; buccal cavity, 141; skin, 56, and other organs, 451.

The following table shows the deaths and rates per 10,000 living of each sex since 1884:—

Period.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.
1884-88	859	3.25	732	3.37	1,591	3.30
1889-93	1,262	4.10	1,038	3.98	2,300	4.04
1894-98	1,719	5.09	1,387	4.68	3,106	4.89
1899-1903	2,295	6.38	1,877	5.77	4,172	6.09
1904-08	2,671	6.91	2,418	6.78	5,089	6.85
1909-13	3,362	7.63	2,860	7.12	6,222	7.39
1914-18	3,886	8.00	3,458	7.44	7,344	7.73
1919-23	4,738	8.84	4,292	8.32	9,030	8.58
1919	936	9.22	798	8.10	1,734	8.67
1920	922	8.72	807	7.98	1,729	8.36
1921	939	8.74	878	8.50	1,817	8.62
1922	962	8.78	909	8.62	1,871	8.70
1923	979	8.76	900	8.38	1,879	8.57
1924	1,087	9.56	991	9.07	2,078	9.32

In New South Wales the crude male rate is usually the higher, which is contrary to the experience of England and Wales, where the crude female rate is usually the higher. In the period 1911-1914 the standardised female rate in England was nearly 9 per cent. higher than the standardised male rate, but in 1922 and 1923 the standardised rates for both sexes were practically equal. This change is attributed by the Registrar-General in his Annual Review to the operation of two factors which probably exercise some influence in New South Wales, viz.—(i) The success of operations upon the

relatively more accessible cancers of females, and (ii) the better diagnosis of the less accessible cancers of females as a consequence of improved medical appliances and knowledge. In England and Wales, also, the combined crude rate is usually much higher, and is increasing more rapidly than in New South Wales. However, the standardised rate in England has shown only a slight increase since pre-war years.

The ages of the 2,078 persons who died from cancer in New South Wales during 1924 ranged from 1 to 96 years, but the disease is essentially one of advanced age, 96 per cent. of the persons who died from cancer in 1924 being 35 years and over.

In the following table are shown the death-rates from cancer for each sex in age groups above 25 years, in decennial periods since 1891:—

Age Group. Years.	Deaths per 10,000 Living—Cancer.								
	Males.			Females.			Persons.		
	1891- 1900.	1901- 1910.	1911- 1920.	1891- 1900.	1901- 1910.	1911- 1920.	1891- 1900.	1901- 1910.	1911- 1920.
25-34	·94	·85	1·09	1·24	1·37	1·47	1·07	1·12	1·23
35-44	3·63	3·93	3·52	6·79	7·16	6·34	4·96	5·39	4·86
45-54	12·13	12·53	13·55	17·93	19·21	17·35	14·52	15·41	15·23
55-64	30·36	34·96	35·43	33·20	36·54	33·50	21·52	35·65	34·59
65-74	51·32	72·09	69·19	43·60	62·06	59·07	47·18	67·71	64·60
75 and over ..	63·73	86·36	105·94	62·95	79·98	93·55	63·43	83·49	100·08
All Ages	4·99	6·90	8·06	4·77	6·62	7·37	4·88	6·77	7·72

Prior to the 1911-20 decennium the female rates were consistently higher than the male up to and including the age group 55-64 years, after which the position was reversed. After 1910 the female rate was lower than the male in age groups 55-64.

Cancer is probably the most feared of all diseases, inasmuch as no specific remedy is known, and in all countries for which records are kept the death-rate is increasing.

In the following table the rates of mortality from cancer are given for the Australian States and New Zealand. The comparison is upon the crude basis of total population and is uncorrected for age incidence.

State.	Cancer Death-rate per 1,000 of Total Population.				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Queensland	0·80	0·79	0·86	0·83	0·79
Western Australia ...	0·81	0·83	0·89	0·76	0·91
Tasmania	0·70	0·83	0·87	0·77	0·92
New South Wales ...	0·84	0·86	0·87	0·86	0·93
Commonwealth	0·85	0·87	0·91	0·89	0·93
South Australia ...	0·93	0·92	0·95	0·95	0·94
New Zealand... ..	0·87	0·85	0·85	0·83	0·96
Victoria	0·86	0·95	1·00	1·02	1·00

Diabetes.

The proportion of deaths due to diabetes has been growing steadily during the past twenty years and it now ranks fourteenth in the list of individual causes arranged in order of number of deaths caused. Although the disease is responsible for little more than 1 per cent. of the annual number of deaths the average rate of mortality from diabetes has increased by approximately 50 per cent. in the past two decennial periods.

The deaths due to diabetes in 1924 numbered 263, equal to a rate of 1·18 per 10,000 living, which is 1 per cent. above the average for the preceding quinquennium. The rate for males was 1·08 and for females 1·28 per 10,000 living of each sex. Most of the deaths occurred after middle life, 214 being those of persons over 45 years of age.

Meningitis.

The diseases included under the above heading—encephalitis, simple meningitis, and non-epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis—caused 162 deaths during 1924, the corresponding rate being 0·73 per 10,000 living. Of this number 98 were males and 64 females, equivalent to rates per 10,000 living of each sex of 0·86 and 0·59 respectively. The deaths in the metropolis and country were 87 and 75, with corresponding rates per 10,000 living of 0·87 and 0·61. The rate for 1924 was 13 per cent. higher than that of the previous five years.

Of those who died during 1924, 78, or 48 per cent., were under 5 years of age.

Hæmorrhage of the Brain.

Mortality from this cause showed a slow but sustained increase for twenty years prior to the quinquennium 1909-13. Since then, however, there has been an appreciable decline.

The number of deaths due to cerebral hæmorrhage and apoplexy, during the year 1924, was 671, of which 332 were those of males and 339 those of females. The rate was 3·01 per 10,000 living, or 2·92 for males and 3·10 for females.

The following table shows the number of deaths and the rates for both sexes from cerebral hæmorrhage and apoplexy in quinquennial periods since 1884:—

Period.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.
1884-88	778	2·97	467	2·15	1,245	2·58
1889-93	796	2·58	618	2·37	1,414	2·48
1894-98	943	2·79	710	2·39	1,653	2·60
1899-1903	1,050	2·92	788	2·42	1,838	2·68
1904-08	1,303	3·31	1,039	2·91	2,342	3·15
1909-13	1,627	3·69	1,439	3·58	3,066	3·64
1914-18	1,693	3·49	1,431	3·08	3,124	3·29
1919-23	1,735	3·24	1,587	3·08	3,322	3·16
1924	332	2·92	339	3·10	671	3·01

Convulsions of Children.

Convulsions of children (under 5 years of age) caused 56 deaths during 1924, or 0·25 per 10,000 living at all ages, which is 44 per cent. below the rate for the previous quinquennium,

The following table shows the number of deaths and the rates for both sexes for every fifth year since 1875 in comparison with the two preceding years:—

Year.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.
1875	297	9·34	205	7·69	502	8·59
1880	388	9·75	297	8·98	685	9·40
1885	428	8·38	392	9·41	820	8·84
1890	328	5·47	274	5·45	602	5·46
1895	280	4·19	243	4·17	523	4·18
1900	203	2·84	163	2·63	371	2·74
1905	119	1·57	92	1·32	211	1·45
1910	103	1·23	71	0·91	174	1·08
1915	91	0·93	67	0·74	158	0·84
1920	57	0·47	39	0·33	96	0·40
1922	41	0·37	34	0·32	75	0·35
1923	39	0·35	39	0·36	78	0·36
1924	35	0·31	21	0·19	56	0·25

Being limited to children under 5 years of age, the rates are better stated proportionately to that age-period. On this basis the death-rate in 1924 was 2·19, as compared with 3·87 of the previous quinquennium. Of the total deaths during 1924, 43 occurred during the first year of life, the equivalent rate being 0·8 per 1,000 births. The deaths of males were more numerous than of females, the numbers during the first year of life being 30 and 13 respectively, for all children under 5 years of age, 35 males and 21 females. The rates for the metropolis was approximately three-fifths of that for the remainder of the State. The continuous decline shown in this cause of infantile mortality is more apparent than real, being due largely to increasing skill in diagnosing the diseases of children. Numerous deaths having convulsions as their immediate cause are now ascribed to some other cause which led to convulsions.

Insanity.

Classed as a distinct disease of the nervous system, insanity causes death from general paralysis of the insane and from other forms of mental alienation. Practically all the persons in New South Wales coming within this classification are under treatment in the various mental hospitals. On the 30th June, 1924, there were 8,112 persons under official control and receiving treatment—a proportion of 3·64 per 1,000 of the population, or about 2 per cent. less than the average for the preceding quinquennium.

The number of deaths from this cause was 118 in the year 1924. The death-rate per 10,000 living was 0·65 for males and 0·40 for females.

In England and Wales the corresponding figures for 1923 were 0·91 and 0·41.

In the year 1923-24 there were 572 deaths in mental hospitals, equivalent to 76·7 per 1,000 of the average number of patients in residence. This rate of mortality, however, is not comparable with that of the general population, because the proportion of mental patients under the age of 20 years is very small, due, doubtless, to the facts that many children mentally afflicted are cared for in their homes and that mental alienation frequently does not become manifest until middle or advanced age is reached.

The following statement provides a comparison of the mortality of the adult patients in mental hospitals with that of the general population in age groups:—

Age Group. Years.	Deaths per 1,000—Period 1911-1920.					
	Patients in Mental Hospitals.			General Population.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
20-29	39·4	38·3	38·9	4·4	4·0	4·2
30-39	57·0	41·7	50·8	5·7	4·8	5·2
40-49	71·9	53·0	63·8	9·5	6·5	8·1
50-59	93·0	67·3	82·5	17·2	11·3	14·5
60-69	134·4	117·2	128·5	30·2	22·9	28·3
70 and over	312·9	261·4	293·1	111·1	88·7	100·3
20 and over	99·8	70·6	82·7	14·3	10·5	12·1

The rates shown above are rendered somewhat abnormal by the inclusion of deaths due to influenza during the epidemic of 1919, but at all ages the rate of mortality among mental patients is very much higher than among the general population. In the earlier years the ratio of the disparity is nearly 10 to 1, but it diminishes as age increases, and after age 70 is passed it is about 3 to 1.

Diseases of the Heart.

Diseases of the heart were the cause of 2,756 deaths during 1924, showing a rate of 12.36 per 10,000 living, or 6 per cent. above the average for the preceding five years. Of the total deaths, 1,498 were of males and 1,258 of females, the corresponding rates per 10,000 living of each sex being 13·17 and 11·51. In the metropolis the rate was 13 per cent. higher than in the remainder of the State.

The ages of persons who died from diseases of the heart during 1924 ranged between 1 and 101 years, and 86 per cent. of those who succumbed were 45 years of age and over.

The deaths and the death-rates of each sex since 1884 are shown below:—

Period.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.
1884-88	2,149	8·12	1,390	6·39	3,539	7·34
1889-93	2,250	7·30	1,357	5·20	3,607	6·34
1894-98	2,434	7·19	1,478	4·98	3,912	6·16
1899-1903	2,917	8·11	1,932	5·94	4,849	7·08
1904-1908	3,791	9·81	2,727	7·65	6,518	8·77
1909-1913	5,054	11·47	3,633	9·04	8,687	10·31
1914-1918	5,950	12·26	4,168	8·97	10,118	10·65
1919-23	6,901	12·87	5,384	10·44	12,285	11·68
1924	1,493	13·17	1,258	11·51	2,756	12·36

The classified causes of the total number of deaths include pericarditis, endocarditis and acute myocarditis, angina pectoris and other diseases of the heart. The apparent increase in mortality due to diseases of the heart is probably the result more of specialised biological knowledge, and of the

greater attention given to pathological diagnoses, than to any real cause. Many deaths formerly recorded as being caused by senile decay would now doubtless be assigned to some cardiac trouble.

In the following table are shown the death-rates for each sex in the principal age groups in decennial periods since 1891.

Age Groups. Years.	Deaths per 10,000 living—Diseases of the Heart.								
	Males.			Females.			Persons.		
	1891- 1900.	1901- 1910.	1911- 1920.	1891- 1900.	1901- 1910.	1911- 1920.	1891- 1900.	1901- 1910.	1911- 1920.
0-4	1.14	1.13	.95	.89	.97	.49	1.02	1.05	.42
5-9 .. ..	.99	1.10	.94	.98	1.16	.95	.99	1.13	.94
10-14	1.28	1.49	1.13	1.31	1.84	1.49	1.30	1.66	1.30
15-19	1.40	1.92	1.78	1.66	1.98	1.75	1.53	1.95	1.76
20-24	1.42	1.55	2.18	1.83	1.94	2.02	1.62	1.74	2.09
25-31	2.66	2.15	2.88	2.52	2.53	2.70	2.60	2.34	2.79
35-44	5.81	5.46	5.67	5.63	6.13	5.00	5.74	5.77	5.35
45-55	13.36	13.79	15.01	11.20	11.80	11.90	12.47	12.98	13.59
55-64	36.56	35.37	38.52	25.29	28.72	28.47	31.96	32.48	34.09
65-74	69.40	91.84	90.07	54.65	78.67	81.78	62.37	86.15	91.21
75 and over ..	104.74	173.83	237.73	89.54	141.23	204.76	98.30	161.94	220.73
All ages ..	7.31	9.60	12.03	5.20	7.51	9.09	6.33	8.60	10.60

Although the apparent rate for all ages has nearly doubled during the period reviewed, the increase is practically confined to ages 65 and over, due, as explained in the previous paragraph, to more correct diagnosis in assigning the cause of death.

Under the age of 45 there is very little difference between the rates of males and of females, but thereafter the male rate is distinctly higher, the result, no doubt, of the more strenuous life of males than of females.

Bronchitis.

Bronchitis caused 414 deaths during 1924, equal to a rate of 1.85 per 10,000 living. Of the total, 228 were males and 186 females, the corresponding rates per 10,000 of each sex being 2.01 and 1.70. The rate for the State was 24 per cent. lower than that experienced during the previous five years. Deaths in the metropolis numbered 163, while 251 succumbed in the remainder of the State. The corresponding rates were 1.64 and 2.03 per 10,000 living. Of the total deaths, 153 were caused by acute bronchitis, the remainder being due to the disease in its chronic form. Of those persons who died of acute bronchitis, 52 per cent. were under 5 years of age, while 90 per cent. of those who succumbed to chronic bronchitis were 55 years of age and over. Experience shows the disease to be most prevalent during the months of June, July, August, and September.

Pneumonia.

Pneumonia, including broncho-pneumonia, was the cause of 1,511 deaths during 1924, the equivalent rate per 10,000 living being 6.78, which was 2 per cent. below the average for the preceding quinquennium. Of the total 892 were males and 619 females. The male and female rates per 10,000 living were 7.84 and 5.66 respectively. The deaths in the metropolis numbered 694, and those in the remainder of the State, 817. The rate in the remainder of the State was slightly lower than that in the metropolis. An analysis of the deaths according to age shows that pneumonia is most destructive in its attacks on children under 5 years of age and adults who have passed the age of 55. The rate of mortality from pneumonia is lowest among children between 10 and 14 years of age, but from then on it increases with advancing age.

Of the persons who died from pneumonia during 1924, 33 per cent. were under 5 years of age and 41 per cent. 50 years of age and over. The following table gives deaths and rates, according to sex, since the year 1884:—

Period.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.
1884-88	2,032	7.68	1,301	5.98	3,333	6.91
1889-93	2,158	7.00	1,373	5.26	3,531	6.21
1894-98	2,514	7.43	1,528	5.15	4,042	6.37
1899-1903	3,191	8.87	2,000	6.15	5,191	7.58
1904-1908	2,816	7.28	1,824	5.12	4,640	6.24
1909-1913	2,983	6.77	1,931	4.81	4,914	5.33
1914-1918	3,779	7.78	2,402	5.17	6,181	6.50
1919-23	4,217	7.87	3,042	5.90	7,259	6.90
1924	892	7.84	619	5.66	1,511	6.78

The greatest mortality from pneumonia occurs in the cold weather, and in 1924 there were from this cause 729 deaths, or 48 per cent. of the total number in the four months ranging from June to September.

The following table shows the death-rates for each sex in the principal age groups, in decennial periods since 1891:—

Age Group. Years.	Deaths per 10,000 living—Pneumonia.								
	Males.			Females.			Persons.		
	1891-1900.	1901-1910.	1911-1920.	1891-1900.	1901-1910.	1911-1920.	1891-1900.	1901-1910.	1911-1920.
0-4	21.08	21.19	20.80	17.16	17.70	18.00	19.15	19.48	19.43
5-9	1.29	1.31	1.48	1.20	1.27	1.41	1.25	1.29	1.45
10-14 .. ..	.55	.95	.64	.93	1.10	.76	.74	1.02	.70
15-19	2.01	2.29	1.69	1.26	1.49	.88	1.64	1.90	1.28
20-24	3.08	3.00	2.90	1.90	1.54	1.44	2.50	2.28	2.13
25-34	3.91	3.67	3.55	2.60	2.30	2.09	3.32	3.01	2.82
35-44	6.69	6.06	5.01	3.97	3.92	2.72	5.55	5.09	3.92
45-54	9.61	9.47	8.76	5.33	4.78	4.19	7.85	7.45	6.68
55-64	16.06	16.15	12.58	10.78	10.19	8.13	13.92	13.56	10.62
65-74	28.21	28.47	23.99	18.66	22.98	19.19	23.89	26.10	21.81
75 and over ..	42.40	46.54	55.56	35.38	50.32	52.19	39.42	48.24	53.97
All ages	7.46	7.68	7.49	5.22	5.50	5.29	6.42	6.64	6.42

As in most diseases affecting adults, the death-rates are higher for males than for females. About 25 per cent. of deaths occur between the ages of 5 and 45 years. In the age group 0-4 years a slight increase is shown, but between the ages of 20 and 74 the rates have been slowly but steadily decreasing. The increase shown in the age group 75 and over is due probably to more complete information being now available as to cause of death.

Diseases of the Digestive System.

Diseases of the digestive system accounted for the deaths of 1,070 males and 895 females during 1924, the respective rates per 10,000 living being 9.41 and 8.19. The rate corresponding to the total deaths from these diseases in the State was 8.81 per 10,000 living, and was 18 per cent. below that experienced during the previous five years. Deaths resulting from diseases of the digestive system were caused in the main by diarrhœa and enteritis, with hernia and intestinal obstruction, appendicitis, and cirrhosis of the liver next in order of fatality.

Diarrhœa and Enteritis.

The incidence of these diseases is mainly upon young children. In 1924 there were 1,038 deaths from these causes, equivalent to a rate of 4.65 per

10,000 of the general population, the rates for males being 4·91 and for females 4·39. The combined rate was 29 per cent. below the average for the preceding quinquennium. The following table shows the number of deaths and the rates since 1884, distinguishing between the sexes.

Period.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.
1884-88	3,412	12·89	3,048	14·02	6,460	13·40
1889-93	3,451	11·20	2,851	10·92	6,302	11·07
1894-98	4,042	11·94	3,638	12·26	7,680	12·09
1899-1903	4,422	12·29	3,901	11·99	8,323	12·15
1904-1908	3,714	9·61	3,000	8·41	6,714	9·03
1909-1913	4,257	9·66	3,471	8·64	7,728	9·18
1914-1918	3,622	7·46	2,957	6·36	6,579	6·92
1919-1923	3,813	7·11	3,039	5·89	6,852	6·51
1919	871	8·58	717	7·28	1,588	7·94
1920	919	8·69	795	7·86	1,714	8·29
1921	779	7·25	571	5·52	1,350	6·40
1922	553	5·05	398	3·77	951	4·42
1923	691	6·18	558	5·19	1,249	5·70
1924	558	4·91	480	4·39	1,038	4·65

There was a considerable drop in the rate after 1888, due probably to the beneficial operations of the Dairies Supervision Act. During the next fifteen years there was a gradual increase, followed by a marked improvement in 1904, an improvement which was maintained consistently until the years 1919 and 1920, when an upward tendency was manifested.

Of the total deaths from diarrhœa and enteritis, 592, or 57 per cent., occurred in the three summer months of January, February, and December; and 75, or 7 per cent., in the months of July, August and September. As a rule, about 50 per cent. of the deaths occur in the summer.

Deaths from these diseases are classified into two groups, one including children under 2 years of age, and the other all persons 2 years of age and over. In the first group there were 854, or 82 per cent. of the total, and in the second 184.

Since such a large proportion of the deaths are contained in this first group, it is interesting to consider the improvement in the rate shown by the following table, in which the deaths of children under 2 years from diarrhœa and enteritis are related to the total number of children in that age group.

Year.	No.	Rate per 1,000.	Year.	No.	Rate per 1,000.
1881	733	33·50	1911	963	11·21
1891	985	14·76	1921	988	10·08
1901	1,165	18·10	1924	854	8·16

Although the rate of mortality from these causes is still comparatively heavy, there has been a very marked improvement. The proportion of deaths in 1924 was less than one-quarter of that for 1881.

Appendicitis.

To this cause 156 deaths were ascribed in 1924, the rate being 0·70 per 10,000 living, which is 13 per cent. below the average of the preceding quinquennium. Appendicitis is more fatal to males than to females, the rate for the former in 1924 being 0·85, and for the latter 0·54 per 10,000 living.

Cirrhosis of the Liver.

In 1924 the deaths from cirrhosis of the liver, which are of interest in connection with alcoholism, numbered 102, the rate being 0·46 per 10,000 living—14 per cent. below the average for the previous quinquennial period. This disease is more prevalent among males than females—the rate for the former in 1924 being 0·66, and for the latter 0·25 per 10,000 living in each sex.

Bright's Disease or Nephritis.

Bright's disease or nephritis has grown in the past forty years from a relatively infrequent cause of death to a prominent position amongst the major causes, and it now ranks sixth in order of importance amongst those causes of death whose incidence falls upon the general population. From 1884 to 1913 the number of deaths due to the disease gradually increased, and the rate of mortality caused by it more than doubled. A definite retardation in the increase then set in, and the annual average rate of mortality in 1914-18 was 501 per million of population, as against 497 in the preceding quinquennium. This check upon the increase in mortality from the disease was followed after 1918 by an appreciably lower rate of mortality, and the average annual rate for the next five years fell to 456 per million inhabitants.

During 1924 there were 1,498 deaths due to diseases of the genito-urinary system, of which number 1,103 were caused by Bright's disease, acute and chronic. The rate was 4·95 per 10,000 living, and for males and females 6·01 and 3·84 respectively, the general rate being 8 per cent. above that experienced during the previous quinquennium. The deaths due to these diseases in the metropolis were 595, and in the rest of the State 508, the corresponding rates per 10,000 living being 5·98 and 4·11. Experience shows that the fatality of these diseases increases slightly during the winter months.

The number of deaths and the rates of mortality due to Bright's disease are shown below.

Period.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.
1884-88	626	2·37	386	1·78	1,012	2·10
1889-93	907	2·94	570	2·18	1,477	2·60
1894-98	1,291	3·81	821	2·77	2,112	3·33
1899-1903	1,659	4·61	996	3·06	2,655	3·88
1904-1908	2,056	5·32	1,199	3·36	3,255	4·38
1909-1913	2,649	6·01	1,539	3·83	4,188	4·97
1914-1918	3,080	6·34	1,682	3·62	4,762	5·01
1919-1923	2,914	5·44	1,886	3·66	4,800	4·56
1924	683	6·01	420	3·84	1,103	4·95

During the whole period covered by the foregoing table the rate of mortality both for males and for females has more than doubled. The rate for males is about half as high again as that for females. Comparatively few persons under 35 years of age die from nephritis, the proportion for 1924 being 10 per cent. of the total.

The following table shows the death-rates for each sex in the principal age groups in decennial periods since 1891:—

Age Group. Years.	Deaths per 10,000 living—Bright's Disease.								
	Males.			Females.			Persons.		
	1891- 1900.	1901- 1910.	1911- 1920.	1891- 1900.	1901- 1910.	1911- 1920.	1891- 1900.	1901- 1910.	1911- 1920.
0-4	1·31	1·52	·87	1·44	1·23	·81	1·37	1·38	·84
5-9	·44	·48	·33	·44	·50	·27	·44	·49	·30
10-14 .. .	·26	·49	·28	·38	·53	·48	·32	·51	·38
15-19 .. .	·76	·72	·67	·61	·77	·60	·68	·74	·63
20-24 .. .	1·01	1·04	1·33	1·26	1·07	1·29	1·13	1·05	1·31
25-34 .. .	1·80	1·85	1·88	2·38	1·74	1·73	2·06	1·80	1·81
35-44 .. .	4·48	4·36	3·54	4·52	4·12	3·32	4·50	4·25	3·43
45-54 .. .	8·40	9·92	10·73	6·65	7·98	6·65	7·68	9·08	8·87
55-64 .. .	15·39	20·17	22·91	10·47	12·83	12·92	13·39	16·98	18·51
65-74 .. .	26·47	40·87	45·24	15·77	25·06	28·12	21·71	34·05	37·46
75 and over..	29·29	59·12	75·56	16·59	29·65	41·64	23·90	45·89	59·53
All ages ..	3·62	5·16	6·12	2·63	3·33	3·67	3·16	4·29	4·93

Although the total rates show a decided increase during the period reviewed, those for males under 45 and for females under 55 have decreased. The male rate at practically every age is higher than the female. For each sex the rate depends entirely upon the age; a slow increase is noted till the age of 45 is reached, after which the increase is rapid.

Deaths in Childbirth.

The incidence of deaths from puerperal causes falling only upon women of child-bearing ages, and mainly upon married women of these ages, the rates of mortality are not quoted as a proportion of general population, but are generally stated at per 1,000 births. Such rates show a persistent though fluctuating decline during the past three decades. For the period 1895-1904 the annual average number of deaths of mothers in childbirth was 268, equal to 7·1 deaths per 1,000 births. The corresponding number for the period 1905-1914 was 284, and the rate 6·2, compared with 289 and 5·2 respectively for the period 1915-1924. The decreased proportion of unmarried mothers has contributed slightly to this decline; but the rates quoted represent very closely the improvement that has occurred in mortality in childbirth among married mothers.

During 1924 the number of deaths of women resulting from various diseases and casualties incident to childbirth was 291, equivalent to a rate of 5·4 per 1,000 births, or 1 death in every 185 births. Puerperal septicæmia caused 75 deaths, puerperal hæmorrhage 33, accidents of pregnancy 33, albuminuria and eclampsia 61, phlegmasia alba dolens, embolus, sudden death 22, and other casualties of childbirth 67. The experience of the five years 1920-24 shows that the average number of fatal cases per 1,000 births for married and for single women, are 5·2 and 9·6 respectively. Plural births are reckoned as single confinements.

Cause of Death.	Deaths.			Proportion per cent. due to each Cause.	
	Married.	Single.	Total.	Married.	Single.
Accidents of Pregnancy	148	9	157	11·1	7·1
Illegal Operations	105	52	157	7·8	40·9
Puerperal Hæmorrhage	168	4	172	12·6	3·1
Puerperal Septicæmia	408	26	434	30·5	20·5
Albuminuria and Eclampsia	268	27	295	20·0	21·3
Phlegmasia Alba Dolens, Embolus, Sudden Death.	92	2	94	6·9	1·6
Other Casualties of Childbirth	149	7	156	11·1	5·5
Total	1,338	127	1,465	100·0	100·0

Of the 1,338 married women, 726 or 54 per cent. gave birth to still-born children, and of the 127 single women, 89 or 70 per cent.

Illegal operations caused over 40 per cent. of the puerperal deaths of single women.

More than any other cause of death during childbirth, puerperal septi-cæmia can be classed as a preventable disease. Thirty per cent. of the deaths are due to this cause, but the proportion has declined appreciably in recent years. During the last ten years the annual rates of mortality of mothers in childbirth per 1,000 births were as follow:—

Year.	Deaths from Puerperal Septicæmia per 1,000 Births.			Total Deaths of Mothers in Child-birth per 1,000 Births.		
	Metropolis.	Remainder of State.	State.	Metropolis.	Remainder of State.	State.
1915	2.2	1.8	2.0	5.0	5.2	5.1
1916	2.9	1.7	2.2	6.7	5.1	5.7
1917	1.6	2.1	1.9	6.4	6.1	6.2
1918	2.6	1.4	1.8	6.5	4.5	5.3
1919	2.4	.9	1.4	6.6	4.7	5.4
1920	2.7	1.5	2.0	7.6	5.1	6.1
1921	1.9	1.4	1.6	5.8	4.7	5.1
1922	1.6	1.6	1.6	5.9	4.6	5.1
1923	1.6	1.2	1.4	6.7	4.2	5.2
* 1924	1.7	1.2	1.4	6.4	4.7	5.4

These rates are higher than those experienced in England and Wales, where 3.8 deaths per 1,000 births occurred in 1923, of which 1.3 per 1,000 were due to puerperal septi-cæmia.

The above table shows that the incidence of deaths of mothers in child-birth is considerably heavier in the metropolis than elsewhere in the State, despite the better hospital, medical and nursing facilities available in the city. The explanation of this apparent anomaly is suggested by the following table, which shows the incidence of deaths from childbirth on an industrial and geographical basis during the period 1915-24:—

Division.	Deaths from Puerperal Septicæmia per 1,000 Births.		Total Deaths of Mothers in Childbirth per 1,000 Births.	
	Married.	Single.	Married.	Single.
Metropolis	2.03	3.32	5.96	11.63
Country Municipalities	1.74	2.26	5.49	7.66
Shires ... ..	.95	1.32	3.55	6.08
New South Wales	1.68	2.71	5.25	9.62
Industrial Centres	2.02	3.26	5.91	11.16
Non-Industrial Centres	1.35	1.77	4.61	6.98

The metropolis includes a very large proportion of the industrial population, and embraces practically the whole of that proportion of the population living under the conditions of modern city life. Here the maternal mortality in childbirth is considerably higher than in any other part of the State. The country municipalities include only one large town—Newcastle—but they embrace considerable mining populations in the northern, southern, and western coal-fields and the silver-lead mines of Broken Hill. Although the shires embrace a few mining towns, such as Cessnock, their population consists for the most part of the dwellers in small towns and on farms and, among these, deaths of mothers in child-birth are far less extensive than in industrial and urban districts.

Deaths from Violence.

This category includes deaths from accident, suicide, homicide, and other deaths not classified in respect of which "open verdicts" were recorded at coroners' inquests. Owing to the decline in the proportion of deaths due to accident, the rate of mortality due to violence has diminished slightly during the past thirty years. The annual number of suicides has increased, but their proportion to the population has not shown any marked variation. Deaths from homicide and those classed as "open verdicts" have remained fairly constant in number, and their proportion to the population has, therefore, decreased.

Deaths from violence in 1924 numbered 1,446, or 6·9 per cent. of the total deaths of the year. This number includes 255 suicides, 1,072 accidents, 50 homicides and 69 classified as open verdicts. The rate, 6·48 per 10,000 living, was 5 per cent. higher than the rate for the preceding quinquennium, which was 6·15. In the year 1924 the males thus dying numbered 1,124, or 9·89 per 10,000 living, and the females 322 or 2·95 per 10,000, very little above a quarter of the male rate.

Deaths from Suicide.

The number of persons who took their own lives in 1924 was 255, or a rate of 1·14 per 10,000 living, and about 6 per cent. above the average for the preceding quinquennium. The number of male suicides was 205, or a rate of 1·80 per 10,000 living, and of female 50, or a rate of 0·46 per 10,000 living—the male rate thus being nearly four times that of the female.

The number of deaths from suicide and the rates per 10,000 living since 1884 are shown in the following table:—

Period.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.
1884-88	428	1·62	96	0·44	524	1·09
1889-93	519	1·68	110	0·42	629	1·11
1894-98	679	2·01	169	0·57	848	1·34
1899-1903	651	1·81	142	0·44	793	1·16
1904-1908	719	1·86	160	0·49	879	1·18
1909-1913	857	1·95	238	0·59	1,095	1·30
1914-1918	888	1·83	223	0·48	1,111	1·17
1919-1923	887	1·65	244	0·47	1,131	1·08
1924	205	1·80	50	0·46	255	1·14

The means usually adopted for self-destruction by men are either shooting, poisoning, cutting, or hanging. Women, as a general rule, avoid weapons, and resort mostly to poison. Of every 100 cases of suicide, 23 were by the agency of poison, 23 by cutting, 22 by shooting, 16 by hanging, and 6 by drowning. During the last three years suicides by shooting were 18 per cent. of the total, as against 28 per cent. during the previous five years. The decrease is, no doubt, the result of the introduction in 1921 of regulations regarding the possession of firearms.

Experience shows that the suicidal tendency is perhaps influenced by the seasons. During the last ten years the proportion of male suicides per 1,000 was approximately as follows:—In spring 260, summer 275, autumn 235, and winter 230. The number of suicides is greater in January than in any other month.

Female suicides, being numerically small, give variable results as regards seasonal influence, and, contrary to the experience of males, no particular month showed any preponderance.

Deaths from Accident.

During the year 1924 the number of fatal accidents was 1,072, viz., 833 of males and 239 of females, or equal to rates of 7.33 and 2.19 per 10,000 living of each sex, and the general rate was 4.81 per 10,000 living. Accidental deaths have always been numerically greater in the extra-metropolitan area. Of those registered during 1924, deaths from accident in the metropolis numbered 398, and in the remainder of the State 674. As a general rule, about two-thirds of the accidents occur in the latter division, which contains about 55 per cent. of the total population.

The number of deaths from accident and the rates per 10,000 since 1884 are shown in the table below.

Period.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000.
1884-88	3,550	13.41	944	4.34	4,494	9.32
1889-93	3,666	11.90	966	3.70	4,632	8.14
1894-98	3,498	10.33	1,095	3.69	4,593	5.23
1899-1903	3,432	9.54	1,103	3.39	4,535	6.62
1904-1908	3,143	8.13	1,055	2.96	4,198	5.65
1909-1913	3,891	8.83	1,114	2.77	5,005	5.94
1914-1918	3,814	7.86	1,075	2.31	4,889	5.14
1919-1923	3,656	6.82	1,080	2.09	4,736	4.50
1924	833	7.33	239	2.19	1,072	4.81

Although the death-rate from accidents is still high compared with that of more settled countries, it has decreased, the decline for males being more rapid than for females. For the years prior to 1894 the rates were really slightly lower than those shown in the table, because certain causes formerly classed as accidents now fall into different categories.

The experience of the past quinquennium shows that out of every 1,000 accidents 228 are due to vehicles and horses, 142 to drowning, 140 to falls, 120 to burns or scalds, 95 to railways and tramways, 34 to mines and quarries, and 24 to weather agencies, *i.e.*, excessive cold or heat, and lightning. Among males the greatest number of deaths are due to vehicles and horses, and among females to burns and scalds.

Out of 301 deaths caused by accidents with vehicles and horses, motor vehicles figured in 127. Sixty-three deaths occurred in the metropolis and 64 in the remainder of the State. This class of accident is increasing annually. In 1922 there were 84, and in 1923, 111 deaths from motor accidents.

THE SEASONAL PREVALENCE OF DISEASES.

The following table shows for each month of the year the proportion of deaths per 1,000 due to each of nine principal causes. The figures are based

on the experience of the five years 1920-1924, and in order to make the results of the computation comparable, adjustments have been made to correct the inequality of the number of days in each month.

Month.	Typhoid Fever.	In- fluenza.	Diph- theria and Croup.	Whoop- ing- Cough.	Phthisis.	Pneu- monia.	Bron- chitis.	Diarrhoea, Enteritis, and Dysentery.	Bright's Disease.
January ...	151	22	81	131	81	54	44	200	75
February ..	144	22	91	71	71	49	47	136	69
March ...	117	22	107	40	78	47	42	110	66
April ...	120	23	133	37	73	53	56	92	75
May ...	90	38	130	38	88	75	86	75	84
June ...	82	104	105	54	85	112	126	42	90
July ...	31	226	89	40	91	124	164	29	91
August ...	30	244	71	53	96	143	140	25	96
September.	43	142	49	74	94	117	109	24	98
October ...	42	82	49	137	88	95	85	31	88
November .	66	41	46	158	82	76	55	84	93
December..	84	34	49	167	73	55	46	152	75
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000

The chief features of the above table are exhibited in the contrast between the figures relating to typhoid fever, diarrhoea, and enteritis on the one hand, and to influenza, pneumonia, and bronchitis on the other. In the first group the influence of the hot weather is the controlling factor; in the second, the cold. The warmest months in the year are January, February, and December; the coldest, June, July, and August. The morbidity from phthisis varies little throughout the year, but the rates show that it is more fatal in the colder months. Bright's disease shows likewise a higher mortality during the cold weather.

PRIVATE FINANCE.

CURRENCY.

THE currency of New South Wales is under the supervision of the Commonwealth Government. Matters relating to the metallic currency are administered in terms of the Coinage Act, 1909, and the paper currency is controlled by the Commonwealth Bank Act, 1911-25, and the Bank Notes Tax Act passed in 1910.

During the war period restrictions were placed upon the use of gold. The banks and the Mint ceased to issue gold coins to the public, and paper money came into general use. The removal of restrictions on the export of gold re-established the gold standard in April, 1925, but it is not intended to replace with gold the notes which are used for internal currency.

An estimate of the face value of the currency of New South Wales at five-year intervals between 1901 and 1921 was published in the 1921 issue of this Year Book in the chapter relating to Valuation of Wealth, details being given regarding the sources of data and the method used in formulating the estimate. The following is a summary of the results:—

Currency.	1901.	1906.	1911.	1916.	1921.
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Gold	8,607	9,795	14,496	11,006	8,637
Silver	729	831	1,302	1,513	2,150
Bronze	44	53	81	99	131
Total Metallic	8,789	10,679	15,879	12,618	10,918
Bank Notes	1,500	1,462	401	85	70
Australian Notes ... ..	...	...	3,866	18,991	21,668
Total Paper	1,500	1,462	4,267	19,076	21,738
Total Currency	10,280	12,141	20,146	31,694	32,656

The amount of metallic currency rose considerably between 1901 and 1911, and throughout the following decade the silver and bronze coinage continued to expand, while in the latter half the gold currency was withdrawn gradually from active circulation owing to war conditions. Bank notes were replaced by Australian notes after the enactment of Federal legislation in 1910, and the amount of paper currency increased fivefold between 1911 and 1921.

The distribution of the currency between the banks and the public is shown below. The amount of bank notes current and of the Australian notes held by banks were estimated from the statutory returns of the banks, and the value of Australian notes in the hands of the public was assumed to have been 40 per cent. of the amount so held in the Commonwealth.

Held by—	1901.	1906.	1911.	1916.	1921.
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Banks—					
Gold	6,040	7,724	12,202	11,006	8,637
Silver	345	407	450	497	599
Bronze	10	12	15	17	26
Australian Notes ... ..	...	...	2,124	13,661	12,099
Total	6,395	8,143	14,791	25,181	21,361
Public—					
Gold	1,967	2,071	2,294	...	...
Silver	384	424	852	1,016	1,551
Bronze	34	41	66	82	105
Bank-notes	1,500	1,462	401	85	70
Australian Notes ... ..	...	...	1,742	5,330	9,570
Total	3,885	3,998	5,355	6,513	11,296
Total Currency	10,280	12,141	20,146	31,694	32,656

The amount of metallic currency rose considerably between 1901 and 1911, and expanded by 70 per cent. during the succeeding five years; then showed a tendency to decline. After 1911 the increase was in the amount of Australian notes, and the quantity of gold decreased considerably. Shortly after the commencement of the war an arrangement was made by which the banks placed gold at the disposal of the Government and accepted in exchange Australian notes redeemable at the end of the war. The banks do not now require to hold gold against the issue of bank notes.

The money in the hands of the public increased slowly between 1901 and 1916, then expanded rapidly during the succeeding quinquennium as prices and wages rose to an abnormal level. The increase in relation to the population is shown in the following table:—

Currency.	Money in active circulation per head of Population.				
	1901.	1906.	1911.	1916.	1921.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Gold	1 8 7	1 7 7	1 7 6	...	...
Silver	0 5 7	0 5 8	0 10 4	0 10 9	0 14 9
Bronze	0 0 6	0 0 7	0 0 9	0 0 10	0 1 0
Total Metallic	1 14 8	1 13 10	1 18 7	0 11 7	0 15 9
Paper	1 1 9	0 19 6	1 5 9	2 17 3	4 11 5
Total Currency	2 16 5	2 13 4	3 4 4	3 8 10	5 7 2

The average amount of money in actual circulation per head of population in 1921 was twice the amount in 1906, and was 56 per cent. higher than in 1916.

COINAGE.

British or Australian gold coins are legal tender in New South Wales for the payment of any amount, silver coins up to forty shillings, and bronze up to one shilling.

A branch of the Royal Mint, London, was opened in Sydney on 14th May, 1855, for minting gold. Other branches were opened subsequently in Melbourne (Victoria) and in Perth (Western Australia). The Commonwealth Coinage Act, 1909, empowers the Federal Treasurer to make and issue silver and bronze coins of specified denominations. A nickel coinage also was authorised, but it has not been issued.

For gold coins the standard fineness is $\frac{11}{12}$ fine gold, $\frac{1}{12}$ alloy; for silver coins $\frac{37}{40}$ fine silver, $\frac{3}{40}$ alloy; bronze coins are of mixed metal—copper, tin, and zinc. Thus, standard or sovereign gold has a fineness of 22 carats, and the gold contained in deposits sent to the Sydney Mint for melting, assaying, and coining is accounted for at the rate of £3 17s. 10½d., or 3·8937 sovereigns per oz.

The nominal value of one ounce of silver coined into sixpences is 5s. 6d., and of one pound (avoirdupois) of bronze coined into pence 4s., and into half pence 3s. 4d.

The denominations of Australian coins are similar to those of the Imperial coinage, the principal variations being the elimination of the half-crown. Until 1919 gold coins only were struck at the Sydney Mint, the

silver and bronze coins issued being minted elsewhere. As the gold production decreased and gold coins were withdrawn from circulation, arrangements were made for minting other coins, viz., bronze in May, 1919, and silver in January, 1921.

Coin and bullion are distributed from the Sydney Mint under the order of the Federal Treasurer. The issues during the year 1925 included sovereigns to the value of £5,632,000, silver coins to the value of £245,475, and bronze £7,280. Gold bullion is issued in the form of bars for banks, also small quantities of pure gold for industrial use, the quantity in 1925 being 2,400 oz., valued at £9,347. The amount of gold issued during 1925 was unusually large in consequence of importations by banks and other institutions. The gold being in the form of bars was converted into sovereigns at the Sydney Mint before being deposited in the vaults of the banks.

The value of gold coin and bullion issued by the Sydney Mint from the date of its establishment in 1855 to the end of 1925 was £155,401,669, viz., coin £148,185,500, and bullion £7,216,169. The value of Australian token coinage issued from 1910 to 1925 was £2,188,584, including silver £2,044,375, and bronze £144,209. Worn gold coins are received for re-coining, the nominal value of those withdrawn from circulation to the end of 1925 being £1,091,547. British silver coins, worn and re-issuable, are withdrawn through the agency of the Mint, the aggregate value of the withdrawals to the end of 1925 being £1,236,172. No Australian coins have yet been withdrawn from circulation.

The coinage value of an ounce of silver being 5s. 6d., a substantial profit is usually made on the coinage, after the minting and other expenses have been deducted. Under normal conditions, the price of silver is determined by transactions in the London market, and the average of the prices ruling there in each year since 1916 is shown below:—

Year.	Price of Silver per standard oz.	Year.	Price of Silver per standard oz.
	s. d.		s. d.
1916	2 7·3	1921	3 0·9
1917	3 4·9	1922	2 10·4
1918	3 11·6	1923	2 7·9
1919	4 9·1	1924	2 9·9
1920	5 1·6	1925	2 8·1

In 1918 the price of silver in London was subject to regulation by the Imperial Government. It was decontrolled in May, 1919, and in the latter part of the year it commenced to rise rapidly until it exceeded the coinage value. The maximum was realised in February, 1920, when the average price for the month was 7s. 6d. per oz. Thereafter it declined rapidly, and in June of the same year the price was 3s. 4d. per oz. The annual average fell steadily between 1921 and 1923, in the following year a rise of 2d. per oz. was recorded, and in 1925 a decrease of 1½d.

Though the Sydney Mint is a branch of the Imperial institution and the coinage is under the control of the Commonwealth, the cost of maintenance is borne by the State Government and the receipts are paid into the Consolidated Revenue of New South Wales, in accordance with arrangements subsisting at the inauguration of the Commonwealth. A statutory

endowment of £15,000 is set apart annually, and additional appropriations are made when necessary. The profit in respect of the issue of Australian silver and bronze coinage accrues to the Federal Government.

The receipts of the Sydney Mint consist of charges for coining, fees for assaying, etc., and profits on the sale of silver. The Mint retains the silver contained in the deposits treated, but payment is made for the quantity in excess of a certain proportion, which varies from 5 per cent. to 8 per cent. in accordance with the gross weight. The rate of payment is determined by the Deputy Master. The price since 1st January, 1923, has been 2s. per oz.

The disbursements by the State Government in respect of the Sydney Mint during 1925 amounted to £20,966, and the receipts to £10,440, the net loss being £10,526. The corresponding figures for 1924 were expenditure £18,467, receipts £11,185, and net loss £7,282. The expenditure by the State Government in connection with the Mint has exceeded the receipts paid into Consolidated Revenue in each year since 1907, except in 1918, when the Mint charges yielded a greater amount than usual as the result of the treatment of large consignments of gold from oversea. The net loss to the State from the date of opening—14th May, 1855—to the end of 1925 was £18,277. It has been decided to close the Sydney Mint during the year 1926.

PAPER CURRENCY.

Bank Notes.

Prior to 1910 the right to issue paper currency in New South Wales was vested in private banking institutions which had acquired the right by Royal charter or by special Act of Parliament, the bank notes being subject to a tax of 2 per cent. per annum imposed by the State. In 1910 the Federal Parliament, having authorised the issue of Australian notes, imposed a tax of 10 per cent. on the notes of the trading banks, with the object of forcing them out of circulation. Consequently the value of the bank notes current dropped from £2,213,128 in December quarter, 1910, to £400,784 in the following year. In June quarter, 1925, the amount was £65,724.

Australian Notes.

The Australian Notes Act, 1910, passed by the Commonwealth Parliament, prohibited the circulation of notes by any of the States and authorised the Federal Treasurer to issue Australian notes, in denominations of 10s., £1, £5, £10, and multiples of £10, to be legal tender throughout the Commonwealth, and to be payable on demand at the seat of Federal Government. Five-shilling notes were authorised, but have not been issued. The gold reserve in respect of the notes was fixed at an amount not less than one-fourth of the notes issued up to £7,000,000, and £ for £ in excess of that amount, but in the following year the Act was amended and the reserve was fixed at one-fourth of the issue.

In December, 1920, control of the Australian note issue was transferred to the Commonwealth Bank, in which a Note Issue department was established. Since the transfer the notes have been issued by the Commonwealth Bank and are payable at the head office of the Bank. Under the Act of 1920, the management of the note issue was entrusted to a Board, consisting of the Governor of the Bank as chairman, and three other directors appointed by the Governor-General, one being an officer of the Commonwealth Treasury. Under the provisions of the Commonwealth Bank (Amendment) Act of 1924 the note issue was placed under the control of the Board of Directors of the Bank, but a decision affecting the issue is

not effective unless six of the eight directors vote for it at a meeting at which all the directors are present, or five vote for it when any of the directors is absent.

The Act of 1924 authorises the Board to issue Australian notes to banks in Australia in exchange for money or securities lodged with the London branch of the Commonwealth Bank. This provision was made to obviate monetary difficulties arising from market fluctuations in rates of exchange between Australia and London.

Of the net profits of the note issue, after paying working expenses and commission to the Commonwealth Bank for the purpose of its general business, 25 per cent. is to be paid into the Rural Credits Department of the Bank in terms of an amending Act passed in 1925—until the amount so paid reaches a total of £2,000,000. The balance of the net profits is paid to the Treasury of the Commonwealth. The money derived from the issue, apart from the gold reserve, may be invested on deposit with any bank; in securities of the United Kingdom, of the Commonwealth, or of a State; or in trade bills with a currency of not more than 120 days.

The total value of the Australian notes in circulation in New South Wales and elsewhere, and the gold reserve, in each year since 1914, are shown below:—

On 30th June.	Notes in Circulation.	Gold Reserve.	
		Total.	Proportion of Note Circulation.
	£	£	Per cent.
1914	9,573,738	4,106,767	42·90
1915	32,128,302	11,034,703	34·34
1916	44,609,546	16,112,943	36·12
1917	47,201,564	15,244,592	32·29
1918	52,535,959	17,659,754	33·61
1919	55,567,423	24,273,622	43·68
1920	56,949,030	23,658,092	41·54
1921	58,225,787	23,478,128	40·32
1922	53,556,698	23,534,181	43·94
1923	52,102,025	24,443,980	46·91
1924	56,890,225	24,441,277	42·96
1925	53,890,226	25,841,027	47·95

Of the notes current in June, 1925, the banks held £31,025,802, and £22,864,424 were in the hands of the public. In comparison with the figures for the previous year there was a decrease of £3,493,000 in the banks' holdings, and an increase of £493,000 in the notes in active circulation. The amount of notes in circulation was increased in 1924, when notes to the value of £4,200,000 were issued to the banks to discharge certain liabilities incurred by the Government in connection with war financial transactions, to which further reference is made on page 210. Arrangements were made in October, 1924, by which additional notes up to £15,000,000 were to be made available to the banks, if required, to finance the export trade in wool and wheat. There was no increase in the note issue subsequent to the agreement, and at the end of May, 1925, notes to the value of £3,000,000 were cancelled.

The value of the gold reserve is far above the proportion, 25 per cent., required by law, the excess in June, 1925, being £12,368,470.

Money Orders and Postal Notes.

Exchange by means of money orders and postal notes is conducted by the Post Office. The maximum amount which may be transmitted by a single money order is £20, if the place of payment is within the Commonwealth; to places outside the Commonwealth the maximum is £10, £20, or £40, as fixed by arrangement with the country concerned. The following table gives particulars of the money orders issued and paid in New South Wales during the last five years:—

Year ended 30th June.	Money Orders issued in New South Wales for payment in—				Money Orders issued elsewhere, paid in New South Wales.		
	New South Wales.	Other Australian States.	Other Countries.	Total.	In other Australian States.	Beyond the Commonwealth.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1921 ...	4,809,290	605,471	414,997	5,829,758	806,808	294,479	1,101,287
1922 ...	5,091,806	683,111	352,591	6,132,508	779,264	251,534	1,030,798
1923 ..	5,200,893	655,472	361,706	6,218,071	822,959	261,112	1,084,071
1924 ...	5,274,373	679,073	368,042	6,321,488	904,943	291,373	1,196,316
1925 ...	5,522,731	726,857	367,403	6,616,991	953,194	315,294	1,268,488

The amount of the money orders issued in other Australian States for payment in New South Wales exceeds the amount sent from this State, but in the international money orders the balance is against New South Wales.

The maximum amount for which a single postal note is issued is £1, and particulars regarding them are shown below:—

Year ended 30th June.	New South Wales Postal Notes paid in—			Postal Notes of other Australian States paid in New South Wales.
	New South Wales.	Other Australian States.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1921 ...	1,210,980	352,244	1,563,224	138,142
1922 ...	1,296,463	348,809	1,645,272	150,578
1923 ...	1,331,512	370,307	1,701,819	177,183
1924 ...	1,383,017	403,289	1,791,306	163,216
1925 ...	1,476,859	458,494	1,935,353	176,329

The amount of money sent by postal notes to the other States is more than twice the aggregate value of the interstate postal notes paid in New South Wales. This method of transmitting small sums is used extensively for the purchase of shares in lotteries conducted in other States, the sale in New South Wales being prohibited.

The number of New South Wales postal notes paid in the State during the year ended June, 1925, was 3,878,661, and 1,566,435 were paid in other Australian States. The postal notes issued in other States and paid in New South Wales numbered 485,708.

BANKS.

Institutions which transact banking business are required under the Banks and Bank Holidays Act to furnish to the Chief Secretary quarterly statements of their assets and liabilities; also, when required, to furnish special statistical returns under the State Census Act of 1901. From these returns, and from the periodical balance-sheets issued by the banking companies, the information contained in the following tables has been prepared. Under the Commonwealth Bank Act of 1924 the banks are required to supply periodical statements to the Commonwealth Bank.

The banking institutions which transact ordinary business in New South Wales are seventeen in number. The head offices of six are in New South Wales, of three in Victoria, of one in Queensland, of one in South Australia, and of one in New Zealand. Three banks have head offices in London, and there are two foreign banks with headquarters in France and Japan respectively.

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia was established under an Act passed by the Federal Government in 1911, and amended in 1914, 1920, 1924, and 1925.

The Commonwealth is responsible for the payment of all moneys due by the bank, and debts due to the bank by other banks have the same priority as debts due to the Commonwealth. The affairs of the bank are subject to inspection and audit by the Auditor-General of the Commonwealth. The bank is authorised to conduct general banking business, to exercise the functions of an ordinary bank of issue, to transact savings bank business, and, with the approval of the Treasurer of the Commonwealth, it may take over the business of banking corporations and of State savings banks. Since 1920 the control of the Australian note issue has been one of the functions of a separate department of the Commonwealth Bank, under conditions which are stated on page 202.

The scope of the bank's operations is being enlarged as a result of the Amending Act of 1924, with the object of making it a central bank. An important amendment lies in the change of management, entrusted previously to a governor. Under the new arrangement, the institution is controlled by a Board of Directors, composed of the Governor of the Bank, the Secretary of the Commonwealth Treasury, and six other directors with experience in agriculture, commerce, finance, or industry. The last-mentioned are appointed by the Governor-General for terms ranging, in the case of the first appointments, from two to seven years, so that one will retire in each year, but will be eligible for reappointment. Subsequent appointments will be for seven years. The Governor of the Bank is its chief executive officer and is appointed for a term of seven years, with eligibility for reappointment. A Board of Advice in London, consisting of three members selected by the Board of Directors, exercises such powers as the latter delegates to it. A director or officer of any other bank may not be appointed as a director of the bank nor as a member of the London Board.

The Board of Directors may be authorised by proclamation to fix and publish the rate at which it will discount and rediscount bills of exchange.

The settlement of balances between the banks trading in Australia is conducted by means of cheques drawn on the Commonwealth Bank, and for this purpose the other banks keep funds with the Commonwealth Bank.

Under the Act of 1911 the capital of the Bank was fixed at £1,000,000, to be raised by the issue and sale of debentures, and the amount was increased by the Act of 1914 to £10,000,000. The Act of 1924 leaves with the Bank the authority to issue debentures, though none have been issued. It provides also for the capitalisation of £4,000,000 of accumulated profits, and authorises the Federal Treasurer to raise, by the issue of Treasury bills, sums not exceeding £6,000,000 to grant to the Bank as additional capital. The Bank will pay the interest on any loan raised for this purpose.

Of the net profits of the Bank—except those of the Note Issue and the Rural Credits Departments—half are payable to the Bank reserve fund and half to the National Debt Sinking Fund.

The establishment of a Rural Credits Department for the purpose of assisting the marketing of products of the rural industries was authorised by an amending Act passed in September, 1925. This department may make advances upon the security of primary produce, viz., wool, grain, butter, cheese, fruits, hops, cotton, sugar, and any other produce as may be prescribed. The advance may be for a period of more than one year. The advances may be made upon the security of primary produce to the general banking section of the Commonwealth Bank, to other banks, to co-operative associations, and to such other bodies as may be specified by proclamation. In lieu of making advances the department may discount bills secured upon primary produce on behalf of any of these institutions.

Funds for the new department may be provided by loans from the Federal Government up to a limit of £3,000,000, and it will receive 25 per cent. of the net profits of the Note Issue Department until such payments amount to £2,000,000. The Commonwealth Bank may raise further funds for the department by issuing debentures up to an amount not exceeding the greater of the following, viz., (a) advances on primary produce outstanding at the date of the issue of the debentures; or (b) four times the sum of (1) outstanding loans from the Federal Government, (2) moneys received from the profits of the note issue, (3) the credit balance of the Rural Credits Department Reserve Fund. The dates for the redemption of the debentures are to coincide, as nearly as practicable, with the dates for the repayment of the advances made. In addition, the general banking department of the Commonwealth Bank may make advances to the Rural Credits Department of such amounts and subject to such terms and conditions as the Board of Directors determines. The assets of the Rural Credits Department are available, firstly, for meeting liabilities other than loans from the Federal Government and interest thereon; and secondly, for repaying such loans with interest. One half of the net profits are payable to the reserve fund of the Department, and one half to a fund to be used, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, for the promotion of primary production.

The Commonwealth Bank commenced operations on 15th July, 1912, by the opening of a savings bank department, but ordinary banking business was not commenced until 20th January, 1913. The head office is in Sydney, and branches have been established in the principal cities and towns of Australia, in London, and in the territory of New Guinea. Savings bank business is transacted at all the branches and at numerous post offices and agencies throughout Australia, Papua, New Guinea, the Solomon and other Pacific Islands.

The following statement shows the liabilities and assets of the Commonwealth Bank in New South Wales in the June quarter of each of the last five years:—

Particulars.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Liabilities—	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits at interest—					
Savings Department	6,308,826	6,879,637	7,354,932	7,693,565	8,123,194
Ordinary	7,477,994	4,466,546	5,536,524	1,825,675	1,227,876
Deposits not bearing interest	7,957,402	8,056,573	6,983,964	8,790,623	9,224,775
Total deposits	21,744,222	19,402,756	19,875,420	18,309,863	18,575,845
Other liabilities	176,645	34,216	45,558	57,936	1,846,455
Total Liabilities	21,920,867	19,436,972	19,920,978	18,367,799	20,422,300
Assets—					
Coin and Bullion	559,052	898,539	877,803	790,035	1,954,445
Australian Notes	1,618,772	1,652,075	1,173,372	4,105,571	4,486,248
Advances	21,855,509	20,754,495	19,678,334	19,067,167	17,339,728
Landed Property	335,054	310,461	333,715	315,910	312,000
Other Assets	1,646,467	1,790,806	1,286,224	2,307,224	2,101,048
Total Assets	26,014,854	25,406,376	23,349,448	26,395,897	26,193,469

The total liabilities and assets of the bank in New South Wales and elsewhere at 30th June, 1913, amounted to £5,055,382, and at 30th June, 1925, they had increased to £87,893,418, excluding those of the note issue department. The aggregate net profit earned up to the latter date was £4,989,230, of which £4,098,392 were credited to the general bank and £890,838 to the savings bank department.

Capital and Profits of Trading Banks.

The particulars relating to the capital and profits of the banks, as shown in the following table, are exclusive of figures relating to the French bank and the Japanese bank, as their transactions in New South Wales represent only a very small proportion of their total business. In the years prior to 1924 the Commonwealth Bank also was excluded as it had no capital, the Federal Government being responsible for its liabilities.

With these exceptions the following table shows the amount of the paid-up capital of the institutions doing business in the State, also the reserve funds, net profits, and dividends, at intervals since 1895. The paid-up capital represents the total amount contributed, irrespective of the countries in which it was subscribed. The particulars relating to dividends are exclusive of the Rural Bank, which is an adjunct of the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales, and of the Commonwealth Bank.

Year.	Number of Banks.	Capital paid up.	Reserve fund and balance of Profit and Loss.	Net profits.	Dividends.	
					Total.	Percentage to paid-up capital.
		£	£	£	£	
1895	13	19,704,957	4,338,861	750,755	540,409	2·74
1900	13	16,807,069	4,742,025	1,257,403	689,969	4·10
1910	14	16,193,550	9,292,715	2,085,004	1,297,885	8·01
1920	14	22,944,369	18,217,298	3,442,582	2,299,379	10·02
1921	13	27,040,770	17,057,163	4,389,157	2,735,923	10·11
1922	12	28,714,942	21,720,280	4,312,508	2,887,692	10·06
1923	12	39,200,746	23,169,699	4,571,475	3,166,360	10·48
1924	14	33,806,332	25,808,097	5,396,335	3,409,756	10·33
1925	15	46,696,991	29,371,289	5,731,142	3,738,747	10·14

During the first decade of the period under review the capital of some of the banks was written down. Between 1905 and 1910, the capital of the existing banks was increased by calls on the shareholders, and two new institutions commenced operations in New South Wales. The increase has continued, and the paid-up capital has been doubled since 1920, an additional sum of £23,752,622 having been added during the last five years. The increase since 1924 includes the capital of the Commonwealth Bank, £4,000,000, created by the capitalisation of accumulated profits in terms of the Commonwealth Bank Amendment Act of 1924, which is described on page 205. The reserve funds have been built up steadily in recent years, and have been augmented by more than £11,000,000 since 1920. The reduction in the number of banks between 1920 and 1922 was due to amalgamations.

In 1895 the banks had not recovered from the effects of the financial crisis of 1893; some did not pay a dividend, and others paid on preferential shares only, consequently the average rate was very low. Fifteen years later conditions had improved greatly, and the banks were able to allocate a substantial sum to reserves, and to distribute a large portion of their profits, the average rate of dividend being nearly three times as great as in 1895. The financial position showed further improvement during the next decade; the total reserve funds were almost doubled during the period and the average rate of dividend increased by 25 per cent. Since 1920 there have been further additions to the reserve funds amounting to more than 60 per cent., and the rate of dividend has been over 10 per cent. in each year, notwithstanding heavy increases in costs and expenses of management.

Liabilities within New South Wales.

The following statement shows the average liabilities of all the banks within New South Wales, exclusive of those to shareholders. Up to 1900 the figures are for December quarter, and from 1910 onward they are for June quarter. Since 1920 the interest-bearing deposits include savings bank deposits in the Commonwealth Bank of Australia which amounted to £8,123,194 in June quarter, 1925:—

Year.	Bank Notes.	Deposits.			Other Liabilities.	Total Liabilities within N.S.W.
		At Interest.	Without Interest.	Total Deposits.		
1895	£ 1,223,864	£ 20,406,822	£ 10,222,437	£ 30,629,259	£ 183,929	£ 32,037,052
1900	1,447,641	20,009,081	12,224,510	32,233,591	288,499	33,969,731
1910	1,801,807	26,642,873	23,512,712	50,155,585	471,233	52,428,625
1920	73,266	50,495,134	52,878,126	103,373,260	2,562,273	106,008,799
1921	71,654	54,631,451	53,044,965	107,676,416	3,661,412	111,409,482
1922	68,953	54,086,297	52,276,678	106,362,975	2,511,109	108,943,037
1923	67,556	62,163,919	54,005,932	116,169,851	2,097,534	118,334,941
1924	66,580	58,164,886	53,655,365	111,820,251	2,431,736	114,318,567
1925	65,724	65,139,919	55,771,102	120,911,021	4,162,802	125,139,547

The decline in the value of bank notes in circulation is the result of their replacement by Australian notes. There was a remarkable growth of deposits between 1910 and 1920 in consequence of the large war expenditure and increases in prices. In the following years the amount rose and fell alternately. An increase of nearly £10,000,000 in 1923 was followed by a decline of £4,350,000 in 1924, when the banking position was affected by a disorganisation of the process of exchange which delayed the transfer from London of the proceeds of the export trade. With a favourable season and advantageous market conditions, deposits rose in 1925 to a level which was £4,741,000 over the amount in June quarter 1923. The deposits include Government deposits which in June, 1925, consisted of £9,392,786 at interest and £7,041,399 on current account.

Assets within New South Wales.

The following table shows the average assets within New South Wales of all banks operating in the State. In order to institute a comparison between the figures of the various banks, necessary adjustments have been made by excluding from the assets the balances due from branches and agencies outside New South Wales:—

Year.	Coin and Bullion.	Australian Notes.	Advances.	Landed Property.	Other Assets.	Total Assets within N.S.W
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1895	7,516,278	...	35,707,153	1,919,017	479,881	45,622,329
1900	6,126,126	...	34,385,388	1,874,099	650,814	43,036,427
1910	12,980,593	...	37,482,907	1,824,349	1,014,456	53,302,305
1920	10,452,526	13,032,195	89,063,144	2,477,601	4,246,969	119,272,435
1921	10,151,949	11,812,417	104,769,314	2,573,628	3,186,625	132,433,933
1922	10,617,998	10,176,664	98,335,071	2,620,237	3,625,157	125,375,157
1923	10,279,648	10,055,027	113,053,795	2,780,285	3,713,762	139,882,517
1924	11,711,112	12,111,578	112,873,479	2,960,035	5,004,755	144,660,959
1925	16,677,630	13,409,010*	111,475,369	3,026,704	4,363,365	148,954,078

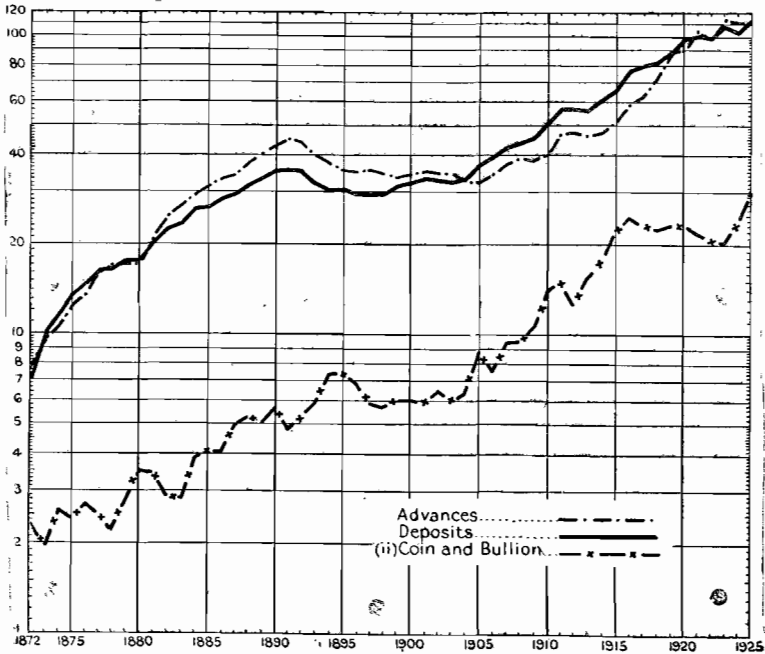
* Includes cash deposited with the Commonwealth Bank by other banks.

The advances increased rapidly after 1914, owing to inflation of the currency and rising prices, as many producers and traders required a larger amount of help in proportion to the volume of business. Another reason for the increase lies in the fact that the banks undertook various forms of advances to meet special emergencies arising from war conditions, *c.g.*, assistance to enable customers to invest in war loans, and advances in connection with the marketing of staple products.

During the period of trade activity and excessive importations in 1920-21, advances rose rapidly, the aggregate being more than twice the amount in 1915. In the following year advances in respect of war loans and wheat

declined, traders were forced to reduce their overdrafts, and the import trade diminished, consequently the total amount of advances declined by £6,364,000.

TRADING BANKS, 1872 to 1925.



- Notes (i). The numbers at the side of the graph represent £1,000,000.
 (ii). In 1910 and subsequent years the amount of coin and bullion included Australian notes held by the banks.
 (iii). Savings bank deposits in Commonwealth Bank are not included.

The diagram is a ratio graph, and, the vertical scale being logarithmic, the rise or fall of each curve represents the percentage of change. Equal distances on the scale represent the same percentage of change, and when the curves run parallel, they indicate an increase or decrease in equal proportion, irrespective of absolute numbers. Actual values are shown also by means of the numbers at the side of the graph.

In 1923 and 1924 the advances were over eight millions higher than in 1921. The increase reflects a larger volume of importations, while adverse weather conditions in some parts of the State in 1923 caused the wool and wheat growers to seek temporary assistance from the banks. Other reasons for the growth of the advances were the great activity in the building trade and industrial enterprise, and investment in real property. Owing to the good returns received for staple products in 1924-25 business enterprises required less financial assistance from the banks and advances decreased by £1,400,000.

The reserves of the banks, *i.e.*, coin and bullion and Australian notes, have increased by 132 per cent. since 1910. The amount of coin and bullion held in that year was nearly £13,000,000, and it was increased to £15,500,000 in 1914. During the war period the banks transferred a large amount of gold to the Federal Treasury and rendered assistance to the Government in other ways in connection with war loans, etc., receiving in exchange Australian notes or the right to obtain notes on demand. Under these circumstances the gold reserve of the banks in New South Wales declined by over £5,000,000, and the amount of Australian notes, which

before the war had not exceeded £2,000,000, increased very rapidly. At the end of the year 1924 the banks began to import gold in large quantities and in this manner raised their gold reserve above the pre-war level. The amount of Australian notes declined from £13,032,000 in 1920 to £10,055,000 in 1923, then rose to £13,409,000 in 1925. The last-mentioned amount includes notes and cash deposited with the Commonwealth Bank by the other banks, mainly for the purpose of settling inter-bank clearances.

The proportion of reserves which banking institutions should keep constantly on hand is not fixed by any enactment, and consequently it varies considerably. The ratios of coin, bullion, and Australian notes for various periods from 1895 are shown below:—

Year.	Proportion of Coin, Bullion, and Australian Notes—		Year.	Proportion of Coin, Bullion, and Australian Notes—	
	To Total Liabilities.	To Deposits at Call and Banknotes.		To Total Liabilities.	To Deposits at Call and Banknotes.
	per cent.	per cent.		per cent.	per cent.
1895	16·5	34·7	1922	19·1	39·7
1900	18·0	44·8	1923	17·2	37·6
1910	24·8	51·3	1924	20·8	44·3
1920	19·7	41·4	1925	24·0	53·9
1921	19·7	41·3			

The ratio of reserves to total liabilities and to deposits rose steadily from 16·5 per cent. in 1895 to 28·6 per cent. in 1915; then, as the banks were called upon to meet a heavy demand for accommodation, but could not readily increase their reserves of cash, the ratio to liabilities fell below 20 per cent. During the last two years the reserves were strengthened, and the ratios rose appreciably.

In making comparisons on the basis of reserves held by the banks, it is necessary to take into consideration arrangements made from time to time between the authority controlling the Australian note issue and the banks, by which the latter were given the right to obtain a certain amount of Australian notes on demand, so that the cash resources available to them have been really greater than the amount of cash actually held. At 30th June, 1923, the banks in Australia had the right to obtain notes up to about £8,000,000. During the following year the Notes Board terminated some of the rights by issuing to the banks notes valued at £4,200,000, and in June, 1924, the existing rights were limited to about £3,119,000.

In October, 1924, the directors of the Commonwealth Bank agreed to issue additional currency up to £15,000,000, if required, to meet seasonal requirements in respect of the export of wool and wheat.

Deposits and Advances.

Under the head of advances are included notes and bills discounted, and all other debts due to the banks. The bulk of the advances are secured by the mortgage of real estate, or by the deposit of deeds over which the

lending institutions acquire a lien, but the extent to which trade bills are discounted is not disclosed. The following table shows the ratio of advances to deposits, and to total assets, at various dates from 1895:—

Year.	Deposits.	Advances.	Ratio of Advances.		Amount of Advances per head of Population.
			To Deposits.	To Total Assets.	
	£	£	per cent.	per cent.	£ s. d.
1895	30,629,258	35,707,153	116·6	78·3	28 5 9
1900	32,233,591	34,385,388	101·2	79·9	25 4 0
1910	50,155,585	37,482,907	74·7	70·3	23 4 6
1920	103,373,260	89,063,144	86·2	74·7	43 0 11
1921	107,676,416	104,709,314	97·2	79·1	49 15 0
1922	106,332,975	98,335,071	92·4	78·4	45 14 11
1923	116,169,851	113,053,795	97·3	80·9	51 12 0
1924	111,820,251	112,873,479	100·9	78·0	50 13 1
1925	120,911,021	111,475,369	92·2	74·8	49 0 8

During the prosperous years which preceded the war, advances increased considerably, but not to the same extent as deposits. During the war period banking transactions expanded to a remarkable degree, but, despite the heavy strain upon the financial resources of the community, the margin of deposits did not fall below 25 per cent. until 1918. Then the demand for financial assistance became more insistent, as the Government was negotiating war loans locally, and the primary producers were in need of assistance to combat the ravages of drought. Under these conditions the ratio of advances to deposits rose steadily.

The inrush of imports in 1920-21 placed a further strain upon the banks, and the ratio of advances rose to 97 per cent. before the effect of restrictive measures became evident. In 1922 the relation between advances and deposits showed a marked improvement, but the ratio rose to 97·3 per cent. in the following year, notwithstanding an increase of nearly 10 per cent. in the amount of deposits. In June quarter, 1924, advances actually exceeded the deposits, but this condition, being due to exceptional circumstances, lasted for a short period only. The demand for financial accommodation was very active in view of the favourable outlook for wool and wheat, activity in the building industry, and the requirements of a heavy import trade. On the other hand, the unfavourable rate of exchange hampered the transfer to Australia of the proceeds of the export trade, causing them to accumulate in London instead of becoming available for local use. The gold standard was restored in the following year and, as returns from the wool clip and a bountiful wheat harvest became available, deposits showed a marked increase, while advances were reduced, so that the ratio dropped towards the normal level.

A classification of accounts according to the amount of deposit at or about 30th June, 1925, is shown below, the figures being exclusive of par-

particulars of the Commonwealth Bank, which are not available. The absence of these particulars probably does not affect the table seriously, as the bulk of the accounts in the Commonwealth Bank, apart from savings bank accounts, consists of large amounts deposited by the Governments of the Commonwealth and of three of the States.

Classification.	Current Accounts.		Fixed Deposit Accounts.		Current and Fixed Deposit Accounts.	
	Number.	Amount at Credit.	Number.	Amount at Credit.	Number.	Amount at Credit.
		£		£		£
£200 and under ...	172,260	7,754,893	27,250	3,129,198	199,510	10,884,091
£201- £500 ...	22,558	7,060,498	19,267	7,082,571	41,825	14,143,069
£501- £1,000 ...	8,839	6,110,157	11,233	8,822,696	20,072	14,932,853
£1,001- £2,000 ...	4,153	5,728,612	4,640	6,995,952	8,793	12,724,564
£2,001- £3,000 ...	1,228	2,980,330	1,205	3,098,240	2,433	6,078,570
£3,001- £4,000 ...	530	1,846,356	462	1,671,179	992	3,517,535
£4,001- £5,000 ...	342	1,550,841	462	2,242,089	804	3,792,930
£5,001-£10,000 ...	472	3,195,119	552	4,355,488	1,024	7,550,607
£10,001-£15,000 ...	123	1,514,153	99	1,247,653	222	2,761,806
£15,001-£20,000 ...	59	1,057,748	57	1,083,968	116	2,141,716
Over £20,000 ...	88	9,192,753	153	14,282,300	241	23,475,053
Total ...	210,652	47,991,460	65,380	54,011,334	276,032	102,002,794

Eighty-seven per cent. of the accounts and 25 per cent. of the deposits were held in respect of those with balances not exceeding £500. Accounts of £2,000 and under represented 98 per cent. of the total accounts and 52 per cent. of the deposits, 48 per cent. of the aggregate amount of the deposits being held in 2 per cent. of the accounts. Small deposits were more numerous in current accounts, as persons wishing to place small sums of money at interest generally avail themselves of the facilities offered by the savings banks. The number of accounts does not represent the number of persons who have money in the banks.

The proportion of accounts and of deposits in each group are shown below:—

Classification.	Proportion of Accounts in each Group.			Proportion of Deposits in each Group.		
	Current Accounts.	Fixed Deposit Accounts.	Total.	Current Accounts.	Fixed Deposit Accounts.	Total.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
£200 and under ...	81.8	41.7	72.3	16.2	5.8	10.7
£201- £500 ...	10.7	29.5	15.1	14.7	13.1	13.9
£501- £1,000 ...	4.2	17.2	7.3	12.7	16.3	14.6
£1,001- £2,000 ...	2.0	7.1	3.2	11.9	13.0	12.5
£2,001- £3,000 ...	.6	1.8	.9	6.2	5.7	6.0
£3,001- £4,000 ...	.2	.7	.3	3.8	3.1	3.4
£4,001- £5,000 ...	.1	.7	.3	3.2	4.2	3.7
£5,001-£10,000 ...	.2	.8	.4	6.7	8.1	7.4
£10,001-£15,000 ...	.1	.2	.1	3.2	2.3	2.7
£15,001-£20,000 ...	.1	.3	.1	2.2	2.0	2.1
Over £20,000 ...				19.2	26.4	23.0
Total ...	100	100	100	100	100	100

Banks' Exchange Settlement.

The Banks' Exchange Settlement Office was established in Sydney on the 18th January, 1894, and exchanges were effected daily between the banks. The results of the operations were notified to the secretary of the Banks' Exchange Settlement, who notified each institution daily of the amount of its balance with the "pool," and it was not permissible for the balance of any bank to remain below 25 per cent. of the fixed contribution. In the event of it reaching this margin, the bank was required to make up the deficiency with gold or Australian notes. It is provided by the Commonwealth Bank Act of 1924 that after a date to be proclaimed the exchange balances between the banks must be settled by cheques drawn on and paid into the Commonwealth Bank. Pending the issue of the proclamation, the banks inaugurated the system voluntarily as from 27th April, 1925, and for this purpose established current accounts with the Commonwealth Bank. The daily clearances are made through the Settlement Office as formerly. In regard to interbank transactions in country centres the net debits or credits only are included in the business of the Settlement Office in Sydney, and the clearances are usually made less frequently than in the city.

The following table shows the growth in the volume of exchanges made through the Settlement Office. The figures represent the aggregate of the interbank clearances in the metropolis and the net balances as to country exchanges:—

Year.	Amount of Exchanges.	Year.	Amount of Exchanges.
	£		£
1895	108,509,860	1921	709,734,554
1900	144,080,314	1922	726,582,809
1905	169,826,381	1923	805,032,221
1910	274,343,666	1924	845,854,661
1915	357,803,425	1925	909,114,483
1920	764,546,357		

The transactions have grown rapidly, and, in 1920, when prices were at the highest level, the amount of exchanges was more than twice the sum in 1915. A decline in the following year was followed by a rapid rise. The increase in 1923 was due partly to a rise in price levels, but the volume of business also expanded, the increase in the amount of exchanges being 11 per cent. over the figure in the previous year, as compared with a rise of 7 per cent. in wholesale prices. In 1924, when prices fell by 3½ per cent., there was an increase of 5 per cent. in the bank clearings. In 1925 the amount of exchanges advanced to the highest level yet attained, viz., £909,114,483, being £63,260,000 or 7½ per cent. over the amount in the previous year. The general level of wholesale prices showed little alteration and the increase in the exchanges reflects a larger turnover resulting from the sale of primary products and from transactions in connection with the conversion or redemption of a Federal loan. Part of the increase is attributable to the change in the method of adjusting the clearances which for eight months of the year were settled by means of cheques drawn on the Commonwealth Bank, the amount of these cheques being included in the clearances.

Interest, Discount, and Exchange Rates.

The interest on fixed deposits during 1925 was 4 per cent. for sums deposited for six months; for twelve months' deposits the rate was 4½ per

cent., and for two years 5 per cent. Under normal conditions the rate of interest paid on fixed deposit is uniform for all banks, and discount and overdraft rates fluctuate with the interest paid to depositors.

The bank exchange rate on London, at sixty days' sight, is usually on the average about 1 per cent., but it is subject to some variations.

The interest rates allowed on deposits for twelve months, and charged on overdrafts, also the discount and exchange rates at intervals from 1890 to 1925, were as follow:—

Year.	Bank Rates of Interest.		Bank Discount Rates.		Exchange Rate on London at 60 Days' Sight.	
	Allowed on Deposits for Twelve Months.	Charged on Overdrafts.	Bills at Three Months.	Bills over Three Months.	Buying.	Selling.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
1890	4½	9	7	8	99¾ to 100	100¾ to 101½
1900	3	6 to 7	5 to 5½	5½ to 6½	98¾ ,, 99½	100½ ,, 100¾
1910	3	6 ,, 7½	5 ,, 6	6 ,, 7	98¾ ,, 99	99¾ ,, 99¾
1920	4 to 4½	6 ,, 8	5 ,, 6	6 ,, 7	98 ,, 99½	99¾ ,, 100¾
1921	4½	6 ,, 8	5 ,, 6	6 ,, 7	98¾ ,, 99½	100¾ ,, 100¾
1922	4½	6 ,, 8	5 ,, 6	6 ,, 7	97¾ ,, 99	99¾ ,, 100¾
1923	4½	6 ,, 8	5 ,, 6	6 ,, 7	97¾	99¾
1924	4½	6 ,, 8	5½ ,, 7	5½ ,, 7	95¾ to 97½	96½ to 99½
1925	4½	6 ,, 8	5½ ,, 7	6 ,, 7	95¾ ,, 98¾	96½ ,, 98¾

The Commonwealth Bank increased its rate for general overdrafts from 6½ per cent. to 7 per cent. as from 1st January, 1925, and reduced it to 6½ per cent. six months later.

The financing of the export trade, consisting mainly of products of rural industries, is an important function of the banking institutions in New South Wales. Exchange rates on London are liable to fluctuate with the value of exports and of imports, and by the extent to which money from abroad is being invested in Australian industries or public loans. Variations in the relative values of Australian and other currencies are liable also to cause fluctuations.

Early in the year 1924 the exchange rates on London, which had remained constant throughout the preceding year, began to advance rapidly. The discount on sixty days' sight drafts (buying) rose from 47s. 6d. in January, 1924, to 92s. 6d. in October, when high prices were being realised for staple products. Restrictions upon the movement of gold and the relative position of the exchanges of other countries prevented the inflow of gold into Australia which otherwise would have been a natural sequence when the exchange rates between Australia and London became so favourable for such importation. Early in the following year, however, it became practicable to import gold, and several large shipments were received from the United States, from South Africa, and from London.

On 29th April, 1925, the Commonwealth Government withdrew the embargo on the export of gold, thus resuming the gold standard concurrently with Great Britain, and on 6th May the exchange rates quoted by the Australian banks were revised, the discount on sixty days' sight drafts (buying) being reduced to 50s. per cent. On 10th June, 1925, the rates were reduced again, the discount in the case of the rate mentioned being quoted at 37s. 6d. per cent. There was not another change until 4th December when the discount was increased by 2s. 6d. per cent. in the case of buying rates except for telegraphic transfers. The selling rates remained unchanged at the quotations made in June.

The successive changes during 1925 are illustrated in the following statement, which shows the rates quoted by the banks during each month of the year:—

Month	Exchange Rate on London at 60 Days' Sight.		Month.	Exchange Rate on London at 60 Days' Sight.	
	Buying.	Selling.		Buying.	Selling.
	per cent.	per cent.		per cent.	per cent.
January ..	95 $\frac{3}{8}$	96 $\frac{3}{8}$	July	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{7}{8}$
February ...					
March ...					
April ...	95 $\frac{3}{8}$ to 97 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{3}{8}$ to 98 $\frac{1}{2}$	October ...	98 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 98	98 $\frac{7}{8}$
May ...					
June ...	97 $\frac{1}{2}$,, 98 $\frac{1}{8}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$,, 98 $\frac{7}{8}$	December ...		

Wool and Wheat Exchange Pool.

In October, 1924, when it seemed probable that the high cost of transferring funds from London would have an unfavourable effect upon the export trade in wool and wheat, arrangements were made for the organisation of the exchange business in respect of those staple products. The Commonwealth Bank, as the authority controlling the Australian note issue, undertook to make available to the banks additional currency, up to £15,000,000, for seasonal requirements. The banks agreed to lodge securities in Australia or in London against any notes issued to them, to pay interest at Bank of England discount rate, which was then 4 per cent., and to repay the notes before the end of August, 1925. The banks agreed also to pool the wool and wheat exchange upon a basis which allowed for the varying incidence of the business of the several banks; each bank, including the Commonwealth Bank, taking up a certain quota.

The pool is operated through the medium of the Commonwealth Bank, which may buy London securities from any bank which has bought wool or wheat bills in excess of its quota, and sell London securities to a bank which does not reach its quota. Adjustments are made fortnightly.

The pool was designed primarily to obviate difficulties in respect of exchange which disappeared with the restoration of the gold standard. The banks have decided, however, to continue its operation during the season 1925-26.

SAVINGS BANKS.

Savings bank business in New South Wales is conducted by the Government Savings Bank and by the Commonwealth Bank, and extensive use is made of the facilities offered for the accumulation of small sums on which interest is paid, the deposits being used by the banks to promote the progress and development of the State.

The Government Savings Bank of New South Wales.

This institution was established in 1871 as a post office savings bank under the administration of the Postmaster-General. When the post office was transferred to the Commonwealth in 1901 the control of the bank was vested in the State Treasurer, but the use of the post office for savings bank business was continued until 1912 under agreement with the Federal Government. Upon the establishment of the Commonwealth Bank, the State institution had to withdraw its agencies from the post offices and to establish separate branches and agencies.

In January, 1907, a change was made in administration, and the bank, being detached from the direct control of the Treasurer, was placed under the management of three Commissioners, who were authorised to conduct the savings bank and to take over the State business in connection with loans to landholders transacted previously by the Advances to Settlers Board. Each class of business was confined to a separate department, and new departments were created subsequently, viz., the Closer Settlement Promotion Department, in terms of an Act passed in 1910, which authorised the bank to finance intending settlers out of the proceeds of debentures issued under the Government guarantee by the Advance Department; in 1914, departments to lend money on the mortgage of irrigation farm leases, and to make advances to enable persons to acquire homes; and in 1925 the Government Housing Department to take over certain functions in respect of the State housing schemes. The work of the Closer Settlement Department was transferred to the Department of Lands as from 1st July, 1919.

The importance of the Savings Bank Department was increased in 1914 by reason of the absorption of the Savings Bank of New South Wales, a smaller institution which had been established in 1832, and was controlled by trustees nominated by the Government.

In 1921 the scope of the bank was enlarged in terms of an amending Act passed in the previous year. The departments dealing with advances to settlers and irrigation farmers were reorganised as the Rural Bank Department, and the business of the institution was divided into three separate departments, viz., the Savings Bank, the Rural Bank, and the Advances for Homes.

In the Savings Bank Department the Commissioners may receive deposits and pay interest thereon at rates fixed by regulation, and they must hold 20 per cent. of the funds at call or short notice. In the Rural Bank the Commissioners are authorised to conduct the business of a rural bank and, with the approval of the Governor, they may extend the operations to include general banking business. The main purpose of the Rural Bank being to afford financial assistance to rural settlement and development, the Commissioners may grant advances on approved security to persons engaged in primary industries.

The Government Housing Department of the bank was created in terms of the Housing (Amendment) Act of 1924, which provided for the abolition of the Housing Board, whose operations are described in the chapter of this volume entitled Social Condition, and for the transfer to the Commissioners of the Savings Bank of properties subject to agreement for sale and securities for advances under the Housing Act. The lands and securities are being transferred by proclamation. On 1st April, 1925, accounts numbering 436 were transferred, the amount owing in respect of the securities being £265,244.

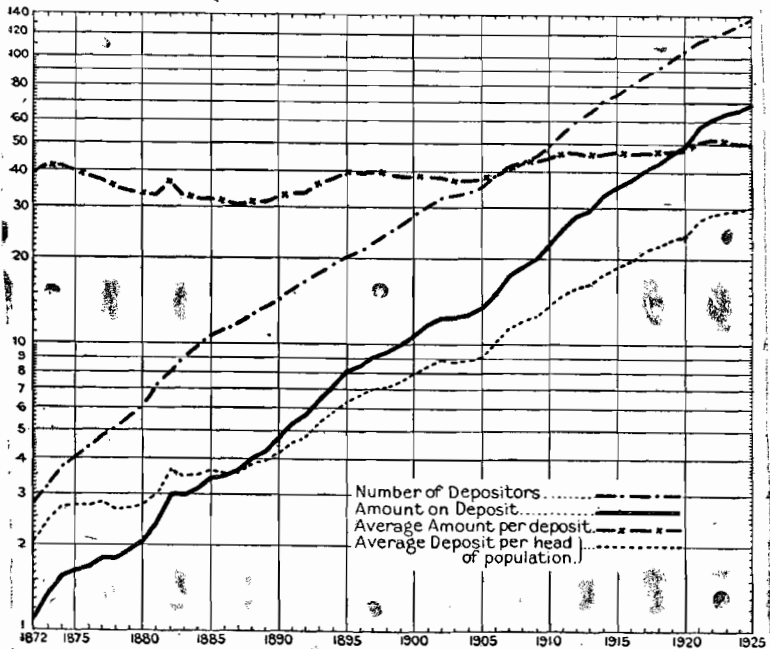
The following statement shows the loans current in each department of the bank at the end of the last five years:—

30th June.	Savings Bank.	Rural Bank.		Advances for Homes.	Government Housing Department.	Total Loans by Government Savings Bank.
		Long Term & Fixed Loan	Overdrafts.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1921	2,219,908	3,423,871	...	3,173,751	...	8,817,530
1922	2,177,973	4,525,374	728,584	4,223,505	...	11,655,436
1923	2,244,896	4,953,314	1,381,113	5,085,882	...	13,665,205
1924	2,198,824	5,526,744	2,144,333	6,042,697	...	15,912,593
1925	2,179,456	5,721,678	2,830,915	7,145,187	262,916	18,140,152

Figures relating to the ordinary banking business transacted by the Rural Bank are included in the tables relating to trading banks in this chapter, and further particulars relating to loans to farmers, etc., and to the advances for homes are published in the chapters of this volume relating to agriculture and to social condition respectively.

On 30th June, 1925, there were 170 branches and 540 agencies of the Government Savings Bank. Under reciprocal arrangements, transfers may be made on behalf of depositors between the bank and similar institutions in other States of the Commonwealth and the Post Office Savings Banks of the United Kingdom and New Zealand.

SAVINGS BANKS, 1872 to 1925.



The numbers at the side of the graph represent 10,000 depositors, £1,000,000 of deposits, £1 of average amount per deposit, and £1 of average deposit per head of population.

The diagram is a ratio graph, and the vertical scale being logarithmic, the rise or fall of each curve represents the percentage of change. Equal distances on the scale represent the same percentage of change, and when the curves run parallel, they indicate an increase or decrease in equal proportion, irrespective of absolute numbers. Actual values are shown also by means of the numbers at the side of the graph.

The liabilities of the Savings Bank Department, as at 30th June, 1925, amounted to £62,025,656; this sum included deposits, £60,546,786; reserve fund, £950,000; balance of profit and loss account, £33,716; and other liabilities, £495,154. The investments on behalf of the bank included Government securities and municipal loans £32,365,307, inscribed stock of the other departments of the bank £10,485,021, fixed deposits in banks and in the Treasury £9,932,316, loans on mortgages and contracts of sale £2,179,456, and securities of other banks £102,279. The cash in hand and bank and Treasury deposits at call and short notice amounted to £6,152,241; bank premises, £795,000; other assets, £14,036. The expenses of management during the year 1924-25 amounted to £369,671, or 12s. 2d. per £100 of average funds, as compared with 11s. 11d. during the preceding year.

Deposits in Savings Banks.

During the year ended 30th June, 1925, the rate of interest paid by the Government Savings Bank on deposits was 4 per cent. on balances up to £500, and 3½ per cent. on any excess up to £1,000. On accounts of friendly societies, trade unions, and other associations not conducted for profit or trade, interest was allowed at 4 per cent. up to £1,000, and 3½ per cent. on any excess. The amount of deposits received during the year was £56,951,475, and a sum of £2,124,796 was added as interest. The withdrawals amounted to £56,521,789, and the balance at credit at the end of the year was £60,546,786 held in 1,093,684 accounts. An amount of £11,596,822 or 19·1 per cent. of the total deposits, was held in 927,771 amounts not exceeding £100; £30,687,964, or 50·7 per cent., in 139,731 accounts between £100 and £500; and £18,262,000, or 30·2 per cent., in 26,182 accounts over £500.

The Commonwealth Bank in its saving bank department accepts deposits and pays interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. up to £1,000 and 3 per cent. on any additional balance up to £300. The number of accounts in New South Wales at 30th June, 1925, was 281,292, the amount at credit of the depositors being £8,602,647.

The following statement shows the number of accounts and the amount of deposits in the savings banks of New South Wales at the end of each financial year since 1916:—

At 30th June.	Accounts.	Deposits.		
		Total.	Per Account.	Per head of Population.
	No.	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1916	806,882	37,363,272	46 6 1	19 14 10
1917	872,351	40,836,747	46 16 3	21 8 8
1918	920,337	43,039,012	46 15 3	22 3 1
1919	984,951	47,070,342	47 15 9	23 11 3
1920	1,053,893	49,933,535	47 7 9	24 2 8
1921	1,126,157	57,394,441	50 19 4	27 5 8
1922	1,186,948	61,791,273	52 1 2	28 14 11
1923	1,246,191	64,324,669	51 12 4	29 7 2
1924	1,306,948	66,162,054	50 12 5	29 13 10
1925	1,374,976	69,149,433	50 5 10	30 8 4

The number of accounts does not represent individual depositors, as a certain amount of duplication is caused by persons having deposits in both banks, and by the inclusion of accounts of societies, of trusts, etc., whose members have personal accounts also. It is apparent, nevertheless, that a very large proportion of the people practise thrift through the medium of the savings banks. The aggregate amount of deposits has increased by 85 per cent. since 1916. Notwithstanding the inflation of the currency, the average amount per deposit did not vary greatly until 1921, when an upward tendency became evident. During the last three years it has declined. The average amount per head of population rose steadily throughout the de-cennium.

The number of accounts and the amount of deposits in savings banks in each State of Australia are shown in the following table:—

State.	Accounts.	Deposits.		
		Total.	Per Account.	Per head of Population.
	No.	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales ...	1,374,976	69,149,433	50 5 10	30 8 4
Victoria	1,337,093	59,551,895	44 10 9	35 12 10
Queensland	397,710	21,339,901	53 13 2	24 19 1
South Australia... ..	470,599	19,403,347	41 4 7	35 14 6
Western Australia	278,071	8,120,671	29 4 1	22 1 4
Tasmania... ..	132,841	4,505,479	33 18 4	21 5 3
Northern Territory	911	32,960	36 3 7	8 15 0
Total	3,992,201	182,103,686	45 12 4	30 14 3

The amount on deposit in the savings banks in New South Wales was far in excess of that in any other State, but the average per account was exceeded in Queensland, and the amount per head of population in South Australia and in Victoria. In comparison with the figures for the previous year there was an increase of £5,234,000 in the savings bank deposits in Australia, the increase in New South Wales being £2,987,000.

Deposits in all Banks.

In June, 1925, the total amount of deposits in the savings and the trading banks in New South Wales was £181,937,260, or £80 0s. 6d. per head of population. A comparative statement of each class of deposits is shown below. The amounts of interest-bearing deposits in the trading banks differ from the figures in preceding tables, which include the savings deposits in the Commonwealth Bank. The figures for the savings banks represent the deposits on 30th June in each year, and those for the trading banks are the averages of the June quarter.

June	Deposits bearing Interest.			Deposits not bearing Interest.	All Deposits.	
	Savings Banks.	Trading Banks.	Total.		Total.	Per head of Population.
	£.	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1916	37,363,272	33,884,082	71,247,354	43,610,878	114,858,232	60 14 0
1917	40,836,747	33,915,476	74,752,223	46,599,978	121,352,201	63 13 11
1918	43,039,012	36,126,228	79,165,240	46,125,775	125,291,015	64 9 11
1919	47,070,342	43,510,166	90,580,508	45,215,578	135,796,086	67 19 8
1920	49,933,535	45,198,528	95,132,063	52,878,126	148,010,189	71 10 9
1921	57,394,441	48,322,625	105,717,066	53,044,965	158,762,031	75 9 5
1922	61,791,273	47,206,660	108,997,933	52,276,678	161,274,611	75 0 6
1923	64,324,669	54,808,987	119,133,656	54,005,932	173,139,588	79 0 6
1924	66,162,054	50,471,322	116,633,376	53,655,365	170,288,741	76 8 5
1925	69,149,433	57,016,725	126,166,158	55,771,102	181,937,260	80 0 6

The total amount of deposits increased by 58 per cent. between 1916 and 1925, and the amount per head by 32 per cent. The most rapid growth occurred in the savings banks deposits, namely, 85 per cent. The deposits at call in the trading banks were higher by 28 per cent., and the interest-bearing deposits in the trading banks by 68 per cent.

INCORPORATED COMPANIES.

The legislation relating to incorporated companies in New South Wales is contained principally in the Companies Act, 1899, the amending Acts of 1900, 1906, and 1907, the Companies (Death Duties) Act, 1901, and the Companies (Registration of Securities) Act, 1918. These enactments follow the general provisions of Imperial Acts relating to companies, with deviations embodying the results of local experience.

The formation of a company, association, or partnership of more than ten persons in a banking business, or of twenty in any other business trading for profit, is prohibited, unless it is registered under the Companies Act, or incorporated under some other enactment, by royal charter, or by letters patent, or as a no-liability company.

The liability of members of a company may be limited by shares or by guarantee, or it may be unlimited. Under certain conditions associations formed for the purpose of promoting commerce, art, science, religion, charity, or other useful object, may be registered with limited liability. Special provision is made to regulate the formation of no-liability mining companies, and the liability of members for calls and for contributions to meet debts and liabilities in the event of winding-up ceases upon registration, shares upon which calls are unpaid being forfeited.

An important amendment of the company law was made in 1918, when the Companies (Registration of Securities) Act was passed to provide for the registration of debentures issued by companies.

Particulars relating to the registration of new companies and of increases of capital are shown below, the figures for the quinquennial periods representing the annual average:—

Period.	Limited Companies.				No-Liability Mining Companies.			
	New Companies.		Increases of Capital.		New Companies.		Increases of Capital.	
	No.	Nominal Capital.	No.	Nominal Amount.	No.	Nominal Capital.	No.	Nominal Amount.
		£		£		£		£
*1901-05 ...	113	3,104,766	13	483,990	25	301,766	5	24,175
*1905-10 ...	231	5,184,658	23	1,010,710	45	430,112	7	29,634
*1911-15 ...	383	10,263,455	58	3,468,139	20	308,017	3	31,395
1916 ...	156	4,187,075	19	757,500	7	125,000	...	...
1917 ...	159	5,918,267	19	494,500	8	77,500	2	15,000
1918 ...	221	6,428,907	60	1,950,190	15	238,500	2	20,000
1919 ...	267	9,137,360	78	3,071,100	12	118,255	2	4,000
1920 ...	301	61,654,857	291	11,848,073	26	862,100	1	18,000
1921 ...	462	20,255,150	93	5,454,507	10	234,625	6	50,950
1922 ...	445	10,897,919	81	4,868,357	21	442,500	1	1,000
1923 ...	563	18,625,061	105	6,452,000	20	276,875	1	5,000
1924 ...	561	15,301,727	91	5,080,283	15	170,750	5	18,000
1925 ...	598	19,644,314	99	6,074,786	13	242,000	1	8,500

* Average per annum.

Between 1901 and 1915 there was a steady increase in the promotion of limited companies, principally joint-stock companies, and a large amount of capital was invested in the expansion of existing enterprises, especially in the years immediately preceding the outbreak of the war. In 1915 and 1916 there was a noticeable slackening, and regulations under the War Precautions Act prohibited the issue or subscription of fresh capital unless under permit, the object being to encourage the flow of capital into loans

for war purposes. After 1917 the number of registrations began to rise again, as industrial and commercial enterprises prospered in consequence of war expenditure.

In 1920 there was a remarkable expansion of company promotion, and the registrations of limited companies numbered 801, and the nominal capital amounted to £61,654,857. The figures are inflated by reason of the reconstruction of many companies to meet altered conditions of industry and rises in prices and wages, but the Registrar-General has estimated that 648 entirely new companies were registered during the year, with a nominal capital of £38,700,000.

In 1921 and 1922 the registrations declined in a marked degree, but they have increased since, and in 1925 the number (including reconstructions) was 598, with a nominal capital of £19,644,314, as compared with an annual average of 383 registrations during the quinquennium 1911-15, the nominal capital being £10,263,000.

Foreign companies, *i.e.*, those formed or incorporated in any place outside New South Wales, are required to be registered before commencing to carry on business in the State. During the period 1911 to 1919 the number of such registrations was, on an average, about 52 per annum. In 1920 there were 100 registrations, and 72 were effected during 1921, which was the first year in which the nominal capital was recorded, the aggregate amount being £31,121,396. During 1922 the number of foreign companies registered was 58, and the nominal capital £29,143,313; in the following year 69 companies with nominal capital amounting to £34,971,400; and 83 companies in 1924, with nominal capital £14,131,711. The foreign companies registered during 1925 numbered 78, with an aggregate nominal capital of £95,833,857. Of this sum over £75,000,000 represented the capital of one company, *viz.*, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company Limited.

CO-OPERATIVE TRADING SOCIETIES.

Prior to the enactment of new legislation at the end of the year 1923, co-operative trading and investment societies were registered under the Building and Co-operative Societies Act, 1901. Liability was limited, and a member was not permitted to hold an interest exceeding £200 in any society, though a limit was not placed on the amount of interest which a society might hold in any other registered co-operative society.

In view of the extent of industrial organisation in the State, it is remarkable that co-operation, which in other countries is supported largely by industrial workers, has not made greater progress in New South Wales. At 30th June, 1925, there were only 84 societies, excluding those which were in liquidation or in a moribund condition. Returns for the year 1924-25 were received from 63 societies with an aggregate membership of 47,799.

Co-operative effort for production is a prominent feature of the dairying industry, most of the butter factories being organised on a co-operative basis, but societies of this class and other organisations of producers have been registered usually under the Companies Act. Only 23 manufacturing and trading societies (as distinct from consumers societies) supplied returns for the year ended 30th June, 1925.

The law relating to co-operation as contained in the Building and Co-operative Societies Act of 1901 proved highly defective in regard to the encouragement of co-operative enterprise and the safeguarding of co-operative interests. It has been replaced by the Co-operation, Community Settlement, and Credit Act, 1923, which came into operation on 31st December, 1923, and was amended in the following year.

The new Act is a comprehensive measure, affording ample scope for co-operative development. It authorises co-operative societies to engage in all forms of economic activity except banking and insurance, though certain societies may receive deposits.

Societies may be of various kinds, viz.: (a) rural societies to assist producers in conducting their operations and in marketing products; (b) trading societies to carry on business, trade, or industry; (c) community settlement societies to acquire land and settle or retain persons thereon and to provide any common service or benefits; (d) community advancement societies to provide any common service, *e.g.*, water, gas, electricity, transport; (e) building societies—terminating or permanent—to assist members to acquire homes or other property; (f) rural credit societies to make or arrange loans to members for the purpose of assisting rural production; (g) urban credit societies to assist members to acquire plant, furniture, etc., or to commence business or trade; (h) investment societies to enable members to combine to secure shares in a company or business or to invest in securities. Societies of the same kind may combine into co-operative associations, and such associations of all kinds may form unions.

New co-operative societies may be formed only in accordance with the Act. In regard to existing societies, seven permanent building societies specified in a schedule continue under the old Act, unless at their own option they obtain registration under the new law. Other existing societies were deemed to have applied for registration under the new Act, but except in regard to certain specified matters they were bound by the Act of 1901 until registered under the new Act. If such a society did not alter its rules to conform with the new Act and submit them for registration before 31st December, 1924, it became liable to be wound up.

Co-operative companies registered as limited companies under the Companies Act, 1899, may transfer their registration to the Co-operation, Community Settlement and Credit Act, without winding up or loss of identity. If they do not transfer such registration they must discontinue the use of the word "co-operative" as part of their title, unless its use is permitted by the Governor. The use of the word "co-operative" by any person or firm as part of a trade or business name is prohibited, and they may not in any manner hold out that their trade or business is co-operative.

Adequate provision is made to safeguard the funds and financial interests of the societies, the issue of shares and the disposition of the funds are regulated, the power to raise loans and to receive deposits is limited, reserve funds must be established, and the accounts of the societies are subject to inspection and audit. Liability is limited except in the case of rural credit societies, which may be formed either with limited or unlimited liability. A member may not hold more than one-fifth of the shares nor an interest exceeding £1,000. No dividend may be paid in respect of shares in a rural credit society with unlimited liability, and in other cases the maximum dividend is 8 per cent per annum per share. Powers of supervision are vested in the Registrar, who registers the societies and their rules, adjudicates upon matters in dispute, and may inspect accounts if necessary.

An Advisory Council has been appointed to submit recommendations to the Minister with respect to regulations and model rules of co-operative societies, the appointment of committees, and other action for promoting co-operation. The Council consists of the Registrar and representatives of different forms of co-operation appointed by the Governor.

Representatives of producers' and consumers' co-operative societies met in conference in April, 1925, with the object of improving the relations between the two classes of co-operation. Papers were read by representatives of different organisations, and resolutions were passed affirming the desirability of bringing producers' and consumers' societies into closer touch, and the necessity for co-operative organisation to bring about a reconciliation between the producers' and consumers' interests. The conference agreed to leave the matter in the hands of the Advisory Council to decide the question of further conferences and the formation of committees to promote these objects. The Government also is giving consideration to the matter.

Further details regarding the co-operative movement are set forth in the chapters of this book relating to agriculture, the dairying industry, and rural settlement.

The transactions of co-operative societies during the last five years are given in the following table:—

Particulars.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Number of Societies	62	79	89	91	84
„ Returns	36	46	49	49	63
Number of Members	48,313	49,670	48,738	50,418	47,799
Liabilities—	£	£	£	£	£
Share Capital	429,230	519,436	543,725	563,162	680,485
Reserves and Net Profits ..	262,831	253,709	256,070	283,732	390,095
Other Liabilities	262,258	299,271	303,457	279,490	308,706
Total Liabilities £	954,319	1,072,416	1,103,252	1,126,384	1,379,286
Assets—					
Freehold, Plant, etc.	258,301	314,480	324,624	344,121	465,913
Stock	450,817	471,824	465,880	452,936	483,222
Other Assets	245,201	286,112	312,748	329,327	430,151
Total Assets ... £	954,319	1,072,416	1,103,252	1,126,384	1,379,286
Value of Stocks at beginning of year... ..	373,732	474,514	461,530	470,007	460,254
Purchases	2,697,926	2,969,522	2,923,763	2,727,781	3,380,612
Expenses, Interest, etc. ..	413,866	500,924	508,612	383,321	602,711
Balance of Profit on trade of year... ..	256,485	247,366	294,966	380,734	373,639
Total	3,742,009	4,192,326	4,188,871	3,961,843	4,817,216
Sales, etc.	3,256,981	3,679,507	3,676,571	3,468,870	4,269,193
Discounts, etc.	34,211	40,995	46,420	40,037	64,801
Value of Stocks at end of year	450,817	471,824	465,880	452,936	483,222
Total	3,742,009	4,192,326	4,188,871	3,961,843	4,817,216

As previously stated, the majority of the societies are consumers' distributive societies organised on the Rochdale plan of "dividend upon purchase," conducting retail stores, and they buy their supplies through the agency of a wholesale society with which they are affiliated. The societies have met with success in the Newcastle and other mining districts, and in the parts of the metropolitan area where large numbers of industrial workers reside.

The number of co-operative societies on the register, which had remained fairly constant for over ten years, began to increase in 1919, when people were seeking means to combat a rapid advance in prices. The registrations include some societies which lapsed after making preliminary arrangements, and did not actually engage in business, but evidence of a marked growth in regard to co-operation may be gained from the records of the financial transactions, the amount of sales having increased by £1,012,212, or by 31 per cent. in the last five years.

In 1924-25, the expenses, including interest and depreciation, amounted to £602,711, or 14.1 per cent. on the amount of sales, and the result of the year's trade was a net profit of £373,639, which is equal to a rate of 8.8 per cent. on the sales. A sum of £31,827 was paid as dividend on shares, and £303,927 as rebates on purchases.

Benefit Building and Investment Societies.

The aggregate liabilities and assets of permanent building societies for the last five years are shown in the following statement:—

Particulars.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924-25.
Number of Societies ...	8	8	8	7	7
Liabilities—	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits... ..	496,298	506,603	509,763	522,329	550,116
Share Capital	327,322	338,644	347,603	364,440	401,277
Reserves and net profits	226,545	236,982	251,299	263,325	269,571
Other Liabilities	48,939	52,116	56,788	51,403	19,069
Total	1,099,104	1,134,345	1,165,453	1,201,497	1,240,033
Assets—					
Advances	885,102	931,593	978,452	1,040,854	1,080,494
Other Assets	214,002	202,752	187,001	160,643	159,539
Total	1,099,104	1,134,345	1,165,453	1,201,497	1,240,033

There are only seven permanent building societies. The income during the year 1924-25 amounted to £113,280, of which the largest item was interest, £101,795, and the expenditure, which amounted to £104,891, included £74,425, paid as dividend on shares and interest on deposits and as bonuses.

Starr-Bowkett building societies are terminating societies, in which the rights of members to appropriation are determined by ballot or by sale. The member pays a subscription, usually 6d. per share per week for 15 years, or in some cases until the last appropriation is made, and is entitled to a loan of £50 in respect of each share held by him. Loans are repayable by instalments spread over 10 to 12½ years without interest. It is usually over 20 years before the last loan is made, and after that stage the society commences to wind up, and share capital is repaid as instalments in respect of

loans accumulate. The usual lifetime of a society of this type is about 28 years. Particulars relating to their operations during the last five years are shown below:—

Particulars.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924-25.
Number of Societies ...	123	128	136	139	152
Liabilities—					
Members' Subscriptions ...	£ 1,480,126	£ 1,599,564	£ 1,751,296	£ 1,824,566	£ 2,125,379
Other Liabilities ...	41,665	50,122	84,200	70,616	26,974
Balance of Profit ...	188,563	209,010	225,054	244,025	268,617
Total ...	1,710,354	1,858,696	2,060,550	2,139,207	2,420,970
Assets—					
Advances ...	1,553,447	1,686,931	1,897,666	1,958,023	2,027,175
Other Assets ...	156,907	171,765	162,884	181,184	393,795
Total ...	1,710,354	1,858,696	2,060,550	2,139,207	2,420,970

The subscriptions received from shareholders in 1924-25 amounted to £299,352, and the withdrawals to £106,606; the advances on mortgage amounted to £475,403, and repayments to £332,905, and the sum due on account of advances at the end of the year was £2,027,175. The income during the year amounted to £64,210, and the expenses to £35,616.

Besides the Starr-Bowkett Building Societies there are other terminating building societies, which are conducted on quite a different principle. These societies work principally on a bank overdraft, and loans are made available to members practically as soon as they require them; the ballot is very rarely resorted to. A member receiving a loan is not under an obligation to repay the actual amount borrowed, nor does he receive a refund of his contributions upon the termination of the society. He is simply required to pay an increased rate of contribution for the remainder of the life of the society, consequently a balance-sheet in the usual sense of the term cannot be prepared. Although a maximum period of twelve years is fixed as the life of the society, it is usual to wind up before the expiration of the theoretical time.

There are eight such societies in existence, of which seven furnished returns, and their transactions during the last three years were as follows:—

Particulars.		1922.	1923.	1924-25.
Subscriptions from Members ...	£	23,743	27,257	31,182
Fines and other Charges ...	£	231	273	1,281
Interest received from borrowers ...	£	*1,427	*2,750	2,080
Advances to members ...	£	44,944	50,399	47,945
Withdrawals of share capital ...	£	2,351	+42,561	4,126
Interest paid by society ...	£	*2,098	2,823	6,029
Management Expenses ...	£	1,110	1,297	1,328
Number of Shares beginning of year ...	No.	7,816	8,791	9,027
Shares issued during year ...	No.	180	129	261
Withdrawals during year ...	No.	247	843	527
Number of shares at end of year ...	No.	7,759	8,077	8,761

* One society only.

† Members' subscriptions refunded at close of society.

There are also two investment societies which were formed during 1923 amongst employees of the Australian Gas Light Company. The object of these societies is to purchase shares in the company by means of weekly subscriptions from the members. These shares are transferred to the names of individual shareholders when the contributions to their credit amount to the market value of such shares.

Up to 30th June, 1925, three community advancement societies and one community settlement society had been registered under the Co-operation, Community Settlement, and Credit Act of 1923.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

The affairs of the friendly societies in New South Wales are conducted in accordance with the Friendly Societies Act of 1912 and its amendments. The societies are compelled to register, and are required to furnish periodical returns, giving details relating to membership, sickness, mortality, benefits, and finances. In this chapter finances only are discussed, and the figures in the following tables relate to the societies which provide benefits such as medical attendance, sick pay, and funeral donations, and are exclusive of the particulars of miscellaneous societies registered under the Friendly Societies Act, such as dispensaries, medical institutes, and accident societies. Other matters relating to friendly societies are discussed in the chapter entitled "Social Condition."

Early legislation did not make adequate provision for maintaining the solvency of the friendly societies, but in 1899 an Act was passed to bring their affairs under State supervision and to make provision for the actuarial certification of tables of contributions, for valuations at least once within five years, the investigation of accounts, and other measures for safeguarding the funds. The Act and its amendments were consolidated in 1912. Amending Acts passed in 1913, 1916, and 1920 render less rigid a clause which requires the moneys received or paid on account of a particular benefit to be kept in a separate account and to be used only for the specific purpose. Where the sickness and funeral funds of a society are administered by one central body for the whole society they may be treated now as one fund, and on valuation being made the Registrar may authorise surplus moneys belonging to a fund to be used in any manner for the purposes of any other fund.

Actuarial Valuations.

In the quinquennial valuations between 1904 and 1919 all the societies were valued as at the same date, and particulars of the results were published in earlier issues of this Year Book. Under more recent arrangements a group of societies is to be valued in successive years. Nine affiliated and fifteen single societies were valued as at 31st December, 1922, and two affiliated societies as at 31st December, 1923, and valuations of the remainder as at 31st December, 1924, are proceeding.

Of eleven affiliated societies which have been valued, six showed surpluses of assets amounting to £108,474. The total liabilities amounted to £2,003,634, as compared with accumulated funds £852,408, and future contributions valued at £1,259,700. Five affiliated societies showed deficiencies amounting in the aggregate to £35,349, the liabilities being £1,191,356, and assets £1,156,007, including accumulated funds £312,495. In the case of eleven single societies the assets £58,528 (including funds £35,274) exceeded the liabilities by £11,615; and four single societies with accumulated funds amounting to £4,307 showed deficiencies amounting to £580 in respect of liabilities valued at £9,241.

Accumulated Funds.

The following statement illustrates the growth of the funds of the Friendly Societies since 1914:—

At 31st December.	Sickness and Funeral Funds.	Medical and Management Fund.	Other Funds.	All Funds.	
				Total.	Per Member.
	£	£	£	£	£
1914	1,641,704	88,256	54,971	1,784,931	9·79
1915	1,734,858	89,421	52,548	1,876,827	10·50
1916	1,820,708	101,092	43,471	1,970,271	11·02
1917	1,916,846	122,759	55,067	2,094,672	11·79
1918	1,954,085	190,995	63,102	2,208,182	12·21
1919	1,953,336	199,115	65,345	2,217,796	12·04
1921*	2,134,339	194,358	83,065	2,411,762	12·08
1922*	2,268,655	204,304	105,978	2,578,937	12·61
1923*	2,410,208	208,397	109,386	2,727,991	12·71
1924*	2,548,517	214,248	108,803	2,871,568	13·11
1925*	2,707,763	221,919	112,372	3,042,054	13·43

*At 30th June.

During the twelve months ended 30th June, 1925, the total funds of the societies increased by £170,486, the increase being fairly general in all the societies.

Receipts and Expenditure.

The receipts and expenditure of the friendly societies since 1914 are shown in the following statement. The figures quoted for 1920-21 relate to the period of eighteen months ended 30th June, 1921, as the Friendly Societies Act of 1920 prescribed that the returns must be furnished in each year for the period ended 30th June and not for the calendar year as formerly:—

Year.	Receipts.				Expenditure.					
	Contributions.	Interest.	Other.	Total.	Sick Pay.	Funeral Donations.	Medical Attendance and Medicine.	Expenses of Management.	Other.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1914	46,961	80,707	34,915	612,588	172,796	44,446	182,308	87,358	39,463	526,371
1915	491,923	87,591	34,597	614,116	177,198	50,131	182,705	88,419	23,767	522,220
1916	508,033	95,103	23,545	631,781	172,497	61,596	178,926	89,630	85,718	538,337
1917	524,341	100,947	53,438	678,726	168,986	69,371	178,789	96,830	40,349	554,325
1918	543,269	117,941	114,895	776,105	183,735	84,663	180,370	96,939	116,888	662,595
1919	551,278	117,524	40,740	709,542	274,929	89,265	186,801	106,115	42,818	699,928
1920-21*	887,279	191,613	76,985	1,155,877	297,051	80,201	317,221	199,399	68,089	961,911
1921-22	661,620	142,205	94,556	893,381	222,586	56,353	262,269	137,994	53,936	733,138
1922-23	673,650	146,106	56,072	875,828	230,241	56,246	264,223	139,208	31,856	726,774
1923-24	711,058	150,427	58,878	920,363	247,567	61,548	280,827	145,077	37,867	776,786
1924-25	732,194	160,801	52,573	945,568	219,915	63,302	238,456	145,634	27,775	775,082

* Eighteen months ended June, 1921.

The figures afford convincing evidence of the steadily increasing importance of the friendly societies. The total amount disbursed in benefits in the year ended June, 1925, was £601,673, as compared with £330,000 in 1911 and £551,000 in 1919. The cost of sick pay and funeral donations during the last three years was much lower than in 1919, when an epidemic of influenza caused a greater financial loss to the societies than the war. The cost of medical attendance and medicine was higher, as additional

charges were made by medical practitioners and pharmacists, and the average cost per adult member rose from 20s. 5d. in 1914 to 21s. 10d. in 1919, and to 28s. in 1924-25.

The large amounts grouped under the headings of "other receipts" and "other expenditure" in 1918 were due to transfers from the surplus sick and funeral funds of one society to the management fund. Absolutely and relatively, there has been a marked increase in the cost of management. In the year 1924-25 the total expenses, £145,634, were equal to 13s. 1d. per head of mean membership as compared with 9s. 5d. per head in 1914, and 11s. 7d. in 1919. In proportion to contributions and to total income, expenses in 1924-25 represented 19.9 per cent. and 15.4 per cent. respectively, as compared with 17.6 per cent. and 14.3 per cent. in 1914.

INSURANCE.

Insurance in New South Wales, apart from Government pension funds, is mainly the province of private organisations. The question of national insurance is being investigated by a Royal Commission appointed by the Government of the Commonwealth in September, 1923. The subjects referred to the Commission for report were (a) national insurance as a means for making provision for casual sickness, permanent invalidity, old age, and unemployment; (b) the operation of the maternity allowance system, with a view to the incorporation with national insurance of a scheme for securing effective pre-natal and other assistance to mothers; (c) the question of amending the Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act so as to provide for destitute allowances. In the first progress report issued in March, 1925, the Committee recommended that a national insurance fund be instituted to provide for the payment of sickness, invalidity, maternity, and super-annuation benefits to insured members.

Legislation.

In New South Wales there is no legislation dealing specifically with the conduct of insurance business, the insurance companies being subject to the Companies Acts. The Life, Fire and Marine Insurance Acts of 1902 and 1917 were enacted in the State Parliament to provide for the protection of life insurance policies and annuities against creditors, and for the issue of special policies in substitution for those lost or destroyed. The section of the 1902 Act relating to marine insurance was superseded by the Commonwealth Marine Insurance Act of 1909, which defines the limit of marine insurance and regulates the terms of the contracts, the liability of the insurers, etc. A Commonwealth Act passed in 1905 limits the amount of assurance payable on the death of children. The maximum amount ranges from £5 in respect of children under 1 year to £45 in the case of children between the ages of 9 and 10 years, the sums being payable only to parents or their personal representatives. The provisions of the Act do not apply, however, to any insurance effected by persons having an insurable interest in the lives insured or to insurances, *e.g.*, industrial assurances, effected by parents, in which the amount payable on the death of a child does not exceed the total amount of premiums actually paid, plus interest up to 4 per cent. per annum.

LIFE ASSURANCE.

There were thirty-five institutions transacting life assurance business in the State during 1924-25; twenty-three were local, six had their head offices

in Victoria, two in Queensland, one in New Zealand, one in England, and two in the United States of America. The English company has ceased to transact new life assurance business in New South Wales.

Nine of the institutions are mutual, and the others are partly proprietary companies, whose policy-holders, however, participate to some extent in the profits. Several companies, with head offices outside the Commonwealth, unite life and other classes of insurance, and have local branches or agencies, but their transactions in life risks in this State are unimportant.

Particulars relating to life assurance are obtained from the reports published by the companies and from official returns collected under the Census Act of 1901.

Life assurance business in New South Wales is conducted generally on the principle of premiums which remain constant throughout the term for which they are payable. The rates quoted by the companies transacting new business in the State vary considerably, being affected by the conditions relating to bonuses and the age of the institutions.

New South Wales Business—Ordinary Branch.

The following tables relate only to assurances effected in New South Wales, and the extent of the business in force in the ordinary branch, exclusive of annuities, during the year 1924-25 is shown below:—

Institutions with Head Office in—	Policies in Force, exclusive of Annuities.	Amount Assured exclusive of Bonuses and Re-assurances.	Bonus Additions.	Total.	Annual Premiums Payable.
	No.	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ...	189,435	58,390,439	9,543,648	67,934,087	1,875,696
Other Australian States ...	59,804	15,714,531	†424,433	16,138,964	592,686
New Zealand ...	859	97,725	4	97,729	4,171
United Kingdom ...	102	32,361	*	32,361	970
United States ...	2,766	1,716,449	†88,419	1,804,868	49,999
Total ...	252,966	75,951,505	10,056,504	86,008,009	2,523,522

* Not available. † Bonus additions of one company included in previous column.

Of the amount assured nearly 98 per cent. is with Australasian societies, 77 per cent. being with institutions with head offices in New South Wales, and approximately 21 per cent. with other Australian institutions; 2 per cent. is with American companies. The amount held by the British society is comparatively small. The average amount of assurance, exclusive of bonuses and re-assurances, per policy held in Australasian societies is £297, in the British £317, and in the American £621.

The business (exclusive of annuities) may be classified broadly in three categories—(1), whole-life assurance payable at death only; (2), endowment assurance payable at the end of a specified period or at death prior to the expiration of the period; (3), pure endowment payable only in case of survival for a specified period.

Particulars regarding each class of assurance in the ordinary branch, exclusive of annuities, in force in 1923-24 and in 1924-25 are shown below:—

Classification.	1923-24.				1924-25.			
	Policies in Force.	Amount Assured exclusive of Bonuses and Re-assurances	Bonus Additions.	Annual Premiums Payable.	Policies in Force.	Amount Assured exclusive of Bonuses and Re-assurances.	Bonus Additions.	Annual Premiums Payable.
	No.	£	£	£	No.	£	£	£
Assurance... Endowment	101,627	45,421,934	6,549,741	1,375,476	107,051	49,560,037	7,145,294	1,495,036
Assurance Pure	128,623	23,735,620	2,659,667	917,586	129,091	24,143,247	2,867,251	937,446
Endowment	16,792	2,129,614	42,786	89,957	16,824	2,248,221	43,959	91,040
Total...	247,042	71,287,168	9,252,194	2,383,019	252,966	75,951,505	10,056,504	2,523,522

The majority of the policies, viz., 51 per cent., represents endowment assurances; whole-life policies were 42 per cent., and endowments 7 per cent. of the total number. The amount assured under the whole-life policies represents 65 per cent. of the total (exclusive of bonus additions), the average per policy being £463, endowment assurance policies, with an average of £187 per policy, cover 32 per cent. of the total amount assured; and endowment policies, with an average of £134 per policy, 3 per cent.

Industrial Assurance.

A large business in industrial assurance has developed in New South Wales during recent years. The policies in this class are for small amounts, and the premiums in most cases are payable weekly or monthly. Industrial business in the State is transacted by the Australasian companies only, viz., fourteen with head offices in New South Wales, two of the Victorian companies, and the New Zealand company.

The following table shows the industrial business in force in New South Wales in 1924-25:—

Institutions with Head Office in—	Policies in Force, exclusive of Annuities.	Amount Assured, inclusive of Bonuses.	Annual Premiums Payable.
	No.	£	£
New South Wales ...	303,051	11,912,499	695,245
Other Australian States ...	142,029	5,028,162	357,734
New Zealand ...	12,796	416,559	23,403
Total ...	457,876	17,357,220	1,076,382

In the industrial branch 77 per cent. of the number of policies and 82 per cent. of the amount, including bonuses, were held in the form of endowment assurance. Whole-life policies represented 18 per cent. of the number and 13 per cent. of the amount assured. The average amount per policy was £38, viz., assurance £27, endowment assurance £40, and endowment £38.

A classification of the industrial business in force in New South Wales is shown below:—

Classification.	1923-24.			1924-25.		
	Policies in Force.	Amount Assured inclusive of Bonus Additions.	Annual Premiums Payable.	Policies in Force.	Amount Assured inclusive of Bonus Additions.	Annual Premiums Payable.
	No.	£	£	No.	£	£
Assurance	80,722	2,145,238	121,617	82,258	2,200,957	127,472
Endowment Assurance	318,631	12,371,791	774,611	352,298	14,267,078	888,666
Pure Endowment...	19,847	701,342	48,011	23,320	889,185	60,244
Total ...	419,250	15,218,371	944,239	457,876	17,357,220	1,076,382

Transactions in annuities are not numerous, the business in force in New South Wales in 1924-25 being 587 policies for an aggregate amount of £40,543 per annum in the ordinary branch, and five policies representing £362 per annum in the industrial department.

New Business.

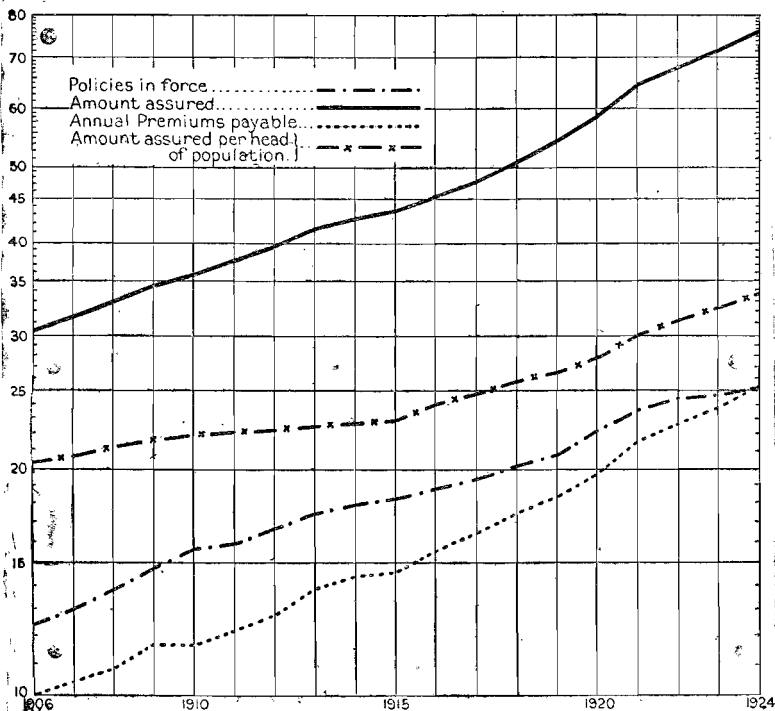
The new life assurance business, ordinary and industrial, effected in New South Wales during the last ten years, is compared in the following table:—

Year.	Ordinary Branch.			Industrial Branch.		
	Number of Policies.	Amount Assured.	Annual Premiums Payable.	Number of Policies.	Amount Assured.	Annual Premiums Payable.
		£	£		£	£
1915-16	15,976	3,784,103	147,554	45,188	1,258,683	86,959
1916-17	16,372	4,100,923	166,301	50,649	1,516,518	102,668
1917-18	18,010	4,914,896	192,308	53,491	1,720,790	115,738
1918-19	21,643	5,972,028	252,052	62,279	2,138,259	145,630
1919-20	21,543	6,483,990	236,541	64,199	2,437,850	160,699
1920-21	28,837	7,973,324	281,379	70,305	2,986,482	187,560
1921-22	27,705	8,693,745	306,867	79,318	3,819,905	225,134
1922-23	25,441	8,544,638	301,447	88,316	4,302,371	266,166
1923-24	26,557	9,474,386	322,676	94,633	4,736,141	292,765
1924-25	28,318	10,677,767	370,667	111,211	5,549,595	353,937

The amount assured under new policies in the ordinary branch rose in every year of the period under review, except 1922-23. The increase was most marked in the years 1917-19, when arrangements were made by some of the societies for combining life assurance with war loan subscriptions, and in 1920-21 when expansion was evident in all classes of business activities. In the industrial branch new business has expanded in a remarkable degree, and during the decade the annual rate of increase in the amount assured ranged from 28 per cent. in 1921-22 to 10 per cent. in 1923-24.

In 1924-25 the amount of new assurances increased by £1,203,381, or 12·7 per cent. in the ordinary branch, and by £813,454, or 17·2 per cent. in the industrial branch. The average amount per new policy in the ordinary branch increased from £237 in 1915-16 to £377 in 1924-25.

LIFE ASSURANCE—ORDINARY BUSINESS, 1906 to 1924.



The numbers at the side of the graph represent 10,000 policies, £1,000,000 of Assurances, £100,000 of Premiums, and £1 of Assurances per head of population.

The diagram is a ratio graph, and the vertical scale being logarithmic, the rise or fall of each curve represents the percentage of change. Equal distances on the scale represent the same percentage of change, and when the curves run parallel, they indicate an increase or decrease in equal proportion, irrespective of absolute numbers. Actual values are shown also by means of the numbers at the side of the graph.

A comparative statement of the amount of ordinary and industrial business, excluding bonuses and annuities, in force in New South Wales during each of the last ten years is shown below—

Year.	Ordinary Branch.			Industrial Branch.		
	Policies.	Amount Assured, excluding Bonus Additions.	Annual Premiums Payable.	Policies.	Amount Assured, excluding Bonus Additions.	Annual Premiums Payable.
	No.	£	£	No.	£	£
1915-16	181,671	43,520,335	1,465,347	211,881	5,009,021	318,306
1916-17	187,514	45,460,333	1,550,311	229,723	5,599,819	358,126
1917-18	192,962	47,636,307	1,644,692	248,037	6,298,106	404,836
1918-19	201,559	50,812,701	1,741,249	273,716	7,301,713	472,448
1919-20	207,906	53,953,151	1,828,780	294,573	8,275,956	535,666
1920-21	222,166	58,510,165	1,973,847	323,386	9,742,791	621,908
1921-22	236,973	64,017,662	2,154,782	358,493	11,710,567	730,561
1922-23	244,074	67,736,939	2,263,097	389,662	13,374,191	838,215
1923-24	247,042	71,287,168	2,383,019	419,250	15,156,155	944,239
1924-25	252,966	75,951,505	2,523,522	457,876	17,327,951	1,076,382

The amount assured in the ordinary branch has increased by nearly 32½ millions, or by 75 per cent., since 1915, and in the industrial branch by nearly 12½ millions, or by 246 per cent. The development of life assurance in relation to the population is shown in the following statement, which illustrates also the increase in the average amount per policy and in the premium payable.

Year.	Policies per 1,000 of Population.		Amount Assured per Head of Population.		Average Amount Assured Per Policy.		Average Annual Premium payable per Policy.	
	Ordinary.	Industrial.	Ordinary.	Industrial.	Ordinary.	Industrial.	Ordinary.	Industrial.
	No.	No.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1915-16	96	112	22 19 2	2 12 9	240	24	8 1 4	1 10 1
1916-17	99	122	24 1 10	2 19 4	242	24	8 5 4	1 11 2
1917-18	100	129	24 15 10	3 5 7	247	25	8 10 6	1 12 8
1918-19	103	139	25 17 7	3 14 5	252	27	8 12 9	1 14 6
1919-20	102	144	26 9 2	4 1 2	260	28	8 15 11	1 16 4
1920-21	106	154	27 19 1	4 13 1	260	30	8 17 8	1 18 6
1921-22	111	168	30 1 3	5 10 0	270	33	9 1 10	2 0 9
1922-23	112	179	31 3 0	6 3 0	277	34	9 5 5	2 3 0
1923-24	112	190	32 4 10	6 17 1	289	36	9 12 11	2 6 1
1924-25	112	203	33 13 4	7 13 7	300	38	9 19 6	2 7 0

In 1924-25 one in every nine persons in the State held a policy in the ordinary branch, and one in every five an industrial policy, the amounts assured per head of population being £33 13s. 4d. in the ordinary branch and £7 13s. 7d. in the industrial.

Australasian Assurance Societies—Total Business.

The life assurances undertaken in New South Wales by foreign companies represent only a small proportion of their total business, and particulars relating to their transactions have been omitted from the following statements, which relate mainly to the finances of the institutions.

A summary of the total business—ordinary and industrial—of the Australasian societies, and of the amount of receipts, expenditure, and accumulated funds, at intervals since 1895, is shown below.

Year.	Societies.	Policies in Force.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Accumulated Funds, including Paid up Capital.	Interest and Rents.	
						Amount Received.	Average Rate Realised on Mean Funds.
	No.	No.	£ 000	£ 000	£ 000	£ 000	per cent.
1895-96	10	268,242	3,392	2,334	20,438*	1,037	5.21
1900-01	11	331,868	4,093	2,648	26,491*	1,162	4.51
1905-06	14	756,585	5,437	3,834	34,916	1,528	4.48
1910-11	11	1,056,173	7,131	4,619	45,668	1,963	4.46
1915-16	14	1,424,196	9,474	6,085	61,572	2,836	4.74
1920-21	14	1,944,845	14,079	7,944	83,029	4,116	5.16
1921-22	22	2,095,728	15,388	8,950	90,208	4,571	5.28
1922-23	24	2,245,338	16,661	9,994	97,408	5,022	5.35
1923-24	28	2,379,784	19,115	11,281	106,007	5,507	5.41
1924-25	32	2,531,366	19,849	11,794	114,496	6,039	5.48

* Exclusive of capital and reserve funds, etc.

The annual additions to the funds have shown a considerable increase since 1910, and there has been a gradual increase in earning power since that year, when 4.46 per cent. was realised, and the most recent rate, 5.48 per cent., is the highest return during the period under review. A comparison with the bank rate of interest on fixed deposits, published on page 215, shows that the interest earned by the insurance companies has held a correlation to the general tendency.

The following table shows details of the receipts and disbursements of the Australasian institutions during 1924-25 for both classes of business:—

Particulars.	Ordinary Branch.	Industrial Branch.	Total.
Receipts—			
Premiums—			
	£	£	£
New	1,515,670	15,161*	1,530,831
Renewal	8,744,923	3,217,643	11,962,566
Consideration for Annuities	74,650	...	74,650
Interest	5,264,624	626,934	5,891,558
Rents	129,107	18,771	147,878
Other Receipts	215,416	26,247	241,663
Total Receipts	15,944,309	3,904,756	19,849,146
Expenditure—			
Claims	5,438,626	699,832	6,138,458
Surrenders	1,093,292	81,448	1,174,740
Annuities	124,325	295	124,620
Cash Bonuses and Dividends	470,780	69,851	540,631
Expenses, including commission, brokerage, taxes... ..	2,128,253	1,341,655	3,469,908
Amount written off to Depreciation, Reserves, Transfers, etc.	298,072	48,023	346,095
Total Expenditure	9,553,348	2,241,104	11,794,452

* In some cases premiums for new policies are included with renewals.

The receipts of the societies consist mainly of premiums on policies and of interest arising from investments. The former represented 68 per cent. of the receipts in 1924-25 and the latter 30 per cent. Payments on account of death claims, policies matured and surrendered, and cash bonuses and dividends amounted in 1924-25 to £7,127,023, or 75 per cent. of the total expenditure in the ordinary branch, and £851,426, or 33 per cent., in the industrial branch. Expenses of management constituted 22 per cent. of the expenditure in the ordinary branch, and 60 per cent. in the industrial.

Expenses of Management.

The ratio between management expenses and premium income must necessarily vary with the volume of new business transacted, and with the age of the society, quite apart from the competition for new business. The following figures show in respect of the ordinary and industrial departments of the Australasian societies the cost of management, including commission and taxes, and its proportion to premium income and gross receipts.

Year.	Management Expenses.	Premium Income.	Gross Receipts	Management Expenses.	
				Per cent. of—	
				Premium Income.	Gross Receipts.
	£	£	£		
1895-96	438,524	2,380,167	3,392,423	18·42	12·93
1900-01	565,380	2,799,512	4,093,376	20·19	13·81
1905-06	858,741	3,500,448	5,437,589	24·53	15·79
1910-11	1,016,153	5,074,204	7,131,250	20·03	14·25
1915-16	1,252,438	6,591,572	9,474,126	19·00	13·22
1920-21	2,222,218	9,870,814	14,079,302	22·51	15·78
1921-22	2,643,403	10,649,745	15,387,948	24·82	17·18
1922-23	2,872,387	11,453,770	16,661,049	25·08	17·29
1923-24	3,156,872	13,380,582	19,115,434	23·59	16·51
1924-25	3,469,908	13,568,047	19,849,146	25·57	17·48

The expenses of management of the ordinary business in 1924-25 represented in the aggregate 13·3 per cent. of the total receipts, and 20·7 per cent. of the premium income; and of the industrial branch, 34·4 and 41·6 per cent. respectively.

The expenses of the industrial branch are necessarily very high in proportion to the receipts, on account of the house-to-house method of collection, which is an essential feature of the system.

Particulars regarding the management expenses of the ordinary and industrial branches are stated separately in the following table for each year since 1915-16.

Year.	Ordinary Branch.		Industrial Branch.	
	Proportion of Management Expenses to—			
	Premium Income.	Total Receipts.	Premium Income.	Total Receipts.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
1915-16	15·39	10·32	38·86	34·12
1916-17	15·45	10·28	38·82	33·82
1917-18	16·34	10·86	38·23	33·21
1918-19	16·65	11·05	33·06	32·80
1919-20	18·06	11·91	33·33	32·90
1920-21	18·60	12·48	38·40	32·80
1921-22	20·88	13·80	39·70	33·40
1922-23	21·02	13·75	39·32	33·00
1923-24	18·62	12·49	41·58	34·53
1924-25	20·70	13·33	41·57	34·41

In the ordinary branch the lowest proportion of management expenses to premium income shown by any company in 1924-25 was 13·7 per cent. and to total receipts 9·06 per cent. In the industrial branch the lowest proportions were 31·13 per cent. and 24·48 per cent. respectively.

The proportions were highest in the case of companies established recently, whose disbursements exceeded premium income, owing to initial expenses, such as the cost of foundation, organisation, brokerage, and other items which will not be incurred again.

Liabilities and Assets.

The following table gives a summary of the liabilities and assets of the Australasian societies in the year 1924-25:—

Liabilities.		Assets.	
Assurance Funds—	£	Loans—	£
Participating in Profits ...	105,223,202	On Mortgage ...	24,657,078
Not participating in Profits ...	939,719	„ Municipal and Other	
Claims Investment Fund ...	59,957	„ Local Rates ...	16,411,513
Other Assurance Funds ...	4,993,347	„ Reversionary, Life, and	
Total ...	111,216,225	„ Other Interests ...	569,991
Other Funds—		„ Policies ...	12,613,496
Guarantee and Contingency		„ Personal Security ...	34,292
Funds ...	54,106	„ Government Securities..	281,810
Investment Fluctuation		„ Other Debentures and	
Fund ...	707,463	„ Bonds ...	1,310,735
Paid-up Capital ...	2,086,124	„ Miscellaneous Loans ...	149,186
Reserve Funds ...	431,632	Total ...	56,028,101
Total Funds ...	114,495,550		
Other Liabilities—		Government Securities ...	52,623,326
Claims admitted but not		Real Estate ...	4,547,141
paid ..	1,193,768	Other Assets ...	7,440,569
Outstanding Accounts ...	202,355	Total Assets ...	£120,639,137
Miscellaneous ...	4,747,464		
Total Liabilities ...	£120,639,137		

In some of the States companies are obliged by law to deposit certain sums with the Treasury as a guarantee of good faith, and these amounts are included in their balance-sheets under the head of Government securities or of deposits.

In former years insurance companies sought only such forms of investment as loans on mortgage, municipal securities, policies of members, etc., but recently attention has been given to Government securities and investments in shares, and since 1915 large sums have been subscribed to war loans. Considerable sums are deposited also with banks, or invested in freehold and leasehold property. Investments on personal security are unusual, and are generally combined with life policies, the total amount under this heading in the year 1924-25 being only £34,292.

The following comparison relating to liabilities and assets illustrates the rapid growth of the funds, etc., of the assurance societies:—

Year.	Societies.	Liabilities.			Assets.		
		Paid-up Capital and Accumulated Funds.	Other Liabilities.	Total.	Loans on Mortgages, Policies, etc.	Securities, Freehold Property, etc.	Total.
	No.	£	£	£	£	£	£
1895-96	10	21,497,059*	...	21,497,059	15,600,229	5,896,830	21,497,059
1900-01	11	27,471,223*	...	27,471,223	19,013,579	8,457,644	27,471,223
1905-06	11	34,915,842	951,520	35,867,362	22,072,061	13,795,301	35,867,362
1910 11	11	45,668,204	775,785	46,443,989	30,625,778	15,818,211	46,443,989
1915-16	14	61,572,309	1,619,028	63,191,337	45,535,992	17,655,345	63,191,337
1920-21	14	83,028,808	6,992,147	90,020,955	40,127,817	49,893,138	90,020,955
1921-22	22	90,207,633	6,533,051	96,740,684	42,073,513	54,667,171	96,740,684
1922-23	24	97,408,397	4,920,478	102,328,875	45,518,207	56,810,668	102,328,875
1923-24	28	106,007,373	5,361,675	111,369,048	50,158,033	61,211,015	111,369,048
1924-25	32	114,495,550	6,143,587	120,639,137	56,028,101	64,611,036	120,639,137

* Includes other liabilities.

The aggregate amount of paid-up capital and accumulated funds has increased by 150 per cent. since 1910. The ratio of loans on mortgages, etc., to total assets, which was between 60 and 70 per cent. up to the year 1915-16, has been reduced since to 46 per cent., and Government securities which, in 1915-16, represented only 17 per cent. of the assets, showed a ratio of 44 per cent. in 1924-25.

FIRE, MARINE, AND GENERAL INSURANCE.

The companies transacting fire, marine, and general insurance (as distinct from life assurance) business in New South Wales during 1924-25 numbered 117, and twenty of the life companies were transacting accident, workmen's compensation, and other classes of insurance.

The aggregate liabilities in New South Wales and elsewhere of 98 companies which were transacting business in the State in 1923-24 amounted to £340,297,942, of which £34,904,213 represented paid-up capital; reserve funds amounted to £27,451,048; reserve for unearned premiums, £56,301,505; insurance and other funds, £135,134,485; and outstanding losses and other liabilities, £86,506,691. The assets comprised the following items:—Mortgages and other loans, £14,245,932; Government securities and other investments, £233,245,148; land and house property, £25,144,938; cash on deposit, current account, and in hand, £21,624,230; and other assets, £46,037,694.

The nature of the local insurances effected during the year 1924-25 is shown in the following table. The particulars relate to New South Wales risks only; that is, to all business written by the companies in their New South Wales books. Premiums exclude re-insurances and

returns; and treaty arrangements are not taken into consideration. In the case of losses, amounts recovered from Australasian re-insuring offices are excluded also. Interest receipts cannot be distributed among the various classes of insurance and are included in one item:—

Nature of Insurance.	Expenditure.							
	Premiums less Re-insurances and Returns.	Losses, less Re-insurances.	Expenses of Management.		Total.	Proportion of Premium Income.		
			Com-mission and Agents' Charges	Other.		Losses.	Com-mission and Agents' Charges	Other Management Expenses.
	£	£	£	£	£	percent.	percent.	percent.
Fire	2,145,634	920,585	540,652	516,871	1,787,168	43.32	15.88	24.69
Marine	516,777	239,779	41,387	114,631	335,797	46.40	8.01	22.18
Accident	131,968	52,118	33,514	31,201	116,833	39.49	25.40	20.17
Employers' Liability and Workmen's Compensation ..	645,991	391,789	59,782	124,568	576,139	60.65	9.25	19.28
Public Risk, Third Party ..	39,367	14,801	5,071	8,190	28,062	37.60	12.88	20.50
Plate-glass	52,443	17,430	9,394	11,440	38,264	33.24	17.91	21.81
Motor Car and Motor Cycle ..	589,108	363,537	83,384	111,985	564,266	62.72	15.24	19.30
Hailstone	152,813	121,203	32,930	26,223	190,756	79.31	21.55	23.76
Boiler Explosion	9,582	3,168	787	7,134	11,089	33.06	8.21	74.45
Live Stock	22,608	12,468	4,031	5,511	22,010	55.10	17.83	24.38
Burglary	44,380	19,703	6,661	10,012	36,376	44.40	15.01	22.56
Guarantee	26,304	5,973	3,499	5,518	14,890	22.71	13.30	20.98
Loss of Profits	59,506	12,713	7,197	10,827	30,737	21.36	12.09	18.19
Elevator	547	6	134	60	200	1.10	24.50	10.97
Sprinkler	1,687	242	181	175	601	14.84	10.91	16.37
Other	3,082	745	345	5,051	6,141	24.17	11.19	163.88
Total Premiums	4,432,787	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Interest, etc.	198,477	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	4,631,264	2,185,560	633,952	999,397	3,818,960	49.30	14.30	22.55

The total premiums amounted to £4,432,787, and the losses to £2,185,560, the latter being 49.3 per cent. of the premiums. The expenses for commission and agents' charges were £633,952, and for general management £999,397, making a total of £1,633,349, or 36.9 per cent. of the premium income and 35.3 of the gross revenue.

The principal classes of insurance, according to the amount of net premiums in 1924-25, were fire, employers' liability and workmen's compensation, motor vehicles, marine, and hailstone. The premium receipts in respect of fire insurance increased largely in 1921, as insurers increased the amount of their policies in view of the increases in the value of property. Another marked increase has taken place during the last two years.

Insurance relating to the liability of employers has grown rapidly as wages have risen, and legislation in 1920 extended the application of the Workmen's Compensation Act to more highly-paid employees. The net premium receipts rose from £257,989 in 1919-20 to £545,962 in 1922-23, when rate of wages were rising. They declined to £512,201 in the following year, but a marked expansion took place in 1924-25 when the net premiums amounted to £645,991. The losses represent nearly 61 per cent. and expenses 28½ per cent. of the premiums.

The insurance of motor cars is another class of business which has developed rapidly, its growth being due to the increased use of the vehicles. The premiums received in 1923-24, viz., £253,231, were more than four times the amount in 1918-19, and there was a further increase to £580,108 in 1924-25. The premiums for accident insurance have almost doubled during the last six years. Marine insurance business increased steadily from 1918 to 1921, then the premium receipts declined as a result of the decreased activity in the shipping trade. During the last two years there has been a steady improvement.

In proportion to premium income the losses and expenses vary greatly in the different classes of insurance. The ratio of losses was highest in 1924-25 in regard to the following, in the order named—hailstone, motor vehicles, employer's liability, live-stock, and marine. The commission and agents' charges were highest in proportion to premiums in accident insurance. The proportion of other management expenses depends to a great extent on the volume of business transacted by the individual companies.

A summary of the revenue and expenditure in respect of general insurance transactions in New South Wales in each of the last five years is shown below:—

Particulars.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Revenue—					
Net Premiums	£ 3,565,989	£ 3,497,395	£ 3,466,603	£ 3,779,037	£ 4,432,787
Interest, etc.	108,018	148,993	165,920	175,671	198,477
Total	3,674,007	3,646,388	3,632,523	3,954,708	4,631,264
Expenditure—					
Losses	1,753,415	2,085,557	2,073,434	2,436,946	2,185,560
Management—					
Commission and Agents' Charges	471,187	471,090	483,306	546,806	633,952
Other Expenses	795,370	860,853	842,342	885,941	999,397
Total	3,019,972	3,417,500	3,399,082	3,869,693	3,818,909
Proportion of Premium Income—					
Losses	per cent. 49·17	per cent. 59·63	per cent. 59·81	per cent. 64·48	per cent. 49·30
Expenses—					
Commission, etc.	13·21	13·47	13·94	14·47	14·30
Other	22·30	24·61	24·30	23·46	22·55

Fire business constitutes nearly half of the general insurances. In 1920-21 the net premiums for fire risks were £1,876,755. The expenditure was £1,721,194, including losses £998,280, leaving an apparent surplus of £155,561. In 1921-22 the net premiums were slightly higher, but losses showed a marked increase, and there was an apparent deficit of £104,100. In the following year the premiums declined, but losses increased and the apparent deficit amounted to £195,718. In 1923-24 the premiums amounted to £1,963,581 and the expenditure to £2,172,237 including losses £1,366,425; the apparent deficit was £208,656. In 1924-25 losses declined by 32 per cent. and receipts increased, so as to exceed the expenditure by £358,516.

Fire policies are generally for a period of twelve months, and the majority of the insurance companies set aside annually a reserve for unexpired risks—usually an amount equal to 40 per cent. of the net premium income. By reviewing the figures to calculate a reserve on that basis, it is found that fire business in New South Wales showed a marked improvement during 1924-25, the results being in contrast with those of the preceding four years. In 1920-21 there was a net underwriting loss of £43,109 and the deficit increased during the next three years to £107,207, £186,739, and £249,263. In 1924-25 there was a surplus of £285,698. The foregoing figures relating to fire business are exclusive of interest earnings.

The total amount of the fire insurance written was £448,034,000 in 1922. £475,391,000 in 1923, £501,380,478 in 1924, and £520,473,844 in 1925. The measures taken for the prevention of fire are described in the chapter "Local Government."

BANKRUPTCY.

Statistics relating to the sequestration of estates by persons who are unable to pay their debts, afford in a general way an indication of the financial condition of the community. Petitions for sequestration orders may be made to the Supreme Court of New South Wales by the debtor, or by a creditor. The effect of an order is to vest the property of the bankrupt in an official assignee for division amongst the creditors, the bankrupt being required to lodge with the Registrar in Bankruptcy a statement of his affairs. Creditors may accept proposals for a composition in satisfaction of the debts due to them, or for a scheme of arrangement of the bankrupts' affairs, which becomes binding if approved by the Court and by a majority of creditors representing three-fourths of the proved claims.

A Bankruptcy Act was passed by the Federal Parliament in October, 1924, and it will come into operation on a date to be proclaimed. It will supersede the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Acts of the States, with the exception of any provisions relating to matters not dealt with in the Federal Act.

Particulars of petitions in bankruptcy during each year since 1915 are shown in the following table:—

Year.	Petitions in Bankruptcy.			Petitions With-drawn, Refused, etc.	Sequestrations.			
	Voluntary.	Compulsory.	Total.		Orders Granted.	Liabilities.	Assets.	Ratio of Assets per £ of Liabilities.
						£	£	s. d.
1915	361	147	448	43	405	423,700	166,748	7 10
1916	248	145	393	43	350	383,448	303,893	15 10
1917	178	123	301	31	267	227,663	208,093	18 3
1918	184	113	297	33	264	221,928	115,776	10 5
1919	193	123	316	34	282	323,222	189,920	11 9
1920	210	134	344	55	289	204,594	139,550	13 8
1921	208	186	394	70	324	311,900	166,457	10 8
1922	247	234	481	78	403	440,856	251,185	11 5
1923	360	368	668	93	570	659,314	282,657	8 7
1924	421	397	818	150	668	742,079	303,315	8 2

The combined effects of war and drought caused financial embarrassment in 1911 and 1915, and the number of petitions was above the average. A marked improvement commenced in 1916 and continued for three years, then the numbers began to increase. Between 1921 and 1924 the number increased twofold. The average amount of liability in 1924 was £1,111 per sequestration, as compared with £1,157 in 1923. Usually it is less than £1,000. The ratio of assets to liabilities varies considerably, but the amounts stated in the table are taken from the bankrupts' schedule, and differ widely from the values established after investigation by the Court.

A bankrupt may apply to the Court, three months after the date of sequestration, for a certificate of discharge to release him from his debts. Estates may be freed from sequestration also if the creditors accept a composition or a scheme of arrangement, or if they are paid in full or give a legal quittance of the debts due to them. It is remarkable, however, that a comparatively small proportion of the estates are freed, though the property of an uncertificated bankrupt, even if acquired after sequestration, is liable to seizure on behalf of unsatisfied creditors. The number of sequestration during the ten years ended 1924 was 3,822, and only 872 estates were freed by certificates of discharge or release.

TRANSACTIONS IN REAL ESTATE.

The procedure in regard to land transfers is regulated under the Real Property Act, which was passed in 1862 and, with its amendments, consoli-

dated in 1900. The title conferred by this Act is known as "Torrens" title, and the main features of the system are transfer of real property by registration of title instead of by deeds, absolute indefeasibility of the title when registered, and protection afforded to owners against possessory claims, as the title under the Act stands good notwithstanding any length of adverse possession. Lands may be placed under the Real Property Act only when the titles are unexceptional. All lands alienated by the Crown since the commencement of the Act are subject to the provisions of the Real Property Act, but transactions in respect of earlier grants are governed by the Registration of Deeds Act unless the land has been brought under the operation of the Real Property Act.

The area of Crown grants registered under the Real Property Act and the total consideration expressed in the grants in each year since 1921 are shown below, also the area and value of private lands brought under the Act:—

Year.	Area.			Value.		
	Crown Lands.	Private Lands.	Total.	Crown Lands.	Private Lands.	Total.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	£	£	£
1921	624,089	44,613	668,702	640,499	1,838,971	2,479,470
1922	1,012,374	65,287	1,077,661	960,425	2,322,420	3,282,845
1923	865,238	45,085	910,323	806,066	2,889,081	3,695,147
1924	749,764	35,341	785,105	708,130	1,919,658	2,627,788
1925	683,652	38,562	722,214	622,897	1,973,257	2,596,154

During the whole period since the Act came into operation 42,239,381 acres of Crown lands have been conveyed under its provisions, the total consideration expressed in the grants being £41,665,707. Of the private lands granted before 1863, a total area of £2,658,325 acres, valued at £57,832,236, has been brought under the Real Property Act, the deeds under earlier legislation being cancelled.

Transactions in respect of transfers and conveyances of private lands usually reflect the general condition of business throughout the State, but the published records, showing the amount of consideration paid on sales, do not indicate the actual volume of the transactions, as the figures are swollen in some years by reason of inflation of values or the prevalence of speculation, and the consideration shown is not always the real consideration.

The following table shows for each year of the past decade the amount paid as money consideration on sales of private lands, estates sold on long terms being excluded.

Year.	Conveyances or Transfers.			Year.	Conveyances or Transfers.		
	Under Registration of Deeds Act.	Under Real Property (Torrens) Act.	Total.		Under Registration of Deeds Act.	Under Real Property (Torrens) Act.	Total.
	£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
1916	3,370	12,189	15,559	1921	9,298	35,966	45,264
1917	3,979	11,619	15,598	1922	10,710	31,622	42,332
1918	3,995	16,835	20,830	1923	9,632	44,204	53,836
1919	4,859	21,070	25,929	1924	9,417	38,554	47,971
1920	9,705	45,271	54,976	1925	8,874	39,311	48,185

The values of land sales rose from £15,598,000 in 1917 to £25,929,000 in 1919, or by 66 per cent. In the following year there was an increase of

112 per cent., which reflects a condition of unusual activity noted in regard to other phases of the financial affairs of the State. A decline of £9,700,000, or 18 per cent., in 1921 and a further decline of nearly £3,000,000 in the following year were succeeded by a rapid rise in 1923, when the value, £53,836,000, was only £1,140,000 less than in 1920. In the two succeeding years the figures were 11 per cent. lower than in 1923.

As already mentioned, the Real Property Act provides that on the issue of a certificate the title of the person named in the certificate is indefeasible. If a transfer has been made in error, the holder of a certificate cannot be dispossessed of the property concerned unless he has acted fraudulently, and therefore provision has been made to enable the Government to compensate persons erroneously deprived of property. An assurance fund was created by means of a contribution of one halfpenny in the pound on the declared capital value of property when first brought under the Act and upon transmission of titles of estates of deceased persons. In 1907 the fund, amounting to £255,059, was amalgamated with the Closer Settlement Fund, to which subsequent contributions have been paid.

REGISTRATION OF MONEY-LENDERS.

Under the Money-lenders and Infants Loans Act, 1905, money-lenders must be registered at the Registrar-General's Office, and they must conduct their business only under their own or their firms' names, and at their registered offices. The term "money-lender" includes every person or company transacting the business of money-lending, but it excludes licensed pawn-brokers, registered friendly societies, institutions incorporated by special Act of Parliament to lend money, and banking and insurance companies. The number of registrations and renewals during the year 1925 was 101.

MORTGAGES OF REALTY AND PERSONALTY.

Mortgages, except those regulated by the Merchant Shipping Act, may be registered at the Registrar-General's Office, but there is a large number of unregistered mortgages of which records are not obtainable.

The amount of consideration for which a mortgage stands as security is not always stated in the deeds, the words "valuable consideration" or "cash credit" being inserted in cases where the advances are liable to fluctuation. As this occurs frequently when the property mortgaged is of great value, an exact statement of the total advances against registered mortgages cannot be made.

Mortgages of land are registered under the Registration of Deeds Act or the Real Property Act, according to the title of the property at the date of mortgage. The consideration given generally represents the principal owing, but in some cases it stands for the limit within which clients of banks and of other loan institutions are entitled to draw.

Liens on wool, mortgages on live stock, and liens on growing crops are registered under a special Act. Mortgages on live stock are current till discharge, and liens on wool mature at the end of each season, terminating without formal discharge. The duration of liens on agricultural and horticultural produce may not exceed one year. Such advances do not usually reach large sums, as there is an element of uncertainty in the security offered.

Mortgages on personalty other than ships and shipping appliances, wool, live stock, and growing crops are registered at the office of the Registrar-General in terms of the Transfer of Records Act, 1923, which was proclaimed on 18th October, 1925. Previously they had been filed at the Supreme Court. A bill of sale comprising household furniture actually in use by husband and wife living together is ineffective unless the consent of the

wife or the husband of the maker or the giver of the bill is endorsed thereon. The law requires that each document must be filed within thirty days after it is made or given, otherwise the transaction is void as against execution creditors and against the official assignee or the trustee of a bankrupt estate. The registration must be renewed every twelve months, and in order to prevent fraud and imposition the records are open to the inspection of the public. Information is not readily available to show the total amount of advances made annually on bills of sale.

Mortgages of registered British vessels are arranged under the Imperial Merchant Shipping Act of 1894. Transactions of this nature are divided into two classes, one in which the vessel is the sole security, and the other in which the advances are made on the security of the "account current," which may consist of ships, land, and other properties.

Particulars of the mortgages of land, crops, wool, and live stock, and of ships effected during each of the last five years, are shown below. The figures relating to ships refer to the period of twelve months ended in June of the year stated:—

Year.	Mortgages of Land.		Mortgages on Crops, Wool, and Live Stock.				Mortgages of Ships.	
	Number.	Consideration.	Number.			Consideration.	Number.	Consideration.
			Crops.	Wool.	Live Stock.			
		£				£		£
1921	37,511	33,873,654	2,894	742	2,268	2,666,654	15	23,494
1922	41,573	33,930,821	3,057	1,177	4,387	2,585,435	22	49,113
1923	46,876	42,031,310	6,117	1,517	4,446	3,001,316	16	8,450
1924	43,698	42,935,204	6,692	1,855	4,783	4,484,137	30	427,192
1925	43,208	42,768,753	4,842	1,904	4,109	4,495,119	13	54,365

The amounts shown under the heading "Consideration" include only the cases in which a specific amount is stated in the deeds, whether the amount was actually advanced or not. In view of the number of mortgages in which the amount is omitted, it is probable that the totals are understated. Complete records of discharges and foreclosures are not available.

PRIVATE WEALTH.

Estimates of the wealth of New South Wales at intervals since 1891 were reviewed in detail in the 1921 issue of the Year Book, and the following statement supplies a brief summary of the estimates relating to private wealth at ten-year intervals since 1901, the total value of the main classes of property being shown, and the value per head:—

Item.	Estimated Value.					
	Total.			Per Head of Population.		
	1901.	1911.	1921.	1901.	1911.	1921.
	£000	£000	£000	£	£	£
Land (unimproved value) ...	112,895	169,232	263,363	82·6	101·7	124·9
Houses, etc., and other permanent improvements ...	151,798	213,057	392,073	111·1	128·0	186·0
Live Stock ...	31,937	41,999	51,347	23·4	25·2	24·4
Coin and Bullion ...	8,780	15,879	10,918	6·4	9·5	5·2
Merchandise ...	27,190	47,268	105,297	19·9	23·4	50·0
Private Railways ...	584	958	1,510	·4	·6	·7
Mines and Mining Plant ...	6,960	10,120	13,500	5·1	6·1	6·4
Machinery and Implements ...	10,448	19,777	43,107	7·6	11·9	20·4
Shipping ...	2,528	2,910	5,332	1·8	1·8	2·5
Household effects, Vehicles, etc. ...	11,845	26,450	48,416	8·7	15·9	23·0
Personal effects ...	3,603	6,166	13,067	2·6	3·7	6·2
Total Private Property...	368,568	553,816	947,930	269·6	332·8	449·7

The composition of the private wealth changed little between 1901 and 1921. In point of value, land has become a less important item of wealth, and permanent improvements to land have become the most valuable class of property. The proportions of the private wealth represented by trading stocks and machinery, respectively, increased considerably, and the relative values of livestock, metallic currency, and mining properties declined. The large increase in the value of household and personal effects illustrates the growth of domestic and personal comfort.

Particulars of the distribution of wealth amongst the citizens of New South Wales may be obtained from the result of a census taken by the Commonwealth Government in 1915, when all persons aged 18 years and over were required to furnish returns if they possessed property, or held property, or were in receipt of income.

The results, which were published in detail in the 1918 and 1921 issues of the Year Book, indicate that 792,556 persons in New South Wales who furnished returns owned assets amounting in the aggregate to £468,994,322; 17·1 per cent. did not possess any assets; 80·9 per cent. had assets worth less than £5,000, constituting 48·3 per cent. of the aggregate value; and 2 per cent. owned 51·7 per cent. of the wealth. The figures are exclusive of the value of interest in trust estates, assurance policies and annuities, and prospective benefits from friendly societies, but they include assets located outside New South Wales owned by residents of the State.

Estates of Deceased Persons.

Further information relating to the distribution of wealth may be gleaned from returns relating to the estates of deceased persons which are valued for the purpose of assessing death duties. In accordance with the provisions of the Stamp Duties Act of 1920 the estates are deemed to include all the property of the deceased persons which is situated in New South Wales, including property which, within three years prior to death, was transferred as a gift, or vested in a private company or trust in consideration of shares or other interest, and moneys payable under life assurance policies, etc.

The following table shows the number of estates and the value as assessed for probate duty during the ten years ended 30th June, 1925, including intestate and other estates administered by the Public Trustee:—

Year ended 30th June.	Estates.	Amount.	Year ended 30th June.	Estates.	Amount.
	No.	£		No.	£
1916	5,107	10,783,406	1921	5,731	12,199,419
1917	5,310	11,554,726	1922	5,458	13,883,674
1918	6,476	11,859,375	1923	5,681	15,441,378
1919	6,873	11,818,222	1924	6,281	16,429,860
1920	7,172	17,106,876	1925	6,410	17,970,385

Of the estates valued during the year ended June, 1925, the number belonging to female testators was 2,147, or 33·5 per cent. of the total, the value being £4,248,749, or 23·6 per cent. of the aggregate. The corresponding proportions in the previous year were 33·6 per cent. of the number and 23 per cent. of the value.

A rough test of the diffusion of wealth may be made by relating the number of people who died possessed of property to the total number of deaths, as in the following statement. The figures in this and in the succeeding table are exclusive of estates administered by the Curator of Intestate Estates for the years prior to 1911, and the figures for 1919 and subsequent years indicate the relations between the number of deaths in the calendar year stated and the number of estates on which probate was granted in the twelve months ended six months later. The particulars showing

estates in calendar years are not available since 1918, and probate is not granted usually until several months after the death of a testator:—

Period.	Proportion of Deceased Persons with Estates per 100 Deaths.	Period.	Proportion of Deceased Persons with Estates per 100 Deaths.
1880-84	11·0	1915-19	30·1
1885-89	11·6	1920	27·3
1890-94	13·2	1921	27·2
1895-99	14·9	1922	29·6
1900-04	17·0	1923	29·8
1905-09	19·1	1924	30·8
1910-14	22·9		

The figures indicate a wide diffusion of property, but the deaths include those of a large number of minors at ages when the proportion of property owners is small. The next table shows the proportion of estates per 100 deaths of adult males, and as a large number of women are possessors of property in their own right, the ratio of estates to the deaths of adults of both sexes.

Period.	Ratio of Estates per 100 Deaths of Adult Males.	Ratio of Estates per 100 Deaths of Adult Males and Females.	Period.	Ratio of Estates per 100 Deaths of Adult Males.	Ratio of Estates per 100 Deaths of Adult Males and Females.
1880-84	34·6	22·3	1915-19	71·3	42·1
1885-89	37·5	23·8	1920	67·6	39·5
1890-94	41·2	25·8	1921	66·3	38·4
1895-99	42·7	26·2	1922	69·5	39·9
1900-04	46·0	27·8	1923	71·0	40·5
1905-09	48·8	29·2	1924	71·7	41·3
1910-14	56·6	34·0			

During the five years ended June, 1925, the proportion of estates of male testators to deaths of adult males was 46·6 per cent.; and the proportion of estates of female testators to deaths of adult females was 30·9 per cent.

The foregoing figures include the estates of persons who died abroad, but usually the number is not sufficient to cause an appreciable degree of error. The proportions during the war period, however, were increased considerably by reason of the inclusion of a large number of estates left by members of the naval and military forces, and the deaths which occurred abroad were not included in the number on which the ratios shown in the table are based. Making due allowance for the deaths of absentees, the apparent tendency is that the proportion of property-owners in the State is increasing.

An indication of the proportionate distribution of wealth may be gained from an analysis of the value of the estates of deceased persons, and in the following statement the estates on which probate was granted during the ten years ended 30th June, 1925, have been graded according to value:—

Value of Estate.	Number of Deceased Persons leaving Property.	Value of Estates of Deceased Persons.	Proportion in each Group.	
			Number.	Value.
		£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Under £1,000	41,270	13,367,596	68·21	9·62
£1,000 to £5,000	13,958	30,609,355	23·09	22·01
£5,000 to £12,500	3,237	24,865,231	5·35	17·88
£12,500 to £25,000	1,233	20,745,666	2·04	14·92
£25,000 to £50,000	509	17,254,279	·84	12·41
£50,000 and over	282	32,205,194	·47	23·16
Total	60,499	139,047,321	100	100

The average value per estate during the period was £2,298, but of the property-owners who died 68 per cent. did not possess £1,000, the total value of their property being less than 10 per cent. of the aggregate. On the other hand, more than half the property devised was contained in 3·4 per cent. of the estates. These figures support the evidence of the War Census of 1915 concerning the unequal distribution of wealth in New South Wales.

INCOMES.

Formerly the narrow scope of the State income-tax and latterly the absence of any statistical data relating to the incomes assessed for purposes of State income-tax rendered it impossible to formulate estimates of the national income, and, for various reasons, the information published by the Commissioner of Federal Taxation could not be turned to account. However, satisfactory results have been obtained for the year 1920-21 by using the returns of occupations and breadwinners obtained at the census of 3rd April, 1921, in conjunction with statistics relating to income derived during the year ended 30th June, 1921, obtained by the Commissioner of Taxation from returns supplied for purposes of Federal income-tax. An estimate based on these data was set forth in detail in the 1924 issue of this Year Book and a brief summary is shown hereunder.

Number of Incomes, 1920-21.

The total number of breadwinners in New South Wales recorded at the census of 4th April, 1921, was 884,104, including 11,320 persons assisting others in their work but not receiving wages or salary, leaving 872,784 persons who may be considered to have been in receipt of incomes. It is probable, however, that a considerable number of partly dependant persons, including most invalid pensioners and female old-age pensioners, as well as some war pensioners, were returned at the census as dependants. Adding 29,600 as the number of such pensioners, it is estimated that the total number of resident persons in receipt of incomes at the census was approximately 902,400. There were in addition 485 males and 513,313 females engaged in domestic duties for which monetary remuneration was not paid. No allowance was made for the value of the services rendered by persons who were working but not directly receiving monetary income.

Of the 872,784 breadwinners receiving incomes, it would appear that approximately 74 per cent. or 648,430, were wage and salary earners, 121,863 were working on their own account, 47,931 were employers, and the remainder, 54,560, derived income from property, from pensions, or from other sources.

Amount of Income, 1920-21.

The amount of income derived in New South Wales in 1920-21 is estimated to have been as follows:—

	£
Incomes of resident individuals	187,800,000
Companies' undistributed income	10,300,000
Income derived by absentees	10,100,000
	<hr/>
Total	£208,200,000

The total amount of income received by resident individuals in New South Wales in 1920-21 may be stated at approximately £187,800,000, inclusive of approximately £8,100,000 distributed as dividends by companies.

This represents an average of nearly £90 per head of population, £208 per person in receipt of income, and £218 per breadwinner other than old-age and invalid pensioners.

The total amount of net income received by companies, assurance societies, and kindred profit-making bodies, other than partnerships, was £19,900,000, consisting of £9,400,000 not distributed to shareholders, £8,100,000 dividends distributed to local shareholders, £1,500,000 to foreign shareholders, and £900,000 non-taxable interest. This total represented 9·6 per cent. of the total income derived in the State.

Combining the incomes derived by resident individuals and by companies, the total amount of private incomes of residents was estimated to be £198,100,000, of which £10,300,000 was not distributed to individuals during the year.

The total amount of income accruing to absentees from New South Wales in 1920-21 may be set down at £10,100,000, viz., £6,700,000 as interest on Government loans, and £3,400,000 from private investments and other operations.

Approximate Distribution of Income, 1920-21.

Data are not available regarding the distribution of the whole of the income in detail, but from the report of the Federal Commissioner for Taxation considerable information may be deduced in respect of the distribution of incomes of individual taxpayers who embrace all those possessed of incomes in the higher grades. By combining these with an estimate of the incomes of non-taxpayers, it has been possible to compile the following table to show the approximate distribution of income derived by individuals in New South Wales in 1920-21. The figures do not include non-taxable interest on war loans which is included in the statement on page 246.

Grade of Net Income.*	Where whole income is derived in N.S.W.		Where part of total income is derived in other States.	
	Number of Persons.	Income.*	Number of Persons.†	Income derived in N.S.W.*
		£		£
Under £700... ..	881,731	158,250,000	2,800	554,000
£701-£1,000	6,930	6,028,000	800	330,000
£1,001-£2,000	5,634	8,016,000	1,080	750,000
£2,001-£3,000	1,312	3,275,000	420	530,000
£3,001-£5,000	690	2,663,000	350	670,000
Over £5,000	351	3,128,000	350	1,895,000
Total	896,648	181,360,000	5,800	4,725,000

* Omitting non-taxable interest on war loans. † According to grade of total income derived in Australia.

The principal feature of this table is the overwhelming preponderance of incomes under £700 per year. No less than 98 per cent. of the incomes, embracing nearly 72 per cent. of the total income, falls into this group. There were comparatively few individuals with incomes over £5,000, and no individual deriving the whole of his income in the State had an income exceeding £50,000, excluding from account interest derived from non-taxable war loans.

Comparative Statement—Incomes 1892 to 1921.

The estimate of the income derived in New South Wales during 1920-21 is shown below in comparison with an estimate based on the war census of

income derived in the year ended 30th June, 1915, and with results obtained for the years 1892, 1898, and 1901, by employing census data in conjunction with State income-tax returns.

Year.	Net Income of Resident Individuals.	Undistributed Income of Local Companies, etc.	Income accruing to absentees.		Total Income derived in New South Wales.
			From Private Investments and Property.	From investment in Government Loans. †	
1892	£ *	£ *	£ 3,050,000	£ 1,870,000	£ 68,270,000
1898	57,649,000	2,250,000	2,530,000	1,975,000	64,404,000
1901	*	*	2,832,000	1,976,000	66,912,000
1914-15	102,100,000	*	*	3,100,000	114,100,000
1920-21	187,800,000	10,300,000	3,400,000	6,700,000	208,200,000

* Not available.

† Commonwealth and State.

The estimate of 1892 relates to a year in which the financial boom had reached its highest point and the income of that year consequently appears unduly inflated. In 1898 and 1901 the State was slowly recovering from an industrial depression consequent on the financial crisis of 1893 and a succession of adverse seasons. The income of the year 1914-15 was affected by the dislocation caused by the outbreak of war and by the occurrence of a very bad season.

The decrease in the amount of income derived in the years 1898 and 1901 as compared with 1892 may be readily understood. The subsequent increase has been occasioned mainly by the depreciation in the purchasing power of money, and is, consequently, more nominal than real, but the increase in population, and the growing prosperity of the community have had a favourable influence.

The following table shows the number of persons deriving income, their proportion to the total population of the State, and the average amount of income derived per inhabitant and per person deriving income:—

Year.	Resident Persons receiving Income.	Proportion of Persons receiving Income to Total Population.	Average amount of Income per person receiving Income.	Average amount of Income per Inhabitant.	Proportion of Total Income received by Absentees.
			†	†	
	No.	Per cent.	£	£	Per cent
1892	446,190	37·4	139·8	53·8	7·2
1898	534,315	40·4	112·1	45·6	7·0
1901	*	*	*	45·4	7·2
1914-15†	788,600	41·7	138·2	57·3	*
1920-21	902,400	42·9	219·5	94·8	4·9

* Not available.

† Excluding absentees and their income.

‡ The figures for 1914-15

relate to the incomes of persons resident in, and companies with head offices in, New South Wales.

With the growth of population the number of persons receiving income has shown a very pronounced increase and its proportion to the total population has risen steadily. This is probably due, in part, to the increase in the employment of women in commercial and industrial occupations, but it is also a consequence, in part, of the increase in the proportion of adults in the population.

PUBLIC FINANCE.

THE collection and expenditure of public moneys in New South Wales are controlled by four authorities, viz., the State and Commonwealth Governments, local governing bodies, such as Municipal and Shire Councils, and Boards, such as the Metropolitan and the Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage Boards and the Sydney Harbour Trust, appointed by the State Government, with statutory authority to administer public services.

Prior to Federation about two-thirds of the revenue of the State Government from taxation consisted of Customs and Excise duties, but power to impose these duties now lies exclusively with the Commonwealth Government. All other realms of taxation, however, are open to both Governments. Each imposes on the people of the State an income tax, a land tax (which, however, in the case of the State tax in New South Wales is very limited in its application) and probate duties; in addition the State imposes stamp duties, motor, betting, totalisator and racecourse admission taxes, also fees for certain licenses, while the Commonwealth levies a tax upon entertainments.

The expenditure of the State Government, other than loan expenditure, may be classed conveniently under two heads, (a) Government expenditure, which includes interest and charges on debt, expenditure in connection with the Parliament, elections, administration of local government, education, health, (including hospitals), charities, justice, police, prisons, lands (including closer settlement), mines, agriculture, forests, fisheries, water conservation and irrigation, navigation (part), and public works, including industrial undertakings; and (b) expenditure of the business undertakings, viz., Railways and Tramways, Metropolitan Water, Sewerage, and Drainage Board, Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage Board, and the Sydney Harbour Trust.

The Commonwealth bears the expenditure upon trade and customs, naval and military defence, lighthouses, navigation (part), quarantine, patents, etc., meteorological observations, Federal elections, old age and invalid pensions, and of the Post and Telegraph Department, which is in the nature of a business undertaking.

Local governing bodies are required to levy a general rate of not less than one penny in the pound (unless by special permission of the Governor) on the unimproved capital value of land, and have power also to levy certain other rates on either the unimproved or the improved value. The extent of their rating powers is described in that portion of this Year Book which treats of local government, and their general expenditure is confined to administration, health, roads and other public services.

The Water and Sewerage Boards are authorised to levy rates to meet the cost, including interest on capital, of the services rendered, and in like manner the Sydney Harbour Trust has power to demand and collect wharfage and tonnage rates in respect of vessels berthed at any wharf, etc., vested in the Commissioners of the Trust, or of their cargoes.

Each Government has power to raise such loan money as it requires for its own purpose, but it was arranged in 1924 that the Commonwealth should raise all the new money required by the States from 1924-25 onwards. After participating in one joint loan, to the extent of £2,912,200 net, New South Wales subsequently withdrew from this arrangement and now operates independently of the Commonwealth in the loan market. Loans raised by the State have been devoted chiefly to developmental and reproductive works, and all the loans raised by the Commonwealth prior to the war were similarly applied, but those raised during the years 1915 to 1921, amounting to £250,000,000, were raised for war purposes or for the payment of gratuities to, and the repatriation of Australian soldiers.

Municipalities and Shires have power under certain conditions to raise loans. In the case of a municipality the total amount of loans must not exceed 20 per cent. of the unimproved value of the ratable land in its area, and, in the case of a shire, thrice its annual income, and all such loans are guaranteed by the State Government.

Of the boards mentioned, the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board alone has power to raise loans.

TAXATION.

The total amount of taxes collected from the people of New South Wales by the several authorities during the year 1924-25 amounted to £39,880,143. The various forms of State taxation yielded a revenue of £8,589,794; the Commonwealth Government collected taxes amounting to £23,932,226, and receipts by local bodies from rates and charges were £7,358,123.

The following statement shows in detail the taxation collected in New South Wales by the State and Commonwealth Governments, and the rates and charges received by local bodies, etc., during the five years ended the 30th June, 1925.

Head of Taxation, or Charge.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
STATE.					
Land Tax	£ 2,717	£ 2,490	£ 2,570	£ 2,657	£ 2,569
Income Tax	4,399,360	4,077,897	4,196,228	4,373,519	4,661,892
Stamp and Probate Duties.					
Stamps	1,316,671	1,235,911	1,349,512	1,428,881	1,357,913
Bank-note Composition..	1,461	1,412	1,374	1,355	1,335
Betting Tickets..	96,336	106,066	109,550	108,688	119,144
Probate	727,716	906,289	1,175,444	} 965,200	} 1,248,336
Settlement and Companies' Death Duties ...	6,636	1,018	1,152		
Total, Stamp Duties £	2,148,820	2,250,696	2,637,032	2,504,124	2,726,728
Motor Tax	123,590	141,772	185,694	255,261	345,343
Betting Taxes	108,911	110,120	111,079	108,730	112,944
Totalizator Tax	274,171	281,819	275,944	266,893	248,283
Racecourse Admission Tax	117,820	155,638	150,587	143,013	139,499
Licenses	212,744	228,585	239,984	333,934	352,536
Total, State Taxation £	7,388,133	7,249,017	7,799,118	7,988,131	8,589,794
COMMONWEALTH.					
Customs Duties	9,797,982	7,847,620	9,905,443	10,988,303	11,645,992
Excise	5,027,497	5,057,694	4,898,854	5,110,916	5,187,473
Estate	469,317	373,821	489,686	490,400	795,008
Land Tax*	1,144,174	1,268,338	1,111,588	1,155,100	1,534,802
Income Tax*	5,280,977	5,613,053	4,301,506	4,445,100	4,494,160
War-time Profits Tax*	844,425	516,198	113,269	‡	‡
Entertainment Tax ...	272,631	277,541	208,632	249,010	274,791
Total, Commonwealth Taxation ... £	22,777,003	20,954,265	21,028,978	22,438,829	23,932,226
LOCAL.					
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates	551,377	687,119	734,735	776,461	830,493
Fees for Registration of Dogs	19,137	20,370	19,629	21,116	21,209
†Municipal Rates—					
City of Sydney	623,766	747,654	729,096	§788,072	§744,386
Suburban and Country Municipalities	1,630,626	1,855,557	1,992,423	§2,205,061	§2,417,340
†Shire Rates	868,809	1,034,147	1,110,403	§1,174,484	§1,264,022
Water and Sewerage Rates—(Metropolitan, Hunter, and Grafton)	1,623,892	1,765,826	1,831,790	2,063,189	2,080,673
Total, Local Rates and Charges ... £	5,317,607	6,110,673	1,418,076	7,028,383	7,358,123
Grand Total	£ 35,482,743	34,313,955	35,246,172	37,455,343	39,880,143

* Partly estimated.

† Year ended 31st December preceding.

‡ Refunds exceeded receipts.

§ Includes Harbour Bridge Rate.

Taxation per Head of Population.

The previous quotations, stated in their equivalent rates per head of population, are shown in the following table:—

Head of Taxation, or Charge.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
STATE.					
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Land Tax ... ..	... ..	... ..	... ..	... ..	... ..
Income Tax	2 2 1	1 18 4	1 18 7	1 19 7	2 1 5
Stamp and Probate Duties—					
Stamps	0 12 7	0 11 8	0 12 6	0 12 11	0 12 1
Betting Tickets	0 0 11	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 1 1
Probate	0 7 0	0 8 6	0 10 10	} 0 8 9	0 11 1
Settlement and Companies' Death Duties	0 0 1	...	...
Total, Stamp Duties	£ 1 0 7	1 1 2	1 4 4	1 2 8	1 4 3
Motor Tax	0 1 2	0 1 4	0 1 8	0 2 4	0 3 1
Betting Taxes	0 1 1	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 1 0
Totalizator Tax	0 2 8	0 2 8	0 2 7	0 2 5	0 2 2
Racecourse Admission Tax	0 1 2	0 1 6	0 1 5	0 1 4	0 1 3
Licenses	0 2 0	0 2 2	0 2 2	0 3 0	0 3 1
Total, State Taxation	£ 3 10 9	3 8 2	3 11 9	3 12 4	3 16 3
COMMONWEALTH.					
Customs Duties	4 13 8	3 13 8	4 11 2	4 19 5	5 3 4
Excise "	2 8 2	2 7 7	2 5 1	2 6 3	2 6 0
Estate "	0 3 11	0 3 6	0 4 6	0 4 5	0 7 1
Land Tax *	0 10 11	0 11 11	0 10 3	0 10 6	0 13 7
Income Tax*	2 10 7	2 12 9	1 19 7	2 0 3	1 19 11
War-time Profits Tax*	0 8 1	0 4 10	0 1 0	†	†
Entertainment Tax	0 2 7	0 2 7	0 1 11	0 2 3	0 2 5
Total, Commonwealth Taxation	£ 10 17 11	9 16 10	9 13 6	10 3 1	10 12 4
LOCAL.					
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates ...	0 5 3	0 6 6	0 6 9	0 7 0	0 7 6
Fees for Registration of Dogs ...	0 0 2	0 0 2	0 0 2	0 0 2	0 0 2
†Municipal Rates—					
City of Sydney	0 5 11	0 7 0	0 6 9	0 7 2	0 6 7
Suburban and Country Municipalities	0 15 7	0 17 5	0 18 4	0 19 11	1 1 5
†Shire Rates	0 8 4	0 9 9	0 10 2	0 10 8	0 11 3
Water and Sewerage Rates—					
(Metropolitan and Hunter) ...	0 15 6	0 16 7	0 16 10	0 18 8	0 18 4
Total, Local Rates and Charges	£ 2 10 9	2 17 5	2 19 0	3 3 7	3 5 3
Grand Total	£ 16 19 5	16 2 5	16 4 3	16 19 0	17 13 10

* Partly estimated. † Year ended 31st December preceding. ‡ Refunds exceeded receipts.

Particulars of revenue from taxation in the other States, and in the Commonwealth, for the year ended 30th June, 1925, will be found on page 287.

State Land Tax.

The State land tax is now levied only on the unincorporated portion of the Western Division, and is at the rate of 1d. in the £ on the unimproved value of land. A sum of £240 is allowed by way of exemption, and where the unimproved value is in excess of that sum, a reduction equal to the exemption is made; but where several blocks of land within the State are held by a person or company, only one amount of £240 may be deducted from the aggregate unimproved value.

State Income Tax.

Income tax is payable by all persons in receipt of more than £300 per annum, derived from all sources within New South Wales. Capital devolving under will or by intestacy of a deceased person, or under a marriage settlement is not taxable income. A taxpayer is entitled to a deduction of the sum of £300, and of £50 in respect of each child under 18 years of age wholly maintained by him. Premiums paid for life insurance, or annuity or fidelity guarantee, up to £50 are exempt, also payments for superannuation. If the taxpayer's taxable income does not exceed £600 deductions are allowed in respect of sums paid by the taxpayer to doctors, nurses, chemists, and hospitals on account of the illness of his wife or of any of his children under the age of 21 years, and sums up to £20 paid to an undertaker for funeral and burial expenses arising out of the death of the taxpayer's wife or of any of his children under the age of 21 years. There is no exemption in the case of companies, and the total net receipts are taxable, the rate being 2s. 6d. in the £ on the taxable income of the company without deduction. The rates per £ for persons other than companies are as follows:—

On so much of the taxable income as does not exceed £250 ...	...	0s. 9d.
" " exceeds £250 and does not exceed £500...		0s. 10d.
" " " £500 " "		£750... 0s. 11d.
" " " £750 " "		£1,000... 1s. 0d.
" " " £1,000 " "		£1,500... 1s. 1d.
" " " £1,500 " "		£2,000... 1s. 2d.
" " " £2,000 " "		£2,500... 1s. 3d.
" " " £2,500 " "		£3,000... 1s. 4d.
" " " £3,000 " "		£3,500... 1s. 5d.
" " " £3,500 " "		£4,000... 1s. 7d.
" " " £4,000 " "		£5,000... 1s. 9d.
" " " £5,000 " "		£7,000... 1s. 11d.
" " " £7,000 " "		... .. 2s. 0d.

In each case an addition of one-third of the tax is made on so much of the income as is derived from the produce of property. In computing the tax payable, income from personal exertion is first taken into account.

In respect of income derived from agricultural, dairying, or pastoral pursuits conducted by a taxpayer, although the tax is payable upon the taxable income derived during the year of assessment, the rate of tax is determined upon the average taxable income so derived during a period of not more than five years immediately preceding. The year beginning 1st July, 1920, is the first to be taken into account in determining the average.

The exemptions from income-tax are as follow:—

Municipal corporations and other local authorities.

Mutual life assurance societies, and other companies or societies not carrying on business for purposes of profit or gain, except interest on moneys secured by the mortgage of land in the State.

The profits of the Government Savings Bank.

Societies registered under the Friendly Societies Act, or under any Act relating to Trade Unions.

Ecclesiastical, Charitable, and Educational Institutions of a public character, whether supported wholly or partly by grants from the Consolidated Revenue Fund or not.

Income arising or accruing to any person from Government debentures, inscribed stock, and Treasury bills, or from debentures or inscribed stock issued by the Commissioners of the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales.

Dividends derived from shares in a company.

Societies registered under the Co-operation, Community Settlement, and Credit Act, 1923—(a) undistributed profits; (b) bonuses or rebates paid to a member based on business done by him with the society where 90 per cent. of its business is done with its members.

These exemptions do not extend to the salaries and wages of persons employed by any such corporation, company, society, or institution, whether paid wholly or in part from the revenues thereof.

No statistics relating to incomes are available. In addition to the income tax levied by the State a tax on incomes is imposed by the Commonwealth, particulars of which are given on page 256.

State Stamp and Probate Duties.

In the year 1920 additional Stamp and Probate Duties were imposed, and the rates payable since 1st January, 1921, on estates of deceased persons have been as follow:—

Over £1,000 and under £5,000—2 per cent.				
„ £5,000	„ £10,000—2½ to 4½ per cent.	Increase=¼ per cent.	per £1,000.	
„ £10,000	„ £20,000—5 to 7	„ Increase=½	„ £2,000.	
„ £20,000	„ £140,000—7½ to 19	„ Increase=½	„ £5,000.	
„ £140,000	„ £150,000—19½	„		
Exceeding £150,000—20 per cent.				

The duties are charged upon the whole value of the estate, but estates valued at not more than £1,000 are exempt, and half rates are allowed on estates under £5,000 when the property passes to widows, or to legitimate children under 21 years of age.

Particulars of the estate duties imposed by the Commonwealth are given on page 257.

Many legal documents are subject to stamp duty, and a stamp duty of 2d. is imposed upon all cheques and upon receipts for amounts of £2 or more. Certain receipts are exempt from stamp duty, e.g., receipts for salary, wages, pension, etc., and cash sale dockets.

State Motor Tax.

Until the Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill, 1924, was passed, motor vehicles were taxed according to the horse-power of the engine, but now the rates of taxation are based upon the weight of the vehicle and the type of tyre used.

The schedule of rates is as follows:—

	Pneumatic, semi-pneumatic, rubber, or super-resilient tyres.	Non-pneumatic, or solid tyres.
Motor Car	2s. 9d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ -cwt. of its weight.	3s. 3d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ -cwt. of its weight.
Motor Lorry	2s. 9d. do do	3s. 6d. do do
Motor Omnibus	4s. 3d. do do	5s. 6d. do do

On motor cycles the tax is £1 2s. 6d., or £2 with side-car; trailers and all other motor vehicles are taxed at the rate of 3s. 6d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. of their weight.

Motor lorries and trailers owned by a farmer, and used solely for carting his own produce, are subject to half rates.

Any motor vehicle manufactured wholly within the British Empire is charged according to the scale quoted, less a reduction of 6d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. of its weight.

The taxes are payable at the time of issue of the certificate of registration or license, and at each annual renewal thereof.

In addition drivers (including learners) and conductors are charged amounts ranging from 5s. to 10s. for licenses, and for annual renewals thereof, under the Motor Vehicles (Taxation) Management Act, 1924.

Ambulance motor vehicles are exempt from taxation. The total number of motor vehicles licensed, including motor cycles, was 107,939, and the revenue benefited by the tax during 1924-25 to the extent of £345,343, while £129,300 were received for licenses. Receipts from these two sources were formerly credited to the Consolidated Revenue, but are now paid to the Main Roads Account, Country Main Roads Fund and County of Cumberland Main Roads Fund to finance the constructional work undertaken by the Main Roads Board.

State Betting Taxes.

The Finance (Taxation) Act, 1915, and amending Acts, imposed taxes on racing clubs and associations, on bookmakers, and on betting tickets.

With regard to the clubs, the taxes are levied on licenses and fees received from bookmakers. The existing rates range from 50 per cent. on racecourses within 40 miles of the General Post Office, Sydney, or 20 miles from the Post Office, Newcastle, to 20 per cent. on courses outside the limits mentioned.

The taxes payable by bookmakers are regulated according to the particular courses and enclosures where operations are carried on, and vary considerably. The amount received during the year ended 30th June, 1925, from clubs and bookmakers, was £112,944.

The Act of 1915 further provided for the imposition of a stamp duty on all betting tickets issued by bookmakers, the amount being one penny in the saddling paddock, and one half-penny for the other parts of the racecourse. During 1917 these rates were doubled, and in 1920 the amount on the paddock tickets was increased to threepence, but the other rates were not altered. In addition to these amounts, bookmakers are required to furnish a monthly statement showing the number of credit bets made, the duty on which is the same as if tickets had been issued. The revenue derived from this source during the year ended 30th June, 1925, was £119,144.

State Totalizator Tax.

The Totalizator Act (No. 75, 1916) was passed on the 20th December, 1916, and was amended by Acts No. 29, 1919, and No. 16, 1920. The revenue derived from this source during the year 1924-5 amounted to £248,283.

All registered racing clubs and associations must establish an approved totalizator. The commission to be deducted from the total amount invested is 12½ per cent., with an additional 1 per cent. for the sinking fund to meet the cost of machines. The contribution which must be paid to the State Treasurer by clubs racing for profit is 9 per cent. of the total payments into the machine and by other clubs 5½ per cent.

State Racecourse Admission Tax.

An Act enabling the Government to levy a tax on persons entering racecourses, came into operation on the 1st October, 1920, and an amending Act was passed on the 31st December, 1920. The Acts apply to all racecourses within 40 miles of the General Post Office, Sydney, and a similar distance from the Newcastle Post Office. The amounts leviable are:—Twopence on the admission charge through the outside gate or into the flat, 10d. into the Leger Reserve, while into the Saddling Paddock the rate is 3s. for males, 2d. additional being charged at Randwick, and 1s. 7d. for females. If no charge is made at the outside gate the tax for the Leger and Paddock enclosures is 2d. higher. Members and season ticket-holders are required to pay a tax equal to 40 per cent. on the amount of their annual subscriptions.

In order to carry out the provisions of this Act, racing clubs are compelled to furnish returns of the number of persons who paid for admission and the number of members and season ticket holders. The amount received on account of this tax for the year ended 30th June, 1925, was £139,499.

This amount, added to the receipts from betting and totalisator taxes, brings the total revenue from racing taxation during 1924-25 to £619,870.

The following table shows the total amount of taxation in connection with horse-racing since 1916, which was the first year of collection:—

Year ended 30th June.	Racing Clubs and Associations.	Bookmakers.	Betting Tickets Stamp Duty.	Totalisator Tax.	Racecourse Admission Tax.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1916	10,102	21,228	27,636	...	...	58,966
1917	22,881	24,655	40,849	6,346	...	94,731
1918	31,815	27,544	57,391	82,802	..	199,552
1919	43,969	28,321	54,841	132,403	.	259,534
1920	60,951	32,775	87,504	222,970	...	404,200
1921	66,970	41,941	96,336	274,171	117,820	597,238
1922	65,707	44,422	106,066	281,818	155,630	653,643
1923	67,476	43,603	109,550	275,944	150,587	647,160
1924	67,941	40,789	108,688	266,893	143,013	627,324
1925	69,579	43,365	119,144	248,283	139,499	619,870
Total	507,391	348,643	808,005	1,791,630	706,549	4,162,218

Commonwealth Land Tax.

The first direct taxation by the Federal Government was imposed in 1910, when the Land Tax was passed, which levies a graduated tax on the unimproved value of the lands of the Commonwealth. In the case of owners who are not absentees, an amount of £5,000 is exempt, and the rate of tax is 1 $\frac{1}{18750}$ d. for the first £1 of value in excess of that amount, and increases uniformly to 5d. in the £ on a taxable balance of £75,000, with 9d. in the £ for every £ in excess of that amount. Absentee owners are required to

pay 1d. in the £ up to £5,000, with a uniform progression from $2\frac{1}{18750}$ d. to 6d. for the next £75,000. On every £ in excess of £80,000, the rate payable is 10d.

Lands exempt from taxation are those owned by a State, municipality, or other public authority, by savings banks, friendly societies, or trade unions, and those used for religious, charitable, or educational purposes.

The latest available statement issued by the Commonwealth Commissioner of Taxation shows that the land tax payable for New South Wales property by residents was £1,096,569, by absentees £13,828; total, £1,110,397. For the whole Commonwealth the corresponding figures were:—Residents, £2,118,647; absentees, £29,214; total, £2,147,861.

Commonwealth Income Tax.

In addition to the taxation of incomes imposed by the State, the Commonwealth levies a tax which is payable by residents and absentees in respect of income derived from sources within Australia (which includes Papua).

The exemptions from taxation include the revenues and funds of local governing bodies or public authorities; friendly societies; trade unions and kindred associations; religious, scientific, charitable, or public educational institutions; interest on certain Commonwealth war loan securities; the income of provident, benefit or superannuation funds established for the benefit of the employees in any business, and of funds established by any will or instrument for public charitable purposes; salaries of Governor-General, State Governors, foreign consuls, and trade commissioners of any part of the British Dominions; agricultural, pastoral and horticultural, viticultural, stock-raising, manufacturing and other industrial societies not carried on for profit or gain; musical, art, scientific, and literary societies; remuneration paid by the Commonwealth or a State Government to non-residents for expert advice; war pensions paid under the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act, 1920-21; the income derived by a person from a mining property in Australia, worked for the purpose of obtaining gold, or gold and copper, if gold represents at least 40 per cent. of the total output; so much of the assessable income of co-operative companies as is distributed among their shareholders as interest or dividends on shares. A rebate or bonus made to a customer by a co-operative company may be treated as a charge on profits.

Under the Taxation of Loans Act, 1923, the interest on any loan raised in Australia after 31st December, 1923, by the Commonwealth or a State or any other authority is subject to Commonwealth Income Tax.

Resident taxpayers are allowed an exemption of £300 less £1 for every £3 by which the income exceeds £300. Absentees are assessed on their total incomes from all sources in Australia.

Special deductions include £50 for every child under 16 years of age maintained by a resident taxpayer; payments up to £100 for friendly society benefits, superannuation, etc., if the taxpayer is a salary or wage-earner, or has a taxable income not exceeding £800; premiums up to £50 for life assurance and fidelity guarantee; gifts over £5 each to public charitable institutions or contributions to the Department of Repatriation; donations to any public authority for research in respect of diseases of human beings, animals, and plants. Where the taxable income is less than £900 the deduction is allowed of the fees paid to medical practitioner, hospital nurse, or chemist in respect of the illness of the taxpayer, his wife or children under 21 years of age, and the sum up to £20 paid to an undertaker for funeral expenses.

Persons engaged in agricultural or rural pursuits in a district subject to the ravages of animal pests are entitled to a deduction of money expended in the purchase of wire-netting.

The rate of taxation upon incomes derived from personal exertion is $3\frac{3}{800}$ d. for the first pound of taxable income, increasing uniformly by $\frac{3}{800}$ d. with each increase of one pound sterling of the taxable income, until the taxable income reaches £7,600, where the rate is 2s. 7½d. in the pound. Over £7,600 the rate per pound sterling is 5s.

The rate of taxation upon incomes up to £546 derived from property is stated by the following formula:—

$$R = \left(3 + \frac{I}{181 \cdot 058} \right) \text{pence,}$$

R being the average rate of tax in pence per pound sterling, and I the taxable income in pounds sterling.

Over the sum of £546, and up to £2,000, the tax increases continuously with the increase of the taxable income till it reaches 33·6 pence per pound sterling on £2,000 10s., thence up to a rate of 5s. for every pound sterling in excess of £6,500.

To the tax payable in all cases is added a further tax equal to 20 per cent., and the minimum tax is £1.

Companies pay a flat rate of 1s. in the £ on the taxable income.

In assessments for the year which began on 1st July, 1922, and subsequent years, the rate to be applied to the taxable income is to be calculated as if the taxable income were the average of the taxable incomes derived in a period of at least two and not more than five years immediately preceding.

A tax of 12½ per cent. on prizes in lotteries was abolished in December, 1924.

During 1923 an agreement was made between the Commonwealth and State Governments for the collection by the State Commissioner of Taxation of the income tax payable in the State under Commonwealth law, thus obviating the necessity for separate returns.

Commonwealth Estate Duties.

The Estates Assessment Act (No. 22 of 1914) provided for the imposition of a duty on properties of persons who died after the commencement of the Act. The rates are 1 per cent. where the total value exceeds £1,000 but does not exceed £2,000, and an additional one-fifth per cent. for every thousand pounds, or part thereof, in excess of two thousand pounds, the maximum being 15 per cent.

A reduction to two-thirds of the above rates is allowed if the estate is left to the widow, children, or grandchildren of the testator.

Estates of persons who died on active service in the War, or as the result of injuries or diseases contracted while on active service, are exempt.

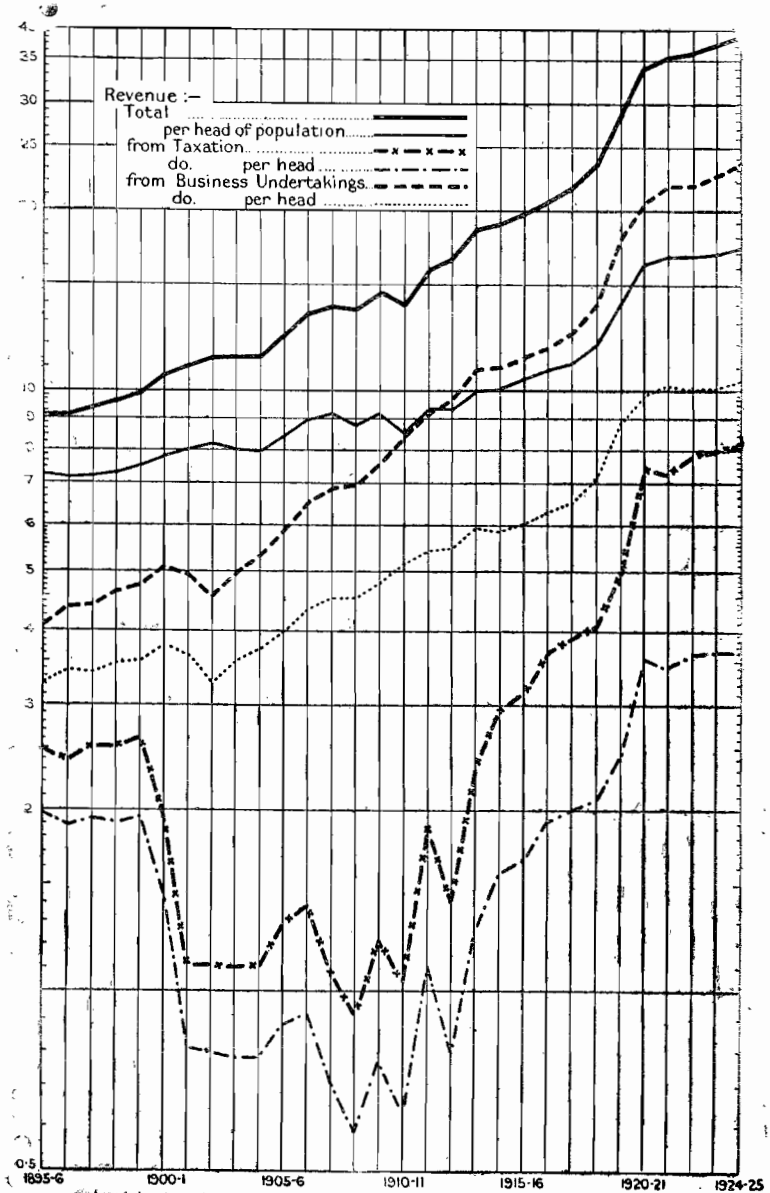
Commonwealth Entertainments Tax.

The Entertainments Tax is levied on payments for admission to almost every class of amusement at the rate of twopence halfpenny when the payment for admission is two shillings and sixpence, and, if it exceeds that amount, one halfpenny for every sixpence or part of sixpence in excess thereof. The amount of tax collected in New South Wales during 1924-25 was £274,791. Details will be found in the chapter of this book entitled "Social Condition."

THE STATE ACCOUNTS.

The State Accounts are kept on a cash basis, and to ascertain the financial position from the annual statement prepared by the Treasurer, consideration must be given to the Consolidated Revenue Account, Closer Settlement Account, Public Works Account, Loans Account, the various

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE, 1895-96 to 1924-25.



The numbers at the side of the graph represent £1,000,000 of revenue, and £1 per head of population.

The diagram is a ratio graph, and, the vertical scale being logarithmic, the rise or fall of each curve represents the percentage of change. Equal distances on the scale represent the same percentage of change, and when the curves run parallel, they indicate an increase or decrease in equal proportion, irrespective of absolute values. Actual values are shown by means of the numbers at the side of the graph.

Trust Accounts shown on page 270, and the accounts of the industrial undertakings shown on page 266, which do not form part of the Consolidated Revenue Account. Due regard must be taken also of such items as refunds, advances, cancellations, and cross entries.

All expenditure from loan moneys must be authorised under an Appropriation Act, in the same manner as the ordinary expenditure chargeable to the general revenue. There is a restriction on the expenditure, whether from loans or from revenue, in the provisions of the Public Works Act. Under that Act the question of constructing all works estimated to cost more than £20,000, except those connected with the maintenance of railways, is referred by resolution of the Legislative Assembly to the Parliamentary Standing Committee elected by the members of each parliament. The Committee investigates and reports to Parliament, and the Assembly decides whether it is expedient to carry out the proposed work; if the decision be favourable, a bill based thereon must be passed before the authorisation is absolute.

THE CONSOLIDATED REVENUE ACCOUNT.

The Consolidated Revenue Account for each year shows the whole of the receipts and expenditure, inclusive of those in connection with business undertakings, but exclusive of transactions under the Loans Account and the other accounts previously mentioned. All revenue is paid into the Consolidated Revenue Account, but the whole cannot be used for general purposes, as, under section 13 of the Forestry Act, 1916, one-half of the gross proceeds received by the Forestry Commission must be carried to a special account and set apart for afforestation; under the Public Works and Closer Settlement Funds Act, 1906, two-thirds of the net proceeds of the sale of Crown lands, exclusive of interest, less 20 per cent., must be paid to the Public Works Fund; also under the Main Roads Act, 1924, the amount received as taxation under the Motor Vehicle Tax and the amounts paid as licenses under the Metropolitan Traffic Act, 1900, and the Motor Traffic Act, 1909, are now paid into the Special Deposits Account, to be expended in connection with the operations of the Main Roads Board. These are the only cases in which revenue is earmarked for specific purposes.

The receipts during the year ended 30th June, 1925, amounted to £88,822,588, and the expenditure to £39,579,038, so that on the operations of the year there was a deficiency of £756,450, which increased the accumulated deficiency to £3,430,815. Similar details for each of the last ten years are shown in the following table, also the revenue and expenditure per head of population:—

Year ended 30th June.	Receipts.		Expenditure.		Surplus (+) or deficiency (-).	
	Total.	Per inhabitant.	Total.	Per inhabitant.	On operations of year.	Accumulated at end of year.
	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£
1916	19,703,518	10 8 0	19,553,927	10 6 5	(+) 149,591	(-) 214,339
1917	20,522,097	10 16 8	20,790,895	10 19 6	(-) 268,798	(-) 483,137
1918	21,543,742	11 4 0	21,519,918	11 3 8	(+) 23,824	(-) 459,313
1919	23,448,166	11 18 6	23,233,398	11 16 3	(+) 214,768	(-) 244,545
1920	28,650,496	14 1 1	30,210,013	14 16 4	(-) 1,559,517	(-) 1,804,062
1921	34,031,396	16 5 7	34,476,892	16 9 10	(-) 445,496	(-) 2,249,558
1922	35,637,820	16 14 11	36,966,525	17 7 5	(-) 1,328,705	(-) 3,578,263
1923	36,145,944	16 12 8	35,342,436	16 5 3	(+) 803,508	(-) 2,774,755
1924	37,351,809	16 18 0	37,251,419	16 17 1	(+) 100,390	(-) 2,674,365
1925	38,822,588	17 4 7	39,579,038	17 11 4	(-) 756,450	(-) 3,430,815

The increases in revenue and expenditure, although constant, were gradual up to 1918-19. Since that year the expenditure has been considerably affected by the movement of the basic wage, which was increased from £3 to

£3 17s. per week in October, 1919, and from £3 17s. to £4 5s. in October, 1920. The effects of the subsequent reductions to £4 2s. in October, 1921, and to £3 18s. in May, 1922, and the increase to £4 2s. again in September, 1923, are apparent in the expenditure in those years. In August, 1925, the basic wage was again increased to £4 5s.

Heads of Revenue and Expenditure.

The following table shows the details of revenue and expenditure during the last five financial years. The revenue in 1924-25 was the largest recorded for the State, being £1,471,000 greater than in 1923-24, but the expenditure increased by £2,328,000.

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
REVENUE.					
<i>Governmental.</i>					
Revenue Returned by Commonwealth	£ 2,533,234	£ 2,632,036	£ 2,690,198	£ 2,738,725	£ 2,796,928
State Taxation	7,388,133	7,249,017	7,799,118	7,988,131	8,115,151
Land Revenue—					
Alienation	1,235,951	1,130,777	1,025,294	1,016,545	1,061,412
Occupation and Miscellaneous, including Forestry	915,514	878,043	888,939	913,158	984,756
Total Land Revenue	£ 2,151,465	£ 2,008,820	£ 1,914,233	£ 1,929,703	£ 2,046,168
Services Rendered	748,291	923,915	984,405	1,068,886	1,447,549
General Miscellaneous	695,324	988,058	932,981	1,080,532	1,059,794
Industrial Undertakings	12,005	11,050	10,362	7,655	7,792
Advances Repaid	40,083	92,596	52,845	75,266	42,946
Total Governmental	£ 13,568,535	£ 13,905,492	£ 14,384,140	£ 14,888,898	£ 15,316,328
<i>Business Undertakings.</i>					
Railways and Tramways	18,047,389	19,145,082	19,083,302	19,508,486	20,624,793
Sydney Harbour Trust	797,211	827,123	852,242	897,357	970,402
Water Supply and Sewerage	1,618,261	1,760,123	1,826,260	2,057,068	1,911,965
Total Business Undertakings	£ 20,462,861	£ 21,732,328	£ 21,761,804	£ 22,462,911	£ 23,506,260
Grand Total	£ 34,031,396	£ 35,637,820	£ 36,145,944	£ 37,351,809	£ 38,822,588
EXPENDITURE.*					
<i>Governmental.</i>					
Interest on Public Debt and Special Deposits	1,637,586	1,604,687	1,827,102	2,239,395	3,338,368
Reduction of Public Debt	2,566				
Transfer to Public Works Fund	451,561	406,708	347,961	351,927	363,528
Departments—					
Premier	119,480	70,779	65,196	84,733	84,596
Chief Secretary	1,359,375	1,474,054	2,548,423	2,726,866	2,735,871
Public Health	1,258,910	1,215,622			
Treasurer (excluding Business Undertakings and Interest on Deposits, etc.)	1,158,869	1,054,192	948,370	1,050,216	1,152,633
Attorney-General and Justice	576,224	651,191	646,419	639,301	676,832
Lands	580,949	630,704	575,932	569,296	560,862
Public Works (excluding Business Undertakings)	635,128	658,080	637,282	718,095	708,025
Public Instruction (excluding Endowments)	3,702,721	4,085,177	3,941,290	4,000,324	4,212,158
Labour and Industry	102,287	99,882	99,998	107,831	111,574
Mines	72,059	94,693	78,154	91,107	94,206
Agriculture	450,788	473,871	461,739	497,967	562,221
Local Government—					
Administration	37,641	45,255	43,941	42,538	44,690
Endowments and Grants	347,869	371,366	302,080	306,514	286,851
All Other Services	1,072,694	1,146,980	765,666	1,182,067	1,694,322
Grants to Public Works Fund	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Advances made	247,745	1,010,102	594,118	408,384	682,407
Total Governmental	£ 14,014,452	£ 15,293,243	£ 14,083,671	£ 15,216,561	£ 17,509,144
<i>Business Undertakings (Working Expenses and Interest).</i>					
Railways and Tramways	18,295,085	19,275,198	18,787,004	19,435,742	19,843,234
Sydney Harbour Trust	645,801	706,795	726,089	757,233	756,799
Water Supply and Sewerage	1,521,554	1,691,289	1,745,672	1,841,883	1,469,861
Total Business Undertakings	£ 20,462,440	£ 21,673,282	£ 21,258,765	£ 22,034,858	£ 22,069,894
Grand Total	£ 34,476,892	£ 36,966,525	£ 35,342,436	£ 37,251,419	£ 39,579,038

From the foregoing figures the following rates per head of population have been determined:—

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
REVENUE.					
<i>Governmental.</i>					
Revenue Returned by Commonwealth	£ s. d. 1 4 3	£ s. d. 1 4 9	£ s. d. 1 4 9	£ s. d. 1 4 9	£ s. d. 1 4 10
State Taxation	3 10 9	3 8 2	3 11 9	3 12 4	3 12 0
Land Revenue—					
Alienation	0 11 10	0 10 7	0 9 5	0 9 2	0 9 5
Occupation and Miscellaneous, including Forestry	0 8 9	0 8 3	0 8 3	0 8 4	0 8 9
Total	£ 1 0 7	0 18 10	0 17 8	0 17 6	0 18 2
Services Rendered	0 7 2	0 8 8	0 9 1	0 9 8	0 11 1
General Miscellaneous	0 6 8	0 9 4	0 8 7	0 9 9	0 9 5
Industrial Undertakings	0 0 1	0 0 1	0 0 1	0 0 1	0 0 1
Advances Repaid	0 0 4	0 0 10	0 0 6	0 0 8	0 0 5
Total Governmental	£ 6 9 10	6 10 8	6 12 5	6 14 9	1 1 0
<i>Business Undertakings.</i>					
Railways and Tramways	8 12 8	8 19 11	8 15 8	8 16 6	9 3 1
Sydney Harbour Trust	0 7 7	0 7 9	0 7 10	0 8 2	0 8 7
Water Supply and Sewerage	0 15 6	0 16 7	0 16 9	0 18 7	0 16 11
Total Business Undertakings	£ 9 15 9	10 4 3	10 0 3	10 3 3	10 8 7
Grand Total	£ 16 5 7	16 14 11	16 12 8	16 18 0	17 4 7
EXPENDITURE.					
<i>Governmental.</i>					
Interest on Public Debt and Special Deposits ..	0 15 8	0 15 1	0 16 10	1 0 3	1 9 7
Reduction of Public Debt .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
Transfer to Public Works Fund	0 4 4	0 3 10	0 3 2	0 3 2	0 3 3
Departments—					
Premier	0 1 2	0 0 8	0 0 7	0 0 9	0 0 9
Chief Secretary	0 13 0	0 13 10	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
Public Health	0 12 1	0 11 5	1 3 5	1 4 8	1 4 3
Treasurer (excluding Business Undertakings and Interest on Deposits, etc.)	0 11 1	0 9 11	0 8 9	0 9 6	0 10 3
Attorney-General and Justice	0 5 6	0 6 2	0 5 11	0 5 9	0 6 0
Lands	0 5 7	0 6 0	0 5 4	0 5 2	0 5 0
Public Works (excluding Business Undertakings)	0 6 1	0 6 2	0 5 10	0 6 6	0 6 3
Public Instruction (excluding Endowments) ..	1 15 4	1 18 4	1 16 3	1 16 3	1 17 5
Labour and Industry	0 1 0	0 0 11	0 0 11	0 1 0	0 1 0
Mines	0 0 8	0 0 11	0 0 9	0 0 10	0 0 10
Agriculture	0 4 4	0 4 5	0 4 3	0 4 6	0 5 0
Local Government—					
Administration	0 0 4	0 0 5	0 0 5	0 0 4	0 0 5
Endowments and Grants	0 3 4	0 3 6	0 2 9	0 2 9	0 2 7
All Other Services	0 10 3	0 10 9	0 7 1	0 10 3	0 15 0
Grants to Public Works Fund	0 1 11	0 1 11	0 1 10	0 1 10	0 1 9
Advances made	0 2 5	0 9 6	0 5 6	0 3 8	0 6 1
Total Governmental	£ 6 14 1	7 3 9	6 9 7	6 17 8	7 15 5
<i>Business Undertakings. (Working Expenses and Interest).</i>					
Railways and Tramways	8 15 0	9 1 2	8 12 11	8 15 11	8 16 2
Sydney Harbour Trust	0 6 2	0 6 8	0 6 9	0 6 10	0 6 9
Water Supply and Sewerage	0 14 7	0 15 10	0 16 0	0 16 8	0 13 0
Total Business Undertakings	£ 9 15 9	10 3 8	9 15 8	9 19 5	9 15 11
Grand Total	£ 16 9 10	17 7 5	16 5 3	16 17 1	17 11 4

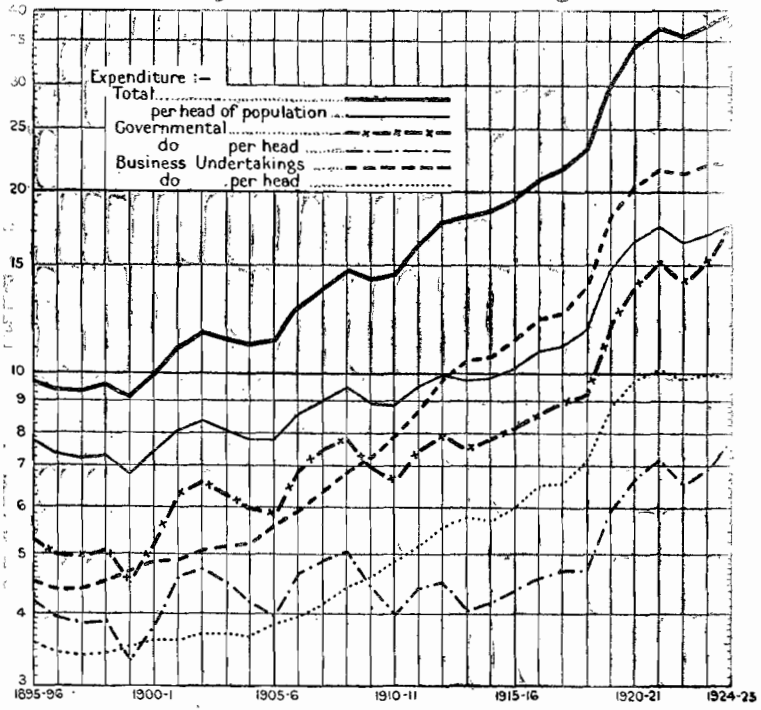
Land Revenue of the State.

Under the Act instituting the Public Works Fund, two-thirds to the net proceeds of the sale of Crown lands, less 20 per cent., equivalent to a clear 53½ per cent., are paid into the fund.

The balance of the receipts from the sale and occupation of Crown lands is treated as public income. Although the proceeds from occupation, being rent, can be reasonably regarded as an item of revenue, the inclusion of the

proceeds of auction, conditional purchase, and other classes of sale as ordinary revenue is open to serious objection. It has been urged in justification of this course that the sums so obtained have enabled the Government to construct works which enhance the value of the remaining public lands and facilitate settlement.

EXPENDITURE FROM CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND, 1895-96 to 1924-25.



The numbers at the side of the graph represent £1,000,000 of expenditure, and £1 per head of population.

The diagram is a ratio graph, and, the vertical scale being logarithmic, the rise or fall of each curve represents the percentage of change. Equal distances on the scale represent the same percentage of change, and when the curves run parallel, they indicate an increase or decrease in equal proportion, irrespective of absolute numbers. Actual values are shown by means of the numbers at the side of the graph.

The revenue from lands may be grouped under three main heads—(a) auction sales and other forms of unconditional sale; (b) conditional sales under the system of deferred payments; (c) rents from pastoral, mining, and other classes of occupation. The net receipts from each source in 1924-25 were £90,714, £970,699, and £736,826, respectively, while miscellaneous receipts and forestry receipts (excluding those paid to the Public Works Fund) amounted to £247,929, making a total of £2,046,168.

The land policy of the State, though largely connected with public finance, is discussed in that part of this volume which treats of Land Settlement.

Receipts for Services Rendered.

The net amount collected for services rendered by the State, other than for trading concerns, during the year ended 30th June, 1925, was £1,247,549. The principal sources of revenue were pilotage harbour and light rates, etc., £330,520, and registration fees, £192,357.

General Miscellaneous Receipts.

All items which cannot be placed under the headings already mentioned are included herein; in 1924-25 they amounted to £1,059,794.

The balance of the revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1925, consisted of the amount returned by the Commonwealth, £2,796,928, and interest and contributions from Industrial Undertakings (Act No. 22, 1912), £7,792.

Expenses of General Government and of Business Undertakings.

The following statement shows the expenditure classified under two headings—the ordinary expenditure of General Government, including interest on the capital liability of the services connected therewith, and the expenditure on services practically outside the administration of General Government, including interest on their capital liability. The expenditure of the industrial undertakings shown on page 266, and of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area are not included. The figures for the ten years ended the 30th June, 1925, and the rates per inhabitant, were as follow:—

Year ended 30th June.	Governmental.			Business Undertakings.				Grand Total Expenditure (Including Advances).
	General Services.	Interest and Redemptions.	Total.	Railways and Tramways.	Water Supply and Sewerage.	Sydney Harbour Trust.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1916	7,120,558	1,064,273	8,184,831	10,107,149	841,278	420,669	11,369,096	19,553,927
1917	7,535,774	1,011,060	8,546,834	10,794,693	984,803	464,565	12,244,061	20,790,895
1918	7,888,877	1,096,548	8,985,425	10,969,924	1,065,413	499,156	12,534,493	21,519,918
1919	8,237,115	982,184	9,219,299	12,370,545	1,132,769	510,785	14,014,099	23,233,398
1920	11,018,130	1,081,872	12,100,002	16,158,569	1,368,197	583,245	18,110,011	30,210,013
1921	12,374,300	1,640,152	14,014,452	18,295,085	1,521,554	645,801	20,462,440	34,476,892
1922	13,688,556	1,604,687	15,293,243	19,275,198	1,691,289	706,795	21,673,282	36,966,525
1923	12,256,589	1,827,102	14,083,671	18,787,004	1,745,672	726,089	21,258,765	35,342,436
1924	12,977,166	2,239,395	15,216,561	19,435,742	1,841,883	757,233	22,034,858	37,251,419
1925	14,170,776	3,338,368	17,509,144	19,843,234	1,469,861	756,799	22,069,894	39,579,038

Expenditure per Head of Population.

Year ended 30th June.	Governmental.			Business Undertakings.				Grand Total Expenditure (Including Advances).
	General Services.	Interest and Redemptions.	Total.	Railways and Tramways.	Water Supply and Sewerage.	Sydney Harbour Trust.	Total.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1916	3 15 2	0 11 3	4 6 5	5 6 8	0 8 11	0 4 5	6 0 0	10 6 5
1917	3 19 7	0 10 8	4 10 3	5 13 11	0 10 5	0 4 11	6 9 3	10 19 6
1918	4 2 0	0 11 5	4 13 5	5 14 0	0 11 0	0 5 3	6 10 3	11 3 8
1919	4 3 10	0 10 0	4 13 10	6 5 9	0 11 5	0 5 3	7 2 5	11 16 3
1920	5 8 1	0 10 7	5 18 8	7 18 6	0 13 5	0 5 9	8 17 8	14 16 4
1921	5 18 5	0 15 8	6 14 1	8 15 0	0 14 7	0 6 2	9 15 9	16 9 10
1922	6 8 8	0 15 1	7 3 9	9 1 2	0 15 10	0 6 8	10 3 8	17 7 5
1923	5 12 9	0 16 10	6 9 7	8 12 11	0 16 0	0 6 9	9 15 8	16 5 3
1924	5 17 5	1 0 3	6 17 8	8 15 11	0 16 8	0 6 10	9 19 5	16 17 1
1925	6 5 10	1 9 7	7 15 5	8 16 2	0 13 1	0 6 8	9 15 11	17 11 4

General services include public health, education, police, and all other civil and legal expenditure, also the cost of public works paid out of revenue, transfers to Public Works Fund, advances, etc.

CLOSER SETTLEMENT ACCOUNT.

The Closer Settlement Account was established under Act No. 1 of 1906. It is not included in the operations of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, although grants from that fund have formed a considerable portion of its receipts. As its name implies, the moneys of the fund are devoted to the promotion of closer settlement.

The following statement shows the net receipts and expenditure during the financial year ended the 30th June, 1925:—

Receipts.	Amount.	Expenditure.	Amount.
	£		£
Assurance Fees—Real Property Act ..	21,641	Debit Balance, 30th June, 1924	849,635
Repayments by Settlers	638,833	Under Real Property Act	1,513
„ on account of Improvement Leases	13,580	Purchase of Estates, including Contingent Expenses	80,163
	674,054	Interest on Loans (Recoup)	337,433
Debit balance, 30th June, 1925	816,737	„ Closer Settlement Debentures	165,022
		„ Purchase Money	411
		Redemption of Debentures	55,790
		Redemption of Ministerial Certificates ..	914
Total	1,490,841	Total	1,490,841

During the period of nineteen years ended 30th June, 1925, 1,730 estates, representing 6,223 farms, were purchased for closer settlement, inclusive of improvement leases, etc., acquired under Closer Settlement Acts, the total area being 3,506,256 acres. The expenditure was as follows:—Purchase money, £13,074,517, contingent expenses, £141,368; total, £13,215,885.

PUBLIC WORKS ACCOUNT.

The Public Works Account, like the Closer Settlement Account, does not form part of the Consolidated Revenue Fund. It was opened in the year 1906, under the authority of the same statute which provided for the Closer Settlement Fund, and it receives two-thirds of the net proceeds of the sales of Crown Lands, less 20 per cent., credited to the Consolidated Revenue Fund; the proceeds of land sales under the Public Instruction Act, 1880; and amounts voted from the Consolidated Revenue. Its moneys, like loan proceeds, may be applied in the construction or equipment of public works, but not to the repair or upkeep of such works. The net transactions during the year ended 30th June, 1925, are shown below:—

Receipts.	Amount.	Expenditure.	Amount.
	£		£
Two-thirds of Net Proceeds of Sale of Crown Lands, exclusive of Interest on Purchase Money—less 20 per cent. (Act No. 9, 1906)	362,528	Business Undertakings— Railways and Tramways	25,369
Net Proceeds of Sale of Land, under Section 4, Public Instruction Act of 1880	869	Metropolitan Water and Sewerage ..	16,647
Transfers from Consolidated Revenue Account—Amount in aid	200,000	Hunter District Water and Sewerage Sydney Harbour Trust	1,178 34,999
Net Repayments on account of previous years	28,858		78,193
		Observatory Hill Resumed area	4,046
Balance, 30th June, 1924, brought forward	243,128	Water and Drainage Trusts	2,849
Grand Total	£ 836,383	Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage	2,223
		Wentworth Irrigation Area, etc.	4,586
		Public Buildings and Sites	346,085
		Roads, Bridges, Punts, etc.	28,802
		Harbours and Rivers Navigation	13,319
		Hospitals, etc.	25,411
		Municipalities and Shires, Aid	30,137
		Other	40,833
		Total Expenditure	576,434
		Balance, 30th June, 1925	259,949
		Grand Total	836,383

GENERAL ACCOUNT.

Summarising the foregoing accounts, and adding the transactions on account of loans, the receipts by the State during the year ended 30th June, 1925, amounted to £68,648,506, and the expenditure to £76,413,160.

The aggregate receipts and expenditure during each of the last six years, after necessary adjustments, were as follow:—

RECEIPTS.

Account.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Consolidated Revenue ...	28,650,496	34,031,396	35,637,820	36,145,944	37,351,809	38,822,588
Closer Settlement...	1,225,183	3,096,608	1,993,742	737,320	466,597	674,054
Public Works ...	604,082	652,970	607,862	575,853	578,460	593,255
Railways Loan ...	1,559,656	...	...	259,662	1,350	...
General Loan ...	20,623,164	12,366,053	18,961,362	19,757,921	27,266,137	28,558,609
Total ...	52,662,581	50,147,027	57,200,786	57,476,700	65,664,853	68,648,506

EXPENDITURE.

Consolidated Revenue ...	30,210,013	34,476,892	36,966,525	35,342,436	37,251,419	39,579,038
Closer Settlement...	1,224,985	2,419,869	2,419,460	675,777	575,379	585,595
Public Works ...	572,265	719,289	638,807	673,005	491,317	576,434
Railways Loan ...	44,042	...	...	...	...	...
General Loan ...	8,761,223	14,734,389	10,463,284	9,841,610	9,338,472	10,170,042
Repayment of Loans	16,799,068	1,175,120	10,442,989	10,609,192	18,101,086	25,502,051
Total ...	57,611,596	53,525,559	60,931,065	57,142,010	65,757,673	76,413,160

The results shown above are exclusive of the transactions of the Special Deposits and Suspense Accounts; including these, the total receipts of all funds controlled by the Treasurer during 1924-25 were £100,107,634, and the expenditure £102,756,323.

The Audit Act provides that the Treasurer may arrange with any bank for the transaction of the general banking business of the State. The accounts are kept under the several headings which follow, and all amounts paid into any of the accounts mentioned are deemed to be "public moneys," and for interest purposes the several accounts are treated as one. The special accounts, which consist of "Supreme Court Moneys," are not controlled by the Audit Act, as they are operated on directly by the officers in charge of the Departments concerned.

The position of the General Account on the 30th June, 1925, is shown below.

Head of Account	Ledger Balances on 30th June, 1925.		
	Invested in Securities.	Cash Balances.	Total.
Credit Balances—			
Special Deposits Account—			
Government Savings Bank Deposits Account	£	£	£
Advances Deposit Account .. .. .	..	4,203,305	4,203,305
State Debt Commissioners' Trust Accounts .. .. .	..	500,000	500,000
Deposit Account .. .. .	..	207,307	207,307
Compensation—Liquor Amendment Act .. .. .	..	255,716	255,716
Sydney Municipal Council Sinking Funds .. .. .	..	734,491	734,491
Industrial Undertakings and Housing Fund .. .. .	..	31,457	31,457
Commonwealth Government Advances—			
Returned Soldiers .. .. .	..	476,118	476,118
Wheat Storage .. .. .	..	9,805,986	9,805,986
Broken Hill Water Supply Administration .. .. .	..	250,000	250,000
Treasury Fire Insurance Fund .. .. .	..	55,528	55,528
Treasury Guarantee Fund	58,000	270,782	328,782
Railway Stores Advance Account	20,500	5,976	26,476
Treasury Workmen's Compensation Fund .. .. .	..	115,583	115,583
Sundry Deposits Account .. .. .	..	132,850	132,850
Main Roads Fund—Country	56,110	745,064	801,174
Main Roads Fund—County Cumberland .. .. .	..	490,497	490,497
Fixed Deposits Account .. .. .	..	293,308	293,308
State Superannuation Board Account	2,000,000	2,634,116	4,634,116
Other	106,094	996,413	1,102,507
Total Special Deposits Account.. Cr. £	2,300,704	22,911,745	25,212,449
Public Works Account .. .. .	..	259,949	259,949
Special Accounts—			
Colonial Treasurer's Supreme Court Moneys .. .. .	..	788,663	788,663
Miners' Accident Relief Account	77,000	..	77,000
London Remittance Account .. .. .	..	4,706,014	4,706,014
Total Cr. £	2,377,704	28,666,371	31,044,075
Less Debit Balances—			
Consolidated Revenue Account	£		
General Loan Account	3,430,815		
Loans Expenditure Suspense Account	17,296,090		
Public Works Expenditure Suspense Account	1,622,579		
Closer Settlement Account	42,346		
Coal Purchase Suspense Account	816,787		
Grain Elevators Freight Suspense Account	50,093		
Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board—Advance Account	11,624		
.. .. .	412,000		
Net Credit Balance Cr.	2,377,704	23,682,334	23,682,334
Deduct—Amounts not transferred to Public Accounts.. Dr.	..	599,122	599,122
Net Credit Balance in Sydney Cr.	2,377,704	4,384,915	6,762,619
Deduct—London Account Dr.	..	4,706,013	4,706,013
Net Balance Cr.	2,377,704	(—) 321,098	2,056,606

The cash balance on the 30th June, 1925, was distributed as follows:—

	£
Sydney—Net Credit	4,384,915
London—Net Debit	4,706,013
Total Debit	£321,098

INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS OF THE STATE.

In addition to the business undertakings, viz., Railways, Tramways, Harbour Trust, Water Supply and Sewerage, and the national undertaking, the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Scheme, the State controls various industrial undertakings, the revenue and expenditure of which do not form part of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, but are included principally under the Special Deposits Fund.

The following table shows the transactions of these undertakings during the year ended 30th June, 1925, and the total capital expenditure at that date.

Service.	Total Capital Expenditure from Loans, Public Works Fund, and Consolidated Revenue.	Revenue.	Expenditure.			Net Revenue.
			Working Expenses, including Rates and Taxes.	Interest, Sinking Fund, etc.	Total.	
INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Blue Metal Quarries—Kياما and Port Kembla	150,334	231,842	213,340	14,845	228,185	3,657
Brickworks—Homebush Bay	147,842	162,768	132,618	12,146	144,764	18,004
Building Construction	35,227	283,085	267,888	10,358	278,246	4,839
Monier Pipe Works	51,288	112,937	92,693	15,118	107,811	5,126
Power Station—Uhr's Point†	32,505	..	..	..	..	..
Sawmills—Craven and Gloucester†	71,945	..	..	..	..	..
Timber Yard, etc. —Uhr's Point†	105,765	..	..	..	..	..
Trawlers†	153,342	..	..	..	..	..
Total, Industrial Undertakings	748,248	790,632	706,539	52,467	759,006	31,626
OTHER SERVICES—						
Housing Board	461,296	73,467	16,067	42,169	58,236	15,231
Metropolitan Meat Industry	1,966,636	411,177	355,783	60,159	415,942	(-) 4,765
Observatory Hill Resumed Area	1,378,180	91,094	25,522	68,296	93,818	(-) 2,724
Total, Other Services	3,806,112	575,738	397,372	170,624	567,996	7,742
Grand Total	£ 4,554,360	1,366,370	1,103,911	223,091	1,327,002	39,368

† Undertaking closed.

(-) Denotes net expenditure.

Some of the undertakings have consistently returned a profit while others have been conducted at a loss. The meat industry, brickworks, metal quarries, Monier pipeworks, and building construction branch have been the principal profit producing concerns, while large losses have been sustained in connection with the trawling, timber, saw-milling, power station, and bakery industries, which have been closed, and the assets sold. The motor garage ceased to be an industrial undertaking in November, 1923. With regard to the trawling industry which ceased, on 28th February, 1923, to operate as a trading concern, the loss on the undertaking has now been computed at £316,873, including £74,547 interest due to the Colonial Treasurer on capital and overdraft, and £43,588 due to the Government Dockyard, Newcastle, for repairs and maintenance of the vessels.

The operations of the building construction branch, which now includes the Maroubra quarry, were very successful in 1924-25, showing a net profit of £4,839. The total receipts, including value of works completed and in progress, were £283,085, and the expenditure, including interest and sinking fund, etc., amounted to £278,246. The trading profit was £15,197, or 43·1 per cent. of capital—a very satisfactory result.

Brickworks also were carried on very profitably, notwithstanding that the products were sold at 17s. per thousand lower than those of private makers. The favourable price at the Government yards secured a continuation of extensive public patronage, no less than 30,598,900 bricks, or 65 per cent. of the output being sold to private persons. The total sales were 2,500,000 in excess of those of the previous year. The trading profit for the year

1924-5 was £30,150 (equal to 25·4 per cent. on capital employed), out of which a sum of £9,646 was paid as a bonus to employees, and £2,500 to general plant reserve, leaving a balance of £18,004 to be carried forward. The whole of the loan capital has now been repaid to the Treasury.

In 1924-25 the operations of the Housing Board in the Observatory Hill area showed a loss of £2,724, but it should not be overlooked that this project was undertaken mainly with a view to the improvement of the city, and its benefits cannot be measured in money alone.

The following table shows the capital invested in each of the existing undertakings, and the net profit or loss which resulted from its operations, in 1916-17, and in the last two years.

Establishment.	1916-17.		1923-24		1924-25.	
	Capital Invested.	Net Profit.*	Capital Invested.	Net Profit.*	Capital Invested.	Net Profit.*
<i>Industrial Undertakings—</i>						
Bakery	£ 16,474	£ 1,958	£ †	£ †	£ †	£ †
Brickworks—Homebush	88,853	3,672	115,684	15,407	147,842	18,004
Building Construction	31,026	9,229	35,032	6,382	35,227	4,839
Clothing Factory	13,170	1,791	†	†	†	†
Metal Quarries	86,531	8,700	159,998	16,850	150,334	3,657
Monier Pipe Works	18,922	6,225	46,875	4,390	51,288	5,126
Motor Garage	7,534	920	9,224	155	†	†
Power Station—Uhr's Point ..	32,610	(-) 2,752	82,505	(-) 8,739	32,505	‡
Sawmills	15,141	819	55,862	(-) 31,181	71,945	‡
Timber Yard	163,309	(-) 10,857	179,693	(-) 42,112	105,765	‡
Trawlers	127,631	(-) 12,866	189,375	‡	153,342	‡
Total Industrial Undertakings	601,201	6,839	824,278	(-) 38,948	748,248	31,626
<i>Other Services—</i>						
Housing Board	150,961	1,189	915,922	31,716	461,296	15,231
Metropolitan Meat Board	1,262,956	46,924	1,932,031	9,578	1,966,636	(-) 4,765
Observatory Hill Resumed Area ..	1,336,595	(-) 6,067	1,407,595	(-) 4,421	1,378,180	(-) 2,724
Total Other Services	2,750,512	42,046	4,255,548	36,873	5,806,112	7,742
Grand Total	3,351,713	48,885	5,079,796	(-) 1,975	4,554,360	39,368

* After payment of interest on capital.

† Transferred to other Departments.

(-) Denotes loss.

‡ Not in operation.

Other Departments.

During 1924-5 four industrial undertakings were in operation, and each showed a profit, amounting in the aggregate to £31,626. In the previous year eight undertakings operated, of which five showed a total net return of £43,184, while the other five lost between them £82,032, so that the net loss was £38,848. For the three years ended 30th June, 1923, the transactions resulted in an aggregate loss of £146,794, after paying working expenses, interest, contributions to sinking funds, etc. The large losses which had been incurred led to the decision of the Government to close some of the undertakings and to dispose of the assets. Others have been closed at intervals since 1923.

The following table shows the transactions of all State industrial undertakings during the years 1916-25, excluding the business undertakings (Railways, etc.) and the Murrumbidgee Irrigation area.

Year ended 30th June.	Capital Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.			Net Revenue.	Proportion of Net Revenue to Capital Expenditure.
			Working Expenses.	Interest, Sinking Fund, Depreciation, and Reserves.	Total.		
1916	£ 2,905,985	£ 1,049,212	£ 902,663	£ 143,479	£ 1,046,142	£ 3,070	per cent. 0·10
1917	3,421,687	1,266,398	1,085,776	138,678	1,224,454	41,944	1·22
1918	3,731,639	1,430,425	1,259,738	159,232	1,418,970	11,455	0·31
1919	3,518,025	1,475,526	1,310,025	185,143	1,495,168	(-) 19,642	(-) 0·56
1920	4,240,607	2,414,448	2,183,868	226,885	2,410,753	3,695	0·09
1921	4,821,237	2,194,471	1,970,682	192,995	2,163,677	30,794	0·63
1922	5,064,102	2,394,091	2,282,743	210,947	2,493,690	(-) 99,599	(-) 1·97
1923	5,061,530	2,194,073	1,935,276	234,256	2,169,532	24,541	0·48
1924	4,890,421	1,502,859	1,255,743	249,091	1,504,834	(-) 1,975	(-) 0·04
1925	4,554,360	1,366,370	1,103,911	223,091	1,327,002	39,368	0·86

(-) Denotes net expenditure.

The Murrumbidgee Irrigation area is of a national character, and has therefore been treated separately. The following table shows the administrative transactions for the past ten years.

Year ended 30th June.	Capital Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.			Net Deficiency.	Proportion of net Deficiency to Capital Expenditure.
			Working Expenses.	Interest, Sinking Fund.	Total.		
1916	£ 3,487,812	£ 21,361	£ 29,144	£ 129,616	£ 158,760	£ 137,399	per cent. 4·02
1917	3,855,503	37,151	77,423	154,061	231,489	194,338	5·04
1918	4,116,941	38,496	74,073	173,721	247,794	209,298	5·08
1919	4,336,399	42,333	79,406	176,795	256,201	213,868	4·93
1920	5,290,692	68,525	131,845	221,247	353,092	284,567	5·38
1921	6,196,554	92,512	296,622	267,289	563,911	471,399	7·61
1922	6,923,063	133,907	102,644	330,780	433,424	299,517	4·32
1923	7,832,738	199,775	101,560	385,426	486,986	287,211	3·67
1924	8,306,599	219,435	132,700	407,485	540,185	320,750	3·86
1925	8,726,783	239,036	111,343	412,952	524,295	285,259	3·27

The revenue and working expenses shown are the gross amounts. For the year 1925 there was a net trading profit of £127,693, which, deducted from the interest and sinking fund liability, £412,952, gives a total loss for the year of £285,259. Several trading undertakings are conducted in connection with the area, against which interest amounting to £34,539 was charged during the year, in addition to the item of £41,952 shown in the above table. Some of the undertakings show a profit and others a loss, the net result being a profit of £2,000 which has been included as income in the table. It might be noted that the canning factory shows a profit on the year of £185, but the stocks in hand at 30th June, 1925, were valued at £220,495, which was more than two and a half times the proceeds of sales and bounty during the year.

SPECIAL DEPOSITS AND SPECIAL ACCOUNTS.

The Special Deposits and Special Accounts form a very important division of the public finances, not only from the nature and volume of the transactions, but also by reason of the manner in which they are used in connection with the general finances of the State. These Funds are of great assistance in the banking operations of the Government, and they form a strong reserve on which the Treasurer may draw in time of need. Although the Audit Act provides that the funds cannot be used except for the specific

purpose for which they were deposited, it has been the custom for many years to draw on the balances for overdrafts of the Consolidated Revenue Fund and Loan Accounts if required. The great bulk of the funds bear interest, whether invested or not, and the power to use them enables the Government to effect a large saving in the interest which might otherwise be charged for accommodation from the banks. The following table shows the amount of these funds at 30th June in each year of the last decade:—

As at 30th June.	Amount.	As at 30th June.	Amount.	As at 30th June.	Amount.
	£		£		£
1916	5,601,471	1920	9,848,520	1924	19,666,636
1917	5,619,703	1921	13,097,856	1925	26,001,112
1918	5,957,608	1922	17,491,833		
1919	6,222,291	1923	18,527,873		

The funds are divided into two classes, viz.:—Special Deposits Account and Special Accounts. The total of all moneys under these headings on the 30th June, 1925, was £26,001,112, viz., the Special Deposits Account, £25,212,449, and the Special Accounts, £788,663. The amount at the credit of each account is shown in the following table:—

Government Savings Bank of New South Wales Deposit Account	£ 4,203,305	Public Trustee — Unclaimed Balances	75,672
Government Savings Bank of New South Wales Advances Deposit Account	500,000	Commonwealth Advances—	
State Debt Commissioners' Deposit Account	255,716	Settlement of Soldiers ...	9,805,986
State Debt Trust Accounts ...	207,306	Wheat Storage Act	250,000
Public Works, Railways, and Sydney Harbour Trust Stores Advance Accounts, etc. ...	292,419	Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board ...	8,036
Industrial Undertakings ...	429,479	Hunter District Water and Sewerage Board	17,787
Sundry Deposits Account ...	801,171	State Superannuation Board ...	707,248
Municipal Council of Sydney, Sinking Funds	31,457	Compensation Fund (Liquor Amendment Act)	734,491
Housing Fund	46,639	Sydney Harbour Bridge (Act 28 of 1922), Municipal and Shire Rates Account	83,431
Revenue Suspense Account ...	6,175	Relief to Necessitous Farmers and Graziers	111,187
Broken Hill Water Supply Account	55,528	Main and Development Roads—	
Forestry (Act No. 55 of 1916) ...	129,174	Commonwealth-cum-State ...	53,750
Treasury Guarantee Fund ...	26,476	Com'th Immigration Account... ..	24,244
Treasury Fire Insurance Fund	328,782	Main Roads, Funds, &c. ...	851,130
Treasury Workmen's Compensation Fund	132,850	Prickly Pear Destruction Fund	14,581
Water and Drainage Loan Redemption Fund	111,268	Prison Industries	13,861
Elder's Trustee and Executor Company, Limited	20,000	Resumed Properties, State Clothing, Drug Depot—Working Accounts	32,545
Union Trustee Company of Australia, Limited	20,000	Govt. Printer, Working Capital Account	56,592
Government Dock, Newcastle—Store Advance Account ...	63,318	Wild Dog Destruction Fund ...	25,547
Unclaimed Salaries and Wages Account	5,468	Fixed Deposit Account... ..	4,634,116
		Other Accounts	45,714
		Total	£25,212,449
<i>Special Accounts.</i>			
	£		£
Master-in-Equity Account ...	141,911	Prothonotary Account	4,239
Master-in-Lunacy Account ...	33,476	Registrar of Probates' Account	17,962
Public Trustee Account ...	591,075	Total	788,663

Grand Total, Special Deposits and Special Accounts, £26,001,112.

Of the total sum of £26,001,112 at the credit of the accounts on the 30th June, 1925, £300,704 was invested in securities; £22,673,034 was uninvested, but used in advances and on public account at interest, the rates allowed ranging from 1 to 7½ per cent.; the remainder, £3,027,374, was similarly used, but without any interest allowance. In cases where interest was being paid by the Treasurer on the 30th June, 1925, the rate was 3 per cent., with the following exceptions:—

Crown Leases Security Deposit Account	5½ per cent.
Government Savings Bank of N.S.W. Deposit Account ...	5 "
" " Advances Deposit Account ...	4½ "
State Debt Commissioners' Trust Accounts, Municipal Council of Sydney Sinking Fund (50 Vic., No. 13) ...	4 "
Commonwealth Advance re Settlement of Returned Soldiers...	5¼ to 7¼ "
Commonwealth Advance, Wheat Storage Act, 1917 ...	£6 7s. "
Liquor Amendment Act, Compensation Fund	5 "
Master-in-Equity Account	2½ "
Master-in-Lunacy Account	1 "
Metropolitan Water, Sewerage, and Drainage Board ...	5½ "
Municipal Council of Sydney Sinking Funds	5 "
Fixed Deposits Account	2½ to 4½ "

The average rate 5·013 was allowed on Industrial Undertakings Account and on Sydney Harbour Bridge Municipal and Shire Rate Account.

On the 30th June, 1925, the funds in the custody of the State Treasurer were held as follows:—

In Banks—	£
Special Deposits Account	22,911,745
Special Accounts	788,663
New South Wales Funded Stock	112,500
Commonwealth Inscribed Stock	6,000
Deposits on Tenders	56,110
Fixed Deposits... ..	2,000,000
Miscellaneous Securities	126,094
Total	£26,001,112

LOAN ACCOUNTS.

The following statement shows the amount of loans raised from the commencement of the Loan Account, in 1853, to the 30th June, 1925, and the proceeds available for expenditure, including the moneys credited to the Railways Loan Account:—

Treasury Bills, Debentures, Inscribed and Funded Stock sold to the 30th June, 1925	£358,337,960
Discount, Interest, Bonus, and Charges	15,221,642
Net amount raised	£343,116,318
Less Amount of Proceeds included in Public Debt, but not credited to Loan Accounts	46,551,05
Net amount available for Public Works, etc.	£296,565,261

On the 30th June, 1925, an amount of £156,635,633 had been redeemed, of which £9,755,977 was a charge on the Consolidated Revenue, leaving £201,702,327 outstanding at the close of the last financial year. This amount is exclusive of the liabilities on account of the Closer Settlement Fund

debentures, reference to which is made on a subsequent page. The aggregate amount of interest actually paid by the State on loans to the 30th June, 1925, was £154,934,501, the amount paid during 1924-25 being £9,288,954.

The services to which the available sum of £296,565,261 was applied are shown in the following table. The redemptions are included in the total, as although they are not items of expenditure on works and services, their inclusion is necessary to account fully for the total expenditure.

Reproductive Works :—	£	£
Railways (including those under construction)	103,223,693	
Tramways do do do	11,623,133	
Water Supply	19,747,434	
Sewerage... ..	10,922,379	
Sydney Harbour Trust	10,285,397	
Darling Harbour Resumptions	1,321,818	
Industrial Undertakings	565,634	
Housing Board	978,000	
	<hr/>	158,667,488
Partly Productive Works:—		
Conservation of Water, Artesian Boring, etc.	11,115,702	
Harbours and Rivers—Navigation	7,143,951	
Roads, Bridges, and Punts	3,346,522	
	<hr/>	21,606,175
Public Buildings and Sites, etc.	23,414,297	
Immigration	721,388	
Public Works in Queensland prior to separation	49,855	
Services transferred to Commonwealth—	<hr/>	24,185,540
Construction of Telegraph and Telephone Lines	1,297,582	
Post and Telegraph Offices	464,263	
Fortifications and Defence Works	1,457,536	
Lighthouses	144,288	
Customs Buildings	54,481	
Quarantine Buildings	18,099	
Government Dockyard—Cockatoo Island	502,988	
Naval Victualling Stores—Darling Harbour	26,450	
	<hr/>	3,965,687
		<hr/>
Redemptions :—		£208,424,890
Loans repaid under various Acts	103,444,597	
Treasury Bills for Loan Services	1,991,864	
	<hr/>	195,436,461
		<hr/>
		£313,861,351
Less Debit Balance, General Loan Account		17,296,090
		<hr/>
Total		£296,565,261

The sum actually expended from loans on public works and services was £208,424,890, and an analysis shows that the proportional allocation of this amount was as follows:—Reproductive works, 76 per cent.; partly productive works, 10 per cent.; other, 12 per cent.; Commonwealth services, 2 per cent.

It will thus be seen that the proceeds of loans have been used judiciously, as most of the works are self-supporting, and have assisted materially in developing the State's resources.

The loan expenditure on account of various services during each of the last five years ended 30th June is shown below:—

Head of Service.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
	£	£	£	£	£
Railways	3,598,351	4,399,725	4,177,273	2,914,722	4,246,963
Tramways	426,687	389,792	492,012	738,092	427,129
Water Supply	1,404,709	1,232,467	1,366,256	1,543,916	1,612,912
Sewerage	317,890	463,611	479,879	567,346	436,562
Water Conservation and Irrigation	1,131,896	1,048,613	1,004,504	844,121	519,069
Harbours, Rivers, Wharves, and Docks	663,842	676,642	451,279	400,114	448,539
Public Works, Buildings, etc.—					
Public Abattoirs, Homebush	171,190	11,375	...	3,000	...
Other	33,312	123,924	310,437	496,264	606,391
Roads and Bridges	13,555	320,827	231,271	185,578	750,907
Pastures Protection Boards, for					
Wire-netting	43,568	6,307	39,514	62,179	53,643
Grain Elevator and Bulk Wheat Handling	815,556	548,629	778,284	154,694	94,208
Industrial Undertakings, including Housing Fund	320,878	80,823	18,237	...	...
Returned Soldiers' Settlement, etc.	1,438,456	710,437	38,284	...	...
Closer Settlement	2,758,000	1,500,000	300,000	...	...
Immigration ... ..	...	...	...	...	151,457
Advances to Settlers for financial aid	1,659,078	...	...	94,334	42,508
All Other Services	6,702	9,872	112,180	13,380	17,065
Gross Expenditure... ..	14,803,670	11,523,044	9,799,410	8,017,740	9,407,353
Less Repayments to Credit of Votes	102,642	1,080,312	5,391	282,260	231,667
Net Expenditure on Public Works, etc.	£ 14,701,028	10,442,732	9,794,019	7,735,480	9,175,686
Loans repaid by New Loans (including Treasury Bills)	995,820	10,311,829	10,195,119	17,426,786	25,445,437
Total	£ 15,696,848	20,754,561	19,989,138	25,162,266	34,621,123

The loan expenditure, exclusive of redemptions, conversions, and renewals, is shown herewith for the period of thirty-nine years, 1842-1880, in decennial periods from 1881 to 1920, and for the five years ended 1925:—

Years.	During Each Period.		Total at end of Period.	
	Amount.	Per Inhabitant.	Amount.	Per Inhabitant.
1842-1880	£ 16,316,530	£ s. d. 41 12 2	£ 16,316,530	£ s. d. 21 9 11
1881-1890	27,639,022	29 8 8	43,955,552	39 3 7
1891-1900	20,515,704	16 6 8	64,471,256	47 12 1
1901-1910	26,876,468	18 0 4	91,347,724	56 11 11
1911-1920	65,228,221	35 5 8	156,575,945	78 6 5
*1921-1925	51,848,945	23 16 10	208,424,889	91 13 6

* Five years only.

In explanation of the great increase in loan expenditure during the period 1911-20 it may be mentioned that 1,372 miles of railway were opened as against 832 in the preceding ten years, while there was enormous expenditure also in connection with the Murrumbidgee Irrigation scheme, Sydney Harbour Trust, the rapid extension of water and sewerage services, the erection of silos and terminal elevator for handling wheat in bulk, meat abattoirs (Homebush), and Returned Soldiers and Closer Settlement schemes.

The public debt is now less than the total expenditure from loans on works and services by £6,722,562. The difference between the actual loan expenditure and the public debt is due to the fact that the outstanding debt represents the gross amount sold, whereas the expenditure is the net amount after deducting discount and expenses of flotation and allowing for debit balance of loan account. As a general rule, loans are renewed on maturity, and while the total of actual loan expenditure increases each year, the outstanding debt may be increased or reduced according to the operations necessary to the flotation of new loans or the redemption of matured loans.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The first loans raised by New South Wales were for the promotion of immigration. From 1831 to 1841 the expenses attached to immigration were met by the Land Fund, into which were paid the proceeds of land sales, but these proved insufficient for the purpose in 1841, and it became necessary to obtain additional funds.

It was, therefore, decided by the Governor to borrow on the security of the Territorial or Land Revenue, and a debenture loan of £49,000 was offered locally on the 28th December, 1841. The loan was issued during 1842 in two instalments, the nominal rates of interest being 5½d. and 4d. per cent., respectively, per diem. This was the first loan floated in Australia, as well as the first raised by an Australian Government. It was not until 1854 that a loan was placed on the London market.

Between 1842 and 1855 ten loans, amounting in all to £705,200, were raised for immigration purposes. Debentures representing £329,700 were redeemed from the Territorial Revenue, and the balance, £375,500, was taken over as a public liability upon the institution of Responsible Government.

The Public Debt in November, 1855, when Responsible Government was proclaimed, was £1,000,800, distributed under the following heads:—

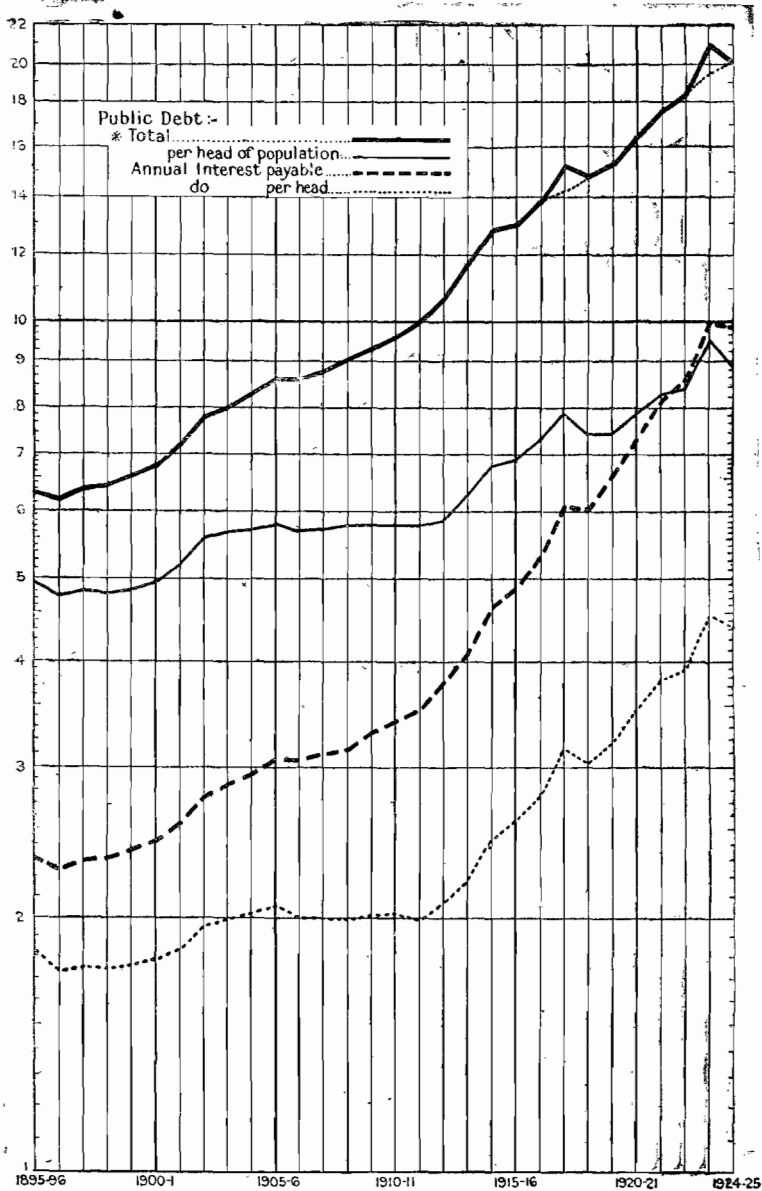
Raised on the Security of Territorial Revenue—				£
Immigration	...	...	...	423,000
Sydney Railway Company's Loan	...	...	...	217,500
Raised on the Security of General Revenue—				
Amount for Sydney Sewerage	...	...	...	54,900
" " Sydney Water Supply	...	...	...	28,000
" " Railways	...	...	...	256,400
" " Public Works	...	...	...	21,000
Total				£1,000,800

The following table shows the amount of Public Debt outstanding at the end of each quinquennial period. The growth of the debt was not rapid until after the year 1880, but during the next five years twenty millions and a half were added to the total, and in the next quinquennium approximately thirteen millions. The greatest absolute addition in any of the quinquennial periods shown was made in the five years from 1910 to 1915, when over thirty-five millions were added to the total, and the greatest expenditure relative to population in the five years 1880-85.

Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.
	£		£		£
1842	49,500	1880	14,903,919	1920	152,776,082
1845	97,900	1885	35,564,259	1921	164,336,492
1850	132,500	1890	48,383,333	1922	176,674,387
1855	1,000,800	1895	58,220,933	1923	183,571,556
1860	3,830,230	1900	65,332,993	1924	210,493,974*
1865	5,749,630	1905	82,321,998	1925	201,702,327
1870	9,681,130	1910	92,525,095		
1875	11,470,637	1915	127,735,405		

* See table on page 276.

PUBLIC DEBT AND INTEREST PAYABLE, 1895-96 to 1924-25.



* The dotted sections of the Public Debt line indicate the increase in the Debt in 1917-18 and in 1923-24, excluding amounts raised in those years for the redemption or renewal of loans which fell due in the following year. (See also explanation in text).

The numbers at the side of the graph represent in the case of the Public Debt £10,000,000 of debt, and £10 per head of population; in relation to interest—they represent £1,000,000 of interest, and £1 per head of population.

The diagram is a ratio graph, and, the vertical scale being logarithmic, the rise or fall of each curve represents the percentage of change. Equal distances on the scale represent the same percentage of change, and when the curves run parallel, they indicate an increase or decrease in equal proportion, irrespective of absolute numbers. Actual values are shown by means of the numbers on the side of the graph.

The amount of debt quoted above consists of debentures, inscribed and funded stocks, and Treasury bills. The amounts outstanding, and the annual interest payable on the 30th June, 1925, were as follow:—

Description of Stock.	Amount Outstanding.	Annual Interest Payable.
Debentures—	£	£
Matured	33,750	...
Still bearing Interest	9,539,430	507,390
Inscribed and Funded Stock—		
Matured	67,768	...
Still bearing Interest	184,660,379	8,979,130
Treasury Bills—		
Matured	1,000	...
Still bearing Interest	7,400,000	349,342
Total, Public Debt	£201,702,327	£9,835,862

To arrive at the aggregate debt at 30th June, 1925, there should be added to the £201,702,327 amounts of £3,568,000 Closer Settlement Debentures, £4,800 Ministerial Certificates issued under Closer Settlement Acts, and £13,350,831 made up of debit balances on General Loan Account, £17,296,090, on Closer Settlement Account £816,787, and on Loans Expenditure Suspense Account, £1,622,579, totalling £19,735,456, less £6,384,625, the approximate proceeds of a £6,500,000 loan negotiated in London during May and June, 1925, but not credited to the General Loan Account up to the 30th June, 1925, as London transactions after 30th April are not included in the Treasurer's accounts. The total public debt thus becomes £218,625,958, against which there is a partial offset in the Special Deposits Account of an amount of £9,805,986 to the credit of the Commonwealth Government Advances to the State in connection with the Settlement of Returned Soldiers. Outstanding accounts, £599,122, and net debit balances on other revenue accounts, £3,609,928, bring the total indebtedness to £222,035,008.

The following table shows the position of the public debt as at 30th June, 1916, and annually thereafter. The amount at 30th June, 1918, includes £10,076,000 floated in February, 1918, being part of a loan of £12,648,477 for redemptions due 1st September, 1918, which will explain the difference in the amount per head for the years 1917 to 1919.

The apparently large increase in 1924 was due to the fact that loans amounting to £16,419,003 were raised for the renewal of loans amounting to £16,500,000, which fell due in October, 1924, and both amounts are included. The amount of the debt was, therefore, actually £194,074,971.

As at 30th June.	Debentures, Stock and Treasury Bills Sold.	Redeemed.			Public Debt.	
		From Consolidated Revenue and Sinking Fund.	From General Loan Account, including Renewals.	Total.	Total.	Per Head.
	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1916	191,244,436	9,519,705	51,210,713	60,730,418	130,514,018	68 19 5
1917	200,340,248	9,524,105	52,677,796	62,201,901	138,138,347	72 10 2
1918	214,797,361	9,524,105	52,688,563	62,212,668	152,584,693	78 11 0
1919	222,340,928	9,664,105	65,502,287	75,166,392	147,174,536	73 13 8
1920	244,715,885	9,696,211	82,243,592	91,939,803	152,776,082	73 16 11
1921	257,272,115	9,696,211	83,239,412	92,935,623	164,336,492	78 2 5
1922	279,939,742	9,696,211	93,569,144	103,265,355	176,674,387	82 3 0
1923	297,291,693	9,714,054	104,006,083	113,720,137	183,571,556	83 15 8
1924	341,684,170	9,755,977	121,434,219	131,190,196	*210,493,974	94 9 3
1925	358,337,960	9,755,977	146,879,656	156,635,633	201,702,327	88 14 4

* Actual amount, £194,074,971.

In considering the figures relating to redemptions, only the loans paid off from revenue or from sinking fund can be said to be absolutely redeemed, as when an old loan is repaid from the proceeds of subsequent flotations there is merely a change in the form of liability. Up to the time of the war this was accompanied frequently by some reduction of the interest charge, but recent renewals have had to be effected at a considerable increase in the rate of interest.

Prior to 1900 the State Government depended largely upon the London money market for the flotation of its loans, but during the last twenty-five years the requirements have been met to a much greater extent locally, as will be seen from the following statement, which shows the public debt on each register at quinquennial intervals from 1900 to 1925. Stocks may be transferred at any time from London to Sydney, and it should be noted that the amount registered in Sydney in 1920 and in 1925 includes £7,400,000 advanced by the Commonwealth Government, which was repayable not later than 1925, and bore interest at 4½ per cent. approximately.

As at 30th June.	Registered in London.		Registered in Sydney.		Total.
	Amount.	Proportion to Total Debt.	Amount.	Proportion to Total Debt.	
	£	per cent.	£	per cent.	£
1900	55,060,650	84·28	10,272,343	15·72	65,332,993
1905	64,007,550	77·75	18,314,448	22·25	82,321,998
1910	67,154,805	72·58	25,370,290	27·42	92,525,095
1915	86,167,288	67·46	41,568,117	32·54	127,735,405
1920	101,977,445	66·75	50,798,637	33·25	152,776,082
1925	136,064,505	67·46	65,637,822	32·54	201,702,327

From the above table it will be noted that the amount of securities held locally at the close of the financial year 1924-5 amounted to 32·54 per cent. of the total indebtedness as against 30·64 per cent. at the 30th June, 1924.

The annual payments under each head for interest and for expenses of the public debt since 1914 are shown below :—

Year ended 30th June.	Interest.	Re- demptions.	Expenses connected with management of Inscribed Stock.	Commission paid to Financial Agents in England and New South Wales.	Interest and charges paid.	
					Total.	Per Inhabitant.
	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1914	3,881,011	5,632	21,171	1,039	3,908,853	2 2 4
1915	4,125,600	5,688	21,394	1,492	4,154,174	2 4 1
1916	4,552,765	6,504	21,705	2,117	4,583,091	2 8 5
1917	4,914,211	6,868	22,297	1,991	4,945,367	2 12 3
1918	5,188,754	6,819	22,746	1,988	5,220,307	2 14 3
1919	5,462,991	6,833	20,861	2,382	5,493,067	2 15 10
1920	6,030,721	6,976	20,213	4,169	6,062,079	2 19 5
1921	6,601,894	2,566	21,102	5,506	6,631,068	3 3 5
1922	7,081,938	...	23,366	2,395	7,107,699	3 6 10
1923	7,672,590	...	26,862	2,001	7,701,453	3 10 10
1924	8,423,496	...	26,678	2,361	8,452,535	3 16 6
1925	9,288,294	...	25,476	2,426	9,316,856	4 2 8

The interest paid during each year shown above is exclusive of payments on account of trust funds and special deposits held by the Government, and on closer settlement debentures.

The following table shows the total debt outstanding on 30th June, 1925, at each rate of interest, and the annual amount payable thereon.

Rate per cent.			Amount of Stock and Bills.	Annual Interest payable.
£	s.	d.	£	£
6	10	0	6,500,000	422,500
6	0	0	17,369,981	1,042,199
5	15	0	25,914,452	1,490,081
5	10	0	30,677,711	1,687,275
5	6	11	250,000	13,365
5	5	0	4,141,199	217,412
5	0	0	39,503,385	1,975,169
4	14	5	7,400,000	349,342
4	10	0	16,981,384	764,162
4	0	0	20,716,489	828,660
3	15	0	1,500,000	56,250
3	10	0	14,018,456	490,646
3	0	0	16,626,752	498,802
			102,518	...
Total			£201,702,327	£9,835,863

The whole of the loans on which the interest rate is higher than 4 per cent. have been floated since 1914; those at the highest rates are the most recent.

Dates of Maturity.

The dates of repayment of the public debt extend to 1966, and the sums falling due for redemption each year vary considerably, as will be seen from the following table, which shows the due dates and the amount repayable in London and in Sydney:—

Due Date.	Registered in—		Total.
	London.	Sydney.	
	£	£	£
Matured	10,050	92,468	102,518
Minimum date expired	...	7,395,208	7,395,208
1925-26 ... ..	...	7,400,000	7,400,000
1926-27	5,996,800	12,951,067	18,947,867
1927-28	4,999,300	1,310,911	6,310,211
1928-29 ... ..	...	448,050	448,050
1929-30 ... ..	...	3,338,576	3,338,576
1930-31 ... ..	...	3,268,170	3,268,170
1931-32 ... ..	...	4,288,242	4,288,242
1932-33	12,992,904	5,177,415	18,170,319
1933-34	12,635,845	3,464,802	16,100,647
1934-35	4,981,163	14,168,467	19,149,630
1935-36	12,425,113	74,887	12,500,000
1940-41	16,064,055	435,945	16,500,000
1942-43	3,998,550	501,450	4,500,000
1943-44 ... ..	...	500,000	500,000
1945-46	10,999,700	300	11,000,000
1950-51	12,067,428	182,572	12,250,000
1955-56	22,000,000	...	22,000,000
1962-63	10,392,396	107,604	10,500,000
1965-66	6,500,000	...	6,500,000
Permanent	1,200	1,500	2,700
Interminable ... ..	...	530,189	530,189
Total	£ 136,064,504	65,637,823	201,702,327

The latest due date has been given, but in several cases the loans may be redeemed earlier, subject to the Government giving notice to that effect, at periods ranging from three to twelve months.

The following statement shows the loans to be renewed during the next five years in London and Sydney, at each original rate of interest:—

Date of Maturity.	Rate of Interest per cent.	Amounts repayable in—		
		London.	Sydney.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£	£	£
1925-6	4 14 5	...	7,400,000	7,400,000
1926-7	4 10 0	...	977,384	977,384
	5 0 0	...	3,821,242	3,821,242
	5 10 0	5,996,800	1,338,200	7,335,000
	5 15 0	...	6,814,241	6,814,241
Total ... ..	...	5,996,800	12,951,067	18,947,867
1927-8	4 10 0	4,999,300	700	5,000,000
	5 0 0	...	36,000	36,000
	5 6 11	..	250,000	250,000
	5 15 0	...	1,024,211	1,024,211
Total ... ..	...	4,999,300	1,310,911	6,310,211
1928-9	4 10 0	...	4,000	4,000
	5 0 0	...	32,200	32,200
	5 10 0	...	28,300	28,300
	6 0 0	...	383,550	383,550
Total ... ..	...	...	448,050	448,050
1929-30	5 0 0	...	165,040	165,040
	6 0 0	...	3,173,536	3,173,536
Total ... ..	...	...	3,338,576	3,338,576
Total for 5 years ... ..	...	10,996,100	25,448,604	36,444,704

Total Indebtedness of the State.

The amounts shown in preceding tables do not represent the total liabilities of the State Government, as they are exclusive of Debentures and Ministerial Certificates issued for the purchase of estates under Closer Settlement Acts, Advances by the Commonwealth Government, Trust Funds and Special

Deposits used by the Treasurer, and payments on Bank Accounts still to be transferred. Details of these items are shown below, and the corresponding figures for 1924 are included for purposes of comparison.

Liabilities.	As at 30th June, 1924.	As at 30th June, 1925.
	£	£
Public Debt	210,493,974	201,702,327
Less amount raised to redeem loans maturing 1st October, 1924..	16,419,003	...
	194,074,971	201,702,327
Closer Settlement Debentures...	3,619,200	3,568,000
Ministerial Certificates..	10,286	4,800
Net Overdraft on Public Accounts, exclusive of Special Deposits	14,397,141	23,345,384
Amounts not transferred to Public Accounts	564,199	599,122
	212,665,797	229,219,633*
Less loan not credited* ... ..	...	6,384,625
Total Indebtedness	212,665,797	222,835,008
Per Head of Population	£95 8 9	£98 0 3

* See page 276, second paragraph.

On the 30th June, 1925, the liabilities of the State, as shown above, were £222,835,008, but this amount should be decreased by advances to be repaid under the headings shown below:—

Country Towns Water Supply	1,735,746
Country Towns Sewerage and Drainage	634,457
Water and Drainage Trusts	120,089
Other Services	181,189
Total	£2,671,481

There is also the property transferred to the Federal Government, valued at £3,965,687, on which interest is paid at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, and the amount at credit of the Sinking Fund, £466,916, so that the net liability is reduced to £215,730,924, and there is a further set-off in the balance repayable by settlers under Closer Settlement Acts, which amounts to approximately £11,500,000.

Cost of Raising Loans.

The charges incidental to the issue of loans in London are heavy. Operations are conducted by the Bank of England and by the London and Westminster Bank, and the former charges $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. per £100 of stock on all loan issues, and £350 per million annually for the inscription and management of stock, including the payment of the half-yearly dividends; while the latter charges $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. and £150 per million respectively for similar services. Stock to the value of £22,062,460 only is now held by the Bank of England, while the London and Westminster Bank holds £107,338,094. In Sydney the Bank of New South Wales and the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney (Limited) transact all Government banking business. The former acts as the financial agent for the State in Victoria, and undertakes the payment of the half-yearly dividends on local debentures and funded stock. The Treasury directly conducts the operations connected with the issue of New South Wales Funded Stock and Treasury Bills, and no local loan has been underwritten.

Commission paid to Banks for management expenses in connection with the public debt is a charge on the Consolidated Revenue Fund; expenses incurred in the negotiation of loans, such as brokerage, underwriting, printing, etc., are charged against the proceeds of the loans.

The following statement shows the charges for the negotiation of loans floated during the period 1914 to 1925, inclusive of the accrued interest and bonuses allowed to investors. Local Debentures and Treasury Bills have not been included, as those disposed of in Sydney are usually sold at par, and little expenditure, if any, is incurred, while the securities under these headings negotiated in London are generally for short periods pending the flotation of long-dated loans.

Year when Floated.	Amount of Principal.	Gross Proceeds.	Charges, etc.					Expenses per £100 of Gross Proceeds.
			Stamp Duty, Postage, and other Expenses.	Bank Commission.	Paid to Investors—Interest Bonus and Discount Bonus.	Brokerage and Underwriting.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
Issued in London.								
1914	7,500,000	7,312,500	46,875	18,750	55,473	115,270	236,368	3 3 1
1915	7,000,000	6,965,000	23,310	17,500	9,015	106,553	156,378	2 4 11
1917	2,500,000	2,500,000	3,095	6,250	14,389	38,650	62,384	2 9 11
1918	19,076,000	19,001,000	42,135	47,690	41,219	223,027	354,071	1 17 3
1919	3,000,000	2,985,000	4,295	7,500	7,881	44,386	64,062	2 2 11
1919-20	5,000,000	4,910,000	6,918	12,500	11,240	68,995	99,653	2 0 7
1920-21	6,500,000	6,500,000	73,198	16,250	22,486	112,544	224,478	3 9 1
1921-22	3,000,000	2,865,000	9,735	7,500	3,527	51,851	72,613	2 10 8
	7,000,000	6,790,000	4,519	17,500	2,516	103,262	127,797	1 17 8
1922-23	5,000,000	4,750,000	16,703	12,500	2,595	74,827	106,625	2 4 11
	4,000,000	3,900,000	*	*	*	*	*	*
1923-24	6,000,000	6,000,000	2,933	15,000	4,508	88,344	110,785	1 16 11
	22,000,000	22,000,000	*	*	*	*	*	*
1924-25	6,500,000	6,402,000		*	*	*	*	*
Issued in Sydney.								
1914	532,056	532,056				1,300	1,300	0 4 11
1917	1,770,154	1,770,154				2,110	2,110	0 4 8
1918	979,313	979,313				Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
1919	1,492,367	1,492,367				"	"	"
1919-20	14,778,156	14,778,186		Nil		20,000	20,000	0 2 8
1920-21	5,309,000	5,309,000				12,000	12,000	0 4 6
1921-22	8,817,927	8,817,927				10,460	10,460	0 2 4
1922-23	7,193,551	7,193,551				18,750	18,750	0 5 3
1923-24	16,194,377	16,194,377				17,050	17,050	0 2 1
1924-25	7,153,790	7,063,257	4,476	2,943	..	21,278	28,697	0 8 8

* Not available,

The Sydney sales take place at the Treasury on the basis of £100 cash for every £100 of stock, and a commission of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. is allowed when a broker is engaged. The cost of negotiation for issues in Sydney during the past ten years was about 2s. 10d. per £100 of gross proceeds, whilst the average charges for London loans, including underwriting, were £2 5s. 9d.

STOCK QUOTATIONS.

The average market prices of stock in London and in Sydney are shown in the following table for each month for the year 1924-25, the London figures being taken from the *Economist*, and the Sydney quotations from the *Sydney Stock and Share List*.

Date.	London.		Sydney.				
	Stock bearing interest at--						
	5½ per cent.	5¼ per cent.	5½ per cent.	5¼ per cent.	5 per cent.	3½ per cent.	3 per cent.
1924—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
July ...	101	100	100	98½	97½	68¼	58
August ...	101½	99¼	99¼	98½	97	68	58¼
September	102	99¼	99½	98½	97½	68½	58½
October ...	102	99¼	99¼	98½	97½	69	58½
November	100½	99¼	99¼	96½	97	68½	58½
December ...	100	99½	99¼	96	98	69¼	58½
1925—							
January ...	100¾	99½	99¼	*	98	68½	58½
February ...	101	99½	99¾	*	97¾	68½	58¾
March ...	101	99¾	99¾	98½	98	68½	59¼
April ...	99¾	99¾	100½	*	*	69½	59½
May ...	99¾	99¾	101¼	99½	*	69¾	60
June ...	100	100½	102¾	102	100½	71½	61

* No quotation.

No London prices are available other than those of the 5¼ per cent. stock.

REDEMPTIONS AND SINKING FUNDS.

Under the provisions of the State Debt and Sinking Fund Act, 1904, the State Debt Commissioners' Board was constituted, the members being the Treasurer, the Chief Justice, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and the Under Secretary for Finance and Trade; and the Board controls certain trust funds and special accounts. The original Act provided for a general sinking fund, and a sum of £350,000 was paid each year to the credit of the fund, while under the Treasury Bills Deficiency Act, 1905, an additional £50,000 was required to be transferred to the fund whenever a sufficiently large surplus enabled this to be done. The Commissioners apply the credit balance in purchasing or paying-off stock, debentures, or Treasury bills; and they are empowered to invest the moneys in approved securities. The State Debt and Sinking Fund (Amendment) Act, 1914, provided that where at the close of a year there is a deficiency on the Consolidated Revenue Account the Commissioners shall repay any amount, not being greater than such deficiency, which had been issued from the fund to the Commissioners during the year. Since the last-mentioned Act was passed the amount of £350,000 has been paid to the Commissioners each year, but has been returned to the Treasury, so that in effect the Sinking Fund has not benefited for many years by any transfer from revenue.

The transactions under the Act for the financial year ended the 30th June, 1925, were as follow:—

		RECEIPTS.	£	£
Balance brought forward from 1923-24	... ..			429,212
Annual Contribution from Consolidated Revenue Fund	... ..			350,000
Repayments—Country Towns—				
Water Supply	... ..		12,645	
Sewerage	... ..		2,721	
			-----	15,366
Interest—Funded Stock	... ..		7,539	
Deposit with Colonial Treasurer	... ..		6,643	
			-----	14,182
Metropolitan Water, Sewerage, and Drainage Account	... ..			8,156
			-----	£816,916
	Total	... ..		£816,916
		EXPENDITURE.	£	£
Annual contribution from Consolidated Revenue Fund	... ..			350,000
Balance carried forward to 1923-24—			£	
Invested in N.S.W. Funded Stock	... ..		211,136	
On Deposit with Colonial Treasurer	... ..		255,716	
On Current Account	... ..		64	
			-----	466,916
			-----	£816,916
	Total	... ..		£816,916

FINANCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE STATES AND THE COMMONWEALTH.

One of the most difficult problems to be solved in formulating a constitution for the Commonwealth of Australia was the determination of the relative shares of the Commonwealth and States respectively in the proceeds of taxation from Customs and Excise. Each of the two governing powers was invested with authority to levy direct taxation, consequently no difficulty arose in this respect; but the power to impose tariffs through Customs and Excise duties, formerly exercised by the State, was at Federation vested in the Commonwealth Parliament. Hence it became necessary to decide some proportion of the revenue derivable from these sources of indirect taxation which should constitute by legal right the share of the States *qua* States in these imposts.

From the time when the Federal Constitution was under discussion to the time when the Surplus Revenue Act was passed in 1910, it was universally admitted that in any arrangement between the Commonwealth and the States the proportion of Customs and Excise Revenue to be retained by the one, and the proportion to be handed back to the other, should be based on the respective needs of each. Practically the only difference of opinion was whether expenditure on such services as it has been the public policy of the States or Commonwealth to undertake, and which are called "Business Undertakings" in New South Wales, should be included in the "needs," or whether it should be premised that they should be self supporting.

In recognition of these needs it was provided by section 87 of the Commonwealth Constitution Act, popularly known as the "Braddon" clause, that during the first ten years of the existence of the newly-created Australian Commonwealth there should be returned not less than three-fourths of the net revenue from Customs and Excise to the State in which it was received; also, that such proportion should continue to be returnable after the ten-year period until the Commonwealth Parliament should decide what other disposition of these revenues should be made.

During the early years of the experience of the Commonwealth the question of the policy to be pursued at the expiry of the period of ten years

named in the Braddon clause was not immediately pressing, because (1) the needs of the Federation had not become sufficiently urgent to cause a necessity for appropriating the full one-fourth allocated for Commonwealth requirements until 1st July, 1908, and (2) the fact that a term of years had yet to ensue before a fresh arrangement could be made under the Constitution, tended to the postponement of the determination of a question which was fully recognised to be intricate and difficult of solution.

Towards the close of the ten-year period, however, it became evident that more revenue would be required to enable the Federal Government to fulfil its assigned functions. A number of conferences were held, but a definite agreement was not reached until the year 1909. In that year it was agreed that the amount to be returned should be 25s. per head of population, and the original proposal was that the Constitution should be altered to provide that payment. At a referendum, however, the proposal was defeated by a small majority, and the Surplus Revenue Act of 1910 was passed by the Commonwealth Parliament. The Act provides that for ten years, from 1st July, 1910, and thereafter, until Parliament provides otherwise, the Commonwealth shall pay to each State by monthly instalments an annual sum amounting to 25s. per head of its population.

This measure was a temporary expedient, and the matter has been discussed at length by representatives of the Government of the Commonwealth and of the States many times without reaching finality. A conference of Premiers was held in May, 1920, and continued in July, and other meetings were subsequently held, but although the parties arrived at satisfactory agreements upon several important matters, some involving heavy expenditure, they were unable to agree upon the two most important questions of finance, namely, the co-ordination of borrowing, and the per capita payment to the States.

At a conference between Ministers of the Commonwealth and the States, which was held at Melbourne in May-June, 1923, the Commonwealth Government proposed that, for a period of five years, and thereafter until the Parliament otherwise provided, it should relinquish portion of its field of direct taxation by ceasing to collect tax from all individuals whose incomes were £2,000 a year or less, and by granting an exemption of £2,000 to other individuals; in consideration of this action the States were asked to agree to the cessation of the per capita payments and to forego the interest now being paid by the Commonwealth on transferred properties.

The States proposed that—

- (1) The Commonwealth should retire from the field of income taxation.
- (2) Contingent on this being done, the States would relinquish claim to any share in Customs and Excise Revenue, and, if necessary, recoup the Commonwealth, on an equitable basis, for loss of revenue to the Commonwealth under these proposals, the amount payable in each year by the several States to be determined in conference with the Prime Minister.
- (3) This arrangement to be embodied in a ten years' agreement between the Commonwealth and the States.

After discussion the Commonwealth amended its proposal and offered to abolish entirely taxation of individual incomes, and to operate only in the field of Company Taxation, undertaking not to collect more than the equivalent of 2s. 6d. in the £ on the total profits of companies. Later the Conference discussed the matter informally in committee, when the Prime Minister outlined the following proposals, which, upon resumption of

the Conference, were accepted in principle by four States—Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and Western Australia. New South Wales dissented and Tasmania was not represented. The proposals were:—

For the period of five years from the 1st July, 1923:

1. The Commonwealth was not to levy any income tax on any incomes except those of companies.
2. The income tax levied by the Commonwealth on the income of companies was not to exceed 2s. 6d. in the £.
3. No interest was to be paid by the Commonwealth to the State on properties transferred to the Commonwealth under section 84 of the Constitution.
4. No payment was to be made by the Commonwealth to the States under the Surplus Revenue Act, 1910.
5. The Commonwealth was to make payments to the States upon the following basis calculated with regard to each State:—
 - (a) i. The amount of the payments made to the States under the Surplus Revenue Act, 1910.
 - ii. The interest on properties transferred from the States.
 - iii. The amount of tax on the incomes of companies collected by the States.
 - (b) i. The amount of tax on the incomes of companies collected by the States in excess of an average of 1s. 3d. in the £.
 - ii. The amount of Commonwealth income tax collections in the State, other than taxes on the incomes of companies.

Where, in regard to any State, the total of the amount calculated under paragraph (b) did not exceed the total of the amounts calculated under paragraph (a) by £100,000 the Commonwealth was to pay to the States the sum necessary to produce an excess of £100,000.

The proposals have not been brought into operation in any of the States, but agreements have been made between the Commonwealth and each State, excepting Western Australia, for the collection in the State of the Commonwealth and State taxes by one authority, namely, the State Commissioner of Taxation, thus effecting a great saving and obviating the necessity for separate returns. Under a somewhat similar agreement the Commonwealth has collected the taxes in Western Australia since 1921.

With reference to the co-ordination of borrowing, the Commonwealth Government proposed that there should be a Loan Council, consisting of the Treasurer of the Commonwealth and the Treasurer of each State. Its functions would be to determine the order in which the Commonwealth, the States, and the various public bodies created by the State Legislatures should come upon the market within Australia, and to advise each Treasurer as to the rate of interest and the other terms upon which local loans should be floated. The States supported the proposal for the establishment of a Loan Council, but with power to act in an advisory capacity only, and this proposal was adopted. It was considered desirable by the States and agreed to by the Commonwealth that a Sinking Fund, or Redemption Fund, of not less than one-half per cent. should be established in connection with all new loans.

It was resolved also that, providing all the States and the Commonwealth have passed the necessary validating legislation, interest on all loans issued after the 31st December, 1923, be subject to taxation. The Commonwealth,

Parliament almost immediately passed an Act making the interest on all loans raised in Australia after 31st December, 1923, subject to Commonwealth income tax.

It was arranged in July, 1924, that the Australian Loan Council should raise all the new loan money required in Australia by the States. Each State except New South Wales, which now acts independently of the Council, continues to arrange its own loans in London, but to a limited extent, and makes arrangements for conversion after consultation with the Council.

It is interesting to consider the following table, which shows, taking the combined expenditure of the Commonwealth and States on administrative or governmental functions, that is, exclusive of business undertakings, the proportion of the total expenditure which was incurred by the States and by the Commonwealth in 1901-2, the first year of the Commonwealth, in 1909-10, the year before the commencement of the Surplus Revenue Act, in 1913-14, the year before the War, and in 1924-25, the latest year. The expenditure by the Commonwealth on war service in 1924-25 has not been included, as there was no similar expenditure in the earlier years. The table shows also the proportion of Customs and Excise revenue retained by the Commonwealth in each of those years:—

Year.	Proportion of Total Expenditure (exclusive of Business Undertakings).		Proportion of Customs and Excise retained by Commonwealth.
	By States.	By Commonwealth.	
1901-02 ...	per cent. 85	per cent. 15	per cent. 15
1909-10 ...	79	21	25
1913-14 ...	73	27	56
1924-25 ...	68	32	83

The following statement shows the extent to which the States' revenues are dependent on the per capita payments from the Commonwealth. It gives the proportion per cent. of the revenue (excluding business undertakings) of each State from the principal sources in 1924-25, and it is obvious that if the Commonwealth payments were reduced materially the States could balance their accounts only by severe economy or by heavy increases in taxation. The receipts of business undertakings have been excluded on the assumption that the charges for those services should be fixed to meet the expenditure.

State.	Proportion of Revenue obtained from—				
	Commonwealth Payments.	Taxation.	Land.	All Other Sources.	Total.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
New South Wales ...	18·3	53·0	13·3	15·4	100
Victoria ...	21·5	51·8	3·6	23·1	100
Queensland ..	13·2	49·9	18·7	18·2	100
South Australia ...	14·7	50·5	6·2	28·6	100
Western Australia ...	14·4	31·3	12·9	41·4	100
Tasmania ...	18·3	67·3	3·9	10·5	100
All States ...	17·3	50·6	10·9	21·2	100

The next statement shows the principal items of revenue and expenditure of the States and of the Commonwealth for the year 1924-25, and is included to show the relation of the various States to each other, and of all the States to the Commonwealth.

Heading.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queens-land.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	All States.	Commonwealth.
<i>Revenue.</i>								
GOVERNMENTAL—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Payments by Commonwealth	2,796,928	2,055,834	1,034,933	668,084	561,744	†855,257	7,472,780	..
Taxation—								
Customs and Excise .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37,192,781
Income Tax	4,661,892	2,076,656	2,509,913	1,267,974	716,109	781,194	12,013,738	11,136,344
Land Tax	2,569	421,662	452,481	186,605	113,367	124,114	1,301,298	2,519,711
Probate Duties	1,240,886	802,333	*751,340	225,999	68,115	88,404	3,177,077	1,381,051
Other	2,209,804	1,646,742	200,427	610,177	325,939	312,648	5,305,737	605,803
Total Taxation	**8,115,151	4,947,393	3,914,161	2,290,755	1,224,630	1,306,360	21,797,850	52,835,690
Land	2,046,168	343,703	1,468,741	279,836	502,224	76,427	4,717,099	..
Other Revenue	2,358,081	2,203,480	1,427,111	1,296,717	1,619,796	204,346	9,115,530	5,691,236
Total Governmental	15,316,328	9,556,410	7,844,946	4,535,392	3,907,793	1,942,390	43,103,259	58,526,926
Business Undertakings	23,506,260	13,844,280	7,052,310	5,197,646	4,473,653	819,623	54,893,772	10,327,883
Total Revenue	38,822,588	23,400,690	14,897,256	9,733,038	8,381,446	2,762,013	97,997,031	68,854,809
<i>Expenditure.</i>								
GOVERNMENTAL—								
Administrative and Departmental	14,170,776	7,045,614	4,882,909	3,212,562	2,337,517	910,098	32,565,476	16,475,969
Interest, excluding Business Undertakings	3,338,368	1,914,425	1,624,807	1,128,088	1,366,648	517,409	9,889,745	976,657
Sinking Fund and Redemptions .. .. .	..	497,523	239,074	193,000	112,870	117,893	1,160,360	62,176
Defence .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,421,176
War Services, including Pensions and Interest.. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28,482,761
Total Governmental	17,509,144	9,457,562	6,746,790	4,533,650	3,817,035	1,551,400	43,615,581	49,418,739
BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS—								
Working Expenses	15,317,626	10,571,822	5,511,772	3,297,222	3,005,763	670,088	38,374,293	9,750,899
Interest and Sinking Fund	6,752,268	3,987,524	2,621,726	1,849,165	1,617,046	454,130	17,281,859	1,287,588
Total Business Undertakings	22,069,894	14,559,346	8,133,498	5,146,387	4,622,809	1,124,218	55,656,152	11,038,487
New Works .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	343,916
Payments to States .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,535,291
Total Expenditure	39,579,038	24,016,908	14,880,288	9,680,037	8,439,844	2,675,613	99,271,733	68,336,432

* Includes other Stamp Duties—not shown separately.

† Includes £85,000, special grant.

* Exclusive of Motor Tax, £345,342, and Traffic Licenses, £129,300, transferred to Special Deposits Account, Main Roads Account.

The amounts shown as expended at interest on capital expenditure of business undertakings were known absolutely in some of the States, but were estimated for the other States, where the information was not known definitely, on the assumption that the average rate of interest on the whole public debt was the rate on the loan expenditure of these undertakings.

The administrative and departmental services of the State comprise such important matters as education, hospitals and charities, police and law, local government, lands, mines, agriculture, forestry, and navigation (part); and of the Commonwealth, invalid and old-age pensions, maternity allowances, defence, navigation (part), and trade and customs.

Relatively to population, the heads of revenue and expenditure of each State separately, of all the States combined, and of the Commonwealth, in 1924-25 are as follow:—

Heading.	Per head of population.							
	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	All States.	Commonwealth.
<i>Revenue.</i>								
GOVERNMENTAL—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Payments by Commonwealth	1 4 10	1 4 10	1 4 10	1 4 10	1 10 10	1 12 7	1 5 5	....
Taxation—								
Customs and Excise .. .. .	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6 6 8
Income Tax	2 1 4	1 5 1	3 0 1	2 7 1	1 19 4	3 11 9	2 1 0	1 17 11
Land Tax .. .. .	....	0 5 1	0 10 10	0 6 11	0 6 3	0 11 5	0 4 5	0 8 7
Probate Duties	0 11 0	0 9 8	0 18 0	0 8 5	0 3 9	0 8 1	0 10 10	0 4 8
Other	0 19 8	0 19 10	0 4 10	1 2 8	0 17 11	1 8 8	0 18 1	0 2 1
Total Taxation	3 12 0	2 19 8	4 13 9	4 5 1	3 7 3	5 19 11	3 14 4	8 19 11
Land	0 18 2	0 4 2	1 15 2	0 10 5	1 7 7	0 7 1	0 16 1	....
Other Revenue	1 0 11	1 6 8	1 14 2	2 8 2	4 9 0	0 18 9	1 11 1	0 19 5
Total Governmental	6 15 11	5 15 4	9 7 11	8 8 6	10 14 8	8 18 4	7 6 11	9 19 4
Business Undertakings	10 8 8	8 7 1	8 8 11	9 13 0	12 5 9	3 15 3	9 7 1	1 15 2
Total Revenue	17 4 7	14 2 5	17 16 10	18 1 6	23 0 5	12 13 7	16 14 0	11 14 6
<i>Expenditure.</i>								
GOVERNMENTAL—								
Administrative and Departmental	6 5 9	4 5 1	5 16 11	5 19 4	6 8 5	4 4 1	5 11 0	2 16 1
Interest, excluding Business Undertakings	1 9 8	1 3 1	1 18 11	2 1 10	3 15 1	2 7 6	1 13 9	0 3 4
Sinking Fund and Redemptions .. .. .	....	0 6 0	0 5 9	0 7 2	0 6 2	0 10 10	0 3 11	0 0 3
Defence .. .. .	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	0 11 8
War Services, including Pensions and Interest .. .. .	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4 16 11
Total Governmental	7 15 5	5 14 2	8 1 7	8 8 4	10 9 8	7 2 5	7 8 8	8 8 8
BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS—								
Working Expenses	6 16 0	6 7 7	6 12 0	6 2 6	8 5 1	3 1 6	6 10 10	1 13 2
Interest and Sinking Fund	2 19 11	2 8 2	3 2 10	3 8 8	4 8 10	2 1 9	2 18 11	0 4 5
Total Business Undertakings	9 15 11	8 15 9	9 14 10	9 11 2	12 13 11	5 3 3	9 9 9	1 17 7
New Works .. .. .	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	0 1 2
Payments to States .. .. .	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1 5 8
Total Expenditure	17 11 4	14 9 11	17 16 5	17 19 6	23 3 7	12 5 8	16 18 5	11 12 8

The payments by the Commonwealth to all the States in 1924-25 represented 25s. 5d. per head of population, the excess of 5d. per head over the 25s. mentioned above being due to a special payment of £110,000 to Western Australia, and payments to Tasmania of £85,000 as special grant and

£61,656 income tax received by the Commonwealth in respect of prizes won on lotteries. Under the Surplus Revenue Act of 1910 a moiety of the special payment to Western Australia is deducted from the amounts payable at the rate of 25s. per head to the States, so that the sum actually paid to New South Wales in 1924-25 represented only 24s. 10d. per head.

The Commonwealth Constitution Act of 1901 empowered the Commonwealth to take over from the States their public debts as existing at the establishment of the Commonwealth. In 1910 a proposed law to alter the Constitution so as to authorise the transfer of all the debts incurred by the States was ratified by means of a referendum, but no further action has been taken.

The public debt of the States as at 30th June, 1925, amounted to £590,743,123, and of the Commonwealth to £430,947,592, of which £347,072,311 was incurred on account of the war. The following table shows the public debt of each State and of the Commonwealth, also the total amount of interest payable. In the statement on page 287, relating to the finances of the States and Commonwealth, the interest payable appears partly under Governmental Services and partly under Business Undertakings.

State.	Public Debt.†		Interest Payable.	
	Total.	Per Head of Population.	Total.	Per Head of Population.
	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
New South Wales... ..	*201,702,327	88 14 4	*9,835,863	4 6 6
Victoria	131,169,565	78 10 1	6,319,870	3 15 8
Queensland... ..	97,001,712	113 8 7	4,601,280	5 7 7
South Australia	72,481,942	133 9 1	3,623,776	6 13 5
Western Australia	64,493,161	175 4 10	2,860,332	7 15 5
Tasmania	23,894,416	112 15 2	1,171,180	5 10 6
All States	590,743,123	99 15 5	28,412,301	4 16 0
Commonwealth—				
War Debt	347,072,311	58 10 9	18,803,485	3 3 5
Other	83,875,281	14 2 11	4,147,353	0 14 0
Total Commonwealth ...	430,947,592	72 13 8	22,950,838	3 17 5
Grand Total ...	1,021,690,715	172 6 3	51,363,139	8 13 3

* Exclusive of Closer Settlement Debentures.

† Gross amount—Sinking Funds not deducted.

The grand total is duplicated to the extent of £39,809,402, of which £10,858,093 represents the value of properties transferred to the Commonwealth, and £28,951,309 loans raised by the Commonwealth for the States,

which was apportioned as follows:—New South Wales, £2,981,850; Victoria, £4,366,582; Queensland, £8,140,249; South Australia, £6,226,902; Western Australia, £5,929,646; and Tasmania, £1,306,080. Each State received advances from the Australian Notes Fund. These advances are not included in the Public Debt of the States.

The Public Debt of the States as shown above appears large, but no less than 73 per cent. of the total amount, ranging from 58 per cent. in Western Australia to 86 per cent. in New South Wales, has been spent on works of a reproductive character, such as railways, tramways, water supply, sewerage, harbours, and rivers. The balance of the debt has been expended on other necessary works or services, namely, roads, bridges, industrial undertakings, promotion of agriculture, assistance to returned soldiers, aid to farmers, and other matters, which, although not returning direct revenue, have assisted in the development of the States.

In so far as a comparison between the various States is concerned, the Victorian Public Debt, to be on the same basis as that of the other States, should be increased by £18,495,511, representing loans raised by the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works, the Melbourne Harbour Trust, and the Geelong Harbour Trust, to construct necessary works. Corresponding amounts are included in the quotations shown above for the other States, and if the sums referred to were added as stated, the Victorian Public Debt would be £149,665,076, or £89 11s. 6d. per head, and the annual interest thereon would be £7,243,288, or £4 6s. 8d. per head.

EDUCATION.

IN New South Wales the State has established a system of national education which embraces all branches of primary, secondary, and technical education, and it contributes considerable sums towards the maintenance of the University of Sydney. In addition to the State schools, there are numerous private educational institutions subject to State inspection, of which the majority are conducted under the auspices of the religious denominations.

Development of the present School System.

The first school in New South Wales was established in 1792 by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and education remained in the province of private initiative, being conducted mainly by the religious denominations, until 1848, although financial assistance was given by the Government after 1810. As late as 1845, a committee of inquiry reported that more than one-half of the children of New South Wales (then including Victoria and Queensland) were not receiving any education.

In 1848 an undenominational scheme of education, or the national system, as it was called, was introduced and conducted side by side with the denominational schools, each group of schools being placed under a separate board. The existence of these two boards continued until 1867, when the Public Schools Act provided for the continuance of the two classes of schools, but placed all schools receiving aid from the State under the control of the Council of Education, a board appointed by the Government. In practice the public schools were administered entirely by this board, and the denominational schools were governed partly by the Council and partly by the various religious bodies by which they were founded. From this dual control, transition was made to the present centralised system by the Public Instruction Act, 1880, which abolished all State aid to denominational education. State supervision of private schools ceased in 1882, when financial aid was discontinued. The Act of 1880, as amended by the Free Education Act, 1906, the Bursary Endowment Act, 1912, and the Public Instruction (Amendment) Act of 1916 and 1917, is the statutory basis of the present education system of New South Wales.

Denominational and other private schools continue in existence without endowment, but by virtue of the compulsory education principles of the Act of 1916, and of the conditions attaching to bursary awards for secondary and tertiary education, all primary schools and most secondary schools have become subject to a measure of inspection by officers of the State, and are required to conform to the standards prescribed by the Government. In December quarter, 1924, approximately 82 per cent. of the children between 7 and 14 years of age attended State schools, and 18 per cent. attended private schools.

PRESENT SCHOOL SYSTEM.

The principles of the present State or Public School system were originated by the Education Act, 1880, which is still in force, but since 1899 the growth of new educational ideals has led to extensive changes through endeavours "to construct a flexible, coherent, and comprehensive national system which should correspond with the economic and political ideals of the people." Corresponding changes have been wrought in the nature of school work, and in the Primary Syllabus of 1922 the aim of the system was thus stated: "The function of a school is to supply the circumstances and conditions most favourable to a child's growth." No particular method of teaching is imposed, and emphasis is laid upon the acquisition of personal culture and the development of intelligence as well as on the assimilation of useful knowledge.

This system aims at making education secular, free and compulsory, each of these principles being enjoined by statute. The Act of 1880 provides that "the teaching shall be strictly non-sectarian, but the words 'secular instruction' shall be held to include general religious teaching as distinguished from dogmatical or polemical theology"; general religious instruction is given by teachers, and for limited periods, with the consent of parents, by ministers of religion. The Free Education Act, 1906, provided that all education in State primary schools must be free. Fees in secondary schools were abolished by regulation at the beginning of 1911, but were reimposed from 1st January, 1923, to 30th June, 1925. The Act of 1880 provided that attendance of children at school be compulsory between the ages of 6 and 14 years. The Amending Act of 1916 raised the compulsory age at beginning to 7 years and made provision for more stringent enforcement of attendance.

The State School system is subject to central guidance and control, being administered by a responsible Minister of the Crown, through a permanent Director of Education, who is Under-Secretary of the Department of Education. Practically the whole of the expenditure on State education is provided by appropriation from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, but part of the expenditure on buildings, additions, and renewals, is defrayed from the Public Works Fund. From time to time also special votes are made available from loan funds for constructing school buildings.

The complete scheme of education, as established, insures co-ordination between both public and private schools, and provides a direct avenue from Kindergarten to University. The various stages are marked by examinations designed to test the fitness of candidates for higher education. Assistance to obtain secondary and tertiary education is accorded by the State through the bursary system to promising students who lack financial means.

Census Results.

Particulars of the numbers of persons receiving education and of the extent to which the rudiments of education—reading and writing—had been acquired at the censuses of 1901, 1911 and 1921 are shown in the Year Book for 1922 at pages 148–150.

SCHOOLS AND TEACHING STAFFS.

The following table shows the total number of public and private schools in operation at the end of 1901, 1911, and of each of the past five years, and the aggregate teaching staff in each group. The figures in this table, and in the subsequent tables relating to public and private schools include secondary schools, but are exclusive of evening continuation schools, Technical Colleges and Trade Schools, Free Kindergarten and schools maintained by charitable organisations, shorthand and business colleges, etc.

Year.	Schools.			Teaching Staffs.						Grand Total.
	Public. *	Private.	Total.	In Public Schools.*			In Private Schools.			
				Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
1901	2,741	890	3,631	2,829	2,318	5,147	337	2,303	2,640	7,787
1911	3,107	757	3,864	3,165	3,034	6,199	366	2,262	2,628	8,827
1920	3,122	679	3,801	3,432	4,948	8,380	431	2,360	2,791	11,171
1921	3,170	677	3,847	3,554	5,118	8,672	465	2,463	2,928	11,600
1922	3,166	678	3,844	3,696	5,310	9,006	461	2,485	2,946	11,952
1923	3,194	681	3,875	3,843	5,381	9,224	476	2,562	3,038	12,262
1924	3,207	693	3,900	3,959	5,550	9,509	469	2,544	3,013	12,522

* Including subsidised schools.

The number of teachers shown above excludes, in the case of public schools, students in training, who numbered 891 in 1924, and in the case of

private schools, visiting or part-time teachers, who numbered 322 males and 865 females, some of whom doubtless attended more than one school and appear in more than one return.

In the State schools the men employed as teachers outnumbered the women until 1912, but the proportion of men in 1924 was only 42 per cent. of the total. In the private schools the proportion of men teachers has been small always, but it shows a tendency to increase. Men constituted only 16 per cent. of the full-time teaching staff of private schools in 1924.

SCHOOL PUPILS.

A comparative review of the enrolment of children at public and private schools is restricted to the last quarter in each year, as the figures formerly collected in regard to private schools relate only to that period. The following statement shows the recorded enrolment during the December quarter at all schools and colleges in the State, primary and secondary, other than evening continuation, charitable, and free kindergarten schools and technical, trade and business schools and colleges* :—

Year.	Public Schools.†			Private Schools.			Total Enrolment.	Proportion of Scholars Enrolled.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.		Public Schools.	Private Schools.
1931	110,971	99,617	210,588	27,163	33,674	60,837	271,425	77·6	22·4
1911	116,317	105,493	221,810	26,932	34,588	61,520	283,330	78·3	21·7
1920	156,066	143,625	299,691	34,254	40,085	74,339	374,030	80·1	19·9
1921	163,699	151,529	315,228	35,903	42,557	78,460	393,688	80·1	19·9
1922	167,593	154,028	321,621	36,525	43,722	80,247	401,778	80·1	19·9
1923	170,616	157,632	328,248	36,632	44,091	80,723	408,971	80·3	19·7
1924	173,043	160,026	333,074	37,532	45,013	82,545	415,619	80·1	19·9

† Including Subsidised Schools.

Since 1901 the enrolment in public schools has increased by 58 per cent. while in the private schools it has risen by only 36 per cent., so that the proportion of children in public schools has advanced from 77·6 per cent. to 80·1 per cent. In the public schools there are more boys than girls, the proportions being boys 52 per cent., and girls 48 per cent. In the private schools girls are in the majority, representing 55 per cent. of the enrolment.

Considering only children for whom education is compulsory, the following table shows the numbers and proportions taught in public and private schools, based on the enrolment in December quarter, omitting private institutional schools and free kindergartens. The figures for 1911 and 1916 relate to children between 6 and 14 years of age, and those for later years to children between 7 and 14 years :—

Year.	Public Schools.	Private Schools.	Total.	Proportion per cent.	
				Public Schools.	Private Schools.
1911	192,740	46,346	239,086	80·6	19·4
1916	232,408	52,568	284,976	81·6	18·4
1917	218,995	45,628	264,623	82·7	17·3
1921	246,136	53,664	299,800	82·1	17·9
1922	253,073	55,361	308,434	82·1	17·9
1923	258,846	55,860	314,706	82·3	17·7
1924	263,442	57,405	320,847	82·1	17·9

* The numbers of pupils so excluded were as follows in 1924 :—Evening continuation, about 4,000 ; schools for deaf mutes, etc., 216 ; private charitable, 1,209 ; free kindergarten, 876 ; technical colleges and trade schools, 11,886 ; business colleges and shorthand schools, 6,924.

Apparently the proportion of children of statutory ages attending private schools decreased between 1911 and the introduction of provision for enforcing compulsory attendance in 1916, and increased slightly thereafter. Since 1921 the proportion has been almost stationary.

Movement of School Population.

A very considerable movement of pupils from one school to another occurs during the year, and this is occasioned only to a small extent by transfers from primary to secondary schools, which occur usually at the beginning of the year. The total number of dual enrolments effected in 1923 was 74,809, of which 54,290 were due to pupils transferring from one public school to another; 7,917 from one private school to another; about 7,500 from private to public schools, and 5,102 from public to private schools. The total movement of school population during the year was 17 per cent. of the individual enrolments.

CHILDREN RECEIVING EDUCATION.

The total number of individual pupils who received instruction in schools in New South Wales at any time during 1923 was 439,705, and of these 357,044 were last enrolled at public schools and 82,661 at private schools.

From the approximate results of tests made it is apparent that a considerable number of children between the ages of 7 and 13 years, when education is compulsory, are not enrolled in schools for the whole of those years, although they may be attending school for most of the statutory period. The children not enrolled in schools include those receiving instruction at home (numbering 13,181 at the Census of 1921), those exempt from further attendance for special reasons on attaining the age of 13 years, and those who are inaccessible to schools or who are mentally or physically deficient. The institution of a system of teaching isolated pupils by correspondence, the provision of conveyance facilities, and of subsidies for private teachers of small rural schools are now doing much to reduce the number of children not reached by the education system. In this connection it is interesting to note that of the persons married in New South Wales in 1924, less than two per 1,000 could not sign their names.

An interesting test of the efficacy of the compulsory attendance provisions in securing the enrolment of children of school age during the last five years is provided in the following table, which indicates the proportion of the effective enrolment in each year to the estimated number of children "requiring education" :—

Year.	Estimated Number of Children of School Age in December.	Children of Other Ages Enrolled (December Quarter).	Estimated Number of Children requiring Education.	Average Weekly Enrolment during December Quarter.	Proportional Effective Enrolment.
1920	301,300	87,027	388,327	352,719	per cent. 90·8
1921	311,800	93,888	405,688	371,952	91·7
1922	320,900	93,344	414,244	375,930	90·8
1923	323,500	94,265	422,765	384,064	90·8
1924	336,400	94,772	431,172	392,735	91·9

These figures indicate that the effective enrolment in schools is approximately 91 per cent. of the number of children "requiring education." The comparison, however, is vitiated by the fact that the "number of children of other ages" included in it is a gross enrolment, and therefore is in excess of the number of children of those ages requiring education. This circumstance makes the proportional effective enrolment of the year approximately one and-a-half per cent. lower than it would otherwise appear.

A less comprehensive, though more satisfactory, test of the provisions for compulsory attendance is obtained by considering the average number of pupils present each day in relation to the average number enrolled each week, pupils being omitted from the roll as they leave school. The following comparison made on this principle shows the degree of regularity of attendance among children enrolled at school, secondary schools being included :—

Year.	Public Schools			Private Schools.		
	Average Weekly Enrolment.	Average Daily Attendance.	Ratio of Attendance to Enrolment.	Average Weekly Enrolment.	Average Daily Attendance.	Ratio of Attendance to Enrolment
1911	203,335	160,776	79.0	*	52,122	*
1916	246,572	200,635	81.3	*	56,880	*
1919	261,778	212,873	81.3	64,851	53,937	83.2
1920	279,944	234,657	83.8	72,109	59,495	82.3
1921	292,264	248,605	85.1	74,206	64,172	86.4
1922	300,827	254,382	84.5	76,328	66,340	86.4
1923	304,287	254,633	83.7	76,414	66,450	86.9
1924	312,352	265,481	85.0	77,889	67,724	87.0

* Not available.

The marked improvement in attendance in public schools since 1916 is due to the operation of the amended law relating to school attendance. The proportion of attendance to enrolment signifies that on the average children attend less than four and a half days in a school week of five days. The proportionate attendance has, however, improved slightly during the past three years.

The attendance of children at school is affected adversely by infectious and contagious diseases, and—particularly in country districts where transport facilities are lacking—by inclement weather. The attendance of boys is slightly more regular than that of girls.

Age Distribution of Pupils.

The following table shows the age distribution of pupils enrolled at schools during the last five years. The figures represent the gross enrolment during December quarter at primary and secondary schools omitting those enumerated at the foot of page 293.

Year.	Public Schools.				Private Schools.			
	Under 7 years.	7 years and under 14.	14 years and over.	Total.	Under 7 years.	7 years and under 14.	14 years and over.	Total.
1920	39,319	235,611	24,761	299,691	12,137	51,392	10,810	74,339
1921	41,933	246,136	27,154	315,228	12,622	53,664	12,174	78,460
1922	41,572	253,073	26,886	321,531	13,092	55,361	11,794	80,247
1923	42,728	258,845	26,674	328,248	13,066	55,860	11,797	80,723
1924	41,887	263,442	27,745	333,074	13,072	57,405	12,068	82,545

The numbers of pupils following super-primary courses of instruction in 1924 were 40,441 in public schools and 11,554 in private schools. Most of these were above the statutory age.

In 1924 there were enrolled 54,959 children below the statutory school age—27,639 boys and 27,320 girls; and 39,813 pupils were over 14 years of age—19,936 boys and 19,877 girls.

More information as to the ages of children attending public primary schools may be obtained from a table published annually in the report

of the Minister for Education. That table shows also the ages of children in the various school classes, and, considered in conjunction with the primary and secondary school syllabuses, affords an excellent means of gauging the educational progress of school children as a whole.

RELIGIONS.

Particulars of the religion of each child attending a public school are obtained upon enrolment, but such information is not available regarding pupils of private schools. Any analysis of the religions of school pupils is restricted, therefore, to a comparison of the number of children of each denomination enrolled at public schools, and the number of children (irrespective of religion) attending schools conducted under the auspices of the various religious denominations.

Such a comparative review of the aggregate enrolment in primary and secondary schools (omitting those enumerated at the foot of page 293) during the December quarter of various years is given below. The figures, being on the same plane of comparison for each year, illustrate the progress of each main type of denominational school during the period:—

Year.	Public Schools— Denomination of Children Enrolled.					Private Schools— Denomination of Schools.			
	Church of England.	Roman Catholic.	Presby- terian.	Methodist.	Other.	Church of England.	Roman Catholic.	Undenom- inational.	Other.
1901	109,876	31,054	23,511	24,971	21,176	3,966	41,486	13,546	1,839
1911	118,794	31,044	26,347	30,595	15,030	3,297	46,097	10,141	2,015
1920	166,733	34,500	35,491	42,776	20,191	4,749	60,196	7,541	1,853
1921	176,998	35,532	37,497	41,210	20,991	5,265	63,060	8,131	2,004
1922	180,888	35,458	38,829	45,104	21,252	5,288	64,693	8,255	2,011
1923	185,140	35,549	39,828	45,816	21,915	5,128	65,222	8,371	2,002
1924	188,532	35,287	40,708	46,362	22,185	5,233	66,789	8,401	2,122

Proportion Per Cent. of Total Number of Pupils Enrolled.

1901	40·5	11·4	8·7	9·2	7·8	1·5	15·3	5·0	0·6
1911	41·9	10·9	9·3	10·8	5·3	1·2	16·3	3·6	0·7
1920	44·6	9·2	9·5	11·4	5·4	1·3	16·1	2·0	0·5
1921	45·0	9·0	9·5	11·2	5·3	1·4	16·0	2·1	0·5
1922	45·0	8·8	9·7	11·2	5·3	1·3	16·1	2·1	0·5
1923	45·3	8·7	9·7	11·2	5·4	1·3	15·9	2·0	0·5
1924	45·4	8·5	9·8	11·2	5·3	1·2	16·1	2·0	0·5

In 1924 the number of children enrolled at schools of "other" religious denominations as shown in the last column, were as follow:—Presbyterian 977, Methodist 735, Seventh Day Adventist 324, Lutheran 86.

The pupils attending Roman Catholic schools constitute approximately 81 per cent. of the pupils attending private schools and 16 per cent. of the total pupils at all schools. The proportion of children of each denomination, except Roman Catholic, attending public schools has tended to increase or has remained constant. Although the proportion per cent. of Roman Catholic children enrolled in State schools declined from 10·9 to 9·0 per cent. between 1911 and 1921, the proportion of children enrolled in Roman Catholic schools also declined from 16·3 to 16·0 per cent. of the total. This decline is coincident with a decrease in the proportion of persons of the Roman Catholic faith in the population. The increase in the proportion of children belonging to the Church of England is coincident with an increase in the proportion of persons of that faith.

The enrolment at undenominational schools has diminished considerably since 1901.

Religious Instruction in State Schools.

The Public Instruction Act, 1880, provides that religious instruction may be given in State schools by visiting ministers and teachers of religious bodies for a maximum period of one hour in each school day, and the following table indicates the number of lessons in special religious instruction given in primary schools during the past five years by representatives of the various denominations:—

Denomination.	Number of Lessons.				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Church of England	34,363	40,530	40,517	41,910	44,449
Roman Catholic	1,477	1,696	2,034	2,163	2,427
Presbyterian	9,005	12,684	12,769	14,291	15,924
Methodist	13,594	17,314	17,834	19,701	20,859
Other Denominations	7,518	8,605	10,341	9,870	11,448
Total	65,957	80,829	83,495	87,935	95,107

For some years prior to 1920 the number of religious lessons given was stationary at about 65,000 per annum in normal years. The above table shows that there has been a rapid increase during the past four years.

STATE SCHOOLS.

The following table affords a comparison between the numbers of the various types of State schools in operation at the end of 1881, the first full year in which the Department of Education was under ministerial control, and the numbers open at later periods.

Type of School.	Schools at end of year.						
	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1923.	1924.
Secondary Schools—							
High ... ..	...	5	4	8	27	28	28
Intermediate High... ..	...	...	...	...	25	29	32
District ... ..	...	...	...	...	13	14	12
Continuation Schools—							
Commercial... ..	...	...	...	...	15	16	16
Junior Technical ... ..	...	...	...	...	26	24†	23‡
Domestic ... ..	...	...	...	...	46	46	50
Evening ... ..	...	...	...	18	46	49	52
Rural Schools ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	12	12
*Composite	58	78	113	145	57	328	409
Total—Secondary and Continuation Schools ...	58	83	117	171	255	546	634
Primary Schools—							
Public	1,007	1,686	1,874	1,915	2,020	2,000	1,990
Provisional	227	320	398	475	477	525	531
Half-time	83†	280	414	271	90	92	92
House-to-house and Travelling ... ..	...	83	17	6	3	3	1
Correspondence ... ..	...	...	...	...	4	1	1
Subsidised ... ..	...	...	...	414	546	541	560
Evening	33	13	34	16	...	...	...
Industrial and Reformatory ...	2	3	4	2	3	3	3
Total—Primary	1,352	2,365	2,741	3,099	3,143	3,165	3,178
Number of Schools per 1,000 of population—							
Primary	1·73	2·05	1·99	1·82	1·48	1·43	1·43
Secondary and Continuation ...	·07	·07	·09	·10	·12	·25	·28

* Superior Public Schools.

† Including Third Time Schools.

‡ Including one Central Junior Technical School.

With the exception of the High Schools, two of the Intermediate High Schools, Evening Continuation Schools, and one Junior Technical School, all of the secondary schools are conducted in conjunction with primary schools. The number of individual schools at the close of 1924 was, therefore, 3,261, in comparison with 3,243 individual schools open at the end of 1923. During 1924 a system of providing education for one year beyond the primary stage was introduced for small schools where a minimum of two pupils were found desirous of proceeding with their education in this way, and the scheme was extended to 509 schools which formerly provided instruction only in primary subjects. These schools are not included in the number of secondary and continuation schools shown above.

The number of schools is not of itself an accurate indication of the effective provision of educational facilities, even when considered in relation to population. Population has tended increasingly to congregate in cities and other urban centres, where schools have grown in size, rather than in numbers, while, with the decline of the birth-rate, the proportion of children in the population has diminished. For these reasons the relative number of public schools required has decreased, but on the other hand the proportionate number of private schools also has decreased heavily.

The small number of secondary schools provided prior to 1912 is shown in the table, which indicates also the great expansion which occurred thereafter, the increase being from eight in 1911 to sixty-five in 1921, largely due to the provision of High and District Schools in country towns. In 1921 the post-primary courses, formerly given in Superior Public Schools, were revived, and these were extended still further in 1924.

A notable feature is the changes among schools provided in rural districts where population is scanty. Provisional schools have increased in numbers, but part-time schools (Half-time, House to House, and Travelling), have in many cases been supplanted by smaller full-time schools, subsidised by the Government, and by correspondence schools.

Evening schools have never operated extensively, but recent improvements have increased their popularity.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS:

Primary work in its various stages is undertaken in schools classified broadly into three groups,—(a) Primary and superior schools in more or less populous centres; (b) schools in isolated and sparsely-settled districts, viz., provisional, half-time, and subsidised schools; and (c) correspondence schools, instructing children so isolated as to be unable to attend school.

The schools are classified according to the average attendance into six classes. The number in each group, at 31st December, 1925, is shown in the following statement; each pair of half-time schools is counted as two schools:—

Class of School.	Average Attendance.	Schools in Operation.	Class of School.	Schools in Operation.
I.	Over 1,000	53*	Travelling	1
II.	751-1,000	33	Correspondence	1
III.	541-750	47	Central Junior Technical... ..	2
IV.	291-540	151	Infants	17
V.	41-200	524	Subsidised	531
VI.	40 and under	1,136	Reformatory	3
Provisional	10 at least	547	Evening Continuation	54
Half-time	10 at least in two groups.	86		

* Including 3 Practice Schools with less than 1,000 pupils.

A Public School may be established in any locality where the attendance of twenty children is assured. In most schools boys and girls are taught together, but schools with an average attendance of 360 pupils are divided into two departments, and those with an attendance exceeding 600 into three departments, viz., boys, girls, and infants.

The infants' course extends over a period of two years. The primary course for older children, completed generally between the ages of 13 and 14 years, includes English, mathematics, geography, elementary science, nature knowledge, civics and morals (history, Scripture, moral duties and citizenship), art and manual work, music, and physical education as prescribed in the syllabus issued by the Department of Education.

Schools in Sparsely Settled Districts.

Provisional schools are maintained where there is an attendance of at least ten pupils, and where doubt exists as to the permanence of the settlement. At the end of 1924 there were 531 such schools in operation with an enrolment of 10,202 pupils, representing 3 per cent. of all pupils enrolled in December quarter. Half-time schools are established where a number of children sufficient to maintain a minimum attendance of ten pupils can be collected in two groups, not more than 10 miles apart. One teacher divides his time between the two groups, so arranging that home-work and preparatory study shall occupy the time of each pupil in his absence from either school. The number of half-time schools at the end of 1924 was 86, and the number of pupils enrolled was 802 or less than 3 per thousand of all pupils enrolled at schools in New South Wales in December quarter. The course of instruction in provisional and half-time schools follows the course of full-time schools.

Small schools are not established where it is convenient to arrange for the daily conveyance to a central school of the pupils from the surrounding neighbourhood. In such cases local committees consisting of parents, the teacher of the central school, and other persons of repute, are required to assume responsibility for arranging and supervising the carriage of the children, but the cost of conveyance is defrayed by the Department according to fixed rates. At the beginning of 1926 11,200 pupils were conveyed to 1,252 central schools, principally at daily rates. The amount expended on conveyance and boarding subsidies in 1924-25 was £40,350.

Travelling schools were established to visit localities where families are so isolated that two cannot combine readily for the education of the children. The teacher is provided with a vehicle to carry school requisites, and a tent for use as a schoolroom, in which to teach for a week at a time at each centre in his circuit. Coincident with the development of the correspondence school, there has been a reduction in the number of travelling schools, and only one, with an enrolment of 16 pupils, was in operation during 1924.

Another type of school for the benefit of families in remote districts is the subsidised school, which may be formed where two or more families combine to engage a teacher. The teacher, if approved by the Department of Education, is paid an annual subsidy at a rate based on the average attendance, viz., in the eastern portion of the State £5 per pupil up to a maximum of £70, and in the western division £6 per pupil up to £80. The course is as far as practicable the same as in primary schools, and the subsidised schools are subject to inspection by the State school inspectors. A subsidised school may be established by a single family with at least four children of school age. As an alternative to subsidising a teacher, payments may be made under certain conditions as an aid towards boarding children in a

township for the purpose of attending a public school. The number of subsidised schools in operation at the close of 1924 was 560, and their enrolment was 4,226 or 1·3 per cent. of all pupils enrolled at primary schools in December quarter.

Correspondence School.

At the beginning of 1916, further efforts were made, by means of teaching by correspondence, to extend educational facilities to children in remote localities. The experiment was commenced with three pupils, and met with such success that operations have been extended considerably. The course of instruction covers the ordinary primary course up to the standard of the Qualifying Certificate examination, and some of the pupils have passed this test with credit. A pupil is not admitted before the age of 7 years, and the young children are taught by kindergarten teachers, illustration being employed largely with satisfactory results. There were four correspondence schools in operation at the beginning of 1924, but in June these schools were consolidated and placed under the supervision of one headmaster. The enrolment at the end of 1923 was 1,976, but by the end of 1924 it had grown to 2,294.

Education of Delinquent and Defective Children.

Special provision for delinquent children has been made at State reformatories and similar establishments, and at a truancy school. At three institutions schools are maintained and in other places the children attend public schools. Statistics of such pupils are included in those relating to State schools, as shown in this chapter, and other details regarding the treatment of delinquent and defective children are given in the part "Social Condition" of this Year Book.

The State has not yet established an institution for the education of feeble-minded children, but work on the erection of homes has been commenced. The education of blind, deaf, and dumb children also is left practically to private organisations, one institution being subsidised by the State. Statistics as to retardation of pupils attending public primary schools are collected by the Department of Education.

SECONDARY EDUCATION IN STATE SCHOOLS.

Prior to the year 1912 the facilities provided by the State for secondary education were limited to Superior Schools and eight High Schools at which students were required to pay fees. On 1st January, 1911, the payment of High School fees was abolished, and in 1912 a comprehensive system of secondary education was instituted. The number of bursaries and scholarships was greatly increased, and, later on, text books were provided free to all students. The provision of facilities on these liberal terms encouraged a strong demand for secondary education, and, within the next ten years the number of students attending high and district schools trebled, the number of students enrolled during 1922 being more than 15,500. Fees were reimposed in High Schools on 1st January, 1923, and continued until 30th June, 1925. The amounts of such fees collected were £11,633 from 1st January to 30th June, 1923, £26,380 in 1923-24, and £25,931 in 1924-25.

Admission to High Schools is gained by competitive examination, and only properly qualified pupils are allowed to enter. The courses of instruction cover five years, leading to the Leaving Certificate Examination, at which candidates may matriculate, while the courses of instruction at Intermediate High and District Schools cover the first three years of that course, leading to the Intermediate Certificate Examination. The courses

are for the most part educational only, but the Intermediate and Leaving Certificates are generally accepted as proof of sufficient educational qualification for admission to the Public Service, the teaching profession, banks, and kindred bodies.

Secondary courses with a more directly vocational bias are provided also in Superior or Continuation Schools, some of which have been converted into Intermediate High Schools providing commercial courses, while the technical schools have been definitely linked with the Technical Colleges.

At the end of 1924 there were nine High Schools in the metropolitan area (including a Technical High School) and nineteen in the country districts providing a full course of instruction. At all of these fees to the amount of £2 2s. per term, subject to exemptions in certain cases by the Minister, were charged until 30th June, 1925. There were thirty-two Intermediate High Schools, twenty being in the country, and twelve District Schools, at which no fees were imposed, although a deposit of £1 was required in certain cases as a guarantee of attendance for at least one year.

Certain large primary schools in the country districts, where secondary schools are not readily accessible, commenced in 1921 to provide composite courses of study leading to the Intermediate Certificate, the Commercial Superior Public School Certificate, and the Public Service Entrance Examinations. In 1924 special lesson sheets were provided for the smaller country schools to enable continuative education to be given for a period of one year in English, geography, arithmetic, mensuration, and farm book-keeping to pupils who had completed the primary course. The number of pupils benefited by this scheme in 1924 was 1,757 at 513 schools.

The following statement shows the number of pupils receiving secondary education at State schools in 1924, in comparison with the number in 1913 the first year for which particulars are available:—

Schools.	1913.			1924.		
	Number of Schools.	Gross Enrolment.	Average Daily Attendance.	Number of Schools.	Gross Enrolment.	Average Daily Attendance.
High and District	42	6,392	4,712	72	16,880	13,597
Superior Public (Day Continuation) —						
Commercial	32	1,724	883	16	2,092	1,301
Junior Technical	20	804	416	24	6,634	4,401
Domestic	52	1,601	778	50	10,018	6,312
Total, Superior... .. .	104	4,129	2,077	90	18,744	12,014
Rural ... .. .	...	...	...	12	1,008	642
Composite* ... .. .	...	...	...	409	3,809†	3,248
Total, Secondary and Super Primary	146	10,521	6,789	583	40,441	29,501

* Secondary pupils.

† Net enrolment.

The average daily attendance of secondary pupils has increased more than four-fold during the last eleven years, the increase being greatest in continuation schools. The above table omits from account 1,757 pupils, receiving continuative education in 1924, from lesson sheets provided for smaller schools as already described.

Growth of High Schools.

The following particulars relate to High Schools and Intermediate High Schools maintained by the State. In addition to the holders of bursaries

as shown in the table there were 250 holders of scholarships in 1911 and 1,189 in 1916. In later years scholarships were not awarded, all pupils being supplied with text-books free of cost.

Year.	High Schools.	Inter-mediate High Schools.	Teachers.			Pupils.			Bursaries.
			M.	F.	Total.	Enrolment.		Average Attendance.	
						Total.	Average Weekly.		
1901	4	...	16	11	27	676	526	489	†
1911	8	...	59	38	97	2,293	1,864	1,786	201
1916	19	3	195	146	341	5,888	5,123	4,780	748
1920	27	23	310	274	584	12,636	9,575	8,805	1,064
1921	27	25	349	299	648	14,247	12,199	11,253	1,005
1922	28	26	371	318	689	15,537	13,151	12,106	923
1923	28	29	396	307	703	15,099	12,883	11,882	830
1924	28	32	417	318	735	15,696	13,692	12,633	780

* Including buildings. † Not available.

The rapid expansion in secondary schools affords evidence of a widespread desire for education among the people, and the anxiety to take advantage of the improved facilities has imposed on the Department the necessity of excluding by means of competitive examination for admission those less qualified to benefit by a course of secondary education. A corresponding growth in the number of University undergraduates is evident after 1916, in which year students educated entirely under the new system introduced in 1911 had reached the matriculation standard.

Day Continuation Schools.

In 1912 numerous Superior Public Schools which had formerly provided continuative education beyond the primary stage to the standard of the public examinations were converted into Superior Public Day Continuation Schools on a vocational basis. The schools so established were of three kinds, viz.—Junior Technical (for boys), Domestic (for girls), and Commercial (for boys and girls). At the beginning of 1923 a fourth type of school, namely, the Rural School was established to provide super-primary education, and in the same year primary schools with the requisite attendance of pupils were authorised to provide continuative education. Recently commercial education for girls has been provided in Domestic Continuation Schools and the commercial continuation schools are now exclusively for boys.

The following table provides a comparison of the number of continuation schools and the gross enrolment thereat in each of the last five years:—

Year.	Day Continuation Schools.							
	Commercial.		Junior Technical.		Domestic Type.		Rural.	
	No.	Gross Enrolment.	No.	Gross Enrolment.	No.	Gross Enrolment.	No.	Gross Enrolment.
1920	17	1,580	24	2,865	47	4,920	*	*
1921	15	1,162	26	3,853	46	6,357	*	*
1922	16	1,213	25	4,544	48	7,041	*	*
1923	16	1,641	24	5,311	46	8,373	12	584
1924	16	2,092	24	6,634†	50	10,018	12	1,008

* Rural schools were established in 1923. † Includes third year pupils attending Technical Colleges.

The records show that Commercial Continuation Schools expanded steadily from their inception until 1919. In that year there were 25 Commercial Continuation Schools with a gross enrolment of 2,708 pupils but though these numbers were diminished by the conversion of a number of such schools into intermediate high schools in 1920 and 1921 the enrolment of pupils in the remainder increased by approximately 80 per cent. between 1921 and 1924. The growth in the Junior Technical and Domestic Continuation Schools was also steady until 1919, but since that year as a result of improvements in the curricula there has been a rapid and sustained increase in the number of pupils although the number of schools has shown little or no increase.

Evening Continuation Schools.

Evening Continuation Schools were established by the State in 1912 for the benefit of pupils who leave school at the termination of the primary course to engage in occupations. They are organised on the same lines as the Day Continuation Schools. The courses, which extend over a period of two years, are similar, though they are necessarily modified for pupils who work during the day, and attend the classes for only a few hours per week. An Evening Continuation School may be established in any centre where the number of students who will guarantee to attend for two years is sufficient. A fee of 6d. per week is charged, but it is refunded at the end of each year to the students whose conduct and attendance have been satisfactory. The average age of the pupils attending the Evening Continuation Schools is 18 years.

The following is the record of the Evening Continuation Schools for the years 1923 and 1924:—

Classification.	1923.			1924.		
	Number of Schools.	Average Weekly Enrolment.	Average Attendance.	Number of Schools.	Average Weekly Enrolment.	Average Attendance.
Junior Technical (Boys)...	18	1,508	1,184	18	1,428	1,127
Commercial (Boys) ...	18	1,691	1,329	20	1,690	1,330
Domestic (Girls) ...	13	1,049	695	14	984	664
Total ...	49	4,248	3,208	52	4,102	3,121

In 1920 the average weekly enrolment was 2,544, and the average daily attendance 1,951. The large increase which has occurred has been due partly to the opening of new schools, but also to reorganisation of the curricula and the addition of social attractions for pupils.

Included in the average weekly enrolment shown above for 1924 are 860 pupils attending preparatory schools, distributed as follows:—Commercial 413, Junior Technical 391, and Domestic 56.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

The position of private schools in the education system of the State is discussed on a previous page.

By virtue of the Public Instruction (Amendment) Act of 1916, children between the ages of 7 and 14 years must be provided with efficient education, and a school is not recognised as efficient unless it is certified by the Minister of Education, who takes into account the standard of instruction, the qualifications of the teachers, the suitability of the school premises, and the general conduct of the school. This provision applies to both primary and secondary schools where children of statutory ages are educated. The

conditions upon which benefits under the Bursary Endowment Act are extended to private secondary schools involve a similar inspection and certification, and nearly all of them have been registered by the Department of Education. The standards of instruction required of private schools under both Acts are the same as those of public schools of similar grade and situation. Public examinations are based upon the curricula of State schools, and this tends to establish still greater uniformity in the standards of instruction.

The total number of private schools certified by the Minister for Education in 1924, was 730. Of these, 574 were certified under the Public Instruction (Amendment) Act of 1916, including 65 which were certified for the instruction of children up to a specified age only; 91 secondary schools were registered under the Bursary Endowment as efficient to provide the full secondary course; and 65 were recognised officially as qualified for the education of pupils to the Intermediate Certificate stage of the secondary course.

State aid to private schools was discontinued in 1882, but between 1883 and 1899 private schools grew faster than State schools, and the proportion of pupils in private schools to the total increased from 16·9 to 22·6 per cent. In the next ten years there was a decline in the number of pupils attending private schools, and the proportion fell to 21 per cent. Subsequently there was an increase in enrolment, but it was slower than the numerical increase in State school pupils, and the proportion declined further to 19·7 per cent.

The following table affords a comparison of schools of each denomination over an interval of eleven years:—

Classification.	1913.				1924.			
	Schools.	Teachers.	Enrolment December Quarter.	Average Daily At- tendance.	Schools.	Teachers.	Enrolment December Quarter.	Average Daily At- tendance.
Undenominational ...	262	672	9,910	8,276	151	481	8,401	7,280
Roman Catholic ...	407	1,649	49,580	41,605	467	2,113	66,789	53,905
Church of England ...	53	206	3,533	2,974	58	309	5,233	4,711
Presbyterian ...	4	23	364	345	6	62	977	824
Methodist ...	2	17	333	316	2	32	735	687
Lutheran ...	1	1	31	30	2	2	86	79
Seventh Day Adventist ...	3	13	263	224	7	14	324	238
Hebrew ...	1	5	577	535	...	...	...	...
Total ...	733	2,586	64,591	54,305	693	3,013	82,545	67,724

Between 1913 and 1924 the number of private schools has decreased from 733 to 693, but the enrolment has increased by 17,954. Undenominational schools have declined in number and in enrolment, but all groups of denominational schools except Hebrew have expanded. Roman Catholic schools, which constitute the great majority of the private establishments, increased in number by 15 per cent., and in enrolment by nearly 35 per cent.

The number of teachers, as shown in the table, does not include those who visit schools to give tuition in special subjects only. The total number of visiting teachers shown in the school returns was 1,007 in 1913, and 1,187 in 1924. It is not possible to ascertain the number of individuals represented by these figures, because the number of teachers who give instruction in more than one school is not recorded.

Fees are usually charged at private schools, but they vary considerably in amount. In certain denominational schools the payment of fees is to some extent voluntary, and a number of scholarships and bursaries have been provided by private subscriptions for the assistance of deserving students.

Some of the private schools are residential, and in 1924 there were 75,001 day scholars and 7,554 boarders.

Prior to 1912, when the State system was extended, secondary education was left largely in the hands of private institutions, but particulars of secondary pupils in private schools were not obtained until 1922. The following statement shows the number of such pupils enrolled during the December quarter in each of the last two years.

Private Schools with Secondary Pupils.	1923.				1924.			
	Schools.	Secondary Pupils Enrolled.			Schools.	Secondary Pupils Enrolled.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Registered for—								
Full Course	83	3,867	4,315	8,182	89	4,103	4,482	8,585
Intermediate Course ...	61	575	977	1,552	66	692	977	1,669
Other Private Schools ...	97	507	673	1,180	93	562	728	1,290
Total	241	4,949	5,965	10,914	248	5,357	6,187	11,544

In addition about 120 boys were enrolled at Hawkesbury Agricultural College, which is registered as a full course secondary school under the Bursary Endowment Act. There were also approximately 145 students in residence at agricultural experiment farms.

The above particulars were first obtained in 1922, and the results for that year were published in previous issues of this Year Book. Returns subsequently obtained have shown that the particulars supplied by a number of schools in 1922 included some primary pupils under the heading of secondary, and the returns were overstated in consequence, unfortunately it is not possible now to obtain correct figures for 1922 and the data formerly published for that year have been omitted from this issue of the Year Book.

The number of secondary pupils in private secondary schools showed a considerable increase in 1924. The pupils so enumerated are defined as those who follow a course of instruction similar to that laid down in the syllabus for secondary schools by the Department of Education. There are, however, in private schools a considerable number of pupils over 14 years of age not recorded as secondary pupils in the returns supplied. Some of these attend business colleges for commercial education while others, more especially in Roman Catholic schools, follow super-primary courses embracing (in the Archdiocese) English, book-keeping, shorthand, and typewriting. Candidates under 17 years of age from Roman Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Sydney may sit for the Diocesan Commercial Examination in these subjects. In 1925 there were 221 such candidates from 41 schools.

PRIVATE CHARITABLE SCHOOLS.

In addition to the private schools to which the foregoing tables relate, there are schools connected with charitable institutions or organisations, which are certified under the Public Instruction (Amendment) Act of 1916 for the education of children of statutory school age. There were 17 such schools in 1924. Nine were under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church, 3 Church of England, 1 Salvation Army, and 4 were conducted as ragged schools. The gross enrolment at the institutional schools during 1924 was 1,328, and at the ragged schools 180. The Kindergarten Union maintains in the city and suburbs thirteen free kindergarten schools and playgrounds for children under statutory school age. In 1924 there were enrolled 1,294 individual scholars, and the average daily attendance was 709. The organisation receives a State subsidy of £1,000 per annum.

The education of deaf and dumb and blind children is undertaken at two schools in connection with the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the

Blind, which is endowed by the State. In 1924 there were 112 deaf and dumb children, 28 blind children, and one deaf and blind child in the institution. Deaf mutes are trained also at two Roman Catholic institutions one at Waratah for girls, with 50 inmates at the end of 1924, and the other, established at Castle Hill, where 25 boys are enrolled.

The total number of private charitable schools in 1924 was 34, and there were 139 teachers. The gross enrolment during the year was 3,028 and the average daily attendance 1,999. In December quarter there were 2,301 scholars on the roll, of whom 1,083 were under 7 years of age, 1,093 between 7 and 14 years, and 125 over 14.

SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS.

Formerly, public examinations were conducted by the University for the purpose of testing the educational fitness of intending students and of candidates for matriculation. The standards of these examinations became generally accepted by public bodies. With the reorganisation of the whole scheme of secondary education in 1911, which brought about a co-ordination of curricula between public and private schools and established secondary schools as a connecting link between primary school and University, it became necessary to establish a system of examinations with a wider purpose. A new scheme was formulated by the Department of Education with the concurrence of the University authorities, who agreed to accept as evidence of satisfactory educational qualification appropriate certificates issued by the Department, and, in 1916, the University discontinued holding further public examinations, with the exception of an annual special matriculation examination, on the results of which a number of University scholarships and prizes are awarded.

The regulations of the Department provide for the issue of certificates which mark definite stages in the progress of school pupils. The Qualifying Certificate indicates that the holder has completed the primary course satisfactorily, and is fitted to enter upon a secondary course of instruction. Prior to 1922, every pupil was required to pass a written examination in order to obtain a Qualifying Certificate. Since that year the certificates are awarded to pupils of the sixth class who, in the judgment of the local inspector, have attained satisfactory results at school tests applied at intervals during each year by the principal of the school. The written test is now applied only to pupils who desire to compete for admission to High Schools or for bursaries tenable at Secondary Schools.

The Superior Public School Certificate is issued to successful candidates at a written examination terminating the continuation course of instruction of either two or three years, the certificate for the three year course being the equivalent of the Intermediate Certificate.

The Intermediate Certificate marks the satisfactory completion of the first three years of the secondary course. The Leaving Certificate is obtainable on graduation from the full five-years' secondary course, and is accepted as indicative of adequate preparation for the University, if it shows a pass in matriculation subjects.

The Board of Examiners in connection with the Intermediate and Leaving Certificates consists of the Director of Education, the Chief Inspector, the Principal of the Teachers' College, the Inspector of Secondary Schools and four delegates appointed by the University. These examinations have been adopted as standards for the admission of persons to the various branches of the public service of the State, and are accepted widely in commercial circles.

Certificates of proficiency are awarded to pupils of Evening Continuation Schools whose attendance and work have been satisfactory throughout the course.

The number of candidates and of passes at each of the examinations during 1923 and 1924 are shown below :—

Examinations.	1923.			1924.		
	Candidates.	Passes.		Candidates.	Passes.	
		Number.	Per cent.		Number.	Per cent.
High School Entrance and Bursary ...	8,429	5,869	69·6	10,336	5,860	56·7
Evening Continuation	460	325	70·6	452	322	71·2
Superior Junior Technical (2nd year)...	788	631	80·0	1,110	481	43·3
„ Domestic (2nd year)	1,135	1,023	90·0	1,756	1,560	88·8
„ Commercial (boys 3rd year)...	391	257	65·7	367	273	74·3
„ „ (girls 3rd year)...	423	327	77·3	486	381	78·4
„ Jrn. Technical (boys 3rd year) ...	...	...	...	246	116	47·1
Intermediate Certificate	4,695	3,302	70·3	4,748	3,385	71·5
Leaving Certificate (5th year)	1,337	1,048	78·3	1,335	993	74·3

Particulars regarding the examinations held in earlier years are published in previous issues of the Year Book.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES.

It is the policy of the State to assist promising students to obtain secondary and tertiary education by granting scholarships and bursaries to meritorious pupils whose parents have small means.

Scholarships tenable at State secondary schools were discontinued in 1915, when arrangements were made for the free supply of school material. A few scholarships—six in 1924—are provided to enable boys to attend the Sydney Grammar School, which is subsidised by the State.

At the Intermediate Certificate examination candidates may gain scholarships entitling them to technical instruction for three years at Lower Trades Courses or Women's Industries Courses of the Technical College. Students of the Hurlstone and Yanco Agricultural High Schools may gain scholarships tenable for two years at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College. Such scholars receive free board and residence and a monetary allowance for text-books. In addition holders of bursaries in secondary schools may, after obtaining the intermediate certificate, proceed to Hawkesbury Agricultural College to follow the three year course leading to the Diploma. Such bursars receive an allowance of £50 per annum besides text-books, but they are required to pay all fees and other charges imposed by the College. These amount to £33 per annum with certain extras.

Boys who intend to become teachers may gain at the Intermediate Certificate examination two-year scholarships tenable at District or High Schools. Text-books are supplied, and an allowance is granted.

Scholarships, admitting to courses of technical instruction, are provided to assist students to pass from the Day and Evening Junior Technical Schools to the Trades and Domestic Science Schools, from Lower to Higher Trades Courses, and from Trades to Diploma Courses at the Technical College. Students holding Leaving Certificates may obtain entrance by scholarship to the (Technical) Diploma Courses; and those who have gained the Intermediate Certificate at the Technical High School may obtain scholarships enabling them to enter the Higher Trades Courses at the Technical

College. These technical scholarships carry a grant of text books and appliances and exemption from fees, and holders must be engaged in the trade or profession for which the course has been established. Students who pass through the Diploma Course with sufficient distinction are enabled to continue their education at the University by means of scholarships awarded annually and valued at £100 per annum. During 1924 the Third Year Course for boys at Junior Technical Schools was merged into the general scheme of technical education, and the pupils were transferred whenever possible to Technical Colleges for instruction.

At the Superior Public School Certificate Examination in 1924, 231 girls gained scholarships tenable at a Trades School. At the Intermediate Certificate examination 52 scholarships for Lower Trades Courses were awarded, viz., 27 to boys and 25 to girls, and 10 Hawkesbury Agricultural Scholarships. At the Leaving Certificate Examination 21 boys and 1 girl were awarded scholarships for diploma courses at Technical Colleges; in addition, 200 exhibitions were provided exempting the holders from the payment of fees to the University, viz., 122 pupils of State schools, and 78 pupils of registered secondary schools. In the same year 15 students at evening continuation schools won scholarships for free education and a supply of text books valued at £1 10s. per annum, tenable at day courses.

Bursary Endowment.

In 1912 the Bursary Endowment Act was passed by Parliament, providing public moneys for bursaries, tenable in public or private secondary schools and in the University of Sydney. This fund is administered by a specially constituted board, consisting of two representatives each of the University of Sydney, of the Department of Education, and of the private secondary schools registered under the Act.

Schools desiring to educate bursars or competitors for bursaries must register with the Bursary Endowment Board. Such registration, which is effective for two years, is conditional upon the suitability of school premises, the organisation and equipment of the school, the method and range of instruction, efficiency of the teaching staff, and the general conduct of the school.

In December, 1925, in addition to 28 public high schools, 32 intermediate high schools, and 13 district schools, there were 92 non-State schools registered under the Bursary Endowment Act as competent to educate students to the Leaving Certificate standard, and 66 other non-State schools whose standard was recognised to the Intermediate Certificate stage of the secondary course.

A number of bursaries tenable at secondary schools is made available for pupils between the ages of 12 and 14 years, whose parents' income is less than £260 per annum, or not more than a quota of £60 per annum for each member of the family, exclusive of children earning 15s. or more weekly. Two-thirds of the bursaries are available for pupils of country schools, and special provision is made for pupils of small country schools.

Each bursary comprises a grant of text-books not exceeding in value £1 10s. per annum, and an annual allowance of £40 for the first three years, and £50 for the fourth and fifth years, to holders who live away from home in order to attend school, the allowance in the case of those who reside at home being £12 per annum to the intermediate standard, increasing to £18 and £24 respectively in the last two years. The bursaries awarded in 1924 numbered 253, viz., 158 to boys and 95 to girls. Of these 198 were tenable at Public High Schools and 55 at non State schools.

Bursaries, tenable for two or three years, are awarded upon the results of the Intermediate Certificate Examination. They are of the value of fourth and fifth year bursaries. Nine were awarded to girls and 5 to boys in 1924.

Bursaries tenable at the University of Sydney may be awarded to candidates at the Leaving Certificate examination who are under 19 years of age and whose parents' means are unequal to the expense of a University education. A full bursary entitles the holder to a grant for text-books not exceeding £5 per annum, and to free education. An allowance not exceeding £25 per annum is made to those who need not board away from home, in order to attend the University, and not exceeding £65 per annum to those who must do so. The number of such bursaries awarded annually ranges from 25 to 40; 22 were awarded to boys and 8 to girls in 1924.

At 30th June, 1925, excluding 533 holders of war bursaries, there were 1,155 pupils holding bursaries under the Bursary Endowment Act; 1,046 were attending courses of secondary instruction, and 109 were attending University lectures. The annual monetary allowances paid in 1924-25 were as follow :—

Allowances.	Bursars.	Allowances.	Bursars.
£		£	
12	368	40	304
18	116	50	165
24	97	65	38
25	67		
		Total ...	1,155

In addition to the bursaries made available by the Bursary Endowment Board, three bursaries, tenable for three years at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College, are awarded by the Department of Agriculture on the results of the College entrance examination. These bursaries exempt their holders from payment of the education and maintenance fee of £30 per annum. There are also three scholarships, tenable for two years, at the farm schools at Bathurst and Wagga Experiment Farms; and one, tenable for one year, at the apprentice school at Wollongbar Experiment Farm is also granted.

Education of Children of Fallen and Incapacitated Soldiers.

War bursaries are provided by the Bursary Endowment Board for children of incapacitated and fallen soldiers. They were formerly awarded to assist holders during primary, secondary, or University courses, or in technical, trade, or agricultural instruction, or to augment the wages of apprentices, but, at the present time, the awards are limited to children between the ages of 10 and 13 years and are usually held by children undergoing courses of primary instruction. The number in operation at 30th June, 1925, was 533, one holder was receiving £50 per annum and the others £10. The total number awarded since they were initiated in 1916 was 1,465.

In 1921 the Repatriation Commission reviewed the position of children of deceased and totally and permanently incapacitated soldiers and decided to augment the provisions made for their education. The Commission's scheme

which formally benefited children between the ages of 16 and 18 years receiving secondary education and, in a smaller degree, younger children, was extended to afford means whereby all children over the age of 13 years could be assisted to obtain higher education and training for skilled trades, technical or professional careers.

Under this scheme a Soldiers' Children Education Board was created in the State to make necessary arrangements and deal with applications. From the date benefits became available early in 1921 to 31st June, 1922, the number of applications approved in New South Wales was 725. Approval was given to 307 new applications in 1922-23 and to 341 in 1923-24. Of the 1,373 applicants approved, 201 had completed their course and 52 had withdrawn. Of the balance, 544 aged 13 to 16 years and 97 aged 16 to 18 years were attending various schools, 30 were undergoing professional training and 30 agricultural training, 399 were in various stages of apprenticeship and 20 were attending evening courses.

The aggregate expenditure under this scheme in New South Wales from February, 1921, to 30th June, 1924, was £77,558 which was provided mainly by the Commonwealth Government but also in part by private gifts and bequests. Practically the whole of this sum was disbursed as living allowances.

In addition to the above schemes assistance is given for the education of children of fallen sailors and soldiers through the Anzac Memorial Fund. This fund was created in 1919 by public subscription to provide a suitable memorial for fallen soldiers who had enlisted from New South Wales. The total amount raised by the appeal was £12,500 and a sum of £7,325 was set aside to provide bursaries tenable at secondary schools by children of such soldiers and sailors.

The Anzac Memorial Bursary Fund was thereupon created and vested in the Bursary Endowment Board of New South Wales. Bursaries awarded from this fund are tenable at secondary schools or the University. To 30th June, 1925, the number of such bursaries awarded was 55, of which eight at the rate of £25 per annum were awarded in 1924-25. Bursaries bear the name of their founders except when provided from the general fund.

KINDERGARTEN.

Kindergarten methods under the Montessori system have been adopted as far as practicable in the infant schools under the Department of Education, and in various large schools throughout the State, Kindergarten classes are conducted for the purpose of bringing young children under refining influences.

During the year 1924 classes were in operation in 199 public schools; seventeen were separate infant schools, and the remainder were primary schools with Kindergarten departments attached. The number of pupils enrolled for Kindergarten instruction in State schools was 10,356, the average attendance being 9,072.

In Victoria Park, Sydney, a Kindergarten playground is maintained under the supervision of a State teacher.

Free Kindergarten schools and playgrounds are conducted also by the Kindergarten Union of New South Wales, which is assisted by an annual grant from the Government, amounting to £1,000.

In 1924 there were 13 Free Kindergarten schools and playgrounds with 64 teachers; during the December quarter there were 876 scholars

enrolled, all under 7 years of age. The average daily attendance was 709, and the individual enrolment for the year 1,294. Some of the ordinary private schools also have departments for Kindergarten work.

In the playgrounds set apart for their exclusive use the children are engaged in organised games, under trained Kindergarten supervisors. Special attention is directed to physical welfare, and to the cultivation of hygienic habits.

A private institution supplies training for teachers in Froebelian methods, and the free Kindergartens provide observation and practice schools.

COMMERCIAL EDUCATION.

Preparatory education for commercial life has been provided in the State primary and continuation schools, where the course of instruction, especially in the Commercial Continuation Schools, includes elementary training in many commercial subjects. Economics, shorthand, and business principles and practice are included in the curriculum of the High Schools. A number of private schools and colleges also afford facilities for commercial training, both by day and evening classes; book-keeping, business methods, shorthand, and type-writing are the main subjects taught.

A complete return of the number of pupils taught in these special subjects is not available, but statistics of the State Commercial Continuation Schools are supplied on a previous page. Particulars obtained from Business and Shorthand Schools under private management show that 22 were in operation in 1924 with 148 teachers, and a total enrolment of 1,813 boys and 5,111 girls. The average attendance at the Business and Shorthand Schools during the year was 3,331, and the amount of fees received £46,953.

Advanced preparation for commercial life has been provided in some measure by the University course in Economics and Commerce. The course which was instituted as a diploma course in 1907 was converted in 1913 into a degree course.

A special grant is paid from the public revenue of the Commonwealth to the University to assist in the teaching of languages serviceable to the development of commercial relations between Australia and other countries. By this means a lectureship in Japanese language has been established.

DOMESTIC TRAINING.

In the reorganisation of Superior Public Schools provision was made for the establishment of Domestic Superior Public Schools for girls. The syllabus, which first came into operation in 1913, provides for a course commencing at the end of the primary school stage and extends over three years, the third year having been added in 1921. The course covered during the first two years is of a domestic and general educational character embracing English, arithmetic, history, civics and morals, art and home decoration, botany and practical gardening, needlework, cookery, laundry, home management, hygiene, care of infants and care of the sick. The third year course is of a commercial character and provides for further studies in English and arithmetic to which is added elementary training in business principles, shorthand and typewriting. This course has gained the recognition of commercial houses.

Candidates successful in the annual domestic science examination may enter upon the home economics course instituted at the Technical College in 1924.

Since 1920 there has been a rapid growth in the attendance at superior schools of the domestic type. In that year forty-seven such schools were in

operation with a gross enrolment of 4,920 super-primary pupils on an average attendance of 2,829. In 1924 the corresponding numbers were fifty schools, gross enrolment 10,018, and average daily attendance 6,312.

During 1925 there were in operation eighty-two schools of practical cookery, with a total enrolment of 6,538 girls. In addition demonstrations in cookery were given to 4,000 primary school pupils over the age of 12 years.

The courses of study provided at secondary schools include needlework, art, music and cookery.

A School of Domestic Science was established recently at the Sydney University. The course for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Domestic Science covers a period of three years, and includes Physics, Chemistry, Physiology, and Botany or Zoology, Public Health, and the Home Economics course at the Sydney Technical College.

AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL TRAINING.

Education in subjects pertaining to rural industries is now receiving increasing attention in New South Wales and a Supervisor of Agricultural Education in schools, appointed in 1921, is steadily developing the system. Training commences in the primary schools with the teaching of the elementary principles of agriculture, both practical and theoretical. School gardens and experiment plots are adjuncts to many State schools, and grants are made of farm, vegetable, and flower seeds.

In 1924 twelve Rural Schools were conducted in conjunction with the primary schools in country centres. At each of these schools super-primary courses are provided extending over a period of three years in elementary agriculture, agricultural nature study, applied farm mechanics, rural economics and horticulture. In 1924 there was an enrolment of 1,008, and an average attendance of 642 pupils.

In the country high schools at Albury, Orange, and Wagga, and in the Casino District School, courses in agriculture are provided. Special Agricultural High Schools are situated at Glenfield (Hurlstone), near Liverpool, and at Yanco, on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. The former was originally established at Hurlstone Park, but was removed to Glenfield at the close of 1925, while the latter was established in 1922. The grounds at Hurlstone cover 100 acres, and those at Yanco 629 acres. These are used for teaching practical operations and for experimental work in the growth of crops, action of fertilisers, etc. The course extends over three years, and covers a general English education in addition to science with laboratory practice, and agriculture with field work. The training at the agricultural high schools forms a preparatory course to the more advanced work at Hawkesbury Agricultural College. During 1924 there were 176 and 73 students respectively at Hurlstone and Yanco. For resident students the fee is £8 8s. per quarter; for day students no fees are charged.

In the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area a special teacher of agriculture visits the local schools for the purpose of supervising a special course in practical experimental agriculture. Instruction in general farm work is a feature of the treatment of delinquent and neglected children at the Farm Schools at Gosford and Mittagong.

Advanced training in all branches of agriculture is provided for farmers and students at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College and the Experiment Farms where 290 students were in attendance in 1924. Further particulars of these institutions are published in the chapter relating to agriculture.

The Diploma course at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College covers three years' work, but certificates may be obtained for shorter courses. Students holding the Diploma of the College may, upon proceeding to the University, be permitted to complete the course for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture at the University in three years instead of four.

The final stages of agricultural education and training are reached at the University, where, in 1910, a degree course in Agriculture was instituted. A four-years' course leads to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, and, in providing a higher training ground for teachers and experts, completes the whole system of preparation for rural industries. The Experiment Farms of the State are available for the practical and experimental work in connection with the degree course.

In Veterinary Science a course extending over a period of four years leading to the degree of Bachelor of Veterinary Science is provided at the University.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

Industrial training is connected intimately with the question of apprenticeship, and from time to time attempts have been made to relate school training and apprenticeship. Useful courses have been provided for boys who finish the primary course of education at the age of 14 years and cannot enter apprenticeship before the age of 16 years. Technical instruction in the form of manual training is a feature of the primary school syllabus, and a preparatory course leading to the trade courses under the Technical Education System is given in the Junior Technical Continuation Schools.

The course in the Continuation Schools, formerly covered two years, but was extended to three years in 1924. The course is planned with the object of supplying a useful introduction to industrial occupations for boys. The subjects of instruction which were chosen with the intention of meeting the needs of the future artisan are essentially of a practical nature, viz.:—practical drawing and workshop practice, English, practical mathematics, history and civics, industries and elementary science. The courses in English, mathematics, and history are now on the same standards as those set for high schools, while practical instruction in the first and second years is given at Trades Schools. Third year students now receive full-time instruction in all subjects of their curriculum at the Sydney, Newcastle, and Broken Hill Technical Colleges.

This reorganisation has made the schools more attractive than formerly, and in 1924 there was a gross enrolment of 6,634 super primary pupils at twenty-four junior technical schools.

With a view to placing in suitable employment boys who have satisfactorily completed the course, an Employment Bureau was established by the Department of Education in 1924. Details are kept of each pupil's mental and physical capacity, character and educational proficiency, as well as of the nature of employment he desires. Endeavour is being made to establish co-operation between employers and the schools.

Higher courses of instruction are given in the institutions under the Technical Education system hereinafter described. Consideration has been given to the question of extending the period of compulsory education beyond the present limits as defined by the Public Instruction Act. For apprentices in a number of trades a measure of compulsion is supplied already by means of awards and agreements under the Industrial Arbitration system and of regulations prescribed by the Board of Trade. In some instances, they contain clauses which make attendance at a technical course obligatory on the part of the apprentices, and the employers pay the fees.

In other cases the apprentices are required to obtain certificates of attendance before admission to the trade as journeymen. In some trades in which attendance is optional, the employers must pay the fees of the apprentices who attend the technical schools, and in others higher rates of wages are prescribed for apprentices who pass the technical examinations.

In a few instances provision has been made either by award or by the voluntary action of the employers for attendance of apprentices at day classes, but generally the apprentice is regarded as a full-time wage-earner and attendance is in addition to the day's labour in the workshop.

Technical education for employees in the Railway Department is provided in courses of instruction at the Railway and Tramway Institute.

SCHOOL SAVINGS BANKS.

A system of school savings banks in connection with the State schools was initiated in the year 1887, and by this means £1,011,916 have been received in deposits, and £187,208 transferred to the Government Savings Bank as children's individual accounts. The object of these banks is to inculcate principles of thrift during the impressionable ages.

In 1924 these banks numbered 885; the deposits amounted to £62,182, and withdrawals to £66,696; £8,497, representing individual sums of £1 and upwards, were transferred to the Government Savings Bank, leaving £12,063 as credit balances in the school banks.

At the beginning of 1925, arrangements were made whereby the amounts deposited in school banks should be taken over by the local branch of the Government Savings Bank which arranged to open individual accounts for each school depositor and to pay interest thereon. In all, 20,773 accounts with a total credit balance of £11,434 were transferred in this way. By the end of June, 1925, there were 46,158 such accounts at 723 schools with a total credit balance of £35,307.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF CHILDREN.

Since 1913 the Medical Branch of the Department of Education has undertaken the medical inspection of children attending State and private schools, and parents are informed of any remediable defect which might retard the educational or physical progress of their children. In the Metropolitan area practically every school is visited each year and all children in the first and last years of attendance are examined. Medical supervision is maintained in respect of certain defective children noted at the examination of entrants, and the eye-sight of all children is tested every year. Outside the Metropolitan area a triennial inspection is made at every school so that each child is examined at least twice during the ages of compulsory school attendance, viz., seven to thirteen years inclusive. Engaged in this work are nineteen medical officers, of whom ten operate in country districts, two oculists, and eight trained nurses. The last-named assist at medical examinations and visit the homes of defective children in the metropolis with a view to ensuring that the children receive treatment.

A travelling school hospital in charge of an oculist, and eleven travelling dental clinics have been provided for the treatment of physically defective children in country districts; there is also a metropolitan dental clinic. Details regarding the medical inspection of school children and the school clinics are published in the part of this Year Book relating to Social Condition.

The work of the medical officers of the Department of Education includes the investigation of epidemics of infectious diseases affecting school children; the inspection of school buildings; courses of lectures at the Teachers' College; lectures to senior girls in metropolitan schools on the care of babies,

personal cleanliness, home hygiene, sick-nursing, etc.; and lectures to parents. Special investigations are carried out into problems affecting the welfare of children, such as tuberculosis, goitre, crippling and mental deficiency.

The expenditure on the Medical Officer's Branch in 1924-25, exclusive of administration was £31,727.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

The first class for technical education in New South Wales was established by the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts in 1865, and in 1873 the School of Arts inaugurated the Technical or Working Mens' College. The scheme passed under Government control in 1883, and the Sydney Technical College was opened in 1892.

Technical education is under the direct control of the Department of Education, and is administered by a Superintendent, with financial and general procedure independent of other branches of the education system. The courses of instruction are co-ordinated, however, with those of the ordinary schools, viz., technical classes in Public Primary Schools, the Junior Technical Continuation Schools, the Trades' Schools, and the Technical High School.

The system of technical education is administered from the Central Technical College, Sydney. Branch colleges have been established at East Sydney, Newcastle and Broken Hill and lower technical courses are provided at twelve trade schools in five country and seven suburban centres. In addition, elementary instruction is provided in special subjects at fifty-one country centres where there is a demand for it and correspondence courses are provided in seventeen subjects. Several large departments of technical education have been transferred from the Central Technical College to the branch at East Sydney (Darlinghurst) whereby allowance has been made for the growth and extension of higher technical education.

Specialised instruction in the practice of a wide range of callings is provided for the apprentice, improver, and journeyman, while higher courses, embracing the technology of the various trades and technical professions, may be followed by more advanced students.

The lower Trade Courses cover a period of three years in the Trade Schools, but sometimes they are extended to five years. Comprehensive courses covering five years and Higher Courses of two years' duration are given in the Technical Colleges. The subjects are grouped to form trade classes, instruction being given in all branches of mechanical and electrical engineering, building, sanitation, applied art, domestic science, commercial subjects, agriculture, sheep and wool classing and in manufacturing trades.

Some of the higher courses of evening instruction are co-ordinated with first-year courses at the University, and the satisfactory completion of any course of instruction is marked by the award of certificates, viz., the Certificate of Trade Competency in trade courses and the College Diploma in the higher courses. These certificates are recognised by employers.

The fees payable for instruction are very low, being usually at the rate of 4s. per term of thirteen weeks for juniors, and 8s. for seniors.

Intending students are required to furnish evidence that they possess sufficient preparatory knowledge to take profitable advantage of the training, and a student is not admitted to a course unless actually engaged in the specific trade to which the course relates. Special provision is made for the admission of journeymen, without preliminary test, to any part of the courses relating to their trades. Young students are admitted if they furnish a guarantee to become apprenticed before reaching the limit of the age of apprenticeship.

A noteworthy feature of the system is the existence of advisory committees in connection with each course of instruction. These committees are composed of representatives of employers and employees, who visit the classes regularly and discuss with the Superintendent and heads of departments matters relating to the maintenance of standards of efficiency in equipment and teaching, and by this means the courses are made to meet practical needs.

The following table shows the number of classes and teachers and the enrolments at the Technical College and Trades Schools during the last five years, together with the amount of fees received and of money expended.

Year.	Number of Classes.	Lecturers and Teachers.	Total Enrolments.*	Individual Students.	Fees Received.	Net Expenditure.
					£	£
1920	638	406	18,119	9,258	12,701	115,195
1921	636	447	18,974	9,696	12,641	129,851
1922	646	470	21,328	9,806	13,627	127,638
1923	664	478	23,496	10,234	14,880	142,169
1924	674	499	25,462	11,386	16,644	159,723

† After deducting fees received.

* Students being counted in each class joined.

The net expenditure shown above includes interest at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on capital value of land, buildings, and equipment. The sum so included in 1924, was £10,524. The average net cost per student in 1924 was £14 0s. 7d.

The ages and sexes of the individual students attending technical classes, whether day or evening in 1924 were as follow :—

Age last Birthday.	Males.	Females.	Total.
14	179	371	550
15	563	445	1,013
16	1,308	544	1,852
17	1,292	428	1,720
18	1,009	310	1,349
19	698	223	921
20	434	219	653
21 and over	2,254	1,074	3,328
Total	7,742	3,644	11,386

Diploma courses were followed by 415 males and 8 females, trade courses by 4,943 males and 5 females, dressmaking, art and domestic science by 200 males and 3,231 females, and miscellaneous courses by 2,184 males and 400 females.

Technical Education Examinations.

The following are particulars of examinations conducted in the Technical Education Branch during the last five years :—

Particulars.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Number Examined	9,268	12,075	13,269	15,543	15,352
Number of Passes	7,747	9,907	11,046	12,018	12,785
Percentage of Passes	83.5	82.0	83.2	77.3	83.2
Number Obtaining Honours ...	1,154	1,537	1,766	1,582	1,694

These figures afford evidence of a very encouraging growth in this important branch of education, but a wider expansion is desirable.

Railway and Tramway Institute.

Classes for the technical, commercial and general education of railway employees are conducted by the Railway and Tramway Institute, which was inaugurated as a quasi-departmental institution in 1891, and was re-organised as a branch of the Railway Department in 1919, under the control of a director and advisory council.

The headquarters of the institute are in spacious buildings in Sydney, and there are 40 country branches. The total membership is 26,000, or practically one half of the railway employees. Of these, in 1925, 6,300 were undergoing voluntary educational courses, ranging from elementary railway principles to the university matriculation standard. Correspondence courses are provided in most of the subjects in the syllabus of the institute.

A scholarship of the value of £150 per annum, tenable for four years, in engineering at Sydney University is awarded annually to the most proficient student in the Engineering Matriculation Class.

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY.

The University of Sydney was incorporated by Act of Parliament assented to on 1st October, 1850, its scope being then limited to promoting study in Arts, Law, and Medicine. It was granted a Royal Charter on 27th February, 1858, when its graduates were accorded the same status in the British Empire as that of graduates of the Universities of the United Kingdom. Since 1884 women have been eligible for all University privileges.

Subsequent legislation extended the scope of the University from time to time, and the various Acts were consolidated by the "University and University Colleges Act, 1900," which as amended in 1902, 1912, and 1916, constitutes the present statutory basis of the University of Sydney. The University is incorporated as a body politic, consisting of a Senate comprising twenty-six fellows, of whom one is a life member, four are appointed by the Governor, two are elected by Parliament (one by each House), five represent the teaching staff of the University, ten are elected by the graduates, three are elected by the aforesaid fellows, and one is the Vice-Chancellor appointed by the Senate. The Senate has complete powers of management in the affairs of the University, and it may provide such instruction and grant such degrees as it thinks fit, except in Theology and Divinity, from which it is precluded by statute. As from 1st January, 1925, a new post was created, namely, that of Vice-Chancellor, in lieu of that of Warden. The Vice-Chancellor is the chief administrative officer, and an ex-officio member of every board, faculty and committee of the University. He exercises a general supervision over the discipline of the University, and is Chairman of the Proctorial Board.

Within the University there are now ten faculties, viz., Arts, Law, Medicine, Science, Engineering, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Agriculture, Architecture, and Economics, besides a School of Domestic Science. Degrees are awarded in each of these faculties in addition to diplomas in Commerce, Education, Public Health, Tropical Medicine and Psychiatry. There is also a course of study for pharmacy students proceeding to the final examination of the Pharmacy Board of New South Wales. In 1926 a course leading to the diploma in journalism was provisionally established.

University lectures (except lectures in Law and the courses of lectures delivered in country centres in 1925) are delivered in buildings within the University grounds, and all buildings (excepting the Law School) are in close proximity to the main administrative block containing the Great Hall, offices, the schools of Arts and Economics, and the Fisher Library, bordering the quadrangle. Separate buildings are provided for the other faculties,

and in convenient positions on the 126 acres of laud vested in the Senate are situated the Macleay Museum, separate club houses for men and women, the five Affiliated Colleges, the Teachers' College, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, and the Sports Oval.

In 1854 an Act was passed to provide for the establishment within the University grounds of residential colleges in connection with the religious denominations. These colleges are the Church of England (St. Paul's) 1854, Roman Catholic (St. John's) 1857, Presbyterian (St. Andrew's) 1867, Methodist (Wesley) 1910. There is also the Women's College, (1889), which is conducted on an undenominational basis. The dates indicate the year in which each college was incorporated by Act of Parliament. The Teachers' College, which is non-residential and is not affiliated with the University, is maintained by the State for the training of teachers, and is situated in the University grounds. At the beginning of 1926, a new building—Santa Sophia Hall—erected in the grounds of St. John's College was opened for the accommodation of thirty women undergraduates. By-laws have been promulgated enjoining the residence of all University students in approved lodgings but they are not enforced.

Many benefactions have been bestowed on the University by private persons. These endowments include the Challis Fund, of which the original amount was £276,856 now increased by investment to £332,368; the P. N. Russell Funds, £100,000; and the Fisher Estate, £30,000. In addition, the University receives a large annual revenue from the trustees of the McCaughey bequest, the amount so received in 1924 being £21,414. Excluding the principal of the McCaughey bequest, the credit balances of the private foundations amounted to £668,737 on the 31st December, 1924.

University Finances.

The University is supported chiefly by Government aid and the fees paid by students, but it benefits also to a considerable extent from income derived from the private foundations. The income of the University from all the principal sources increased by 53 per cent. between 1920 and 1924.

The following statement shows the amounts derived by the University from each of the principal sources of revenue, and the total expenditure, during each of the last five years. Under the items are included sums received for special expenditure including capital expenditure on buildings, etc., and amounts from benefactors to establish new benefactions:—

Year Ended 31st Dec.	Receipts.					Disbursements.	Private Endowment Funds Credit Balance at end of Year.
	Government Aid.	Fees.	Private Foundations.	Other Sources.	Total.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1920	83,478	33,324	48,371	1,957	167,130	160,203	600,339
1921	130,112	41,731	59,543	2,113	233,499	211,051	622,380
1922	118,870	43,330	59,950	6,854	228,404	199,074	632,390
1923	119,370	44,563	63,869	4,363	232,165	229,228	639,867
1924	125,753	41,631	83,928	4,576	255,888	277,167	668,737

* Includes Retiring Allowances Fund, but excludes the capital of McCaughey bequest which produced an income of £21,414 in 1924.

The amount of Government aid as stated includes special appropriations paid from the Consolidated Revenue Fund to the Senate of the University to be expended in the erection of buildings for or in connection with the University under the University (Building) Act, 1919. The amounts so included are £25,000 in 1920, and £50,000 in each subsequent year. The

total amount of the appropriation is £300,000 and it is being paid in six annual instalments of £50,000 each, the last being payable in 1925-26.

Salaries comprise principal item of disbursements in each year. The total expenditure inclusive of capital expenditure in the last three years was distributed as follows:—

Classification.	Amount.			Percentage of Total.		
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Salaries	£ 119,919	£ 120,836	£ 128,269	60·3	52·7	46·3
Maintenance, Apparatus, etc.	34,707	30,736	36,549	17·4	13·4	13·1
Buildings and Grounds ...	36,470	63,976	105,909	18·3	27·9	38·2
Scholarships and Bursaries ...	5,265	13,074	5,966	2·6	5·7	2·2
Other	2,713	696	474	1·4	·3	0·2
Total	199,074	229,228	277,167	100·0	100·0	100·0

The heavy expenditure on buildings and grounds in 1924 was met partly from the special grant received in that year but also in large part from the balance of the special grants of previous years.

The above statements of receipts and expenditure are complicated by the inclusion of items from capital account, and they do not show how the ordinary operations of the University are financed. No general statement of this sort has hitherto been published, but it is possible to give an approximate account of consolidated revenue and expenditure by combining items from the general account with those of the Challis Fund, McCaughey Fund and certain items of the Private Foundations Account. The resulting account appears in summarised form below. It shows approximately how the revenue and expenditure for the general purposes of the University were distributed in 1924, omitting the Building Fund and private foundations set aside for scholarships, prizes and other specific purposes and not available for maintenance of the University or any part of its activities:—

Revenue.	£	Expenditure.	£
General Fund—		General Fund—	
Statutory Endowment	32,000	Salaries and Wages	99,865
Special Parliamentary Grants ..	37,920	Retiring Allowances and Super-annuation	2,466
Additional 1924.	4,633	Maintenance of Departments ..	15,723
Other Special Grants	1,200	Examinations	2,837
Total, Government Grants ..	75,753	Grants by Senate	380
Students' Lecture Fees	31,854	Other Expenditure	18,375
Examination and other Fees	9,697	Total	139,076
Law Notes Sale (part)	744	Challis Fund*—	
Microscope Fees (part)	500	Salaries	10,050
Transfer of Accumulated Credits ..	650	Annuities and Annuity Premiums ..	4,204
Fines, Interest, etc.	455	Other	502
Total General Revenue	143,960	Total	14,756
Challis Fund, net receipts	20,379	McCaughey Fund*—	
McCaughey Fund, net receipts	22,583	Salaries	7,899
P. N. Russel Fund †	5,469	Annuity Premiums	476
Fisher Fund †	2,991	Other	3
Estate of late Oswald Watt †	1,396	Total	8,378
Macleay and Archibald Funds †	590	P. N. Russel Fund*—Salaries ..	4,914
Dixon Trust †	454	Fisher Fund—	
Hovell Lectureship †	200	Salaries	1,171
Total, Bequest Revenue	55,152	Books	1,300
Grand Total	174,805	Annuity	20
		Macleay Curatorship Salary	290
		Archibald Cancer Research Fund ..	300
		Grand Total	170,805

* Excluding amounts transferred to General Fund. † Part available for maintenance of University or departments thereof.

A sum of £3,315 was transferred in 1924 from the accumulated credit of the McCaughey Fund to make good the deficiency on General Account for 1923. In 1924 the deficiency on the General Account was £9,495 after having been decreased during the year from £20,023 by the transfer of £10,528 from various foundations as follow:—McCaughey Fund, £6,000; estate of late Oswald Watt, £1,996; Challis Fund, £833; P. N. Russel Fund, £545; Fisher estate, £500; Dixon Trust, £454; and Hovell Lectureship £200.

The table shows that £75,753 or approximately 43 per cent. of the total revenue was provided by the Government. Of this amount £600 was provided by the Commonwealth Government, £500 by the Inspector-General of the Insane and the balance by the State from Consolidated Revenue. Revenue derived from lecture fees, degree fees and minor sources amounted to £43,900 or 25 per cent. of the total, while the amount available from private foundations was about £55,152 or 32 per cent. of the total revenue.

Lectures, Staff, and Students.

Before admission to courses of study leading to degrees, students must afford proof of prescribed educational qualifications by matriculation. Non-matriculated students are admitted to lectures and to laboratory practice, but are not eligible for degrees. On the satisfactory completion of any course, however, they may be awarded a certificate to that effect. Lectures are delivered during the daytime in all subjects necessary for degrees and diplomas, and evening lectures are provided in the Faculties of Arts and Economics, in certain Science subjects, and in Japanese. Students are required to attend at least ninety per cent. of the lectures in each course of study leading to a degree.

Lectures are delivered during three terms of ten weeks in each year. The period of study and total cost of graduation in each faculty are as follow:—Arts, 3 years, £81; Economics, 4 years, £102; Law, 4 years, £103; Medicine, 6 years, £235; Dentistry, 4 years, £208; Agriculture, 4 years, £125; Veterinary Science, 4 years, £120; Science, 3 years, £105; Engineering, 4 years—Civil, £167; Mechanical and Electrical, £167; Mining and Metallurgy, £181; and Architecture, 4 years, £181.

The scale of fees was increased by approximately fifty per cent. in 1921, but it does not apply generally, because 200 public exhibitions or exemptions from the payment of fees are granted annually on the results of the Leaving Certificate examination to students entering the University, and fees are not required of teachers or students in training for the teaching profession attending University lectures. More than forty scholarships are awarded from private foundations to meritorious students, and twenty bursaries may be awarded by the Senate to impecunious students of sufficient merit. In 1924 fees were remitted in respect of 687 exhibitors (including the State and University bursars), 524 teachers and students in training as teachers, 14 agricultural and veterinary cadets, and 7 other students. Thus University education was provided free to 1,232 students, or 46 per cent. of the total number in attendance at lectures. At the beginning of 1926 a general services fee of 10s. per term was imposed upon all students in attendance at lectures, including students exempt from payment of ordinary fees.

The number of degrees conferred by the University from the foundation to the end of 1924 was 8,489, made up as follows:—M.A., 561; B.A., 2,889; B.Ec., 126; LL.D., 29; LL.B., 399; M.D., 72; M.B., 1,716; Ch.M., 1,356; B.D.S., 135; L.D.S., 30; D.Sc., 30; D.Sc. (Eng.), 1; B.Sc., 517; M.Sc., 2; M.E., 11; B.E., 529; B.V.Sc., 32; B.Sc. (Agr.), 31; B.Arch., 23.

In 1924 the teaching staff of the University included 32 professors, 6 associate professors, 5 assistant professors, and 160 lecturers and demonstrators. Professors and most of the lecturers are paid fixed salaries, and the remainder receive fees. Provision is made for a pension scheme for professors appointed since 1898, the benefit to accrue after twenty years' service, and after attaining the age of 50 years.

The University has not the power to confer honorary degrees, but may admit *ad eundem gradum* graduates of approved Universities, viz., Oxford, Cambridge, London, Durham, Victoria, St. Andrew's, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dublin, Queen's of Ireland, Royal of Ireland, Melbourne, New Zealand, Adelaide, and of such other Universities as the Senate may determine.

Between 1914 and 1920 there was an increase of 100 per cent. in the number of students attending lectures, principally owing to the increased vogue of secondary education and to the improved facilities for entering the University; but the figures for 1920 were augmented by reason of the return of students from active service abroad. The decline of 668 students between 1920 and 1924 may be attributed partly to the completion of courses delayed by the war and partly to an increase in fees in 1921. The decrease in the number of paying students was 199 and of non-paying students 469. The number of students admitted to matriculation was 729 in 1920, 575 in 1921, 464 in 1922, 447 in 1923, and 454 in 1924. The following statement shows the number attending each course at different periods since 1914 :—

Course.	1914.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.		
						Men.	Women.	Total.
Degree and Special Courses—								
Arts { Day	319	555	626	522	493	229	288	517†
Arts { Evening	223	236	230	206	199	102	91	193
Law	108	250	328	313	356	337	12	349
Medicine	525	991	985	870	743	560	66	626
Science	72	233	220	242	210	107	88	195
Engineering	103	229	224	193	175	135	...	135
Dentistry	27	74	82	80	76	71	3	74
Veterinary Science	14	17	16	25	19	15	1	16
Agriculture	10	26	28	31	27	23	...	33
Architecture ... ..	...	48	55	59	45	37	13	50
Economics	30	150	138	124	113	78	34	112
Japanese ... ..	...	29	12	11	9	5	7	12
Diploma Courses—								
Commerce*	135	296	148	118	95	78	20	98
Pharmacy Students	50	191	204	197	217	264	29	293
Military Science	89	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Massage Students ... ..	...	42	21	14	6	1	9	10
	1,696	3,397	3,317	3,005	2,785	2,052	661	2,713
Less Students enrolled twice ...	22	41	42	40	30	25	...	25
Total, Individual Students ...	1,674	3,356	3,275	2,965	2,755	2,027	661	2,688

* Economics and Commerce prior to 1924. † Includes 46 for diploma of education.

Forty-eight post-graduate students and research scholars are included above, there being 26 in the Faculty of Arts, 9 in Medicine, 9 in Science, 2 in Engineering, 1 in Veterinary Science, and 1 in Agriculture.

As a result of the expansion of secondary education in 1911, students in increasing numbers became qualified to enter the University in 1915 and subsequent years. The above table shows the extent of the consequent

expansion at the University. As between 1914 and 1924, the greatest growth is shown in the faculties of Law, Science, and Economics, while the number of Pharmacy students has increased nearly six-fold. Considerable growth has occurred in the faculties of Arts, Medicine, and Economics. Since 1921 there has been a pronounced decrease in the number of medical and engineering students. On the other hand the number of students of law and pharmacy has increased substantially.

University Clinics.

The Royal Prince Alfred Hospital is a General Hospital and Medical School for the instruction of University students and for the training of nurses. Students must pass through the hospital curriculum of study and practice in order to obtain the certificate of hospital practice necessary to qualify for admission to the final degree examination in medicine and surgery. All appointments to the medical and surgical staff of the hospital are made conjointly by the Senate of the University and the directors of the Hospital.

Two other metropolitan hospitals, viz., Sydney and St. Vincent's, provide clinical schools for students in Medicine. At Sydney Hospital, founded in 1811, the clinical school is under the direction of a Board of Medical Studies, and all appointments of clinical lecturers and tutors are subject to the approval of the Senate. St. Vincent's Hospital is conducted by the Sisters of Charity, and appointments to the staff are made on the recommendation of an Advisory Board, consisting of members of the Senate and of the teaching staff in the Faculty of Medicine.

Other hospitals recognised as places where studies may be undertaken in connection with the Faculty of Medicine are:—The Royal Hospital for Women, Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, the Gladesville and Callan Park Mental Hospitals, the Women's Hospital, the Renwick Hospital for Infants, and the South Sydney Hospital for Women.

In connection with the Department of Dental Studies, the United Dental Hospital of Sydney was established in 1901, and provides facilities for the instruction of students. It was amalgamated with the Dental Hospital of Sydney in 1905. The University lecturers in surgical and mechanical dentistry are, *ex officio*, honorary dental surgeons of the hospital.

Student Adviser and Appointments Board.

In 1922 the Senate appointed a student adviser to acquaint himself with every phase of University life and to hold his knowledge at the disposal of individual students and of students' clubs and societies. This officer is also secretary of the Appointments Board created for the purpose of assisting undergraduates and recent graduates in obtaining positions. To this end the Board endeavours to supply employers with accurate reports concerning graduates, who are required to register with the Board during their undergraduate careers.

Extension Lectures.

University Extension Lectures were inaugurated in 1886, and have been conducted since that date under the direction of a University Extension Board of from twelve to eighteen members appointed annually by the senate. Courses of lectures are given upon application in various centres at a charge of £2 per lecture upon topics of literary, historical, and scientific interest. At the conclusion of a systematic course, consisting of ten lectures, an examination may be held and certificates awarded to successful candidates. In 1924 the Board provided eighteen courses of lectures, including a post-graduate course in medicine and another in engineering. Six courses were in

country centres. The total number of lectures delivered was 119, besides a week's post-graduate course in medicine. The amount expended on extension lectures in 1924 was £470.

Tutorial Classes.

In accordance with the provisions of the University Amendment Act of 1912, the Senate has established regular evening Tutorial Classes, and the Government contributes annually a sum of £6,370 for the maintenance of Tutorial Classes and Extension Lectures. Tutorial Classes are open to unmatriculated as well as to matriculated students, and diplomas are issued to persons who have studied in these classes for at least one year in any one subject. Tutorial Classes, which may be established in particular branches of study upon specific requisition by intending students, have been formed in conjunction with the Workers' Educational Association in suburban and country centres as well as at the University. A resident tutor is stationed at Newcastle. Particulars of the classes are shown on a later page with other information relating to the Workers' Educational Association. The cost of Tutorial Classes to the University in 1924 was £5,992.

TRAINING OF SCHOOL TEACHERS.

Teachers entering the service of the State are required to be trained for their work, and must have a preliminary education to the Intermediate or Leaving Certificate standard. Teachers for private schools also may be trained by the State on certain conditions, but this provision is availed of but little.

The ordinary course at the Teachers' College extends over a period of two years and prepares teachers for the various classes of primary and infant schools. Owing to the urgent demand, teachers of small rural schools are required to undergo an abbreviated course of one year, but the course for teachers of secondary schools extends over four years. Special courses are arranged with reference to departmental requirements and to the capabilities of individual students.

Teachers' College.

The training of the students enrolled at the Teachers' College is conducted at the University, where the college building is partly completed, at Blackfriars, and at Hereford House (Glebe). Students are usually granted living allowances during their period of training. A hostel for the accommodation of women students has been established in connection with the Teachers' Training College.

There were 891 students enrolled at the Teachers' College in 1924, as shown in the following statement:—

Students.	Men.	Women.	Total.
First year	117	173	290
Second year	82	123	205
Third year	27	42	69
Fourth and fifth	13	28	41
Graduate	4	3	7
Short Course (one year)	108	155	263
Cookery ... ..	...	16	16
Total	351	540	891

Of these students, 884 were in receipt of living allowances, 1 was exempt from the payment of fees, and 6 were paying fees.

The staff of the College consists of a Principal, Vice-Principal, 48 lecturers, 7 visiting lecturers, a warden of women students, and 9 clerical and library assistants. Members of the teaching staff are afforded opportunities to study abroad, and leave of absence, on full pay, may be granted for this purpose.

The library in connection with the College contains 23,396 volumes.

Classification of State Teachers.

Teachers in the service of the State are expected to obtain classification either on leaving the Training College or within two years thereafter, and then they may advance by acquiring additional attainments as prescribed.

A comparative statement of the classification of the teaching staff of the State schools at the end of the years 1913 and 1924 is shown below; those in the Technical Education Branch are not included.

Teachers.	1913.			1924.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Teachers and Assistants—						
First Class	258	100	358	463	153	616
Second Class	929	608	1,537	1,264	1,012	2,276
Third Class	1,309	793	2,102	1,076	1,649	2,725
Unclassified	427	704	1,131	170	483	653
Awaiting Classification ...	282	524	806	350	587	937
Cookery Teachers ... ..	...	60	60	...	89	89
Sewing Mistresses ... ..	...	105	105	...	204	204
Manual Training Teachers ...	...	...	...	118	...	118
Visiting Teachers ... ..	...	...	...	24	85	109
High School Teachers	129	72	201	417	318	735
Temporary Teachers ... ..	...	...	...	42	445	487
Total	3,334	2,966	6,300	3,924	5,025	8,949
Students in Training	156	276	432	351	540	891
Subsidised School Teachers ...	63	466	529	35	525	560
Grand Total	3,553	3,708	7,261	4,310	6,090	10,400

There has been a general advance in the standard of educational attainments of teachers in New South Wales during the past ten years. The proportion of unclassified teachers to the total has decreased from 18·4 per cent. to 7·3 per cent., and a large increase has occurred among teachers holding first and second class certificates. At the end of 1924 there were 931 University graduates in the teaching service, viz., 485 men and 446 women.

Teachers awaiting classification consist almost exclusively of ex-students of the Training College ineligible for classification until the completion of two years' teaching experience. Most of them already possess the requisite educational attainments for second or third class certificates.

Teachers of subsidised schools are not required to be trained, but they are required to be of good character and to have sufficient educational attainments to teach the curriculum of primary schools. The average number of pupils enrolled in subsidised schools is seven per teacher, the schools being situated in remote districts.

Particulars as to the conditions of service, classification, and salaries paid to teachers in public schools were published in the Year Book for 1921.

EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

Many organisations are in existence in New South Wales which have for their objective the encouragement of professional interests, and the advancement of Science, Art, and Literature. The Commonwealth Government has afforded a measure of recognition to the efforts of Australian men of letters by establishing in 1908 a Commonwealth Literary Fund to provide pensions and allowances to literary men and their families.

As far back as the year 1821 a scientific society, under the title of the Philosophical Society of Australasia, was founded in Sydney, and after many vicissitudes of fortune was merged, in 1866, into the Royal Society of New South Wales. Its objects are the advancement of science in Australia, and the encouragement of original research in all subjects of scientific, artistic, and philosophic interest, which may further the development of the resources of Australia, draw attention to its productions, or illustrate its natural history.

The study of the botany and natural history of Australia has attracted many enthusiastic students, and the Linnæan Society of New South Wales was established for the special purpose of promoting the advancement of these particular sciences. The Society has been richly endowed, and possesses a commodious building at Elizabeth Bay, Sydney, to which are attached a library and museum. The proceedings are published at regular intervals, and contain many valuable papers, with excellent illustrations of natural history.

Other important scientific societies are the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales, inaugurated in 1879; a branch of the British Medical Association, founded in 1881; a branch of the British Astronomical Association; the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science; the Royal Geographical Society; the University Science Society; Australian Historical Society; the Naturalists' Society of New South Wales, and a branch of the Economic Society of Australia and New Zealand formed in 1925.

All the learned professions are represented by associations or societies.

The Royal Art Society holds an annual exhibition of artists' work at Sydney; and of the many musical societies, mention may be made of the Royal Sydney Apollo Society, and the Royal Sydney Philharmonic Society.

WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

The Workers' Educational Association of New South Wales was founded at a conference called by the Labour Council of New South Wales in June, 1913, and since that date the new movement has grown considerably. Its main purpose is "to bring the mellowing influence of education into the Labour Movement," and its appeal is to workers of all degrees. In this endeavour it works in conjunction with other educational associations (particularly the Tutorial Classes at the University) and with working-class organizations. It publishes a monthly magazine and a series of books on matters of local and general economic importance. In 1924 the membership of the association in New South Wales consisted of 670 individual members, and 121 organizations, including 39 trade unions, were affiliated with it.

In 1924 classes were held at 58 centres. The classes held 1,266 meetings, and 1,733 students were enrolled, the effective enrolment being 1,470; a large number of visitors also attended many of the meetings. The association received an endowment of £400 from the State, and its subscription fees amounted to £541. Its surplus on the sale of literature amounted to £118 in 1924, and its surplus on all operations for the year £89.

CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC.

The State Conservatorium of Music, which was established in 1915, provides tuition in every branch of music, from the elementary to the advanced stages. The studies are divided into two sections; the Music School Section consists of three courses, viz., elementary, intermediate, and advanced—the last-mentioned extending over two years. A certificate is granted on the satisfactory conclusion of each course. The advanced grade certificate of the Music School Section entitles the holders to admission to the Diploma Section, in which a course of two years' tuition, leading to the Professional Diploma, is given under the personal direction of the Director of the Conservatorium. A preparatory course in all subjects is available for juveniles who have not previously received musical tuition.

During the year 1924 there were 1,611 students enrolled in the various courses of study at the Conservatorium. The financial operations have shown a marked improvement, and the net cost to the State of maintaining the institution was reduced from £7,208 in 1921-22, to £619 in 1923-24. In 1924-25, however, the net cost was £3,028. The receipts in 1924-25 consisted of fees and deposits amounting to £26,811; revenue from hire of hall, concerts, etc., £1,547; and the expenditure—payments to teaching staff and other salaries, £27,161; and contingencies, £4,225.

MUSEUMS, LIBRARIES, AND ART GALLERIES.

Recognising that Museums, Libraries, and Art Galleries are powerful factors in promoting the intellectual wellbeing of the people, the Government of New South Wales has been active in founding and maintaining such establishments. The expenditure by the State on buildings for Museums, Libraries, and Art Galleries to 30th June, 1925, amounted to £423,167.

Museums.

The Australian Museum, the oldest institution of its kind in Australia, was founded in Sydney in 1836 as a Museum of Natural History. In 1853 the Museum, till then managed by a committee, was incorporated under control of trustees, with a State endowment, which is now supplemented by annual Parliamentary appropriations. It contains fine specimens of the principal objects of natural history, and a valuable collection of zoological and ethnological specimens of distinctly Australian character. A library containing many valuable publications, is attached to the institution. Lectures and gallery demonstrations are given in the Museum, and are open to the public. During the year 1924, visitors to the Museum numbered 261,762, as compared with 209,710 in 1923. The institution is supported by a statutory endowment of £1,000 per year and by an annual parliamentary appropriation, amounting in 1925 to £17,527. The expenditure during the year was £21,167.

A Technological Museum was instituted in Sydney at the close of 1879, under the administration of a committee of management appointed by the trustees of the Australian Museum. The whole original collection of some 9,000 specimens was destroyed in 1882 by fire. Efforts were at once made to replace the lost collection, and in December, 1883, the Museum was opened again to the public. In 1890 it was transferred to the Department of Education, as an adjunct to the Technical College, and now contains a valuable series of specimens illustrative of various stages of manufacturing, and an excellent collection of natural products acquired by purchase, gift, loan, or exchange. Technological Museums are established also at Goulburn, Bathurst, West Maitland, Newcastle, and Albury.

Research work is conducted by the scientific staff of the Technological Museum in connection with the development of the natural vegetable resources of Australia, particularly in respect of the pines and eucalypts.

The functions of the Mining and Geological Museum include the preparation and collections of minerals to be used as teaching aids in schools and in other institutions.

The Agricultural and Forestry Museum is an adjunct of the Department of Agriculture.

The public have access to the "Nicholson" Museum of Antiquities, the "Macleay" Museum of Natural History, the Museum of Normal and Morbid Anatomy, attached to the Sydney University, and the National Herbarium and Botanical Museum at the Botanic Gardens. Housed in the Macleay Museum is the Aldridge collection of Broken Hill minerals.

Public Library of New South Wales.

The Public Library of New South Wales was established, under the designation of the Free Public Library, on 1st October, 1869, when the building and books of the Australian Subscription Library, founded in 1826, were purchased by the Government. The books thus acquired formed the nucleus of the present Library. In 1890 the Library was incorporated with a statutory endowment of £2,000 per annum for the purchase of books.

The scope of the Public Library, which is essentially a reference institution, is extended by a loan system, under which books are forwarded to individual students in the country, and to institutions, such as libraries, schools of arts, progress associations, lighthouses, associations of primary producers, branches of the Public School Teachers' Associations and of the Agricultural Bureau and schools.

In June, 1925, the Reference Department of the Public Library (exclusive of the Mitchell Library) contained 266,216 volumes, including 44,529 volumes for country libraries under the lending system. The attendance of visitors during 1924 numbered 211,059.

Attention has been repeatedly drawn to the inadequate accommodation at the Public Library, and in 1924 the National Library Act authorised the erection of new buildings at an estimated cost of £495,500.

In 1899 Mr. David Scott Mitchell donated to the trustees of the Public Library a collection of 10,024 volumes, together with 50 valuable pictures, and at his death, in 1907, bequeathed to the State the balance of a unique collection, principally of books and manuscripts relating to Australasia and containing over 60,000 volumes, and 300 framed paintings of local historic interest, valued at £100,000. He endowed the Library with an amount of £70,000, from which the income, amounting to about £2,750 per annum, is expended on books and manuscripts. In 1924 there were 114,115 volumes in the Mitchell Library, which is located in a separate building, opened in March, 1910. There were 19,110 visitors during the year.

The total cost to the State of the Public Library buildings was £28,957, and of the Mitchell Library £43,118. The expenditure on maintaining the Public Library (including the Mitchell Library) during 1924-25 was £24,810.

Sydney Municipal Library.

The Sydney Municipal Library was formed by the transfer to the City Council in 1908 of the lending branch of the Public Library; it contained 45,034 volumes in 1924.

Maintenance costs during 1924 amounted to £12,508, made up as follows:—Salaries, etc., £6,457; books, periodicals, binding, and electric lighting, £6,051.

Other Libraries.

Local libraries established in about 400 centres throughout the State, may be classed broadly under two heads—Schools of Arts, receiving an annual subvention in proportion to the amount of monetary support accorded by the public; and Free Libraries established in connection with municipalities. Under the provisions of the Local Government Act any shire or municipality may establish a public library, art gallery, or museum.

The amount paid on behalf of the building and maintenance claims of Schools of Arts in 1924 was £5,523.

The library of the Australian Museum, though intended primarily as a scientific library for staff use, is accessible to students, and about 24,000 volumes may be found on the shelves.

The library in connection with the Technological Museum, at the Central Technical College, contains approximately 11,000 text-books.

The Parliamentary Library contains over 52,000 books, and large numbers of volumes are in the libraries of the Law Courts and Government Offices.

NATIONAL ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

The National Art Gallery contains a good collection of paintings and statuary, including some works of prominent modern artists, and some valuable gifts from private persons; there is also a fine collection of water colours.

The present value of the contents of the Gallery is £170,000, and the cost of the building to 30th June, 1925, was £94,437.

The number of paintings, etc., in the Gallery at end of year 1924 was 2,772, and the total amount expended in purchasing works of art during that year was £4,888, distributed as shown below :—

Classification.	Paintings, etc., in Gallery.	Expenditure during year 1924.
	No.	£
Oil Paintings	533	603
Water Colours	422	220
Black and White Works	831	224
Statuary, Casts, and Bronzes	179	820
Various Art Works in Metals, Ivory, Ceramics, Glass, Mosaic, etc.	807	15
Total	2,772	1,882

The attendance at the National Art Gallery during 1924 was 149,042 on week days and 78,843 on Sundays.

The total disbursements in connection with the National Art Gallery during the year 1924 were £6,044.

Art students, under certain regulations, may copy any of the various works, and enjoy the benefit of a collection of books of reference on art subjects. In 1894 a system of loan exchanges between Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide was introduced, by which pictures are sent from Sydney to Melbourne and Adelaide and reciprocally, with results most beneficial to the interests of art. Since 1895 the distribution of loan collections of pictures to the principal country towns has been permitted for temporary exhibition, and 300 pictures were so distributed among nineteen country towns during 1924.

The Gallery has received but small support from private endowments, and consequent upon its limited funds, is restricted mainly to the collection of specimens of contemporary art.

The Wynne Art Prize was instituted in 1897, and consists of the interest on approximately £1,000, which is awarded annually to the Australian artist or sculptor producing the best landscape painting of Australian scenery in oils or water colours, or the best production of figure sculpture.

The Archibald Prize was instituted in 1922. It is a bequest in the estate of the late J. F. Archibald for the best portrait, "preferably of some man or woman distinguished in art, letters, science, or politics painted by any artist resident in Australasia." The amount available for the prize in each year is approximately £400.

STATE EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION.

State Schools.

Although the expenditure on the State schools rose steadily between 1901 and 1911, the recent expansion of the system has caused a very rapid increase in expenditure since that year, but more especially since 1919 on account of the substantial increases in salaries paid to teachers. Part of this additional expenditure has been occasioned by the increase in the number of scholars, but the cost of education per pupil has more than doubled since 1911. The total expenditure on primary and secondary schools during 1924 was £4,114,355.

The following statement provides a comparison of the State expenditure on schools at intervals since 1891 :—

Year.	Maintenance and Administration.	School Premises.	Total Expenditure.	Per Pupil—Mean Quarterly Enrolment.		
				Maintenance and Administration.	School Premises.	Total Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1891	578,191	191,374	769,565	3 7 10	1 2 6	4 10 4
1901	703,974	57,663	761,637	3 6 2	0 5 5	3 11 7
1911	1,048,583	193,993	1,242,576	4 13 10	0 17 4	5 11 2
1919	1,971,211	299,038	2,270,249	6 16 5	1 0 9	7 17 2
1920	2,668,059	410,847	3,078,906	8 15 4	1 7 0	10 2 4
1921	3,227,245	329,795	3,557,040	10 4 2	1 0 11	11 5 1
1922	3,234,549	499,283	3,733,832	9 18 3	1 10 7	11 8 10
1923	3,185,086	653,625	3,838,711	9 11 5	1 19 7	11 11 0
1924	3,296,669	817,686	4,114,355	9 13 0	2 8 3	12 1 3

The fees in High Schools were reimposed in 1923, and amounted in that year to £25,395; the amount received in 1924 was £28,259; these amounts have been excluded from cost of maintenance per pupil in above table.

The capital expenditure on the schools in recent years has not been sufficient to provide adequate accommodation for the children requiring education, and in 1921 the Minister for Education estimated that "fully £1,500,000" was needed to perform essential and urgent work to relieve overcrowding in schools.

The following statement shows the distribution of expenditure both capital and annual in connection with primary and secondary schools (but omitting expenditure on Technical Education) in the four calendar years 1921 to 1924 :—

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£
Sites, Buildings, Additions*—				
Primary Schools†	173,781	312,083	451,888	581,031
High Schools	26,703	46,373	9,051	14,844
Teachers' College	3,816	8,482	45,000	27,319
Rates (municipal and shire)†	36,376	35,268	25,034	51,667
Rent, Furniture and Repairs	89,120	97,072	122,652	142,825
Salaries and Allowances--				
Primary Schools‡	2,446,638	2,446,226	2,438,278	2,563,447
High Schools	200,028	205,606	194,290	199,638
Evening Continuation Schools	12,190	13,738	14,455	14,587
Other Maintenance Expenditure—				
Primary Schools‡	188,975	189,232	176,099	185,486
High Schools	27,314	32,104	26,892	28,463
Evening Continuation Schools	1,541	1,775	1,436	1,667
Bursaries and Scholarships	58,285	50,766	47,590	33,518
Boarding and Conveyance Allowances	36,149	39,866	36,715	39,549
Training of Teachers	98,537	87,331	80,031	77,256
School Medical Inspections	22,197	23,506	29,067	31,319
School Inspection	47,971	45,927	46,434	46,586
Administration and other Expenses	87,419	98,472	93,799	75,153
Total... ..	£ 3,557,040	3,733,832	3,838,711	4,114,355

* In ludes State Insurance on School Buildings. † Expended by Resumed Properties Department on behalf of Department of Education. ‡ Includes expenditure on super-primary education in intermediate high, district, continuation and rural schools.

The expenditure shown in the foregoing tables is exclusive of interest paid on loan money used for the erection of schools. In addition also vested residences, of an estimated annual value of £42,980 in 1924, were granted to teachers, as a deduction from salary.

To estimate the total cost of maintaining State schools in any one year would necessitate an investigation of the capital value of buildings and equipment and the allowance of a rate of depreciation, etc. At present the necessary data are not available, but the insured value of all school properties of the Department of Education in May, 1922, was approximately £4,600,000. This value is based on valuations of buildings existing in 1912 and on the cost of buildings subsequently erected. It is, therefore subject to a very large allowance for appreciation of values. Between 1st July, 1922, and 30th June, 1925, a further sum of £1,382,550 was expended on new buildings and additions to school premises.

Capital Expenditure on School Buildings.

In view of the attention turned in recent years upon the inadequacy of school accommodation, considerable interest attaches to the fact that the capital expenditure on school buildings and sites during the five years ended 30th June, 1925, was nearly £2,000,000. This sum consisted of the following amounts distributed as shown between the Loan Fund, which is borrowed money, and the Public Works Fund, which represents money derived from the sale of Crown lands and from taxation. There was no capital expenditure on schools from the Consolidated Revenue Fund during the period.

Year.	New Buildings.	Additions.	Sites.	Total.
Loan Fund.				
	£	£	£	£
1920-21	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
1921-22	56,285	4,300	20,631	81,216
1922-23	316,789	36,962	27,650	381,401
1923-24	296,368	139,323	43,181	478,872
1924-25	314,268	127,811	70,706	512,785
Public Works Fund.				
1920-21	126,438	41,077	16,460	183,975
1921-22	106,045	35,005	15,711	156,761
1922-23	8,727	43,266	112	52,105
1923-24	569	39,010	101	39,680
1924-25	1,178	57,879	21	59,078
Total	£ 1,226,667	524,633	194,573	1,945,873

The above figures are slightly in excess of the actual expenditure as they include re-credits. They do not represent the total capital outlay on education because they omit expenditure from the Loan and Public Works Funds on equipment, on technical education, and educational institutions other than schools.

The amount of expenditure from the Public Works Fund was £491,590 and from Loan Fund £1,454,274. The former sum, however, excludes and the latter sum includes £175,000 originally expended from loan funds but recouped thereto in terms of various Appropriation Acts from the Public Works Fund. A further sum of £575,000 expended from loan funds during the period still remains to be recouped by annual instalments of £75,000 from the Public Works Fund. Thus it was provided that out of a total loan expenditure of £1,368,000 authorised on school buildings in the five years ended 30th June, 1925, a sum of £750,000 should be recouped thereto from the Public Works Fund. On 24th December, 1925, a further expenditure of £700,000 from loan funds was authorised, £100,000 of this amount having already been provided from the Loan Expenditure Suspense Account.

The practice of constructing schools from loan funds has only been adopted on an extensive scale to meet the acute shortage of accommodation experienced in recent years. In the ten years preceding 1922 only £500,000 was expended on schools from loan funds, viz., £250,000 appropriated in 1912 and subsequently recouped from the Public Works Fund, and £250,000 appropriated in 1914 and not so recouped.

Total Expenditure on Public Instruction.

The expenditure by the State on education includes grants and subsidies to educational and scientific organisations, cost of maintenance of industrial

schools and reformatories, as well as the expenditure on the State schools. The following statement shows the total expenditure at intervals since 1910. The expenditure on buildings, equipment, sites, etc., representing capital expenditure, is distinguished as far as practicable from expenditure for maintenance, including grants and subsidies which may be regarded as annual costs:—

Year ended 30th June.	Expenditure.			Per head of Population.
	Capital.	Annual.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1910	159,890	1,147,397	1,307,287	0 16 5
1915	258,044	1,672,781	1,930,825	1 0 6
1920	268,529	2,401,066	2,669,595	1 6 2
1923	555,765	3,651,840	4,207,605	1 18 9
1924	591,019	3,702,442	4,293,461	1 18 10
1925	655,136	3,896,830	4,551,966	2 0 3

These figures are exclusive of amounts spent by the State on the agricultural college experiment farms and societies for the promotion of agriculture and allied interests, of which particulars are shown in the chapter relating to the agricultural industry. They also exclude the interest paid on loan money invested in works used for public instruction.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

GROWTH OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

THE first step towards Local Government in New South Wales may be said to have been taken in 1840, when the Parish Roads Act was passed, authorising proprietors of lands adjacent to or within 3 miles of parish roads to elect trustees, who were empowered to levy rates, establish tolls, and borrow money for making or repairing such roads and the bridges thereon. Full particulars of the subsequent development will be found in the Year Book for 1922.

Local Government in New South Wales is conducted under the provisions of the Local Government Act of 1919 and its amendments, except in the City of Sydney, where it is regulated by the Sydney Corporation Acts. The system extends over the Eastern and Central Land Divisions of the State, but the sparsely-populated Western Division is unincorporated, with the exception of the portions embraced by the municipalities of Bourke, Brewarrina, Broken Hill, Cobar, Wentworth, and Wilcannia, and part of the municipality of Balranald which lies within its boundaries.

Local governing areas are of two kinds, viz., municipalities and shires. At the end of 1924 there were 181 municipalities, including the City of Sydney, and their aggregate area was 1,688,334 acres. During the year three municipalities—Hillgrove 2,240 acres, Gundagai 2,080 acres, and Cudgegong 122,880 acres—were amalgamated with shires. The smallest municipality is Darlington, a suburb of Sydney, with 44 acres, and the largest is Central Illawarra, 75,776 acres. There are 136 shires, extending over an area of about 181,900 square miles. The smallest, Ku-ring-gai, 36 square miles, is in the metropolitan district, and the largest is Lachlan, with headquarters at Condobolin, 5,736 square miles.

In this chapter the particulars relating to municipalities and shires are shown conjointly in a summarised form and separately in greater detail. In making a distinction between the metropolitan and country districts, the metropolitan district, unless otherwise specified, is the area defined by Schedule IV of the Local Government Act of 1919. It embraces the municipalities of Auburn, Bankstown, Dundas, Ermington and Rydalmere, Granville, Lidcombe, and Parramatta, and the shires of Hornsby, Sutherland, and Warringah, in addition to the area usually designated the metropolis, viz., the City of Sydney, forty suburban municipalities and the shire of Ku-ring-gai.

Sydney Corporation Acts.

In terms of the Sydney Corporation Act of 1902 and its amendments, the local government of the City of Sydney is vested in the City Council, which is composed of twenty-six aldermen, who are elected every third year, two for each of the thirteen wards. The Lord Mayor is elected annually by the aldermen from their own number, or failing an election the Governor-in-Council may appoint one of the aldermen to the position.

The right to be enrolled as a voter at elections of the City Council extends to adult British subjects by reason of (a) the ownership or (b) the occupation of property. The qualification of ownership is held by persons who own a freehold interest in possession of property of a yearly value of £5 and upwards in any ward, or a leasehold interest in property of a yearly value of £25 and upwards. A person with this qualification may be placed

on the roll for every ward in which he is so qualified, but may not then be enrolled in any ward by virtue of any other qualification. The qualification by reason of occupation is held by those who have occupied continuously for a period of six months a house, shop, or other building, or lodgings, of a yearly value of £10. Any such person may be placed on the roll for one ward only, and if he has more than one such qualification he may choose the roll on which his name shall be placed. Any person qualified to vote is eligible for election as an alderman unless disqualified under the provisions of the Sydney Corporation Act of 1902.

The maintenance of the streets and other public ways of the city is vested in the Council, though the traffic is regulated by the police. The Council is empowered to levy general, special, and street watering rates; to establish public markets; to regulate street selling, the erection of hoardings, matters relating to public health and sanitation, and the inspection of food; to resume land for the purpose of remodelling or improving areas and for widening streets, etc.; to erect and let dwellings; to maintain free lending libraries; to control parks; and generally to make by-laws for the good government of the city. Under the provisions of the Municipal Council of Sydney Electric Lighting Acts of 1896 and 1920 the Council is authorised to generate and supply electricity for public and private purposes. The City Council elects two members of the Board which administers the Metropolitan water supply and sewerage services, one being elected in every second year for a period of four years. At the triennial elections of members of the Board of Fire Commissioners of New South Wales the City Council has the right to vote at the election of one member, who represents the councils of the City of Sydney and of the suburban municipalities.

Local Government Acts.

The Local Government Act of 1919 and its amendments are administered by the Minister for Local Government, who is in charge of a State Department. Each municipality or shire is governed by a council, which is elected for a term of three years. A municipal council must consist of not less than six nor more than fifteen aldermen, and a shire council of not less than six nor more than nine councillors, each riding being represented by an equal number of councillors. Each municipal council elects a mayor annually from amongst its members, and each shire council a president. A council may pay to its members reasonable out-of-pocket expenses for travelling, and may pay an allowance to its mayor or president. Every adult natural-born or naturalised British subject of either sex is qualified to be an elector, provided he or she is either a landowner, a rate-paying lessee, or has been continuously for the three months preceding the day prescribed for enrolment an occupier of ratable land of the yearly value of £5 or upwards, or of land by virtue of a miner's right or business license, or is in occupation of Crown land and pays rents, or is a returned soldier or sailor. Unless disqualified by the Act, every elector is qualified for a civic office. The powers of the councils are extensive; they were stated in detail in the 1922 issue of the Year Book at page 332.

A municipality may be proclaimed as a city if it is an independent centre of population with an average population of at least 20,000 people and an average income of at least £20,000.

In the shires, urban areas may be established upon proclamation by the Governor if the majority of the electors in the locality favour the project. In such cases the council of the shire exercises within each urban area the powers of the council of a municipality. Except in the shires of Hornsby,

Sutherland, Ku-ring-gai, and Warringah, urban committees may be appointed to exercise within the urban areas certain powers of the council, and to expend money raised by a local rate levied by the council upon the request of the urban committee.

Provision is made for joint action by local governing bodies in regard to undertakings of magnitude or those which benefit more than one area. For such purposes county councils may be constituted in terms of the Local Government Act, or joint committees may be arranged under the ordinances. Legislation was passed in 1924 to facilitate the formation of county councils by a large number of local areas. In some cases boards or trusts have been constituted under special Acts to conduct operations which are regarded usually as belonging to the sphere of local government. A brief description of their activities is given later.

Any group of local areas or of parts thereof may be constituted by proclamation as a county district, in which a county council, consisting of delegates from the areas concerned, exercises such powers as may be delegated to it. Where powers relating to the destruction of aquatic pests have been delegated, the county council may be assisted by subsidies from Consolidated Revenue, if the funds be voted by Parliament. The subsidies are payable in six half-yearly instalments, viz., for the first and second half-years, £1 for every £1 of revenue collected for the destruction of aquatic pests; for the third and fourth half-years respectively, 15s.; for the fifth and sixth, 10s.

At the end of June, 1925, four county districts had been established. The St. George county district embraces the municipalities of Bexley, Hurstville, Kogarah, and Rockdale. It was formed for the purpose of establishing an electric lighting service.

The Richmond River county district consists of the municipalities of Ballina, Casino, Coraki, and Lismore, and the shires of Byron, Copmanhurst (part only), Gundurimba, Kyogle, Terania, Tintenbar, Tomki, and Woodburn. It was established for the eradication of the water hyacinth pest.

The Clarence River county district was incorporated by the municipalities of Grafton, South Grafton, and Ulmarra, and the shires of Copmanhurst (part only), Nymboida, and Orara. It was constituted principally for the purpose of carrying out the Nymboida hydro-electric scheme.

The Southern Riverina county district was formed by the municipalities of Wagga and Corowa and the shires of Coreen and Culcairn to establish a quarry at Culcairn for the supply of metal for roadmaking. The district was proclaimed on 13th February, 1925.

Local Services within Irrigation Areas.

The Irrigation Areas are excluded from the operation of the Local Government Acts, and the local services therein are maintained by the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission. It is provided, however, by the Irrigation Holdings (Freehold) Act, 1924, that the Governor may proclaim any irrigation area or portion thereof as a municipality or shire, or may add the whole or a portion of an irrigation area to any adjoining municipality or shire. Thereupon the Irrigation Commission may transfer to the control of the council by mutual agreement any works which are ordinarily local-government works, and in default of agreement may carry on such works and perform the related services pending the decision by arbitration under the Arbitration Act, 1902.

Pending the constitution of an irrigation area or portion thereof as a municipality or shire the Commission may make and levy general, special, or local rates on land within the area, and may impose charges as prescribed for other local services. In connection with the levying of rates and charges, provision is made for the constitution of an executive board consisting of seven members, four elected by the occupiers of the holdings and three nominated by the Commission. An executive board may advise the Commission in respect of questions affecting an area and may be entrusted with the administration of the local services.

A Commission of Inquiry was appointed in May, 1925, to report as to whether the irrigation areas or any portion of them should be proclaimed as shires or municipalities. This Commission recommended that the portion of the Murrumbidgee Area known as the Yanco Irrigation Area be proclaimed as a shire. It embraces 311 square miles, and Leeton is the principal centre. In regard to the portion known as the Mirrool Irrigation Area, 243 square miles with Griffith as the principal town, it was recommended that a proclamation be not issued until the end of the year 1928, and that meanwhile the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission exercise its authority to administer local services with the assistance of an executive board.

Extent of Local Government.

Prior to 1906, when the shires were constituted, the extent of the local governing areas was only 2,830 square miles. At the end of 1924 the incorporated area was about 183,950 square miles, or nearly 60 per cent. of the total area of the State (309,432 square miles). The population in municipalities and shires and the Irrigation Areas as at 31st December, 1924, was 2,241,170, or 99 per cent. of the total population. The area, population, and unimproved capital value of ratable property in the incorporated areas are stated below, the particulars for the metropolitan and country districts being shown separately. The figures include the area, about 360,000 acres, and the population, 12,800 persons, of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, though it is not within the jurisdiction of any local governing body, and the capital value is not included in the values shown in the table. The area of the country shires, as stated in the table, includes also 28 square miles of Federal territory at Jervis Bay.

Local Areas.	Area.	Population.	Unimproved Capital Value.
Metropolitan Area—	acres.	No.	£
City of Sydney	3,327	109,180	45,593,929
Suburbs (including Ku-ring-gai Shire)	114,972	962,890	68,801,453
Total, Metropolitan	118,299	1,072,070	114,455,382
Extra-Metropolitan	329,878	119,690	11,563,970
Total, Metropolitan*	448,177	1,191,760	126,019,352
Country—			
Municipalities	1,554,397	472,380	30,896,275
Shires	115,742,720	637,030	135,016,410
Total, Country	117,297,117	1,109,410	165,912,685
Grand Total	117,745,294	2,241,170	291,932,037

* Schedule IV, Local Government Act, 1919.

The improved capital value of ratable property in the City of Sydney, as at 31st December, 1924, was £141,629,260, and the assessed annual value £6,373,317. In the other municipalities included in the metropolitan area,

as defined by Schedule IV of the Local Government Act, the improved capital value was £206,379,651, and the assessed annual value £15,471,281. In the country municipalities the improved value was £91,904,999, and annual value £6,986,946. Similar particulars are not available for the shires.

The financial position of the municipalities and shires in 1924 was as follows:—

Local Areas.	Total Revenue.			Total Expenditure.	Total Liabilities.	Total Assets.
	Rates Levied.	Other.	Total.			
Metropolitan Area—	£	£	£	£	£	£
City of Sydney	1,051,338	2,204,105	2,855,443	2,666,616	17,779,157	18,479,941
Suburbs (including Ku-ring-gai Shire)	1,492,827	466,862	1,959,689	2,172,239	2,537,696	1,674,648
Total, Metropolis	2,144,165	2,670,967	4,815,132	4,838,855	20,316,853	20,154,589
Extra-Metropolitan	231,025	163,296	334,321	337,513	461,207	418,306
Total, Metropolitan*	2,375,190	2,774,263	5,149,453	5,176,368	20,768,060	20,572,895
Country—						
Municipalities	863,549	978,063	1,842,612	1,693,878	3,618,256	5,131,231
Shires	1,093,561	600,754	1,694,315	1,717,180	766,367	1,162,318
Total, Country	1,957,110	1,578,817	3,536,927	3,411,058	4,384,623	6,293,549
Grand Total	4,332,700	4,353,080	8,685,730	8,587,426	25,152,683	26,866,444

* Schedule IV, Local Government Act, 1919.

† Exclusive of Harbour Bridge rate, £93,048.

Similar particulars of the operations of individual councils are published annually in the Statistical Register of New South Wales.

VALUATION OF PROPERTY IN LOCAL AREAS.

The revenue of local governing bodies is derived mainly from the taxation of land and improvements thereon, and as the rates of taxation are levied on the unimproved, improved, or annual value, it is necessary that periodic valuations be made of all ratable property. The valuations are made at intervals not exceeding three years, and prior to the enactment of the Valuation of Land Act in 1916 they were made by valuers appointed by the councils. This system was in operation for many years without any centralised control to secure uniformity; but the Act of 1916 made provision for the valuation of the lands of the State by one authority, and a Valuer-General was appointed. The Act prescribes that rates and taxes based on land values must be levied on the values determined by the Valuer-General, and the power of a council to assess values ceases when he has delivered a valuation list. A council may, however, ask the Valuer-General to revalue any land which it considers has not been valued correctly, and pending action by the Valuer-General the valuations are made by local assessors as formerly.

An important alteration was made by the Local Government Act, 1924, to provide that the council of a shire, other than the Blue Mountains Shire, and any shire wholly or partly within the County of Cumberland, may decide whether the valuation is to be made by the Valuer-General under the Valuation of Land Act, 1916, or by a valuer appointed by the council.

In municipalities the valuation is compulsory in respect of the unimproved capital value, the improved capital value, and the assessed annual value of ratable property. In the shires the law requires the valuation of

the unimproved capital value only, the collection of the improved capital value and of the assessed annual value being optional, except in urban areas, in which the assessed annual value must be determined.

The unimproved capital value is defined as the amount for which the *fee-simple* estate in land could be sold under such reasonable conditions as a *bona-fide* seller would require, assuming that the actual improvements had not been made.

The unimproved capital value of Crown lands occupied as pastoral or agricultural holdings may be assessed, for the purpose of levying a rate, at twenty times the rent payable to the Crown during the preceding year, if the leases carry no right of conversion into a freehold tenure. In the case of convertible leases, the value is assessable at twenty times the annual rent during the first ten years of the lease, and thereafter at thirty times the rent.

The unimproved capital value of mines may be ascertained at the direction of the council, upon the basis of the output, as follows:—

- (1) *Coal and Shale Mines*.—A sum equal to 3s. per ton of large coal and shale, and 1s. 6d. per ton of small coal, on the average annual output during the preceding three years.
- (2) *Other Mines*.—A sum equal to 20 per cent. of average annual value of ore or mineral won during the preceding three years.

In the case of idle or undeveloped mines the unimproved capital value is calculated by multiplying the annual rental, if any, by twenty.

The improved capital value is the amount for which the *fee-simple* estate of the land, with all improvements and buildings thereon, could be sold.

In areas subject to the Local Government Act, the assessed annual value is nine-tenths of the fair average rental of land, with improvements thereon, but must not be less than 5 per cent. of the improved capital value. In the city of Sydney the annual value determined on this basis is the average annual value, and in making assessments a deduction not exceeding 10 per cent. thereof is made for outgoings.

In the city of Sydney Crown lands are ratable whether built upon or not, and the following properties are exempt, viz., lands vested in and used for the University or any of its colleges; lands vested in the Railway Commissioners or in the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board; the Sydney Harbour Trust lands unless leased for private purposes; lands vested in trustees for purposes of public recreation, health, or enjoyment; hospitals, benevolent asylums, or other buildings used solely for charitable purposes; buildings used solely for public worship; State schools and certified schools under the Public Instruction Act, and playgrounds in connection therewith.

In municipalities and shires under the Local Government Act all lands, including areas vested in the Railway Commissioners and the Sydney Harbour Trust, are ratable, except the following:—Lands vested in the Crown or public body or trustees and used for public cemeteries, commons, reserves, or free libraries; lands used solely for public hospitals, benevolent institutions, or charities, or for the University of Sydney or a college thereof; Crown lands which are not occupied or are occupied only by public works in course of construction; land occupied by churches or other buildings used solely for public worship; and public roads, streets, wharves, etc.

In the following table are shown, in similar groups to those on page 336, the aggregate valuations of ratable property in local governing areas in

the year 1924, together with a comparison of the unimproved values and the value of improvements. To complete the information for the whole State estimates are given regarding the unincorporated lands in the Western Division, and in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area:—

Division.	Unimproved Value of Land.			Value of Improvements.		
	Total.	Average Per Head.	Average Per Acre.	Total.	Average Per Head.	Average Per Acre.
	£	£	£ s. d.	£	£	£ s. d.
Sydney—City	45,594,000	418	13,705 4 4	96,035,000	880	28,865 6 11
Suburbs*	63,861,000	76	598 18 10	132,668,000	147	1,153 18 4
Metropolis	114,455,000	113	967 10 2	228,703,000	226	1,933 5 3
Extra-Metropolitan	11,564,000	97	35 1 1	†15,691,000	131	47 11 4
Total, Metropolitan	126,019,000	111	281 3 8	244,394,000	216	545 6 2
Country—Municipalities	30,896,000	65	19 17 6	61,009,000	129	39 5 0
Shires	135,017,000	216	1 3 5	†135,017,000	216	1 3 5
Total Incorporated Areas ...	291,932,000	131	2 9 9	440,410,000	198	3 15 0
Western Division (part unincorporated) ‡	16,100,000	1,081	0 4 0	9,000,000	608	0 2 3
Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area ‡ ...	2,000,000	166	5 11 1	3,500,000	290	9 14 5
Total, whole State	310,132,000	137	1 11 4	452,920,000	201	2 5 9

* Including Ku-ring gai Shire. † Partly Estimated. ‡ Estimated. See text below.

The unimproved capital value of the unincorporated portion of the Western Division, as stated in the foregoing table, represents the value estimated on a freehold basis. This area contains about 80,200,000 acres, of which 76,000,000 acres are pastoral or agricultural lands held under lease from the Crown at annual rentals, which amounted to £114,400 as at 30th June, 1925. If the existing provisions of the Local Government Act were applied to the division, the unimproved capital value of the leaseholds would be assessed for rating purposes at twenty times the annual rent payable to the Crown. On this basis the unimproved value of the ratable property—Crown and alienated land—in the area at present unincorporated would not exceed £3,500,000.

In regard to the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, the unimproved capital value, £2,000,000, is an approximation which was made by a Royal Commission in June, 1925, when inquiring as to whether the irrigation areas should be proclaimed as shires. The estimate was made independently on the rental basis. The estimate of the value of improvements is based on approximate figures supplied by the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission relating to the value of privately owned improvements, and the amount owing to the Commission in respect thereof.

Value of Ratable Property in Municipalities.

A comparative summary of the unimproved and improved capital values and the assessed annual value of ratable property in municipalities, as in

1914 and 1924, is shown in the following statement. The exclusion of the shires causes the figures for the metropolitan areas to differ from those shown in the preceding tables.

Municipalities	1914.			1924.		
	Unimproved Capital Value.	Improved Capital Value.	Assessed Annual Value.	Unimproved Capital Value.	Improved Capital Value.	Assessed Annual Value.
City of Sydney	£ 27,395,826	£ 75,786,580	£ 3,271,102	£ 45,593,929	£ 141,620,260	£ 6,373,317
Suburbs	31,979,353	82,978,113	6,148,243	65,559,272	191,921,240	14,500,875
Metropolis	59,375,179	158,764,693	9,419,345	111,153,201	333,550,500	20,874,192
Extra-Metropolitan	2,281,763	5,455,506	332,571	5,172,152	14,458,411	970,406
Total Metropolitan	61,656,942	164,220,199	9,801,916	116,325,353	348,008,911	21,844,598
Country	20,291,908	50,226,557	3,636,219	30,896,275	91,964,999	6,986,946
Total Municipalities	81,948,850	214,446,756	13,438,135	147,221,628	439,973,910	28,831,544

The ratio of assessed annual value to improved capital value was 6·3 per cent. in 1914, and 6·6 per cent. in 1924; and as the assessed annual value is nine-tenths of the actual annual value, the proportions per cent. of annual value to improved value were 7 per cent. in 1913, and 7·3 per cent. in 1924.

The relative increases during the years from 1914 to 1924 were as follows:—

Municipalities.	Increase per cent.		
	Unimproved Capital Value.	Improved Capital Value.	Assessed Annual Value.
City of Sydney	66·4	86·9	94·8
Suburbs	105·0	131·3	135·9
Metropolis	87·2	110·1	121·6
Extra-Metropolitan	126·7	165·0	153·7
Total Metropolitan	88·7	111·9	122·9
Country	52·3	83·0	92·1
Total Municipalities	79·7	105·1	114·6

The value of improvements in the years 1914 and 1924, ascertained by deducting the unimproved from the improved values is shown in the following statement, and it will be seen that very great increases have occurred in all divisions,—

Municipalities.	Value of Improvements.		
	1914.	1924.	Increase.
Sydney—	£	£	per cent.
City	46,390,754	96,035,331	98·5
Suburbs	50,998,760	126,361,968	147·8
Metropolis	99,389,514	222,397,299	123·8
Extra-Metropolitan	3,173,743	9,286,259	192·6
Total Metropolitan	102,563,257	231,683,558	125·9
Country	29,934,649	61,008,724	103·8
Total Municipalities	132,497,906	292,692,282	120·9

The proportionate increase in the unimproved capital value was highest in the extra metropolitan area, and lowest in the country. The same areas show also the highest and the lowest ratios in respect of the improved capital value and assessed annual value respectively.

The ratio of the assessed annual value to the improved capital value in the suburban and in the country municipalities was 7.6 per cent. The highest proportion to the unimproved capital value occurred in the country municipalities; viz., 22.6 per cent. The corresponding rates for the city of Sydney were only 4.5 per cent. and 14.0 per cent., the average for all the municipalities being 6.6 per cent. and 19.6 per cent. respectively.

Municipalities.	Assessed Annual Value.		Ratio of Assessed Annual Value to -			
	1914.	1924.	Improved Capital Value.		Unimproved Capital Value.	
			1914.	1924.	1914.	1924.
	£	£	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
City of Sydney	3,271,102	6,373,317	4.3	4.5	11.9	14.0
Suburbs	6,148,243	14,500,875	7.4	7.6	19.2	22.1
Metropolis	9,419,345	20,874,192	5.9	6.3	15.9	18.8
Extra-Metropolitan	382,571	970,406	7.0	6.7	16.8	18.8
Total, Metropolitan	9,801,916	21,844,598	6.0	6.3	15.9	18.8
Country	3,636,219	6,986,946	7.2	7.6	17.9	22.6
Total Municipalities	13,438,135	28,831,544	6.3	6.6	16.4	19.6

During the period shown above, the rate of assessed annual value to the unimproved capital value increased in all the divisions. Compared with the improved capital value, the rate increased slightly in all the groups except the extra-metropolitan area.

Value of Ratable Property in Shires.

It is not possible to give the improved capital value, or the assessed annual value of land in shires, as the shire councils are not compelled to make those valuations, and only a few record them.

The unimproved capital value of ratable property in shires in each year from 1914 to 1924 is shown below.

Year.	Unimproved Capital Value.	Year.	Unimproved Capital Value.
	£		£
1914	103,451,000	1920	120,872,000
1915	104,746,000	1921	130,834,000
1916	105,698,000	1922	135,381,000
1917	107,695,000	1923	140,392,000
1918	109,133,000	1924	144,710,000
1919	110,881,000		

Between 1914 and 1924 the unimproved capital value of ratable property in the shires increased by £41,259,000, or by 39.9 per cent. As the area embraced remained practically unchanged, this represents approximately the assessed increment of rural land values in the period.

Valuations by the Valuer-General.

Up to the end of the year 1925 valuations had been completed by the Valuer-General in seventy-eight municipalities and in fourteen shires. All the districts in the metropolitan area had been valued except the city of Sydney and the municipality of Waterloo. A summary of the results of the latest valuations is shown below:—

District.	Municipalities.				Shires.			
	Number.	Unimproved Capital Value.	Improved Capital Value.	Assessed Annual Value.	Number.	Unimproved Capital Value.	Improved Capital Value.	Assessed Annual Value.
Metropolitan	46	£000 80,807	£000 235,664	£000 17,825	4	£000 11,463	£000 24,833	£000 1,533
Country	32	17,665	48,704	3,494	10	14,615	30,465	1,659
Total to 31st December, 1925 ..	78	98,472	284,368	21,319	14	26,068	55,298	3,193

TAXATION BY LOCAL GOVERNING BODIES.

The total revenue collected in 1924 by all the local governing bodies from rates and charges amounted to £6,509,303, equal to £2 18s. 5d. per head of the population residing in the taxable districts. This amount includes rates collected by the municipalities, £3,161,726; rates collected by shires, £1,264,022, and rates and charges collected by the various Water and Sewerage Boards referred to later, £2,083,555. The distribution of the total amount is as follows:—

Local Bodies.	General Rates.	Special and Loan Rates.	Total.	Per head of population living in local areas.
	£	£	£	£ s. d.
Municipalities (including City of Sydney)	2,533,135	628,591	3,161,726	2 1 0
Shires	1,115,966	148,056	1,264,022	1 16 10
Metropolitan water and sewerage charges	1,860,306	...	1,860,306	1 8 8
Hunter District water and sewerage charges.	216,752	...	216,752	1 7 7
Grafton and South Grafton Water Board	6,497	...	6,497	1 1 1
Total	£ 5,732,656	776,647	6,509,303	2 18 5

The corresponding total amounts per head of population in 1911 and 1921 were £1 6s. and £2 11s. 2d., respectively.

A comparative statement of the local government rates and charges collected in each of the last five years will be found on pages 250 and 251 of this Year Book, where they are considered in relation to the total taxation imposed in the State.

City of Sydney Ratings.

Under the provisions of the Sydney Corporation Act of 1902 the assessment of property in the city for the purpose of levying rates was according to a fair average annual rental, with a deduction for outgoings not exceeding 10 per cent., the average annual value of unoccupied land being a sum not exceeding 6 per cent. of its capital value. The council was empowered to levy a city rate not exceeding 2s. in the £ to cover general expenditure, exclusive of lighting. The Act provided for special local rates not exceeding 6d. in the £ of annual value for any work for the benefit of a

particular locality, but only if two-thirds of the ratepayers of the locality petitioned for such work. Authority was given also for a rate payable by tenants or owners of buildings in any streets to cover the cost of watering.

In 1908 provision was made for levying a general rate of not less than 1d. in the £ on the unimproved capital value of ratable property on the condition that when the rate was imposed the land tax levied by the State Government would be suspended. This rate was additional to those under the Act of 1902 and it was prescribed that the total amount leviable under both Acts should not exceed the amount which would be yielded by a rate of 3d. in the £ on the unimproved capital value and 2s. in the £ on the assessed annual value.

In 1916 the law was amended to enable the City Council to adopt the principle, embodied in the Local Government Act of 1906, of levying rates for general expenditure upon the unimproved value. The maximum rate was fixed at 6d. in the £. The exemption from rating was removed from Crown lands, and the council was authorised to collect rents in respect of gas and hydraulic mains, etc., in the streets, which cannot be assessed on the basis of unimproved value.

The following table shows the rates struck and the total amounts levied in the last nine years. Information for earlier periods was given in the 1922 issue of this Year Book at page 341.

Year.	City Fund.		Year.	City Fund.	
	Rate struck in the £. on u.c.v.	Total Amount Levied.		Rate struck in the £. on u.c.v.	Total Amount Levied.
1916	pence. 4	£ 520,537	1921	pence. 5	£ 747,656
1917	3½	455,040	1922	4½	729,096
1918	3½	465,958	1923	4½	713,018
1919	4½	587,376	1924	3½	651,338
1920	4½	623,766			

In 1923 and 1924 at rate of ½d. in the £ on the unimproved capital value was levied in respect of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The amounts, viz., £75,054 in 1923, and £93,048 in 1924, are payable into a special account in the State Treasury and are not included in the figures shown above.

Suburban and Country Ratings.

Suburban and country municipalities may levy rates of four kinds, viz., general, special, local, and loan rates. A general rate of not less than 1d. in the £ must be levied on the unimproved capital value, but if this minimum rate is more than sufficient to meet requirements the Governor may allow the council to levy a lower rate. The maximum amount leviable in a municipality is limited as follows:—(a) For the general rate alone—the amount yielded by a rate of 2d. in the £ on the unimproved capital value and 1s. 6d. on the assessed annual value taken together; (b) the total of all rates (except water local, and sewerage local rates) the yields of 2d. on the unimproved capital value and 2s. on the assessed annual value; (c) water local rate alone or sewerage local rate alone, the yield of 2s. in the £ on assessed annual value. A general rate exceeding 3d. in the £ on unimproved capital value may not be levied upon a mine worked for minerals other than coal or shale. In special cases where the rate as stated above would yield less than the amount required for the purpose of the rate, the Governor may alter the limit by proclamation.

In 1924 the general rates levied in the metropolitan municipalities ranged from 3d. to 6d., and in the country from 1d. to 12d.

Of the suburban councils, nineteen levied general rates between 4d. and 5d., sixteen between 5d. and 6d. In the country the highest proportion levied 4d. to 5d., the next in order being 6d. to 7d. The councils which levied over 6d. in the £ during 1924 were Coonamble, Cootamundra, Manilla, Molong, Narromine, Wallsend, Wellington and Young, each 6½d.; Cooma and Deniliquin, 6¾d.; Orange, 6¾d.; Aberdeen, Blayney, Goulburn, Mudgee, Port Macquarie and Singleton, 7d.; Bathurst, Braidwood and Hay, 7½d.; Carcoar, Narrabri West, Soome and Wentworth, 8d.; Broken Hill, 8¾d.; Cobar, Murrumburrah and Murrurundi, 9d.; Bourke and Wilcannia, 12d.; These rates are exclusive of the amounts levied on mines.

The first year in which the general rate was levied on the unimproved capital value was 1908, and a comparison of the general rate struck for various years since then is shown below.

The figures for the suburban municipalities includes all those in the metropolitan district as defined by Schedule IV of the Local Government Act of 1919:—

General Rate.	Number of Municipalities.							
	1908.		1916.		1921.		1924.	
	Suburban.	Country.	Suburban.	Country.	Suburban.	Country.	Suburban.	Country.
1d. under 2d.	4	28	2	21	..	5	...	3
2d. ,, 3d.	11	36	5	28	1	9	...	13
3d. ,, 4d.	21	38	18	41	7	18	10	20
4d. ,, 5d.	9	26	19	29	20	33	19	27
5d. ,, 6d.	3	9	3	16	18	28	16	26
6d. ,, 7d. ... ..	...	2	...	4	1	23	2	26
7d. ,, 8d. ... ..	...	2	...	1	...	11	...	9
8d. ,, 9d. ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	6	...	5
9d. and over ... ..	...	1	...	1	...	3	...	5
Total	48	142	47	142	47	136	47	134
Amount of General Rates levied £	547,110		954,340		1,508,332		1,881,797	

There has been a tendency towards higher rating, particularly in the country municipalities, where the rise in assessed value of ratable property has been less than in the suburbs.

One hundred and thirty-two municipalities levied special, local, and loan rates on the unimproved capital value in 1924, ranging from ¼d. to 12d. in the £, and twenty on the improved capital value, ranging from ¼d. to 3d. in the £. Including the Sydney Harbour Bridge rate, the amount of such rates levied in 1924 was £535,543.

Shire Ratings.

In the shires the kinds of rates which may be levied are similar to those in municipalities. They are levied upon the unimproved capital value except in a few cases where a small special rate has been imposed on the improved value. The minimum general rate is the same as in the municipalities and the maximum amounts leviable are as follows:—(a) For the total

of the general rate only—the sum yielded by a rate of 2d. in the £ on the unimproved capital value of all ratable land in the shire; (b) for the total of all rates in urban areas (other than general, water local, and sewerage local) the yield of 2s. in the £ on the assessed annual value of ratable land in the urban area; (c) the total of water local alone or sewerage local alone, the yield of 4d. in the £ on assessed annual value. As in municipalities the limits may be altered by proclamation if after inquiry it appears that the limit is less than is needed for the purposes of the rate.

Particulars relating to the general rates levied in the shires in various years since 1907, the first year the shires were in operation, are shown in the following table:—

General Rate in £.	Shires.						1924.	
	1907.	1911.	1916.	1921.	1923.	Number.	Unimproved	
							Capital value.	
d.							£	
1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...
1	1	3	2	...	...	...	...
3	3	2	5	1	3	2	2,217,040	
...	
1	104	64	20	13	11	9	14,888,058	
1 1/2	...	3	1	...	1	3	3,905,375	
1 1/4	10	23	15	8	5	5	6,210,494	
1 1/2	...	1	...	1	1	...	...
1 1/2	12	22	33	12	15	13	18,629,826	
1 1/2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
1 1/2	...	...	6	7	9	5	6,583,947
2	3	14	53	83	76	81	72,649,265	
2 1/4	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
2 1/2	...	...	...	4	4	8	7,138,071
2 3/4	...	...	...	...	1	1	628,647
3	...	...	...	6	9	9	11,859,686
Total	134	134	136	136	136	136	144,710,469	
Amount of General Rate levied £	358,751	461,971	633,973	959,446	1,052,181	1,115,966		

The tendency towards higher taxation is very marked, as in 1907 only 25, or 18·7 per cent. of the shires, imposed a general rate exceeding 1d., and 109, or 81·3 per cent., imposed a rate of 1d. or less, whereas in 1924 no fewer than 81, or nearly 60 per cent., levied the maximum general rate of 2d. in the £, and 18 councils took advantage of the special provisions of the Act, and after inquiry were allowed to levy rates beyond that amount.

On 50 per cent. of the ratable property in shires the general maximum rate of 2d. in the £ was levied in 1924, and 13·6 per cent. was subject to even higher rates.

In addition to the general rates, additional general, special, local, or loan rates were levied by 62 shires. They ranged upwards from $\frac{1}{20}$ d. in the £, the highest being 12d. in the £.

The purposes for which these special, local, and loan rates were imposed included the following:—Roads and street improvements and maintenance, water supply, drainage, electricity, street lighting, street watering, sanitary and garbage services, parks, fire brigade, town improvements, and payment of interest, etc., on loans current.

The total amount of general and additional general rates levied was £1,115,966, equal to an average rate of 1·85 in the £, and the special and local rates, including the Sydney Harbour Bridge rate, amounted to

£148,056, equal to an average rate of 0.25d. in the £ on the unimproved value of land. These amounts represent the rates actually levied in respect of the year 1924, and do not agree with the amounts shown in the following tables as they include interest on rates in arrears.

FINANCE OF LOCAL GOVERNING BODIES.

Expenditure and Income.

A summary of the expenditure and income of all municipalities and shires is shown below for the year 1924:—

Particulars.	City of Sydney.	Other Municipalities	Shires.	Total.
Expenditure.				
General Fund—	£	£	£	£
Administration	104,536	222,138	159,719	486,393
Works	132,718	1,850,101	1,467,867	3,450,686
Health Administration... ..	228,250	544,010	107,894	880,154
Public Services	119,604	270,362	31,432	421,398
Municipal or Shire Property	94,817	52,367	8,524	155,708
Miscellaneous	582,195	140,307	21,236	746,738
Trading Accounts	1,404,496	542,491	47,981	1,994,968
Special and Local Funds ... ..	...	326,292	125,089	451,381
Total Expenditure	2,666,616	3,948,068	1,972,742	8,587,426
Income.				
General Fund—	£	£	£	£
General Rates (inc. Interest, etc.)	681,415	1,907,235	1,129,863	3,718,513
Government Assistance ... ..	...	49,595	412,229	461,824
Other	562,261	909,839	204,323	1,676,423
Trading Accounts	1,611,767	670,833	66,409	2,349,009
Special and Local Funds ... ..	...	356,149	123,862	480,011
Total Income	2,855,443	3,893,651	1,936,686	8,685,780

From the above figures it will be seen that there was a surplus of £188,827 in the City accounts, a deficit of £54,417 in other municipalities, and of £36,056 in the shires, the net result being a surplus of £98,354 for all councils.

City of Sydney Finances.

Though the City Council conducts its affairs under the Sydney Corporation Acts and is not bound by the provisions of the Local Government Acts, its accounts in recent years have been kept in the same manner as those of other local bodies.

The rates and other city revenues are paid into, and the expenses not otherwise provided for are defrayed out of the City Fund. Receipts and disbursements relating to the public markets, and to resumptions of land, etc., are recorded separately, but these accounts are subsidiary to the City Fund, to which their balances are transferred at the end of each year. The financial operations of the City electricity undertaking form a separate account.

The receipts from the various funds in 1924 amounted to £2,855,443; the City Fund contributing £1,005,531; the Public Markets Fund, £125,377; the Resumptions Account, £112,768; and the Electric Lighting Fund, £1,611,767.

The disbursements in 1924 amounted to £2,666,616, viz.: City Fund, £930,211; Public Markets Fund, £116,457; Resumptions Account, £215,452; and Electric Lighting Fund, 1,404,496.

The following is a statement of the expenditure and income of the City Fund in the year 1924, under appropriate headings:—

Particulars.	Expenditure.	Income.
	£	£
General Purposes	75,664	702,950
Works	110,519	121,987
Health Administration	228,250	47,274
Public Services	117,765	82,468
Municipal Property	65,404	20,126
Miscellaneous	332,609	30,726
Total	930,211	1,005,531

Salaries, which amounted to £37,818, absorbed a very large share of the expenses for general purposes. Of the sum spent on public works, £43,942 was expended on the maintenance and construction of streets, £26,077 on footpaths, and £22,081 on wood-paving. On city cleansing £139,394 were expended, and this was the main item in health administration. The large amount shown under "miscellaneous" includes the annual debenture indebtedness, viz., £82,331, for interest, commission, etc., and £21,547 for sinking fund contributions.

The receipts and disbursements of the Public Markets Fund were £125,377 and £116,457 respectively, the latter amount being exclusive of interest and sinking fund, showed a surplus of £8,920 on the year's transactions, which was transferred to the City Fund. The Queen Victoria Markets brought in revenue to the extent of £33,786, or 27 per cent. of the total; and the receipts from the Municipal Markets amounted to £53,170, or about 42 per cent.

The receipts of the Resumptions Account were £112,768, and the disbursements £215,452, showing a debit of £102,684 after paying interest and contribution to sinking fund, and this amount was carried to the City Fund. The disbursements consisted of wages, £3,005; rates and insurance, £9,172; stores, etc., £14,837; sinking fund contribution, £28,428; and interest, £160,010.

City of Sydney—Balance-sheet.

The following is a summary of liabilities and assets of all funds of the City of Sydney as at 31st December, 1924:—

Liabilities.		Assets	
	£		£
Reserves, Reserve Accounts, etc.	2,623,863	Landed Properties, Baths, and Sundries	7,506,898
Sinking Funds	1,497,856	Machinery, Plant, Furniture, Stores, etc.	6,422,818
Debentures current	11,910,553	Investments—	
Bank Balances	722,522	Sinking Funds	1,417,114
Sundry Creditors	1,024,363	Other	55,107
	£17,779,157	Bank Balances and Cash	1,615,679
Excess of Assets	700,784	Sundry Debtors	561,561
		Flotation Expenses and Sundries	300,764
Total	£18,479,941	Total	£18,479,941

Notwithstanding the large loan indebtedness the assets exceeded the liabilities by £700,784. The debentures included £5,151,262 borrowed in connection with electric lighting, £4,363,136 for resumptions, and £968,155 for public markets. As the proceeds of such loans have been spent on reproductive municipal works, the undertakings referred to should provide the annual interest charges and sinking fund contributions, but they were not self-supporting in 1924.

Landed properties, baths, etc., which comprise about 41 per cent. of the assets, include such large items as public markets, £1,454,106; town hall, etc., £1,104,803; resumptions, £3,374,722; land and buildings used for the electricity works, £936,473. The accumulated sinking fund was £1,417,114, as against a debenture debt of £11,910,553. The sinking fund investments consisted of State and Commonwealth Government loans and State Treasury deposits £995,906, Municipal Council of Sydney debentures £414,000, and Commonwealth Bank deposits £7,208. Other investments were Commonwealth Government loans £20,200, Municipal Council of Sydney debentures £545,028, fixed deposits £37,096, securities held on contracts £42,330, bankers' guarantee £10,453.

Progress of City of Sydney.

The following table shows the progress of the City of Sydney since 1920:—

Particulars.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Area Acres	3,327	3,327	3,327	3,327	3,327
Population No.	111,280	110,430	109,970	109,970	109,180
	£	£	£	£	£
Unimproved Capital Value	33,077,620	35,887,412	36,838,697	36,918,354	45,593,929
Improved Capital Value ...	84,580,400	99,647,060	103,667,740	107,239,980	141,629,260
Assessed Annual Value ...	3,806,118	4,484,118	4,665,048	4,825,797	6,373,317
City Fund—					
Income—Rates	624,083	747,654	729,096	730,675	651,338
Other sources	155,285	185,460	194,970	284,357	354,193
Total	779,368	933,114	924,066	1,015,032	1,005,531
Expenditure	717,138	804,269	795,984	809,871	930,211
Public Markets Fund—					
Income	110,306	108,200	105,683	113,097	125,377
Expenditure	105,876	111,101	111,542	118,310	116,457
Resumption Account—					
Income	78,672	81,870	76,183	87,409	112,768
Expenditure	170,527	176,548	178,761	183,805	215,452
Electricity Works Fund—					
Income	756,512	944,969	1,242,922	1,352,819	1,611,767
Expenditure	754,431	968,717	1,101,569	1,259,057	1,404,496
All Funds—					
Total Income	1,724,858	2,068,153	2,348,854	2,568,357	2,855,443
Total Expenditure	1,747,972	2,060,635	2,187,856	2,371,043	2,666,616
Excess of Income	(-)23,114	7,518	160,998	197,314	188,827
All Funds—					
Liabilities	12,243,384	13,190,947	15,037,651	15,401,033	17,779,157
Assets	12,714,012	13,652,090	15,496,718	15,845,841	18,479,941
Excess of Assets	470,628	461,143	459,067	444,808	700,784
Loans outstanding	7,997,690	9,341,742	10,378,813	10,514,324	11,910,553
Sinking Fund	933,544	1,045,868	1,190,587	1,326,659	1,417,114

(-) Denotes excess of Expenditure.

The foregoing figures show that during the period under review the unimproved capital value increased by 38 per cent., the improved capital value and the assessed annual value each by 67 per cent. The total income was 66 per cent. higher in 1924 than in 1920, while the expenditure increased by 53 per cent. The total liabilities were larger by 45 per cent., and the assets by 45 per cent., the balance-sheet showing an excess of assets amounting to £700,784 in the year 1924. Comparing the loans outstanding, the total increased by 49 per cent., and the sinking fund by 52 per cent. The position of the last mentioned fund is very favourable, and in 1924 it represented 11·9 per cent. of the indebtedness.

COUNTRY AND SUBURBAN MUNICIPALITIES' FINANCES.

The Local Government Act, 1919, prescribes that there must be a general fund in each area, to which must be paid the proceeds of all general and additional general rates, loans, moneys received as grants or endowment from the Government, and miscellaneous income not required by law to be carried to other funds. The expenditure from the general fund must be on administration, health, roads, other public services, and repayment of loans.

There must be a special fund for each special rate levied, and for each work or service conducted by the Council in respect of which the special rate has been made, and the fund may be used only for the purposes of such work or service. A local fund also must be kept for each local rate levied, with restrictions similar to those in the case of the special funds, and the expenditure of the local fund is confined to works in the specified portion of the area.

A trading fund must be kept in respect of each trading undertaking conducted by the Council, into which all moneys received, whether from rates or other sources, loans, transfers, etc., must be paid, and a separate account must be kept. The fund may be applied only to the maintenance of the works, payment of interest and principal of loans, or other purposes incidental to the working of the undertaking.

All loan proceeds must be used for the specific purpose for which the loans were obtained, and may not be transferred from one fund to another, except by authority of the Minister.

The revenue of special and local funds must provide the money to meet not only the ordinary cost of maintaining the services, but also the obligations of the corresponding loan funds.

In addition to the above-mentioned funds, there must be a trust fund, which consists of receipts from the Government pending transfer to appropriate funds, deposits from contractors, etc., and any other amounts held in trust by the Council.

According to the ordinances under the Act, accounts must be "Income and Expenditure Accounts," kept by double entry, and each "fund" must have a separate banking account. Thus there is shown for each general, special, local, or trading fund a revenue account, or profit and loss account, giving the total expenditure chargeable for the period, whether paid or unpaid, and the total income for the same period, whether received or outstanding. A balance-sheet also is required for each fund with appropriate liabilities and assets, and aggregate balance-sheets and revenue accounts must be published. Only "realisable" assets may be shown, so that roads, bridges, drains, and other constructive works are excluded.

In the following tables the municipalities classified as metropolitan are those included in the area defined in Schedule IV of the Local Government Act of 1919, and the figures relating to municipalities for 1914 have been reclassified for the purpose of comparison.

In comparison with the transactions in the year 1914, there were considerable increases in the transactions of the general fund, and only a slight increase in respect of the special and local funds. This is due to the application of the Local Government Act of 1919, under which the loan funds and many special and local funds were absorbed by the general fund.

Expenditure.

The gross expenditure during 1924 by the various municipalities under the Local Government Act amounted to £3,948,068, which was £54,417 more than the income. The following statement shows the expenditure allocated to the various funds in 1914 and 1924:—

Funds.	1914.			1924.		
	Metro- politan (exc. City of Sydney)	Country.	Total.	Metro- politan (exc. City of Sydney)	Country.	Total.
General Fund—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Administrative ex- penses	60,736	55,348	116,084	123,923	98,215	222,138
Public Works ...	422,617	213,158	635,775	1,410,653	439,448	1,850,101
Health Adminis- tration	77,061	36,310	113,571	285,746	258,264	544,010
Public Services ...	99,098	42,720	141,818	184,593	85,769	270,362
Municipal Property	25,087	30,205	55,292	33,469	18,898	52,367
Miscellaneous ...	16,435	16,017	32,452	115,483	24,824	140,307
	701,034	393,758	1,094,792	2,153,867	925,418	3,079,285
Trading Accounts ...	66	91,443	91,509	40,770	501,721	542,491
Special and Local Funds	61,832	240,164	301,996	59,553	266,739	326,292
Loan Funds	70,062	43,091	113,153	...	...	...
Gross Expenditure ...	832,994	768,456	1,601,450	2,254,190	1,693,878	3,948,068

The greatest expenditure was naturally from the general funds, which now include the loan funds, and in 1924 accounted for 78 per cent. of the total. The trading concerns of the municipalities are gas and electricity. The special and local funds relate to water supply, sewerage, sanitary and garbage services, street-watering, street-lighting, footpaths, guttering, drainage, fire brigades, parks and reserves, and other miscellaneous matters.

The proportion of each class to the total expenditure and the rates per head of population in municipalities were as follows:—

Head of Expenditure.	1914.		1924.	
	Proportion to Total.	Per Head of Population.	Proportion to Total.	Per Head of Population.
	per cent.	£ s. d.	per cent.	£ s. d.
General Fund	68·4	1 0 2	78·0	2 3 0
Trading Accounts	5·7	0 1 8	13·7	0 7 7
Special and Local Funds ...	18·8	0 5 7	8·3	0 4 6
Loan Funds	7·1	0 2 1	...	...
Total	100·0	1 9 6	100·0	2 15 1

In 1924, of the expenditure by municipalities from the general funds, 60 per cent. was on public works. The amount expended on the actual maintenance and construction of works of a public character, viz., roads, streets, bridges, culverts, drains, wharves, ferries, etc., amounted to

£1,689,477, of which the sum of £1,299,739 was expended by the municipalities in the metropolitan area, and £389,738 in the country. The expenses of supervision, such as the salary of engineers, etc., amounted to £63,501, or 3·5 per cent. of the total amount expended on public works. Sundry expenses amounted to £97,123.

The relative cost of administration was largest in the country, being 10·6 per cent. of the total expenditure from the general funds; the Metropolitan municipalities spent only 5·7 per cent. under the same heading, and the City of Sydney, 8·3 per cent. So far as the municipalities are concerned, the figures relating to administrative expenses quoted above refer only to those payable for general purposes; other services, such as sanitary and garbage, etc., transfer their share of the administrative expenses to the general fund, and the amounts are not included in the above figures. The cost of administration in the country is relatively high, on account of the sparse population and small revenue of many of the municipalities, as in such cases the expenses on account of salaries, etc., are larger proportionately than those in the more closely settled localities.

The trading accounts, which relate to the supply of gas or electricity, will be treated later under those headings, and the special water and sewerage funds will be discussed separately.

Income.

The gross income in 1924 of all the municipalities subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act was £3,983,651, including £49,595 received as endowments or grants from the Government. Under the same funds, as shown in the expenditure, the income in 1914 and 1924 was as follows:—

Funds.	1914.			1924.		
	Metro- politan (exc. City of Sydney)	Country.	Total.	Metro- politan (exc. City of Sydney)	Country.	Total.
General Fund—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Rates levied (including interest)	596,465	301,305	897,770	1,329,562	577,673	1,907,235
Government Endowments, etc.	745	4,371	5,116	...	...	...
Sundries (General Purposes)	13,546	7,846	21,392	30,532	18,059	48,591
Public Works*	55,127	43,127	98,254	327,659	62,146	339,805
Health Administration*	23,373	14,035	37,408	152,672	203,334	356,006
Public Services*	16,450	13,307	29,757	27,932	29,549	57,481
Municipal Property	22,042	36,155	58,197	38,007	40,826	78,833
Miscellaneous	2,794	518	3,312	26,959	1,759	28,718
	730,542	420,664	1,151,206	1,933,323	933,346	2,866,669
Trading Accounts	12	124,369	124,381	56,741	614,092	670,833
Special and Local Funds	69,493	280,082	349,575	61,575	294,574	356,149
Loan Funds	63,993	61,566	125,559	...	...	...
Gross Income	864,040	886,681	1,750,721	2,051,639	1,842,012	3,893,651

* Including Government grants.

The amount of Government assistance included in the above income in 1924 amounted to £49,595; of which £43,382 represented contributions to public works (roads, streets, bridges, etc.); £5,563 were granted for health administration, chiefly as contributions to inspectors' salaries, etc., and £650 for public services, etc.

Stating the receipts from each source as a percentage of the total income, and according to population, the following results are obtained:—

Source of Income.	1914.		1924.	
	Proportion to Total.	Per head of Population.	Proportion to Total.	Per head of Population.
	per cent.	£ s. d.	per cent.	£ s. d.
General Funds	65·7	1 1 2	73·6	2 0 0
Trading Accounts	7·1	0 2 4	17·2	0 9 4
Special and Local Funds	20·0	0 6 5	9·2	0 5 0
Loan Funds	7·2	0 2 4	...	...
Total	100·0	1 12 3.	100·0	2 14 4

The bulk of the general fund income was received from rates, the average in 1924 for all municipalities being 66·5 per cent. Income from public works represented 13·6 per cent. of the total receipts, and about 11 per cent. of the revenue from that source was provided by the Government as grants. The next important source of income was health administration, which accounted for 12·4 per cent. of the total income, a large proportion being derived from sanitary and garbage fees.

In the suburbs, the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage, and Drainage Board levied charges in addition to those made by the municipalities, and reference to these is made later.

Special and Local Funds.

The expenditure and income of the Special and Local Funds in the years 1914 and 1924 are shown in the following table:—

Funds.	1914.			1924.		
	Metro-politan (exc. City of Sydney)	Country.	Total.	Metro-politan (exc. City of Sydney)	Country.	Total.
Expenditure—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Water Supply ... ..	...	84,733	84,733	213	166,159	166,372
Sewerage and Drainage	4,887	6,131	11,018	27	47,998	48,025
Sanitary and Garbage	39,553	118,818	158,371	4,798	...	4,798
Street Lighting	90	23,476	23,566	12,456	42,570	55,026
Street Watering	1,010	542	1,552	142	1,163	1,305
Roads, Streets, Footpaths, and Gutters ... ..	...	...	...	40,030	6,552	46,582
Miscellaneous	16,292	6,464	22,756	1,887	2,297	4,184
Total	61,832	240,164	301,996	59,553	266,739	326,292
Income—						
Water Supply ... ..	...	93,699	93,699	245	186,250	186,495
Sewerage and Drainage	5,561	6,490	12,051	11	53,234	53,245
Sanitary and Garbage	39,634	126,149	165,783	5,510	...	5,510
Street Lighting	83	25,554	25,637	13,965	43,138	57,103
Street Watering	1,221	697	1,918	271	1,160	1,431
Roads, Streets, Footpaths, and Gutters ... ..	...	...	...	40,428	7,829	48,257
Miscellaneous	15,990	34,497	50,487	1,145	2,963	4,108
Total	62,489	287,086	349,575	61,575	294,574	356,149

The water and sewerage services are the most important of those mentioned above so far as the country is concerned, the suburbs of Sydney being supplied by the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage, and Drainage Board.

Balance-sheet.

The following statement indicates the nature of the liabilities and assets of the municipalities as at 31st December, 1924, amounts due from one fund to another have been excluded:—

Funds.	Metropolitan (excluding City of Sydney).	Country.	Total.
	£	£	£
Liabilities—			
Sundry creditors, including Loans outstanding and interest thereon	2,270,357	1,341,377	3,611,734
Debts due to Government and interest thereon ...	90,323	2,083,980	2,173,703
Bank overdraft	230,768	156,590	387,358
Other (including Deposits on Contracts and unexpended portion of Government grants)	53,109	36,909	90,018
Total	2,644,557	3,618,256	6,262,813
Assets—			
Cash in hand and Bank balances	376,539	326,271	702,810
Outstanding rates and interest	130,019	151,231	281,250
Sundry debtors... ..	136,059	196,866	332,925
Furniture	30,226	32,560	62,786
Stores and materials	36,014	94,428	130,442
Land, buildings, plant, and machinery	1,055,951	4,290,247	5,346,198
Other	31,749	39,628	71,377
Total	1,796,557	5,131,231	6,927,788
Excess of Assets ... ..	...	1,512,975	664,975
Excess of Liabilities	848,000	...	...

The balance-sheets of eleven of the metropolitan municipalities, with assets valued at £242,777, showed an excess of assets amounting in the aggregate to £36,838, and in thirty-six metropolitan municipalities, in which the assets were valued at £1,553,789, there were deficiencies amounting to a total of £934,838. In the country, on the other hand, only ten municipalities—of which five were suburbs of Newcastle—showed deficiencies, their assets amounting to £163,880 and liabilities to £124,601.

SHIRES—FINANCE.

The accounts of the shires are kept under the same system as those of municipalities, and the following statement shows the expenditure of shires during 1924 in comparison with the year 1914:—

Particulars.	Expenditure.					
	1914.			1924.		
	Total.	Per cent.	Per head of population in Shires.	Total.	Per cent.	Per head of population in Shires.
General Fund—	£		£ s. d.	£		£ s. d.
Administrative expenses...	95,760	9·6	0 2 11	159,719	8·1	0 4 8
Public works	801,542	80·5	1 4 8	1,467,867	74·4	2 2 9
Health administration	8,064	0·8	0 0 3	107,894	5·5	0 3 2
Public services	14,757	1·5	0 0 5	31,432	1·6	0 0 11
Shire property	15,277	1·5	0 0 6	8,524	0·4	0 0 3
Miscellaneous	9,275	0·9	0 0 4	24,236	1·2	0 0 8
Special and local funds	51,796	5·2	0 1 7	125,089	6·4	0 3 8
Trading Accounts ... ..	...	...	...	47,981	2·4	0 1 5
Total Expenditure	996,471	100·0	1 10 8	1,972,742	100·0	2 17 6

The total amount spent from the general funds of the shires upon public works included the cost of supervision (salaries of engineers, etc.), £83,141, and sundry expenses, £51,989. The actual amount spent on maintenance and construction was £1,332,737.

The principal heads of income of shires in 1924 were as follow, and the figures for 1914 are shown also:—

Particulars.	Income.					
	1914.			1924.		
	Total.	Per cent.	Per head of population in Shires.	Total.	Per cent.	Per head of population in Shires.
	£		£ s. d.	£		£ s. d.
General Fund—						
General rates, etc. ...	609,580	58·3	0 18 9	1,129,363	59·4	1 12 11
Government endowment... ..	146,077	14·0	0 4 6	146,705	7·6	0 4 3
Public works	197,754	18·9	0 6 1	323,357	16·7	0 9 5
Health administration	4,889	0·4	0 0 2	103,500	5·3	0 3 0
Public services	10,069	1·0	0 0 4	15,885	0·8	0 0 6
Shire property	13,738	1·3	0 0 5	11,741	0·6	0 0 4
Miscellaneous	5,171	0·5	0 0 2	15,364	0·8	0 0 6
Special and local funds	57,714	5·6	0 1 9	123,862	6·4	0 3 7
Trading Accounts ... ..	...	...	...	66,409	3·4	0 1 11
Total Income...	1,044,992	100·0	1 12 2	1,936,686	100·0	2 16 5

The principal item in the receipts during 1924 on account of public works was Government grants, which amounted to £265,218, while the same source was responsible for £306 for health administration. The total assistance from the Government amounted to £412,229, or 21·3 per cent. of the total income.

Balance-sheet.

The financial position of the shires on 31st December, 1924, may be seen from the following figures, which show an excess of assets amounting to £348,002.

Liabilities.	Assets.
£	£
Sundry Creditors (including Loans outstanding and interest thereon)	Cash in hand and bank balances
616,483	319,324
Debts due to Government and interest thereon	Outstanding rates and interest
122,945	170,270
Bank overdraft	Sundry debtors
256,092	60,206
Other (including deposits on Contracts and unexpended portion of Government grants)... ..	Furniture
115,193	19,501
Excess of assets	Stores and materials
348,002	37,622
	Land, buildings, plant, and machinery
	848,221
	Other
	3,571
Total	Total
1,458,715	1,458,715

In twenty-three shires, including one in the Metropolitan district, there was an excess of liabilities, the assets being valued at £248,028, as compared with liabilities £380,080.

Financial Assistance Received from Government.

The central Government of the State affords financial assistance to the local governing bodies in the form of endowment or of grants for roads and other necessary works, or for special purposes.

Endowments are paid to shires only, assistance to municipalities being paid as grants. The Local Government Act of 1919 provides that a sum of

at least £150,000 per annum is to be paid to the shires as endowment. The amount is distributed amongst the shires according to an apportionment made by the Government in every third year. The matters to be taken into account in making the distribution are specified in the Act, *e.g.*, the necessity for developing new districts, the extent to which the Council and the people of the areas concerned undertake to share in the development by constructing works or paying local rates, the rate levied and its relation to the maximum rate.

The allotment of the statutory sum of £150,000 per annum for the three years commencing 1st January, 1925, was as follows:—

57 shires received no endowment.			
5 shires received £250 and under £500 per annum.			
6	„	£500	„ £750
4	„	£750	„ £1,000
19	„	£1,000	„ £1,500
14	„	£1,500	„ £2,000
18	„	£2,000	„ £3,000
6	„	£3,000	„ £4,000
4	„	£4,000	„ £5,000
3	„	£5,000 each	

As a general rule, the highest amounts are allowed to the areas in the coastal division, and the shires which receive £5,000 are Dorrigo, Erina, and Manning.

The amount of Government assistance received by the municipalities and shires during the five years 1920-24, as shown in their accounts, is indicated below:—

Year.	Municipalities.			Shires.			Total Government Assistance.	
	Public Works.	Other.	Total Municipalities.	Endowment.	Public Works.	Other.		Total Shires.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1920	50,635	4,981	55,616	156,429	165,506	2,516	324,451	380,067
1921	51,466	5,772	57,238	178,420	152,181	572	331,173	388,411
1922	102,639	5,884	108,523	156,861	183,712	374	340,947	449,470
1923	66,688	5,259	71,947	150,296	166,697	472	317,465	389,412
1924	43,382	6,213	49,595	146,705	265,218	306	412,229	461,824

The amounts stated above do not include advances by the State or Federal Government which have to be repaid.

LOANS.

Loans obtained by the Council of the City of Sydney are raised under the provisions of special Acts of Parliament. Loans obtained by the councils of other municipalities and of shires are raised usually under the Local Government Act, 1919, as amended by subsequent Acts.

In respect of municipal loans, the Local Government Act prescribes that a council may not borrow any moneys which, with existing loans, will cause the total indebtedness to exceed 20 per cent. of the unimproved value of ratable land in the area. If the outstanding loans of a municipality exceed this proportion, the council may not raise a special loan until the total amount falls below the limit.

Loans under the Local Government Act may be raised by four methods, viz., limited overdraft under the authority of the Minister for Local Government, and renewal, ordinary, or special loans approved by the Governor.

Limited overdrafts may be obtained for any purpose upon which the council is authorised to expend a fund (except a trust fund). By his certificate the Minister determines the limit within which the council may borrow while the certificate is in force. The sum raised may not exceed half the income of the fund in respect of which it is obtained, plus the amount of any fixed deposit to the credit of the fund (except a deposit which is part of a reserve for loan repayment). The Minister may cancel a certificate or reduce or increase the limit of overdraft.

The purpose of limited overdrafts is to enable the councils to finance a regular programme of works and services to meet extraordinary expenditure during periods of inequality or fluctuations in the collection of rates. In view of this fact, the Department of Local Government suggests to the councils as a general principle that the amount of the overdraft at end of each year, or, at least, at the end of each council's term, should not exceed the amount outstanding for rates in the case of the general or other fund of which rates constitute the principal source of revenue. Investigations conducted by the Department in regard to the general fund of each council, as at 31st December, 1924, showed that in 55 municipalities and 40 shires there was no general fund overdraft; in 42 municipalities and 19 shires there were overdrafts which did not exceed the amount of general rates outstanding; and 82 municipalities and 77 shires had general fund overdrafts exceeding the amount of outstanding rates.

Renewal loans are for the purpose of repaying or renewing any other loan, and for paying the expenses incidental thereto.

Ordinary loans are those for such purposes as carrying out orders as to boundary works, discharging liability arising under verdicts or orders of legal tribunals, establishing or extending sanitary and garbage services, acquiring machinery and equipment for the construction of roads and bridges, establishing road punts and road ferries, and meeting liabilities transferred to the council consequent upon alteration of boundaries. An ordinary loan may be obtained notwithstanding that it will raise the total indebtedness of the council above the prescribed limit, but while there is an excess the council may not raise a special loan.

Special loans are those which do not fall within the other three categories. A council must give notice of a proposal to raise a special loan, and the ratepayers have the right, by petition of at least 25 per cent. of those concerned, to demand that a poll be taken as to whether they approve of the loan, and as to whether the loan rate (if any) shall be on the unimproved or the improved capital value. Shire special loans may not exceed in the aggregate a sum equal to three times the amount of the income, as shown by the last year's accounts.

The councils may accept from ratepayers advances not exceeding £500 for the purpose of carrying out necessary works for which the lenders have applied. Such loans must be free of interest or at a rate not exceeding 4 per cent., and the amount accepted by a council may not exceed one-tenth of the total revenue for the preceding year.

Renewal, ordinary, or special loans under the Local Government Act are secured, firstly upon the income of the fund to which the loans belong, and, secondly, upon the income of the council arising from any source.

Unless the loans are repayable by instalments at intervals of one year or less, there must be a reserve for loan repayment in every fund in respect of which a renewal, ordinary or special, loan has been raised, and in each year the council must transfer to the reserve a sum of not less than the amounts which were intimated in its applications for approval of the loans. In the case of loans repayable by annual or more frequent instalments, the reserve for repayment is optional.

The following statement shows the loans by local governing bodies outstanding on 31st December, 1924, and the sinking funds set apart to meet them.

Division	Loans Outstanding.			Sinking Funds.	Interest due on Loans, 1924.
	New South Wales.	London.	Total.		
Municipalities—	£	£	£	£	£
Sydney	9,910,553	2,000,000	11,910,553	1,417,114	583,886
Other Metropolitan	2,343,054	...	2,343,054	2,726	101,214
Country	*1,307,417	8,500	1,315,917	33,518	58,958
Total Municipalities	£13,561,024	2,008,500	15,569,524	1,453,258	744,058
Shires	779,162	...	779,162	6,190	28,517
Total	£14,340,186	2,008,500	16,348,686	1,459,548	767,575

* Including £77,384 raised in Victoria.

Temporary loans, payable on demand, and overdrafts, amounting altogether to £705,523, which bear interest at current bank rates, are included in the above table.

The total amount of loans raised by municipalities during 1924 was £2,287,525, viz., £1,514,700 borrowed by the City of Sydney, £584,618 by metropolitan, and £188,207 by country municipalities. The sinking funds of the City of Sydney were increased by £90,455, and those of other municipalities by £3,780. Apart from the liability to the State under the Country Towns Water and Sewerage Act, the total amount of municipal loans outstanding at the close of the year was £15,569,524, and towards this amount there was at the credit of the sinking funds a sum of £1,453,358. The average rate of interest was 5·02 per cent., viz.: 4·90 per cent on the loans of the City of Sydney, 5·50 per cent. on those of the metropolitan municipalities, and 5·09 per cent. on those of the country municipalities.

In the shires, overdrafts on current accounts and other temporary loans amounted to £258,995, or nearly one-third of the loans current at 31st December, 1924. All the shire loans have been raised in New South Wales, the amount floated during 1924 being £245,250.

If loans amounting to £6,360 (mainly loans of a temporary character in which the rate of interest is not defined) be deducted from the total loans outstanding, the average rate of interest on shire loans current at 31st December, 1924, was 5·99 per cent.

Since 1916 the loan indebtedness of the municipal and shire councils has almost doubled, as shown by the following comparison of the loans outstanding at the end of 1916 and of each of the four years 1921-24, also of the ratio of loans to the unimproved capital value of ratable property in the incorporated areas.

At 31st Dec.	Amount of Loans Outstanding.				Proportion to Improved Capital Value.			
	City of Sydney.	Other Municipalities.	Shires.	Total.	City of Sydney.	Other Municipalities	Shires.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
1916	7,050,100	1,692,133	148,367	8,890,600	22·62	2·91	0·14	4·56
1921	9,341,742	2,203,175	198,581	11,743,498	26·03	2·70	0·15	4·73
1922	10,378,813	2,483,614	356,917	13,219,344	28·17	2·86	0·26	5·10
1923	10,514,324	2,899,221	535,322	13,948,867	28·48	3·04	0·33	5·12
1924	11,910,553	3,658,971	779,162	16,348,686	26·12	3·60	0·54	5·60

The fall in the ratio between loans and unimproved capital value in the City of Sydney in 1924 was due in a large measure to the incidence of a new valuation in that year, by which the unimproved value was increased by £8,675,000 over the figure of the year 1923. The ratio in 1924 was, however, slightly higher than in 1921, when the previous valuation was made. The effect of re-valuations is not apparent in regard to the other groups, as the valuations in the various areas are made in different years.

The debt per head of population in incorporated areas was £4 16s. 10d. in 1916, £5 11s. 2d. in 1921, and £7 6s. 8d. in 1924.

MUNICIPAL GASWORKS.

The Local Government Act authorises the councils of municipalities and shires to construct gasworks, and to supply gas for public lighting and for use by private consumers. Twenty country municipalities maintain works for coal gas, and others have installed acetylene and other plants. The metropolitan districts are served by private companies.

A summary of the gasworks revenue accounts of the municipalities with coal gasworks in 1924 is shown in the following statement, in comparison with similar particulars for 1914:—

Expenditure.	1914.	1924.	Income.	1914.	1924.
	£	£		£	£
Manufacture	38,268	91,421	Rates levied ... ..	...	6,093
Distribution	4,363	9,456	Private lighting	56,808	115,332
Management expenses	10,032	19,503	Public lighting	10,914	8,439
Public lighting	3,083	2,725	Sale of residual products	7,312	12,882
Sinking Fund and Reserves ... ..	...	9,165	Other	660	5,158
Other	911	8,069			
Balance	19,037	7,565			
Total	£ 75,694	147,904	Total	£ 75,694	147,904

On the total operations for 1924 there was a gross profit of £7,565. Six municipalities made a loss on trading, and even where the undertaking was carried on at a profit the gain in each case was small. The manufacture of gas accounted for 65 per cent. of the expenditure, as compared with 68 per cent. in 1914, and private lighting for 78 per cent. of the income, as against 75 per cent. in 1914.

The following is an analysis of the total expenditure in 1924, per 1,000 cubic feet of gas sold. The average price charged to private consumers ranged from 4s. 5d. to 11s. 5d. per thousand cubic feet; the general average being 7s. 5d. per thousand cubic feet:—

	s.	d.
Manufacture	5	4
Distribution... ..	0	7
Management and general expenses, including depreciation	1	2
Public lighting	0	2
Interest on loans and overdrafts... ..	0	4
Sinking Fund and Reserves	0	7
Other	0	2
Total	8	4

The balance-sheet of the gasworks trading undertakings for 1924 is given below:—

Liabilities.		Assets.	
		£	£
Sundry creditors	11,163	Buildings, land, stock, plant, etc.	287,755
Loans and overdrafts, including interest accrued due	109,494	Sundry debtors, including amounts due from other funds	39,402
Reserves	52	Fixed deposits and Investments...	10,753
Excess of Assets	227,850	Bank balance, and cash	10,649
Total	£348,559	Total	£348,559

The total excess of assets amounted to £227,850, and none of the municipalities showed a deficit at the close of 1924.

MUNICIPAL AND SHIRE ELECTRICITY WORKS.

The supply of electricity for lighting and for power is undertaken by the councils in many local governing areas. In some cases the councils have established works for the generation of electricity, while in others it is purchased in bulk from another council, from Government works, or from collieries, etc., and distributed to consumers.

City of Sydney Electricity Undertaking.

In 1904 the council of the City of Sydney commenced to supply electricity within the city, and subsequently the works were extended to enable the city undertaking to supply a large area beyond the city boundaries. In addition to the electricity generated at the council's works, supplies are purchased from the Railway Commissioners. In 1924 the undertaking distributed electricity direct to consumers in the city, and in thirty-three other municipalities and in the shire of Ku-ring-gai; and supplied it in bulk to the local councils of the municipalities of Manly, Fairfield, Prospect and Sherwood, and Dundas, and the shires of Warringah, Hornsby, and Blacktown.

The expenditure and income of the City electricity undertaking in the year ended 31st December, 1924, are shown below:—

Expenditure.		Income.	
		£	£
Generation of Electricity	361,182	Private Lighting	843,715
Distribution	241,714	Public Lighting	97,346
Management	131,695	Power Supply	617,073
Purchase of Electricity	66,552	Rentals—Meters, Motors, Lamps, etc.	45,949
Miscellaneous	40,686	Miscellaneous	7,684
Total	£841,829	Total	£1,611,767
Balance carried to Net Revenue Account	769,938		
Total	£1,611,767		

Generation, representing 43 per cent., forms the largest item of expenditure. Distribution cost 29 per cent., management 15 per cent., electricity purchased 8 per cent., and miscellaneous 5 per cent. of the expenditure.

The gross profit, carried to the net revenue account, was £769,938. The charges against the profits were:—Interest on debentures and overdraft, £295,682; sinking fund contribution, £51,186; depreciation reserve account, £186,600; written off flotation expenses, etc., £15,002; fire insurance contribution, £7,300; miscellaneous, £6,897; making a total of £562,667. The net profit for the year 1924, after paying interest and sinking fund contribution, was therefore £207,271, which was carried forward to profit and loss account.

Below is a summary of the balance-sheet of the City Electricity Works Fund on 31st December, 1924:—

Liabilities.		Assets.	
£		£	
Debenture Loans... ..	5,151,262	Land, Buildings, Machinery; Plant, etc.	6,858,246
Sinking Fund	433,086	Sinking Fund Investments—	
Reserve Accounts	1,531,353	Commonwealth Loans ...	234,585
Sundry Creditors... ..	246,286	New South Wales Treasury...	25,395
Deposits (Consumers')	76,725	Debentures—Sydney Muni- cipal Council	137,200
Commonwealth Bank	448,085	Commonwealth Bank	2,380
Other	8,282	Stores, Materials, Coal, etc. ...	403,256
Net Profit for year 1924	207,271	Sundry Debtors, Consumers' Balances, etc.	372,775
		Other	68,513
Total	£8,102,350	Total	£8,102,350

The loan capital, which forms 64 per cent. of the liabilities, returned nearly 15 per cent. profit for the year. Interest payments and sinking fund contribution for the year amounted to £346,868; and £186,600 were allowed for depreciation. The sinking fund was represented by investments of £399,560 in Government, municipal, and bank securities.

The following table shows the rapid growth of the City Electric Lighting Undertaking. The figures represent the actual profit or loss made in specified years, excluding balances brought forward:—

Particulars.	1911.	1916.	1921.	1923.	1924.
Quantity Sold—					
Light Units ... 000	9,748	22,550	37,481	51,174	61,812
Power Units ... 000	8,020	25,983	70,696	106,523	126,614
Total Units... 000	17,768	48,533	108,177	157,697	188,426
Expenditure... ..	£ 95,428	211,263	659,483	740,893	841,829
Income	£ 172,693	433,996	943,125	1,352,819	1,611,767
Surplus	£ *94,861	222,733	303,642	611,926	769,938
Charges against Surplus	£ 66,470	192,071	329,264	518,164	562,667
Net gain	£ 28,391	30,662	(-)25,592	93,762	207,271

* Includes surplus of a purchased company, £17,596.

(-) Denotes loss.

Other Electricity Undertakings.

Electricity is obtained in bulk from the generating stations of the Railway Commissioners by the councils of Bankstown, Newcastle, West Maitland, and Singleton municipalities, and of the Tarro Shire; also the St. George County Council, of which details are shown on page 362. The Government electric power station at Port Kembla is another important source of the bulk supply of electricity. The municipalities of Wollongong, Kiama, Bowral, Moss Vale, and Mittagong are supplied therefrom, and further extensions are under construction.

A significant development in regard to electricity points to the utilisation of water-power in districts where coal is not available at low cost. The Dorriggo Shire Council has initiated a hydro-electric scheme, and the Clarence River County Council has undertaken a scheme on the Nymboida River.

In addition to the areas which are supplied directly from the City Electricity Undertaking, electric light and power services have been established or are being installed in fifty municipalities and in fifteen shires.

The following statement shows the results of the trading operations of the electricity undertakings during 1924 in respect of these municipalities and shires. The figures for municipalities in 1914 are included for comparative purposes.

Income.	Municipalities.		Shires.	Expenditure.	Municipalities.		Shires.
	1914.	1924.	1924.		1914.	1924.	1924.
	£	£	£		£	£	£
Rates levied ...	...	54,097	12,981	Generation ...	21,711	215,895	19,883
Private lighting ...	26,255	224,732	23,658	Distribution ...	3,058	30,043	2,766
Public lighting ...	10,252	31,875	11,406	Management, etc. ...	4,308	66,363	14,035
Power supply ...	9,064	137,602	6,883	Public lighting ...	1,541	6,883	1,062
Rents of meters ...	...	...	...	Interest and Sinking Fund ...	...	103,680	22,602
etc. ...	1,523	16,343	2,656	Other ...	4,234	33,418	1,657
Other ...	1,593	43,580	3,824	Balance ...	13,835	51,998	4,403
Total...	48,687	508,229	66,408	Total...	48,687	508,229	66,408

Generation of electricity is the largest item of expenditure, accounting in 1924 for 45·5 per cent. of the whole. Distribution of the current cost 6·3 per cent., management 15·5 per cent., interest and sinking fund 24·4 per cent., and other expenses 8·3 per cent. The net profit of these concerns to the municipalities and shires was £56,401.

Setting out the expenditure in 1924 on the basis of the total units sold, the following result is obtained:—

Item.	Municipalities.	Shires.
	pence per unit.	pence per unit.
Generation and Purchase ...	1·43	2·44
Distribution ...	0·20	0·33
Management, general, depreciation, etc. ...	0·48	1·83
Public lighting ...	0·05	0·12
Interest and Sinking Fund ...	0·68	3·00
Other ...	0·18	0·23
Total ...	3·02	7·95

The figures for the shires are much higher than those for the municipalities. This is attributable to the fact that the municipalities are operating on a larger scale than the shires with a consequent lessening of manufacturing costs and overhead charges per unit.

The average price per unit charged to consumers in municipalities for lighting was 5·76d., and for power 1·35; the corresponding figures for shires were 7·42d. and 3·18d.

The balance-sheet of the electricity works trading funds in 1924 was as follows:—

Liabilities.	Municipalities.	Shires.	Assets.	Municipalities.	Shires.
	£	£		£	£
Sundry creditors ...	99,037	13,536	Materials, stock, etc. ...	1,168,069	192,630
Loans and overdrafts ...	871,656	184,962	Sundry debtors ...	87,831	12,999
Reserves ...	37,848	...	Fixed deposits, bank balance, and cash ...	143,993	40,375
Excess of assets ...	400,383	47,465			
Total ...	1,399,923	246,013	Total ...	1,399,923	246,013

The combined liabilities of municipalities and shires were £1,198,088, and the total assets amounted to £1,645,936, leaving a credit balance of £447,848. Six municipalities and one shire showed an excess of liabilities, the amounts being small in each case.

Electricity Undertakings of County Councils.

The St. George Council supplies the municipalities of Bexley, Hurstville, Kogarah, and Rockdale with electric light and power, and the Clarence River County Council has constructed works on the Nymboida River to supply townships within that district. The following statement shows the particulars of the revenue accounts for 1924:—

Expenditure.	St. George Council.	Clarence River Council.	Income.	St. George Council.	Clarence River Council.
	£	£		£	£
Generation and Purchase of Electricity	10,981	204	Loan Rates	10,586	...
Distribution of Electricity	3,314	31	Sales of Electricity	31,632	636
Street Lighting	1,010	...	Rent of Meters, etc.	1,978	24
Management and General Expenses	2,978	234	Interest on Investments	44	...
Votes to Councils	500	...	Sundries	562	88
Loans—					
Interest	5,151	643			
Reduction	4,813	...			
Depreciation	6,086	...			
Sundries	646	113			
Balance	9,323	...	Deficit ... ..	...	447
Total	44,802	1,195	Total	44,802	1,195

The trading operations of the St. George Council during 1924 resulted in a surplus of £9,323. The works of the Clarence River Council at Nymboida were opened in November, and were in active operation for only a few weeks during the year under review.

The liabilities and assets at 31st December, 1924, are shown below:—

Liabilities.	St. George Council.	Clarence River Council.	Assets.	St. George Council.	Clarence River Council.
Loans and overdraft	115,813	137,000	Land, buildings, plant, etc.	140,276	142,430
Deposits in trusts	2,278	17	Outstanding rates	1,369	..
Interest accrued	1,832	643	Sundry debtors	7,215	808
Sundry creditors	10,731	9,102	Promotion expenses	2,910	1,592
Reserves	9,132	..	Bank balances, etc.	11,456	1,455
Excess of Assets	32,370	..	Excess of liabilities ... ..	..	447
Total	172,226	146,782	Total	172,226	146,782

FIRE BRIGADES.

The public services for the prevention and extinguishing of fires are controlled by a Board of Fire Commissioners, constituted under the Fire Brigades Act, 1909, with jurisdiction in certain districts which were defined in the Act or added by proclamation. The areas under the oversight of the Board are grouped to form fire districts. They include the City of Sydney and the municipalities and shires comprising the metropolitan district, also the districts of Newcastle, Broken Hill, over seventy country municipalities, and a number of townships in other incorporated areas.

The Board consists of a President, appointed by the Governor, and four members, elected for a term of three years, viz., one by the councils of the

Sydney and suburban municipalities, one by the councils of the other incorporated areas to which the Act applies, one elected by the fire insurance companies, and one by the volunteer fire brigades. The votes are apportioned among the councils according to the amount contributed to the fund administered by the Board, viz., £100 or under, one vote; over £100 and not exceeding £500, two votes; over £500 and not exceeding £1,000, three votes; over £1,000, four votes. Each insurance company and each volunteer fire brigade is entitled to one vote.

In each year the Board makes an estimate of the amount proposed to be expended in the various fire districts during the ensuing year, and this sum is contributed in equal shares by the councils of the municipalities and shires concerned, the insurance companies, and the Government. The estimates must be made so that the contribution by the councils in a fire district will not exceed $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the £ on the unimproved capital value of ratable land, though the Board may exceed this limit with the consent of the Minister if requested by the councils to do so.

Where a fire district is comprised by more than one municipality or shire, the amount to be paid by each council is apportioned according to the annual value of ratable land within the district. Payments by the insurance companies are based on the amount of premiums payable in respect of fire risks within each district. With the consent of the Governor, the Board may borrow money up to £150,000.

The Board establishes and maintains permanent fire brigades and authorises the constitution of volunteer brigades, which are subsidised out of the funds. In the metropolitan districts there are 31 fire stations, with staffs of permanent men whose services are wholly at the Board's disposal; 30 stations with two or more permanent men, assisted by partially-paid men, and 10 stations manned entirely by partially-paid staffs. In the country the principal stations are at Newcastle and Broken Hill, and there are brigades at 101 other localities.

The following table shows the revenue account of the Board of Fire Commissioners for the year ended 31st December, 1924:—

Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	£		£
Balance from 1923	19,181	Administration	9,604
Subsidy from Government ...	82,648	Salaries and Payments to Volunteers	141,970
Subsidy from Municipalities and Shires	82,648	Repairs to Buildings, Plant, and other expenses	67,631
Subsidy from Fire Insurance Companies and Firms	82,648	Equipment and Property Charges	37,845
Other Sources	6,865	Balance	16,940
Total	£273,990	Total	£273,990

The contributions by 53 municipalities and shires comprising the Sydney fire district in 1924 represented 6s. 2d. per £100 of assessed annual value of the ratable land, as compared with 5s. 7d. in 1919. Contributions amounting to £82,043 were received from 113 insurance companies and £605 from 51 firms who insured goods with companies not registered in New South Wales. In the Sydney fire district such contributions represented 5·92 per cent. of the premiums less reinsurances, and in the other districts the proportions ranged from 2·22 per cent. to 16·03 per cent.

The estimates of proposed expenditure by the Board for the year 1925 amounted to £257,616, viz., £182,304 for the Sydney fire district and £75,312 for other districts.

The balance-sheet of the Board as at 31st December, 1924, is shown in the following statement:—

Liabilities.		Assets.	
	£		£
Fund Account	45,592	Land and Buildings	253,165
Trust Accounts	1,439	Plant and Fire Appliances	143,218
Debentures and Accrued Interest	136,152	Stocks on Hand	20,551
Revenue and Expenditure Account	16,940	Fixed Deposit, Bank Balances	
Property and Equipment Fund ...	233,392	and Cash	17,071
Administration Account	1,798	Other	1,298
Total	£435,303	Total	£435,303

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE SERVICES.

The administration of water supply and sewerage services is a function of the local governing bodies in the country districts, but in the larger centres of population, where the reticulation works serve a number of local areas, the management is entrusted to Boards consisting of representatives of the central Government and of the local bodies concerned. Until recently, when a change was made in regard to the services in Sydney and its environs, all the moneys for the construction of the works, etc., were provided by the central Government, and the revenues collected were paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund. Therefore, the loan moneys expended form part of the public debt of the State, and the undertakings have been regarded as belonging to the sphere of national government rather than that of local government. Generally, the construction of the major works for these services has been carried out by the State Department of Public Works, and upon completion they have been transferred to the control of the Boards, by whom the reticulation works are undertaken.

The Metropolitan Water, Sewerage, and Drainage Board administers extensive works in the county of Cumberland, which includes Sydney and suburbs, and the Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage Board exercises similar functions in Newcastle and surrounding districts.

Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage.

The Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage was constituted in 1888 to assume control of the water supply and sewerage services in the county of Cumberland, including those under the control of the City Council. The management of the water supply was transferred to the Board in May, 1888, and of the sewerage in September, 1889. The Board's jurisdiction extends to a number of towns outside the metropolitan area.

Until April, 1925, the Board consisted of seven members, viz., three appointed by the Government, two elected by the City Council from amongst its members, and two elected by the councils of the other municipalities and of the shires concerned. The term of membership was four years, but three of the members retired every two years.

Under the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Act, 1924, the Board is constituted now by a president, appointed by the Governor, and seventeen members, elected by the aldermen and councillors of the local areas concerned. For the purposes of the elections the municipalities and shires have been grouped into nine constituencies, of which the City of Sydney forms one. Eight constituencies are represented by two members each, and the other by one member. The term of office for elected members is four years, and one representative of the two-member constituencies will retire every two years.

The Board is charged with the administration of existing services and the construction of new works required for its purposes, except certain undertakings in progress at the passing of the Act, which will be completed by the Government before transfer.

The capital indebtedness was declared by the Act to be £22,489,478, which was the indebtedness of the old Board as at 30th June, 1924. This amount is under review by a financial committee, who will determine the capital indebtedness as at 1st April, 1925, and allocate it to the fund of each service, *i.e.*, water supply, sewerage, or drainage. The determinations of the committee are to be ratified by Parliament before being adopted. The annual expenditure on the works which the Government is completing will be added at the end of each year to the Board's indebtedness.

The Board is required to pay to the State Treasury interest on its debt at the rate chargeable to statutory bodies representing the Crown, and to pay to the State Debt Commissioners an amount equal to 5 per cent. of its gross revenue, to be applied in reduction of its debt.

The Board, with the approval of the Governor, may raise its own loans, but the debt so incurred in respect of any of its services must not exceed 15 per cent. of the unimproved value of the lands ratable for that service.

Metropolitan Water Supply.

The sources of the metropolitan water supply are the waters of the Nepean, Cataract, and Cordeaux Rivers, draining an area of 347 square miles, with a copious rainfall. The supply is stored chiefly in four large reservoirs, *viz.*, Prospect, from which 5,502,000,000 gallons are available by gravitation; Cataract, with a capacity of 20,743,000,000 gallons; Cordeaux, 20,600,000,000 gallons; and Avon, 47,150,000,000 gallons. The two last-mentioned are not yet completed, but large quantities of water are stored in them. There is also a small reservoir at Manly, which holds 438,000,000 gallons. At 30th June, 1925, there were 62,239,000,000 gallons of water stored in these reservoirs.

The water is conveyed from the upper storages to the Prospect dam, thence to Sydney and adjacent areas by means of tunnels, canals, etc., from which systems branch to supply Camden, Campbelltown, and other townships along the southern railway. Wollongong and several settlements on the South Coast are supplied from two reservoirs on the Upper Cordeaux River, which have a combined capacity of 433,000,000 gallons, and water for Richmond is pumped from the Hawkesbury River. There are thirty-eight service reservoirs and tanks below Prospect dam, four above Prospect, and fourteen connected with the supply for the South Coast townships.

The total length of water mains as at 30th June, 1925, was 3,329 miles.

The following statement shows the number of houses in the area supplied with water by the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage, and Drainage Board in 1911, 1916, and in the last five years:—

Year ended 30th June.	Houses Supplied.	Total Supply during Year.	Average Daily Supply.		
			Total.	Per House.	Per head of population supplied.
	No.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.
1911	139,237	10,587,434,000	29,006,700	208	41·7
1916	183,598	14,374,000,000	39,380,000	214	42·9
1921	221,886	17,701,000,000	48,496,033	218	43·7
1922	229,274	18,616,612,300	51,004,417	222	44·5
1923	239,528	20,657,319,200	56,595,395	236	47·3
1924	250,804	21,267,054,800	58,265,834	232	46·5
1925	259,799	20,895,729,600	57,248,574	220	44·1

From 1910 to 1917 inclusive, the water rate levied on the assessed annual value was 6d. in the £ and the charges for water by meter were 11d. per 1,000 gallons up to 10,000,000, 10d. from 10 to 20 millions, and 9d. over 20 millions. During 1918 the first-mentioned rate was increased to 6½d., but the meter charges were not altered. During 1919 an increase of 1d. was imposed in each case, and in 1920 the rate was further increased to 9d. in the £ on the assessed annual value, and the charge by meter to 13d. per 1,000 gallons. In July, 1922, the charge for water by meter was reduced to 12d. per 1,000 gallons, and in July, 1924, the rate per £ of assessed annual value was reduced to 7½d., but it was raised to 8½d. as from 1st July, 1925. Special rates are charged in the South Coast towns, in Richmond, and in a few other extra-metropolitan localities.

The revenue from the water service branch during the year ended 30th June, 1925, was £1,103,682, and the expenditure £1,100,815, including interest on capital, £691,237, and an amount of £4,882 paid to the State Debt Commissioners in reduction of capital indebtedness. The net revenue showed a return of 5·02 per cent. on the capital debt of £14,734,046.

The following statement shows particulars of the financial transactions relating to the water supply controlled by the Metropolitan Board in various years from 1911:—

Year ended 30th June.	Capital cost.	Revenue.	Working expenditure.	Net return after paying working expenses.	Interest.	Surplus after paying working expenses and interest
	£	£	£	per cent.	£	£
1911	5,420,813	299,442	99,355	3·69	192,486	7,601
1916	7,192,472	470,744	165,210	4·24	261,335	44,199
1921	10,323,252	855,751	347,298	4·92	473,890	34,563
1922	11,130,857	923,798	376,203	5·10	543,164	4,431
1923	12,019,600	992,702	363,162	5·44	597,351	32,249
1924	13,094,176	1,105,098	380,407	5·77	648,011	76,680
1925	14,734,046	1,103,682	409,578	5·02	691,237	2,867

The Hunter District Water Supply.

The water supply works of the Lower Hunter were constructed by the Government under the provisions of the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Act of 1880. In 1892, control of the works was transferred under the authority of a special Act to a Board of seven members, viz., three nominated by the Governor, one elected by the Municipal Council of Newcastle, two by the adjacent municipalities, and one by the municipalities of East and West Maitland and Morpeth.

In terms of the Hunter District Water and Sewerage Amendment Act of 1924 the existing Board ceased to hold office on 31st December, 1924, and it was replaced by a board constituted by nine members, viz., a president appointed by the Governor and eight members elected by the aldermen and councillors of the local areas concerned.

Part of the supply of water for the district is pumped from the Hunter River, about a mile and a half up stream from the Belmore Bridge, West Maitland, and the pumping engines are situated above flood-level, on a hill about 44 chains from the river. Water is obtained also from a dam of 5,000 million gallons capacity which is being constructed on the Chichester River at a point about 60 miles north from Newcastle.

The length of the mains at 30th June, 1925, was 548½ miles.

Particulars relating to the water supply of the Board at intervals since 1911 are given below:—

Year ended 30th June.	Properties Supplied.	Supply during year.	Average Daily Supply.		
			Total.	Per Property.	Per Head.
	No.	thousand gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.
1911	17,164	675,214	1,849,900	108	21·5
1916	22,056	1,283,754	3,507,500	159	31·8
1921	25,874	1,711,187	4,688,183	181	36·2
1922	26,758	1,688,537	4,626,129	173	34·5
1923	28,036	1,754,418	4,806,623	171	34·2
1924	29,568	2,106,615	5,755,778	195	39·0
1925	31,405	2,312,046	6,334,371	202	40·3

A water rate of 10d. in the £ is payable on the assessed annual value of all properties over £12, but if valued at less than £12 the rate is 10s. per annum. Extra charges are made for water used for other than domestic purposes, the rates on which services range from 10s. to 40s. per annum. The charge by meter is 2s. per 1,000 gallons.

The following table shows the financial position for similar periods to those shown above:—

Year ended 30th June.	Capital Debt.	Revenue.	Expenditure (including Interest and Sinking Fund).	Return on Capital.
	£	£	£	per cent.
1911	495,747	45,711	45,420	3·55
1916	634,265	79,507	58,321	6·75
1921	1,472,074	116,320	106,194	3·10
1922	1,953,411	113,217	114,522	1·98
1923	2,467,540	110,076	116,837	1·08
1924	3,010,615	143,138	122,583	2·22
1925	3,424,853	153,045	114,861	2·53

The capital debt as stated above includes the cost of amplification works under construction and not revenue-producing, viz., £652,581 in 1921, £1,094,293 in 1922, £1,548,869 in 1923, £1,806,826 in 1924, and £2,042,838 in 1925.

Water Supply for Country Towns.

The Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Acts of 1880, 1894, and 1905 were passed with the object of assisting councils to construct systems of water supply and sewerage. These Acts were repealed by the Local Government Act of 1919, in which their provisions were embodied in a revised form. On the application of a council the Minister for Public Works may construct water supply or sewerage works out of moneys voted for the purpose by Parliament. Upon completion the works are transferred to the care of the council. The capital cost is repayable by instalments, with interest on the unpaid balances at a rate fixed from time to time. The term of repayment is fixed with regard to the durability of the works, the maximum period being one hundred years.

At the end of June, 1925, water supply services were in operation in sixty-eight country towns in addition to those connected with the works administered by the Metropolitan and Hunter District Boards; the cost of construction was approximately £2,447,144. The works were under the administration of the councils of fifty-eight municipalities and of ten shires, including that of the municipality of Junee, where the water is delivered by the Public Works Department into service reservoirs on the boundary of the town, and the council is responsible for its distribution to consumers.

At Broken Hill the water supply is administered by the central Government, and the Grafton and South Grafton system is controlled by a Board representing the two municipalities.

The total amount of debts owing to the Government by the municipalities and shires in respect of waterworks at the 30th June, 1925, was £1,735,746, and the aggregate of the annual instalments repayable was £77,646. The last-mentioned sum is approximate only, as in a few cases the payment has not been definitely fixed.

The combined revenue accounts of the fifty-eight municipalities and ten shires which administer waterworks, for the year ended 31st December, 1924, are shown below:—

Expenditure.	Municipalities.	Shires.	Income.	Municipalities.	Shires.
	£	£		£	£
Management	24,241	628	Rates levied	130,373	3,464
Working and maintenance	79,681	1,983	Rents (Meter and other) ..	2,445	...
Interest payable to Govern- ment	53,912	879	Water sales	47,450	343
Other	8,153	84	Garden charges, etc. ...	5,733	417
Balance	20,014	650			
Total	£ 186,001	4,224	Total	£ 186,001	4,224

With regard to the expenditure, management charges represented 15 per cent., working and maintenance 48 per cent., interest payable to Government 32 per cent., and miscellaneous items 5 per cent.

The income figures show that rates contributed 71 per cent. of the receipts, rents 1 per cent., water sales 25 per cent., and garden charges, etc., 3 per cent.

The combined balance-sheets on 31st December, 1924, were as follows:—

Liabilities.	Municipalities.	Shires.	Assets.	Municipalities.	Shires.
	£	£		£	£
Capital Debt due to Government... ..	1,466,395	52,109	Waterworks—plant, build- ings, etc.	1,651,446	57,460
Interest due to Govern- ment	39,742	656	Outstanding rates	21,349	880
Sundry creditors	40,809	3,030	Bank balances, fixed de- posits, and cash in hand	52,839	2,718
Excess of Assets	224,853	5,548	Stores and materials ...	8,104	...
			Sundry debtors	38,061	285
Total... ..	£ 1,771,799	61,343	Total... ..	£ 1,771,799	61,343

The amount of rates outstanding on the date mentioned was £22,229, while the bank balances, cash in hand, investment in war loans, and fixed deposits were £55,557.

The Grafton and South Grafton waterworks are not under the direct control of the councils, but are administered by a corporate board consisting of three aldermen elected by the Grafton Council and three by the South Grafton Council. Its accounts, being kept separately, are not included in the foregoing tables. During the year ended 31st December, 1924, the expenditure of the Board amounted to £4,523, of which £3,296 represented interest payable on the capital debt to the Government, and the income amounted to £6,497, showing a profit of £1,974. The capital debt at the end of the year was £81,539, against which the Board held assets to the value of £93,676; other liabilities amounted to £115, making a total liability of £81,654; the excess of assets was £12,022

Metropolitan Sewerage Works.

The first sewerage works at Sydney were begun in 1853, and in 1889, the date of transfer to the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, there were 70½ miles of sewers in existence. At 30th June, 1925, the total length was 1,358½ miles.

The present system consists of three main outfalls—the northern, discharging into the Pacific Ocean near Bondi, and the southern and western, discharging into the ocean at Long Bay. Another main outfall sewer is under construction, which will discharge into the ocean at North Point, in the quarantine area, and will serve the suburban areas on the northern side of Sydney Harbour and Parramatta River, extending as far as Wentworthville.

The Metropolitan Board is authorised to construct and maintain channels for stormwater drainage purposes and to levy drainage rates within areas notified by gazettal.

The number of houses served by the system under the administration of the Metropolitan Board, and the length of sewers and of stormwater drains, are shown below:—

Year ended 30th June.	Houses connected.	Length of Sewers.	Length of Storm-Water Drains.	Length of Ventilating Shafts.	Length of Sewers Ventilated.
	No.	miles.	miles.	feet.	miles.
1911	108,012	325	49	376,900	795
1916	130,638	1,022	54	443,131	953
1921	148,923	1,197	64	514,536	1,122
1922	153,789	1,227	64	527,766	1,162
1923	159,390	1,274	64	532,470	1,176
1924	165,215	1,314	66	543,306	1,208
1925	170,774	1,358	66	556,036	1,246

The following statement of financial transactions relates to the sewerage during the years referred to in the previous table:—

Year ended 30th June.	Capital cost.	Revenue.	Working expenditure.	Net return after paying working expenses.	Interest.	Surplus after paying working expenses and interest.
	£	£	£	per cent.	£	£
1911	4,496,290	234,208	79,636	3·43	159,070	4,498*
1916	6,114,072	363,799	120,244	3·98	224,551	19,004
1921	7,329,632	615,615	229,441	5·26	341,675	44,499
1922	7,553,906	683,434	244,916	5·94	373,671	64,847
1923	7,857,504	661,964	231,672	5·62	395,152	35,140
1924	8,145,061	756,539	244,480	6·45	409,721	102,338
1925	8,462,426	756,624	277,696	5·82	411,686	67,242

*Deficit.

The sewerage rate for the city of Sydney and the eastern suburbs up to 1903 was 7d. in the £ on the assessed annual value, the northern and the western suburbs being rated at 1s., but in 1904 a uniform rate of 11d. was imposed. In 1907 it was reduced to 10d. in the £, and in 1908 to 9½d. On the 1st July, 1917, it was increased to 10d., and to 11d. on 1st July, 1918, and to 12d. on 1st July, 1920. On the 1st July, 1922, the rate was lowered to 10½d., and on 1st July, 1924, to 9d.

Stormwater drainage rates are levied in respect of property within a drainage area. The rate levied in respect of each drain vested in the Board is fixed so as to yield only the amount of revenue required to cover costs of maintenance and interest. The rates vary from ¼d. to 7d. in the £ on the assessed annual value.

Hunter District Sewerage Works.

The sewerage scheme for the Hunter district has its outfall at Merewether Gulf, some distance south from Newcastle. The districts served are Newcastle, Adamstown, Hamilton, Lambton, New Lambton, Merewether, Waratah, Wickham, and the Tarro and Lake Macquarie shires.

The following table shows information relating to the sewerage system under the control of the Hunter District Board in the years stated:—

Year ended 30th June.	Properties connected.	Length of Sewers.	Capital cost.	Revenue.	Working expenditure (including Sinking Fund).	Net return after paying working expenses.	Interest.	Deficit after paying working expenses and interest.
	No.	Miles.	£	£	£	per cent.	£	£
1911	1,465	30	170,151	8,975	4,217	2·79	2,902	1,856*
1916	7,240	84	411,332	18,582	9,820	2·13	11,623	2,861
1921	12,218	148	590,790	32,164	21,256	1·84	25,328	14,420
1922	13,416	157	613,249	39,477	24,645	2·42	28,664	13,832
1923	14,325	161	627,645	49,551	25,756	3·79	30,108	6,313
1924	15,666	166	646,552	56,210	28,058	4·35	30,939	2,787
1925	16,927	171	672,526	63,707	28,203	5·28	31,033	4,471*

* Surplus.

A sewerage rate of 1s. in the £ on the annual rental value has been in force since 1st January, 1909.

Water and Sewerage Services.

The position of the combined water and sewerage services controlled by the Metropolitan Board and by the Hunter District Board for the five years ended 30th June, 1925, are shown below. The figures for the metropolitan services include the water supply systems which are administered by the Board in townships outside the metropolitan district.

Year ended 30th June.	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Net return after paying working expenses.	Interest on Capital.	Surplus after paying working expenses and interest.
Metropolitan Board.						
	£	£	£	per cent.	£	£
1921	17,662,884	1,471,366	576,739	5·07	815,565	79,062
1922	18,684,763	1,607,232	621,119	5·28	916,835	69,278
1923	19,877,104	1,654,666	594,774	5·35	992,503	67,389
1924	21,239,237	1,861,637	624,887	6·03	1,057,732	179,018
1925	23,196,472	1,860,306	687,274	5·32	1,102,923	70,109
Hunter District Board.						
1921	2,062,364	148,484	91,894	2·74	60,884	(—) 4,294
1922	2,566,660	152,694	99,162	2·68	68,669	(—) 15,137
1923	3,095,188	159,627	99,203	1·98	73,498	(—) 13,074
1924	3,657,167	199,348	104,355	2·60	77,225	17,768
1925	4,097,379	216,752	94,748	2·98	79,349	42,655

(—) Denotes deficit.

The capital cost as stated for the metropolitan services represents the interest-bearing capital, but the particulars of the Hunter district services include the cost, etc., of amplification works under construction and not revenue-producing, and the working expenses include the instalments paid to sinking fund for reconstruction of renewable works.

Country Sewerage and Drainage Works.

Outside the areas administered by the Metropolitan and Hunter District Boards, sewerage works were in operation in thirteen towns in June, 1925, and stormwater channels had been constructed in thirteen towns. The total cost of sewers and channels was approximately £602,679.

The debts due to the central Government on account of these systems amounted to £634,457 as at 30th June, 1925, and the annual instalments amounted in the aggregate to £29,712.

Some of the municipalities do not levy special sewerage rates, and therefore do not keep a separate account in respect of the sewerage services. A summary of the revenue accounts relating to sewerage funds of the eleven municipalities which published such statements for the year ended 31st December, 1924, is shown below.

Expenditure.				Income.			
£				£			
Management ... ..	...	...	6,294	Rates levied ... ..	...	...	39,376
Working and maintenance	...	...	10,443	Other ... ..	...	...	11,948
Interest payable to Government	..	...	19,917				
Fittings, etc. ... ..	...	...	8,208				
Other ... ..	...	...	2,463				
Balance ... ..	...	...	3,999				
			£51,324				£51,324
Total... ..	...	...	£51,324	Total ... ..	...	...	£51,324

Practically the only source of income is from rates, the other receipts representing contributions to works, sales of fittings, etc. Of the expenditure, management charges represented 13 per cent., working and maintenance 22 per cent., interest payable to Government 42 per cent., and other expenses 23 per cent.

The combined balance-sheet was as follows:—

Liabilities.				Assets.			
£				£			
Due to Government—				Works and Plant ... ..	...	...	506,022
Capital Debt ... ..	...	...	488,892	Outstanding rates ... ..	...	...	3,537
Advances ... ..	...	...	9,486	Bank balance and cash ... ..	...	...	18,695
Interest ... ..	...	...	7,167	Stores and materials ... ..	...	...	2,411
Sundry creditors ... ..	...	...	4,737	Sundry debtors ... ..	...	...	13,074
Excess of Assets ... ..	...	...	33,457				
			£543,739				£543,739
Total ... ..	...	...	£543,739	Total... ..	...	...	£543,739

Drainage Trusts.

In addition to the water and sewerage and drainage works shown in the foregoing tables, thirty-three trusts for reclamation of swamp and other lands were constituted as at 30th June, 1925. The total area served was 134,273 acres, and the length of channels was 123 miles. The total cost as gazetted was £120,089, and the instalments amounted to £7,043. The owners of the lands improved by these works are responsible for the repayment of the capital expenditure, and they are required to provide for the cost of maintenance and administration.

ROADS, BRIDGES, AND FERRIES.

Main roads in New South Wales were first formed to connect the towns of Parramatta, Liverpool, Windsor, and Penrith with Sydney. All access

to the interior of the country was barred by the apparently insurmountable sandstone precipices rising on the farther side of the Nepean, and until the year 1813 all efforts to cross the mountains were unsuccessful. In that year Blaxland, Lawson, and Wentworth succeeded in crossing the range, and discovered the rich pastures of the Bathurst Plains. Shortly after their return the construction of a track was begun, and the Great Western road was completed as far as Bathurst on 21st January, 1815.

The access to the fertile lands surrounding Bathurst, by means of this mountain road, gave such an impetus to settlement that it was found impossible to keep pace in the matter of road-making with the demands of the settlers. The authorities, therefore, for many years confined their attention to the maintenance of roads already constructed, and extended them in the direction of the principal centres of settlement. Had the progress of settlement subsequent to 1850 been as slow as that of the preceding years this system may have sufficed. The discovery of gold, however, completely altered the circumstances, and during the period of excitement and change which followed, so many new roads were opened, and traffic increased to such an extent, that the general condition of the public highways became unsatisfactory.

In 1857 the Roads Department was created. Legislation was passed to authorise the appointment of commissioners to control the main roads, and a number of road trusts were formed under various Acts. A system of levying tolls on public roads was brought into operation in the early days of settlement, but it was abolished in May, 1890.

Prior to the enactment of legislation providing for the incorporation of shires, the State was divided into road districts, each of which was placed under the supervision of an officer directly responsible to the Commissioner for Roads. These officers had under their care the greater part of the roads and bridges of the State outside the incorporated areas and a portion of those within such limits. The road trusts had the supervision of the expenditure of certain grants for the maintenance of roads in districts chiefly of minor importance, as well as some important roads in the vicinity of the Metropolis.

When the Local Government Act of 1906 commenced, the councils of the municipalities and shires took over the administration of the roads, bridges, etc., under the control of the Roads Department, with the exception of those in the unincorporated areas of the Western Division, and certain bridges and ferries proclaimed as "national works." The Act authorised payments by way of endowment to municipalities and shires, the minimum endowment payable to shires being fixed at £150,000 per annum, and the Minister was empowered to withhold payment of endowment from a council if his requirements in respect of main roads were not satisfied.

Between 1906 and 1912 the amount of endowment allotted to shires was increased from £150,000 to £360,000 approximately, but the expenditure by the councils on the important roadways was not sufficient to maintain them in a serviceable condition. It was decided, therefore, to reduce the amount of general endowment to the minimum, and to make a separate appropriation for the upkeep of the main roads.

Main Roads Board.

The introduction of motor vehicles, now widely used throughout the whole State, placed a heavy strain on the roads, which were constructed for slow-moving traffic. Under these circumstances the Government decided to bring the main avenues of traffic under unified control, and the Main Roads Act was passed in 1924 to constitute a Main Roads Board, consisting

of two engineers with special knowledge of road construction, and a president. The Board is charged with the duty of assisting the local councils in the work of constructing and maintaining a well-organised system of main highways, with the primary object of developing the vacant lands in the State, of feeding the railways with traffic, of giving the primary producers access to markets, and of providing facilities for modern motor traffic. On the recommendation of the Board, any public road, except those in the City of Sydney, may be proclaimed to be a main road.

The Act provides for the creation of three separate funds: (1) for metropolitan main roads; (2) for country main roads; and (3) for developmental roads. The revenue obtained from the taxation of motor vehicles and from licenses, etc., under the Traffic Acts, is apportioned between the metropolitan and the country funds, the latter receiving the revenue collected in the country districts, and half the collections in the metropolitan district, which includes the county of Cumberland, the municipalities of Katoomba and Blackheath, and the Blue Mountains Shire. A Government subsidy of £115,000 is payable annually, the metropolitan fund receiving £25,000, and the country fund £90,000. Other sources are revenue and loan appropriations by Parliament, grants from the Federal Government for the development of main roads, and contributions by the councils of the local areas. The Government is responsible for half the interest and sinking fund on loans raised for the main roads.

The Board may require the councils in the metropolitan road district to contribute to the metropolitan fund at a rate not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the £ of the unimproved capital value of ratable property, the rate payable in the city of Sydney being half the rate levied in the other areas. Contributions by country councils depend upon the amount expended on the main roads.

In the metropolitan district where the levy is compulsory, the Board will pay the whole cost of maintenance and construction, but the actual work may be done by the councils under the direction of the Board. In the country districts the Board may grant assistance in respect of road work to the council of any area through which a main road passes, and the council may be required to contribute half the cost of the work. The Board may accept voluntary offers from the councils to pay more than half the cost, or, in special circumstances, may pay the whole cost of any particular work. The maximum contribution which may be required from a country council in a year is limited to the sum which would be produced by a rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the £ of the unimproved capital value. To meet cases in which a metropolitan or country council may be unable or unwilling to carry out the work planned by the Board, power is reserved to the Governor to authorise the Board itself to do the work.

Any road, not being a main road, may be proclaimed as a developmental road if, in the opinion of the Board, it will help to develop a district, and a portion or the whole cost of construction may be provided from the Developmental Roads Fund. This fund consists of moneys voted by Parliament or granted by the Federal Government for the purpose.

The Main Roads Act was brought into operation by proclamation as from 1st January, 1925, and the first Main Roads Board was appointed in the following month.

Commonwealth Grants for Main Roads.

Apart from the assistance granted by the State Government for the construction and upkeep of roads, the Commonwealth Parliament, in each year since 1923, has voted a sum of money to assist the States in developing new country by the construction of main roads. The expenditure has been authorised by the Main Roads Development Act, 1923-1925. An amount of

£500,000 was appropriated for the financial year 1923-24, and was paid into a Trust Account in the Federal Treasury. In the following years the vote was increased by £500,000 and by £750,000 respectively, and the maximum sum allocated to New South Wales in respect of each appropriation was £138,000, making a total of £414,000 for the three appropriations. In 1925 provision was made for additional payments for reconditioning and strengthening existing main roads. The maximum amount payable for this purpose was fixed at £250,000, of which £69,000 is payable in New South Wales.

For the purposes of the Commonwealth grants, a main road is defined as (a) a main road opening up new country for agricultural, pastoral, or mining purposes; (b) a main trunk road between important towns where no railway communication exists; (c) an existing arterial road required for the transport of produce to railway, river, or port. It is prescribed that a Federal grant may not be paid unless the work on which the money is to be expended, the method of construction, etc., are approved by the Federal Minister, and that the amount granted in the case of any State may not exceed £1 for every £1 expended by that State upon the development of main roads. To meet the latter condition in New South Wales, where the roads are under the control of a number of local councils, the State Government guaranteed, in cases where the councils did not make adequate provision, to contribute wholly or in part an amount equivalent to any grant the Federal Government might allot. Up to 30th June, 1925, Federal grants amounting to £115,072 had been paid in New South Wales, viz., £20,000 in 1923-24 and £95,072 in 1924-25.

Length of Roads.

After the extension of the system of local government there was a great increase in the mileage of public roads. The length of roads under Government control on 30th June, 1906, prior to the transfer to the councils, was 48,311 miles; 195 miles were under the care of road trusts, and the Government paid subsidy to the municipal councils in respect of 1,338 miles of roads within their areas. There were also about 8,000 miles of roads and streets belonging to the municipal councils.

In 1924, the latest year for which statistics, collected triennially, are available, the length of roads in the State was approximately 104,764 miles, of which 58 miles were controlled by the Government, 10,007 miles by the municipalities, 88,704 miles by the shires, and 5,995 miles were in the unincorporated areas of the Western Division. The nature of the roads may be seen in the following statement:—

Divisions.	Metalled, Gravelled, Ballasted, etc.	Formed only.	Cleared only.	Natural surface.	Total.
	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.
National	40	16	2	.....	58
Municipalities	4,772	1,787	1,859	1,589	10,007
Shires	18,369	13,745	27,216	29,374	88,704
Western Division	173	147	3,435	2,240	5,995
Total	23,354	15,695	32,512	33,203	104,764

The principal main roads are:—

Northern Road—length, 405 miles, from Morpeth to Maryland, on the Queensland border.

Western Road—length, 513 miles, from Sydney, through Bathurst and many other important townships, to the Darling River, at Bourke.

Southern Road—length, 385 miles, from Sydney, through Goulburn and other important townships to the Murray River at Albury.

South Coast Road—length, 250 miles, from Campbelltown, through Coal Cliff, and along the South Coast generally as far as Bega, whence it extends as a minor road to the southern limits of the State.

Bridges and Ferries.

Many of the earliest bridges erected in the State were built of stone, and are still in existence. Those erected in the period following the extension of settlement to the interior were principally of timber, and have since been replaced after an average life of about twenty-five years. Nearly all the large bridges of recent date are of iron and steel, and some of them have been erected under difficult engineering conditions, owing to the peculiarity of the river flow in certain parts of the country. The municipal and shire councils are empowered to control the bridges, with the exception of those classified as national works, which may be transferred by the Government at any time to the council. The most notable bridge-building project is the Sydney Harbour Bridge described below.

In the case of a wooden bridge across Middle Harbour at the Spit, which was built in 1924 by the Sydney Harbour Trust for the Manly Municipal Council, tolls are levied to defray the cost, and when loan or other expenses have been fully paid, tolls will be abolished, and the bridge will be transferred to the Government as a national work. Similar conditions will apply to a bridge across George's River, which is being constructed by the Sutherland Shire Council.

Where local conditions and limited traffic have not favoured the erection of a bridge, a punt or ferry has been introduced. The most important ferries which are worked otherwise than by hand have been proclaimed as national services. Prior to 1st December, 1907, it was the practice to charge a small fee for ferry transit; but on that date tolls were abolished, and public ferries became free.

On 1st January, 1907, the bridges of 20 feet span and over, including those in course of construction, numbered 3,575. Of these, 256 bridges, with an aggregate length of 101,416 feet, which, by reason of their cost, size, and extra-local importance, would constitute a strain on the resources of the local councils, were proclaimed as "national works," to be maintained by the Government.

The particulars of the bridges, culverts, and ferries of the State as at 30th June, 1924, are shown below:—

Classification.	Bridges over 20 feet span.		Culverts.		Ferries.
	Number.	Length.	Number.	Length.	Number.
		ft.		ft.	
National Works	283	108,631	...	...	23
Municipalities	673	39,928	4,695	249,316	24
Shires	3,861	235,232	36,295	354,279	172
Western Division (unincorporated)	99	13,612	340	4,573	6
Total	4,916	397,393	41,330	608,168	225

Sydney Harbour Bridge.

The construction of an arch bridge over Sydney Harbour has been commenced. It is expected to be completed in 1930, and will be the largest arch bridge in the world. It will span the harbour between Dawes Point

on the southern and Milson's Point on the northern side, the main arches crossing between abutment towers a distance of 1,675 feet. The total length of the bridge will be 3,770 feet, and at high water there will be a headway of 170 feet for vessels passing underneath.

The bridge will carry a roadway 57 feet wide, two footways each 10 feet wide, and four lines of railway to connect the City railway, now under construction, with the northern suburban line. The contract price for a length of 3,770 feet of bridge is £4,217,721, and it is estimated that approaches, etc., will cost £1,275,000. Two-thirds of the capital cost is to be debited to the Railway Commissioners, and one-third is to be paid by means of a special levy at the rate of $\frac{1}{d}$. in the £ of unimproved capital value of land in the city of Sydney, the municipalities of Manly, Mosman, Lane Cove, North Sydney, Willoughby, and the shires of Ku-ring-gai and Warringah, and part of the shire of Hornsby. The special levy in these areas in the three years 1923-1925 amounted to £115,283, £136,447, and £140,220 respectively. The Government expenditure in connection with the bridge amounted to £458,769 as at 30th June, 1925.

Government Expenditure on Roads, Bridges, etc.

Although the main roads have been superseded largely by the railways, they are still the sole means of communication throughout a large part of the interior and serve as valuable feeders to the railway system. The following return shows the expenditure by the State Government on works of a local character, such as roads, bridges, punts, ferries, public watering places, etc., in various years from 1905 to 1925:—

Year ended 30th June.	Expenditure on Services.	Endowments and Grants, including Main Roads.			Total Expenditure.
		Shires.	Municipali- ties.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
1905	495,672	...	7,048	7,048	502,720
1915	175,726	288,053	40,314	328,367	504,093
1920	160,679	296,511	56,366	352,877	513,556
1921	212,407	316,180	108,353	424,533	636,940
1922	555,940	348,710	85,824	434,534	990,474
1923	315,997	378,661	124,031	502,692	848,689
1924	479,372	342,271	54,739	397,010	876,382
1925	396,141	465,950	111,081	577,031	973,172

The Government expenditure in connection with the Sydney Harbour Bridge, amounting to £260,547 in the year 1924-25, is not included in the figures shown in the table. The amounts as stated for the year 1924-25 are exclusive also of grants to councils for main roads which were allotted from the Main Roads subsidy of £115,000 pending the appointment of the Main Roads Board.

PARKS AND RECREATION RESERVES.

It has always been the policy of the State to provide the residents of municipalities and shires with parks and reserves for public recreation. The city of Sydney and suburban municipalities contain within their boundaries a large extent of parks and public gardens.

In country districts, reserves have been proclaimed as temporary commons, and considerable areas have been dedicated from time to time as permanent commons attached to inland townships, which are well provided also with public recreation grounds. Further particulars relating to parks and reserves are contained in the chapter of this volume entitled Social Condition.

SOCIAL CONDITION

THE social condition of the people of New South Wales, judged from the standpoint of health and living conditions, compares favourably with that of any other part of the world. The climate is salubrious with abundant sunshine, and the supply of food is sufficient for the whole community. Wages, hours of labour, and other industrial conditions are regulated with the object of preserving the health of the workers and of enabling even the lowest paid employee to maintain a family according to a fairly comfortable standard of living. Special provision is made to safeguard the welfare of juveniles and of women in industrial occupations.

The system of government is based on a broad franchise which embraces every adult citizen. The legal system is based on principles which give equal status to all citizens, the land laws are designed to promote a healthy growth of rural settlement, and the tariff laws aim at the extension of local industries without any encroachment upon existing standards of industrial employment. The railways, being owned by the State, are used to develop national resources, and the burden of taxation is rendered proportionate to the means of the individual taxpayer, *e.g.*, by a graduated taxation of incomes. Legal restrictions have been placed upon gambling and upon the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors and deleterious drugs in order to minimise the social evils attendant upon poverty and drunkenness. Primary education is free and illiteracy is unusual.

The mildness of the climate enables the people to engage in outdoor recreation at all times of the year, and facilitates measures for the prevention of sickness and the encouragement of hygienic conditions of life which find their reflex in low death rates, in the decreasing incidence of preventable diseases, and in the absence of certain endemic diseases, such as typhus, which are a constant menace to health in some other countries. For persons who need special treatment, on account of sickness, etc., hospitals and other institutions have been established, and pensions are paid to the aged and infirm.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

The principal State services in relation to public health in New South Wales are organised as the Department of Public Health under the control of a Minister of the Crown. The department includes two branches, one directed by the Board of Health and the other by the Director-General of Public Health. Their functions, though distinct, are closely co-ordinated, and the Director-General, who is a medical practitioner and a permanent salaried officer of the Government, is *ex officio* President of the Board of Health. The Board consists of not less than seven and not more than ten members, including four legally qualified medical practitioners, all being nominated by the Government. It is the executive and administrative authority in connection with the health laws. It acts in an advisory capacity towards the Minister for Public Health and the Government, and exercises general supervision in regard to public health matters. The Director-General of Public Health controls the State medical service and the State institutions for the treatment of the sick and infirm, and a microbiological laboratory.

Other Government departments administer measures in connection with public welfare, assistance to public hospitals, charitable relief, and the medical inspection of school children, and a special department has been organised for the care of children.

The executive personnel of the Department of Public Health includes medical officers and sanitary inspectors. The former are permanent salaried officers, appointed by the Government, who devote the whole of their time to matters relating to public health. Two of the medical officers attached to headquarters are engaged mainly on matters relating to industrial hygiene, and one has been appointed recently as Director of Infant and Maternal Welfare. It was intended that all the more densely-populated districts should be placed under the supervision of medical officers, but up to the present they have been appointed only in the Metropolitan area and in the Hunter River district, which includes Newcastle. In the Broken Hill district also there is a medical officer, but his time is not devoted exclusively to matters of public health. Outside these areas expert advice may be obtained from medical officers attached to the central staff of the Public Health Department, who visit localities when required. In every town a local medical practitioner is appointed as a Government medical officer for the purpose of attending to Government medical work, *e.g.*, inquests, sickness in gaols, etc.; they have no regular duties nor special legal powers, and are paid in fees for services rendered.

The most important legislative enactments relating to public health are the Public Health Act, dealing with public health and sanitation; Acts relating to dairies supervision, noxious trades, diseased animals and meat, pure food, and to private hospitals; and provisions of the Local Government Act which specify the powers and duties of the municipal and shire councils for ensuring the health of the incorporated areas. The authorities are empowered to take steps to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, to regulate the erection of dwellings, and to order the demolition or improvement of insanitary buildings, to prohibit the manufacture or distribution of unwholesome or adulterated foods and drugs (with special powers in relation to milk and meat), to regulate the conduct of noxious trades, to deal with nuisances, etc. Control of sanitation by means of by-laws and regulations is the method adopted generally, as being readily adaptable to the varying conditions of a widely-scattered community.

Executive duties in relation to public health devolve primarily upon the local authorities, who carry out the functions under supervision of the Board of Health as the central controlling authority. Within municipalities the duties are undertaken by the local councils, and outside municipal areas they are performed either by the shire councils or by persons or bodies specially appointed for the purpose.

In addition to the organisation under the control of the State Government there is a Federal Department of Public Health, which discharges important functions in regard to quarantine, industrial hygiene, etc., and conducts research relating to causes of diseases and of deaths, and to methods of prevention and cure.

Government Expenditure on Charitable Relief.

The expenditure by the Government of New South Wales on hospitals and charitable relief in 1924-25 amounted to £2,091,569.

The following statement shows the growth of expenditure in the five years ended 30th June, 1925:—

Payments from—	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
	£	£	£	£	£
Consolidated Revenue ...	1,803,287	1,905,903	1,740,160	1,916,479	1,924,186
Public Works Account ...	117,185	105,575	152,961	98,168	167,383
Total ...	£ 1,920,472	2,011,478	1,893,121	2,012,647	2,091,569

The expenditure from Consolidated Revenue on hospitals and charities includes the cost of maintenance of the State institutions, also subsidies granted to other institutions.

Adding to the expenditure from Consolidated Revenue, as stated above, the subvention paid by the State Government to friendly societies, the old-age and invalidity pensions and the maternity allowances provided by the Commonwealth Government, the expenditure from public revenue on eleemosynary objects in New South Wales in 1924-25 amounted to £4,926,392, or £2 3s. 9d. per head. A classification of the items of expenditure is shown below in comparison with the expenditure in 1911-12 and in 1921-22. Expenditure in connection with the medical inspection of school children is not included, nor are costs of administration, except in regard to the Child Welfare Department, the mental hospitals, and the protection of aborigines.

Head of Expenditure.	1911-12.	1921-22.	1924-25.
	£	£	£
General Hospitals and Charitable Institutions	130,368	511,971	616,362
Mental Hospitals	212,616	537,096	551,278
Child Welfare	106,557	472,268	486,528
Government Asylums for the Infirm	87,708	164,679	160,356
Destitute Persons, Medical Services, Relief, Charitable Societies, etc.	36,905	175,266	77,121
Aborigines' Protection	16,475	22,506	26,309
Subvention to Friendly Societies	14,000	56,796	51,566
Miscellaneous	2,401	22,117	6,232
State	607,030	1,962,699	1,975,752
Old-age and Invalidity Pensions	821,993	2,029,077	2,676,990
Maternity Allowances... ..	...	277,065	273,650
Commonwealth	821,993	2,306,142	2,950,640
Total £	1,429,023	4,268,841	4,926,392
Expenditure per head of Population—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
State	0 7 2	0 18 5	0 17 7
Commonwealth	0 9 8	1 1 8	1 6 2
Total £	0 16 10	2 0 1	2 3 9

The expenditure in 1924-25 was nearly three and a half times the amount spent in 1911-12. The cost to the State per head of population increased from 7s. 2d. to 17s. 7d., and to the Commonwealth from 9s. 8d. to 26s. 2d.

TREATMENT OF SICKNESS.

Institutions for the treatment of sickness and disease have been established in various localities throughout the State. There are private hospitals which are owned entirely by private persons and conducted as business enterprises; public hospitals which are maintained by the State, or by the people resident in the districts in which the hospitals are located, with the assistance of subsidy from the public funds, or by charitable organisations; special hospitals, State and private, for the treatment of mental and nervous ailments; and a State lazaret for the segregation of persons afflicted with leprosy.

The State exercises a measure of supervision over the practice of professional persons engaged in the treatment of sickness and disease, and

medical practitioners, dentists, and pharmacists are required to register with a board established for each profession under statutory authority. At the end of the year 1925 there were on the registers 2,859 medical practitioners, 1,869 dentists, and 1,456 pharmacists.

Since the beginning of the year 1926, nurses also have been required to register with a board consisting of the Director-General of Public Health, the Inspector-General of Mental Hospitals, the principal teacher of obstetrics in the University, and representatives of the Nurses' Association. Previously members of the nursing profession were certificated by the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association, though the organisation had no legal status as to supervision. The number of certificated nurses who were financial members of the Association in June, 1925, was 4,265, viz., 2,719 general nurses, 1,504 obstetric, and 42 mental.

Special efforts are made to provide for the treatment of sickness and accident in sparsely populated districts. The Government subsidises medical practitioners with a view to encouraging them to practise in outlying bush settlements. Usually the subsidy is the amount necessary to bring their earnings to a certain sum. The Bush Nursing Association appoints nurses in country localities. The nurse in each district works under the supervision of a local committee, who pay expenses and fix charges for her services, etc., persons in necessitous circumstances being exempt from the payment of fees.

Private Hospitals.

A private hospital may not be conducted except under license in accordance with the Private Hospitals Act of 1908, which applies to all establishments in which a charge is made for treatment, except those maintained or subsidised by the State or licensed under the Lunacy Act or the Inebriates Act. The licenses are issued annually by the Minister for Public Health on the recommendation of the Board of Health, and it is prescribed that every private hospital must be under the direct control of a person approved by the Board. Licensees are required to comply with regulations as to structure, management, and inspection.

In 1925 the private hospitals numbered 620, viz., 252 in the metropolitan district and 368 in the country. The classification of the hospitals and their accommodation, according to the nature of the cases received, are shown in the following statement:—

District.	Hospitals.				Number of Beds.			
	Medical, Surgical, and Lying-in.	Medical and Surgical.	Lying-in.	Total.	Medical, Surgical, and Lying in.	Medical and Surgical.	Lying-in.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Sydney	73	53	156	252	1,750	435	660	2,645
Country	142	17	209	368	1,296	188	811	2,295
Total	215	40	365	620	2,846	623	1,471	4,940

There has been an increase of 177 in the number of private hospitals since 1911, when there were 443 in Sydney and 329 in the country. In 498 hospitals the accommodation did not exceed 10 beds, 82 had from 11 to 20 beds, and 40 hospitals had over 20 beds in 1925.

Public Hospitals.

Public hospitals embrace all institutions for the care of the sick, except those owned and maintained entirely by private persons. Some are maintained wholly by the State, those in the metropolitan district being the Coast Hospital for medical, surgical and infectious cases, the Lady Edeline Hospital for babies, two convalescent hospitals, and a number of institutions for maternity cases. There are two State institutions in the country, viz., the Waterfall Hospital for Consumptives and the David Berry Hospital at Berry for general treatment.

The Public Hospitals Act of 1898 and an amending Act passed in 1900¹ may be applied by proclamation to any hospital maintained partly by private contributions and partly by grants from the public funds. The Acts define the procedure for the election of officers for the management of the institution, and prescribe that a committee of management, trustees, auditors and other officers for each hospital must be elected annually by the contributors who have paid at least 10s. to the hospital during the preceding twelve months, or who have contributed £10 in one sum. The committee appoints the treasurer, secretary, medical officers and staff, and makes rules for the management and control of the hospital. Some of the public hospitals are under the ægis of religious denominations, and are conducted by committees nominated by subscribers or by religious communities who own the establishments. They are open to persons of all creeds, and the majority of them receive a small subsidy from the State.

The figures shown in the following tables relating to public hospitals do not include particulars relating to institutions used exclusively for soldiers and sailors, nor of the following State institutions, viz., the convalescent hospitals (two in number), maternity hospitals and rest homes, the leper lazaret, and the five asylum hospitals. Excluding those institutions there were 158 public hospitals in New South Wales at the end of 1924, viz., 26 in the metropolitan district, with 4,399 beds, and 132 in the country with 4,617 beds. The hospitals in the metropolitan district included 14 general hospitals, with 3,086 beds; 3 hospitals for children, 462 beds; 4 for women, 579 beds; 3 for incurable cases, 196 beds; one institution for convalescents, 76 beds; and a dental hospital. All the hospitals in the country provided general treatment, except four for consumptives, 541 beds, and one for convalescents, 110 beds.

The extent to which the hospital services have increased since 1901 is shown below:—

Year.	Public Hospitals.			Beds.		
	Metro-politan.	Country.	Total.	Metro-politan.	Country.	Total.
1901	15	103	118	1,453	1,938	3,391
1906	20	114	134	1,833	2,419	4,252
1911	21	120	141	2,113	2,976	5,089
1916	26	125	151	2,596	3,469	6,065
1921	26	128	154	3,841	4,234	8,075
1922	26	132	158	3,975	4,395	8,370
1923	26	132	158	4,241	4,506	8,747
1924	26	132	158	4,399	4,617	9,016

The figures show a remarkable expansion in regard to hospital accommodation, the tendency being to enlarge existing institutions rather than to establish new hospitals. The average number of beds per hospital in 1924 was 57, as compared with 28 in 1901. The accommodation as stated includes beds in the open air, which numbered 1,136 in 1924.

The medical staffs of the public hospitals consist for the most part of practitioners who give their services free of charge, the proportion of honorary medical officers being greater in the metropolitan district than in the country. Of the nursing staffs the majority, about 53 per cent., are qualified nurses, and 40 per cent. are being trained. The following statement shows particulars of the medical and nursing staffs attached to the public hospitals during 1924:—

Hospitals.	Medical Staff.		Nursing Staff.			
	Honorary.	Salaried.	Qualified Nurses.	Nurses Training.	Wardsmen & Wardmaids.	Total.
Metropolitan ...	486	136	938	632	105	1,675
Country ...	315	220	638	537	107	1,282
Total ...	801	356	1,576	1,169	212	2,957

The number of indoor patients treated, as shown below, represents the aggregate of the number of cases treated at each hospital, those admitted more than once during a year being counted each time admitted. The figures include transfers, of which particulars are not available, but the patients treated in the convalescent hospitals are excluded, as the majority of such cases are known to have been transferred from other hospitals. The figures relating to outdoor patients are exclusive of those treated at the dental hospital, who numbered 11,000 in 1924.

Year.	Indoor Patients.					Outdoor Patients treated during the Year.
	Treated during the Year.	Died.	Remain- ing at end of Year.	Average per day.		
				Number.	Per 1,000 of mean popula- tion.	
1901	32,012	2,477	2,247	2,045	1.50	80,259
1906	41,552	2,576	2,574	2,636	1.78	83,390
1911	56,564	3,550	3,409	3,302	1.98	116,346
1916	75,856	5,027	4,187	4,729	2.50	178,439
1921	97,034	5,493	4,859	5,763	2.73	250,035
1922	97,059	5,502	5,145	5,779	2.69	274,177
1923	106,146	6,178	5,345	6,045	2.76	270,771
1924	143,178	5,923	5,212	6,201	2.82	303,566

There has been a rapid increase in the number of cases treated in the public hospitals, and the average daily number of patients per 1,000 of the population has risen by over 90 per cent. since 1911.

The increase is due partly to a wider knowledge concerning the benefits to be derived from expert treatment which is provided in the hospitals and to a large increase in hospital accommodation. It is probable also that on account of the higher cost of home nursing and scarcity of domestic labour many persons go to hospitals when ill who under former conditions would have been treated at home.

Of the indoor patients in 1924, the metropolitan hospitals provided treatment for 60,997, and 52,181 were accommodated in the country institutions, the corresponding figures in 1911 being 29,610 and 26,954.

The number of outdoor patients, as stated, represents the aggregate of the number of distinct persons who received outdoor relief at each hospital where records are kept. The number has increased more than three-fold during the period under review. The bulk of the cases recorded in 1924 were treated at five metropolitan hospitals in or close to the city, viz., Sydney Hospital, 56,356; Royal Prince Alfred, 47,390; St. Vincent's, 42,530; Royal Alexandra for Children, 33,465; and Lewisham, 21,361. The total in the metropolitan district was 258,767, and in the country, 44,799.

The following statement shows the receipts and expenditure (including loans) of the public hospitals during the year 1924. The figures include particulars of the State hospitals, except those connected with the asylums for the infirm, which were excluded because it is not practicable to separate the expenditure incurred in the treatment of sickness from the expenses in respect of the ordinary functions of the asylums.

The receipts and expenditure of the Thomas Walker Convalescent Hospital, which is privately endowed, are excluded also.

Items.	Amount.			Per cent. of Total.		
	Metro- politan.	Country.	Total.	Metro- politan.	Country.	Total.
Receipts (including loans)—						
State Aid	£ 351,295	£ 264,728	£ 616,023	50·4	45·2	48·0
Subscriptions, Donations, and Entertainments ...	200,116	217,223	417,339	28·7	27·0	32·5
Contributions by Patients	88,407	79,012	167,419	12·7	13·5	13·1
Miscellaneous	56,977	25,190	82,167	8·2	4·3	6·4
Total Receipts	£ 696,795	586,153	1,282,948	100	100	100
Expenditure—						
Buildings and Repairs ...	134,506	107,571	242,077	19·1	19·2	19·1
Salaries and Wages ...	266,608	199,164	465,772	37·8	35·5	36·8
Provisions, Stores, and Out- patients	245,505	221,820	467,325	34·8	39·5	35·9
Miscellaneous	58,297	32,829	91,126	8·3	5·8	7·2
Total Expenditure	£ 704,916	561,334	1,2 6,300	100	100	100

According to the hospital accounts the State aid received by the metropolitan institutions in 1924 amounted to £351,295, or 50·4 per cent. of the total receipts. Of this sum £94,189 represented the expenditure in connection with the Coast Hospital and the Lady Edeline Hospital; the Sydney Hospital received £99,344; the Royal Prince Alfred £52,996; and the Royal North Shore £27,815; the Women's Hospital £13,119; the St. George-District Hospital £12,032; the balance, £51,800, was distributed amongst 16 institutions, and 3 hospitals (including the Thomas Walker Convalescent Hospital) were unsubsidised. In the country districts State aid represented 45·2 of the receipts. The amount included £35,663 for the upkeep of the Waterfall Hospital for Consumptives and the David Berry Hospital. The Newcastle and Broken Hill Hospitals received £27,404 and £18,275 respectively, £183,386 were granted to 123 institutions, and five did not receive any aid from the State during the year.

Subscriptions, donations, bequests, and the proceeds of benefit entertainments, etc., yielded 32·5 per cent. of the hospital revenue, and contributions by patients represented 13 per cent.

The growth of hospital receipts and expenditure since 1901 is illustrated in the following statement:—

Year.	Receipts.					Expenditure.				
	State aid.	Subscriptions and Donations.	Contributions by Patients.	Other.	Total.	Buildings and Repairs.	Salaries and Wages, Provisions, Stores, etc.	Other.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1901	91,363	50,939	23,698	16,727	182,727	17,354	141,399	17,365	176,118	
1906	109,296	85,421	31,525	16,617	242,859	26,815	179,431	18,666	224,912	
1911	159,147	131,244	50,099	22,867	363,357	50,902	263,037	34,877	348,816	
1916	285,385	163,018	85,551	24,981	558,935	80,182	433,339	37,546	551,067	
1921	507,268	344,253	148,756	62,368	1,062,645	160,499	818,715	80,067	1,059,281	
1922	495,740	373,584	150,265	62,030	1,081,619	155,120	819,074	83,668	1,057,862	
1923	509,797	430,760	156,297	69,015	1,165,899	218,025	869,409	89,939	1,177,373	
1924	616,023	417,339	167,419	82,167	1,282,948	242,077	933,097	91,126	1,266,300	

PER HEAD OF POPULATION.

	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
1901	1	4	0	9	0	4	0	3	2	8	0	3
1906	1	6	1	1	0	5	0	3	3	3	0	3
1911	1	11	1	7	0	7	0	3	4	4	0	7
1916	3	0	1	9	0	11	0	3	5	11	0	10
1921	4	10	3	3	1	5	0	7	10	1	7	9
1922	4	7	3	6	1	5	0	7	10	1	1	5
1923	4	8	3	11	1	5	0	8	10	8	2	0
1924	5	6	3	9	1	6	0	9	11	6	2	2

The average amount of hospital receipts per head of population has risen by 165 per cent. since 1911, the amount in 1924 being 11s. 6d. per head, of which State aid represented 5s. 6d. Contributions by patients showed an average of 1s. 6d. per head of population, but fees paid while in hospital do not constitute the total amount of their payments, as many of them contribute at other times in the form of subscriptions, donations, etc.

The average annual cost of maintenance per patient in hospitals, calculated on the average daily number of patients during 1924, was £156 3s., exclusive of the cost of buildings and repairs. The cost of outdoor treatment and district nursing also is excluded where the information is available, but the amount is not recorded separately in the accounts of several hospitals where large numbers of outdoor patients are treated, e.g., Sydney, and St. Vincent's. The following statement shows the annual cost in various groups of hospitals classified according to the number of patients:—

Average daily Number Resident.	1923.		1924.				
	Number of Hospitals.	Average cost per occupied bed.	Number of Hospitals.	Average cost per occupied bed.			
				Wages.	Provisions Stores, etc.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
		£		£	£	£	£
Less than 1	6	2,776-97	6	1,188-89	543-79	133-33	1,866-01
1 to 3 ...	9	386-45	5	307-85	191-07	44-30	543-22
3 ,, 5 ...	10	255-95	15	145-76	92-31	23-26	261-33
5 ,, 10 ...	33	225-53	28	113-18	100-07	20-73	233-98
10 ,, 15 ...	18	171-11	19	75-46	82-41	14-21	172-08
15 ,, 20 ...	13	166-63	20	72-54	75-71	11-30	159-55
20 ,, 25 ...	11	131-44	6	68-94	73-89	9-95	152-78
25 ,, 30 ...	10	122-58	8	48-59	65-78	9-57	123-94
30 ,, 35 ...	4	103-68	5	51-22	62-36	6-44	120-02
35 ,, 40 ...	4	156-03	4	39-78	58-55	7-58	105-91
40 ,, 100 ...	25	124-32	26	51-98	63-45	13-10	128-53
Over 100 ...	12	160-28	13	82-78	67-38	14-58	164-74
Total ...	155	152-73	155	73-59	68-83	13-75	156-17

The average cost per occupied bed decreased as the number of patients increased up to 40, where the average was £105 18s. per annum. Apparently it was higher in the larger institutions situated in the metropolitan areas or in important centres of population where expensive equipment has been installed, and many accident cases are treated daily.

On account of increased prices, wages, etc., during recent years, difficulty has been experienced in respect of many hospitals in meeting obligations and in providing accommodation for all persons seeking admission.

During the year 1924 the debit balance of the current accounts of the metropolitan hospitals increased by £15,720, and the invested funds increased by £7,599. In regard to the country hospitals, however, the current accounts showed a credit balance, which increased by £3,368 during the year. The invested funds grew from £181,196 to £202,597.

Hospitals.	Current Account.		Invested Funds.	
	At 1st Jan., 1924.	At 31st Dec., 1924.	At 1st Jan., 1924.	At 31st Dec., 1924.
Metropolitan ...	£ (-)313,053	£ (-)328,773	£ 250,320	£ 257,919
Country ...	24,324	27,692	181,196	202,597
Total ...	(-)288,729	(-)301,081	431,516	460,516

(-) Indicates debit balance.

TREATMENT OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

Within the State, the Board of Health is vested with authority to make provision for the treatment and prevention of infectious diseases. The Federal Government is responsible for the administration of the quarantine laws in respect of vessels, persons, and goods arriving from oversea ports.

Cases of such diseases as leprosy, bubonic plague, smallpox, scarlet fever, typhoid fever, diphtheria, infantile paralysis, cerebro-spinal meningitis, and, since 1st April, 1926, encephalitis lethargica, must be notified to the Board of Health. No case of typhus, yellow fever, or cholera has occurred in New South Wales. Cases of bubonic plague are rare, but an outbreak occurred between September, 1921, and July, 1922. The total number of cases reported was 35, and ten were fatal. One case which was fatal occurred in 1923. Cases of pulmonary tuberculosis must be notified in certain areas, as proclaimed.

Where necessary, provision is made for the isolation of infectious cases. In the metropolis the majority are treated at the Quarantine Station, or at the Coast Hospital. Country cases are accommodated in special wards of the local hospitals.

The following table shows the notifications of the various diseases for five years, 1921-25. Particulars relating to the deaths and death rates are shown in the chapter relating to Vital Statistics.

Disease.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.			Total.
					Metropolitan District.	Hunter River District.	Other Districts.	
Typhoid Fever ...	949	706	873	768	223	53	257	533
Scarlet Fever ...	1,060	1,153	2,623	3,421	1,944	235	864	3,043
Diphtheria ...	6,854	4,094	3,480	4,364	1,608	293	1,103	3,004
Infantile Paralysis ...	184	33	103	108	41	3	13	57
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	30	21	27	29	16	2	19	37
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	1,240	1,045	1,218	1,096	1,051	61	83	1,195
Leprosy ...	2	3	...	2	4	...	3*	7
Bubonic Plague ...	2	33	1	...	...	...	...	...

*Includes one case from Queensland.

Leprosy.

Persons suffering from leprosy are segregated in the Leper Lazaret, which was opened for the admission of patients in 1883, though statutory provision for the compulsory notification of the disease and detention of lepers was not made until 1890. In 1925 seven new cases were admitted and one was readmitted, four were discharged, and two were repatriated to China. There were 17 inmates in the lazaret on 31st December, 1925. Their birthplaces were New South Wales 6, Victoria 1, England 1, Ireland 1, Sweden 1, Greece 1. Two were born in China, 2 in the Pacific Islands, 1 in Java, and 1 was an Australian aboriginal. The cost of management was £3,223, or an average of £174 4s. per inmate.

Tuberculosis.

A remarkable reduction in the mortality from tuberculosis from 15 to 6 per 10,000 of population has been effected since the enactment of the Dairies Supervision Act of 1886, the Pure Food Act of 1908, and other legislation for the protection of the food supply from insanitary conditions, but the fact, as shown in the chapter Vital Statistics, that tuberculosis causes 6 per cent. of the deaths in New South Wales demonstrates the necessity for further drastic measures to prevent the spread of the disease.

Pulmonary tuberculosis was proclaimed as notifiable in the Metropolitan and Newcastle districts in 1915, and in the Blue Mountains tourist district in 1916. The Board of Health may prohibit affected persons from working in connection with preparation or packing of food.

For the treatment of cases of tuberculosis there are four special institutions which are classified as public hospitals, viz., the State Hospital at Waterfall, the Queen Victoria Homes for Consumptives at Wentworth Falls and Thirlmere, and the R. T. Hall Sanatorium at Hazelbrook. Tuberculosis cases are received also at the Sacred Heart Hospice for the Dying, Sydney, and at private hospitals. At the hospitals attached to the State asylums at Rookwood and Newington, accommodation is reserved for a limited number of tuberculous patients, and arrangements have been made with the Government of South Australia to provide sanatorium treatment in that State for patients from Broken Hill.

The Waterfall Hospital is the largest institution for the treatment of persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. It contains 417 beds, and 740 males and 379 females were treated during 1924. The expenditure was £32,603; the average cost of treatment, excluding buildings, repairs, etc., was £83 8s. per occupied bed.

The dispensary system for the treatment of tuberculosis was inaugurated in Sydney in 1912 by the National Association for the Prevention and Cure of Consumption, when a dispensary was opened in the city. Throat and chest dispensaries have been established also in connection with three Metropolitan hospitals, and at Newcastle. Medical advice is given to patients, and nurses are employed to visit their homes and instruct the inmates in precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the disease.

Venereal Diseases.

The treatment of venereal diseases is regulated under the Venereal Diseases Act, 1918, which came into operation on 1st December, 1920. It prescribes that all persons suffering from such diseases must place themselves under treatment by a qualified medical practitioner, and must remain under treatment until cured. Medical practitioners are required to notify

all cases to the commissioner appointed under the Act. Treatment by unqualified persons is prohibited, also the sale of certain drugs used in connection with these diseases, except when prescribed by a qualified medical practitioner.

Clinics have been established at seven metropolitan public hospitals, and free treatment is provided at all subsidised hospitals, drugs and instruments being supplied by the Government. Special wards for these cases have been opened at the Coast Hospital and at the Newington and Liverpool State Hospitals, and an Act was passed in 1923 to sanction the construction of an isolation block in connection with the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

The notifications during the year 1924 numbered 6,090, of which 5,691 cases were notified in the metropolitan area, and 75 in the Newcastle district. Public hospitals and clinics notified 3,187 cases, and 2,903 notifications were made by private medical practitioners. Prisoners suffering from venereal disease are detained for treatment in lock hospitals, in terms of the Prisoners Detention Act. Particulars are given in the chapter relating to Prison Services.

TREATMENT OF MENTAL DISEASES.

The law relating to persons suffering from mental diseases is contained in the Lunacy Act of 1898. Its provisions apply mainly to those who may be certified as insane and incapable of managing their affairs. Such persons may be admitted to an institution, if certified by two qualified medical practitioners, either at the request of relatives or friends, or upon the order of two Justices of the Peace. But relatives have the right of custody of insane persons brought before the Justices if they can give a satisfactory assurance that proper care will be taken of them. Persons found to be insane by proceedings before the Supreme Court in its lunacy jurisdiction may be admitted to mental hospitals upon the order of the Judge. The influx of insane persons to New South Wales is restricted under the Lunacy Act, which renders the owner, charterer, agent, or master of a vessel liable for the maintenance of any such person landed in the State.

The estates of persons proved to be incapable, through mental infirmity, of managing their affairs, are placed under the management and care of the Master in Lunacy.

Special courses of training in the treatment of mental and nervous diseases are provided for medical students at the Sydney University, where a chair of psychiatry was established in 1922.

Mental Hospitals.

The Government has set apart a number of institutions for the reception and treatment of insane persons, and private institutions may be licensed for the purpose. Licenses may be granted also for the reception of a single patient, but unauthorised persons are not permitted to take charge for profit of a person of unsound mind. All institutions for mental cases, including reception houses, etc., for their temporary accommodation, are subject to inspection by the Inspector-General of Mental Hospitals. With his consent, harmless patients may be boarded out or released on leave, or they may be discharged to relatives or friends who undertake to care for them.

There are nine Government mental hospitals, in addition to a hospital for criminal insane, and three private institutions licensed to receive mental patients. Under an arrangement with the Government of South

Australia, patients from Broken Hill are accommodated in a hospital in that State, the cost of their maintenance being paid by the Government of New South Wales.

At 30th June, 1925, there were in the mental hospitals and licensed houses in New South Wales 7,749 patients—4,325 males and 3,424 females; in the South Australian hospitals there were 18 men and 16 women from this State; 210 men and 272 women were on leave from the institutions; so that the total number of persons under cognisance as being of unsound mind was 8,265, consisting of 4,553 males and 3,712 females. These figures are exclusive of voluntary patients. The number at intervals since 1901 is shown below:—

At end of Year.	Number of Mental Patients.			Proportion per 1,000 of Population.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1901	2,684	1,804	4,488	3·72	2·75	3·26
1911	3,810	2,573	6,383	4·27	3·18	3·75
1916	4,264	3,020	7,284	4·50	3·21	3·86
1921*	4,510	3,432	7,942	4·21	3·33	3·78
1922*	4,497	3,500	7,997	4·11	3·32	3·72
1923*	4,456	3,569	8,025	3·99	3·32	3·66
1924*	4,496	3,649	8,145	3·96	3·34	3·66
1925*	4,553	3,712	8,265	3·93	3·33	3·64

* At 30th June.

The proportion of the population who were under official cognisance as mental patients has declined slowly during the last five years. In order to ascertain the general rate of insanity amongst the population, it would be necessary to take into consideration the patients treated in their homes, and those suffering from mental disorders in a form which does not warrant certification as insane nor compulsory detention in a mental hospital.

It is considered a grave defect in the law that it does not make provision for the treatment of persons in the early stages of mental derangement, when specialised care is most likely to be beneficial. Steps towards meeting the needs of such persons were initiated recently by the establishment of a psychiatric clinic, where voluntary patients suffering from the milder forms of mental and nervous disorders are received upon their own request. Outdoor treatment is provided also. During the year 1924-25 the number of resident patients under treatment at the clinic was 451, and there were 128 in the institution at 30th June, 1925. At the other State mental hospitals voluntary patients are treated, and the total number resident at 30th June, 1925, including those at the psychiatric clinic, was 278, viz., 147 males and 131 females.

Reception houses have been established in Sydney, Newcastle, and Kenmore (Goulburn), where persons showing symptoms of mental diseases are placed under observation and cases of short duration are treated. The number under observation and care during 1924-25 was 1,695, and 1,008 were transferred to mental hospitals. At the State Penitentiary at Long Bay 80 persons were under observation during the year, and 29 were sent to mental institutions.

The number of admissions and readmissions to mental hospitals during the last five years are shown below:—

Year ended 30th June.	Admissions.			Re-admissions.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1921	711	622	1,333	115	106	221
1922	684	552	1,236	135	106	241
1923	563	457	1,020	104	118	222
1924	679	508	1,187	95	114	209
1925	673	571	1,244	102	82	184

Of the admissions and re-admissions in 1924-25, natives of New South Wales numbered 866, England 206, Ireland 70, Scotland 50, other British countries 184, foreign countries 52.

During 1924-25 the number of patients who died in mental hospitals was 550, or 7·2 per cent. of the average number resident; 573 persons, or 7·5 per cent., were discharged as recovered; 159, or 2·1 per cent., as relieved, and 16 were discharged without showing any improvement.

The records of persons admitted during 1924-25 show that, among the exciting causes of insanity, mental anxiety and intemperance in drink were the most prominent. Among predisposing causes the most important were hereditary influence, old age, and congenital defects.

The average weekly cost of maintaining mental patients in Government institutions during the year 1924-25 was 25s. per patient, of which the State paid 21s. 1d., the balance being derived from private contributions. The following table shows the average weekly cost per patient during the last five years:—

Year ended 30th June.	Annual Cost of Maintenance of Patients.	Cost of Maintenance per Patient per week.		
		To State.	Private Contributions.	Total.
	£	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1921	512,797	23 10	3 3	27 1
1922	497,711	21 7	4 1	25 8
1923	476,181	20 9	3 8	24 5
1924	518,727	22 8	3 8	26 4
1925	506,891	21 1	3 11	25 0

Variations in the cost of maintenance are due mainly to changes in rates of wages and in the prices of provisions. The cost of voluntary patients is included. During the year ended June, 1925, salaries and fees amounted to £314,076; the cost of provisions, stores, etc., was £159,856; fuel, light, and water, £24,258; and miscellaneous items, £8,701. These amounts are exclusive of the value of the farm products grown and consumed at the institutions, viz., £23,616.

DEAF-MUTISM AND BLINDNESS.

The number of persons who were deaf and dumb, as ascertained at the census of 1921, was 761, equivalent to one person to every 2,762 of the population, and the number of persons afflicted with blindness was 1,057 or one person in every 1,989.

A classification of deaf mutes and blind persons, according to ages, is shown below :—

Age Group.	Deaf Mutes.			Blind Persons.			Proportion per 1,000 of Population.	
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Deaf Mutes.	Blind.
Years.								
14 and under	89	86	175	39	26	65	·26	·10
15-39	205	158	363	137	73	210	·42	·24
40-64	81	92	173	220	132	352	·37	·76
65 and over...	21	29	50	234	196	430	·55	4·76
Total ...	396	365	761*	630	427	1,057*	·36	·50

* Includes 1 male and 2 female blind deaf mutes.

The care and education of the deaf and dumb and the blind are undertaken at several institutions. The New South Wales Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind is maintained partly by Government subsidy and partly by public subscriptions. Special educational courses are provided, the fees being remitted in cases of financial inability. The Sydney Industrial Blind Institute undertakes the care of the adult blind, and provides industrial training to enable them to earn a livelihood. Homes for the blind are conducted in connection with this institution, and a free circulating library of embossed books is provided. Institutions for the instruction of deaf mutes are conducted by Roman, Catholic religious societies at Waratah for girls, and at Castle Hill for boys.

Under the Commonwealth invalid pension system provision is made for the payment of pensions to permanently blind persons above the age of 16 years.

WELFARE OF CHILDREN.

The Child Welfare Act of 1923 amended and consolidated the principal laws relating to the welfare of children in New South Wales, viz., the State Children Relief Act, 1901, the Children's Protection Act, 1902, the Infant Protection Act, 1904, and the Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act, 1905.

The provisions of the Child Welfare Act which relate to neglected or uncontrollable children, juvenile offenders, and children in institutions, apply to boys and girls under 18 years of age, and the other sections to children under 16 years. The Act authorises two forms of State relief in regard to neglected and destitute children, viz., (1) for those children who by reason of the death or neglect of parents and guardians, or for other reasons, have become wards of the State; and (2) the granting of assistance in cases of necessity towards the maintenance of children in their own homes.

The Child Welfare Act contains provisions for protecting children from ill-treatment and neglect, for preventing their employment in dangerous occupations, and for regulating their employment in public performances and in street trading, and the maintenance of young children apart from their parents in foster homes and in institutions. Special Courts, called

Children's Courts, are maintained to deal with cases relating to juvenile offenders and neglected and uncontrollable children, and to adjudicate in regard to affiliation proceedings.

Children may be legally adopted in terms of the Child Welfare Act, 1923, as amended in 1924, orders for adoption being granted by the Supreme Court.

Orders of a magistrate to compel parents to meet the obligation of maintaining their legitimate children are made in terms of the Deserted Wives and Children's Acts of 1901 and 1913. Special legislation has been passed to facilitate reciprocity with respect to the enforcement of maintenance orders between New South Wales and other parts of the British Empire.

The Notification of Births Act of 1915 requires that in proclaimed districts the health authorities must be notified within thirty-six hours of the birth of a child. In this manner cases in which advice or assistance is needed are brought under cognisance at a stage when measures to safeguard the health of infants are most efficacious. A Federal law, passed in 1912, authorises the payment of an allowance of £5 to mothers, which assists in defraying the expenses incidental to childbirth.

An Act was passed in 1919 to incorporate the Royal Society for the Welfare of Mothers and Babies, which was established under the ægis of the Government in the previous year with the object of co-ordinating measures for the welfare of mothers and babies.

The Juvenile Smoking Suppression Act and the Liquor Act prohibit the use of tobacco by juveniles and the supply of intoxicating liquor to them, and the Public Instruction Act requires children between the ages of 7 and 14 years to attend school regularly. The employment of children in factories and industrial apprenticeship are subject to laws which are discussed in the chapters relating to the Manufacturing Industry and to Employment.

Maternity Allowances.

The Maternity Allowances Act of the Commonwealth, which came into operation on 10th October, 1912, provides for the payment to mothers of a sum of £5 in respect of each birth occurring in Australia. Payments are made in respect of still-born children if viable, but one allowance only is payable in the case of plural births. The allowances may be paid only to women who are inhabitants of, or who intend to settle in the Commonwealth, and they are not payable to Asiatics or to aboriginal natives of Australia or of the Pacific Islands.

The following statement shows the number of claims passed for payment in New South Wales in each year of the last five years, in comparison with the number of confinements:—

Year.	Confinements. (excluding Still- births).	Maternity Allowances.	
		Claims passed for payment.	Amount.
1921	54,017	54,390	£ 271,950
1922	54,641	55,900	279,500
1923	53,602	54,600	273,000
1924	53,125	54,130	270,650
1925	51,050*	55,100	275,500

* Approximate.

It is apparent that all classes of the community, not only those in needy circumstances, claim the benefit provided by the Act, and since its introduction it has become customary to register births within a week, though the Registration Act allows a period of sixty days. In each of the last ten years the number of claims passed for payment exceeded the number of confinements. This is due mainly to the fact that still-births are not included in the number of confinements, though maternity allowances are paid in respect of the births of viable children.

Baby Health Centres and Day Nurseries.

Facts relating to infant mortality, as shown in the chapter on Vital Statistics, indicate that a large proportion of the deaths are due to preventable causes, the result in many cases of parental ignorance. With the object of reducing the wastage, the Government has established baby health centres in various parts of the city and suburbs, and in country towns.

A staff of nurses and an honorary medical officer are attached to each centre. The nurses instruct the mothers in hygiene at the centres and in their homes, and make arrangements for medical or dental treatment of mothers and children when necessary.

In 1925 there were 55 centres, viz., 31 in the metropolitan area and 24 in the country. During the year 1925 the attendances numbered 190,323, and the nurses made 83,757 visits to cases within the areas served by the centres. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 165,489 attendances and 77,575 visits.

The Royal Society for the Welfare of Mothers and Children has established two welfare centres in the city. A State baby health centre is located in each, also a day nursery, kindergarten, playground, and a milk and ice depot. The Society conducts two training schools, where nurses may receive post-graduate training in infant hygiene and mothercraft. Nurses attached to the baby health centres are required to undergo this course, and arrangements have been made to train the nurses engaged by the Bush Nursing Association. About 170 nurses have completed the course, including some from other States. Associations of medical practitioners and of nurses, charitable organisations, and institutions for children are affiliated with the Society, the main objects being to save baby life, to ameliorate the conditions of life of children up to school age, and to ensure proper nursing and health conditions of mothers before and after childbirth.

Three day nurseries have been established in the metropolis by the Sydney Day Nursery Association. Mothers who work outside their homes may leave their children at the nurseries during the daytime for the sum of 6d. per day. Food, clothing, and medical advice are provided, also kindergarten tuition. The average attendance is about 90 per day.

In the outlying country districts nurses engaged by the Bush Nursing Association afford assistance to mothers and advise them as to the feeding and treatment of children.

Adoption of Children.

The Child Welfare Act of 1923, as amended in 1924, makes legal provision for the permanent adoption of children upon order of the Supreme Court in its equitable jurisdiction. Application to the Court may be made by adopting parents or by the Minister of Public Instruction on their behalf. Before granting an application, the Court must be satisfied that the adopting parent is fit to have care of the child and to maintain him, and that the child's interests will be promoted by the adoption. If over 12 years of age, the child's consent is necessary, unless the Court dispenses with it owing to special circumstances.

An order of adoption terminates all rights and liabilities between the child and his natural parents, except the right to inherit property by reason of kinship. An adopted child is deemed to be the child of the adopting parent for all purposes, civil and criminal, and as regards all legal and equitable rights and liabilities, but does not acquire any right to inherit property under deed, will, etc., unless expressly stated in the document, nor to property limited to heirs of the body or transmitted to next of kin of a child or any kindred of the adopting parent. An adopted child takes the surname of his adopting parent in substitution for his own surname, and orders of adoption are registered by the Registrar-General. Application for orders of adoption may be heard in open court, or in public or in private chambers.

Children under State Supervision.

The function of supervising the children under the care of the State was vested in the State Children Relief Board until the Child Welfare Act was proclaimed in December, 1923, when its powers were transferred to the Minister for Education. The executive functions of the Child Welfare Department are conducted by a secretary and staff of salaried officers, including a number of inspectors, and provision is made for the appointment of advisory committees to exercise such powers as may be prescribed.

The Government may establish shelters for the reception and temporary detention of children, industrial schools, and homes for cases requiring segregation or special treatment, and the Children's Courts may order near relatives to pay the cost of maintaining children therein. Children in institutions may be apprenticed or placed out in suitable employment or may be discharged to the custody of parents or other suitable persons.

The gross amount expended by the Government during the year ended 31st December, 1924, on account of the services of the State Children Relief Department, was £509,291. Of this amount, £138,605 represented the cost of maintenance of children boarded out apart from their parents; and allowances to widows and deserted wives towards the support of their own children amounted to £316,394. Contributions by parents and relatives and repayments of maintenance allowance amounted to £15,719.

The following statement shows the annual expenditure of the Department at intervals since 1901-02:—

Year ended April.	Boarding-out.		Cottage Homes.	Other Items.	Total Expenditure.	Contributions by Parents and other Revenue.	Net Expenditure by Government.
	State Wards.	Children of Widows, etc.					
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1902	43,010	19,262	3,371	73	65,716	1,542	64,174
1912	46,001	33,742	13,243	10,187	103,173	4,361	98,812
1916	57,996	76,989	11,599	10,047	156,631	6,357	150,274
1921	109,963	223,583	27,661	29,445	390,652	7,713	382,939
1922	133,555	263,945	30,185	29,941	457,626	8,921	448,705
1923	138,854	289,201	20,120	26,446	474,621	11,210	463,411
1923*	128,596	270,492	17,737	26,606	443,431	12,560	430,871
1924†	138,605	316,394	22,233	47,778	525,010	15,719	509,291

* April to December.

† Year ended 31st December.

The increase in recent years in the amount expended in connection with the children boarded out is due partly to an increase in the number of children, but in a greater degree to increases in the rates of payment, owing to higher cost of living. Thus, in 1916, the average rate of payment

for children boarded out apart from their parents was about 5s. 6d. per week, and for children with their mothers 4s. 6d. The weekly rate for children apart from their mothers is now 15s. if under 1 year of age and 10s. at ages 1 to 14 years, and the rates for children living with their mothers range up to 10s.

The number of children under the supervision of the State, classified in accordance with the statutory provisions under which they were controlled, is shown in the following statement. The figures for dates prior to December, 1923, relate to the month of April following the year stated. The number in December, 1924, was 25,509.

Classification.	1911.	1916.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
State Wards	4,677	5,081	5,439	5,078	5,205	5,352
Children of widows, etc. ...	4,453	7,310	11,854	11,852	12,039	13,598
In licensed institutions ...	263	500	689	697	688	679
Foster homes	559	603	290	316	326	449
Employed in theatres ...	216	180	280	580	680	884
Engaged in street-trading ...	856	695	1,543	1,836	1,715	1,964
On probation from Children's Courts	1,148	1,566	1,381	2,391	1,992	2,583
Total	12,172	16,025	21,476	22,750	22,645	25,509

Children in Charitable Institutions.

There are a number of children in institutions conducted by religious bodies and other organisations where they have been placed by their guardians in preference to being boarded out under the State system. Some of the institutions receive children from the Children's Courts. Those in which children under the age of 7 years are received must be licensed under the Child Welfare Act. In a few cases the parents contribute towards the support of the children, but usually they are maintained by the organisations which conduct the establishments.

At the end of the year 1924 there were 3,525 children in these charitable institutions.

Institutions.	1911.	1916.	1921.	1924.		
				Boys.	Girls.	Total.
General Public	467	318	405	242	209	451
Church of England	207	162	326	142	266	408
Roman Catholic	1,051	1,178	1,575	721	1,068	1,789
Methodist	27	127	55	28	50	87
Presbyterian	5	53	360	283	194	477
Salvation Army	48	179	279	170	143	313
Hebrew ... ..	...	...	3	...	...	...
Total	1,805	2,017	3,003	1,586	1,939	3,525

The figures in the foregoing table include the inmates under 7 years of age who were under the supervision of the State in terms of the Child Welfare Act.

Children in Foster Homes.

The law regarding the reception of children in foster homes, as amended by the Child Welfare Act, 1923, prescribes that such places must be licensed if one or more children under 7 years are received. No person, without a written order of the Court, may receive a child under 7 years of

age to be maintained apart from its mother in consideration of the payment of money. The payments must be by periodical instalments, and the instalments may not be paid for more than four weeks in advance, nor exceed the sum of 30s. per week.

The number of foster homes registered in 1924 was 400 and the number of children 833. Fourteen of the children died during the year, 240 were discharged to their parents, and 130 were removed from State supervision for other reasons, so that 449 remained in the foster homes at the end of the year.

State Wards.

In New South Wales it is an accepted principle that when it is necessary for the State to interfere with the conditions of family life in the children's interests, the children should be reared in the natural surroundings of a home. Therefore the boarding-out system has been adopted in regard to State wards, and treatment in institutions is restricted to special cases. Under the Child Welfare Act the Minister for Education or person authorised by him is the authority to admit children to State control, and to board them out, etc.

The supervision is undertaken by salaried inspectors, whose efforts are supplemented by honorary officers. Women inspectors visit infants placed out apart from their mothers, and all such infants in the metropolitan area must be submitted to medical examination every fortnight during the first twelve months of life.

The children are boarded out until they are 14 years of age to approved persons, the maximum number of children under the care of one guardian being three, except in cases of families comprising a greater number, brothers and sisters being placed usually in the same home.

The State wards may be apprenticed with suitable employers or they may be restored to the custody of parents or other suitable persons. The children may be supervised for two years after their period of boarding-out or apprenticeship has terminated.

For apprentices, the terms of indenture prescribe a wage payment and pocket-money on a specified scale, the wages being banked half-yearly to the credit of the apprentice. One-third of the accumulated amount is paid to them on completion of apprenticeship, the balance remaining at interest till age 21 is attained, unless exceptional circumstances arise, when the Board may allow the money to be paid earlier. The majority of the girls are apprenticed in domestic service, and the boys to farmers, orchardists, and artisans in country districts.

The State wards in December, 1924, consisted of 2,861 boys and 2,491 girls, and they were distributed as follows:—

Classification.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Boarders—Subsidised	2,182	1,829	4,011
Unsubsidised	168	196	364
Adopted	109	198	307
Apprentices	402	268	670
Total	2,861	2,491	5,352

Relief of Children of Widows, etc.

A most important provision of the Child Welfare Act provides for contributions towards the support in their own homes of the children of

widows in necessitous circumstances or of wives deprived of their husbands' support through desertion, illness, infirmity, or imprisonment. Relief in this form had been distributed by the State Children Relief Board before the Child Welfare Act came into operation, and that Act authorised the payment of contributions to mothers of illegitimate children. In 1924, contributions were paid to 5,180 mothers for the support of 13,598 children.

Relief is not payable under the Child Welfare Act in respect of children whose mothers are qualified for widow's pensions, but the Child Welfare Department will continue to assist the children of widows who are not eligible for such pensions, such as those for whom invalid pensions are provided by the Commonwealth Government.

Deserted Children.

In cases of desertion of wife or of legitimate children, the husband or father may be ordered, in terms of the Deserted Wives and Children Acts, to pay weekly or monthly contributions for their support. Cases in relation to illegitimate children were dealt with under the Infant Protection Act, which was consolidated by the Child Welfare Act. The father may be ordered to pay the expenses incidental to birth and to make periodical payments for maintenance. In certain cases the mother also may be required to contribute. For disobedience of or non-compliance with orders under these Acts offenders may be fined, or they may be committed to prison, and from the value of their work while in prison the cost of their upkeep may be deducted and the balance applied to the satisfaction of the orders.

The Interstate Destitute Persons Act of 1919, which was proclaimed in 1921, makes provision for reciprocity with the other Australian States for executing summonses for maintenance and for enforcing maintenance orders, and the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Act, 1923, provides for reciprocity between New South Wales and other parts of the British Empire for such orders except orders of affiliation.

The following statement shows the number of cases in respect of wife and child desertion dealt with in the Courts of Petty Sessions and the Children's Courts during the year 1924:—

Cases.	Applications for Orders.			Non-compliance with Orders.		
	Order made.	Order refused.	Case withdrawn.	Order obeyed subsequently.	Defendant imprisoned.	Case withdrawn or dismissed.
For maintenance—Wife ...	1,109	207	819	942	585	1,236
Child ...	654	68	253	1,174	665	890
For expenses (Infant Protection Act)	211	23	71	14	4	6
Total	1,974	298	1,143	2,130	1,254	2,132

In regard to four applications for orders which were granted, the mothers were respondents. Three women were charged with non-compliance with orders, which they obeyed subsequently.

Delinquent Children.

Since 1905 cases of juvenile offenders under the age of 16 years have been dealt with in the Children's Courts, by magistrates with special qualifications for the treatment of delinquent children. Under the Child Welfare Act the jurisdiction of the Children's Courts extends to offenders up to 18 years of age.

Leniency is an outstanding feature in the treatment of the young offenders, and a large number are released after admonishment, or on probation, committal to an institution being a final resort. The children brought before the courts are classified into distinct groups, according to the special treatment they require, consideration being given to the character of the child and the circumstances surrounding the committal of the offence, the home environment, the character of the parents, and the nature of their control.

Children committed to institutions may be detained in custody until the expiration of the period specified by the Court, or until reaching the age of 18 years. They may be indentured as apprentices with suitable employers or restored to the custody of parents or guardians.

A truant school is conducted at Guildford for the detention of boys under 14 years of age who are persistent truants. The average period of detention is between two and three months. The gross enrolment during 1924 was 189, and the average daily attendance 59.

The other State institutions for the reformation and training of delinquent children are the Farm Home for Boys at Mittagong, the Gosford Farm Home for Boys, and the Girls' Industrial School at Parramatta. Under certain conditions children may be committed to approved institutions established by the religious organisations.

The Mittagong Farm Home is primarily for the reception of children who require treatment before being released on probation, and others guilty of minor delinquencies. The Gosford institution is for older boys, who need stricter discipline or who show tendencies liable to be developed into criminal habits, and for those who have failed to respond to probation or to treatment in the Mittagong Farm Home. At Gosford 303 boys were admitted during the year 1924, and 162 were discharged. The number at the end of the year was 248. The Industrial School for Girls at Parramatta is divided into two branches for the purpose of classifying the inmates, and a training home is attached. The institution receives uncontrollable girls between the ages of 13 and 16 years. During the year 1924 the number of girls admitted was 137, and 106 were discharged. The number remaining at 31st December, 1924, was 152.

Mentally-deficient Children.

Efforts are being made to establish a comprehensive system for the treatment of feeble-minded children in New South Wales. Accommodation is available in the State mental hospitals for children who may be classed as lunatics or idiots, and some of the cottage homes for State wards are reserved for the feeble-minded, the older boys being trained in such trades as boot-making, tailoring, toymaking, and carpentering, as well as in outdoor work. Provision is necessary, however, for all children incapable of acquiring education in the ordinary schools, who with special tuition may be taught to engage in useful employment under supervision. As a preliminary step the Department of Education has endeavoured in recent years to ascertain the number of children requiring such treatment. During the last two years medical inspectors, when visiting the schools, have tested all the children who appeared to be subnormal, and the experience indicates that among nearly 100,000 children about 1 per cent. are in need of special education. Classes for such children have been established at eight schools in the metropolitan district. The classes are limited to about 15 pupils, so that each may receive individual attention, and in some cases the children have made sufficient progress for transfer to the ordinary schools.

A residential school for subnormal children is being built at Glenfield. Four cottages and a central administrative building are being erected on a

plan which will allow the construction of four additional cottages if required. Each cottage will accommodate 32 children. The site occupies 110 acres in a healthy locality, 4 miles from Liverpool, and the buildings are being connected with the metropolitan water supply and electricity systems. The institution will probably be opened before the end of the year 1926.

Employment of Children.

In other chapters of this volume particulars are shown regarding the employment of children in factories and as apprentices. There are two classes of employment in which children may not be employed unless licensed under the Child Welfare Act, viz., in public theatrical performances and in street trading.

Theatre licenses may be issued in respect of children over 7 years, subject to such restrictions and conditions as the Minister may think fit. The licenses may be rescinded at any time upon sufficient cause being shown.

Street trading is defined as hawking newspapers, matches, flowers or other articles, singing or performing for profit, or any like occupation conducted in a public place. Girls are not allowed to engage in street trading, and the boys under 16 years must be licensed. The minimum age at which a license is granted is 12 years, or in case of certain occupations, 14 years. Licenses are renewable half-yearly, and licensees are required to wear a metal arm-badge whilst trading.

Precautions are taken by supervisors to ensure the regular school attendance of licensees under 14 years of age. Boys between the ages of 12 and 14 may trade between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; and boys over 14 years of age, between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.

Particulars relating to the licenses issued during the last five years are shown below, the figures for theatre licenses being for the calendar years stated, and those relating to street trading licenses for the years ended three months later:—

Year.	Theatre Licenses issued.	Street Trading Licenses.				Licenses Granted.
		Applications by Boys.				
		Under 14 years of age.	14 to 16 years of age.	Total.		
1920	400	749	369	1,118	1,058	
1921	280	990	595	1,585	1,543	
1922	580	1,169	721	1,890	1,836	
1923	680	1,263	501	1,764	1,715	
1924	884	1,415	564	1,979	1,964	

The majority of the street trading licenses are issued to newspaper vendors; 1,914 applications in the year 1924 were for hawking newspapers, and 50 for hawking other articles.

Medical Inspection of School Children.

A system of medical inspection of school children was organised in New South Wales in 1913. The inspections are conducted by a staff attached to the Department of Education, consisting of 19 medical officers, 19 dentists (including 8 only partly employed in school work), 8 nurses, and 15 dental assistants.

Under existing arrangements an annual visit of inspection is made to nearly every school in the metropolitan area for the examination of the children in the first-class and those whose thirteenth birthday occurs in the year. Medical supervision is maintained in regard to special cases, and an

annual test is made of the vision of all the children. Outside the metropolitan area a triennial visit is paid to each school, so that every child is examined twice during the period of compulsory school attendance, *i.e.*, between the ages of 7 and 14 years.

Parents are notified of their children's defects, and are urged to have them treated. In the Metropolitan district children may be treated as outdoor patients at hospitals, or at the school dental clinics, two in number. In the country 2 oculists treat defects of vision, and there are 11 travelling dental clinics. One of the oculists is in charge of a travelling hospital, to which are attached two of the dental clinics.

During 1924 the children examined by the staff of the travelling hospital numbered 3,271; 357 were treated by the oculist and 1,577 by the dentists. At the dental clinics 7,009 children were treated in Sydney, and 16,837 by the travelling clinics.

Excluding those examined by the travelling hospital, 98,976 children were examined during 1924; those notified as requiring medical or dental treatment represented 46·3 per cent., medical defects being found in 18·5 per cent.

During the triennium, 1922-24, the number of school pupils examined was 261,370. Of this number, 48 per cent. were found to have defects. The chief defects were dental, 95,576 cases, in 36·5 per cent. of those examined; nose and throat, 34,624 cases, in 13 per cent.; vision, 13,601 cases, in 5 per cent.; hearing, 8,358 cases, in 3 per cent. The number of children treated subsequently represented 53·6 per cent. of those found to have defects.

CHARITABLE RELIEF.

In addition to hospitals for the treatment of sickness or disease, there exist both in the metropolis and in the country other institutions, such as homes for the aged and for children, also societies for granting casual aid to indigent persons, and for the help of discharged prisoners.

The State maintains five asylums, others are maintained partly by State aid and partly by private contributions, and a few are wholly dependent on private aid.

Four of the State asylums are for men and one is for women. These institutions were established as asylums for aged and destitute persons, but since the introduction of the old-age pension system the character of the work of three of the institutions has changed considerably, and they are used to a large extent for the treatment of chronic ailments. They contain special wards for persons suffering from cancer, tuberculosis, and venereal diseases.

The average number resident in the State asylums during the year 1924 was 3,282, as compared with 3,323 during the previous year. The average cost per inmate was £40 1s. 9d. In the hospitals attached to the three institutions 6,103 cases of illness were treated during 1924—males, 4,969, and females 1,134—and at the end of the year 1,311 cases remained under treatment.

The total number of inmates in the charitable institutions during the year 1924 was 28,588 persons, including 11,589 children. The discharges numbered 19,920, and the deaths 1,085. The number remaining at the end of the year was 8,668, *viz.*, 2,916 men, 1,315 women and 4,437 children. The receipts amounted to £890,107, including State aid, £663,712, and the expenditure to £921,519. The value of the outdoor relief afforded by the institutions was estimated at £19,388.

A number of societies are active in the matter of charitable relief, *e.g.*, nursing, ambulance, and shipwreck relief; and in many suburbs and country towns benevolent societies have been formed for the relief of local distress.

For the purpose of organising and controlling the ambulance and transport services a board has been incorporated under an Act passed in 1919 and amended in 1924. The board delimits certain districts for administrative purposes, and in each district a committee is elected annually by the contributors to its funds.

The District Nursing Association and the Bush Nursing Association engage nurses to visit the sick, gratuitously if needed, the former in the metropolitan and the latter in the country districts. Public charitable collections are made periodically for the relief of distress or with the object of increasing the revenue of hospitals and charitable agencies. In the Metropolitan district during 1924-25 the Hospital Saturday Fund collected voluntary subscriptions and donations amounting to £35,168, and the United Charities Fund, £7,245.

The following is a comparative statement of the receipts and expenditure of the charitable institutions and societies:—

Particulars.	1901.	1911.	1916.	1921.	1924.
Institutions and Societies	160	190	202	204	227
Receipts—	£	£	£	£	£
State Aid	153,752	192,941	317,429	668,044	755,218
Subscriptions, etc.	34,906	78,786	109,901	229,547	263,277
Other	44,999	67,519	81,841	68,363	127,137
Total	233,657	339,246	509,171	965,954	1,145,632
Expenditure—					
Buildings and Repairs	40,247	21,063	24,617	41,771	56,634
Maintenance, Salaries, Wages ...	174,679	293,460	448,097	871,475	971,929
Other	39,008	11,142	24,981	39,371	99,594
Total	253,934	325,665	497,695	952,617	1,128,157

Financial aid from the State in 1924 amounted to £755,218, or nearly 66 per cent. of the total revenue. It included £701,596 paid by the State in respect of Governmental charitable institutions, the baby health centres, the Aborigines Protection Board, and the boarding out of children.

PROTECTION OF THE ABORIGINES.

At a census taken by the Aborigines Protection Board on 1st June, 1925, there were enumerated 1,081 full-bloods and 5,991 half-castes, as well as a number of quadroons and octoroons.

The protection of the aboriginal natives of New South Wales is the function of a Board consisting of the Inspector-General of Police and other members, up to ten in number, appointed by the Governor.

On a number of reserves set apart for aborigines in various localities, dwellings have been erected, and assistance in the form of food and clothing is supplied when necessary. The number of aborigines receiving aid in June, 1925, was 1,956.

Aboriginal children are required to attend school until the age of 14 years, and schools have been established for their exclusive use. The Board may assume control of the children and apprentice them, or place them in a training home. There is a training home for girls at Cootamundra, and a home for boys at Kinchela, on the Macleay River.

The expenditure by the Aborigines Protection Board during the year ended 30th June, 1925, amounted to £41,857; including £22,322 for general maintenance, £5,007 for the purchase of stores, £9,287 for educational purposes, and £945 for medical attention and other services. An amount of

£4,296 was expended in connection with products raised on the reserves, and £5,474 were received as revenue from sales. The net expenditure during the year was £36,383.

PENSIONS.

In New South Wales pensions are provided for the aged, for the permanently invalided, for persons incapacitated during war service, for the dependents of deceased soldiers and sailors, and since March, 1926, for widows with dependent children. Provision is made also for superannuation in some sections of the Government services. Several of the banking companies and other firms have made arrangements for the superannuation of employees, but particulars are not available.

Old Age and Invalid Pensions.

The payment of old-age pensions in New South Wales was initiated by the State Government on 1st August, 1901, and pensions to persons over the age of 16 years permanently incapacitated for any work became payable under the Invalidity and Accidents Pensions Act passed by the State Parliament in 1907. Both systems were transferred subsequently to Federal control, and the Government of the Commonwealth commenced, on 1st July, 1909, to pay old-age pensions to men and women over 65 years of age, and on 15th December, 1910, old-age pensions to women on attaining the age of 60 years, and pensions to invalids.

Naturalised persons are eligible for pensions, but aliens, Asiatics (except those born in Australia), and aboriginal natives of Australia, Africa, the islands of the Pacific, and of New Zealand, are disqualified. A pension is not payable to any person if the net capital of his property, exclusive of the value of his home, exceeds £400.

For old-age pensions the age qualification is 60 years for women and 65 years for men, with a reduction to 60 years in the case of men permanently incapacitated. The prescribed period of residence in Australia is twenty years continuously, but absences amounting in the aggregate to one-tenth of the total period of residence do not involve disqualification.

Invalid pensions are payable to persons over the age of 16 years who have resided continuously for at least five years, and have become incapacitated or blind, in Australia, also to persons permanently incapacitated or blind by reason of congenital defect if they were brought to Australia before the age of 3 years or have resided in Australia continuously for twenty years. Invalid pensions are not payable to persons whose relatives, i.e., father, mother, husband, wife, adequately maintain them.

The maximum old-age or invalid pension was £26 per annum until 12th October, 1916, when it was raised to £32 10s. Subsequently it was increased to £39 as from 15th January, 1920, to £45 10s. as from 13th September, 1923, and to £52 from 8th October, 1925. The maximum rate is reduced proportionately in respect of any income or property of the claimant, so that the pensioner's income will not exceed the statutory limit, which was fixed at £78 per annum in September, 1923, and at £84 10s. in October, 1925. The pension payable to a permanently blind person, however, may be at such a rate up to the maximum as will make his income equal to an amount not exceeding the living wage. In computing income, benefits accruing from friendly societies, trade unions, etc., are not included; nor gifts and allowances from children or grandchildren, war pensions paid to dependents of soldiers, etc., war gratuities, allowances under the Miners' Accident Relief Act of New South Wales, nor compensation under the Seamen's Compensation Act. Where claimants receive board and lodgings the value thereof up to 12s. 6d. per week is included as income, also, in the case of blind men under 65 years of age and of blind women under 60, an amount equivalent to the wages they could earn by reasonable effort.

If a pensioner becomes an inmate of a public hospital his pension is suspended, but when he is discharged therefrom payment is resumed and he is entitled to the pension for the period of suspension up to a maximum of four weeks' instalment. If a pensioner remains in hospital for twenty-eight days, or if he is an inmate of a public benevolent asylum, he receives while in the institution an allowance instead of a full pension. The amount of such allowances was fixed at 3s. per week in September, 1923, and at 4s. in October, 1925. In the case of these pensioners it is the practice of the Federal Government to pay to the institutions for their maintenance allowances at the rate of 10s. 6d. per week.

The following statement shows, in respect of old-age and invalid pensions, the applications received in New South Wales, the number of pensions current, and the average rate and total liability in recent years in comparison with similar information for 1911-12, the first year of Commonwealth control:—

Year ended 30th June.	New Claims.	Pensions current in New South Wales at 30th June.			Average Weekly Rate of Pension, as at 30th June.	Estimated Annual Liability, as at 30th June.	Estimated Annual Liability per head of Population, as at 30th June.
		Males.	Females.	Total.			
Old-age Pensions.							
					s. d.	£	s. d.
1912	4,763	13,639	16,029	29,668	9 7	734,526	8 7
1921	5,727	16,033	23,004	39,027	14 1	1,428,258	13 8
1922	5,280	16,498	23,567	40,065	14 3	1,484,678	13 11
1923	5,851	17,016	24,204	41,220	14 2	1,521,078	13 11
1924	7,341	18,179	25,564	43,743	16 9	1,900,730	17 1
1925	6,883	19,024	26,563	45,592	16 9	1,981,772	17 5
Invalid Pensions.							
					s. d.	£	s. d.
1912	1,784	2,549	2,278	4,827	9 9	121,836	1 5
1921	3,278	7,016	8,371	15,387	14 9	588,588	5 8
1922	2,924	7,166	8,731	15,897	14 8	606,788	5 8
1923	2,529	7,357	8,995	16,352	14 8	623,298	5 8
1924	3,118	7,763	9,751	17,514	17 2	782,470	7 0
1925	3,071	8,073	10,302	18,375	17 3	822,146	7 3

At 30th June, 1925, the number of pensioners in public benevolent asylums in New South Wales was 1,552, and the annual liability for their pensions at the rate 3s. per week was £12,106.

The old-age and the invalid pensioners in New South Wales as at 30th June, 1925, represented respectively 20·2 and 8·1 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 20 per 1,000 and 7·6 per 1,000 in the Commonwealth. The number and proportion of pensioners have increased appreciably with each increase in the maximum rate and in the value of property which a pensioner may hold without disqualification.

The total expenditure by the Commonwealth on invalid and old-age pensions during the year ended 30th June, 1925, was £6,992,905, of which an amount of £6,896,401 was paid as pensions, and £96,504 to public benevolent asylums and hospitals for the maintenance of pensioners. In addition, the cost of administration amounted to £94,486.

Widows' Pensions.

The Widows' Pensions Act, 1925, provides for the payment of pensions to widows with dependent children. A widow is not qualified to receive a pension under the Act unless she was domiciled in New South Wales at the date of her husband's death, is residing in the State at the date of her application for a pension, and has been so residing continuously for a

period of three years, and has wholly or mainly dependent upon her for support a child, stepchild, or child legally adopted before her widowhood, who is under the age of 14 years. Continuous residence is not deemed to have been interrupted by occasional absences not exceeding one-tenth of the total period of residence, nor by absences during which the widow's children or her home were in New South Wales. A pension may not be paid to any widow if the magistrate who investigates her claim is not satisfied that she is of good character and that the pension will be properly used for the support of herself and her children; nor if she is receiving any other pension or allowance exceeding the amount of pension which, otherwise qualified, she would receive under this Act; nor if she is an alien, or an Asiatic born out of Australia, or an aboriginal native of Africa, the islands of the Pacific, or New Zealand.

The maximum rate of pension is £1 per week in respect of the widow, and an additional amount of 10s. per week in respect of each dependent child under 14 years of age. The amount payable in each case is ascertained by deducting from the maximum rate £1 per annum for each £1 by which the net income of the widow exceeds £78 per annum. For this purpose a widow's income is deemed to include any pension or allowance under any other Act; the earnings of the widow or her children under 14 years of age from personal effort; 5 per cent. of any real or personal property of the widow or her children which produces less than 5 per cent. per annum, except the house in which they reside and the furniture and personal effects therein; 25 per cent. of the earnings of children over 14 years of age residing with the widow; and any payment for the children's maintenance or education from any estate, etc. Her income is not deemed to include sick allowance or funeral benefit from any society, nor money received under an assurance policy on the destruction or damage of property; and, if the widow is paying rent for her home, the amount of the rent up to a maximum of £78 per annum is deducted from her income.

Every claim for a pension is investigated by a police or stipendiary magistrate, and is determined by the Registrar of Widows' Pensions upon his recommendation. Against the findings of a magistrate the claimant may appeal to the Minister, who may cause an investigation to be made by the Registrar, and the Minister's decision is final. The payment of each pension is authorised by a pension certificate, which is issued for a term not exceeding one year, and must be renewed upon the expiration of the period. Pensions are not payable during any period while the pensioner resides out of New South Wales, except during occasional absence during which her family or home is in the State. Pensions are terminated on the marriage of a pensioner or on the date she becomes qualified to receive an old-age or invalid pension under Federal legislation. On the death of a widow the guardian of her children is entitled, with the Minister's approval, to receive the pension payable in respect of them.

The pensions became payable on 10th March, 1926. The number of applications received up to the end of April, 1926, was 5,181, and at the middle of the following month nearly 3,000 pensions were being paid and a large number of the claims were still under investigation.

War Pensions.

The Commonwealth Government organised the Department of Repatriation, which commenced operations in April, 1918, to undertake the re-establishment in civil life of the soldiers and sailors who were enlisted for service during the European war. The assistance afforded by the Department includes the payment of sustenance allowances, the provision of employment, vocational training, medical treatment, and general assistance in matters of business and social welfare. In July, 1920, the war pensions

system previously under the control of the Treasury was transferred to the Repatriation Department. The general administration of the Repatriation Department, in terms of the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act, 1920-22, is entrusted to three commissioners appointed by the Governor-General, and a Board of three members in each State. The work of assisting returned soldiers and sailors to acquire houses is undertaken by a separate organisation, the War Service Homes Commission.

War pensions are granted upon the death or incapacitation, as the result of warlike operations, of members of the naval or military forces. The rates of pension payable on total incapacity range from £4 4s. to £6 per fortnight, according to rank. A special rate of pension amounting to £8 per fortnight is payable to members of the forces who have been blinded, or incapacitated for life to such an extent as to be precluded from earning more than a negligible percentage of a living wage. The special rate may be granted also to tubercular cases. In cases of partial incapacity the rates are assessed by the Commissioners. The wife of a totally incapacitated member receives a pension ranging from £1 16s. per fortnight to £3 per fortnight. Widows receive from £2 7s. to £6 per fortnight. Widowed mothers receive pensions ranging from £2 to £6 per fortnight, and a pension is payable on account of each child under 16 years of age.

The number of pensioners under the War Pensions Act as at 30th June, 1925, was as follows:—

Pensioners.	New South Wales.		Commonwealth.	
	Number of Pensioners.	Average Fortnightly Rate.	Number of Pensioners.	Average Fortnightly Rate.
Incapacitated Soldiers	23,966	£ s. d. 1 19 5	72,128	£ s. d. 1 15 1
Dependents of Deceased Soldiers	11,570	} 0 17 3	42,592	} 0 16 9
Dependents of Incapacitated Soldiers	40,440		129,877	
Total	75,976	1 4 3	244,597	1 2 1

At 30th June, 1925, there were 75,976 war pensions current in New South Wales, and the annual liability was estimated to be £2,394,808. The actual expenditure on account of pensions in New South Wales during the year ended 30th June, 1925, was £2,456,746, the total expenditure in the Commonwealth being £7,178,226. The cost of administration was £148,349.

Government Service Pensions.

The existing pension funds for employees of the State Government of New South Wales are the Public Service Superannuation Fund, the Police Superannuation and Reward Fund, and the Government Railways Superannuation Fund. An Act which provides for the superannuation of employees of the Commonwealth Government came into operation on 22nd November, 1922. These funds are maintained partly by deductions from officers' salaries and partly by grants from the public revenue.

Special provision is made by the State Government for pensions to judges, the amount paid from Consolidated Revenue during the year ended 30th June, 1925, being £6,124.

The first Public Service Superannuation Fund in New South Wales was established by the Civil Service Act, 1884, but in 1895 the admission of new contributors was discontinued and the existing contributors were given the option of withdrawing from the fund. The officers who elected to discontinue their contributions are entitled under prescribed conditions to

receive refunds and gratuities on retirement. Officers who have continued to contribute are entitled to an annual pension equal to one-sixtieth of the average annual salary for the last three years' service, multiplied by the years of service, not exceeding forty, the pensions being payable on retirement through incapacity or at age 60, or on abolition of office. The amounts payable from the fund in excess of contributions are paid out of Consolidated Revenue. During the year 1924-25 the expenditure was £196,323, consisting of pensions, £186,368, and refunds of contributions, £9,955. Contributions by public servants amounted to £5,599. On 30th June, 1925, there were 765 officers in receipt of pensions amounting to £167,846. In addition, 168 officers, who had been transferred to the Commonwealth Service, were receiving pensions amounting to £40,195, a portion, £15,382, being payable by the State and the balance by the Commonwealth Government. Certain Government officers received pensions from an annual appropriation in terms of the Constitution Act, the aggregate amount paid during 1924-25 being £376.

The existing Public Service Superannuation Fund was constituted by the provisions of the Superannuation Acts, 1916 and 1918, which provide a scheme of pensions and other benefits for employees of the New South Wales Government and other public bodies, except those subject to the Railway Service and Police Superannuation Acts. One-half of the cost of the scheme is borne by the employees, except where otherwise provided, and the balance by the employers. The age of retirement is 60 years, but women may elect to contribute for retirement at age 55. Upon the death of a contributor or pensioner his widow receives one-half of the amount of pension for which he has contributed, and £13 per annum for each child under 16 years of age. Contributions by employees are compulsory and vary in accordance with the age and salary of the contributor. Tables showing the rates of contributions and of pensions were published in the 1919 edition of this Year Book.

Certain sections of the Superannuation Act, which conferred pension rights without contributions on employees who had reached the age of 60 years, came into force in 1916, and the other provisions on 1st July, 1919.

At 30th June, 1925, the number of employees contributing to the fund was 18,223, viz., 12,101 men and 6,122 women. The pensions in force in respect of contributors numbered 1,160, amounting to £78,115 annually, and 1,704 pensions were payable in respect of persons who had not contributed to the fund, the annual amount being £121,467. During the year ended 30th June, 1925, the income of the fund amounted to £1,094,778, including contributions due by employees £256,028 and £355,153 due by employers.

The funds of the Board at 30th June, 1925, amounted to £6,731,147, including £3,294,457 invested in securities and £2,704,591 due for employers' contributions. An agreement has been made between the Superannuation Board and the State Treasury for the payment of the Crown contributions by equated payments of £348,000 per annum for a period of twenty years.

A pension fund for the police force was established in 1899, amending legislation being passed in 1906. Annual contributions by members of the service are at the rate of 4 per cent. of salary. Other sources of revenue are penalties imposed on members of the police force, penalties and damages awarded to the police as prosecutors, and the proceeds of the sale of unclaimed goods in possession of the police. The amount of pension payable to members who entered the police service prior to 1906 is graduated in accordance with length of service. The retiring age is 60 years, except in cases of incapacity, but under prescribed conditions the services of any member of the force may be retained until he reaches the age of 65 years. During the year ended 30th June, 1925, the receipts of the Police

Superannuation and Reward Fund amounted to £200,425, including deductions from salaries, £61,225, and special appropriation from Consolidated Revenue, £139,200. The disbursements, £200,853, included pensions, £191,584; gratuities, £6,270; and miscellaneous, £2,999.

The Railway Service Superannuation Fund was established in October, 1910. The contributions from employees of the railway and tramway services are at the rate of 1½ per cent. of salary, and the State provides all that is necessary beyond such contributions. The amount of pension payable is one-sixtieth of the average annual salary during term of service, multiplied by the number of years of service, the maximum pension being two-thirds of the average salary. At 30th June, 1925, there were 42,994 contributors. The number of pensions in force was 2,747, amounting in the aggregate to £210,186 per annum. Since the inception of the fund 4,018 pensions have been granted, and 1,127 pensioners have died; 130 officers under 60 have been re-employed, and 14 pensions have been written off the books. During the year 1924-25 the receipts of the fund amounted to £236,720, including contributions by employees, £169,871, and an amount of £66,000 from the Consolidated Revenue. The disbursements, representing pensions, gratuities, refunds, etc., amounted to £238,070. The total amount paid in pensions since the inception of the fund on 1st October, 1910, was £1,580,055, and the total subsidy from the Consolidated Revenue Fund amounted to £251,850.

In the Superannuation Fund for the Commonwealth Public Service as at 30th June, 1925, there were 28,024 contributors, of whom 9,896 were in the State of New South Wales.

THRIFT.

Evidence that thrift in practised extensively in New South Wales is found in the strong position of friendly societies—both in membership and finances; in the increasing proportion of savings bank depositors and larger average amounts at credit; in the flourishing condition of life assurance institutions; and in the growth of Starr-Bowkett Building Societies and co-operative trading societies.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Friendly Societies for many years have exercised a strong influence for good among the industrial classes by inculcating habits of thrift, and by preventing and relieving distress.

So long ago as 1834 the first friendly society in New South Wales, the Australian Union Benefit Society, was established, and it is still operating.

The earliest societies were founded by former members of English orders who had emigrated to Australia before the business of friendly societies in Great Britain was placed on a scientific basis, and subjected to legal regulation. The first bodies, therefore, performed their functions with little supervision until 1899, when an Act of Parliament conferred on the Registrar power to inspect lodge-books and to prosecute in cases of defalcation, and authority to enforce the adoption of an adequate scale of contributions. In this way stability was ensured, and subsequent improvements in the administration have placed friendly societies on a sound basis.

The legislation affecting friendly societies was consolidated in the Act of 1912, but two amendments were made in 1913 and further amendments in 1916, 1920, and 1922. The more important provisions of the various Acts were outlined in the 1921 issue of this Year Book at page 483.

The benefits assured are fairly uniform in all societies, and consist usually of medical attendance and medicine for a member and his family, with sick pay for the member, and funeral allowances for the member and his wife. The usual sickness benefit is 21s. per week during the first six months

of illness, 10s. 6d. during the next six months, and 5s. per week during the remainder of illness, this last provision being rendered possible by the system of State subvention, of which details are given later. There was a tendency in recent years to increase the sickness benefit, and in several societies members were permitted to contribute for additional benefits up to 42s. per week. Some of the societies, however, which adopted increased benefits, have not found the experiment entirely successful, as the amount of sickness amongst members who elected to contribute for the increased benefits has been much greater than amongst other members. Two societies have closed the scale to new entrants. The funeral benefits range usually from £10 to £40 at death of the member, according to the period of membership, and a contingent benefit of £10 or £15 is payable on death of his wife. In several societies members may assure for sums up to £100, and in two of them it is possible to assure for £200, the maximum allowed by law. A separate benefit for widows of members—usually £10—may be assured in most of the societies for a stated contribution.

The societies may be divided into two classes, viz., Friendly Societies proper, and Miscellaneous Societies, whose objects bring them within the scope of friendly societies' legislation, but whose benefits differ somewhat from those of ordinary friendly societies.

At 30th June, 1925, there were 56 societies, including 21 Miscellaneous; 15 possessed branches, and 41, including one with a juvenile branch, were classed as Single Societies.

The following summary shows the branches, membership, and funds as at 30th June, 1925:—

Classification.	Societies and Branches.	Members.	Funds.
Friendly Societies Proper—			
Affiliated	No. 2,213	No. 223,071	£ 2,980,953
Single	21	3,505	61,101
	2,234	226,576	3,042,054
Miscellaneous Societies	21	9	51,162
Total	2,255	226,585	3,093,216

The societies classified as "Friendly Societies proper" offer such a wide range and appeal so strongly to individual sympathies that the field of operations for new societies is limited, and only one new society has been established since 1913.

The number of members has grown rapidly since 1899, when societies were first subjected to supervision by the Registrar. In that year there were 78,245 members, equal to 5.9 per cent. of the population. Thereafter a continuous development proceeded until the outbreak of war, when the number declined owing to enlistments, and, subsequently, through deaths on active service, and the membership in 1917 being only 177,602, as compared with 188,590 in 1913. Each year since the termination of the war has shown an increase. The membership at intervals since 1899 is shown in the following table:—

31st December.	Aggregate Membership.		30th June.	Aggregate Membership.	
	Members.	Percentage of Population.		Members.	Percentage of Population.
1899	78,245	5.9	1921	199,688	9.5
1905	101,463	7.0	1922	209,133	9.7
1910	149,579	9.1	1923	214,663	9.8
1915	178,705	9.4	1924	219,026	9.8
1919	184,174	9.0	1925	226,576	10.0

The number of members entitled to benefits at 30th June, 1925, was 208,340, the remainder being ineligible generally on account of arrears of contributions. The benefits of medical attendance and medicine accrue also to the member's family, but such persons are not included in the membership.

The membership at 30th June, 1925, embraced 191,607 men, 17,478 women, and 17,491 juveniles. As compared with the membership at 31st December, 1919, there were increases of 29,731 men, 7,213 women, and 5,458 juveniles, the total increase being 42,402.

Information regarding receipts and expenditure of Friendly Societies, and the accumulated assets, may be found upon reference to the chapter of this Year Book entitled Private Finance.

Miscellaneous Friendly Societies.

In addition to the Friendly Societies proper there were at 30th June, 1925, twenty-one miscellaneous societies registered under the Friendly Societies Act. With one exception, these organisations were medical institutions or dispensaries for the supply of medicine to all members whose names have been placed on their lists by contributing branches, and in some cases arrange for medical attendance.

The receipts of the dispensaries during the twelve months ended 30th June, 1925, were £64,800, and the expenditure was £46,198, so that there was an excess of receipts amounting to £18,602. Many of these bodies received liberal grants from the Government, and with this assistance were able to purchase land and to erect buildings, the shares of the subscribing branches being covered by the issue of interest-bearing debentures. In addition to making the necessary payments, most of the dispensaries have been enabled to make substantial reductions in the principal. The funds at 30th June, 1925, amounted to £51,162.

In addition to the dispensaries there is a small medical society with nine members.

State Subvention of Friendly Societies.

To enlarge the sphere of usefulness of the Friendly Societies the Subvention to Friendly Societies Act, 1908, now consolidated with the Friendly Societies Act, assured to the societies, which might elect to be bound by its provisions, the following monetary benefits payable from the Consolidated Revenue of the State:—

1. Sickness pay—

- (a) One-half of the cost in each year in respect of continuous sickness after twelve months from the commencement of such sickness, for male members less than 65, and for females less than 60 years of age—provided that the maximum cost to the State must not exceed 5s. per week for each case.
- (b) The whole cost of sickness pay in respect of male members aged 65 years and over, and of female members aged 60 years and over—subject to the same proviso as above.

2. Amount equal to contributions payable—

- (a) on account of all male members 65 years and over, and of female members 60 years and over, for medicine and medical attendance, provided that such contributions shall not be more than those payable by members of the same society under the ages stated.
- (b) under the rules of a society in respect of the aged members above mentioned, to assure payment of funeral allowance—not exceeding £50—at their death.

With the exception of the Irish National Foresters, all affiliated societies have become applicants for subvention.

The following is a summary of the claims from the beginning of the year 1920 to 30th June, 1925:—

Year ended 30th June.	Applicant Societies.	Sickness Pay.				Contributions.				Total Amount of Claims.
		Continuous Sickness.		Sickness of Aged Members.		Medical.		Funeral.		
		Claimant Members	Amount.	Claimant Members	Amount.	Claimants	Amount.	Claimants.	Amount.	
		£		£		£		£		
1921*	29	1,312	9,431	2,918	24,494	7,743	16,498	8,579	6,378	56,801
1922	27	1,194	6,489	2,694	17,810	8,062	14,310	8,895	4,688	43,297
1923	27	1,276	6,739	2,818	19,232	9,124	16,016	9,852	5,142	47,129
1924	27	1,407	7,489	3,229	20,967	9,913	17,540	10,644	5,570	51,566
1925	27	1,477	7,775	3,239	22,008	10,703	19,068	11,405	6,029	54,880

* Eighteen months ended 30th June.

The total amount paid to the societies in respect of subvention claims to 30th June, 1925, was £505,181.

The system has been beneficial to all the societies, but more particularly to those in which the proportion of aged members is large.

The following table shows the average annual weeks of sickness per member in New South Wales at every fifth year of age during the years 1900-08 in comparison with the experience of the Manchester Unity Friendly Society of England, 1893-7, the South Australian Friendly Societies, 1895-1904, and the Victorian Friendly Societies, 1903-7:—

Central Age.	New South Wales Friendly Societies, 1900-1908.	Manchester Unity, England, 1893-1897.	South Australian Friendly Societies, 1895-1904.	Victorian Friendly Societies, 1903-1907.
Years.				
18	·84	·95	·74	·91
23	·76	·90	·77	·86
28	·74	·97	·75	·85
33	·75	1·10	·79	·89
38	·84	1·33	·89	·99
43	1·02	1·65	1·04	1·20
48	1·32	2·11	1·32	1·46
53	1·85	2·98	1·80	2·10
58	2·94	4·41	2·84	3·82
63	4·63	7·15	4·44	6·56

A valuation of the assets and liabilities of the societies is made at intervals in the office of the Registrar. Particulars are given in the chapter of this volume relating to Private Finance, and the sickness experience and the mortality rate of the members of affiliated societies, exclusive of soldiers, were discussed on page 485 of the 1921 issue.

COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT AND SETTLEMENT SOCIETIES.

The Co-operation, Community Settlement, and Credit Societies Act passed in December, 1923, provides, *inter alia*, for the formation of community advancement societies and community settlement societies. Community advancement societies may be formed to provide any community service or benefit, *e.g.*, to transport and supply water, gas, and electricity, to establish factories and workshops, to undertake farming operations and the purchase of machinery for its members, to erect dwellings, to maintain buildings, etc., for education, recreation, or other community purpose, to promote charitable undertakings, and to do anything calculated to improve the conditions of urban or rural life in relation to the objects specified.

Community settlement societies may be formed for the purpose of acquiring land in order to settle or retain people thereon, and of providing any community service, and with these objects they may do anything calculated to promote the economic interests of their members.

Up to the end of April, 1926, seven community advancement societies and one community settlement society had been registered under the Act. Four of the community advancement societies were formed for the object of erecting and maintaining public halls, two for establishing recreation clubs, and one for a convalescent home.

HOUSING.

A classification of the occupied dwellings in New South Wales, as disclosed by the Census of 1921, is shown in the following statement in comparison with similar particulars, as at the previous Census. A room or a suite of rooms occupied as a tenement or flat is classified as a separate dwelling:—

Nature of Dwelling.	Number of Dwellings.				Per cent. of Total.	
	Census. 1911.	Census, 1921.			1911.	1921.
		Metro- politan.	Country.	Total.		
Private house	317,462	160,558	236,061	396,619	95·38	91·16
Tenement or flat in private house...	2,304	12,764	5,085	17,849	·69	4·10
Caretaker's quarters in store, office, etc.	237	390	241	631	·07	·15
Hotel	2,795	659	1,982	2,641	·84	·61
Boarding house, lodging house, coffee palace	5,966	8,819	3,904	12,723	1·79	2·92
Educational institution	229	156	307	463	·07	·11
Religious institution (non-educational)	135	32	57	89	·04	·02
Hospital	479	226	509	735	·14	·17
Charitable institution (other than hospital)	159	49	50	99	·05	·02
Military or naval establishment...	112	18	15	33	·03	·01
Penal establishment	132	11	28	39	·04	·01
Police barracks	28	5	29	34	·01	·01
Police station or quarters	534	38	488	526	·16	·12
Fire station	65	62	47	109	·02	·02
Other and unspecified	68	61	537	598	·02	·14
Wagon, van, camp	2,115	22	1,846	1,868	·64	·43
Aboriginal camp in which whites or half-castes were living	21	...	18	18	·01	·00
Total dwellings	332,841	183,870	251,204	435,074	100	100

The most striking feature of the comparison is the increase in house-sharing, which is a result of a shortage of houses, of high rents and building costs, and a scarcity of domestic labour. The number of tenements and flats increased from 2,304, or ·69 per cent. in 1911, to 17,849, or 4·1 per cent. in 1921, and the number of boarding and lodging houses from 5,966, or 1·8 per cent., to 12,723, or 2·9 per cent. The proportion of private houses declined from 95·38 per cent to 91·16 per cent.

In addition to the occupied dwellings there were 18,619 unoccupied dwellings, and 2,724 in course of construction in New South Wales in April, 1921.

The total number of inmates of private dwellings, *i.e.*, private houses, tenements and flats, in 1921 was 1,872,579, or 89·6 per cent of the total population, the corresponding figures in 1911 being 1,494,504 inmates, or 91·2 per cent.

The average number of inmates per private dwelling in 1921, viz., 4.52, was lower than the average 4.67 in 1911, and the decrease was accompanied by a decrease in the average size of the private dwellings from 5.04 rooms to 4.97 rooms. Since 1911 many large private houses have been converted into flats or have become occupied as boarding-houses, while, on account of the high cost of building and a scarcity of domestic labour, there has been a tendency to restrict the size of new buildings. The average number of inmates per room in private dwellings was 1.08 in 1911, and 1.10 in 1921.

The number of private dwellings in 1921 in which there was one room or more per inmate was 280,689, or 68.4 per cent., and in 129,894 dwellings there was less than one room per inmate. Nearly two-thirds of the dwellings with less than three rooms were in the country districts, which contained only one-third of the total private dwellings. The following statement shows the number of inmates and the number of rooms in private dwellings:—

Inmates.	Number of Rooms.								Total Private Dwellings.
	1	2	3	4	5	6-10	Over 10.	Unspecified.	
1	9,266	4,697	3,464	5,781	4,144	3,128	131	1,405	32,019
2	2,245	3,425	6,685	15,915	14,420	10,305	217	628	53,840
3	700	2,373	6,533	20,606	20,882	16,550	372	576	68,592
4	293	1,602	5,360	20,622	23,417	20,529	485	472	72,780
5	128	999	3,709	16,073	20,803	20,282	537	301	62,832
6	70	503	2,194	10,557	15,721	17,161	561	213	46,980
7	42	257	1,152	6,215	10,742	12,644	459	123	31,634
8	19	113	579	3,530	6,807	8,576	431	77	20,432
9	10	54	294	1,644	3,727	5,933	292	41	11,995
10	7	36	97	741	1,943	3,578	224	19	6,645
11-15 .. .	6	13	65	483	1,508	4,015	383	19	6,492
Over 15 .. .	1	..	..	8	17	104	89	8	227
Total .. .	12,787	14,072	30,132	102,175	124,131	123,165	4,181	3,885	414,468

The principal materials used in the construction of private dwellings are wood and bricks, wooden buildings being more numerous in the country districts. In 1921 the number of private dwellings with outer walls built of brick represented 40.2 per cent. of the total, and 48.9 per cent. had wooden walls.

The majority of private dwellings are roofed with iron, which is used for the bulk of the rural dwellings. In the urban areas slate is used more extensively than in the country districts; roofs of tiles are fairly numerous in the metropolitan district, but are rare in the country.

In the metropolitan district the majority of the private dwellings are occupied by tenants, but owing to a great preponderance of owner-occupiers in the country districts approximately one-half of the private dwellings in the State are occupied by owners or by prospective owners purchasing by instalments.

Occupied by—	Private Dwellings.				Per cent. of Total.	
	1911.	1921.			1911.	1921.
		Metro-politan.	Country.	Total.		
Owner	129,423	43,451	104,032	147,483	40.5	35.6
Purchaser by instalments ..	11,322	25,394	21,559	46,953	3.5	11.3
Tenant	160,314	99,736	92,525	192,261	50.1	46.4
Other and unspecified .. .	18,707	4,741	23,030	27,771	5.9	6.7
Total	319,766	173,322	241,146	414,468	100	100

The increase in the number of dwellings occupied by persons who are purchasing them by instalments is due to some extent to measures taken by the State and Federal Governments to assist people to acquire homes.

In most country towns in New South Wales land is comparatively cheap, and the inhabitants have generally been able to acquire adequate space for building hygienic dwellings, and, though close supervision of building was not inaugurated until 1919, such towns are free from the bad housing conditions which exist in some older countries. Nevertheless, in the city, in some of the large towns possessing an industrial population, and in mining centres, undesirable features have been allowed to obtrude, so that some parts have developed into "slum" areas.

In 1912 a Royal Commissioner was appointed to investigate the question of the "Housing of Workmen," and his report drew attention to some little-recognised evils, including the "slum" areas of the city, the poor housing of towns, the absence of town-planning and of the proper supervision of town-building. A number of the points raised by the Commissioner were met by the Local Government Act of 1919, which conferred extensive powers on municipal and shire councils, not only in supervising and regulating the construction of buildings, but in promoting schemes of town-planning on modern lines.

To assist the councils a Town Planning Advisory Board was appointed by proclamation of the Governor in October, 1918. The Board is engaged with the problems of metropolitan and country urban settlement. A Town Planning Association was formed in 1913 with the object of promoting legislation for the better laying-out of towns and of propagating knowledge of the advantages accruing from and the need for town-planning.

The Architects Act, 1921, was brought into operation on 1st August, 1922, to establish a Board of Architects for the purpose of regulating the practice of architecture. The Board consists of eight members, including the head of the faculty of architecture in the University of Sydney, the president of the Institute of Architects and of the Architects' Association of New South Wales, and the lecturer in charge of the Department of Architecture at the Sydney Technical College. Persons using the name "architect" are required to be registered, registration being granted to persons over 21 years of age who possess the requisite qualifications. The Act does not apply to naval architects. In January, 1926, there were 658 registered architects in New South Wales.

Brick buildings predominate in the city and suburbs, and local sandstone, and, in recent years, concrete are used to a great extent in the construction of the larger buildings. For suburban dwellings the cottage plan is favoured. The maximum height of buildings in the metropolitan district is limited by law to 150 feet, except in the case of those erected for the purposes of public worship. Outside the city proper, permission must be obtained from the Chief Secretary for the erection of buildings over 100 feet high. The skyline must be approved by him and adequate provision must be made for protection against fire.

In the city of Sydney improvements in regard to housing have been continuous during recent years. In addition to the operations undertaken by private enterprise the City Council has been active in resuming and re-modelling insanitary and congested areas.

The number of new buildings for which permission to erect was granted by the councils in the metropolitan district during the last five years is shown below:—

Year.	New Buildings.			
	Sydney.	Suburbs.	Total - Metropolis.	Country Municipalities.
1921	92	5,475	5,567	3,131
1922	139	8,445	8,584	4,629
1923	186	10,825	11,011	6,026
1924	146	9,873	10,019	6,008
1925	129	10,673	10,802	7,338

In 1925 there was extraordinary activity in building, and the number of new premises for which permits were obtained was nearly double the number in 1921. In the following years also the number of permits was unusually high, though less than in 1921. In the country towns there was a marked increase in 1925.

The extent of building operations in various municipalities outside the metropolitan district is indicated by the following statement of the number and value of buildings for which permission to erect was granted during the last three years. Only those municipalities are specified where permission was granted for the erection of more than seventy-five buildings in any of these years and the other municipalities are grouped:—

Country Municipalities.	Estimated Population 31st Dec., 1925.	1923.		1924.		1925.	
		No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
			£		£		£
Auburn	16,790	231	148,882	161	87,441	264	149,999
Bankstown	15,850	355	202,235	400	204,689	446	253,509
Cabramatta and Canley Vale	3,940	98	30,909	113	32,755	102	34,610
Dundas	4,730	77	67,084	57	48,947	110	50,970
Granville	16,110	184	173,342	144	91,518	252	171,108
Lidcombe	12,920	227	133,128	160	91,396	172	114,395
Parramatta	16,030	109	73,045	119	111,163	112	128,095
Fairfield	6,710	119	57,566	123	50,544	125	45,465
Prospect and Sherwood ...	11,760	269	150,499	213	144,148	203	117,529
Wilmshurst	9,140	135	101,699	94	75,323	56	35,287
Newcastle and suburbs ...	98,050	1,156	771,313	1,191	803,969	1,537	989,886
Maitland East	3,860	33	19,795	83	47,311	51	32,765
Bowral	2,860	61	34,451	82	69,438	50	25,645
Illawarra Central	5,580	76	25,614	130	56,364	92	39,254
Illawarra North	6,370	51	17,562	72	23,921	76	23,871
Wollongong	7,920	125	66,145	134	111,883	173	128,812
Cowra	4,230	51	43,124	72	38,711	82	28,366
Katoomba	10,060	112	70,402	89	32,438	90	67,085
Lithgow	13,310	59	25,702	69	58,253	80	64,358
Orange	7,700	58	63,980	59	77,875	85	94,517
Goulburn	12,350	73	61,507	76	71,194	77	65,420
Queanbeyan	3,300	79	24,938	108	64,210	292	128,254
Temworth	7,150	66	53,886	49	45,156	83	36,851
Forbes	4,650	51	22,843	57	22,015	79	33,752
Albury	8,510	73	80,981	98	148,985	102	136,861
Wagga	8,350	228	150,882	160	121,795	190	94,888
Narrandera	3,230	43	22,608	76	39,973	76	45,242
Other Municipalities ...	242,970	1,827	1,065,004	1,810	971,386	2,281	1,176,127
Total	564,430	6,026	3,759,126	6,008	3,747,801	7,338	4,312,921

There has been a fairly steady increase in building in the extra metropolitan areas such as Granville and Bankstown, also in the Newcastle district where there has been marked expansion in industrial enterprise. In Queanbeyan a notable increase has taken place as a result of the building of the Federal capital city at Canberra, a few miles distant.

ASSISTANCE TO HOME BUILDERS.

State Operations.

In 1912 a shortage of the smaller class of dwelling-houses became acute in Sydney, and the Government took steps to supplement the operations of private builders by undertaking the construction in the South Randwick district of a model suburb, which was named Daceyville.* The

* See 1921 issue of Year Book at page 493.

Housing Act was passed, under which the control of the operations was entrusted to a Housing Board consisting of three members, appointed by the Government. The Minister administering the Act was authorised, on the recommendation of the Board, to purchase and subdivide lands and to erect buildings for residential and other purposes and to sell or lease such buildings under certain conditions. In 1913 further provision was made for the assistance of home builders, and the Commissioners of the Government Savings Bank were authorised to make advances for the purpose.

It was decided in 1919 to enlarge the scope of the State housing scheme. Additional powers were given to the Housing Board, which was authorised to make advances, upon the application of persons desiring assistance for the purpose of erecting or adding to houses on land owned by them, or to erect dwellings for them on such land. The Board was empowered also to make advances to enable applicants to purchase dwellings already erected.

Under the original housing scheme it was the intention of the Government to erect cottages in model suburbs, *e.g.*, Daceyville, to be leased to the occupiers. Under later arrangements, introduced in 1919, the houses in the group settlements were built for sale only.

A number of sites, the majority being areas of Crown land, were set apart in the metropolitan district and in various country localities, as shown below. Usually the houses were erected by the Board and sold on extended payments terms, but in some cases the land was subdivided and allotted by ballot, and the persons who acquired it were given the option of erecting their own dwellings, the money being advanced by the Board, or of arranging with the Board to build the houses at a cost to be repaid in instalments.

After the extension of its operations consequent upon the amending legislation passed in 1919, the work of the Housing Board was conducted at a loss, and many complaints were made in regard to the houses built and the cost thereof. The unsatisfactory state of its affairs was due apparently to faulty administrative arrangements, and the Government decided in 1923 that the Board should be abolished and its business wound up.

To give effect to the decision the Housing Act was amended, the Board was dissolved and its powers were vested in the Minister for Local Government with the object of terminating its activities. The business of collecting instalments of purchase money and advances is being transferred to the Government Savings Bank. Control of the Dacey Garden Suburb has been vested in the Public Trustee, and the lands not used for housing purposes are being disposed of—the Crown lands by transfer to the Department of Lands and the other allotments by sale.

During the period of its administration the Housing Board erected 818 dwellings and made advances in respect of 516 properties. Further details of its operations are published in the previous issue of this Year Book on page 372.

In addition to the areas administered in terms of the Housing Act, there is an area in the city, known as the Observatory Hill Resumed Area, which was resumed by the Government in 1900 with a view to reconstruction. It consists of about 30 acres in the oldest settled portion of Sydney, adjoining the wharfs, and contains a number of business premises and residences, including tenements built for waterside workers. Extensive improvements have been made in regard to buildings, streets, etc. The capital cost as at 30th June, 1925, amounted to £1,378,180. The revenue during the year 1924-25 was £91,094, and the expenditure, exclusive of interest on loan capital, was £25,522.

The Municipal Council of the City of Sydney controls three blocks of workmen's dwellings. The Strickland Buildings were opened in April, 1914. They consist of eight shops and 71 self-contained flats of two, four, or six rooms. The rents range from 15s. 6d. to 35s. per week. The Dowling Street Dwellings, opened on 29th June, 1925, consist of 30 flats of four or five rooms, for which the rentals are 26s. and 29s. per week. The Pymont Dwellings were opened on 2nd November, 1925. They contain 41 flats of four or five rooms, and the weekly rentals range from 25s. 6d. to 29s. The total cost of these blocks, including the land, was Strickland £49,814, Dowling Street £23,000, and Pymont £33,500.

State Savings Bank—Advances for Homes.

The Commissioners of the Government Savings Bank may make advances to enable persons to erect or enlarge their homes or to purchase dwellings already constructed. The Bank may advance three-fourths of the value of the property to a maximum of £750, and the repayments in the case of new stone, concrete, or brick buildings are to be made within thirty years, and in the case of wooden structures within twenty years. No advance is made to any person who at the time of the application is the owner of another dwelling in the State.

Owing to the fact that the demand for loans is in excess of the available funds, advances are made only for the purpose of erecting or purchasing new houses. As a general rule, applications for advances must be lodged prior to the commencement of construction so that the work may be supervised by the bank's inspectors throughout its progress.

The system came into operation on the 1st July, 1914, and up to 30th June, 1925, the amount of £9,341,985 had been advanced to 18,652 borrowers, and the amount outstanding at the latter date was £7,145,187, owing by 14,612 persons. The transactions during each year were as follow:—

Year ended 30th June.	Advances made.		Year ended 30th June.	Advances made.	
	No.	Amount.		No.	Amount.
		£			£
1915	575	221,900	1921	2,489	1,282,360
1916	794	298,375	1922	2,377	1,326,270
1917	783	274,785	1923	2,174	1,218,711
1918	875	311,710	1924	2,289	1,335,919
1919	1,373	530,680	1925	2,673	1,531,775
1920	2,250	1,009,500			

The average amount per advance was £573 in 1924-25. The scheme proved popular from its inception and the amount applied for in each year has greatly exceeded the available funds.

The rate of interest charged for advances was raised from 5½ to 6 per cent. on 1st July, 1917, to 6½ per cent. from 1st July, 1920, and to 7 per cent. from 1st July, 1921. It was reduced to 6½ per cent. on 1st July, 1923, and to 6 per cent on 1st July, 1926.

Commonwealth Housing Operations.

The Commonwealth Government assists Australian sailors and soldiers and their female dependants to acquire homes, the operations being conducted under the Commonwealth War Service Homes Act, 1918-25.

The Commissioner charged with the administration of the Act is authorised to acquire land and dwellings, and to erect dwellings, etc. He may make advances on mortgage to eligible persons to enable them to acquire homes,

or may sell homes to them on the rent-purchase system. The amount of an advance to any one person may not exceed £800, and the maximum rate of interest for repayments is 5 per cent.

A summary of the activities of the Commission in New South Wales up to 30th June, 1925, is shown in the following statement:—

Particulars.	No.	Amount.	Particulars.	No.
		£		
Applications approved ...	9,638	6,750,823	Homes built	3,849
Existing houses purchased ...	4,007	2,569,558	Under construction...	222
Mortgages discharged ...	929	618,977	Arrangements pending, etc.	599
Land purchased ... acres.	914	...	Assisted to complete ...	57

The average cost of construction was £771. The sums paid as instalments of principal and interest to 30th June, 1925, amounted to £1,569,595, and arrears of instalments amounted to £36,890.

The Commonwealth Government acquired a site adjacent to the Small Arms Factory at Lithgow, and erected thereon 100 cottages for housing employees engaged in the factory, to whom they were let at rentals ranging from 14s. 6d. to 23s. 3d. per week. Houses not required by the factory employees are occupied by other tenants.

PARKS, RECREATION RESERVES, AND COMMONS.

Under the Public Parks Act the Governor may appoint trustees of any lands proclaimed for the purposes of public recreation, convenience, health, or enjoyment. The trustees are empowered to frame by-laws for the protection of shrubs, trees, etc., upon the land vested in them, and to regulate the use and enjoyment of such land by the public.

The public parks and recreation reserves which are not committed to special trustees are placed by the Local Government Act, 1919, under the control of municipal and shire councils, whose authority extends over parks, children's playgrounds, drill grounds, sports grounds, and public gardens within their boundaries. The councils are empowered to preserve places of historical and scientific interest and natural scenery, and to provide buildings for public entertainments and refreshment-rooms, boats and boat-sheds, pavilions, etc., public baths, gymnasia, and musical entertainments. All the towns of importance possess extensive parks and recreation reserves.

The city of Sydney contains within its boundaries 647 acres of parks, squares, and public gardens. The most important are Moore Park, where about 354 acres are available for public recreation, including the Sydney Cricket Ground and the Royal Agricultural Society's Ground; the Botanic Gardens and Garden Palace Grounds, 65 acres, with the adjoining Domain of 86 acres, ideally situated on the shores of the Harbour; and Hyde Park, 37 acres, in the centre of the city. In addition, the Centennial Park, 552 acres in extent, is situated on the outskirts of the city. It was reserved formerly for the water supply, but now it is used for recreation, the ground having been cleared, planted, and laid out with walks and drives.

It has been ascertained that there are at least 5,900 acres of public parks and reserves in suburban municipalities. This figure representing about 6 per cent. of their aggregate area is exclusive of some parks and reserves which the municipalities have acquired by gift or by purchase from private owners.

The Zoological Gardens at Taronga Park, on the northern side of the Harbour, were opened in 1916. The area is nearly 51 acres. In their preparation the natural formation has been retained as far as practicable, with the object of displaying the animals in natural surroundings.

Outside the metropolitan area the National Park, situated about 16 miles south of Sydney, was dedicated in December, 1879. The total area, with the additions made in 1880 and 1883, is 33,800 acres. The park surrounds the picturesque bay of Port Hacking, and extends in a southerly direction towards the mountainous district of Illawarra. It contains fine virgin forests with attractive scenery.

Another large tract of land, the Kuring-gai Chase, was dedicated in December, 1894, for public use. The area of the Chase is 35,300 acres, and contains portions of the parishes of Broken Bay, Cowan, Gordon, and South Colah. This park lies about 15 miles north of Sydney, and is accessible by railway at various points, or by water, *via* the Hawkesbury River. Several creeks, notably Cowan Creek, intersect it.

In 1905 an area of 248 acres was proclaimed as a recreation ground at Kurnell, on the southern headland of Botany Bay, a spot famous as the landing-place of Captain Cook. Parramatta Park (252 acres) is of historic interest.

Surrounding many country towns there exist considerable areas of land reserved as commons, on which stock owned by the townsfolk may be depastured. The use of these lands is regulated by local authorities. Nominal fees are usually charged to defray the cost of supervision and maintenance. Many of these commons are reserved permanently, but a large number are only temporary.

The available particulars as to the areas reserved for parks and recreation reserves and for temporary commons at 30th June, 1910, and in the last six years, are shown below.

As at 30th June.	Commons.		Parks and Recreation Reserves. †
	Permanent.	Temporary.	
	acres.	acres.	acres.
1910	*	579,033	207,908
1920	*	461,529	230,857
1921	*	467,554	228,169
1922	37,445	455,221	229,416
1923	37,485	442,177	231,950
1924	33,040	426,761	237,934
1925	36,031	412,052	235,911

* Information not available.

† Excluding alienated lands acquired by Councils or donated by private persons.

The area of permanent commons at 30th June, 1925, was 36,031 acres, including 4,259 acres in the Western Division.

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS.

Theatres and Public Halls, etc.

Buildings in which public meetings (excluding meetings for religious worship) or public entertainments are held, must be licensed under the Theatres and Public Halls Act, 1908. A license may be refused if proper provision is not made for public safety, health, and convenience, or if the site or building is unsuitable for the purpose of public meeting

or entertainment. Plans of buildings intended to be used for theatres and public halls must be approved by the Chief Secretary before erection is begun. Licenses are granted for a period of one year, and premises are subjected to inspection before renewal. A license or renewal of a license may be withheld until such alterations or improvements as may be deemed necessary are effected.

As at 31st December, 1925, there were 2,359 buildings to which the provisions of the Act applied, and they contained seating accommodation for approximately 1,061,500 persons. The total amount of fees received for licenses during 1925 was £4,129.

Cinematograph films are subject to censorship prior to exhibition in New South Wales, those imported from oversea countries being reviewed by the Commonwealth customs authorities, and those made in Australia by a State board.

Horse-racing.

Horse racing, which includes pony racing and trotting races, is a popular form of sport in New South Wales, and with it is associated a large amount of betting.

The conduct of race meetings is regulated mainly by district associations, with which most of the racing clubs are affiliated, and a certain amount of Government control is exercised through the Gaming and Betting Act, 1912. Racecourses must be licensed annually, the minimum circumference of running grounds being fixed at 6 furlongs. The days on which races may be held are limited, and the number of licensed racecourses in the Metropolitan district, *i.e.*, within 40 miles of the General Post Office, and in Newcastle district, may not exceed the number existing in 1906.

If a racecourse is used for more than one class of racing—horse racing, pony racing, or trotting—a separate license must be obtained for each class. In 1925 the licensed racecourses numbered 451, and the licenses issued in respect thereto numbered 555. The maximum number of days on which it was permissible to hold race meetings in the metropolitan district during 1925 was 165, and in the district of Newcastle 59 days.

Betting or wagering is prohibited in connection with any sports except horse, pony, and trotting races on licensed racecourses, and coursing on grounds approved by the Chief Secretary. Racing clubs may be required by the Colonial Treasurer to instal totalisators on their racecourses and to use them at every race meeting.

To facilitate the collection of betting taxes, bookmakers are required to use stamped tickets and to keep a record of credit bets. During the year ended 30th June, 1925, the number of betting tickets issued to bookmakers was 14,989,800, and approximately 864,000 credit bets were recorded. The investments on totalisators during the same period amounted to £2,758,697. In the previous year 14,945,400 betting tickets were issued, approximately 700,000 credit bets were recorded, and the totalisator investments amounted to £2,973,005. The amount of taxes in connection with racing is shown in the chapter relating to Public Finance.

Taxation of Public Entertainments.

A tax on public entertainments has been imposed by the Commonwealth Government since 1st January, 1917, the rate of tax being based upon the amount paid for admission.

From 1st December, 1919, to 1st October, 1922, the tax was charged on the payments for admission at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for each 6d. or fraction thereof; but it was not charged on payments not exceeding 5d. for the

admission of children under 16 years of age to places of continuous entertainment, *i.e.*, those open for more than four hours on three or more days in the week, nor for admission to entertainments intended only for children if the charge was under 6d. As from 2nd October, 1922, payments lower than 1s. were exempted from the tax, and since 15th October, 1925, tax has not been payable where the price of admission is less than 2s. 6d.

Where payment for admission is made in the form of a lump sum as a subscription to a club or association, or for a season ticket, the tax is collected on the amount of the lump sum. Certain entertainments are exempt from the tax, *e.g.*, if the proceeds are devoted wholly to philanthropic, religious, charitable, or educational purposes.

The number of taxable entertainments held in New South Wales during each of the last two years is shown below:—

Year ended June.	Racing.	Theatrical.	Picture Shows.	Dancing and Skating.	Concerts.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
1924	1,663	7,744	65,288	20,046	1,330	10,389	106,490
1925	1,530	7,700	71,726	21,430	1,157	8,339	111,882

The amount of tax collected in respect of entertainments in the State during 1924-25 was £274,791, as compared with £248,615 in 1923-24.

REGULATION OF LIQUOR TRADE.

The sale of intoxicating liquor was one of the first subjects of legislation after the establishment of civil government in New South Wales. The first Liquor Act, passed in 1825, introduced a system of licenses with the object of ensuring that the hotels would be kept by persons of good character, also for the purpose of taxation. Since that date the liquor laws of the State have been amended frequently, the trend of the legislation being towards greater restriction and closer regulation of the trade.

The existing law is contained in the Liquor Act of 1912 and subsequent amendments. The sale of intoxicating liquor except by persons holding a license is prohibited. Several kinds of licenses are granted, *viz.*, publican's, packet, Australian wine, club, booth, or stand, and railway refreshment room, all of which authorise the sale of liquor in small quantities; and spirit merchant's and brewer's for the sale in larger quantities.

A publican's license authorises the licensee to sell liquor between the hours 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. on the premises named in the license. Packet licenses authorise the master of the vessel named in the license to sell liquor to passengers during the voyage. Packet licenses are not available on any vessel plying between places within the harbour of Port Jackson. Australian wine licenses authorise the licensee to sell on the premises specified between the hours 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. wine, cider, or perry, the produce of fruit grown in Australasia, in quantities not exceeding 2 gallons and not containing a greater proportion than 35 per cent. of proof spirit. In granting an Australian wine license, the Court may impose the condition that the liquor shall not be consumed on the premises.

Booth or stand licenses authorise the licensee to sell liquor at sports or any lawful place of public amusement for a period not exceeding seven days, but not to exceed, with renewals, a period of twenty-eight days. A spirit merchant's license authorises the holder to sell liquor in quantities of not less than 2 gallons of the same kind. A brewer's license authorises the licensee to carry on the trade of a brewer, and to sell the liquor he is authorised to make, in quantities of not less than two gallons of the same kind. If a person wishes to carry on the business of a brewer in addition to that of a spirit merchant he must take out both kinds of license.

The licenses in respect of railway refreshment rooms are issued under Executive authority, and the other licenses by Licensing Courts constituted for the purpose. Prior to 1st July, 1924, a Licensing Court, consisting of three members, was appointed in each district. The Metropolitan Court was constituted by three stipendiary magistrates under the presidency of the chairman of the bench of stipendiary magistrates. In the country districts the stipendiary or police magistrate usually presided.

The Liquor Amendment Act of 1923 provided for the reconstitution as from 1st July, 1924, of the Licensing Courts and of the Licenses Reduction Board, whose functions are described on the next page. The practical effect of the reconstitution is that one tribunal controls all matters relating to the issue and reduction of licenses. Three persons, who were police or stipendiary magistrates, have been appointed to be licensing magistrates to constitute the licensing court in each district throughout the State, also to discharge the functions of the Licenses Reduction Board. One of the magistrates is chairman of the courts and of the board. The chairman and one other licensing magistrate form a quorum for the constitution of the Licensing Court, and any two members may exercise all powers of the board. The licensing magistrates, with the approval of the Minister of Justice, may delegate power in respect of granting a license to any two of their number and a stipendiary or police magistrate, and may delegate minor functions to one or more of their number or to a stipendiary or police magistrate.

Objections to the granting, renewal, transfer, or removal of licenses may be made to a licensing court by three or more residents of the district or by the police. Licenses may not be held by unmarried women. They may be granted to widows, and, under certain conditions, to married women, but an Australian wine license may not be issued to a woman other than the widow of a licensee. The hours of liquor trading in hotels, which since 1881 had been from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., were reduced in 1916, when the closing hour was fixed at 6 p.m.

In recent years restrictions have been placed upon the number of licenses. In 1905 it was enacted that the number of publicans' and wine licenses should not exceed the number existing in each electorate as at 1st January, 1906, and the number of licensed clubs was limited to the number formed before 1st November, 1905, of which the licenses were in force on 1st March, 1906. For many years prior to the passing of the amending Act questions relating to the granting of new publicans' licenses and to the removal of existing licenses had been submitted at the municipal elections to the vote of ratepayers in the municipalities. But the Act of 1905 provided that the local option vote should be taken in electorates at the general elections of members of the Legislative Assembly, all qualified voters being entitled to vote for the continuance or the reduction of the number of existing licenses or for the termination of all licenses in the district. The Local Option vote was first taken in electorates in September, 1907, when there were in existence 3,023 hotels and 633 wine licenses. As the result of the Local Option vote in 1907 and in 1910 and 1923, orders were issued for the closing of 344 hotels, and for the termination of 58 wine licenses.

In 1916 the Local Option vote was suspended, and in 1919 another method of regulating the number of licenses was introduced. Under the Liquor Amendment Act of that year and subsequent amendments in 1922 and 1923, it is provided that no new publican's or Australian wine license may be granted, except on the grounds of a permanent increase of population and insufficiency of existing licensed premises to meet public requirements in the district, and then only on a petition signed by a majority of adult residents living within the radius of a mile from the premises for which a license is sought.

If a petition for a new license has been rejected by the licensing court, no petition for a license for any premises within a radius of a mile may be referred to the court until the expiration of three years unless there has been an abnormal increase in population in the area.

A publican's or Australian wine, or a spirit merchant's license, may not be removed from one licensing district to another. The licensing court may allow such a license to be removed to other premises within a radius of one mile in the same licensing district, but in the Metropolitan and Newcastle licensing districts a license may not be removed from one electorate to another.

A Licenses Reduction Board was appointed under the Act of 1919 to reduce the number of publican's licenses in any electorate where the existing licenses exceed the "statutory number," which is proportionate to the number of electors, viz.: In the nine electorates for which five members are returned to the Legislative Assembly, one license for each 250 of the first thousand electors on the electoral roll, and a further three for each subsequent two thousand, and in the fifteen electorates for which three members are returned, one license for each 250 of the first thousand electors, and a further one for each subsequent five hundred. The Parliamentary Electorates and Elections (Amendment) Act of 1926 has authorised a redistribution of the parliamentary electorates on the basis of single member districts, but for the purposes of the liquor licensing laws the existing districts will be retained.

The Board may not reduce the publicans' licenses in an electorate below the statutory number nor by more than one-fourth of the number in force on 1st January, 1920. The term of the Board's operations was fixed in 1919 at three years; in December, 1922, it was extended for a further period of three years, and in 1923, until the taking of a referendum on the question of prohibition.

In 1919 the Board was charged with the additional duty of reducing the Australian wine licenses in each electorate. The number of such reductions in an electorate may not exceed one-fourth of the number of wine licenses in force on 1st January, 1923, unless the Board considers that a greater reduction is necessary in the public interest.

In determining the licenses which shall cease, the Board takes into consideration the convenience of the public, the requirements of the several localities in the electorate, the class of accommodation provided, and the manner in which the business has been conducted.

When deprived of their hotel licenses the holders, owners, lessees, etc., of the premises are entitled to compensation as assessed by the Board. In the case of wine licenses, the licensees only are entitled to compensation. The funds for compensation are obtained by a levy on the amount spent by all licensees in purchasing supplies of liquor. For hotel licenses the levy is at the rate of 3 per cent., of which the licensee pays one-third and the owner two-thirds. For Australian wine licenses the rate is 1 per cent., but it may be increased to 2 per cent. if a lower rate does not yield an adequate sum. In cases where the owner's share of the compensation levy exceeds one-third of the rent the Board is empowered to refund to him the amount of the excess.

A licensee deprived of his license by the Board is paid as compensation for each year of the unexpired term of his tenancy (up to three years), the average annual net profit during the preceding period of three years. Owners, lessees, etc., of hotel premises receive compensation based on the amount by which the net return from the premises over a period of three years is diminished by being deprived of a license. Appeals against the determinations of the Board in respect of the compensation awarded may be made to the Land and Valuation Court.

On 1st January, 1920, the number of publican's licenses in existence was 2,539, of which 2,085 were in fourteen electorates with more than the statutory number, and the maximum reduction which the Act authorised the Board to make was 483. During 1923 the number of electors so increased in two of the electorates that the number of licenses was no longer in excess of the statutory number.

During the period of six years ended December, 1925, the Board deprived 260 hotels of licenses and accepted the surrender of 61 licenses. Seventy of the hotels were situated in the Sydney electoral district, 23 in the electoral district of Newcastle, and 228 in other country districts. The compensation awarded in respect of 320 publicans' licenses amounted to £512,015, which were distributed as follows:—Licensees, £161,110; owners, £339,727; lessees, £10,778; and sub-lessees, £400. Compensation has not been claimed in respect of one hotel in Sydney. The compensation fees collected by the Board during the period were £1,248,004, of which £236,660 were collected in 1925.

In addition to the hotel licenses terminated or ordered to close by the action of the Licenses Reduction Board, 60 licenses were terminated during the six years 1920-1925 by reason of expiration, cancellation, surrender to the Licensing Courts, etc., and 14 new licenses were granted during the period. The number of hotel licenses in existence at 31st December, 1925, was 2,172.

On 1st January, 1923, there were 441 Australian wine licenses, of which 220 were in the metropolitan electoral districts. During the three years, 1923-25, the Board deprived 58 licensees of wine licenses, and accepted the surrender of two licenses. Compensation in respect of the 60 licenses amounted to £51,320.

Six wine licenses terminated by reason of expiration, cancellation, etc., and 1 new license has been granted since 1st January, 1923. The number in existence at the end of 1925 was 376.

The number of licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquor issued during various years since 1901 is shown below:—

License.	1901.	1906.	1911.	1916.	1921.	1924.
Publicans'	3,151	3,055	2,775	2,617	2,488	2,259
Additional Bar ... ..	...	...	118	132	153	154
Club ... ..	...	80	76	76	78	79
Railway Refreshment	22	24	24	27	29	30
Booth or Stand	1,787	2,014	1,829	1,816	2,337	3,271
Packet	20	25	24	21	13	13
Australian Wine, Cider, Perry...	675	647	532	487	450	424
Spirit Merchants'... ..	225	207	198	193	244	247
Brewers'	53	40	39	24	17	14

The annual fees payable for new licenses in respect of hotels, packets, and Australian wine are assessed by the Licensing Court, the maximum fees being £500, £20, and £50 respectively. Clubs pay £5 per annum for the first 40 members, and £1 for each additional forty. Spirit merchants pay £30 in the metropolitan district and £20 elsewhere. For renewals of these licenses the annual fees are assessed by the Licenses Reduction Board at the rate of 2 per cent. of the amount spent by the licensees in the purchase of liquor during the preceding calendar year, except that spirit merchants do not pay on the liquor sold by them to persons licensed to sell liquor, and

they pay a minimum fee of £30 in the metropolitan district and £20 elsewhere. In addition to the annual license fees, compensation fees, as shown on page 421, must be paid by holders of publican's and Australian wine licenses.

Brewers pay £50 per annum in the metropolitan district and £25 in other districts. For booth and stand licenses, which are temporary permits granted to licensed publicans for the sale of liquor at places of public amusement, fees are charged at the rate of £2 for each period up to seven days. The Liquor Act of 1922 prescribes that all licenses, except booth and stand, must be renewed on 1st July of each year. Previously they were current for the term of one year from the date on which they were granted. The fees for licenses in respect of railway refreshment rooms are charged at the same rates as those for publicans' licenses.

Drunkeness.

Persons apprehended by the police for drunkeness in public places may be charged in the Courts of Petty Sessions. Since September, 1916, it has been the practice in the metropolitan police district to release such persons before trial if they deposit as bail an amount equal to the usual penalty imposed. If they do not appear for trial the deposits are forfeited, and further action is not taken. During the year 1924 the number of persons charged with drunkeness was 31,468, of which 2,388 were females. In the cases of 193 males and 15 females the charges were withdrawn or dismissed, 20,897 males and 1,542 females were convicted after trial by the Courts, and 7,990 males and 831 females, who did not appear for trial, forfeited their bail. The following statement shows the number of convictions for drunkeness, including the cases in which bail was forfeited during each of the five years, 1920-1924:—

Year.	Convictions.		Bail Forfeited.		Total Cases.			Cases per 1,000 of mean population.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
1920	14,527	1,554	9,029	733	23,556	2,287	25,843	12.49
1921	18,525	1,172	8,233	772	26,758	1,944	28,702	13.61
1922	19,384	1,327	9,050	962	28,434	2,289	30,723	14.28
1923	20,351	1,625	10,093	869	30,444	2,494	32,938	15.02
1924	20,897	1,542	7,990	831	28,887	2,373	31,260	14.02

Relatively to the population, the number of convictions for drunkeness increased in each year from 1920 to 1923, but in 1924 the proportion was lower than in either of the two preceding years.

Particulars relating to the treatment of inebriates are shown in the chapter relating to Prison Services.

Consumption of Intoxicants.

It is estimated that the consumption of intoxicating liquors in New South Wales during the year ended June, 1925, was as follows:—Spirits, 1,125,800 proof gallons; beer, 24,102,400 gallons; and wine, 1,438,500 gallons. The quantities were greater than in the previous year, viz., spirits by 52,900 gallons; beer by 228,800 gallons; and wine by 74,900 gallons.

The figures show the proof alcoholic contents of the beverages sold as spirits, and the actual quantities would be at least 25 per cent. greater.

Proof spirit means spirit of a strength equal to that of pure ethyl alcohol compounded with distilled water so that the resultant mixture at a temperature of 60 deg. Fahrenheit has a specific gravity of 0.91976 as compared with that of distilled water at the same temperature. Whisky and brandy of the best quality are retailed usually at about 23.5 per cent. under proof, and gin and rum at about 30 per cent. under proof. The standards under the Pure Food Act are whisky and brandy 25 per cent. under proof, gin and rum 35 per cent. under proof.

The natural strength of Australian wines is from 26 per cent. to 28 per cent. of proof spirit. The strength of wines offered for sale is 35 per cent. of proof spirit in the case of fortified wines, *e.g.*, port, claret, sherry; and from 20 to 24 per cent. in the case of dry wines, such as hock, chablis.

The consumption of spirits, Australian and imported, in various years since 1901 is estimated to have been as follows:—

Year.	Aggregate Consumption of Spirits.			Per Head of Population.		
	Australian.	Foreign.	Total.	Australian.	Foreign.	Total.
	proof gallons.	proof gallons.	proof gallons.	proof gallons.	proof gallons.	proof gallons.
1901	12,400	1,233,300	1,245,700	.01	.89	.90
1906	132,900	1,030,700	1,163,600	.09	.69	.78
1911	194,300	1,337,800	1,532,100	.12	.80	.92
1913	285,600	1,449,300	1,734,900	.16	.79	.95
1915-16	385,900	1,072,800	1,458,800	.20	.57	.77
1920-21	451,100	456,500	907,600	.22	.21	.43
1921-22	391,600	513,400	905,000	.19	.24	.43
1922-23	407,500	553,800	966,300	.19	.25	.44
1923-24	456,800	616,100	1,072,900	.21	.28	.49
1924-25	447,700	678,100	1,125,800	.20	.30	.50

The consumption of spirits, which had been increasing slowly for five or six years, decreased considerably after the outbreak of the war, and the consumption per head in 1920-21 was 55 per cent. lower than in 1913. The decline was in the quantity of foreign spirits, as more Australian spirits are consumed now than formerly. During the last three years the figures indicate a tendency to increasing consumption.

The consumption of beer as estimated for 1901 and subsequent years is shown below:—

Year.	Quantity of Beer consumed.			Per Head of Population.		
	Australian.	Imported.	Total.	Australian.	Imported.	Total.
	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.
1901	13,118,300	1,757,900	14,876,200	9.60	1.28	10.88
1906	12,716,800	812,400	13,529,200	8.56	.55	9.11
1911	18,332,900	1,200,100	19,533,000	11.01	.72	11.73
1913	22,973,400	1,338,000	24,311,400	12.62	.74	13.36
1915-16	22,586,600	568,700	23,155,300	11.92	.30	12.22
1920-21	25,163,500	129,800	25,293,300	12.04	.06	12.10
1921-22	24,412,000	54,000	24,466,000	11.47	.03	11.50
1922-23	24,192,600	108,800	24,301,400	11.13	.05	11.18
1923-24	23,758,500	115,100	23,873,600	10.75	.05	10.80
1924-25	23,973,300	129,100	24,102,400	10.64	.06	10.70

The consumption of beer per head increased considerably between 1901 and 1913, but after the commencement of the war it decreased. The rate rose again in the years immediately following the cessation of hostilities, but it decreased in each of the last five years. Nearly all the beer consumed is brewed in Australia.

The wine entering into consumption in New South Wales is chiefly the produce of Australian vineyards, only 2 per cent. being imported.

Year.	Consumption of Wine.					
	Aggregate.			Per Inhabitant.		
	Australian.	Foreign.	Total.	Australian.	Foreign.	Total.
	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.
1901	700,000	94,000	794,000	·51	·07	·58
1906	916,600	39,400	956,000	·62	·02	·64
1911	908,700	57,900	966,600	·55	·03	·58
1913	927,800	58,500	986,300	·51	·03	·54
1915-16	767,200	32,300	800,000	·40	·02	·42
1920-21	1,480,100	21,500	1,501,600	·71	·01	·72
1921-22	1,312,500	22,600	1,335,100	·62	·01	·63
1922-23	1,358,600	24,000	1,382,600	·63	·01	·64
1923-24	1,335,700	27,900	1,363,600	·61	·01	·62
1924-25	1,408,600	29,900	1,438,500	·63	·01	·64

Though the consumption of wine per head of population has declined since the year 1920-21, the average is higher now than in 1913.

The following statement shows the consumption per head of intoxicating liquors in Australia and New Zealand at the latest date for which the information is available:—

Country.			Spirits.	Wine.	Beer.
New South Wales	...	1924-25	gallons. '50	gallons. '64	gallons. 10·70
South Australia	...	1924-25	'38	'75	10·30
Western Australia	...	1924-25	'47	1·12	12·69
Tasmania	...	1924-25	'25	'20	7·54
Australia	...	1923-24	'43	'50	11·08
New Zealand	...	1924	'47	'14	10·03

The Drink Bill.

The amount of money expended on intoxicating liquors in New South Wales in the year ended 30th June, 1925, is estimated to have been £11,670,000, or £5 3s. 7d. per head. The annual drink bill, as estimated for various years since 1901, is shown below:—

Year.	Drink Bill.		Year.	Drink Bill.	
	Total.	Per Head of Population.		Total.	Per Head of Population.
	£	£ s. d.		£	£ s. d.
1901	5,000,000	3 13 2	1920-21	11,034,000	5 5 7
1906	4,569,000	3 9 0	1921-22	10,671,000	5 0 2
1911	5,962,000	3 11 7	1922-23	11,054,000	5 1 9
1913	7,001,000	3 16 11	1923-24	11,349,000	5 2 8
1915-16	7,246,000	3 16 6	1924-25	11,670,000	5 3 7

The increase in the drink bill between 1913 and 1920-21 was due mainly to higher prices, though there was also an increase in consumption of beer and of wine. Subsequently the increased expenditure was due to a greater consumption of spirits.

CONSUMPTION OF TOBACCO.

Under an Act passed in 1884 in connection with the imposition of an excise tax, of which most of the provisions have been superseded by Federal legislation, persons who sell tobacco in New South Wales are required to obtain a license, for which an annual fee of 5s. is charged. The number of licenses issued in 1924 was 19,736. The sale of tobacco to juveniles under the age of 16 years is prohibited.

The quantity of tobacco consumed in New South Wales, as estimated at intervals since 1901, is shown in the following statement:—

Year.	Total Consumption (000 omitted).				Per Head of Population.			
	Tobacco.	Cigars.	Cigarettes.	Total.	Tobacco.	Cigars.	Cigarettes.	Total.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
1901	2,977	215	368	3,560	2·18	·15	·27	2·60
1905	3,603	203	559	4,365	2·43	·13	·38	2·94
1911	3,827	271	1,076	5,174	2·30	·16	·65	3·11
1913	3,853	306	1,413	5,572	2·11	·17	·78	3·06
1915-16	3,979	236	1,331	5,546	2·10	·13	·70	2·93
1920-21	4,370	273	1,958	6,601	2·09	·13	·94	3·16
1921-22	5,039	252	1,855	7,146	2·37	·12	·87	3·36
1922-23	4,950	234	1,713	6,897	2·28	·10	·79	3·17
1923-24	5,036	205	1,820	7,061	2·28	·09	·82	3·19
1924-25	5,187	238	1,822	7,247	2·30	·10	·81	3·21

The quantity of tobacco (including cigars and cigarettes) consumed in 1924-25 was 7,247,000 lb., which represents an average of 3·21 lb. per head of population. The annual consumption per head during the last three years was 3 per cent. higher than in the three years 1911-13, and it is estimated that the expenditure on tobacco in 1924-25 amounted to £5,417,000, or £2 8s. per head of population, as compared with £2,858,000, or £1 11s. 5d. per head in 1913.

As regards the description of tobacco used, the proportion of cigarettes advanced during the period under review from 10 to 25 per cent., and the proportion of ordinary tobacco declined from 84 to 72 per cent.

Of the total tobacco consumed in 1924-25, about 96 per cent. was manufactured in Australia, principally from imported leaf, viz., ordinary tobacco 99 per cent. made in Australia, cigarettes, 92 per cent., and cigars 78 per cent. The proportions made in Australia in 1911 were 85 per cent., 94 per cent., and 46 per cent. respectively.

LICENSES FOR VARIOUS OCCUPATIONS.

Partly as a means of raising revenue and partly as a means of ensuring a certain amount of supervision over persons who follow callings which bring them into contact with the general public, or which are carried on under special conditions, licenses must be obtained by auctioneers, paw-brokers, hawkers, pedlars, collectors, second-hand dealers, fishermen, and persons who sell tobacco, conduct billiard and bagatelle tables, or engage in Sunday trading. Since the beginning of the year 1921, gun-dealers and persons having possession of guns and firearms have been required to take out licenses. Special gun licenses are issued to those who desire to use guns for the sole purpose of destroying noxious animals. A separate gun license must be obtained in respect of each weapon. A gun license may not be issued to a person under 16 years of age.

Auctioneers' licenses are divided into two classes, viz., General and District, the annual fee for a general license being £15, and for each district

license £2. General licenses are available for all parts of the State. District licenses only cover the police district for which they are issued, and they are not issued for the Metropolitan district. Auctioneers' licenses may not be granted to licensed pawnbrokers. Sales by auction are illegal after sunset or before sunrise, except in the Municipality of Albury, where, under the Auctioneers' Licensing (Amendment) Act, 1915, permits may be granted to allow wool to be put up to sale or sold after sunset. Where provision has been made for reciprocity with New South Wales in this respect, auctioneers resident and licensed in other Australian States may obtain general licenses in New South Wales.

For pawnbrokers' licenses an annual fee of £10 is payable. The hours for receiving pledges are limited, with certain exceptions, to those between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., but a restriction is not placed on the rate of interest charged.

The following table shows the principal licenses issued in the six years 1919-1924:—

Occupation.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Auctioneers—General	344	391	591	349	457	383
District	1,995	2,200	2,132	1,995	2,258	1,880
Billiard	763	815	781	796	881	793
Tobacco	14,141	14,391	15,488	18,378	19,891	19,736
Pawnbrokers	102	95	102	105	99	106
Hawkers and Pedlars	1,479	1,440	1,951	2,610	2,779	2,927
Collectors	2,207	2,126	2,136	1,801	1,798	1,760
Second-hand Dealers	1,247	1,421	1,475	1,336	1,297	1,213
Stage Carriage	212	139	123	126	135	94
Sunday Trading	6,014	6,381	6,985	7,582	8,621	9,158
Fishermen	3,164	3,388	3,524	3,385	3,077	3,155
Fishing Boats	1,703	1,816	1,863	1,761	1,652	1,686
Oyster Vendors	232	240	238	252	290	314
Gun Licenses (ordinary) .. ..	...	...	64,682	57,613	40,399	45,816
" " (special) ... ..	...	...	36,961	34,650	29,785	29,404
Gun Dealers ... ..	...	...	684	604	542	561

The number of tobacco licenses as stated for each year from 1919 to 1921 is exclusive of those issued at the State Treasury, which numbered 2,247 in 1922.

STATUS OF WOMEN.

In New South Wales women have had the right to exercise the franchise since 1902. In 1918 it was provided that sex should not disqualify any person from acting as member of the Legislative Assembly, as member of a council of any shire or municipality, as judge, magistrate, barrister, solicitor, or conveyancer, and in 1926 the appointment of women as members of the Legislative Council was authorised. Women have contested Parliamentary elections, and one was elected in 1925. A number of women have been appointed justices of the peace, and some have been admitted to the practice of the legal profession. Women may not act on juries. They are eligible for all degrees at the University of Sydney, but are not ordained as ministers of religion.

The employment of women in factories and shops is regulated specially by the Factories and Shops Act, 1912, which limits the continuous employment of women to five hours, restricts the amount of work they may do in excess of forty-eight hours per week and between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m., and limits the employment of girls under 18 years of age. The minimum wage for any employee in a factory or shop is fixed at 4s. per week. Many trade

unions have women members. A separate living wage for women employees is determined after special inquiry by an industrial tribunal, but a definite principle of equality or difference between the pay of women and men is not observed in the industrial awards and agreements. In accordance with a recent amendment of the Industrial Arbitration Act, the list of matters which may be determined by the industrial tribunals includes claims that the same wage be paid to men and women performing the same work, or producing the same return of profit or value to their employer.

A legal age of marriage has not been defined, but the average age at which women marry is about 25 years. The consent of a parent or guardian is necessary to validate the marriage of minors. The wife of a British subject is deemed to be a British subject throughout Australia. Under the Married Women's Property Act, 1901, a married woman is capable of holding, acquiring, or disposing of any real or personal property as her separate property in the same manner as if she were a *femme sole*. Her property is not liable for her husband's debts, and her earnings in any occupation apart from her husband's are her own. A wife, however, has no legal share of her husband's income, nor in any property acquired by their joint efforts after marriage, but a husband is liable for all necessary expenses of his wife and children.

RELIGIONS.

In New South Wales there is no established church, and freedom of worship is accorded to all religious denominations.

The number of adherents of the principal religions, as disclosed by the census records, is shown in the following statement :—

Religion.	Number of Persons.			Proportion per cent.		
	1901.	1911.	1921.	1901.	1911.	1921.
Christian—						
Church of England ...	623,131	734,000	1,027,301	46·58	45·46	49·60
Roman Catholic ...	347,286	412,013	502,815	25·96	25·54	24·27
Methodist ...	137,638	151,274	181,977	10·29	9·37	8·79
Presbyterian ...	132,617	182,911	219,932	9·91	11·33	10·62
Congregational ...	24,834	22,655	22,235	1·86	1·40	1·07
Baptist ...	15,441	20,679	24,722	1·15	1·28	1·19
Lutheran ...	7,397	7,087	5,031	·55	·44	·24
Unitarian ...	770	844	622	·06	·05	·03
Salvation Army ...	9,585	7,413	9,490	·72	·46	·46
Other Christians ...	14,812	55,453	49,072	1·10	3·41	2·37
Total Christians ...	1,313,501	1,594,329	2,043,197	98·18	98·77	98·64
Others—						
Jews, Hebrew ...	6,447	7,660	10,150	·48	·47	·49
Buddhist, Confucian, Mohammedan, etc. ...	8,035	5,113	4,472	·60	·32	·22
Indefinite—No Religion ...	9,829	7,163	13,572	·74	·44	·65
Object to state ...	13,068	21,986	12,946	...	...	...
Unspecified ...	3,966	10,483	16,034	...	...	...
Total, New South Wales	1,354,846	1,646,734	2,100,371	100	100	100

In the table the persons returned as Catholic (undefined) have been included with "Roman Catholic," the number in 1921 being 20,240, and in 1911, 36,622.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

THE manufacturing industries of the State continue to show rapid expansion, and at 30th June, 1925, approximately £85,000,000 was invested in land, buildings, plant, etc., and employment was given to 165,000 persons. Most of the industries are concerned with the manufacture of articles required to house, feed, and clothe the community. The principal articles manufactured for export are food commodities, including butter, flour and meat; also leather, wool-tops, and small quantities of boots and shoes, tobacco, rubber goods, and metals.

The following table is a summary of the important facts relating to the establishments in New South Wales which came within the definition of a factory and furnished returns in 1901, 1911, and in the two years ended 30th June, 1921 and 1925.

Particulars.	1901.*	1911.	1920-21.	1924-25.
Number of Establishments	3,367	5,039	5,837	7,906
Average Number of Em- ployees. { Male ...	54,556	82,083	112,187	126,496
{ Female ...	11,674	26,541	32,824	39,264
{ Total ...	66,230	108,624	145,011	165,760
Salaries and Wages paid to Employees. † { Male £	‡	8,917,583	22,766,216	27,670,943
{ Female £	‡	1,130,079	2,852,375	3,849,906
{ Total £	4,952,000	10,047,662	25,618,591	31,520,849
Capital invested in Land, Buildings, and Fixtures (owned and rented) £	7,838,628	13,140,207	28,428,917	41,351,080
Value of Plant and Machinery... £	5,860,725	12,510,600	31,115,444	43,553,900
Machinery—Average Horse-power in use, exclusive of electric ... h.p.	44,265	127,547	208,463	270,080
Value of Materials and Fuel used £	15,637,611	34,913,564	94,713,249	100,564,822
Value added to Raw Materials in process of Manufacture ... £	10,010,860	19,432,447	43,128,137	59,044,051
Total Value of Output £	25,648,471	54,346,011	137,841,386	159,608,873
Average per Factory—				
Employees No.	19·7	21·6	24·8	20·9
Horse-power of Machinery ... h.p.	13·2	25·3	35·7	34·2
Land and Buildings... .. £	2,328	2,608	4,870	5,230
Plant and Machinery... .. £	1,740	2,483	5,331	5,509
Material and Fuel £	4,644	6,928	16,226	12,720
Value added in process of Manu- facture £	2,973	3,856	7,389	7,468
Total Output £	7,617	10,784	23,615	20,188
Average Time Worked months	11·32	11·55	11·52	11·68
Average per Employee—				
Salaries and Wages + .. { Male £	‡	114	211	230
{ Female £	‡	43	88	99
{ Total £	81	96	182	198
Value of Materials and Fuel... £	236	321	653	607
Value added in Manufacture... £	151	179	298	356
Total Output £	387	500	951	963

* Excluding a number of small establishments in country districts (see Year Book, 1907-8, page 448).

† Excluding drawings of working proprietors.

‡ Information not available.

Returns relating to the manufacturing industry are collected annually under the authority of the Census Act, 1901, and must be furnished by every proprietor of a factory. Any return supplied under this Act is used for statistical purposes only, is treated as strictly confidential, and may not be produced in any court of law even under subpoena.

Prior to 1896 there was no uniformity in the method of collection in the various States, but in that year uniformity was secured with Victoria by agreement between the statisticians. A standard classification of factories was adopted at a conference of statisticians in 1902, and the statistics for all the States have since been compiled on the same basis.

The foregoing statement shows that the number of establishments has increased since 1901 by 135 per cent., and the number of employees by over 150 per cent. In 1901 the value of capital invested in land, buildings, fixtures, plant, and machinery amounted to £13,699,353, and in 1924-25 it had increased to £84,904,980, or by over 519 per cent. The value of the output was considerably more than six times as great as in 1901, and this represents a marked increase apart from the enhanced values of commodities, which are still much above pre-war levels. Side by side with this development the amount paid in wages increased by 536 per cent., and the expenditure on materials and fuel by 543 per cent.

GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE WORKSHOPS AND FACTORIES.

Until 1911, the establishments under Government control consisted almost entirely of railway workshops, dockyards, and other establishments engaged principally in the repair or renovation rather than in the actual manufacture of articles. Now, however, there are State factories for the production of bricks, monier pipes, electricity, meat products, canned fruit, and clothing, etc. A statement of the operations of the works which are classed as State industrial undertakings is given in the section of this Year Book which deals with Public Finance. The following table has been prepared to show the details of the operations of the State and Commonwealth industrial undertakings in 1924-25 separately from those of other establishments:—

Particulars.	Government Workshops, etc.	Other.	Total.
Number of Establishments*	84	7,822	7,906
Average Number of Em- ployees. { Male	16,752	109,744	126,496
{ Female	834	38,430	39,264
{ Total	17,586	148,174	165,760
Salaries and Wages paid to Employees. † { Male	£ 4,088,219	23,582,724	27,670,943
{ Female	£ 63,044	3,786,862	3,849,906
{ Total	£ 4,151,263	27,369,586	31,520,849
Capital invested in Land, Buildings, and Fix- tures, owned by occupier... ..	£ 5,038,705	22,417,350	27,456,055
Rent paid	£ 1,891	924,444	926,335
Value of Plant and Machinery	£ 5,611,430	37,942,470	43,553,900
Machinery—Average Horse-power in use	101,506	323,423	424,929
Value of Materials and Fuel used... ..	£ 3,631,002	96,933,820	100,564,822
Value added to Raw Materials in process of Manufacture	£ 5,506,995	53,537,056	59,044,051
Total Value of Output	£ 9,137,997	150,470,876	159,608,873

* Each railway workshop is counted as a separate establishment.

† Excluding drawings of working proprietors.

The results shown by Governmental establishments, as stated above, are not comparable with those of other establishments, because in cases where the former are not conducted for profit the value of the output has been estimated on the basis of the results shown by private establishments of similar type. Another fact which militates against comparison is that repair work constitutes a large proportion of the work done in Government

factories. Moreover, in Government establishments the profit would appear in reducing the price of the product rather than in showing a large margin over cost.

CLASSIFICATION OF MANUFACTORIES.

The manufacturing industries have been arranged for purposes of reference and comparison into nineteen classes, in accordance with a standard classification adopted by a Conference of Australian Statisticians in 1924.

The classes are as follow:—

- CLASS I.—TREATING RAW MATERIALS, THE PRODUCT OF AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL PURSUITS, ETC.**
 Boiling-down, Tallow Refining, etc.
 Sausage Skins, etc.
 Tanneries.
 Wool-scouring, Fellmongering.
 Chaff-cutting, Corn-crushing, etc.
- CLASS II.—OILS AND FATS, ETC.**
 Oil and Grease.
 Soap and Candles.
- CLASS III.—STONE, CLAY, GLASS, ETC.**
 Bricks,²
 Tiles.
 Pipes—Earthenware and Cement.
 Glass (including Bottles).
 Glass (Ornamental).
 Lime, Plaster, Cement, and Asphalt.
 Marble, Slate, etc.
 Modelling.
 Pottery and Earthenware.
- CLASS IV.—WORKING IN WOOD.**
 Boxes and Cases.
 Cooperage.
 Joinery.
 Saw-mills.
 Wood-turning, Wood-carving, etc.
- CLASS V.—METAL WORKS, MACHINERY, ETC.**
 Agricultural Implements.
 Art Metal Works.
 Brass and Copper.
 Cutlery.
 Engineering.
 Galvanized Iron-working.
 Ironworks and Foundries.
 Nails.
 Railway Carriages, Rolling-stock, etc.
 Railway and Tramway Workshops.
 Metal Extraction and Ore Reduction.
 Stoves and Ovens.
 Tinsmithing.
 Wire-working.
 Gas Fittings and Meters.
 Other Metal Works (including Lead Mills).
 Electric Apparatus.
 Lamps and Fittings.
 Sewing Machines.
- CLASS VI.—FOOD, DRINK, ETC.**
 Bacon-curing.
 Butter Factories, Creameries, etc.
 Butterine and Margarine.
 Cheese Factories.
 Condensed Milk.
 Meat and Fish Preserving.
 Biscuits.
 Confectionery.
 Cornflour, Oatmeal, etc.
 Flour-mills.
 Jam, Fruit, and Vegetable-canning.
 Dried Fruits.
 Pickles, Sauces, and Vinegar.
 Sugar Mills.
 Sugar Refining.
 Aerated Waters, Cordials, etc.
 Breweries.
 Condiments, Coffee, Spices, etc.
 Distilleries.
 Wine Making.
 Cider.
 Ice and Refrigerating.
 Malting.
 Tobacco, Cigars, etc.
 Animal Poultry, and Stock Foods.
- CLASS VII.—CLOTHING, AND TEXTILE FABRICS, ETC.**
 Woollen and Tweed Mills.
 Silk Weaving.
 Knitting Factories.
 Cotton Mills.
 Boots and Shoes.
 Boot and Shoe Repairing.
 Clothing (Stop).
 Clothing (Tailoring).
 Clothing (Waterproof and Oil-skin).
 Dressmaking and Millinery (Makers' Material).
 Dressmaking and Millinery (Customers' Material).
 Dyeworks and Cleaning.
 Furriers.
 Hats and Caps.
 Shirts, Ties, and Scarfs.
 Underclothing, Whitework, Corsets.
 Rope and Cordage.
 Salmaking.
 Tents and Tarpaulins.
 Bags and Sacks.
- CLASS VIII.—BOOKS, PAPER, PRINTING, ETC.**
 Electrotyping and Stereotyping.
 Paper-making, Paper Boxes, Bags, etc.
 Photo-engraving.
 Printing and Binding.
 Newspapers, Magazines and Journals.
 Die Sinking, Engraving, etc.
- CLASS IX.—MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, ETC.**
 Musical Instruments.
- CLASS X.—ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES.**
 Arms and Ammunition.
 Industrial Explosives.
- CLASS XI.—VEHICLES, SADDLERY, HARNESS, ETC.**
 Coach and Waggon Building.
 Motor Car Assembling and Repairing.
 Motor Body Building and Repairing.
 Motor Cycle and Bicycle Building and Repairing.
 Perambulators.
 Saddlery, Harness, etc.
 Spokes, etc.
 Whips.
- CLASS XII.—SHIP, BOAT, AND AIRCRAFT BUILDING AND REPAIRING.**
 Docks and Slips, Ship and Boat Building and Repairing.
 Aircraft Building and Repairing.
- CLASS XIII.—FURNITURE, BEDDING, ETC.**
 Bedding, Flock, and Upholstery.
 Billiard Tables.
 Furnishing, Drapery, etc.
 Furniture and Cabinet-making.
 Picture Frames.
 Window Blinds.
 Sea Grass, Wicker and Bamboo Furniture.
 Baskets, Wickerware, and Matting.
 Brooms and Brushware.
 Carpets and Linoleums.
- CLASS XIV.—DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.**
 Chemicals, Drugs, and Medicines.
 Paints and Varnishes.
 Inks, Polishes, etc.
 Fertilisers.
 Essential Oils.
- CLASS XV.—SURGICAL AND OTHER SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS.**
 Surgical Instruments.
 Optical Instruments.
 Other Scientific Instruments.
- CLASS XVI.—JEWELLERY, TIME-PIECES, AND PLATED-WARE.**
 Electro-plating.
 Manufacturing Jewellery, etc.
 Watch and Clock Making and Repairing.
- CLASS XVII.—HEAT, LIGHT, AND POWER.**
 Coke-works.
 Electric-light and Power.
 Gas-works.
 Kerosene.
 Matches.
 Carbide.
 Hydraulic Power.
- CLASS XVIII.—LEATHERWARE (N.E.L.).**
 Leather Belting, Fancy Leather Portmanteaux, and Bags.
- CLASS XIX.—MINOR WARES (N.E.L.).**
 Rubber Goods.
 Toys.
 Umbrellas.
 Other Industries.

The returns relate to establishments employing four or more than four persons engaged directly or indirectly in working at certain handicrafts, or in preparing or manufacturing articles for trade or sale, and to establishments employing less than four persons, where machinery, operated by steam, gas, electric, water, wind, or horse power, is used. Establishments with less than four hands, where manual labour only is used, do not furnish returns, with the exception of the following, from which returns are obtained in order that the total output of the various products may be ascertained, viz.:—aerated waters, bacon, butter and cheese factories, brick, gas, and lime works, quarries, soap and candle factories, tanneries and boot factories.

The foregoing definition, based on the number of workers, applies uniformly to all other industries, and includes tailoring, bootmaking, dress-making, and millinery establishments. It does not, however, cover shops engaged in retail trade only, and in the distribution or importation of goods; nor does it apply to bakeries, butcheries in which sausages and small-goods are made, laundries, and waterworks.

With the exception of blacksmiths' and wheelwrights' shops, the definition covers establishments in which workers are engaged in repairing or in assembling manufactured parts of an article.

If a manufacturing business is conducted in conjunction with an importing or a retail business particulars relating to the manufacturing section only are obtained, and persons employed in the importing or retail branch of the business are not included. Where two or more industries are being conducted a return is furnished for each industry. If power from the same generating plant is used for more than one industry it is distributed proportionately. The generation of electric light and power for use in other manufacturing operations, even if generated on the premises, is treated as an independent industry.

The value of production includes the products of educational, charitable, and reformatory or other public institutions, except penitentiaries.

ESTABLISHMENTS.

The following table shows the number of manufactories and works in the metropolitan district and in the remainder of the State, together with the number of establishments in which machinery was installed:—

Year.	Metropolitan District.			Remainder of State.			New South Wales.		
	With Machinery.	Without Machinery.	Total.	With Machinery.	Without Machinery.	Total.	With Machinery.	Without Machinery.	Total.
1901	754	661	1,415	1,215	737	1,952	1,969	1,398	3,367
1906	1,136	635	1,771	1,360	730	2,090	2,496	1,365	3,861
1911	1,793	717	2,510	1,757	772	2,529	3,550	1,489	5,039
1915-16	2,250	565	2,815	1,837	568	2,395	4,077	1,133	5,210
1920-21	2,987	536	3,523	2,611	299	2,314	5,002	835	5,837
1921-22	3,389	583	3,972	2,081	303	2,384	5,470	886	6,356
1922-23	3,602	571	4,173	2,205	311	2,530	5,807	896	6,703
1923-24	3,889	518	4,407	2,553	361	2,914	6,442	879	7,321
1924-25	4,203	528	4,731	2,773	402	3,175	6,976	930	7,906

An excellent harbour and transport facilities have caused Sydney to be made the chief manufacturing centre of the State, but in some industries

important works have been constructed in proximity to the coalfields at Newcastle and Lithgow. In the earliest days of the State's history, Sydney, as the first place of settlement, was the sole manufacturing town in the territory; in 1901, after more than a century of colonisation, the metropolitan area contained over 42 per cent. of the manufacturing establishments in the State, and in 1925 the proportion had increased to 60 per cent.

In the country districts manufacturing enterprises are occupied mainly with the direct handling of primary products, but at Newcastle there have been constructed extensive iron and steel works, galvanised iron works, a large ship building yard, and a number of other factories. At Lithgow an iron and steel foundry forms the nucleus of growing secondary industries, including the small-arms factory. Large smelting and other works have been established at Port Kembla.

The most important group of secondary industries in the State consists of metal and machinery works, in which the number of employees, the value of machinery and plant, the amount of salaries and wages, and the value added to raw materials are greater than in any other group. The value of raw materials used and the value of the output are greatest in factories connected with food and drink, and in other respects this class ranks second in importance, though the clothing factories give employment to a greater number of employees. In country districts metal works are most important, followed by food and drink factories, and wood-working establishments. Most of the large textile and clothing factories are situated in the metropolitan area, but more than three-fifths of the output of metal and machinery establishments is from country workshops.

The following table shows the principal facts relating to each class of manufacturing industry conducted in the State and in the metropolitan district during the year 1924-25.

Class of Industry.	Establishments.	Average Number of Employees.			Average Time worked.	Horse-power of Machinery—Average used.	Value of Machinery, Tools, and Plant.	Total Salaries and Wages, exclusive of Drawings of Working Proprietors.
		Males.	Females.	Total.				
NEW SOUTH WALES.								
Treating Raw Materials, &c. ...	260	3,589	223	3,812	10-64	8,932	920,290	724,150
Oils, Fats, &c. ...	42	1,314	412	1,726	11-98	2,164	646,562	315,612
Stone, Clay, Glass, &c. ...	387	9,334	157	9,491	11-49	26,791	3,159,831	2,058,986
Working in Wood ...	976	10,135	195	10,330	11-07	24,653	1,638,393	1,976,956
Metal Works, Machinery, &c. ...	968	40,630	1,284	41,914	11-94	77,916	11,336,058	9,582,173
Food, Drink, &c. ...	948	13,826	6,261	20,087	11-18	44,792	7,533,795	3,721,700
Clothing, Textile Fabrics, &c. ...	1,748	10,001	23,269	33,270	11-74	10,600	2,093,667	4,170,403
Books, Paper, Printing, &c. ...	581	9,211	3,693	12,904	11-92	12,491	3,295,430	2,471,130
Musical Instruments, &c. ...	27	760	121	881	11-85	817	67,496	202,165
Arms and Explosives ...	3	381	7	388	12-00	673	40,252	100,142
Vehicles, Saddlery, Harness, &c. ...	935	7,840	322	8,162	11-80	4,319	586,826	1,460,022
Ship and Boat-building, &c. ...	48	5,038	45	5,083	11-96	9,338	1,680,676	1,255,928
Furniture, Bedding, &c. ...	420	5,193	753	5,951	11-88	4,336	287,348	1,029,304
Drugs and Chemicals ...	144	1,993	1,005	2,998	11-94	4,027	853,215	594,270
Surgical and other Scientific Instruments.	30	224	51	275	11-30	105	25,570	46,949
Jewellery, Timepieces, and Plat- ed-ware.	93	784	89	873	11-97	495	54,638	167,033
Heat, Light, and Power ...	188	4,279	110	4,389	11-85	190,255	8,978,899	1,130,520
Leatherware, n.e.l. ...	42	690	483	1,178	11-81	205	42,424	173,274
Minor Wares, n.e.l. ...	66	1,274	774	2,048	11-91	2,115	312,490	340,132
Total ...	7,906	126,496	39,264	165,760	11-68	424,929	43,553,900	31,520,849

Class of Industry.	Establishments.	Average Number of Employees.			Average Time worked.	Horse-power of Machinery—Average used.	Value of Machinery, Tools, and Plant.	Total Salaries and Wages, exclusive of Drawings of Working Proprietors.
		Males.	Females.	Total.				
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT.								
Treating Raw Materials, &c. ...	113	2,468	217	2,685	11-36	6,541	706,657	548,295
Oil's, Fats, &c. ...	28	1,056	350	1,406	11-99	1,657	550,451	256,912
Stone, Clay, Glass, &c. ...	183	5,626	131	5,757	11-69	9,615	1,236,996	1,276,129
Working in Wood ...	351	4,842	122	4,964	11-80	13,017	654,598	1,059,204
Metal Works, Machinery, &c. ...	758	26,161	1,139	27,300	11-96	22,150	4,595,992	5,828,904
Food, Drink, &c. ...	360	8,857	5,393	14,250	11-78	25,927	5,065,672	2,642,975
Clothing, Textile Fabrics, &c. ...	1,373	8,409	21,164	29,564	11-76	8,544	1,694,593	3,733,044
Books, Paper, Printing, &c. ...	366	7,788	3,521	11,309	11-92	11,394	2,824,059	2,181,498
Musical Instruments, &c. ...	26	749	121	870	11-85	817	67,471	199,503
Arms and Explosives ...	2	21	3	24	12-00	14	1,962	3,725
Vehicles, Saddlery, Harness, &c. ...	386	5,061	199	5,260	11-86	2,067	294,684	1,023,698
Ship and Boat-building, &c. ...	42	4,053	27	4,080	11-96	6,191	1,466,192	1,049,430
Furniture, Bedding, &c. ...	357	4,754	740	5,494	11-88	3,911	261,634	960,808
Drugs and Chemicals ...	128	1,631	984	2,615	11-96	2,997	529,060	488,220
Surgical and other Scientific Instruments.	30	224	51	275	11-30	105	25,570	46,940
Jewellery, Timepieces, and Plated-ware.	90	767	89	856	11-97	486	53,238	164,322
Heat, Light, and Power ...	36	1,978	79	2,057	12-00	124,768	5,239,726	513,185
Leatherware, n.e.i. ...	42	690	483	1,178	11-81	205	42,424	173,274
Minor Wares, n.e.i. ...	55	1,207	771	1,978	11-91	2,915	295,328	327,812
Total ...	4,731	86,335	35,589	121,922	11-84	242,421	25,606,247	22,477,887

SIZE OF ESTABLISHMENTS.

The following statement shows the distribution of establishments, according to the number of persons engaged, in the metropolitan district and in the remainder of New South Wales, at intervals since the year 1901:—

Establishments employing on the average—	1901.*		1911.		1920-21.		1924-25.	
	Establishments.	† Em- ployees.	Establishments.	† Em- ployees.	Establishments.	† Em- ployees.	Establishments.	† Em- ployees.
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT.								
Under 4 employees	79	188	238	547	493	1,083	1,127	2,243
4 employees ...	105	420	179	716	230	920	324	1,296
5 to 10 employees	429	3,036	743	5,336	1,072	7,566	1,280	8,913
11 ,, 20 ,, ...	334	4,939	520	7,834	684	10,118	809	11,885
21 ,, 50 ,, ...	279	8,564	477	14,655	639	20,437	736	23,927
51 ,, 100 ,, ...	107	7,518	202	14,360	222	15,158	256	17,362
101 and upwards...	82	17,750	151	34,144	183	49,270	199	56,296
Total ..	1,415	42,415	2,510	77,592	3,523	104,552	4,731	121,922
REMAINDER OF STATE.								
Under 4 employees	439	1,094	538	1,282	513	1,173	954	2,050
4 employees ..	256	1,024	371	1,484	270	1,080	413	1,772
5 to 10 employees	768	5,333	993	6,817	864	5,896	1,080	7,328
11 ,, 20 ,, ...	294	4,236	381	5,390	330	5,351	387	5,484
21 ,, 50 ,, ...	142	4,612	164	4,874	181	5,569	202	6,133
51 ,, 100 ,, ...	30	2,086	40	2,858	43	2,903	47	3,088
101 and upwards...	23	5,430	42	8,327	63	18,487	62	17,983
Total ..	1,952	23,815	2,529	31,032	2,314	40,459	3,175	43,838
NEW SOUTH WALES.								
Under 4 employees	513	1,282	776	1,829	1,006	2,256	2,081	4,293
4 employees ...	361	1,414	550	2,200	500	2,000	767	3,068
5 to 10 employees	1,137	8,369	1,735	12,153	1,936	13,462	2,360	16,241
11 ,, 20 ,, ...	628	9,175	901	13,224	1,064	15,433	1,196	17,369
21 ,, 50 ,, ...	421	13,176	641	19,529	820	26,006	938	30,060
51 ,, 100 ,, ...	137	9,604	242	17,218	265	18,061	303	20,450
101 and upwards...	105	23,180	193	42,471	246	67,757	261	74,279
Total ..	3,367	66,230	5,039	108,624	5,837	145,011	7,906	165,760

* Excluding a number of small establishments in country districts (see Year Book 1907-8, page 448).

† Including working proprietors.

The establishments employing 10 hands or less represent 66 per cent. of the total number, the factories in the Metropolitan area being generally larger than those in other parts of the State. The average number of employees per establishment is 26 in the Metropolis, 14 in the remainder of the State, and 21 in the whole State; in 1901 the averages were 30, 12, and 20 respectively.

Throughout the period there has been a constant increase in the number of factories in the Metropolitan district, the increase since 1911 being very marked in respect of the small establishments. In the country districts the number of establishments increased between 1901 and 1911; then declined during the succeeding decade. In 1921 the number began to increase slowly, and in the last two years there was a marked rise. The increase in 1923-24 was due in a large measure to the inclusion of factories from which returns were not collected previously. In the following year, however, a large number of new establishments were opened.

The relative position of each group of establishments in the Metropolitan and in the country districts is shown in the following statement:—

Establishments employing on the average—	Proportion of each Group to Total.							
	Metropolitan District.				Remainder of State.			
	1901.	1911.	1920-21.	1924-25.	1901.	1911.	1920-21.	1924-25.
	per cent	per cent.	per cen	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Under 4 employees ...	5·6	9·5	14·0	23·8	22·5	21·3	22·2	30·0
4 employees... ..	7·4	7·1	6·5	6·8	13·1	11·7	11·7	14·0
5 to 10 employees ...	30·3	29·6	30·4	27·1	39·3	39·2	37·3	34·0
11 „ 20 „ ..	23·6	20·7	19·4	17·1	15·1	15·1	16·4	12·2
21 „ 50 „ ..	19·7	19·0	13·2	15·6	7·3	6·5	7·8	6·3
51 „ 100 „ ..	7·6	8·1	6·3	5·4	1·5	1·6	1·9	1·5
101 and upwards ..	5·8	6·0	5·2	4·2	1·2	1·6	2·7	2·0
Total	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

In the Metropolitan district the tendency towards an increase in the number of small workshops and factories has caused the proportion of establishments employing less than 5 hands to rise from 16·6 per cent. in 1911 to 30·6 per cent. in 1924-25. In the country districts the proportion of such factories has increased from 36 to 44 per cent.

MOTIVE POWER.

The power used for driving machinery in factories is derived mainly from steam. Gas is used only to a limited extent, and there are electric engines of considerable voltage, but the generation of their power depends upon some other class of engine.

The following table shows the distribution of motive-power through the various agencies of steam, gas, electricity (generated by steam-power), water and oil, expressed in units of horse-power:—

Year.	Establishments using Machinery.	Horse-power of Machinery (Average used).						Per Establishment using Machinery.
		Steam.	Gas.	Electricity.	Water.	Oil.	Total, exc. Electricity.	
1901	1,969	42,555	1,577	330	97	36	44,265	22
1906	2,496	70,192	4,212	8,989	75	277	74,756	30
1911	3,550	113,939	12,201	20,671	222	1,185	127,547	36
1915-16	4,077	177,162	13,926	58,075	319	1,689	193,096	47
1920-21	5,002	192,816	13,242	103,846	24	2,381	208,463	41
1921-22	5,470	201,806	13,211	122,352	50	2,365	217,432	40
1922-23	5,897	211,377	14,400	124,172	48	2,472	228,297	39
1923-24	6,442	225,671	14,112	136,117	48	3,312	243,143	38
1924-25	6,976	251,042	14,817	154,849	682	3,539	270,080	39

During the period under review the potential horse-power of the machinery in the factories increased from 57,335 to 756,766; or exclusive of electric or secondarily-produced power, from 56,669 to 525,315. The development of electrical power is characteristic of the period, the full capacity of machinery so equipped advancing from 666 h.p. in 1901 to 231,451 h.p. in 1924-25. In all comparative statements of the horse-power of machinery it is, however, advisable to eliminate the electrical agency, as it is a reproduced or transmitted force originating from a primal source.

The average motive force, exclusive of electricity, actually employed in operating machinery in the factories, amounted to 44,265 h.p. in 1901, and to 270,080 h.p. in 1924-25. The average horse-power per establishment increased from 22 to 39, or by 77 per cent. during the period.

Exclusive of electrical power the proportion of average motive force used in operating machinery to potential motive force was about 78 per cent. in 1901, and about 51 per cent. in 1924-25. Broadly speaking, the motive power of machinery is capable of supplying 94 per cent. more energy than that ordinarily operated.

CAPITAL INVESTED IN PREMISES.

With regard to capital permanently invested in manufacturing industries, particulars are available only of the value of land, buildings, and fixtures which are the property of the occupier. If they are not the property of the occupier the rental value is recorded.

The following statement shows the extent to which the capital value of the premises used for manufacturing purposes has increased since 1901, also the advance in the value of plant and machinery installed:—

Year.	No. of Establishments.	Capital Value of Premises (owned and rented),	Value of Machinery, Tools, and Plant.	Average per Establishment.	
				Value of Premises.	Value of Machinery, Tools and Plant.
		£	£	£	£
1901*	3,367	7,838,628	5,860,725	2,328	1,740
1906	3,861	19,335,966	8,407,337	2,418	2,178
1911	5,039	13,140,207	12,510,600	2,608	2,483
1915-16	5,210	17,770,517	18,211,104	3,410	3,495
1920-21	5,837	28,428,917	31,115,444	4,870	5,331
1921-22	6,356	32,052,303	35,229,530	5,043	5,543
1922-23	6,703	34,630,984	37,579,386	5,166	5,606
1923-24	7,321	37,979,192	41,141,890	5,188	5,620
1924-25	7,906	41,351,080	43,553,900	5,230	5,509
Increases—Per cent., 1901-1925...	134·8	427·5	643·1	124·7	216·6

* Excluding a number of small country establishments. † Value in 1907.

The premises owned by the occupiers in 1924-25 were valued at £27,456,055, and rented premises at £13,895,025, the valuation of the latter being based on the rent paid, capitalised at fifteen years' purchase.

SALARIES AND WAGES.

The amount of salaries and wages quoted throughout this chapter is exclusive of amounts drawn by working proprietors.

The salaries and wages paid to employees in manufactories and works amounted in 1924-25 to £31,520,849. Male workers, including juveniles, received £27,670,943, equal to £230 5s. 9d. per head, and female workers, including juveniles, £3,849,906, or £99 0s. 11d. per head.

A comparison of the total amount of salaries and wages paid since 1901 is given in the next table, together with the average amount received per employee and the average time worked in all factories. Similar information

regarding each class of industry is published in Part "Manufactories and Works" of the Statistical Register.

Year.	Salaries and Wages (exclusive of drawings by Working Proprietors).			Level of Average Wages per Employee.			Average time Worked.	
	Total.	Average per Employee including Juveniles.			1911 = 1000.			
		Male.	Female.	Total.	Males.	Females.		Total.
	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	*	*	months.	
1901	4,952,000	*	*	81 0 0	*	*	839	
1906	5,591,888	*	*	77 9 7	*	*	804	
1911	10,047,662	114 4 9	43 2 1	96 7 1	1000	1000	1000	
1915-16	13,413,845	141 9 1	53 14 6	119 5 11	1238	1246	1238	
1920-21	25,618,591	210 19 10	87 12 2	182 7 10	1847	2032	1893	
1921-22	26,783,242	218 0 6	91 12 4	186 4 3	1908	2125	1933	
1922-23	27,135,647	213 19 7	97 4 8	184 12 4	1873	2256	1916	
1923-24	29,772,994	225 14 3	96 4 5	194 1 7	1976	2232	2014	
1924-25	31,520,849	230 5 9	99 0 11	198 4 2	2016	2298	2057	

* Not available.

Between 1911 and 1924-25 the average of the wages paid to males increased by over 101 per cent., and to females by 130 per cent. Moreover, the proportion of juvenile labour was slightly less in the earlier year, the proportion of boys under 16 was about the same in both years, but the proportion of girls under 16 was 8.5 per cent. of the female employees in 1911 and 10.8 per cent. in 1924-25.

The average earnings of males were highest in heat, light and power works, and in arms and explosives factories, where the proportion of highly-skilled labour is large, the average amounts paid per male worker, including the management staff in 1924-25 being £262 13s. 5d. and £261 3s. 8d. respectively.

Of the female workers, those employed in the clothing industries received in 1924-25 an average wage of £99 12s. 10d., which was £1 6s. 5d. more than the average amount paid to employees engaged in printing, book-binding, etc.

PROGRESS OF MANUFACTORIES.

The following statement shows the general progress of manufactories as regards the value of production, and the amount paid in wages during the period 1901 to 1925:—

Year.	Value of—					Salaries and Wages paid, exclusive of Drawings of Working Proprietors.	Balance (Output, less Materials and Wages):
	Materials Used.	Fuel Consumed, including Motive-power Rented.	Goods Manufactured, or Work Done.	Production, being Value added to Raw Materials.	Production per Employee.		
1901	£ 15,140,896	£ 496,715	£ 25,648,471	£ 10,010,860	£ 151.2	£ 4,952,000	£ 5,058,860
1906	22,102,685	609,998	34,796,169	12,083,486	155.3	5,591,888	6,491,598
1911	33,670,951	1,242,613	54,346,011	19,432,447	178.9	10,047,662	9,384,785
1915-16	44,227,079	1,528,220	70,989,864	25,284,565	216.6	13,413,845	11,820,720
1920-21	91,104,505	3,608,744	137,841,386	43,128,137	297.4	25,618,591	17,500,546
1921-22	82,690,396	3,983,730	132,820,065	46,745,939	313.9	26,783,242	19,962,697
1922-23	77,233,416	4,023,860	132,853,608	51,596,332	388.2	27,135,647	24,460,685
1923-24	85,568,596	5,129,848	146,359,260	55,660,816	348.6	29,772,994	25,887,822
1924-25	94,955,332	5,609,490	159,608,873	59,044,051	356.2	31,520,849	27,523,202

The value of the output has grown from £25,648,471 in 1901 to £159,608,873 in 1925, and the value of production from £10,010,860 to £59,044,051.

Of the value of goods manufactured or work done in 1924-25, the cost of materials used and fuel consumed amounted to £100,564,822, and salaries and wages to £31,520,849.

Thus, on the average, out of every hundred pounds worth of goods produced in manufactories in 1924-25, the materials and the fuel cost £63, while the employees received £19 14s., leaving a balance of £17 6s. for the payment of overhead charges and for profits.

There are, of course, numerous items to be considered before profits accrue. The cost of these cannot be determined accurately, but from the information available it is possible to make a rough estimate with regard to such items as depreciation and interest on invested capital in factories other than Government establishments.

Excluding Government workshops and factories from consideration, the capital invested in lands, buildings, and fixtures in 1924-25 amounted to £22,417,000. Municipal valuations would indicate that the unimproved value of property is about 35 per cent. of the improved value, and on this basis the value of the buildings and fixtures would be about £14,571,000.

Factory buildings probably depreciate in value more quickly than any other class of buildings, and therefore 4 per cent. can be regarded as a very moderate rate to be allowed yearly on that account. Depreciation of plant is more rapid, and varies considerably in different industries. As a result of inquiries made by proprietors of some of the largest factories in various industries and of the managers of State undertakings, it is estimated that 6½ per cent. is a fair average allowance for depreciation of plant and machinery. The allowance to be made for depreciation of buildings and fixtures would therefore be about £583,000, and on plant and machinery £2,466,000, or a total of £3,049,000.

In addition to the allowance for depreciation, a further allowance should be made for interest on invested capital. Excluding Government workshops and factories the capital invested in machinery and plant is £37,942,000, and in land and buildings £22,417,000, to this must be added the capital represented by materials awaiting treatment and by manufactured goods awaiting disposal. Assuming that the average value of materials on hand awaiting treatment represents generally about 21·5 per cent. (equal to about two and a half months' supply) of the value of all material used during the year, approximately £20,841,000 would have been invested in this way during 1924-25. The value of unsold stocks on hand is taken to be about 5 per cent. of the total value of the output, and this would represent an investment of capital to the extent of £7,524,000. The total capital invested in 1924-25, therefore, may be set down at about £88,724,000. Interest on this amount at 5½ per cent., which could have been obtained by investment in Government loans, would be £4,880,000. The allowance to be made for depreciation and interest is estimated, on this basis, to be £7,929,000, to which must be added cost of rented premises, £924,000, so that £8,853,000 should be deducted in respect of charges which must be taken into account before profits can be estimated. This would reduce the balance remaining after payment of wages, material, and fuel to £17,314,000, equal to 11·5 per cent. of the total output, or 13 per cent. of cost of all items mentioned above, and such items of expense as insurance, advertising, rates and taxes would still have to be paid.

The varying proportions of the items which make up the total value of output of the manufacturing industries in various years since 1901 have been as follow:—

Year.	Proportion per cent. of Total Value of Output absorbed by—				Total.
	Materials.	Fuel.	Salaries and Wages.	Profit and Overhead Charges.	
1901	59.0	2.0	19.3	19.7	100
1906	64.0	1.8	16.1	18.1	100
1911	61.9	2.3	18.6	17.2	100
1915-16	62.3	2.2	18.9	16.6	100
1921-22	61.8	3.0	20.2	15.0	100
1922-23	58.2	3.0	20.4	18.4	100
1923-24	58.5	3.5	20.3	17.7	100
1924-25	59.5	3.5	19.7	17.3	100

After the outbreak of war, a decline occurred in the proportions absorbed by salaries and wages, and by other expenses and profits, but whereas a recovery in wages began in 1918-19, the proportion left for profit and overhead charges continued to diminish until 1921-22, and did not attain its pre-war dimensions until 1922-23. In the two following years the proportionate cost of materials and fuel increased, and, notwithstanding a relative decline in respect of wages, the proportion for profit, etc., decreased again.

The following table shows, in each class of industry, the value of goods manufactured and of work done, the cost of materials used and of fuel consumed, the amount paid in wages and salaries, and the proportion of the total value of output which each of these charges represented in the year 1924-25:—

Class of Industry.	Goods Manufactured, and Work done.	Materials used.	Fuel consumed, including Motive-power rented.	Salaries and Wages Paid.*	Proportionate Value of Manufactured Goods represented by—			
					Materials used.	Fuel, etc.	Salaries and Wages.	Balance.
	£	£	£	£	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Treating Raw Materials, etc. ...	7,698,337	6,382,213	105,678	724,150	82.9	1.4	9.4	6.3
Oils and Fats, etc. ...	2,933,238	1,919,935	55,737	315,612	65.5	1.9	10.8	21.8
Stone, Clay, Glass, etc. ...	6,064,262	1,768,885	676,345	2,058,986	29.2	11.1	33.9	25.8
Working in Wood ...	8,020,954	4,932,053	69,416	1,976,956	61.5	0.9	24.6	13.0
Metal Works, Machinery, etc. ...	42,494,404	25,052,327	2,231,244	9,582,173	59.0	5.2	22.5	13.3
Food and Drink, etc. ...	45,732,840	34,574,146	616,424	3,721,700	75.6	1.3	8.1	15.0
Clothing and Textile Fabrics, etc.	14,834,883	7,548,725	111,808	4,170,403	50.9	0.7	28.1	20.3
Books, Paper, Printing, etc. ...	7,300,440	3,015,060	111,544	2,471,130	41.3	1.5	33.8	23.4
Musical Instruments, etc. ...	641,850	306,262	4,996	202,165	47.7	0.8	31.5	20.0
Arms and Explosives ...	152,727	20,381	3,640	100,142	13.3	2.4	65.6	18.7
Vehicles, Saddlery, Harness, etc.	3,563,375	1,329,774	43,818	1,460,028	37.3	1.2	41.0	20.5
Ship and Boat-building, etc. ...	2,004,282	588,875	64,908	1,255,922	29.4	3.2	62.7	7.4
Furniture, Bedding, etc. ...	3,475,812	1,824,865	22,905	1,029,304	52.5	0.7	29.6	17.2
Drugs and Chemicals ...	4,646,287	2,452,314	56,614	504,270	52.8	1.2	12.8	33.2
Surgical and other Scientific Instruments ...	127,252	46,217	1,306	46,949	36.3	1.0	36.9	25.8
Jewellery, Timepieces and Plated-ware ...	419,933	154,354	5,631	167,033	36.8	1.3	39.8	22.1
Heat, Light, and Power ...	7,553,733	1,993,350	1,398,968	1,130,520	26.4	18.5	15.0	40.1
Leatherware, N.E.I. ...	638,212	342,477	1,827	173,274	53.6	0.3	27.1	19.0
Minor wares, N.E.I. ...	1,306,047	703,119	26,681	340,132	53.8	2.1	26.0	18.1
Total ...	159,608,873	94,955,332	5,609,490	31,520,849	59.5	3.5	19.7	17.3

*Exclusive of drawings of working proprietors.

It is interesting to note the extent to which the value of materials is enhanced by the process of treatment. For all industries combined materials represented 59·5 per cent. of the value of the output, but there was great diversity amongst the various classes, the proportion ranging from 13·3 per cent. in those industries dealing with arms and explosives to 82·9 per cent. in those treating raw pastoral products. These variations can be understood readily when the wide difference between the operations of the industries is considered, and the value of the plant and machinery employed is taken into account. Costly plant alone is not a factor in the creation of high values, this being rather the result of the extensive use of machinery, and the industries dealing with food and those engaged in shipbuilding may be cited as examples. In the former class materials represented 75·6 per cent. and wages only 8·1 per cent. of the total value, while in the latter class the total wages amounted to a sum 113 per cent. in excess of the value of materials used, and represented 62·7 per cent. of the total value. In local shipyards a very large proportion of the work consists of repairs and renovations, in which the cost of materials is much less than in the actual manufacture, and owing to the nature of the employment little machinery is brought into requisition.

The ratio of the total amount of wages to the value of production, that is, the value added to raw materials, declined from 59·3 per cent. in 1920-21 to 53·4 per cent. in 1924-25. The ratio varies considerably in different industries, as will be seen in the following table, which covers the five years 1921-25.

Class of Industry.	Ratio of Amount of Wages Paid to Value of Production.				
	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Treating Raw Materials, etc.	51·8	54·6	49·3	51·9	59·8
Oils, Fats, etc.	34·4	37·2	37·8	34·4	32·9
Stone, Clay, Glass, etc.	59·1	61·6	55·5	53·0	56·9
Working in Wood	66·0	69·6	66·8	61·0	65·5
Metal Works, Machinery, etc.	73·2	66·8	64·6	63·7	63·0
Food, Drink, etc.	42·4	39·0	33·4	35·4	35·3
Clothing, Textile Fabrics, etc.	57·5	62·0	60·2	59·3	58·1
Books, Paper, Printing, etc.	61·6	61·5	52·8	57·4	59·2
Musical Instruments, etc.	58·8	64·4	63·2	63·9	61·1
Arms and Explosives*	43·0	23·0	39·8	39·7	40·1
Vehicles, Saddlery, Harness, etc.	69·6	68·0	67·4	67·2	71·2
Ship and Boat-building, etc.	88·2	90·2	97·4	90·7	93·0
Furniture, Bedding, etc.	71·9	70·8	67·3	67·3	63·2
Drugs and Chemicals	38·0	31·9	27·2	28·2	27·8
Surgical and other Scientific Instruments	70·0	59·8	64·4	60·8	58·9
Jewellery, Timepieces, and Plated-ware	70·6	68·3	63·9	62·3	64·2
Heat, Light, and Power	39·5	35·4	30·2	30·1	27·2
Leatherware, N.E.I.	62·9	54·2	59·6	61·1	58·9
Minor Wares, N.E.I.	59·5	75·0	57·0	61·6	59·0
Total*	59·3	57·2	52·5	53·5	53·4

*Excluding Commonwealth Small Arms Factory.

FUEL CONSUMED.

The value of the fuel consumed in factories in 1924-25 was £3,834,229. Coal is used extensively in all large industries with the exception of smelting, where coke is used. The quantity and value of each kind of fuel used in the various industries in 1924-25 were as follows:—

Industry.	Coal.		Coke.		Wood.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
Treating Raw Materials, etc....	45,139	68,738	473	682	9,418	8,299
Oils and Fats, etc.	31,133	39,668	445	421	315	281
Stone, Clay, Glass, etc. ...	422,419	466,570	5,939	8,728	51,239	41,389
Working in Wood	4,989	4,180	137	203	17,968	11,989
Metal Works, Machinery, etc.	497,967	491,707	607,761	1,115,093	2,662	2,580
Food, Drink, etc.	210,454	286,780	23,371	33,064	61,709	58,176
Clothing, Textile Fabrics, etc.	16,537	23,077	3,641	5,315	342	444
Books, Paper, Printing, etc....	13,249	22,392	402	564	235	290
Musical Instruments, etc. ...	668	1,021	1	1	...	...
Arms and Explosives ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vehicles, Saddlery, etc.	2,871	5,219	962	1,641	1,462	1,501
Shipbuilding and Repairing ...	15,187	20,439	3,325	6,401	59	54
Furniture, Bedding, etc. ...	1,259	1,947	117	174	205	236
Drugs and Chemicals	13,468	19,824	4,270	5,167	852	782
Surgical and Scientific Instru- ments	5	8	12	15	1	1
Jewellery, Timepieces, and Plated-ware	12	29	315	570	...	...
Heat, Light, and Power	758,470	911,364	165,870	135,484	13,951	11,834
Leatherware, N.E.I.	17	27	59	83	...	...
Minor Wares, N.E.I.	13,979	17,851	211	354	894	972
Total	2,047,823	2,380,841	817,311	1,314,560	161,362	138,828

The cost of fuel varies greatly in accordance with the proximity of the industry to the source of supply, and is reflected in the table above, particularly in the metal and machinery group, because much of the coke used for smelting iron at Lithgow is produced on the South Coast, and has to be hauled long distances by train.

EMPLOYMENT.

A comparative statement of average number of persons engaged in the various classes of manufacturing industries is shown below:—

Class of Industry.	Persons engaged, including Working Proprietors.				
	1901.	1911.	1920-21.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Treating Raw Materials, etc.	2,981	3,890	3,840	3,961	3,812
Oils and Fats, etc.	698	889	1,584	1,842	1,726
Stone, Clay, Glass, etc.	3,102	5,695	8,829	8,867	9,491
Working in Wood	5,108	8,181	9,157	10,277	10,330
Metal Works, Machinery, etc.	13,831	22,862	36,860	39,929	41,914
Food, Drink, etc.	11,372	14,050	17,874	19,699	20,087
Clothing, Textile Fabrics, etc....	14,497	26,504	28,298	31,916	33,270
Books, Paper, Printing, etc.	5,573	9,134	10,527	12,478	12,904
Musical Instruments, etc.	226	387	642	781	881
Arms and Explosives	11	33	850	376	388
Vehicles Saddlery, Harness, etc.	2,541	4,416	5,267	7,663	8,162
Ship and Boat Building, etc.	1,541	2,429	5,175	4,980	5,083
Furniture, Bedding, etc.	2,140	3,534	4,312	5,582	5,951
Drugs and Chemicals	450	1,460	2,659	2,874	2,998
Surgical and other Scientific Instruments	69	96	206	241	275
Jewellery, Timepieces, and Plated-ware	165	753	828	873	873
Heat, Light, and Power	1,417	2,795	5,038	4,318	4,389
Leatherware, N.E.I.	177	461	919	1,162	1,178
Minor Wares, N.E.I.	391	1,055	2,146	1,855	2,048
Total	66,230	108,624	145,011	159,674	165,760

Owing to an amended classification in 1923-24, the figures for the last two years are not strictly comparable with those for earlier years. Certain establishments formerly included in the class, musical instruments, etc., or with heat and power works are now in the metal and machinery group; others previously with minor wares have been transferred to the furniture group.

Since 1901 the average number of employees in manufacturing industries has increased much faster than the total population, the annual rates being 3·9 and 2·1 per cent. respectively. The very great proportionate growth of factories between 1906 and 1911, and the slackening between 1911 and 1916, are shown in the following comparison:—

Period.	Increase in Factory Employees.		Increase in Population— Average Annual Rate.
	Number.	Average Annual Rate.	
		per cent.	per cent.
1901-06 (5 years)... ..	11,592	3·3	1·7
1906-11 (5 years)... ..	30,802	6·9	2·6
1911-16 (4½ years)	7,777	1·5	2·4
1916-21 (5 years)... ..	28,610	4·5	2·1
1921-25 (4 years)... ..	20,749	3·4	2·0

The following table shows the average number of persons engaged in manufacturing industries in the Metropolitan area and in the remainder of the State at intervals since 1901:—

Year.	Employees (including Working Proprietors).			Year.	Employees (including Working Proprietors).		
	Metropolitan District.	Remainder of State.	Total.		Metropolitan District.	Remainder of State.	Total.
1901	42,415	23,815	66,230	1921-22	110,589	38,287	148,876
1906	52,605	25,217	77,822	1922-23	114,864	37,722	152,586
1911	77,592	31,032	108,624	1923-24	118,669	41,005	159,674
1915-16	85,365	31,036	116,401	1924-25	121,922	43,838	165,760
1920-21	104,552	40,459	145,011				

During 1924-25 the average number of employees in the Metropolitan area increased by 3,253, and in the country by 2,833, the increase in the whole State being 6,086.

Under the classification of "Remainder of State" are included such urban centres as Newcastle, Broken Hill, Parramatta, Granville, Lithgow, Wollongong, Goulburn, and Bathurst, yet it is significant that Sydney and its suburbs constitute the chief manufacturing centre of the State, and that whereas the average number of employees in the Metropolitan district increased by 79,507, or 187·4 per cent., from 1901 to 1925 the increase in all other parts of the State was only 20,023 persons, or 84·1 per cent.

The increase in the average number of employees of each sex since the year ended 30th June, 1915, is shown below:—

Year.	Metropolitan District.		Remainder of State.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1914-15	60,975	23,847	29,326	2,314
1924-25	86,333	35,589	40,163	3,675
Increase per cent.	41·6	49·2	36·9	58·8

The proportion of females employed is far greater in the Metropolitan area than in the country districts, and in comparison with the increase in the employment of males, the rate of increase in the employment of females has been greater both in the metropolitan and country areas.

Average Time Worked.

The average time worked in the different classes of factories during various years since 1911 is shown below. The figures have been calculated on the basis of the average number of employees engaged during the year specified.

Class of Industry.	1911.	1915-16.	1920-21.	1923-24.	1924-25.
	Months.	Months.	Months.	Months.	Months.
Treating Raw Materials, etc....	10-11	10-10	10-83	10-88	10-64
Oils and Fats, etc.	11-38	11-89	11-78	11-39	11-98
Stone, Clay, Glass, etc. ...	11-56	11-13	11-48	11-55	11-49
Working in Wood	10-82	10-82	11-00	11-03	11-07
Metal Works, Machinery, etc.	11-70	11-67	11-49	11-79	11-94
Food, Drink, etc.	11-10	11-33	11-07	11-38	11-18
Clothing, Textile Fabrics, etc.	11-64	11-70	11-70	11-68	11-74
Books, Paper, Printing, etc....	11-89	11-98	11-87	11-91	11-92
Musical Instruments, etc. ...	12-00	12-00	11-77	11-72	11-85
Arms and Explosives... ..	8-21	12-00	12-00	12-00	12-00
Vehicles, Saddlery, Harness, &c.	11-83	11-84	11-60	11-67	11-80
Ship Building, etc.	11-98	11-99	11-98	11-99	11-96
Furniture, Bedding, etc. ...	11-58	11-66	11-73	11-76	11-88
Drugs and Chemicals	11-77	11-99	11-78	11-88	11-94
Surgical Instruments, etc. ...	12-00	12-00	12-00	12-00	11-30
Jewellery, etc....	11-98	11-95	11-65	11-83	11-97
Heat, Light, and Power	11-81	11-68	11-75	11-57	11-85
Leatherware, N.E.I.	11-91	11-75	11-90	11-92	11-81
Minor Wares, N.E.I.	11-51	11-60	11-82	11-38	11-91
Mean of all Industries	11-55	11-56	11-52	11-63	11-68

In some industries, *e.g.*, those engaged in treating raw pastoral products, the work is seasonal, and factories may be closed during certain periods of each year. In other industries operations are continuous throughout the whole year, and periods of slackness, due to seasonal and other conditions, result in a reduction of the number of employees, but not in the average time as shown in the table. Therefore, these figures do not reflect the

regularity or intermittency of employment in relation to factory employees; but they may be used, in combination with the average number of employees, to measure roughly the working time spent in producing each year's output.

Sex and Age Distribution of Employees.

The following table shows the average number of males and females employed in factories, and the ratio to the male and female population respectively during each year since 1916:—

Year.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Average Number.	Average per 1,000 of Male Population.	Average Number.	Average per 1,000 of Female Population.	Average Number.	Average per 1,000 of Mean Population.
1915-16	87,724	90.1	28,677	31.1	116,401	61.4
1916-17	88,910	93.3	29,087	30.9	117,997	62.3
1917-18	90,025	93.6	30,529	31.8	120,554	62.7
1918-19	96,884	98.0	30,707	31.4	127,591	64.9
1919-20	109,836	105.5	34,618	34.7	144,454	70.9
1920-21	112,187	105.2	32,824	32.1	145,011	69.4
1921-22	112,362	103.6	36,514	35.0	148,876	69.9
1922-23	115,287	104.1	37,299	35.0	152,586	70.2
1923-24	121,845	108.1	37,829	34.9	159,674	72.2
1924-25	126,496	110.1	39,264	35.6	165,760	73.6

Manufacturing industries provide employment for about 7 per cent. of the total population; more than 11 per cent. of males find employment therein, but less than 4 per cent. of females. The employment of males diminished during the earlier years of the war period, but the proportion has increased since 1915-16 by 22 per cent. The employment of females has fluctuated, but shows a tendency to increase.

In New South Wales legislation has been introduced to limit the employment of women and children in factories, with a view to promoting the general good of the community.

The following table shows, for the years 1911, 1921, and 1925 the industries in which women and girls have been employed in greatest numbers, and the ratio to every 100 males employed in the same industries.

Only workers in the factory have been included, and managers, overseers, clerks, messengers, etc., have been excluded.

Industry	Average Number of Women and Girls employed in factory.			Number of Women and Girls per 100 Males employed in factory.		
	1911.	1920-21.	1924-25.	1911.	1920-21.	1924-25.
Food, etc.—						
Aerated Waters	128	81	55	14	14	10
Biscuits	690	822	1,065	121	102	75
Condiments, Coffee, and Spices...	209	545	523	122	125	170
Confectionery	442	1,190	1,392	70	113	131
Cornflour, Oatmeal	181	125	94	97	68	57
Jam and Fruit-canning	440	721	924	137	113	181
Meat-preserving	117	26	69	14	29	77
Pickles, Sauces, and Vinegar ...	170	230	191	195	163	148
Tobacco	746	1,262	1,270	128	131	127
Clothing, etc.—						
Dressmaking and Millinery ...	4,650	4,249	3,276	11,071	5,119	6,552
Hats and Caps	995	815	977	227	159	218
Waterproofs and Oilskins	97	106	91	539	505	1,011
Shirts, Ties, and Scarfs... ..	1,599	1,817	1,881	1,859	1,781	1,393
Slop Clothing	5,026	3,798	5,234	601	632	680
Tailoring	2,702	2,927	2,780	163	276	273
Furriers	24	129	257	114	182	168
Woollen and Tweed Mills	561	793	1,076	172	101	174
Knitting Factories		1,186	1,946		663	526
Dyeworks and Cleaning	22	105	148	92	76	88
Tents and Tarpaulins	230	255	97	230	274	141
Boots and Shoes	1,499	1,612	1,980	61	61	78
Chemicals, Drugs, and Medicines ...	325	540	525	89	79	83
Bedding, Flock, and Upholstery ...	96	122	198	28	34	40
Brooms and Brushware	9	60	73	5	25	28
Furnishing, Drapery, etc.	160	296	192	239	435	582
Inks, Polishes, etc. ... ..	...	170	228	...	93	179
Leatherware	56	279	444	16	57	76
Manufacturing Jewellery	47	51	51	11	12	14
Paper, Paper Bags, and Boxes ...	727	827	1,275	201	119	125
Printing and Book-binding	1,387	1,711	1,759	29	34	30
Rubber Goods	59	344	554	28	57	61
Soap and Candles	144	286	318	39	59	59
Tinsmithing	34	195	298	5	29	33
Other Industries	815	1,927	3,770	2	3	5
Total	24,387	29,602	35,011	36	32	34

The following table shows the average number of persons under and over the age of 16 years engaged in manufactories in various years since 1907, the first year for which statistics respecting the employment of children are available:—

Year.	Persons Employed in Manufactories, including Working Proprietors.								
	Aged 16 years and over.			Children under 16 years of age.			Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1907	63,547	18,634	82,181	2,406	1,880	4,286	65,953	20,514	86,467
1911	79,609	24,274	103,883	2,474	2,267	4,741	82,083	26,541	108,624
1915-16	85,146	26,072	111,218	2,578	2,605	5,183	87,724	28,677	116,401
1920-21	108,514	29,214	137,728	3,673	3,610	7,283	112,187	32,824	145,011
1921-22	108,451	32,364	140,815	3,911	4,150	8,061	112,362	36,514	148,876
1922-23	111,286	33,011	144,297	4,001	4,288	8,289	115,287	37,269	152,586
1923-24	117,717	33,791	151,508	4,128	4,038	8,166	121,845	37,829	159,674
1924-25	122,528	35,008	157,536	3,968	4,256	8,224	126,496	39,264	165,760

During the year 1924-25 there was an increase of 4,651 in the number of male employees and of 1,435 in the number of females. Of those aged 16 years and over there was an increase of 4,811 males and 1,217 females; and there were 58 more children in the factories than in the previous year, the number of boys having decreased by 160, while the number of girls increased by 218. Of the male employees in 1924-25, boys under 16 years numbered 3,968, or 3·1 per cent.; 20,557, or 16·3 per cent, were between 16 and 21 years; and 101,971, or 80·6 per cent., were adults. Of the females, the number and proportion in the respective groups were 4,256, or 10·8 per cent.; 14,692, or 37·4 per cent.; and 20,316, or 51·8 per cent.

CHILD LABOUR.

The law regulating primary education prescribes that children must attend school until the completion of their fourteenth year, exception being made only in case of those who, prior to reaching that age, have obtained exemption certificates, which may be granted when the children have attained a certain standard of education, or, in special cases, when attendance at an evening school is arranged. Since 1896 the Factories and Shops Act has prohibited the employment of children under the age of 14 in any factory, unless by special permission of the Minister for Labour and Industry, and such permission may not be given to a child under the age of 13 years. Permission is not granted, except in extreme circumstances, to any girl under the age of 14 years. Special permits were issued during 1925 to 229 children between the ages of 13 and 14 years, viz., to 159 boys and 62 girls in the Metropolitan district, to 6 boys and 1 girl in Newcastle, and to 1 boy at Broken Hill.

The employment in a factory of juveniles under the age of 16 years is conditional upon a medical certificate as to physical fitness being secured by the factory occupier. During the year 1925 certificates were issued to 8,152 juveniles as follows—Metropolitan district, 3,668 boys and 3,883 girls; Newcastle, 285 boys and 142 girls; Broken Hill, 9 Boys; and in the rest of the State, 118 boys and 47 girls.

Of 8,224 juveniles engaged in manufacturing, 7,057 were employed within the metropolitan area. A review of the statistics of juveniles shows that up to 1914 the boys outnumbered the girls, but in some of the more recent years the number of girls was the greater. About 94 per cent. of the girls were working in Sydney and suburbs, and 23 per cent. of the boys were employed in establishments located outside the metropolitan area.

The following statement shows the proportion of boys and girls amongst the factory employees in various years since 1907, also the proportion of children aged 13 to 15 years who are employed in factories:—

Year.	Children employed in Factories.			
	Boys per 1,000 Male Employees.	Girls per 1,000 Female Employees.	Children per 1,000 Employees.	Children per 1,000 of all Children aged 13 to 15.
1907	36·5	91·6	49·6	45·9
1911	25·2	76·4	37·4	49·9
1915-16	29·4	90·8	44·5	48·6
1920-21	32·7	110·0	50·1	62·8
1921-22	34·8	113·7	54·1	68·4
1922-23	34·7	115·0	54·4	68·2
1923-24	33·9	106·7	51·1	66·8
1924-25	31·4	108·4	49·6	65·9

In 1919-20, when the basic wage was increased by 17s. per week in the case of males, and by 9s. in the case of females, a marked increase occurred in the proportion of children in factories, particularly in the clothing industries. During the last two years it declined again. The proportion of boys is lower now than in the year 1907, but the proportion of girls amongst the female employees is 18 per cent. higher. On the average, 66 children per 1,000 were employed in factories in 1925 as compared with 46 per 1,000 in 1907.

OCCUPATIONAL STATUS.

Of all the persons engaged in manufacturing industries during the year 1924-25, approximately 84 per cent. were actually employed in the different processes of manufacture, or in the sorting and packing of finished articles.

The following statement shows the occupational status of the persons engaged in each class of industry in 1924-25:—

Class of Industry.	Working Proprietors, Managers, and Overseers.	Clerks, etc.	Engine-drivers, etc.	Workers in Factory, Mill, etc.	Carters, and Messengers, and others.	Persons regularly employed at their own homes.	Total.
Treating Raw Materials, etc. ...	390	149	151	2,960	162	...	3,812
Oils, Fats, etc. ...	93	209	41	1,318	60	5	1,720
Stone, Clay, Glass, etc. ...	658	366	194	8,104	169	...	9,491
Working in Wood ...	1,338	555	421	7,664	351	...	10,330
Metal Works, Machinery, etc. ...	2,777	1,617	581	37,209	328	2	41,914
Food, Drink, etc. ...	1,399	1,600	803	15,754	525	1	20,087
Clothing, Textile Fabrics, etc. ...	2,536	723	54	29,297	213	441	33,270
Books, Paper, Printing, etc. ...	1,111	1,170	30	10,397	195	1	12,904
Musical Instruments ...	36	73	6	761	5	...	881
Arms and Explosives ...	16	27	5	331	9	...	388
Vehicles, Saddlery, Harness, etc. ...	1,164	553	11	6,364	69	1	8,162
Ship and Boat Building, etc. ...	176	317	84	4,478	28	...	5,083
Furniture, Bedding, etc. ...	626	171	12	5,081	54	7	5,951
Drugs and Chemicals ...	249	348	43	2,319	39	...	2,998
Surgical and other Scientific Instruments.	31	16	...	225	3	...	275
Jewellery, Timepieces, and Plated-ware.	119	50	...	681	20	3	873
Heat, Light, and Power ...	312	200	819	3,041	17	...	4,389
Leatherware, N.E.I. ...	75	64	...	1,027	12	...	1,178
Minor Wares, N.E.I. ...	102	86	32	1,803	25	...	2,048
Total ...	12,608	8,301	3,292	138,814	2,284	461	165,760
Males ...	11,772	5,321	3,292	103,803	2,228	80	126,496
Females ...	836	2,980	...	35,011	56	381	39,264

The status of workers employed varied greatly in the nineteen standard classes of manufacturing industry. The average proportion of working proprietors, managers, and overseers was 7.6 per cent. for all classes, but it varied from 3.5 per cent. in ship and boat building to 14.3 per cent. in those making vehicles, saddlery, and harness.

Amongst the males the proportion of working proprietors, etc., was 9.3 per cent., and of workers in the factories 82.0 per cent. The corresponding proportions amongst the females were 2.1 per cent. and 89.2 per cent. respectively.

Only 5 per cent. of the employees were clerical workers, and of these more than one-half were females. The practice of giving out work at piece rates is very limited. Workers employed in their own homes represented

only 0·3 per cent. of the total number employed, and nearly all were women engaged by clothing manufacturers.

INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIES.

The foregoing information relating to the manufacturing industry as a whole or to groups of industries serves to show the general industrial development, but it does not furnish particulars relating to individual industries. It is desirable that detailed information should be available regarding all the important industries, but the output of many of them, *e.g.*, engineering works, is not readily classifiable, and as the output is perhaps the most interesting item, it has been deemed advisable to confine the remarks in the following pages to industries whose importance merits special mention, and whose output may be shown in detail with regard to both quantity and value.

TANNERIES.

Skins and hides are exported in large quantities, and in recent years the tanning industry has extended its operations. The bulk of the local hides are tanned in New South Wales, as well as a large number imported from other Australian States and from New Zealand. Besides maintaining an extensive export trade in leather, it provides practically all the raw material needed for local requirements and for an oversea trade in footwear and other leather goods. Two-thirds of the leather produced locally is sole leather, but the production of the finer sorts is receiving increasing attention. The exports of sole leather in 1925 were valued at £189,493, and of other leather £199,169. Fancy leathers are still imported in large quantities, thus 1,101,448 sq. feet, valued at £81,457, were imported into New South Wales in 1924-25, and practically the whole came from the United States of America.

Two-thirds of the number of tanneries in operation in the State are situated within the boundaries of the Metropolitan area.

The following table gives particulars of the industry for the year 1901 and at intervals thereafter:—

Items.	1901.	1911.	1920-21.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Number of Establishments ...	108	76	80	77	73
Average Number of Employees	1,059	1,039	1,242	1,317	1,205
Average Horse-power used ...	711	1,044	2,688	2,717	2,567
Value of Land and Buildings † £	115,752	105,990	265,166	292,498	292,324
Value of Plant and Machinery £	47,274	82,241	172,132	209,705	202,249
Total Amount of Salaries and Wages paid ...	£ 80,757	104,695	262,724	283,144	267,321
Value of Fuel and Power used £	4,893	7,160	17,855	22,930	19,706
Value of Materials used ...	£ 578,164	786,817	1,684,791	1,341,233	1,315,051
Value of Output ...	£ 735,231	982,023	2,103,525	1,908,462	1,780,906
Value of Production ...	£ 152,174	188,046	400,879	544,299	446,149
Materials Treated—					
Hides—					
Calf and Yearling ... No.	*	214,681	100,829	399,448	283,260
Other ... No.	*	317,025	692,335	551,465	600,935
Hide-pieces ... cwt.	*	2,537	2,000	...	...
Sheep Pelts ... No.	*	4,642,865	3,813,618	1,794,587	1,742,385
Other Skins ... No.	*	125,576	284,632	508,642	669,357
Bark ... tons	*	11,706	11,570	11,015	10,639
Articles Produced—					
Leather ... lb.	*	13,945,005	17,707,065	20,644,084	19,276,236
Basis ... lb.	*	4,324,139	2,730,162	1,946,195	1,559,111
Pelts, pickled ... No.	*	357,833	690,084	187,656	...
Other Skins, selling value £	*	17,151	255,535	145,527	159,341
Fleshings, etc. ... cwt.	*	*	64,467	46,258	58,709

* Not available.

† Includes rented premises.

WOOL-SCOURING, FELLMONGERING AND WOOL-COMBING.

In the wool-scouring and fellmongering industry there is room for great development, as only one-twelfth of the wool clip was scoured locally in 1924-25. The proportion is usually larger, but in the year mentioned operations were somewhat limited owing to the high prices of raw wool. The exports in 1924-25 of greasy wool were 209,334,275 lb., and of scoured wool 15,469,990 lb.

Items.	1901.	1911.	1920-21.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Number of Establishments ...	73	59	42	48	40
Average Number of Employees	1,459	1,603	1,461	1,249	1,081
Average Horse-power used ...	997	2,009	3,623	3,601	2,968
Value of Land and Buildings † £	125,836	169,418	276,320	300,610	271,117
Value of Plant and Machinery £	66,391	160,200	373,442	411,590	351,679
Total amount of Salaries and Wages paid £	77,429	126,215	230,731	238,223	189,136
Value of Fuel and Power used £	9,059	16,277	39,542	41,558	32,481
Value of Materials used ...	£ 25,244	2,151,713	2,991,868	3,742,710	3,552,121
Value of Output ...	£ 150,614	2,393,883	3,677,014	4,209,545	3,792,603
Value of Production ...	£ 116,311	225,893	645,604	425,277	208,001
Materials Treated—					
Greasy Wool ... lb.	*	34,023,054	24,960,202	26,620,589	29,090,370
Scoured Wool ... lb.	*	*	5,738,701	4,826,269	4,226,383
Skins ... No.	*	5,180,335	4,088,690	2,535,904	1,777,062
Articles Produced—					
Scoured Wool ... lb.	*	33,283,378	26,994,551	21,493,941	18,974,759
Wool-tops and Noils ... lb.	*	*	5,623,414	4,542,136	3,960,235
Pelts... ... No.	*	4,655,524	3,235,429	1,767,231	1,435,855

* Not available.

† Includes rented premises.

SOAP AND CANDLE FACTORIES.

Of the industries in which oils and fats are treated, soap and candle making is the most important. The industry has grown to such an extent that it supplies practically the whole of the local requirements of soap and candles, except fancy and medicated soaps, and even these are being supplied to an increasing extent. There is also a small export trade with the islands of the Pacific. The following table shows the chief particulars of the industry since 1901:—

Items.	1901.	1911.	1920-21.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Number of Establishments ...	44	37	26	30	29
Average Number of Employees	533	638	946	1,229	1,165
Average Horse-power used ...	503	785	964	1,239	1,250
Value of Land and Buildings † £	84,923	165,218	223,423	371,725	351,427
Value of Plant and Machinery £	89,147	150,453	287,714	411,576	389,029
Total amount of Salaries and Wages paid £	37,681	49,555	141,135	198,634	206,561
Value of Fuel and Power used £	5,932	12,205	40,160	30,556	37,841
Value of Materials used ...	£ 208,676	359,096	859,555	766,906	850,802
Value of Output ...	£ 322,036	597,544	1,177,511	1,338,632	1,483,824
Value of Production ...	£ 107,428	226,243	277,796	541,170	595,181
Materials Treated—					
Tallow ... cwt.	*	117,428	139,153	163,102	192,651
Alkali ... lb.	*	6,370,007 †	4,516,054	4,481,548	7,002,817
Wax ... lb.	*	£	2,481,854	2,463,156	2,331,598
Resin ... cwt.	*	180,697	22,327	30,882	33,474
Copra Oil ... cwt.	*		15,560	30,718	31,755
Sand ... cwt.	*		3,595	22,084	17,788
Articles Produced—					
Soap ... cwt.	233,600	277,449	280,620	353,192	417,008
Soap Extract, Powders, &c. lb.	*	965,807	4,051,251	4,788,616	5,926,653
Candles (including wax) lb.	3,895,468	5,388,848	4,191,534	3,835,542	3,609,271
Glycerine ... lb.	631,680	*	1,882,423	1,814,714	2,328,310
Soda Crystals ... lb.	*	*	681,024	2,113,158	2,593,615
Oleins ... £	*	*	26,714	12,409	10,083
Stearine ... £	*	*	25,500	31,710	15,150

* Not available.

† Includes rented premises

‡ All factories.

BRICK AND TILE WORKS.

Owing to the abundance of clay, brickworks have been established in all parts of the State. In the metropolitan brickworks 1,602 persons are employed, and the output of the kilns is much greater and more varied than in the country, where the employees number 1,395. In a number of cases the industry is associated with tile-making, so the figures for the two industries have been combined. The following figures present information concerning the industry in 1901 and later years:—

Items.	1901.	1911.	1920-21.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Number of Establishments ...	182	222	159	171	172
Average Number of Employees	1,823	3,017	3,716	3,771	3,792
Average Horse-power used ...	1,228	4,865	9,181	10,657	10,655
Value of Land & Buildings† £	200,170	391,875	865,182	873,600	982,451
Value of Plant & Mach'ry £	108,589	449,100	1,114,500	1,380,426	1,386,224
Total Amount of Salaries and Wages paid £	149,342	322,781	777,536	816,215	815,965
Value of Fuel and Power used £	46,355	101,267	276,402	315,825	318,867
Value of Materials used £	32,199	70,881	189,150	306,423	282,472
Value of Output £	364,251	726,620	1,640,743	1,976,933	1,882,963
Value of Production £	285,697	554,472	1,175,191	1,354,685	1,281,624
Articles Produced—					
Bricks No.	157,999,000	327,864,000	360,092,005	402,594,713	383,934,326
Tiles £	*	24,857	286,862	328,920	296,707
Pipes £	*	52,241	6,754	8,960	14,279
Pottery £	*	51,763	...	...	...
Fire Bricks, etc. £	*	*	72,225	140,768	174,955

* Not available.

† Includes rented premises.

In earlier years pottery making was associated with brick making, but now it is conducted in most cases as a separate industry. The manufacture of roofing tiles developed to such an extent during the war that practically all the tiles used in the State are of local production. An inquiry was conducted by the New South Wales Board of Trade in 1924 regarding an alleged monopoly and restriction of output in this industry. Details were published in the chapter entitled Employment and Production of the 1924 issue of this Year Book.

State Brickworks, Homebush.

In the latter part of 1911 the Government established State Brickworks at Homebush, near Sydney. The business results of the undertaking are highly satisfactory. At 30th June, 1925, the accumulated trading profit amounted to £195,039, and it was estimated that the Government had saved

a sum of £147,000 by purchasing bricks from the works. The requirements of the different Government Departments are supplied and bricks are sold to the public at prices below those ruling in private brickyards.

The following table gives particulars of the operations of the State Brickworks at Homebush Bay for each of the last five years:—

Particulars.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Bricks manufactured	88,586,054	40,912,716	42,397,987	44,066,718	47,385,915
Used for Public Works	19,306,494	17,537,496	14,834,200	9,882,000	14,684,279
Sold to Private Purchasers	19,230,679	22,739,963	27,454,421	34,826,012	30,506,928
Used at Works	20,880	701,519	69,941	53,769	1,980,388
Stocks at 30th June	402,179	285,917	275,842	478,479	600,799
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cost of Manufacture per 1,000	2 5 7	2 7 2	2 6 5	2 6 8	2 6 3
Sale price per 1,000—					
Seconds	2 12 6	2 12 6	2 10 6	2 10 6	2 10 6
Commons	2 15 0	2 15 0	2 13 0	2 13 0	2 13 0
Face	4 8 0	4 8 0	4 6 0	*4 6 0	4 10 0

* From 1st November, 1923, £4 10s.

The sale prices as stated in the table were for bricks loaded into trucks at the yard, Homebush Bay.

SAWMILLS.

Sawmilling is an important industry in many parts of the State, the majority of the mills being situated in the forest areas. Besides general sawmilling, moulding and planing are undertaken at some mills, also the cutting of wood-paving blocks. In the more populous centres sawmills are conducted in connection with yards where imported timbers are treated and joinery work is done.

Details concerning the sawmilling industry at intervals since 1901 are as follow:—

Items.	1901.	1911.	1920-21.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Number of Establishments...	345	452	496	549	541
Average Number of Em- ployees	4,088	5,205	5,645	5,930	5,681
Average Horse-power used...	5,189	10,280	14,597	16,208	16,639
Value of Land and Buildings*	£ 317,193	465,548	811,830	916,898	934,860
Value of Plant and Machinery	£ 273,883	526,909	908,192	1,087,374	1,101,980
Total Amount of Salaries and Wages Paid... .. .	£ 304,826	456,520	926,276	1,058,013	1,048,315
Value of Fuel and Power used	£ 17,601	6,503	24,405	34,054	39,541
Value of Materials used	£ 824,065	1,309,549	2,732,656	2,970,661	3,153,954
Value of Output	£ 1,336,153	2,057,807	4,103,924	4,815,030	4,832,459
Value of Production.	£ 494,487	741,755	1,346,863	1,810,315	1,638,964
Materials Treated—					
Logs—					
Hardwood sup. ft.	} 213,228,000	147,706,000	178,133,002	181,033,110	175,586,850
Softwood		65,301,000	67,823,577	79,813,980	81,030,291
Articles Produced—					
Sawn Timber—					
Hardwood sup. ft.	} 180,028,000	100,079,000	117,781,837	120,089,788	114,910,951
Softwood		51,392,000	45,623,945	55,294,335	55,463,950

* Includes rented premises.

METAL WORKS, MACHINERY, ETC.

This group is the most important of the manufacturing industries in the State, because it provides employment for nearly one-third of the adult males engaged in factories and workshops.

The output of these works constitutes a considerable proportion of the total value of local manufactures, though they supply only a portion of the local requirements of manufactured metals and machinery. Details of the products are not available, but in view of their importance the following particulars relating to the operations in 1924-25 are shown:—

Items.	Engineering Works.	Ironworks and Foundries.	Railway and Tramway Workshops.	Metal Extraction and Ore Reduction.	Other.	Total.
Number of Establishments ...	307	146	41	20	454	968
Average Number of Employees ...	6,830	7,010	11,278	3,058	13,738	41,914
Average Horse-power used ...	7,897	23,435	7,800	25,185	13,599	77,916
Value of Land and Buildings* £	1,358,185	1,008,015	1,988,286	595,839	2,562,076	7,512,401
Value of Plant and Machinery £	1,282,085	2,648,185	2,201,867	2,903,221	2,300,700	11,336,058
Total amount of Salaries and Wages paid £	1,469,826	1,689,850	2,710,149	928,845	2,783,503	9,582,173
Value of Fuel and Power used £	63,186	338,931	64,269	1,558,418	206,440	2,231,244
Value of Materials used ...	£ 1,857,188	7,968,711	1,932,698	7,242,336	6,051,394	25,052,327
Value of Output £	3,964,671	10,595,439	5,239,018	12,098,116	10,597,160	42,494,404
Value of Production £	2,044,297	2,287,797	3,242,051	3,297,362	4,339,326	15,210,833

* Includes rented premises.

The expansion of these industries has been stimulated in recent years by reason of large projects undertaken in the State, e.g., the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the City Railway, and the electrification of the suburban lines and the extension of the water conservation works.

Iron and Steel Works.

In New South Wales there are large supplies of iron ore and of coal, both of excellent quality, and in close proximity to each other and to the seaboard. An account of the situation and extent of the iron ore deposits was given in the 1917 issue of the Year Book, at page 174, and a short history of the development of the iron and steel industry in the 1921 issue, at page 345.

There are only two establishments which produce iron and steel, namely, the Eskbank (Hoskins) Iron Works, at Lithgow, and the Broken Hill Proprietary Company's Works at Newcastle. At Eskbank local iron ores are used, but the ore treated at Newcastle is imported from South Australia.

The following table shows the production of pig-iron in New South Wales at intervals since 1907:—

Year.	From New South Wales Ores.	From Other Australian Ores.	Total.	Year.	From New South Wales Ores.	From Other Australian Ores.	Total.
1907	Tons. 18,631	Tons. ...	Tons. 18,631	1921-22	Tons. 66,141	Tons. 235,166	Tons. 301,307
1911	36,354	...	36,354	1922-23	75,781	62,333	138,114
1916	52,556	74,035	126,591	1923-24	60,841	306,258	367,099
1920-21	99,790	266,759	366,549	1924-25	101,293	358,861	460,154

The quantity of iron ore used in 1924-25 for the production of pig-iron was 735,259 tons, of which 178,946 tons were mined in New South Wales.

The production of steel in 1921-22 amounted to 181,007 tons. In the following year the Newcastle works were closed for nearly nine months and the output declined to 70,481 tons. The quantities produced in the last two years were 279,317 tons and 320,693 tons respectively.

Metal Extraction and Ore Reduction.

Smelting, as a distinct industry, is carried on in several centres in New South Wales, and there are 20 establishments for the treatment of ores, one of the most important being at Port Kembla in the South Coast.

The following statement shows the operations of New South Wales smelting companies in connection with both local and imported ores during 1924-25:—

Metal.	Quantities of Metals extracted from Ores, Concentrates, etc., the produce of—								
	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	N. Territory.	New Guinea.	New Zealand.
Silver ... oz.	99,698	42,154	21,193	188	22,169	183,114	12	4,075	8,646
Copper ... tons.	1,439	1	5,501	...	834	7,888	1	513	1
Tin ... „	935	41	792	...	66	180	68	...	...
Iron—pig „	101,293	...	...	358,861	...	...	...	...	...

BUTTER FACTORIES.

Butter-making is one of the chief industries connected with the preparation of articles of food. It gives employment to over 1,100 persons, and has an annual output valued at over £7,000,000. Butter is an important item of the export trade, and 96 per cent. of local production is made in factories.

Details concerning butter factories and their operations in various years since 1901 are as follows:—

Items.	1901.	1911.	1920-21.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Number of Establishments§	130	150	126	126	127
Average Number of Employees ...	909	968	1,022	1,023	1,115
Average Horse-power used	1,765	2,161	3,843	4,591	4,969
Value of Land and Buildings † ... £	247,394	186,893	308,189	370,225	420,061
Value of Plant and Machinery ... £	172,767	230,485	395,668	519,965	564,823
Total Amount of Salaries and Wages paid £	74,176	110,617	225,392	242,552	288,370
Value of Fuel and Power used ... £	13,924	23,599	61,655	64,010	73,755
Value of Materials used £	1,260,920	3,205,863	8,017,379	4,970,444	6,420,270
Value of Output ... £	1,535,398	3,475,890	8,974,967	5,562,381	7,130,477
Value of Production £	260,554	246,428	895,933	527,927	636,452
Materials Treated—					
Milk ... gals.	*	1,019,151†	145,084†	...	...
Cream ... lb.	*	176,402,048†	174,694,907†	145,753,583	241,667,290
Articles Produced—					
Butter ... lb.	34,282,214	78,421,512†	79,864,745†	68,030,162	112,504,674

* Not available.

† Includes rented premises.

‡ Excludes small quantities in farm factories worked by farm employees.

§ Includes 4 creameries in 1923-24 and 1924-25.

The 127 butter factories mentioned in the above table include four creameries and four factories which manufactured cheese as well as butter. There were also 80 other establishments engaged in the treatment of dairy produce, viz., 52 cheese factories, 25 bacon and ham factories, and 3 factories manufacturing condensed milk. Particulars of the operations of these factories for the year 1924-5 were:—

Number of employees	...	...	...	...	688
Value of land and buildings	...	...	...	...	£194,824
Value of plant and machinery	...	...	...	...	£204,344
Salaries and wages paid	...	...	...	...	£165,091
Value of output	...	...	...	...	£1,558,681
Value of production	...	...	...	...	£303,637

In addition there was one factory in which cheese was treated after manufacture.

Bacon, hams, butter, and cheese are made on farms as well as in factories, therefore the chapter in this Year Book dealing with the Dairying Industry should be consulted for complete information regarding the production of these commodities.

MEAT-PRESERVING AND REFRIGERATING.

In 1919-20 there were nine establishments, with 1,109 persons employed in connection with meat-preserving, but owing to depression in the meat trade only three of these establishments, employing 193 persons, were in operation in 1924-25.

The following table shows the production of establishments treating meat by canning and chilling during the last five years:—

Products.		1920-21.	1921-22.	1923-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Preserving Works—						
Tinned Meat	... lb.	1,751,055	6,748,331	4,459,504	2,712,529	5,143,645
Other Products	... £	34,940	131,979	53,526	35,250	64,160
Refrigerating Works—						
Carcases Frozen for Export*—						
Cattle	... No.	27,502	38,657	20,749	5,138	31,825
Sheep	... No.	177,446	171,154	968,629	298,175	269,888
Lambs	... No.	241,186	526,744	403,843	146,996	228,056
Pigs	... No.	1,941	476	1,685	766	5,600
Carcases Chilled—						
Cattle	... No.	6,645	7,973	15,434	8,939	21,058
Sheep	... No.	70,456	22,634	16,480	36,917	30,503
Lambs	... No.	2,109	6,891	2,766	3,306	3,027
Pigs	... No.	1,012	2,252	2,143	6,465	4,076

*Exclusive of meat for export as ship's stores.

The output of tinned meat was 31,576,000 lb. in 1913, and it dropped to 5,000,000 lb. in 1915-16. A period of activity was experienced during the three years ended 30th June, 1920, when average annual output exceeded 20,000,000 lb. Since that year prices of stock have been high and the demand for preserved meat has slackened.

The operations of the refrigerating works are affected by a number of factors, most important being the seasons and the condition of world markets. In adverse seasons, or after a succession of good seasons, the pastoralists sell all the stock which is in marketable condition, but on the

breaking of a drought stock are retained for fattening or breeding. An unusually severe drought broke in June, 1920, and for a time stock were withheld. A few months later the oversea meat markets became glutted, and prices fell below the cost of production, consequently operations have since been much restricted.

In 1922 a favourable oversea market for mutton and lamb and a local scarcity of winter fodder led to a revival in that section of the trade. Subsequently supplies of live stock for freezing dwindled, owing to good seasons and the high prices obtainable for wool. The frozen beef trade showed a marked improvement during 1924-25.

The capacity of the refrigerating and chilling works is as follow:—Refrigerating space, 3,371,000 cub. ft.; storage capacity, 3,529,500 cub. ft.; chilling space, 537,000 cub. ft.; the storage capacity is sufficient for 1,283,000 carcasses of mutton or 160,000 carcasses of beef. In these establishments the temperature usually ranges between 10° and 30° Fahr.

BISCUIT FACTORIES.

There are in the State twelve establishments engaged in the manufacture of biscuits, of which ten are within the Metropolitan area. The output of biscuits reached nearly 44,000,000 lb., with a value of £1,378,000. A growing export trade in biscuits is maintained with the islands of the Pacific; the total exports in 1924-25 amounted to 2,510,000 lb. Details for 1901 and other years, including 1924-25, are given below:—

Items.	1901.	1911.	1920-21.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Number of Establishments ...	8	6	10	12	12
Average Number of Employees	845	1,360	1,800	2,078	2,976
Average Horse-power used ...	131	556	1,115	1,240	7
Value of Land and Buildings† £	42,253	94,050	164,031	229,463	239,385
Value of Plant and Machinery £	29,066	86,192	135,285	135,245	127,256
Total Amount of Salaries and Wages paid £	35,165	70,055	221,791	259,280	274,873
Value of Fuel and Power used £	1,862	7,104	23,614	26,727	36,743
Value of Materials used... .. £	126,891	332,341	936,747	785,094	785,999
Value of Output £	213,645	529,108	1,358,266	1,438,997	1,467,956
Value of Production £	84,892	189,663	397,905	627,176	645,214
Materials Treated—					
Flour... .. . tons	*	8,755	12,210	12,784	13,201
Sugar tons	*	*	3,024	3,203	3,189
Articles Produced—					
Biscuits lb.	*	22,029,000	38,308,360	43,351,606	43,564,093
Cakes—Value only £	*	*	21,916	48,387	47,690

* Not available.

† Includes rented premises.

FLOUR-MILLS.

The amount of mill-power for grinding and dressing grain is ample for treating the flour consumed in the State, and in favourable seasons there is a considerable export trade.

Details concerning flour-milling at intervals since 1901 are as follow:—

Items.	1901.	1911.	1920-21.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Number of Establishments ..	89	73	60	60	58
Average Number of Employees	889	967	1,023	1,211	1,181
Average Horse-power used ...	3,149	4,670	6,384	6,563	6,868
Value of Land and Buildings† £	334,037	357,356	561,688	615,158	676,378
Value of Plant and Machinery £	251,335	340,316	572,456	788,224	836,493
Total Amount of Salaries and Wages paid £	77,321	123,491	219,964	294,143	285,510
Value of Fuel and Power used £	18,977	24,648	37,746	69,472	63,261
Value of Materials used... £	1,215,420	2,211,263	4,951,650	4,977,707	5,292,817
Value of Output £	1,514,512	2,538,331	5,590,405	5,786,939	6,260,197
Value of Production £	280,115	302,420	601,009	739,760	904,119
Materials Treated—					
Wheat bus.	9,369,534	12,616,111	11,595,807	19,684,075	18,844,711
Articles Produced—					
Flour tons	191,504	253,556	244,818	409,645	395,409
Bran "	*	65,182	50,104	84,738	80,062
Pollard "	*	45,276	48,338	87,569	85,167
Sharps and Screenings .. "	*	2,308	2,103	2,323	2,533
Wheat Meal, etc. ... cwt.	*	21,840	21,863	56,109	46,813

* Not available.

† Includes rented premises.

SUGAR-MILLS.

The manufacture of sugar has been an important industry for half a century, and so far back as 1878 there were 50 small mills in the State. There are now only 3 mills, but they are large. In 1924-25 their output was above normal owing to increased production of sugar-cane. The cultivation of sugar-cane is confined practically to the lower valleys of the Richmond, the Tweed, the Brunswick, and the Clarence Rivers, and the area has diminished in places where other crops can be grown more profitably. In the last few years the presence of "bunchy-top" in banana plantations has caused a reversion to sugar-planting in the areas affected.

The raw sugar manufactured in 1924-25 was valued at £748,718, and the molasses at £5,473.

Items.	1901.	1911.	1920-21.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Number of Establishments ...	4	4	3	3	3
Average Number of Employees	529	469	437	445	445
Average Horse-power used ...	2,578	3,000	1,279	1,926	2,028
Value of Land and Buildings £	12,177	52,480	106,070	111,869	119,505
Value of Plant and Machinery £	509,242	467,976	425,283	447,479	478,020
Total Amount of Salaries and Wages paid £	31,764	38,004	63,003	71,141	99,737
Value of Fuel and Power used £	4,854	8,102	8,636	11,122	16,611
Value of Materials used .. £	95,394	107,600	303,651	298,565	476,062
Value of Output £	197,137	206,277	476,405	454,420	754,191
Value of Production £	96,889	90,575	164,118	144,733	261,518
Materials Treated—					
Cane crushed tons	131,083	147,799	131,313	132,084	228,978
Articles produced—					
Raw Sugar cwt.	296,200	345,978	302,480	336,580	533,640
Molasses gals.	1,072,400	796,440	649,800	752,650	1,313,400

Sugar Refinery.

There is but one sugar refinery in the State, and it treats both local and imported raw products. During the year 1924-25 it handled 2,916,000 cwt. of raw sugar, which gave an output of 2,828,800 cwt. of the refined article, valued at £5,077,346.

The three mills, which were situated respectively at Harwood Island, on the Clarence River, at Broadwater, on the Richmond, and at Condong, on the Tweed, together with the refinery at Pymont, Sydney, during the year 1924-25 furnished employment to 1,080 persons.

BREWERIES.

In 1924-25 there were in the State 13 establishments classed as breweries, of which the three largest were within the Metropolitan boundaries. The number has decreased since 1911, when there were 37, but the output has increased considerably.

Items.	1901.	1911.	1920-21.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Number of Establishments ...	51	37	17	15	13
Average Number of Employees	1,016	912	1,122	1,225	1,235
Average Horse-power used ...	1,105	1,035	3,289	3,479	3,502
Value of Land and Buildings* £	584,754	305,287	714,155	760,295	801,409
Value of Plant and Machinery £	190,710	281,316	924,181	1,009,851	1,121,200
Total Amount of Salaries and Wages paid £	119,099	120,340	286,685	357,683	352,157
Value of Fuel and Power used £	13,849	17,794	66,848	77,911	75,034
Value of Materials used... .. £	282,128	494,219	1,316,561	1,147,228	1,149,884
Value of Output... .. £	1,022,247	1,140,151	2,515,224	2,623,714	2,655,195
Value of Production £	726,270	628,138	1,131,815	1,398,575	1,430,277
Materials Treated—					
Malt bshls.	532,930	667,457	832,850	835,052	850,326
Hops lb.	665,345	790,866	831,656	804,377	813,957
Sugar tons	3,927	4,421	5,477	4,993	5,373
Articles produced—					
Ale, Beer, Stout gals.	13,973,751	19,804,540	25,470,404	24,401,301	24,519,876

* Includes rented premises.

TOBACCO FACTORIES.

Ten factories under this classification were in operation during the year 1924-25, all situated within the Metropolitan area.

Only a small proportion of the tobacco manufactured was grown in the State. In 1924-25 tobacco was grown on 719 acres, and the year's crop was 4,567 cwt., valued at £42,420.

The following table shows details of the operations of tobacco factories in New South Wales at intervals since 1901:—

Items.	1901.	1911.	1920-21.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Number of Establishments ...	20	26	16	10	10
Average Number of Employees	1,061	1,462	2,394	2,353	2,454
Average Horse-power used ...	151	630	657	903	931
Value of Land and Buildings* £	155,452	182,569	291,604	344,544	369,827
Value of Plant and Machinery £	69,124	92,138	226,043	311,747	316,894
Total Amount of Salaries and Wages paid £	55,149	131,323	356,781	397,631	423,051
Value of Fuel and Power used	1,288	1,067	11,697	11,404	19,740
Value of Materials used £	389,148	776,302	3,403,517	3,171,230	3,265,409
Value of Output ... £	561,991	1,250,748	4,240,746	4,462,274	4,662,652
Value of Production ... £	171,555	473,379	825,532	1,279,640	1,377,503
Materials Treated—					
Australian Leaf ... lb.	883,615	745,405	876,007	650,461	639,550
Imported Leaf ... „	2,114,456	4,617,756	9,546,861	10,861,310	11,646,111
Articles produced—					
Tobacco lb.	2,524,231	3,996,471	6,622,540	8,310,463	8,980,013
Cigars „	67,128	87,818	146,433	101,360	123,348
Cigarettes „	457,276	1,899,462	5,072,903	4,520,651	4,620,909

* Includes rented premises.

WOOLLEN AND TWEED MILLS.

Although New South Wales is one of the greatest wool-producing countries in the world only a very small proportion of the woollen goods required in the State is manufactured locally, and the factory employees engaged in the manufacture of woollen materials numbered only 1,785 in 1924-25. Woollen mills were amongst the earliest established in the State, but the industry has progressed very slowly.

The output of local tweed increased by 150 per cent. between 1911 and 1921, and the production of other articles increased. There has since been a serious decline, due to adverse trade conditions.

Details of employment, output, and other items, at intervals since 1901, are shown in the following table:—

Items.	1901.	1911.	1920-21.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Number of Establishments ...	4	5	9	11	12
Average Number of Employees	234	738	1,650	1,617	1,785
Average Horse-power used ...	255	937	2,795	2,880	3,180
Value of Land and Buildings† £	29,780	96,821	224,474	328,540	333,129
Value of Plant and Machinery £	26,650	122,927	384,662	599,403	645,941
Total amount of Salaries and Wages paid ...	£ 12,459	66,536	235,668	218,476	258,194
Value of Fuel and Power used	£ 1,727	4,632	23,517	23,800	28,252
Value of Materials used	£ 30,272	143,915	745,848	522,661	654,122
Value of Output ...	£ 57,039	271,465	1,437,647	934,281	1,083,977
Value of Production ...	£ 25,040	122,918	663,282	387,820	401,603
Materials Treated—					
Scoured Wool ... lb.	685,240	1,225,470	3,603,448	2,447,603	2,172,978
Cotton	†	†	332,501	156,720	191,175
Articles produced—					
Tweed and Cloth ... yds.	525,020	1,054,845	2,494,417	1,734,766	1,884,218
Flannel and Blankets	£ *	95,313	198,504	210,441	239,678
Rugs and Shawls ...	£ *		23,000	14,277	4,260
Noils	£ †	†	14,588	8,240	14,625
Tops	£ †	†	53,084	...	...
Yarn	£ †	†	278,072	74,382	41,500

* 3,428 yards flannel, 5,000 pairs blankets, 900 rugs. † Not available.
‡ Includes rented premises.

BOOT AND SHOE FACTORIES.

Practically the whole of the State's requirements in boots and shoes is supplied from local factories, and small quantities are exported, principally to New Guinea, Papua, and Fiji.

Particulars of the operation of these factories since 1901 are shown in the following table:—

Items.	1901.	1911.	1920-21.‡	1923-24.‡	1924-25.‡
Number of Establishments ..	100	106	189	489	603
Average Number of Employees	3,979	4,411	4,845	5,936	6,164
Average Horse-power used ...	300	855	1,520	2,126	2,219
Value of Land and Buildings† £	166,413	222,983	499,911	1,053,072	1,249,007
Value of Plant and Machinery £	85,571	156,643	202,881	337,066	345,134
Total Amount of Salaries and Wages paid ...	£ 216,869	367,605	687,080	919,046	920,816
Value of Fuel and Power used	£ 2,978	5,298	11,696	16,083	17,056
Value of Materials used..	£ 398,309	709,818	1,557,225	1,355,528	1,321,693
Value of Output... ..	£ 692,253	1,221,748	2,701,972	2,794,518	2,787,375
Value of Production ...	£ 290,966	506,632	1,133,051	1,422,907	1,448,626
Materials Treated—					
Sole Leather lb.	*	5,189,000	5,027,822	6,186,742	5,689,790
Upper sq. ft.	*	8,010,000	7,286,382	8,484,001	8,596,438
Articles produced—					
Boots and Shoes ... pairs	2,821,724	3,730,760	3,232,550	3,733,451	3,719,110
Slippers, &c.	513,584	439,428	609,401	509,731	635,640
Uppers, N.E.I.... ..	...	71,138	41,925	30,491	38,779

* Not available.

† Includes rented premises.

‡ Includes boot-repairing establishments.

The figures for the year 1924-25 include particulars of 490 boot repairing establishments, in which 1,091 persons were employed; their wages amounted

to £112,109. Materials to the value of £129,925 were used, including 754,270 lb. of sole leather, and 18,258 square feet of uppers; the output was valued at £443,942.

The number of boot and shoe factories was 113, of which 101 were situated within the Metropolitan area and 12 in the remainder of the State.

HAT AND CAP FACTORIES.

There has been considerable expansion in the industry organised for the manufacture of hats and caps, and Australian products have gained an important place in local markets as well as in the markets of New Zealand. Until 1898 fewer than 100 persons were employed in the industry, but in 1924-25 there were 1,588, of whom 65 per cent. were females.

There were 27 establishments listed under this classification in 1924-25, and all were situated in the Metropolitan area. Particulars of the operations since 1901 are as follows:—

Items.	1901.	1911.	1920-21.	1923-24.	1924 25,
Number of Establishments ...	10	32	28	26	27
Average Number of Employees	330	1,566	1,456	1,454	1,588
Average Horse-power used ...	21	433	764	872	673
Value of Land and Buildings* £	14,076	108,936	174,315	214,774	263,773
Value of Plant and Machinery £	7,034	60,807	88,817	151,412	162,907
Total Amount of Salaries and Wages paid £	15,055	96,498	185,394	198,022	230,094
Value of Fuel and Power used £	314	4,376	7,574	8,822	9,669
Value of Materials used ...	28,662	127,494	393,372	302,587	398,211
Value of Output... .. £	54,698	293,591	747,545	657,595	806,884
Value of Production £	25,722	161,721	346,599	346,186	399,004
Hats & Caps Manufactured No.	563,976	2,692,778	2,284,572	2,219,004	2,397,408

* Includes rented premises.

ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER WORKS.

The industries connected with the production and supply of electric light and power are making remarkable progress, and the establishments include a number of large municipal undertakings. The development since 1901 is shown by the details given in the next table:—

Items.	1901	1911.	1920-21.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Number of Establishments ...	51	104	117	121	125
Average Number of Employees	245	929	1,353	1,668	1,802
Average Horse-power used ...	3,494	54,734	111,591	151,552	182,316
Value of Land and Buildings† £	49,132	448,972	1,381,092	1,975,005	2,237,949
Value of Plant and Machinery £	192,842	1,257,173	2,531,358	4,475,531	5,280,887
Total amount of Salaries and Wages paid £	28,862	134,884	327,157	459,351	488,125
Value of Fuel and Power used £	17,166	183,248	590,373	1,084,666	1,189,551
Value of Materials used ...	21,123	69,484	54,995	116,291	85,192
Value of Output £	87,241	896,607	1,697,763	3,128,963	3,573,374
Value of Production £	48,952	643,875	1,052,395	1,928,006	2,298,631
Coal used tons	*	259,239	510,088	699,472	747,310
Articles produced—					
Electric Light units	*	20,727,000	53,691,324	100,860,848	} 610,657,967
Power units	*	114,610,000	288,844,906	428,890,913	

* Not available.

† Includes rented premises.

A notable feature of the operations of recent years is the increasing efficiency of the plant, as indicated by the increase as compared with the year 1911 in the number of units produced per horse-power of the engines used.

GAS AND KEROSENE WORKS.

Despite the substantial progress that has been made in the installation of electric lighting plants, the use of gas for purposes of illumination, power, and cooking is extending also, as will be seen in the following table:—

Items.	1901.	1911.	1920-21.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Number of Establishments ...	38	47	46	48	47
Average Number of Employees	650	1,053	1,642	1,549	1,466
Average Horse-power used ...	711	1,394	3,125	3,986	4,009
Value of Land and Buildings † £	459,060	564,387	1,066,074	818,373	786,618
Value of Plant and Machinery £	430,533	888,711	1,892,835	2,292,612	2,264,574
Total amount of Salaries and Wages paid ...	£ 80,654	154,426	437,318	349,522	339,064
Value of Fuel and Power used £	18,000	57,372	112,995	172,757	176,764
Value of Materials used ...	£ 123,440	277,861	829,906	902,712	895,995
Value of Output... ..	£ 583,815	910,972	2,264,644	2,346,536	2,478,163
Value of Production	£ 442,375	575,739	1,321,743	1,271,067	1,405,404
Materials treated—					
Coal tons	*	323,910	564,122	593,844	611,477
Shale... .. tons	*	55,621	27,298	774	49
Oil gals.	*	*	3,700,462	1,944,744	1,889,908
Articles produced—					
Gas ... 1,000 cub. feet	2,138,631	4,275,859	8,131,712	9,395,760	9,786,898
Coke tons	*	176,728	346,330	385,135	403,618
Tar gals.	*	3,650,000	9,861,830	9,744,724	11,504,439
Ammoniacal Liquor gals.	*	3,365,000	4,216,929	3,374,487	3,430,325
Sulphate of Ammonia tons	*	*	1,061	5,088	5,530

* Not available.

† Includes rented premises.

As in the case of electric light and power works, the greater efficiency of gas-making plant and improved methods of treatment have resulted in an increase in production. In 1911 the average production of gas per ton of coal used was 13,200 feet, but it was 15,100 feet in 1921-22, and 16,000 feet in 1924-25.

In addition to the coke-making which is incidental to the production of gas, large quantities of coke are made on the South Coast coalfields, where a large plant is installed. The total quantity of coke produced by all plants in 1924-25 was 1,063,690 tons.

MANUFACTORIES AND WORKS IN DIVISIONS OF THE STATE.

It has already been shown on page 433 that 60 per cent. of manufacturing establishments are situated in the Sydney metropolitan area; of the remainder, 8 per cent. are in the Hunter and Manning District, which includes Newcastle.

The extent of the operations in each district is indicated in the following table:—

Division.	No. of Establishments.	Average Number of Persons employed.	Value of Lands and Buildings and Fixtures.	Rent paid.	Value of Plant and Machinery.		Salaries and Wages paid.	Materials used.	Fuel and power consumed.	Value of Goods Manufactured or Work done.
					£	£000				
Metropolis	4,731	121,922	19,880	781,377	25,606	22,478	58,089	2,389	102,331	
Balance of Cumberland ...	272	6,057	1,134	11,405	1,738	1,210	2,819	149	4,975	
North Coast	383	3,603	583	13,091	1,344	705	4,985	98	6,416	
Hunter and Manning ...	665	15,490	2,774	36,980	7,457	3,550	14,844	1,431	21,622	
South Coast	268	3,066	640	14,451	1,361	660	3,686	124	5,449	
North Tableland	152	891	113	7,197	223	133	407	19	682	
Central Tableland	298	4,480	845	14,424	2,818	1,008	2,698	609	5,064	
Southern Tableland ...	125	1,574	217	5,992	357	283	397	54	835	
North-western Slopes ...	137	804	114	6,553	207	139	496	19	757	
Central-western Slopes ...	154	1,124	178	6,767	282	162	680	19	1,026	
South-western Slopes ...	281	2,091	311	13,152	615	374	1,271	60	2,026	
Northern Plains	70	470	42	3,152	96	79	186	7	318	
Central Plains	47	274	8	1,959	50	35	169	4	252	
Riverina	205	1,984	363	6,099	344	237	907	46	1,413	
Western Division	118	1,930	274	3,736	1,058	468	3,321	581	6,393	
	7,906	165,760	27,456	926,335	43,554	31,521	94,955	5,609	159,609	

In the metropolitan district, clothing factories and metal machinery workshops give employment to a much greater number of workers than any other group, next in order being food and drink factories. In the Hunter and Manning division, establishments in the Newcastle district, in which metals are treated and machinery manufactured, constitute the most important group. Further north where there are many large butter and bacon factories, food and drink factories are most prominent. In the South Coast division, the metal and other works in the vicinity of the Illawarra coalfields give employment to a large number of employees. In all the coastal areas there are many sawmills and other wood-working establishments.

Beyond the coastal belt there are few large groups of establishments. The Central Tableland is the most important division, as it contains the Lithgow ironworks and the principal cement works. The majority of factories in the Western Division are situated in the Broken Hill district, being subsidiary to the mining of the silver-lead deposits.

The number of factories of each class and the number of persons employed in the various districts in 1924-25 were as follows:—

Division.	Raw Material.	Stone, Clay, etc.	Wood.	Metals and Machinery.	Food, Drink, etc.	Clothing, etc.	Books, Printing.	Vehicles, Saddlery.	Furniture, etc.	Heat, Light, Power.	Other Classes.	Total.
NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS.												
Cumberland—												
Metropolis ...	113	188	851	758	360	1,373	366	386	357	36	443	4,731
Balance of ...	222	40	33	27	32	45	18	38	7	5	5	272
North Coast ...	2	4	102	22	98	28	25	62	16	20	4	383
Hunter and Manning ...	16	39	155	72	91	102	34	84	24	25	23	665
South Coast ...	3	15	62	9	94	16	13	33	1	21	1	268
Tablelands—												
Northern ...	12	6	35	7	22	16	10	31	2	7	4	152
Central ...	13	25	29	19	55	46	18	58	6	19	5	298
Southern ...	7	19	16	5	20	16	11	25	...	5	1	125
Western Slopes—												
North ...	8	9	31	6	30	10	9	25	...	7	2	137
Central ...	6	8	33	8	29	13	13	36	1	6	1	154
South ...	11	20	49	11	47	39	28	58	1	14	3	281
Plains—												
Northern ...	2	2	22	3	12	7	5	13	2	2	...	70
Central ...	4	...	16	1	7	3	6	9	...	1	...	47
Riverina ...	29	9	29	2	31	19	16	61	...	9	...	205
Western Division ...	7	8	13	18	20	15	9	16	3	11	3	118
Total...	260	387	976	968	948	1,748	581	935	420	188	495	7,906

AVERAGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES.

Cumberland—												
Metropolis ...	2,685	5,757	4,964	27,300	14,250	29,564	11,309	5,260	5,494	2,057	13,282	121,922
Balance of ...	222	1,254	270	2,242	396	954	112	382	35	32	158	6,057
North Coast ...	2	29	1,224	195	1,312	170	199	305	65	83	19	3,603
Hunter and Manning ...	105	569	1,609	7,433	1,132	1,011	385	465	275	1,108	1,398	15,490
South Coast ...	17	236	496	1,102	417	72	73	149	1	418	85	3,066
Tablelands—												
Northern ...	46	43	190	83	104	124	66	157	4	40	28	891
Central ...	125	1,118	122	1,475	358	276	156	232	34	207	377	4,480
Southern ...	51	237	128	391	98	433	70	111	...	46	9	1,574
Western Slopes—												
North ...	23	36	130	143	183	50	70	124	...	40	5	804
Central ...	59	40	212	84	389	61	72	170	4	29	4	1,124
South ...	135	113	328	278	340	248	179	334	13	83	40	2,091
Plains—												
Northern ...	11	5	190	54	63	33	24	61	14	15	...	470
Central ...	49	...	87	7	32	21	28	44	...	6	...	274
Riverina ...	239	36	262	27	911	95	77	283	...	53	...	1,984
Western Division ...	43	18	118	1,094	102	157	84	85	12	172	45	1,930
Total	3,812	9,491	10,330	41,914	20,087	33,270	12,904	8,162	5,951	4,389	15,450	165,760

Particulars relating to a number of classes of factories are grouped with miscellaneous industries under the heading "other classes." All the factories connected with the manufacture of hats and caps, surgical instruments, and leatherware, n.e.i., are located in the metropolitan district. Of the establishments in which oils and fat are treated, 28, with 1,406 employees, are in the metropolis; 1 with 86 employees elsewhere in the county of Cumberland, 4 with 200 employees, in the Hunter and Manning division; and there are 9 small factories in other divisions. Shipbuilding and repairing is conducted in two divisions only, viz., Metropolis, 42 establishments, 4,080 employees; and Hunter and Manning, 6, with 1,003 employees. The factories producing drugs and chemicals are distributed as follows:—Metropolis, 128, with 2,615 employees; other parts of the county of Cumberland, 4 establishments, 72 employees; and 12 with 311 employees in other divisions. Of 93 jewellery establishments, 90 with 856 employees are in the metropolitan area.

NEW INDUSTRIES, 1924-25.

Apart from the progress which is manifested in the expansion of existing industries, evidence of the growth of secondary production lies in the establishment of factories to undertake the manufacture of commodities, which hitherto had not been produced in New South Wales. Amongst the new industries which commenced during 1924-25 were mills for making sewing cotton, factories for making lace, and wire ropes. These new works represented the investment of nearly £93,000 in land, buildings, machinery, etc., and 134 hands were employed though some of the enterprises were not yet in full operation.

LAW COURTS.

ONE of the cardinal principles of the constitution of New South Wales is that of the supremacy of the law of the land, inherited from England. By it equal legal status is accorded to all citizens. No person may be punished lawfully except for a breach of law proven in the courts before which all men have equal status, including rights of appeal and the right, in proper cases, to contest the validity of laws and regulations in the law courts.

Laws.

The body of law in force in New South Wales consists of the following elements :—

- (i) The Common Law of England and English statute law inherited on the original settlement of the colony in 1788, or applied by Act of Parliament in 1828.
- (ii) Acts passed by the Parliament of the State of New South Wales, together with regulations, rules, and orders made thereunder, and certain decisions of the State Judges having the force of law.
- (iii) Acts passed by the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia within the scope of its allotted powers, together with regulations, rules, and orders made thereunder.
- (iv) Imperial laws binding New South Wales as part of the British Empire, as part of the Commonwealth of Australia, or as a State.

The last-named, however, relate mainly to external affairs or matters of Imperial concern.

The proper subjects for Federal legislation are limited in number. In some cases Federal powers of legislation are exclusive, in others concurrent with those of the State. In all cases of conflict valid Federal laws override State laws. The legislative powers of the Federal Parliament are confined mainly to public law, and to those matters of private law on which interstate uniformity is desirable. The greater part of private law is enacted by the State Parliament.

The legal system of New South Wales is highly developed, having been modelled closely on that of England by incorporating into the body of local law and legal procedure leading features from the English system.

Development of the Present Legal System.

New South Wales was originally founded as a penal settlement, and it did not inherit at once the whole body of law in force in England, but only such as was applied to it. At the first settlement a criminal court of justice, consisting of a Judge-Advocate and six military assessors, was established under authority of an Imperial statute of 1787 which authorised it to deal with offences against the criminal law of England. The commission of the Judge-Advocate empowered him to deal also with civil cases. In addition, a Vice-Admiral's Court was established, and several officers, including the Governor, were appointed Justices of the Peace, the Governor having power to commission other Justices. During the first twenty-six years of the colony's existence the courts of law were of a military character.

In 1814 independent courts of civil jurisdiction were established. These were called the "Supreme Court," and the "Governor's Courts," and, although they reformed many abuses of the older system, the administration of justice was not placed on a satisfactory basis until 1824, when, by virtue of the Charter of Justice, a Supreme Court was constituted with a Chief Justice having jurisdiction both civil and criminal; the jury system was introduced; and regular courts of Quarter Sessions were established

Some uncertainty still existed as to how far English law and tradition applied, but in 1828 a momentous innovation was made by the introduction of the whole existing body of English laws (statutes, decisions of courts, and conventions) applicable to the circumstances of the colony at that date. Thus New South Wales was placed practically on the footing of a settled colony as regards its legal system. The present legal and judicial systems really date from these statutes of 1823 and 1828, and the exact applicability of English law under them has been decided, as occasion arose, by the Supreme Court of the State, the High Court of Australia, and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

Thus there was adopted as the law of New South Wales the English Common Law relating to property, contract, tort, crime, personal freedom, and liberty of speech, in addition to much English statute law including such constitutional enactments and charters as the Habeas Corpus Acts and the Bill of Rights.

PRESENT LEGAL SYSTEM.

The main features of the present legal system are that established law is enforced by public Law Courts presided over by judges who hold office until they reach a prescribed retiring age, subject only to good behaviour, as determined by Parliament; the advocates employed at law are subject to the special control of the Supreme Court; and officers of police or prisons are answerable at law for the manner in which their duties are performed.

The jurisdictions of the courts of law are distributed in such a way as to secure prompt trial in all matters. Minor cases are relegated to Courts of Petty Sessions within the districts in which they arise. This Court sits as a Small Debts Court in civil cases, and as a Police Court in criminal cases. Salaried magistrates or honorary justices preside over these courts. More important civil cases are heard before a judge of the District Court, who also presides in criminal jurisdiction over Courts of Quarter Sessions.

A number of courts of law have been established to deal with certain special matters. These are—Licensing Courts, Fair Rents Courts, Taxation Courts of Review, (Mining) Wardens' Courts, Courts of Marine Inquiry, and, among criminal courts of magisterial rank, Coroners' Courts and Children's Courts. A special jurisdiction in industrial matters has been established for the Industrial Commission presided over by an Industrial Commissioner appointed at a fixed salary for a period of five years. Exclusive jurisdiction under the Workers' Compensation Act (1926) has been given to the Workers' Compensation Commission. Special matters arising under the various land laws of the State are dealt with by Local Land Boards. Appeals and other important questions relating to valuation are decided by the Land and Valuation Court, of which the judge is equal in status to judges of the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court of New South Wales has jurisdiction in all matters of law arising in the State, except certain matters of a Federal nature, which are reserved for the High Court of Australia. It may delegate certain of its powers, and exercises general powers of supervision over the administration of justice through its right to issue and enforce writs and to hear appeals.

The external courts of law, whose jurisdiction extends to New South Wales are the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (appellate only), and the High Court of Australia (original in certain matters and appellate in other matters).

Jurisdiction under Federal laws is generally exercisable by any State court, presided over by a magistrate or judge, subject to the same limitations as are imposed on their jurisdictions under State laws.

LOWER COURTS OF CIVIL JURISDICTION.

Courts of Petty Sessions (Small Debts Courts).

A limited civil jurisdiction is conferred by the Small Debts Recovery Act, 1912, on magistrates and justices sitting as Small Debts Courts to determine, in a summary way according to equity and good conscience, actions for the recovery of debt or damages. The jurisdiction of these courts is limited to cases involving not more than £50. A police or stipendiary magistrate may exercise the full jurisdiction of the court, two justices of the peace may hear cases involving amounts up to £30, and one justice up to £5. In cases of indefinite demands jurisdiction extends only to cases involving £10, or, by consent of the parties, up to £30, but the courts may not deal with matters involving titles to freehold or future rights.

In general, appeal may be made from a decision of the court only when it exceeds its jurisdiction or violates natural justice.

The principal officers of the court are a registrar, who acts as clerk to the bench and may enter judgment in cases of default of defence filed, or where claims are admitted and agreed upon, and such bailiffs as are appointed from time to time for the service and execution of orders and judgments.

Particulars of the transactions of Courts of Petty Sessions in their civil jurisdiction are shown below :—

Transactions.	1923.			1924.		
	Up to £30	£30 to £50	Total.	Up to £30	£30 to £50	Total.
Verdicts and Judgments for Plaintiff	23,474	1,242	24,716	26,198	1,471	27,669
Verdicts for Defendant	384	8	392	456	26	482
Withdrawn or struck out	22,825	498	23,323	24,766	593	25,359
Nonsuits	322	7	329	466	21	487
Total Cases disposed of...	47,005	1,755	48,760	51,886	2,111	53,997
Cases pending at end of year ...	10,772	215	10,987	12,456	368	12,824
Amount of Judgments and Verdicts for Plaintiffs	£ 162,999	35,559	198,558	180,958	39,484	220,442

The proportion of cases disposed of was formerly about 18 per thousand of population, but in 1923 the proportion rose to 22 per thousand, and again to 24 per thousand in 1924. The number of cases, however, does not represent individual litigants.

In garnishee cases the Court may order that all debts due by a garnishee to the defendant may be attached to meet a judgment debt, and by a subsequent order, may direct the garnishee to pay so much of the amount owing as will satisfy the judgment debt. In respect of wages or salary, garnishee orders may be made only for so much as exceeds £2 per week. The garnishee cases in 1924 numbered 3,700.

Oral examinations of judgment debtors in respect of debts due to them, ordered on the application of a judgment creditor, numbered 1,683 in 1924. Interpleader cases, relating to claims made to goods held under a writ of execution by a person not party to the suit, numbered 22.

Licensing Courts

Under the Liquor Act of 1912, a Licensing Court in each of the licensing districts in New South Wales dealt with applications for new licenses, renewals, removals, or transfers of existing licenses to manufacture or sell intoxicating liquors.

In the metropolitan district the Court for granting licenses to sell intoxicants consisted of three Stipendiary Magistrates, and in country districts of the local Police Magistrate and two specially-appointed Justices of the Peace. Where there was no Police Magistrate resident within 10 miles of the Court House a special Licensing Magistrate could be appointed.

An Act was passed in 1923 to provide for the reconstitution of the Licensing Court as from 1st July, 1924. Three Police or Stipendiary Magistrates were appointed as Licensing Magistrates to constitute the Licensing Courts for all the districts of the State and to continue the functions of the Licenses Reduction Board. They were given authority to delegate their powers (except the holding of an inquiry upon a petition for the grant of a new license) to any Police or Stipendiary Magistrate.

Licenses are usually granted for a period of one year. The Court sits as an open court, and appeals from its decisions lie to the District Court.

The particulars of licenses granted and fees collected in 1922, 1923, and 1924 are as follow :—

Class of License.	1922.		1923.		1924.	
	Number of Licenses.	Amount of Fees.	Number of Licenses.	Amount of Fees.	Number of Licenses.	Amount of Fees.
		£		£	£	£
Publicans	2,470	100,884	2,257	146,324	2,259	146,321
Additional Bar	143	2,794	158		151	
Club	81	595	79	2,980	79	3,046
Packet	13	126	17	81	13	63
Booth or Stand	2,451	4,902	2,385	4,770	3,171	6,542
Australian Wine... ..	432	1,279	423	7,403	424	7,403
Brewers	17		16	450	14	425
Spirit Merchants	247	6,077	255	9,408	247	8,751
Total	5,854	116,657	5,590	171,416	6,461	172,551

In addition 30 licenses were granted to Railway Refreshment Rooms by the Colonial Treasurer under the Liquor Act, 1922.

During the year 1923 a new scale of licensing fees came into operation, whereby the annual fees for publicans, wine, club, and packet licenses were fixed at £2 per centum on all purchases during the previous year ending 31st December, and for spirit merchants' licenses £2 per centum on sales to unlicensed persons. Brewers' license fees were fixed at £50 per annum in the Metropolitan area, and £25 per annum elsewhere, while booth licenses were fixed at £2 each.

Further particulars of the licenses and of the Licenses Reduction Board appointed under the Liquor Amendment Act, 1919, will be found in the chapter of this Year Book entitled "Social Condition."

Fair Rents Courts.

These courts, established under the Fair Rents Act, 1915-26, may determine, upon application, the fair rent of any dwelling-house, shop, or shop and dwelling-house combined let for a term of three years or less at a rental not exceeding the rate of £3 per week in the case of a dwelling house and £6 per week for a shop or shop and dwelling-house combined leased to one tenant. The Act is binding on the Crown. The courts sit in proclaimed districts, there being one court for the Metropolitan district, presided over by a special magistrate. Since 16th August, 1920, the jurisdiction has been

exercised by a Police or Stipendiary Magistrate in country districts, where the total number of cases dealt with to the end of 1925 was 276. Of these 126 were withdrawn, in 31 cases the rent was fixed as at date of application, in 63 it was reduced, and in 56 increased.

The first sitting of the Court in the Metropolitan district was held on 13th March, 1916, the cases dealt with during each year ended 31st March, being as follow :—

Year ended 31st March.	Cases withdrawn or struck out.	Rent fixed by Court.			Total Cases. (Metropolitan only).
		As at date of Application.	Increased.	Reduced.	
1917	141	137	7	294	579
1918	53	49	19	102	223
1919	100	36	132	65	333
1920	225	47	254	141	667
1921	439	52	256	187	934
1922	478	75	237	245	1,035
1923	418	64	150	233	865
1924	604	75	138	288	1,105
1925	470	63	185	317	1,035
1926	604	62	105	412	1,183
Total ...	3,532	660	1,483	2,284	7,959

A number of shops and shops with dwellings attached are included in the figure for the year ended 31st March, 1926, the rentals of which were determined under the Fair Rents (Amendment) Act assented to on 8th February, 1926.

Some further particulars of the operations of the Court are published in the chapter "Food and Prices" of this Year Book.

(Mining) Wardens' Courts.

By virtue of the Mining Act, 1906, mining wardens may hold courts to determine such disputes arising within their districts as to the possession of mining lands, or claims under mining contracts. In general their procedure is summary, and their decisions final, but appeal lies in certain cases to a District Court sitting as a Mining Appeal Court or, on points of law, by way of stating a case to the Supreme Court.

Taxation Courts of Review

All Judges of the District Courts have been authorised to sit as Taxation Courts of Review under the Land and Income Tax Act, 1895. The jurisdiction extends to the hearing and determining of appeals lodged against assessments by the Commissioner of Taxation by persons within the local jurisdiction of the Court. Points of law may be referred to the Supreme Court, but otherwise no appeal is allowed.

Courts of Marine Inquiry.

Cases of shipwreck or casualty to British vessels, or the detention of any ship alleged to be unseaworthy, and charges of misconduct against officers of British vessels arising on or near the coast of New South Wales, or on any ship registered at or proceeding to any port therein, are heard by one or more authorised Judges of the District Court or Police or Stipendiary Magistrates sitting with two or more assessors as a Court of Marine Inquiry.

The findings of this Court are final, except when the responsible Minister directs a rehearing of the case where new evidence is available, or a miscarriage of justice is suspected.

The proceedings of the Court are governed by the Navigation Acts of the State and Commonwealth.

In 1924 inquiries were held regarding seven cases, viz., one of collision, three of grounding, one of stranding, one of foundering, and one in which the vessel was lost. As a result of the inquiries the certificate of one master was suspended. One master was found to be in fault, but as the case was not serious his certificate was not suspended. Five masters and two mates were exonerated.

Workers' Compensation Commission.

A special and exclusive jurisdiction was conferred on the Workers' Compensation Commission to determine all questions arising under the Workers' Compensation Act, which came into force on 1st July, 1926. The Commission is a body corporate with perpetual succession, and it consists of a barrister of five years standing, appointed as chairman with the same status, salary, and rights as a District Court Judge, together with two members appointed for a period of seven years and representing employers and employees respectively. A medical referee may be summoned to sit as assessor with the Commission.

The Chairman alone decides points of law, but, on other matters, the decision of the Commission is that of a majority of its members, and such decisions are to be based on the real merits of the case without strict observance of legal precedent. Either the chairman or a majority of the Commission may refer any question of law for the decision of the Supreme Court by way of stating a case, but otherwise the determinations of the Commission are final and may not be challenged in any court.

For the purpose of conducting its proceedings the Commission has the powers of a Commissioner under the Royal Commissions Act, 1923.

DISTRICT COURTS.

District Courts have been in existence in New South Wales since 1858 as intermediaries between the Small Debts Courts and the Supreme Court. They are presided over by judges with special legal training, who have jurisdiction only over cases arising in districts allotted to them. Sittings are held at places and times appointed by the Governor-in-Council. In 1924 there were eight District Court Judges and sixty-one District Court districts. The courts sit during ten months of the year in the Metropolis, and three or more times per year in important country towns. A registrar and other officers are attached to each court.

Ordinarily cases are heard by one judge sitting alone, but a jury may be impanelled by direction of the judge, or upon demand by either plaintiff or defendant, in any case where the amount claimed exceeds £20. The jurisdiction of the Court extends over issues of fact in equity, probate and divorce proceedings remitted by the Supreme Court, and over actions at Common Law involving an amount not exceeding £400, or £200 where a title to land is involved.

Litigants may be compelled in appropriate cases to apply to the District Court by the power of the Supreme Court to remit proper cases to it, and by the rule of the Supreme Court not to allow costs to parties who recover a sum not exceeding £30 in litigation before it.

The findings of the District Court are intended to be final, and all right of appeal may be excluded by written agreement between litigants, but new

trials may be granted at the discretion of the Judge of the District Court. Otherwise appeal may be made to the Supreme Court in cases involving more than £10 where a point of law or question of the admissibility of evidence is raised.

Particulars of suits brought in District Courts in their original jurisdictions during the last five years are given in the following table :—

Year.	Causes Tried.		Causes Discontinued or Settled without hearing.	Judgment for Plaintiff by Default, Confession, or Agreement.	Causes referred to Arbitration.	Total Suits disposed of.	Total Suits arising during Year.	Causes Pending and in Arrear.	Court Costs of Suits.
	Verdict for Plaintiff.	Verdict for Defendant (including Nonsuit, etc.).							
1920	537	228	1,989	2,183	3	4,940	5,332	2,143	£ 23,140
1921	595	267	2,152	2,929	2	5,945	6,554	2,752	29,227
1922	643	286	2,187	3,509	4	6,629	7,114	3,237	31,950
1923	768	317	2,668	4,019	27	7,799	8,162	3,600	34,201
1924	739	329	2,970	4,364	6	8,408	8,959	4,151	*

* Not available.

Of the causes tried during 1924, 82 were tried by jury and 986 without a jury. The amount of judgment for plaintiffs during the year was £259,327.

In addition to the suits covered by the foregoing table a considerable amount of work is done in the District Courts under various Acts.

The number of issues remitted for trial from the Supreme Court to District Courts in 1924 was 67 in Matrimonial Causes, 1 in Equity, and 1 in Probate. Under the Workmen's Compensation Act, there were 246 applications for arbitration, and 109 awards were made in favour of the applicants. Sums amounting in the aggregate to £75,715 were paid into Court in respect of 164 cases of death, and there were referred to the Judge 41 cases relating to agreements, while 94 agreements were registered without further inquiry.

There were no appeals under the Mining Acts from decisions of the Wardens' Courts. There were 33 appeals against rating by Local Government authorities; 11 assessments were confirmed and 22 assessments were varied. Other appeals under the Local Government Acts numbered 21, of which 6 were upheld, 8 were dismissed, 3 were settled, and 4 were pending.

In addition, 1,765 warrants and writs were issued for the enforcement of judgments and orders, there were 913 examinations of judgment debtors, 381 orders for attachments of debts and 116 writs of *ca sa*.

Appeals were made in 27 cases against judgments or orders of the District Court and 7 such appeals were upheld, 8 were refused, 5 were not proceeded with, and 7 were pending.

SUPREME COURT.

The Supreme Court of New South Wales was established in 1824 under the Charter of Justice. It is presided over by a Chief Justice and not more than seven Puisne Judges, of whom four are engaged usually in the Common Law and Criminal jurisdictions, and the remainder in Equity, Bankruptcy, Probate, Lunacy, and Matrimonial Causes.

The Court possesses original jurisdiction over all litigious matters arising in the State (other than special matters concerning land and industrial arbitration), in certain cases where extra-territorial jurisdiction has been conferred,

in Admiralty, and in appeal. Its original jurisdiction is exercised usually by one judge. The procedure and practice of the Court are defined by statute, or regulated by rules which may be made by any three or more judges. In proper cases appeals may be carried from findings of the Supreme Court to the High Court of Australia or to the Privy Council.

Particulars are given below of each division of the civil jurisdiction of the Court.

Common Law Jurisdiction.

The present jurisdiction of the Supreme Court at Common Law dates from 1828. It extends to all cases not falling within any other jurisdiction. Actions are tried usually in the first instance in sittings at nisi prius, before one judge and a jury of four, or of twelve in special cases. A jury may be dispensed with by consent of both parties and under statutes governing certain cases. A judge may sit "in chambers" to deal with questions not requiring to be argued in court.

The following table gives particulars of causes set down and writs issued in the Supreme and Circuit Courts (Common Law Jurisdiction) during the last five years. The number of writs issued includes cases which were settled by the parties without further litigation.

Particulars.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Writs Issued	3,515	4,745	5,072	5,585	6,284
Judgments Signed	1,369	2,172	2,433	2,787	2,990
Causes Tried—					
Verdict for Plaintiff	175	191	166	166	222
„ Defendant	39	50	45	39	61
Jury Disagreed	2	3	1	2	2
Nonsuits	9	18	8	7	14
Total	225	262	220	214	299
Causes—					
Not proceeded with	151	210	236	255	249
Referred to Arbitration... ..	7	10	1	3	2
Total Causes dealt with ...	383	482	457	472	550
Fees paid into Consolidated Revenue Fund*	£ 13,221	£ 19,408	£ 18,404	£ 20,388	£ 21,517
Cost of Litigation—					
Brought in at	48,545	58,752	53,315	90,242	70,348
Taxed off	12,966	14,036	13,607	22,721	19,721
Amount Allowed... ..	35,579	44,716	39,708	67,521	50,627
Court Costs of Taxation... ..	719	1,121	1,013	1,646	1,225

* Includes fees collected by Registrar in Divorce.

The number of new causes set down for hearing in 1924 was 516, and 102 were pending from the previous year. The cases dealt with numbered 550, and 68 were pending at the end of 1924 as compared with 102 pending at the end of 1923.

Between 1914 and 1917 there was a marked decrease in litigation in this jurisdiction, but since then activity has increased rapidly and the number of writs issued in 1924 was more than 114 per cent. greater than in 1914. The difference between the numbers of writs issued and judgments signed indicates the extent to which suits are not proceeded with. The difference between the number of judgments signed and the number of causes tried indicates the extent to which cases are settled without legal proceedings in court.

Equity Jurisdiction.

The present jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in Equity (which includes Infancy) dates from 1828. It is exercised by the Chief Judge in Equity, by the Judge in Bankruptcy sitting in Equity, or by either sitting with two other Judges. The procedure of the Court is governed by the Equity Act, 1901, and subsidiary rules. The jurisdiction extends to granting equitable relief by enforcing rights not recognised at Common Law and by special remedies such as the issue of injunctions, writs of specific performance, and a jurisdiction in infancy. The Court in making binding declarations of right may obtain the assistance of specialists such as actuaries, engineers, or other persons. In deciding legal rights incidental to its cases, it exercises all the powers of the Common Law jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, and may award damages in certain cases.

Attached to the Court there is a Master in Equity who performs administrative duties and performs judicial functions where directed in determining certain minor matters, such as conducting inquiries, taking accounts, and taxing costs. He is also Registrar of the Court, and controls the records and funds within its charge.

The numbers of the various transactions of the Court during each of the last five years were as follow :—

Year.	Statements of Claims.	Statements of Defence.	Petitions.	Summonses.	Motions.	Decrees, Orders, and Certificates.	Trust Funds Invested.
1920	160	71	35	81	126	485	£ 645,260
1921	298	181	94	125	199	852	712,687
1922	322	176	84	66	249	1,040	736,288
1923	347	149	129	100	280	1,084	671,849
1924	351	183	114	163	345	815	761,350

The amount of trust funds invested under Equity Jurisdiction was distributed chiefly among war loans, mortgages, and funded stock, the rates of interest ranging from 3 to 7½ per cent.

The amount of court fees received in 1924 was £5,175.

Lunacy Jurisdiction.

Jurisdiction in Lunacy was conferred on the Supreme Court in 1824 by the Charter of Justice, and is now exercised as a separate jurisdiction by the Chief Judge in Equity. There is a Master in Lunacy (who is also Master in Equity) to perform administrative work and manage estates. The Court upon hearing evidence, with or without examination of the person, may declare any person to be of unsound mind or incapable of managing his own affairs, or it may direct that such question be determined by a jury of four or twelve persons. When such a declaration is made the Master in Lunacy

may assume the management of such person's estate until his discharge or death, or a committee of management may be appointed subject to supervision by the Master in Lunacy.

The amount of trust funds of insane persons and patients vested in the Master in Lunacy at the end of 1924 was £555,521. The amount of fees collected in 1924 was £194 in addition to £2,529, being a deduction at the rate of 2 per cent. from the net income of estates of insane patients managed by the Master in Lunacy.

Bankruptcy Jurisdiction.

Jurisdiction in Bankruptcy was conferred on the Supreme Court by statute in 1887. Bankruptcy law and procedure in New South Wales were virtually codified by the consolidating Act of 1898, which will be superseded in part by the Bankruptcy Act of the Commonwealth to come into force on a date to be proclaimed.

Under the law any person unable to meet his debts may surrender his estate for the benefit of his creditors, or the latter may apply for compulsory sequestration under certain conditions provided the aggregate amount of indebtedness exceeds £50. Upon the issue of an order of sequestration the property of the bankrupt vests in the official assignee, and no creditor has any remedy against the property or person of the bankrupt except by appeal to the Court. The jurisdiction of the Court extends over all these matters and its functions are to guard against fraud on the part of bankrupts, to distribute assets, and to relieve debtors of overwhelming obligations.

There is one Judge in Bankruptcy who exercises general control over bankruptcy proceedings and determines questions of law, equity or fact affecting a bankrupt estate. Questions of fact may be tried before a jury.

The Registrar of the Bankruptcy Court performs administrative duties and duties delegated by the Judge. He may hear debtors' petitions, make full examination of bankrupts or of persons suspected to be indebted to a bankrupt, and make sequestration orders. Certain of these powers are delegated in country districts to police magistrates and registrars of District Courts, but appeal lies in all cases to the Judge in Bankruptcy and thence to the High Court. An official assignee may be appointed by the Court to manage any assigned estate for the benefit of creditors.

Particulars of the operations of the Court in the past five years are given below:—

Heading.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Petitions for Voluntary Sequestration ...	210	208	247	360	421
„ Compulsory Sequestration...	134	186	234	308	397
Sequestration Orders granted ...	289	324	403	570	668
Discharges granted	77	75	43	40	46
Certificates of Discharge suspended ...	82	110	86	92	121
Court Fees	£ 4,192	4,386	5,023	6,082	6,562

From the commencement of the Act of 1887 there have been 22,793 sequestrations, but only in 3,853 cases have discharges been granted or estates freed. Nearly 83 per cent. of bankrupts have remained undischarged.

Further details of proceedings in bankruptcy are published in the chapter, Private Finance, of this Year Book.

Probate Jurisdiction.

Probate jurisdiction was conferred on the Supreme Court in part by the Charter of Justice in 1824. By the Wills, Probate and Administration Act, 1898 (which consolidated previous enactments), it extends over all

property, real or personal, in New South Wales of deceased persons, testate or intestate. The jurisdiction is exercised by a Probate Judge (who is also Judge in Bankruptcy), or by any judge acting on his behalf. By probate rule of 18th October, 1906, the Registrar in Probate exercises jurisdiction in granting probate and letters of administration in all matters where no contention has arisen. The Registrar or any interested party may refer any matter to the Court. The Registrar also exercises jurisdiction in minor dealings affecting estates where no objection is raised by any interested party.

Until the granting of probate or letters of administration the property of deceased persons vests in the Chief Justice, and cannot be legally dealt with except in minor matters. In this way the rights of the successors, the creditors, and the State are safeguarded. Cases of disputed wills are tried by the Judge, with or without a jury, to determine issues of fact, and jurisdiction is exercised over administrators and executors.

Administrative functions in regard to certain intestate estates formerly in the hands of the Curator of Intestate Estates are now performed by the Public Trustee under an Act of 1913, and are further referred to on a later page.

The following table shows the number and values of estates dealt with in the past five years :—

Year.	Probates Granted.		Letters of Administration.		Total.	
	Number of Estates.	Value of Estates.	Number of Estates.	Value of Estates.	Number of Estates.	Value of Estates.
1920	3,570	£ 26,191,030	2,428	£ 1,514,783	5,998	£ 27,705,813
1921	3,765	14,495,600	2,080	2,042,306	5,845	16,537,906
1922	3,892	14,477,829	1,905	1,323,310	5,797	15,801,139
1923	4,007	17,308,916	1,997	1,708,968	6,004	19,017,884
1924	3,865	16,981,524	2,115	2,015,541	5,980	18,997,065

The values shown above represent the gross value of estates, inclusive of those not subject to duty, and of estates dealt with by the Public Trustee.* In some cases probate or letters of administration are taken out a second time and such estates are duplicated in the above figures. Where estates are less than £300 in value probate or letters of administration may be granted on personal application to the Registrar, without the intervention of a solicitor. Included in the figures shown above for the year 1924, there were 378 such cases, the total value of estates being £62,251.

Jurisdiction in Matrimonial Causes (Divorce).

This jurisdiction was conferred on the Supreme Court by the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1873, prior to which marriages could be dissolved only by special Act of Parliament. This Act, with its amendments, was consolidated in 1899. A Judge of the Supreme Court is appointed Judge in Divorce, but any other judge may act for him. The forms of relief granted are dissolution of marriage, judicial separation, declaration of nullity of marriage, and orders for restitution of conjugal rights. Orders for the custody of children, alimony, damages, and settlement of marriage property may be made.

*Further particulars are published in the chapter "Private Finance."

Decrees for the dissolution of marriage are usually made provisional for a short period, and absolute at the expiration thereof if no reason to the contrary is shown, *e.g.*, collusion.

The grounds on which dissolution may be granted on petition are as follow:—

Husband v. Wife.—Adultery; desertion; habitual drunkenness and neglect of domestic duties for three years; non-compliance with a decree for restitution of conjugal rights; imprisonment for three years and upwards at date when petition is presented and under sentence for at least seven years; conviction for attempt to murder or to inflict grievous bodily harm within one year previously; repeated assaults and cruel beatings during one year preceding the date of filing the petition.

Wife v. Husband.—Adultery; desertion for three years or upwards; habitual drunkenness, coupled with neglect to support or cruelty, for three years; non-compliance with a decree for restitution of conjugal rights; imprisonment for three years and upwards at date when petition is presented and under sentence for at least seven years; imprisonment under frequent sentences aggregating three years within five years preceding the presentation of the petition; leaving wife habitually without means of support; conviction within one year previously of attempt to murder or to inflict grievous bodily harm; repeated assaults and cruel beatings within one year of petition.

Cases are heard usually without a jury, but where dissolution of marriage is involved a jury of twelve to try issues of fact may be requisitioned by either party, or by the Court. Certain cases may be referred to the District Court of the district in which the case arose.

Usually, the petitioner must have been domiciled in the State for at least three years preceding the date of the petition. No relief is granted to persons who have resorted to New South Wales for the purpose of instituting proceedings.

Suits may be instituted for the purpose of obtaining restitution of conjugal rights, and failure to comply with a decree made in such a suit constitutes desertion, upon which a suit for divorce may be brought. A marriage may be declared null and void on the grounds that the respondent is incapable of consummating it, that the parties to the marriage are within the prohibited degrees of consanguinity, or that the parties are unable to contract a valid marriage. Such inability may arise from one of the parties being already married, having acted under duress, or in case of mistaken identity.

The following statement shows the number of petitions in matrimonial causes made and granted in New South Wales during the past five years in comparison with the average per year between 1908 and 1912:—

Year.	Petitions for Divorce, Judicial Separation, and Nullity of Marriage Lodged.	Number of Petitions Granted.					Restitution of Conjugal Rights.	
		Divorces.		Petitions for Judicial Separation Granted.	Nullity of Marriage.		Petitions.	Decrees granted.
		Decrees <i>Nisi</i> Granted.	Decrees <i>Nisi</i> made Absolute.		Decrees <i>Nisi</i> Granted.	Decrees <i>Nisi</i> made Absolute.		
1908-12*	453	260	260	12	4	4	28	18
1920	1,155	624	553	11	8	3	275	163
1921	1,094	1,038	752	18	8	7	259	217
1922	1,110	696	679	9	10	5	249	144
1923	1,266	883	729	13	5	10	298	177
1924	1,366	1,091	834	7	9	4	225	204

* Average per year.

The number of petitions lodged *in forma pauperis* during 1924 was 401, of which 364 were for divorce, 6 for nullity of marriage, 4 for judicial separation, and 27 for restitution of conjugal rights.

The numbers of petitioners of each sex in cases where decrees for divorce or nullity of marriage were made absolute, or judicial separation was granted, during each of the past ten years were as follow :—

Year in which Petition was granted.	Number of Successful Petitions lodged by			Year in which Petition was granted.	Number of Successful Petitions lodged by		
	Husband.	Wife.	Total.		Husband.	Wife.	Total.
1915	134	221	355	1920	267	300	567
1916	141	231	372	1921	389	418	807
1917	147	249	396	1922	296	397	693
1918	167	224	391	1923	314	438	752
1919	190	244	434	1924	359	486	845

The number of marriages dissolved, or virtually dissolved in each year, more than doubled between 1918 and 1921, and the proportion of petitions lodged by husbands increased rapidly. In 1922 and 1923 the numbers of successful petitions were considerably lower than in 1921, owing chiefly to a diminution in the number of successful petitions lodged by husbands. The increase to the record total of 845 divorces in 1924 was occasioned by a pronounced increase in the number of petitions lodged by each sex.

The grounds of suits in which decrees for divorce or nullity of marriage were made absolute during each of the past five years were as follow :—

Ground of Suit.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Adultery	202	263	205	166	179
„ coupled with Bigamy, Cruelty, or Desertion	7	10	10	17	13
Cruelty and Repeated Assaults	3	1	2	7	3
„ „ Habitual Drunkenness	8	7	12	18	22
Desertion	255	359	318	398	466
Habitual Drunkenness and Neglect to Support	3	4	8	2	5
Habitual Drunkenness and Neglect of Domestic Duties	5	6	...	2	2
Imprisonment of Husband for Three Years	1	3	1	2	...
Non-compliance with Order for Restitution of Conjugal Rights	71	135	127	125	146
Impotency or Non-consummation	1	1	...	2	1
Relationship ... ..	..	...	...	...	1
Total	556	789	693	799	838

In the cases in which decrees for divorce were made absolute during 1924, the mean duration of marriage was as follows :—Under 5 years, 46 ; 5–9 years, 243 ; 10–14 years, 242 ; 15–19 years, 146. In 130 cases the duration was between 20 and 30 years ; in 26 it was between 30 and 40 years, and in one case it was over 40 years. In the case of 254 marriages, there were no children ; one child in 255 cases ; two children, 144 ; three children, 87 ; four children, 33 ; and five or more children in 43 cases. In 18 cases, the details were not stated.

Admiralty Jurisdiction.

Jurisdiction as a Colonial Court of Admiralty was conferred on the Supreme Court of New South Wales on 1st July, 1911, by Order-in-Council under the Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act (Imperial), 1890. The Court

may sit also as a Prize Court by authority of a proclamation of August, 1914 under the Prize Courts Act (Imperial), 1894. Eight causes of action arose during 1924, and one of these was tried in Court, the verdict being for plaintiff.

LOWER COURTS OF CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

Courts of Petty Sessions (Police Courts).

These Courts are held daily in large centres, and periodically as occasion demands in small centres. They operate under various statutes (chiefly the Crimes Act, 1900, Police Offences Act, 1901, and Vagrancy Act, 1902), which describe the nature of offences, penalties, and certain procedure, and prescribe the number of justices or magistrates for the trial of various offences. Cases are heard by a Stipendiary Magistrate in the Sydney, Broken Hill, Parramatta, Newcastle, Bathurst, and Wollongong districts, and in other districts by a Police Magistrate, or by Justices of the Peace. The procedure is governed in a general way by the Justices Act, 1902-18. These courts deal with minor offences, which may be treated summarily, while serious charges are investigated in the first instance, and the accused committed to higher courts when a *prima facie* case is made out.

Offences punishable summarily by Courts of Petty Sessions include most offences against good order and breaches of regulations. Certain offences are made punishable summarily with the consent of the accused. The court deals also with certain other cases, such as proceedings arising under the Master and Servants Act, the Deserted Wives and Children Act, Child Welfare Act, and administrative regulations.

Appeal against fine or imprisonment is heard by the Court of Quarter Sessions, but on a disputed point of law the magistrate may state a case for the Supreme Court.

Children's Courts.

Children's Courts were established by proclamation under the Infant Protection Act, 1904, and the Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act, 1905, which were consolidated with other enactments by the Child Welfare Act, 1923. Children's Courts may be established by proclamation. Each court consists of a special magistrate with jurisdiction within a proclaimed area. Elsewhere the jurisdiction of a court may be exercised by a special magistrate, or two Justices of the Peace. The magistrates exercise all the powers of a Police or Stipendiary Magistrate in respect of cases involving children as parties or witnesses to the exclusion of ordinary courts of law. By this means children are protected against the adverse influences which they would encounter in the ordinary courts.

The jurisdiction embraces proceedings concerning maintenance of infants, offences by or against children, and neglected or uncontrollable children. The Court is endowed with extensive powers, such as the committal of children to reformatory homes, release on probation, etc.

Appeal from its decisions lies in proper cases to the Supreme Court, Quarter Sessions, or in certain circumstances to a District Court.

Separate statistics of the proceedings of Children's Courts are not now available, as they are included with those relating to ordinary Courts of Petty Sessions. Further particulars regarding the Children's Courts are published in the chapter "Social Condition" of this Year Book.

Cases before Magistrates' Courts.

Particulars of the number of offences charged, and convictions obtained in Courts of Petty Sessions and Children's Courts, are shown below. Except where otherwise stated the figures represent the total number of offences

charged, and cases in which bail was forfeited for non-appearance in court are included as convictions. Where multiple charges are preferred separate account is taken of each.

Year.	Offences Charged.				Per cent.		
	Withdrawn or Discharged.	Convicted.	Committed to Higher Courts.	Total.	With-drawn.	Con- victed.	Com- mitted to Higher Courts.
1906	10,702	59,900	1,459	72,061	14·9	83·1	2·0
1911	8,878	65,058	1,178	75,114	11·8	86·6	1·6
1916	11,765	68,615	1,656	82,036	14·4	83·6	2·0
1920	12,666	74,667	2,239	89,572	14·1	83·4	2·5
1921	11,877	80,214	2,594	94,685	12·6	84·7	2·7
1922	12,231	82,263	2,495	96,989	12·6	84·8	2·6
1923	13,001	88,864	2,654	104,519	12·4	85·0	2·6
1924	12,755	83,019	2,327	98,101	13·0	84·6	2·4
1925	14,601	85,970	1,866	102,377	14·2	84·0	1·8

Toward the end of 1916 provision was made whereby persons arrested for drunkenness were allowed to forfeit a deposit (nominally bail) in lieu of appearing in court. The amount was originally fixed at 5s., the usual penalty imposed, but it has been increased to 10s. Approximately one-third of the cases of drunkenness are now dealt with in this manner.

It is not possible to determine the number of distinct persons charged in each year, as particulars obtained from persons accused of minor offences, particularly vagrants, do not form a reliable basis for identification.

Only a small proportion of the offences for which summary convictions are effected are really criminal offences, that is offences against person or property. The following table shows a classification of the offences for which summary convictions were recorded, also the rate per 1,000 of mean population :—

Year.	Number of Convictions for Minor Offences.					
	Against the Person.	Against Property.	Against Good Order.		Other Offences.	Total Summary Convictions.
			Drunken-ness.	Other.		
1906	1,619	3,857	25,253	15,920	13,251	59,900
1911	1,664	3,404	29,299	14,886	15,805	65,058
1920	1,925	5,772	25,843	14,180	25,947	74,667
1921	2,127	5,924	28,702	18,086	25,375	80,214
1922	2,043	5,692	30,723	18,386	25,419	82,263
1923	1,984	5,549	32,933	18,860	29,533	88,864
1924	1,876	5,321	31,860	14,818	29,144	83,019
1925	1,845	5,658	30,160	15,987	32,320	85,970
	Number per 1,000 of Mean Population.					
1906	1·09	2·60	17·01	10·72	8·93	40·35
1911	1·00	2·04	17·60	8·94	9·49	39·07
1920	0·93	2·79	12·49	6·86	13·02	36·09
1921	1·01	2·81	13·61	8·58	12·04	38·05
1922	0·95	2·65	14·28	8·55	11·82	38·25
1923	0·90	2·53	15·02	8·60	13·48	40·53
1924	0·84	2·39	14·28	6·64	13·07	37·22
1925	0·81	2·49	13·25	7·02	14·20	37·77

By 1921 peace-time conditions had been practically restored, and, although an increase has occurred in the number of summary convictions, the proportion to the population is now usually smaller than in pre-war years. The decline was due principally to a diminution in the proportion of convictions for drunkenness and other offences against good order, but an increase has occurred in the number of offences against property. As local and other administrative activities have been extended there has been an increase in the number of offences against administrative laws. For instance, during 1923, 1924, and 1925 there were respective increases of 2,199, 1,040, and 1,655 convictions for offences against the traffic regulations.

The offences classified under the heading "other offences" consist mainly of breaches of administrative laws, *e.g.*, Local Government Acts and traffic regulations. Generally they are minor breaches, or are committed in ignorance of the law, and are met with the infliction of nominal fines. Thus the figures for the year 1924 included 8,796 offences against traffic regulations; 3,412 against Local Government Acts; 882 offences against revenue laws; 3,113 against liquor laws; 1,386 against laws for the suppression of gambling; 875 under the Factory Act; 1,210 against railway and tramway regulations; 985 under the Health Act; 1,665 under the Defence Act; 165 under the Education Act; and 812 against the Pastures Protection Act.

The amount of fines paid on summary conviction and the disposition thereof, during the last five years, are shown below:—

Classification.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Fines paid to—	£	£	£	£	£
Consolidated Revenue ...	43,993	40,839	46,582	53,964	50,800
Police Reward Fund ...	21,406	21,597	26,161	28,346	26,807
Municipalities and Shires ...	4,679	4,209	5,399	5,077	4,910
Pastures Protection Boards...	1,872	1,693	3,812	3,374	2,144
Informers	5,164	4,749	4,990	4,926	3,706
Other	3,164	2,357	2,574	3,750	2,652
Total, State ... £	80,278	75,444	89,518	99,437	91,019
Paid to Commonwealth Govern- ment £	5,328	11,481	3,592	2,280	1,487

In addition to fines paid at the courts, a number are paid in part at the gaols by persons sent to prison in default of payment and a corresponding portion of the sentences are remitted. Particulars of these are shown on a later page.

Coroners' Courts.

The office of Coroner was established in New South Wales by letters patent in 1787, and is now regulated by the Coroners Act, 1912, which consolidated previous laws.

Every Stipendiary or Police Magistrate has the powers and duties of a coroner in all parts of the State, except the Metropolitan Police District, which is under the jurisdiction of the City Coroner. In districts not readily accessible by Police Magistrates, a local resident, usually a Justice of the Peace, is usually appointed coroner.

At the discretion of the Coroner, inquiries are held into the causes of all violent or unnatural deaths, into the causes of all deaths in gaols, and into

the origin of fires causing damage or destruction to property, but may be dispensed with where the Coroner deems inquiry unnecessary. The Coroner may order the attendance of any medical practitioner at the inquest, and may direct him to hold a post-mortem examination. On the evidence submitted the Coroner is empowered to commit for trial persons adjudged guilty of manslaughter, murder, or arson.

In certain cases a jury of six persons may be empanelled to find as to the facts of the case, and on their verdict against any person he may be committed for trial. The instructions to coroners provide that an inquest should be held into the cause of every death occurring among prisoners in gaols and lock-ups. In such cases a jury of six freemen and six prisoners is empanelled.

During 1924, 1,539 inquiries were held by coroners into causes of death and 263 into the origin of fires. It was found in 900 cases that death had been accidental, and in 261 cases that suicide had occurred. There were 56 deaths due to homicide and 35 due to illegal operations. Nineteen persons were committed for trial by coroners on charges of murder, 27 for manslaughter, and 18 for arson. It was found that 45 fires were accidental, 52 were caused wilfully, 1 resulted through carelessness, and in 165 cases the evidence was insufficient to indicate the origin.

HIGHER COURTS OF CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

The higher courts of criminal jurisdiction consist of the Central Criminal Court (which sits in Sydney and is presided over by a Judge of the Supreme Court), of the Supreme Court on circuit, and of Courts of Quarter Sessions, held at important centres throughout the State, each presided over by a Judge of the District Court as chairman. The courts deal with indictable offences which are the more serious criminal cases. Offences punishable by death may be tried only before the Central Criminal Court, which exercises the criminal jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, or before the Supreme Court on Circuit.

All persons charged with criminal offences must be charged before a judge with a jury of twelve chosen by lot from a panel provided by the sheriff. The jury finds as to the facts of the case, and its verdict must be unanimous. If unanimity is not reached within twelve hours a verdict is not returned, and the accused may be tried again before another jury.

Courts of Quarter Sessions.

These Courts are held at times and places appointed by the Governor-in-Council, in districts which coincide with those of District Courts. Forty-three places were appointed in 1925, courts being held usually at the conclusion of District Court sittings, three times a year in country centres, but eleven times in Sydney, and seven times in Parramatta.

In addition to exercising their original jurisdiction, the courts hear appeals from Courts of Petty Sessions and certain appeals from other courts, *e.g.*, Licensing courts. In 1925, 786 appeals were heard at Quarter Sessions against convictions or orders by Courts of Petty Session, and 476 convictions or orders were confirmed, 130 were varied, 170 were quashed, and 10 remained uncompleted. Appeals from Quarter Sessions are heard by the Court of Criminal Appeal.

Central Criminal Court and Supreme Court on Circuit.

The Central Criminal Court exercises the criminal jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in Sydney, and a Judge of the Supreme Court exercises at

appointed circuit towns a similar jurisdiction. Usually capital offences, the more serious indictable offences committed in the metropolitan area, and offences which may not be tried conveniently at Quarter Sessions, or at sittings of the Supreme Court in the country, are tried at the Central Criminal Court. Appeal from the finding of these courts lies to the Court of Criminal Appeal, consisting of three or more Judges of the Supreme Court and, in proper cases, to the High Court of Australia or the Privy Council. A Judge of the Supreme Court sitting in Sydney may act as a Court of Gaol Delivery, to hear and determine the cases of untried prisoners upon reports of such prisoners supplied by the gaolers of the State under rules of the Court.

Cases before Higher Criminal Courts.

The following table shows for the years immediately preceding and succeeding the war, the number of distinct persons charged, and those convicted for each of the classes of more serious offences. Where two or more charges were preferred against the same person account is taken only of the principal charge. The table relates to persons charged before Courts of Quarter Sessions, sittings of the Supreme Court at Circuit Towns and the Central Criminal Court.

Year.	Distinct Persons Charged.	Not Guilty, etc.	Convictions—Principal Offence.					
			Against Person.	Against Property.	Against Currency, and Forgery.	Other Offences.	Total Persons Convicted	
							Number.	Per 10,000 of Population.
1911	979	441	141	313	48	36	538	3·23
1912	993	373	136	410	48	26	620	3·55
1913	1,125	353	189	478	60	45	772	4·24
1920	1,581	554	169	801	33	24	1,027	4·96
1921	1,722	611	166	853	48	44	1,111	5·27
1922	1,635	595	176	778	48	33	1,040	4·84
1923	1,673	614	191	757	59	52	1,059	4·83
1924	1,536	534	174	739	50	39	1,002	4·50

In view of the fact that trials of accused persons in higher criminal courts take place on indictment by the Attorney-General, and usually after magisterial inquiry into the sufficiency of evidence for such trials, and that the question of guilt is decided by a jury of laymen, it is interesting to note that less than two-thirds of the persons charged are convicted, and in the case of offences against the person, this proportion is usually about one-half.

The number of offenders convicted of serious crime increased very considerably in proportion to the population during the three years preceding the outbreak of war, and is now appreciably higher than it was in 1913. The post-war increase in crime has been due very largely to a growth in the number of offences against property.

Of the persons convicted during 1924, the males numbered 945 and females 57. Approximately one male in every thousand of population was convicted for a serious criminal offence in 1924, the proportion of women being much less than one per ten thousand of population.

The following table shows the number of persons convicted for specific offences included in the foregoing statement :—

Offences.	Number of Offenders Convicted.						
	1911.	1912.	1913.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Murder	3	12	7	8	1	1	7
Attempted Murder, Shooting with Intent	3	2	4	3	8	1	2
Manslaughter	4	4	7	13	4	8	5
Rape and other Offences against Females	29	33	38	21	26	43	42
Unnatural Offences	2	3	9	23	13	2	18
Abortion and Attempts to Procure ...	3	1	...	2	1	3	5
Bigamy	16	8	9	22	22	22	19
Assault	80	66	106	63	88	102	74
Burglary and Housebreaking	62	89	107	244	236	223	209
Robbery and Stealing from the Person	14	39	51	35	30	28	52
Stealing Horses, Cattle, Sheep ...	26	33	34	48	38	28	22
Embezzlement and Stealing by Servants	26	26	27	42	60	37	44
Larceny and Receiving	131	164	201	376	308	308	283
Fraud and False Pretences	38	37	36	80	67	78	85
Arson ... ..	...	4	4	1	2	2	5
Forgery, Uttering Forged Documents...	41	38	55	44	46	54	48
Conspiracy	10	4	10	16	16	30	16
Perjury and Subornation	10	8	12	17	7	12	8

In so far as the number of persons convicted indicates the vogue of crime, the above statement shows that during post-war as compared with pre-war years, the increase in crime occurred principally in burglary and larceny. On the other hand considerable decreases took place in the proportionate number of assaults and cases of forgery.

OTHER COURTS OF STATE JURISDICTION.

Special courts have been established in New South Wales in other provinces of law. These are the Land and Valuation Court and Local Land Boards; the Industrial Commission, with subsidiary Conciliation Boards; and the Workers' Compensation Commission.

*Land Boards.**

Local Land Boards each consisting of a salaried chairman, usually possessing legal and administrative experience, and of two other members (paid by fees) possessing local knowledge, were first appointed under the Crown Lands Act of 1884. These boards sit as open courts, and follow procedure similar to that of Courts of Petty Sessions. Their functions are to determine questions under the Crown Lands Act, and other matters referred by the Minister. Sittings are held as required at appointed places in each of thirteen Land Board Districts in the Eastern and Central Divisions of the State.

During the year ended 30th June, 1925, the various Boards held 400 meetings, lasting 519 days. The various chairmen dealt with 8,413 cases, and full boards with 7,701.

The Western Land Board which is charged with the management and control of Crown Lands in the Western division of the State, discharges the functions of a local land board within the area of its jurisdiction. Five courts lasting five days were held during 1924-25, and the cases numbered 13. In addition 23 courts lasting 31 days were held by the Western Land Commissioners, and 842 cases were disposed of.

*See, also, chapter on Land Legislation and Settlement.

*Land and Valuation Court.**

The Land Court of Appeal, established originally in 1889, was re-constituted at the close of 1921 as the Land and Valuation Court. This court is presided over by a judge, whose status is equal to that of a Judge of the Supreme Court, and who may sit as an open court at such places as he determines, with two assessors in an advisory capacity. The procedure of the court is governed by rules made by the Judge, who also exercises powers over witnesses and the production of evidence similar to those of a Judge in the Supreme Court. On questions of fact the decisions of the Judge are final, but appeal may be made to the Supreme Court against his decisions on points of law.

Broadly stated, the functions of the court are to hear and determine all the more important matters and appeals arising under the Crown Lands Acts and cognate Acts, cases involving the ratable-ness of lands and the more important appeals from valuations made by the Valuer-General or by valuers under the Local Government Act.

During the year ended 30th June, 1925, the Land and Valuation Court dealt with 59 references from the Minister for Lands, 2 by Local Land Boards, and 53 appeals (13 being sustained) under various Land Acts; 4,106 objections to valuations under the Valuation of Land Act; 102 objections to Local Government assessments for rating, where the unimproved capital value exceeded £5,000, 46 assessments being confirmed, and 56 altered; and 7 claims for compensation under the Public Works Act. There were also 17 appeals under section 29 of the Liquor Amendment Act, 1923, 5 being sustained, 2 dismissed and 10 withdrawn.

INDUSTRIAL JURISDICTION.

A system of industrial arbitration was inaugurated in 1901, when courts of law were established to determine certain disputes between employers and employees relating to working conditions. The system has been changed fundamentally from time to time, and the statutory basis of the present system is the Industrial Arbitration Act, 1912, with subsequent amendments. The Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act, 1926, substituted an Industrial Commission for the former Court of Industrial Arbitration as from 15th April, 1926. There is an Industrial Commissioner and a Deputy Commissioner. Conciliation committees may be established for various industries on the recommendation of the Industrial Commissioner. Their functions are to make awards governing working conditions. The Industrial Commissioner adjudicates in cases of illegal strikes, lockouts or unlawful dismissal. He also hears appeals from the decisions of the industrial registrar and industrial magistrates.

The Industrial Commissioner is appointed for a period of five years. His functions are to inquire into any industrial matter referred to him by the Minister, to determine a standard of living and to declare the living wage, to hold conferences regarding settlement of any industrial matter, to hear appeals under the Act and to exercise the powers of the Board of Trade under the Monopolies Act. Many of these powers are exercised by the Commissioner sitting alone, but in inquiries into the living wage and other matters he is assisted by unremunerated members of the Commission appointed by the Minister to represent employers and employees in equal numbers. Conciliation committees have exclusive original jurisdiction in respect of industrial matters arising in industries for which they have been established.

* See, also, chapter on Land Legislation and Settlement.

Industrial magistrates are appointed under the Act of 1912, with jurisdiction over cases arising out of non-compliance with awards, and statutes governing working conditions of employees. Their powers are cognate with those of police magistrates.

Details of the constitution and operations of these tribunals are published in the chapter relating to Employment and Production of this Year Book.

COURTS OF FEDERAL JURISDICTION.

By the Commonwealth Judiciary Act, 1903-1926, jurisdiction under Federal laws is vested in the several courts of the States within the limits of their several jurisdictions, as to locality, subject-matter, etc. Justices of the Peace are, however, precluded from exercising Federal jurisdiction. Certain acts (*e.g.*, the Postal Act and Customs Act) also confer jurisdiction in special cases on State Courts.

There are two Commonwealth courts which possess certain jurisdiction, exclusive of State courts, these are the High Court of Australia and the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.*

High Court of Australia.

This Court was established in 1903 and consists of a Chief Justice and six puisne justices. Its principal seat is at the seat of Government, but sittings are held in the various States, and district registrars are appointed as required. The jurisdiction of the Court, which may be exercised in the first instance by one judge, is exclusive with regard to suits between States or any State and the Commonwealth, matters arising directly under a treaty, or writs of mandamus or prohibition against a Federal officer or court.

The High Court is constituted also as a Court of Appeal for Australia.

COURTS OF APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

Generally speaking appellate jurisdiction is exercised, in cases where appeals are permitted, by the District Courts and Courts of Quarter Sessions from Magistrates' Courts, by the Supreme Court from District Courts, and Courts of Quarter Sessions, by the High Court of Australia from the Supreme Court, and (in certain cases) by the Privy Council from either of the two last-named courts. Appeal on points of law (usually by stating a case) may be made to the Supreme Court from any ordinary court of the State or from any special court (*e.g.* Land, Industrial Commission, and Workers' Compensation Commission).

A Court of Criminal Appeal, presided over by Judges of the Supreme Court, was established in 1912.

Civil Appeals to the Supreme Court.

Three or more Judges of the Supreme Court may sit in its various civil jurisdictions (1) *in Banco*, to hear appeals from District Courts or from decisions of justices in chambers, and to consider motions for new trials and kindred matters—in certain circumstances such cases may be heard by one justice; (2) as a Full Court of three or more justices, to hear appeals from orders and decrees made by one justice in the various jurisdictions of the court. One judge may sit in chambers to hear applications for writs of mandamus or prohibition, and to determine special cases stated by magistrates.

* Particulars of this court may be found in the chapter on "Employment and Production" of the Year Book.

During 1924 there were 50 motions for new trials before the Full Court at Common Law, 12 being granted, 14 refused, 16 not proceeded with, and 8 were pending at the end of the year. Of four appeals in Equity 1 was sustained, 2 were disallowed and 1 was not concluded. There were 13 appeals in Divorce, 1 being sustained, 6 disallowed, and 6 were not proceeded with. One appeal in Bankruptcy was sustained and 2 were not concluded. Of 27 appeals from judgments in District Courts, 7 were allowed, 8 dismissed, 5 were not proceeded with, and 7 were not reached. In addition, 9 writs of prohibition were granted, and 8 refused. Two writs of mandamus were granted, and in special cases stated by magistrates, the magisterial finding was sustained in 6 cases, and reversed in 15. Two decisions of the Land and Valuation Court were sustained.

Appeals to the High Court of Australia.

Appeal to the High Court of Australia from judgments of the Supreme Court of New South Wales may be made in any case by permission of the High Court, and as of right in cases involving a matter valued at £300 or more, or involving the status of any person under laws relating to aliens, marriage, divorce or bankruptcy, provided that appeal lay to the Privy Council in such case at the date of establishment of the Commonwealth. Such appeal may be made irrespective of whether any State law provides that the decision of the Supreme Court is final.

During 1924 the appeals heard by the High Court were as follow :—From a single judge exercising jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in Equity, 5 allowed, 3 dismissed; Bankruptcy, 1 dismissed; Divorce, 1 dismissed. From the Full Court of the Supreme Court, 10 allowed, 13 dismissed. In addition, 4 appeals were heard from assessments under the Federal Land Tax Act, 2 were allowed, 2 dismissed. There was also 1 appeal from a judge exercising Federal jurisdiction in New South Wales.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

Appeals from dominion courts to the Crown-in-Council are now heard by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Such appeals are heard by virtue of the royal prerogative to review decisions of all Courts of the dominions, which can be limited only by Act of Parliament.

The cases which may be heard on appeal by the Judicial Committee were defined by Order-in-Council in 1909. Appeal may be made as of right from determinations of the Supreme Court involving any property or right to the value of £500 or more, and as of grace from the Supreme or High Court in any matter of substantial importance, including criminal cases in special circumstances. Except where the High Court consents no appeal may be made to the Privy Council upon any question as to the limits *inter se* of the constitutional powers of the Commonwealth or States.

The number of applications to the Privy Council for leave to appeal during the past ten years was 14 in Common Law and 15 in Equity. In this period 4 appeals were upheld, and 7 dismissed, while in Equity 2 were upheld and 2 dismissed. Four appeals in Admiralty were dismissed. An appeal in Bankruptcy was upheld in 1907, and another was pending in 1925. There have been no appeals in Divorce.

APPEALS IN CRIMINAL CASES.

Appeals to Quarter Sessions.

The right of appeal from Courts of Petty Sessions to Courts of Quarter Sessions lies against all convictions or orders by magistrates, excepting adjudication to imprisonment for failure to comply with an order for the

payment of money, for the finding of sureties for entering into a recognisance or for giving security, and orders for the payment of wages and convictions for breaches of discipline under the Seamen's Act, 1898. The Appeal Court rehears the cases, deciding questions of fact as well as of law.

The results of appeals from Courts of Petty Sessions during the last five years are shown below :—

Year.	Cases in which Conviction or Order was—			Total Cases Concluded.	Cases not Concluded.
	Confirmed.	Varied.	Quashed.		
1921	456	109	154	719	107
1922	538	87	148	773	113
1923	470	96	193	759	111
1924	468	126	175	769	104
1925	476	130	170	776	10

Appeals are made from less than 1 per cent. of the convictions in Magistrates' Courts. In 1925 convictions were quashed in 22 per cent. of the appeal cases concluded, and varied in 17 per cent. of such cases.

Court of Criminal Appeal.

The Court of Criminal Appeal was established by the Criminal Appeal Act of 1912, which prescribes that the Supreme Court shall be the Court of Criminal Appeal, constituted by three or more Judges of the Supreme Court as the Chief Justice may direct. Any person convicted on indictment may appeal to the Court against his conviction (1) on any ground which involves a question of law alone, or (2) with the leave of the Court or upon the certificate of the judge of the court of trial, on any ground which involves a question of fact alone, or of mixed law and fact, or any other ground which appears to the Court to be sufficient. With the leave of the Court, a convicted person may appeal also against the sentence passed on conviction. In such appeal the Court may quash the sentence and substitute another either more or less severe.

In addition to determining appeals in ordinary cases the Court has power, in special cases, to record a verdict and pass a sentence in substitution for the verdict and sentence of the court of trial. It also may grant a new trial, either on its own motion or on application of the appellant.

The result of appeals heard by the Court of Criminal Appeal during the last five years is shown hereunder :—

Year.	Applications to Judge.		Applications to Court.				Sentences Varied (included in Convictions Affirmed).
	Granted.	Refused.	Convictions.		New Trials Granted.	Total Cases.	
			Affirmed.	Quashed.			
1921	39	2	3	44	...
1922	33	1	6	40	4
1923	53	1	4	58	...
1924	73	5	12	90	9
1925	57	2	4	63	6

The number of appeal cases heard in 1924 was approximately 9 per cent. of the convictions of that year. In addition to the number shown in the table 16 appeals were abandoned during 1922, 16 in 1923, 15 in 1924 and 26 in 1925. Five of the sentences varied in 1925 were increased.

ADMINISTRATION OF LAW.

In New South Wales the duty of administering laws is allotted to Ministers of the Crown in their respective spheres, and a table of Acts administered by each Minister, may be found in "The New South Wales Parliamentary Companion." At least two members of the Cabinet are allotted the special functions involved in the administration of justice and in transacting the legal business of the State. Usually an Attorney-General and a Minister of Justice are appointed, but sometimes these offices are combined and a Solicitor-General is included in the Cabinet. Sometimes the Solicitor-General is a salaried public servant. There is also a Crown Solicitor—a salaried public servant.

Attorney-General.

The Attorney-General is charged with the conduct of business relating to the higher courts (such as Supreme and District Courts), the offices of the Crown Solicitor, Crown Prosecutors, Clerk of the Peace, and Parliamentary Draftsmen, as well as statute law consolidation and certain Acts, including the Poor Prisoners' Defence Act and the Poor Persons' Legal Remedies Act. Furthermore, he corresponds with other Ministers on questions of State on which his legal opinion is required, and with judges on matters within his control, initiates and defends proceedings by or against the State, and determines whether prosecution lies in cases of indictable offences.

Minister of Justice.

The Minister of Justice supervises the working of all magistrates' courts, of gaols and penal establishments, the infliction of punishment and execution of sentences, also the operations of the various offices connected with the Supreme and District Courts. He administers Acts of Parliament relating to justices, juries, coroners, prisons and prisoners, criminals, inebriates, registration of firms, companies and licensed trades and callings.

OFFICE AND TENURE OF MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY.

Judges of the Supreme Court.

Judges of the Supreme Court of New South Wales are styled "Justices," and are appointed by Commission of the Governor on the advice of the Executive Council. No person may be appointed Judge of the Supreme Court unless he is a barrister of five years standing. In addition to exercising legal jurisdiction the judges have power to make rules governing court procedure and to control the admission to practice of barristers and solicitors and to supervise their conduct.

A judge is immune from prosecution for the performance of his judicial duties within the scope of his jurisdiction. He holds office "during good behaviour" until the age of seventy years at a salary fixed by statute—£3,500 per annum to the Chief Justice and £2,600 per annum to each puisne judge. By these provisions the judiciary is rendered completely independent of the executive, but a judge may be removed from office by the Crown on the address of both Houses of Parliament.

Judges of the District Court.

Any barrister of five years standing or attorney of seven years standing may be appointed as judge of the District Court by the Governor, and may exercise the jurisdiction of the Court in districts allotted by the Governor. Such persons when appointed hold office during ability and good behaviour at a salary of £1,500 per annum, which may not be reduced during their

term of office. The Governor may remove from office any District Court Judge for inability or misbehaviour subject first to appeal to the Governor-in-Council. A judge may not engage in practice of the legal profession.

Other Officers.

Certain ministerial functions are performed by magistrates and justices in addition to their judicial duties, but special officers are appointed for certain purposes in the administration of justice, viz., Crown Prosecutors to act in Criminal Courts in prosecuting persons accused of indictable offences, Clerks of Petty Sessions, the Clerk of the Peace and his deputies, to act as Clerks for the Courts of Quarter Sessions, Registrars of the Small Debts and District Courts, and Bailiffs.

In connection with the Supreme Court there are two important officers in addition to those connected with special jurisdictions, viz., the Prothonotary and the Sheriff.

Prothonotary.

The Prothonotary of the Supreme Court is its principal officer in the common law and criminal jurisdiction. He acts as registrar to the Courts of Matrimonial Causes, Admiralty, and Criminal Appeal. The Prothonotary or his deputy may be empowered under rules of the court to transact business usually transacted by a judge sitting in chambers, except in respect of matters relating to liberty of the subject.

Sheriff.

The office of Sheriff was first established in New South Wales in 1824, and is regulated now by the Sheriff Act, 1900. There is a Sheriff and Under Sheriff. Sheriff's officers are stationed at convenient country centres, where there is a Deputy Sheriff—usually a Police Magistrate. The functions of the Sheriff include the enforcement of judgments and execution of writs of the Supreme Court, the summoning and supervision of juries, and administrative arrangements relating to the holding of courts.

Magistrates.

Magistrates are appointed from among members of the Public Service unless it is certified by the Public Service Board that no member of the service is suitable for such office. Persons so appointed must have attained the full age of thirty-five years, have passed the prescribed examination in law, and be prepared to reside permanently in the district to which they are appointed. Magistrates are required to take the judicial oath and the oath of allegiance, and they hold office at the pleasure of the Governor.

Within the districts of the Metropolis, Parramatta, Newcastle, Broken Hill, Bathurst, and Wollongong the jurisdiction of the Court of Petty Sessions is exercised exclusively by Stipendiary Magistrates. In country districts jurisdiction in Petty Sessions is exercised by Police Magistrates wherever convenient, and otherwise by honorary justices in minor cases. Police Magistrates were first appointed in 1837, and Stipendiary Magistrates in 1881.

The jurisdiction of magistrates has been explained in connection with Courts of Petty Sessions, and their functions comprise those of Justices of the Peace explained later. In addition they usually act in country centres as District Registrars in Bankruptcy, Revising Magistrates, visiting Justices to gaols, Deputy Sheriffs, Mining Wardens, Licensing Magistrates, and Industrial Magistrates.

At 31st December, 1925, there were fourteen Stipendiary Magistrates with salaries ranging from £805 to £1,125 per annum, and twenty Police Magistrates with salaries ranging from £705 to £805.

Justices of the Peace.

Any person of mature age and good character may be appointed a Justice of the Peace by Commission, under the Grand Seal. The office is honorary, and is held during the pleasure of the Crown. No special qualifications in law are required of appointees, but they must be persons of standing in the community and must take prescribed oaths. Women became eligible for the office under the Women's Legal Status Act, 1918.

The functions of justices are numerous, extending over the administration of justice generally, the maintenance of peace, and the judicial duties of the office. The judicial powers are explained in connection with the Courts of Petty Sessions, and other duties include the issue of warrants for arrests, issue of summonses, administration of oaths, and certification of documents.

At the end of 1923 there were approximately 15,000 Justices of the Peace in New South Wales, including 219 women.

Registrar-General.

The Office of Registrar-General in New South Wales is that of registrar of certain occurrences and transactions of special legal significance as prescribed by Act of Parliament. Registrations are made of births, deaths and marriages; of deeds, titles to land, transfers, land leases; of mortgages and liens; of companies and firms, and of documents under the Real Property Act. The Transfer of Records Acts, passed in October, 1923, provides for the transfer from the Supreme Court to the Office of the Registrar-General, records of bills of sale, and of instruments under the Newspapers and Printing and certain other Acts. The documents are usually available for inspection by the public. Fees are charged in most cases for registration and for inspection. The amount collected as fees for inspection and searches, and for public documents sold by the Registrar-General during 1924, was £213,458, of which £155,837 were collected by the Lands Titles Branch and £48,923 in the Deeds Branch.

Public Trustee.

Under the Public Trustee Act, 1913, which was amended in 1923, the functions of the Curator of Intestate Estates were taken over by the Public Trustee on 1st January, 1914. The Public Trustee may act as trustee under a will, or marriage or other settlement; executor of a will; administrator under a will where the executor declines to act, is dead or absent from the State; administrator of intestate estates; and as agent or attorney for any person who authorises him so to act. In general the Public Trustee takes out probate or letters of administration in the Probate Court in the ordinary way, but the amending Act of 1923 enables him to file an election to administer in that court in certain cases in testacy or intestacy where the gross value of the estate does not exceed £400. He may act also as manager, guardian or receiver of the estate of an insane or incapable person, or as guardian or receiver of the estate of an infant. He is a *corporation sole* with perpetual succession and a seal of office and is subject to the control and orders of the Supreme Court.

Where the net value of an intestate estate does not exceed £100, the Public Trustee may pay the whole amount direct to the widow, and he may apply the share of an infant, not exceeding £500, to the maintenance of the infant. As attorney or agent he may collect rents or interest on investments, supervise repairs, prepare taxation returns, and pay taxes, etc. Agents of the Trustee are appointed in towns throughout the State.

Operations are not conducted for profit, and the fees and commission chargeable are regulated to provide sufficient money to cover working expenses only. The accounts of the Public Trust Office are audited by the Auditor-General.

The following is a summary of the transactions during the last five years ending 30th June :—

Particulars.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
New Estates Administered—					
As Administrator ...	1,024	981	1,761	2,125	2,125
As Executor or Trustee ...	74	80	93	100	119
As Attorney or Agent ...	3	11	12	14	22
	£	£	£	£	£
Amount Received* ...	649,972	658,232	829,475	870,554	930,890
Amount Paid* ...	687,668	657,639	789,355	897,650	769,510
Commission and Fees ...	26,994	22,830	31,761	27,130	30,822
Unclaimed Money—					
Paid into Treasury ...	2,985	3,243	3,822	10,865	2,139
Subsequently Claimed... ..	1,210	1,231	995	1,383	1,860
Remaining Unclaimed.. ..	...	...	...	74,477	75,672
Credit Balances of Estates ...	2,189,090	2,425,477	2,887,434	3,235,742	3,637,188

* On behalf of estates.

During the year ended 30th June, 1925, the operations resulted in a profit of £4,956, which increased the accumulated profits to £18,704. The number of estates handled between the inception of the office of Public Trustee on 1st January, 1914, and 30th June, 1925, was 30,097, and their aggregate value £7,105,813.

Poor Persons' Legal Expenses.

Under the Poor Prisoners' Defence Act, 1907, any person committed for trial for an indictable offence may apply for legal aid for his defence before the jury is sworn. If the judge or committing magistrate considers that the person is without adequate means, and that such legal aid should be supplied, the Attorney-General may arrange for the defence of the accused and for payment of expenses of all material witnesses.

The Poor Persons' Legal Remedies Act, 1918, authorises judges to make rules regulating the practice and procedure, and the costs and fees payable in respect of proceedings to which poor persons are parties. Such proceedings may not be instituted without permission, and judges to whom applications for permission are made are authorised to act as conciliators. The rules made under this act do not apply to criminal proceedings.

Barristers and solicitors have enrolled under this Act to give their services free of charge on being assigned in a proper case. Out-of-pocket expenses are paid by the Crown.

PATENTS, COPYRIGHTS, TRADE MARKS, AND DESIGNS.

The administration of the statutes relating to Patents, Copyrights, Trade Marks, and Designs, devolves upon the Federal authorities, and a patent granted under the Commonwealth law is thus afforded protection in all the States, and in the Territory of Papua, for sixteen years. The copyright in a book, the performing right in a dramatic or musical work, and the lecturing right in a lecture, continue for the author's life and fifty years after his death. The British Copyright Act, subject to certain modifications, is in force in the Commonwealth under the Copyright Act, 1912.

The registration of a trade-mark protects it for fourteen years, but may be renewed from time to time. An industrial design may be protected for five years, and the period extended to fifteen years, provided it is used in Australia within two years of registration.

Under the various Imperial and Federal Acts, arrangements may be made by means of reciprocal legislation for the protection in other countries of patents, copyrights, trade-marks, and designs. In all cases the rights of holders under the legislation of a State were conserved.

LEGAL PROFESSION.

The legal profession in New South Wales is controlled by regulations of the Supreme Court, which prescribe the conditions of entry to the profession, regulate studentships at law and specify the legal examinations which must be passed prior to admission to practice. Separate boards have been established to govern the admission of barristers and solicitors.

Any solicitor duly admitted to practice has the right of audience in all courts of New South Wales, but the Supreme Court may suspend or remove from the roll any solicitor for proven misconduct or malpractice. Barristers have, in general, no legal right to fees for their services in court, but scales of charges for certain services rendered by solicitors are prescribed by regulation and costs of suits are in certain instances taxed off by an officer of the Supreme Court.

The following table shows the number of members of the legal profession in practice at intervals since 1911, and illustrates the increase in numbers in recent years:—

End of Year.	Barristers.	Solicitors.		
		Sydney.	Country.	Total.
1911	156	603	411	1,014
1918	169	629	429	1,058
1920	174	666	423	1,089
1922	184	717	439	1,156
1923	199	754	440	1,194
1924	211	790	457	1,247
1925	217	798	476	1,274

The number of barristers at the end of 1925 included 29 King's Counsel. The number stated in the table does not include the District Court judges, the Master in Equity, magistrates, State officials who are barristers, non-practising barristers, nor those on the roll—but not resident—in New South Wales. There were in addition to the above 69 certificated conveyancers.

Barristers are organised under the Council of the Bar of New South Wales, and solicitors under the Incorporated Law Institute of New South Wales. There is also a Society of Notaries.

JURY SYSTEM.

The jury system was first introduced into New South Wales in 1824, but was not converted to its present form until 1839.

All crimes and misdemeanours prosecuted by indictment in the Supreme Court or Courts of Quarter Sessions must be tried before a jury of twelve persons, who find as to the facts of the case, the punishment being determined by the judge. Most civil cases may be tried before a special jury of four persons, or a jury of twelve persons, upon application and with the consent of the court. The jury in such cases determines questions of fact and assesses damages. The procedure in relation to juries is governed principally by the Juries Act, 1912, but other Acts regulate special cases.

Persons liable to service on juries include, with certain exceptions, any person above the age of 21 years residing in New South Wales, and having a clear yearly income of £30 or more from real and personal estate, or a real and personal estate of the value of £300 or more. The principal exceptions are foreign subjects, who have not resided in New South Wales for at least seven years, and certain persons attainted of treason or felony. Persons specially exempt include judges, members of parliament, certain public officers, employees of the Government of any State of the Commonwealth, clergymen, barristers, solicitors, magistrates, police officers, doctors, dentists, chemists, schoolmasters, certain employees of banks, incapacitated persons, and persons above the age of 60 years who claim exemption.

A jurors' list is compiled annually in October for each Petty Sessions District by the senior police officer. This list is made available for public inspection, and revised in December before a magistrate. Lists of persons qualified and liable to serve on special juries are prepared also. They include persons of prescribed avocations. The jurors summoned to hear an issue are decided by lot. Accused persons and the Crown each have the right to challenge eight jurors in criminal cases, and twenty in capital cases, without assigning reasons. In civil cases twice the number of jurors required are summoned, and one-fourth of the number is struck off by each party to the case.

In criminal cases the verdict of the jury must be unanimous. Where agreement is not reached within twelve hours, the jury may be discharged, and the accused tried again before another jury. In civil cases the verdict of three-fourths of the jury may be accepted after six hours deliberation, but failing agreement within twelve hours, the jury is discharged and a new trial held.

HABITUAL CRIMINALS AND PREVENTIVE DETENTION.

The Habitual Criminals Act, 1905, empowers a judge to declare as an habitual criminal any person convicted for the third or, in some cases, the fourth time, of certain criminal offences, as specified in the Act. The definite sentence imposed for the last conviction is first served, and the offender is then detained for an indefinite term, until he is deemed fit for freedom.

This system of treatment acts as a deterrent to the existence of professional criminals, and confers an incalculable benefit on society by removing the force of criminal example. The benefits accruing from the system of indeterminate sentences, as initiated in New South Wales, have led to its adoption in other communities.

Six men were declared habitual criminals during 1924, the total number so declared since the inception of the Act being 104, including 1 woman. At the end of 1924 there were under detention 19 men who had not yet completed the definite period of their sentence, and 19 men who had passed into the indeterminate stage.

On the completion of the definite term under the ordinary prison regulations, the habitual criminal passes to the indeterminate stage, which is divided into three grades—intermediate, higher, and special. A minimum period of 4 years and 8 months must be spent in the lower grades before the prisoner can gain admission to the special grade, wherein cases may be brought under consideration with a view to release.

An important proviso of the Habitual Criminals Act prescribes that while under detention as an habitual criminal every prisoner must work at some useful trade, and receive at least one-half of the proceeds of his work. As the majority of these persons have not been trained in any branch of skilled labour, facilities are afforded them, while serving the definite term, to acquire training in some remunerative employment.

FIRST OFFENDERS.

Special provision is made by the Crimes Act, 1900, for lenience towards any person convicted of a minor offence and sentenced to penal servitude or imprisonment therefor, provided such person has not been convicted previously of an indictable offence. The term "minor offence" includes, in this connection, all offences punishable summarily, and any other offence to which the court applies the provisions of the Act. In such cases sentence is pronounced in the ordinary way, and execution thereof suspended upon the offender entering into recognisance to be of good behaviour for a fixed period of at least twelve months. Such persons are required to undergo an examination to facilitate future identification, and to report quarterly to the police. They may be arrested and committed to prison for the term of sentence imposed, for any breach of the conditions of their release during the period of probation.

Special provision was made in 1918 for observing privacy in hearing the cases of female first offenders.

The following table shows the particulars available concerning persons released as first offenders in the last nine years (cases of children being excluded):—

Year.	First Offenders Released by Higher Courts.	First Offenders Released on Probation by Magistrates Courts.	Total First Offenders Released on Probation.	Year.	First Offenders Released by Higher Courts.	First Offenders Released on Probation by Magistrates Courts.	Total First Offenders Released on Probation.
1917	84	219	303	1922	136	543	679
1918	120	269	389	1923	154	436	590
1919	151	282	433	1924	97	406	503
1920	217	241	458	1925	28	370	398
1921	246	395	641				

FUGITIVE OFFENDERS AND EXTRADITION.

By the Service and Execution of Process Act (Federal), civil process commenced in any State of the Commonwealth may be served in any other, and judgment obtained in any State may be enforced in any other. In criminal proceedings, warrants issued in one State and endorsed in another may be duly executed in that State and the fugitive surrendered.

Special arrangements governing these matters as between different parts of the British Empire are made by the Fugitive Offenders' Act, 1881 (Imperial). Subject to local inquiry and committal, any person charged with an offence punishable by imprisonment for twelve months or more may be arrested under a warrant locally endorsed, or under a provisional warrant in cases of suspicion, and extradited.

Extradition to foreign countries is governed by Imperial Acts, or local Acts of special sanction, under treaties concluded with the countries concerned. But such treaties may be arranged only by the Imperial Government and these are usually made applicable to the whole Empire. Various acts are in force. As regards New South Wales, application for the surrender of a foreign criminal is made to the Governor-General by the foreign consul or government concerned. No person, however, may be surrendered without due inquiry into the charge laid against him, and when surrendered he must not be tried for any other offence. Persons charged with political offences only may not be extradited. Application to foreign countries for surrender of a criminal to New South Wales are usually made by the Attorney-General.

The number of fugitive offenders arrested in New South Wales and remanded to other States or countries during 1924 was 24, and the number arrested in other States or countries and returned to New South Wales was 12.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

The following table shows the total number of death sentences pronounced and sentences of death recorded, and executions during the years 1919-24 :—

Year.	Death Sentences Pronounced and Sentences of Death Recorded.	Executions.	Year.	Death Sentences Pronounced and Sentences of Death Recorded.	Executions.
1919	3	...	1922	3	...
1920	14	...	1923	2	...
1921	8	...	1924	...	2

At the close of 1924, there were in gaol 61 persons, including 2 women, serving life sentence, and 1 under sentence of death.

A Bill to abolish capital punishment in New South Wales was passed by the Legislative Assembly, but was rejected by the Legislative Council, in 1926.

POLICE.

The police force of New South Wales is organised under the Police Regulation Acts of 1899 and 1906. The Commissioner of Police, under direction of the Colonial Secretary, is charged with the superintendence of police, and is responsible for the organisation, discipline, and efficiency of the force. Superintendents and inspectors of police are appointed by the Governor as subordinates of the Commissioner. Sergeants and constables are appointed as required by the Commissioner, but such appointments may be disallowed by the Governor.

No person may be appointed constable unless he is of sound constitution, able-bodied, under the age of 30 years, of good character, and able to read and write. Any person who has been convicted of a felony, is in other employment, or keeps a house for the sale of liquor, is incapable of acting as an officer of police. A high physical standard is required of recruits.

Members of the force must take an oath of faithful and impartial service, and may be punished by fine in Courts of Petty Sessions for failure or refusal of duty. They remain in office until the age of 60 years (or 65 with special permission), unless previously discharged. They may resign on giving three months' notice.

The powers of police officers rest on the common law, with certain express additions made thereto by statute. The primary duties of the police are to prevent crime, to detect offenders and to bring them to justice, to protect life and property, to enforce the law, and to maintain peace and good order throughout the State. In addition, they perform many duties in the service of the State, *e.g.*, they act as Clerks of Petty Sessions in small centres, as Crown Land Bailiffs, Foresters, Mining Wardens, Inspectors under Fisheries and other Acts; they collect revenue, such as taxes in respect of motor vehicles; they revise the electoral lists, and collect a large volume of statistical returns.

The State is divided into 9 superintendents' districts, containing at the end of 1924, 668 police stations, and a police force numbering 2,923. The distribution of the force in 1924 was as follows :—

Classification.	Commis- sioner and Superin- tendents.	In- spectors.	Ser- geants.	Con- stables.	Trackers.	Total.
General	11	53	573	1,967*	33	2,637*
Detective	1†	1	22	24	...	.48
Water ... ..	...	1	9	41	...	51
Traffic	1	3	12	171	...	187
Total	13	58	616	2,203*	33	2,923*

* Including 211 on probation and 8 women, viz., 4 Searchers and 4 Special Constables. † Acting.

The mounted police numbered 795, including all inspectors and superintendents, 193 sergeants, 498 constables, and 33 black trackers.

The following statement shows for various years since 1896 the strength of the police establishment (exclusive of trackers and women police) in

relation to the population. In 1900 the function of regulating the metropolitan street traffic was transferred to the police, and with a greater volume of administrative legislation their duties have been increased.

Year.	Number of Police.	Inhabitants to each Policeman.	Year.	Number of Police.	Inhabitants to each Policeman.
1896	1,874	682	1917	2,557	751
1901	2,172	634	1918	2,480	792
1906	2,342	640	1919	2,569	794
1911	2,487	684	1920	2,634	795
1912	2,554	700	1921	2,734	779
1913	2,582	715	1922	2,795	778
1914	2,627	717	1923	2,821	784
1915	2,613	725	1924	2,882	783
1916	2,587	729	1925	2,925	778

From 1901 to 1920 the police force grew at a slower rate than the population, but since that date some slight recovery has been made.

Rates of Pay and Pensions.

The salaries paid to the police are as follow:—Commissioner, £1,500; superintendents, £600 to £700 per annum; inspectors, £450 to £500 per annum; sergeants, 19s. to 21s. 6d. per day; constables, 15s. 1d. to 18s. per day; trackers, £4 5s. per week; daily rates being paid for seven days per week.

In addition officers not provided with quarters receive lodging allowances as follow:—Inspector-General £150; superintendents, £110 per annum; inspectors, £80 per annum. Other ranks—married men, 2s. 6d. per day; single men, 1s. 6d. per day. A clothing allowance of £20 per annum is made to plain-clothes police in lieu of uniform.

In terms of the Police Regulation (Superannuation) Act, 1906, a deduction of 4 per cent. is made from the pay or salary of members of the police force on account of contributions to a Superannuation Fund.

Pension and gratuity rights accrue to officers who retire by reason of medical unfitness for duty, or on or after attaining the age of 60 years, and are as follow:—To police appointed before 1st February, 1907, with less than 15 years' service, a gratuity not exceeding one month's pay is payable for each year of service, and a further gratuity of a month's pay for each year of service after the tenth year; to officers with 15 years' and less than 20 years' service, a pension equal to half-pay, less 3 per cent., is payable; from 20 years' and less than 25 years' service, a pension equal to two-thirds, less 3 per cent.; from 25 years' and less than 30 years' service, a pension equal to three-quarters less 3 per cent.; and from 30 years and upwards, a pension equal to full pay, less 3 per cent. To officers appointed after 31st January, 1907, with less than 20 years' service, a gratuity not exceeding one month's pay for each year of service is payable; to officers with 20 years' service and upwards, a retiring allowance not exceeding one-fortieth of salary for each complete year of service, less 3 per cent., provided that such allowance shall not exceed three-quarters of salary, less 3 per cent. Where an officer is disabled or killed in the execution of his duty, a special allowance not exceeding his salary at the time of disablement or death may be paid to him or his dependents. Further particulars of the fund are shown in the chapter Social Condition of this Year Book.

The Police Regulation (Appeals) Act, 1923, which came into operation on 1st February, 1924, provides for the appointment of a Board, constituted by a District Court Judge, to hear appeals against the decisions of the

Commissioner of Police in regard to promotions or the imposition of punishments, consisting of fine, suspension, dismissal, reduction in rank or pay, or transfer. Any party to an appeal may require it to be heard before the judge and two members of the police as assessors, one being nominated by the Commissioner and one by the Police Force. The findings of the Board are subject to review by the Colonial Secretary, as the responsible Minister of State, and his decision is final.

Regulation of Traffic.

Information regarding regulation of traffic formerly published in this chapter of the Year Book has been transferred to the chapter "Transport and Communication."

PRISON SERVICES.

A prison may be established by proclamation of the Governor, at any premises prepared and maintained as a prison at the public expense. A Comptroller-General and Deputy Comptroller-General of Prisons are appointed by the Governor for the care of prisons and custody of convicted prisoners. Persons in custody awaiting trial are held by the Comptroller-General for the Sheriff.

All prisons must be visited at least once each week by a magistrate appointed to be "Visiting Justice," who may enter and inspect, and report to the Chief Secretary upon any matter connected with the gaol as often as he deems necessary. Such justice may hear and determine complaints against prisoners and award as punishment a term of solitary confinement on bread and water. In addition Judges of the Supreme Court may visit prisons and sit as a Court of Gaol Delivery to determine cases of untried prisoners.

At the end of 1923 there were 24 gaols in New South Wales. Six were principal, 7 minor, and 11 police gaols. Since 1901, when there were 59 gaols, 40 have been closed, and 5 opened. Parramatta gaol was reopened in 1922 after having been closed for four years.

Grading of Establishments.

The prison establishments are graded with a view to the concentration of prison population in institutions large enough to ensure efficiency of supervision with economy of administration, and the maintenance of a strict and disciplinary organisation conducive to the highest ideals of reform.

The State Reformatory for Women at Long Bay is occupied by prisoners of all classes, and the State Penitentiary for Men at Long Bay is used as a place of detention for incapables from the city, and as a centre from which long-sentence prisoners are distributed to the principal country establishments. At the police gaols and lock-ups are detained only prisoners with sentences of less than fourteen days. The Prisoners' Afforestation Camp, Tuncurry, receives selected prisoners (first offenders) after portion of their sentence has been served. At the Emu Plains Prison Farm, young industrious prisoners, with suitable qualifications are treated on somewhat similar lines.

Classification of Prisoners.

In all the large establishments an inter-classification system is operative, which assures the segregation of the inmates in various classes according to age and conduct. For several years the principle of restricted association has been in operation, and has yielded successful results. Under present conditions association while at work, at exercise, and at religious instruction, is subject to the closest supervision. Cells are lighted, and literature is provided from the prison libraries.

PRISON POPULATION.

The number of gaol entries during the various years, and the number of prisoners in gaol, exclusive of inebriates, at the close of various years since 1901 are shown below :—

Year.	Number of Gaol Entries during Year.	Prisoners at end of Year.							Prisoners under Sentence per 10,000 of Population.
		Under Sentence.		Awaiting Trial.		Total.			
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
1901	14,361	1,499	197	106	10	1,605	207	1,812	12·3
1911	9,532	1,066	107	68	8	1,134	115	1,249	6·9
1916	9,999	1,251	206	64	10	1,315	210	1,525	7·7
1921	8,817	1,182	91	90	6	1,272	97	1,369	6·0
1922	8,955	1,292	81	97	6	1,389	87	1,476	6·3
1923	8,752	1,263	76	86	8	1,349	84	1,433	6·1
1924	8,104	1,337	74	62	4	1,399	78	1,477	6·2

The number of gaol entries shown in the table, includes convicted persons, persons awaiting trial, debtors, naval and military offenders, and persons on remand, some of whom were received and counted several times.

Of the prisoners in gaol under sentence at the end of 1924, there were 1,307 serving sentences of penal servitude, or of hard labour, including 61 serving life sentences, and 38 habitual criminals. One prisoner was under sentence of death, and 104 were serving sentences of imprisonment only. The terms of sentence were unspecified in 98 cases.

The number of convicted prisoners in gaols decreased in a marked degree between 1901 and 1911. At the end of the former year the number was 1,696 or 12·3 per 10,000 of population as compared with 1,173 or 6·9 per 10,000 of population in 1911. The prison population increased between 1911 and 1915, when, owing probably to circumstances brought about by the war, a further marked decline occurred, and at the end of 1919 the number of prisoners confined in gaols was the lowest since records were commenced in 1887. Between 1919 and 1922 the number increased, but, in proportion to population, the numbers decreased in 1923 and 1924.

The number of prisoners in gaols varies over lengthy periods under the influence of several variable factors, chiefly the number of offences for which imprisonment may be ordered and the severity of sentences imposed. There has, in recent years, been a growing tendency to lenient treatment. Therefore the number of confinees in any particular year does not necessarily reflect the amount of crime committed in that year.

The following statement shows the number of individual prisoners under sentence received into gaols during various years since 1901 :—

Year.	Convicted in Higher Courts.			Convicted in Courts of Petty Sessions.			Other persons sentenced to Prison.	Grand Total.
	Not previously in Prison.	Previously in Prison.	Total.	Sentenced to Prison.	Imprisoned in default of paying Fine.	Total.		
1901	270	382	652	2,804	8,182	10,986	202	11,840
1911	248	237	485	1,728	4,959	6,687	261	7,433
1912	238	261	499	2,357	5,844	8,201	259	8,959
1913	298	349	647	2,372	6,016	8,388	281	9,316
1914	243	412	655	2,426	6,299	8,725	416	9,796
1919	303	279	582	1,487	3,076	4,563	264	5,409
1920	390	418	808	1,630	3,724	5,354	40	6,202
1921	422	440	862	1,270	4,441	5,711	41	6,614
1922	405	452	857	1,440	4,226	5,666	42	6,565
1923	563	344	907	1,467	4,104	5,571	47	6,525
1924	550	302	852	1,375	3,832	5,207	30	6,089

* Includes persons imprisoned as debtors, as offenders against Federal laws, as naval and military offenders, and as a result of civil processes.

Of the persons imprisoned in 1924 in default of paying fines imposed by Courts of Petty Sessions 755 paid the fines after reception into gaol and were released.

This table provides a comparison of recent years with those more remote, and of the pre-war and post-war periods. General features of the figures are (1) that until 1922 nearly half the crimes for which convictions were obtained in the higher courts (*i.e.*, the more serious crimes) were committed by persons who had already been in prison, but in 1923 and 1924 there was a marked increase in the number of offenders received into gaol for the first time; (2) approximately two-thirds of the prisoners are committed to gaol in default of paying fines imposed in Courts of Petty Sessions. Since 1901 the total number of persons committed to prison under sentence has decreased heavily, especially when the growth of population is considered, the relative proportions per 1,000 of population being in 1901, 8·6; 1911, 4·5; 1921, 3·1; 1922, 3·5; 1923, 3·0; 1924, 2·7. This decrease is due mainly to a diminution in imprisonment for minor offences dealt with by Courts of Petty Sessions, where the decrease in the number of persons committed to prison without the option of paying a fine is particularly noticeable. Between 1911 and 1914 the number of persons imprisoned for serious crime was increasing, but was relatively less than in former years. The numerical increase since the war has not raised the proportion relatively to the population.

Imprisonment—Composition by Fine.

Under the Justices Act any persons committed to prison in default of payment of a fine may pay a portion of the fine under prison rules and be relieved of a proportionate part of the period of imprisonment. The extent to which prisoners have availed of this provision in various years since 1902, when it first became operative, is shown below:—

Particulars.	1902.	1911.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Persons committed to gaol in default of payment of fines ...	8,062	4,959	4,102	4,226	4,104	3,832
Prisoners subsequently released after paying portion of fines..	1,008	1,480	848	776	738	755
Days prisoners would have served if portion of fines had not been paid	30,768	41,104	32,323	25,140	25,504	26,490
Days remitted by part-payment of fines	20,179	30,120	18,464	10,761	11,713	13,689
Amount received at gaol as part-payment of fines ... £	2,198	3,153	3,157	2,840	2,483	2,321

In recent years the proportion of persons who took advantage of the provision has been about 20 per cent. of the total. In his report for 1924 the Comptroller-General of Prisons remarked that: "As many of these prisoners were imprisoned for short terms, and most of them were fined for minor offences, the question of devising other means of securing payment of the fines might well be considered. Their imprisonment in many cases is useless as a deterrent."

Prisoners Released on License.

Persons eligible for remission of sentence for good conduct and industry may be released on license to be of good behaviour.

Licenses operate for the unexpired portion of the sentence and sureties are required. The licensee is required to report periodically, and a breach of the conditions of release may be punished by the cancellation of the license, and recommitment to gaol for the balance of the sentence. During 1924, licenses were granted under the Crimes Act to 62 men and 5 women. Of these licenses 61 were without surety. Three licensees were returned to gaol for misbehaviour during the year. At the end of 1924 there were 43 licenses current under the Crimes Act.

Industrial Activity in Prison Establishments.

The ability of a prisoner to perform useful and remunerative labour is recognised as of equal importance with good conduct in demonstrating fitness for freedom. Therefore employment at industries calculated to inspire interest, to encourage some degree of skill, and subsequently to prove remunerative, is provided under the supervision of competent instructors. The principal activities are farming, gardening, bread-baking and minor manufactures.

In 1924 the value of prisoners' labour amounted to £68,897, viz. :—Manufactures, £26,059 ; agriculture, £10,816 ; buildings, £6,988 ; domestic employment, £21,989 ; and afforestation, £3,045. Prisoners' labour supplies almost entirely the needs of the Department in forage and vegetables.

Sickness and Mortality in Gaols.

Visiting surgeons are attached to the various important establishments and modern systems of sanitation and hygiene are in vogue. Among the persons received into the institutions are included some whose physical condition is deplorable, persons in the last stages of disease, and aged and infirm persons, for whom a hospital or asylum is the befitting destination. Prisoners suffering from tuberculosis receive special treatment.

The medical statistics of prisons show that, with an average daily number of 1,489 inmates during 1924, the total number of cases of sickness treated in hospital was 374. Six prisoners died, including one suicide, and 22 were released on medical grounds. The death rate per 1,000 of the average number of inmates was 4·03. There were two executions during the year.

Lock Hospitals.

Under the Prisoners Detention Act, 1908, prisoners found to be suffering from certain contagious diseases may be detained in Lock Hospitals attached to the gaols. In cases of imprisonment without option of fine, a stipendiary magistrate may cause the prisoner to be detained until certified by the medical officer as free from disease even after the definite sentence is served. In the case of imprisonment in lieu of payment of a fine, the Act did not provide for detention beyond the specified term of imprisonment until 1918, when an Act was passed to remedy this defect. All such prisoners may be treated now in the Lock Hospitals until free from contagion.

During 1924, 116 cases of venereal disease were treated, and orders for detention in the Lock Hospitals were obtained in the cases of 82 men and 7 women. Prisoners were detained for curative treatment during the year for periods ranging up to nine months after the expiration of their original sentence.

SPECIAL PRISON TREATMENT.

Upon the recommendation of the judge before whom they have been tried prisoners convicted of a misdemeanour under sentence of imprisonment without hard labour may be placed in a special class and treated similarly to those confined under civil process. Such prisoners are segregated and are allowed privileges regarding food, clothing, etc.

First Offenders.

The records of 852 persons received into gaol after conviction in the higher courts during 1924 show that 550 had not been imprisoned previously.

At Goulburn Gaol special reformatory treatment is provided for first offenders through the provision of useful employment, educational facilities, physical drill, and strict classification in order to prevent association with prisoners of vicious tendencies. That this plan is an important factor in the deterrent influence of the prison system, is evinced by the small proportion of re-convictions of prisoners passing through the treatment.

Youthful Offenders.

In New South Wales a strict line of demarcation is drawn between offenders over and under the age of 25 years, great discrimination and special care being necessary to prevent such youthful offenders from becoming confirmed criminals. Offenders under age 25 are classified in age-groups, and according to length of sentence over or under 12 months, and divisional treatment is accorded. Special disciplinary, scholastic, religious, physical training, and industrial courses are provided.

Maintenance Confinees.

The Deserted Wives and Children Amending Act, 1913, empowers the Comptroller-General of Prisons to direct a prisoner committed to prison under the Deserted Wives and Children Act, 1901, or the Infant Protection Act, 1904, to perform any specified class of work. An estimate is made of the value of the work performed, and after a deduction for the prisoner's keep, the remainder is applied towards satisfaction of the order for maintenance under the Deserted Wives and Children Act 1901, or for maintenance or expenses under the Infant Protection Act, 1904.

During 1924 the number of maintenance confinees received into gaol was 327, as compared with 453 in the previous year. Gaol earnings to the amount of £1,920 were paid to dependants of confinees during the year. Eighteen confinees paid the amount of their orders from gaol earnings, and 57 partly from gaol earnings.

Women in Prisons.

In August, 1909, the State Reformatory for Women was opened at Long Bay, and to this central institution are sent all prisoners from the metropolitan district, and all long-sentence prisoners from extra-metropolitan districts. At Long Bay an exhaustive system of classification is in force, accommodation being provided by means of 290 separate rooms. The industrial activity of the institution resulted in an output of manufactures, which, with the work of gardening and domestic services, was valued as £3,448.

In 1924, at all gaols of New South Wales, 928 female prisoners were received under sentence, the majority being detained at Long Bay. The daily average number of women under detention, including untried prisoners, was 84.

Most of the women received at the gaols were elderly degenerates committed on sentences of one month and less, consequently there was little opportunity for the application of reformatory measures.

The Treatment of Inebriates.

The Inebriates Act was designed to provide treatment for two classes of inebriates—those who have been convicted of an offence, and those who have not in this way come under the cognisance of the law.

For the care and treatment of the latter class, the Act authorises the establishment of State institutions under the control of the Inspector-General of Insane. Judges, police magistrates, and the Master-in-Lunacy may order that an inebriate be bound over to abstain, or that he be placed in a State or licensed institution, or under the care of an attendant controlled by the Master-in-Lunacy, or of a guardian, for a period not exceeding twelve months. Provision is made also to enable an inebriate to enter voluntarily into recognisances to abstain.

An inebriate convicted of an offence of which drunkenness is a factor, or, in certain cases, a contributing cause, may be required to enter into recognisances for a period of not less than twelve months, during which he must report periodically to the police; or he may be placed in a State institution under the direction of the Comptroller-General of Prisons.

Special provision has been made, at the State Penitentiary, for men, and, at the State Reformatory, for women detained under the Inebriates Act, who have been convicted previously for other offences. Since March, 1915, those of the non-criminal class have been treated at a separate establishment, the Shaftesbury Inebriate Institution.

In 1917 arrangements were made for the admission of voluntary paying patients to the Shaftesbury Institution. These patients may, under certain conditions, leave the institution daily to follow their usual occupation. During 1924, 23 men and 7 women were admitted as voluntary patients, and 3 men and 1 woman were remaining on 31st December.

The power of detaining inebriates in State Institutions was first exercised in 1907, and the majority of admissions have been of chronic offenders over 40 years of age, who for many years prior to admission had served frequent sentences under the repeated short sentence system, and who in consequence had drifted into a condition from which reformation seemed almost hopeless. In view of this fact the results attained by the operation of the Acts may be considered encouraging.

During the period dating from the first reception in August, 1907, to 31st December, 1924, the total number of original receptions amounted to 1,422—624 men and 798 women; 1,736 licenses for release were issued—687 to men, and 1,049 to women; 234 issued to men, and 462 to women, have been cancelled, and the licensees recommitted to institutions.

The number of persons admitted to the inebriate institutions in 1924 was 110, viz.—55 men and 55 women. Including transfers and those in custody at the beginning of the year, a total of 108 males and 104 females were dealt with. One man died, 57 men and 65 women were released on license, 9 men and 5 women were discharged, leaving 34 men and 29 women in the institutions at the end of the year.

The total expenditure on inebriate institutions during the year amounted to £5,356.

BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND EDUCATION OF PRISONERS.

The number of persons serving sentences in gaols at the end of 1924 were distributed as follows in groups of birthplaces and religions:—

Birthplace.				Religion.			
	Males.	Females.	Total.		Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales ...	801	32	833	Church of England	660	38	698
Other Australasian ...	263	21	284	Roman Catholic .	493	30	523
England and Wales ...	128	7	135	Methodist ...	52	3	55
Scotland ...	30	6	36	Presbyterian ...	72	3	75
Ireland ...	22	7	29	Other Christian ..	23	...	23
Other British ...	27	...	27	Non-Christian ...	23	...	23
Foreign Countries ...	66	1	67	No religion ...	14	...	14
Total ...	1,337	74	1,411	Total ...	1,337	74	1,411

Seventeen male prisoners were illiterate, 1 could read English, and 16 could read and write in a foreign language.

COST OF ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

The following table shows the amount expended by the State in the administration of justice, in the protection of property, and in the punishment of criminals, in New South Wales during the last five years; also the amount of fines and fees, and net returns from prisoners' labour paid into the Consolidated Revenue:—

Expenditure and Revenue.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Expenditure—					
Law Administration—					
Salaries, Pensions, etc., of Judges	£ 59,106	£ 60,407	£ 63,970	£ 62,868	£ 65,221
Other	288,742	342,703	325,155	333,178	356,819
	347,848	403,110	389,125	396,046	422,040
Police—					
Administration, etc.	1,062,201	1,106,102	1,118,604	1,127,503	1,176,231
Payments to Pension Fund ...	80,000	91,000	110,000	116,300	139,200
	1,142,201	1,197,102	1,228,604	1,243,803	1,315,431
Prisons*	126,122	138,131	159,755	162,375	163,283
Total Expenditure	1,616,171	1,738,343	1,777,484	1,802,224	1,900,754
Revenue—					
Fees	100,188	111,720	119,331	132,645	134,696
Fines and Forfeitures	45,303	45,723	54,422	56,810	49,975
Receipt by Prisons Department†	212	223	2,305	3,985	6,442
Total Revenue	145,703	157,666	176,058	193,440	191,113
Net Cost	1,470,468	1,580,677	1,601,426	1,608,784	1,709,641
Expenditure per Head of Mean					
Population—					
Law Administration	s. d. 3 4	s. d. 3 9	s. d. 3 7	s. d. 3 7	s. d. 3 9
Police	10 11	11 3	11 4	11 3	11 8
Prisons	1 2	1 4	1 5	1 6	1 5
Total Expenditure	15 5	16 4	16 4	16 4	16 10
Revenue	1 5	1 6	1 7	1 9	1 8
Net Cost	14 0	14 10	14 9	14 7	15 2

* Calendar year preceding.

† Exclusive of value of work done for Prisons and other Government Departments. The net value of prison labour of a productive character in 1924 was £46,908, and of all prisoners' labour £68,897.

The expenditure on law administration includes the salaries, etc., of judges, and the expenditure of the Department of the Attorney-General and of Justice, except the expenditure on prisons, which is shown separately, and on sub-departments not directly concerned in the administration of the law, and certain other expenses.

The expenditure by the Police Department shown above is not absorbed solely by police services proper, since the members of the police force perform extensive administrative services for other Departments of State estimated to exceed in value £200,000 per annum.

MINING INDUSTRY:

NEW SOUTH WALES contains extensive mineral deposits of great value and variety. Coal was discovered as early as 1796, though under the industrial conditions prevailing at that time its importance was not fully realised. World-wide interest, however, was excited by the announcement in 1851 that gold had been discovered in New South Wales. It attracted a rapid flow of immigration to the country and promoted the development of its resources. In later years copper, tin, and silver-lead deposits were opened up. Coal and silver-lead have proved to be the richest sources of mineral production.

With the exhaustion of the known alluvial deposits, where valuable minerals were recoverable without the expenditure of much capital, the organisation of the mining industry has become to a great extent the province of companies and syndicates with the necessary financial resources to instal machinery and to conduct operations on a large scale.

Supervision of Mining, etc.

The general supervision of the mining industry in the State and the administration of the enactments relating to mining are functions of the Department of Mines under the control of a responsible Minister of the Crown. In the mining districts Wardens' Courts, each under the sole jurisdiction of a Warden, determine suits relating to the right of occupation of land for mining and other matters in regard to mining operations.

LAND OCCUPIED FOR MINING.

The occupation of land for the purpose of mining is subject to the Mining Act of 1906 and its amendments. Any person may obtain a miner's right which entitles the holder, under prescribed conditions, to occupy Crown land for mining purposes and to mine therein, and to occupy as a residence area land not exceeding a quarter of an acre within the boundaries of a town or village, or 2 acres elsewhere. A holder of a miner's right may apply also for an authority to prospect on Crown lands, and, in the event of the discovery of any mineral, he may be required to apply for a lease of the land or to continue prospecting operations. Another form of occupation of Crown land in connection with mining is under the right conferred by a business license which entitles the holder to occupy a limited area within a gold or mineral field for the purpose of carrying on any business except mining.

A business license confers the right to only one holding at a time. Holders of miners' rights may take possession of more than one tenement, but are required to hold an additional miner's right in respect of each tenement after the first of the same class. The term of a miner's right or business license is not less than six months and not more than twenty years. It may be renewed upon application, and is transferable by endorsement and registration. The fee for a miner's right is at the rate of 5s. per annum, and for a business license £1 per annum. The number of miners' rights issued during 1925 was 9,187, and of business licenses 371. These figures show a marked decline in comparison with those for the year 1913 when 17,766 miners' rights and 1,039 business licenses were issued.

Crown lands may be granted as mining leases, which authorise mining on the land, and as leases for mining purposes which authorise the use of the land for conserving water, constructing drains, etc., and railways, erecting

buildings and machinery and dwellings for miners, generating electricity, dumping residues, and for other works in connection with mining, but do not allow mining or the removal of minerals from the land. Except in the case of special leases, which may be granted in certain cases, the maximum area of a mining lease varies according to the mineral sought, viz., opal, $\frac{1}{2}$ acre; gold, 25 acres; coal, shale, mineral oils, petroleum, or natural gas, 640 acres; other minerals, 80 acres.

Private lands are open to mining subject to the payment of rent and compensation and to other conditions as prescribed. The mining wardens may grant to the holders of miners' rights authority to enter private lands, but, except with the consent of the owner, the authority does not extend to land on which certain improvements have been effected, e.g., cultivation, or the erection of substantial buildings. An authority may be granted for a period up to two years, and during its currency the holder may apply for a mining lease of the land. Leases of private lands for mining purposes may be granted also. The maximum areas of private lands that may be leased are:—Gold, 25 acres; opal, 150 ft. square; coal and shale, 640 acres; and other minerals, 80 acres. The owners of private lands, with the concurrence of the Minister for Mines, may lease areas under agreement to holders of miners' rights.

Dredging leases may be granted in respect of Crown and private lands, including the beds of rivers, lakes, etc., and land under tidal waters.

The area under mining occupation in New South Wales at 31st December, 1925, was approximately 587,266 acres, made up as follows:—

Nature of Holding.	Crown Lands.	Private Lands.	Total.
	acres.	acres.	acres.
Leases—			
Mining	249,793	68,855	318,648
Mining Purposes	6,953	1,369	8,322
Agreements ... ..	...	64,645	64,645
Authority to Enter ... ..	...	54,808	54,808
Authority to Prospect	21,347	...	21,347
Miners' Rights and Business Licenses	4,604	...	4,604
Applications for Leases—			
Mining	21,374	36,524	57,898
Mining Purposes	1,322	669	1,991
Dredging	878*	...	878
Applications for Authority to Prospect	52,960	...	52,960
Other Mining Titles	1,165*	...	1,165
Total	360,396	226,870	587,266

* Includes Private Lands.

The annual rent for mining leases of Crown lands is 2s. per acre, and of private lands 20s. per acre in respect of the surface actually occupied. The rents for dredging leases are 2s. 6d. per acre in respect of Crown lands, and as assessed by the Warden in open court in respect of private lands.

Royalties are payable to the Crown in respect of the minerals won, except in certain cases where they have been obtained from private lands held without reservation of minerals to the Crown. The royalty on coal and shale is charged at the rate of 6d. per ton, and on other minerals at the rate of 1 per cent. of the value.

In regard to mining on private lands held without reservation of minerals to the Crown, royalty is collected by the Department of Mines on behalf of the owner at the rate of 6d. per ton of coal and shale, and 1½ per cent. of the gross value of other minerals, except gold. The Department retains one-sixth and one-ninth respectively of these amounts, and pays the balance to the owner of the minerals.

Royalty may be remitted under certain conditions as prescribed by the Mining Acts, *e.g.*, if the gross annual output of minerals, other than coal and shale, won from Crown land under mining lease does not exceed £500. In many cases rents may be deducted from the royalties.

The amount of royalty received during the year 1925 was £202,843, of which £550 was in respect of land held under permits, and the balance from land under lease.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF PROSPECTING.

The State Legislature votes a certain sum each year to encourage prospecting for minerals and to assist miners to open up new fields. The vote is administered by the Prospecting Board, which consists of the Under-Secretary for Mines as Chairman, the Government Geologist, the Chief Inspector of Mines, an inspector, the Chief Mining Surveyor, and a geological surveyor. Miners desiring a grant must satisfy the Board that the locality to be prospected is likely to yield the mineral sought, and that the mode of operation is suitable for its discovery. The amount advanced must be refunded in the event of the discovery of payable mineral by means of the aid.

The following statement shows a summary of the amounts allotted to prospectors for the various minerals. The figures are for calendar years from 1887 to 1895, and thereafter for the years ended 30th June:—

Period.	Amounts allotted to Prospectors for—						
	Gold.	Silver and Lead.	Copper.	Tin.	Coal.	Other Minerals.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1887-1889	26,332	886	138	34	338	283	28,011
1890-1894	111,878	7,254	1,367	1,261	3,752	3,283	128,795
1895-1900	107,581	4,886	7,762	3,339	...	4,021	127,639
1901-1905	80,636	5,108	10,136	7,828	40	1,430	105,178
1906-1910	38,822	7,986	20,765	3,146	310	871	71,900
1911-1915	50,209	7,557	8,939	5,870	...	4,837	77,412
1916-1920	32,976	4,325	10,057	3,978	90	5,829	57,265
1921	7,375	889	1,380	901	863	1,286	12,644
1922	9,052	1,537	1,250	1,663	850	659	15,011
1923	7,013	1,727	410	1,559	...	341	11,050
1924	11,523	1,959	316	2,161	...	1,044	17,003
1925	9,963	1,897	403	2,194	...	1,248	15,705
Total ...	493,360	46,011	62,873	33,984	6,243	25,132	667,603

In each year some of the prospectors fail to complete the works for which aid has been granted, and the amounts allotted are not paid in full. The total amount expended to the end of 1925 in encouraging prospecting was £565,025.

The Commonwealth Government has offered a reward of £50,000 for the discovery of petroleum oil in Australia. The Government of New South Wales has offered a reward of £1,000 for the discovery of a new mineral field, and has promised a bonus of £10,000 for the production of 100,000 gallons of petroleum in the State.

LABOUR AND MACHINERY.

Mining leases and permits contain conditions as to the minimum number of men to be employed. The usual labour conditions in respect of mining leases of Crown lands and of leases or agreements to mine on private lands are as follows:—For coal, shale, mineral oils, petroleum, or natural gas, for first twelve months of term granted, 2 men to 320 acres, thereafter 4 men; for gold, 1 man to 5 acres during the first year, and thereafter 1 man to 2 acres; for other minerals, 1 man to 20 acres during the first year, thereafter 1 man to 10 acres. For dredging leases the prescribed labour is in the proportion of 7 men to 100 acres. The labour conditions may be suspended in cases where low prices for the products or other adverse circumstances affect the working of a mine.

The extent to which the mining industry has provided employment is indicated in the following statement of the approximate number of men employed in the last five years. The figures represent the sum of the average number employed at each mine in operation during the year.

Year.	Coal and Shale Mines.	Other Mines.					Total.	Total number of men employed. (including fossickers).
		Gold.	Silver, Lead, and Zinc.	Copper.	Tin.	Other.		
1921	20,973	952	2,035	68	1,169	865	5,089	26,062
1922	21,704	715	1,732	52	751	866	4,116	25,820
1923	23,054	585	2,405	40	702	1,339	5,071	28,125
1924	23,212	713	2,462	56	837	1,498	5,566	28,778
1925	24,038	604	2,747	45	837	1,730	5,963	30,001

The number of coal and shale miners has increased in each year of the period. There has been a marked decline in the number of gold, copper and tin miners since 1921, but the number employed in mining silver, lead, zinc and other minerals has increased.

The number employed in each of the last five years, as stated above, includes "fossickers," viz.: 450, 560, 358, 725 and 533 in the successive years. Their output was small and it is probable that they were not wholly engaged in mining.

The value of the machinery used in connection with mining in each of the last two years is shown below:—

Machinery.	1924.				1925.			
	Coal and Shale Mines.	Metalliferous Mines.	Other Mines.	Total.	Coal and Shale Mines.	Metalliferous Mines.	Other Mines.	Total.
Winning, Weighing, Ventilating, etc. ...	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Hauling to Wharf or Railway ...	4,285	912	78	5,275	4,515	873	143	5,531
Other ...	2,753	104	13	2,870	2,833	100	18	2,951
	446	156	81	683	345	127	125	597
Total ...	7,484	1,172	172	828	7,693	1,100	286	9,079

The value of the machinery employed in mining operations during 1925 represented 61 per cent. of the total value; 32 per cent. was used for transporting the minerals from the surface of the mine to a wharf or railway station. In some cases mine owners have constructed railway lines for the purpose of connecting the mines with the State railway system or with wharves, particulars being shown on page 109 of this Year Book. Machinery is used extensively in the coal mines, where 2,330,530 tons, or 20 per cent. of the total output, were cut by machines during 1925. Of 309 machines in use, 113 were operated by electricity, and 196 by compressed air.

PRICES OF METALS.

The prices of the principal metals are regulated by the world's production in relation to the world's demands, the local demand being small. The quotations in the following table for silver, lead, copper, and tin are the average spot prices on the London Exchange.

Year.	Silver.	Lead.	Zinc.	Copper.	Tin.
	per oz. s. d.	per ton. £ s. d.	per ton. £ s. d.	per ton. £ s. d.	per ton. £ s. d.
1916	2 7·3	30 19 6	68 8 11	116 1 3	182 3 5
1917	3 4·9	30 0 0	52 3 6	125 2 5	237 13 1
1918	3 11·6	30 2 8	52 3 11	115 11 6	329 11 3
1919	4 9·1	28 3 11	42 5 3	190 19 4	257 9 8
1920	5 1 6	38 4 7	45 4 6	97 12 5	296 1 7
1921	3 0·9	22 14 4	26 4 1	69 8 7	165 6 7
1922	2 10·4	23 15 9	29 15 0	62 3 6	159 10 9
1923	2 7·4	26 16 4	32 18 6	65 18 1	202 5 1
1924	2 9·9	33 13 11	33 12 0	63 4 2	248 17 8
1925	2 8·1	35 17 1	36 3 3	61 18 4	260 15 7

The prices of metals rose to an abnormal height during the war period, then declined rapidly as the oversea demand decreased.

PRICES OF COAL.

Prices of coal depend to a greater extent upon local factors. The prices vary considerably in the three districts in which coal is mined, the northern coal being the dearest and the western the cheapest. The following statement shows the average value per ton at the pits' mouths in the various districts during the last ten years:—

District.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Northern	9 1	11 5	11 8	13 6	15 3	17 7	17 6	17 7	17 8	17 7
Southern	7 2	10 0	9 10	11 10	13 4	16 6	16 3	16 1	16 2	15 11
Western	5 7	8 0	8 8	9 4	11 8	12 10	12 8	11 5	11 2	11 1
All Districts...	8 2	10 8	10 11	12 7	14 5	16,10	16 9	16 5	16 6	16 4

The large increases in the prices of coal since 1916 have been due mainly to decisions of tribunals appointed by the Commonwealth Government to regulate wages and prices in the industry.

MINERAL PRODUCTION.

The statistics relating to the production of the mining industry as published in this chapter are obtained from two sources: (1) the records of the Department of Mines, which, until the year 1921, were the only data

available; and (2) returns for the years 1921 to 1925 collected from owners by the Government Statistician under the authority of the Census Act, 1901. The latter returns relate to the minerals actually mined during the year specified, whereas the records of the Department of Mines relate to the metals won during the year, and in many instances include the value of metals won from minerals brought to grass in past years.

It is extremely difficult to ascertain with a reasonable degree of accuracy the value of the annual output of metalliferous mines—that is, the value at the mines and before treatment of the minerals actually raised in each year. This value cannot be determined with exactitude until the minerals have been subjected to the final processes for the extraction of the metallic contents, and such operations extend over a long period, and in many cases are conducted in localities outside the State.

The value of the production of metalliferous mines, as stated by the Department of Mines, includes in many instances the value added by reason of ore-dressing operations, and it was recognised that the use of the Department's figures for years prior to 1921 involved duplication in regard to the mining and manufacturing industries. An endeavour was made to obviate this difficulty, when the mine owners were asked to supply special returns to the Government Statistician, showing therein information relating to mining operations only, and excluding all particulars regarding the treatment of ores. It is found, however, that it is almost impossible to give separate details regarding the actual operations of mining, especially where the same company undertakes both mining and ore-dressing, and it is under such conditions that the most important branch of metalliferous mining in New South Wales—viz., silver, lead, and zinc—is usually conducted. In view of these difficulties the value of the production of metalliferous mines can be calculated only approximately, and attention is specially directed to the fact that the values as stated in this Year Book are to be regarded as estimates. In respect of coal-mining, the most important item of mineral production, there is little difficulty in ascertaining the value of the output, as the mineral need not be treated before use.

Mining Operations.

The following statement is a summary of the particulars furnished by mine owners in returns under the Census Act regarding the mines in operation and the minerals mined during the years 1924 and 1925:—

Particulars.	1924.				1925.			
	Coal and Shale.	Metalliferous.	Other.	All Mines.	Coal and Shale.	Metalliferous.	Other.	All Mines.
Mines worked	149	255	78	482	143	224	92	459
Average time worked—days	219	274	271	228	206	268	276	218
Persons employed—								
Working Proprietors	55	197	42	294	60	184	43	287
Prospectors .. .. .	..	74	1	75	..	64	9	73
Fossilickers .. .. .	..	525	200	725	..	383	150	533
Other—Above-ground	6,151	1,381	671	8,203	6,195	1,276	1,013	8,484
Below ground	17,006	2,301	84	19,481	17,783	2,731	110	20,624
Total persons employed	23,212	4,568	998	28,778	24,083	4,638	1,325	30,001
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Salaries and wages paid	6,332	1,023	157	7,512	6,235	1,269	242	7,746
Value of land, buildings, etc.	3,722	198	44	3,964	3,979	157	124	4,260
Machinery	7,484	1,171	173	8,828	7,693	1,100	286	9,079
Tools replaced	184	24	6	214	156	43	10	209
Materials used	892	305	26	1,223	829	319	39	1,187
Fuel consumed	391	257	12	660	345	322	17	684
Output	9,386	2,251	208	11,845	9,122	2,349	314	11,785

VALUE OF MINERAL PRODUCTION, 1890 to 1925.

Ratio Graph.



The numbers at the side of the graph represent £10,000.

The diagram is a ratio graph, and, the vertical scale being logarithmic, the rise or fall of each curve represents the percentage of change. Equal distances on the scale represent the same percentage of change, and when the curves run parallel, they indicate an increase or decrease in equal proportion, irrespective of absolute numbers. Actual values are shown by means of the numbers at the side of the graph.

The statement shows that in 1925 there was a decline in the output from coal mines, as this branch of mining was adversely affected by industrial dislocations in the shipping industry. In other classes of mining there was a general improvement, but the total output was £60,000 below the value in the previous year.

The figures include the minerals won by fossickers, numbering 533 in 1925, when they obtained an output valued at £39,520. The corresponding figures for the previous year were fossickers 725, and output £39,191.

The value of the tools replaced includes the value of tools used by the mine employees in mining and the value of materials used in constructing or repairing the plant or machinery of the mines.

A statement showing the relation between the value of the output in each year and the various factors which comprise the value is not made, as it is difficult to make the dissection in regard to metalliferous mining.

Minerals Won—Value and Quantity.

Satisfactory statistics in regard to the production of the various minerals cannot be obtained. The values of the ores are estimated after assay, but many of the metals are associated in the same mineral matter, so that it is extremely difficult to make a reliable estimate of their quantity and value, especially in cases where the ores are exported before final treatment.

The figures shown in the following tables are based on those published in the annual reports of the Department of Mines, and the particulars regarding the output of iron made from scrap, Portland cement, lime, and coke have been deducted from the values shown in the reports, as they are included in the production of the manufacturing industry. The figures include, in many cases, the value of the ores after treatment at the mines.

The average annual value of the minerals won in each quinquennial period since 1856 is shown below:—

Period.	Average Annual Value of Production.	Period.	Average Annual Value of Production.
	£		£
1856-1860	1,213,824	1901-1905	5,873,176
1861-1865	1,996,079	1906-1910	8,330,883
1866-1870	1,400,291	1911-1915	10,169,752
1871-1875	2,153,646	1916-1920	10,823,478
1876-1880	1,836,803	1921	12,066,370
1881-1885	2,476,368	1922	12,958,008
1886-1890	3,728,080	1923	14,232,019
1891-1895	5,240,666	1924	16,397,580
1896-1900	5,168,273	1925	17,459,179

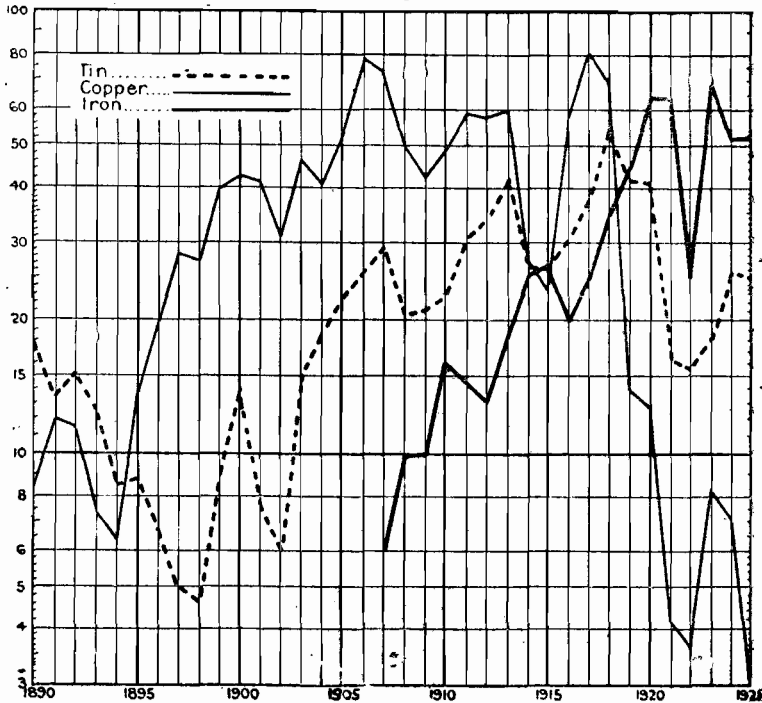
The value of the minerals won during 1925 was nearly 72 per cent. higher than the average of the period 1911-1915, but the increase was due to higher prices rather than to larger output, except in the case of coal, of which the quantity has risen as well as the price. As compared with the preceding year, there was an increase of £1,061,600 in 1925. The value as stated for that year, however, includes the output from all quarries, whereas the figures for earlier years only include the output from those quarries which were held under mining title.

The estimated value of the minerals won from the commencement of mining operations to the end of the year 1925 is shown below :—

Mineral.	Estimated Value of Minerals Won.							
	To the end of 1910.	1911 to 1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	To the end of 1925.
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Gold ...	57,991	4,865	217	107	80	79	83	63,422
Silver and lead ...	53,824	34,210	1,327	2,574	2,957	4,310	5,321	104,523
Copper ...	10,615	4,642	41	36	82	72	30	15,518
Zinc ...	4,358	9,057	284	1,158	1,411	1,297	1,022	18,587
Tin ...	8,682	3,660	164	154	181	259	251	13,351
Iron (Pig) ...	422	2,869	639	249	708	519	525	5,931
Coal ...	62,261	43,607	9,078	8,508	8,608	9,500	9,302	150,954
Shale ...	2,251	298	77	61	3	1	...	2,691
Opal ...	1,238	260	13	15	3	11	10	1,550
Limestone flux ...	679	207	42	21	49	43	34	1,075
Other ...	1,234	1,282	184	75	150	217	881	4,023
Total ...	203,555	104,957	12,066	12,958	14,232	16,368	17,419	381,625

At the end of the year 1900 the value of the gold won exceeded that of any other mineral, but with the subsequent decline in gold mining and the development of the coal and silver-lead fields, coal advanced rapidly to the head of the list, and the value of the silver and lead surpassed the output of gold. At the end of 1925 the value of the coal production represented 40 per cent. of the total value, silver and lead 27 per cent., and gold 17 per cent.

VALUE OF PRODUCTION—TIN, COPPER, AND IRON, 1890 to 1925.
Ratio Graph.



The numbers at the side of the graph represent £10,000. The diagram is a ratio graph, and the vertical scale being logarithmic, the rise or fall of each curve represents the percentage of change. Equal distances on the scale represent the same percentage of change, and when the curves run parallel, they indicate an increase or decrease in equal proportion, irrespective of absolute numbers. Actual values are shown by means of the numbers at the side of the graph.

The following statement shows the quantity of the various minerals won in the years 1923-25 in comparison with the average annual output in the pre-war years 1909-13, also the total yield to the end of 1925:—

Minerals.	Annual Output.				Total Output to end of 1925.
	Average, 1909-13.	1923.	1924.	1925.	
Gold oz. fine	177,928	18,833	18,685	19,422	14,930,879
Silver "	1,968,696	107,682	93,484	46,544	45,441,549
Silver-lead ore, etc. ... tons	332,408	241,761	240,957	277,566	10,333,094
Lead—Pig, etc. ... "	18,950	...	...	...	326,621
Zinc—spelter and concentrates "	477,218	426,049	353,650	226,525	5,879,831
Copper "	10,490	1,261	1,129	478	265,113
Tin ingots and ore "	2,167	896	1,041	957	129,602
Iron—Pig (from local ores) "	40,564	94,350	74,075	95,530	1,124,889
Iron oxide "	2,960	2,716	4,863	4,376	59,127
Ironstone flux "	1,659	...	...	...	132,655
Chrome iron ore "	135	1,192	773	963	38,169
Wolfram "	175	2	9	7	2,278
Scheelite "	110	...	...	...	1,690
Platinum oz.	459	586	646	573	17,823
Molybdenite tons	46	9	11	6	827
Antimony "	88	...	...	29	19,061
Manganese ore "	...	2,556	4,387	1,164	33,935
Coal "	8,836,994	10,478,513	11,618,216	11,396,199	311,149,980
Shale "	59,024	1,207	642	...	1,919,685
Alunite "	226	998	1,008	531	57,609
Limestone flux "	44,820	131,843	114,756	135,115	2,247,598
Diamonds carats	4,533	175	284	210	202,168

With the exceptions of coal, pig-iron, chrome, manganese, platinum, alunite, iron oxide, and limestone flux, the output in 1925 of the minerals enumerated was below the average yield in the years 1909-13. The decline was due in many cases to decreased demand for industrial metals, and, with high costs of production, the margin over expenses was too low for the profitable exploitation of the mineral deposits.

GOLD.

Though gold had been found in New South Wales in earlier years, the history of gold-mining in the State dates from 1851, when its existence in payable quantities was proved by E. H. Hargraves, and the principal gold-

fields were discovered. The deposits which have been mined include various types, *e.g.*, alluvial gold, auriferous reefs or lodes, impregnations in stratified deposits and igneous rocks, and irregular deposits, as in auriferous ironstone.

Many rich alluvial deposits in which gold was easily accessible were exploited during the twenty years 1851-1870; then it became necessary to introduce expensive methods of mining, and the production declined. During the period of general depression which followed the financial crisis of 1893 greater attention was paid to prospecting for minerals, and with the development of new processes the output of gold showed considerable improvement. During recent years, however, there has been a steady decline, and the yield in 1924 was the lowest recorded in any year since 1851. In the following year there was a small increase.

The following table shows the quantity and value of the gold won to the end of 1925 :—

Period.	Quantity.	Equivalent in oz. fine.	Value.
	oz. crude.	oz. fine.	£
1851-1860	3,280,963	2,714,531	11,580,583
1861-1870	3,542,912	3,219,628	13,676,102
1871-1880	2,253,259	2,019,116	8,576,655
1881-1890	1,173,885	1,013,846	4,306,541
1891-1900	2,867,337	2,432,387	10,332,120
1901-1910	2,669,670	2,252,851	9,569,492
1911-1920	1,333,796	1,145,185	4,864,440
1921	55,683	51,173	217,370
1922	27,581	25,222	107,139
1923	20,758	18,833	79,998
1924	20,384	18,685	79,370
1925	21,878	19,422	82,498
Total ...	17,268,106	14,930,879	63,422,308

Towards the end of the nineteenth century a system of dredging was introduced for the purpose of recovering alluvial gold from the beds of the rivers which drain auriferous country, and in 1900 the quantity obtained by the dredges was 7,924 oz. of fine gold, valued at £33,660. During the following decade the quantity amounted to 298,416 oz. fine, valued at £1,267,593. Subsequently the output of the dredges declined, the figures for the year 1925 being 9,670 oz. fine, valued at £38,779. Dredges are employed also for the recovery of stream tin; particulars are shown on page 521.

SILVER, LEAD, AND ZINC.

The production of lead and zinc in New South Wales is associated closely with the mining of silver, the Broken Hill silver-lead deposits being the main source of the output.

The Broken Hill field was discovered in 1883, and it has become one of the principal mining centres of the world. Up to the end of 1925 approximately 35,000,000 tons of ore had been raised, and it has been estimated that the reserves amount to about 10,000,000 tons. The lode, varying in width from 10 feet to 400 feet, may be traced for several miles. Mining leases held by companies and syndicates extend along its entire length, but operations are confined to an extent of $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles in the centre. Underneath an outcrop of manganiferous ironstone were found rich oxidised ores, consisting of carbonate of lead and kaolin with silver, and, below these ores, mixed sulphides of lead and zinc with a high silver content. As the depth increased the proportions of silver, lead, and zinc became smaller, and the gangue was found to consist of rhodonite which causes difficulty in the extraction of the metals.

For some years operations were directed towards the recovery of silver in the ores which contained the metal in payable quantities. The other metals were not recovered because the current price for lead was comparatively low and a method had not been devised by which the lead and zinc in the complex sulphide ores could be separated profitably. Consequently huge dumps of residue and low-grade ores accumulated at the mines until the development of new processes for the separation of the sulphides by means of flotation led to their treatment.

Lead and zinc concentrates have been produced in large quantities at Broken Hill. The former contain lead amounting to 60 or 65 per cent., silver 20 to 25 oz. per ton, zinc 7 to 8 per cent., and sulphur 15 per cent. The zinc concentrates contain zinc, about 45 per cent., lead 6 per cent., silver 10 oz. per ton, and sulphur 30 per cent. The lead concentrates are treated at Port Pirie in South Australia. The greater part of the zinc concentrates is exported to the United Kingdom and other European countries or to Japan, but increasing quantities are being treated in Australia at Risdon, Tasmania.

During 1925 the output of ore from the Broken Hill mines amounted to 1,265,977 tons, viz., 19,411 tons of oxidised and 1,246,566 tons of sulphide ore. The value of the output was £6,711,680.

Another silver field of importance, known as Yerranderie, is situated in the Burragorang Valley. The lodes are small, varying in width from mere threads to 8 feet, but they are exceptionally rich. The bulk of the silver is associated with galena, which contains up to 160 oz. per ton. Second-grade ores contain from 40 to 80 oz. per ton. The Yerranderie field is handicapped by the high cost of haulage along a steeply-graded road to the nearest railway, therefore only first-grade ore is despatched from the mines, the lower grades being stacked for concentration or future treatment.

Smaller silver fields are situated in various parts of the State.

It is difficult to assess the quantity and value of the various metals won from the silver-lead ores mined in New South Wales as the process of extracting the metallic contents is conducted for the most part outside the boundaries of the State. The Department of Mines estimates the total value on the basis of the metal produced within the State and the value of the ore, concentrates, etc., not smelted within the State, as declared by the several companies at the date of export from the State. The following table is a summary of the Department's records of the quantity and value of the silver

and lead produced in New South Wales from local ores, and the quantity and value of silver-lead and zinc concentrates produced in the State and despatched elsewhere for treatment :—

Period.	Silver.	Silver-lead Concentrates, Carbonate ore, etc.	Lead-Pig, in Matte, etc.	Zinc Concentrates.
Quantity.				
	oz.	tons.	tons.	tons.
To 1885	1,730,297	7,264	...	...
1886-1890	2,481,253	259,758	648	307
1891-1895	3,009,187	895,601	739	663
1896-1900	2,352,092	1,857,988	13,293	137,931
1901-1905	4,154,020	1,985,868	17,550	183,782
1906-1910	8,310,962	1,751,751	71,435	1,460,138*
1911-1915	12,460,553	1,694,834	114,375	2,093,783
1916-1920	7,982,192	866,654	80,115	553,628
1921	1,963,379	53,507	20,353	79,694
1922	749,904	199,585	8,113	363,681
1923	107,682	241,761	...	426,049
1924	93,484	240,957	...	353,650
1925	46,544	277,566	...	226,525
Total ...	45,441,549	10,333,094	326,621	5,879,831
Value.				
	£	£	£	£
To 1885	382,884	237,810	...	...
1886-1890	464,081	6,478,515	8,298	3,366
1891-1895	445,873	12,615,432	7,413	7,677
1896-1900	269,663	9,592,856	258,874	146,023
1901-1905	445,051	8,910,586	255,366	440,402
1906-1910	892,414	11,561,794	996,646	3,761,223
1911-1915	1,302,510	14,302,570	1,899,601	6,861,489
1916-1920	1,426,886	12,920,076	2,358,625	2,195,599
1921	325,163	539,339	462,862	283,455
1922	112,077	2,267,319	194,712	1,157,458
1923	15,461	2,941,401	...	1,411,652
1924	12,612	4,297,748	...	1,296,571
1925	5,999	5,314,977	...	1,022,016
Total ...	6,100,674	91,980,423	6,442,397	18,586,931

* Includes 2,758 tons of spelter.

The total value of the production, as shown above, amounted to £6,342,992 in 1925, as compared with £5,606,931 in the preceding year. The high prices obtainable for lead and zinc during the year encouraged production and operations were carried on continuously at the principal mines. The highest value recorded prior to 1925 was £6,034,922 in 1918, when the market conditions were exceptionally favourable.

As previously stated, the bulk of the ores produced in the silver-lead mines is exported for treatment to other parts of Australia or despatched in the form of concentrates to oversea countries, therefore the figures shown in the preceding table do not indicate fully the importance of the mines of New South Wales in respect of the production of the various metals. The Department of Mines has collected records from the various mining and smelting companies and ore-buyers with the object of ascertaining the actual value

accruing to the Commonwealth from the silver-lead mines of this State. Thus particulars have been obtained regarding the quantity and value of the silver, lead, and zinc extracted within the Commonwealth, and the gross metallic contents of concentrates exported oversea have been estimated on the basis of average assays as follows. In the case of the lead and zinc contents, the quantities have been estimated only when payment was made for them.

Year.	Metal obtained within Commonwealth from ores raised in New South Wales.				Quantity.	Concentrates exported oversea.				Total Value of Production from Silver-lead Ores of New South Wales.
	Silver.	Lead.	Zinc.	Aggregate Value.		Contents by average assay.			Assessed Value.	
						Silver.	Lead.	Zinc.		
	oz. fine.	tons.	tons.	£	tons.	oz. fine.	tons.	tons.	£	£
1921	3,624,413	47,426	1,425	1,723,864	47,127	617,477	6,539	19,272	261,238	1,985,102
1922	6,648,825	97,867	23,724	4,113,427	287,074	3,264,102	19,328	132,186	1,272,074	5,385,501
1923	7,233,236	124,570	41,153	5,707,789	356,139	4,834,718	40,906	149,319	1,813,287	7,521,026
1924	6,292,978	120,380	43,579	6,472,812	261,404	2,963,693	21,513	114,374	1,292,220	7,765,032
1925	7,437,967	139,839	39,991	7,539,130	184,712	1,782,193	30,752	75,435	1,371,183	8,910,313

COPPER.

The ores of copper are distributed widely throughout New South Wales. The deposits of commercial value are situated for the most part in the central portion of the State, the most important fields being in the Cobar and Canbelego districts. Copper mining has been handicapped severely in many places by the high cost of transport to market, and, as the price fluctuates considerably, operations have been intermittent. Large quantities of low-grade ores are available, and when the market is favourable they may be treated profitably.

The quantity and value of the copper won in New South Wales since 1858, as estimated by the Department of Mines, are shown below:—

Period.	Ingots, Matte, and Regulus.		Ore.		Total Value.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
	tons.	£	tons.	£	£
1858-1879	14,877	1,015,206	2,102	52,464	1,067,670
1880-1884	23,715	1,553,651	19	675	1,554,326
1885-1889	15,160	771,867	537	6,937	778,804
1890-1894	10,195	434,537	1,738	20,228	454,765
1895-1899	25,408	1,280,841	852	5,253	1,286,094
1900-1904	32,173	1,907,540	8,791	106,500	2,014,040
1905-1909	41,425	2,940,886	3,057	31,367	2,972,253
1910-1914	42,277	2,443,385	9,815	86,169	2,529,554
1915-1919	22,626	2,403,884	5,064	66,710	2,470,594
1920	1,290	127,978	...	...	127,978
1921	499	41,267	...	...	41,267
1922	575	35,583	50	650	36,233
1923	1,182	81,203	79	1,172	82,375
1924	1,129	71,658	...	...	71,658
1925	478	30,215	...	...	30,215
Total ...	233,009	15,139,701	32,104	378,125	15,517,826

The marked decrease in the output of copper during recent years was not due to a decline in the productive capacity of the mines, but to decreases in price, which precluded profitable working under existing costs. A large proportion of the output in the last three years was obtained by the extraction of the copper contents of Broken Hill silver-lead ores, which yielded 129 tons, valued at £8,154 in 1925.

TIN.

Tin, unlike copper, is restricted in its geographical and petrological range, and is the rarest of the common metals in commerce. The lodes discovered in New South Wales are numerous, but they are on a small scale. The maximum depth attained is about 360 feet.

Tin ore occurs in the northern, southern, and western divisions. The areas in which workable quantities are known to exist are on the western fall of the New England Tableland, with Emmaville and Tingha as the chief centres, and at Ardlethan in the southern district. Alluvial deposits of stream tin are exploited by means of dredging in the northern rivers.

Tin has contributed in a very considerable degree to the total production of the mineral wealth of the State, although its aggregate yield, in point of value, is below that of coal, silver, gold, copper, and zinc.

The output and the value of production of tin since 1872 have been as follows:—

Period.	Ingots.		Ore.		Total Value.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
	tons.	£	tons.	£	£
1872-1879	18,364	1,386,764	12,995	628,643	2,015,407
1880-1884	22,842	2,056,778	2,700	137,755	2,194,533
1885-1889	12,974	1,330,326	1,635	85,048	1,415,374
1890-1894	7,196	628,096	1,040	49,296	677,392
1895-1899	4,608	336,015	197	6,488	342,503
1900-1904	4,220	536,084	1,222	81,362	617,446
1905-1909	5,567	851,956	3,712	339,679	1,191,635
1910-1914	4,258	785,900	6,952	775,841	1,561,741
1915-1919	5,203	1,188,995	5,798	723,477	1,912,472
1920	*	*	2,486	413,794	413,794
1921	*	*	1,595	163,451	163,451
1922	734	114,076	410	40,622	154,698
1923	896	180,789	...	...	180,789
1924	1,041	259,485	...	...	259,485
1925	957	250,944	...	...	250,944
Total ...	90,563	10,297,243	40,742	3,445,456	13,351,664

Included under the heading, "Ore."

The output of ore in 1920 and 1921 includes ore from which were extracted 887 tons of metallic tin, valued at £257,514, and 816 tons, valued at £133,521, respectively.

In 1925, one bucket dredge and 41 pump dredges were employed in recovering tin in the northern districts. The quantity of tin obtained was 763 tons, valued at £136,131, as compared with 850 tons, valued at £142,472 in the previous year. The total yield by dredging since 1901 has been 25,578 tons, valued at £3,181,185.

IRON AND IRON ORES.

Iron ore of good quality occurs in many parts of New South Wales. The most extensive deposits are at Cadia, where 10,000,000 tons may be recovered economically; at Carcoar, where a large quantity has been produced; and at Goulburn and Queanbeyan, each containing about 1,000,000 tons; at Wingello there are about 3,000,000 tons of aluminous iron ores of low grade. It has been estimated that in the known deposits, excluding Wingello ores, there are 15,000,000 tons which may be recovered by quarrying, and that a much greater quantity may be obtained by more costly methods of mining.

Prior to 1907 iron ore was mined principally for use as flux in smelting other ores, although in 1884, at Mittagong, and in later years at Lithgow, the production of pig-iron from local ores had been attempted without permanent success. Following a reorganisation and remodelling of the Eskbank Ironworks, Lithgow, the production of iron ore has been on a more extensive scale since 1907, although only the Cadia, Carcoar, and smaller deposits have been mined.

The production of pig-iron from local ores since 1907, and the materials used therein, are shown in the following table. The output prior to that year was principally from scrap iron :—

Year.	Minerals Used.			Pig-iron.	
	Iron Ore.	Coke.	Limestone.	Production.	Value.
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	£
1907-11	263,477	191,589	113,360	152,627	567,048
1912-16	486,929	385,014	172,532	283,264	1,035,302
1917-21	671,153	578,938	282,984	370,187	2,327,908
1922	110,972	75,876	30,397	54,856	248,909
1923	173,597	142,719	86,985	94,350	707,625
1924	139,590	100,952	58,672	74,075	518,525
1925	165,689	144,161	63,015	95,530	525,415

Further details relating to the operations of ironworks are given in the section of this book relating to the manufacturing industries.

Ironstone Flux.

Iron ore is used as flux in smelting and iron works, and the estimated quantity of ironstone flux raised during the years 1899 to 1922 was 132,655 tons, and the value £108,791. The quantity produced during 1922 was 980 tons, and the value £1,274. There has been no production since that year, because smelting operations have been suspended at Cockle Creek, where the bulk of the output was used.

Iron Oxide.

Iron oxide is obtained in the Port Macquarie, Moss Vale, and Goulburn districts for use in purifying gas or as a pigment. The output during 1925 was 4,376 tons, valued at £2,436, and the total output to the end of 1925 was 59,127 tons, valued at £70,079.

OTHER METALS.

Platinum.—Platinum occurs in several districts of New South Wales, but platinum mining is comparatively unimportant. The quantity produced to the end of 1925 amounted to 17,823 oz., valued at £102,716, of which 573 oz., valued at £11,061, were obtained during 1925.

Chromite.—Chromite, or chromic iron ore, is the only commercially important ore of chromium. It is found usually in association with serpentine. The principal deposits are in the Gundagai and Tumut districts, and there are smaller quantities in the northern portion of the State. The quantity produced to the end of 1925 was 38,169 tons, valued at £119,756; the yield recorded in 1925 was 963 tons, valued at £2,670.

Tungsten ores.—These ores occur in many localities in New South Wales generally in association with tinstone (cassiterite), bismuth, and molybdenite. The output of scheelite since 1903 amounted to 1,690 tons, valued at £192,375, and of wolfram to 2,278 tons, valued at £267,995. There has been no production of scheelite since 1920, mining operations having ceased owing to the low price offered for the products.

Antimony.—This mineral may be obtained in a number of districts, the principal field being at Hillgrove. Owing to fluctuations in the price of the metal mining is spasmodic. The total output of antimony to the end of the year 1925 was 19,061 tons, valued at £344,983, of which 29 tons, valued at £395, were produced in 1925.

Manganese.—Manganese ores have been discovered in various places but generally in localities which lack facilities for transport. During the year 1925 the quantity obtained was 1,164 tons, valued at £3,635.

Bismuth.—Bismuth has been obtained chiefly in the neighbourhood of Glen Innes, and at Whipstick in the South Coast division. In other districts bismuth is associated with molybdenite and wolfram ores. The quantity of bismuth produced in 1925 was 11 tons, valued at £2,950, the quantity produced to the end of 1925 being 805 tons of ore, valued at £232,504.

Molybdenum.—The production of molybdenite, the principal ore of molybdenum, in New South Wales during 1925 amounted to 6 tons, valued at £1,648. Since 1902 the production has been 827 tons, valued at £211,759.

Mercury.—Cinnabar, the most important ore of mercury, occurs in numerous localities, but it has not been discovered in a sufficiently concentrated form to enable it to be wrought profitably. No production of quicksilver has been recorded since 1916.

COAL.

The coal-fields of New South Wales are the most important in Australia, both as regards extent and the quantity and quality of coal produced.

The main coal basin extends along the coast from Port Stephens on the north to Ulladulla on the south, with a seaboard of nearly 200 miles, which enhances the value of the deposits by facilitating shipment and the development of oversea trade. From Ulladulla the basin trends inland to the west and north-west as far as Rylstone, whence the boundary line extends northward beyond Gunnedah, and then runs in a south-easterly direction to Port Stephens. The widest part of the area is between Dubbo and Newcastle—150 miles, and the basin is deepest in the neighbourhood of Sydney, where the uppermost seam is nearly 3,000 feet below the surface.

From Sydney the measures rise gradually in all directions, and emerge to the surface at Newcastle on the north, at Bulli in the Illawarra district to the south, and at Lithgow, in the Blue Mountain region, to the west.

The Upper or Newcastle coal measures show the greatest surface development. In the northern field they are known to contain twelve seams, six being worked; in the southern, seven distinct seams are known, and three have been worked; of the seven seams traced in the western field, only three are of commercial value. After many unsuccessful boring operations, the uppermost seam of the Newcastle measures was located under Sydney Harbour in 1891, and it was worked for some years to a depth of nearly

3,000 feet. Then the mine was closed and it remained idle for nearly nine years until work was commenced again in September, 1923.

The coal obtained at Newcastle is suitable for gas making and for household use. The coal from Bulli and Lithgow is essentially steam coal. The southern coal produces a strong coke, specially suitable for smelting purposes by reason of its capacity for sustaining the weight of the ore burden in a blast furnace, and it contains less ash than the western. The coal obtained at the Sydney Harbour Colliery is a good steam coal, and it can be loaded into oversea steamers from a wharf near the pit's mouth.

An isolated basin of upper coal measures has been discovered at Coorabin in the Riverina district, 400 miles from Sydney.

In the western and southern fields the upper coal measures contain deposits of shale suitable for the manufacture of kerosene oil and for the production of gas. Deposits of kerosene shale, though much less extensive, occur in the upper and Greta measures of the northern coal-field.

The middle coal measures outcrop near East Maitland, but do not appear in the western field. Their occurrence in the southern field has not been proved definitely.

The lower or Greta measures outcrop over an irregular area in the neighbourhood of Maitland, and have been traced with intervening breaks as far north as Wingen. They occur as an isolated belt to the north of Inverell, and extend through Ashford, almost to the Queensland border. These measures have been located in the Clyde Valley, in the extreme southern portion of the Illawarra field, but do not occur in the western. The coal of the Greta measures is contained in two seams, and is the purest and generally the most useful obtained in the State, being of a good quality, hard, and economical as regards working. The Greta seams are worked extensively between West Maitland and Cessnock, in the most important coal-mining district in Australia, and at Muswellbrook.

In 1925 mining operations were conducted in 143 coal-mines.

The employment of boys under 14 years of age or of women and girls in or about a mine is prohibited, and restrictions are placed upon the employment of youths. In 1925 the number of boys under 16 years of age employed in coal mines was 684, of whom 460 worked below ground, and 224 on the surface.

State Coal-mine.

The State Coal-mines Act, 1912, empowers the Government to purchase or resume coal-bearing lands or coal-mines and to open and work coal-mines upon Crown land or upon private land containing coal reserved to the Crown or acquired for the purpose of a State coal-mine. The coal obtained from a State mine is to be used only by the State Departments or undertakings.

A State coal-mine was opened at Lithgow, in the Western district, in September, 1916. The area of the land containing coal reserved for the Crown amounts to about 40,200 acres, and the available supply of coal has been estimated at 240,000,000 tons. The mine, which was closed in July, 1917, was taken over by the Railway Commissioners in the early part of 1921, and work is in progress for the development of the mine. The output from the mine in 1924-25 was 263,538 tons as compared with 253,975 tons in the previous year.

Production of Coal.

The following table shows the quantity and value of coal raised in New South Wales to the close of 1925, the total production being 311,149,980 tons, valued at £150,953,909 :—

Period.	Coal Raised.	Value at Pit's Mouth.	
		£	s. d.
	tons.		
Prior to 1890	46,803,983	22,787,156	9 9
1890-4	17,830,177	6,811,568	7 8
1895-9	21,334,976	6,048,281	5 8
1900-4	29,792,589	10,369,050	7 0
1905-9	39,083,328	13,234,796	6 9
1910-4	47,555,714	17,344,973	7 4
1915-9	43,563,766	21,548,442	9 11
1920	10,715,999	7,723,355	14 5
1921	10,793,387	9,078,388	16 10
1922	10,183,133	8,507,946	16 9
1923	10,478,513	8,607,892	16 5
1924	11,618,216	9,589,547	16 6
1925	11,396,199	9,302,515	16 4
Total ...	311,149,980	150,953,909	9 8

The bulk of production is obtained from the northern coal-fields. The output of each district during 1925 was :—Northern, 7,637,953 tons, valued at £6,723,900; Southern, 2,052,963 tons, £1,633,997; Western, 1,705,283 tons, £944,618.

A statement regarding the average value at the pit's mouth of the coal raised in each district is shown on page 511.

The following statement shows the quantity of New South Wales coal consumed in Australia, including bunker coal taken by interstate vessels, and the oversea exports, in each year since 1917 :—

Year.	Domestic Consumption	Sent to other Australian States.	Total quantity consumed in Australia.	Exported to Oversea Countries.	Total Production.
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
1917	5,029,070	2,225,228	7,254,298	1,038,569	8,292,867
1918	5,641,500	2,697,033	8,338,533	724,643	9,063,176
1919	5,128,536	1,891,317	7,019,853	1,611,701	8,631,554
1920	5,729,208	2,270,556	7,999,764	2,716,235	10,715,999
1921	5,268,628	2,752,810	8,021,438	2,771,949	10,793,387
1922	4,943,736	2,841,253	7,784,989	2,398,144	10,183,133
1923	5,578,385	2,518,579	8,096,964	2,381,549	10,478,513
1924	6,204,272	3,096,881	9,301,153	2,317,063	11,618,216
1925	6,625,161	3,001,823	9,626,984	1,769,215	11,396,199
	Per cent. of Total.				
1917	60·7	26·8	87·5	12·5	100
1918	62·2	29·8	92·0	8·0	100
1919	59·4	21·9	81·3	18·7	100
1920	53·5	21·2	74·7	25·3	100
1921	48·8	25·5	74·3	25·7	100
1922	48·5	27·9	76·4	23·6	100
1923	53·2	24·1	77·3	22·7	100
1924	53·4	26·7	80·1	19·9	100
1925	58·1	26·4	84·5	15·5	100

The domestic consumption of coal decreased during 1921 and 1922 as a result of restricted operations in many important manufacturing industries, *e.g.*, iron and steel works. On the other hand the export trade was brisk as the result of industrial strife in Great Britain and in the United States. In each year since 1923 there has been a marked increase in the domestic consumption.

In the interstate trade a decline in 1923 was followed by an increase, but the upward movement was interrupted in 1925 by reason of industrial disputes in the shipping industry. The suspension of shipping activities affected the oversea trade in a greater degree, and it declined by nearly 24 per cent.

Full particulars are not available to show the purposes for which the coal consumed locally was used. The information which is available indicates that 516,899 tons of coal were used as fuel in mines during 1925, and during the twelve months ended June, 1925, the quantity used for locomotive purposes in respect of railways and tramways was 1,263,176 tons, in gasworks 611,477 tons, in cokemaking 1,041,661 tons, in electric light and power works 747,310 tons, and as fuel in other factories 1,300,513 tons.

OIL SHALE.

Oil-bearing mineral, which is a variety of torbanite or cannel coal, known locally as kerosene shale, has been found in many localities in New South Wales, the most important deposits being in the Capertee and Wolgan valleys.

The production of oil shale, from the opening of the mines in 1865 to the end of 1925, is shown in the following table:—

Period.	Quantity.	Total Value at Mines.	Average Price per ton at Mines.	Period.	Quantity.	Total Value at Mines.	Average Price per ton at Mines.
	tons.	£	£ s. d.		tons.	£	£ s. d.
1865-84	370,217	828,195	2 4 9	1915-19	122,408	144,871	1 3 8
1885-89	186,465	406,255	2 3 7	1920	21,004	46,082	2 3 10
1890-94	247,387	451,344	1 16 6	1921	32,489	77,380	2 7 8
1895-99	191,763	222,690	1 3 3	1922	23,467	60,641	2 11 8
1900-04	213,163	177,246	0 16 8	1923	1,207	2,831	2 6 11
1905-09	213,024	131,456	0 12 4	1924	642	962	1 10 0
1910-14	296,449	149,757	0 9 6	1925	...	...	...
				Total ...	1,919,685	2,690,710	1 8 0

The reduction in the output in 1923 was due to the closure of the mines at Newnes in the Wolgan Valley. No shale was mined during the year 1925 but preparations have been made for reopening one mine.

In the years 1910-1913 the Commonwealth Government paid a bounty on kerosene and paraffin wax made from Australian shale, and since 1917 has provided a bounty on crude shale oil. The bounty paid during the year ended 30th June, 1925, amounted to £335.

DIAMONDS.

Diamonds and other gem-stones are distributed widely in New South Wales, but an extensive field has not been discovered. The finest of the New South Wales diamonds are harder and whiter than the South African, and are equal to the best Brazilian gems.

The following table shows the output of diamonds as recorded, but it is probable that the actual output was much greater. The majority of the diamonds have been obtained from the mines in the Bingara and Copeton districts.

Period.	Carats.	Value.	Period.	Carats.	Value.
		£			£
1867-1885	2,856	2,952	1916-1920	11,973	12,573
1886-1890	8,120	6,390	1921	1,563	1,915
1891-1895	19,743	18,245	1922	1,000	1,300
1896-1900	69,384	27,948	1923	175	230
1901-1905	54,206	46,434	1924	284	498
1906-1910	16,651	12,374	1925	210	240
1911-1915	16,003	13,353			

OPAL.

Precious opal occurs in two geological formations in New South Wales, viz., in tertiary vesicular basalt and in upper cretaceous sediments. The most important deposits are in the upper cretaceous rocks at White Cliffs and Lightning Ridge. Gems from the latter field are remarkable for colour, fire, and brilliancy. The opals from vesicles in the tertiary basalt at Tintenbar in the North Coast division resemble the Mexican gems.

The following table shows the estimated value of precious opal won in New South Wales to the end of 1925 :—

Period.	Value.	Period.	Value.
	£		£
1890	15,600	1916-1920	105,547
1891-1895	25,999	1921	13,020
1896-1900	415,000	1922	15,150
1901-1905	476,000	1923	3,040
1906-1910	305,300	1924	10,500
1911-1915	154,738	1925	10,030
		Total ...	1,549,924

During 1923 the output was small. The market demand for opal was limited and mining operations were hampered by the temporary exhaustion of the water supply at Lightning Ridge. In the following year production increased and the output was purchased for disposal by the miners' representative at the Wembley Exhibition in London.

ALUNITE.

Alunite, or alumstone, occurs at Bullahdelah, about 35 miles from Port Stephens, in a narrow mountain range which for more than a mile is composed almost entirely of alunite, of greater or less purity. Four varieties of alunite are recognised at the mines, but operations are confined mainly to the light-pink ore, the yield averaging about 80 per cent. of alum.

In 1925 the production of alunite was 531 tons, valued at £2,124, and the quantity exported since 1890 was 57,609 tons, valued at £206,475. The output is exported to England.

OTHER MINERALS.

Marble.—Beds of marble of great variety of colouring, and with highly ornamental markings, are located in many districts of New South Wales. Much of the marble is eminently suitable for decorative work. The marble obtained during 1925 was valued at £3,746.

Limestone.—The quantity of limestone raised for flux in 1925 was 135,115 tons, valued at £33,779.

Fireclays.—Fireclays of good quality are found in the permo-carboniferous coal measures, and excellent clays for brick-making, pottery, etc., may be obtained in the State.

Magnesite.—Magnesite is distributed widely, but few deposits are of commercial value. Large quantities have been mined at Fifield, Attunga, and Barraba. The output during 1925 was 14,012 tons, valued at £12,832.

Diatomaceous earth occurs in several localities; the principal deposits are situated at Cooma, Barraba, Coonabarabran, and Wyrallah.

Other Mineral Deposits.—Other mineral deposits known to exist but not worked extensively include asbestos, barytes, fluorspar, Fuller's earth, ochre, graphite, slate, and mica. Quartzite for the manufacture of silica bricks is obtainable in large quantities.

QUARRIES.

The Hawkesbury formation in the Metropolitan District provides excellent sandstone for architectural use. The supply is very extensive, and the stone is finely grained, durable, and easily worked. In the north-western portion of the State and in the northern coal districts good building stone is obtainable.

Syenite, commonly called trachyte, is found at Bowral. For building purposes it is solid, and takes a beautiful polish. Granite occurs at many places in the State, and it has been obtained generally in places near the coast, whence it could be transported cheaply.

Basalt or blue metal, suitable for ballasting roads and railway lines and for making concrete, is obtained at Kiama and other localities.

The quantity and value of building stone, ballast, etc., quarried during the year ended 30th June, 1925, are shown below:—

Description of Quarry.	Quantity of Stone raised.	Value of Stone raised.
Building Stone—	tons.	£
Sandstone	69,307	78,978
Granite	82,070	42,410
Syenite (Trachyte)	3,041	5,394
Marble	394	3,081
Slate	118	1,020
Macadam, Ballast, etc.		
Sandstone	146,541	33,208
Bluestone, Basalt, etc.	1,106,901	311,698
Limestone	566,069	163,629
Gravel	158,227	34,630
Sand	111,514	24,616
Ironstone	187,488	86,247
Quartzite (Silica)	53,141	20,441
Trachyte	1,455	522
Other	20,749	3,391
Limestone, crude	67,523	14,649
Magnesite	14,011	12,830

INSPECTION OF MINES.

The inspection of mines with a view to safeguarding the miners from accident and disease is conducted by salaried officers of the Department of Mines in terms of the Coal Mines Regulation Acts, which apply to coal and shale mines, and the Mines Inspection Acts, which apply to other mines.

The Coal Mines Regulation Acts prescribe that every coal-mine must be under the control and direction of a qualified manager, and daily personal supervision must be exercised by him or by a qualified under-manager. In mines where safety-lamps are used a competent person must be appointed as deputy to carry out duties for the safety of the mine, especially in regard to the presence of gas, the sufficiency of ventilation, the state of the roof and sides, and the supervision of shot-firers.

The Acts contain general rules for the working of coal-mines in regard to such matters as ventilation, sanitation, the inspection and safeguarding of machinery, safety lamps, explosives, security of shafts, etc., and it is provided that a person may not be employed in getting coal or shale on the face of workings of a mine unless he has had two years experience or works in company with an experienced miner. Special rules are established in each mine for the safety, convenience, and discipline of the employees.

A Royal Commission was appointed in July, 1925, to inquire into conditions operating in the coal-mines of New South Wales, with special reference to ventilation, the presence of gas, and the use of safety lamps.

The Commission recommended that the minimum amount of pure air required by the general rules be increased from 100 cubic feet per minute for each person or animal below ground to 150 cubic feet for each person and 300 cubic feet for each horse; and that no furnace ventilation should be installed, except in small mines. Although the inspectors of the Department of Mines advocate the abolition of naked lights, the Commission recommended that their use might be continued provided that an ignition or explosion of inflammable gas had not occurred within the previous twelve months, and that there was no likelihood of the presence of sufficient gas to render a naked light dangerous. In regard to shot-firing the Commission framed numerous regulations to minimise the risks arising from this source. It was recommended also that a Court of coal mines regulations be constituted to determine matters relating to the safe working of coal mines.

The Mines Rescue Act, 1925, makes provision for rescue operations in coal and shale mines by the establishment of rescue stations, rescue corps, and rescue brigades. In four districts, viz., the Western, Southern, Newcastle, and Maitland, central rescue stations are being established, and the mine owners in each district are required to contribute to a fund for their upkeep.

In the mines, to which the Mines Inspection Acts relate, a qualified manager, exercising daily personal supervision, must be appointed if more than ten persons are employed below ground, and the machinery must be in charge of a competent engine-driver. General rules are contained in the Act, and the inspectors may require special rules to be constituted for certain mines.

Certificates of competency to act in mines as managers, under-managers, deputies, engine-drivers, and electricians are issued in accordance with the Acts relating to inspection.

Particulars regarding the persons killed or seriously injured in mining accidents during the last five years are shown below :—

Year.	Accidents.				Per 1,000 Employed.			
	Coal and Shale Miners.		Other Miners.		Coal and Shale Miners.		Other Miners.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
1921	19	113	4	22	.89	5.31	.47	2.61
1922	12	86	5	25	.55	3.97	.54	2.70
1923	31	101	6	48	1.35	4.39	.62	4.94
1924	27	80	10	53	1.17	3.47	.98	5.22
1925	27	115	10	65	1.12	4.78	.76	4.93

The accident rates are not based on the number of employees as shown on page 510. They relate to the total number of persons who are subject to the provisions of the Mining Acts, including persons engaged in connection with treatment plant at the mines, and in quarries held under mining titles. In 1925 the particulars relating to all quarries are included.

In the chapter relating to Employment, particulars are given regarding industrial diseases in mines and the compensation provided in cases of accident and illness.

PASTORAL INDUSTRY.

In New South Wales the pastoral industry has always been the greatest source of primary production, but, within the past twenty years, agriculture and dairying have developed rapidly, and the pastoral industry has assumed a place second in importance to the manufacturing industry, as measured by the value of production.*

LIVE STOCK.

New South Wales does not possess any indigenous animals which would give rise to a large industry, and of those introduced, sheep only have developed into a prolific source of wealth. Indeed, the development of the sheep industries has been so remarkable that it has, in a sense, precluded the rise of other pastoral activities. Horses have been bred principally for their utility in various industries, and there is a small oversea trade in remounts. For many years cattle were produced only to supply local requirements of meat and dairy produce, but, since the application of refrigeration to sea cargoes, an export trade in these commodities has become possible, and considerable expansion has taken place in the number of cattle depastured. Pigs are bred principally as a by-product of the dairying industry, and the number does not fully meet local requirements.

The following table shows the number of the principal kinds of live stock in New South Wales at the end of each decennial period, from 1861 to 1921, and in the last four years:—

Year.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
1861	233,220	2,271,923	5,615,054	146,091
1871	304,100	2,014,888	16,278,697	213,193
1881	398,577	2,597,248	36,591,946	213,916
1891	469,647	2,128,838	61,831,416	253,189
1901	486,716	2,047,454	41,857,099	265,730
1911	683,094	3,194,236	44,947,287†	371,093
1921†	663,178	3,375,267	33,851,828†	306,253
1922†	669,800	3,546,530	37,177,402†	383,669
1923†	660,031	3,251,180	34,862,747†	340,853
1924†	658,372	2,923,522	37,639,413†	323,196
1925†	647,503	2,876,254	47,100,060	339,669

† At 30th June, previous years at 31st December. †† Known to be understated, see explanation page 534.

Particulars of other live stock are shown on a later page.

* See Part "Employment and Production" of this Year Book.

To obtain an accurate idea of the varying extent of pastoral pursuits in the State as represented by the number of live stock grazed it is necessary to express the various species in common terms. This cannot be done with exactitude, but, adopting the arbitrary equivalent of eight sheep to each head of large stock, as mentioned in section 18 of the Pastures Protection Act, the following comparison is obtained:—

Year.	Equivalent in Sheep of Live Stock grazed.	Year.	Equivalent in Sheep of Live Stock grazed.
1861	15,656,000	1901	62,135,000
1871	34,831,000	1911	76,013,000†
1881	60,559,000	1925*	75,300,000
1891	82,619,000		

* At 30th June, previous years at 31st December. † Known to be understated, see page 534.

It is apparent, therefore, that the grazing of live stock declined on the whole by about 9 per cent. between 1891 and 1925. The decline is attributable to a decrease in the number of sheep amounting to 24 per cent.

Comparison—Live Stock in the Commonwealth.

A comparison for 1924-5 of the number of horses, cattle, sheep, and swine in New South Wales and in the other States of the Commonwealth is shown in the following table. The figures for New South Wales are as at 30th June, 1925; for Tasmania and Northern Territory as at 31st December, 1924; and for the other States as at 31st December, 1925.

State.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Swine.
New South Wales *	647,503	2,876,254	47,100,000	339,669
Victoria	463,051	1,513,787	13,740,500	339,601
Queensland	624,243	6,441,223	19,186,516	156,163†
South Australia	245,131	374,535	6,808,615	91,200
Western Australia	170,642	756,011	6,865,950	66,375†
Tasmania	37,091	225,740	1,614,085	47,305
Northern Territory	45,059	855,285	45,059	1,000

* Including Federal Capital territory. † 31st December, 1924.

In 1925, New South Wales contained more sheep, horses and swine than any other State in the Commonwealth. Queensland contains more cattle than any other State.

Distribution of Live Stock.

In order to indicate the distribution of flocks and herds in New South Wales the following table has been prepared. It shows the number of live stock, and the number per square mile, in each Division at intervals since

1891. Particulars regarding their distribution according to the size of the holdings on which they were depastured, as at 30th June, 1922, were published in the issue of the Year Book for 1922 at page 612.

Division.	Number of Live Stock (000 omitted).					Number per square mile.				
	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1925.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1925.
SHEEP—										
Coastal Belt	1,483	1,097	1,433	940	861	42.5	31.4	41.0	26.9	24.6
Tableland	7,882	8,859	8,961	6747	9 430	195.3	219.5	220.0	167.2	226.4
Western Slopes	10,869	11,672	11,199	8 737	13,921	286.8	308.0	295.5	230.6	316.2
C'1 Plains & Riverina	25,194	14,706	16,048	12 886	16,182	351.8	205.4	224.1	180.0	233.5
Western Division	16,403	5,523	7,306	4,542	6,706	130.6	44.0	58.2	36.2	53.4
Whole State	61,831	41,857	44,947†	33,852‡	47,100	199.2	134.9	144.8‡	109.1‡	151.7‡
CATTLE, DAIRYING—										
Coastal Belt	197	284	653	674	789	5.6	8.1	18.7	19.3	22.5
Tableland	67	70	107	73	47	1.7	1.7	2.7	1.8	1.1
Western Slopes	37	40	78	59	43	1.0	1.1	2.1	1.6	1.0
C'1 Plains & Riverina	35	20	48	36	14	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.2
Western Division	7	4	9	2	1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Whole State	343*	418*	895	844	894†	1.1	1.3	2.9	2.7	2.9†
CATTLE, OTHER—										
Coastal Belt	640	667	915	1,009	783	18.3	19.1	26.2	28.6	22.3
Tableland	465	501	550	580	420	11.5	12.4	13.6	14.4	10.1
Western Slopes	247	306	422	441	397	6.5	8.1	11.1	11.6	9.0
C'1 Plains & Riverina	339	115	302	369	272	4.7	1.6	4.2	5.2	4.3
Western Division	94	41	110	132	110	0.7	0.3	0.9	1.1	0.9
Whole State	1,785	1,630	2,209	2,531	1,682	5.8	5.3	7.4	8.2	6.4
HORSES—										
Coastal Belt	163	161	207	203	185	4.7	4.6	5.9	5.8	5.3
Tableland	92	112	127	112	110	2.3	2.8	3.1	2.8	2.6
Western Slopes	76	111	180	168	195	2.0	2.9	4.8	4.4	4.4
C'1 Plains & Riverina	95	78	140	152	129	1.3	1.1	2.0	2.1	2.0
Western Division	44	25	35	28	29	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2
Whole State	470	487	689	663	648	1.5	1.6	2.2	2.1	2.1

* Cows in milk only; dry cows and springing heifers are included in the total of Other Cattle.

† Cows in registered dairies only. ‡ Known to be understated, see explanation on next page.

Sheep are depastured principally in the hinterland of the State, and are densest in the Western Slopes Division. Dairying cattle and, in fact, all cattle are more numerous in the coastal areas, though considerable numbers exist on the tablelands. Horses, too, are most numerous in the coastal belt, probably because farming needs are greatest there, and because of their accumulation in Sydney and other populous centres.

The divisional totals as stated for 1925 are not altogether comparable with those shown for the years 1891 to 1921, as they have been compiled in shire areas and not in counties as formerly. The change in geographical basis involved considerable alteration in the areas comprising divisions of the Western Slopes and the Central Plains where large numbers of stock are depastured.

The figures for the years 1891 to 1921, however, afford interesting information as to the localities most susceptible to losses of sheep through drought. The greatest decline was on the Central Plains and Riverina, where the numbers fell from 352 to 180 per square mile, and the greatest relative decline was on the Western Plains, where the falling-off was from 131 to 36 per square mile. These comparisons, however, will be modified when revised estimates of the number of sheep are available for years prior to 1925.

Sheep.

Investigations carried out in 1926 showed that the numbers of sheep in the State as recorded in landholders' returns in recent years have been considerably understated. Present indications are that the actual numbers were, on the average, more than 10 per cent. greater than shown. The investigations are well advanced, but until they are completed, it will not be possible to say definitely what reliance can be placed on the totals published for earlier years nor how far adjustment may be necessary. For 1925 the total number of sheep recorded in landholders' returns was 42,925,177, but the investigations showed that a large proportion of returns was understated, and that approximately 4,200,000 should be added to the total as recorded. Estimates were made of the number of sheep and lambs shorn in the latter half of 1925 and the approximate total of 47,100,000 as at 30th June, 1925, was arrived at by two independent methods. Steps are being taken to obtain accurate returns from landholders and to collect adequate data for the compilation of accurate check estimates.

The following table shows the number of sheep as recorded in landholders' returns for various years between 1861 and 1924 in comparison with the adjusted total for 1925. While the totals shown for 1924 and previous years are substantially understated, at least as far back as 1911 they illustrate the vicissitudes of sheep-breeding in New South Wales:—

Year.	Sheep.	Average Annual Rate of Increase.	Year.	Sheep.	Average Annual Rate of Increase.	Year.	Sheep.	Average Annual Rate of Increase.
1861	5,615,054	...	1901	41,857,099	(—) 2·8	1913*	38,621,196†	6·5
1866	11,562,155	15·5	1906	44,132,421	1·1	1919*	37,381,874‡	(—) 8·2
1871	16,278,697	7·1	1911	44,947,287‡	0·4	1920*	29,249,253‡	(—) 21·8
1876	25,269,755	9·2	1912	39,044,502‡	(—) 13·1	1921*	33,851,828‡	15·7
1881	34,591,946	7·7	1913	39,850,223‡	2·1	1922*	37,177,402‡	9·8
1886	39,169,304	1·4	1915*	33,009,038‡	(—) 11·8	1923*	34,862,747‡	(—) 6·2
1891	61,831,416	9·6	1916*	32,600,729‡	(—) 1·2	1924*	37,539,418‡	7·6
1896	48,318,790	(—) 4·8	1917*	36,196,383‡	11·0	1925*	47,100,000†	...

* At 30th June. (—) Denotes decrease. † Revised estimate. ‡ To be revised.

The number of sheep in the State was greatest in 1891, and lowest at the end of 1902 by reason of drought. The main cause of the reduction in the number of sheep between 1891 and 1923 seems to have been a remarkable deterioration of seasons, due to diminished rainfall in the present century. This may be illustrated briefly by stating that the weighted average annual rainfall of the State was about 3½ inches less in the twenty years which followed 1894 than in the preceding quarter of a century, and that this decline was proportionally heaviest in the plain districts of low average rainfall, which in 1891 carried two-thirds of the sheep depastured in the State. In recent years, too, the rabbit pest has become so general as to aggravate the effects of dry weather through destruction of natural herbage, and the growth of the agricultural industry has caused land to be diverted from the purpose of sheep-breeding.

The sudden transition from very good to very bad seasons, which occurred in the early nineties, wrought such havoc amongst the flocks depastured on the immense western plains that by 1901 the returns showed a decrease from 16,400,000 to 5,500,000 sheep in the plains of the Western Division, and from 25,200,000 to 14,700,000 in the plains of the Central Division (see page 533), and in 1902 these numbers were further reduced by 1,900,000 and 7,600,000 respectively. Although the losses of 1902 were speedily regained, the general deterioration of subsequent seasons on the plains was such that with the exception of the years 1906 to 1911 the recorded totals did not exceed the reduced numbers of 1901 until 1925.

The following statement shows the extent to which the flocks were affected by the various causes of increase and decrease during recent seasons; the figures are approximate only:—

Year.	Lambs Marked during Year.	Sheep and Lambs slaughtered during Year.	Excess of Imports (+) or of Exports (—).*
	000	000	000
1918-19	7,812†	4,275	(—) 1,044
1919-20	4,532†	5,537	(—) 1,377
1920-21	7,907†	3,851	(+) 1,984
1921-22	9,881†	5,230	(+) 153
1922-23	7,861†	5,666	(—) 2,167
1923-24	8,260†	3,437	(—) 141
1924-25	12,001	3,393	(—) 872

* Principally overland.

† Subject to revision.

Figures as to deaths and natural increase previously published in this table have been discarded because they were estimates dependent upon the accuracy of landholders' returns which are now known to be inaccurate.

The effect of adverse seasons on the sheep flocks is apparent in four directions, viz., losses by death attributable mainly to lack of fodder and water, increase in the slaughtering of fat stock, decrease in lambing, and increased export to other States. The sheep and lambs slaughtered were on the average about 12 per cent. per annum of the total sheep recorded; export and import varied irregularly according to the season, leaving a small excess of exports. Further reference to the extent of slaughtering is made on a later page.

A brief review of the rise of sheep breeding in New South Wales was published on page 771 of the Year Book for 1921, but this is now modified by the remarks made on a previous page regarding the recorded totals in earlier years.

Interstate Movement of Sheep.

Apart from the seasonal movement of stock to and from agistment in other States, there appears to be a regular export of sheep from New South Wales to Victoria, and an import from Queensland to New South Wales borderwise. The interchange across the border with South Australia and with other States and countries by sea is very small. During the past five years, 7,100,000 sheep have been moved from New South Wales to Victoria, and 2,535,000 from Victoria to New South Wales, leaving an excess of exports to Victoria of 4,565,000. In the same period, 5,202,000 sheep have been imported from Queensland to New South Wales, and 1,102,000 have been exported from New South Wales to Queensland, leaving an excess of imports of 4,100,000 to New South Wales from Queensland. The excess of exports to other destinations during the same period was 598,000, chiefly to South Australia, and the excess of exports of live sheep from New South Wales for the period 1,043,000. It is apparent that large numbers of sheep are sent from Queensland across New South Wales to Victoria, and small numbers to South Australia, or that pastoralists in New South Wales sell to Victorian and South Australian buyers and replenish their flocks from Queensland. In addition, it would appear from the yearly movement that graziers in New South Wales replaced part of their losses in the 1919-20 drought by large purchases in Queensland.

The following table shows the movement of sheep from and to New South Wales, so far as is recorded, in recent seasons:—

Year.	Sheep from New South Wales.				Sheep to New South Wales.				Excess of Imports (+) or of Exports (—).
	To Victoria.	To Queensland.	To South Australia and by Sea.	Total.	From Victoria.	From Queensland.	From South Australia and by Sea.	Total.	
	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000
1919-20	2,289	335	218	2,842	689	750	26	1,465	(—) 1,377
1920-21	850	97	125	1,072	936	2,050	70	3,056	(+) 1,984
1921-22	1,383	245	108	1,736	541	1,306	42	1,889	(+) 153
1922-23	2,008	344	386	2,738	225	313	33	571	(—) 2,167
1923-24	1,281	208	76	1,565	440	947	37	1,424	(—) 114
1924-25	1,558	208	92	1,858	393	556	7	986	(—) 872

Lambing.

The greater part of the lambing of the State takes place during the autumn and winter months, although considerable proportions of ewes, varying according to the nature of the season, are reserved for spring and early summer lambing. It is possible to breed from ewes twice per year, but it is not considered good policy and is rarely practised, except, perhaps, after severe losses. Seasonal changes play a large part in determining the proportion of ewes mated and of resultant lambs, and thus cause wide variations in the natural increase. Particulars of lambing in the recent years are shown below:—

Year.	Ewes Mated during Year.	Lambs Marked during Year.	Lambs (under 1 year) surviving at end of Year (30th June).	Proportion of Lambs Marked to Ewes Mated.
000 omitted.				
1919-20	11,931	4,532	3,808	per cent. 38.0
1920-21	14,196	7,907	7,084	55.7
1921-22	15,452	9,881	8,824	63.9
1922-23	13,970	7,361	6,356	52.7
1923-24	15,127	8,260	7,394	54.6
1924-25	18,193	12,001	11,142	66.0

The figures for 1924-25 have been adjusted. It is considered that those for earlier years are appreciably understated, but revision has been deferred pending completion of investigations.

The difference between the numbers of lambs marked and lambs surviving at the end of the year is accounted for largely by slaughtering.

Severe drought conditions prevailed throughout 1919-20. Not only was the number of ewes mated heavily reduced, but the proportion of lambs marked to ewes mated fell as low as 38 per cent. This experience was in marked contrast with that of 1921-22, when abundant rains were received throughout the pastoral areas in the first half of the season. In 1922-23

the season was unfavourable for the autumn and winter lambing, as with a scanty rainfall there was a scarcity of pasturage and water in the central and western districts. Although the rainfall of the season 1923-24 was not abundant it was well distributed, and proved fairly favourable to the lambing. The season 1924-25 was bountiful, and the favourable conditions produced the largest lambing experienced for many years.

The following table shows the relative extent of lambing and slaughtering in quinquennial periods during the thirty years which followed 1891, in comparison with the results of the last three years:—

Period.	No. of Lambs Marked.	No. of Sheep and Lambs Slaughtered.	Proportion of Slaughtering to Lambing.
			per cent.
1892-1896... ..	50,758,000	34,880,000	68·7
1897-1901... ..	41,830,000	25,130,000	57·8
1902-1906... ..	44,314,000	19,737,000	44·5
1907-1911... ..	50,743,000	30,845,000	67·8
1912-1916-17... ..	39,282,000	26,172,000	66·6
1917-18-1921-22... ..	39,395,000	22,095,000	56·1
1922-23... ..	7,361,000	5,666,000	77·0
1923-24... ..	8,260,000	3,617,000	43·8
1924-25... ..	12,001,000	3,400,000	35·2

The actual number of lambs marked in 1923-24 and preceding years is considered to have been appreciably greater than the totals shown, which are the numbers recorded in landholders' returns.

The fluctuations in lambing are very marked, the diminution during the past twelve seasons being particularly noteworthy. Slaughtering is the principal factor affecting natural increase, but losses from seasonal and other causes appear to have increased markedly in recent years, and to have been a principal cause in preventing a replenishment of the flocks.

Size of Flocks.

Particulars of the size of flocks and the number of sheep on holdings of various sizes were published in the Year Book for 1924, but as they are subject to modification by reason of the inaccuracy of landholders' returns they have not been repeated in this issue.

Breeds of Sheep.

The principal breed of sheep in New South Wales is the celebrated short-woolled merino strain. The numbers of other pure breeds are very small. Crosses of long-woolled breeds with the merino are not at present numerous, but their numbers vary markedly according to market conditions. Merino comebacks, the progeny of crossbred ewes mated to merino rams are, however, fairly numerous. English long-woolled sheep are represented chiefly by the Lincoln, Romney Marsh, and Border Leicester breeds, while Suffolk and Dorset Horn sheep have been introduced for the raising of early-maturing lambs.

Lincolns, and their crosses with merinos, constitute the largest proportionate number of coarse-woolled varieties. The proportion of English cross-bred and comeback sheep is considerably greater than it was in 1901 prior to the development of export in the mutton trade. It has fallen since 1919 on account of the more favourable market for merino wool.

The following table shows the approximate proportion of merino and other sheep in the State during the past forty-four years:—

At 31st December.	Merino.	Other.	Total.	Per cent. of Total.	
				Merino.	Other.
1881	34,412,900	2,179,000	36,591,900	94	6
1891	60,252,400	1,579,000	61,831,400	97	3
1901	38,886,000	2,971,000	41,857,000	93	7
1911	37,047,400	6,283,900	43,331,300*	85	15
1919	23,170,100	10,295,400	33,465,500*	69	31
1920	21,987,000	8,909,800	30,896,800*	71	29
1921	25,994,700	8,771,400	34,766,100*	75	25
1922	27,324,700	7,600 300	34,925,000*	78	22
1923	27,123,100	6,173,100	33,296,200*	82	18
1925 (30th June) ...	39,046,000	8,054,000	47,100,000	83	17

* Sheep on holdings with live-stock assessed by P. P. Boards.

The numbers shown for the years 1911 to 1923 are taken from the records of the Stock Department, and are very considerably below the actual numbers in the State. The numbers for 1925 represent the totals shown in landholders' returns after adjustment. Under the heading "other" in 1925 are included 353,000 of pure breeds other than merino, 5,830,000 merino comebacks and 1,871,000 crossbreds.

Sheep Breeding.

The attention paid to cross-breeding in order to supply the demands of the frozen-mutton trade, and the increase in the number of settlers on small and moderate-sized holdings who combine grazing with agriculture, have emphasised the necessity of conducting scientific experiments in the matter of breeding, and of providing instruction for sheep-farmers. To meet this necessity a sheep and wool expert of the Department of Agriculture organises the class work conducted at State experiment farms, delivering lectures and giving demonstrations in country centres, besides issuing pamphlets containing the results of experiments and conveying general information on breeding matters to farmers.

WOOL.

The prosperity of New South Wales for many years has depended very largely on its sheep flocks and upon the condition of the wool markets of the world. The value of the wool-clip is still the most important factor of the year in the primary production of the State.

Production of Wool.

Wool is produced in New South Wales principally by shearing the live sheep, but also to a considerable extent by fellmongering—removing wool from skins of sheep slaughtered. Comparatively little is picked from the carcasses of dead sheep on the holding. Many of the skins of sheep slaughtered are exported oversea and interstate, and the quantity of wool on these is estimated and included in the total production.

Formerly considerable numbers of sheep were washed before being shorn, and, as particulars of the resultant wool were not recorded separately prior to 1876, only estimates of the quantity of wool produced up to that date are available. The output of wool is stated as in the grease. A small proportion of the shorn wool is scoured before being marketed, and the whole of the fellmongered wool is in a scoured condition. This is stated at its greasy

equivalent by applying a factor determined annually, the proportion being rather more than 2 lb. of greasy to 1 lb. of scoured. Very little wool is now washed on the farm.

The following table shows, in quinquennial periods since 1876 and annually during the past ten seasons, the total quantity of wool produced (as in the grease) in New South Wales, together with the aggregate value on f.o.b. basis Sydney, and the value to growers in each of the past two seasons:—

Period.	Wool Produced (000 omitted).		Year.	Wool produced (000 omitted).		
	Quantity as in the Grease.	Value F.O.B. Sydney.		Quantity as in the Grease.	Value F.O.B. Sydney.	Value at place of Production.
	lb.	£		lb.	£	£
1876-1880	718,397‡	31,298	1916-17	318,241§	*	*
1881-1885	943,814‡	40,563	1917-18	322,855§	*	*
1886-1890	1,294,781‡	44,773	1918-19	340,953	*	*
1891-1895	1,813,630‡	49,025	1919-20	352,071	*	*
1896-1900	1,408,240‡	42,984	1920-21	275,269§	*	*
1901-1905	1,302,585‡	46,719	1921-22	342,764§	*	*
1906-1910	1,817,162	73,610	1922-23	333,899	*	*
1911-1915	1,791,410	*	1923-24	303,032§	*	*
1916-1920†	1,640,125§	*	1924-25	369,100§	38,142	36,013
1921-1925†	1,627,089§	*	1925-26§	401,800§	27,600§	26,100§

* Revised estimate not yet available for publication.

† 5 years ended 30th June.

‡ Excludes wool exported on skins.

§ Subject to revision.

A decline occurred in production between 1911 and 1920 on account of diminution in the number of sheep due to unfavourable seasons. Since the breaking of the severe drought in June, 1920, the seasons have been favourable and considerable improvement has taken place, culminating in the three bountiful years 1924, 1925, and 1926. The wool production of 1925-26 has only once been exceeded. The value of the output increased under the influence of a marked rise in prices until boom levels were reached in January, 1925, when a heavy fall occurred.

The statement formerly published showing particulars of the number of sheep shorn, the average weight of wool per sheep, and the respective amounts of shorn and other wool produced has been discarded because of understatement in the returns of landholders on which they were based. Amended estimates are now in course of preparation.

However, preliminary estimates of wool produced in the last two seasons are as follow:—

Description.	1924-25.	1925-26.
	lb.	lb.
Shorn wool, dead wool, and crutchings*	341,700,000	369,500,000
Wool derived from N.S.W. skins*	11,800,000	14,100,000
Wool exported on N.S.W. skins, oversea and interstate* ...	15,600,000	18,200,000
Total production*	369,100,000	401,800,000

* As in the grease.

Shearing operations are usually carried out between May and November, and the average weight of the fleece, apparently, varies very greatly under the influence of the seasonal conditions ruling during the period in which the wool was grown. The proportion of lambs and of merino sheep in the flocks are also important factors affecting the average weight of the fleece.

The quantities of skin wool and dead wool produced fluctuate according to slaughtering, and the mortality from other causes. Both are usually high in adverse seasons, *e.g.*, 1914-15 and 1919-20. Favourable market conditions also lead to heavy slaughtering.

WOOL MARKETING.

For many years the whole of the wool grown in New South Wales was shipped for sale in London. As the number of continental buyers increased, however, there developed a tendency, which harmonised entirely with Australian interests, to seek supplies of the raw material at their source, and after the year 1885 Sydney wool sales began to assume importance.

Sydney Wool Sales.

At the time of the initiation of the Imperial Wool Purchase Scheme in November, 1916, about 90 per cent. of the successive wool clips of New South Wales was sold annually in Sydney to representatives of firms in practically every foreign country where woollen goods were manufactured on an extensive scale. Between November, 1916, and 30th June, 1920, all local wool was acquired by the Imperial Government by appraisalment, and public wool sales were not resumed in Sydney until 5th October, 1920.

The following statement compiled from the records of the Sydney Wool Selling Brokers' Association shows particulars of Sydney wool sales since 1913, omitting from account the four seasons (1916-17 to 1919-20) during which the appraisalment system under the Imperial Purchase Scheme was in operation:—

Season,	Wool Sold.*		Proportion of Sales to—		Proportion of Wool of each Description Sold.					
	Weight.	Value.	Arrivals in Sydney.	Exports Oversea from N.S.W.	Breed.		Growth.		Condition.	
					Merino.	Cross-bred.	Fleeces, etc.	Lambs.	Greasy.	Scoured.
	lb.000	£000	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1913-14	277,112	10,333	96.4	91.3	89.0	11.0	94.4	5.6	88.7	11.3
1914-15	190,212	6,739	69.3	75.0	83.8	16.2	95.4	4.6	92.0	8.0
1915-16	245,298	10,430	101.1	84.1	84.5	15.5	95.8	4.2	86.7	13.3
1920-21	107,584	5,610	54.4	55.7	89.1	10.9	98.9	1.1	93.2	6.8
1921-22	313,886	14,755	117.7	90.3	73.2	26.8	95.7	4.3	90.7	9.3
1922-23	268,873	18,922	108.3	87.8	79.0	21.0	94.3	5.7	93.3	6.7
1923-24	224,719	21,445	101.4	96.6	83.9	16.1	96.6	3.4	92.6	7.4
1924-25	212,664	21,124	77.7	90.1	85.9	14.1	94.7	5.3	95.1	4.9
1925-26	345,685	23,601	115.6	97.4	86.6	13.4	93.7	6.3	95.2	4.8

* Scoured being included at its greasy equivalent.

The figures as to quantity and value in this table are not comparable with any others quoted herein by reason of the fact that considerable quantities of wool grown in New South Wales are sold in other States, notably in Victoria and South Australia, while small quantities of wool from the other States, and more especially from Queensland, are marketed in Sydney. The wool produced in any season is not necessarily sold in the same season. The uncertainty consequent on the outbreak of war caused a heavy decline in sales during 1914-15, and sales were retarded again on the resumption of auctions in 1920-21, owing to the existence of large stocks and to uncertain conditions. At the close of sales in June, 1923, there was practically no wool remaining unsold in Sydney. The balance in store remaining unsold at 30th June, 1924, was 13,300 bales, at 30th June, 1925, 171,700 bales, and at 30th June, 1926, 11,670 bales.

Particulars of the appraisal and purchase of wool under the Imperial Wool Purchase Scheme which operated during the years 1916-17 to 1919-20 were published in previous editions of this Year Book.

Sydney is by far the largest wool-selling centre of Australia, the quantity sold at Sydney wool sales being, usually, greater than at the two next largest centres (Brisbane and Melbourne) combined. Wool is also sold at Albury, on the southern border, but these sales are comparatively small in extent.

Prices of Wool.

On account of the very large number of varieties of wool, of the pronounced changes of condition from season to season, and of the varying proportions of each in the total output, it is a matter of great difficulty to obtain price quotations which will show accurately the fluctuations of values from year to year.

However, it appears that the average values of Australian wool per pound have been subject to alternate periods of rising and falling which, on the basis of average export values from New South Wales, have been as follows:—Rising to 1830, falling 1831 to 1849, rising 1850 to 1861, falling 1862 to 1894, rising 1895 to 1907, falling 1908 to 1911, rising 1912 to 1924. These periods indicate the general trend only, because in certain years, notably 1900, 1914-15, and 1920, prices varied irregularly.

The following statement, compiled from the official records of the Sydney Wool Selling Brokers' Association, shows the average prices realised for wool at Sydney auctions in the past twenty-seven seasons:—

Season ended 30th June.	Average Prices per lb.		Season ended 30th June.	Average Prices per lb.		Season ended 30th June.	Average Prices per lb.	
	Greasy.	Scoured.		Greasy.	Scoured.		Greasy.	Scoured.
1899	d. 7½	d. 13½	1909	d. 7½	d. 13½	1918	d. 14½ *	d. 23½*
1900	11½	18½	1910	9½	15½	1919	15 *	25½*
1901	5½	10½	1911	8½	14½	1920	15½ *	26½*
1902	6½	11½	1912	8½	14	1921	12½	25
1903	8	14½	1913	9½	16½	1922	12½	14½
1904	8½	14½	1914	9½	16½	1923	17½	23
1905	8½	14½	1915	8½	15½	1924	23½	36
1906	9	16½	1916	10½	17½	1925	25½	41½
1907	9½	15½	1917	14½*	20½*	1926	16½	25½
1908	9	15½						

* Price as appraised under Imperial Wool Purchase Scheme. The average amount to be added to the value of greasy wool in respect of surplus profits is 6·88d. per lb., of which one-half accrued to Australian growers.

These figures represent the average price of wool sold during the year, and furnish an accurate guide to the average value per pound of the clip produced in individual years, provided due allowance be made for carry over of unsold wool on 30th June.

The average prices of greasy wool do not provide an accurate measure of the variations in the value of wool as a commodity, because the market price of the clip in any season is affected by the proportion of natural grease which the wool contains. The quantity of grease varies according to the seasonal conditions. Wool grown in a good season carries more grease than that grown in a dry period. The feeding of sheep on rich rations for the purposes of obtaining a weighty carcase for export also causes an increase in the proportion of grease in the wool. The prices of both greasy and scoured wool shown above are affected by changes in the proportion of merino to cross-bred and of fleece to lambs' wool sold, and by such variable qualities as length, fineness, and soundness.

British Australian Wool Realisation Association Limited.

Particulars of the formation and activities of this organisation are contained in the Year Book for 1921 at page 781 and 1924 at page 580.

The following statement provides a summary of the payments made to wool-growers under the Imperial Wool Purchase Scheme and of the distribution of profits accruing to growers therefrom to 31st December, 1925. The estimated payments made in respect of wool grown in New South Wales have been revised since the last issue of this Year Book, as the former estimates were based on the production recorded in landholders' returns. As explained on another page it has been ascertained that these were considerably understated.

Heading.	Date of Payment.	Amount of Payment in Respect of—		
		Wool grown in the Commonwealth.	Wool appraised in New South Wales.	Wool grown in New South Wales. †
<i>Flat Rate of Purchase—</i>		£	£	£
Value of wool as appraised ...	Upon appraisement	153,743,857	59,000,520	72,930,000
Add difference between average appraised value and 15½d. per lb. ...		6,856,923	895,370*	1,107,000
Total paid for wool at 15½d. per lb. ...		160,600,780	59,895,890*	74,037,000
<i>Growers' Share of Profits—</i>				
5 per cent. of appraised value distributed by Central Wool Committee ...	27 Oct., 1920	7,686,283	2,767,162	3,445,000
Retirement of small growers and fractional payments	30 July, 1921	249,697	1,732,920	2,214,000
First payment on priority wool certificates ...	30 July, 1921	4,703,581		
Final payment on priority wool certificates ...	18 May, 1922	5,198,686	1,821,788	2,324,000
First capital reduction ...	14 Apl., 1923	5,924,021	2,132,825	2,655,000
Second capital reduction ...	12 Feb., 1924	5,331,618	1,919,542	2,390,000
Total profits distributed	...	29,093,886	10,374,237	13,028,000
Total payments made ...	...	189,694,606	70,270,127*	87,065,000
Nominal value of shares remaining ...	...	592,402	213,282	265,000
Value of assets { Ordinary † ...	...	6,410,618	1,780,581*	2,873,000
{ In trust † ...	...	1,900,856	527,972*	852,000

* Estimated † Distribution deferred until Company is wound up. ‡ Revised estimate.

The wool concerned in this purchase was that grown in the 1916-17 season and not disposed of before November, 1916, besides the whole of the produce of the next three seasons, other than wool exported on sheep skins. The amount realised for the growers' share of surplus wools, after paying the flat rate of 15½d. per lb. to the growers, was equivalent to an average of 6.88d. per lb. over the whole quantity of 2,486,721,752 lb. purchased in Australia by the Imperial Government. It is estimated that of this quantity 1,297,000,000 lb. were produced in New South Wales. The actual average amount which accrued to the growers was 18.94d. per lb.

Destination of Wool Shipped.

The following statement shows the destination of the oversea shipments of wool from New South Wales during the two years ended June, 1924, and 1925, in comparison with similar information for the year 1913. The figures relate to the cargoes actually despatched during the periods specified, and not to the wool sold during each season:—

Destination.	Oversea Exports of Wool (000 omitted).								
	Greasy.			Scoured.			Tops.		
	1913.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1913.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1913	1923-24.	1924-25.
United Kingdom ...	50,120	50,685	56,011	10,609	7,897	9,407	40	100	387
Canada ...	...	65	267	...	11	72	...	418	263
Austria ...	7,297	...	...	33	...	...	29	...	...
Belgium ...	27,222	22,731	18,515	2,021	1,388	1,254	...	387	440
France ...	76,486	59,660	50,799	12,658	4,599	2,735	...	99	...
Germany ...	54,266	14,599	24,270	4,579	1,394	1,196	...	17	...
Italy ...	3,638	9	12,160	132	196	188	...	...	...
Japan ...	5,661	25,283	31,967	129	786	367	3,435	2,918	2,402
Netherlands ...	...	7,661	551	...	616	2	...	...	...
United States ...	4,286	7,279	14,371	85	387	162	...	20	...
Other Countries ...	23	10,979	423	2	186	87	58	...	...
Total ...	223,999	198,951	209,334	30,248	17,410	15,470	3,562	3,957	3,492

The largest quantities of wool are sent usually to the United Kingdom, France, and Japan in the order named, although more greasy wool was sent to France than to the United Kingdom in 1923-24. Some of the wool sent to the United Kingdom is transhipped to other countries.

Approximately 80 per cent. of the wool is shipped in the greasy state, though the weight is loaded thereby with extraneous matter amounting to as much as the wool itself. It is considered that scoured wool stored in tightly-packed bales for a long period is more liable to deterioration than greasy wool. An important consideration in regard to the condition in which wool is shipped is the purpose for which the wool is needed. For certain classes of factories scoured wool is purchased, and in other cases manufacturers prefer to buy greasy wool and to subject it to special processes in classing and scouring.

CATTLE.

Cattle-raising, as connected with the dairying industry, is dealt with on page 570, and as connected with the meat trade on page 550.

Apart from dairying, industries connected with cattle, such, for instance, as the export of beef, have never existed on a large scale in New South Wales. Local production scarcely meets the requirements of local consumption, and only the import of cattle from Queensland enables the maintenance of a small export trade in frozen and tinned beef. From 1916 to 1922 an appreciable increase was apparent in the number of cattle depastured, and the number in 1922 constituted a record for the State. The causes of this increase are shown, by the table on the next two pages, to have been the heavy importations of 1920-21, and the large natural increase in 1921-22, coupled with restricted slaughtering in those years. The influence of these factors is explained later in discussing the meat export trade and the markets for meat.

Just as the first effect of the check to meat prices caused an accumulation of cattle until 30th June, 1922, so did the continuance of unfavourable markets lead to a diminution in herds during the next three years. Breeding operations were curtailed, importation of live stock from Queensland was very restricted and the herds were heavily depleted.

The following table shows the total number of cattle in the State, including dairy cattle, at the close of each quinquennial period since 1861, and the numbers at 30th June of each of the last ten years:—

Year.	Cattle.	Year.	Cattle.	Year.	Cattle.
1861	2,271,923	1901	2,047,454	1919*	3,280,676
1866	1,771,809	1906	2,549,944	1920*	3,084,332
1871	2,014,888	1911	3,194,236	1921*	3,375,267
1876	3,131,013	1913	2,822,740	1922*	3,546,530
1881	2,597,348	1916*	2,405,770	1923*	3,251,180
1886	1,367,844	1917*	2,765,943	1924*	2,938,522
1891	2,128,838	1918*	3,161,717	1925*	2,876,254
1896	2,226,163				

* At 30th June.

The numbers shown above include cows in registered dairies. These numbered 894,283 in 1925 as compared with 887,222 in 1922.

The principal distinct breeds of cattle now in the State are the Durham or Shorthorn, Hereford, Jersey, Ayrshire, and Devon, but crosses from these breeds predominate. The number of pure and stud cattle in the State probably does not exceed 250,000.

The following table contains particulars of the sexes and ages of the cattle in the State in the last six years so far as such particulars have been collected:—

At 30th June.	Bulls, 3 years and over.	Cows in Dairies, and Cows in Milk, but not in Dairies.	Other Cows not in milk.	Steers over 3 years.	Steers and Young Bulls (1 to 3 years).	Calves, under 1 year.	Total.
1920	No. 36,272	No. 993,023	No. 1,157,477	No. 508,039	No. 479,521	No. 3,084,332	
1921	40,439	941,742	1,328,788	527,569	536,729	3,375,267	
1922	43,381	974,087	684,640	700,787	529,933	613,702	3,546,530
1923	40,530	958,287	674,127	587,495	501,634	489,107	3,251,180
1924	38,045	949,135	586,685	563,324	427,941	373,392	2,938,522
1925	*	922,850	*	*	*	422,736	2,876,254

* Not available.

Between 30th June, 1922, and 30th June, 1924, the total decrease in herds was approximately 608,000, made up of 240,300 calves, 137,400 steers over three years, 102,000 young steers and young bulls, 98,000 cows not in milk, 25,000 dairy and milking cows, and 5,300 bulls over three years. Further details regarding dairy and milking cows are published on a later page. The number of calves under one year shows considerable variation

on account of seasonal and market influences. The lowness of the numbers recorded on 30th June, 1920, may be attributed to dry seasons. In 1922-23 the number of calves dropped was large, but apparently because of the unprofitable state of the beef market, very many were destroyed or slaughtered. The number of calves dropped in 1923-24 was considerably smaller than in 1922-23, and the number destroyed or slaughtered for food reduced the number surviving to a level much below the lowest figure of the preceding five years. The slaughtering of calves in 1924-25 was considerably heavier than in any recent year, but the number reared was greater than in the preceding year.

Cattle Breeding.

The following table shows the number of cows in each class, and the increase in cattle herds from breeding in the past four seasons:—

Year ended 30th June.	Cows in Registered Dairies.			Other Cows.		Total Cows.	Calves.		*Calves slaughtered for food.
	Being Milked.	Springing Heifers.	Other.	Being Milked.	Dry.		Dropped during year.	Surviving at end of year.	
1922	414,557	68,222	404,643	86,665	684,640	1,658,727	995,128	613,702	103,883
1923	404,611	63,100	411,051	79,525	674,127	1,632,414	961,154	489,107	133,524
1924	418,505	71,515	374,435	84,680	586,685	1,535,820	804,928	373,392	123,760
1925	457,217	68,206	368,860	88,567	†	†	†	422,736	159,999

* Including a number of calves dropped in the previous year. † Not available.

Rather more than one-half of the cows are in registered dairies and hence are not generally available for breeding for beef purposes. It was stated before the Select Committee of Inquiry into the Meat Industry Encouragement Bill in 1924 that in a representative dairying district on the North Coast no less than 95 per cent. of bull calves and 75 per cent. of heifer calves were destroyed shortly after birth. That this practice is general in dairying districts is shown by the fact that the ratio of calves dropped to calves surviving in 1923-24 was 27 per cent. in the North Coast district and 29 per cent. in the South Coast district. These averages relate to operations on a considerable number of holdings, including a large number used for grazing beef cattle only, or partly for grazing beef cattle, hence the proportion in the case of holdings used only for dairying is probably lower still. In districts where dairying operations are relatively small the proportion of calves surviving is very much higher, viz., on the tablelands 77 per cent., on the western slopes 82 per cent., and on the central plains 84 per cent.

It is clear, therefore, that the number of calves raised on dairy farms for beef purposes is negligible, and if it be assumed that the number of dairy cows in milk at 30th June shows the variations in the number calved on dairy farms during the year, it follows, by analysis of the number of calves slaughtered during the year, and the number surviving at the end of the year, that the number of cows producing calves for beef purposes was at least 200,000 less in 1923-24 than in 1921-22, the respective totals being in the neighbourhood of 350,000 and 550,000 calves. This is largely accounted for by the fact that 65,000 more cows were slaughtered in 1922-23 than in 1921-22, and 60,000 more in 1923-24 than in 1922-23. Considerable improvement occurred in breeding operations in 1924-25, the total number of calves slaughtered and calves surviving at the end of the year being 85,000 greater than in 1923-24, though still considerably less than in 1921-22 and 1922-23.

Interstate Movements of Cattle.

By reason of the existence of diseases among the cattle of certain districts, notably the presence of cattle tick in the north-east of New South Wales and in parts of Queensland, the interstate movement of cattle is closely regulated in order to stay the spread of disease. In certain cases cattle are quarantined, dipped or sprayed on admission and subject to special treatment should such become necessary within a fixed period thereafter.

The following statement shows the number of live cattle (so far as recorded) passing into and out of New South Wales during each of the past five years. The movement is principally overland, comparatively few cattle being transported by sea.

Year.	From New South Wales.				To New South Wales.			
	To Victoria.	To Queensland.	To South Australia and by Sea.	Total.	From Victoria.	From Queensland.	From South Australia and by Sea.	Total.
1920-21	No. 100,508	No. 19,240	No. 6,976	No. 126,724	No. 142,958	No. 375,597	No. 4,780	No. 523,335
1921-22	158,834	24,740	12,355	195,929	43,318	204,830	1,153	249,301
1922-23	111,570	22,088	17,249	150,907	44,457	109,555	2,785	156,797
1923-24	114,936	11,574	23,702	150,212	40,757	251,031	1,655	293,443
1924-25	132,425	22,561	15,098	170,084	38,473	207,917	1,739	248,179

Although the effects of seasonal variations are apparent during this period there is, on the whole, a heavy but fluctuating import of cattle to New South Wales from Queensland, and a considerable export to Victoria. The interchange with South Australia is small. The large import to New South Wales in 1920-21 consisted principally of cattle for slaughtering purposes, as with the breaking of the drought in New South Wales in June, 1920, cattle were withheld from market for fattening and for breeding purposes.

In 1923-24 there was considerable importation from Queensland.

During the five years covered in the table there was an excess of imports from Queensland of about 1,048,127 cattle, and an excess of exports to Victoria amounting to 308,310. The total net gain to New South Wales from all sources was about 677,199. During the same period the estimated number of cattle and calves slaughtered for export was 206,914.

Increase and Decrease of Cattle.

The number of cattle in New South Wales varies under the influence of three factors, viz., importation, slaughtering, and natural increase, i.e., excess of calving over deaths from causes other than slaughtering. The operation of each of these during each of the past eight years is shown below:—

Year.	Cattle at beginning of Year.	Net Imports of Cattle.	Cattle and Calves Slaughtered.	Cattle at end of Year.
1917-18	2,765,943	101,424	378,123	3,161,717
1918-19	3,161,717	(—) 48,082	437,187	3,280,676
1919-20	3,280,676	22,972	593,997	3,084,332
1920-21	3,084,332	396,611	526,055	3,375,267
1921-22	3,375,267	53,372	631,789	3,546,530
1922-23	3,546,530	5,890	739,050	3,251,180
1923-24	3,251,180	143,231	752,489	2,938,522
1924-25	2,938,522	78,095	818,826	2,876,254

(—) Denotes excess of exports.

HORSES.

There was a great advance in horse-breeding between 1910 and 1918, owing to the increased demand which arose as a consequence of widening settlement, prosperous seasons, and defence requirements. During the five years ended 30th June, 1924, however, there has been a marked decline due to the adverse seasons of 1918-20, the low prices prevailing, and probably to an increased use of motors for transport. Although a marked improvement took place in breeding operations in 1924-25, it was not sufficient to prevent a further decline in the total number of horses.

The following table shows the number of horses in New South Wales at the end of quinquennial periods since 1861, and at 30th June in each of the last ten years:—

Year.	Horses.	Year.	Horses.	Year.	Horses.
1861	233,220	1901	486,716	1920*	662,264
1866	274,437	1906	537,762	1921*	663,178
1871	304,100	1911	689,004	1922*	669,800
1876	366,703	1916*	719,542	1923*	660,031
1881	398,577	1917*	733,791	1924*	658,372
1886	361,663	1918*	742,247	1925*	647,503
1891	469,647	1919*	722,723		
1896	510,636				

* At 30th June.

The number of the horses in the State reached its maximum of 746,170 in 1913, and it remained near this level until 1919. In 1919-20 there was a sudden decrease and the number of horses has remained in the vicinity of 660,000 ever since, with a tendency to decline slowly.

For purposes of classification the horses have been divided into draught and light, and the number of each particular kind, at the 31st December, 1924, so far as could be ascertained from returns collected by the Stock Department, was as follows:—

Class.	1924.			1913.
	Thoroughbred.	Ordinary.	Total.	Total.
Draught	25,402	237,946	263,348	260,536
Light	29,589	231,675	261,264	355,414
	54,991	469,621	524,612	615,950

The number of horses shown above is not the total for the State, and it is published only as an indication of the trend of change in the classification. It represents only those horses on holdings which depasture ten or more horses, or live stock equivalent to 100 or more sheep, and which supplied returns for assessment by the Pastures Protection Boards. The comparison shows that the decrease in the numbers has occurred almost entirely among light horses.

Thoroughbred sires are kept on many of the large holdings, and at many centres throughout the country, while special breeding stock are kept at most of the Government experiment farms.

There is a small export trade to India, where the horses are required as remounts for the army. The number of ordinary horses sent there during the year ended 30th June, 1925, was 240, and the value was £4,800.

Horse Breeding

Horse breeding operations have been decreasing since 1913, when the number of foals reared was 79,620. A sudden decrease occurred in the bad season 1919-20, when the number reared was only 24,755, as compared with 40,015 in the previous year. There has not been any sustained recovery since that season, but the number of foals reared in 1924-25 showed considerable improvement.

During the three years between July, 1916 and June, 1919, approximately 136,000 foals were reared as compared with only 92,300 during the last three years for which records are available. The number of foals dropped during normal years is, on the average, between 7 and 8 per stallion, but the number of stallions in the State is decreasing rapidly.

The following table shows the number of horses of each sex, and the number of foals at the end of each of the past eight years:—

At 30th June.	Stallions.	Mares and Fillies.	Geldings and Colts.	Foals under 1 year.	Total.
1918	6,407	341,991	347,017	46,832	742,247
1919	5,587	330,540	346,581	40,015	722,723
1920	4,609	305,211	327,689	24,755	662,264
1921	4,270	314,073	324,770	20,065	663,178
1922	4,318	314,276	321,521	29,685	669,800
1923	4,021	310,747	316,647	28,616	660,031
1924	3,809	311,275	318,911	24,307	658,372
1925	*	*	*	39,415	647,503

* Not available.

There is comparatively little interstate movement of horses, and practically no import by sea. As the number of foals reared in the past five years has been only about 142,100, it is apparent that the average age of the horses in the State must be increasing rapidly, and that unless breeding or importation increases a steady decline is to be expected in the number of horses. The increase in breeding operations in 1924-25, though considerable, was not sufficient to arrest this decline.

OTHER LIVE STOCK.

Particulars of the number of pigs in the State are shown on a later page.

The number of goats in New South Wales in June, 1925, was 26,313, including 3,840 Angora goats. Under the provisions of the Dog and Goat Act, 1898, the use of dogs or goats for purposes of draught is prohibited.

In New South Wales camels are used principally as carriers on the Western Plains, but their numbers are steadily diminishing. The number in June, 1925, was 368, compared with 1,792 at the close of the year 1913.

Donkeys and mules are not extensively used in New South Wales, the numbers in 1925 being 200 of the former and 43 of the latter. Most of these are situated in the Western Division, where they are used for purposes of transport. Movements across the border cause marked fluctuations in the number in the State.

The climate of certain portions of the State is considered specially suitable for ostrich farming, though it is not conducted on an extensive scale. The number of ostriches at the end of June, 1925, was 96, as compared with 36 at June, 1924.

PRICES OF LIVE STOCK.

The following statement shows the average prices of fat stock in the metropolitan saleyards at Flemington during recent years. The amounts stated are the means of the monthly prices which are published annually in the Statistical Register.

Stock.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Cattle.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bullocks and Steers—					
Mean of Prime and Good	9 14 0	7 18 0	10 3 6	9 4 6	10 11 9
Cows and Heifers—					
Extra Prime and Prime...	9 9 0	6 15 0	10 5 6	7 19 0	9 4 6
Calves, Vealers—					
Good	3 10 6	2 6 3	2 5 0	2 6 6	2 13 3
Sheep.					
Cross-bred—					
Wethers—					
Mean of Prime and Good	0 18 0	1 0 3	1 8 9	1 17 0	1 14 0
Ewes—					
Mean of Prime and Good	0 15 0	0 15 0	1 5 6	1 13 0	1 9 3
Merino—					
Wethers—					
Mean of Prime and Good	0 18 9	1 1 6	1 13 3	1 16 0	1 15 3
Ewes—					
Mean of Prime and Good	0 14 6	0 14 6	1 4 0	1 9 0	1 6 6
Lambs, and Suckers Woolly—					
Mean of Prime and Good	0 14 0	0 17 9	1 4 0	1 9 0	1 8 3
Pigs.					
Porkers—					
Good	3 14 3	2 18 6	3 2 6	3 7 0	2 19 6
Baconers—					
Good	5 7 6	4 2 6	5 2 6	4 11 6	4 0 0

The prices of stock in local markets are influenced very largely by the nature of the seasons, but the condition of oversea markets for wool, meat, hides, skins, etc., is also an important consideration. During bad seasons stock are hastened to market and prices are low, but, when the dry weather breaks, efforts to re-stock cause a decrease in yardings, and prices for a time are abnormally high.

Throughout 1921 prices of live stock at Flemington declined heavily, though sheep tended to become dearer towards the end of the year in response to the more favourable prospects of the wool trade. This tendency continued until September, 1922, when they were approximately 100 per cent. dearer than in October, 1921. A steep decline then occurred until the end of the year, when prices showed an upward tendency, but the rise was not sustained. The continued dry weather caused a large supply of stock to be placed on the market during the early months of 1923, and prices declined steadily. In May, however, the seasonal conditions improved, and in the following month beneficial rains fell in the pastoral districts, causing prices of stock to rise rapidly as graziers competed for supplies to replenish their flocks and herds. The upward movement lasted until August in the case of sheep, and September in the case of cattle.

In the meantime, as shearing progressed, an ample number of shorn sheep were ready for market. The condition of local cattle had improved and a large number were imported from Queensland. Therefore prices began to fall

again. The rise had been so rapid that the average price of prime medium bullocks rose from £9 15s. in April, 1923, to £22 14s. in September, and of prime wethers from 22s. 6d. for crossbred and 31s. for merinos in April to 48s. and 55s. 6d. respectively in August. At the end of the year 1923 the corresponding prices were—bullocks £10 13s.; wethers—crossbred 29s. 3d., merino 28s. 6d. The seasonal conditions throughout 1924 were good, and the price of cows and bullocks declined, owing to the pressure of supplies and the absence of a profitable oversea market. The supplies of sheep were restricted by reason of the excellent prices prevailing for wool, and prices, especially for crossbreds, rose considerably, exceeding the levels reached in 1920. The prices of fat sheep at Flemington declined heavily throughout 1925, but there was a sustained improvement in the prices of fat cattle. The movement ranged from 25 per cent. to 50 per cent. In regard to the monthly prices of sheep it should be noted that the quantity of wool carried by the stock is an important factor affecting the price. As a general rule sheep at market in January and February are shorn, during March and April they have growing fleece, from May to August they are woolly, and from September to December both shorn and woolly sheep are marketed.

MEAT TRADE.

The meat trade commenced to assume importance in New South Wales toward the end of the nineteenth century, when an export trade in frozen and chilled meat became possible through the provision of refrigerated space in ocean steamers.

Whereas, in the earlier years, surplus stock frequently found no better outlet than boiling-down works, and were, therefore, of no greater value than that of the hides or skins and tallow produced from them, an oversea market for both frozen and canned meats has been opened up. Boiling-down operations have practically ceased, and the export trade has grown considerably, although its progress has been subject to vicissitudes.

The opening, the expansion, and the boom of oversea trade, which occurred respectively about 1900, 1911, and from 1914 to 1921 caused substantial rises in the local prices of both beef and mutton.

Since 1921 the market values of Australian meat have been dominated by world influences, and in particular the price of mutton has risen through the competition of wool-growing, while that of beef has fallen through the depression in the values of frozen beef due to the preference of English consumers for chilled beef from South America.

Under the control exercised by the Imperial Government through its war-time trade activities, the price of meat was raised to unprecedented heights but, after the free market was restored in England in March, 1921, the influence of the world wide economic depression was felt and prices, especially of frozen beef, fell precipitately in London, remaining for the next three years little above the level of 1913. This was disastrous to Australian cattle interests because costs of slaughtering and marketing stock had increased so heavily that it ceased to be profitable to raise cattle for the export trade. At the same time seasonal factors operated to depress the local market. When the drought had terminated in June, 1920, stock were, for a time, held back for fattening and prices rose as

supplies diminished, but the supply of fat stock became augmented in 1921 and prices of fat stock in Sydney inevitably fell. Although the local consumption of beef increased rapidly with the return to lower prices, the natural limitations of the market were soon reached and the local demand was not sufficient to support the industry, which had developed an export trade. As a consequence the local cattle markets became heavily depressed and, although there was a temporary improvement through seasonal causes in 1923, cattle-raising ceased to provide attractions for meat producers.

Happily, the position of the meat trade in mutton and lamb was much better than that in beef. The depression which followed the removal of Government control of the British markets in March, 1921, began to pass away by the end of that year and the average prices realised for frozen mutton during 1922 and 1923 were rather more than 50 per cent. above the average for 1913. Toward the end of 1924 prices improved still further and in December were 100 per cent. above the average for 1913. For frozen lamb prices were even more favourable. This condition was attributed largely to a marked preference on the part of English consumers for mutton and lamb as a reaction to the forced consumption of beef during the war.

Despite the relatively happy position of mutton and lamb in English markets, however, there was only a temporary expansion in the export of these meats in the years 1921-22 and 1922-23, when seasonal conditions militated against the retention of sheep. In 1923-24, when the pastoral season was more favourable and the wool market had reached a highly profitable level, the trade in mutton and lamb contracted rapidly. Slaughter for local requirements decreased by one-quarter and the number slaughtered for the export trade was only one-third of the number of the previous season. Operations in the export of frozen mutton and lamb continued on a restricted scale in 1924-25, but there was a slight expansion in the export of frozen beef, for which prices improved.

Encouragement of the Meat Industry.

Particulars of the steps taken to meet the difficult situation which confronted the meat industry in 1922 were published on page 591 of this Year Book for 1924, where a description was also given of the constitution of the Australian Meat Council and New South Wales Meat Advisory Board.

The amount of the levy under the Meat Industry Encouragement Act was approximately £14,160, collected from approximately 16,000 owners of stock.

After the collection of the levy a poll was demanded by stockowners in terms of the Act, and a ballot was held on 30th April, 1926. Of 15,672 ballot-papers issued, 7,050, or 44.9 per cent., were returned. Of these 1,206 were favourable to the continuance of the levy, 5,369 were against, and 475 votes were informal. Although this ballot was of no legal significance because less than the required 60 per cent. of stockowners voted, the Australian Meat Council, after having regard to the situation in the other States, decided to discontinue its operations.

Slaughtering.

The slaughter of live stock for sale as food, either for local consumption or for export, is permitted only in places licensed for the purpose, in accordance with the Cattle Slaughtering Act, 1902.

The following table shows the numbers of slaughtering establishments and of employees, together with the total number of stock slaughtered in the State at intervals since 1901. The figures relating to the establishments and employees, prior to 1921, are in excess of the actual number, as they include a large number of butchers' shops in country districts and the shop hands employed therein.

Year.	Slaughter-houses.		Stock Slaughtered in Establishments and on Farms and Stations.					Swine.
	No.	Employees.	Sheep.	Lambs.	Bullocks. †	Cows.	Calves.	
1901	1,642	4,675	4,372,016	147,117	202,795	113,374	19,654	248,311
1906	1,522	4,391	4,229,407	252,648	237,722	94,955	26,200	281,650
1911	1,237	4,343	6,146,739	400,186	306,773	182,178	59,969	316,331
1916*	1,071	3,722	3,815,477	361,831	187,832	165,134	31,986	219,806
1921*	960	1,342	3,506,008	345,255	300,941	145,610	79,504	238,259
1922*	1,061	1,758	4,508,814	631,035	407,029	120,877	103,883	336,369
1923*	1,052	2,180	4,441,760	1,224,516	420,117	155,409	133,524	339,544
1924*	1,073	1,750	2,978,624	638,731	382,767	245,962	123,760	302,733
1925*	1,095	1,478	2,835,596	557,684	331,030	267,797	159,099	361,065

* Year ended 30th June. † Includes a small number of bulls.

The majority of the stock, except swine, are slaughtered in the metropolitan establishments, though it is considered that many advantages would result if facilities were provided to treat all the stock in the districts where they are depastured. In 1924-25 the sheep and lambs slaughtered in the county of Cumberland numbered 1,448,811 sheep, 458,225 lambs, 202,736 bullocks, 119,445 cows, 144,933 calves, and 166,733 swine. The numbers slaughtered on stations and farms were:—Sheep, 798,369; lambs, 8,694; cattle, 45,586; and swine, 18,257.

The particulars stated above relate to the stock slaughtered for all purposes, and the following statement shows the number of sheep and cattle used for local consumption as fresh meat and those frozen for export or preserved during the last three years. Occasionally, during periods of shortage, meat frozen or chilled for export is released for local consumption. Such a period of shortage was experienced in the latter part of 1923.

Purpose for which slaughtered.	1922-23.		1923-24.		1924-25.	
	Sheep and Lambs.	Cattle (including Calves).	Sheep and Lambs.	Cattle (including Calves).	Sheep and Lambs.	Cattle (including Calves).
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Local consumption ...	4,055,872	672,782	3,092,652	704,325	2,834,390	738,764
Export to other States or boiling down for tallow ...	28,705	4,763	19,233	3,636	11,155	3,337
Export oversea ...	1,431,864	39,498	494,168	34,491	534,128	53,148
Meat-preserving ...	148,835	2,007	11,252	11,998	13,607	23,577
Total Slaughtered ...	5,665,276	739,050	3,617,355	754,450	3,393,280	818,826

Marked fluctuations are experienced in regard to the frozen and preserved meat industries. During the year ended June, 1921, there was a decline of 72 per cent. in the number of animals treated for these purposes, but although there was a marked increase in 1921-22 and 1922-23, there was a fall in 1923-24 practically to the level of 1920-21. In 1924-25 there was

a slight increase in slaughter for export. During the three years reviewed in the table the numbers of carcasses of Australian frozen lamb and mutton exported from New South Wales were 1,723,720, 435,339, and 409,097 respectively. There is also apparent a pronounced decline in the local consumption of mutton and an increase in the consumption of beef. This has been due to the apparent preference for beef among local consumers when prices are low.

In country towns licensed slaughter-houses are inspected by a local officer appointed and controlled by the Local Government authorities. In Newcastle public abattoirs were established in 1912 under control of a board, elected by the councils of the local areas in the district.

In the metropolitan area stock is slaughtered at the State Abattoirs at Homebush Bay. Animals sold at Flemington are inspected before being killed and the diseased are destroyed, while "doubtful" beasts are marked for further special attention at the abattoirs. There is a staff of inspectors at the State Abattoirs and inspectors are stationed at private slaughtering premises throughout the County of Cumberland. The operations of the inspectorial staff are supervised by the veterinary officers of the Metropolitan Meat Industry Board, who pay regular visits to the different establishments.

Particulars of stock slaughtered at the State Abattoirs, Homebush Bay, during recent years are shown in the following statement:—

Year ended 30th June.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
1915	195,028	48,148	2,116,844	65,718
1916	100,794	19,137	1,309,810	64,884
1917	103,909	30,016	1,275,430	71,679
1918	101,084	23,132	1,061,471	93,567
1919	130,373	42,635	1,838,243	132,065
1920	209,649	65,824	2,542,348	94,595
1921	165,381	70,097	1,407,034	76,316
1922	210,927	88,102	2,260,196	114,766
1923	242,893	107,683	2,361,522	153,241
1924	233,930	100,669	1,479,339	134,521
1925	239,500	125,505	1,308,890	142,613
1926	234,925	134,485	1,828,041	182,439

Of the stock slaughtered at the State Abattoirs in 1924-25 the following numbers and proportions were totally condemned:—Cattle 1,843, or 0.97 per cent.; calves 446, or 0.35 per cent.; sheep and lambs 823, or 0.06 per cent.; and pigs 278, or 0.12 per cent. In addition 4,152 cattle, 15 calves, 1,885 sheep and lambs, and 2,330 pigs were partially condemned.

The following table shows the numbers of stock yarded annually at Flemington saleyards, where most of the stock slaughtered in Sydney are sold:—

Year ended 30th June.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Year ended 30th June.	Sheep.	Cattle.
1917	1,711,246	149,604	1922	3,179,875	282,399
1918	1,756,301	146,630	1923	3,558,487	327,506
1919	2,684,652	178,140	1924	2,005,887	320,914
1920	2,792,879	260,306	1925	1,832,981	313,540
1921	2,255,970	251,065	1926	2,673,413	320,255

Certain aspects of the local meat trade, especially the carriage and consumption of meat, are discussed in part "Food and Prices" of this Year Book.

Prices of Meat, Sydney.

The following table shows the average wholesale prices of meat in Sydney in each month since January, 1924:—

Month,	Beef.						Mutton and Lamb.					
	1924.		1925.		1926.		1924.		1925.		1926.	
	Fores.	Hinds.	Fores.	Hinds.	Fores.	Hinds.	Mutton.	Lamb.	Mutton.	Lamb.	Mutton.	Lamb.
January	d. 2 5	d. 5 9	d. 1 9	d. 4 0	d. 2 2	d. 5 9	d. 6 5	d. 7 9	d. 7 2	d. 9 5	d. 4 8	d. 6 8
February	2 5	5 5	1 8	3 9	2 2	5 3	6 2	8 1	7 2	9 7	4 2	5 9
March	2 0	4 9	1 9	4 0	2 2	5 6	6 5	8 0	6 3	9 3	4 6	6 3
April	1 9	4 3	1 9	4 1	2 5	5 7	5 9	8 8	6 0	8 6	5 5	7 9
May	1 9	3 9	2 0	4 2	2 7	5 4	5 5	8 2	6 3	9 4	5 2	7 3
June	2 1	3 8	2 4	4 5	2 8	5 1	5 7	5 9	6 5	9 5	4 6	7 2
July	1 9	3 6	2 2	4 1	..	..	5 1	8 4	6 2	9 3	..	..
August	2 0	4 0	2 6	4 5	..	..	5 1	8 0	5 5	8 2	..	..
September	2 2	4 5	2 7	5 1	..	..	5 0	8 6	5 2	7 8	..	..
October	2 1	4 5	2 4	5 6	..	..	5 8	8 0	4 6	7 1	..	..
November	2 1	4 4	2 1	4 8	..	..	6 3	8 1	4 5	6 7	..	..
December	2 1	4 5	2 5	5 9	..	..	6 7	9 1	4 8	6 5	..	..
Average	2 1	4 5	2 2	4 6	2 4§	5 5§	5 9	8 3	5 9	8 5	4 8§	6 9§

§ Six months.

Although there have been minor fluctuations, usually caused by the incidence of rainfall, this table shows that until the middle of 1925 there was a gradual decline in the prices realised for beef and a gradual increase in those received for mutton and lamb. During the year ended 30th June, 1926, the trend was reversed; the price of beef rose appreciably while prices of mutton and lamb declined.

Meat Export Trade.

The meat export trade of New South Wales has now assumed considerable proportions.

Especial attention is given to preparation and transport of meat for export in order to ensure a high standard in the product. Stringent regulations have been issued by the Department of Trade and Customs regarding inspection and shipment of meat exported. The work is carried out by the Commonwealth authorities. All stock killed for export are examined in a manner similar to those for local consumption, and carcasses which have been in cold storage are re-examined immediately before shipment. In all the large modern steamers visiting the ports of New South Wales refrigerated space has been provided.

The meat trade is a comparatively recent development, and the number of stock available for export depends mainly upon the season, as in periods of scarcity the local demand absorbs the bulk of the fat stock marketed.

The quantity of frozen meat exported oversea in various years since 1891 is shown below. Ships' stores, amounting annually to several millions of pounds in weight, are not included in the table:—

Year.	Frozen or Chilled.				Preserved.		Value of all Meat Exported.†
	Beef.	Mutton and Lamb.	Total Weight.	Total Value.	Weight.	Value.	
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	£	lb.	£	£
1891	*	*	105,013	101,828	6,509,928	85,629	201,421
1896	26,529	559,507	586,036	294,596	14,365,300	187,957	562,389
1901	115,050	351,516	466,566	541,525	10,086,940	209,697	914,573
1906	32,640	455,165	487,805	579,294	3,121,933	62,307	724,048
1911	65,097	535,259	600,356	758,155	20,783,779	401,384	1,291,404
1915-16	7,000	236,099	243,099	562,262	4,087,618	159,711	771,502
1917-18	33,464	77,864	114,328	362,846	21,522,696	1,230,083	1,673,328
1918-19	21,363	173,122	194,485	497,784	33,836,189	2,000,846	2,733,699
1919-20	55,460	476,491	531,951	1,341,004	20,687,722	1,305,126	2,761,015
1920-21	110,727	166,039	276,766	937,040	4,479,460	235,801	1,225,354
1921-22	95,579	383,479	479,058	1,152,637	5,112,612	184,192	1,382,275
1922-23	68,800	562,749	631,549	1,769,601	5,781,998	152,718	1,966,624
1923-24	20,892	140,666	161,558	493,935	2,358,431	74,879	595,949
1924-25	96,051	145,815	241,866	684,487	3,900,353	111,196	833,724

* Not available † Fresh, frozen, preserved, and salted beef, mutton, and pork.

There was, prior to the war, an encouraging development in the meat export trade, and the prospects of its establishment on a stable foundation appeared highly favourable. European countries were gradually opening their ports to frozen meat, and the trade in the East was increasing. The war, however, closed many markets and, through inability to secure freight space for commercial purposes, exports were hampered seriously. Early in 1915 arrangements were made in terms of the Meat Supply for Imperial Uses Act, for the purchase by the Imperial Government of the whole output of beef and mutton available for export during the period of the war and until October, 1920. Details of the transactions were given on page 482 of the 1920 issue of this Year Book. The subsequent experience in the meat trade has been dealt with on a previous page.

The movement of the London prices for Australian frozen meat during the last four years in comparison with 1913 is shown below. The quotations represent the monthly average of the weekly top prices and the annual averages are the means of the monthly quotes.

Month.	Frozen Beef (Hinds) per lb.					Frozen Mutton per lb.				
	1913.	1922.	1923	1924.	1925.	1913.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
January ...	3½	4¾	4¾	4½	5½	4½	5½	7½	6½	8½
February ...	3½	4½	4¾	4½	5½	4	6½	7½	7	8
March ...	3½	4	5	*	6	3½	6½	6½	6½	*
April ...	3½	4½	*	*	5½	4	6½	6	*	*
May ...	3½	4½	*	*	5½	3½	6½	5½	*	*
June ...	3½	4½	*	*	5	4	5½	6	*	*
July ...	4	4½	5½	*	5½	4	5	6	*	*
August ...	4	4¾	4¾	5½	5½	4	5	6½	*	*
September ...	4	5	4½	5½	5½	4	5½	6½	*	*
October ...	4½	4¾	4½	5	5½	4	6½	6½	7	*
November ...	4½	4¾	4½	5½	4¾	4	7	6	7½	6
December ...	4½	4½	4½	5½	5	4½	7½	6½	8	5½
Annual Average	4	4½	4¾	4½	5½	4	6½	6½	7½	6½

* No quotation. † Government control removed.

It was estimated in February, 1925, that the average cost of marketing frozen beef in London from the time the beast left a representative inland cattle station was 3½d. per lb., including commission, insurance and exchange, calculated on the basis of beef selling at 5d. per pound in London. The reduction of ½d. per lb. in ocean freights from 1st March, and the reduction of exchange charges on 6th May, due to the restoration of the gold standard of exchange, lowered the costs as estimated to 2¾d. per lb., and this represented a very considerable improvement in the net returns of producers.

Two important changes occurred in the demand of the London market during the last five years—supplies of chilled beef from South America, which had been small since 1915, increased and exceeded their pre-war volume, while importations of frozen beef from all sources, including Australia, decreased heavily. In addition, the market demand favoured mutton and, more especially, lamb; and beef was neglected, probably in reaction to its enforced consumption during the war period when mutton and lamb were scarce. As a consequence, supplies of beef were excessive during 1922 and 1923, and prices remained throughout the year at about the same level as in the latter part of 1913, and on account of increased freight and handling charges proved unprofitable to local growers. Towards the end of 1924 and during 1925 there was an appreciable rise in the prices of frozen beef, due to a falling-off in supplies from South America, but the average price of 1925 was less than 40 per cent. above that of 1913.

The demand for mutton has been well sustained, and prices rose by 50 per cent. during the year 1922. In the following year the arrival of exceptionally heavy shipments had a depressing effect upon prices, but the average for the year was slightly higher than for 1922. The supply of Australian mutton on the English market failed during the spring and summer of 1924, and when supplies again became available in October a better price was realised. This price lasted until February, 1925, when supplies again ceased and when quotations were resumed in November the average price for Australian mutton was 6d. per lb., or approximately 50 per cent. above the level of 1913.

The following comparison of the imports of meat to the United Kingdom during the past three years in comparison with those preceding the war shows the relative importance of the principal suppliers in relation to Australia:—

Year.	Beef (000 omitted) Frozen and Chilled.				Mutton and Lamb (000 omitted).			
	South American.	Australian.	Other.	Total.	South American.	New Zealand.	Australian.	Total.
1912	341	45	14	400	86	108	49	243
1913	380	67	13	460	67	110	83	260
1914	336	78	28	442	67	119	66	252
1921	441	84	56	581	92	223	21	336
1922	440	59	38	537	85	151	49	285
1923	547	43	47	637	109	115	64	288
1924	551	38	38	627	103	120	23	249*
1925	511	68	39	618	112	125	26	268*

* Including other.

The following statement shows the average wholesale prices per pound obtained in each of the past ten years for Scottish and frozen mutton sold in London :—

Year.	Best Scottish.	New Zealand.	Australian.	Argentine.	Year.	Best Scottish.	New Zealand.	Australian.	Argentine.
1916	d. 12½	d. 8½	d. 7½	d. 9	1921	d. 18	d. 8½	d. 7½	d. 7½
1917	14½	8½	8½	10½	1922	16½	7½	6½	7½
1918	13½	9	9	13½	1923	15	8½	6½	7
1919	14½	12	12	12	1924	14½	8	7½	7½
1920	19½	9½	9½	9½	1925	13½	8½	6½	7½

Meat Works.

Apart from slaughtering, important subsidiary industries in the handling of meat have arisen in the form of refrigerating and meat-preserving works. The extent of their activities, however, is subject to marked seasonal fluctuations. Particulars of the numbers of sheep and cattle handled in the various works, and of the output during the past five years are shown below :—

Year.	Carcasses etc. Treated.					Output of Meat Preserving Works.		
	Refrigerating Works.		Meat Preserving.			Tinned Meat.		By-Products, etc
	Cattle.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Meat and Sundries.	Weight.	Value.	Value.
1920-21	No. 34,147	No. 491,198	No. 4,740	No. 13,988	lb. (000). 2,429	lb (000). 1,751	£ 74,747	£ 34,944
1921-22	46,630	727,423	9,362	192,226	7,039	6,748	170,751	131,979
1922-23	36,183	1,394,484	12,601	83,465	7,551	4,460	168,395	53,526
1923-24	14,077	485,394	...	1,054	6,358	2,713	111,213	35,250
1924-25	52,883	531,474	...	557	11,904	5,144	173,078	64,160

Included in the meat and sundries treated in meat preserving works in 1924-25 were 11,411,587 lb. of beef, 131,187 lb. of mutton and 361,112 lb. of sheep and ox tongues.

OTHER PASTORAL PRODUCTS AND BY-PRODUCTS.

The minor products accruing from pastoral occupations include skins and hides, tallow, lard and fat, furs, hoofs, horns, bones, bone-dust, glue pieces, and hair. Some of these are discussed in the chapter relating to the Manufacturing Industry, and will be given only brief mention here.

The oversea trade in these products is considerable, and though there was a marked decline in the volume of exports of many of the commodities during the war period, owing to restrictions arising from war conditions, there was an increase in the total value, as higher prices were obtainable. Early in 1920, however, there was a pronounced drop in prices, and the trade experienced a serious setback. In the following year conditions improved, and the general tendency of prices was upward, though the movement was very irregular.

The following table contains particulars of the oversea exports of minor pastoral products at intervals since 1901:—

Products.	Oversea Exports.					
	1901.	1906.	1911.	1915-16.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Skins and Hides—						
Cattle No.	01,084	72,743	263,306	431,731	633,266	668,966
Horse No.	472	722	1,392	706	166	1,845
Rabbit and Hare ... lb.	*	7,380,455	5,795,839	4,352,640	6,473,329	10,851,764
Sheep No.	*	2,706,027	2,410,543	3,447,212	2,294,608	1,731,816
Other No.	184,522	140,050	296,672	272,622	557,917	275,885
Bonedust cwt.	66,473	56,415	116,733	71,795	49,966	13,942
Bones cwt.	3,207	2,431	6,807	6,963	13,796	7,792
Furs (not on the skin) ... £	767	180	117	...	997	...
Glue-pieces and Sinews ... cwt.	12,862	11,003	20,580	13,276	7,596	5,323
Glycerine and Lanoline ... lb.	*	336,586	138,347	218,673	5,765	5,172
Hair (other than human) ... lb.	165,562	142,636	255,819	336,765	88,678	61,104
Hoofs cwt.	2,216	2,839	3,733	4,518	5,009	2,241
Horns cwt.	12,532	11,979	13,475	3,455	13,068	12,725
Lard and Refined Animal Fats lb.	13,633	56,737	227,000	73,461	314,163	476,939
Leather £	374,541	411,030	334,996	551,026	430,664	389,662
Sausage-casings £	2,567	17,033	52,562	31,595	233,344	304,685
Tallow (unrefined) cwt.	305,227	357,031	612,911	128,290	180,530	301,495
Total Value of minor Pastoral Products exported £	1,223,728	1,780,460	2,486,492	2,176,838	3,977,393	5,523,641

* Not available.

Skins and hides are the most important of the items included in the table, and the number and value of these vary seasonally in accordance with slaughtering operations and the prevalence or otherwise of rabbits.

The bulk of the export trade in skins and hides is with the United Kingdom, United States and France. The exports to the United Kingdom in 1924-25 included 74,135 cattle hides, 591,082 sheep skins, and 1,669,298 lb. of rabbit and hare skins. The United States received 166,017 calf hides, 103,657 cattle hides, 88,465 sheep skins, 8,710,910 lb. of rabbit skins, and 932,020 lb. of kangaroo skins. France received 932,020 sheep skins with wool. Leather was exported mainly to China (including Hong Kong) £129,828, and tallow to Japan 114,515 cwt.

VALUE OF PASTORAL PRODUCTS EXPORTED.

The total value of goods exported oversea, which may be classed as pastoral products or by-products (apart from dairy and farmyard products), is very large. Particulars of the value, as declared upon export, of such products exported oversea from New South Wales during each of the past five years are shown in the following table:—

Commodity.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
	£	£	£	£	£
Wool	12,821,572	18,441,533	22,764,603	23,271,552	26,958,270
Meat	1,225,354	1,382,275	1,966,624	595,949	833,724
Live stock... ..	70,308	55,736	51,435	32,908	94,128
Other*	3,385,838	2,855,927	5,052,468	3,997,393	5,523,641
Total	17,503,072	22,735,471	29,835,130	27,897,802	33,409,763
Proportion of total exports oversea	per cent. 36.2	per cent. 50.8	per cent. 74.3	per cent. 64.7	per cent. 55.1

*Items listed in previous table.

The decline in exports during 1920-21 was due to two causes—the reaction after the drought and the temporary stagnation which followed the post-war boom. In the two succeeding years there was a marked increase in the value of exports of pastoral products and their relative importance in the oversea trade of the State. The slight falling off in 1923-24 was due to the decline in the meat industry, which also affected by-products such as skins, hides, tallow, etc. In 1924-25 the highly favourable prices of wool led to a large increase in the value of wool exported, even though approximately one-fifth of the season's production was carried over unsold into 1925-26.

The above figures are not comparable with those relating to the value of production which follow, since they contain items which have been enhanced in value by manufacture and other processes. In addition, they are not valued as at the place of production, but on the basis of f.o.b. Sydney, and they do not relate to goods produced during the year as do the estimates of the value of production.

VALUE OF PASTORAL PRODUCTION.

It is difficult, from the nature of the industry, to estimate the return from pastoral pursuits as at the place of production; but, taking the Sydney prices as a standard, and making due allowance for incidental charges, such as railway carriage or freight and commission, the value during the season 1924-25 is estimated to have been £47,968,000 a total considerably larger than any previously reached. The value of pastoral production from the different kinds of stock during various years since 1901 are shown in the following table:—

Year.	Annual Value of Pastoral Production (000 omitted).					
	Wool.	Sheep Slaughtered.	Cattle Slaughtered.	Horses (cast).	Total.	Per head of Population.
	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1901	8,425	2,071	1,229	722	12,447	9 2 1
1906	13,792	3,514	1,520	885	19,711	13 5 6
1911	12,933*	2,811	1,689	2,001	19,434*	11 13 5*
1915-16	11,380*	4,295	3,729	2,172	21,576*	11 7 9*
1916-17	16,435*	4,616	4,026	1,765	26,842*	14 3 5*
1917-18	18,091*	3,978	4,702	1,664	28,435*	14 15 7*
1918-19	18,865*	4,728	4,633	1,639	29,865*	15 3 8*
1919-20	18,311*	7,450	6,192	2,019	33,972*	16 13 5*
1920-21	12,744*	2,313	2,973	2,027	20,057*	9 11 11*
1921-22	14,194*	4,144	3,278	2,041	23,657*	11 2 3*
1922-23	20,274*	6,766	4,912	2,057	34,009*	15 13 0*
1923-24	25,397*	5,446	4,117	2,003	36,963*	16 14 6*
1924-25	36,013	4,752	5,365	1,838	47,968	21 5 9

* Subject to revision.

Owing to understatement in woolgrowers' returns, the above values are considerably below the actual totals for the years 1911 to 1923-24. Revised estimates are in course of preparation.

The value of the pastoral production depends mainly upon the prices obtainable for wool in the world's markets, and it is determined largely by the volume of production, which is dependent upon the seasons experienced in the State. The price of wool rose considerably between 1914 and 1920;

so that, while the quantities produced in some years between 1914-15 and 1923-24 have been lower than during any of the preceding ten years, the values have been considerably higher. A very favourable price ruled for wool during 1923-24 and 1924-25, but a heavy fall commenced in January, 1925, and much lower levels prevailed in 1925-26.

The prices of livestock generally decline in a dry season, as graziers are forced to sell owing to scarcity of pasturage; but, with an improvement in climatic conditions the prices rise again, owing to the demand for restocking.

NOXIOUS ANIMALS.

The only large carnivorous animals dangerous to stock in Australia are the indigenous dingo, or so-called native dog, and the fox, which has been introduced from abroad; but graminivorous animals, such as kangaroos, wallabies, hares, and rabbits, particularly the last-named, which are of foreign origin, are deemed by the settlers even more noxious. In the latter part of 1920, however, native dogs became an increasing menace to flocks in the Western Division, and added considerably to the difficulties experienced by graziers in that region. In 1921 a Wild Dog Destruction Act was passed, placing the matter in the control of the Western Land Board. This board was charged with the maintenance of the border fence between Queensland and New South Wales and with the prosecution of measures calculated to destroy the dingo pest. During the year ended 31st December, 1924, a sum of £11,770 was collected as rates under this Act, and £8,619 was expended in combating the pest, which had been so far checked that it was possible to re-stock with sheep holdings that had been exclusively used for cattle.

Rabbits.

Rabbits, which are the greatest pest to the pastoralists, found their way into this State from Victoria, where they had been introduced from overseas. Their presence first attracted serious attention in 1881, and they multiplied so rapidly that, in 1882, they were to be met with on most of the holdings having frontages to the Murray River. A brief account of the measures taken to combat the pest was published on page 794 of the Year Book for 1921.

On 1st May, 1925, a commissioner was appointed to investigate the various methods of controlling and exterminating rabbits, and the effects of these methods on other animals.

In order to check the migrations of rabbits, the Government has erected a number of rabbit-proof fences. The longest of these traverses the whole State from north to south, proceeding from Barringun on the Queensland border, to Bourke, and thence following the western side of the railway line, *via* Blayney and Murrumburrah, to Corowa, on the River Murray, a total distance of 696 miles. Another fence extends from the Murray northwards, 350 miles along the whole border between New South Wales and South Australia. A third, built at the joint expense of the Governments of Queensland and New South Wales, extends from Mungindi to the Namoi River, about 115 miles. The total length of rabbit-proof fences erected by the State to 30th June, 1925, was approximately 1,332 miles, at a cost of £69,888; by Pastures Protection Boards, 819 miles, at a cost of £36,812; and by landholders privately, about 122,235 miles, at a cost of about £7,479,805.

The evil wrought by the rabbits is incapable of measurement, but estimates indicate that the losses due to the pest have been large; and besides the expenditure of over £7,500,000 on rabbit-proof fences considerable expense has been incurred in coping with it by means of poisoning, digging-out, etc. It is contended that the sheep-carrying capacity of the State has been reduced heavily as a consequence of the damage they cause to pastures, and this suggestion is supported by the facts that the number of sheep in the State has declined since their appearance, and that in every bad season there are heavy losses in sheep through lack of natural fodder.

Although the damage caused by rabbits is considerable, it is compensated to some extent by their local use for food and by the value of frozen rabbits and skins exported.

Within the State these animals form a common article of diet, both in the metropolis and in the country, especially during the winter months, when large numbers of men are engaged in their capture and treatment. At the census of 1921 the number of men returned as engaged in trapping and kindred callings was 1,692, most of whom were engaged in rabbit-catching. The local consumption of rabbits as food is estimated at 60,000 to 80,000 pairs per week. The fur of rabbits and hares is used largely in the manufacture of hats and of ladies' fur garments.

The following table shows the quantity and value of frozen rabbits and hares, and of rabbit and hare skins exported from New South Wales to countries outside Australia:—

Year.	Exports Oversea.				
	Frozen Rabbits and Hares.		Rabbit and Hare Skins.		Total Value
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
	pairs.	£	lb.	£	£
1901	*	6,158	*	9,379	15,537
1906	5,938,518	246,803	7,380,455	293,260	540,063
1911	6,806,246	330,741	5,795,839	295,476	626,217
1915-16	9,487,687	607,711	4,352,640	210,935	818,646
1917-18	8,978,377	670,269	6,986,837	1,036,188	1,706,457
1918-19	3,956,877	221,632	10,110,540	1,103,575	1,325,207
1919-20	6,890,636	537,877	9,927,240	2,702,652	3,240,529
1920-21	2,830,315	301,615	3,387,480	609,570	911,185
1921-22	4,399,272	371,491	5,399,928	559,463	930,954
1922-23	4,096,054	309,189	11,454,638	1,701,921	2,011,110
1923-24	3,304,669	302,783	6,473,329	1,044,373	1,347,156
1924-25	3,288,284	299,991	10,851,764	2,112,674	2,412,665

* Not available.

It is apparent that the rabbit industry has assumed an important place in the oversea trade of the State, although its volume is subject to pronounced seasonal and market fluctuations. In the season of 1919-20 the

value of the exports amounted to nearly £3,250,000. A boom in values occurred in that year, and in February, 1920, the best skins sold at 26s. 3d. per lb. on the London market. It is estimated that the skins and carcasses exported during the year, added to the numbers killed for local consumption, represented about 100,000,000 dead rabbits. The corresponding figure for the previous year was perhaps greater still. During 1920-21 the value of skins was considerably lower, although still favourable, while the prices of frozen rabbits improved. The decline in exports in that year is probably attributable to the scarcity of rabbits as the result of the severe drought in 1918-20 and the heavy slaughter in those years. This surmise is borne out by the fact that although values receded still further in 1921-22, when the season was favourable, the volume of exports increased, indicating apparently a rapid multiplication of rabbits. In 1922-23 the values rose again, and the quantity of rabbit and hare skins exported amounted to nearly 11,500,000 lb. The number of dead rabbits represented by the skins and frozen carcasses exported again approached 100,000,000, but despite a further rise in prices in 1923-24 the values of both rabbit skins and frozen rabbits exported showed a falling off. Favourable prices and a favourable season led to a further increase in export in 1924-25.

Wire-netting Advances.

Under the provisions of the Pastures Protection Act for the destruction of rabbits and noxious animals, the Minister for Lands is empowered to advance to Pastures Protection Boards money voted by Parliament for the purchase of netting and other materials used in the construction of rabbit-proof fences. Each board thereupon becomes liable to repay the advances by instalments with interest over a period not exceeding twenty years. In case of default in repayment the Colonial Treasurer is empowered to take possession of any moneys or property vested in the board and to levy rates as prescribed by the Act. The boards are empowered to sell such wire-netting and other materials to owners of private lands, repayments to be made by instalments with interest over a fixed period. The purchase money and interest is a charge upon the holding of the owner, and has priority over all debts other than debts due to the Crown.

The amount of wire-netting supplied to any individual is limited to 5 miles, and the rate of interest on advances is fixed at 6 per cent.

During 1924-25 the quantities of materials supplied to landholders under this scheme were 1,863 miles of wire-netting, 65 tons fencing wire, 28 tons barbed wire, in addition to sundry materials, the total value being £77,778. Repayments during the year amounted to £47,926. A sum of £420,000 has been voted by Parliament since 1905 for the purpose of making wire-netting advances. By utilising £400,000 of this sum and re-advancing monies repaid the Department of Lands has made advances amounting to £727,907.

PASTURES PROTECTION BOARDS.

For the purpose of administering the Pastures Protection Act which relates to destruction of rabbits and noxious animals, diseases of sheep, importation of sheep, travelling stock, sheep brands and marks, and certain minor matters, the State is divided into 64 Pastures Protection Districts, for each of which there is constituted a board of eight directors, elected every three years by ratepayers from among their own number. There is also a Chief Inspector of Stock, appointed by the Governor, and other inspectors, similarly appointed, who are paid from the funds of the Pastures Protection Districts to which they are attached. Each director of a board is *ex officio* an inspector in certain matters under the Act.

Rates to provide funds for the purposes of the boards are levied upon owners of ten or more head of large stock, or 100 or more sheep, at a rate not exceeding fourpence per head of large stock and two-thirds of a penny per head of sheep, but a reduction of one-half is made to occupiers of holdings which are considered rabbit-proof. Subsidy in respect of public lands may be paid to any board by the State. The funds so raised may be applied by the board to defraying expenses incurred in administering the Act, to clearing scrub, exterminating noxious weeds and noxious animals on travelling stock and camping reserves; and to any other approved purpose. In addition, the Governor may call upon the boards in any year to pay a proportion not exceeding 3 per cent. of their funds into the Treasury to cover the cost of administering the Act.

Since 1918 the boards have levied rates on travelling stock in the Eastern and Central Divisions to constitute a fund for the improvement of travelling stock and camping reserves handed over to the board's supervision.

The boards are empowered also to erect rabbit-proof fences as "barrier" fences wherever they deem necessary, to pay a bonus for the scalps of animal pests, and to enforce the provisions for the compulsory destruction of rabbits.

The following statement provides a summary of the financial transactions of those of the Pastures Protection Boards for which returns are available:—

	1923.	1924.
Number of Boards in existence	65	64
,, ,, making returns	63	59
General Fund—Rates collected	£82,803	£73,956
Expenditure	£62,845	£82,840
Bank balances and securities at end of year	£42,149	£36,509
Reserves Improvement Fund—		
Number of Boards reporting	52	49
Rates collected	£51,175	£53,828
Expenditure	£37,589	£46,480

The amount of bonuses paid for scalps, etc., was £9,301 in 1922, £9,424 in 1923, and £7,641 in 1924.

Registration of Brands.

The Registration of Stock Brands Act, which came into force on 13th December, 1921, cancelled the registration of all existing brands and provided for re-registration of those which owners desired to retain, upon application being made within a prescribed period. The Act was amended in 1923. Of approximately 143,000 registered large stock brands in existence at the time of passing the principal Act, 43,229 were re-registered, and to the end of October, 1926, additional brands to the number of 17,500 had been registered, making the total number in existence at that date 60,729.

Cattle Tick Eradication.

In the cattle districts of the north-east corner of the State, embracing the most productive dairying districts, the menace of the cattle tick has been growing steadily for a number of years, despite the methods adopted to combat it. The first Act dealing expressly with this pest was passed in 1902, giving power to inspectors to deal with infected cattle by quarantine, disinfection, or destruction.

Since that date measures have been continued, but not always with the close co-operation of landholders. It was reported in 1924-25, however, that dipping operations had been carried out extensively without friction, and that a spirit of true co-operation in the work was steadily growing among landholders. A Tick Board of Control has disbursed large sums annually in efforts to eradicate the tick through examination of cattle and quarantining, dipping, and spraying.

An Act was passed in 1923 to replace the existing legislation and to give wider powers for the control and eradication of cattle tick and the prevention of other stock diseases. The Act commenced on 14th January, 1924. On 24th April, 1924, a new Board was appointed consisting of a Government officer as chairman, two stock-owners nominated by the Government, and two stock-owners elected by persons affected within the quarantine areas. The control of dipping operations which had been discontinued by the board in December, 1921, was resumed in February, 1924, and up to 30th June 231,908 cattle had been dipped. In 1923-24 the number of cattle examined was 3,032,209, and in 1924-25 3,425,722, including re-examinations. The numbers dipped were 599,593 and 1,003,621, respectively. Steps have been taken to arrange for co-operation between the States of Queensland and New South Wales and the Commonwealth Government in an endeavour to eradicate the pest. In 1924-25 a sum of £121,824 was expended by the Government of New South Wales in combating the tick.

VETERINARY SURGEONS ACT.

The Veterinary Surgeons Act came into operation on 5th December, 1923, to provide for the registration of veterinary surgeons, and to regulate the practice of veterinary science. A board called the Board of Veterinary Surgeons has been established to administer the Act, which specifies the qualifications necessary to obtain registration and prohibits practice by unregistered persons.

Up to 30th June, 1925, the Board had dealt with 405 applications for registration and had granted registration to 288 veterinary surgeons.

DAIRYING INDUSTRY.

THE natural conditions in parts of New South Wales are highly favourable to the development of the dairying industry. The soil and climate in the coastal portions of the State are suitable for the maintenance of the dairy herds with a minimum of expense and labour, as the rainfall is abundant and the animals do not require housing nor hand-feeding during a long winter, as in cold countries. Natural pasture is generally available throughout the year; and hand-feeding is necessary only in very dry seasons.

Dairying operations in New South Wales are said to have begun during the twenties of last century in the immediate vicinity of Sydney and in the Illawarra districts to supply the population of the metropolis.

The development of dairying as a national industry is, however, comparatively recent, as its progress was slow until the introduction of refrigeration enabled producers to overcome disabilities in manufacturing and distributing perishable dairy products in a warm climate and to export the surplus oversea. Pasteurisation and the application of machinery to the treatment of milk and the manufacture of butter, the development of the factory system, and improvements in regard to ocean transport have enabled production to expand beyond the limits of local requirements, and butter has become an important item of the export trade.

In the drier inland divisions the area devoted to dairying is not extensive, sheep and wheat farming being the main rural industries. In proximity to the centres of population dairy-farming is undertaken to supply local wants, and well-equipped factories have been established in a number of inland centres. Dairying is conducted also on the Murrumbidgee and Hay irrigation areas.

In the coastal division 9,000 holdings are used exclusively for dairying, and 6,500 for dairying combined with other purposes. In the other parts of the State, where fodder must be grown for winter feeding, the industry is nowhere extensive and is conducted usually in conjunction with wheat-farming and grazing—there being only 460 holdings used solely for dairying, and 3,200 for dairying in combination with other rural pursuits.

Most of the native grasses of the State are particularly suitable for dairy cattle, as they possess milk-producing as well as fattening qualities. In the winter the natural herbage is supplemented by fodder crops, such as maize, barley, oats, rye, lucerne, and the brown variety of sorghum, or the planter's friend. Ensilage also is made for fodder, but not so generally as it should be, and the quantity made in each year varies considerably. The area of land devoted to sown grasses has been extended largely during recent years, and in June, 1925, amounted to 1,994,000 acres, of which 1,925,500 acres were in the coastal district. The produce of this land is used mainly as food for dairy cattle.

A Select Committee of the Legislative Council which investigated the condition of the dairying industry in 1920-21 emphasised the need for a better system of feeding with due regard to conservation of fodder, improvements of pastures, and cultivation of suitable crops. Successful dairying depends mainly on the proper feeding of the cows, and the conservation of fodder as ensilage was recommended for all dairying districts, especially for those

areas where the rainfall is irregular. Another recommendation strongly urged by the Committee was the breeding of dairy stock on the lines of practical utility, and it stressed the need for a "better bull" campaign. It was pointed out that by improved methods of feeding and by culling unprofitable animals an annual average increase of 10 lb. of butter per cow could reasonably be expected, which, after allowing for the cost of herd-testing and the increased cost of feeding, would represent a substantial gain to the producers.

SUPERVISION OF DAIRIES AND DAIRY PRODUCTS.

The manufacture, sale and export of dairy products, *i.e.*, milk, condensed milk, butter, cheese, and margarine, are subject to supervision in terms of the Dairies Supervision Act, and the Dairy Industry Act passed in New South Wales in 1901, and December, 1915, respectively, and the Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act, and the Dairy Produce Export Control Act, passed by the Commonwealth Parliament in 1905 and 1924 respectively.

Under the Dairy Industry Act, 1915, dairy factories and stores must be registered, and are under the supervision of State Government inspectors. Cream supplied to a dairy factory must be tested and graded at the factory, and the farmer is paid on the basis of the butter-fat results, or on the amount of butter obtained from his cream. Butter must be graded on a uniform basis and packed in boxes bearing registered brands indicating the quality of the product and the factory where it was produced. The testing and grading at the factory may be done only by persons holding certificates of qualification.

The State has been divided into nine dairying districts, and in each an experienced dairy inspector is appointed to administer the Act and regulations thereunder. He acts as inspector, instructs the factory managers and cream-graders in matters connected with the industry, and advises the dairy-farmers, especially those supplying cream of inferior quality. He also exercises supervision over the quality of butter produced, and, where necessary, orders structural improvements in factory premises. Since 1919 factory premises have been altered extensively, and in numerous cases entirely new buildings have been erected. Usually the number of factories under the supervision of each inspector does not exceed twenty.

Since the Dairy Industry Act came into force the quality of factory butter has shown a marked improvement, and in the year ended 30th June, 1925, the factory graders classed 89.1 per cent. of the total output as choicest 5.6 per cent. as first-grade and 5.3 per cent. as second-grade.

Particulars regarding the supervision of dairies supplying milk for consumption as fresh milk, are shown in the chapter "Food and Prices."

The Dairies Supervision Act, 1901, consolidated laws designed to prevent the spread of disease through the insanitary conditions under which milk and milk products had been handled. Under this law all dairymen and milk vendors are required to register their premises with local authorities and such premises are subject to the inspection of the authorities. It is illegal for any person to sell milk or milk products produced on unregistered premises. The beneficial effects of this law in relation to public health are referred to in the chapter "Vital Statistics" of this Year Book.

The supervision of dairy products for the oversea export trade is conducted by officers appointed by the Federal Government, under the Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act of 1905. Since 1st August, 1924, a national brand has been placed on all butter graded for export as choicest quality. This brand consists of the figure of a kangaroo imposed on the boxes along with the ordinary trade-marks in use.

In 1924-25 approximately 44,776,400 lb. of butter were graded for export. Of this quantity 41·6 per cent. was classed as choicest; 29·1 per cent. as first-grade; 25·6 as second-grade; and 3·7 per cent. as third-grade and pastry butter. In the following year 26,600,000 lb. were graded for export as follows:—Choicest, 50 per cent.; first-grade, 30·3 per cent.; second-grade, 17·2 per cent.; third-grade and pastry, 2·5 per cent. The disparity between the proportion of the production graded as choicest and the proportion of butter graded for export as choicest is accounted for by the fact that approximately 60 per cent. of the butter produced was consumed in New South Wales and it was almost entirely of choicest grade.

The British Imperial Government recently passed regulations to prohibit the importation of butter containing boric acid. In connection with this matter it is interesting to note that it has been the practice in New South Wales to make butter without the addition of this preservative.

Dairy Produce Export Control Board.

This Board was appointed by the Federal Government in May, 1925, under the Dairy Produce Export Control Act passed on 24th October, 1924. The Board consists of a representative of the Commonwealth Government, two representatives elected by the boards of directors of co-operative butter and cheese factories in each of the States of Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria and one each similarly elected from the remaining three States, two representatives of proprietary butter and cheese factories and one member nominated by the Commonwealth Government to represent the selling agents. The Board is a body corporate and its members hold office for two years. Provision is made for the election of an executive committee and the creation of a London agency of the Board.

For the purpose of enabling the Board to exercise effective control over the export, and the sale and distribution after export of Australian butter and cheese, it is provided that from 1st August, 1925, there shall be no export of these commodities from Australia, except upon the conditions of a license from the Minister upon the recommendation of the Board. Exports to Eastern ports are, however, exempted from the provisions of the Act.

Exporters may place butter and cheese intended for export under the control of the Board, which is given power to make such arrangements as it deems fit for the handling, distribution, and disposal of produce entrusted to it. It has power also to give security over such produce in respect of any advance payment made to suppliers of the produce and, under the Export Guarantee Act, the Commonwealth Government may guarantee repayment of any advance which the Board may obtain up to a maximum of 80 per cent. of the value of the produce tendered as security. After a date to be fixed by proclamation no contract may be made for the carriage by sea of any butter or cheese beyond the Commonwealth except by the Board acting as agent of the owners of the produce or in conformity with conditions approved by the Board.

The expenses of the Board are defrayed from a fund created by a levy which may not exceed $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. on butter and $\frac{1}{16}$ d. per lb. on cheese exported from the Commonwealth. The levy was imposed on all butter exported after 1st July, 1925, at the rate of $\frac{1}{16}$ d. per lb. of butter and $\frac{1}{32}$ d. per lb. of cheese.

During the first year of its existence the Board concluded arrangements with the insurance companies for a reduction in the rates for marine insurance, and with the shipping companies for a reduction in freight, in respect of butter and cheese. Through its London agency the Board acts in conjunction with organisations distributing other Australian products for the purposes of advertising abroad.

Dairying Organisations.

As is pointed out on a later page, most of the dairy factories of the State are conducted on co-operative principles, and a similar condition exists throughout Australia. This fact has given rise to a considerable number of organisations for promoting the interests of the industry, many of which are federal in character. Principal among these is the Ministerial Dairy Council, consisting of the Commonwealth Minister of Trade and Customs and the Minister of Agriculture of each of the States. This Council meets at least once a year to consider matters of policy and future development.

The Australian Dairy Council, created in September, 1922, consists of twenty-five members, of whom ten are representatives of the various Governments, and fifteen are representatives of producers. In this Council New South Wales is represented by one official and three producers' representatives. The Council is officially recognised, and its functions are to advise the Government upon the administration of the Acts and regulations pertaining to the production, manufacture, and standardisation of dairy produce. It also endeavours to secure uniform legislation and administration in all States. The Dairy Council acts in co-ordination with the Dairy Produce Export Control Board. In each State there is a Dairy Advisory Board, and that in New South Wales consists of representatives of producers and distributors and of the Dairy Export Control Board, and two officials representing the State and Commonwealth Governments respectively.

There are also an Advisory Committee, formed in 1923, for the determination of local prices of butter, and a Committee for stabilising the price of butter. The first-named Committee consists of one representative of each of the three co-operative distributing houses and two representatives of an association of dairymen.

The Stabilisation Committee, consisting of representatives elected by the boards of directors of the butter factories in New South Wales, met for the first time on 3rd April, 1924, to consider ways and means of stabilising prices in the dairying industry.

This Committee has since become part of a Federal organisation—the Australian Stabilisation Committee—and an arrangement known as the "Patterson" scheme was inaugurated on 1st January, 1926, with the object of stabilising the butter markets in Australia. Under this arrangement butter producers pay a levy on all butter produced, and from the funds thus provided a bonus is paid on butter exported. The levy has been fixed at 1½d. per lb. and the bonus at 3d. per lb. Any balance remaining after the payment of the bonus will be returned to the producers. The scheme is designed to bring about a diminution of interstate competition in Australian markets and to promote the sale of Australian butter in competitive markets oversea.

A New South Wales Butter and Cheese Exporters' Association, and a Co-operative Dairy Factory Managers and Secretaries' Association have been in existence since 1906.

DAIRY INSTRUCTION.

Educational and experimental work relating to dairying is conducted by the Department of Agriculture at eight of the State experiment farms, and at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College.

The breeds of stud cattle kept at the various farms are as follows:—At Cowra and at Berry, Milking Shorthorn; at Wollongbar, Guernseys; at Grafton, Glen Innes and Yanco, Ayrshires; at Wagga Wagga and Bathurst, Jerseys. At the Hawkesbury Agricultural College a Jersey stud holds a prominent place.

In order to enable factory managers and butter-makers to improve their scientific knowledge, dairy-science schools are held for short terms at different dairying centres, and certificates are given to those who pass examinations in the grading of cream, and in the testing of milk and cream.

During the year 1924-25, the students at the dairy science schools numbered 140.

HERD-TESTING.

The extension of the practice of herd-testing is of primary importance to the future development of the dairying industry in New South Wales. For many years prior to 1888 the importation of cattle from overseas was prohibited, and in the period of rapid expansion, which began about 1900, there was a shortage of high-class stock, with the result that many dairy-farmers used inferior animals for breeding. The lifting of the embargo and subsequent importations by the Government and by private breeders have given the farmers an opportunity of obtaining a better class of dairy stock, and they are encouraged to improve their herds and to cull all unprofitable animals.

Farmers who supply cream to factories are paid according to the results of the testing and grading of their consignments, but these results, representing averages, do not disclose the necessary records of individual animals. Therefore efforts are being made by the dairy instructors to promote herd-testing societies in each dairying centre.

For testing the ordinary dairy herds two schemes are conducted under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture. Under the first, the farmers form a co-operative society and employ a tester to visit their farms at regular intervals. Fees are subscribed by the farmers and are subsidised by the Department at the rate of 50 per cent. for the first year and 25 per cent. thereafter. Under the other scheme, officers of the Department conduct the tests. The farmers who participate pay an annual fee and a testing fee for each cow submitted. In the year ended 30th June, 1925, the number of cows tested under the co-operative scheme was 10,000, and Government officers tested 12,000 cows.

For a number of years the testing of stud dairy herds had been undertaken by the Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with the United Pure-bred Dairy Cattle Breeders' Association of New South Wales. This arrangement was superseded in 1923 by a scheme for testing all pure-bred dairy stock, which was formulated by the various Departments of Agriculture throughout Australia. The testing is done by Government officers and each owner who submits his cattle for test pays an annual fee and a fee for each cow submitted.

The standard lactation period is fixed at 273 days, but tests may be extended to 365 days. Certificates are issued by the Department of Agriculture, and records are published of all cows tested.

DAIRY CATTLE.

In the dairy herds the Shorthorn preponderates. This breed was introduced into the Illawarra or South Coast districts in the early period of dairying, before the Shorthorn had been developed by English breeders into

a beef-producing type. By an admixture with other strains, a useful type of dairy cattle, known as the Illawarra, has been developed, and an association has been formed to establish the breed. There is also a large number of Jersey cattle, and the popularity of the breed for the production of butter is increasing. The Ayrshire is well represented in the dairy herds. It is noted for hardiness, but is considered as better suited for producing milk for human consumption as fresh milk than for the purposes of butter-making.

The State Government, as well as private breeders, has imported a number of stud dairy stock with the object of improving the local herds. In 1898 the Government imported 24 bulls and 38 cows, including Short-horns, Guernseys, Ayrshires, Kerry, Red Polls, and Holstein; additional Guernsey cattle were introduced later, viz., 22 cows in 1907, and 10 bulls and 15 cows in 1911. The importations by the State and by private breeders between 1900 and 1923 included Jerseys, 29 bulls and 95 cows; Guernseys, 25 bulls and 81 cows; Ayrshires, 25 bulls and 29 cows; and during the three years ended June, 1923, Friesians, 14 bulls and 36 cows. No stud cattle have been imported since 1923, owing to the fact that importations into Australia from countries where foot and mouth disease is prevalent have been prohibited.

The number of cows used for milking in the State in each year since 1916 is shown below:—

As at 30th June.	Cows in Milk at 30th June.		Dry Cows.	Heifers.		Average Daily Number of Cows in Milk during Year.
	In Registered Dairies.	Other.		Springing.	Other, over one Year.	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1916	426,227		317,368	92,124	207,999	465,044
1917	424,033		319,230	111,369	167,665	551,623
1918	429,556		347,834	110,827	177,872	634,000
1919	445,354		273,154	78,839	173,101	536,200
1920	419,732		277,888	72,311	133,092	511,064
1921	475,785		282,208	86,381	97,368	542,092
1922	414,557*	86,665	*314,771	*68,222	*89,872	580,933
1923	404,611*	79,525	*313,264	*63,100	*97,787	579,516
1924	418,505*	84,680	*282,014	*71,515	*92,421	561,908
1925	457,217*	88,567	*280,186	*68,206	*79,674	614,848

* In registered dairies only.

Although the basis of classification was improved in 1922 in order to provide the return of separate particulars of the cows in registered dairies, the figures of each column are substantially comparable with those of previous years.

The heavy decrease (163,000) in the total number of milking cows during the two years ended 30th June, 1920, was due to the severe drought, which caused breeding to be restricted and a number of cows to be slaughtered for beef in order to avoid the expense of feeding. The next two seasons were on the whole favourable, and an increase of 71,000 occurred in the number of cows kept for milking. In 1922-23 and 1923-24 the adverse seasonal conditions caused the number of dry cows and heifers to decline again, but, although the number of cows in milk at 30th June, 1923, had declined, there was an increase in the number at 30th June, 1924. In the following year the average daily number was higher than in any other year of the period except 1918.

During the winter months the number of cows in milk is usually smaller and the number of springing heifers is usually greater than in the summer months, and for those reasons the numbers shown above as at 30th June are not typical of the distribution of cows under the various headings throughout the year.

Dairy Farms and Registered Dairymen.

Under the Dairies Supervision Act, 1901, every person keeping cows to produce milk for sale for human consumption in any form must register his premises and conform to prescribed standards of cleanliness, etc. Many persons so registered, however, conduct operations on a very limited scale.

The following statement shows a comparison for the past seven years of the number of registered dairymen in New South Wales, and the number of holdings of 1 acre and upwards used for dairying operations on a commercial scale:—

Year.	*Registered Dairymen.	† Holdings of one acre and upwards used principally for—				
		Dairying only.	Dairying and Agriculture.	Dairying and Grazing.	Dairying, Grazing and Agriculture.	Total used for Dairying.
1919	17,751	6,482	5,556	1,547	1,409	14,994
1920	18,449	6,799	4,859	2,377	1,425	15,460
1921	20,530	7,738	5,112	2,271	1,549	16,670
1922	20,748	9,092	5,214	2,342	1,818	18,466
1923	22,194	9,222	5,266	2,227	1,642	18,357
1924	21,604	9,191	5,561	1,969	1,756	18,477
1925	21,894	9,499	5,919	1,766	1,990	19,174

* At 31st December. † At 30th June.

It is apparent that less than one-half of the registered dairymen are dependent exclusively on milk products for their livelihood, but the proportion has increased very greatly in recent years. In 1925 the number of holdings used exclusively for dairying constituted over 12 per cent. of the total number of holdings 1 acre or more in extent.

Dairy Factories.

Although there is some seasonal variation, approximately 95 per cent. of the milk products of the State is handled in factories, the balance being dealt with on the farms principally for domestic purposes. Most of the factories are conducted on co-operative principles, with the suppliers as shareholders, and are situated in the country districts at convenient centres. Particulars of the operations of the butter factories are shown on page 454 of this Year Book.

DAIRY PRODUCTION.

The following statement shows the quantities of the principal dairy products in each Division of the State during the year ended the 30th June, 1925:—

Division.	Average No. of Cows in Milk during year.	Total yield of Milk.	Butter made.	Cheese made.
Coastal—	No.	gallons.	lb.	lb.
North Coast	279,574	141,849,238	62,189,708	1,973,196
Hunter and Manning	126,261	73,734,779	27,975,528	826,665
Metropolitan	22,178	12,855,570	952,789	11,440
South Coast	76,993	41,932,618	11,368,524	4,335,767
Total	505,006	270,372,205	102,486,549	7,147,068
Tableland—				
Northern	15,318	6,126,683	2,076,348	135,658
Central	17,357	7,361,113	1,589,419	154,031
Southern	9,325	3,579,384	1,135,861	750
Total	42,000	17,067,180	4,801,628	290,439
Western Slopes—				
North	13,841	6,371,556	2,276,313	...
Central	7,420	2,755,619	781,689	...
South	22,681	10,142,855	4,538,795	268,089
Total	43,942	19,270,030	7,596,797	268,089
Plains—				
North Central	3,290	992,483	111,436	...
Central	3,275	1,033,944	131,173	...
Riverina	15,369	7,259,789	2,046,402	...
Total	21,934	9,286,216	2,289,011	...
Western Division	1,966	930,369	37,362	...
Total, New South Wales...	614,848	316,926,000	117,211,347	7,705,596

This statement illustrates the importance of the dairying activities in the coastal division as compared with the remainder of the State. In this area more than 82 per cent. of the cows are depastured, and more than 85 per cent. of the total output of milk, butter, and cheese is produced. More than one-half of the butter of the State is made in the North Coast

Division. The Hunter and Manning division is next in importance, then the South Coast, followed by the south-western slopes where the manufacture of butter is increasing steadily. Formerly the South Coast division was the principal dairying region, but in recent years the industry has made rapid progress in the northern districts, where many large estates, used previously for raising cattle for beef, have been subdivided into dairy farms. The manufacture of cheese is of small extent when compared with the manufacture of butter, and more than one-half of the total output is made in the south coastal districts.

Milk.

Particulars of the consumption and supply of milk and milk products are published in the chapter "Food and Prices" of the Year Book.

Cows used for producing milk for sale are inspected by Government officers, who have power to condemn and prevent the use of diseased animals. In 1925 inspections were made of 448,544 dairy cattle, or nearly half of the total herds in registered dairies, and of these 861, or less than two per thousand, were condemned—579 for tuberculosis, 172 for actinomycosis, 96 for cancer, and 14 for other diseases. The standard of milk sold for human consumption is prescribed, the quality of the milk sold is tested frequently, and prosecutions are instituted where deficiencies are found. By these means the purity and wholesomeness of dairy products are protected.

Average Yield of Milk per Cow.

The steps being taken to increase the yield of milk per cow are discussed in the earlier pages of this chapter. While sufficient information is not available to show conclusively the average annual production of milk per cow, it is certain that the average is comparatively low, and that, with the natural climatic advantage of a mild winter, great improvement is possible.

The following statement shows the total quantity of milk produced in the State in comparison with the average daily number of cows in milk during the year. The average yield of milk per cow, as determined by dividing the latter figure into the former, is, therefore, a measure of the variation in average annual rate of production per cow, and shows to the extent to which it is affected by seasonal influences.

Particulars of the average daily number of cows in milk were first collected in 1914-15, and for the last four seasons separate details, as shown below, are available regarding cows in registered dairies and other milch cows.

Year ended 30th June.	Cows in Milk in Registered Dairies.			Other Cows in Milk.			All Cows in Milk.		
	Average daily Number.	Yield of Milk.		Average daily Number.	Yield of Milk.		Average daily Number.	Yield of Milk.	
		Total (000 omitted).	Average per Cow.*		Total (000 omitted).	Average per cow.*		Total (000 omitted).	Average per cow.*
		gal.	gal.		gal.	gal.		gal.	gal.
1922	502,188	259,653	517	78,745	25,708	326	580,993	285,271	491
1923	503,944	203,022	403	75,572	23,948	317	579,516	226,970	392
1924	485,342	199,964	412	76,566	25,542	334	561,908	225,506	401
1925	534,482	290,021	543	80,366	26,905	335	614,848	316,926	515

*Annual rate.

The total yield of milk as shown in the above table can be regarded as only approximate. Few, if any, dairy-farmers actually measure the quantity of milk obtained from their cows, because they are concerned principally in producing cream. Only about one-fifth of the milk obtained is consumed as fresh milk. The total yield as shown is based upon estimates supplied by farmers corrected to some extent by reference to the quantity of cream supplied to factories and of milk pasteurised for market and used for other purposes.

The approximate annual rate of production per cow during the past four seasons has fluctuated between 392 gallons and 515 gallons under the influence of seasonal factors, the average annual rate for the period calculated on the basis of the average daily number in milk being 451 gallons per cow. In the absence of accurate data concerning the total number of cows actually milked in registered dairies during the year, it is not possible to ascertain satisfactorily the average quantity of milk produced per dairy cow. However, an approximate estimate may be obtained if it be assumed that the mean of the numbers of cows in milk and dry at the beginning and end of any given year represents the average number kept for milking in registered dairies during that year. Apart from this assumption the value of the results obtained is detracted from by the lack of precision in the estimated total production of milk referred to above.

The following table, referring to cows in registered dairies, provides a comparison of estimates compiled on this basis:—

Year	Mean Number of Cows Dry and in Milk.	Average Daily Number of Cows in Milk.	Proportion of Cows in Milk.	Estimated Average Period of Milking during Year.	Estimated Average Yield per Cow.	
					Milk.	Equivalent in Commercial Butter.
			per cent.	days.	gals.	lb.
1922-23	723,600	503,944	69.6	254	280	125
1923-24	709,200	485,342	68.4	250	282	126
1924-25	723,461	534,482	73.9	270	401	189

In the two years ended June, 1924, both aggregate production and average yield were below normal by reason of adverse weather conditions. The average yield in 1921-22 cannot be estimated upon the same basis, but it was probably greater by approximately 25 per cent. The average in 1924-25 was more than 42 per cent. higher than in the preceding season.

The length of the lactation period varies considerably according to the geographical position of dairy farms. While the general average for the State was about 270 days in 1924-25, the average in the tableland division, where the winter is colder, was only about 230 days.

Use of Milk.

The following statement shows the estimated amount of milk used for various purposes during each of the last three years:—

	1922-23. gallons.	1923-24. gallons.	1924-25. gallons.
Used for butter made on farms ...	12,909,000	13,561,000	13,936,000
„ „ in factories ...	155,720,000	152,105,000	238,115,000
	168,629,000	165,666,000	252,051,000
Used for cheese made on farms ...	228,000	82,000	108,000
„ „ in factories ...	5,183,000	6,177,000	7,907,000
	5,411,000	6,259,000	8,015,000
Used for sweet cream ...	2,136,000	2,136,000	2,973,000
„ condensing ...	1,907,000	3,059,000	2,010,000
Pasteurised for metropolitan and Newcastle markets ...	14,756,000	16,230,000	16,690,000
Balance sold and used otherwise ...	34,131,000	32,156,000	35,187,000
Total ...	226,970,000	225,506,000	316,926,000

An estimate of the quantity of fresh milk used for human consumption is shown in the chapter relating to “Food and Prices.”

In 1924-25 the milk used for making butter represented 79 per cent. of the total production; 3 per cent. was used for cheese; 1 per cent. for condensed milk; and the balance—17 per cent.—was consumed as fresh milk or sweet cream, or used otherwise.

The quality of the milk as indicated by the percentage of butter-fat is a matter of considerable importance, and it is satisfactory to note that, during adverse seasons, the quality is fairly well maintained. The following statement shows the quantity of commercial butter produced per 100 gallons of milk treated on farms and in factories during each of the last five years:—

Year ended 30th June.	Quantity of Commercial Butter per 100 gallons of Milk treated.		
	On Farms.	In Factories.	On Farms and in Factories.
	lb.	lb.	lb.
1921	33·9	44·8	44·0
1922	33·6	45·9	45·1
1923	31·6	44·5	43·7
1924	34·3	44·7	43·9
1925	33·8	47·2	46·5

The apparent increase in the quantity of butter made from milk in factories in 1921-22 is partly attributable to a change effected in estimating the quantity of milk used in butter factories in that year. The averages, however, indicate the seasonal variations fairly closely.

In recent years it has become the practice to instal hand or small power separators on each farm. The number of farms with power separators in 1924-25 was approximately 1,406. Thus the farmers have been able to

effect great economy of time and labour, as the cream need not be taken to the factory at such frequent intervals as formerly, and considerable advantage is derived by the supply of freshly separated milk for the farm stock.

Preserved Milk.

Various kinds of preserved milk and milk foods are produced in New South Wales, *e.g.*, sweetened condensed milk, unsweetened condensed milk, concentrated milk, and powdered milk.

During the war period there was great progress in the manufacture of preserved milk, and the output was increased from 3,682,800 lb. in 1913 to 14,938,100 lb. in 1920-21. Since that year there has been an amalgamation of the companies engaged in the manufacture of preserved milk products in Australasia and some of the factories in New South Wales have been closed. The output has decreased considerably and the export from New South Wales has dwindled to a very small proportion. The quantity made in 1923-24 was only 7,158,537 lb., valued at £289,367, and in the following year 5,804,191 lb., valued at £244,574.

Butter.

The following statement shows the quantity of butter made, and the milk used for that purpose, at intervals since 1901:—

Year ended 30th June.	On Farms.			In Factories.			Total.		
	Milk used.	Butter made.	Milk used per lb. of Butter.	Milk used.	Butter made.	Milk used per lb. of Butter.	Milk used.	Butter made.	Milk used per lb. of Butter.
	(000 omitted.)			(000 omitted.)			(000 omitted.)		
	gallons.	lb.	gal.	gallons.	lb.	gal.	gallons.	lb.	gal.
1901*	14,168	4,775	2·97	82,304	34,282	2·40	96,472	39,057	2·47
1906*	14,288	4,637	3·08	141,761	54,304	2·61	156,049	58,941	2·65
1911*	14,034	4,632	3·03	182,947	78,573	2·33	196,981	83,205	2·37
1916	12,593	4,258	2·96	127,323	55,374	2·30	139,916	59,632	2·35
1921	12,945	4,388	2·93	178,411	79,880	2·23	191,356	84,268	2·27
1922	14,805	4,978	2·97	208,399	95,695	2·18	223,204	100,673	2·22
1923	12,909	4,469	2·89	155,720	69,255	2·25	168,629	73,724	2·29
1924	13,561	4,654	2·91	152,105	68,030	2·24	165,666	72,684	2·28
1925	13,936	4,706	2·96	238,115	112,505	2·12	252,051	117,211	2·15

* Calendar year.

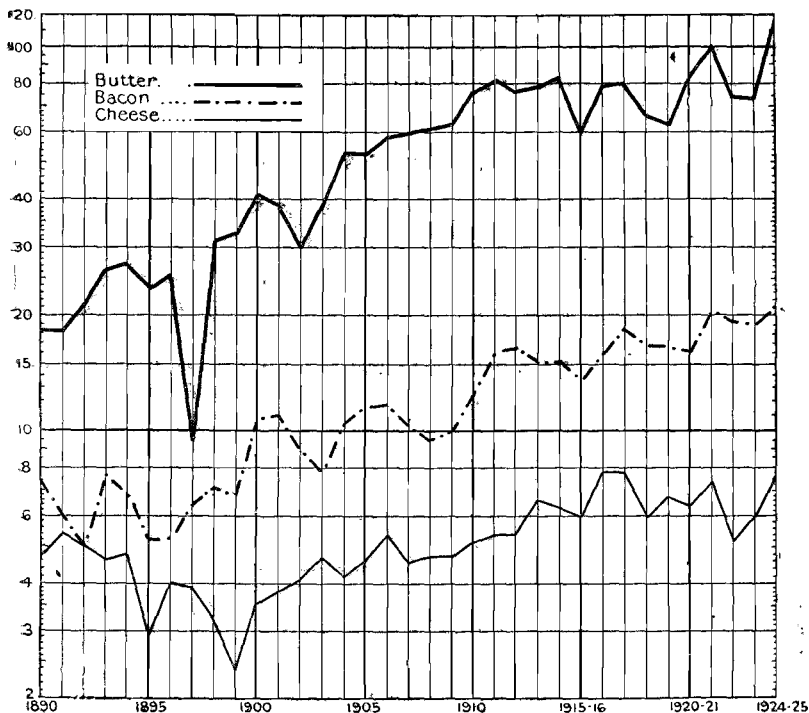
For reasons explained on the preceding page the decrease in the quantity of milk used per pound of butter in factories in 1921-22, as shown in this table, was more apparent than real.

The proportion of factory-made butter in the total production has increased from 72 per cent. in 1895 to 96 per cent. during 1924-25—a result of the greater efficiency of factory as compared with farm methods. On the average nearly 3 gallons of milk are required to make a pound of butter on the farms, as compared with 2½ gallons in the factories.

The output in 1920 was lower than in some of the earlier years owing to drought conditions prevailing in the coastal districts during the year but the production rose rapidly in the following years and in 1921-22 it exceeded 100,000,000 lb. In 1922-23 and 1923-24 the seasonal conditions were unfavourable during the greater part of the year, and the output declined. In 1924-25 it rose to the highest level yet recorded, the quantity being more than 16 per cent. greater than in 1921-22—previously the largest on record.

DAIRY PRODUCTION, 1890 to 1924-25.

Ratio graph.



The numbers at the side of the graph represent 1,000,000 lbs.

The diagram is a ratio graph, and, the vertical scale being logarithmic, the rise or fall of each curve represents the percentage of change. Equal distances on the scale represent the same percentage of change, and when the curves run parallel, they indicate an increase or decrease in equal proportion, irrespective of absolute numbers. Actual quantities are shown by means of the numbers at the side of the graph.

External Trade in Butter.

Particulars of the external trade in butter during each of the past three seasons are summarised in the following statement:—

Particulars.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26
Imports:—	lb.	lb.	lb.
Interstate	8,694,000	3,268,800	3,033,600
From New Zealand	1,401,300	1,700	805,600
Total Imports	10,095,300	3,270,500	3,839,200
Exports:—			
Interstate	2,402,000	5,525,400	6,781,500
Oversea—Australian produce	9,951,000	44,243,500	26,354,600
New Zealand produce	301,300	...	...
Ships' Stores—Australian produce... ..	314,900	483,600	653,500
New Zealand produce	6,300	...	...
Total Exports	12,975,500	50,252,500	33,789,600
Excess of Exports	2,880,200	46,982,000	29,950,400

Owing to the low production in 1923-24, there was a very small margin for exports after supplying local requirements, and considerable quantities were

imported from other Australian States and from New Zealand. In 1924-25 the local production was far in excess of local requirements. The quantity exported oversea was very heavy, and there was a considerable export to other States. Very little butter was imported from New Zealand. Towards the end of the following season, however, when prices in Australia were at a comparatively high level, a fairly large quantity of New Zealand butter was brought to Sydney.

Production and Exports of Butter Monthly.

The following table shows for each month during the three seasons ended 30th June, 1923, the quantity of butter produced in factories in comparison with the quantity exported. Butter may be stored for a considerable period before export, and the figures for production and export each month do not necessarily refer to the same butter. In 1923-24 local production scarcely sufficed to supply local requirements, and the quantity of butter imported interstate and from New Zealand was nearly as great as the quantities exported. The exports oversea in that year probably included some butter imported from other Australian States:—

Month	Quantity of Butter Produced in Factories.			Quantity of Butter Exported Oversea (Australian Produce).		
	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
	Thousand lb.					
July	2,502	3,449	4,691	126	676	705
August	2,525	4,096	4,932	131	2,351	350
September	3,634	6,613	6,839	133	1,523	928
October	5,736	9,059	8,805	389	2,419	1,430
November	5,938	11,302	10,737	1,375	3,628	3,139
December	5,145	14,643	12,946	524	7,006	5,051
January	8,107	14,135	13,076	1,896	6,922	4,933
February	8,775	13,004	10,161	2,715	6,256	5,235
March	8,882	12,817	8,493	1,654	5,642	1,785
April	7,081	10,198	8,670	531	3,524	496
May	5,863	7,350	7,247	265	1,599	1,412
June	4,178	5,437	5,059	212	2,697	891
Total	68,366*	112,103*	101,656*	9,951	44,243	26,355

* Compiled from monthly returns of Dairy Branch. The totals differ slightly from those published elsewhere in this volume.

These monthly records show the pronounced seasonal nature of the production, with the consequent monthly variations in the volume of exports. Production increases in a marked degree during the summer months and decreases during the winter, reaching a minimum usually in July. This is due mainly to fluctuations in the number of cows in milk.

The interstate imports in 1925-26 included 281,000 lb. imported at Sydney by boat, 1,866,000 lb. imported by rail, mainly at Wallangarra and Albury, and 887,000 lb. imported from South Australia to supply the requirements of the Broken Hill district.

Usually more than 80 per cent. of the butter exported oversea from New South Wales is sent to the United Kingdom, the remainder being sent mainly to countries bordering the Pacific Ocean. The following table shows

for a period of ten years ended December, 1924, the quantity of butter imported into the United Kingdom from New South Wales and the proportion borne by such imports to the total quantity imported:—

Year ended 31st Dec.	Imports of Butter from New South Wales.	Proportion to Total Butter imported into United Kingdom.	Year ended 31st Dec.	Imports of Butter from New South Wales.	Proportion to Total Butter imported into United Kingdom.
	lb.	per cent.		lb.	per cent.
1915	17,720,864	4.16	1920	8,306,592	4.36
1916	3,648,400	1.50	1921	27,405,168	6.94
1917	18,997,888	9.36	1922	23,957,600	6.06
1918	22,260,112	12.59	1923	5,706,960	1.59
1919	13,325,038	7.63	1924	14,555,088	2.46

This table shows the pronounced fluctuations which occur in supplies of New South Wales butter placed on the British markets and the relative smallness of the quantity.

During 1925 the total imports of butter into the United Kingdom amounted to 655,704,000 lb., of which 130,059,000 lb. were imported from Australia, 140,621,000 lb. from New Zealand and 185,702,000 lb. from Denmark. The principal sources from which butter was imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland during each of the last three years are shown below:—

Year ended June.	Imports of Butter into Great Britain and Northern Ireland from—					
	Australia.	New Zealand	Denmark.	Argentina.	Other Countries.	Total Imports.
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
1924	24,007	51,847	91,056	27,432	29,677	224,019
1925	56,193	67,179	85,206	22,455	46,865	277,898
1926	40,454	51,138	89,732	24,685	72,383	278,392

Prices of Butter.

The average monthly prices of butter in Sydney and London markets during each of the three seasons ended 30th June, 1926, are shown below:—

Month.	Average Price in Sydney of Choicest Butter per cwt.			Average Top Price in London of Australian Butter per cwt.		
	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
July ...	224 0	173 0	174 0	153 0	185 0	192 0
August ...	224 0	174 0	184 0	173 0	198 0	193 0
September ...	224 0	176 0	178 0	186 0	199 0	204 0
October ...	201 0	167 0	185 0	187 0	211 0	213 0
November ...	196 0	150 0	176 0	196 0	191 0	200 0
December ...	210 0	145 0	155 0	209 0	194 0	174 0
January ...	195 0	137 0	170 0	205 0	165 0	167 0
February ...	168 0	132 0	178 0	193 0	169 0	170 0
March ...	158 0	146 0	185 0	162 0	179 0	169 0
April ...	145 0	146 0	194 0	150 0	166 0	173 0
May ...	168 0	157 0	193 0	159 0	164 0	169 0
June ...	164 0	160 0	192 0	169 0	180 0	173 0

The prices quoted in the above table for Sydney and London respectively may not strictly be used to estimate the difference between the actual selling price in Sydney and the local parity of London prices. The Sydney price

is an average of daily prices and relates to the official price of butter of choicest quality. No account is taken of under-selling such as occurred in the middle of 1924 through the incidence of interstate competition. On the other hand the London prices are the mean of the top prices quoted weekly in the *Statist* for Australian butter, but owing to the smallness of supplies at certain periods these prices are more or less nominal. Usually there are appreciable quantities of Australian butter on London markets only for about half the year, viz., from November to May inclusive. Under the "Patterson" stabilisation scheme, which is explained above, exporters of butter from Australia since 1st January, 1926, have been paid a bonus at the rate of 3d. per lb. exported.

The cost of marketing butter in London varies from time to time in accordance with changes in rates of ocean freight, exchange, insurance, handling and other charges. During 1924-25 the amount of such charges was approximately 22s. per cwt.

Cheese.

Excellent conditions exist in New South Wales for the production of cheese, but cheese-making has not advanced to the same extent as the manufacture of butter, the latter being more profitable.

The industry is retarded by the great disadvantages of cheese as an article of export. It matures quickly and after a short period depreciates in value. Unlike butter it cannot be preserved satisfactorily by freezing. Moreover, cheese represents little more than half the money value of butter for the same weight, while the cost of freight is practically the same. At present, however, sufficient cheese is seldom produced in New South Wales to supply local requirements, and, besides 820,000 lb. imported from other Australian States by sea, in 1924-25, approximately 155,000 lb. were imported from countries outside the Commonwealth. The quantity exported overseas during the year was 930,000 lb. valued at £32,100, inclusive of ships' stores.

The Select Committee, to which reference was made above, assigns the unsatisfactory condition of this section of the dairying industry to the fact that adequate legislative authority has not been given to control the manufacture of cheese, as in the case of butter. The committee was of opinion that it should be made compulsory to grade and pasteurise milk and cream used in the manufacture of cheese and to grade the cheese according to quality.

From a previous table showing the cheese made in the various divisions of the State, it will be seen that more than half of the total production during the 1924-25 season was made in the South Coast Division.

The following table shows the production of cheese in factories and on farms at intervals since 1901:—

Year ended 30th June.	Production of Cheese.		
	In Factories.	On Farms.	Total.
	lb.	lb.	lb.
1901*	2,428,599	1,410,236	3,838,835
1906*	3,459,641	1,999,004	5,458,645
1911*	4,617,387	843,265	5,460,652
1916	4,969,374	1,010,262	5,979,636
1921	5,965,715	441,494	6,407,209
1922	7,044,567	322,490	7,367,057
1923	4,978,037	220,868	5,198,905
1924	5,834,440	78,216	5,912,656
1925	7,602,232	103,364	7,705,596

* Calendar Year.

It is apparent that the annual output of cheese has shown only slight expansion except in occasional years. The quantity produced in 1924-25 was, however, greater than the output in any other year except 1916-17. Cheese-making on farms was formerly extensive, but is declining into insignificance. The output of factories during 1924-25 represented nearly 99 per cent. of the total production.

SWINE.

The breeding of swine is conducted usually on dairy farms, where a large supply of separated milk is available for fattening the stock. Pigs are reared also in agricultural districts, where special crops of maize, peas, etc., are grown as fodder for them. The natural increase of pigs is rapid, so that there is a danger of an over-supply on the market unless a steady export trade is developed. The export is small and variable, and for this reason pig-raising has not progressed to the same extent as the dairy industry.

The principal breeds of swine are the Berkshire, prized because it is fattened readily; the Poland China, which thrives in the North Coastal districts; the Tamworth, which is useful for crossing with fat breeds to secure a good bacon pig; and a type called the Middle Yorkshire, which has been fixed by crossing the Large and Small Yorkshires. Stocks of high-class strains may be purchased at the Government experiment farms and other institutions.

The following table shows the number of pigs in New South Wales at intervals since 1891:—

At 31st December.	Swine. †	At 30th June.	Swine.
	No.		No.
1891	253,189	1916	281,158
1896	214,581	1921	306,253
1901	265,730	1923	340,853
1906	243,370	1924	323,196
1911	371,093	1925	339,669

The figures show remarkable fluctuations, but, since 1901, there has been a tendency to increase. In 1918 the number, 396,157, was the highest on record, but it declined owing to adverse seasons in 1919 and 1920. There was a substantial increase in 1921, and again in 1922, but the numbers diminished in the two adverse seasons which followed. At 30th June, 1925, the pigs less than one year old numbered 237,824, and the pigs aged one year and over 101,845.

The following statement shows the number of pigs in various divisions of the State and the production of bacon and ham in 1924-25 as compared with the years 1911 and 1920-21:—

Division.	1911.		1920-21.		1924-25.	
	Swine.	Bacon and Ham cured.	Swine.	Bacon and Ham cured.	Swine.	Bacon and Ham cured.
	No.	lb.	No.	lb.	No.	lb.
Coastal	255,361	13,845,520	208,903	14,781,094	259,967	19,587,724
Tableland	45,578	1,124,091	29,700	597,872	27,609	582,463
Western Slopes	42,258	666,173	39,599	422,712	34,049	422,055
Other	27,896	467,043	28,051	455,564	18,044	484,554
Whole State	371,093	16,102,827	306,253	16,257,242	339,669	21,076,796

This table shows that the production of bacon has increased since 1911 in the dairying districts of the coastal division, and 92 per cent. of the total production of bacon in 1924-25 was cured in these districts. In the tableland division there has been a marked decline in pig-raising, and little or no progress has been made in other parts of the State.

Interstate Movement of Pigs.

The introduction of pigs from other States is closely regulated in order to prevent the spread of the various diseases current among these animals, and, on the whole, few pigs are brought into the State except for slaughtering in adverse seasons. On the other hand there is a regular movement of pigs from New South Wales to Queensland, and, on a smaller scale, to Victoria. In 1924-25 the net export of live pigs to Queensland was 10,200 and to Victoria 4,400.

Bacon and Hams.

The production of bacon in New South Wales is not usually sufficient for local requirements, and quantities are imported from other States. Such imports in 1924-25 were approximately 8,800,000 lb.

The output of bacon and hams from factories and farms at intervals since 1891 is shown hereunder:—

Year ended 30th June.	Production of Bacon and Ham.		
	Factory.	Farm.	Total Production.
	lb.	lb.	lb.
1891*	2,120,300	3,889,300	6,009,600
1901*	7,392,100	3,688,800	11,080,900
1911*	13,393,500	2,709,300	16,102,800
1916	11,637,900	1,938,700	13,576,600
1921	14,625,800	1,631,400	16,257,200
1922	18,544,067	1,878,803	20,422,870
1923	17,506,343	1,739,523	19,245,866
1924	17,693,376	1,358,733	19,052,109
1925	19,764,983	1,311,813	21,076,796

* Calendar Year.

The output of bacon varies in fairly close sympathy with the production of butter but is generally insufficient for local requirements.

During the first decade of the period under review the production of bacon showed a substantial increase. The rate of increase during the succeeding decade was much slower as a result of the drought of 1902-03. The production in 1920-21 was only slightly higher than in 1911, but the output in the last four years has been much greater, and in 1924-25 it exceeded 21,000,000 lb. for the first time.

Lard.

Statistics showing the total production of lard are not available. During the year ended 30th June, 1925, the quantity extracted in factories amounted to 668,262 lb., valued at £21,097; but as the manufacture of this product is conducted in many other establishments, as well as on farms, this quantity represents only a portion of the total output.

During the twelve months ended 30th June, 1925, the oversea exports of lard and refined animal fats amounted to 476,939 lb., valued at £14,960, as compared with imports from oversea countries amounting to 24,402 lb., valued at £1,000.

LOCAL CONSUMPTION OF DAIRY PRODUCTS.

The local consumption of dairy products in New South Wales is comparatively high. The average consumption per head in 1924-25 was as follows:—Fresh milk, 21·2 gallons, preserved milk 6·3 lb., butter 31 lb.,

cheese 3·5 lb., bacon and ham 11·9 lb. With a population of about 2,320,000 the local requirements amount to 49,200,000 gallons of fresh milk per annum, nearly 14,600,000 lb. of preserved milk, 72,000,000 lb. of butter, 8,100,000 lb. of cheese, and 27,600,000 lb. of bacon and ham. Comparison with the figures on the foregoing pages shows that the State is self-supporting in regard to milk and butter, and that portions of the supplies of cheese and bacon are imported—generally from the other States of the Commonwealth. During the summer months, when production is at a maximum, a quantity of butter is placed in cold storage in order to ensure an adequate supply during the winter. This matter is treated more fully in the chapter relating to "Food and Prices."

EXPORTS OF DAIRY PRODUCTS.

Dairy products for export beyond the Commonwealth are subject to inspection by Federal Government officials under the provisions of the Commerce Act, 1905, and the exportation of inferior products is prohibited unless the goods are labelled as below standard. Since August, 1925, the export of butter and cheese has been supervised by the Dairy Produce Export Control Board, of which particulars are given on page 567.

The following table shows the oversea exports of the principal dairy products from New South Wales, inclusive of ships' stores, at intervals since 1891. The particulars for 1906 and earlier years relate to New South Wales produce only, but in later years the figures include a small quantity of the produce of other Australian States. New South Wales produce exported through other States is excluded from account.

Year. ended 30th June.	Oversea Exports (including Ships' Stores).							
	Butter.		Cheese.		Milk—Preserved, Condensed, etc.		Bacon and Ham.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	lb. (000)	£	lb. (000)	£	lb. (000)	£	lb. (000)	£
1891*	11	478	18	411	...	...	9	380
1896*	1,912	75,994	45	821	8	156	40	994
1901*	8,700	379,342	174	4,359	196	2,525	96	3,007
1906*	23,362	978,725	123	3,268	258	4,906	141	4,996
1911*	33,044	1,518,993	127	3,723	1,127	17,471	618	17,561
1916	4,306	259,834	191	9,767	947	22,052	224	11,279
1921	28,429	3,458,280	804	49,813	11,576	691,122	1,357	132,075
1922	36,730	2,327,080	629	26,565	3,634	203,483	1,053	80,641
1923	12,883	1,035,183	293	14,319	688	33,119	757	57,406
1924	10,266	778,963	156	8,902	742	37,382	545	45,170
1925	44,727	2,968,525	878	23,514	647	26,999	766	52,724
1926	27,008	1,943,586	259	12,321	656	26,513	790	61,681

* Calendar year.

The export trade in butter is mainly with the United Kingdom. During the year 1924-25, the quantity available for export was the highest yet recorded, the season was good, and remunerative prices were obtainable in London. The exports of condensed milk increased rapidly during the war period, but have since declined.

The values of other dairy and farmyard products exported overseas in 1924-25 were as follows:—Frozen pork £2,727, frozen poultry £12,182, eggs £49,039, live pigs and poultry £1,568; making a total of £3,143,278, including the items listed above. The total in 1925-26 was £2,125,021.

POULTRY-FARMING.

Poultry-farming was conducted formerly in conjunction with dairying; but the interests involved have become important commercially in recent years and a distinct industry has been developed. Efforts are made to obtain the benefits of modern methods of poultry-farm management, and to secure the best egg-laying and table breeds. To assist poultry-farmers, the Department of Agriculture issues various publications treating of poultry culture, and employs a poultry expert to advise them. A Government Poultry Farm at Seven Hills is used for demonstration and educational purposes in connection with the Department's activities for the benefit of poultry-farmers. Accurate statistics of poultry production are not available, but a general estimate based on accessible returns shows that the value of production during 1924-25 was approximately £2,591,000.

Special attention is devoted to improving the laying qualities of the different breeds, and egg-laying competitions, organised originally by private subscriptions, have been conducted since 1901 at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College, with the object of stimulating the poultry industry. These competitions have attracted widespread interest, and birds for competition are sent from all parts of New South Wales, from the other Australian States, from New Zealand, and some from America.

By such means much valuable information has been gained from practical experiment and research. Tests are arranged and records are kept of the cost of feeding, and of the results obtained from the various breeds of poultry, and by different methods of treatment. The expansion of poultry-raising in recent years has received a great impetus from this source, inasmuch as it produced data, previously unobtainable, as to the possibilities of poultry-farming as a business, and stimulated the idea of breeding for high egg production.

An annual report in bulletin form, giving particulars and tabulated results of these competitions, is issued by the Department of Agriculture.

BEE-KEEPING.

The bee-keeping industry is at the present time of small importance, though there is ample inducement for further expansion.

The production of honey and of beeswax varies considerably from year to year, as shown in the following table:—

Season.	Bee Hives.			Honey.	Average Yield of Honey per productive Hive.	Beeswax.
	Productive.	Un-productive.	Total.			
	No.	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	lb.
1910-11	55,958	14,308	70,266	2,765,618	49.4	72,617
1920-21	28,041	6,387	34,428	1,443,377	51.5	23,320
1921-22	34,129	7,369	41,498	2,989,074	87.6	28,385
1922-23	26,855	11,549	38,404	1,239,080	46.1	28,442
1923-24	19,987	11,774	31,761	590,980	29.6	12,703
1924-25	34,692	5,431	40,123	3,090,150	89.1	40,108

The yield per productive hive improved considerably as a result of the enactment of the Apiaries Acts in 1916 and 1917, but it is subject to marked fluctuations according to seasonal conditions. The average was low during the two seasons ended June, 1924, then it rose to the high level of 89 lb.

Frame hives are now in general use, as the box-hive has been prohibited. Special legislation which has been passed with reference to apiculture is more fully detailed at page 655 of the Year Book for 1918.

In 1924-25 the estimated value of the production from bees was £55,000, the quantity of production in each division being as follows:—

Division.				Honey.	Beeswax.
				lb.	lb.
Coastal	...	...	...	340,049	7,465
Tableland	...	...	...	2,186,280	24,262
Western Slopes	...	...	...	470,616	7,475
Central Plains and Riverina	...	...	...	93,205	906
Western Division	...	...	...	...	...
Total				3,090,150	40,108

VALUE OF DAIRY AND FARMYARD PRODUCTION.

It is evident from the foregoing that the dairying and farmyard industries are important factors in the rural production of New South Wales. The value of production in 1924-25 amounted to £14,336,000, or £6 7s. 3d. per head of population. The dairying industry yielded £10,583,000, swine £1,107,000, poultry £2,591,000, and bees £55,000. The value of production in each year since 1911 has been as follows:—

Year.	Milk for Butter.	Milk for Cheese.	Milk (not used for Butter or Cheese).	Milch Cows.	Swine.	Poultry and Eggs.	Bees.	Total.
	(000) £	(000) £	(000) £	(000) £	(000) £	(000) £	(000) £	(000) £
1911	3,631	129	619	389	447	1,280	39	6,534
1912	3,895	168	750	406	539	1,401	33	7,192
1913	3,450	170	950	385	500	1,578	30	7,063
1914-15	4,038	170	962	523	538	1,597	18	7,846
1915-16	3,198	167	1,084	419	605	2,144	32	7,649
1916-17	4,740	227	1,059	657	795	1,908	33	9,419
1917-18	4,954	250	1,618	668	990	2,082	73	10,635
1918-19	4,537	204	1,949	709	1,153	2,501	20	11,073
1919-20	4,712	278	2,132	721	1,121	2,814	15	11,793
1920-21	8,411	306	2,751	603	1,130	3,196	50	16,447
1921-22	5,800	228	2,359	899	925	2,650	53	12,914
1922-23	5,805	198	2,558	1,136	976	2,750	22	13,445
1923-24	5,027	213	2,604	1,113	1,037	2,321	12	12,327
1924-25	6,342	197	3,039	1,005	1,107	2,591	55	14,336

The value of production from these industries increased during the period under review from £6,534,000 to £16,447,000 in 1920-21, when boom values ruled, and the drop in 1921-22 was occasioned by a return to lower values, although the quantity of production in the year was a record. During 1922-23 and 1923-24 prices improved, but seasonal conditions were adverse. In 1924-25 the volume of production was very large, but as prices declined the value did not reach the level of the season 1920-21. The bulk of dairy and farmyard commodities is produced for home consumption, and prices rise and fall in accordance with local seasonal conditions. Oversea markets apparently have little influence on local prices. For these reasons the annual value of production does not reflect seasonal fluctuations in yields to the same extent as do agricultural and pastoral products whose prices are determined mainly by the condition of oversea markets.

Butter is the principal item of dairy produce. The value of the milk used in the production of butter in 1924-25 was £6,342,000, as compared with £3,631,000 in 1911 and £8,411,000 in 1920-21. The value of milk used for other purposes was £3,236,000.

The return from poultry, which are kept on a great many holdings, is next in importance, though the value of production shown does not represent the total for the industry, because records are not available of the production on many areas which are less than one acre in extent.

PRICES OF DAIRY PRODUCTS.

The average wholesale prices obtained in 1914 and during the last six years in the Sydney markets for the principal kinds of dairy and poultry farm produce are shown in the following table. The average quoted for the year represents the mean of the prices ruling each month, and does not take into account the quantity sold during the month.

Dairy and Poultry Farm Produce.	1914.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Milk ... ..gal.	0 11 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 9	1 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 8	1 10	1 8	1 6 $\frac{3}{4}$
Butter ... ..lb.	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 1	1 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 7	1 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 5 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cheese,,	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 0 $\frac{7}{8}$	0 10	1 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{4}$
Bacon (sides) ... ,,	0 9 $\frac{7}{8}$	1 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 1	1 2	1 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Eggs (new laid) doz.	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 11	1 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 11	1 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Poultry—							
Fowls—							
(Roosters) ...pr.	5 5	7 9	9 5	6 10	7 2	8 2	9 3
Ducks—							
(English) ... ,,	4 5	7 4	8 11	6 10	10 2	9 9	8 0
Geese,,	6 8	11 9	14 10	10 8	10 7	11 0	10 0
Turkeys (cocks) ,,	11 2	35 8	37 11	36 7	37 3	33 3	30 3
Bee produce—							
Honey ... ..lb.	0 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 8	0 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 4
Wax,,	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 11	1 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$

Almost without exception prices increased in each year from 1914 to 1920, the greatest rises occurring in 1919 and 1920. In 1921 all the prices, except the quotations for poultry, were slightly lower than in the preceding year. In 1922 prices declined generally, but in 1923 the prices of dairy products rose, milk being dearer than in 1920.

In 1924 the average quotations for dairy products except bacon, and for various kinds of poultry were much lower than in the preceding years, and in 1925 the downward trend was still apparent in respect of milk, butter, and poultry; bacon and eggs also became cheaper. In the latter year the average price of butter was 50 per cent. dearer than in 1914, milk 60 per cent., bacon 28 per cent., and eggs 36 per cent. dearer.

The relative variations in the Sydney wholesale prices of eight principal dairy and farmyard products, viz., butter, cheese, bacon, ham, eggs, condensed milk, honey and lard are shown in the following table of index numbers, in which the prices of 1911 are taken as the base and represented by 1,000:—

Year.	Index Number.	Year.	Index Number.	Year.	Index Number.
1901	963	1915	1,349	1921	2,020
1906	953	1916	1,380	1922	1,735
1911	1,000	1917	1,440	1923	1,939
1912	1,133	1918	1,487	1924	1,671
1913	1,033	1919	1,718	1925	1,612
1914	1,128	1920	2,236	1926	*1,821

* To June.

Although the average prices of dairy produce have remained very much above the pre-war level the relative increases have been considerably less than those of other products. A comparative table showing the relative increases in each of eight groups of commodities is published in the chapter "Food and Prices" of this Year Book.

FORESTRY.

THE forest lands of the State containing timber of commercial value consist of about 11 million acres, of which about 8 million acres are Crown lands. Nearly 7 million acres of State lands have been either dedicated or reserved for the preservation and growth of timber.

The total forest area, although not large, contains a great variety of useful timbers, which in hardwoods number about twenty different kinds of good commercial value, including such renowned constructional woods as ironbark, tallow-wood, and turpentine. In other timbers there are about twenty-five varieties, including such valuable timbers as cedar, beech, pine, and teak. It is estimated that, approximately, five-sixths of the timber supply consists of mixed hardwoods and one-sixth of soft and brush woods.

Following the report of a Royal Commission appointed in 1907, a Forestry Department was established under the Forestry Act, 1909. This Act was repealed by the Forestry Act, 1916, which became law on the 1st November, 1916, and provided for the constitution of a Forestry Commission, consisting of three members, one being Chief Commissioner. A further amending Act passed on 23rd December, 1924, provided for a commission of one member at a salary of £1,500 per annum.

The Commission is charged with the administration of the Forestry Act, 1916, which provides for the control and management of the State forests and timber reserves, for the training of forest officers, for the conduct of research work, and for the collection of statistics in connection with forestry.

The Commission may dispose of timber and products of any State forest or timber reserve, and—

- (a) take and sell such timber and products;
- (b) convert any such timber into logs, sawn timber, or any other merchantable article, and sell the same;
- (c) convert any such products into merchantable articles, and sell the same;
- (d) construct roads, railways, and tram-lines and other works for the transport of timber; and purchase, rent, or charter and use vehicles and vessels, with the necessary motive power;
- (e) construct, purchase, or rent sawmills and other mills, with all the necessary machinery and plant for converting timber and manufacturing articles from timber, and use such mills for those purposes.

One-half of the gross amount received from royalties, licenses, and permits, and from the sale of timber, other than the output of the mills as indicated in (e) above, is to be set apart for afforestation, reforestation, survey and improvement of State forests and timber reserves, and for purposes incidental thereto, the expenditure of an amount exceeding £5,000 on any particular work being subject to the approval of the Minister.

The Government may purchase, resume, or appropriate land for the purpose of a State forest, and may dedicate Crown lands as State forests or timber reserves.

Timber-getters' and other licenses may be issued by the Commission, and exclusive rights to take timber products from specified areas of State forests or timber reserves may be granted.

Every person conducting a sawmill for the treatment of timber must obtain a license, keep books and records, and make prescribed returns. Royalty must be paid on timber felled and on products taken from any State forest, timber reserve, Crown lands, or lands held under any tenure from the Crown which requires the payment of royalty. Royalty is not payable, however, on timber exempted by terms of the license or by the regulations, or on timber required for use on any holding not comprised within a timber or forest reserve. Allowance may be made also for any timber which is not marketable. Trees on any State forest, timber reserve, or Crown lands, with the exception of lands held under conditional lease granted before the passing of the Act, must not be ringbarked except under permit.

The Act provides for regulations on the following matters:—Licenses, etc., and the fees and royalties payable; the periods and the conditions under which licenses, etc., may be granted; the protection and preservation of timber; the inspection, cutting, marking, and removal of timber; the kinds, sizes, and quantities which may be cut or removed; the conditions under which fires may be lighted in State forests; and the organisation of a system of education in scientific forestry.

“The Australian Forestry Journal” is issued monthly by the Commission with the object of interesting the public in forestry, and it is distributed gratis among a large number of public bodies.

For the purposes of administration the areas containing State forest lands are grouped in districts, and the work in each district is supervised by a trained forestry officer under the control of the Commission. As the timber is removed from an area it is treated for regeneration, the average area so treated during the last five years being about 45,000 acres per annum.

A large amount of regenerative work has been done in connection with the Murray River and the inland forests. Experimental works have been started in various parts of the coast and highlands to test the capacity of different classes of hardwood forest for reafforestation, and to ascertain the best methods of treatment; and stations have been selected for the promotion of afforestation by the establishment of State nurseries, with the object of utilising some of the waste lands of the State, of which about 300,000 acres are suitable for the purpose.

As at 30th June, 1925, a total area of 5,145,957 acres of Crown lands had been dedicated permanently as State forests, and 1,637,458 acres had been set apart tentatively as timber reserves. In addition, there were a number of State forest plantations of an aggregate area of 9,461 acres.

Particulars relating to the State forests and plantations and timber reserves as at the end of each of the last five years are shown below:—

At 30th June.	State Forests.		State Plantations.	Timber Reserves.	
	Number.	Area.	Area.	Number.	Area.
		acres.	acres.		acres.
1921	721	5,194,298	2,544	504	1,535,679
1922	736	5,371,994	4,032	494	1,479,792
1923	720	5,315,689	5,204	548	1,561,270
1924	720	5,221,415	7,180	550	1,659,897
1925	714	5,145,957	9,461	552	1,637,458

The timber reserves are reviewed from time to time, and arrangements are made to dedicate suitable reserves as State forests, in order that they may be reserved permanently for forestry purposes and the reservation of unsuitable areas is revoked to make them available for other uses.

Location of Forest Lands.

The principal forest lands of the State are situated in the Zone of Coastal Timbers which consists of a narrow strip of land ranging up to 50 miles in width and extending along the entire coast line. This zone embraces an area of 13,797,000 acres, of which roughly 4,900,000 acres are classified as forest lands. This is a region of high rainfall and it produces an abundant supply of hardwood timbers of good quality. The State forests are distributed in scattered areas throughout the belt, but more especially in the North Coast district, in the vicinity of the coast from the River Hastings south to the Karuah River, and along the South Coast from the Shoalhaven River to the southern boundary of the State. An isolated forest area of considerable importance stretches northward from the Hawkesbury River and terminates to the westward of Lake Macquarie.

The indigenous softwoods of the State are situated mainly in the Zone of Brush Timbers lying in a narrow belt along the eastern foothills of the northern highlands. This zone embraces 6,339,000 acres of land and includes a forest area of approximately 1,500,000 acres, of which a considerable proportion has been dedicated as State forests. This is a region of high rainfall. The timber is mainly softwood of good quality, the chief commercial species being hoop pine.

The rainfall of the remainder of the State is lower than along the coast and although the area of forest lands is considerable, it represents only a small fraction of the total surface. The hinterland may be divided into three zones, viz., a zone of highland timbers, a zone of interior timbers, and a zone practically devoid of timbers of commercial value.

The Zone of Highland Timbers contains in all 30,039,000 acres, of which approximately 1,700,000 acres are forest area favoured by a fair rainfall. The supply of timbers is scattered and sparse, including mainly hardwoods of fair to good quality. Considerable areas in this zone are considered to be suitable for the planting of exotic conifers, and it is proposed to embark on an extensive scheme of afforestation in this connection.

The Zone of Interior Timbers covers 81,000,000 acres, of which approximately 2,900,000 acres are classed as forest area. The rainfall is comparatively low and uncertain and the supply of timber, including both hardwoods and cypress pine is generally scattered, sparse, and of fair quality. State forests are distributed throughout these zones. The majority of them are small, though the largest of the State forests is situated at Pilliga in the zone of interior timbers. This area is 454,200 acres in extent and is timbered with cypress pine, ironbark, gum, box and belah. Another large area comprising 140,266 acres mainly of ironbark is situated a little further south at Goonoo, near Dubbo, and further extensive areas of State forests are situated along the Murray River west of Tocumwal. They contain red gum, white box, yellow box and cypress pine.

The zone almost devoid of timbers of commercial value is practically co-terminous with the Western Division with an average annual rainfall of from 8 to 15 inches per year. This area contains 66,868,000 acres and its timber supply is very sparse, scattered, and of inferior quality.

State Forest Nurseries and Plantations.

A State Forest Nursery is maintained at Gosford for the propagation of plants of commercial types; the planted area is about 42 acres. Exchanges of seeds and plants are made with similar institutions in various parts of the world. Branch Nurseries of various dimensions have been established in practically every forestry district in the State. At Tuncurry a pine plantation is worked by prison labour, and about 2,000,000 pine trees have been planted. This establishment provides healthy outdoor work for prisoners, and at the same time utilises land which is not suitable for any other reproductive purpose.

The total area of effective plantations at the end of June, 1925, was 9,461 acres. In addition about 2,338 acres had been prepared for planting, and there were 1,085,664 acres under working plans.

To supplement the supply of softwood in the State, afforestation should be conducted on a more extensive scale than at present, and it has been estimated that it is necessary to plant 5,000 acres per year for thirty years in order to assure adequate supplies. Preliminary surveys in the southern highlands disclose an area of 150,000 acres suitable for the growth of softwoods and indigenous hardwood.

Production and Consumption of Timber.

During the year ended 30th June, 1925, there were in operation 541 sawmills. The employees numbered 5,681, and the value of plant and machinery was estimated at £1,102,000. The output of native timber amounted to 13,535,000 cubic feet, valued at the mills at £2,090,168.

In the forests which have been placed under intensive management the Forestry Commission undertakes the conversion of many classes of forest produce in order to ensure that all saleable timber will be removed promptly from each area to make way for young growth. In these areas 767,345 cubic feet of timber were dealt with during 1924-25.

The following table shows the average annual output of native timber from sawmills in New South Wales in successive years since 1917, and the gross consumption of native and imported timbers as estimated by the Forestry Commission.

Year ended 30th June.	Annual Output of Native Timber from Saw Mills. (000 omitted.)	Estimated Gross Consumption of Timber.		
		Native.	Imported.	Total.
		(000 omitted.)		
	cubic feet.	cubic feet.	cubic feet.	cubic feet.
1917	10,437	21,750	10,498	32,248
1918	10,562	23,827	7,719	31,546
1919	10,968	24,269	7,224	31,493
1920	12,926	26,503	7,220	33,723
1921	13,009	29,407	8,055	37,462
1922	12,772	29,745	9,185	38,930
1923	12,259	30,476	11,923	42,399
1924	13,958	32,555	14,898	47,453
1925	13,535	44,812	14,553	59,365

In recent years there has been remarkable activity in the building trade, and the consumption of timber has increased rapidly. Most of the imported timber consists of softwoods. The native timber consumed in 1924-25 consisted of 20,231,000 cubic feet of hardwood, 6,044,000 cubic feet of pine, 482,500 cubic feet of brushwood, and 18,054,500 cubic feet of fuel.

Value of Production from Forestry.

The estimated value of production from forestry as at the place of production in 1924-25 was £1,647,000. The following table shows the value of forestry production in New South Wales at intervals since the year 1901:—

Year ended 30th June.	Value.	Year ended 30th June.	Value.
	£		£
1901*	554,000	1922	1,585,000
1906*	1,008,000	1923	1,544,000
1911*	998,000	1924	1,659,000
1916	1,045,000	1925	1,647,000
1921	1,656,000		

* Year ended 31st December.

Imports and Exports of Timber.

The greater part of the softwood used in New South Wales has been drawn for many years from foreign sources of supply, among which New Zealand, the United States of America, Canada, Norway, and Sweden are most important. It is hoped, however, that eventually steps will be taken to plant extensive areas in New South Wales with high-class American and other softwoods in order to render the State independent of imported timbers.

In the following table particulars are shown regarding the import and export of timber to and from New South Wales at intervals since 1901. The large import reflects a local demand for softwoods. It is not probable that the export trade will ever assume large proportions, though the forests of the State abound in high-class hardwoods.

Year.	Imports Oversea to New South Wales.				Exports of Australian Produce Oversea from New South Wales.			
	Undressed.		Other.	Total Value.	Undressed.		Other.	Total Value.
	Quantity.	Value.			Quantity.	Value.		
	sup. feet. (000)	£	£	£	sup. feet. (000)	£	£	£
1901	68,369	322,642	137,123	459,765	10,386	66,346	58,664	125,010
1906	84,772	444,563	81,850	526,413	20,322	325,805	9,361	335,166
1911	164,380	955,344	209,028	1,164,372	28,398	250,990	17,949	268,939
1915-16	119,232	814,102	74,305	888,407	15,099	144,486	10,965	155,451
1920-21	93,303	1,904,064	174,910	2,078,974	23,202	447,653	17,072	464,725
1921-22	96,848	1,254,616	160,219	1,414,835	20,301	349,898	5,059	354,957
1922-23	123,028	1,398,702	339,228	1,737,930	19,086	294,049	5,220	299,269
1923-24	156,859	2,008,540	385,089	2,393,629	26,958	437,029	6,898	443,927
1924-25	151,459	1,615,506	379,125	1,994,631	37,030	610,824	7,409	618,233
1925-26	194,393	1,964,596	463,610	2,428,206	23,485	390,439	6,689	397,128

In addition there is a considerable interstate movement of timber by sea, of which complete records are not available. The quantity of timber recorded by the Sydney Harbour Trust as being imported at Sydney from other Australian States in 1924-25 was 17,938,000 superficial feet, valued at £318,600; and in the following year 18,487,000 super. feet valued at £410,100.

Forestry Licenses and Permits.

Licenses and permits are granted for the purposes of obtaining timber and fuel, grazing, sawmilling, ringbarking, and for the occupation of land. The fees for licenses and permits are small, but considerable revenue is gained from royalties on timber, agistment, and occupation fees, etc.

The revenue collected by the State from timber licenses and from royalty on timber during various years since 1911 is shown in the following table:—

Year ended 30th June.	Sales, Rents, Fees, etc.	Royalty on Timber.	Total.	Year ended 30th June.	Sales, Rents, Fees, etc.	Royalty on Timber.	Total.
	£	£	£		£	£	£
1911*	11,153	79,165	90,318	1923	59,882	108,816	168,698
1916	8,701	59,406	68,107	1924	51,747	134,646	186,393
1921	76,141	114,601	190,742	1925	48,798	160,934	209,732
1922	104,234	113,607	217,841				

* Year ended 31st December.

Included in the total for 1924-25 are sales of converted and confiscated material £15,158; and rents for occupation permits, forest leases, etc., £22,604.

The practice of forestry in Europe and America has shown that greater expenditure by the Government means increased profits, and forest improvement in New South Wales, where timber grows more rapidly and to larger size, should yield even more favourable results.

Particulars of expenditure by the Forestry Department during the last five years are shown in the following table:—

Head of Expenditure.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
	£	£	£	£	£
Survey, Organisation, Afforestation, and Re-afforestation	113,507	119,513	65,249	66,454	80,155
Salaries, Travelling Expenses, etc. ...	60,085	64,941	61,925	65,888	67,022
Other	5,948	2,134	9,934	5,364	6,546
Total	179,540	186,588	137,108	137,706	153,723

Persons Employed in Timber Industry.

It has been estimated by the Forestry Department that 13,636 persons were employed in the timber industry during the year 1924-25, viz., 3,799 in felling and cutting; 2,839 in hauling timber to the mills, 4,166 in milling; and 2,832 in other occupations. These figures include persons partially employed, viz., 1,998 in felling and cutting and 1,134 in hauling timber.

FISHERIES.

THE waters along the coast of New South Wales contain numerous varieties of fish, but the fishing industry is being developed very slowly. The principal sources of supply of marine fish are the coastal lakes and estuaries, the sea beaches and ocean waters, while Murray cod is obtained in the inland rivers. Fishermen generally have confined their attention to the coastal lakes and estuaries, but in recent years an appreciable proportion of the market supplies have been obtained by deep-sea trawling.

The most extensive development may be expected in the ocean waters, where large shoals of deep-sea fish such as great tunnies, Spanish mackerel, bonito, mackerel, kingfish, tailer, salmon, and many other pelagic fishes travel in large shoals. There are also immense quantities of pilchards, sprats, and other "herring-kind," as well as sea garfish and others.

Crayfishing and the oyster industry also are capable of great development, and mussels could be farmed successfully in a way somewhat similar to oysters, and in many places where the oyster will not flourish. The expansion of the oyster industry depends to a certain extent upon a diffusion of the knowledge of successful oyster culture among oyster growers. Intense cultivation at Port Stephens has produced excellent results in recent years.

Whaling operations have been conducted intermittently, but it is considered that two shore stations with two steam whaling gunboats each could be maintained profitably on the coast of the State. The season begins in June and ends in November, though whales may be taken before and after that period.

CONTROL OF THE FISHERIES.

Under the Fisheries Act, 1902, control of the fisheries of the State, previously administered by a Commission, was placed in the hands of a Board to supervise the industry, to carry out investigations likely to be of service, and to ensure observance of the regulations in regard to the dimensions of nets, closure of inland and tidal waters, net-fishing, and other such matters. Under an amending Act, in 1910, the Fisheries Board was dissolved and its powers vested in a Minister of the Crown, the Chief Secretary being charged with the administration of the Act.

Fishing Licenses.

Persons catching fish for sale in tidal or inland waters must be licensed, also boats used for this purpose, the annual fee being 5s., which is reduced to half that amount if the license is issued after 30th June and before 1st December.

The number of licenses granted to fishermen during the year 1925 was 3,021, and licenses were issued in respect of 1,703 fishing boats. The fees received amounted to £1,404.

Oyster Leases.

For the purposes of oyster-culture, tidal Crown lands below an approximate high-water mark may be leased at yearly rentals, determined by the Minister. The areas are classified as average, special, or inferior lands.

The leases of average lands are for fifteen years, but may be renewed for a like period. An area upon which an aggregate rental of less than £5 per annum is payable may not be leased to any person unless he is already an oyster lessee.

Leases of special lands are granted for areas of special value after the land has been offered by auction or tender, and are subject to the same conditions as leases of average lands, but need not be confined to areas along the approximate high-water mark.

Leases of inferior lands are granted for a term not exceeding ten years, with the right of renewal for a further term of five years.

During the year 1925, applications for leases numbered 420, representing 85,415 yards of foreshore and 343 acres of off-shore leases. At the end of the year the existing leases numbered 4,686. The length of foreshores held was 1,210,700 yards, and there were deep-water leases to the extent of 2,579 acres. The deposits paid with the applications for leased areas amounted to £924, and the rentals received during the year for leased areas to £10,858.

PRODUCTION FROM FISHERIES.

The most important kinds of fish marketed are snapper, bream, blackfish, whiting, mullet, jewfish, flathead, garfish, and Murray cod—a freshwater fish; tailer, trevally, leather-jacket, and gurnard are readily saleable in the local markets.

Fish.—The quantity consigned to Sydney and Newcastle markets during 1925 amounted to 18,047,545 lb., of which 315,715 lb. were condemned. In addition 247,030 lb. of fish were consigned from the Tweed River to Brisbane, and 2,045,680 lb. are recorded as having been sold in various fishing centres in coastal areas, but this latter figure is incomplete. The total production of fish, as recorded during 1925, was 20,340,255 lb.

The bulk of the supplies is obtained in the estuaries and lakes on the northern part of the coast-line. The quantities of fresh fish obtained from each of the principal fishing grounds of the State are indicated below:—

	1924.	1925.		1924.	1925.
	lb.	lb.		lb.	lb.
Clarence River ...	3,116,803	2,191,798	Botany Bay ...	323,823	317,948
Wallis Lake ...	1,107,257	1,215,770	Richmond River ...	369,217	236,465
Port Stephens ...	617,091	825,794	Hawkesbury River ...	310,823	493,885
Lake Illawarra ...	459,834	371,572	Port Jackson ...	129,895	89,798
Tuggerah Lakes ...	1,275,020	1,164,209	Hastings River ...	199,457	118,105
Lake Macquarie ...	621,708	691,079	Macleay River ...	235,504	235,871
Camden Haven ...	578,656	621,718	St. George's Basin...	213,808	203,022
Manning River ...	647,918	317,559	Wollongong ...	261,265	247,519

In addition to the quantities shown above, 7,694,757 lb., or over one-third of the total quantity marketed was obtained by deep-sea trawling. The actual production of fish was greater than the foregoing figures indicate, because a considerable quantity is sold in proximity to the fishing grounds without passing through the markets, and records of the fish caught by private persons are not obtainable.

Crayfish.—The number of marine crayfish (*Palinurus*) marketed during 1925 was 101,730. The number captured was very much greater, but many were lost by death before marketing. The principal source of supply was the northern crayfish grounds, from Newcastle to Port Macquarie. From Port Stephens and Wallis Lake over 39,000 were sent to market.

Prawns.—A quantity of approximately 1,002,926 lb. of marine prawns (*Penæus*) was marketed during 1925, and about 29,315 lb. were condemned. These figures do not include prawns sold for bait.

Crabs.—About 6,050 dozen of crabs were marketed. They comprised several species of swimming crabs, notably the Blue (*Lupa*) and the Mangrove (*Scylla*).

Oysters.—During the year 1925 the oyster production of the State amounted to 28,546 sacks, each of 3 bushel capacity, valued at £92,774. These consisted of Rock oyster (*Ostrea cucullata*). This output was principally the result of artificial cultivation.

Oversea Trade in Fish.

A very considerable proportion of the local requirements of fish are imported from countries outside Australia, the value of fish so imported during the year ended June, 1925, being £568,874, including 8,754,380 lb. of tinned fish valued at £422,957. The value of fish exported overseas was £33,115, including tinned fish to the value of £11,270. In the following year the imports, £636,691, included tinned fish 9,392,437 lb., £472,853; and the value of the exports was £44,741.

Value of Fisheries Production.

The value of the production from fisheries of New South Wales, as recorded during the year ended 30th June, 1925, was approximately £540,000, including fresh fish, £410,000, oysters, crayfish, prawns, etc., £130,000.

The value of production is estimated as at the place of production and is exclusive of fish condemned, of fish sold in fishing and other centres and not recorded, or used for fertiliser and oil, and of the value of molluscs other than oysters.

The following table shows the value of production from fisheries since the year 1915-16:—

Year ended 30th June.	Value. (000 omitted.)	Year ended 30th June.	Value. (000 omitted.)
	£		£
1916	325	1921	491
1917	303	1922	538
1918	307	1923	491
1919	335	1924	520
1920	470	1925	540

FISH PRESERVING.

Many fishes specially suitable for treatment by canning, smoking, or salting are obtainable in the waters along the coast of New South Wales, but irregularity of supplies and climatic disadvantages have militated against the success of canning factories.

FISH CULTURE AND ACCLIMATISATION.

Acclimatisation of non-indigenous fishes, particularly trout, has met with success in New South Wales, and trout fishing constitutes an important attraction for tourists and sportsmen in many districts. Young fry are distributed annually from a trout hatchery at Prospect.



AGRICULTURE.

THE land of New South Wales, comprising an area of nearly two hundred million acres, is practically all under occupation. It embraces so great a variety of soils and climate that almost any kind of crop, whether specially the produce of temperate, and even cold, climates, or of sub-tropical regions, may be grown. The nature of the soil varies greatly in different parts of the country; but, except in the inaccessible or rugged portions of the mountain chains, and the more arid regions of the north-western districts, the soil is almost everywhere capable of productive use. The variety of climate experienced extending through 8 degrees of latitude—from 29 degrees to 37 degrees south—causes a corresponding variety in the kinds of produce which may be grown successfully. The area absolutely unfit for occupation of any sort has been estimated roughly at less than 5,000,000 acres. Success in agricultural operations in New South Wales is, however, altogether independent of the mere fitness of the soil for cultivation. Up to the present, experience has shown that an irregular rainfall and a want of uniformity in the seasons, which are the chief characteristics of the climate of a large part of the interior, are the greatest drawbacks to the advance of agriculture, but research and experiment are extending steadily the areas on which agricultural pursuits may be followed with success.

The land adaptable to cultivation, under existing conditions, is found mainly in the Eastern and Central Divisions, which cover three-fifths of the area of the State; but, owing to the confined nature of their basins, the portions of the valleys of the coastal rivers adapted for agriculture are limited, and the region is given over principally to dairy-farming. Large tracts of the tablelands are hilly and rock-strewn, and are used mainly for sheep and cattle raising. In the northern hinterland there is very little agriculture, and sheep-raising is still the principal industry, although that division has a plentiful rainfall, and large areas are adaptable to wheat-culture. At present, therefore, agriculture is confined principally to the central and southern slopes and plains of the interior, but even in the extensive and well-named Riverina district only a small portion of the land has been cultivated, and great expansion is still possible.

The meagre rainfall and the absence of irrigation facilities in the Western Division, which includes eighty million acres, or two-fifths of the surface of the State, have hitherto rendered this great area practically unfit for cultivation, although it is eminently suited for raising merino sheep.

The agricultural potentialities of the more easterly areas have not yet been fully developed, but taking a long view, wheat-growing is steadily intensifying in the central districts, while mixed farming, that is to say, wheat-growing in conjunction with sheep-raising, is extending westward. Moreover, factors such as the evolution of improved plant types, the introduction of dry-farming and other improved methods of land tillage, the extension of irrigation facilities, and the development of the railway system, are expanding the area adaptable to successful agriculture and encouraging the cultivation of new areas.

AREA OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS.

A brief historical note on the growth of agriculture was published on page 709 of the Official Year-book, 1921, and a comparison of the areas cultivated in divisions of the State since 1905 appeared on page 712.

Rapid extension in the area cropped occurred toward the end of the last century, and yet more rapid extension between 1910 and 1916. The decline in the three years 1918-1920 was due to the occurrence of bad seasons and to the uncertain outlook which faced the growing of wheat for export, but with the improvement of market and seasonal conditions there has been a recovery. The cultivation of maize and oats, which had fallen off, has recovered in recent years. Other crops are of small extent.

The progress of cultivation since 1891, in quinquennial periods, is shown in the following table:—

Years ended June—	Average Area under—		Acres per Inhabitant under—	
	Cultivation, including Grasses.	Crops.	Cultivation.	Crops.
	acres.	acres		
1891-95	1,398,199	1,048,554	1·18	0·88
1896-00	2,252,649	1,894,857	1·73	1·46
1901-05	2,942,506	2,436,765	2·10	1·74
1906-10	3,575,873	2,824,253	2·34	1·84
1911-15	5,187,850	4,025,165	2·93	2·27
1916-20	6,011,049	4,615,913	3·09	2·37
1921-25	6,599,048	4,665,362	3·04	2·15
1921	6,280,517	4,464,342	3·01	2·14
1922	6,451,363	4,445,848	3·03	2·09
1923	6,619,538	4,694,088	3·05	2·11
1924	6,738,958	4,808,046	3·05	2·18
1925	6,904,866	4,911,148	3·06	2·18

The area of land under sown grasses (1,993,718 acres) consists principally of lands in the coastal districts, cleared, and sometimes rudely cultivated and sown with grasses for the maintenance of dairy stock.

The average area under crop in 1916-20 was comparatively high by reason of the sudden expansion of wheat-growing in 1915-16, when the area sown with wheat was 5,122,245 acres, or approximately 1,000,000 greater than in 1914-15. This area declined by reason of bad seasons to 3,068,540 acres in 1919-20, after which it gradually increased to 3,960,204 acres in 1924-25, but a decrease of approximately 300,000 acres occurred in the wheat crop of 1925-26. However, the expansion of the area under crop in 1923-24 and 1924-25 was due less to the extension of wheat-growing than to an increase in other forms of cultivation.

Particulars were obtained in 1925 of the area of alienated land (inclusive of that required to depasture working horses and milking cows necessary on the farm) which, in the opinion of the occupier, was suitable for cultivation after the removal of standing timber. The area so ascertained was 21,576,995 acres, or 33 per cent. of the area of alienated land occupied for agricultural and pastoral purposes. A small proportion of the land included in this area is situated in districts where the rainfall has not yet been found adequate for agricultural production on a commercial scale. Included in the designation "alienated land" are lands in course of alienation and certain lands held under perpetual lease.

The following table shows the divisional distribution of agricultural lands during the season 1924-25. The divisions referred to are shown on the map forming the frontispiece of this Year Book:—

Division.	Total Area of Division.	Area of Alienated and Crown Lands under—			Area of Alienated Land Occupied in Holdings of 1 acre and over—*		
		Occupation in Holdings of 1 acre and over.	Crops.	Sown Grasses.	Suitable for Cultivation.	Under Crops, 1924-25.	Proportion of Suitable Area Cultivated.
	000 acres.	000 acres.	000 acres.	000 acres.	000 acres.	000 acres.	per cent.
Coastal—							
North Coast	7,009	4,494	110	1,504	518	109	21·0
Hunter and Manning..	8,355	5,483	102	265	442	102	23·1
Metropolitan	972	326	81	1	129	31	24·0
South Coast	6,089	2,567	51	155	320	51	15·9
Total	22,425	12,870	294	1,925	1,409	293	20·8
Tableland -							
Northern	8,165	6,512	80	6	381	80	21·0
Central	10,897	7,462	398	8	1,480	391	26·4
Southern	7,597	6,084	44	1	313	41	13·1
Total	26,659	20,058	522	15	2,174	512	23·6
Western Slopes—							
North	9,193	8,273	391	5	1,471	383	26·0
Central	7,839	6,791	1,075	3	3,532	1,034	28·9
• South	11,230	9,160	1,191	10	4,047	1,138	28·1
Total	28,262	24,229	2,657	18	9,100	2,555	28·1
Central Plains—							
North	9,500	7,309	115	1	1,114	99	8·9
Central	14,650	13,500	156	..	2,208	144	6·5
Riverina	16,708	15,932	1,161	12	5,431	1,057	19·5
Total	40,853	37,181	1,432	13	8,753	1,300	14·8
Western	80,319	73,212	6	23	141	2	1·4
All Divisions ..	198,523	172,550	4,911	1,994	*21,577	4,662	21·6

* Total area of alienated land in holdings of 1 acre and over used for pastoral and agricultural purposes was 65,209,412 acres, which includes lands in course of alienation and certain lands under perpetual lease.

The divisions in this table, as published prior to 1923, were arranged on a county basis, but as the statistics of 1922-23 and subsequent years have been collected with the shire as the unit of area, a re-alignment of the territorial divisions had to be undertaken. This alteration produced considerable changes in the totals shown for individual divisions, and comparison of these with previous years is not possible.

NUMBER OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS.

A consideration of the number of holdings on which land was cultivated, and the number of crops grown, affords guidance as to the popularity of the various crops. The number of farms on which wheat is sown, so far from exhibiting any permanent increase, declined after 1915-16, owing to bad seasons, but the area devoted to this crop has practically doubled in the past twenty years. Several minor industries have been languishing over lengthy periods, and less attention is being paid to maize, potatoes, and sugar-cane, than formerly. The cultivation of oats has extended, citrus fruit-growing is gaining rapidly in importance, and the occurrence of good seasons and high prices has given some stimulus to tobacco-growing.

Relatively to the area cultivated, the number of holdings on which maize is grown is greatly in excess of that of wheat, owing to the fact that many dairy-farmers crop small areas for use on the farms; whereas portion of the area under wheat—varying from one-fourth to one-seventh—is cultivated on the “shares” system, by which a number of growers may be engaged in cultivating one holding.

The number of cultivated holdings, and the number of crops cultivated on them at intervals since 1900-01 are shown below.

Kind of Crop.	Number of Holdings upon which Crop was grown.					
	1900-01.	1905-06.	1915-16.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Wheat	20,149	19,049	22,453	18,632	18,056	17,690
Maize	17,563	17,475	14,869	15,333	17,441	16,607
Barley	2,246	1,755	2,538	2,214	2,119	1,886
Oats	11,547	10,740	13,723	15,922	16,618	16,664
Potatoes	9,521	8,552	4,643	3,571	3,661	3,908
Tobacco	31	98	97	196	119	76
Sugar-cane	1,214	1,113	694	792	865	871
Grapes	1,832	1,530	1,388	1,845	1,834	1,880
Fruit—Citrus	1,905	2,385	5,787	5,907	5,621	5,748
Other	8,064	6,846	8,760	7,830	7,288	7,434
Market Gardens ..	2,266	2,842	3,301	2,220	2,603	2,448
Total Cultivated Holdings* ...	45,828	46,349	50,728	49,640	50,784	50,771

* Holdings on which more than one crop was grown are included once only.

Maize and oats crops for market are grown on only a small proportion of the holdings where they are cultivated.

Although the number of cultivated holdings has not increased appreciably since 1901, the agricultural industry has grown very much, as may be seen

from the comparison on page 598. The total number of holdings of one acre and upwards used for agricultural and pastoral purposes in 1924-25 was 78,893, and on 50,771 holdings areas of varying sizes were cultivated. Only 11,510 holdings were used exclusively for agricultural purposes. In addition, however, 18,399 combined agricultural with pastoral pursuits, 5,919 combined agriculture with dairying, 1,990 combined all three pursuits, and a limited amount of cultivation of a non-commercial character was conducted in connection with other activities. There were, in all, 28,122 holdings without any cultivated land.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

The area and production of the principal crops of New South Wales are shown below. The year ended 30th June, 1916, in which the area cultivated was greater than in any other season, has been included for comparative purposes:—

Crop.	1915-16.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Wheat (grain)—					
Area acres	4,188,865	3,194,949	2,942,857	2,945,335	3,550,078
Total yield bush.	66,764,910	42,767,000	28,667,949	33,176,000	59,767,000
Average yield p.a. ... bush.	15·9	13·4	9·7	11·3	16·8
Maize—					
Area acres	154,130	146,687	138,169	166,974	146,564
Total yield bush.	3,773,600	3,976,300	3,287,523	4,623,000	4,208,200
Average yield p.a. ... bush.	24·5	27·1	23·8	27·7	28·7
Oats (grain)—					
Area acres	58,636	69,795	74,006	86,693	123,517
Total yield bush.	1,345,698	1,169,900	1,250,772	1,570,300	2,511,400
Average yield p.a. ... bush.	23·0	16·8	16·9	18·1	20·3
Hay—					
Area acres	1,108,919	750,928	889,457	1,023,717	763,287
Total yield tons	1,573,938	1,029,124	1,060,979	1,172,805	1,152,613
Average yield p.a. ... tons	1·42	1·37	1·19	1·14	1·51
Green Crops—					
Area acres	162,945	128,965	499,714	429,772	166,073
Potatoes—					
Area acres	19,589	29,494	22,568	21,879	23,403
Total yield tons	44,445	57,835	35,726	61,079	57,274
Average yield p.a. ... tons	2·27	1·96	1·58	2·79	2·45
Sugar-cane—					
Area cut acres	6,030	5,400	5,879	6,733	7,761
Total yield tons	157,748	149,474	147,992	132,084	228,978
Average yield p.a. ... tons	26·16	27·68	25·17	19·61	29·50
Fruit—					
Area acres	63,823	89,194	87,774	87,463	88,714
Market Gardens—					
Area acres	10,967	8,244	7,761	8,543	8,837
Total yield £	400,860	623,243	621,082	628,728	657,152
Average yield p.a. ... £	36·6	75·6	80·2	73·6	74·4
All other Crops—					
Area acres	26,843	24,114	28,274	34,782	36,251
Total Area* acres	5,300,747	4,447,770	4,696,459	4,811,891	4,914,485

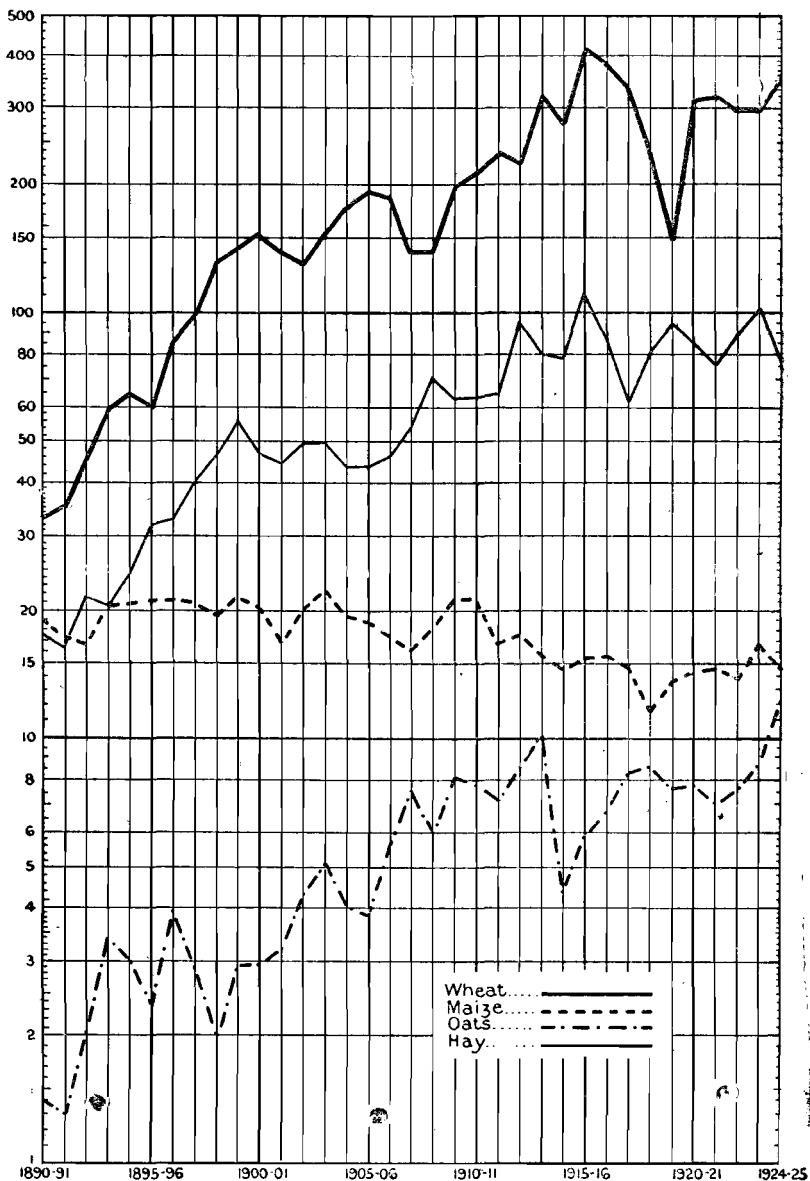
* Including area double-cropped.

It will be observed that wheat is the only crop extensively grown. The larger part of the area devoted to hay is also under wheat, but considerable proportions are used for the production of oats and lucerne hay.†

† See page 642.

AREA UNDER PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1890-91 to 1924-25.

Ratio Graph.

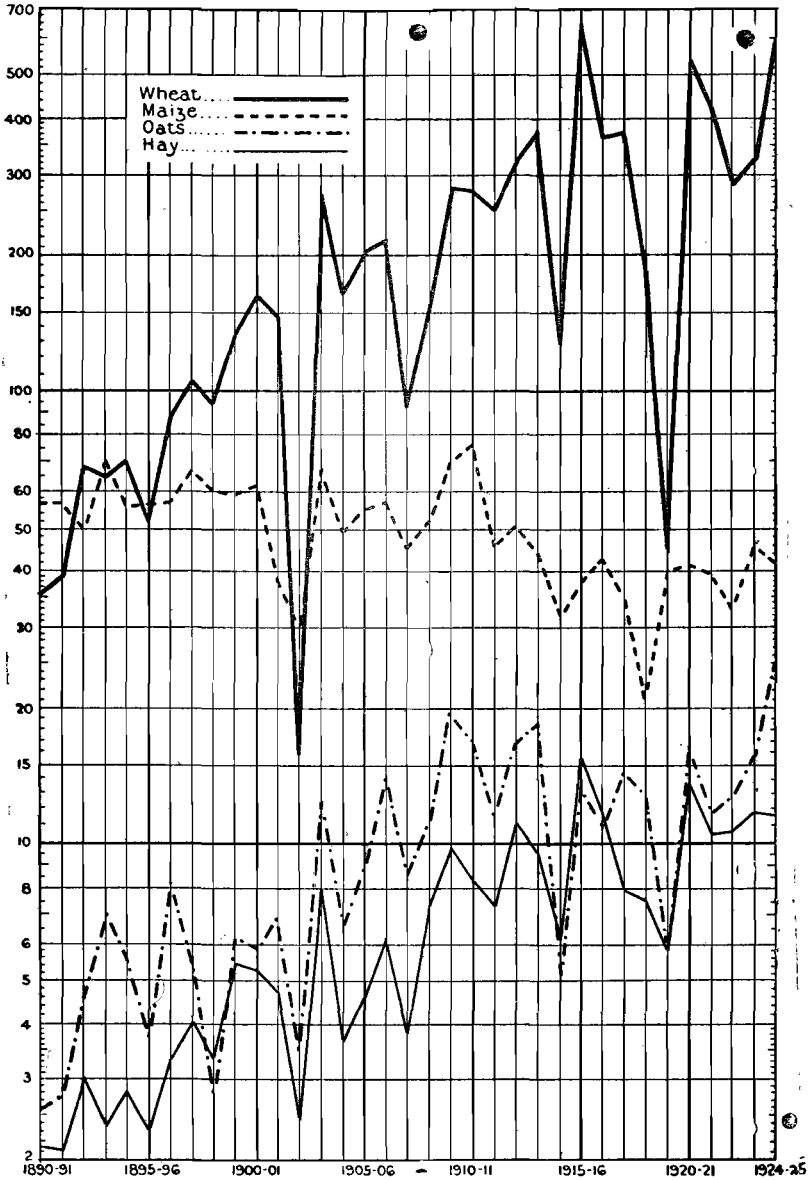


The numbers at the side of the graph represent 10,000 acres.

The diagram is a ratio graph, and the vertical scale being logarithmic, the rise or fall of each curve represents the percentage of change. Equal distances on the scale represent the same percentage of change, and when the curves run parallel, they indicate an increase or decrease in equal proportion, irrespective of absolute numbers. Actual areas are shown by means of the numbers on the side of the graph.

PRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1890-91 to 1924-25.

Ratio Graph.



The numbers at the side of the graph represent 100,000 bushels of wheat, maize, and oats, and 100,000 tons of hay.

The diagram is a ratio graph, and, the vertical scale being logarithmic, the rise or fall of each curve represents the percentage of change. Equal distances on the scale represent the same percentage of change, and when the curves run parallel, they indicate an increase or decrease in equal proportion, irrespective of absolute numbers. Actual quantities are shown by means of the numbers at the side of the graph.

In addition to the area shown as cultivated there were at 30th June, 1925, 1,993,718 acres under sown grasses; 33,229,630 acres of Crown lands were ringbarked, partly cleared, and under native grasses; and 3,799,371 acres were ready for cultivation on alienated holdings, including 2,871,430 acres which had been cropped previously, 159,634 acres of new land cleared and prepared for ploughing, and 768,307 acres in fallow.

Value of Agricultural Production.

The estimated value of the agricultural production of the State (including the Federal Territory) during the last five seasons and the proportionate value of each crop to the total value, are shown in the following table, the values being based on prices realised on the farm:—

Crop.	Value.					Proportion per cent.				
	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1920-21	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
	£	£	£	£	£					
Wheat	20,164,060	9,977,550	6,689,200	7,002,840	16,684,950	62·3	49·2	31·4	37·0	58·0
Maize	974,260	894,670	890,260	847,550	631,230	3·0	4·4	4·2	4·1	2·2
Barley	23,270	16,350	9,960	14,580	28,560	0·1	0·1	0·1	0·1	0·1
Oats	241,480	199,820	234,750	268,260	293,000	0·7	1·0	1·1	1·3	1·0
Hay and Straw .. .	7,494,209	5,531,750	8,923,500	7,652,020	6,712,800	23·2	27·3	41·9	37·2	23·3
Green Food	437,886	477,188	792,960	734,950	662,030	1·3	2·4	3·7	3·6	2·3
Potatoes	309,910	243,140	318,280	323,720	319,820	1·0	1·2	1·5	1·6	1·1
Sugar-cane	287,250	325,110	347,780	250,680	446,510	0·9	1·6	1·6	1·4	1·6
Grapes	143,020	125,620	179,540	171,800	193,670	0·4	0·6	0·8	0·8	0·7
Wine and Brandy .. .	127,420	113,510	148,210	253,340	213,330	0·4	0·6	0·7	1·4	0·7
Fruit—Citrus	477,580	530,380	628,109	521,730	669,420	1·5	2·6	2·9	2·5	2·1
Other	577,290	812,210	891,010	748,640	850,200	1·8	4·0	4·3	3·6	2·9
Market-gardens .. .	556,587	623,243	621,080	628,730	657,150	1·7	3·1	2·9	3·1	2·3
Other Crops	553,028	390,229	627,130	476,890	482,120	1·7	1·9	2·9	2·3	1·7
Total	32,372,550	20,260,770	21,300,860	20,555,740	28,784,820	100	100	100	100	100

No deduction has been made from the values shown above for expenditure incurred in production. The total amount expended in fertilisers, green food, and water in 1923-24 was £575,000. Seed wheat is included in the production of grain and the fodder used for farm stock is included at its market value.

The agricultural wealth of New South Wales at present depends mainly on the return from wheat crops, including hay and straw, the value of these crops in 1924-25 being £19,707,650, or 68 per cent. of the total. Maize is next in importance, but the returns from other individual crops, except fruit, are comparatively small.

In 1920-21 the remarkable yield of wheat which followed the breaking of the drought and the high price guaranteed by the Government, produced by far the most valuable crop of wheat yet harvested in New South Wales. In 1921-22 neither the season nor the markets were so favourable for wheat, and the value of grain produced was less than half that in 1920-21. This decline, with the decrease in the value of hay crops, caused a drop of £12,000,000 in the value of agricultural production. The value of some minor crops, notably fruit, increased. In 1922-23 the wheat crop was only two-thirds of the quantity of the previous year, but the price did not increase. However, owing to an adverse pastoral season, there was a heavy demand for hay, which rose in price and proved by far the largest item in the value of agricultural production for the year. Although the yield of wheat and hay increased in 1923-24, prices fell, and the aggregate value did not increase commensurately with the increased production. In 1924-25 a large wheat crop and favourable world markets coincided and the aggregate value of the harvest rose to a very high level. The value of hay crops declined owing to a fall in prices due to the favourable pastoral season.

Value of Production per Acre.

The following table, showing the value of production from agriculture, together with the average per acre, affords an interesting summary of the expansion of agricultural pursuits and a measure of the condition of the industry:—

Years ended June--	Average Annual Area Cultivated.	Average Annual Value of Production.	Average Value-per Acre.
	acres.	£	£ s. d.
1887-91	858,367	4,030,611	4 13 11
1892-96	1,147,733	3,812,393	3 6 5
1897-1901	2,114,250	5,592,620	2 12 11
1902-06	2,515,268	6,302,903	2 10 1
1907-11	2,933,021	8,565,164	2 18 5
1912-16	4,507,748	12,867,474	2 17 1
1917-1921	4,349,814	16,986,250	3 17 8
1922	4,445,848	20,260,770	4 11 2
1923	4,694,088	21,300,860	4 10 9
1924	4,808,046	20,555,740	4 5 6
1925	4,911,148	28,784,820	5 17 3

The comparatively high value of production per acre shown in the ten years prior to 1897 was due to the fact that agriculture was on a smaller scale; cultivation was more intense than it has been in recent years, and the yield per acre usually higher. The increased value shown since 1918 has been due mainly to the high prices received for produce, but in 1921, this factor was augmented by the record yield of wheat per acre. During the year ended 30th June, 1922, the value of production per acre for all the principal crops, except sugar-cane, was lower than in the previous year, but still considerably above previous levels. In 1922-23 the returns from wheat for grain declined very heavily, but the general average was sustained by a rise in value of all the other principal crops except sugar-cane. The yield of wheat and hay increased in 1923-24, but the prices declined heavily. The chief factors in the high average value per acre in 1924-25 were the favourable prices and heavy yield of wheat.

The average value per acre of various crops is shown below in comparison with the average for the ten years preceding 1924-25:—

Crop.	Average Values per Acre.				
	Ten years preceding 1913-14.	Ten years preceding 1924-25	1922-23.	*1923-24.	1924-25.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wheat for Grain ...	1 17 1	2 13 11	2 5 5	2 11 8	4 14 0
Maize for Grain ...	4 6 11	6 1 5	6 8 10	5 1 6	4 6 2
Oats for Grain ...	2 4 9	2 17 0	3 3 5	3 1 9	2 7 5
Hay ...	3 8 9	6 0 10	9 19 9	7 9 3	8 15 8
Potatoes ...	11 2 5	13 1 11	14 2 4	14 15 11	13 12 4
Sugar-cane†	21 9 4	43 10 8	59 3 2	41 13 9	57 10 8
Vineyards †	16 12 4	30 16 2	38 9 3	45 15 5	37 3 1
Orchards†	10 17 9	21 8 4	24 6 3	24 5 7	28 1 3
Market-gardens ...	31 7 5	51 13 4	80 0 6	73 11 11	74 7 3

* Revised. † Productive area only.

This average value of production per acre measures the effect from year to year of yield obtained and prices realised, and may therefore be said to furnish an index of the combined effect of market and season on the average

returns obtained by farmers from their holdings. To make the analysis a complete reflex of the condition of agriculture, modifying factors, such as the cost of production, drought, and other causes of loss, should be taken into consideration.

Considered as gross returns, however, the averages for the decennial periods ending 1913-14 and 1923-24 afford guidance as to the effect of some of the economic conditions governing the industry, and show that for some of the principal crops the conditions prevailing in recent years have been adverse to expansion. Although in the latter of the two decennial periods the general average of wholesale prices was approximately 68 per cent. higher than in the former, the rise in the average value of crops per acre was approximately as follows:—Wheat, 46 per cent.; maize, 40 per cent.; oats, 27 per cent.; and potatoes, 18 per cent. Thus for the principal grain and root crops market and seasonal conditions are now much less favourable than they were before the steep rise in price levels that occurred during and after the war. The returns for hay and the remaining crops shown above have been comparatively more remunerative.

WHOLESALE PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.

The prices realised for agricultural produce in New South Wales, when not regulated by any authority, vary with the seasons, and, therefore, show very great fluctuations. Wheat and flour, in which alone there is a foreign trade, were closely regulated in price between 1914 and 1922. The prices of flour, bran, and pollard, are generally fixed in relation to the price of wheat by the Flour Mill Owners' Association of New South Wales. Wheat sold locally to millers for export as flour, up to 1920, however, brought considerably higher prices than the averages shown below. In the case of other produce, local production falls short of the requirements of the State, importation is usually necessary, and prices for these commodities are determined by external market conditions.

The quotations here given represent the average prices obtained for farm products in the various Sydney markets; for country districts due allowance must be made for cost of transportation, &c. The average for the year represents the mean of the prices ruling during each month, and does not take into account the quantity sold during the month. The prices ruling in each month of the year are shown in the "Statistical Register." The figures are those quoted by the middleman, and not those obtained by the producers:—

Commodity.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926*.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wheat .. ..bush.	0 5 1½	0 8 7½	0 8 8	0 5 8	0 5 3½	0 5 5	0 6 2	0 6 7
Flour ton	11 5 9	13 10 11	19 6 7	12 6 9	11 3 4	12 17 2	14 17 10	14 10 3
Bran .. ..bush.	0 1 2½	0 1 9½	0 1 7½	0 1 6½	0 1 7½	0 1 1½	0 1 4½	0 1 5½
Pollard "	0 1 3	0 2 0	0 1 8½	0 1 7½	0 1 8½	0 1 3½	0 1 6½	0 1 3
Oats "	0 5 9½	0 5 7	0 3 5½	0 4 1½	0 4 7½	0 4 6½	0 4 10½	0 5 9
Maize "	0 8 0	0 8 7	0 5 3½	0 4 11½	0 6 0½	0 4 3	0 4 7½	0 6 0
Potatoes (local) ton	14 8 3	12 6 3	6 0 2	6 15 11	11 9 3	6 6 10	11 5 7	13 9 6
Onions "	15 12 5	20 7 3	5 12 1	12 7 10	6 10 6	13 10 6	16 10 9	16 2 8
Hay—								
Oaten ton	9 19 2	11 18 8	7 11 10	8 17 8	8 17 10	7 10 2	7 2 8	8 16 6
Lucerne "	10 9 7	11 6 10	5 18 5	6 13 7	9 4 9	6 19 3	7 11 3	8 11 0
Chaff—								
Wheaten "	8 18 0	10 12 11	6 8 8	6 16 8	7 4 3	6 0 9	7 0 5	7 16 1

* First six months.

The combined price variations since 1901 of agricultural produce in Sydney markets, weighted according to the average consumption in the three years 1911-15, are shown below. The prices in 1911 have been adopted as base and called 1000.

Year.	Index Number.	Year.	Index Number.	Year.	Index Number.
1901	834	1910	1012	1919	1990
1902	1265	1911	1000	1920	2430
1903	1181	1912	1339	1921	1750
1904	789	1913	1069	1922	1638
1905	972	1914	1135	1923	1720
1906	929	1915	1648	1924	1475
1907	1003	1916	1163	1925	1680
1908	1343	1917	1127	1926	1889*
1909	1134	1918	1377		

* First six months.

It will be observed that, though seasonal causes operated to produce high prices in 1902, 1903, 1908, 1915, 1919 and 1920, there was, nevertheless, a marked rise in the price level due to other causes. In December, 1921, the index number reached 1,434—the lowest point touched since 1918. Subsequent turning points were December, 1922, when it had risen to 1,895; February, 1923, when it had fallen to 1,639; June, 1923, when it reached 1,860. In April, 1924, it had fallen to 1,393, but there has since been a sustained improvement and the high level of 1910 was reached in April, 1926.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

For harvesting grain-crops the reaper and binder, the stripper, and the harvester are used, and there is considerable difference of opinion regarding the relative efficiency of each of these implements. The reaper and binder is employed almost exclusively in moist districts, but over the greater portion of the wheat areas conditions are favourable to the use of the harvester. A modern type of harvester, particularly adapted to Australian conditions, produced and developed locally, has contributed largely to the expansion of wheat cultivation, since it has enabled grain to be garnered with a considerable saving of time and labour. It is, however, a matter of some debate whether this useful implement is adaptable to the conditions which will govern harvesting should the system of bulk-handling of grain receive extensive application.

The following statement shows the area cropped, the total value of the agricultural machinery used, and the value of the machinery used per acre, in Divisions of the State in the year 1924-25:—

Division.	Area under Crop.	Value of Agricultural Machinery and Implements.	Value per Acre.
	acres.	£	£ s. d.
Coastal	296,642	1,029,454	3 9 5
Tableland	522,935	1,240,455	2 7 5
Western Slopes	2,657,302	4,425,633	1 13 4
Central Plains and Riverina	1,431,882	2,669,657	1 17 3
Western	5,724	62,531	10 18 6
Total	4,914,485	9,427,730	1 18 4

In the coastal and tableland districts the areas under cultivation are small, including many small holdings highly developed for fruit-growing, dairy-ing and market gardening, while on the slopes and plains the implements used serve large wheat farms. In the Western Division are a number of small irrigation settlements, but the area there farmed is too small to give an average which might be considered satisfactory for purposes of comparison.

Increased use of agricultural machinery has been a feature in the development of agriculture in New South Wales during the past twenty years. This matter is further discussed under the next heading.

PERSONS ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE.

The following table provides a comparison of the number of persons returned by land-holders as being constantly engaged in cultivating rural holdings as their principal activity. Casual and itinerant workers are omitted from account, but as the proportion of rural labour performed by such workers is, in the aggregate, relatively small the number of persons shown in the following table may be accepted as a reliable guide to the variations in the number of persons earning a livelihood directly from agriculture. Comparisons of the area under crop and the value of machinery used are added:—

Year.	Persons Per- manently En- gaged.*	Area under Crop.	Value of Machinery Used.*	Year.	Persons Per- manently En- gaged.*	Area under Crop.	Value of Machinery Used.*
	No.	acres.	£		No.	acres.	£
1913-14	59,813	4,568,841	5,029,938	1919-20	47,392	3,770,155	6,128,753
1914-15	58,020	4,808,627	5,159,959	1920-21	48,896	4,464,342	7,120,381
1915-16	56,904	5,794,835	5,362,067	1921-22	47,268	4,445,848	7,884,713
1916-17	52,758	5,163,030	5,449,657	1922-23	48,154	4,694,088	8,536,164
1917-18	48,384	4,460,701	5,615,995	1923-24	46,823	4,811,891	8,799,353
1918-19	43,823	3,890,844	5,696,916	1924-25	46,278	4,914,485	9,427,730

* Principally in cultivating the soil.

Particulars of the classes and total wages of persons engaged in rural industries are shown in part "Rural Settlement" of this Year Book, and in part "Primary Production" of the Statistical Register of New South Wales.

The decline in the number of persons engaged in agriculture during the first five years shown above was probably due mainly to enlistments for military services, although the adverse conditions ruling in the industry exercised a depressing influence. This latter cause doubtless operated to a marked extent during the severe drought which prevailed between 1918 and June, 1920. Although in 1919-20 there was an almost complete failure of the wheat crops of the State, and agricultural operations were considerably restricted, the number of persons engaged in agricultural employment increased as a result of the demobilisation of large numbers of the expeditionary forces.

Apparently the number of persons permanently engaged in cultivating rural holdings is now more than 10,000 less than in the years immediately preceding the war, although the area cultivated is approximately the same. The increase in the value of the machinery used, particularly during the last five years, suggests as an explanation that the improvements in farm plant render less human labour necessary. This explanation is strengthened by the considerations that the average area sown with wheat per farmer

is increasing, and that the number of farms used only for agriculture increased from about 7,500 in pre-war years to 11,510 in 1924-25, indicating the rapid growth of a specialised class of agriculturists. Owing to the pronounced variations of seasonal factors, it is necessary in making comparisons to consider the average of periods when conditions were approximately the same.

The number of persons recorded at the Census of 1921 as being engaged in agricultural pursuits was 94,508, of whom 93,598 were males and 910 females. This represented an increase of 15,999 males and a decrease of 726 females since 1911, the net increase being 15,273 persons. In the same period the proportion of male breadwinners engaged in agricultural pursuits decreased slightly from 13·4 per cent. to 13·1 per cent., and the proportion of persons engaged in agricultural pursuits decreased from 4·8 per cent. to 4·5 per cent. of the total population.

The census classification includes persons whose employment is of a casual nature as well as certain Government officials, farm servants, and others connected with agricultural operations, but not actually engaged in cultivating the soil. The numbers recorded, therefore, are not comparable with those shown in the above table as permanently and principally employed in cultivating the soil.

FERTILISERS.

In New South Wales superphosphates is the only artificial fertiliser used extensively, the soils in the wheat areas being generally deficient in phosphoric acid. Tests of manure conducted on the farmers' experiment plots indicate that benefits derived from the application of superphosphates to wheat-lands, as a general rule, are most marked in the southern portion of the wheat-belt, viz., the South-western Slope and the Riverina. The beneficial results gradually diminish throughout the western districts which form the central portion of the wheat-belt, and in the north-western districts no advantage is gained by the use of this fertiliser. The results may be affected, however, by the fact that fallowing is more common in the south than in the west, and much more than in the north. In wheat-growing the amount of superphosphates applied is generally only 56 lb. per acre. The average in 1924-25 was 58 lb. The number of farms using manures in 1924-25 was 14,821.

The following table shows the area of land and the quantity of manure used during the year 1924-25:—

Division.	Area under Crop.	Total Area Manured.	Proportion of Area Manured to Area under Crop.	Manures Used.			
				Natural (only).	Natural and Artificial, in Combination.		Artificial (only).
					Natural.	Artificial.	
	acres.	acres.	per cent.	loads.	loads.	cwt.	cwt.
Coastal	296,642	48,431	16·3	66,851	93,711	80,735	159,509
Tableland	522,935	140,454	26·9	12,411	514	421	96,250
Western Slopes ...	2,657,302	1,344,426	50·6	3,005	...	...	646,118
Central Plains ...	270,539	108,517	40·1	990	...	...	40,185
Riverina	1,161,343	934,664	84·7	1,580	530	70	539,558
Western	5,724	816	14·3	995	420	70	6,796
Whole State ...	4,914,485	2,627,308	53·5	85,832	95,175	81,296	1,458,416

The greater part of the natural manures is used in the metropolitan division. The total area treated with natural manures was relatively small, being only 16,326 acres, inclusive of the area on which both natural and artificial manures were used.

The quantities of the principal kinds of artificial fertiliser used in 1924-25 were 1,343,429 cwt. superphosphates and 88,086 cwt. of bone-dust in manuring 2,586,131 and 21,923 acres respectively.

The application of manures to agricultural lands is practised most extensively in the southern districts, the proportion of the cultivated area manured there in 1924-25 being 80 per cent. Only 1 per cent. of the lands cropped in the northern districts, and 35 per cent. of lands cropped in the central districts were manured.

In the past five years the practice of fertilising has extended, there being an increase of over 900,000 acres, or 53 per cent. in the area manured, and of 668,000 cwt. or 78 per cent. in the amount of artificial fertilisers used annually. The proportion of the area manured to the area under crop in 1924-25 was a record, being 53·5 per cent.

The following table shows the total area cultivated, the total area manured, and the nature of the manures employed, in various years between 1907-8 and 1924-25:—

Season.	Total Area under Crop.	Total Area Manured.	Proportion of Area Manured to Area under Crop.	Manures Used—	
				Natural.	Artificial.
	acres.	acres.	per cent.	loads.	cwt.
1907-08	2,570,137	423,678	16·5	144,021	276,120
1913-14	4,568,841	2,226,742	48·7	166,753	1,010,596
1915-16	5,794,835	2,753,431	47·5	177,788	1,132,446
1920-21	4,464,342	1,998,429	44·8	160,361	998,191
1921-22	4,445,848	2,104,329	47·3	176,327	1,053,710
1922-23	4,694,088	2,404,066	51·2	181,656	1,243,129
1923-24	4,811,891	2,313,602	48·1	196,697	1,327,771
1924-25	4,914,485	2,627,308	53·5	181,007	1,539,712

Extensive manurial trials are made regularly by the Department of Agriculture with the view of encouraging the adoption of better methods, and of demonstrating to farmers that largely-increased yields result from scientific cultivation. It is in this important respect that much hope rests for the ultimate improvement of the low average wheat yield at present obtaining.

The sale of artificial manures is regulated by the Fertilisers Act of 1904, under the provisions of which measure the vendor is required to furnish to the purchaser a statement as to their nature and chemical composition. Further legislation has been urged for the more adequate protection of farmers.

SHARE-FARMING.

The system of working the land known as share-farming has played an important part in the development of agriculture in New South Wales. It took its rise towards the end of the last century, and helped to overcome the difficulties which had retarded the extension of cultivation. Land-holders could not obtain workmen to till large areas of their land, while new settlers were impeded for lack of cleared land, and of the necessary farming facilities.

The principles of the system are as follow:—The owner provides suitable land and sometimes seed and fertiliser, and the farmer generally provides the necessary plant and labour. The contract usually is that the land be operated for a specified purpose and a fixed time. Various arrangements are made for sharing the product. Sometimes the parties to the agreement take equal shares of the produce up to a specified yield, and any excess goes to the farmer as a bonus. In other cases the owner takes one-third and the farmer two-thirds of the total product.

The following table shows particulars regarding the areas used for cultivation or dairying on shares during the past seven years:—

Season.	Holdings.	Share-farmers.	Area Farmed on Shares		
			Cultivation	Dairying.	Total.
	No.	No.	acres.	acres.	acres.
1918-19	1,530	2,675	666,264	79,622	745,886
1919-20	1,501	2,423	576,548	95,424	671,972
1920-21	1,668	2,761	614,351	121,976	736,327
1921-22	2,246	3,449	677,197	183,878	861,075
1922-23	2,457	3,970	718,488	237,069	955,557
1923-24	2,374	3,636	673,593	226,804	900,397
1924-25	2,510	3,828	695,022	234,736	929,828

Practically the whole of the area cultivated on the share-system is devoted to wheat-growing. The system reached its maximum development in 1915-16, when the area cultivated under it exceeded one-fifth of the total area under crop in the State. Up to 1919-20 the returns from wheat-growing were bad on account of droughts and market difficulties, and share-farming diminished more rapidly than other systems of cultivation. The experience in the past three years has been determined largely by seasonal conditions. The decrease occurred in the adverse season of 1923-24, but was partly regained in 1924-25, when prices and yields were very favourable.

Of the areas cultivated in 1924-5 on the share system, 426,203 acres were in the Western Slopes Division and 166,827 acres were in the Riverina.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Increasing attention is being paid by the Government to the development of the agricultural industry, but great scope still exists for educational and scientific work in the industry in order that the resources of the State may be used with full advantage to the community.

The Department of Agriculture, created in 1890 to advance the interests of the farmers and fruit-growers of New South Wales, deals with all matters essential to agriculture. Its practical functions include the collection of information by scientific investigation and practical experiments relating to the causes of the failure of crops, improved methods of cultivation, means of combating pests, the use of fertilisers, matters of drainage and irrigation, new plants and new implements, the disposal of surplus products, the transport of produce, and the promotion of a community spirit among farmers.

At the middle of 1925 the scientific and educational staff exceeded 70 in number, and through the agency of these, the Department demonstrates the value of improved methods of farming, investigates farm problems, and makes the results known to farmers. The operations of the Department in this direction are having a marked effect upon the standard and practice of agriculture in New South Wales.

Instructors in agriculture, most of whom have their headquarters in convenient country towns, are engaged in giving demonstrations to farmers, visiting private farms, delivering lectures to farmers, preparing educational pamphlets, and advising generally regarding agricultural methods. During recent years the practical services of the Department have been greatly extended by the conduct on private farms of experiments with various crops with the object of demonstrating to farmers the types of plants, the kinds of fertilisers, and the methods of cultivation best suited to their particular district. These trials are supervised by agricultural instructors, who make the results of such local experiments well known to farmers in the vicinity. In the year 1924-25, 566 experiments were conducted on 324 farms. Around some of these experimental centres have grown up defined districts in which the methods of farming are superior to those practised in districts outside their influence. The instructors also act in conjunction with the agricultural societies in promoting crop competitions among farmers. In 1924-25 there were 42 competitions for wheat and 6 for maize.

The *Agricultural Gazette*, the official organ of the Department, with a circulation of 12,200, is issued monthly. It is distributed free among farmers, and presents to them the results of scientific researches and of the investigations of official experts.

Numerous bulletins and leaflets are issued for the guidance of various classes of rural workers, and most of the publications of the Department are supplied free to persons engaged in rural industries. The numbers of various publications distributed during 1924-25 were:—Bureau Records, 6,000 per month; Poultry Notes, 2,500 per month; besides other free bulletins and leaflets.

Country newspapers are furnished weekly with notes describing the investigations and educational operations of the Department with respect to improved methods of agriculture, dairying, stock-raising, etc. Efforts have been made to develop many phases of primary production, fallowing, rotation in cropping, and the cultivation of maize being specially treated.

The principal heads of receipts and expenditure, exclusive of capital expenditure, of the Department of Agriculture during the year ended 30th June, 1925, were as follow:—

<i>Net Receipts.</i>	£	<i>Expenditure.</i>	£
Agricultural College, Experiment Farms, etc.	79,375	Agricultural College, Experiment Farms, etc.	166,127
Fees for Inspection—Plant Diseases Act	9,357	Grain Elevators	88,805
Herd-testing Fees, etc.	3,500	Administrative	106,978
Rents, etc.	1,170	Stock and Brands, Pastures Protection	135,614
Stock Branch	8,875	Botanic Gardens, Parks, etc.	49,143
Grain Elevator Fees	142,818		
Total	£245,095	Total	*£546,667

* Including £3,986 expended by the Stores Supply Department and £4,783 by the Resumed Properties Department on behalf of the Department of Agriculture.

In addition the capital expenditure for the year amounted to £81,498, including £72,486 in connection with the bulk-handling of wheat.

Interest on loan money expended on grain elevators and other undertakings of the Department of Agriculture is excluded from the foregoing statement.

Agricultural Bureau.

An Agricultural Bureau has been established with the support and co-operation of the Department. Its object is to foster the establishment in rural centres of societies which will encourage primary producers to meet together regularly for the purpose of exchanging ideas and experiences on every kind of subject that touches rural life, and it aims specially at making scientific methods more popular. Assistance is rendered by the officers of the Department, many of whom visit the branches from time to time to deliver lectures and conduct practical demonstrations in some subject of local interest. The movement has exhibited already a tendency toward co-operation. A large number of branches have reported successful transactions in "pool" buying, while several have registered as co-operative societies. Other branches have found it advantageous to purchase in bulk for members supplies of fertilisers, potatoes, molasses, blue-stone, machinery, oil, etc., and a certain amount of inter-bureau trading is carried on. The social side is not neglected, and some branches have ladies' sections. The bureau admits children, and definitely caters for them by providing competitions of various kinds and encouraging appreciation of civic responsibilities. In this way the bureau is assisting to make rural life more attractive.

Government assistance is granted in the form of subsidies payable to each branch at the rate of 10s. for every £1 of membership fees. Although the State assists the branches in this respect, the primary object of the Bureau is to develop a spirit of self-help and co-operation in the widest sense of those terms. To facilitate this the control of each branch is placed entirely in the hands of its members, who may, therefore, develop their organisation along lines where united action is most useful. However, discussion of religious matters or party politics is not permitted in any branch. The bureau was established in 1911, and at the 30th June, 1925, there were over 300 branches. Approximately 7,500 farmers are active supporters of the bureau movement. Periodically district and State conferences are held, and generally are largely attended.

In 1923 an Advisory Council was constituted, consisting of six representatives of the agricultural bureaux and four nominees of the Government.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND EXPERIMENTS.

The system of agricultural training in vogue in the educational institutions of New South Wales is not nearly so extensive as those of some other countries, but it is now receiving increasing attention. In the primary schools pupils receive instruction in nature study and some training in elementary agriculture; school gardening also is commonly taught. Fifteen rural schools with super-primary courses in agriculture have been established, and 934 students were enrolled in 1925. Specialised tuition is given at various schools in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, several secondary schools include agriculture in the curriculum, and two agricultural high schools have been established, covering courses of three years leading to Hawkesbury Agricultural College. A Faculty of Agriculture was established at the University in 1911, in which, in 1925 there were 24 students attending lectures and one research scholar.

In order to extend knowledge of local conditions and to afford an education in agriculture on scientific bases, the Government has established the Hawkesbury Agricultural College, a number of experiment farms, several viticultural nurseries, an apiary, and agricultural training farms, besides farmers' experiment plots throughout the State.

Facilities are afforded for the accommodation of students at the various experiment farms. In addition, schools of instruction for dairy factory workers are held periodically, and summer and winter schools for students of both sexes are held annually at Hawkesbury Agricultural College.

Hawkesbury Agricultural College.

The Hawkesbury Agricultural College provides accommodation for resident students, and imparts theoretical and practical instruction in a three-years' course, which embraces every department of agriculture. Instruction is given also in dairying, pig-raising, horse, sheep, and poultry-breeding; and experimental research work is conducted in connection with cereal and other crops, in cultivation with fertilisers, and in soil culture. All subsidiary branches of farm-labour are taught, including blacksmithing, carpentry, sheep-killing, bee-keeping, and other occupations incidental to the pursuit of agriculture. In June, 1925, there were 118 students in residence, and 94 completed their tuition during the year. Since its inception the college has trained 3,060 students.

Jersey dairy cattle and Romney Marsh sheep are bred, also stud pigs of various breeds, which are sold to farmers throughout the Commonwealth and New Zealand. In the poultry section the egg-laying competitions attract a large number of competitors from various parts of the State.

The net receipts from the College in 1924-25 were £16,890, and the net expenditure £41,360, excluding £2,669 expended on buildings and improvements.

Experiment Farms.

An extensive programme of experiments is carried out by the Department of Agriculture on the 22 experiment farms in the State. These experiments are supervised and co-ordinated by the Research Council, which has replaced the Experiments' Supervision Committee.

Educational facilities are also provided at the experiment farms, with varying curricula, adjusted to meet local needs and climatic conditions. The aim is to disseminate better knowledge of the practice of agriculture in established industries, to encourage by example new activities suited to the locality, and to demonstrate in a practical manner the agricultural possibilities of the State.

Accommodation is provided at a number of these farms for free instruction in farming, but the facilities are not fully availed of by local boys. Farm apprentice schools are conducted at Glen Innes, Cowra, Grafton, Wollongbar, and Yanco for "Dreadnought" boys. The term is usually of six months' duration, tuition is given free of charge, and the accommodation for 100 boys is generally fully occupied.

During 1924-25 the number of trainees who completed their tuition at experiment farms was 354, making the grand total of trainees since the inception of the farms 2,860.

Particulars relating to each farm are given in the following table:—

Farm.	Year ended 30th June, 1925.			Special Purposes.
	Area.	Students in Residence.	Fees Payable.	
	Acres.	No.		
Wagga Wagga	3,220	29	1st year £20 2nd .. £15	Specialises in seed wheat.
Bathurst	752	20	.. .. .	Orchard and soil culture.
Wollongbar and Duck Creek	734	15	.. .. .	Stud farm—Dairy cattle and pigs.
Berry	403	..	.. .. .	Stud farm—Dairy cattle.
Beelbangera	566	..	.. .. .	Training farm for immigrants.
Grafton	1,075	26	.. .. .	Mixed farming suited to sub-tropical districts.
Glen Innes	1,073	27	.. .. .	Mixed farming and fruit culture.
Cowra	1,011	17	.. .. .	Specialises in seed wheat and cross-breeding with sheep.
Pera	1,183	..	.. .. .	Artesian-bore water applied to orchard culture.
Narara	100	..	.. .. .	Phylloxera-resisting vines.
Yanco	2,045	11	.. .. .	Irrigation.
Nyngan	5,040	..	.. .. .	Dry-farming. Merino sheep suitable for dry areas.
Coonamble	1,945	..	.. .. .	Dry-farming. Wheat cultivation and sheep-farming.
Temora	1,606	..	.. .. .	Specialises in seed wheat.
Cendobolin	1,348	..	.. .. .	Dry-farming. Suitable varieties of wheat.
Trangie	9,736	2	.. .. .	Stud-merino farm, also specialises in wheat culture.
Seven Hills.	42	*	.. .. .	Demonstration of poultry culture.
Glenfield	112	..	.. .. .	Veterinary experiments.
Griffith	59	..	.. .. .	Mother-stock vineyard. Irrigated area.
Wauchope Apiary	36	..	.. .. .	Study of diseases among bees.

* Non-resident students are received.

The total receipts of the Special Deposits Farms Account in 1924-25 was £67,188, and the expenditure £67,627. In addition the sum of £4,573 was received and £66,019 was expended on Consolidated Revenue Account.

Farrer Scholarships.

The Farrer Memorial Fund was established by public subscription in honour of the late William J. Farrer, whose work in the production of new wheats has afforded great benefit alike to the industry and to the community. The money subscribed has been vested in trustees, and the interest is used for the Farrer research scholarship, the specific object of which is the improvement of wheat cultivation. The scholarship is granted to a candidate selected by the trustees. At 30th June, 1925, the capital amount of the fund was approximately £2,000.

The selected scholar presents his results at the close of the year in the form of a paper, to be published by the trustees. At the end of the year the holder of the scholarship may be reappointed, or a new selection made.

A Government Farrer scholarship of an annual value of £40 is offered for competition amongst first-year students at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College who desire to make a special study of wheat cultivation.

A *Daily Telegraph* Farrer scholarship consisting of a grant of books, apparatus, etc., to the value of £10, is given each year by the *Daily Telegraph* Newspaper Co., Ltd., to the best first-year wheat student at the Bathurst or Wagga experiment farm.

DATES OF PLANTING AND HARVESTING.

The average dates of planting and harvesting the principal crops of the State in the main districts in which they are sown are as follow:—

Crop.	Most Usual Months of—	
	Planting.	Harvesting.
Wheat	May-June	November-December.
Maize	September-December ...	January-August.
Oats	May	December.
Barley	May	December.
Potatoes—early ...	July-August	November-December.
„ late	November	July.
Sugar-cane	September	July-December.
Tobacco	November-December ...	March-April.
Broom Millet	September-October ...	January-February.

It should be noted that the above statement represents only the most usual dates and that both planting and harvesting occur before and after the periods specified, divergences being due to the variety of seed planted, the geographical position of the district, and variations in seasonal conditions.

INDIVIDUAL CROPS.

WHEAT.

Wheat is the staple agricultural product of New South Wales, and its cultivation provides a means of livelihood for a large section of the population. It is the principal activity on probably one-seventh of the rural holdings of the State, and three-quarters of the average area under crop are devoted to wheat. The farm value of wheat-crops (other than those used as green fodder) in 1924-25 was £19,707,650, including £16,684,950 from grain and £3,022,700 from wheaten hay.

The mild climate of New South Wales makes it possible to work the soil on scientific lines throughout the year, and admits of the utilisation of paddocks for pastoral purposes after the crop has been harvested. The time of sowing varies according to district and seasonal conditions, but is usually between March and August. Harvests are generally gathered between November and February.

The Wheat Belt.

The area suitable for wheat-growing in New South Wales may be defined roughly as those parts of the State where precipitation is not excessive, but which have sufficient rainfall to admit of ploughing operations at the right time of the year, to cover the growing period of the wheat plant and to fill the grain during the months of ripening. The minimum average requirement was formerly placed at 10 inches of rain during the seven months from April to October, but wheat is now grown successfully where the average rainfall in this period is 9 inches, and even less. Although the months April to October are the general period of growth for wheat this period is by no means universal, and in the principal wheat districts May is the most common month of planting and December the most usual month of harvesting. The main wheat-growing districts extend for more than 500 miles in a north-easterly direction from the southern boundary, and have a maximum width of 130 miles; on the east they are distant almost uniformly about 120 miles from the coast.

The coastal region is unsuited to wheat on account of the scarcity of suitable soils and of the liability to rust and other diseases occasioned by

heavy rains. Only small areas on the Tableland districts proper are suitable for wheat-growing, and the far West has insufficient rainfall to make wheat-growing profitable except under extraordinary conditions. But between the Tablelands and the Western Division lie considerable tracts of slope and plain eminently adapted to the cultivation of wheat. It is in this area, particularly in the southern and central portions of it, that most of the wheat of the State is grown, and it is here that the prospects of a large development in the wheat industry in the near future are brightest.

Most wheat is grown in districts where the average rainfall between April and October is between 11 and 15 inches, and little is grown in eastern districts where the average exceeds 20 inches in this period.

On the map forming the frontispiece of this Year Book are shown lines which represent the eastern and western limits of profitable wheat-growing for grain, as determined by experience during the ten years ending 1922. These show how great has been the expansion westward due to improvement in the methods of cultivation, and to the production of improved varieties of wheat. Between 1904 and 1912 the area added to the wheat belt by extension westwards was approximately 13,500,000 acres, and between 1912 and 1922 a further area of 6,000,000 acres was added. The total area of land between the eastern and western lines existing in 1922 was 53,000,000 acres. Probably, however, not more than one-half of the land comprised in these areas is suitable for cultivation.

A most noticeable feature of the development of wheat-growing was the expansion in districts with a low average rainfall. In 1912 the wheat line extended but a short distance beyond the limit of 10-inch rainfall in the growing season, but, by 1922, wheat had been profitably grown on a commercial scale as far west as Hillston and Balranald, with average rainfalls of 9.12 and 7.89 inches respectively in the growing period. In addition, wheat was produced as far west as Nevertire in the central-western plains, where the average rainfall between April and October is about 9½ inches. The total area of land included in that part of the wheat belt where the average rainfall is less than 10 inches in the period April to October inclusive, is 5,000,000 acres.

Area Suitable for Wheat-growing.

In his evidence before the Select Committee of Inquiry into the Agricultural Industry in 1921, Mr. F. B. Guthrie, chemist, Department of Agriculture, stated that in his opinion approximately 26,000,000 acres of land could be cultivated profitably for wheat in New South Wales. Of this area he assumed that one-fifth would be cultivated for wheaten hay, leaving 21,000,000 acres as the maximum to be cropped for grain.

Particulars obtained by the Government Statistician in 1922 from owners and occupiers of agricultural and pastoral holdings showed that (exclusive of land required for farm stock) there were 17,905,000 acres of alienated land in the State which, in the opinion of the occupiers, were suitable for cultivation, and that of these 12,058,000 acres were within about 12 miles of certain railways in the wheat belt. In the same year the Chief Inspector of Agriculture estimated that of 34,000,000 acres of land (both Crown and freehold) within about 12 miles of certain railways in the wheat belt, 18,900,000 acres were suitable for cultivation. The increasing use of motor transport, however, tends to increase the limit of profitable cartage beyond 12 miles, and the extension of railways is steadily adding new areas to the wheat lands served by rail.

Further particulars of the extent and distribution of these areas, and of the number, size, and value of the alienated holdings comprised in them are shown in part "Rural Settlement" of the Year Book for 1922.

The total area of land in New South Wales on which wheat has been cultivated in recent years (including the new land sown in 1924) is approximately 7,850,000 acres, but the proportion of this area sown with wheat each season is seldom very greatly in excess of one-half; the remainder is left partly in fallow, planted with other crops, or used for grazing purposes only. The total area of new land cultivated for wheat between 1911 and the end of 1924 was approximately 3,600,000 acres.

Development of Wheat Growing.

Wheat growing as an industry in New South Wales has progressed steadily during a period of thirty years, but at present less than one-sixth of the area suitable for wheat is cultivated each year.

The following statement shows the area under wheat for grain and for hay, together with the total production, average yield per acre, and quantity exported since 1897-98, when a surplus of wheat for export was first produced:—

Season.	Area under Wheat.				Yield.		Average yield per acre.		Quantity of Wheat and Flour exported overseas in each following season.
	For Grain.	For Hay.	Fed-off. †	Total.	Grain.	Hay.	Grain.	Hay.	
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	thousand bushels.	thousand tons.	bushels.	tons.	thousand bushels.*
1897-98	993,350	213,720	†	1,207,070	10,560	182	10.6	.85	582
1898-99	1,319,503	312,451	†	1,631,954	9,276	177	7.0	.57	437
1899-00	1,426,166	414,813	†	1,840,979	13,604	341	9.5	.52	865
1900-01	1,530,609	332,143	†	1,862,752	16,174	348	10.6	1.05	4,788
1901-02	1,392,970	312,858	†	1,704,928	14,809	287	10.6	.92	2,914
1902-03	1,279,760	320,588	†	1,600,348	1,585	76	1.2	.24	154
1903-04	1,561,111	286,702	†	1,847,813	27,334	452	17.5	1.58	9,772
1904-05	1,775,955	284,307	†	2,060,322	16,464	207	9.3	.73	5,338
1905-06	1,939,447	313,582	†	2,253,029	20,737	305	10.7	.97	5,338
1906-07	1,866,553	316,945	16,744	2,199,942	21,818	403	11.7	1.27	6,246
1907-08	1,390,171	365,925	129,813	1,885,909	9,156	198	6.6	.54	962
1908-09	1,394,056	490,628	104,202	1,989,086	15,483	427	11.1	.87	4,866
1909-10	1,990,150	380,784	5,825	2,376,759	23,532	566	13.3	1.49	12,111
1910-11	2,128,826	422,972	61,458	2,613,256	27,914	468	14.6	1.11	14,428
1911-12	2,380,710	440,243	80,731	2,901,684	25,088	423	10.5	.96	10,172
1912-13	2,231,514	704,221	31,557	2,967,292	32,487	780	14.6	1.11	17,116
1913-14	3,295,397	534,220	23,393	3,763,016	38,020	988	11.9	1.10	20,038
1914-15	2,758,024	569,431	815,561	4,143,016	12,381	355	4.7	.62	785
1915-16	4,188,865	879,678	53,702	5,122,245	66,765	1,212	15.9	1.38	23,514
1916-17	3,806,604	633,605	58,101	4,498,310	36,598	814	9.6	1.28	21,262
1917-18	3,329,371	435,180	63,885	3,828,436	37,712	485	11.3	1.11	12,650
1918-19	2,409,669	613,544	204,161	3,227,374	18,325	457	7.6	.84	19,604
1919-20	1,474,174	716,770	877,596	3,068,540	4,388	355	3.0	.49	427
1920-21	3,127,877	520,555	15,420	3,663,352	55,025	822	17.8	1.58	41,746
1921-22	3,194,949	467,363	24,735	3,687,047	42,767	575	13.4	1.23	21,798
1922-23	2,942,857	593,184	350,963	3,892,009	28,668	649	9.7	1.09	5,804
1923-24	2,945,335	695,622	233,305	3,924,262	33,176	703	11.3	1.01	11,976
1924-25	3,550,078	388,479	21,647	3,960,204	59,767	537	16.8	1.38	38,741
1925-26 ‡	2,928,791	450,331	277,821	3,656,943	33,815	446	11.5	.99	13,667 †

* Flour has been expressed at its equivalent in wheat. † To June. ‡ Subject to revision.
 † Includes area sown for green food.

From this record of twenty-nine years' experience it will be observed that poor wheat yields have been obtained at intervals of more or less regular recurrence, viz., in the years 1898-9, 1902-3, 1907-8, 1914-15, 1918-19 and 1919-20. It is noteworthy that whereas unfavourable seasons were particularly prevalent between 1914 and 1919 those from 1920 to 1925 have been much more propitious. The remarkable recuperative powers of the wheat lands in favourable seasons were demonstrated in the years 1903-4 and 1920-21, when, following severe droughts, record yields were obtained.

The area under wheat increased rapidly after 1912 and, in 1915, the maximum of over 5,000,000 acres was reached. The decreases in later seasons were due mainly to a shortage of labour, unfavourable ploughing seasons; and difficulties in regard to the disposal of the harvest during the war period; moreover, the high prices obtainable for wool and mutton until

the end of 1920 caused many farmers to substitute sheep-raising for wheat-growing. The splendid seasons and high prices of 1920-21 and 1921-22 encouraged growers to extend their operations, and, despite the adverse season in all districts in 1922 and in the central and northern divisions in 1923, the areas under wheat remained greater than in any preceding season except those of 1914, 1915, and 1916. A heavy fall in the price of wheat during the latter half of 1923 occurred too late to affect the area sown in that year. Prices, however, rose to a high level in 1924, and the season 1924-25 proved to be one of the most bountiful on record. These circumstances combined to produce unsurpassed prosperity in the wheat industry. Ploughing and sowing operations were hampered in 1925 by the dry conditions that prevailed in the months of March and April and by the excessive rains of May and June. The result was a substantial decrease both in the area sown and in the average yield per acre, the latter being adversely affected by the scanty rains of September and October.

Wheat Districts.

The principal wheat-producing districts of the State, arranged in order of importance, are the south-western slopes, the Riverina, the central-western slopes, the north-western slopes, and the central tablelands. This statement refers to the statistical divisions shown on the map on the frontispiece of this Year Book.

In the 1922-23 season a redistribution of statistical divisions was made on the basis of local government areas, and, as this necessitated considerable alterations in the divisions previously adopted, the comparison formerly made between the various divisions is not possible now.

However, as the changes are comparatively slight as regards the grouping of northern, central, and southern divisions, a comparison may be made on this basis; which has the merit of dividing the wheat belt into three portions of which the northern normally receives the greater part of its rainfall in the summer, the southern in the winter months, while the rainfall of the central districts is non-seasonal in character, since it is subject, in some degree, to the two separate meteorological influences which determine the season of the rainfall in the other regions.

Differences of soil, geographical features, cultural methods, and other factors also play a considerable part in determining the yields of the various divisions, but the following statement shows that wheat is most extensively and successfully grown in the southern districts, while the central divisions are superior to those of the north. The coastal districts and western division, neither of which are wheat-growing districts, are included to complete the total of the State.

Divisions.	Area Harvested for Grain.		Yield of Grain.		Yield of Grain per Acre.				
	Average, 1914-15 to 1923-24.	1924-25.	Average, 1914-15 to 1923-24.	1924-25.	Average 1914-15 to 1923-24.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
	acres.	acres.	bus.	bus.	bus.	bus.	bus.	bus.	bus.
Coastal	3,403	2,808	30,530	21,342	9.0	9.7	9.0	7.6	2.1
†Northern	326,699	449,315	3,151,980	7,316,655	9.6	7.0	6.2	16.3	6.7
†Central	1,000,800	1,284,117	10,118,910	20,088,762	10.1	6.0	8.2	15.6	11.8
†Southern	1,685,635	1,813,112	20,376,040	32,338,654	12.1	12.3	14.2	17.8	12.2
Western	1,185	726	7,970	1,587	6.7	4.1	5.2	2.2	4.8
Total ...	3,017,722	3,550,078	33,685,430	59,767,000	11.2	9.7	11.3	16.8	11.5

† Includes Tablelands, Slopes, and Central Plains.

Generally speaking, the use of fertilisers and the practice of fallowing are most extensive in the southern districts, and there the average yield is usually greatest. This is due in a large part to the more dependable nature of the winter rains. The yields in 1922-23, 1923-24 and 1925-26 were materially affected by the wide variations in the amount of rainfall received. Drought conditions prevailed in the northern and central parts of the State.

Average Yield of Wheat.

The average yield of wheat in New South Wales is subject to marked fluctuations by reason of the widely divergent nature of the seasons. The highest yields have usually been recorded in seasons following the worst droughts, and besides giving dramatic proof of the advantages of fallowing, have gone far to make immediate compensation for the losses sustained. The lowest yield on record—that of the 1902 season—was only 1·2 bushels per acre. It was followed by a yield of 17·5 bushels per acre, which was only surpassed in 1920-21, when, after the severe drought of 1918-20, a record average of 17·8 bushels per acre was obtained.

The yield in recent years has been steadily increasing, but is considerably below that which was obtained prior to the expansion of the wheat industry, when probably only some of the best wheat lands were tilled. In decennial periods the average yields in New South Wales have compared as follows with the average for the four seasons that have elapsed since 1922:—

Period.	Average Yield per acre.	Period.	Average Yield per acre.
	bushels.		bushels.
1872-1881	14·71	1902-1911	11·04
1882-1891	13·30	1912-1921	11·62
1892-1901	10·02	1922-1925	12·57

In calculating these averages the area which was sown for grain but failed is included, while the area fed off or used for green fodder is excluded.

The yield of wheat in New South Wales does not compare favourably with the yields usually obtained abroad in some of the large wheat-producing countries. Smaller producing countries, particularly those situated in the colder climates, show far greater average yields. Representative averages for the four years 1921-1924 are shown below:—

Country.	Average Yield per acre.	Country.	Average Yield per acre.
	bushels.		bushels.
United Kingdom ...	33·4	Argentina ...	12·6
New Zealand ...	28·9	Australia ...	13·3
Canada ...	16·0	New South Wales ...	16·0
United States ...	14·0	Russia in Europe ..	8·5

Although the yield in New South Wales is dominated by the nature of the seasons, it is believed that, when more scientific methods of cultivation are widely adopted and land is properly fallowed, tilled, and manured, the yield per acre will be increased considerably; and a further favouring factor exists in the possibilities that are attached to the improvement of wheat types by plant-breeding. However, it is anticipated that the warm climate and the prevalence of hot winds during the ripening period will always militate against a high average yield being obtained in New South Wales, such as is obtained in more humid countries.

The following comparison of the average yield of wheat per acre in the principal wheat-producing regions of the world is illuminating:—

Region.	Average Yield of Wheat in Bushels per Acre.			
	1909 to 1913.	1918 to 1922.	1923.	1924.*
Europe†	18·8	17·0	19·3	15·8
North America	15·7	13·7	15·5	14·7
Asia	12·3	12·0	12·5	11·9
North Africa	12·2	10·8	12·6	10·1
Argentina	9·2	11·7	14·5	10·7
Australia	11·8	11·7	13·2	15·2
General Average†	15·5	14·2	15·9	14·1

* As revised.

† Excluding Russia.

The general averages, including Russia, so far as available, were: 1909-13, 14·0 bushels; 1923, 14·9 bushels; and 1924, 13·1 bushels.

It is apparent that average wheat yields throughout the world fluctuate widely from season to season, and this fact is brought out very strongly by comparing the averages for the quinquennial periods shown above.

Fallowing and the Wheat Yield.

In 1923-24 statistics were collected for the first time of the yield of grain from the areas of new land, fallowed land, and unfallowed land sown with wheat. It was intended that land should not be classed as fallow unless it had not been cropped for at least twelve months, but it is doubtful whether the collection was made on this basis in all cases. Summer fallow is practised to some extent.

The following table provides a comparison of the yields obtained from the various classes of land in 1925-26 in each of the divisions shown on page

Division.	Area.‡			Total Yield.			Average Yield per Acre.		
	New Land.	Fallowed Land.	Stubble Land.	New Land.	Fallowed Land.	Stubble Land.	New Land.	Fallowed Land.	Stubble Land.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bush.	bushels.	bushels.
Coastal	34	16	648	141	54	3,222	†	†	†
Northern*	3,823	26,894	208,657	20,175	251,457	1,502,312	†	9·3	7·5
Central*	22,190	303,294	688,191	221,649	4,648,890	7,365,987	10·0	15·3	10·7
Southern*	54,968	1,134,352	409,798	656,940	14,937,114	4,145,052	12·0	13·2	10·1
Western Division	228	130	40	960	681	186	†	†	†
Total	81,243	1,464,686	1,307,334	899,865	19,838,196	13,076,559	11·1	13·5	10·0

* Includes Tablelands, Slopes, and Central Plains.

† Average is not of value on account of smallness of operations. ‡ Excluding 75,528 acres sown for grain which failed.

Owing to the widely scattered nature of the wheat belt, the above table does not provide an absolute comparison of the results obtained from fallowed land and other lands, because rainfall, cultural methods, soil, and other factors necessarily played an important part in determining the results. The climatic conditions prevailing in the various wheat districts and the methods adopted by farmers differ very markedly, consequently the results shown above in respect of the fallowed lands throughout the State do not represent accurately the benefits which accrue from scientific agriculture. Still, it is apparent that even with present methods of fallow, the improvement in the wheat yield is pronounced.

The following statement shows the approximate areas of new land, fallowed land, and stubble land, sown with wheat in New South Wales during each of the past eleven seasons—

Season.	New Land.	Fallowed Land.	Remainder Stubble Land.	Total.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
1914-15	412,100	947,700	2,783,216	4,143,016
1915-16	554,600	994,000	3,573,645	5,122,245
1916-17	323,600	846,000	3,328,710	4,498,310
1917-18	251,700	831,000	2,745,736	3,828,436
1918-19	128,300	932,700	2,166,374	3,227,374
1919-20	91,100	847,100	2,130,340	3,068,540
1920-21	142,900	749,600	2,770,852	3,663,352
1921-22	232,700	935,200	2,519,147	3,687,047
1922-23	199,900	1,416,000	2,291,460	3,907,360
1923-24	86,309*	1,306,721*	1,412,971*	2,806,001*
1924-25	149,894*	1,583,047*	1,780,069*	3,513,010*
1925-26	81,243*	1,464,686*	1,307,334*	2,853,263*

* Area cropped for grain only as stated in final estimate.

In the past four years there has been maintained a substantial increase in the area of fallowed land sown with wheat.

Size of the Wheat Farms.

The expansion of the wheat industry has been brought about by reason of the fact that individual growers have increased their cultivated areas. The area sown with wheat has more than doubled since 1900-01, although the number of holdings on which wheat was sown has actually declined since that year. If it be considered that, in normal seasons, an area of less than 250 acres devoted to wheat will not provide subsistence for a farmer and his family, it is apparent, in view of the low average area devoted to wheat, that wheat-growing in many cases must be conducted in conjunction with other pursuits, and that many wheat-growers derive a living from other sources.

The following table illustrates the recent development of wheat-growing in respect of number and average size of areas sown:—

Year.	Wheat sown for Grain, Hay, and Green Food.			Holdings on which wheat was sown for hay and for green food only.	Wheat sown for Grain Only.		
	Holdings.	Total Area sown with Wheat.	Average Area per Holding devoted to Wheat.		Holdings.	Area.†	Average area per holding.†
	No.	acres.	acres.	No.	No.	acres.	acres.
1900-01	20,149	1,862,752	92	*	*	*	*
1905-06	19,049	2,253,029	118	*	*	*	*
1915-16	22,453	5,122,245	224	*	*	*	*
1920-21	17,790	3,663,352	206	2,132	15,658	3,127,377	200
1921-22	18,216	3,687,047	202	1,921	16,295	3,194,949	196
1922-23	18,632	3,892,009	209	3,727	14,905	2,942,847	197
1923-24	18,036	3,924,262	217	3,441	14,595	2,945,335	202
1924-25	17,690	3,960,204	224	1,623	16,067	3,550,078	221

* Not available.

† Area cropped for grain only, excluding area cropped for hay.

Consideration of the above table in conjunction with statistics of average yield suggests that there is a considerable number of growers who sow wheat and crop it for grain, hay or green food, according to seasonal conditions. This impression is heightened by the fact that, in the last three years included above, when the average yields of grain were 9·7, 11·3 and 16·8 bushels, respectively, the numbers of wheat-growers who sowed wheat and cropped less than 50 acres for grain were 6,545, 6,051, and 4,285 respectively.

The following table provides a summary of the areas of holdings on which wheat was grown for grain in the season 1924-25, arranged in groups according to the area cropped for grain. The average yield per acre in each group in preceding years is shown for comparison:—

Area cropped for Grain.		Holdings.	Wheat-grain.						
			Area cropped for grain.	Production of grain.	Average Yield per acre.				
					1924-25	1923-24	1922-23	1921-22	1920-21
acres.	No.	acres.	bushels.	bus.	bus.	bus.	bus.	bus.	
1-49	2,662	61,023	979,062	16·4	11·3	10·8	11·7	17·2	
50-299	9,432	1,522,484	26,202,217	17·2	11·6	10·0	13·3	18·1	
300-999	3,802	1,708,775	28,420,002	16·6	11·0	9·5	13·7	17·7	
1,000-1,999	148	181,678	3,046,197	16·8	11·3	10·1	14·0	17·5	
2,000—and over	23	76,118	1,119,522	14·7	10·7	9·9	11·2	16·3	
Total	16,067	3,550,078	59,767,000	16·8	11·3	9·7	13·4	17·8	

In this table wheat-farms are divided somewhat arbitrarily into five classes, graded according to size of the area cultivated for grain. Those where less than 50 acres are cultivated for grain may be considered to be held by growers earning their livelihood principally in other directions. In 1924-25 these numbered 2,662, or 16·6 per cent. of the total; where the areas cultivated range from 50 acres to 299 acres growers may be considered to draw their subsistence from wheat-growing in a degree ranging from partial to complete dependence—these numbered 9,432, or 58·7 per cent. of the total; where the area cultivated exceeds 300 acres it may be considered generally that hired labour is employed in connection with the whole of the operations, or that more than one grower is involved. Areas of this kind numbered 3,973, and represented 24·7 per cent. of the total.

In all, areas of less than 30 acres in extent were sown with wheat for grain on 1,673 farms. The total number of areas under 100 acres in extent sown with wheat for grain was 4,641; from 100 to 199 acres, 4,181; from 200 to 299 acres, 3,272; from 300 to 399 acres, 1,769; and from 400 to 499 acres, 907; the number in successive groups of 100 diminished rapidly thereafter. In 1924-25 there were 23 wheat crops exceeding 2,000 acres in extent, the largest being a crop of 9,883 acres in the Riverina. A number of large crops, however, are farmed on the shares system, and in some cases more than one share-farmer is involved.

The disparities between the average yields in area series in 1924-25 were not very pronounced, except for the small area cropped in areas of 2,000 acres or more. The most productive groups of areas in the various years were as follow:— 1924-25 and 1923-24 areas from 50 to 299 acres, 1922-23 areas under 50 acres, 1921-22, those between 1,000 and 2,000; 1920-21, areas from 50 to 299 acres in extent. It was ascertained that in 1920-21 larger proportions of the smaller areas were cropped for hay and green fodder, and doubtless these usually embraced the inferior portions of the crop.

A table showing the number, area and production from wheat crops in area series in each division of the State is published in part "Agriculture" of the Statistical Register of New South Wales. This shows that the crops exceeding 2,000 acres in extent are situated mainly in the Riverina and the Central and South-western Slopes Divisions.

Consumption of Wheat in N.S.W.

Reference has been made in previous issues of the Year Book to the difficulty of making estimates of the consumption of wheat in New South Wales between the years 1910 and 1920, and it has been explained that the estimates for these years are approximate.

However, steps have been taken to obtain data of the interstate movements of wheat and flour since 1920, and as particulars of stocks are obtained at the end of each season it is now possible to state with considerable precision the amount of wheat consumed in New South Wales.

In order to preserve as far as possible the line of demarcation between seasons, the consumption and export years have been made to coincide with calendar years. But for the last period shown below this method has been further improved, and the figures relate to the twelve months ended 30th November. Although small quantities of new season's wheat are normally received at rail before the end of November, the trade does not assume large proportions until the early part of December.

The following statement shows the yield, net exports, and apparent consumption per head in periods since 1892, flour being included at its equivalent in wheat:—

Period.	Average Annual Crop.	Average net Annual Export, Oversea and Interstate.	Apparent Consumption per annum.			
			Including Seed Wheat.		Excluding Seed Wheat at 1 bushel per acre.	
			Total.	Per head.	Total.	Per head.
	thousand bushels.	thousand bushels.	thousand bushels.	bushels.	thousand bushels.	bushels.
1892-1896	5,904	(-)2,310	8,214	6·6	7,231	5·9
1897-1903	10,694	791	9,903	7·3	8,237	6·1
1904-1908	19,102	7,505	11,597	7·8	9,514	6·4
1909-1915	25,765	11,953†	13,807	7·9	10,395	5·9
1916-1921	36,150*	18,945†	17,205	8·5	13,304	6·6
1922-1925	41,094	24,501‡	16,125§	7·6	12,259	5·8

* Excludes "stock adjustments" of wheat pools; average, 420,000 bushels per year. † Partly estimated.
 ‡ Actual export. § Allowing for stocks carried over. (—) Average net import.

Apart from showing how the estimated consumption of wheat is arrived at this table indicates the steady growth of the wheat industry both as regards production and export over the periods immediately preceding and following the establishment of the wheat export trade in 1897.

The average annual crop does not represent the net result of the harvest as it includes the quantity used for seed. For this reason the apparent consumption is shown, including seed wheat which varies from season to season in relationship to the area sown and the conditions governing the sowing. The allowance is generally set down arbitrarily at 1 bushel of seed per acre sown. This is in excess of the quantity used for sowing on many farms, but it includes an allowance for the additional amount used when faulty germination necessitates more than one sowing. The estimated consumption excluding seed wheat is, therefore, an approximation with a limit of error of approximately one-quarter of a bushel per head of population according as the annual seed requirements vary above or below 1 bushel per acre. It is estimated that, for the last period shown above (1922 to 1925) the average quantity of flour, wheat meal, &c., consumed per head of population was equivalent to 4·8 bushels of wheat so that, with due modification for variation in the allowance made for seed wheat, the quantity of wheat used for feeding poultry and other stock was in the vicinity of 2,000,000 bushels per annum.

This latter quantity, however, is considerably lower than the corresponding quantity for the previous period which embraced nearly two years of very severe drought, during which a considerable amount of wheat was used for feeding sheep. As this factor operated to increase the consumption of

wheat during the period 1916-1921, the total quantity consumed in the period was considerably above normal requirements. Furthermore, great difficulty was experienced in disposing of wheat abroad, and large quantities remained in the country for lengthy periods. Much of this wheat was damaged by wet weather, mice, and weevils, and rendered unfit for consumption in the ordinary way.

The effective demand for wheat for local consumption is very elastic, although it was fairly stable between the years 1922 and 1925. Including seed wheat, the maximum annual requirement for local consumption seldom exceeds 8 bushels per head of population, or a total of approximately 17,500,000 bushels, of which about 4,000,000 bushels (depending on the area sown) are used for seed purposes. During the year 1921 the consumption appears to have been only 14,400,000 bushels, which may be considered at present the minimum annual requirement when consumption is on a very restricted scale. The average annual consumption for all purposes in the four years 1922 to 1925 was 16,125,000 bushels.

Marketing Wheat.

The comparison made between the production, export, and consumption of wheat and flour from New South Wales on a previous page shows that in the last four years the average annual local consumption (excluding seed wheat) has been approximately one half of the average annual quantity exported oversea and interstate. As interstate trade in wheat and flour is comparatively small, the maintenance and further development of the wheat industry in New South Wales are dependent largely on world demand, and on the efficiency of the facilities for gaining access to over-sea markets on such conditions that it will pay local farmers to grow wheat in preference to other products. The price of wheat for export is determined by world's parity, which fluctuates with the world demand. The market for the exportable surplus of local wheat is found chiefly in Europe, but quantities of flour are sent to the countries and islands of the Pacific and Indian Oceans. The further extension of the market for local wheat in Europe is in some measure affected by the competition of great wheat-producing countries near the market—the United States, Canada, the Argentine, and possibly Russia—which derive advantages from shorter distances and lower ocean freights. These advantages, however, are counteracted to some extent by the greater land haulage necessary from the interior to the coast of some of these countries.

The aggregate movement of wheat and flour oversea and interstate is shown below. The particulars for the respective years relate to the twelve months ending 30th November, and therefore represent the movement following each harvest. Flour is expressed at its equivalent in wheat, viz., 48 bushels of grain to 2,000 lb. flour.

Year ended 30th Nov.	Total Crop.	Export Oversea.		Export Interstate.		Import Interstate.		Stocks at 30th Nov.
		Wheat.	Flour.	Wheat.	Flour.	Wheat.	Flour.	Wheat and Flour.
Expressed in thousand bushels of wheat.								
1923 ...	28,668	2,020	6,844	2,084	1,365	19	195	2,299
1924 ...	33,176	5,433	6,103	4,017	1,553	38	313	2,233
1925 ...	59,767	31,824	7,299	3,038	1,537	251	25	1,863

This table shows the comparative regularity in the export flour trade and the marked fluctuations in the quantity of wheat exported.

Further particulars of the flour trade are shown in the following table relating to financial years which do not, however, correspond very closely to wheat seasons:—

Year ended 30th June.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.†
Wheat gristed ...	bus. 16,020,143	bus. 17,035,285	bus. 19,684,075	bus. 18,844,711	†
Flour produced ...	336,572	354,704	409,645	395,409	†
Flour exported—					
Oversea* ...	108,115	100,740	159,156	132,322	166,817
Interstate...	25,431§	25,119§	26,510§	26,243§	36,895
Flour imported—					
Oversea ...	...	...	...	...	...
Interstate...	7,145	6,330	7,739	5,964	7,862

* Including ship's stores. † Not available. ‡ Subject to revision. § Incomplete, about 5,000 tons should be added.

The approximate annual average quantity of flour consumed in New South Wales in the above years was 225,000 tons. The estimated consumption per head of population is shown in part "Food and Prices," and some further details regarding flour-milling are shown in part "Manufacturing Industry" of the Year Book.

Grading of Wheat.

Wheat for export is marketed on the basis of a single standard known as f.a.q. or fair average quality. In New South Wales the standard is fixed annually by a committee of members of the Sydney Chamber of Commerce and two Government representatives. Samples obtained from each of the wheat districts are weighed on McQuirk's patent scale, and an average struck, which is used as a standard in all wheat export transactions.

Distinction is, however, maintained between white and red wheats. No mixtures of white and red varieties are accepted for bulk handling. The proportion of red to white wheat in the harvest of 1925-26 was 3.24 per cent., or 1,090,000 bushels in a total of 33,643,000 bushels.

The following comparison shows the standard adopted in New South Wales for each of the past ten seasons, and the date on which it was fixed in each year:—

Year.	Date Fixed.	Weight of Bushel of Standard Wheat.	Year.	Date Fixed.	Weight of Bushel of Standard Wheat.
		lb.			lb.
1916-17	12th Mar., 1917	56 $\frac{3}{4}$	1921-22	7th Feb., 1922	61
1917-18	26th Feb., 1918	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	1922-23	25th Jan., 1923	61
1918-19	30th Jan., 1919	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	1923-24	14th Feb., 1924	60 $\frac{3}{4}$
1919-20	6th Feb., 1920	61	1924-25	10th Feb., 1925	60 $\frac{1}{2}$
1920-21	10th Mar., 1921	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	1925-26	22nd Jan., 1926	62 $\frac{1}{4}$

The weights shown above are those used in determining whether particular lots of wheat are at or above fair average quality, but not as a measure of quantity. Wheat is normally sold by farmers in New South Wales by weight (bushel of 60 lb.), and not by volume.

At present about two-thirds of the wheat is bagged on the farm and brought to the nearest railway station, whence that intended for export is carried in bags by rail to Sydney for shipment. At some of the stations the Railway Department has erected sheds, and a small charge is made for storage, but portions of large harvests have at times to be stored with scant shelter. At Darling Harbour, Sydney, where all the grain ships, except bulk carriers, are loaded, sheds and bag elevators have been provided.

Wheat Arrivals.

As a rule small quantities of new seasons wheat become available towards the end of November, the actual time varying under seasonal influences. Usually, most of the crop intended for sale has been sent to rail for transport before the end of February. The following comparison shows the total quantity of wheat received at country railway stations in bags and in bulk during each week of the season 1925-26, up to the end of April, 1926:—

Week ended	Quantity of Wheat Received during Week.	Total Quantity of Wheat Received to end of Week.	Week ended	Quantity of Wheat Received during Week.	Total Quantity of Wheat Received to end of Week.
1925.	Bushels.	Bushels.	1926.	Bushels.	Bushels.
November ... 28	314,457	314,457	February ... { 6	322,230	24,967,443
December... {	5	1,650,261	February ... {	13	428,367
	12	3,158,613		20	177,579
	19	3,925,221		27	22,641
	26	3,838,014		April 24§	310,485
1926.			May 22§	69,600	
January... {	2	3,814,968	June 19§	61,773	
	9	3,545,889	July 17§	103,677	
	16	2,666,118	August ... 14§	36,582	
	23	1,228,182	September ... 11§	89,256	
	30	503,490			
					26,267,403

* Net, after deducting withdrawal.

§ Four weeks ended.

The difference between the total crop and the quantity of wheat received at country railway stations during the past five seasons has been fairly constant, being approximately 7,816,000 bushels in 1920-21, 8,616,000 bushels in 1921-22, 8,450,000 bushels in 1922-23, 7,812,000 bushels in 1923-24, and 9,162,646 bushels in 1924-25. Of this wheat considerable quantities are sent by road to Victoria or direct by road to country flour mills in New South Wales. The balance is retained by the grower for seed or farm purposes or is sold for consumption in the locality of production.

Bulk Handling.

The losses of grain, occasioned by wet weather and plagues of mice and weevils during the period of the war, in which large harvests had accumulated and shipping arrangements were dislocated, brought forcibly into public view the disadvantages of the handling and storage of wheat in bags. A Royal Commission of Inquiry was appointed by the Federal Government in 1917, and reported in favour of the erection of permanent storage facilities.

The Federal Government promptly passed a Wheat Storage Act, providing for advances to be made to the States for the construction of wheat elevators, and before the close of the year tenders had been called for the necessary work in New South Wales.

The original complete scheme provided for the erection of elevators at seventy-one country centres, with a total storage capacity at one filling of 15,200,000 bushels, and of a terminal elevator in Sydney with a total storage capacity of 6,509,600 bushels. It is proposed eventually to erect silos at all

the more important wheat receiving stations in the country, by constructing at the rate of a million bushels storage per annum. The estimated cost of the works to 30th June, 1925, was £3,542,702. Sufficient progress had been made to permit of some elevators being put into operation in the 1920-21 season for the first time. The system has been steadily developed, as shown in the following table:—

Season.	Number of Plants Available in Country Districts.	Storage Capacity of Plants Available in Country Distr. etc. †	Wheat Received.			Proportion of Wheat Received in Elevators.	
			In Country Elevators.	In Terminal Elevators from Non-Silo Stations.	Total.	To Total Crop.	To Total Quantity Received at Rail.
		bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	per cent.	per cent.
1920-21	28	5,450,000	*	*	2,000,000	3·6	4·2
1921-22	28	5,450,000	*	*	4,335,000	10·1	12·7
1922-23	54	11,550,000	*	*	4,290,000	14·6	21·2
1923-24	58	12,550,000	5,410,574	1,028,232	6,438,806	19·4	25·4
1924-25	61	13,250,000	16,334,813	1,437,058	17,771,871	29·7	35·1
1925-26	62	13,500,000	8,295,436	841,185	9,136,621	27·0	34·9

*Not available.

†At one filling.

The quantity of wheat handled in bulk naturally fluctuates under the influence of the marked seasonal variations in the size of the wheat crop. Comparison of the quantity handled in bulk in 1925-26 with the quantity handled in bulk in 1923-24 when the harvests were approximately equal magnitude indicate that over a period of two years there was an increase of approximately 40 per cent. in the relative volume of wheat handled in bulk. This marked improvement is due to the fact that farmers are recognising that substantial savings are possible for them by means of bulk handling, and that the feeling against control of the silos by the Government is being dispelled. Indeed a strong demand has arisen among farmers in districts where silos are not available for the provision of such facilities in order that they may share the advantages of the system.

The quantities of wheat shipped in bulk during each of the past three seasons were:—1923-24, 3,324,154 bushels; 1924-25, 12,767,589 bushels; and in 1925-26, 4,313,816 bushels, representing 61·2 per cent., 40·1 per cent., and 46·6 per cent. of the respective quantities of grain shipped overseas from each harvest.

The elevators are under the control of a manager. Wheat of two kinds was received in 1925-26 for handling in bulk, viz., fair average quality and red. The wheat is subject to a general lien for all charges due. A fee of 2d. per bushel is charged for receiving handling, storing and delivering wheat in trucks at country elevators, with an additional ½d. per bushel for receiving such wheat from trucks at terminal elevator, weighing in and weighing and loading out through shipping or truck spouts. Wheat is received at the terminal elevator from non-silo stations at a charge of 1½d. per bushel if in bulk trucks and 1¼d. per bushel if in bags. These charges all include storage to 31st July, 1926, after which date an additional ¾d. per bushel per week is charged. The silo management pays rail freight incurred by it in handling the grain, and this, together with all fees and other charges, is paid by the holder of the warrant upon delivery of the wheat from the silo. The financial operations in connection with the silos showed a considerable improvement in 1924-25. The revenue amounted to £182,356 and the expenditure to £90,404, so that, after paying all working expenses, there would remain a sum of £91,952 as a contribution towards depreciation and interest charges on the works.

Upon delivery of his wheat at the silo the owner receives a bulk wheat warrant showing particulars of the quantity and quality of the wheat and the place of delivery. It is a negotiable document, transferable by endorsement of the owner.

At present wheat is generally transported from the farms to the silos in bags fastened by clips or sewn, the bags being emptied and returned to the farmer for use in subsequent seasons. As the system is becoming more firmly established, farmers are acquiring bulk wagons.

For conveyance from country stations to the terminal, the Railway Commissioners converted a large number of 15-ton S trucks, and made them suitable for the carriage of grain in bulk. It has been decided to adopt as the standard design for handling bulk grain a 20-ton truck with a hoppers bottom, so that it will be self-discharging; a number of these are under construction.

The question of bulk handling of wheat in New South Wales, with special reference to the transition from bag handling, was the subject of careful inquiry by a Select Committee of the Legislative Council in November, 1920, and a report has been issued. An analysis of the findings of this committee appears in the Year Book for 1920.

Wheat Freights.

In the conditions governing the marketing of wheat abroad, the availability and cost of freight are very important factors.

A comparative statement is given below of the freights ruling for bagged-wheat cargoes carried by steam vessels from Sydney to London in pre-war and recent years:—

Year ended 30th June.	Freight.				Year ended 30th June.	Freight.			
	Per ton.		Equivalent per bushel.			Per ton.		Equivalent per bushel.	
	s. d.	s. d.	d.	d.		s. d.	s. d.	d.	d.
1912 ...	17 6 to	30 0	5½	to 9½	1923 ...	35 0 to	30 0	11¼	to 9½
1913 ...	10 0 to	35 0	3¼	to 11¼	1924 ...	40 0 to	25 0	12¾	to 8
1914 ...	25 0 to	37 6	8	to 12	1925 ...	50 0 to	30 0	16½	to 9½
					1926 ...	40 0 to	20 0	12¾	to 6½

The following comparative rates of freight ruling for cargoes on 1st January, 1926, were extracted from the reports of the International Institute of Agriculture. A comparison of the rates of freight per bushel of 60 lb. is added in order to show the relative amounts of ocean freight paid on wheat from the principal exporting countries to the principal markets of the world:—

Exporting Country.	Freight to United Kingdom.	
	Original Rates.	Rate per 60 lb.
		s. d.
Canada (Atlantic) ...	3s. 3d. per 480 lb.	0 4½
United States (northern range)..	3s. 3d. per 480 lb.	0 4¾
Argentina (down river) ...	20s. 0d. per 2,240 lb.	0 6¾
British India (Karachi) ...	21s. 6d. per 2,240 lb.	0 6¾
Australia ...	43s. 0d. per 2,240 lb.	1 1¾

Owing to the greater distances to European markets, ocean freight rates are much heavier on Australian than on American cargoes, but this disability is counterbalanced to a certain extent by the greater land and river haulage charges occasioned by the distance of American wheat crops from the sea.

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Wheat Pools.

An account of the circumstances which led to the creation of compulsory wheat pools by the Government, and of the basis upon which they were organised is contained in issues of the Year Book for 1921 and previous years. A summary of the final returns is published in the Year Book for 1923 at page 489.

A summary of the results of the various voluntary pools is furnished below. The pool of 1921-22 was operated upon an advance of 3s. per bushel and 8d. per bushel for handling charges guaranteed by the Federal Government, but the two succeeding pools were financed independently. That of 1924-25 was conducted under the Voluntary Wheat Pool Guarantee Act, 1924, with an advance of 3s. 4d. per bushel and 8d. per bushel handling charges guaranteed by the State Government under conditions set out in the Year Book for 1924. The pool of 1925-26 was conducted by the Wheat-growers' Pooling and Marketing Company, Limited, and was financed by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia under the Federal Rural Credits Act, 1925, with an advance of 3s. 4d. per bushel on delivery plus 8d. per bushel for handling charges. The progress payments to farmers were 2s. per bushel less rail freight on 12th May, 1926, 6d. per bushel on 14th July, and a final payment estimated at a fraction of a penny is pending.

Season.	Quantity Pooled.			Net Amount Realised by Sales.		Average Charges per bushel.*		Average Net Amount Received by Farmers at Country Sidings.	Net Amount Received by Farmers
	Total.	Proportion to—		Total.	Average per. bus.	Rail Freight.	Other.		
		Total Crop.	Quantity received at Rail.						
	bus.	per cent.	per cent.	£	s. d.	d.	d.	s. d.	£
1921-22	22,785,560	53·4	66·7	6,179,027	5 5·17	5·40	3·96	4 7·81	5,298,812
1922-23	11,655,800	40·8	57·6	2,956,739	5 1·35	5·37	4·66	4 3·32	2,492,129
1923-24	9,680,854	28·9	33·2	2,444,329	5 0·59	5·46	4·13	4 3	2,059,800
1924-25	13,639,003	22·8	26·9	4,215,853	6 2·17‡	5·40	4·23	5 4·54‡	3,667,733
1925-26	740,600	2·2	2·8	£30,820	6 2·8‡	5·41	...	...	...

* Including deductions for inferior wheat. † Average. Bagged was paid 1d. more than bulk.
‡ Approximate.

Prices of Wheat.

The following table gives the average prices per bushel ruling in the Sydney market in each year since 1898. The figures for earlier years, published in the Year Book for 1919, exhibit clearly the tendency towards a gradual reduction in the value of the cereal down to 1895, when the price was the lowest of the series. In 1896, however, owing to a decrease in the world's supplies, the price rose considerably, and led to an extension of cultivation throughout Australia. In the early years, when local production was deficient, the price in Sydney was generally governed by the prices obtained in the markets of Australian States where a surplus had been produced. Since the development of the export trade, however, it has been determined largely by the prices ruling in the world's markets, although market deficiencies in the local crop (such as occurred in 1920) at times have a determining influence on prices.

The prices quoted are per imperial bushel (60 lb.) of f.a.q. wheat in Sydney markets, and represent generally the averages of millers' and shippers' quotes. The monthly averages represent the mean of daily prices, and the annual average is the mean of the monthly averages. Generally speaking, practically the whole of the wheat marketed is in buyers' hands

before the end of March. Business done after that date is of relatively small magnitude, being confined to odd growers' lots and re-sales. No data are available as to the volume of transactions passing, and it is impossible to determine weighted average prices.

Year.	February.	March.	Average Value for Year. ††	Year.	February.	March.	Average Value for Year. ††
	per bushel.	per bushel.	per bushel.		per bushel.	per bushel.	per bushel.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1898	4 0	4 0	3 8	1913	3 6½	3 7	3 2½
1899	2 7½	2 9	2 9	1914	3 8	3 9½	4 1½
1900	2 9	2 8	2 8½	1915†	5 6	5 6	5 5
1901	2 7	2 7	2 8	1916†	5 1½	5 0½	4 10
1902	3 2	3 2½	4 5	1917‡	4 9	4 9	4 9
1903	5 11½*	5 9¼*	5 1¾*	1918‡	4 9	4 9	4 9
1904	3 0½	3 0½	3 2	1919‡	5 0	5 0	5 1½
1905	3 4½	3 3¾	3 5	1920‡	8 5*	8 10*	8 7¼*
1906	3 1½	3 2½	3 3½	1921‡	9 0	9 0	8 8
1907	3 0½	3 1½	3 10	1922‡	5 2	5 11	5 8
1908	4 4	4 5½	4 3½	1923‡	5 8	5 7	5 3½
1909	4 0½	4 6½	4 9	1924‡	4 7	4 7	5 5
1910	4 1¼	4 1	3 10	1925‡	6 9½	6 4	6 2½
1911	3 7½	3 5	3 6	1926‡	6 0	5 9	6 1½
1912	3 9½	3 8½	4 1				

* Imported wheat. † Prices officially fixed. †† Mean of monthly quotes.
‡ Price on trucks Sydney of bagged wheat for flour for home consumption. § To June.

The above prices relate to bagged wheat. Since 1922 increasing proportions of the crop have been handled in bulk (as shown on a previous page), and bulk wheat sells at from 1d. to 2d. per bushel less than bagged wheat.

The high prices ruling in 1903 and 1920 were due to the almost entire failure of the previous season's crop, on account of which supplies were drawn from oversea and other States. In 1920 the price of 9s. per bushel was fixed for wheat for local consumption, in accordance with the anticipated world's parity and in order to encourage farmers to continue wheat-growing. This price was maintained until the end of November, 1921.

In the latter part of 1923 the price fell precipitately owing to the large surplus of production over world requirements, and the price remained for a time lower than in any year since the outbreak of war, although rather higher than in pre-war years. However, a marked diminution in the world's production of wheat in 1924 led to a world-wide rise in price in July, which continued until February, 1925, when the high average level of 6s. 9½d. per bushel was reached in Sydney market. Subsequently until June, 1926, the average monthly price in Sydney fluctuated between 5s. 9d. and 6s. 3d. per bushel.

It is not possible with existing statistical data to provide an accurate comparison between local and oversea prices of wheat. Such a comparison could only be accurately made by the collation of the documents relating to all sales of each season's wheat, or of a sufficiently large proportion thereof to provide a basis for the calculation of reliable averages. These documents are inaccessible.

However, certain data relating to the prices of wheat in local and oversea markets have been brought together in the following table, which provides some interesting particulars of the course of prices in the various markets. Owing to the variation of marketing conditions and the lapse of time between local sales and export and between export from New South Wales and import into the United Kingdom, the prices set against each month are not strictly comparable. The prices in all cases are per bushel of 60 lb.

Month.	Season 1924-25.					Season 1925-26.				
	Shippers and millers' quotes.	Average value declared to Customs, Sydney.	Average price c.i.f. Liverpool and Lond'n.	Average import value into United Kingdom.	Average rate of freight to United Kingdom.	Shippers and millers' quotes.	Average value declared to Customs, Sydney.	Average price c.i.f. Liverpool and Lond'n.	Average import value into United Kingdom.	Average rate of freight to United Kingdom.
November	s. d. 6 3	s. d. 7 1½	s. d. 8 ...	s. d. 7 5	s. d. ...	s. d. 5 11	s. d. 5 8	s. d. 6 11½	s. d. 7 7	s. d. 1 0½
December	6 3½	7 0	8 1	8 1	1 2	6 2	6 8	7 9	7 7	1 1½
January	6 8	6 9	8 6	8 0½	1 3	6 1	6 8½	7 7½	7 8	1 0½
February	6 9½	7 1	8 9	8 3	1 4	6 0	6 3	7 3½	6 7½	0 9½
March	6 4	6 11	8 2	8 4½	1 1	5 9	6 3	6 10	7 1	0 8
April	5 10½	7 2	7 3	8 1½	1 0	6 2	6 11	7 3½	7 1½	0 8
May	6 2	7 3½	7 6	7 11	0 11½	6 3	6 10	7 4	7 8	0 7½
June	6 2½	7 2	7 0½	7 8½	0 10	6 3	6 10	7 4½	7 4	0 6½
July	5 11	6 11½	6 10	7 2½	0 9	...	...	...	...	...
August	6 2½	6 9	7 3	7 3	0 11	...	...	...	...	...
September	6 2	6 3	7 3	7 4½	1 1	...	...	...	...	...
October	5 10	6 1	6 6*	7 6½	1 0½	...	...	...	...	...

* New crop, December-January shipment.

In considering the above prices regard should be paid to the following considerations:—

(1) The average of shippers' and millers' quotes represents the monthly mean of actual buying prices for bagged wheat on trucks Sydney, and they are usually for wheat for prompt delivery. The indications are that the greater part of shippers' and millers' purchases are made in the months of December, January, and February.

(2) The average values declared to the Customs relate to wheat exported in bags and in bulk, and refer to the month of shipment. Owing to delay in transferring the exportable portion of the harvest to the seaboard and the incidence of forward buying the prices in this column are not closely comparable with those in the first column. The quantity and value of wheat exported oversea each month are shown on a later page. The values represent the amount remaining after deducting the cost of insurance and ocean freight from the oversea selling price, where wheat is sold before export, and from the expected oversea price, where wheat is consigned for sale oversea. In the two seasons shown the average export value of wheat shipped to the United Kingdom was slightly less than the average to all countries. They therefore represent the average f.o.b. value Sydney without any deduction for cost of exchange, selling commission, &c., but with the cost of loading on to ship included.

(3) The average price c.i.f. Liverpool and London represents the mean of the weekly prices quoted for Australian wheat in the monthly Crop Report of the International Institute of Agriculture. The quotations are generally those at the close of business for early delivery. They compare very closely with sales reported by cable from England for Australian wheat loading or about to load for export.

(4) The average import value into the United Kingdom also relates to Australian wheat, and represents the total value c.i.f. place of import or, when consigned for sale, the latest market price in England at time of import.

(5) The average rates of freight are the means of the weekly quotes for complete cargoes as shown in the International Crop Report.

The margins between the local and oversea prices are accounted for mainly by ocean freights, but also in part by cost of exchange, insurance, and handling charges, and in part by exporters' profits and overhead expenses. The average amount of charges per bushel paid by the Voluntary Wheat Pool on approximately 4,000,000 bushels of wheat shipped mainly to Europe in the season 1924-25, excluding cost of loading from trucks on to ship, was 1s. 5'41d. per bushel, made up as follows:—Ocean freight 14'06d., outward wharfage, '24d., marine insurance, '38d., superintending outturn '16d., brokerage '47d., selling commission '38d., discount '40d., exchange (sixty days) 1'32d. Early in May 1925 rates of exchange were considerably reduced.

An interesting comparison between the prices realised for wheat per bushel and per acre by the growers of three important exporting countries, in pre-war and post-war years, is made in the following table:—

Crop Grown in—	Average Farm Value per Bushel of Wheat.			Average Farm Value per Acre of Wheat.		
	United States.	Canada.	New South Wales.†	United States.	Canada.	New South Wales.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1909-1913	3 7	*	3 3	2 11 8	*	2 0 1
1921	3 10§	3 4	4 8	2 8 10	4 7 8	3 2 6
1922	4 2§	3 6	4 8	2 17 8	3 2 4	2 5 5
1923	3 10§	2 9	4 2	2 10 7	3 19 8	2 13 11
1924	5 5	5 1	5 7	4 6 2†	3 0 6	5 4 6
1925	6 3†	4 8†	5 1†	4 0 0†	4 1 1†	2 18 6†

* Not available. † Preliminary, subject to revision. ‡ Crops in N.S.W. are marketed six months later than in countries of Northern Hemisphere. § Revised.

The above averages are as officially determined in each of the countries mentioned. The values quoted for New South Wales are the weighted average prices realised for the whole crop at railway sidings after deducting net cost of bags, due allowance being made for wheat handled in bulk. Dollars have been converted at par rate of exchange in the cases of United States and Canada, and the averages for the United States have been revised throughout to accord with the basis adopted in the United States Department of Agriculture Year Book, 1924. The marked disparity between the values in Canada and the United States from 1921 to 1923 has been partly due to the abnormal conditions of the exchanges. A further powerful factor appears to be that, whereas about two-thirds of the United States harvest is used for home consumption, only about one-sixth of the

average Canadian crop is so required. Home consumption appears to operate in maintaining the value of local wheat, but there is another important consideration in that Australian wheat of average quality frequently commands a higher price in world markets than the first quality grains of either Canada or the United States.

During the past five seasons the position of the local wheat-grower as regards price per bushel has compared favourably with that of the grower in the United States or Canada. However, cost of production and yield per acre also play an important part in determining the profitability of wheat-growing. Comparable data as to cost of production are not obtainable, but the average farm value per acre of wheat grown for grain provides a comparison of the effects of price and yield combined on the returns of farmers per unit of cultivation. The average for the past five seasons in New South Wales is approximately the same as that of the United States, but it is considerably below that of Canada, where yields are generally higher and average prices considerably lower. Comparison of the returns of pre-war and post-war years in New South Wales show that the average gross return per acre for the periods of five years has increased by approximately 65 per cent, which is slightly less than the average increase in wholesale prices.

Cost of Growing Wheat in New South Wales.

The Select Committee on the Agricultural Industry in 1921 concluded from the data before it that proper harvesting and cultivation of wheat cannot be carried out under existing conditions at a lower cost than £3 5s. per acre (excluding insurance), and that it will require an average of 14 bushels to the acre, with a minimum price of 4s. 8d. per bushel at the nearest railway siding, to recoup this cost to farmers within 10 miles, and "that profit over and above a labourer's wage" accrues to the wheat-grower only when the price realised exceeds this amount.

Various attempts have been made to secure the data necessary to form a satisfactory estimate of the average cost of producing wheat in New South Wales; but as, either for grain or for hay, this depends largely upon the methods of culture, the area cultivated, the distance from the railway, and the soil conditions, the experiences of individual farmers differ very greatly, and analysis of farmers' budgets has given a wide range of results.

The factor which is probably the main cause of these differences is the efficiency of the producers. Wheat being the product of a large number of farmers working independently, it is natural that there should be greater variation in regard to efficiency than in other industries, where the producers are assembled under the supervision of experts, and where there are greater facilities for improving methods of production and for utilising labour and materials on the most economical basis.

However, hypothetical estimates have been made by Mr. A. H. E. McDonald, Superintendent of Agriculture, of the cost of producing wheat on unfallowed and on fallowed land. For the purpose of the estimates the area cropped annually is taken at 250 acres, viz., 230 acres for grain, and 20 acres for hay for horse feed; to crop this area in alternate seasons under the system for fallowing, the total area of the farm would be at least 500 acres. The value of the land was assumed to be £6 per acre, and the value of the plant £680, until 1925-26, when they were increased to £7 and £750 respectively.

In the case of fallowed land one crop is grown in two years, but the stubble and herbage on the land are available for at least six months, and where sheep are kept, as is usually the case, this land is used for pastoral purposes, and the interest for only half the year of fallow is placed against agricultural operations.

Interest on land is allowed at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and interest and depreciation on plant at 13½ per cent. Annual allowances are made of £20 for repairs, etc., £45 for wages for extra help, and 9d. per bag for cartage to rail. In addition, the cost of 6½ tons of superphosphates and of the bags necessary for handling the wheat is included at market rates each year. A special allowance is made for seed wheat, and it is assumed that the whole of the harvest is sold at average market rates.

On these bases an instructive comparison may be made between the cost of producing wheat under the conditions set out above, and the return to a farmer who obtained the average yield per acre in the past five seasons. In 1923-24, 1924-25, and 1925-26 nearly one-half of the area sown in the State had been fallowed, and as particulars of the yield from this land were obtained, it is possible to publish separate estimates for fallowed and unfallowed land. The following table provides an indication of the financial results of the operations of a wheat-grower cropping annually an area of 230 acres for grain and 20 acres for hay for horse-feed, under the conditions described:—

Item.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.		1924-25.		1925-26.	
Average yield per acre .. bushels	13·4	9·7	9·6§	14·1§§	14·8 §	19·7 §§	10·0§	13·5§§
Costs—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Land—Interest	90	90	90	135	90	135	105	157·5
Plant—Interest and Depreciation ..	90	90	90	90	90	90	99	99
Repairs	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Wages—Extra help	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45
Fertiliser, 6½ tons	44	44	37	37	28	28	32	32
Bags	42·75	31	31	45·5	76	101	48	60
Cartage to rail	39	28	23	40·5	43	57	29	36
Seed Wheat—50 lb. per acre ..	104	78	62·5	62·5	62·5	62·5	62·5	62·5
Total cost of cropping 230 acres for grain†	£ 474 75	426	403·5	475·5	454·5	538·5	440 5	512
Cost of crop per acre†	£ s. d. 2 12 10	£ s. d. 1 17 0	£ s. d. 1 15 1	£ s. d. 2 1 4	£ s. d. 1 19 6	£ s. d. 2 5 10	£ s. d. 1 18 4	£ s. d. 2 4 6
Value at rail of crop per acre ..	3 2 4*	2 5 2	1 19 2	2 17 7	4 6 4	5 14 11	2 13 4‡	3 12 0‡
Apparent Net Return to Farmer, including payment for his labour other than cartage to rail. } 230 acres	0 9 6	0 8 2	0 4 1	0 16 3	2 6 10	3 9 1	0 15 0	1 7 6
	£109	£94	£47	£187	£538	£794	£173‡	£316‡

* Estimated from payments of wheat pool. † Omitting value of farmer's labour and abnormal costs occasioned by drought. ‡ Subject to revision. § Unfallowed land. §§ Fallowed land.

The corresponding amounts of net return to the farmer, including payment for his labour, in each of the preceding five years were as follow:—1915-16, £376; 1916-17, (—)£28; 1917-18, £113; 1918-19, £16; 1919-1920, (—)£103; 1920-21, £1,005. Details of these estimates were published in previous issues of this Year Book. (—) Indicates a loss. If the farmer carted his own wheat to rail, his net return for his labour would be augmented by the value of cartage shown under costs. If he is the owner of the land and plant used his income also embraces the interest allowed on these items, viz., £150, and £202·5, respectively on unfallowed and fallowed land in 1925-26. These, however, are fairly charged against production. Additional costs of production which might fairly be charged but are not included in the above statement are insurance and shire rates. In 1925-26 the amount of these for unfallowed and fallowed land respectively were:—Fire insurance, £5 and £8; hail insurance, £23 and £31; shire rates, £10·5 and £15·75.

In 1923-24 more than 25 per cent., in 1924-25 over 35 per cent., and in 1925-26 34·9 per cent. of the harvest sent to rail was handled in bulk, consequently a considerable proportion of farmers effected large savings in their

costs because they required practically no bags. Where farmers have provided themselves with special bulk-handling facilities there should, of course, be an additional allowance *per contra* for interest and depreciation, and where the wheat is carried to silos in bags fastened by clips it is estimated that bags can be used a number of times. In the latter case the farmer's expenditure for bags would be only a fraction of that shown above. In addition there would be a saving of the cost of ramming and sewing, estimated at 2d. per bag. On the other hand, the farmer who sells in bags regains part of the difference because he is paid for the weight of the bags as wheat, which represents a return (at present prices) of 2½d. on the cost of his bag. In addition, during the current season bagged wheat has been quoted at times on the Sydney market at from 1d. to 2d. more per bushel than bulk wheat. Still, making allowance for all factors, it is estimated by the Superintendent of Agriculture that farmers handling their wheat in bulk make a saving in their costs amounting to, approximately, 8d. per bag. This should be allowed for in considering the above table.

Although this statement is expressed in terms of money, it does not purport to furnish any guide to the actual profits of individual farmers. It is hypothetical, and illustrates the combined effects of prices, yields, and costs of production on the operations of wheat-farmers in recent years, thereby providing an index of prosperity. It shows the highly speculative nature of the wheat-growing industry.

In considering the estimates here put forward, it is necessary to remember that the calculations are based on the annual average yields for the whole State, which are probably below those usually obtained by skilled farmers engaged exclusively in agriculture. In many cases wheat-growing is carried on in conjunction with other activities, and the profit arising from the production of grain is not the sole factor in the farmer's income, nor in determining whether he will grow wheat.

Again, in the southern districts, farmers generally use fertiliser and fallow their land extensively. Favoured by the natural advantage of operating in a belt of winter rainfall, they generally obtain better yields than the farmers in the central and northern districts.

In view of the explanation given on page 621, the results here published do not reflect accurately the relative profitableness of the policy of fallowing.

World's Production of Wheat.

Complete and uniform statistics of the whole of the wheat crops of the world in recent years are not available, and have been very defective in many countries since 1916. But for previous years returns were obtainable from nearly every country where wheat was grown extensively. From these, reliable estimates of the fluctuations of the world's wheat production may be made. In the past thirty years a continuous increase has been apparent, despite the fact that very considerable fluctuations have been shown from season to season. The annual averages, so far as reported, from 1891 to 1915 are shown below:—

Period.	Annual average Wheat Yield of World so far as reported. Bushels.
1891-1900	2,581,000,000
1901-1910	3,553,000,000
1911-1915	3,837,000,000

The returns from which these totals are compiled do not include all wheat-producing countries. It is estimated by the International Institute of Agriculture that the average annual yield of wheat throughout the world is now

approximately 4,600,000,000 bushels, including Turkey, China, and other countries from which data is incomplete or inaccurate. A comparatively small proportion of this enters into international trade.

The following statement, based on information contained in the Year Book of the International Institute of Agriculture, shows the quantity of wheat produced in the leading countries of the world during the past two seasons in comparison with the quinquennial average maintained before the war:—

Northern Hemisphere.	Annual Production of Wheat in Thousand Bushels.			Southern Hemisphere.	Annual Production of Wheat in Thousand Bushels.		
	Average, 1909-13. ‡	1923. §**	1924. §*		Average, 1909-10-1913-14.	1923-24. **	1924-25. *
Europe—				South America—			
Russia proper ...	662,504	330,232	330,587	Argentina ...	146,752	247,806	191,137
France ...	316,973	275,537	281,177	Other Countries ...	32,087	45,742	36,211
Italy ...	182,951	224,835	170,143	Total S. America..	178,839	293,548	227,348
Spain ...	129,174	157,109	121,778				
Germany ...	151,868	106,447	89,199	Australasia—			
Roumania ...	87,608	102,119	70,420	New South Wales ...	26,717	33,176	59,767
British Isles ...	59,850	60,480	53,744	Victoria ...	27,656	37,796	47,365
Hungary ...	169,289	67,705	51,568	South Australia ...	22,843	34,552	36,529
Bulgaria ...	42,086	36,223	28,317	Western Australia ...	5,671	18,920	23,887
Czechoslovakia ...	...	36,226	32,238	Queensland... ..	1,250	244	2,780
Poland ...	...	49,734	32,497	Tasmania	806	306	231
Belgium ...	14,868	13,376	13,004	Total, Australia ..	84,943	124,994	164,559
Austria ...	67,381	8,889	8,490	New Zealand —	7,885	4,175	5,000
Yugo-Slavia ...	14,715	61,068	57,769	Total, Australasia	92,828	129,160	169,559
Other Countries ...	41,468	63,280	46,082				
Total, Europe††	1,940,730	1,593,290	1,387,013	Southern Africa—			
Asia—				Union of South Africa.	6,264	6,026	7,114
British India ...	351,103	372,356	363,882	Southern Rhodesia	12	38	18
Japan ...	23,586	25,032	25,495	Other ... ..	...	596	20
Russia in Asia ...	150,795	††	‡	Total, S. Africa	6,276	6,660	7,182
Other Countries ...	6,988	21,992	26,395				
Total, Asia††	532,472	419,380	415,682	Total, Southern Hemisphere.	277,943	429,377	404,080
Northern Africa—				Total, The World, as far as Reported.	3,743,049	3,835,669*	3,437,540
Egypt ...	34,039	40,653	34,185				
Other Countries ...	60,415	67,383	51,444	Countries which have not reported since 1914—			
Total, N. Africa	94,454	108,036	85,629	Turkey§§ ...	160,000	...	...
North America—				China§§ ...	590,000	630,000†	...
United States ...	696,006	797,381	872,673	Other	200,000	...	...
Canada ...	130,042	474,199	262,097				
Other Countries ...	71,402	14,006	10,357				
Total, N. America	897,450	1,285,586	1,145,127				
Total, Northern Hemisphere.	3,465,106	3,406,292	3,033,451				

* Preliminary. † 1923. ‡ Old boundaries. § New boundaries. ** As revised. †† Production of Russia in Asia included in Russia proper above. Post-war figures relate to the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics. ‡‡ Not available. §§ Figures for one year only.

MAIZE.

Before the development of the wheat-exporting industry of New South Wales maize-growing was the most extensive single agricultural pursuit. It now ranks second in importance amongst the crops of New South Wales. However, its cultivation is small in comparison with that of wheat, and sufficient is not grown for local consumption.

Maize is cultivated chiefly in the valleys of the coastal rivers, where both soil and climate are peculiarly adapted to its growth. On the Northern Tableland also good results are obtained, and maize is gaining popularity as a profitable crop in rotation with hay.

Maize-growing reached its highest development locally in 1910, and since then production has been decreasing. The following statement exhibits a comparison of the extent of maize-growing since the season 1900-01, with the total value and average value per acre for each crop:—

Season.	Area under Maize for Grain.	Production.		Farm Value of Crops.	
		Total.	Average yield per Acre.	Total.	Per Acre.
	acres.	bushels.	bushels.	£	£ s. d.
1900-01	206,051	6,293,000	30·5	839,032	4 0 6
1910-11	213,217	7,594,000	35·6	791,050	3 14 2
1915-16	154,130	3,774,000	24·5	723,270	4 13 10
1916-17	155,378	4,333,000	27·9	722,250	4 13 0
1917-18	145,754	3,500,000	24·0	875,220	6 0 1
1918-19	114,582	2,092,000	18·3	580,380	5 1 3
1919-20	136,509	4,052,000	29·7	1,502,900	11 0 2
1920-21	144,105	4,176,000	29·0	974,260	6 15 2
1921-22	146,687	3,976,000	27·1	894,670	6 2 0
1922-23	138,169	3,287,000	23·8	890,260	6 8 10
1923-24	166,974	4,623,000	27·7	847,550	5 1 6
1924-25	146,564	4,208,000	28·7	631,230	4 6 2

Some doubt exists as to whether the production recorded in landholders' returns includes all maize grown for farm use, and endeavour is being made to ascertain the position and apply a remedy should such be needed.

The following statement shows the area under maize for grain in New South Wales during the season 1924-25, with the production and average yield in each Division:—

Division.	Area under Maize for Grain.	Yield.	
	Total.	Total.	Per Acre.
Coastal—	acres.	bushels.	bushels.
North	55,259	1,783,747	32·3
Hunter and Manning	26,249	751,596	28·6
Metropolitan... ..	2,734	106,323	38·9
South	12,274	425,220	34·6
Total	96,516	3,066,886	31·8
Tableland—			
Northern	22,592	489,981	21·7
Central	6,375	135,834	21·3
Southern	181	5,604	31·0
Total	29,148	631,419	21·7
Western Slopes... ..	20,532	503,823	24·5
Central Plains, Riverina, and Western Divisions	368	6,072	16·5
All Divisions	146,564	4,208,200	28·7

The principal factors in the local supply of maize in recent seasons are shown in the following table, based on data revised since the last issue of this Year Book. The particulars given are for calendar years, as the maize crops of the State are harvested between January and August.

Year.	Production.	Import.		Export Oversea.	Available for Consumption.
		Oversea.	Interstate.		
	bus.	bus.	bus.	bus.	bus.
1921 ...	4,176,000	28,000	878,000	20,000	5,062,000
1922 ...	3,976,000	390,000	732,000	2,000	5,096,000
1923 ...	3,287,000	1,801,000	477,000	10,000	5,555,000
1924 ...	4,623,000	317,000	1,397,000	53,000	6,284,000
1925 ...	4,208,000	180,000	1,623,000	51,000	5,960,000
1926 ...	*	989,000†	126,000†	43,000†	*

* Not available. † To June.

Particulars of the exports interstate by sea and of the imports interstate by sea at Newcastle are not available, and, to this extent, the above statement is incomplete. However, inquiries show that the quantity involved in adjustment for these factors is not considerable.

The imports interstate are derived almost exclusively from Queensland, while the imports oversea are brought from South Africa. A duty of 1s. 8d. per bushel is imposed on maize imported from South Africa, and 10d. per bushel on maize imported from New Zealand.

A marked decline occurred between 1910 and 1914 in the area sown with maize, and this decline was accompanied by a slight falling off in the average yield per acre.

During the five seasons ending 1909-10, when the average area under maize was 183,611 acres, the average farm value of the crop was £4 8s. per acre. In the next five years the purchasing power of money declined steadily, but the average value per acre cropped increased by only about 8 per cent. Although from that time onwards the return to the farmer per acre showed some improvement it fell further and further behind the general rise in prices, and the average farm value of the crops of the last five years shown above was only £5 14s. 2d. per acre, or approximately 30 per cent. above the average for the quinquennium ending in 1910. In the same period there was a rise of 80 per cent. in the general level of wholesale prices. In 1924-25 the average farm value of the crop per acre was actually lower than the quinquennial average prevailing before the war.

OATS.

Oats is sown in New South Wales mainly as a hay crop, the areas for respective purposes being as follow in 1924-25—Oats for hay, 275,334 acres; oats for grain, 123,517 acres; and oats for green food, 29,498 acres. The combined area—428,349 acres—is 68,339 acres, or approximately 15 per cent. greater than that of the previous season, which was greater than for any preceding year. The previous maximum was 326,182 acres, in 1913-14.

The elevated districts of Monaro, Argyle, Bathurst, and New England contain large areas of land on which oats could be cultivated with excellent results, as it thrives best in regions which experience a winter of some severity.

Omitting from account small areas, the highest average yield of oats grain in any division in 1924-25 was 25·3 bushels per acre, obtained from 4,923 acres in the Northern Tableland Division.

The principal divisions in respect of the cultivation of oats for grain were the South-western Slopes, where 48,516 acres produced 949,561 bushels of grain, an average of 19·6 bushels per acre, the Riverina division, with 43,325 acres producing 887,826 bushels, an average of 20·5 bushels per acre, and the Central Tableland with 16,150 acres producing 332,820 bushels, or an average of 20·6 bushels per acre. These three divisions between them produced 87 per cent. of the oats grain grown in the State:—

The following table gives statistics of the cultivation of oats for grain since 1900-01:—

Season.	Acres under Oats for Grain.	Production.		Farm Value of Oats for Grain.	
		Bushels.	Bushels per Acre.	Total.	Per Acre.
1900-01	29,383	593,548	20·2	£ 59,355	£ s. d. 2 0 6
1910-11	77,991	1,702,706	21·8	177,360	2 5 6
1915-16	58,636	1,345,698	23·0	173,820	2 19 3
1916-17	67,111	1,084,980	16·2	128,840	1 18 5
1917-18	82,591	1,455,111	17·6	266,720	3 4 7
1918-19	86,474	1,273,752	14·7	265,350	3 1 4
1919-20	76,117	586,758	7·7	168,700	2 4 4
1920-21	77,709	1,642,700	21·1	241,480	3 2 2
1921-22	69,795	1,169,900	16·8	199,820	2 17 3
1922-23	74,006	1,250,800	16·9	234,550	3 3 5
1923-24	86,693	1,570,300	18·1	268,260	3 1 9
1924-25	123,517	2,511,400	20·3	293,000	2 7 5

The oats crop is harvested in December, and therefore constitutes the local element of supply for the calendar year following. The sources from which the local crop has been supplemented, and the quantity available for consumption in each of the past five years, is shown in the following table:—

Year.	Production.	Import.		Export, Oversea and Interstate.	Available for Consumption.†
		Oversea.	Interstate.‡		
1921 ...	bus. 1,642,700	bus. 2,600	bus. 983,900	bus. 94,200	bus. 2,535,000
1922 ...	1,169,900	324,100	957,700	18,800	2,432,900*
1923 ...	1,250,800	332,900	1,361,900	2,600	2,943,000
1924 ...	1,570,300	2,000	681,700	15,700	2,238,300
1925 ...	2,511,400	1,900	291,000	43,600	2,760,700

* Revised.

† Subject to adjustment for carry-over.

‡ Omitting considerable quantities imported interstate at Newcastle.

A duty of 1s. 6d. per cental, or approximately 7d. per bushel of 40 lb., is imposed on oats imported oversea. Since 1924 practically the whole local supply has been produced in New South Wales and other Australian States.

At present the market for oats is chiefly in the metropolitan and Newcastle districts, and the demand depends mainly upon the price of maize.

The local yield per acre is considerably below that of the important producing countries, and the total yield insignificant compared with the world production, which usually amounts to more than 4,000,000,000 bushels per year. Though most countries produce sufficient for their own requirements, considerable international trade is done in oats. The United Kingdom and France are the principal importers and Russia (formerly), but now the United States, Canada, and the Argentine are the principal world suppliers.

BARLEY.

Barley is produced only on a moderate scale in New South Wales, and local supplies of barley and malt are practically all imported from other States. Although there are several districts where the necessary conditions as to soil and drainage present inducements for cultivation, particularly with regard to the malting varieties, barley is grown mainly in the North-Western Slope and the Riverina Divisions. The areas under crop in other districts are small, and do not call for special notice. The following table shows the area under barley for grain, together with the production at intervals since 1900-01:—

Season.	Area under Barley for Grain.	Production.		Season.	Area under Barley for Grain.	Production.	
		Total.	Average per Acre.			Total.	Average per Acre.
	acres.	bushels.	bushels.		acres.	bushels.	bushels.
1900-01	9,435	114,228	12.1	1919-20	5,354	38,892	7.2
1905-06	9,519	111,266	11.7	1920-21	5,969	123,290	20.7
1910-11	7,082	82,005	11.6	1921-22	5,031	83,950	16.7
1915-16	6,369	114,846	18.0	1922-23	3,899	55,520	14.3
1916-17	5,195	73,370	14.1	1923-24	4,357	71,910	16.5
1917-18	6,370	97,824	15.5	1924-25	6,638	118,300	17.8
1918-19	7,980	86,313	10.8				

Considerable fluctuation has occurred in the area cultivated, while the grain yield has varied greatly, ranging from 4 bushels per acre in 1902-3, when the crop practically failed, to the excellent rate of 21.9 bushels in 1886-7. The average crop during the last ten years has been about 15 bushels per acre.

Of the area cropped for grain in 1924-25, 4,191 acres yielded 76,530 bushels of malting barley and 2,447 acres yielded 41,770 bushels of other barley. In addition, 1,150 acres were cropped for hay and 6,187 acres for green food.

OTHER CROPS.

Particulars are shown below of the remaining crops of the State.—

Crop.	Average of 5 years ending 30th June, 1924.			Year ended 30th June, 1925.		
	Area.	Production.	Yield per acre.	Area.	Production.	Yield per acre.
Hay—	acres.	tons.	tons.	acres.	tons.	tons.
Wheaten	599,699	620,634	1-03	388,479	537,057	1-38
Oaten	219,132	274,546	1-25	275,334	400,431	1-45
Lucerne	70,189	146,012	2-08	98,056	213,335	2-18
Other	2,278	2,421	1-06	1,388	1,780	1-28
Green Fodder	435,624	£688,968	£1 12s.	166,073	£662,030	£3 19s. 9d.
Sown Grasses	1,844,274	...	...	1,993,718	...	...
Rye (Grain)	1,312	20,093	15-3	2,373	30,540	12-9
Broom Millet—		bushels.	bushels.		bushels.	bushels.
Grain	2,622	16,316	6-2	1,301	6,490	5-0
Fibre		13,494	5-1		8,363	6-4
Root Crops—		tons.	tons.		tons.	tons.
Potatoes	24,331	53,576	2-2	23,403	57,274	2-45
Other	1,255	4,361	3-48	1,228	4,859	3-96
Miscellaneous Crops—		cwt.	cwt.		cwt.	cwt.
Tobacco (Dried Leaf)	1,579	14,344	9-08	719	4,567	6-35
Sugar Cane—		tons.	tons.		tons.	tons.
Crushed	5,672	130,437	23-00	7,761	228,978	29-50
Stand-over	7,654	...	...	12,232	...	...
Grapes—		gallons.	gallons.		gallons.	gallons.
For Wine	5,117	6,595	1-29	6,958	8,255	1-19
Wine Made ... ..	...	850,034	166	...	1,171,264	168
For Table Use	2,184	3,150	1-44	2,411	3,590	1-49
For Drying Purposes	840	13,599	16-20	1,585	25,133	15-86
Young Vines	3,976	...	...	3,783	...	...
*Other Crops	21,067	...	...	22,513	...	...

* Made up of Market Gardens, Tomatoes, Peas and Beans, Pumpkins and Melons, Cabbages, Cauliflowers, Asparagus, Cucumbers, Lucerne Seed, Nurseries and Flowers, Bananas, Cotton, and other miscellaneous crops.

Details respecting each of the above crops are shown in the "Statistical Register of New South Wales."

Fodder crops are always extensive, but the areas cut for hay or used as green fodder, vary considerably from season to season. The greater part of the area cultivated for hay is sown with wheat, but cultivation for oat hay is also very extensive. Lucerne is more or less a permanent crop, and in recent years the area devoted to it has increased steadily. The area of land cultivated expressly for green fodder is not known. The area shown above includes areas which failed to mature for grain or hay and were used as green fodder for stock. Lands sown with grasses are not usually cultivated, being used principally for grazing dairy cattle in the North Coast district.

Only about 10 per cent. of the tobacco and about 7 per cent. of the sugar used annually in New South Wales are grown within the State.

The vineyards of the State are becoming extended, and considerable new areas are being placed under grapes in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. The most important viticultural district was formerly in the Hunter and Manning Division, the area cultivated for grapes in that Division in 1924-25 being 2,556 acres for wine-making, 248 acres for table use, and 379 acres of young vines. However, the area cultivated for grapes is now largest in the

Riverina Division, where, in 1924-25, 3,463 acres were grown for wine-making, 502 acres for table use, 840 acres for drying, and 2,623 acres of young vines. The greater part of these areas are in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area.

COTTON.

In view of the diminution of world supplies, a considerable amount of attention was given in 1922 and following years to the work of encouraging the cultivation of cotton in New South Wales. The educative propaganda was undertaken largely by the British-Australian Cotton Association and the Department of Agriculture also increased its experimental activities, prepared leaflets, and distributed seed among growers. In addition, the Government of New South Wales guaranteed to pay certain minimum prices on an attractive scale for seed cotton grown in the State during the three seasons ending 1924-25. The result of these pools are as follow:— 1922-23—Receipts from sales, &c., £2,275; payments to growers and expenses, £2,271; net surplus, £4. 1923-24—Receipts from sales, &c., £4,022; payments to growers and expenses £4,949; estimated deficit, £927. 1925-26—Receipts, £528; payments to growers and expenses, £937; estimated deficit, £409.

A ginnery was opened at Newcastle on 31st August, 1923, by the British-Australian Cotton Association. The area sown with cotton in 1924-25 was 86 acres, and the yield of seed cotton 11,617 lb. The corresponding totals for 1923-24 were 544 acres and 55,726 lb. of seed cotton.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GROWING.

In 1924-25 the area of land on which fruit (including grapes, bananas, and pineapples) was grown was 88,714 acres, and the value of fruit produced £1,866,620.

The importance of fruit and vegetable growing as industries is shown by the following comparison, which relates to the area and value of production of each of the principal classes of crop on holdings of 1 acre and upwards in extent:—

Kind of Crops.	1923-24.			1924-25.		
	Area not yet Bearing.	Area in Bearing.	Value of Crop.	Area not yet Bearing.	Area in Bearing.	Value of Crop.
	Acres.	Acres.	£	Acres.	Acres.	£
Orchards—Citrus ...	8,971	20,733	521,730	9,284	22,709	609,420
Other ...	13,436	26,982	748,640	12,631	27,386	750,796
Total	22,407	47,715	1,270,370	21,915	50,095	1,360,216
Vineyards	4,609	9,950	455,140*	3,783	10,954	407,000*
Market Gardens ... ..	.....	8,543	628,730	.....	8,837	657,152
Separate Root Crops ... ..	.....	23,446	342,710	.....	24,631	349,320
Minor Crops of Fruit and Vegetables ..	263	13,349	446,890	602	12,170	349,213
Grand Total ...	27,279	103,003	3,143,840	26,300	106,687	3,113,901

* Includes value of wine and brandy made from grape juice.

The cultivation of fruit is capable of considerable expansion, and as there exist large areas of suitable soil with climatic conditions ranging from comparative cold on the highlands to semi-tropical heat on the North Coast, a large variety of fruits can be cultivated. In the vicinity of Sydney, oranges, peaches, plums, and passion-fruit are most generally planted. On

the Tableland, apples, pears, apricots, and all the fruits from cool and temperate climates thrive well; in the west and in the south-west, figs, almonds, and raisin-grapes can be cultivated; and in the north coastal districts, bananas, pine-apples, and other tropical fruits grow excellently. Citrus fruits are cultivated extensively, and form the largest element in local fruit production.

With the exception of oranges and mandarins, the fruit-production of New South Wales is far below average demands. In 1924-25 the quantity of fruit imported at Sydney by sea from other States was 630,263 cases, valued at £261,282. The quantity of fruit used for jam and fruit-canning in factories in New South Wales during 1924-25 was 14,969 tons, valued at £187,915. Fresh fruit (other than citrus) to the value of £44,174 was exported oversea from New South Wales in 1924-25, in addition to preserved fruit and vegetables, pulp and juice of local origin valued at £77,661, and dried fruits of local origin valued at £19,882. Good seasons generally produce a glut of fruit, for which, apparently, there is no system of efficient handling; and while consumers are anxious to secure supplies of sound fruit, much of the produce is allowed to be wasted. The conditions of the industry were investigated by the Select Committee on Agriculture in 1921, and much valuable information is contained in the report of that committee, and the evidence taken by it.

The extent of cultivation of each important class of fruit on holdings of 1 acre and upwards during the past two seasons is shown in the following table:—

Fruit.	1923-24.				1924-25.			
	Number of Trees not yet Bearing.	Trees of Bearing Age.		Number of Trees not yet Bearing.	Trees of Bearing Age.			
		Number.	Yield.		Number.	Yield.		
Oranges—			bushels.			bushels.		
Seville	12,549	41,588	43,907	9,457	47,451	56,657		
Washington Navel ...	278,020	252,307	260,769	233,266	299,337	319,188		
Valencia	227,507	431,348	438,403	224,283	502,089	518,648		
All other	72,993	502,749	554,548	58,982	500,973	592,834		
Lemons	69,546	200,958	233,382	52,982	218,718	276,485		
Mandarins	170,550	475,918	464,636	155,941	519,487	518,072		
Other Citrus	5,148	10,786	8,375	4,301	9,515	10,178		
Apples	393,552	752,812	522,771	297,503	773,691	842,329		
Pears—								
Williams	51,887	140,323	128,130	62,893	148,823	176,897		
All other	78,353	110,739	93,324	69,096	110,672	103,247		
Peaches—								
Early	50,412	328,659	340,527	47,733	349,135	400,576		
Canning	84,132	254,994	308,749	86,567	241,518	382,591		
Nectarines... ..	10,140	28,893	29,362	9,780	27,354	35,191		
Plums	71,972	203,625	164,680	67,747	207,878	213,237		
Prunes	230,099	90,947	65,467	218,312	101,641	115,365		
Cherries	94,274	166,541	72,069	93,822	173,523	93,417		
Apricots	69,885	127,198	140,874	66,126	132,639	169,619		
Quinces	9,305	28,237	29,559	8,057	28,196	33,277		
Persimmons	3,035	13,298	12,276	2,444	10,613	12,531		
Passion Fruit	†73,593	†221,178	68,193	†46,912	†219,188	73,079		
†All other ... ..	...	...	23,253	...	...	23,819

† Vines.

‡ Excludes bananas and pineapples.

The above figures include returns from private orchards, which are, however, of comparatively small extent, ranging from 2 per cent. of the total orchards, in the case of citrus fruits, up to about 8 per cent. in the case of some stone-fruits.

Citrus Fruits.

Particulars of citrus orchards are shown in the following statement:—

Season.	Area under Cultivation (Citrus Fruits.)			Production.		Value of Production.*	
	Productive.	Not bearing.	Total.	Total.	Average per Productive Acre.	Total.	Average per Productive Acre.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	bushels.	bushels.	£	£ s. d.
1900-01	11,013	3,952	14,965	648,628	59	81,080	7 7 3
1910-11	17,465	2,643	20,108	1,478,306	85	199,300	11 8 3
1917-18	19,133	6,311	25,444	1,737,107	91	384,660	20 2 1
1918-19	20,529	7,068	27,597	1,619,346	79	745,070	36 5 10
1920-21	21,990	6,445	28,435	2,009,756	91	477,580	21 14 4
1921-22	22,083	6,221	28,304	2,135,693	97	530,380	24 0 4
1922-23	20,412	8,036	28,448	1,984,707	97	628,100	30 5 8
1923-24	20,733	8,971	29,704	2,004,020	97	521,730	25 3 4
1924-25	22,709	9,284	31,993	2,292,062	101	609,420	26 16 9

* At Orchards.

The principal divisions for the cultivation of citrus fruits are as follow:—Metropolitan, 9,254 acres; Hunter and Manning, 7,919 acres; Riverina (which includes the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area), 7,496 acres, and Central Tableland, 6,047 acres.

Both the average yield per acre and the average value of the yield have increased very markedly. The average farm value of citrus fruits per acre was greater in the five years 1918-19 to 1922-23 than that of other fruits, but the position was reversed in 1923-24 and 1924-25.

The number of orchards in which citrus fruit was cultivated during the year 1924-25 was 5,748, and of these the average area was 5·6 acres.

The production of oranges and mandarins has attained such proportions that the growers are obliged to seek oversea markets, the supply, both in New South Wales and in the adjacent States, exceeding in some seasons the local demand. During 1924-25 the oversea export of citrus fruits from New South Wales amounted to 42,445 centials, valued at £57,046. Practically the whole of this export was sent to New Zealand.

Since 1921 steps have been taken by the citrus growers in an increasing number of centres to organise the marketing of their citrus products co-operatively. This is being achieved through the establishment of co-operative packing houses, eleven of which operated in the 1925 season, with a total pack of from 243,000 to 400,000 one-bushel cases, or approximately one-ninth of the entire crop of the State.

Membership of each packing-house society is limited to bona-fide citrus fruit growers in the locality where the society operates, and members are bound for periods usually of two years to send the whole of their production to the packing-house for grading, packing and marketing.

An estimate of each member's crop is made at the beginning of the season, and steps are taken to ensure that regular supplies will be forwarded in order to secure economy in handling. However, supplies are varied periodically in consideration of the state of the market.

The fruit is marketed in four grades, the cases being labelled to show variety, grade and count. Standards are rigorously maintained by each packing-house, and this facilitates successful marketing. Buyers have found that they can rely on the standardised pack and upon getting regular supplies in season, from May to December, and in smaller quantities until February. Consequently a considerable amount of trade is being done direct from the packing-houses to the country districts of New South Wales and to Victoria, Queensland and New Zealand. Prices for New South Wales are fixed weekly on the basis of Sydney values by the packing-houses in consultation with the Central Citrus Association (a federation of the

packing-houses). By direct trading the buyer gets his fruit fresher and cheaper, because time is not wasted in superfluous handlings, no intervening profit is made, and sometimes there is a considerable saving in freight. The packing-house, on the other hand, saves considerably in selling commission, freight and cartage. However, a large quantity is still sent for sale on consignment to Sydney selling agents.

Fruits other than Citrus.

The following table shows the area under orchards and fruit-gardens, exclusive of citrus orchards, bananas and pineapples, together with the total value of each season's yield, at intervals since 1900-01:—

Season.	Area under Cultivation (Fruits other than Citrus).			Value of Production.	
	Productive.	Not Bearing.	Total.	Total.	Average per Productive Acre
	acres.	acres.	acres.	£	£ s. d.
1900-01	25,766	5,503	31,269	270,081	10 10 0
1910-11	20,498	6,748	27,246	271,930	13 5 4
1917-18	22,121	13,784	35,905	378,552	17 2 3
1918-19	23,795	12,970	36,765	586,470	24 12 11
1919-20	25,688	13,978	39,666	557,130	21 13 9
1920-21	27,368	14,309	41,677	578,980	21 3 1
1921-22	27,858	14,085	41,943	550,280	19 15 1
1922-23	26,327	14,513	40,840	737,080	28 0 0
1923-24	26,982	13,436	40,418	748,640	27 14 11
1924-25	27,386	12,631	40,017	750,796	27 8 4

Nearly one-quarter of the area under fruits other than citrus is situated in the Central Tablelands, where the area occupied in this way is 10,192 acres, the next largest totals being 7,863 acres in the south-western slopes, and 7,403 acres in the Riverina, which includes the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Settlement.*

In contrast with the headway made in organising the marketing of citrus fruits little has been done to improve the system of marketing other fruits. However, at Batlow there has been established an efficient cool store on co-operative lines to provide growers with storage chambers which will enable them to store apples and pears during periods of plenty for sale when supplies are scarce by reason of seasonal changes. In addition to the monetary gain, this system makes it possible for suppliers to guarantee continuity of supplies of fruit over a definite period, to make valuable trading connections, and to inaugurate sound marketing undertakings. Some details of the scheme were published on page 477 of the Year Book for 1924.

Commonwealth Fruit Bounty.

In the 1923-24 season the "pool" system of encouraging fruit canning, as described in previous Year Books, was discontinued and the Commonwealth Government placed a bounty upon the production of canned fruits. The rates of bounty per dozen 30-oz. tins were as follow:—Apricots, 9d., with an additional bounty of 1s. 8d. on exports; peaches (clingstone), 1s. and 1s. 9d. respectively; pears, 9d. and 1s. 6d.; pineapples, 6d. and 1s.; and peaches (freestone), 10d., with no addition for export. The canner receiving bounty is required to pay the growers a minimum of £10 per ton for apricots or pears, £9 for clingstone peaches, £7 for freestone peaches, and £6 for pineapples, in addition to rail freight.

* See pages 654 and 655.

The following statement shows the quantity and value of canned fruit produced in factories in New South Wales during each of the past five years:—

Year.	Fruit Preserved.	
	Quantity.	Value at Cannery.
	lb.	£
1920-21	5,287,069	195,939
1921-22	7,967,785	207,823
1922-23	10,886,367	278,506
1923-24	10,521,701	242,255
1924-25	17,019,569	408,101

Vegetables.

As agricultural and pastoral statistics are collected only in respect of holdings of one acre or more in extent, they do not provide a complete census of vegetable growing. Nevertheless the information obtained may be considered to provide particulars of all operations conducted on a large scale.

A very considerable proportion of the vegetables produced on these holdings are grown in market gardens. In 1924-25 market garden produce was grown on 2,448 holdings and occupied in all 8,837 acres, the value of production from which was £657,152. In addition there were large areas devoted to individual crops in 1924-25 as follows:—

Crop.	Area of Crop.	Production.
Potatoes—	Acres.	
Early (Summer)	5,537	14,885 tons.
Late (Winter)	17,866	42,389 „
Sweet	441	2,083 „
Onions	150	902 „
Turnips	589	1,591 „
Other Root Crops	48	283 „
Pumpkins and Melons	3,662	13,613 „
Tomatoes	1,559	317,244 half-cases.
Peas	4,599	£100,688
Beans	335	£9,260
Cabbages	307	£15,482
Cauliflowers	314	£8,972
Other Minor Crops	21	£963

The areas and production quoted above are exclusive of crops of these kinds grown in market gardens.

ENSILAGE.

New South Wales is liable at intervals of fairly regular recurrence to long periods of dry weather. It consequently lacks a permanent supply of natural fodder, and the necessity arises for conserving the abundant growth of herbage of good seasons, in the form of ensilage, for use when natural pastures are exhausted. To facilitate such conservation the Department of Agriculture offers free advice concerning material and method of constructing silos. Farmers may sink pits for the same purpose at small expense.

The possession of stocks of ensilage is highly advantageous to the prosecution of dairy-farming in the districts of the coast, where the climatic conditions are unfavourable to the growth of winter fodder.

The quantity of ensilage made in the State in 1924-25 was greater than in any previous year, being 35,145 tons, made on 269 farms, and valued at £63,610; 13,972 tons were made in coastal districts, and 11,395 tons on the Western Slopes.

The quantity of ensilage made varies considerably from year to year. The previous maximum of production was in 1909, when 34,847 tons were made on 364 farms.

Considering the liability of the State to periods of severe drought, the small efforts made to conserve the fodder of abundant seasons are disappointing. As a means of conserving fodder, the making of ensilage is of great potential value. Schemes of fodder conservation as insurance against drought have been considered from time to time, but no project has yet been initiated.

PLANT DISEASES ACT, 1924.

This Act was assented to on 17th December, 1924, and replaced the Vine and Vegetation Diseases and Fruit Pest Act, 1912. By it the Governor is empowered to prohibit by proclamation the introduction into the State of any plant, fruit or other thing which in his opinion is likely to introduce any disease or pest into the State. He is authorised to appoint specified places of entry into the State for any specified kind of plant or fruit, and to appoint quarantine stations for the reception of anything of any nature which has come in contact with plants or fruit. He may also require owners or occupiers of any land or premises to take such measures as are specified for the treatment of any disease or pest. Power is also given for the seizure of anything dealt with in any way contrary to any direction contained in a proclamation, and the occupiers of any land or premises in which any proclaimed disease or pest appears, are required to give notice thereof within twenty-four hours.

Inspectors are to be appointed for the enforcement of the Act, with power of entry and search in the execution of their duty. Such inspectors may examine any nursery and issue a certificate that it is free from any particular disease. Power is also given to destroy plants in any abandoned nursery or orchard.

Every orchard and nursery not exempted by the Minister is required to register and to pay a fee not exceeding 1s. per acre of the land comprised in the nursery or orchard. These fees are to be paid into a special account at the Treasury and to be expended for such purposes in furtherance of the interests of fruit-growers as the Minister may approve.

The Act also provides that no person shall sell any fruit or vegetables unless they are so arranged or packed that the outer layer or shown surface is a true indication of the fair average quality of the whole. If more than 10 per centum is substantially inferior to the outer layer or shown surface it shall be *prima facie* evidence that the fair average quality of the fruit or vegetables is not truly indicated.

Bananas.

Banana culture was for a time an important industry in the Tweed River district of the North Coast division, but it has been almost extinguished by a disease known as "bunchy top." In August, 1923, the Government of New South Wales agreed to co-operate with the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments in conducting a joint investigation into "bunchy top." Each Government agreed to contribute £1,500 to defray the expenses of the investigation, and a Bunchy-top Control Board was appointed to arrange for a systematic investigation of the problem. In 1923-1924 the total area cultivated for bananas was 1,854 acres, a decrease of 1,953 acres since the preceding season; 1,604 acres were productive, and yielded 94,983 cases of

bananas, valued at £97,360, a decrease of 138,543 cases and £54,380 respectively since 1922-23. In 1924-25 the imports of bananas inter-state by sea amounted to 13,614 cases, valued at £11,889; the imports overseas were 3,540 centials, valued at £3,481, mainly from Fiji and Norfolk Island. A duty of 1d. per lb. is imposed on bananas imported oversea other than from Norfolk Island. Large supplies are received from Queensland by rail.

Fruit Census, 1923.

In 1923 a special census was taken to ascertain the number of trees of each variety of each kind of fruit planted in New South Wales, in order to facilitate consideration of the problem of marketing.

The results were briefly summarised on page 504 of the Official Year Book for 1923, and were published in full in the *Agricultural Gazette* of February, 1925.

Registration of Farm Produce Agents.

By the Farm Produce Agents Act, to come into force on 1st January, 1927, it was made an offence for any person to carry on the business of farm produce agent without first obtaining a license under the Act. Licenses are issued on condition that the applicant furnishes a fidelity guarantee for £500, is above the age of 21 years, has not (during the preceding five years) been declared guilty of fraud nor convicted of an offence punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding three months, and is not an undischarged bankrupt. A person disqualified from holding a license is also disqualified from holding shares in any corporation or being a partner in any firm registered under the Act. The license remains in force for the current calendar year, and the annual license fee is £1.

It is provided that an account of the sale of all farm produce shall be rendered by every farm agent to his client within seven days of its disposal, and the registrar under the Act is empowered to inspect the books, documents, and accounts of any agent and inform any client of the agent of the result of such inspection so far as it directly concerns him. An agent furnishing false accounts is liable to imprisonment for three years with hard labour. All moneys received by an agent on account of sales must be banked in a trust account and duly paid to the client within fourteen days after the sale. Such trust accounts are protected against the creditors of the agent.

Agents and their employees are debarred from purchasing any produce received for sale without obtaining the consent of their client, and they are forbidden to destroy farm produce which is in a marketable condition with a view to raising the price.

It is made an offence for any person knowingly and fraudulently to spread false reports calculated to affect the price of farm produce. Fore-stalling and misrepresentation are prohibited, and commission charges are regulated.

Companies carrying on business along co-operative lines are exempt from the Act.

Farm produce is defined as fruit, vegetables, potatoes, and other edible roots and tubers, eggs, poultry, and any other article prescribed by regulation under the Act.

WATER CONSERVATION AND IRRIGATION.

The smallness and intermittency of the rainfall and the high evaporation over a wide area of New South Wales necessitate and at the same time restrict the work of conserving water for agricultural and pastoral purposes. On page 12 it is shown that approximately 78,250,000 acres of land in the western parts of the State—comprising nearly 40 per cent. of its total area—receive an average annual rainfall of 15 inches or less. The possibilities of irrigation over this wide area are still further limited (except in the extreme south) by the lack of large permanent streams of water. For this reason not only agricultural but also pastoral activities are restricted on these lands, which embrace mostly the plains of the Western Division.

Adjoining these on the east is a strip of territory varying from about 50 to 150 miles in width, stretching through the whole length of the Central Plains and Riverina, and containing approximately 37,000,000 acres of land (18.6 per cent. of the area of the State) which receives on the average from 15 to 20 inches of rain per year. It is principally in this region, in more favoured districts further east, and in the Murray Valley to the south, that irrigation schemes have been put forward to supplement the deficient rainfall.

Across the northern and north-western hinterland there stretches an artesian water basin of 53,000,000 acres, and in the south-western corner there exists a sub-artesian basin rather smaller in extent. Artesian bores and wells have made this water available at a considerable number of places.

At 30th June, 1925, there were 2,213 irrigation farms on areas controlled by the State and about 1,900 operating under pumping licenses, &c.

The relation of rainfall to productivity in the various districts of the State is discussed further in part "Rural Settlement" of this Year Book.

Policy and Control.

The initiation of successful irrigation projects necessitates exhaustive preliminary investigations, frequently over long periods, into the amount of rainfall, evaporation, river flow, seepage, etc., as well as the making of contour surveys and investigations by boring and the compilation of records.

The successful conduct of schemes involves constructional work of all kinds, provision and control of settlements, of community services, of factories for handling products, of finance and other important matters. The whole of these functions have been entrusted to the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission, consisting of three members, including the Minister for Agriculture. This Commission controls the whole of the waterworks of the State (other than town and domestic supplies), except the storage works under construction in connection with the Murray River, which are supervised by the Murray Waters Commission, upon which a member of the New South Wales Commission sits.

Private waterworks are controlled for the most part under the Water Act, 1912, as amended in 1924, which consolidates the Acts relating to water rights, water and drainage, drainage promotion, and artesian wells. Part II of the Act vests in the Crown the right to the use, flow, and control of the water in all rivers and lakes which flow through or past or are situated within the land of two or more occupiers. Private rights have been abolished, and a system of licenses established for the protection of private works, of water conservation, irrigation, and drainage, and the prevention of inundation of land.

Expenditure on Water Conservation and Irrigation Projects.

The expenditure by the State during 1924-25 on water conservation and irrigation projects and on administration and advances to settlers on irrigation areas is shown below:—

Heading.	Expenditure.*	Receipts, Repayments by Settlers, etc.	Net Expenditure.*
General Loan Account—	£	£	£
Burrinjuck Dam and Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas ...	239,612	41,669	197,943
Returned Soldiers' Settlements ...	258,171	15,751	242,420
Wentworth Irrigation Area ...	1,285	...	1,285
Deep Boring ...	12,219	219	12,000
Shallow Boring ...	48,845	30,565	18,280
River Murray Settlement ...	68,323	730	67,593
Returned Soldiers' Settlement, Curlwaa ...	825	1,178	Cr. 353
Total ...	629,280	90,112	539,168
Consolidated Revenue Fund—			
Salaries, Contingencies, etc. ...	35,443	...	} 72,666
Works, Investigation, Advances, etc. ...	47,518	...	
Rents, Water Rates, Interest, and Repayments ...	...	10,285	
Total ...	82,951	10,285	72,666
Public Works Fund—			
Wentworth Irrigation Area ...	4,041	...	4,041
Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area ...	1,089	544	545
Total ...	5,130	544	4,586
Grand total ...	717,361	100,941	616,420

* Including advances to settlers.

In addition, New South Wales contributed a sum of £192,500 in 1924-25 for expenditure in connection with the River Murray Scheme, making a total net expenditure for the year of £808,920. A considerable proportion of this latter amount consisted of advances to settlers, repayable with interest.

IRRIGATION SETTLEMENTS.

The Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas.

A large storage dam, capable of holding 771,640 acre-feet of water, has been constructed at the head of the Murrumbidgee River, to retain the flood waters, which are released for use 250 miles lower down the river on the extensive irrigation areas of Yanco and Mirrool. A movable diversion weir has been provided about 240 miles below the dam, to turn the required amount of water from the river into the main canal leading to the irrigation settlements. Particulars of the extent of the dam were published in the Year Book, 1921.

At 30th June, 1925, there were under occupation 2,027 farms, covering a total area of 114,241 acres, or approximately one-third of the total area to be embraced in the completed scheme. With the aid of irrigation the soil and climate are suitable for the profitable production of apricots, peaches,

nectarines, prunes, pears, plums, certain varieties of apples, almonds, melons, cantaloupes, and citrus fruits; also wine and table grapes, raisins, sultanas, figs, olives, and most varieties of vegetables and fodder crops. Dairying and pig-raising are being conducted successfully by settlers in the areas, and stock are raised in the drier parts.

Farms varying in size from 1 acre to 250 acres are made available from time to time. The average agricultural farm is from 15 to 25 acres in extent, but to suit the requirements of dairymen and other stock farmers, blocks of larger areas have been made available. These include non-irrigable or "dry" areas, in addition to the irrigable portion. The tenure of all farms is perpetual leasehold, involving residence, but provision for irrigation purchases was made in 1924, and in 1926 the first conversions were made. A specified number of acre-feet of water is allotted at a fixed charge to each holding. In 1924-25 the quantity of water distributed was 68,785 acre-feet, and the approximate area watered 58,698 acres. The total revenue from water rights was £24,195, and from sales of additional water or of water to holdings with no water rights was £10,165. An acre-foot of water means such a quantity as would cover 1 acre with water 12 inches deep.

Subject to such conditions as to security and terms of repayment as the Commission may require, settlers may obtain an advance of money, or have suspended the payment of amounts owing, in order to assist them in developing their holdings. Such advances are limited to the total amount of funds made available by Parliament for the purpose. Special provision was made for monetary assistance to returned soldier settlers who took up farms with little or no capital. At 30th June, 1925, the amount of advances to settlers outstanding was £2,141,648. The Rural Bank Commissioners also have statutory powers to make loans upon mortgage of irrigation farm leases.

Towns and villages have been established at convenient centres on the Yanco and Mirrool irrigation areas. The principal settlements are Leeton, Griffith, Yanco and Yenda. At present the Commission performs municipal functions, but an Act to establish Local Government areas in the form of municipalities or shires, or to add a part or the whole of the irrigation area to an existing municipality or shire was passed in 1924. A Royal Commission appointed under this Act recommended the creation of a shire for the Leeton (Yanco) portion of the areas, and the constitution of Executive Boards under the Act for the remaining districts.

Abattoirs, and butter, cheese, bacon, and fruit-canning factories were established on the areas by the Commission to treat the produce of the settlers. The butter and bacon factories and the abattoirs were sold to the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Dairy Co-operative Society Ltd. on 1st July, 1921, and are now operated by the settlers, in conjunction with a butchery and agistment paddocks. The Commission provides such municipal services as domestic water and electricity supplies, accommodation houses, and to supervise matters of health and sanitation, besides engaging in trading operations to supply settlers with live-stock, stores, and nursery stock. Co-operative enterprise is receiving every encouragement, and a number of co-operative organisations have been established to handle produce and supply the settlers' requirements.

An experiment farm is maintained at Yanco under the control of the Department of Agriculture; also a viticultural nursery at Griffith (in the Mirrool irrigation area) for the propagation of vines on phylloxera-resistant stocks. An Agricultural High School has been established by the Department of Education at North Yanco on the irrigated area.

During the season 1924-25 the total area of crops irrigated was 61,548 acres, including 22,268 acres of oats, 7,141 acres of deciduous fruit, 4,852 acres of lucerne, 9,939 acres of wheat, 5,534 acres of vines, and 6,468 acres of citrus fruits. The average amount of water used per farm was 33·3 acre-feet. The total value of agricultural and pastoral production on the area was estimated at £720,000 in 1924-25, £600,000 for 1923-24, and £575,000 for 1922-23. Details of the quantity of production will be found in a statement on the next page.

Hay Irrigation Area.

The irrigation area at Hay, on the Murrumbidgee River, consists of about 4,500 acres of land, part of which was made available in 1893. Prior to 30th June, 1912, the area was controlled by a trust appointed in 1897. It was placed under the control of the Commissioner of Water Conservation and Irrigation on 1st July, 1913. The area used for irrigation purposes on 30th June, 1925, was 1,035 acres, held by 67 settlers, in 108 irrigation blocks, ranging from 3 acres to 34 acres in size; generally the term of lease is thirty years, and the annual rental from 5s. to 12s. per acre. In addition, 2,876 acres of non-irrigated land had been taken up in 51 blocks for short terms up to five years' duration with rentals of 1s. to 5s. per acre. The water-rate is fixed from time to time; during 1924-5 it was 30s. per acre per annum. The pumping machinery consists of a suction-gas plant, supplying two engines of about 55-brake horse-power each, working two centrifugal pumps, with an average combined capacity of about 4,000 gallons per minute. The total quantity of water pumped was 3,214 acre-feet. There were seven waterings, the average area watered by each being 1,054 acres. Dairying and pig-raising are the principal industries, the cultivation of fruit being very limited. The expenditure by the State on maintenance for the year 1924-5 was £2,192 and the revenue £2,562.

Curlwaa Irrigation Area.

The Curlwaa irrigation area, situated at Wentworth, on the Murray River close to the junction of the Darling, consists of 10,550 acres, made available in 1894, of which 1,883 acres were held in 141 irrigated holdings by 118 settlers on 30th June, 1925. Practically the whole of this area had been taken up in areas varying from 1½ acres to 57 acres. There are a number of non-irrigated blocks containing 7,545 acres. The remainder of the area comprised 165 acres of irrigated holdings vacant, and 84 acres of dry areas vacant and 873 acres of roads, channels and reserves. During the year 1924-5 the area under fruit was 1,230 acres, of which 980 acres were bearing. The estimated value of production from the settlement in 1922-23 was £58,900, in 1923-24 £75,700, and in 1924-25 £72,973, including dried fruit—£49,414, fresh fruit—£18,664. The quantities were as shown on the next page. Oranges, peaches, apricots, nectarines, pears, grapes, sultanas, and currants are grown, and it has been proved that the Curlwaa soil is eminently suited to fruit culture, some of the finest oranges grown in New South Wales being the product of this locality.

The pumping plant consists of a suction-gas engine in three units, having a total capacity of 12,500 gallons per minute. The maximum lift is 36 feet. The main channels measure about 9 miles and 10 chains in length. The quantity of water pumped from the Murray River in 1924-5 was 4,724 acre-feet and the average area watered at each of the six waterings was 1,343 acres. The rainfall for the year was 11·86 inches.

The land is leased for periods not exceeding thirty years, the annual rent for irrigated blocks at the present time varying generally from 3s. to 10s. per acre, though the rent ranges to 35s. per acre on blocks set part in recent years; rentals for non-irrigated blocks range from 7d. to 5s. per acre. The rate for water is fixed from time to time by the Commission, and is at present 20s. per acre per annum, except in a few special cases, and there was in addition in 1924-25 a general rate of 14s. per acre in productive bearing. Each lessee is entitled to receive a quantity of water equivalent to a depth of 30 inches per annum, limited to 4 inches in any one month. During the year 1924-25 the expenditure on maintenance was £3,999 and the revenue £3,656.

PROGRESS OF IRRIGATION SETTLEMENTS.

Comparative statistics of the irrigation settlements in New South Wales are shown in the following statement; the particulars for 1910-11 relate to the Hay and Curlwaa settlements only, as farming operations on the Murrumbidgee area did not commence until the season 1912-13:—

Particulars.	1910-11.	1915-16.	1924-25.			
			Murrumbidgee.	Hay.	Curlwaa.	Total.
Cultivated Holdings No.	86	771	1,692	3	100	1,795
Area under—						
All Crops Acres	862	22,488	61,460	8	1,245	62,713
Grain "	2	4,287	12,756	...	...	12,756
Hay and Green Food "	399	13,631	29,037	5	31	29,073
Grape Vines—						
Bearing "	186	353	3,476	...	427	3,903
Not yet Bearing "	74	486	2,058	...	121	2,179
Orchards—						
Bearing "	58	440	6,753	3	458	7,214
Not yet Bearing "	139	2,896	6,856	...	208	7,064
Live Stock—						
Horses No.	239	3,300	6,843	145	212	7,200
Cattle—						
Dairy "	484	2,461	*6,687	*477	...	*7,164
Other "	530	1,488	8,512	73	61	8,646
Sheep "	703	32,440	16,000	1,130	...	17,130
Swine "	134	2,799	3,843	134	...	3,977
Production—						
Wine gal.	...	650	672,718	...	...	672,718
Sultanas cwt.	...	2,778	3,684	...	5,143	8,827
Raisins "	1,009	1,499	459	...	1,255	1,714
Currants "	...	1,848	926	...	2,865	3,791
Oranges—						
Washington Navel ... bush.	...	...	78,192	96	20,915	99,203
Valencia "	273	4,988	51,973	120	3,851	55,944
All other ... .. "	...	...	13,127	...	1,119	14,246
Lemons ... .. "	...	...	28,721	100	1,491	30,312
Peaches—						
Early ... .. "	...	...	56,324	240	23,000	79,564
Canning "	2,467	25,861	302,961	...	600	303,551
Nectarines ... .. "	...	...	5,105	40	3,191	8,336
Apricots "	2,905	10,690	112,747	...	11,848	124,595
Prunes ... .. "	...	...	50,288	...	2,236	52,574
Milk gal.	171,619	504,181	2,426,482	113,595	18,250	2,558,327
Butter lb.	5,100	189,420	1,263,762	855	240	1,264,857
Bacon and Ham "	820	8,865	277,540	630	...	278,170

* Cows in Registered Dairies only.

The area devoted to fruit-growing is increasing steadily, but approximately half of the area planted with fruit trees has not yet reached the stage of production. Oranges, peaches, apricots, and prunes are the principal kinds of fruit produced. The yields of these may be expected to increase rapidly as the young trees become increasingly productive.

The following statement shows the number of fruit trees of the principal varieties, distinguishing the productive from those not yet bearing:—

Fruit trees.	1910-11.		1915-16.		1924-25.	
	Pro- ductive.	Not yet Bearing.	Pro- ductive.	Not yet Bearing.	Pro- ductive.	Not yet Bearing.
Orange—						
Seville	202	3,606	6,509	67,020	2,658	620
Washington Navel					104,470	191,109
Valencia					69,310	85,451
All other					119	136
Lemon			439	9,388	9,015	6,587
Mandarin			*	*	25,340	14,136
Peach —					4,361	14,707
Early	1,752	4,503	16,812	101,113	47,297	8,173
Canning					171,447	78,271
Nectarine					5,134	2,655
Apricot	2,033	2,969	5,927	42,066	87,213	55,641
Prune				10,290	53,890	70,888
Plum	98	282	682	5,897	9,830	4,854
Pear —						
William	165	1,096	2,278	14,336	21,145	8,835
Other					6,235	2,644
Apple	400	718	1,256	3,065	12,790	40,907
Fig	201	38	303	3,395	1,900	4,859
Almond		140	582	5,446	9,757	25,015

* Not available.

It is noteworthy that while the growing of oranges is the most extensive activity, the development of peach-growing, especially for canning, has been very rapid, and that apricots, prunes, pears, and apples are also receiving considerable attention.

IRRIGATION PROJECTS.

Murray River.

This scheme is being carried out under agreement between representatives of the Commonwealth, New South Wales, Victorian, and South Australian Governments, signed on 9th September, 1914, and an amending agreement, signed on 8th August, 1923, replacing the agreement of 23rd November, 1920.

The outstanding matters provided by the original and amending agreements were:—(a) Provision of water for irrigation purposes; (b) preservation of facilities for navigation; (c) allotment of equitable proportions of the available water for use by settlers in New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia; (d) equal apportionment of the costs between the four Governments ratifying the agreement; (e) the appointment of a joint commission to carry the agreement into effect. In 1922 a proposal was made to use the Hume Reservoir for hydro-electric development and to increase the capacity of the reservoir as designed.

After discussion the various controlling Governments agreed that provision should be made for outlet works at the Hume Reservoir suitable for generating hydro-electricity. The estimated cost of such works (£40,000) is to be borne in equal shares by the Governments of New South Wales and

Victoria, which Governments are to have the sole use of any power generated at the reservoir. It was also decided that the design of the works should be amended to provide for a storage capacity of 2,000,000 acre-feet, and that work should proceed for a period of three years on this basis. Prior to the termination of that period on 9th August, 1927, the contracting Governments are to decide definitely in regard to the ultimate capacity of the reservoir. It is provided, however, that if the capacity of the reservoir be increased above 1,100,000 acre-feet as originally determined the additional water shall be used for meeting the present allocations provided under the River Murray Agreement and as a reserve for dry years subject to the discretion of the River Murray Commission.

The original scheme agreed upon provided for the construction of (a) a dam and storage reservoir to be known as Hume Reservoir, with a capacity of one million one hundred thousand acre-feet of water, at a cost of £1,353,000, situated on the Murray River 10 miles above the town of Albury; from this reservoir waters are to be released to supply the needs of irrigation settlements in New South Wales and Victoria, and to provide sufficient waters for permanent navigation on the river; (b) for storage works in connection with Lake Victoria near the western boundary of New South Wales, with a capacity of 500,000 acre-feet, at a cost of £429,674 as further revised on 14th June, 1924—the waters so impounded are to be utilised for irrigation purposes in South Australia, and to maintain the flow of the river for navigation purposes; (c) thirty-five weirs and locks, at intervals along the river and its tributaries, to control the flow of the river. One lock is to be constructed by the Victorian and New South Wales authorities at a point below the confluence of the Murray and Darling Rivers. The total cost of all joint works agreed upon was estimated originally at approximately £4,663,000.

At the end of January, 1924, the estimated cost of the Hume reservoir was revised as follows:—Estimated cost of reservoir of 1,100,000 acre-feet capacity, £2,547,000; estimated cost of special outlet works for generating electricity, £40,700; approximate cost of additional work necessary to permit of the reservoir being increased at a later date to 2,000,000 acre-feet, £350,000; total, £2,937,700.

When the scheme is carried out the river will be "canalised," or converted into "a succession of pools," whose levels may be regulated so that they will furnish permanent supplies for irrigation, as well as a means of navigation on the most important waterway of Australia. A minimum depth of 5 feet of water will be maintained as far as Echuca, the present head of navigation. The allotment of the available water to the respective states was approximately two-fifths of the total each to New South Wales and Victoria, and one-fifth to South Australia.

The total area of land irrigable from the River Murray and its tributaries is estimated to be approximately 1,500,000 acres, and, an investigation is in progress to determine how the irrigable lands of New South Wales may be used most profitably.

The agreement was brought into operation on 31st January, 1917, and it was provided that the works were to be completed within twelve years of that date. Though minor operations on locks and weirs had been carried out in South Australia, construction of the main reservoir was not begun until the 28th November, 1919. It was stated in the report of the River Murray Commission (1920-21) that the work cannot be completed within the prescribed time.

The works at Lake Victoria storage have been sufficiently advanced to hold 200,000 acre-feet of water; the total capacity when completed will be 514,000 acre-feet.

The following statement shows particulars of the expenditure on each of the principal works in hand or completed at 30th June, 1925 :—

Constructing Authority.	Work.	Expenditure to 30th June, 1925.	Remarks.
		£	
New South Wales and Victoria.	Hume Reservoir... ..	1,334,376	Practically completed. Commenced 20 Aug., 1923.
	Torrumbarry Lock	294,268*	
	No. 11 Lock (Mildura)	127,013	Approaching completion.
	No. 10 Lock (Wentworth)	46,477	
	Lake Victoria Storage	370,375	
South Australia	No. 9 Lock	241,766	Completed.
	No. 5 Lock	180,009	
	No. 4 Lock ... ..	.....
	No. 3 Lock	225,091	
	No. 2 Lock	42,871	
	No. 1 Lock	226,443	Completed.

* Subject to adjustment.

The total amount expended to 30th June, 1925, was £3,439,891, the amount for each constructing authority being New South Wales £791,059, Victoria £1,105,121, South Australia £1,542,814. The amount expended on the works during 1924-5 was £734,164.

Each of the four contracting Governments contributed £192,500 during the year. The total amount of contributions paid by the Government of New South Wales to 30th June, 1925, was £850,350.

The outflow of the Murray River at Renmark in 1924-25 was 11,205,333 acre-feet, the average being 8,500,000 acre-feet per year. In 1924-25 950,865 acre-feet of water were diverted from the river and its tributaries in New South Wales; 1,037,740 in Victoria, and 65,937 in South Australia.

Coomella Irrigation Area.

On 20th September, 1922, the Murray Lands Advisory Committee recommended that an irrigation district of approximately 20,000 acres (including 1,200 acres of the adjacent irrigation area at Curlwaa, near Wentworth) should be established and subdivided into farms of from 15 to 20 acres. It was decided to proceed with the work in stages, and instructions to proceed with the first section of 3,000 acres were issued in July, 1923. By June, 1925, an area of 2,314 acres had been subdivided into 129 horticultural farms and 43 residential holdings. The average area of horticultural farms is 17·4 acres of which 15·4 acres are irrigable. At the end of June, 1925, one farm was occupied.

Water for irrigation is pumped from the Murray River by means of a steam-driven pumping plant with a capacity of 38 cubic feet per second through a steel rising main 5 feet 6 inches in diameter. This main will be of sufficient capacity to supply the whole area of about 8,000 acres which can be supplied by the lower lift which is at present 81 feet. When the lock and weir at Mildura is completed the lift will be reduced to 74 feet.

The total expenditure on the work to 30th June, 1925, was £109,881.

Lachlan River.

Investigations into the irrigation possibilities in connection with this river have been conducted for a number of years. In 1922 a full report was prepared by the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission, and the project has been referred to the Public Works Committee for inquiry.

Two separate proposals are under consideration—the Wyangala Dam (situated 14 miles west of Cowra), to provide a storage of 273,694 acre-feet of water at an estimated cost of £1,312,000, including resumptions,

and a proposal to increase the present storage at Lake Cudgellico from 28,640 acre-feet to 46,689 acre-feet at an estimated cost of £69,000, including land resumptions. The storage at the Wyangala Dam would be equal to 35 per cent. of that of Burrinjuck. Consideration is also being given to the construction of low-level weirs in the river extending over 548 miles from Goolagong to Booligal.

The absence of snow in the catchment area would leave the scheme entirely dependent upon intermittent rainfall, but under the Wyangala scheme the flow of the river could be made more regular.

Macquarie and Namoi Rivers.

A suitable site for a dam on the Macquarie River has been located at Burrendong, a short distance below the junction with the Cudgegong River, and the storage possibilities have been investigated. The capacity of the dam would be 407,000 acre-feet with water stored to a maximum depth of 120 feet; but if this were increased to 150 feet the storage would be 797,000 acre-feet. Examination of the site is proceeding.

Investigations are being made in respect of the Namoi and Peel Rivers Sites at Blue Hole, above Manilla, and Keepit, near the junction of the Peel River, are being considered in connection with the Namoi River, and at Bowling Alley Point in connection with the Peel River.

Warragamba Scheme.

A proposal has been made to irrigate lands in the vicinity of Penrith from the Warragamba Dam, which is intended primarily to supplement the water supply of Sydney. This proposal is under the consideration of a special board of experts.

WATERWORKS.

Provision is made by the Water Act, 1912, as amended in 1924, that all waterworks constructed by private individuals in connection with natural sources of water must be approved and licensed by the State. During the year ended 30th June, 1925, 123 licenses were granted and 62 were allowed to lapse, so that at 30th June, 1925, there were in force 1,907 licenses for pumps, dams, and other works, small fees being charged in each case.

Water Trusts and Bore Trusts.

Part III of the Water Act, 1912, empowers the State to construct works to provide supplies of water for irrigation, stock, or domestic purposes, and for drainage. The capital cost of such works are repaid by beneficiaries, with interest in instalments spread over a period of years. The works are administered by trustees appointed from among the beneficiaries under the Act, except in the case of trusts in the Western Division, when the Western Land Board is appointed as trustee.

For the supply of water under these conditions works have been carried out by the State, and local trusts have been constituted in connection with (a) 12 artesian wells, which cost £22,758 and embrace an area of 324,947 acres, with 108 miles of drains, 66 artesian bores, which cost £215,879 and embrace 4,260,358 acres, with 2,743 miles of drains, and 2 bores whose works are not yet completed; (b) 14 schemes of improvements to natural off-takes of effluent channels, for the purpose of diverting supplies from the main rivers, the trust districts embracing 2,002,955 acres at a gazetted cost of £36,937, and 2 similar schemes relating to 1,177,280 acres, whose works are incomplete, the gazetted estimated cost being £63,950.

The bores, which are controlled by trusts, are constructed by the Government, to whom the cost is repaid by the residents in instalments extending over twenty-eight years. The rates levied by the trusts in their districts range from 0·11d. to 1·15d. per acre. These rates are applied to repaying Crown instalments and defraying maintenance and administrative costs.

Private Irrigation Schemes and Trusts.

The Water (Amendment) Act, 1924, enables the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission to exercise control over the subdivision of private holdings for sale in small areas as irrigated blocks and for the taking over of private irrigation schemes. Both of these powers are now being exercised and certain schemes hitherto illegal will be placed on a legal basis. In addition trust proposals are being formulated in respect of 220,000 acres of land embracing the supply of water for stock, domestic purposes and the irrigation of fodder crops. The subdivision of six holdings embracing 6,000 acres into 169 irrigated farms is also being brought under the Act.

Artesian Bores.

That portion of the great Australian artesian basin which extends into New South Wales covers approximately 70,000 square miles, and is situated in the northern and north-western hinterland of the State.

The first artesian bore was sunk in 1879 on the Kallara pastoral holding, between Bourke and Wilcannia, and the first Government bore was completed in 1884 at Goonery, on the Bourke-Wanaaring road.

The following statement shows the extent of the work which has been successfully effected by the Government, and by private owners, up to the 30th June, 1925:—

Bores.	Flowing.	Pumping.	Total.	Total Depth.
				feet.
For Public Watering-places, Trust Bores, etc. ...	132	37	169	349,247
For Country Towns Water Supply	3	1	4	6,533
For Improvement Leases	21	6	27	39,593
Total, Government Bores ..	156	44	200	395,373
Private Bores... ..	221	89	310	458,909

The average depth of Government bores is 1,976 feet, and of private bores 1,480 feet, and they range from 89 to 4,338 feet.

The deepest wells in New South Wales are in the county of Stapylton, one at Boronga having a depth of 4,338 feet and an outflow at present of 858,134 gallons; another at Dolgelly has a depth of 4,086 feet, and a discharge of 491,950 gallons per day. The largest outflow at the present time is at the Wirrah bore, in the county of Benarba, which yields 975,863 gallons a day, and has a depth of 3,578 feet.

Of the 558 bores which have been sunk, 377 are flowing, and give an approximate aggregate discharge of 78,697,000 gallons per day; 133 bores give a pumping supply, the balance of 48 being failures. The total depth bored is 915,224 feet.

The flow from 81 bores is utilised for supplying water for stock on holdings served in connection with bore-water trusts and artesian districts under the Water Act of 1912. The total flow from these bores amounts to 31,844,522 gallons per day, watering an area of 4,585,305 acres by means of 2,852 miles of distributing channels. The average rating by the bore trusts to repay the capital cost with 4 per cent. interest, in twenty-eight years, is 91d. per acre, including the cost of maintenance and administration.

In the majority of cases the remaining bores are used by pastoralists for stock-watering purposes only, but in a few instances the supply is utilised in connection with country towns.

The watering of the north-western country by means of bore-water has largely increased the carrying capacity of the land; and, what is perhaps of greater importance, it has made practicable some pastoral settlement on small holdings in areas previously utilised by companies holding extensive areas.

It has been determined that the multiplicity of bores is the chief factor governing the annual decrease in bore-flows, also that the limitation of the discharge of water from a bore will prolong its existence as an efficient flow; action has been taken, therefore, to prevent any waste by the control of the bore-flow, and by its adjustment to actual needs. It is anticipated that this action will materially reduce the rate of decrease in the future.

Private Artesian Bores.

Much has been done in the way of artesian boring by private enterprise. So far as can be ascertained, 334 private bores have been undertaken in New South Wales, of which 24 were failures. The yield of the flowing bores is estimated at 36 million gallons per day. No data are available regarding the pumping bores.

Shallow Boring.

Arrangements were made by the Government in 1912 to assist settlers by sinking shallow bores, and the scheme, which was described fully in the 1916 issue of this Year Book, has met with considerable success. Operations were commenced with one plant only, but the number has been increased gradually and 32 are now at work. During the year 1924-25, 142 new applications were received for use of the plant of the Commission, and 207 bores were completed during the year.

Up to the 30th June, 1925, 1,600 bores had been sunk, but 291 proved failures, the total cost being £295,928. The total depth bored was 438,045 feet, the greatest depth of any bore being 1,307 feet. During the year £48,845 was expended on shallow boring operations, and £30,565 was repaid by settlers to the Government. The operations of the year resulted in a small trading profit after allowing concessions to settlers.

In 1925 a scheme of boring by private plants was sanctioned by the Government, who arranged to advance the necessary money to settlers for approved schemes, such advances being repayable by instalments with interest. One bore was sunk under this scheme in 1924-25.

In addition to the work conducted under the shallow boring regulations, 22 bores have been sunk in the Pilliga Scrub and on Crown lands for the Lands Department and Forestry Commission. The fact that 52 of the bores put down in the Pilliga Scrub are giving a flowing supply is of special interest, as it indicates the possibility of tapping a small and hitherto unknown artesian basin.

Growth of Artesian Boring.

The rapid development which has occurred in utilising the underground water resources of the State in the past fourteen years is evident from the fact that the number of successful bores of all kinds increased from 458 in 1911 to 1,829 at 30th June, 1925.

FOOD AND PRICES.

FOOD SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION.

New South Wales is practically independent of external sources of supply for the food commodities which enter most largely into daily consumption, such as meat, bread, milk and butter. Local supplies of many other products are augmented by importation from neighbouring States, but with the exception of tinned fish, the only items which are imported in large quantities from oversea countries are tropical products, e.g., tea, rice, sago, etc.

Legislation, which gives the governing authorities power to supervise the conditions under which food is produced and distributed and to ensure a reasonable standard of quality, is contained in various enactments, the principal being the Pure Food Act of 1908, the Dairies Supervision and the Dairy Industry Acts, the Local Government Act, and measures relating to the slaughtering of stock for food.

The administration of the food laws in incorporated areas is primarily the duty of the Board of Health, but the function may be left to the municipal and shire councils. If a council fails to fulfil the duty satisfactorily, the Board itself may exercise its powers in respect of these matters, or may take steps to compel the council to act.

The Board of Health drafts regulations under the Pure Food Act to prescribe standards for the composition, purity, and quality of foods and drugs, upon the recommendations of an Advisory Committee, consisting of the president of the Board, medical men, and chemists, merchants, and others conversant with trade requirements. With a view to securing uniformity throughout Australia, the regulations have been standardised so far as the divergence of the laws of the various States will permit.

Under the Pure Food Act the sale or exhibition for sale of food which is adulterated or described falsely is prohibited, and packages must be labelled with the true description and weight of the contents and the name of the maker or vendor.

The Commonwealth Department of Trade and Customs exercises supervision in regard to the composition and labelling of food and of drugs imported into Australia.

The Weights and Measures Act affords protection to the public from dishonesty in regard to the measurement of food in the course of distribution. It prescribes that traders' weighing and measuring appliances must be kept to a specified degree of accuracy and be submitted periodically to the Weights and Measures Office for verification, and that purchasers must receive full weight and measure.

The standard weights and measures of the United Kingdom have been adopted. It is a general rule that articles sold by weight must be sold by avoirdupois weight. The exceptions are as follows:—Precious metals, by troy weight; precious stones, by metric carat; drugs, retail, by apothecaries' weight. Sales by retail must be according to net weight or measure, and the practice of selling certain vegetables—*e.g.*, green peas in the pod—and other commodities by measure of capacity has been prohibited by regulation. The net weight or measure must be stamped on packages in which commodities are offered for sale.

Special provision has been made to prevent fraud in respect of the weighing of coal and firewood. In the metropolitan and Parramatta police districts, and in other districts as proclaimed, coal and firewood must be sold by weight, though in case of quantities exceeding 5 cwt. they may be sold otherwise, with the written consent of the purchaser. Persons delivering coal or firewood are required under the regulations to carry weighing instruments, and, if requested by the purchaser, to check the weight of the goods delivered.

(Weights and Measures Offices have been established in Sydney and in Newcastle, and inspectors have been appointed to enforce the provisions of the Act in other districts.

The weight of bread is regulated under the provisions of the Bread Act of 1901. The standard loaves weigh 1 lb., 2 lb., and 4 lb. Operations under the Act are subject to limitation, as the result of legal decisions that the existing law does not authorise the inspection of bread in the course of delivery, and that an inspector may enter a bakehouse between the hours of sunrise and sunset only.

Gas supplied by gas companies for cooking, heating and lighting is subject to regulation in terms of the Gas Act, 1912, and its amendments. Standards are prescribed in respect of power, purity and pressure, and the prices are regulated in relation to the dividends paid to shareholders. Standard prices are fixed for gas supplied to private consumers by meter, and they may be varied, after inquiry into changes in costs of production and distribution. If the standard price is charged the standard dividend may be paid; if it is exceeded there must be a corresponding reduction in dividend, and it must be reduced if a dividend in excess of the standard is paid. Meters issued for use by a gas company must be tested and stamped by a Government examiner.

In the matter of distribution of food supplies, the local governing authorities in the incorporated areas of New South Wales are authorised to establish public markets and to regulate the hawking and peddling of food commodities within the area of their jurisdiction.

The Farm Produce Agents Act, 1926, makes legal provision for the regulation of the practices of agents selling farm produce on commission. Agents must be licensed, and are required to furnish to the Registrar a bond for £500 from an insurance company or some such security as prescribed. Agents may not purchase produce consigned to them for sale unless the owner gives his consent in writing, and they may not charge commission on such transactions. The destruction of produce to raise the price of similar produce is prohibited, also the practice of forestalling, that is, buying produce in a market and selling it there wholesale at an enhanced price.

The Sydney Municipal Council has established large markets in the city for vegetables, farm produce, fish, and poultry, the area and cost being as follows:—

Market.	Floor Space.	Cost of Market.	Market.	Floor Space.	Cost of Market.
	sq. ft.	£		sq. ft.	£
Vegetable ...	95,560	127,000	Fish	47,517	49,000
Produce	45,300	48,300	Poultry	12,200	27,500
Fruit	143,000	119,500			

Cold storage works have been constructed in the market area immediately adjoining the fruit markets. They are equipped with chilling and freezing rooms for the storage of fruit, dairy and farm produce, mutton and rabbits, and their cost was £99,000. The total storage capacity of the chambers, excluding passages and grading rooms, is 252,687 cubic feet. Provision is made to supply power for an ice-making plant, also for a further addition of cooling space as may become necessary.

Outside the city area the local governing bodies have made little use of their powers in relation to the establishment of markets. During the war period, when prices were rising rapidly, public attention was directed towards the possibility of reducing the retail prices of goods by bringing the consumer into direct communication with the producer and a number of municipal markets were opened, but in the majority of cases the expenditure was small and there appears to have been little preliminary organisation. Consequently public interest waned as the general level of prices began to fall, and many of the markets were discontinued. Details relating to the markets were published in the 1921 issue of the "Year Book."

A conference of producers and consumers convened by the Minister for Lands, met at Bathurst in September, 1926, for the purpose of considering the causes of the disparity between the prices paid by the consumer and the returns received by the producers, also the waste in marketing food-stuffs.

CONSUMPTION OF FOOD.

On the 13th September, 1910, the system of keeping records of interstate trade ceased, so that it became difficult to determine accurately the quantity of commodities consumed within the State. In view, however, of the special interest attached to the question of food consumption, particularly in relation to the cost of living, efforts have been made since 1916 to obtain data from other sources, and in spite of the absence of official records of interstate trade, the following estimates are published with a large degree of confidence as indicating the consumption of the more important articles of diet.

In order to show the changes of regimen, the information is shown as at ten-year intervals since 1901. In regard to 1911 it has been assumed that the consumption of all the commodities except meat was the same as the average of the three years, 1907-09. The quotations for 1921 and 1925 relate to the twelve months ended 30th June:—

Commodity.	Unit.	Consumption per head per annum.				Commodity.	Unit.	Consumption per head per annum.			
		1901.	1911.	1921.	1925.			1901.	1911.	1921.	1925.
Meat—											
Beef	lb.	134·4	150·9	94·0	125·3	Bread	2-lb. loaf.	105·0	102·0	99·0	99·0
Mutton	lb.	90·7	101·3	66·1	54·7	Rice	lb.	9·7	8·2	4·8	5·4
Pork	lb.	4·6	5·0	2·3	3·7	Sago, Tapioco	lb.	1·9	2·0	1·8	1·8
Bacon, Ham	lb.	9·0	10·7	8·4	11·9	Oatmeal	lb.	7·0	7·6	4·9	4·9
Total Meat	lb.	238·7	267·9	170·8	195·6	Sugar	lb.	107·8	103·8	102·2	110·1
Fish—						Jam	lb.	14·2	15·7	11·4	10·1
Fresh, Smoked	lb.	4·3	6·4	10·9	7·3	Butter	lb.	19·6	20·1	27·8	31·0
Preserved	lb.	4·7	4·3	2·8	4·0	Cheese	lb.	3·7	3·5	3·4	3·5
Total Fish	lb.	9·5	10·7	13·7	13·3	Milk—					
Potatoes	lb.	197·7	181·0	104·9	115·4	Fresh	gal.	16·4	17·4	19·6	21·2
Flour	lb.	244·4	228·4	211·2	208·4	Preserved	lb.	5·5	4·4	5·9	6·3
						Tea	lb.	7·9	7·3	8·1	7·9
						Coffee and Chicory	oz.	13·3	11·0	10·9	11·9

In estimating the consumption of potatoes, the quantities produced on holdings which are less than one acre in extent, and in market gardens, have not been taken into account, as particulars relating to such quantities are not recorded. The potatoes used for seed are excluded. The consumption of fresh fish, as estimated above, is exclusive of the catches of private fishermen, and of a proportion of the fish caught by licensed fishermen and sold to consumers in the immediate vicinity of the fishing grounds. The figures relating to the consumption of sugar include the sugar contents of golden syrup and treacle. The consumption of fresh milk is exclusive of the quantities recorded as being consumed in the form of sweet cream or used in the manufacture of ice-cream.

From the table shown above, it will be seen that there was a marked decline in the average consumption of many important food commodities in 1921, as compared with the consumption ten years earlier, the decline being greatest in respect of meat, potatoes, and cereal foods. In the year 1920-21 food was very dear, the general level of retail prices in Sydney being twice that of the year 1911. Moreover, industrial and commercial interests were undergoing a period of deflation following the post war boom, and these conditions necessitated the exercise of economy in respect of all classes of expenditure. Since 1921 there has been an appreciable increase in the average consumption of food, notably meat, potatoes, and butter, but the consumption per head of all the commodities except fish, sugar, dairy products, tea, and coffee remains below the average of the year 1911.

Meat.

The quantity of meat consumed is large, though it is lower than in the years prior to 1914-15, when the combined effects of drought and war caused a decrease in supplies and a phenomenal rise in prices. Approximately one-third of the meat sold for consumption is bone and waste, and there is little doubt that more economy is exercised now in the use of meat than in earlier years, when its cheapness caused a wasteful consumption. Therefore, the actual decline in consumption has been less than is indicated by the figures in the following statement, which shows the average annual consumption per head of the various kinds of meat at intervals since 1901:—

Year.	Beef and Veal.	Mutton and Lamb.	Pork.	Bacon and Ham.	Total.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
1901	134·4	90·7	4·6	9·0	238·7
1906	140·5	89·8	4·2	9·2	243·7
1911	150·9	101·3	5·0	10·7	267·9
1915-16	97·5	72·2	2·0	7·9	179·6
1916-17	93·6	68·8	3·5	9·5	175·4
1917-18	83·9	61·6	3·9	10·0	159·4
1918-19	79·9	66·7	6·3	8·3	161·2
1919-20	90·8	68·1	2·7	8·6	170·2
1920-21	94·0	66·1	2·3	8·4	170·8
1921-22	112·6	86·1	4·4	10·2	213·3
1922-23	123·0	78·3	4·2	9·7	215·2
1923-24	126·1	59·9	3·7	11·1	200·8
1924-25	125·3	54·7	3·7	11·9	195·6

The consumption per head was lowest in 1917-18, viz., 159·4 lb., as compared with 267·9 lb. in 1911. In that year meat was dear and rates of wages were not keeping pace with the upward movement of prices. Moreover, large numbers of men were abroad on war service, so that the proportion of women and children in the State was greater than in pre-war years. In 1924-25 the average consumption was 36·2 lb. higher than in 1917-18, and 72·3 lb. less than in 1911.

As a general rule fluctuations in the average consumption are the result of variations in prices, but the consumption showed an upward tendency during the two years ended June, 1921, notwithstanding a rise in prices. This was due probably to an increase in the spending capacity of the people, owing to higher rates of effective wages. In 1921-22 the retail prices dropped by 30 per cent. and the consumption increased. A rise in prices during 1923-24 caused a diminution in consumption, and this downward movement continued during the following year, notwithstanding a decline in the price level.

The movement in the average retail prices of meat (including bacon and ham), and in the consumption per head of population is illustrated in the following table of index numbers, the average for the year 1901 being taken as 100 in each case.

Year.	Average Retail Price of meat.	Average Annual Consumption of meat.	Year.	Average Retail Price of meat.	Average Annual Consumption of meat.
1901	100	100	1919-20	242	71
1906	101	102	1920-21	248	72
1911	101	112	1921-22	174	89
1915-16	223	75	1922-23	180	90
1916-17	227	73	1923-24	219	84
1917-18	238	67	1924-25	211	82
1918-19	223	68			

It is noticeable in regard to the consumption of meat in New South Wales that there is a preference for beef, though, until recently it was usually dearer than mutton. This preference became more marked as the difference between the prices of beef and of mutton diminished and in 1924-25 beef became the cheaper. The demand for beef for overseas shipment has declined, leaving larger supplies for local consumption, while the high price of wool has rendered sheep more valuable, and, as far as seasonal conditions allow, the graziers retain a large proportion of their flocks for breeding and for wool-growing.

The following statement shows the average retail prices in Sydney of each kind of meat. The averages are based on the same data as to prices and weights as those used for the compilation of the index numbers of retail prices of food which are shown elsewhere in this chapter:—

Year.	Average Retail Prices per lb.			
	Beef.	Mutton.	Pork.	Bacon.
	d.	d.	d.	d.
1911	4·1	3·2	8·1	9·6
1915-16	10·1	7·3	12·1	15·2
1916-17	9·7	8·0	12·9	14·7
1917-18	10·2	8·5	14·4	14·5
1918-19	9·7	7·9	13·4	15·4
1919-20	10·2	8·2	15·2	19·3
1920-21	9·9	8·3	18·3	22·6
1921-22	6·6	5·8	14·5	18·0
1922-23	6·8	6·2	12·8	17·9
1923-24	8·2	8·1	15·1	18·9
1924-25	7·2	8·6	14·6	17·1
1925-26	7·8	8·3	14·0	18·0

In 1919-20 when the average price of beef was 10·2d. per lb., and of mutton 8·2d., the average consumption of beef was 91 lb. per head, and of mutton 68 lb. In 1924-25 the prices were 7·2d. and 8·6d. per lb., respectively, and the consumption of beef amounted to 125·3 lb. per head, while that of mutton fell below 55 lb.

Apparently the decline in the consumption of meat has not been counter-balanced by an increase in the consumption of fish, which as a food is inferior in every respect. It is, however, very probable that it has been offset to some extent by a greater consumption of rabbits and of eggs.

The slaughter of stock and the sale of meat in the county of Cumberland, which contains the metropolitan area, are under the control of the Metropolitan Meat Industry Board, which consists of three members.

In the Newcastle district, *i.e.*, within a radius of 14 miles from the Newcastle Post Office, slaughtering and inspection are controlled by the Newcastle District Abattoir Board. Outside the county of Cumberland and the Newcastle district, slaughtering is done at private abattoirs, which are subject to inspection by officers appointed by the local authorities and by the Board of Health.

The abattoirs controlled by the Metropolitan Meat Industry Board are situated at Homebush Bay in proximity to the stock saleyards. The carcass butchers purchase stock on the hoof, supply the labour for slaughtering and pay abattoir fees at fixed charges per head of stock treated. Meat for the metropolitan market is killed during the day and placed in a chill room until midnight, when it is despatched by rail to the city for sale to the retail butchers. A distributing depot is situated within the city area on the Darling Harbour railway line, and it has a capacity to accommodate 6,000 carcasses of mutton and 600 carcasses of beef.

An estimate of the number of livestock (cattle, sheep, and pigs) used for food in New South Wales in various years since 1901 is shown in the following statement:—

Year.	Bullocks and Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs
1901	297,200	18,500	2,717,400	264,900
1911	412,300	54,500	4,068,300	335,400
1915-16	331,200	30,300	3,358,500	234,600
1916-17	304,700	36,800	2,941,000	304,800
1917-18	277,600	28,500	2,436,400	335,400
1918-19	311,900	49,000	2,975,600	375,900
1919-20	401,600	74,000	3,514,200	286,100
1920-21	404,400	78,300	3,483,500	247,600
1921-22	470,800	94,500	4,099,700	352,900
1922-23	557,300	116,500	4,072,800	363,700
1923-24	572,400	123,700	3,046,600	379,900
1924-25	577,900	154,400	2,788,500	435,500

The figures differ from those published elsewhere in this volume showing the animals killed in slaughtering establishments, as the latter include animals slaughtered for export and those treated in boiling-down works. Moreover, the number of pigs shown in the table is larger than the number slaughtered in New South Wales in some years, when the production of bacon was not sufficient for local requirements.

Further particulars relating to meat are published in the chapter of this volume entitled "Pastoral Industry."

Fish.

The quantity of fish consumed in New South Wales in 1925 represented only 13.3 lb. per head, viz., fresh and smoked 9.3 lb. and preserved 4 lb.

The seaboard waters contain large supplies of edible fish, but owing to the climatic conditions it is difficult to devise an effective method of distributing fresh fish to private consumers, and it is not probable that fish will become a popular food throughout the State until this difficulty has been overcome. Under existing conditions the bulk of the fresh fish is consumed in the metropolitan district, where facilities for marketing are available. About two-thirds of the supply is obtained in the river estuaries and coastal lakes and inlets, and one-third by deep-sea trawling.

The Sydney Corporation (Fish Markets) Act, passed in November, 1922, prescribed that in a defined area, which embraces the metropolitan and extra-metropolitan districts, fish may not be sold by auction except in public markets under the control of the council of a municipality or shire, and no person, except the original owner, may sell fish by wholesale unless it has been sold previously in a municipal market. The effect of the Act is to centralise the marketing of fish in Sydney in the Municipal Market, where the sales are conducted by licensed agents. The Co-operative Fish Exchange, formerly a private concern, was acquired by the City Council and was closed in January, 1923.

Regulations under the Fisheries Act require that all fish sold in the fish market or by wholesale dealers must be sold by weight.

Bread, Flour, and Cereal Foods.

Such food commodities as bread and potatoes were of greater importance in the usual family dietary in early years than at the present time, when a variety of vegetables and other foods are obtainable readily.

The average consumption of bread in 1925 is estimated to have been about 99 loaves (2 lb.) per head. A decline from 102 loaves in 1911, to 96 in 1917, is attributed to the introduction of day-baking in Sydney in 1914, as the bread was comparatively stale when delivered on the day after it was baked. Subsequently the hours of baking were adjusted, and as fresher bread became available the consumption increased to 99 loaves in 1920. When the consumption of meat increased in 1921-22 there was apparently a reduction to 96 loaves, then it rose again to the level of the year 1920.

The supply of bread is sold for the most part by the bakers direct to the consumers. Baking between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. was prohibited in 1919, also baking on Sunday. The prohibition was repealed by the Bread (Amendment) Act which was passed in November, 1923. In the following month the Court of Industrial Arbitration, in renewing awards for bakers, allowed employers the alternative of starting either at 6.30 a.m., as fixed by the previous award, or at midnight. If baking was commenced at midnight the bakers were paid higher rates of wages, *e.g.*, in the county of Cumberland, £1 per week extra. In March, 1926, the law was amended again, and baking between the hours of 6 p.m. and 5.30 a.m. was prohibited, also baking on holidays, and, in the counties of Cumberland and Northumberland, on Sundays. The prohibition does not apply, however, when the day upon which the bread is to be delivered is a "double" or a "treble" delivery day, *i.e.*, a day preceding one or two holidays. In and around the districts of Sydney and Newcastle bread may not be delivered between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.; in other places delivery is prohibited between 6 p.m. and 5 a.m.

Before the prohibition of night-baking practically all the bread was delivered at the consumers' houses, but the practice became less common when a large portion of the bread could not be delivered on the day of baking, and customers began to buy at the shops in order to obtain fresher and cheaper supplies. In recent years there has been a marked increase in the quantity of bread consumed in restaurants and hotels, with a corresponding diminution in the average quantity delivered to householders.

The price of bread in Sydney is fixed by the Master Bakers' Association with relation to the price of flour, which is fixed ordinarily by an association of millers. During the war period—except during the months March to August, 1919—the prices of bread and flour were determined by Government proclamation.

The variations in the price of bread in Sydney since 1911 are shown below in conjunction with the price of flour, at the time when the price of bread was altered. The prices in 1901 and 1906 are given also for the purpose of comparison. The prices stated are for delivery and weekly payments. In recent years the price has been ¼d. per loaf less for cash over the counter.

Date.	Price of 2-lb. Loaf.	Cost of Flour per ton.	Date.	Price of 2-lb. Loaf.	Cost of Flour per ton.
	d.	£ s. d.		d.	£ s. d.
1901... ..	2½	6 15 0	1920—January ...	5	12 15 0
1906... ..	3	9 0 0	February 2...	5¾	16 7 6
1911... ..	3½	8 15 0	" 9...	6¼	19 2 6
1912—May ...	3½	9 15 0	December ...	6½	19 12 6
1914—December ...	4	11 17 6	1921—September ...	6½	20 17 6
1915—July ...	5	17 5 0	December ...	5	11 15 0
October ...	4	11 17 6	1924—July ...	5½	13 0 0
1916—March ...	3¾	11 5 0	October ...	5½	15 5 0
1917—June ...	4	11 0 0	1925—January ...	5¾	15 15 0
1919—March ...	4¼	11 0 0	1926—May ...	6	15 0 0
October ...	4½	11 15 0	July ...	6½	15 15 0
1919—December ...	4½	11 17 6			

The price for bread delivered to the consumer and paid for each week was fixed at 5¾d. in January, 1925, and it remained constant throughout the year. The price of flour moved downwards in 1925 and remained at £14 5s. per ton until near the end of the year. It then rose to £15, but reverted to £14 5s. per ton late in February, 1926. Thence it rose to £15 in April and £16 10s. in July. In May, 1926, the price of bread was increased to 6d. per loaf, and in July to 6½d.

The consumption of flour is stated at 208·4 lb. per head, including 167,000 tons, or 149 lb. per head, used for bread. In factories where biscuits are made for local consumption and for export 13,201 tons of flour, or 13·1 lb. per head, were used during 1924-25, but the quantity used by pastrycooks is not available. Exclusive of the quantity used for bread and biscuits, it is estimated that the average household consumption of flour by a family of five persons is about 4 lb. per week, or 42 lb. per head per annum.

The consumption of oatmeal since 1911 has declined, probably on account of an increased consumption of other breakfast foods. The consumption of sago and tapioca shows but slight alteration, and the quantity of rice has decreased from 9·7 lb. to 5·4 lb. per head. Rice is imported mainly from China and India, and dressed locally by a mechanical process.

Butter, Cheese, and Milk.

Butter is an article of diet in general consumption throughout New South Wales, the local product being choice in quality and more than sufficient in quantity to supply the demand. The consumption of cheese is small, the average being $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per head per annum, and it varies very little from year to year.

The quantity of fresh milk consumed is about 21 gallons per head per annum, or less than half-a-pint per day, which is far below the quantity which is considered essential to the well-being of the community. Medical opinion holds that infants should consume $1\frac{1}{2}$ pints a day and older children at least a pint. For other persons, also, milk is one of the most valuable articles of diet, and it is desirable that the supply should be of good quality, plentiful, and available at a low price to enable families to consume it in sufficient quantities. On account of its liability to deteriorate rapidly and to become contaminated, it is difficult, in a warm climate, to ensure the high standard of quality which is required for health reasons, and the difficulty increases with the distance between the place of production and the locality in which it is consumed.

The conditions under which milk and other dairy products are produced and distributed for human consumption are subject to regulation under the Dairies Supervision Act of 1901—a consolidating measure which replaced a statute passed in 1886—and under the Pure Food Act of 1908, and the Dairy Industry Act of 1915.

Since the Dairies Supervision Act became law in 1886 there has been a marked improvement in the condition of dairies, and the provisions have been an important factor in effecting an improvement in the death-rates in respect of preventable diseases. The Act prescribes the registration of all dairymen and milk vendors, and of dairy premises. The duties of registration and of inspection are vested in the local authorities, and the administration of the Act is supervised by a staff of inspectors attached to the Board of Health. Dairy premises are open to inspection at all reasonable times.

As at 31st December, 1925, there were 21,894 registered dairymen in the State, and the cattle in their dairy herds numbered 913,071. There were also 4,342 registered milk-vendors. In the metropolitan district there were 540 registered dairymen, with 12,315 cattle, and there were 3,339 registered milk-vendors.

The standard for milk is fixed by regulation under the Pure Food Act, which prescribes that it must be normal, clean and sweet, and taken from a cow which is healthy, fed properly and milked regularly. It must contain 8·5 per cent. of solids, not fat, and 3·2 per cent. of milk fat, and must be free from any added substance. During the year 1925 inspectors collected 14,978 samples of milk, and 476 or 3·2 per cent. were found to be below standard. Prosecutions were instituted in 205 cases, and penalties in fines and costs amounting to £864 were imposed.

The Dairy Industry Act is applied generally to the manufacture of butter, etc., in factories, and its provisions are stated in the chapter relating to the dairying industry.

About one-third of the milk supply of Sydney is derived from dairies within the metropolitan area and the balance from country districts, viz., the South Coast district between Wollongong and Nowra, the districts traversed by the Main Southern Railway between Liverpool and Moss Vale, the Penrith, Windsor, and Richmond Districts, the districts around Singleton and Branxton on the Northern Railway line, and those in the neighbourhood of Dungog and Taree on the North Coast line.

The milk from the metropolitan dairies is distributed directly to the consumers who receive it within a few hours of milking, but the proportion of the supply from this source has decreased considerably, as the pressure of population and the demand for residential sites has caused the land used formerly for dairying to be diverted to other uses.

The milk from the country is handled for the most part by four distributing companies, who take delivery from the producers at country railway stations. The time occupied by the journey from the most distant stations is about ten hours, the average time between milking and arrival in Sydney being between sixteen and twenty-four hours. The country milk is pasteurised before distribution, and in 1924-5 the companies distributed nearly 15,700,000 gallons of pasteurised milk in the metropolitan districts.

The prices of milk in Sydney have been doubled since 1901, as indicated in the following statement, which shows the wholesale price paid by the distributing companies to the farmer for milk delivered on trucks at country railway stations, and the retail price charged to the householder for country milk, and for fresh milk from the Metropolitan dairies. The prices were subject to Government control between 1915 and 1922:—

Year.	Wholesale.	Retail.		Year.	Wholesale.	Retail.	
		Country.	Fresh.			Country.	Fresh.
	per gal.	per qt.	per qt.		per gal.	per qt.	per qt.
	d. d.	d.	d.		d. d.	d.	d.
1901	6 to 7	4	4-5	1920	14 to 18	7½-8½	8-10
1906	6 „ 7	4	4	1921	13 „ 17	7½-8½	8½-10
1911	6 „ 9	4-5	5	1922	13 „ 15	7½-8	8½-9
1916	8 „ 12	5-5½	6	1923	13 „ 17	8-8½	9
1917	10 „ 12	5½	6	1924	13 „ 15	7½-8	8½-9
1918	10 „ 15½	5½-6	6	1925	12 „ 13	7½	8½
1919	15½ „ 21½	5½-7½	6-9				

The retail price of country milk was reduced from 8d. per quart to 7½d. in June, 1924. The price usually charged for local milk ranges from 8½d. to 9d. per quart. The wholesale price was reduced from 1s. 3d. per gallon to 1s. 1d. in June, 1924, and to 1s. in August, 1925.

Sugar and Jam.

The quantity of sugar consumed (110 lb. per head) appears high, but the average consumption, as estimated, includes the quantities used in the manufacture of products such as jam and biscuits, of which a proportion is exported. The records of the manufacturing industry in 1924-5 show that 5,990 tons of sugar (6 lb. per head) were used for jam and canned fruit; 3,189 tons (3·2 lb. per head) for biscuits; 5,373 tons (5·3 lb. per head) in breweries; 3,073 tons (3·1 lb. per head) in aerated water factories; 9,962 tons (9·9 lb. per head) in making confectionery; and 1,049 tons (1 lb. per head) in making condiments, pickles and sauces.

The average household consumption of sugar is estimated at 6 lb. per week for a family of five persons, or 62 lb. per head per annum.

In normal seasons sugar is produced in New South Wales and Queensland in sufficient quantity to supply local requirements. The retail price of sugar in the metropolitan shops is from 4½d. to 4¾d. per lb.

Jams and preserved fruit are manufactured in Australia in larger quantities than the local demand can absorb. During the war there was a great expansion in production for export, but increases in prices led to a shrinkage in the local consumption of the factory-made article, though it encouraged home production, of which records are not available.

Tea and Coffee.

Tea enters largely into consumption among all classes, the average annual consumption being 8 lb. per head. Of coffee, on the other hand, the average was only 12 oz. per head.

The tea consumed in New South Wales is imported mainly from Ceylon and Netherlands East Indies. During the three years ended June, 1925, the Netherlands East Indies furnished about 56 per cent. of the total importations; 32 per cent. was imported from Ceylon, 7 per cent. from India and 5 per cent. from China. The figures for the three pre-war years, 1911-13, were:—Netherlands East Indies, 13 per cent.; Ceylon, 58 per cent.; India, 20 per cent., and China, 9 per cent. The great bulk of the coffee is imported from the Netherlands East Indies and India. The importation from the Dutch territories has increased considerably since 1913.

Vegetables and Fruit.

The potato is the chief article of diet in the vegetable group, but it is subject to great fluctuations in supplies and in prices, and the consumption varies accordingly. Local production is inadequate, and large quantities are imported from Victoria and Tasmania. Imported potatoes are sold by private treaty on the wharf shortly after arrival, the wholesale prices being fixed by arrangement between the sellers. Locally-grown potatoes are sold by auction in the railway yards. In 1911 the average retail price of potatoes in Sydney was 12½d. per 14 lb., and the consumption per head was 181 lb. In 1919 and 1920 potatoes were scarce and dear and the consumption declined in a marked degree. In 1924-25 the average price was 1s. 9½d. per 14 lb.

Onions are imported in large quantities from Victoria. Other vegetables are obtained chiefly from local sources, the Sydney supplies being marketed at the City Council's market, where the growers sell their produce by private treaty.

The fruit supply is derived mainly from the local orchards, and from Victoria, Tasmania, and Queensland. From November or December to February or March the supply is for the most part grown locally. From March to October the market for all fruits, except citrus, is supplied chiefly from the other States, and from May to December local supplies of citrus fruits are available. Prior to the war bananas were imported in large quantities from Fiji, but in recent years the Tweed River district of New South Wales and the State of Queensland have become the chief sources of supply. The industry in Australia is protected by a duty of 1d. per lb. on imports.

In Sydney there are two fruit markets, viz., the Fruit Exchange, conducted by a private company, and the City Market, controlled by the City Council. Market sales are conducted generally by private treaty. The majority of the country and interstate distributors operate in the Fruit Exchange, which is exclusively a wholesale market. In the City Market, which has direct connection with the main railway system, a considerable amount of retail as well as wholesale trade is transacted, half the space being reserved for the use of growers, and the remainder let to agents.

WHOLESALE PRICES.

Information relating to wholesale prices in Sydney is published in detail in the "New South Wales Statistical Register." The average prices in each year from 1901 to 1920 are published in the issue for 1919-20, and the monthly averages in later years are shown in subsequent issues.

From the prices of 100 commodities, which include the majority of items of importance in the economic life of the State, the index numbers shown in the following tables have been compiled to show the movement in wholesale prices in Sydney since 1901. The commodities have been arranged in eight groups, and each commodity has been weighted according to the average annual consumption in New South Wales during the three years 1911-1913.

Further details relating to the composition of the index numbers of wholesale prices are stated in the 1919 and 1920 issues of the Year Book, e.g., the grade of the articles or commodities included, the source of information as to prices, and the weights applied.

The wholesale price index numbers in various years since 1901 are shown in the following statements. The numbers for intervening years not included in the tables are published in the 1921 issue of the Year Book. The prices in the year 1911 have been used as a base, and called 1,000.

The index numbers of each group and of all groups combined are as follows; the indexes are not comparable between groups, except to illustrate the respective changes in price:—

Year.	I. Agricultural Produce.	II. Groceries	III. Wool, Cotton, Leather, Jute.	IV. Metals and Coal.	V. Building Materials	VI. Meat.	VII. Dairy Produce.	VIII. Chemicals.	All Commodities.*
1901	834	949	737	1001	745	1222	963	977	904
1906	929	960	937	996	806	1163	953	951	955
1911	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
1912	1339	1036	968	1001	1079	1323	1133	980	1129
1913	1069	1033	1043	1039	1107	1379	1093	1003	1092
1914	1135	1016	1009	1079	1105	1669	1128	1220	1137
1915	1648	1099	976	1270	1137	2596	1349	1426	1401
1916	1163	1245	1367	1725	1241	2896	1380	1617	1489
1917	1127	1298	2093	2358	1421	3007	1440	1956	1727
1918	1377	1405	2614	2740	1685	2618	1487	2605	1933
1919	1990	1492	2501	2454	1879	2873	1718	2089	2090
1920	2430	1914	3079	2602	2415	3113	2236	2301	2503
1921	1750	1941	1471	2511	2259	1921	2020	1863	1956
1922	1638	1859	1628	2164	2074	1513	1735	1668	1800
1923	1720	1754	2061	2131	1994	2121	1939	1531	1925
1924	1475	1676	2408	2127	1988	2039	1671	1493	1874
1925	1680	1673	2094	2117	1895	2042	1612	1423	1854

* Weighted average.

Prices were at the lowest point at the beginning of the period under review, and with some fluctuation they rose slowly until 1911. Subsequently the upward movement was almost constant until 1920, when the index number was 150 per cent. higher than in 1911. The greatest increases were 23 per cent. in 1915, 16 per cent. in 1917, and 20 per cent. in 1920. In 1921 and 1922 there were successive decreases of 22 per cent. and 8 per cent., then a rise of 7 per cent. in 1923 was followed by a decline of 3½ per cent. In 1925 there was a slight downward movement, an increase of 14 per cent. in agricultural produce being off-set by a decline of 13 per cent. in the textile group, of 5 per cent. in building materials and chemicals, and 4 per cent. in dairy produce.

The general level of wholesale prices reached the maximum in July, 1920, viz., 170 per cent. higher than in the year 1911. From that date the index number dropped steadily until February, 1922, when it was 36 per cent. lower. Then a slow upward tendency became apparent, and it continued with some irregularities, due mainly to seasonal variations, until July, 1923, when the index number was 104 per cent. higher than in the year 1911. In 1924 the monthly index numbers showed a downward tendency, with some fluctuations. In 1925 there was only slight variation from month to month in the general index, though there were marked alterations in some of the groups, viz., agricultural and dairy produce, meat, wool, and chemicals.

The movement month by month may be gauged from the following table, which gives the monthly index numbers for each group since January, 1925:—

Month.	I. Agricultural Produce.	II. Groceries	III. Wool, Cotton, Leather, Jute.	IV. Metals and Coal.	V. Building Materials	VI. Meat.	VII. Dairy Produce.	VIII. Chemicals.	All Commodities.
1925.									
January ...	1575	1678	2331	2131	1809	2147	1419	1391	1861
February ...	1566	1676	2313	2130	1891	2124	1412	1364	1851
March ...	1580	1676	2338	2127	1891	2010	1547	1364	1859
April ...	1610	1678	2257	2105	1887	1962	1603	1364	1853
May ...	1650	1676	2047	2103	1886	2047	1695	1373	1846
June ...	1630	1666	2092	2103	1901	2177	1710	1373	1862
July ...	1683	1672	2138	2105	1891	2051	1690	1373	1866
August ...	1680	1672	2138	2113	1891	2039	1649	1373	1861
September ...	1690	1669	2022	2117	1895	2080	1647	1494	1852
October ...	1806	1669	1927	2122	1900	1992	1693	1530	1861
November ...	1850	1670	1762	2120	1897	1815	1693	1536	1829
December ...	1844	1674	1761	2128	1896	2063	1588	1536	1843
1926.									
January ...	1873	1674	1794	2131	1892	2019	1633	1394	1853
February ...	1851	1675	1777	2134	1892	1830	1733	1536	1838
March ...	1902	1680	1688	2128	1888	1941	1844	1494	1857
April ...	1910	1687	1705	2143	1875	2156	1942	1509	1893
May ...	1892	1686	1715	2142	1877	2090	1914	1541	1882
June ...	1905	1687	1659	2144	1877	1967	1863	1390	1859

The movement in the prices of Australian products is compared with the changes in respect of imported goods in the following statement. The prices of local products are affected to a great extent by local seasonal conditions, though the prices of such commodities as wool, wheat, and metals are practically fixed in the countries to which they are exported in large quantities:—

Year.	Australian Products.	Imported Goods.	All Com- modities.	Year.	Australian Products.	Imported Goods.	All Com- modities.
1901	903	906	904	1920	2354	2799	2503
1906	955	955	955	1921	1866	2136	1956
1911	1000	1000	1000	1922	1722	1950	1800
1916	1481	1509	1489	1923	1892	1987	1925
1917	1580	2003	1727	1924	1822	1974	1874
1918	1675	2433	1933	1925	1858	1845	1854
1919	1993	2283	2090				

The increase in the prices of imported goods between 1911 and 1920 was more pronounced than the rise in prices of local products. After the end of the war prices of imported goods fell for a time, then rose again, but the upward movement of the prices of local products was continuous. The prices of both classes of commodities reached the maximum in 1920, and imported goods have declined since by 34 per cent. and Australian products by 21 per cent.

The average wholesale prices in Sydney of thirty-one commodities, which are representative of the various groups, are shown in the following statement. The quotations represent the mean of the monthly prices except in the case of wool and cotton. For the former it was not practicable to determine an average commercial price for the years when the Imperial purchase scheme was in operation, and the average import value into Great Britain of Australian wool is stated instead. For cotton Liverpool (England) prices are stated.

Commodity.	1901.	1911.	1914.	1920.	1921.	1924.	1925.
Wheat, milling bush.	s. d. 2 8	s. d. 3 6	s. d. 4 1'4	s. d. 8 7'2	s. d. 8 7'9	s. d. 5 5'1	s. d. 6 2'2
Flour ton	126 5	160 9	188 5	370 7	386 7	257 2	297 10.
Chaff, wheaten "	65 0	81 0	100 7	212 11	123 9	120 9	140 5
Hay, oaten "	75 0	94 5	97 2	238 9	151 11	150 2	142 8
Potatoes "	101 10	111 5	94 7	246 3	119 0	126 10	225 7
Sugar "	442 5	437 6	430 10	881 3	980 0	751 11	749 9
Tobacco, dark plug .. lb.	4 0	5 0	5 0	7 8'3	8 2	8 2	8 2
Tea "	1 1'5	1 1'5	1 1'5	2 1'9	2 1	2 1'2	2 2
Soap 40 lb.	14 6	18 4	18 4	33 10'5	28 9	27 6	27 0.
Jam.. .. 20 "	9 6	6 10	7 10	13 3	14 5	12 3	12 0
Kerosene 8½ gal.	6 3	7 3	7 11	20 9'8	20 7'8	12 10'7	12 5
Cotton lb.	0 4'7	0 7	0 6'4	2 1'8	0 10'4	1 5'2	1 1'2
Wool "	0 8'3	0 10'8	0 11'2	2 0'4	1 1'5	2 4'7	2 3'1
Leather, sole "	0 9'9	1 1'7	1 2'7	2 9'2	1 11'2	1 10'2	1 10'3
Woolpacks each	1 11'6	2 4	3 7	6 3'5	3 8'6	5 0'5	5 8'7
Iron—Pig, local ton	84 7	78 4	81 0	165 5	182 6	146 8	132 11
Plate, girder "	269 2	233 4	268 4	706 8	696 8	380 0	380 0
Corrugated, gal... .. "	369 10	346 8	387 6	1239 7	979 2	605 8	602 6
Copper, sheet lb.	1 2	0 10'5	0 11'8	2 2'5	2 1'5	1 5'7	1 6'1
Coal.. .. ton	11 9	13 10	14 2	26 8	30 4'9	30 11	30 11
Hardwood, local (3 x 2) 100 lin. ft.	6 0	8 6	9 5'5	18 0	18 0	17 3	14 0
Pine—Local (4 x 1) 100 sup.ft.	17 0	25 5	27 5	61 2	62 0	62 0	62 0
N.Z. (4 x 1) "	20 3	22 2	24 0	60 4	62 0	46 0	45 1
Oregon (2 x 2) "	12 6	15 7	18 1'5	64 2	47 1	29 3	25 4
Bricks 1,000	33 6	42 0	45 0	60 9	68 0	72 6	70 0
Beef—Fore lb.	0 2'4	0 1'7	0 3	0 4'9	0 2'2	0 2'1	0 2'2
Hinds "	0 3'4	0 2'7	0 3'9	0 8'5	0 5'6	0 4'5	0 4'6
Mutton "	0 2'2	0 2	0 3'7	0 6'7	0 4'2	0 5'9	0 5'9
Butter "	0 10'6	0 10'6	0 11'6	2 1	1 9'6	1 5'7	1 5'2
Eggs, new laid... .. doz.	1 3'4	1 4	1 4'6	2 4'6	2 3'8	1 11	1 10'4
Cream of tartar lb.	0 10'6	0 11'2	1 8	3 4	2 0	1 4	1 5

During 1925 there were decreases in the average prices of wool, cotton, local pig-iron, sugar, eggs, butter, jam, kerosene, bricks, and timber. The commodities which were dearer than in the previous year included potatoes, wheat, flour, chaff, and woolpacks. There was no change in the average prices of tobacco, mutton, and coal.

Comparison with Other Countries.

The following statement shows the wholesale price index numbers for various parts of the British Empire and for the United States of America, with 1913 as common base, and affords an interesting comparison of the manner in which wholesale prices have varied during recent years:—

Year.	New South Wales. (Sydney). [Bureau of Statistics.]	Victoria. (Melbourne). [Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics.]	New Zealand. (Census and Statistics Office.)	Canada. [Dominion Bureau of Statistics.]	United Kingdom. [Board of Trade.]	United States of America. [Bureau of Labour.]
Number of Commodities.	100	92	140	233	150	404
1913	100	100	100	100	100	100
1920	229	228	212	243	307	226
1921	179	175	201	172	197	147
1922	165	162	178	152	159	149
1923	176	179	175	153	159	154
1924	172	173	180	155	166	150
1925	170	169	175	160	160	159

Prices had been increasing steadily in all countries for many years before the war, and the effect of the war on prices was less marked in the countries more remote from the centre of conflict. In every case there was a general increase in prices after the cessation of hostilities. The peak was reached during 1920, and there has since been a very marked decline. As compared with the wholesale prices in 1913, the index number in 1925 was higher in New Zealand and Australia than in the United Kingdom, Canada, or the United States.

RETAIL PRICES.

The average retail prices in Sydney of various commodities, as shown in this chapter, are based on the prices charged in shops in the metropolitan district, and the annual averages represent the mean of the monthly prices during each year.

The following statement shows the averages for various years since 1901. The averages for each year from 1901 to 1920 are shown in the 1919-20 issue of the "Statistical Register of New South Wales."

The table is useful for comparative purposes in regard to the measurement of the general change in prices, but the figures do not disclose a most interesting feature in a history of prices, namely, the fluctuations during the year, which are considerable, especially in the case of perishable produce. For such information readers are referred to the "Statistical Registers," where the average monthly prices are shown.

Commodity.		1901.	1911.	1913.	1916.	1920.	1921.	1924.	1925.
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Bread	2lb. loaf	0 2.5	0 3.5	0 3.5	0 4.0	0 5.9	0 6.2	0 4.9	0 5.5
Flour	25lb.	1 11.0	2 9.0	2 10.0	3 6.1	6 6.4	6 1.6	4 3.1	5 2.6
Tea	lb.	1 3.0	1 3.5	1 3.8	1 6.1	2 4.5	1 10.7	2 3.4	2 5.7
Coffee and Chicory	..	1 5.0	1 5.0	1 5.5	1 6.0	2 2.6	1 11.6	2 0.7	2 2.6
Sugar	..	0 2.3	0 2.7	0 2.7	0 3.5	0 5.4	0 5.7	0 4.6	0 4.6
Rice	..	0 2.5	0 2.7	0 3.0	0 3.2	0 7.4	0 4.9	0 3.4	0 3.4
Sago	..	0 2.5	0 2.7	0 2.7	0 3.2	0 5.6	0 3.6	0 5.0	0 3.9
Jam (Australian)	..	0 4.0	0 4.4	0 5.0	0 6.0	0 9.1	0 10.0	0 9.6	0 8.5
Oatmeal	5 lb.	0 11.3	1 0.5	1 2.3	1 2.6	2 2.1	1 8.0	1 8.9	1 6.5
Raisins	lb.	0 6.2	0 6.2	0 6.4	0 7.7	0 10.7	0 11.5	0 8.7	0 8.6
Currants	..	0 6.6	0 7.0	0 7.2	0 9.1	0 11.0	0 11.1	0 8.4	0 8.8
Starch	..	0 4.0	0 5.5	0 5.4	0 6.4	0 10.2	0 9.7	0 8.6	0 9.5
Blue	12 squares	0 9.0	0 9.0	0 9.0	0 9.2	1 5.0	1 4.7	1 3.4	1 3.7
Candles	lb.	0 5.5	0 6.5	0 6.5	0 8.0	1 2.2	1 1.0	0 11.2	0 11.4
Soap	..	0 2.5	0 3.0	0 3.3	0 3.4	0 7.0	0 5.0	0 4.4	0 5.2
Potatoes	14 lb.	0 11.3	1 0.2	1 0.8	1 6.5	2 2.5	1 4.5	1 7.5	2 5.6
Onions	lb.	0 1.4	0 0.7	0 1.3	0 1.1	0 3.0	0 1.5	0 2.7	0 3.7
Kerosene	gal.	0 10.1	0 11.1	1 0.2	1 6.7	2 8.6	2 10.9	2 6.2	1 11.8
Milk	quart	0 4.0	0 4.4	0 5.2	0 5.8	0 8.3	0 8.1	0 8.0	0 7.8
Butter	lb.	1 0.2	1 1.7	1 1.8	1 5.3	2 4.4	2 0.7	1 8.6	1 8.3
Cheese	..	0 7.5	0 8.7	0 9.5	1 0.1	1 5.5	1 3.9	1 2.4	1 2.2
Eggs, Fresh	doz.	1 3.0	1 3.5	1 5.1	1 6.4	2 6.9	2 6.5	2 0.2	2 1.7
Bacon, Middle Cut	lb.	0 9.0	0 10.5	1 0.7	1 4.5	1 11.9	1 10.9	1 8.6	1 7.3
Shoulder	..	0 6.5	0 7.0	0 8.7	1 0.4	1 6.1	1 4.5	1 1.0	1 0.6
Ham	..	0 11.0	1 1.0	1 2.0	1 5.5	2 2.0	2 0.9	1 11.8	1 11.4
Beef, Sirloin	..	0 4.5	0 4.5	0 5.0	0 11.1	0 11.5	0 9.1	0 9.3	0 9.1
Ribs	..	0 3.8	0 3.8	0 4.5	0 9.5	0 9.9	0 6.7	0 6.8	0 6.9
Gravy	..	0 3.0	0 3.0	0 3.5	0 7.6	0 7.2	0 4.8	0 4.1	0 3.8
Steak, Rump	..	0 7.0	0 7.0	0 7.9	1 1.8	1 4.9	1 2.0	1 1.8	1 1.5
Shoulder	..	0 3.5	0 3.5	0 3.5	0 8.5	0 10.1	0 6.9	0 5.8	0 5.6
Beef, Corned Round	..	0 4.0	0 4.0	0 4.4	0 9.6	0 10.2	0 8.1	0 6.6	0 6.5
Mutton, Leg	..	0 3.2	0 3.0	0 3.8	0 7.8	0 8.8	0 6.9	0 8.1	0 8.6
Shoulder	..	0 2.8	0 2.5	0 3.1	0 6.7	0 7.2	0 5.2	0 6.1	0 6.7
Loin	..	0 3.8	0 3.8	0 4.0	0 7.9	0 9.3	0 7.6	0 9.2	0 10.2
Neck	..	0 3.2	0 3.0	0 3.5	0 7.0	0 7.4	0 5.4	0 6.1	0 6.9
Chops, Loin	..	0 4.2	0 4.0	0 4.7	0 9.0	0 10.5	0 8.6	0 10.8	0 11.5
Leg	..	0 3.8	0 3.8	0 4.7	0 8.6	0 10.0	0 8.1	0 9.7	0 10.2
Neck	..	0 3.2	0 3.0	0 4.0	0 7.3	0 8.3	0 6.4	0 7.1	0 8.3
Pork, Leg	..	0 6.2	0 7.8	0 8.5	1 0.1	1 5.4	1 3.4	1 2.3	1 1.7
Chops	..	0 6.8	0 8.5	0 9.0	1 0.1	1 6.0	1 5.8	1 3.7	1 2.9

The annual average of the retail prices of most food commodities reached a maximum in 1920, and prices in the following year were much lower. There were exceptions, however, and the upward movement was continued during 1921 in regard to the prices of commodities which are amongst the most important articles of diet, viz., bread, flour, sugar, jam, and milk. In 1922 the prices of nearly all the items declined. In 1925 bread, flour, potatoes, onions, tea, and coffee were dear. The average for fresh eggs was 1½d. per doz. higher than in the previous year; butter and cheese showed little change, and bacon and pork were cheaper. On the average the prices of beef were about the same as in 1924, and mutton was ¾d. per lb. dearer.

HOUSE RENTS.

The average amount of rent paid by tenants of various types of houses in Sydney and suburbs in 1901 and later years is shown below. The figures represent the average predominant rents per week paid for each class of houses. Rents vary considerably according to locality. Position, class of building, proximity and means of speedy transport to the city, are important factors also in respect of rents in the suburbs.

Year.	Under Four Rooms.	Four Rooms.	Five Rooms.	Six Rooms.	Seven Rooms.	Over Seven Rooms.	Weighted Average.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1901	9 0	11 1	13 7	15 4	19 1	22 2	13 5
1906	9 2	11 7	14 0	16 9	19 1	22 6	13 11
1911	11 4	14 5	17 1	20 2	23 3	26 10	17 0
1916	12 3	14 8	17 11	20 6	24 6	29 8	18 11
1917	12 3	14 9	17 10	20 11	24 6	29 4	19 0
1918	12 6	15 4	18 6	21 9	24 11	29 7	19 6
1919	12 8	15 9	18 11	22 5	25 8	31 2	20 1
1920	13 10	17 8	20 8	24 3	28 4	34 3	22 1
1921	14 2	18 5	21 7	25 2	29 7	35 9	23 0
1922	15 4	19 6	22 6	26 0	31 2	36 3	24 0
1923	15 5	19 10	23 5	28 3	33 3	39 4	25 3
1924	15 8	20 2	24 10	29 10	34 7	40 5	26 4
1925	16 2	20 10	25 9	30 7	35 4	40 8	27 0

Note.—Kitchen is included as a room.

Between 1901 and 1914 rents in Sydney and suburbs increased by nearly 50 per cent., but the war had a steadying effect, and the next three years showed a slight decrease. In 1918, however, the rents began to increase owing to a shortage of houses, the deficiency being attributed to the practical cessation of investment building, on account of the high prices of both materials and labour. In 1920 there was a marked increase in building activities, but the supply was still short of the demand, and there was a rise of 10 per cent. in the average rental during the year. There was a further rise of 4 per cent. in each of the two following years, of 5 per cent. in 1923, and of 4 per cent. in 1924, when the average was more than 32 per cent. higher than in 1914. The increase in 1923 occurred in the earlier part of the year, and the average remained constant during the period of nine months, April to December, then the upward movement commenced again.

Cost of Building.

The increased cost of building has been an important factor in causing the upward movement in house rents. The extent of the increase is indicated in the following comparison which shows the cost of building in Sydney, in

various years since 1901, a plain brick cottage with 4 rooms, kitchen, bathroom, pantry, and back and front verandahs, complete with bath, laundry fittings, gas stove, fencing, water and sewerage. No allowance has been made for the builder's profit, and the cost of the land has not been included. The comparison is based on the assumption that award rates of wages were paid and that the quantity of materials and of labour, as in the month of July, was equal in each year, except that in the six years 1921-26 the estimates are based on the prices and rates ruling in the month of June.

Year.	Cost of—			Proportion of Total Cost.		Index-number of Cost. 1911=1,000.		
	Materials.	Labour.	Total.	Materials.	Labour.	Materials.	Labour.	Total.
	£	£	£	per cent.	per cent.			
1901	181	100	281	64	36	797	833	810
1911	227	120	347	65	35	1000	1000	1000
1914	255	133	388	66	34	1123	1108	1118
1920	433	221	704	69	31	2128	1842	2029
1921	482	225	707	68	32	2123	1875	2037
1922	449	220	669	67	33	1978	1833	1928
1923	441	208	649	68	32	1943	1733	1870
1924	449	212	661	68	32	1978	1767	1905
1925	435	218	653	67	33	1916	1817	1882
1926	431	228	659	65	35	1899	1900	1899

Between 1901 and 1911 there was an increase of 23 per cent. in the cost of building, with a further rise of 12 per cent. during the succeeding three years. In 1921 the cost was 82 per cent. above pre-war level, then a decrease of about 8 per cent. occurred during the two years ended June, 1923. Since that date the cost has fluctuated with an upward tendency, and in June, 1926, the cost was 70 per cent. higher than in 1914, materials being 69 per cent. dearer and wages 71 per cent. higher.

Particulars are given in the chapter relating to Social Condition concerning the number of new buildings erected and schemes for assisting people to build dwellings.

Fair Rents Act.

In view of a continuous rise in the rents of private dwellings which had persisted for some years prior to the war, the Fair Rents Act was passed in 1915 to provide a measure of regulation with the object of preventing undue increases in this important item of family expenditure.

The Act and its amendments provide for the determination of rents of dwellings leased at a rent not exceeding £3 per week, and, since February, 1926, rents of retail shops and buildings, which are partly shops and partly dwellings, let at a rental not exceeding £6 a week. The Act does not apply to premises licensed for the sale of spirituous liquors nor to houses ordinarily leased for summer residence. It is administered by Fair Rents Courts, each consisting of a stipendiary or police magistrate, and application for the review of the rental of a dwelling may be made by the lessor or by the lessee.

In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the fair rent is fixed on the basis of the capital value at a rate not lower, nor more than 2½ per cent. higher, than the rates charged on overdrafts by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, plus rates, repairs, maintenance, insurance, and depreciation. The capital value is the unimproved capital value of the land plus the estimated cost of erection as at the date of the application, less a fair sum for depreciation. It had been the practice of the Court to use a rate of 6½ per cent. of the capital value in determining the fair rent, but the rate was increased to 7½ per cent. as from the beginning of the year 1925, and on 21st July, 1925, it was reduced to 7 per cent.

It is prescribed, however, that, excepting where circumstances are proved which render an increase equitable, the fair rent may not exceed the rent which was charged for the dwelling on 1st January, 1915, and in the cases of dwellings leased at that date the Court allows only such increases as are necessary to cover increases in respect of rates, repairs, etc. This provision of the Act is applied to any building, which is partly shop and partly dwelling, let to one tenant, if it was so leased on 1st January, 1915, but other shops are exempt from its operation.

The determinations of the Court remain in force for a period not less than twelve months and not longer than three years as specifically stated, notwithstanding change of ownership or tenancy. The Court usually fixes the rentals for a term of twelve months. During the pendency of an application or the period of six months after decision, the lessor may not determine the lease without reasonable cause if the lessee performs the conditions of his lease.

The Fair Rents Amendment Act, 1926, imposes restrictions on the right of an owner to recover from a tenant possession of a house or shop. An order for recovery of possession or for the ejection of a lessee may not be made except for reasons specified in the Act, *e.g.*, if the tenant does not pay the rent or allows acts of waste causing the condition of the property to deteriorate, or uses the premises for illegal purposes; or if the dwelling or shop is reasonably required for occupation by the owner or a member of his family, or for demolition or reconstruction.

The first sitting of the Fair Rents Court in Sydney was held on the 13th March, 1916, and the provisions of the Act were extended to country districts on 16th August, 1920. The records show interesting particulars relating to dwellings and rentals, but for several reasons the information cannot be regarded as a satisfactory basis for conclusions as to the effect of the Fair Rents Act upon house rents. For instance, in cases where the tenant applies promptly upon receiving notice of the landlord's intention to increase the rent, the "fair rent" as determined by the Court may be recorded as an increase on the rent at date of application, whereas it is a reduction in comparison with the proposed increased rental against which the action was directed.

The applications dealt with in the Metropolitan district from the inception of the Court to 31st March, 1926, numbered 7,961, of which 3,534 were withdrawn or struck out, and in 4,427 cases the rentals were fixed. In the country districts the number of cases was comparatively small. Only 295 were concluded between August, 1920, and 31st December, 1925. Of these 137 were withdrawn or dismissed, and in 31 cases the rent was fixed as at date of application, in 68 it was reduced, in 59 it was increased. Further details regarding the number of cases are shown in the chapter relating to Law Courts.

The determinations of the Metropolitan Court in respect of cases in which the rentals were fixed during the year 1925-26, and during the period of ten years since the commencement of its operations, are summarised in the following table:—

Rent (at date of Application).	Year ended 31st March, 1926.				Total to 31st March, 1926.			
	Fixed as at date of Application.	Increased.	Reduced.	Total.	Fixed as at date of Application.	Increased.	Reduced.	Total.
10s. and under ...	...	4	...	4	13	25	15	53
10s. 6d. to 12s. 6d.	...	4	11	15	27	72	86	185
13s. to 15s. ..	1	12	12	25	89	210	242	541
15s. 6d. to 17s. 6d.	12	20	21	53	88	228	234	550
18s. to 20s. ...	2	14	44	60	120	267	309	696
20s. 6d. to 25s. ...	18	11	67	96	163	355	470	988
25s. 6d. to 30s. ...	15	20	71	106	90	199	340	629
30s. 6d. to 40s. ...	9	14	96	119	45	97	350	492
40s. 6d. to 50s. ...	5	5	54	64	19	26	152	197
50s. 6d. to 60s. ...	...	...	27	27	6	3	63	72
Over 60s. ...	...	1	9	10	...	1	23	24
Total	62	105	412	579	660	1,483	2,284	4,427

During 1925-26 the Court granted increases in 18 per cent. of the decisions, and reductions in 71 per cent. The total increases to 31st March, 1926, represented 33 per cent., and the total reductions 52 per cent.

The majority of dwellings affected by the decisions of the Court were small. The average of the rentals reviewed in the Metropolitan Court during the year ended March, 1926, was 30s. per week, as compared with 25s. 8d. in the previous year.

The amount of reduction and of increase in the rentals in the Metropolitan district during the year 1925-26, may be seen in the following statement:—

Amount of Reduction, or of Increase.	Rents Increased.	Rents Reduced.	Amount of Reduction, or of Increase.	Rents Increased.	Rents Reduced.
6d. and under.	12	11	5s. and under 6s.	2	33
1s. ,, 1s. 6d.	13	21	6s. ,, 7s. 6d.	4	49
1s. 6d. ,, 2s.	12	22	7s. 6d. ,, 10s.	10	56
2s. ,, 2s. 6d.	8	31	10s. ,, 15s.	3	74
2s. 6d. ,, 3s.	17	16	15s. ,, 20s.	1	21
3s. ,, 4s.	12	22	20s. and over ...	1	32
4s. ,, 5s.	10	24	Total ...	105	412

The reductions during 1925-26 amounted to a sum of £167 2s. 6d. per week which represents an average of 25·1 per cent., or 8s. 1d. per house per week. In 105 cases the rents were increased, the total increases amounting to £18 17s. 6d. per week, equal to 15·3 per cent., or 3s. 7d. per house.

The weekly rents reviewed by the Court during 1925-26 amounted in the aggregate to a sum of £868 12s. 6d., the net reduction being £148 5s., or 17·1 per cent.

A brief review of the decisions of the Metropolitan Fair Rents Court in each year since its inception in March, 1916, is shown below:—

Year ended March.	Rentals fixed by Court.				Aggregate weekly rents(as at date of application)	Net Reduction.	
	As at date of applica- tion.	Increased.	Reduced.	Total.		Amount per week.	Per cent.
1917	137	7	294	438	£ 419	£ 34	8.1
1918	49	19	102	170	161	8	5.0
1919	36	132	65	233	233	+9	+3.9
1920	47	254	141	442	464	+13	+2.8
1921	52	256	187	495	572	+9	+1.6
1922	75	237	245	557	704	22	3.1
1923	64	150	233	447	560	30	5.4
1924	75	132	288	501	641	65	10.1
1925	63	185	317	565	725	60	8.2
1926	62	105	412	579	869	148	17.1
Total	660	1,483	2,284	4,427	5,348	336	6.3

+ Denotes net increase.

Since 1916 the Metropolitan Court has fixed the rentals of 4,427 houses, of which the average weekly rent was 24s. 2d., and the net result of its decisions has been an average reduction of 1s. 6d. per week per house.

RETAIL PRICE INDEX NUMBERS—FOOD AND RENT.

The index numbers of the prices of food and of rent shown in this section should not be used as a complete measure of variations in the cost of living, as they were compiled with the primary object of showing the general movement of the retail prices of food and of rent, and do not cover other items of family expenditure.

In measuring a movement in prices over a period of years, changes in dietary each year cannot be taken into account in computing the index numbers. The price of each food commodity must be weighted over a series of years in accordance with its relative importance in a fixed regimen as determined in or around the basic year. In reviewing prices over a long period there is a probability of a discrepancy between the rise or fall of the index numbers and the increase or decrease in the actual expenditure of a household on food. During abnormal years, when violent fluctuations in prices and supplies necessitate changes in the kinds, quality, and relative quantities of the various foods, and an adjustment of the family dietary, the discrepancy is likely to be wider than under normal conditions. Variations in the cost of food on the basis of a changed regimen are shown on page 686.

The index numbers of food and groceries, as shown below, are based upon the retail price of forty commodities in every-day use, which are shown in the table on page 676, and the prices have been weighted according to the average annual consumption in the years 1906-10.

The retail price index numbers of food and rent in Sydney in each year from 1864 to 1911 are published in the 1920 issue of the Year Book. The following table shows the index numbers of food and groceries, and of rent, and of food and groceries and rent combined in various years since 1901:—

Year.	Index Numbers (1911=1000).			Amount required in each period to purchase the same quantities of Food and Rent as would have cost, on the average, 20s. in 1911.
	Food and Groceries.	Rent.	Food and Groceries and Rent Combined.	
1901	896	789	848	s. d. 17 0
1906	967	819	901	18 0
1911	1000	1000	1000	20 0
1912	1137	1082	1113	22 3
1913	1144	1145	1144	22 11
1914	1169	1175	1171	23 5
1915	1411	1116	1283	25 8
1916	1536	1111	1351	27 0
1917	1556	1119	1365	27 4
1918	1565	1145	1383	27 8
1919	1802	1179	1531	30 7
1920	2171	1297	1791	35 10
1921	1919	1351	1672	33 5
1922	1721	1409	1586	31 9
1923	1840	1483	1685	33 8
1924	1751	1546	1662	33 3
1925	1804	1586	1709	34 2
1926 Jan. to June ...	1891	1664	1792	35 10

Prices of food are affected largely by seasonal conditions, but, even before the war, the trend of prices was generally upwards, and when a bad season, *e.g.*, in 1902 and in 1908, caused a marked rise, prices did not fall to the former level with the return of good seasons. The upward movement, being world-wide, cannot be ascribed to local causes. Rents also rose steadily during the period of prosperity which preceded the war.

In 1914 and subsequent years, when drought, enlistments, and disorganisation due to the war steadily reduced the productive activity of the population, prices rose abnormally on account of strong oversea demand for raw materials, and of a scarcity of manufactured goods. From 1918 to June, 1920, seasonable conditions were unfavourable, but towards the end of the year 1920 a general process of deflation commenced.

Since 1921 the index number of food and groceries has risen and fallen in alternate years. In 1925 it was nearly 17 per cent. lower than in 1920, but owing to a continuous rise in rents the index numbers of food and rent combined was only 4.6 per cent. lower. As compared with the previous year, there was an increase of about 3 per cent. in the index number in each group in 1925.

The variations in the retail prices of food and groceries and in rents in each month since January, 1913, are shown below in comparison with the prices in July, 1914, the month before the outbreak of war.

Information regarding rent is obtained quarterly, therefore it has been assumed that the average rent for the quarter was the rent for the middle

month of the quarter, and figures for the intervening months have been interpolated. The retail prices and rents in July, 1914, have been taken as a base and called 1000.

Year.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Food and Groceries.												
1913	962	982	1009	1000	993	1021	988	975	979	945	963	965
1914	968	993	1033	1018	1000	1010	1000	1009	996	988	989	1029
1915	1086	1049	1068	1086	1100	1161	1256	1404	1337	1351	1308	1322
1916	1326	1385	1362	1311	1324	1311	1324	1308	1298	1276	1292	1297
1917	1254	1305	1310	1312	1300	1307	1310	1408	1413	1387	1359	1330
1918	1340	1351	1349	1346	1341	1343	1335	1302	1302	1355	1361	1393
1919	1449	1477	1501	1532	1533	1541	1541	1533	1520	1611	1664	1650
1920	1696	1750	1738	1787	1780	1901	1953	2007	2023	1934	1900	1885
1921	1896	1869	1766	1705	1653	1630	1612	1592	1569	1539	1494	1439
1922	1454	1405	1417	1436	1462	1455	1493	1531	1544	1496	1523	1505
1923	1493	1480	1472	1550	1573	1628	1649	1674	1644	1595	1600	1586
1924	1568	1539	1531	1508	1524	1482	1484	1477	1449	1460	1505	1497
1925	1490	1493	1510	1507	1528	1547	1560	1575	1535	1601	1578	1608
1926	1582	1565	1636	1663	1680	1632	1620	1614	1009			
Rent—All Houses.												
1913	946	946	946	971	971	971	971	971	971	992	992	992
1914	992	992	996	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	988	975
1915	959	954	950	946	946	946	946	946	946	946	942	933
1916	938	933	938	942	942	942	942	942	942	942	942	942
1917	942	942	942	942	942	942	942	942	942	942	946	950
1918	959	963	967	975	975	975	971	971	971	975	979	983
1919	988	988	988	988	992	996	1000	1004	1008	1012	1021	1029
1920	1046	1062	1079	1104	1104	1104	1104	1100	1100	1133	1133	1133
1921	1137	1137	1137	1137	1137	1141	1145	1149	1154	1154	1158	1162
1922	1170	1174	1178	1185	1191	1197	1197	1199	1201	1201	1203	1212
1923	1220	1232	1245	1257	1266	1263	1266	1266	1266	1266	1266	1270
1924	1278	1286	1295	1303	1311	1315	1317	1320	1324	1328	1332	1336
1925	1340	1344	1344	1342	1340	1340	1338	1336	1340	1349	1357	1365
1926	1411	1411	1411	1411	1411	1411	1411	1411	1411			
Food and Groceries and Rent combined.												
1913	955	966	982	987	983	999	979	973	975	966	976	977
1914	978	992	1017	1010	1000	1006	1000	1005	998	994	989	1006
1915	1030	1007	1017	1025	1033	1067	1120	1204	1166	1174	1148	1154
1916	1157	1190	1176	1150	1157	1150	1157	1148	1142	1130	1139	1142
1917	1135	1146	1149	1150	1144	1147	1149	1205	1207	1194	1180	1166
1918	1173	1182	1182	1184	1181	1182	1176	1157	1157	1189	1194	1214
1919	1247	1263	1277	1294	1297	1303	1305	1302	1297	1349	1383	1378
1920	1412	1449	1450	1488	1484	1552	1582	1610	1619	1584	1566	1556
1921	1568	1549	1491	1457	1427	1416	1408	1398	1387	1371	1347	1318
1922	1330	1304	1313	1326	1344	1342	1364	1386	1394	1367	1383	1377
1923	1374	1371	1373	1422	1439	1470	1481	1495	1479	1451	1454	1448
1924	1441	1428	1428	1419	1431	1409	1411	1409	1394	1402	1430	1472
1925	1424	1428	1437	1435	1446	1456	1463	1470	1477	1460	1481	1502
1926	1507	1497	1537	1553	1551	1535	1528	1525	1522			

In regard to food prices, the highest point was reached in September, 1920, viz., 102 per cent. above July, 1914. Subsequently the prices of food declined in each month until in February, 1922, they were lower than in January, 1919. Then the index number began to move upwards with some fluctuations. In 1923, when there were increases in such important items as dairy products and meat, food became dearer. During 1924 the prices declined slowly until the end of the year when they commenced to rise again. The upward movement was fairly continuous throughout the following year.

Rents declined slowly from November, 1914, until the end of 1915, and they did not regain the pre-war level until July, 1919. Subsequently there was a gradual increase until the second quarter of 1923 when the average remained stationary until the end of the year at a high level, viz., 26.6 per cent. higher than in July, 1914. In 1924 the upward movement recommenced.

There was only slight variation in rents during 1925, the average showed a tendency to decline in the second and third quarters, but was somewhat higher at the end than at the beginning of the year.

In 1926 the Commonwealth Statistician introduced a change in respect of his collection of data relating to rents. Agents supplying quarterly returns were asked to quote the actual average rent of the houses of each class instead of the average predominant rental, as in former years. It is probable that the increase recorded in the first quarter of the year was due in a large measure to this change in method rather than to an increase in rents. In the following quarter the average was the same as in the March quarter.

Comparison with other Countries.

The following statement shows the increases since July, 1914, in the retail prices of the principal articles of food in other countries. The figures for the oversea countries have been taken from the "London Labour Gazette" and other official sources; those relating to France and to Sweden include fuel and lighting. The particulars for the Australian States relate to the capital cities:—

Country.	Percentage Increases in Retail Food Prices since July, 1914.							
	July, 1919.	July, 1920.	July, 1921.	July, 1922.	July, 1923.	July, 1924.	July, 1925.	July, 1926.
New South Wales ...	53	96	63	56	66	49	56	62
Victoria ...	44	108	68	54	81	52	62	62
Queensland ...	63	99	67	51	63	58	64	71
South Australia ...	36	92	48	43	54	45	49	51
Western Australia ...	42	63	50	37	41	41	46	42
Tasmania ...	40	84	68	50	57	52	49	55
Australia ...	47	94	61	48	64	40	57	60
New Zealand...	44	67	64	44	42	48	51	49
South Africa ...	39	97	39	16	16	17	20	16
United States ...	86	115	45	39	44	40	59	54
Canada ...	86	127	48	38	37	34	41	49
United Kingdom ...	109	158	120	80	62	62	67	61
Denmark ...	112	153	136	84	88	100	110	59
Sweden ...	210	197	132	79	60	59	69	56
Norway ...	189	219	195	133	118	148	160	98
Italy (Milan)...	204	345	406	392	396	408	502	503
France (Paris) ...	161	273	206	197	221	260	321	474

* June.

The price level of food commodities in New South Wales in recent months has been higher in comparison with July, 1914, than in the other Australian States except Queensland and Victoria. The index numbers shown above may not be used for exact comparisons between countries owing to differences in the scope of the data, and in methods of compilation, but they indicate that the highest level in most of the countries enumerated was reached in 1920.

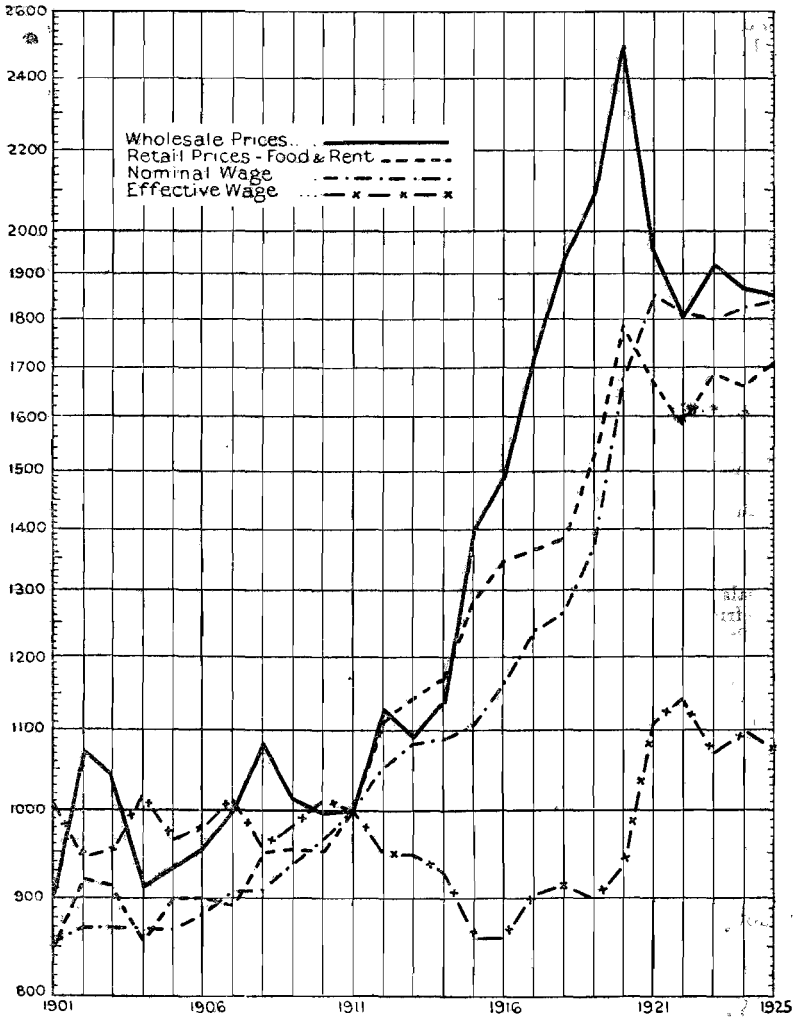
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES—INDEX NUMBERS COMPARED.

A comparison of the index numbers of wholesale and retail prices as published in this chapter shows that after 1914 the wholesale price index numbers rose to a level far above that of the retail price index numbers. This is due mainly to the fact that the former are based on the prices of a wide range of commodities while the latter relate only to food and groceries and housing. The prices of food and groceries did not increase as much as those of many other groups of commodities. Moreover the inclusion of rent in compiling the retail price index numbers kept them at the lower level as the rents of existing houses did not advance to the same extent as prices of materials for building new dwellings. Thus in 1920, when wholesale prices were at the peak, building materials were 142 per cent. dearer, and rents were less than 40 per cent. higher, than in 1911.

A comparison of the annual index numbers of wholesale and retail prices is shown in the graph on page 685.

INDEX NUMBERS—PRICES AND WAGES—SYDNEY, 1901 to 1925.

RATIO GRAPH.



The numbers at the side of the graph represent the index numbers of prices and of wages with the year 1911 as a base = 1000. The diagram is a ratio graph, and the vertical scale being logarithmic, the rise or fall of each curve represents the percentage of change. Equal distances on the scale represent the same percentage of change, and when the curves run parallel, they indicate an increase or decrease in equal proportion.

COST OF LIVING.

For the purpose of measuring the extent of variations in the cost of living it is usual to distribute the expenditure of a family into five main classes, viz, food and groceries, rent, fuel and light, clothing, and miscellaneous items, and, having ascertained the rise or fall in respect of each class, to weight the variation in each group for the purpose of calculating the increase or decrease in the general cost of living. The weight to be assigned to each group varies in accordance with the amount of income,

the expenditure on the primal necessities of food and shelter being proportionately greater when the income is small. As, however, the question of the cost of living is studied largely in relation to wages and the standard of living in respect of persons of moderate means, it is customary to consider the ratio of the component groups of expenditure on a basis of the wage of an unskilled worker.

In New South Wales a living wage determination made by the Board of Trade in 1919 showed the following proportions, viz., food and groceries, 41 per cent.; rent, 20 per cent.; fuel and light, 4 per cent.; clothing, 18 per cent.; and miscellaneous, 17 per cent. In comparison with these proportions the standard adopted by the Commonwealth Basic Wage Commission in 1920 is similar in respect of food, rent, and fuel, but the proportion is higher for clothing and lower for miscellaneous items. The Commission's standard was as follows: food and groceries, 40 per cent.; rent, 19 per cent.; fuel and light, 4 per cent.; clothing, 23 per cent.; miscellaneous, 14 per cent.

Cost of Food—Change in Regimen.

The index numbers on page 683 show the movement in the retail prices of food on the basis of a fixed regimen. It is recognised however that variations in the actual cost of food depend also upon changes in dietary, which is adjusted to meet changes in prices and in supplies. The combined effect upon the food bill of a family of five persons of changes in prices and in the consumption of the principal food commodities is illustrated in the following table. In calculating the cost, the average consumption per member of the family in 1925 is assumed to have been equivalent to the general average per head of the population as shown on page 663, and corresponding figures have been used for the year 1914. An exception has been made in regard to flour and sugar, of which the quantities have been reduced to make allowance for the quantities included in bread, jam, etc.

Fruit and vegetables, except potatoes, have been excluded on account of the impossibility of obtaining prices which would be properly comparable, principally owing to seasonal variations and to the difficulty of estimating the consumption.

1914.	1925.	1914.		1925.			
		Weekly Consumption.	Average Price.	Weekly Cost.	Weekly Consumption.	Average Price.	Weekly Cost.
Beef	lb.	12·8	5·3	5 7·8	12·0	7·5	7 6·0
Mutton	lb.	8·1	4·8	3 2·9	5·3	8·8	3 10·6
Pork	lb.	·3	10·3	3·1	·4	14·3	5·7
Bacon and Ham	lb.	·9	11·0	9·9	1·1	17·5	1 7·3
Fish—Fresh, etc.	lb.	·8	9·5	7·6	·9	16·0	1 2·4
„ Preserved	lb.	·4	10·5	4·2	·4	20·4	8·2
Potatoes	lb.	14·4	·9	1 1·0	11·1	2·1	1 11·3
Flour	lb.	4·0	1·4	5·6	4·0	2·5	10·0
Bread	2lb. loaf	10·0	3·5	2 11·0	9·5	5·5	4 4·3
Rice	lb.	·8	3·0	2·4	·5	3·4	1·7
Sago and Tapioca	lb.	·2	2·7	·5	·2	3·9	0·8
Oatmeal	lb.	·5	2·6	1·3	·5	3·7	1·9
Sugar	lb.	6·0	2·7	1 4·2	6·0	4·6	2 3·6
Jam	lb.	1·6	5·0	8·0	1·0	8·5	8·5
Butter	lb.	2·9	14·2	3 5·2	3·0	20·3	5 0·9
Cheese	lb.	·3	10·6	3·2	·3	14·2	4·3
Milk—Fresh	qt.	7·7	5·3	3 4·8	8·2	7·8	5 4·0
Tea	lb.	·7	15·8	11·1	·8	27·7	1 10·2
Coffee	oz.	1·3	1·1	1·4	1·1	1·7	1·9
Total ... ..	...	...	...	25 11·2	...	...	38 7·6

The weekly expenditure on the commodities enumerated rose from 25s. 11½d. in 1914 to 38s. 7½d. in 1925—an increase of 49 per cent. The meat bill increased from 9s. 11½d. to 13s. 5½d., while the expenditure on milk and butter rose from 6s. 10d. to 10s. 5d.

Taking rent into consideration—the average being 20s. in 1914 and 27s. in 1925—the total weekly expenditure was 45s. 11½d. as compared with 65s. 7½d. and the increase per week during the period amounted to 19s. 8½d., which represents 43 per cent.

An interesting comparison may be made between the increase in the household expenditure on food calculated on the basis of the average consumption of the various commodities in each year, and the increase in the prices of food as indicated by the index numbers which are computed on the basis of a fixed regimen, as those shown in the table on page 682. In 1920—the year in which prices reached the peak—the average consumption of the commodities enumerated above decreased and the average expenditure was only 65 per cent. greater than in 1924, though the general level of food prices was 86 per cent. higher. Since 1920 the difference in the regimen as compared with 1914, has lessened, and in 1925 the increase in the average expenditure—49 per cent. over that of 1914—was approximate to the increase in the price level, viz., 54 per cent.

Cost of Clothing.

The measurement of changes in the cost of clothing presents such great difficulty that this item is frequently omitted from official investigations, and it is often assumed that variations in the general cost of living may be determined with a reasonable degree of accuracy by the measurement of the groups, food and shelter. The chief difficulty in regard to the clothing group lies in the determination of standards owing to the vast range of articles of clothing, numerous grades of quality, and rapid changes in fashion and design. The group is, however, of such importance that in 1921 arrangements were made with a number of large retail firms in Sydney to supply particulars showing the movement of the prices of clothing since the beginning of the war period.

The lists sent to the firms included forty-two of the principal articles of clothing for a man, woman, school boy, school girl, and a young child (not an infant in arms); also fourteen items of piece goods, sewing cotton and knitting wool. It was not considered practicable to attempt to collect data concerning articles of the same quality nor even of the same material, and the firms were asked to quote the price as in January and in July of each year of each item of the quality usually purchased by persons of moderate means.

In order to form a price-index to indicate the general trend of the cost of clothing, budgets were prepared from the quotations of each firm to represent the annual replacements for a man, a woman, and for each child, the replacements of the various articles being approximately the same as those in the indicator list used by the Australian Basic Wage Commission in 1920. An average was taken of the January and July budgets for each unit of the family to obtain an average for each year. The averages were added to obtain an annual expenditure for a family, and the aggregates were used as the basis of the following index numbers, which were rounded-off and related to 1914=100.

Year.	Index Number.	Year.	Index Number.
1914... ..	100	1920... ..	215
1915... ..	110	1921... ..	200
1916... ..	120	1922... ..	175
1917... ..	140	1923... ..	165
1918... ..	160	1924... ..	165
1919... ..	190	1925... ..	160

The index numbers show that the cost of clothing rose by about 10 per cent. during 1915 and 1916, and the rate of increase was more rapid in the following years until 1920, when the index number was 115 per cent. higher than in 1914. In 1921 there was a decline which brought the prices back to a level just double the prices in 1914. In the succeeding two years there were successive reductions of 12 per cent. and 6 per cent. In 1924 there was not an appreciable change in the general level of prices of clothing, and in 1925 there was a decline of about 3 per cent.

The method of taking as a basis of a price index the predominant price paid at various dates by a certain section of the people, viz., those with moderate incomes, does not preserve an identity of standard but involves to some extent changes in quality. In normal times the standard of clothing used by any section of the community, *e.g.*, unskilled workers, changes very slowly and would not vary appreciably within a decade. The period under review, however, was characterised by violent changes, social and economic, which were reflected in every phase of national life. In the earlier years of the war prices of food rose much more rapidly than wages, thus necessitating economy, which would naturally be reflected in the matter of clothing more readily than in the food group. Subsequently an expansion of the currency, heavy Government expenditure and an improvement in the return from primary production, created an atmosphere of artificial prosperity, and as wages increased it is reasonable to suppose that a higher standard of clothing became general amongst the majority of the population. In 1920 it became apparent that prices had reached a maximum, and consumers began to restrict their purchases in expectation of a decline.

The position in regard to clothing was affected in 1921 by excessive importations, but merchants, faced with the difficulty of selling a large supply of goods on a falling market, endeavoured to avoid drastic reductions in respect of goods which they had purchased when prices were abnormally high.

Cost of Fuel and Miscellaneous Expenses.

The cost of fuel and light forms the smallest of the groups of family expenditure, but substantial increases which have occurred since 1914 have had an appreciable effect upon the cost of living.

Kerosene is included in the list of food and groceries, and the average retail prices are shown on page 676. Gas for household use in Sydney was raised by various increases from 3s. 6d. per 1,000 cubic feet in July, 1914, to 5s. 9d. in November, 1920. In 1922 the price declined, and successive reductions of 2d. per 1,000 cubic feet occurred on 1st May and 4th August, 1922; 1st January, 1923, and 2nd February, 1925. The price was increased from 5s. 2d. to 5s. 4d. on 13th November, 1925, to 5s. 7d., on 19th January, and to 5s. 8d. on 17th July, 1926. Coal was about 75 per cent. dearer in 1923 than in 1914, having risen from 24s. 6d. per ton to 43s. 7d. in 1922. The price receded slightly to 42s. per ton during the year 1923, but has since increased to 43s. 6d. Firewood increased in price from 28s. per ton in July, 1914, to 45s. in 1924.

Almost all the items of miscellaneous expenditure have become dearer; for instance, fares by train, tram, and ferry, which are an important factor. General increases amounting to about 66 per cent. were made in railway fares between July, 1914, and November, 1920. A reduction was made in May, 1924, and the decreases in second-class suburban fares up to 34 miles ranged from 3 to 11 per cent. Tram fares up to 31st March, 1914, were charged at the rate of 1d. per section, then the fare for the second section was raised to 1½d., the fare for two or more sections remaining unchanged.

Since 6th November, 1920, tram fares have been charged at the following rates:—One section 2d., two sections 3d., three sections 4d., four sections 5d., five and six sections 6d. Increases have been made also in the fares charged on the majority of Sydney Harbour ferry routes. For instance, the monthly season ticket rates from Circular Quay to Milson's Point, were raised by successive increases from 4s. 9d. for men in July, 1914, to 8s. in August, 1921, when they reached the highest rate. The corresponding charges for women's tickets were 3s. 6d. and 6s. 9d. In August, 1922, a reduction of 1s. 3d. was made in respect of both rates, but in October, 1923, the prices were restored to the level of August, 1921.

The prices of the daily newspapers which had been raised during 1919 and 1920 reverted to the former charge of 1d. per copy at the beginning of July, 1922.

For postage additional charges were imposed on letters, etc., in October, 1918, and further increases were made in October, 1920, when letter rates were raised by $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., and fees for telephone calls, except in small country exchanges, were increased by 25 per cent., and increases ranging up to 50 per cent. were made in the charges for telegrams. Postal charges were reduced in October, 1923, the charge for letters being fixed at $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz.

Contributions to friendly societies amounted on an average to about 1s. 3d. per week in 1914 and to 1s. $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. in 1925. Subscriptions to trade unions, which range from 6d. to 1s. per week, have remained constant.

The retail price of tobacco has increased by 75 per cent. since 1914. The average price of plug tobacco of popular brand was 10s. 6d. per lb. in 1925 as compared with 6s. in 1914.

Index numbers to represent the variations in the cost of fuel and light used by a family of moderate means are shown below. They have been calculated by weighting the average prices of coal, firewood, and gas, in accordance with the quantity consumed annually. The index numbers of miscellaneous items are approximate only, being based on the items enumerated above. Prices in 1914 were taken as a base and called 100.

Year.	Cost of Fuel.	Cost of Miscellaneous Expenses.	Year.	Cost of Fuel.	Cost of Miscellaneous Expenses.
1914	100	100	1920	140	140
1915	102	102	1921	160	145
1916	105	102	1922	165	140
1917	115	105	1923	165	135
1918	120	110	1924	165	135
1919	130	115	1925	160	135

Increases in the cost of fuel and light up to 1921 were somewhat lower than the increases in food prices, and the index numbers continued to rise until the following year. Miscellaneous items apparently increased slowly until 1920, when they were about 40 per cent. above 1914 prices, and a further rise occurred in the following year. The index number has since dropped below the 1920 level.

Changes in the Cost of Living.

A fair indication of the changes in the total cost of living may be obtained by summarising the index numbers of the cost of the various items discussed above, assigning to each group a weight in accordance with the ratio its cost bears to the total family expenditure.

The weights applied in the following table are as follow:—Food and groceries 41, rent 20, clothing 20, fuel and light 4, miscellaneous items 15. They represent an approximate mean of the ratios in the official standards of the Sydney living wage fixed by the Board of Trade in 1919 and the Sydney cost of living wage as determined by the Basic Wage Commission in 1920. It is not claimed that the results are an exact measure of the changes, and they are put forth only as a rough indication of the movement in the general cost of living since 1914.

Year.	Food and Groceries.	Rent.	Clothing.	Fuel.	Miscellaneous Items.	General Increase in Cost of Living since 1914.
1914	100	100	100	100	100	...
1915	121	95	110	102	102	about 10 per cent.
1916	131	95	120	105	102	" 15 "
1917	133	95	140	115	105	" 25 "
1918	134	97	160	120	110	" 30 "
1919	154	100	190	130	115	" 45 "
1920	186	110	215	140	140	" 70 "
1921	164	115	200	160	145	" 60 "
1922	147	120	175	165	140	" 50 "
1923	157	126	165	165	135	" 50 "
1924	150	132	165	165	135	" 50 "
1925	154	135	160	160	135	" 50 "

In the years 1915 and 1916 food prices increased more rapidly than the cost of any other group, while rents declined. Between 1916 and 1918 there was little change in the index number of food prices, but clothing prices advanced rapidly. Both these groups reached a maximum in 1920, when clothing prices were more than double the pre-war prices, and food was 86 per cent. higher. In the other groups the variation was not so marked, the rise being continuous throughout the period but slower. On the whole the cost of living, which rose by about 30 per cent. during the war period, increased to a greater extent during the two years 1919 and 1920, after the armistice was declared. In each of the two following years there was a drop of about 5 per cent. In the years 1923 to 1925 there was not an appreciable change in the general average cost.

A comparison of the results obtained by measuring the movement in the cost of living since 1914 on the basis of the cost of (1) food and rent only, and (2) all items of family expenditure shows that in 1915 and 1916 and in 1923 both methods gave practically the same result, but in the intervening years the increase in the cost of all items was much greater than the increase in respect of food and rent only. In 1925 the cost of the food and rent was 46 per cent. higher, and the cost of all items about 50 per cent. higher than in 1914.

EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTION.

EMPLOYMENT.

Information regarding the occupations of the people is obtained only at the Census, and statistics relating to the periods between the Census dates are restricted mainly to certain classes of employment in the primary industries and in manufacturing establishments.

The results of the last Census indicate that in April, 1921, the breadwinners numbered 884,104, of whom 713,169, or 81 per cent. were males. A summary of the statistics relating to occupations is shown below:—

Occupations.	Number of Persons.			Proportion to Total.		
	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.
Professional	48,543	29,233	77,776	per cent. 4.57	per cent. 7.83	per cent. 8.72
Domestic	20,786	60,904	81,690	1.95	5.93	3.91
Commercial	107,474	31,270	138,744	10.11	3.04	6.64
Transport and Communication	31,826	2,693	84,519	7.70	.26	4.04
Industrial	243,862	40,803	284,665	22.94	3.97	13.62
Primary Producers—						
Agricultural	53,598	910	94,508	8.80	.09	4.52
Pastoral and Dairying	63,325	2,044	65,569	5.98	.20	3.14
Mining	32,841	76	32,917	3.09	.01	1.57
Other	15,593	123	15,716	1.47	.01	.75
Total Primary	205,557	3,153	208,710	19.34	.31	9.98
Independent	5,121	2,876	7,997	.48	.28	.38
Total Breadwinners	713,169	170,935	884,104	67.09	16.64	42.29
Dependents	349,789	856,463	1,206,252	32.91	83.36	57.71
Not stated	8,543	1,472	10,015	...	..	..
Total	1,071,501	1,028,870	2,100,371	100	100	100

The majority of the people are classified as dependents, the numerical importance of the group being due to the fact that it includes, as well as children, women engaged in domestic duties for which wages are not paid.

The breadwinners, as recorded at the Census of 1921, are classified in age groups in the following table:—

Age Group.	Breadwinners.			Proportion of Breadwinners to total in each Age Group.		Proportion of Breadwinners in each Age Group to total Breadwinners.	
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Under 15 ...	9,488	3,880	13,368	Per cent. 2.8	Per cent. 1.2	Per cent. 1.3	Per cent. 2.3
15-19 ...	76,469	59,612	116,081	86.6	45.7	10.8	23.2
20-24 ...	81,293	36,171	117,464	93.1	40.8	11.4	21.2
25-29 ...	86,355	22,725	109,080	99.4	25.0	12.1	13.3
30-34 ...	91,541	15,932	107,473	99.8	18.1	12.9	9.4
35-39 ...	79,252	12,638	91,890	99.8	16.7	11.1	7.4
40-44 ...	66,397	10,125	76,522	99.8	16.3	9.3	5.9
45-49 ...	54,365	8,377	62,742	99.9	16.5	7.7	4.9
50-54 ...	48,744	6,929	55,673	99.9	16.3	6.9	4.1
55-59 ...	41,287	5,345	46,632	99.9	15.3	5.8	3.1
60-64 ...	32,908	3,932	36,840	99.8	13.9	4.6	2.3
65 and over ...	43,226	4,907	48,133	99.5	11.7	6.1	2.9
Not stated..	1,844	362	2,206	...	...	...	...
Total ...	713,169	170,935	884,104	67.1	16.6	100	100

The proportion of breadwinners amongst males under 15 years of age is less than 3 per cent., but the ratio increases rapidly during the next five years of age, so that the proportion of dependents amongst adult males is very small. On the other hand the proportion of breadwinners amongst females is highest in the age group 15-19 years, viz., 45·7 per cent., and it declines considerably between the ages 25 and 35 years.

Of the total breadwinners of each sex 23 per cent. of the males and 47 per cent. of the females were under 25 years of age; 69 per cent. and 83 per cent. respectively were under 45 years.

The proportion of breadwinners amongst males and females in each age group as recorded at each census since 1901 is shown below:—

Age Group.	Proportion of Breadwinners to Total in each Age Group.					
	Males.			Females.		
	1901.	1911.	1921.	1901.	1911.	1921.
Under 15 ...	3·7	4·0	2·8	1·2	1·5	1·2
15-19 ...	88·0	89·9	86·6	37·3	41·2	45·7
20-24 ...	98·6	98·9	98·1	38·3	37·8	40·8
25-44 ...	98·4	99·8	99·7	21·8	20·4	19·4
45-59 ...	97·4	99·8	99·9	21·7	16·6	16·1
60-64 ...		99·6	99·8		16·6	13·9
65 and over ...	84·1	99·5	99·5	26·6	17·3	11·7
Total ...	63·7	68·6	67·1	17·6	17·5	16·6

The most notable feature of the comparison is the increase in the ratio of breadwinners amongst females under age 25 years and the decrease at older ages. The increase was greatest in the group 15-19 years, and it has been continuous since 1901. In the group 20-24 years the proportion declined between 1901 and 1911, then moved to a higher level during the succeeding decennium. Amongst women over 65 years the proportion of breadwinners has declined by 56 per cent. since 1901, though the proportion amongst men of similar ages has increased.

An analysis of the results of each Census shows, however, that for comparative purposes the figures relating to the occupations of women are not satisfactory, these intercensal variations being due wholly or in part to changes in the designations used by persons supplying particulars regarding their occupations.

Particulars regarding the grade of employment of the persons in various occupations were published in the 1922 issue of the "Year Book" at page 439.

Returns regarding the number of persons employed in the principal rural industries of the State are collected annually, but the information is not comparable with the census figures, because it relates only to persons engaged regularly on rural holdings of one acre or over. It includes occupiers and managers and members of their families, who work constantly on a holding, but temporary hands and contract workers engaged for harvesting, shearing, etc., are omitted. Moreover, the census figures relate to a specific date, and the distribution of the workers amongst the several branches of rural industry differs materially from the annual records which show the average number employed, whose distribution is determined usually in accordance with the main purposes for which each holding was used during the year.

In regard to the number of females employed in rural industries, considerable difficulty is experienced in obtaining satisfactory statistics, owing to the fact that a large number of women and girls, especially on dairy farms, are employed only partly in rural production in conjunction with their domestic duties. Usually they do not receive wages, and at a census they are classified as dependents. In the annual returns there is a tendency to include them as rural workers, consequently a wide discrepancy arises between the census and the annual records, the latter being overstated. Since 1919 greater care has been exercised in the collection of the annual returns in regard to women engaged in rural pursuits, and the collectors have been instructed to exclude women engaged primarily in domestic duties.

The following statement shows the number of persons engaged in the various branches of rural industry in various years since 1911. In regard to female employees, it is estimated that the returns for the years prior to 1919-20 included 12,000 women wholly employed in domestic duties, and the figures for those years have been amended, so that the numbers quoted in the table represent the numbers as returned, less 12,000:—

Year.	Agriculture, Poultry, Pig, and Bee-farming.		Dairying.		Pastoral.		Total, Rural Industries.		
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1911	58,299	1,141	27,488	11,293	43,387	770	129,174	13,204	142,378
1916-17	55,122	1,216	22,363	12,041	38,607	820	116,092	14,077	130,169
1921-22	48,571	1,411	29,660	14,571	42,674	860	120,905	16,842	137,747
1922-23	49,444	1,421	29,170	13,882	42,285	1,120	120,899	16,423	137,322
1923-24	48,176	1,052	28,980	13,594	43,196	624	120,352	15,270	135,622
1924-25	47,785	956	30,329	14,707	45,111	592	123,225	16,255	139,480

The number of workers in the rural industries, being affected by seasonal conditions, is subject to great fluctuation. The number engaged in cultivating, etc., has declined since 1911, though the area under cultivation has increased, the greater use of machinery having lessened the need for workers in agriculture. It is probable also that the decrease in the labour engaged permanently has been offset, to some extent, by the employment of contract workers. Details regarding the labour engaged in relation to machinery used in cultivating are shown in the chapter relating to the agricultural industry.

The number of dairy workers decreased between 1911 and 1918, but has increased considerably since. In the pastoral industry the number does not usually vary greatly from year to year, except in very dry seasons, when additional labour is required to tend the flocks and herds under severe drought conditions. On the whole, the number of men engaged permanently in rural pursuits in 1924-25 was 4 per cent. less than the average of the three years prior to the war, and apparently the number of women has increased, the majority being engaged in dairying.

The rural workers in 1924-25 included 68,819 men and 1,390 women, who were classed as working proprietors, *i.e.*, owners, lessees, or share-farmers working on the holdings; 17,673 men and 13,636 women were classed as relatives employed constantly, but not receiving wages; and 36,733 men and 1,229 women, including managers and relatives, were receiving wages.

Annual returns relating to employment are collected also in respect of mining and other primary industries and the manufacturing industries, and the figures for various years since 1911 are summarised in the following statement. The particulars for 1916-17 and subsequent years relate to the twelve months ended 30th June, except those showing the employment in mines, which are for the calendar years ended six months later. In regard to the manufacturing industries, employees in any establishment with fewer than four persons have not been included unless machinery was used in the factory:—

Year.	Rural Industries.	Forests, Fisheries, and Trapping.	Mining.	Manufacturing.			Total.		
	Total.			Males.	Males.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1911	142,378	6,000	33,367	82,083	26,541	108,624	250,624	39,745	290,369
1916-17	130,169	6,500	28,777	88,910	29,087	117,997	240,279	43,164	283,443
1921-22	137,747	6,900	25,820	112,362	36,514	148,876	265,987	53,356	319,343
1922-23	137,322	6,900	28,125	115,287	37,299	152,586	271,211	53,722	324,933
1923-24	135,622	7,800	28,778	121,845	37,829	159,674	278,775	53,099	331,874
1924-25	139,480	8,300	30,001	126,496	39,264	165,760	288,022	55,519	343,541

The figures relating to the mining industry are exclusive of employees engaged in treating minerals at the place of production, and already included in the returns of the manufacturing industries, viz., those engaged in the manufacture of coke at coke works, in the manufacture of lime, cement, etc., at limestone quarries, and in the treatment of ores at mines. The number of miners, as stated for the last five years, includes fossickers, who numbered 533 in 1925. In view of the small output which they obtained, it is probable they were not wholly employed in fossicking.

In the coal and shale mines employment increased from 17,247 in 1911 to 18,534 in 1914, and a decline of about 2,000 occurred during the war period, when the export trade was restricted. During the last six years there has been a steady increase in the number of coal-miners, 24,038 being employed in 1925.

In other mines there was a steady decline in the number of miners from 16,120 in 1911 to 10,120 in 1915, then the number began to rise with an increased demand for industrial metals. In 1919 there was an extensive industrial dislocation in the Broken Hill district, and in later years the condition of the metal market was unsatisfactory. As a result the number fell as low as 4,116 in 1922, but during the last three years there has been an improvement and the number increased to 5,963 in 1925.

In the manufacturing industry a steady increase was interrupted by the outbreak of war and the consequent diminution in the supply of male labour. In 1918-19 the number of male employees rose above the pre-war level, and it has continued to increase, the figure in 1924-25 being 36 per cent. above the pre-war level. The increase was fairly general in all classes of factories, though it was greatest in metal and machinery works, the number being 2,000 more than in the preceding year. The number of females employed in manufacturing establishments increased in each year between 1914-15 and 1919-20, then slackness in the tailoring and dressmaking

establishments caused a reduction, but in the following year the number increased beyond the former level. The majority of female factory workers are engaged in the clothing trades, and fluctuations in the number of employees reflect generally the conditions of those industries. In 1924-25 it showed an increase of 1,000 female employees.

Government Employees.

In New South Wales there is a large number of persons employed by the State and Commonwealth Governments. In addition to services such as education, police, justice, health, lands, works, etc., the State owns railways, tramways, and wharves, and engages in various industrial enterprises, e.g., abattoirs, dockyards, quarries, brick and pipe works. Thus a large number of persons are in constant employment. The Commonwealth services include posts, telegraphs and telephones, customs, taxation, and defence.

The number of employees in New South Wales under the Crown as at 30th June, 1925, is shown below. The figures include persons employed in the Government Savings Bank and in the Commonwealth Bank, and at Cockatoo Island Dockyard, but they do not include those employed in connection with the Commonwealth Shipping Line:—

Services.	Permanent.		Temporary.		Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.
State—							
Public Service Board ...	10,775	6,100	1,854	1,441	12,629	7,541	20,170
Railways and Tramways ...	37,020	825	15,280	660	52,300	1,485	53,785
Sydney Harbour Trust ...	209	14	1,039	12	1,248	26	1,274
Water Supply and Sewerage —Metropolitan and Hunter District ...	1,766	47	2,138	12	3,904	59	3,963
Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission ...	346	31	769	46	1,115	77	1,192
Metropolitan Meat Industry Board ...	554	18	...	...	554	18	572
Police ...	2,971	8	...	3	2,971	11	2,982
Savings Bank ...	1,921	223	35	2	1,056	225	1,281
Other ...	590	41	6,262	133	6,852	174	7,026
Total ...	55,252	7,307	27,377	2,309	82,629	9,616	92,245
Commonwealth—							
Public Service Commissioner	8,275	1,105	3,037	679	11,312	1,784	13,096
Defence Department ...	1,563	...	...	...	1,563	...	1,563
Repatriation Department ..	143	40	149	109	292	149	441
Other ...	347	172	1,091	72	1,438	244	1,682
Total ...	10,328	1,317	4,277	860	14,605	2,177	16,782
Grand total ...	65,580	8,624	31,654	3,169	97,234	11,793	109,027

The figures in the table include the general labourers and navvies employed by the various public bodies. The wages staffs in the State services numbered 61,871 persons, viz., 47,161 employed in connection with the railways and tramways, of whom 5,250 were employed in the construction and duplication of lines; 9,090 on water conservation, sewerage, and harbour works, etc., and 5,620 in other services.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

Particulars relating to unemployment are collected at the census, persons being returned as unemployed who had been out of work for more than a week at the date of collection. The number of persons unemployed in

April, 1921, was 61,743, or 9·5 per cent. of the group embracing salary and wage earners and the unemployed combined. The males numbered 54,092, or 10·6 per cent., and the females 7,651, or 5·5 per cent. At the previous census, in March, 1911, less than 4 per cent. of the male salary and wage earners, and 2·6 per cent. of the females were out of work. The proportions indicate that entirely different industrial conditions prevailed in those years, the census of 1911 being taken during a period of high productive activity, whereas in April, 1921, unemployment resulting from post-war disorganisation was probably at a maximum.

At the census of 1921, persons were asked to state the cause of their unemployment. The information was not supplied in respect of 3,131 persons. Of the remainder, 29,304 cases, or 50 per cent., were due to scarcity of employment; 14,573, or 25 per cent., to illness; 2,119, or 3·6 per cent., to industrial disputes; 1,852, or 3 per cent., to accident; and 863, or 1·5 per cent., to old age. The majority of males, viz., 53 per cent., were out of work on account of scarcity of employment, but illness was the principal cause of unemployment amongst women, 48 per cent. being idle for that reason. The duration of unemployment was stated in regard to 51,185 persons. Those unemployed for less than 5 weeks numbered 24,299, or 48 per cent.; from 5 to 10 weeks, 9,395, or 18 per cent.; from 10 to 15 weeks, 5,237, or 10 per cent.; over 15 weeks, 12,254, or 24 per cent.

In regard to intercensal periods, quarterly returns relating to the condition of employment amongst various classes of workers are obtained from secretaries of trade unions, but many unions do not supply any information owing to lack of records.

The secretaries are asked to state in their returns the number of members out of work for 3 days or more during a specified week in each quarter, those out of work through strikes and lockouts being excluded. Unemployment returns are not collected from unions of persons in permanent employment, such as railway and tramway employees, nor from unions of persons whose employment is casual, such as wharf labourers. The data are compiled by the Commonwealth Statistician. During the year 1925 returns were received from 102 unions with 166,062 members in New South Wales, and 18,252 members or 11 per cent. were reported to be unemployed. The corresponding figures for the year 1924 were 112 unions with 164,273 members, of whom 20,749 or 12·6 per cent. were unemployed. The yearly figures represent the average of the four quarters.

Intermittency of Employment.

In many industries a considerable loss of working time occurs even in normal periods on account of intermittency arising from various causes, but information regarding its extent is not available except in respect of the coalmining industry, in which intermittency is a constant factor. For a number of years the Department of Labour and Industry has endeavoured to collect information relating to interruptions to work in the principal coal-mines.

Particulars obtained from these records show that during the period of eleven years—1915-25—the average number of work-days was 271 per annum, after making allowances for Sundays, pay Saturdays, and regular public holidays. The days on which operations were suspended numbered, on an average, 63 per annum, or 23 per cent. of the total work-days; 23 days, or 8 per cent., were lost through industrial disputes, and 40 days or 15 per cent. through other causes. Slackness of trade, owing to restrictions imposed on the export of coal, was the cause of considerable loss during the war period.

The total loss of working time involved by the interruptions to work in the coal-mines during the last five years is shown below. The figures have been obtained by multiplying the number of days on which the collieries were idle by the number of employees affected, and by classifying the working-days lost according to the causes of the dislocations.

Causes.	Days Lost.						
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1921-1925.	
						Average per Annum.	Per cent. of Total.
Industrial disputes..	359,366	468,869	851,241	544,771	615,203	567,890	40·6
Truck shortage ...	47,775	13,753	30,022	26,960	37,185	31,139	2·2
Slackness of trade...	354,713	616,328	403,147	563,038	597,083	506,862	36·3
Mine disabilities, etc.	110,296	120,348	121,478	126,363	107,654	117,228	8·4
Deaths of employees	22,171	12,757	27,050	59,679	20,921	28,516	2·0
Meetings, extra holidays ...	25,006	16,000	21,034	14,370	18,678	19,017	1·4
Other causes ...	3,052	1,200	6,248	5,919	119,567	27,197	1·9
Not stated ...	60,052	75,881	157,304	68,978	139,921	100,427	7·2
Total ...	982,431	1,325,136	1,617,524	1,410,078	1,656,212	1,398,276	100·

The average number of days lost on account of dislocations in this industry during the period of five years amounted to 1,398,276 days per annum. Lack of trade or of shipping was responsible for 36·3 per cent. of the loss, and industrial disputes for 40·6 per cent.

The loss through industrial disputes has shown an upward tendency throughout the period, though it was much greater in 1923 than in the following years. The loss, as stated in the table, represents the working days lost in each year through disputes which commenced in that year, or at an earlier date. Further details relating to the disputes are shown on a later page.

The number of employees in the coal-mining industry, as shown on an earlier page, is over 24,000, but as it is a fundamental industry, intermittency in mining operations has a far-reaching effect on other industries and commercial enterprises.

Relief of Unemployment.

Measures for the relief of unemployment are undertaken by the State Department of Labour and Industry, and are directed mainly towards the organisation of the supply of labour, by means of labour exchanges, and the assistance of destitute persons in need of sustenance while seeking employment.

A few of the trade unions provide for the payment of out-of-work benefits to their members, but otherwise there is little insurance against unemployment. The State has not instituted any fund for the purpose, and there have not been any operations under a section of the Industrial Arbitration Act, which authorises the Government to subsidise from public revenue unemployment insurance funds created by contributions of employers and employees.

State Labour Exchanges.

The State labour exchanges are administered in conjunction with the office dealing with assisted immigration. The exchanges are situated in the main industrial centres, Sydney, Newcastle, and Broken Hill, and there are

agencies in the principal country towns. The expenses are borne by the State, fees are not charged, and advances by way of loan may be made to enable persons to avail themselves of employment offered.

The functions of the exchanges are to bring together intending employers and persons seeking employment, to encourage industrial training in skilled trades, to provide suitable training for vagrant and other persons unsuited for ordinary employment, and to co-operate for these purposes with private employment agencies.

In terms of the Returned Soldiers and Sailors Employment Act, employers desiring to obtain employees are required to apply to a State labour exchange or to a committee dealing with the repatriation of soldiers and sailors.

The operations of the State labour exchanges during the last seven years are shown below:—

Year ended 30th June	Males.			Females.		
	Registered for Employment.	Sought by Employers.	Sent to Employment.	Registered for Employment.	Sought by Employers.	Sent to Employment.
1920	36,825	24,499	21,107	5,809	9,517	6,091
1921	39,450	31,757	29,104	6,438	10,324	7,073
1922	40,803	25,789	24,763	5,448	10,935	7,551
1923	31,159	22,866	21,379	5,732	11,843	7,650
1924	31,225	23,060	21,490	5,455	10,626	7,031
1925	37,510	28,266	25,067	4,365	9,940	6,277
1926	45,172	28,403	29,452	4,138	7,651	5,676

Private Employment Agencies.

Private employment agencies are subject to supervision by the State authorities in terms of the Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act, 1918. Such agencies may be conducted by licensed persons only, and they are required to keep registers of persons applying for labour or employment, and of engagements made. The scale of fees chargeable is fixed by regulation, and if an applicant does not obtain labour or employment within fourteen days, the fee must be repaid, less out-of-pocket expenses. Licensees are prohibited from sharing fees with employers, and from keeping as lodgers persons seeking employment.

At 30th June, 1926, there were 77 private agencies on the register, viz., 42 in Sydney, 17 in the suburbs, and 18 in country districts.

TRADE UNIONS.

Until 1881 trade unions in New South Wales were subject to Imperial legislation, by which the right to combine was recognised, but actions done in restraint of trade were penalised, and the unions lacked the power to safeguard their funds. The first legislation passed in New South Wales (the Trade Union Act of 1881) is still in operation, though it was amended in 1918 by the Industrial Arbitration Act.

Provision is made for the registration of trade unions, the appointment of trustees, in whom the union property is vested, and for the constitution of rules. The use of union funds for political purposes is subject to the provisions of the Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act of 1918, and such payments must be made from a separate fund, to which contribution by members is optional.

There are two classes of trade unions, viz., unions of employers and unions of employees. The latter constitute the bulk of the registered organisations, and a brief account of their development was published in the 1921 issue of the Year Book at page 553.

The introduction of a system of compulsory industrial arbitration in 1901 led to an increase in the organisation of new trade unions, registration of employees' unions to bring them within the scope of the system being granted only to organisations registered under the Trade Union Act of 1881. It should be clearly understood, however, that an industrial union of employees is the same organisation as the trade union bearing the same title, the term industrial union indicating merely that it has undergone dual registration for the purposes of the administration of the Industrial Arbitration Act.

After the introduction of the Commonwealth system of industrial arbitration in 1904 some of the unions previously on the State registry became merged into federal associations, but unless a union elects to be regulated exclusively under federal arbitration and conciliation the branch in New South Wales retains its registration under the Trade Union Act of 1881.

Statistics relating to the trade unions of employees in the State are shown in the following statement for various years since 1911. The figures are not quite complete, as in every year some of the unions fail to supply returns to the Registrar:—

Year.	Unions of Employees	Members.			Receipts.	Expenditure.	Funds at end of Year.
		Males.	Females.	Total.			
1911	179	145,784	4,743	150,527	£ 157,202	£ 146,757	£ 112,494
1916	202	218,609	12,941	231,550	241,644	249,691	202,950
1921	197	234,898	23,965	258,863	363,067	345,854	194,360
1922	192	230,126	23,170	253,296	386,428	372,069	213,520
1923	184	224,042	24,157	248,199	620,870	606,453	232,480
1924	177	223,928	26,987	250,915	416,620	387,867	262,559

At the end of the year 1924 there were 177 registered trade unions of employees, with a membership of 250,915, and funds amounting to £262,559. The increase in membership, especially amongst women, since 1911 has been due in a large measure to organisation for the purposes of industrial arbitration and conciliation. The receipts during 1924 amounted to £387,867, including contributions, £381,324. Of the total expenditure, payments in respect of benefits amounted to £152,809, and management and other expenses, including legal charges in connection with industrial awards, etc., to £235,058. The total receipts and expenditure are liable to fluctuate under the influence of prevailing industrial conditions, the amounts being inflated in some years by the inclusion of donations for relief from one union to another.

The funds include cash and freehold property and such assets as shares in Trades Halls and newspapers. In the case of unions which are branches of federated unions the balance of funds at the close of the year is usually transferred to the credit of the central executive.

The following statement shows the receipts, expenditure, accumulated funds, and membership of trade unions of employees, according to industrial classification, in the year 1924:—

Industrial Classification.	Membership at end of year.			Receipts.	Expenditure.	Funds at end of year.	Funds per member.
	Males.	Females.	Total.				
	No.	No.	No.	£	£	£	s. d.
Engineering and Metal Working	22,751	49	22,800	48,454	40,636	31,204	27 4
Food, Drink, and Narcotics ...	19,514	6,875	26,389	19,448	19,109	12,216	9 3
Clothing	5,142	8,180	13,322	7,091	6,667	12,900	19 4
Printing, Bookbinding, etc. ...	4,608	1,010	5,618	11,295	9,360	23,567	83 11
Manufacturing, n.e.i.	13,238	911	14,149	16,274	16,007	19,307	27 3
Building	29,545	60	29,605	26,351	24,437	28,237	19 1
Mining and Smelting	18,257	...	18,257	165,723	157,643	51,065	55 11
Railways and Tramways	28,966	310	29,276	20,793	18,794	12,673	8 8
Other Land Transport	4,403	...	4,403	6,051	5,548	4,915	22 4
Shipping and Sea Transport ...	5,868	15	5,883	5,569	4,827	3,079	10 6
Pastoral	26,191	989	27,180	33,772	34,362	15,496	11 5
Governmental, excluding Railways and Tramways ...	20,399	3,677	24,076	23,190	19,343	19,758	16 5
Miscellaneous Industries ...	25,046	4,911	29,957	28,263	26,663	18,353	12 3
Labour Councils and Federations ... ..	...	...	...	1,326	1,266	199	...
Eight-hour Committees ... ..	...	...	...	3,020	3,205	9,590	...
Total Unions of Employees..	223,928	26,987	250,915	416,620	387,867	232,559	20 11

The average membership per union, excluding labour councils and eight-hour committees, is 1,467, but the majority of the unions are small. In 1924 there were 27 with less than 100 members; 74 with 100 to 1,000 members; 49 with 1,000 to 5,000 members; 9 with 5,000 to 10,000; and only 3 unions had more than 10,000 members.

A number of the unions are affiliated with labour councils, which have been formed in the main industrial centres.

Unions of Employers.

The records of the Registry of Trade Unions show that few unions of employers seek registration under the Trade Union Act of 1881, so that the available information concerning them is scanty and does not afford any indication of the extent of organisation amongst employers.

The unions of employers registered under the Trade Union Act in 1924 numbered 22. The membership at the end of the year was 9,153, the receipts during 1924 amounted to £46,211, and the expenditure to £41,286. The funds at the end of the year amounted to £35,529.

Any employer or group of employers with at least 50 employees may register as an industrial union under the Industrial Arbitration Act.

INDUSTRIAL ARBITRATION.

The term "Industrial Arbitration" is used here in a broad sense to embrace all provision made by legislation for the adjustment of industrial relations between employers and employees, by arbitration, by conciliation, or by co-operation of employers and employees.

In New South Wales there are two systems of industrial arbitration: one under State law, its operation being confined to the area of the State; and the Commonwealth system, which applies to industrial disputes extending beyond the limits of one State.

The introduction of industrial arbitration under State law was the outcome of a period of industrial unrest, which culminated in the maritime and shearers' strikes of 1890. Early legislation, passed in 1892 and 1893 with the object of providing machinery for the settlement of industrial disputes by arbitration, proved ineffective because the parties to a dispute were not compelled to submit the case to arbitration nor to abide by the award if a case was submitted. Therefore the principle of voluntary arbitration was abandoned, and in 1901 the Industrial Arbitration Act was passed to constitute a Court of Arbitration to which the submission of trade disputes was compulsory. The Court was empowered to make and to enforce awards regulating certain conditions of employment, including wages. Provision was made also for the registration of industrial unions of employers and employees and for collective bargaining, industrial agreements, if registered, being afforded the same legal force as awards. The Court could intervene only in cases where a dispute had occurred, but it was empowered to declare an award as a common rule to be observed by all persons in the industry concerned.

The Act of 1901 expired by effluxion of time in 1908 and was replaced by the Industrial Disputes Act, which provided for the constitution of wages boards to determine conditions in specified industries, their awards being subject to revision by the Court. The boards consisted of representatives of employers and employees and a chairman, and they exercised jurisdiction over a wide range of industrial matters. Notwithstanding the title of the Act their authority was not limited to cases in which a dispute had occurred.

The Industrial Disputes Act, 1908, was repealed by the Industrial Arbitration Act, 1912, which is still in operation, though it has been altered in many respects by subsequent amendments. This Act continued the provisions of the earlier legislation for the constitution of a court and of boards with power to make awards, also for collective bargaining. The range of industries and callings subject to their jurisdiction was defined by schedule and the industrial boards were classified upon the basis of craft or calling, those relating to allied industries being grouped under one chairman. The purpose of this arrangement was the constitution of a number of subsidiary arbitration tribunals, each having power to regulate conditions in respect of a group of industries, and subject to the general oversight of the Court which could co-ordinate their awards.

This system also proved unsatisfactory on account of delays in arriving at the determinations and of the multiplicity and overlapping of awards. In 1916, therefore, the Act was amended, the activities of the boards were

practically suspended and their functions were transferred to the Court, additional judges being appointed to expedite determinations. A restriction upon the right of non-schedule industries to obtain an award was removed by the repeal of the schedule.

In 1918 another industrial tribunal (the Board of Trade) was constituted, under the presidency of a judge of the Court, to fix the living wage for the guidance of the other tribunals, and to regulate apprenticeship in the various industries.

In 1926 the Industrial Arbitration Act was amended again. The Court and the Board of Trade were dissolved in April of that year, and their powers and duties were vested in an Industrial Commission, constituted by an Industrial Commissioner sitting alone or with representatives of employers and employees. Provision is made for the appointment of conciliation committees to exercise the functions of the industrial boards. Each committee consists of representatives of the industry concerned, under the presidency of a chairman.

The federal system of industrial arbitration was inaugurated in 1904 when a court was constituted in terms of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act for the settlement of disputes extending beyond the boundaries of one State. When a dispute has occurred or is impending a compulsory conference of the parties may be convened, and powers of compulsory arbitration are exercised by the Court only when efforts to induce a settlement by conciliation have failed. Provision is made for the registration and enforcement of industrial agreements.

Under the Industrial Peace Act, 1920, a special tribunal, consisting of a chairman and representatives of employers and of employees, may be appointed to exercise the powers of the Court in respect of disputes in any industry.

The industrial conditions of employment in the public services of the Commonwealth were determined by the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration from 1911 to 1921, when the function was entrusted to an arbitrator appointed in terms of the Public Service (Arbitration) Act, 1920.

Relation between State and Commonwealth Systems.

The relation between the State and Commonwealth systems in respect of industrial awards and orders rests upon the provision of the Commonwealth Constitution Act that if a State law is inconsistent with a federal law, the latter prevails and the former becomes inoperative so far as it is inconsistent. There is, however, no organic connection between the industrial systems. The industrial authorities have adopted generally the same broad principles for the promotion of industrial peace and the maintenance of standard conditions, but fundamental differences in legislation and in the extent of their constitutional authority prevent them from co-ordinating their methods and practices and from blending their determinations into an industrial code for the guidance of employees and employers in all branches of industry throughout the Commonwealth. Thus differences arise in regard to wage determinations, which are liable to cause disaffection by disturbing the distinctions in grade, as expressed by wages, which have been recognised for many years amongst skilled workers. The overlapping of jurisdiction also tends to confusion, especially where members of a number of craft unions work in the same industry under different awards or agreements.

STATE SYSTEM OF INDUSTRIAL ARBITRATION.

Industrial Unions.

For the purpose of bringing an industry under the review of the State industrial tribunals, the employees must be organised as a trade union under the Trade Union Act of 1881, and must obtain registration as an industrial union under the Industrial Arbitration Act. Registration for the purpose has been effected by practically all classes of employees throughout the State. The principal exceptions are certain classes of workers in rural industries, in which the variable conditions present practical difficulties to regulation by award, and domestic workers in private houses, who are unorganised.

Registration as a union of employers may be granted to any person or group of persons employing not less than fifty employees, and prior registration under the Trade Union Act is not prescribed, as in the case of unions of employees.

State Industrial Tribunals.

The Court of Industrial Arbitration, which was replaced by the Industrial Commission in April, 1926, was a superior Court and a Court of Record, governed in procedure and decisions by the dictates of equity and good conscience. Judges of the Court were appointed by the Governor, and the Court was constituted by a single judge, or, in certain cases, by two or more judges sitting together.

The Board of Trade was created in June, 1918 and dissolved in April, 1926. It was composed of a president who was a Judge of the Court of Industrial Arbitration, and a number of commissioners appointed for a term of five years. The most important functions discharged by the Board were the determination of the living wages for men and for women and the control of matters relating to apprentices and apprenticeship. The Board was authorised also, upon reference by the Attorney-General, to conduct inquiries under the Monopolies Act, 1923. Other powers conferred upon the Board were mainly of an advisory nature. Upon dissolution its duties devolved upon the Industrial Commission and the conciliation committees appointed under the Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act, 1926.

The Industrial Commission is constituted by the Industrial Commissioner, sitting alone or with members. He is appointed by the Governor for a term of five years. A deputy commissioner, also appointed by the Governor, may exercise such powers of the Commissioner as may be prescribed.

The Industrial Commissioner sitting alone may deal with cases relating to such matters as strikes and lock-outs, the registration of industrial unions, and appeals against the decisions of industrial magistrates, and he may conduct inquiries under the Monopolies Act, 1923.

Except where the Act prescribes that the Commissioner shall sit alone, an even number of members equally representing employers and employees may be appointed to sit with him in any particular matter as the Minister for Labour and Industry may determine. The number of members is determined by the Minister, and deputy or alternate members may be appointed to act for and in the absence of a member.

The Commission is authorised to determine any industrial matter referred to it by the Minister, to determine, not more frequently than once in every six months, a standard of living and to fix the living wages based thereon, to hear appeals, to confer with persons and unions in regard to anything affecting the settlement of industrial matters, and to summon conferences.

An industrial board consisting of nominees of employers and employees, and a chairman may be constituted by the Minister on the recommendation of the Industrial Commissioner for any industry or group of industries. The boards are appointed, though they do not function.

A conciliation committee consisting of an equal number of representatives of employers and employees, and a chairman may be appointed for any industry or calling for which an industrial board has been constituted. The Minister appoints a number of persons to act as chairmen of the committees, the maximum number under existing regulations being twelve. The Industrial Commissioner allots one of the chairmen for each committee, and in this way he is enabled to group the committees for allied industries under the same chairman.

Appeal from the determinations of a committee lies to the Industrial Commission constituted by the same members as the committee, except the chairman, whose place is taken by the Industrial Commissioner.

The conciliation committees exercising the powers of the industrial boards may make awards fixing minimum rates of wages and salaries, minimum prices for piecework, overtime rates, number of apprentices, and hours and times to be worked to entitle employees to the wages fixed. Upon application in that behalf an award may be made prescribing that absolute preference of employment shall be given to members of the union or unions specified in the award.

The maximum rate of wages or salary which may be fixed by award is £15 per week or £750 per annum, the limit having been raised from £10 per week or £525 per annum by the Act of 1926. An award or an agreement may not be made for a wage lower than the living wage declared by the Industrial Commission, and if a declaration is varied during the currency of an award the rates of wages prescribed by the award may be varied accordingly. Permits to work for less than the minimum wages prescribed by award may be granted to aged, infirm or slow workers.

Awards as to wages, overtime, and hours of work, except those relating to employees in rural industries, are subject to the provisions of the Forty-four Hours Week Act, which is discussed on a later page.

Proceedings before an industrial tribunal are initiated usually upon the application of employers of not less than twenty employees in any industry or calling, or by an industrial union of employees. Matters may be referred also by the Minister for Labour and Industry, and where the public interests are likely to be affected the Crown may intervene in any proceedings before a tribunal or may appeal from an award.

Awards are binding on all persons engaged in the industries or callings, and within the locality covered, for a period not exceeding three years specified therein, and after such period until varied or rescinded.

Industrial Agreements.

Industrial and trade unions are empowered to make with employers written agreements, which become binding between the parties when filed in the prescribed manner.

The maximum term for which an agreement may be made is five years, but it continues in force after the expiration of the specified term until varied or rescinded, or terminated after notice by a party thereto. An industrial agreement may not provide for wages lower than the living wages declared by the Commission.

Prior to the commencement of the Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act, 1926, an officer of the Department of Labour and Industry acted as a Special Commissioner with authority to intervene in industrial disputes. He was empowered to convene a conference of the parties whenever a question had arisen which might lead to industrial strife, or when a dislocation had occurred, and many disputes were settled during preliminary investigations by the Special Commissioner or the departmental inspectors. The authority to conciliate the parties to industrial disputes is vested now in the Industrial Commissioner.

Number of Industrial Awards and Agreements.

During the year ended 30th June, 1925, the Industrial Boards made one principal award and one award of variation, and the Court of Industrial Arbitration made 45 principal awards and 121 variations. The industrial agreements filed with the Registrar numbered 51. At the end of the period there were 318 awards and 140 agreements in force.

The number of awards made by the boards and by the Court and the number of agreements filed during each of the last ten years is shown below:—

Year ended 30th June.	Industrial Boards.		Awards made by Boards.		Awards made by Court of Industrial Arbitration.		Agreements filed.
	In existence at 30th June.	Cost during the Year.	Principal.	Variation.	Principal.	Variation.	
		£					
1916	233	14,211	151	135	...	66	40
1917	237	12,900	169	99	7	127	53
1918	237	1,543	18	15	75	116	31
1919	238	277	3	2	106	88	48
1920	252	345	5	1	136	269	76
1921	271	189	9	1	194	390	75
1922	276	101	1	2	80	272	54
1923	274	37	4	1	69	535	62
1924	274	15	1	4	59	278	67
1925	267	...	1	1	45	121	51

Complaints regarding breaches of award and industrial agreements are investigated by officers of the Labour and Industry Department, who may direct prosecutions. Proceedings may be taken also by employers and by the secretaries of industrial unions, and the cases are dealt with by the Industrial Registrar or the industrial magistrates.

During the year ended June, 1925, the Industrial Magistrates heard 1,483 cases, and convictions were recorded or orders were made in 981 cases. An aggregate amount of £3,796 was ordered to be paid as penalties, wages, subscriptions, etc., and £1,075 as costs.

THE COMMONWEALTH SYSTEM OF INDUSTRIAL ARBITRATION.

Under the Commonwealth law, industrial organisations of employers and of employees, representing at least 100 employees, may be registered on compliance with prescribed conditions, registration being a necessary qualification to entitle unions to submit disputes to the Court, or to be represented in proceedings relating to disputes. Until July, 1926, the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration consisted of a President, who was a justice of the High Court of Australia, appointed by the Governor-General for a fixed term, and Deputy-Presidents appointed to assist him.

Under an amending Act, passed in June, 1926, the Court has been separated from the High Court, its members have been designated chief judge and judge respectively, and they have been appointed with life tenure. One of the objects of these changes is to enable the Court to exercise judicial power, *e.g.* to interpret and to enforce its awards. Previously the clauses of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act conferring judicial authority on the Court could not be put into operation owing to a decision of the High Court that the judicial power of the Commonwealth cannot be exercised by any person holding office for a limited term.

The Chief Judge is charged with the duty of endeavouring to reconcile the parties to industrial disputes, and for the purpose he may convene compulsory conferences.

The Court endeavours to induce the settlement of disputes by amicable agreement, or, failing an agreement, determines the disputes by award. Industrial agreements, when filed, are binding on the parties thereto. The awards and agreements are made for a specified period up to a maximum of five years, and after the expiration of the definite period an award continues until a new award is made, unless the Court orders otherwise. Agreements continue unless rescinded, or terminated by notice.

The powers conferred upon the Federal Court include the power to determine rates of wages, hours, and other conditions of employment, and to grant preference to members of organisations. Questions relating to standard hours are determined by the full bench of the Court. In such cases and in those relating to the basic wage the Attorney-General, by public notification, may authorise any person, union, or organisation interested in the matter to apply to the Court for liberty to be heard and to examine and cross-examine witnesses.

The special tribunals appointed under the Industrial Peace Acts of 1920 consist of an equal number of representatives of employers and employees, and a chairman. A tribunal exercises, in respect of the industry concerned, similar jurisdiction to that of the Court. An award or order of a special tribunal, or an agreement made at a conference and filed with the Industrial Registrar, is binding on the parties, and may be enforced as an award of the Court.

A special tribunal was appointed in 1920 for the coalmining industry, which is one of the most important industrial activities in New South Wales, where most of the Australian coal is produced. Other large enterprises subject to federal awards and agreements are shipping, pastoral industries, coal-mining, shipbuilding, timber trades, clothing factories, breweries, glass works, and rubber works.

At 30th June, 1925, there were 149 awards of the Commonwealth Court, and 217 industrial agreements in force, of which 94 awards and 75 agreements applied in New South Wales.

The powers of the Federal Arbitration Court are circumscribed by the terms of the constitution of the Commonwealth and legal decisions regarding the constitutional aspect of some provisions of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act have rendered them wholly or partly inoperative. It has been decided, for instance, that the jurisdiction of the Court is limited to cases in which disputes have occurred or are impending, that the Court has not power to declare an award a common rule of the industry concerned, and that its determinations are binding only on the parties to the dispute, *i.e.*, the employers cited in the case and the members of the union concerned who are employed by them.

Proposals to alter the Federal Constitution by removing the existing limitations on the industrial power of the Commonwealth were submitted to a referendum of the electors in September, 1926. It was proposed to give the Commonwealth general power to legislate in relation to conciliation and arbitration by deleting from the Constitution Act the words by which its jurisdiction is limited to disputes extending beyond the limits of any one State, also to confer additional power for the establishment of authorities to regulate and determine the terms and conditions of industrial employment and of the rights and duties of employers and employees with respect to industrial matters. The majority of votes was recorded against the proposals.

CROWN EMPLOYEES AND ARBITRATION.

Under the State Arbitration system, employees of the State Government and of governmental agencies, with the exception of the police, have access to the ordinary industrial tribunals for the settlement of disputes and the regulation of the conditions of their employment.

Employees under the State Public Service Act were excluded from the jurisdiction of the industrial tribunals until 1919, when they were accorded the right to apply to the Court of Industrial Arbitration for the determination of minimum rates of wages and salaries up to £525 per annum. In 1922 this provision was repealed and the Public Service Act was amended to provide for the determination of salaries by agreement between the Public Service Board and an organisation of public servants, or by salaries committees, consisting of representatives of the Public Service Board, of the class of employees concerned, and of the department in which they are engaged. Appeals against the decisions of the committees might be made to the Public Service Board or to a tribunal consisting of a Judge and two members of the Board. In 1926 provisions of the Industrial Arbitration Act were re-enacted to restore to public servants the right to obtain awards. The employees under the administration of the Public Service Board include those engaged in the work of the Government departments, but do not include the staff controlled by the State Railway Commissioners or by many other governmental agencies. Reference to the table on page 695 shows that the persons under the control of the Public Service Board represent less than 22 per cent. of the employees of the State Government.

The police are excluded from the jurisdiction of the industrial tribunals and are controlled by the Commissioner of Police. An appeal tribunal has been constituted to determine appeals against his decisions in regard to promotions and punishments. The tribunal is constituted by a Judge of the District Court, with or without assessors.

The rates of pay and terms and conditions of employment in the public services of the Commonwealth are regulated by a special tribunal constituted by an arbitrator appointed by the Governor-General to deal exclusively with the public services. There is no appeal against the decisions of the arbitrator, but they do not come into operation until they have been laid before both Houses of the Commonwealth Parliament. At 30th June, 1925, there were in force in New South Wales twenty-eight determinations of the Public Service Arbitrator.

In 1905 the High Court of Australia decided, in the case relating to the State railway employees, that the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1904, in so far as it purported to include the employees of a State Government, within its scope was *ultra vires* the Commonwealth legislature. This judgment was overruled in the case of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers in 1920. Consequently the Federal Court has decided that it is bound to make an award unless the rates paid and the conditions of work

conform with the usual rules and conditions laid down by the Court. Both Federal and State awards are in operation in respect of the State-owned railways and tramways of New South Wales.

HOURS OF WORK.

Prior to the introduction of industrial arbitration, hours of work in New South Wales were restricted by legislation in order to safeguard the health of the workers, especially women and juveniles. With the development of the arbitration system the actual working hours in organised trades became subject to awards and agreements.

For a long period the eight-hour day was recognised as the standard working day, although the standard is more correctly expressed as the 48-hour week, the usual working time being $8\frac{3}{4}$ hours on five days and $4\frac{1}{2}$ on Saturdays. Efforts have been made in recent years to effect further reduction in working time in industrial employment.

The Factories and Shops Act prohibits the employment in factories of youths under 16 and of women for more than 48 hours in any week, though overtime not exceeding 3 hours in any day is allowed on 30 days in a year, or by written permission of the Minister, on 60 days.

Hours of employment in shops are restricted by the Early Closing Acts. Except in the case of specified shops, only one late shopping night is allowed, when the closing hour must not be later than 10 o'clock. On four days a week the shops must close at 6 o'clock, and on one day at 1 o'clock. In the Metropolitan and Newcastle districts, and in the country shopping districts in the county of Northumberland, the shops are subject to the Saturday Half-holiday Act; the late closing night is on Friday, and the 1 o'clock closing on Saturday. In other districts the half-holiday is either on Wednesday with the late night on Saturday, or on Saturday with the late night on Friday.

The Eight Hours Act passed in 1916 prescribed that in the coal-mining industry a workman might not be below ground for more than eight hours during 24 consecutive hours, except in the case of certain employees whose hours below ground were limited to 48 in six consecutive days, or 96 in fourteen days. Since 1st January, 1917, however, the hours of work in the coal-mines have been those fixed by award of a special tribunal, viz., eight hours bank to bank, inclusive of one half-hour for meal time, on Monday to Friday, and 6 hours bank to bank, inclusive of one-half hour for meal time, on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays, the usual number of shifts being eleven per fortnight. The hours are reckoned from the time the first person working on a shift leaves the surface to the time the last man on the same shift returns to the surface.

The Eight Hours Act of 1916 prescribed also that in metalliferous mines workmen might not be employed below ground for more than 8 hours during 24 hours, or 88 hours in 14 days, or 132 hours in 21 days, and that a shift might not exceed 6 hours if, during 4 hours, the temperature was above 81 degrees Fahrenheit. For industries other than mining the Act prescribed that the working hours might not exceed 8 per day on six consecutive days, or 48 per week, or 96 in fourteen consecutive days—as determined by industrial award or agreement.

In 1920 the Eight Hours Act was amended, and a special court was constituted in February, 1921, to inquire into the working hours in various industries. As a result of recommendations made by the Court a 44-hour week was proclaimed in nearly all the important industries under the jurisdiction of the State arbitration tribunals. In September, 1922, the amending Act of 1920 was repealed, and the 48-hour week was restored in most of the industries.

In December, 1925, the Forty-four Hours Week Act was passed. It repealed the Eight Hours Act and prescribed that the ordinary hours in industries—with the exception of coal-mining and of rural industries as defined by the Industrial Arbitration Act—may not exceed 8 per day, 44 per week, 88 in fourteen consecutive days, or 176 in twenty-eight consecutive days. It is provided, however, that the time worked in a day may exceed 8 if a short day or less working days than six per week are adopted by award or agreement. Thus allowance is made for the practice, adopted in many cases, of completing the full week's work in five days, leaving Saturday a whole holiday. Overtime may be permitted under certain conditions.

The Act provides also that rates of wages fixed by award or agreement upon a weekly basis may not be reduced by reason only of a reduction in hours in accordance with the Act, and that the rates fixed upon a daily or hourly basis must be increased so that each employee working full time as reduced will receive the same amount of wages as for full time under the provisions of the award or agreement.

The Act contains provisions to apply the forty-four hours week to industries under federal awards and agreements, but it has been decided by the High Court of Australia that in so far as it purports to vary hours or rates of wages fixed under federal award it is invalid.

The general practice of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration is to adhere to the standard hours of 48 per week, and shorter hours are granted only in exceptional cases, *e.g.*, to miners working below ground, to builders' labourers who are required to spend much time in travelling to jobs, and to clothing factory hands, who are mostly women. The power of the Court in regard to hours is restricted by the condition that the question of varying the hours which have been adopted in an industry must be decided by the full bench. An application lodged by the Metal Trades Employees' Union for a reduction of hours to 44 per week is now before the Court. A number of organisations are represented, and the decision will affect other industries under federal awards.

Public Holidays.

There are certain days which are observed as public holidays, on which work is suspended as far as practicable. In continuous processes and in certain transport and other services where the employees work on holidays they receive recreation leave in lieu thereof, and in some cases extra wages.

The public holidays which are observed generally throughout the State are as follows:—1st January (New Year's Day), 26th January (the Anniversary of the first settlement in Australia), Good Friday, Easter Monday, 25th April (Anzac Day), Christmas Day, 26th December (Boxing Day), and the King's birthday.

If a public holiday falls upon a Sunday, or if Boxing Day falls upon a Monday, the following day is a holiday. If the King's Birthday falls upon any day of the week other than Monday the following Monday is a holiday in lieu thereof.

In addition to the days listed above, the day after Good Friday and the first Monday in August are bank holidays, observed in respect of banks and many other financial institutions and public offices. The Governor may appoint by proclamation a special day to be observed as a public holiday throughout the State or any part of the State. It is customary in certain districts to proclaim a day in each year as Eight Hour Day. In the county of Cumberland the first Monday in October is Eight Hour Day.

PREFERENCE TO UNIONISTS.

The State industrial tribunals may prescribe by award that absolute preference of employment be given to members of a union, and it is a general rule to grant preference to a union which substantially represents the trade concerned.

The Commonwealth Court is authorised to grant preference to members of registered organisations, but it is the usual practice to refuse to order preference if the respondents undertake not to discriminate against unionists.

An award, order, or agreement under the arbitration systems may not operate to prevent the employment of returned soldiers or sailors.

APPRENTICESHIP.

Conditions of apprenticeship in New South Wales are subject to general regulation in terms of the Apprentices Act of 1901, which prescribes that children may not be indentured until they reach the age of 14 years, the maximum term of apprenticeship being seven years. The hours of work may not exceed 48 per week, except in farming occupations and in domestic service.

The Industrial Arbitration Act confers upon the industrial tribunals authority to attach certain conditions to the employment of apprentices, the term being defined to include all employees under 22 years of age serving a period of training under indenture or other written contract for the purpose of rendering them fit to be qualified workers in an industry. Under this authority the conditions in nearly all the skilled occupations in which apprenticeship is a recognised custom were determined by industrial awards and agreements, until the year 1923, when the Board of Trade, in the exercise of its powers in regard to the control of apprenticeship, issued regulations in respect of many occupations, and the relevant provisions of awards and agreements ceased to have effect.

In April, 1926, when the Board of Trade was dissolved, apprenticeship in each industry became a matter for determination by the Conciliation Committee concerned, and provision was made for the continuance of the Board's regulations until varied or rescinded by a committee.

The occupations for which regulations were issued by the Board of Trade are as follows:—Boilermakers, bricklayers, carpenters and joiners, electrical fitters and electrical mechanics, fibrous plaster fixers, marble and slate workers, masons and polishers, metal-ceiling fixers, painters and decorators, plasterers, plumbers, slaters, tilers and shinglers, stone-cutters and setters, stone masons and polishers, tilelayers, coopers, furniture trades, shipwrights and boat-builders, coachmakers, engineers; farriers, metal moulders, tinsmiths, sheetmetal workers, gasmeter makers and repairers, and the printing trades.

A separate set of regulations was issued for each occupation, but the rules are generally similar, except in cases where it is necessary to provide for the special circumstances of any trade. Contracts of apprenticeship must be registered. A short period of probation is allowed before indenture. The normal period of apprenticeship is usually five years in the case of boys entering the trade before reaching the age of 17 years. Shorter periods are arranged for those entering at older ages, and such apprentices are required usually to attend trade or continuation schools, and, in some cases, to pass through courses of intensive training. In several occupations adult apprenticeship may be allowed under special contract. To obviate difficulties which

arise from the intermittent employment of those qualified to undertake the training of apprentices, it is provided that apprentices may be transferred from one master to another, and that organisations of employers and of operatives, by official representatives, may be masters of apprentices. In some occupations the proportion of apprentices to journeymen is fixed. The rates of wages are prescribed for the apprentices in each trade. The hours and other conditions of employment are those determined by the industrial awards relating to the trade.

The Juvenile Migrants Apprenticeship Act, 1923, provided for the apprenticeship, under control of the Minister for Labour and Industry, of juvenile migrants who came to Australia with the assistance of the Government of the State and of the Commonwealth. The Act was repealed in April, 1926.

INDUSTRIAL DISLOCATIONS CONTINGENT UPON DISPUTES.

Under the State law strikes may be recognised as lawful if fourteen days' notice of the intention to strike has been given to the Minister for Labour and Industry, except strikes by employees of the Government or of municipal and shire councils, or by workers engaged in military or naval contracts. Strikes are illegal also in industries in which conditions of employment are regulated by award or agreement, unless the award has been in operation for at least twelve months and the union has decided by a secret ballot to withdraw from its conditions. When a strike is contemplated, or at any time during a strike, the Minister may direct a secret ballot to be taken in order to ascertain whether the majority of the unionists concerned is or is not in favour of the strike.

The maximum penalty for being concerned in a lockout is £1,000, and for an illegal strike £500 in the case of a union, and £50, or six months' imprisonment, in regard to an individual. Penalties may be imposed also for obstructing a ballot, for picketing in connection with an illegal strike, or for inducing persons to refrain from handling any commodity during a strike.

Within the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act lockouts and strikes are prohibited under a penalty of £1,000.

In 1925 clauses were inserted in the Commonwealth Immigration Act to authorise the Federal Government to take action for the deportation of persons not born in Australia who are involved in serious industrial disturbance or who have been convicted of an offence against the federal laws relating to conciliation and arbitration. Under certain conditions such persons may be summoned before a board of three persons appointed by the Minister. In August, 1925, when the seamen on British oversea ships in Australian waters were involved in an industrial dispute, a board ordered the deportation of two officers of the Federated Seamen's Union of Australasia, but on appeal to the High Court of Australia the order was declared invalid.

The Crimes Act as amended by the Federal Parliament in 1926 provides that in the event of a serious industrial disturbance prejudicing or threatening trade or commerce with other countries or among the States the Governor-General may make a proclamation to that effect. During the operation of the proclamation persons concerned in a lock-out or strike relating to the interstate or oversea transport services or to the provision of any public service by the Commonwealth become liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year, and (if not born in Australia) to deportation.

Particulars of Dislocations.

Records relating to industrial dislocations contingent upon disputes in all classes of industry in New South Wales are kept by the Department of Labour and Industry. Data are obtained principally from reports by police officers, departmental inspectors, and managers of coal-mines, also from managers of other industrial establishments, from union secretaries, and from newspapers and trade journals.

In the compilation of the tables relating to industrial dislocations contingent upon disputes, it is the rule of the Department of Labour in counting the number of dislocations to consider that the cessation of work contingent upon any one dispute constitutes only one dislocation. For example, if a section of employees in an industry ceases work and the dispute extends subsequently to other employees in that industry in the same or in other localities, one dislocation is recorded. On the other hand, if employees in other industries cease work in sympathy with the militant unions, the sympathy strikes are counted as another dislocation, that is, one in addition to the original dislocation.

In the coal-mining industry, when the action of one section of the employees has caused a complete cessation of the operations of the mine, the number counted is the full complement of the mine. Where a section has ceased work and the operations of the mine have continued, only those who ceased work have been included as workers involved.

In calculating the working days lost, only actual working days, viz., days on which work would be performed ordinarily, have been counted, but apparently no allowance has been made for intermittency of employment, and it has been assumed that if the dispute had not occurred work would have been continuous during the period of its currency.

The following statement shows, so far as can be ascertained, the number of workers involved, and the time lost by industrial dislocations contingent upon disputes in each year since 1916. Particulars are shown separately regarding dislocations which originated during the year specified, and those which commenced at an earlier date:—

Year.	Dislocations.			Workers Involved.			Working Days Lost during Year.		
	An- terior.	New.	Total.	Anterior.	New.	Total.	Anterior.	New.	Total.
1916	5	344	349	5,144	157,102	162,246	261,987	895,338	1,157,225
1917	5	289	294	1,294	144,704	145,998	18,813	2,857,515	2,876,328
1918	1	152	153	340	38,652	38,992	4,080	186,344	190,424
1919	7	306	313	1,949	123,174	125,123	19,484	2,113,114	2,132,598
1920	9	411	420	10,023	151,018	161,041	1,558,634	741,744	2,300,378
1921	4	555	559	20,597	169,510	190,107	227,645	438,273	665,918
1922	3	479	482	358	188,861	189,219	733	587,726	588,459
1923	2	250	252	957	88,739	89,696	28,143	861,419	889,562
1924	4	520	524	484	185,268	185,752	28,634	611,135	639,769
1925	6	644	650	4,192	239,320	243,512	29,436	693,668	923,104

A classification of the dislocations according to mining and non-mining industries reveals the fact that disputes leading to a suspension of work occur more frequently and are more extensive in the mining industry than in all other industries combined. The following statement shows the particulars in relation to each group of the dislocations which commenced in each of the last ten years. The working days lost have been assigned to

the year in which the dislocation commenced, and for this reason the figures differ from those in the previous table, which show the loss actually occurring during the year specified.

Year.	Dislocations.			Workers Involved.			Working Days Lost.		
	Mining.	Non-mining.	Total.	Mining.	Non-mining.	Total.	Mining.	Non-mining.	Total.
1916	209	135	344	129,920	27,182	157,102	649,292	258,458	907,750
1917	185	104	289	77,147	67,557	144,704	1,184,594	1,677,001	2,861,595
1918	105	46	152	30,246	8,406	38,652	104,751	101,077	205,828
1919	228	78	306	86,778	36,396	123,174	2,958,056	713,692	3,671,748
1920	351	60	411	109,464	41,554	151,018	316,823	652,566	969,389
1921	531	24	555	145,282	24,228	169,510	360,652	78,354	439,006
1922	417	62	479	171,327	17,534	188,861	470,972	144,897	615,869
1923	197	53	250	86,110	2,629	88,739	878,820	11,233	890,053
1924	483	37	520	173,160	12,078	185,268	537,040	103,531	640,571
1925	555	89	644	218,034	21,286	239,320	736,675*	280,968	1,017,643*

* Includes loss up to 30th September, 1925, in one dislocation pending at that date.

The days lost in non-mining industries in 1925 include 172,000 days attributed to a dispute regarding wages between oversea shipowners and the crews of British oversea vessels engaged under articles signed abroad.

It is difficult to obtain reliable information regarding the cost of industrial dislocations, especially during a period of abnormal industrial conditions and frequent changes in rates of wages, etc. An estimate of the losses in wages in each of the last ten years is shown below, the method adopted being as follows:—The working days lost were classified into the fourteen industrial groups for which the average rates of wages are shown subsequently in this chapter, the days being assigned to the year in which the dislocation commenced; the days lost in respect of each group in each year were then multiplied by the rates of wages which is the mean of the average rate for adult males in that group, as at the end of that year and at the end of the previous year.

Year.	Working Days Lost.			Estimated Loss of Wages.		
	Mining.	Non-mining.	All Industries.	Mining.	Non-mining.	All Industries.
	Days.	Days.	Days.	£	£	£
1916	649,292	258,458	907,750	372,000	133,100	505,100
1917	1,184,594	1,677,001	2,861,595	730,500	879,400	1,609,900
1918	104,751	101,077	205,828	65,900	54,900	120,800
1919	2,958,056	713,692	3,671,748	1,990,600	420,100	2,410,700
1920	316,823	652,566	969,389	252,800	485,100	737,900
1921	360,652	78,354	439,006	317,100	66,600	383,700
1922	470,972	144,897	615,869	411,100	115,400	526,500
1923	878,820	11,233	890,053	765,300	9,000	774,300
1924	537,040	103,531	640,571	469,900	82,800	552,700
1925	736,675	280,968	1,017,643	232,000	658,400	890,400

The above quotations of estimated loss of wages are open to question in so far as the records are deficient in regard to the sex and age of the workers involved, therefore allowance has not been made for the proportion of women and juveniles. The proportion is small, however, as dislocations have been relatively unimportant in industries in which the majority of the women and juvenile workers are employed. Another factor for which allowance has not been made is the extent to which losses in wages during a dislocation were compensated by higher rates of pay or increased activity after resumption of work, e.g., in the coal-mining industry, where operations are affected in normal times by intermittency due to trade conditions or blocks in the transport system.

Information is given in the following table regarding the duration of the dislocations which originated during the year 1925:—

Duration in Working Days.	Dislocations.	Workers Involved.	Work Days Lost.
Under 1 day	39	14,068	6,634
One day	321	114,827	144,827
Over 1 and not exceeding 7 ...	196	57,384	166,682
" 7 " " " " "	14	10,012	111,579
" 14 " " " " "	17	4,723	74,881
" 21 " " " " "	10	3,526	80,553
" 28 " " " " "	5	1,115	32,118
" 50 " " " " "	7	2,542	208,918
" 100	7	1,123	191,451
Total	644	239,320	1,017,643

A very large proportion of the dislocations are of brief duration. The number of workers affected by dislocations lasting one day or less during 1925 was 158,895, and the loss of working days 151,461. These brief dislocations accounted for approximately 56 per cent. of the total number, 66 per cent. of the workers involved, and 15 per cent. of the working days lost.

The causes of the disputes which led to dislocations in the mining industries and in the non-mining group are classified in the following statement. Dislocations arising from the employment of non-union labour are included in the category, "employment of persons, etc." Those pertaining to the recognition of a union and the enforcement of union rules are classified under the head of "trade unionism."

Cause.	Mining.			Non-Mining.			All Industries.		
	Dislocations.	Workers involved.	Working days lost.	Dislocations.	Workers involved.	Working days lost.	Dislocations.	Workers involved.	Working days lost.
Wages	112	38,560	230,401	28	3,811	182,984	140	42,371	413,385
Hours	36	12,314	24,142	5	691	5,422	41	12,915	29,564
Working conditions ..	141	45,779	180,055	11	2,417	48,636	152	48,196	228,691
Employment of persons or classes of persons ..	103	27,813	126,341	33	8,691	39,173	136	36,504	165,514
Trade unionism	13	3,951	5,427	6	346	1,838	19	4,297	7,265
Sympathy	18	5,654	35,353	1	30	90	19	5,684	35,443
Miscellaneous	84	72,867	106,465	4	5,260	2,760	88	78,127	109,225
Not stated	48	11,096	28,491	1	130	65	49	11,226	28,556
Total	555	218,034	736,675	89	21,286	280,968	644	239,320	1,017,643

In the mining industries disagreements about wages involved the greatest loss of working time during 1925, viz., 31 per cent. The greatest number of dislocations and of workers involved were in cases of disputes relating to working conditions, to which 24 per cent. of the loss was due. In the non-mining group the important cause of dissension was the question of wages, 65 per cent. of the loss of working time being due to such disputes.

By extending the analysis of the causes of disputes over a period of five years from 1921 to 1925, it is found that in the mining industries 23 per cent. of the time lost was due to disagreements regarding wages and a similar proportion in relation to working conditions. Disputes in reference to the employment of persons or classes of persons were cause of 21 per cent. of the loss, and those relating to hours, 16 per cent.

In non-mining industries hours was the subject of disputes which were responsible for the greatest loss, viz., 39 per cent.; wages showed a proportion of 36 per cent., employment of persons 14 per cent., and working conditions 9 per cent.

Taking all classes of industries together, the experience of the quinquennium showed that about 25 per cent. of the loss of working time was incurred through disputes about wages, and 20 per cent. in disputes classified under each of the headings—working conditions, hours, employment of persons or classes of persons.

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE.

The trend of legislation, the organisation of public services for research and propaganda, and the development of private schemes for the promotion of industrial welfare afford convincing evidence that widespread attention is being directed towards the reduction of the waste occasioned by preventable diseases and accidents arising in the course of industrial employment.

In both State and Federal departments of public health a section has been created to deal with industrial hygiene. The work of these units embraces the investigation of occupational diseases, the supervision of health conditions in industry, and the dissemination of advice regarding measures which safeguard the health of the workers.

Legislation in regard to industrial hygiene is contained in a number of Acts which apply to various classes of industry. The Factories and Shops Act having for its object the improvement of general hygienic conditions in factories and workshops was enacted in 1896, and, with a subsequent amendment, was consolidated by the measure now in operation—the Factories and Shops Act, 1912. The law imposes upon occupiers of factories the obligation of providing suitable buildings and of keeping the premises clean, of securing adequate protection against fire and of safeguarding dangerous machinery. The employment of women and juveniles and of out workers is subject to limitations, and the employment of workers without remuneration is prohibited. Factories must be registered, and inspection, with the object of securing compliance with the law, is conducted by a staff of inspectors attached to the Department of Labour and Industry. In match factories the use of white phosphorus is prohibited by the White Phosphorus Prohibition Act, 1915.

In terms of the Scaffolding and Lifts Act, 1912, the use of scaffolding, lifts, cranes, hoists, and derricks is subject to supervision in order to minimise the risk of accident. In the Metropolitan and Newcastle districts where the Act is operative regulations have been promulgated regarding the construction of scaffolding, lifts, etc., and lift attendants and crane-drivers must obtain certificates of competency, which are issued by the Department of Labour and Industry.

The Shearers Accommodation Act, 1901, by which station owners employing at least six shearers were required to provide proper accommodation for them, was repealed by the Rural Workers Accommodation Act, 1926. This Act was brought into operation by proclamation on 24th May, 1926. It applies in proclaimed districts to workers employed for a period exceeding twenty-four hours in agricultural, dairying, or pastoral occupations. Where less than five rural workers are employed and reside on the premises, it is required that in sleeping compartments not less than 480 cubic feet of air space be allowed to each person and that not more than two persons be accommodated in each compartment, and upper bunks are not permitted.

Where five or more rural workers are accommodated there are many additional requirements, *e.g.*, the buildings must be separated from those used for the purposes of the industry, separate rooms must be provided for sleeping, cooking, and dining, sufficient arrangements must be made for

drainage, sanitation, water supply, etc. The workers accommodated in the buildings are required to keep them clean, but where there are twenty or more workers the employer must provide a hutkeeper. The obligation to provide suitable buildings lies upon the owner of the premises as well as upon the person entitled to immediate possession, and the obligation to comply with other conditions upon the employer of the rural workers as well as upon the person entitled to immediate possession.

The conditions under which mining is conducted are subject to regulation in terms of Acts which are described in the chapter relating to the mining industry. The most recent legislation in respect thereof is the Mines Rescue Act, 1925, which provides for rescue operations in coal and shale mines and for the maintenance of rescue corps, for which the mine-owners must contribute the funds.

The Navigation Acts—State and Federal—prescribe conditions to be observed for safeguarding the health of seamen.

In modern establishments the principle has become widely recognised that the business interests of an industry may be advanced considerably by due attention to the wellbeing of the employees. As a result provision is made in many large factories and business premises for rest rooms, dining and recreation halls for the staff. In some cases medical services are arranged, recreation clubs are organised, and facilities are provided for promoting thrift and for advancing the education of young employees.

Industrial Accidents.

Under various enactments relating to industrial hygiene, employers are required to give notice to the statutory authority of accidents which cause injury to workers, but the available data do not supply a comprehensive record of such occurrences. In factories, employers are required to report any accident produced by machinery moved by steam or other power, or through a structure filled with hot liquid or molten metal or other substance, or by explosion, or by escape of gas, steam, or metal, if it causes loss of life to an employee, or injury such as to prevent him from returning to his work in the factory within forty-eight hours.

The following table shows the number of accidents in factories which were reported during the three years 1923 to 1925:—

Accidents caused by machinery, etc.	Number reported.			Rate per 10,000 Employees.		
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Fatal	11	6	16	·86	·44	1·14
Partial disablement	145	179	165	11·39	13·26	11·78
Temporary incapacitation	746	837	775	58·60	62·00	55·36
Total	902	1,022	956	70·85	75·70	68·28

During the year 1925 there were 15 fatal and 83 non-fatal accidents in connection with lifts, scaffolding, cranes, and boilers. Particulars of accidents in mines and of railway and tramway accidents are shown in other chapters of this Year Book.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION.

Under State legislation provision has been made for the payment of compensation to workers who suffer injury in the course of their employment. The scope of the existing law, as contained in the Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1916 and 1920, was extended considerably by the Workers' Compensation Act, 1926, which came into operation on 1st July, 1926, and the former Acts ceased to have effect in respect of accidents happening after that date.

Special provision for workers who are disabled by the effects of silica dust is made under the Workmen's Compensation (Silicosis) Act, 1920, as amended in 1926, and for cases of disablement by pneumoconiosis, tuberculosis, and lead poisoning in the Broken Hill mines under the Workmen's Compensation (Broken Hill) Act, 1920, and the Workmen's Compensation (Lead Poisoning—Broken Hill) Acts, 1922 and 1924.

Compensation to members of the police force, killed or disabled by injury in the execution of duty, is payable in terms of the Police Regulation (Superannuation) Act, which is described in the chapter of this Year Book relating to the police. The amount of compensation is determined by the Governor.

In addition to the general enactments of the State, specific enactments of the Commonwealth provide for compensation to men in a particular class of work, such as that of seamen, which is subject to special risks, and to workers in the service of the Commonwealth Government.

The operation of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1916, was restricted to employees whose remuneration did not exceed £312 per annum and this limit was raised to £525 by the amending Act passed in 1920. A workman was defined as any person who entered into or worked under a contract of service or apprenticeship with an employer, whether the contract was expressed or implied, oral or in writing. Casual workers employed otherwise than for the purposes of the employer's trade or business, outworkers, the police, and members of the employer's family dwelling in his house were excluded. Seamen employed on ships whose first port of clearance and whose destination were in New South Wales might claim compensation under these Acts, if they agreed not to proceed also under the Seamen's Compensation Act of the Commonwealth.

Compensation was payable in the case of accidents causing death or disablement for at least a week and in respect of certain industrial diseases specified in a schedule of the Act. In fatal cases the amount of compensation where a workman left persons wholly dependent upon his earnings was a sum equal to three years' earnings or £300, whichever was the larger sum, but not exceeding £500. From this sum any weekly payments or lump sum already paid under the Act might be deducted. The Workers' Compensation Act, 1926, has amended this proviso by prescribing that where death follows incapacity due to accident, which occurred prior to 1st July, 1926, such deductions may not reduce below £200 the sum payable upon the workman's death, but the total of the employer's liability in such a case may not exceed £750.

In fatal cases where only persons partly dependent were left, the amount of compensation was fixed by agreement or by arbitration. If the workman did not leave any dependents the employer was liable for expenses of medical attendance and burial up to £20. In cases of total or partial incapacity for work a workman became entitled to a weekly payment during incapacity not exceeding two-thirds of his average weekly earnings, up to £3 per week, the total liability in respect thereof being limited to £750. If a workman under 21 years of age was totally incapacitated he became entitled to be paid 100 per cent. of his average weekly earnings up to 15s. a week.

In extending the scope of the compensation law the Workers' Compensation Act, 1926, removed the wage limit of £525 per annum in so far as it related to manual labour and raised it to £750 in respect of other classes of employment. Members of an employer's family living in his house are exempt no longer, and it is specified that the following persons are included as workers, viz., persons plying for hire with a vehicle under a contract of bailment (other than a hire-purchase agreement); persons such as caddies

employed by recreation clubs; jockeys, salesmen, canvassers, and collectors paid wholly or partly by commission, unless the commission is for work incidental to the business of the payee or of a firm of which he is a member. Share farmers and workers employed by them are deemed to be employees of the owner of the farm, and persons employed about a mine or in connection with the pastoral or rural occupations are deemed to be employees of the persons for whom the work is undertaken, notwithstanding that their remuneration is provided wholly or in part by the employees.

Under certain conditions employees of contractors may claim compensation either from the contractor or from the principal. In contracts for threshing, ploughing or other agricultural work the contractor alone is liable to his workers for compensation if he provides and uses machinery driven by mechanical power. Where a contract is let to supply timber, to fell or ringbark trees, cut scrub or haul or load timber, or to cut sugar-cane, or to perform any other work specified by proclamation, and the contractor does not sublet the contract nor employ workers, or though employing workers, actually performs part of the work himself, the contractor and other workers are deemed to be employees of the principal.

A worker and, in the case of his death, his dependents are entitled to compensation if he receives personal injury in the course of his employment, or, without his default or wilful act, on the daily or other periodic journey between his place of abode and his place of employment. Compensation is not payable, however, in respect of an injury received during any substantial interruption of, or deviation from, his journey, if the interruption or deviation is for a reason unconnected with his employment. Personal injury includes a disease contracted in the course of employment to which the employment was a contributing factor, except a disease caused by silica dust, in respect of which special legislation has been enacted.

The Act does not impose the obligation of compensation in respect of an injury which does not disable a worker for at least three days, nor in respect to an injury solely attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of the worker unless it results in death or serious and permanent disablement, and compensation is not payable on account of an intentional self-inflicted injury.

Compensation must be paid, however, in the case of death or serious and permanent disablement notwithstanding that the worker was acting in contravention of any regulation applicable to his employment or of any orders given by his employer, or without instruction by his employer, if the act was in connection with the employer's trade or business. Where an injury is contracted by a gradual process the compensation is payable by the last employer, and he may recover contributions from other persons who employed the worker during the year preceding incapacity.

Where death results from an injury persons wholly dependent on the workers' earnings are entitled to a sum equal to four years' earnings or £400, whichever is the larger, but not exceeding £800. The amount of any weekly payments or lump sum received by the worker are to be deducted from the amount payable, but may not reduce it below £200. In addition £25 is payable in respect of each dependent child under 16 years.

Where there are no persons totally dependent, compensation, as determined by agreement or by the Workers' Compensation Commission, and not exceeding the sum fixed for total dependents, may be paid to persons partially dependent. Where a minor leaves no dependents, but during the six months preceding the injury contributed the major portion of his earnings towards the maintenance of the family home, the members of his family are entitled to a sum not exceeding £400, as agreed upon or determined by the Commissioner. Where there are no dependents reasonable burial expenses up to £30 are payable.

In cases of total or partial incapacity the compensation payable includes: (a) weekly payments not exceeding the average weekly earnings of the worker or £5, whichever is the smaller amount, and (b) the cost of medical, surgical, and hospital treatment and nursing. The total liability of the employer in respect of weekly payments may not exceed £1,000, except where there is permanent and total disablement. The cost of medical benefits is limited to £50 unless the Commission directs otherwise.

The maximum weekly payment in respect of the worker is two-thirds of the average weekly earnings up to £3 a week, and the minimum for an adult worker is £2 a week. If a minor whose earnings are less than 45s. a week is incapacitated, he may be paid 100 per cent. of his earnings up to 30s. a week. In addition, a worker is entitled to £1 a week in respect of his wife and 8s. 6d. per week in respect of each child under 14 years totally or mainly dependent upon his earnings. Where no compensation is payable in respect of a wife, a worker may receive £1 a week in respect of one adult totally or mainly dependent, and, where no compensation is payable in respect of children, 8s. 6d. a week in respect of each dependent brother and sister under 14 years. In computing the average earnings of casual employees the average is deemed to be not less than the current living wage declared by statutory authority. In the case of partial incapacity the weekly payment may not exceed the difference between the average weekly earnings prior to injury and the amount which may be earned in suitable employment after the accident. But if a worker is unable by reason of his injury to obtain suitable employment, the Commission may order that his incapacity be treated as total for such period and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by the order.

With the consent of a worker, the liability for a weekly payment may be redeemed wholly or in part by the payment of a lump sum determined by the Commission, having regard to the worker's injury, age, occupation, and diminished ability to compete in an open labour market. By agreement or order of the Commission the lump sum may be invested or applied for the benefit of the person entitled thereto. The Act contains a list of amounts which, if the worker so elects, may be paid for specific injuries. The amounts range from £75 for the loss of a joint of a toe to £675 for the loss of either arm; but a worker is not entitled to more than £1,000 in addition to medical expenses, even if he sustains more than one of the specified injuries, unless he is totally and permanently disabled.

The Act prescribes that every employer must insure with a licensed insurer against his liability to pay compensation to all workers employed by him, unless he is authorised by the Workers' Compensation Commission to undertake the liability on his own account. Insurers transacting workers' compensation business must obtain a license from the Commission, and must deposit with the State Treasurer a sum of £6,000 or £10,000, according to premium income, as a guarantee that compensation payments will be met when due. Self-insurers must deposit an amount determined by the Commission.

Except with the consent of the Commission, a licensed insurer may not refuse to issue a policy to an employer who has complied with the prescribed conditions, unless he is an insurer who confines his operations to indemnifying one employer or a group of employers in one industry, trade, or business. Under similar conditions an insurer is required to undertake re-insurances in respect of such proportion of the liability of any other insurer as does not exceed the amount of liability retained by the insurer who issued the prime policy. The commission payable on such re-insurance contracts is 10 per cent. of the premium.

The Workers' Compensation Commission, to which reference is made above, consists of a chairman, who must be a barrister-at-law of five years' standing, and two other members appointed by the Governor. The Commission exercises judicial functions in regard to the determination of compensation claims, and its decisions are final. The Commission is required to furnish workers and employers with information as to their rights and liabilities under the Act, and to make reasonable efforts to conciliate the parties to any dispute which may arise. The Commission may appoint medical practitioners as referees, and may summon a medical referee to sit as an assessor, or may submit any matter to a medical referee or a board of medical referees for report. Workers claiming or receiving weekly payments must submit themselves when required by the Commission for examination by a medical referee, or medical board, or by an independent medical practitioner nominated by the employer and approved by the Commission.

Salaries and other expenses incurred by the Commission are payable from a fund constituted for the purpose by contributions from insurers, who are required to pay thereto a percentage, fixed by the Commission, of their total premiums in respect of workers' compensation insurance.

Upon the proclamation of the Workers' Compensation Act, 1926, a number of companies which had been engaged previously in compensation insurance obtained licenses to conduct business under the new Act, and various groups of employers arranged, with the authority of the Workers' Compensation Commission, to act as self-insurers. The rates are quoted as a percentage of the wages paid by the employer, and are much higher than those ruling under former legislation.

Further facilities to enable employers to insure were provided when the Government decided to open a State Insurance Office. Operations were commenced at rates somewhat lower than those which had been quoted by the insurance companies, and the latter reduced their rates to the same level. From 1st October, 1926, the rates adopted by the State office were reduced substantially. Most of the rates were lowered by about 33½ per cent., while those relating to rural and mining occupations were reduced by as much as 40 per cent. It has been announced, moreover, that the Government policy is not to make profits out of compensation insurance, and that at the end of each year the Government will pay a rebate out of the surplus over working expenses.

The Workmen's Compensation (Lead Poisoning—Broken Hill) Acts, 1922 and 1924, provide for the payment of compensation to persons disabled in the Broken Hill mines by lead-poisoning or its sequela. The duties of certifying surgeon or medical referee are entrusted to a board consisting of three medical practitioners appointed by the Governor, including one nominated by the mine owners and one by the workmen.

In terms of the Workmen's Compensation (Broken Hill) Act, 1920, which will remain in force until September, 1928, a fund has been established for the relief of metalliferous miners, who, having contracted pneumoconiosis or tuberculosis, have been incapacitated from further work in the Broken Hill mines. The fund is maintained by contributions—one-half by the Government of New South Wales and one-half by the mine owners. The compensation paid in each year from 1921 to 1925 was £54,061, £56,336, £60,750, £63,843 and £67,480. At the end of 1925 the beneficiaries numbered 1,142, viz., 330 mine workers and 812 dependents, including 437 children. At the end of the previous year the beneficiaries numbered 1,105, including 433 children.

The Workmen's Compensation (Silicosis) Act, 1920, as amended by the Workers' Compensation Act, 1926, empowers the Government to establish a scheme for the payment of compensation with respect to workmen who suffer death or disablement owing to fibroid phthisis or silicosis of the lung, or other diseases of the pulmonary or respiratory organs caused by exposure to silica dust. Provision may be made by the scheme for the establishment of a general compensation fund to which employers in any specified industry involving exposure to silica dust may be required to contribute. In this manner liability in respect of a disease contracted by a gradual process may be distributed amongst the employers concerned. The scheme has not yet been brought into operation.

Compensation Paid.

The following statement shows particulars regarding compensation in respect of accidents paid during the years 1920 to 1924 under the Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1916 and 1920, and the Workmen's Compensation (Lead Poisoning—Broken Hill) Acts, 1922 and 1924:—

Year.	Accidents.				Compensation.			
	Death.	Disablement Compensated by—		Total.	Death.	Disablement Compensated by—		Total.
		Lump Sum.	Weekly Payment.			Lump Sum.	Weekly Payment.	
					£	£	£	£
1920	104	157	12,976	13,237	38,407	26,105	107,084	171,596
1921	120	167	16,079	16,366	39,762	28,417	196,378	264,557
1922	101	248	17,015	17,364	39,672	38,989	211,745	290,406
1923	90	194	18,666	18,950	34,067	31,819	224,959	290,845
1924	138	194	20,718	21,050	55,714	34,526	255,916	346,156

In respect of fatal accidents in 1924, an amount of £53,071 was paid to persons wholly dependent, £2,392 to persons partially dependent, and £251 as medical and burial fees, etc.

Records relating to industrial diseases show that compensation under the foregoing Acts was paid in respect of 117 cases in 1924, viz., 17 cases which originated during the year, and 100 cases continued from previous years. Particulars for the five years 1920 to 1924 are as follows:—

Year.	Cases.			Diseases.			Compensation.
	Fatal.	Non-fatal.	Total.	Lead Poisoning.		Other Diseases.	
				Mining.	Other Industries.		
							£
1920	14	82	96	63	19	14	14,896
1921	11	162	173	145	5	23	19,453
1922	10	179	189	143	10	36	24,279
1923	9	154	163	113	10	40	19,622
1924	9	108	117	102	6	9	13,729

All the fatal cases in 1924 were due to lead-poisoning contracted in the Broken Hill mines. Of the non-fatal cases there were 9 cases of nystagmus in the coal-mining industry, and 99 of lead-poisoning including 89 cases from the Broken Hill mines. The compensation paid in respect of lead-poisoning amounted to £13,163, and on account of nystagmus to £566.

WAGES.

For the protection of juvenile labour a law was passed in 1908 to prevent the threatened development in unorganised trades of a system under which young workers were being employed without remuneration. It provides that a minimum wage of not less than 4s. per week must be paid to factory workers, shop assistants, and others.

In recent years the minimum rates of wages for nearly all classes of juvenile and of adult workers have been fixed by industrial tribunals exercising statutory authority.

The Living Wage.

Early legislation empowering industrial tribunals to fix minimum wages, as incidental to the preservation of industrial peace, did not give any direction regarding the principles to be observed in the exercise of the function. In practice, the tribunals adopted the principle of basing their determinations on the living wage, which must be sufficient to secure to the unskilled worker a reasonable standard of living, as distinct from the secondary wage, which is remuneration for skill or other special qualifications.

Details regarding the development of the living wage principle since it was defined by Mr. Justice Higgins, President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, in the well-known Harvester case in 1907, are published in the 1921 issue of the "Year Book," with particulars relating to the standard of living and the living wage determinations. In this issue only a brief description of the existing practice is inserted.

In the State jurisdiction the living wages for men and for women were fixed by the Board of Trade, after public inquiry regarding the average cost of living, and the declarations had statutory force as the basis of all industrial awards and agreements relating to wages. The Board's inquiries were made annually between 1918 and 1921. Subsequently the rates were reviewed at more frequent intervals, and the Industrial Arbitration Amendment Act, passed in November, 1922, authorised the Board to declare the living wages at intervals of not less than three months.

For the purpose of the declarations, the living wage was defined as the standard wage which would do neither more nor less than enable a worker of the class to which the lowest wage would be awarded to maintain himself, his wife, and two children, in a house of three rooms and a kitchen, with food, plain and inexpensive, but quite sufficient in quantity and quality to maintain health and efficiency, and with an allowance for miscellaneous expenses.

The principle of a living wage was not applied to women's wages under the State industrial arbitration system until the Board of Trade conducted its first inquiry into the cost of living in 1918. The standard adopted was the minimum wage to cover the cost of living of the adult female worker of the lowest paid class, but having no other responsibility and living away from home in lodgings.

Upon the dissolution of the Board of Trade in April, 1926, the function of fixing the living wages was transferred to the Industrial Commission. The standard of living is to be determined and the living wages for adult employees are to be declared not more frequently than once in every six months. The Commission commenced its first inquiry for the purpose of determining the standard of living in July, 1926, the Commission being constituted of the Industrial Commissioner and eight members—of whom four are women—half representing the employers and half the employees.

The variations in the living wages, as determined by the Court of Industrial Arbitration in the years 1914 to 1916, and by the Board of Trade in later years, were as follows. The declarations, prior to October, 1920, related to the metropolitan area only.

Year.	Men.		Women.	
	Date of Declaration.	Living Wage.	Date of Declaration.	Living Wage.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1914	16th February	2 8 0	...	...
1915	17th December	2 12 6	...	...
1916	18th August...	2 15 6	...	...
1918	5th September	3 0 0	17th December	1 10 0
1919	8th October...	3 17 0	23rd December	1 19 0
1920	8th October...	4 5 0	23rd December	2 3 0
1921	8th October..	4 2 0	22nd December	2 1 0
1922	12th May ...	3 18 0	9th October ..	1 19 6
1923	10th April ...	3 19 0	10th April ...	2 0 0
1923	7th September	4 2 0	7th September	2 1 6
1925	24th August...	4 4 0	24th August...	2 2 6

In March, and in August, 1924, the Board decided, after inquiry, not to vary the rates fixed in September, 1923. The declarations as shown in the table did not apply to employees in rural occupations.

The Commonwealth Court assesses a basic rate for each case in which minimum wages are to be determined. The standard adopted is the Harvester wage, 7s. per day in Melbourne in 1907, which was based apparently on the needs of a man, his wife, and three children. The rate is adjusted to cover variations in the cost of living so as to ensure to the lowest paid worker the same standard of comfort as that rate gave in 1907.

In view of the fact that federal awards are made for extended periods, difficulty has been experienced in devising a satisfactory method of adjustment. For some years after the Harvester wage was determined, the movement in the cost of living was slow, and wages were fixed by the Court after consideration of the cost of living at the time of the award, on the basis of the evidence given in the Harvester case. In July, 1913, the President decided to assess the basic wage, by applying to the Harvester rate the index number of the cost of food, groceries, and rent, as determined by the Commonwealth Statistician for the calendar year preceding the date when the award was made. Subsequently, as prices began to rise with increasing rapidity, it became the general practice to apply the index number for the twelve months immediately preceding the making of the award.

None of the foregoing methods, however, gave the desired result, and the Court decided that it was necessary in some cases to give awards a retrospective effect in order to relieve employees who had been receiving wages below a fair equivalent of the standard rate. Obviously, a system

which involved retrospective pay had many disadvantages, and in 1921 the Court adopted a new rule to provide for the periodical adjustment of rates of wages during the term of an award. Under the existing method, introduced in December, 1921, it is a general rule to make the adjustments quarterly or half-yearly on a basic rate which is ascertained by applying to the Harvester wage the index number of the cost of food, groceries, and rent for the preceding quarter, and adding 3s. per week to the result. The sum of 3s. per week, though an arbitrary figure, was chosen after deliberation as a fair addition to cover possible increases in the cost of living in the quarter succeeding each adjustment, and to set off past losses suffered by the workers during the period when wages had been lagging behind the rapidly rising prices.

In making the periodical adjustments during the term of a federal award, the following scale is generally used for increasing or decreasing the rates for adult male employees according to the rise or fall of the index number of the cost of food and groceries and rent on which the rates in the award were based:—

Increase or Decrease in Index Number.	Increase or Decrease in Wages.	Increase or Decrease in Index Number.	Increase or Decrease in Wages.	Increase or Decrease in Index Number.	Increase or Decrease in Wages.
Under 11 ...	s. d. Nil.	94 and under 115	s. d. 5 0	198 and under 219	s. d. 10 0
11 and under 37	1 0	115 ,, 136	6 0	219 ,, 240	11 0
37 ,, 52	2 0	136 ,, 157	7 0	240 ,, 261	12 0
52 ,, 73	3 0	157 ,, 177	8 0	261 ,, 282	13 0
73 ,, 94	4 0	177 ,, 198	9 0	282 and over ...	14 0

When it is necessary to assess a basic wage for women the Commonwealth Court takes into consideration any special conditions affecting the employees concerned, such as broken time, allowances for travelling, etc. For this reason the rates used by the Court for various awards sometimes show substantial differences. In two industries in which the majority of women working under federal awards are employed, viz., clothing and printing, the basic rate is about 54 per cent. of the corresponding rate for men and in periodical adjustments this ratio is preserved.

An amendment of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, passed in 1926, provides that when the question of the basic wage is before the Court the Federal Attorney-General may intervene to enable interested persons or organisations or associations of employers or employees to apply to the Court for liberty to be heard and to examine and cross-examine witnesses.

Living Wage in the other States.

In Queensland it is the practice to fix a minimum wage for industries of average prosperity, and the Board of Trade and Arbitration, which replaced the Industrial Arbitration Court in 1925, may determine a basic wage with regard to the particular circumstances of any industry of greater or less than average prosperity. In September, 1925, an Act was passed fixing the living wage for men working under awards and agreements at £4 5s. per week, and this rate will remain in force for a period of twelve months and thereafter until varied by the Board.

In South Australia the standard living wage is fixed by the Board of Industry. In Victoria and Tasmania the rates of wages in the various industries are fixed by wages boards by a process of collective bargaining between the employers and the employees in the industry concerned, and the prescribed rates for unskilled labour vary accordingly. In Western Australia it was the practice of the Arbitration Court to use the same method of assessment as the Commonwealth tribunal, but an Act was passed in 1925 to prescribe that the Court shall fix a basic wage in June of each year, and the rate so determined will operate for a period of twelve months from 1st July following. In June, 1926, the rate for adult males was fixed at £4 5s.

The rates shown in the following statement for Melbourne, Perth, and Hobart are those which may be regarded as fair average or basic rates for unskilled labour at the respective dates specified in the table. The quotations for the Commonwealth represent the rates which, in accordance with the practice of the Court, would have been used in determining rates of wages, if the Court had made awards for the capital cities as at the specified dates. The rate for July, 1914, was calculated by applying to the Harvester wage, 7s. per day in Melbourne in 1907, the index number of the cost of food, groceries, and rent in the capital cities during the preceding twelve months, and the rates as at the other dates specified, by applying the index numbers for the preceding quarter and adding to the result the sum of 3s. per week.

Metropolitan Areas.	Living Wage—Adult Males.				
	1914. (July).	1923. (April).	1924. (March).	1925. (June).	1926. (August).
Sydney	£ s. d. 2 8 0	£ s. d. 3 19 0	£ s. d. 4 2 0	£ s. d. 4 2 0†	£ . d. 4 4 0
Melbourne	2 5 0	3 18 0	4 3 6	4 4 6	4 12 0
Brisbane	2 2 0	4 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0	4 5 0
Adelaide	2 8 0	3 17 6	3 18 6	4 2 0*	4 5 6
Perth	2 14 0	3 17 0	4 0 0	4 0 0	4 5 0
Hobart	2 8 0	3 18 0	3 18 0	3 18 0	4 5 6
Commonwealth ...	2 13 6	4 0 6	4 5 0	4 4 0	4 10 0

* Increased to £4 5s. 6d. in July, 1925.

† Increased to £4 4s. in August, 1925.

Secondary Wage.

Having ascertained the basic rates of wages for unskilled labour, the assessment of the secondary wages is a matter to be considered separately in connection with each occupation. It is the usual practice, under the State system, when varying wages on account of an increase or decrease in the cost of living, to preserve unaltered the recognised margin between the skilled and the unskilled workmen in an industry, and to vary all rates of wages by the amount by which the basic wage has been increased or reduced.

The Commonwealth Court determines in each case an amount which it considers to be the fair value, as at the date of the award, of the skill required.

RATES OF WAGES.

The rates of wages for various occupations at intervals since 1901 are shown in the following statement. Except where specified, the figures indicate the minimum amounts payable for a full week's work on the basis of the weekly, daily, or hourly rates fixed by industrial awards and agreements, and for occupations not subject to industrial determinations, the ruling or predominant rates are stated. The table contains particulars of a few occupations only, but similar information relating to a large number of callings is published annually in the "Statistical Register of New South Wales." In the Register for the year 1920-21 the rates are stated for each year from 1901 to 1913, inclusive, and for 1921; and the following issue contains the rates for each year since 1913:—

Occupation.	1901.	1906.	1911.	1913.	1916.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Manufacturing—										
Cabinetmaker	52 0	52 6	56 0	60 0	67 0	101 9	98 0	102 0	102 0	102 0
Boilermaker	60 0	60 0	66 0	66 0	78 0	107 6	103 6	107 6	108 6	112 6
Coppersmith	60 0	60 0	68 0	72 0	80 0	109 6	105 6	109 6	108 6	112 6
Fitter	60 0	60 0	64 0	70 0	78 0	107 6	102 6	107 6	108 6	112 6
„ electrical	60 0	60 0	66 0	72 0	82 0	108 6	104 6	115 0	115 0	117 0
Baker	52 6	52 6	56 0	60 0	70 0	100 6	96 6	100 6	100 6	102 6
Bootlicker	45 0	45 0	54 0	54 0	66 0	98 6	95 9	94 9	96 0	96 0
Tailor (ready-made) ..	50 0	50 0	55 0	60 0	60 0	102 6	96 6	104 6	102 6	101 6
Compositor (jobbing) ..	52 0	52 0	60 0	65 0	65 0	105 0	98 0	102 0	102 0	104 0
Building—										
Bricklayer	60 0	62 0	69 0	75 0	78 0	108 0	109 0	113 0	113 0	113 0
Carpenter	60 0	60 0	68 0	72 0	80 0	110 0	103 0	107 6	121 0	121 0
Painter	54 0	55 0	60 0	64 0	75 0	104 0	£7 0	103 0	103 0	108 0
Plumber	60 0	60 0	66 0	72 0	72 0	110 0	103 0	107 0	107 0	117 0
Mining—										
Coalminer, per ton (best coal)	4 2	3 6	4 2	4 2	4 6	6 11½	6 11½	6 11½	6 11½	6 11½
Coalwheeler	42 0	38 0	42 0	51 0	48 0	103 6	103 6	103 6	103 6	109 6
Silverminer	54 0	60 6	66 0	66 0	54 6	106 6	106 6	106 6	106 6	112 6
					77 9	99 0	99 0	99 0	99 0	103 6
Transport—										
Railway loco-driver ..	66 0	66 0	66 0	72 0	72 0	106 0	102 0	106 0	106 0	109 0
	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to
	90 0	90 0	90 0	96 0	96 0	130 0	126 0	130 0	130 0	133 0
Wharf-labourer per hour	1 0	1 1½	1 6	1 6	1 9	2 9	2 9	2 11½	2 11½	2 11½
	to	to								
	1 3	1 3								
Rural industries—										
Shearer .. per 100 sheep	20 0	20 0	24 0	24 0	24 0	40 0	35 0	38 0	38 0	38 0
Station-hand, with keep ..	20 0	25 0	25 0	25 0	25 0	48 0	48 0	48 0	52 0	52 0
Farm-labourer, with keep	15 0	15 0	20 0	20 0	20 0	42 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0
	to	to	to	to	to		to	to	to	to
	20 0	20 0	25 0	25 0	35 0		50 0	50 0	50 0	50 0
Miscellaneous—										
Pick and shovel man ..	42 0	42 0	48 0	51 0	56 0	94 6	86 6	91 0	91 0	93 6
Standard minimum wage ..	*	*	45 0	45 0	55 6	82 0	78 0	82 0	82 0	84 0

* Standard not fixed.

As a result of the method of wage adjustment adopted by the industrial tribunals, the movement in the rates generally coincides with the rise or fall in the standard living wage. Prior to the determination of the Harvester rate in 1907 a standard wage was not fixed, and an inspection

of the predominant rates in 1901 shows that wages as low as 30s. per week were paid for unskilled labour in some factories, but the average was probably about 35s. per week. The living wage, 84s. per week, in 1925 showed an increase of 49s. as compared with that rate.

In the building trades there has been a brisk demand for skilled workers in recent years, and as a general rule the artisans have commanded higher wages than the award rates shown in the table. In 1923, for instance, the award rate for carpenters was 2s. 4d. per hour for 46 hours per week, but most of these skilled workers were paid at a higher rate, afterwards embodied in an agreement, viz., 2s. 9d. for 44 hours. Similarly in 1925, the predominant rates for bricklayers were from 2s. 10½d. to 3s. per hour for a week of 44 hours.

The wages of coalminers are based on contract rates, which vary according to the condition of the seams or places where the coal is mined, the rates being determined by a special tribunal. The rates for miners and wheelers shown in the table relate to the northern district, where the bulk of the coal is produced.

The wages of railway engine-drivers are increased by 6s. per week on the completion of each of the first four years of service, the highest rates being paid to drivers of mail and passenger trains. The rates are generally higher than those fixed for most industrial occupations, but the increase since 1901 has been smaller than the increase in the other rates shown in the table. An hourly rate is prescribed for wharf-labouring, as intermittency is a constant factor owing to irregularity in the daily volume of shipping trade. Extra rates are paid for handling special cargoes such as wheat, explosives, and frozen meat.

In the rural industries, contract rates for shearing and the wages of station hands are fixed by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. In September, 1923, the rate for shearing ordinary flock sheep was raised from 35s. per 100 to 38s., and in June, 1926, to 40s. Higher rates must be paid for shearing stud sheep. A State award for pastoral employees prescribes a shearing rate of 45s. per 100 as from 1st August, 1926. This award must be observed by persons not bound by the federal award. The wages of farm labourers were not fixed during the period covered by the table, except during the twelve months dating from October, 1921, when a rural living wage declaration of the Board of Trade was in force, the rate being 42s. per week for rural workers who were provided with board and lodging.

The rates shown in the table for pick and shovel men relate to those engaged in the work of railway construction.

The following table of average rates shows the extent to which changes in the rates for individual occupations have affected wages in various groups of industries, and in all industries combined. The figures represent the average weekly rates of wages payable to adult males in each group of industries, and the weighted average for all groups combined in various years since 1901.

For the computations particulars were obtained in respect of 874 occupations. The industrial awards and agreements were the main sources of information, and for occupations not subject to the industrial determinations, the ruling or predominant rates were ascertained from employers and from secretaries of trade unions. The occupations were classified into fourteen industrial groups, and the averages were calculated on the basis of the weekly rates payable to adult male employees in the Metropolitan district, except in regard to the mining, shipping, and rural industries, which are conducted for the most part outside the Metropolitan area.

In determining the average wage in each group an arithmetic mean was taken; that is, the sum of the rates was divided by the number of occupations, no detailed system of weights being applied owing to the difficulty of obtaining satisfactory data as to the number of persons employed in each occupation. In computing the average for all the industries combined, the average for each industrial group was weighted in accordance with the relative number of all male workers engaged in that group.

The rates shown in the table for 1916 and later years are those determined for New South Wales by the Commonwealth Statistician, whose figures are in close agreement with the averages determined by the author and have been adopted for the sake of uniformity.

In the shipping, pastoral, and domestic industries, where food and lodging are supplied, the value of such has been added to the rates of wages:—

Group of Industries.	Average Weekly Rates of Wages at end of Year.									
	1901.	1906.	1911.	1913.	1916.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
1. Wood, Furniture, Sawmill, Timber Works, etc. ...	s. d. 48 4	s. d. 49 7	s. d. 55 6	s. d. 58 0	s. d. 65 1	s. d. 101 0	s. d. 95 0	s. d. 101 6	s. d. 99 9	s. d. 101 4
2. Engineering, Shipbuilding, Smelting, Metal Works, etc. ...	40 4	40 8	55 4	57 8	64 0	98 7	93 1	98 0	97 11	100 9
3. Food, Drink, and Tobacco Manufacture and Distribution ...	44 11	45 3	51 4	56 0	62 3	95 2	91 5	94 3	93 7	95 3
4. Clothing, Hats, Boots, Textiles, Rope, Cordage, etc. ...	44 5	44 5	51 7	54 0	60 2	91 10	89 3	92 3	91 6	91 11
5. Books, Printing, Bookbinding, etc. ...	53 1	54 7	64 4	65 9	67 9	106 3	102 1	104 3	104 3	107 2
6. Other Manufacturing ...	44 10	46 1	51 7	56 3	63 6	97 7	92 9	96 2	96 0	98 4
7. Building ...	56 2	57 6	63 4	68 0	71 4	104 7	101 8	104 4	104 6	107 4
8. Mining, Quarries, etc. ...	52 3	51 7	60 0	62 9	72 6	105 4	104 2	105 0	105 0	109 6
9. Railway and Tramway Services ...	52 2	52 6	55 2	61 1	65 2	95 5	91 4	97 2	95 5	99 2
10. Other Land Transport ...	41 8	41 8	44 4	51 4	59 4	92 0	88 1	91 5	90 9	92 11
11. Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc. ...	38 4	38 8	44 6	48 9	58 4	100 5	98 6	100 5	96 4	102 7
12. Pastoral, Agricultural, Rural, Horticultural, etc. ...	32 5	35 5	43 5	49 11	55 10	92 0	84 5	85 6	84 0	85 6
13. Domestic, Hotels, etc. ...	37 11	39 1	44 3	45 5	53 3	83 0	83 7	87 1	87 1	89 8
14. Miscellaneous ...	43 5	44 7	49 0	53 1	59 7	91 5	88 2	92 0	90 8	92 9
All Industries ...	43 11	45 4	51 5	55 9	61 11	95 10	91 6	94 6	93 6	96 0

The average rates of wages in all industries combined rose slowly until in 1918 it was 28 per cent. higher than in 1911. In the next three years it rose by 46 per cent., and in 1921 it was 86·4 per cent. above the average of 1911. In the following years the average rose and fell alternately, until an increase of 2·7 per cent. in 1925 brought it to a point slightly above the average in 1921.

The highest averages are in the mining, building, and printing industries, which are strongly organised, and include a large proportion of skilled artisans. The next in order are shipping industry, the woodworking, and the engineering trades. The lowest averages are in the domestic and rural groups. Between 1921 and 1925 there were increases, ranging from 4s. 2d. to 1d., in all the groups except the rural, in which there was a decrease of 6s. 6d. The classes with the highest increases were mining 4s. 2d., railway and tramway services 3s. 9d., building 2s. 9d., engineering and shipping 2s. 2d. In the miscellaneous group there was an increase of 1s. 4d., and the other increases were less than 1s.

The average in the rural group was affected in 1922 by an award of the Commonwealth Court, which reduced the rates for shearers and other pastoral workers, and by the exclusion of rural workers from the purview of the New South Wales Board of Trade in respect of living wage determinations.

The foregoing tables relate to the nominal rates of wages, that is the actual amounts of money payable in return for labour, and in order to show the effective value of these amounts it is necessary to consider them in relation to the purchasing power of money. Food and rent are the only elements of expenditure of which satisfactory records as to variations in the purchasing power of money are available, and in the following statement the relation between the cost of these items and the average rates of wages is illustrated. For this purpose the average rates of wages have been reduced to index numbers, which have been divided by the index numbers of food and rent. The results indicate the variations in the effective wage.

The index numbers of the nominal wage for 1914 and subsequent years, as shown below, represent the mean of the average rates at the end of the four quarters of each year. Quarterly data regarding wages are not available for the years prior to 1914, and the index numbers of the nominal wage relate to the rates current at the end of those years.

Year.	Average Nominal Wage per Week.		Index Number of Food and Rent Combined.	Index Number of Effective Wage.
	Amount.	Index Number.		
1901	s. d. 43 11	854	848	1007
1906	45 4	882	901	979
1911	51 5	1000	1000	1000
1912	54 3	1055	1113	948
1913	55 9	1084	1144	948
1914	56 0	1089	1171	930
1915	56 10	1105	1233	861
1916	59 7	1160	1351	859
1917	63 6	1236	1365	905
1918	65 1	1263	1383	915
1919	70 10	1377	1531	899
1920	86 3	1677	1791	936
1921	95 5	1855	1672	1109
1922	93 2	1812	1586	1142
1923	92 7	1801	1685	1069
1924	93 10	1826	1662	1099
1925	94 7	1840	1709	1077

In 1901 the effective wage was slightly higher, and in 1906 it was lower, than in 1911. Thereafter it declined steadily as living became dearer, until in 1916 it was 14 per cent. lower than in 1911. Subsequently wages were increased at a faster rate than the cost of food and rent, and the effective wage index number rose slowly, but in 1919 its purchasing power in relation

to the cost of food and housing was still 10 per cent. lower than in 1911. There were pronounced rises in wages during 1920 and 1921, and as food prices began to decline the effective wage rose to a point 14 per cent. above the level of the year 1911. In 1923 wages moved downwards and the cost of food and housing increased so that the effective wage declined by 6 per cent. In 1924 the movement of each factor was reversed, and the effective wage showed a slight increase. In 1925 both wages and the cost of commodities increased, but the effective wage declined by 2 per cent.

The rates of wages, nominal and effective, as stated in the foregoing tables are based on the rates payable to employees under awards or agreements or on predominant rates for work without intermittency or overtime, and not on actual earnings, which are liable to fluctuate on account of the rise and fall in the volume of employment. Thus the census records show that there was a much larger proportion of unemployment in 1921 than in 1911. Moreover, conditions vary in different industries. In the building trade, for instance, there has been remarkable activity in recent years, and competent men have been receiving wages above the rates prescribed by awards, and have probably suffered less intermittency than in periods of normal trade, meanwhile some of the other industries have experienced slackness.

PRODUCTION.

The value of production, as shown in this section, relates to the **primary industries**—Pastoral, Agricultural, Dairying and Farmyard, Mining, Forestry, Fisheries, and Trapping—and to the **Manufacturing industries**.

The values in regard to the primary industries—except mining—are stated as at the point or place of production, on the basis of the prices to the producers, which are somewhat less than the wholesale prices in the Metropolitan market. No deduction has been made on account of the cost of items such as seed, fertilisers, containers, fodder for animals, machinery, etc.

Some of the quotations are known to be understated. For instance, the values as estimated for agricultural and farmyard produce are deficient, because records are not available as to production (which in the aggregate must be large) on areas less than one acre in extent. The production from fisheries includes only the catches of licensed fishermen.

Recent investigations have disclosed the fact that the estimates of the value of pastoral production have been understated for a number of years, owing to inaccuracies in the returns supplied by many land holders. The estimate for the year 1924-25 may be regarded as a reliable figure, but those shown in the following tables for earlier years require considerable adjustment. For this reason they are not comparable with the estimate for 1924-25, though they may be used as a fair indication of the annual movement of the value of production prior to that year.

The figures showing the estimated value of mining production in each year from 1911 to 1919-20 inclusive are based on the records of the Department of Mines, of which details are stated in the chapter of this volume relating to the mining industry. The values as recorded by the Department have been reduced by the exclusion of certain values which are included here in the production of the manufacturing industries, *e.g.*, coke produced at coke works, also the value added to minerals in the manufacture of lime and cement at limestone quarries, and in the treatment of ores at mines. The values shown for the last five years are those supplied by the mine owners in returns collected under the Census Act, and they indicate the estimated value at the mines of the minerals produced during each year. The figures do not represent exact values, but may be considered to be the best estimates which may be made from the data available. Reference to the difficulty experienced in estimating the value of mining production is made in the chapter relating to the mining industry.

The value of the manufacturing production is taken as the value at the factory of the manufactured goods less the cost of raw materials, water, fuel, and electricity, and containers used, and of tools replaced. With a few exceptions returns are not collected as to the production in small establishments employing less than four hands where manual labour only is used, nor from bakehouses nor butchers' smallgoods factories.

For the foregoing reasons the aggregate value of production as stated is not complete, and should not be assumed to be the total fund available as the wages fund of the State nor as remuneration for the agents of production in the form of wages, rent for land, and interest on capital invested. The values quoted for the specified industries do not include the value added by reason of transportation to market and distribution to the consumer, nor, in the case of exports, carriage to the point of shipment. Moreover, the earnings of many important activities, such as the building industry, of which records are not available, or from railway construction or commercial and other pursuits are not included.

Thus it will be seen that the amounts quoted have several shortcomings, nevertheless they are valuable as indicating the increase or decrease in the annual production of the industries specified and as important data for measuring the growth of the national income.

The following statement shows the estimated value of production of the specified industries, at the place of production, at intervals since 1871. After 1913 the values are stated for the years ended 30th June, except those relating to the mining industry, which relate to the calendar years ended six months later.

Year.	Primary Industries.							Manu- facturing Industries.	Total, Primary and Manu- facturing Industries. *
	Rural Industries.				Forests, Fisheries, and Trap- ping.	Mining.	Total, Primary Indus- tries. *		
	Pastoral. *	Agri- cultural.	Dairying and Farmyard	Total, Rural Industries. *					
	£ 000	£ 000	£ 000	£ 000	£ 000	£ 000	£ 000	£ 000	£ 000
1871	7,609	2,220	1,110	10,939	324	1,626	12,889	2,490	15,379
1881	10,866	4,216	2,285	17,367	492	2,138	19,997	5,183	25,180
1891	14,725	3,615	2,735	21,075	758	6,434	28,267	7,799	36,066
1901	12,447	7,060	3,188	22,695	986	5,681	29,362	9,742	39,104
1911	19,434	9,749	6,534	35,717	2,213	7,392	45,322	19,432	64,754
1912	19,440	11,817	7,192	38,449	2,347	8,177	48,973	22,681	71,654
1913	20,738	12,378	7,063	40,179	2,644	8,712	51,535	23,764	75,299
1914-15	18,848	10,031	7,846	36,725	2,074	6,090	44,889	24,330	69,219
1915-16	21,576	20,362	7,649	49,587	2,603	7,478	59,668	25,235	84,903
1916-17	26,842	13,012	9,419	49,273	3,055	9,173	61,501	27,133	88,634
1917-18	28,435	13,685	10,635	52,755	3,737	10,493	66,985	29,500	96,485
1918-19	29,865	12,280	11,073	53,218	3,708	7,805	64,731	32,768	97,499
1919-20	33,972	13,582	11,793	59,347	7,760	9,650	76,757	39,314	116,071
1920-21	20,057	32,373	16,447	68,877	4,089	10,192	83,158	43,128	126,286
1921-22	23,657	20,261	12,914	56,832	3,628	9,666	70,126	46,746	116,872
1922-23	34,009	21,301	13,445	68,755	4,810	10,419	83,984	51,492	135,476
1923-24	36,963	20,556	12,327	69,846	4,204	11,845	85,895	55,661	141,556
1924-25	47,968	28,735	14,336	91,089	5,039	11,785	107,913	59,044	166,957

* Figures for years prior to 1924-25 are subject to revision. See text on previous page.

The total value of production increased in each decade from 1871 to 1891. During the early nineties there was a decline from which the recovery was slow. In 1901, however, the value of production was considerably

higher than in 1891. During the succeeding decennium the State entered upon a period of industrial expansion, and the value of production rose rapidly, the upward movement being interrupted only in 1914-15, when the combined effects of drought and war caused a serious decline, in 1918-19, when there was a diminution in the output of the mines, and in 1921-22, when there was a heavy decline in the general level of prices.

Apart from seasonal influences, fluctuations in the value of pastoral production are mainly the result of variations in the prices of wool. In the two years ended June, 1924, producers secured very high prices for the clip. During 1924-25 there was a decline in prices, but the total value was higher than in any earlier year. The value of agricultural production shows considerable fluctuation, for which the principal reasons are seasonal.

In the mining industry the condition of the oversea market usually exerts the most powerful influence on the production of metals, which fluctuates accordingly. The demand for coal is more regular, and has increased steadily with the use of power machinery, so that coal is now one of the most important items of primary production. The value of mineral production reached a high level in 1918, then it declined as the output of metals decreased owing to industrial strife at Broken Hill and to a fall in prices. With the restoration of industrial peace in the principal metalliferous mines, production has improved. The value of mining production was highest in 1924, when the output of coal was the largest on record. In the following year there was a slight decline.

The figures relating to the manufacturing industries disclose a steady advance from the beginning of the period under review, when it was less than £2,500,000, and only 16 per cent. of the total production. In 1924-25 the value was over £59,000,000 and 35 per cent. of the total value.

In the following table the values per head of population are shown:—

Year.	Primary Industries.						Manufacturing Industries.	Total Primary and Manufacturing Industries.	
	Rural Industries.				Forests, Fisheries, and Trapping.	Mining.			Total, Primary Industries.
	Pastoral.	Agricultural.	Dairying and Farm-yard.	Total, Rural Industries.					
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1871	14 19 5	4 7 5	2 3 8	21 10 6	0 12 9	3 4 0	25 7 3	4 18 0	
1881	14 4 0	5 10 2	2 19 9	22 13 11	0 12 11	2 15 11	26 2 9	6 15 6	
1891	12 17 10	3 3 4	2 7 11	18 9 1	0 13 3	5 12 8	24 15 0	6 16 7	
1901	9 2 1	5 3 3	2 6 8	16 12 0	0 14 5	4 3 1	21 9 6	7 2 6	
1911	11 13 5	5 17 1	3 18 6	21 9 0	1 6 7	4 8 9	27 4 4	11 13 5	
1912	11 2 11	6 15 6	4 2 6	22 0 11	1 6 11	4 13 9	28 1 7	13 0 2	
1913	11 7 11	6 16 0	3 17 7	22 1 6	1 9 1	4 15 8	28 6 3	13 1 2	
1914-15	10 0 1	5 6 6	4 3 3	19 9 10	1 2 0	3 4 8	23 16 6	12 18 3	
1915-16	11 7 9	10 14 11	4 0 9	26 3 5	1 7 6	3 18 11	31 9 10	13 6 5	
1916-17	14 3 5	3 17 4	4 19 5	26 0 2	1 12 3	4 16 10	32 9 3	14 6 5	
1917-18	14 15 7	7 2 3	5 10 7	27 8 5	1 13 10	5 9 1	34 16 4	15 6 9	
1918-19	15 3 8	6 4 10	5 12 7	27 1 1	1 17 8	3 19 5	32 18 2	16 13 2	
1919-20	16 13 3	6 13 3	5 15 8	29 2 2	3 16 2	4 14 8	37 13 0	19 5 8	
1920-21	9 11 11	15 9 8	7 17 4	32 18 11	1 19 2	4 17 6	39 15 7	20 12 8	
1921-22	11 2 3	9 10 5	6 1 4	26 14 0	1 14 2	4 10 10	32 19 0	21 19 4	
1922-23	15 13 0	9 16 0	6 3 9	31 12 9	2 4 3	4 15 11	38 12 11	23 13 11	
1923-24	16 14 6	9 6 0	5 11 6	31 12 0	1 18 1	5 7 2	38 17 3	25 3 8	
1924-25	21 5 9	12 15 6	6 7 3	40 8 6	2 4 7	5 4 7	47 17 8	26 4 1	

* Figures for years prior to 1924-25 are subject to revision—see text at beginning of chapter.

The value of production per head from the pastoral industry was considerably greater when sheep-raising was the staple industry of the colony than in subsequent years when the population had entered into other activities.

The development in the manufacturing industries in 1871 and in 1881, as measured by the value of output per head of population, was not so great as the figures appear to indicate. The production included the output from several classes of machines used in connection with the agricultural industry and not, strictly speaking, manufactories; and most of the industries were subsidiary to agricultural and pastoral activities, viz., boiling-down works, fellmongering, woolwashing, grain-mills, chaffcutting, soap and candle works.

The following statement shows, in regard to the principal commodities, the average annual production, absolute and per head of population, during the three-year periods, 1921-23 and 1923-25, in comparison with the three pre-war years, 1911-13, which were also years of high production:—

Product.	Average Annual Production (000 omitted).			Average Production Per Head of Population.		
	1911-13.	1921-23.	1923-25.	1911-13.	1921-23.	1923-25.
Wool (as in the grease)*... lb.	337,450	323,000	337,000	222·3	151·6	152·2
Meat, Frozen (Exported)—						
Beef lb.	11,120	10,271	6,935	6·4	4·8	3·1
Mutton „	63,828	41,525	31,704	36·6	19·5	14·3
Leather „	13,373	19,013	20,444	7·7	8·9	9·2
Butter „	79,198	86,222	87,873	45·4	40·5	39·7
Cheese „	5,845	6,324	6,272	3·4	3·0	2·8
Bacon and Ham „	15,940	18,642	19,792	9·1	8·8	8·9
Wheat bush	31,865	42,353	40,537	18·3	19·9	18·3
Maize „	4,691	3,813	4,039	2·7	1·8	1·8
Potatoes cwt.	1,824	1,046	1,027	1·0	·5	·5
Hay „	18,612	23,100	22,611	10·7	10·8	10·2
Coal... .. ton.	9,664	10,485	11,164	5·5	4·9	5·0
Coke cwt.	9,217	16,257	18,026	5·3	7·6	8·1
Gold oz	200	32	19	·1	·0	·0
Silver „	2,117	940	83	1·2	·4	·0
Silver-lead-ore, etc. ... cwt.	7,167	3,299	5,068	4·1	1·6	2·3
Zinc... .. „	10,290	5,796	6,708	5·9	2·7	3·0
Timber, Sawn sup. ft.	169,078	157,899	167,592	97·0	74·1	75·8
Fish, Fresh lb.	15,499	20,588	18,345	8·9	9·7	9·3
Rabbit Skins (Exported) „	5,305	6,747	9,593	3·0	3·2	4·3
Iron, Pig cwt.	771	1,595	1,760	·4	·7	·8
Portland Cement „	2,374	3,778	5,333	1·4	1·7	2·4
Beer and Stout gal.	21,665	25,740	25,295	12·4	12·1	11·4
Tobacco lb.	6,370	12,211	12,953	3·7	5·7	5·9
Biscuits „	24,175	39,244	42,292	13·9	18·4	19·1
Boots and Shoes pairs	3,752	4,174	4,279	2·2	2·0	1·9
Bricks No.	366,985	339,721	385,237	210·5	159·4	174·1
Candles lb.	5,511	4,596	4,065	3·2	2·2	1·8
Gas 1,000 cub. ft.	4,878	8,465	9,372	2·8	4·0	4·2
Jam and Preserved Fruit lb.	27,767	30,396	33,711	15·9	14·3	15·2
Soap „	31,670	37,085	42,443	18·2	17·4	19·2
Sugar, Refined cwt.	1,834	2,373	2,704	1·1	1·1	1·2
Meat, Preserved lb.	25,501	4,320	4,106	14·6	2·0	1·9
Tweed and Cloth yd.	1,170	2,313	1,850	·7	1·1	·8

* Estimate—subject to revision.

The statement shows in regard to 34 staple commodities that the quantity produced per head between 1911-13 and 1923-25 increased in 12, and decreased in 21 cases. Amongst those which decreased were the important commodities—wool, meat, butter, coal, silver-lead, and timber.

INDUSTRIAL HISTORY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

An account of the Industrial History of the State up to 1899 appears in the "Wealth and Progress of New South Wales, 1897-8," and is continued on a broader basis in the "Official Year Book, 1921." The following account of recent developments brings the matter up to the middle of 1926.

1921-22.

As the year 1920 was the culminating point of the trade boom, which had assumed new vigour after the close of the war, 1921 was the fateful year in which the inevitable process of deflation began. In older countries, where the economic situation was more complex, the transition was sudden, and marked by serious disturbances in industry and commerce; but in New South Wales a policy of gradual deflation was pursued, and readjustments to meet the new conditions proceeded without undue dislocations. Although unemployment increased and some establishments worked part-time, the shortage of work was not generally acute for any lengthy period. At the census in April, 1921, when the position was at its worst, the unemployed in the State numbered 61,743, equal to 7 per cent. of the total breadwinners; but of these only one-half were out of work through scarcity of employment. Financial losses in some businesses were severe, but conditions remained calm, and there was no appreciable increase in the number or magnitude of bankruptcies—convincing proof of an efficient commercial and banking organisation, and of the financial strength of the community. On the whole, production increased in volume, and, as this increase more than counteracted the decline in prices, the value of production was greater in 1920-21 than in any previous year. The propitious seasons which followed the breaking of the drought in June, 1920, stimulated production, and helped to improve the difficult situation which was arising out of the general fall in prices and the decay of the unreal prosperity which had been engendered by war conditions.

The decline first affected the State through a fall in the prices realised for pastoral products and metals, of which New South Wales is a seller, and for manufactured goods, of which it is a buyer. The smaller and slower realisations on all primary products, except wheat, caused a reduction in the national income during 1921, while, at the same time the knowledge that the level of prices was at last falling produced a spirit of caution among the buying public. Although exports declined heavily, imports, in fulfilment of long-standing orders, grew to unprecedented heights in 1920-21. Commercial houses were faced with the troublesome problem of realising on large stocks of high-priced goods on falling markets in order to meet extraordinary commitments overseas, while the spending power of the public was weakening.

As the violent developments overseas dominated the local situation, the whole industrial organisation of the State felt the influence of price variations. Prices fell steadily for two years, and in the early part of 1922 had reached a point approximately 30 per cent. below the highest point reached in 1920, but still 50 per cent. above the level prevailing in 1913. Bank advances had reached their maximum in March quarter, 1921, and deposits in the following quarter; thereafter both receded gradually. Deposits reached their lowest point by December, 1921, and advances six months later. A decline was apparent also in the business of the clearing-house, the

total in 1921 being more than 7 per cent. less than in 1920, while in the early months of 1922 there was a further decline. The spirit of caution in spending had its counterpart in saving, and a new growth of deposits occurred in the savings banks. Inclusive of interest added to accounts these increased by £7,460,000 in 1920-21—nearly double the increase in any preceding year. The diminution in earning power was exhibited in the smaller earnings of public companies. There was a decrease in the average rate of dividends paid, and some companies arranged to return a portion of their capital to shareholders.

As the result of recommendations made by the special tribunal set up in February, 1921, to consider applications for a reduction in hours of work, a 44-hour working week was proclaimed in respect of many of the important industries regulated by awards of the State courts. This matter, the question of unemployment, and of reduction in the costs of production, became topics of much discussion. A joint economic conference of representative organisations of employers and employees assembled in Sydney in 1922 to consider the problems of the day, but failed to agree on general principles, and disbanded without formulating concrete proposals for the betterment of conditions. The price of coal and its cost of production were the subject of a subsequent conference, but agreement was not reached.

In October, 1921, the Board of Trade reconsidered the living wage, and declared in favour of a reduction from £4 5s. to £4 2s. per week, but the determination was not put into effect immediately, and the average effective wage ruling during the year 1921 was 10·9 per cent above that of 1911. In May, 1922, the Board gave the matter further consideration, and declared another reduction to £3 18s. per week, which was put into operation by the new Government. During all these readjustments the industrial situation remained calm, and in 1921 strikes were in extent far below the average of the previous eight years. A number of industries, however, principally the metal and metalliferous mining enterprises, were dislocated by a fresh cause—the absence of profitable markets—and a number of establishments and mines suspended operations pending an improvement in markets or a reduction in costs of production.

With the advent of favourable seasons in June, 1920, the outlook for primary industries improved. The harvests of 1920-21 and of 1921-22 were unusually large, especially in the former year, and high prices were realised for wheat; the market for butter improved after a severe decline toward the end of 1921, and production increased to over 100,000,000 lb. in 1921-22; the sheep flocks recovered rapidly from the effects of the drought of 1920, and prices rose as the demand increased, so that the clip of 1921 was practically disposed of by the end of July, 1922. The trials of the readjustment period found organisations of producers, brought into being largely by the problems of recent years, ready to take combined action in their own interests. The disturbed state of markets led to a continuance of the war-time expedient of "pooling" produce for market, and co-operation among producers made considerable headway. Although wool reverted to a free market in 1921, control of the realisation of surplus wool from previous years was handed over to a growers' company specially formed for the purpose. The wheat-growers by ballot emphatically favoured a "voluntary pool" in connection with the harvest of 1921-22, and more than half of that harvest was entrusted to the new organisation. Butter was controlled in large part by producers on co-operative principles, and a "fruit pool" was formed by the Commonwealth Government to handle fruit for canning. By these means primary producers were able to exercise more control in the marketing of their products and to obtain better prices.

The general decline of prices, wages, and employment had a marked effect on the housing problem. Owing to high costs, building activity decreased during 1921, although housing needs had not been fully met; but the increase in rents, the fall in wages, and the slackness of employment, led to such economy in housing accommodation that, towards the middle of 1922, the effective demand for houses became less intense and notices of houses to let, which had been rare for some years, became familiar again in the columns of the press. However the rents required generally exceeded 25s. per week. At the same time reduced costs led to an expansion of building operations.

Although local rates of interest remained unchanged at a high level, monetary conditions oversea improved. Public loans were negotiated on improved terms in London. A loan of £5,000,000 issued at 95, bearing interest at a nominal rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, and an actual rate of £4 17s. 3d. per cent, was raised by the Government of New South Wales in 1922. The extent of the improvement is apparent from the rise in the price of Consols, which had been quoted at 44 and rose to 58½ in May, 1923, while New South Wales 3 per cent. stocks recovered from 58 to 82. The recovery of trade was further facilitated by a marked improvement in the exchange between London and New York.

Following upon the political crisis of December, 1921, general elections were held in March, 1922, and a change of Government was effected. The policy of the new administration included the abolition of all restrictions on trade and industry, reintroduction of a 48-hour working week, and land settlement.

1922-1923.

The depression which followed the post-war boom had passed its worst phase by the middle of 1922—nearly two years after the fall in values had commenced. More stability appeared in foreign markets, which influenced local prices through imports and exports alike. An improvement in primary production in 1921-22 increased the effective purchasing power of the State and it was further strengthened as time passed, by the rising value of wool and the increasing production of butter.

In the latter part of 1922 the level of commodity prices in New South Wales assumed temporary stability at about 60 per cent. above the level of 1914, but a further rise in 1923 established a new level 67 per cent. above that of 1914. Trade rapidly adjusted itself to the new basis, wages and profits became steady with a tendency to rise, the velocity of exchange increased, and employment improved, but a cautious spirit continued in investment.

A further improvement in the rates of exchange with America, toward the end of 1922, facilitated trade, but the continental exchanges, notably with ex-enemy countries, and with France and Belgium, receded further from parity. Trade with the principal ex-enemy countries was resumed on 1st August, 1922, and elaborate legislative provision was made to prevent the sale of imported goods produced under the advantage of depreciated exchanges at prices ruinous to the competition of local manufacturers. During 1922-23 the value of machinery and textiles imported amounted to nearly £16,500,000, but despite the increased value of wool exported the value of exports declined, owing to the smallness of the wheat crop. The revival in oversea trade, which was already occurring as exchanges improved, was stimulated further by the reduction of freights on ocean

cargoes. This revival was evident in the steady increase in shipping after the war until, in 1922, the tonnage of vessels entering the ports of the State was equal to that of 1913, when it had reached a maximum.

It is probable that the return of prosperity deferred the fall in the rates of interest which would probably have accompanied a decline in profits. As it was, money accumulated rapidly in trading-banks at fixed deposit and Government stocks and other stable investments came into demand to such an extent that within twelve months their prices on the Stock Exchange rose by 7 per cent. The strength of the demand for well-established investments was indicated early in 1923 when a 5½ per cent. loan of £1,000,000 at par issued by the Rural Bank attracted applications for four times the amount required. At the same time a Commonwealth loan of £5,000,000 at 5 per cent. for ten years, issued at 96 in London, was fully subscribed.

The tendency to revert to normal conditions in trade and finance was accompanied by a decrease in speculative enterprise. In 1922 the volume of company promotion was not greater than before the war. However, building operations in the metropolis, which had slackened owing to high costs, increased very rapidly during the latter part of 1922, and the total value of buildings completed during the year (£8,755,000) was greater than in any previous year. The amount of building in other parts of the State was comparatively small. In regard to public works, the construction of the city and suburban electric railway was re-commenced in February, 1922, after an interval of four and a half years, and Parliamentary sanction was given in November to the erection of a bridge across Sydney Harbour.

Despite the building activity in the metropolitan area, the house shortage remained, and rents continued to rise throughout 1922. The continued decline in prices, however, was such that the cost of living decreased, and the reduction of the living wage to £3 18s. became operative in the latter part of 1922, but no actual reduction ensued in the standard of living from this cause, as the average effective wage-rate of the year remained 14 per cent. above that of 1911. However, it was reflected in the deposits in Savings Banks, of which the total showed very little increase after June, 1922, while the average amount per depositor declined slightly. In May, 1923, in consequence of a slight rise in prices, the living wage was increased by 1s. per week to £3 19s. These adjustments of wages proceeded concurrently with reversion to the 48-hour working-week in most industries where hours had been reduced in 1921, but comparatively little industrial dislocation resulted.

1923-1924.

The steady improvement in the economic position was continued in 1923-24, and though markets proved buoyant, the stability of prices was maintained. The dislocation of business passed away and unemployment decreased steadily. Wages, after a decline in 1922, advanced slightly in 1923, and although there was a rise in the cost of living, the index number of the average effective wage of the year remained 7 per cent. above the level of 1911. The living wage, fixed at £4 2s. in September, 1923, remained unaltered throughout 1924. Concurrently the earnings of public companies increased, and although the unusually high profits of 1920-21 were not reached, the improvement over 1921-22 was very pronounced. There was a slight diminution in the return from gilt-edged securities, but the value of industrial stocks rose appreciably.

In the latter part of 1923 a rapid transformation occurred in the banking position. Deposits in ordinary trading banks fell from an average of £93,000,000 in June quarter to £89,000,000 in December quarter, while

advances rose from £84,000,000 to £89,100,000. But an increase in deposits in March quarter and a decrease in both advances and deposits in June quarter, 1924, restored the position to normal. The operations of local banks and the provision of credit were hampered considerably by the accumulation of large Australian balances in London, which, in view of the restrictions upon the movement of gold, could be transferred and applied to local requirements only with very great difficulty. Indeed, the cost of exchange placed a heavy impost upon the marketing of Australian products abroad, it being estimated that this cost in the early part of 1924 amounted in some cases to 3 per cent. of the value of the produce. While it was recognised that the situation was to some degree remediable only by reversion to the free movement of gold, several schemes to ameliorate the position were proposed. The situation had become acute by the middle of 1924 and credits for developmental and other purposes not providing a speedy turnover were closely restricted.

The general volume of business as indicated by the returns of the banks' clearing-house expanded continuously and complaints were frequently made that the amount of currency was not sufficient to permit the convenient conduct of business. Indeed, the ratio of bank deposits to inter-bank clearings showed a steady increase, indicating a gradual acceleration in the velocity of exchange. Nevertheless, the issue of Australian notes was not increased, it being held that such a step would tend to cause inflation.

The main factor in the business operations of the year was the high value of wool, for, although the quantity received into store indicated a decline in the production for 1923-24, the value of wool sold at Sydney auctions was nearly £21,500,000, a sum £2,500,000 greater than in 1922-23. The average price realised for greasy wool was approximately 150 per cent. higher than in pre-war years.

But the other rural industries were adversely affected by bad seasons and low prices, so that the returns from them contributed little to the improvement of economic conditions. Still, the manufacturing industry continued to expand, and operations in the building trades were very active both in the construction of dwellings and in the erection of large structures in Sydney. However, most of the activity in secondary industries was in the metropolitan area.

Although industrial conditions were not wholly unfavourable to the promotion of sectional interests by direct action, the sphere of industry was unusually peaceful. In 1923 there was not one strike or lock-out of considerable magnitude in non-mining industries and the mining industry itself was disturbed by only one strike of importance. It is noteworthy that wages have become only a subsidiary cause of strikes, being responsible for only one-fifth of the dislocations of the past five years. Disputes connected with trade union principles have been responsible for nearly half the total time lost. Disputes as to working conditions have involved more workers than any other single cause, and have caused more than one quarter of the total dislocations, while disputes as to hours of employment have involved the loss of as many working days as those concerning wages.

In the farming portions of the community active steps were taken to promote organisations to improve the conditions of rural life and to render rural industries more attractive. The fruitgrowers, especially those producing citrus fruits, resorted to co-operation with a view to effecting economies in the distribution of their product, grading it, and developing new markets. Agricultural bureaux continued to flourish and gradually extended their operations in co-operative buying. The scheme of stabilisation in connection with the dairying industry was definitely carried into the Federal

sphere and a bill was drafted to give it legal sanction. The decline in the meat industry led to action being taken by the State in association with other States and the Commonwealth, with a view to providing a new stimulus to the industry through a Meat Industry Encouragement Act, which gave power to a Federal organisation to impose a levy upon pastoralists to defray expenditure for advancement of meat production. At the close of 1923 the law of co-operation was completely amended and modernised, and a legal basis was provided for rural credits and community settlement.

In addition, a new policy of rural development was put into operation. Executive sanction was given in a general way to measures for improving the conditions of rural life. The problem of closer settlement was approached from a new angle, and many large landholders were given facilities for subdividing their holdings and selling them in smaller areas. An agreement was made whereby the Victorian Government undertook the extension of three lines of railway into the south-western parts of the State, where considerable new settlement was at once promoted. By an agreement with the Governments of the Commonwealth and Queensland, authority was given to construct a standard gauge connecting Grafton and Brisbane.

The question of establishing new States in various parts of New South Wales, which had been a source of agitation for years, was referred to a Royal Commission for inquiry and report. This Commission reported that the creation of the proposed new States was not desirable at the present time.

1924-25.

In the latter part of 1924 there occurred a pronounced change in the seasonal factors which exercise a dominant influence upon the productivity of the rural industries of the State, and, as these factors continued to operate very favourably, the season 1924-25 proved to be one of the most bountiful in the history of New South Wales. The production of butter far exceeded all previous records, and for wheat and wool, the two largest of the staple products, there was both a largely augmented yield and a considerable improvement in market prices. As a consequence, the value of production from these three items, which represent nearly two-thirds of the value of all production from rural industries, increased by approximately £15,000,000, or nearly 40 per cent.

Such a development naturally provided a powerful stimulus to the whole commerce and trade of the State, the most direct consequence being an increase in exports. The value of goods shipped oversea reached the record total of £60,580,000, and exceeded the average for the three preceding years by one-third. The total national income was also increased considerably. Direct evidence of the increase caused in 1923-24, when the seasonal and market factors operated less favourably than in 1924-25, was given by the fact that, although the rate of tax on the incomes of individuals was decreased by from 10 to 25 per cent., the net yield of the income tax remained practically undiminished. In 1925-26 the rate of tax remained unaltered, but the statutory deduction was raised from £250 to £300, and certain additional deductions were allowed. Nevertheless the yield of the tax, which was imposed on income derived in 1924-25, increased by more than 11 per cent., indicating a marked expansion in the amount of taxable income. This expansion was the more pronounced because the number of incomes taxed decreased from 123,600 to 86,400. At the same time there was a pronounced increase in the deposits in trading banks, and more especially in the deposits bearing interest. The amount of deposits exceeded by far any total previously attained, and the excess of deposits over advances during

the first half of 1925 was more than £13,000,000—a margin greater than had been recorded at any time since the early years of the war. Although a decrease of £1,250,000 occurred in savings bank deposits in the latter half of 1924 (apparently through withdrawals for investment in Government loans) this was all regained in the first half of 1925, and an additional £500,000 was placed to the credit of depositors over and above interest added to accounts by the bank.

The volume of business as indicated by inter-bank clearings had been increasing steadily since 1922, but in 1924-25 there was an acceleration in expansion. The monetary value of clearings represented an increase of £55,000,000, or nearly 7 per cent. more than in 1923-24. The condition of trade and industry also showed sustained improvement and, while the ratio of profits distributed by public companies increased slightly, there was a substantial rise in the proportion of profits placed to reserve. This proportion had been increasing steadily since 1922, and had the effect of strengthening resources and stimulating expansion in industrial and commercial enterprises. Unfortunately a serious break occurred in the prices of wool and wheat in the early part of 1925, and for a time markets were in a stagnant condition. The resultant uncertainty caused a check to the rising prosperity and the year did not bring a complete realisation of the sanguine hopes with which it commenced. One effect of this check was apparent in the reduction in the ratio of trading bank deposits to inter-bank clearings, in the first half of 1925, as compared with the latter half of 1924. Nevertheless, the total volume of inter-bank clearings for the first half of 1925 was greater than at any previous time, and the ratio of deposits to clearings exceeded that of any half-year except that which immediately preceded it.

Industrial conditions throughout the year were, on the whole, very favourable. Outside the mining industry there was very little industrial dislocation, except for a strike of seamen which commenced in June, 1925. Unemployment, especially in country districts, was inextensive, but toward the middle of the year there was a small increase in unemployment in the metropolitan area, due to depression in the building and engineering trades and to the strike of seamen. The early closing of the wool-selling season also contributed to unemployment in both the metropolitan area and country districts.

Nevertheless there was a considerable increase in the total amount of wages paid in the principal industries, despite a small decline in the average nominal rate of wages. In 1924 a rise of 3 per cent. occurred in the effective rate because the cost of living remained stationary at a level slightly lower than that of the previous year. The effective wage for 1924 was 10 per cent. above the level prevailing in 1911 and 16 per cent. above the average for 1913.

Although minor fluctuations occurred in prices—principally through seasonal causes and special factors affecting individual commodities—the general body of prices proved stable. The cost of living, which had declined appreciably after a rise in 1923-24, remained steady until April, 1925, at about 50 per cent. above the level of 1914, and the index number of wholesale prices continued throughout the year approximately 63 per cent. above the average of 1914.

There were, however, several important minor fluctuations. The prices of agricultural produce and meat (more particularly of mutton) rose appreciably, but the prices of wool, dairy produce, and building materials decreased. The outstanding market change of the year occurred in the price of wool, which, from an average of 23½d. per lb. (greasy) in 1923-24, had risen to 28¾d. per lb. at the largest sale of the season in December, 1924.

Thereafter a sudden and unexpected decline set in, and despite curtailment of offerings, the average price fell rapidly to 18d. per lb. at the closing sale in April, when sales were suspended for the rest of the financial year. Notwithstanding the collapse of the market from boom prices, the average price obtained at the closing sale was 100 per cent. higher than that prevailing before the war, and the average price realised for all greasy wool sold during the year was 25½d. per lb., or 9 per cent. more than the average of the previous year. The total amount received for wool sold in Sydney during 1924-25 was £22,624,000, or £1,179,000 more than in the previous year, while there still remained unsold at the end of the year 171,700 bales. When auctions were resumed in July, 1925, the prices realised were slightly higher than at the sales in April.

These violent market fluctuations and the disorganisation caused in marketing the wool clip led wool-growers to give renewed consideration to the creation of an organisation to market wool on co-operative lines. While a representative conference of wool-growers rejected the first scheme submitted to them, they appointed a special committee to evolve a scheme for the control of the sale of wool by the graziers through an expert committee. In taking this step the wool-growers were following the example set by producers in other branches of primary production. The board for the encouragement of the meat industry entered actively upon its duties during the year, and boards to control the marketing overseas of butter, cheese and dried fruits were set up under authority of Federal laws. These boards consisted mainly of representatives of producers. An Export Guarantee Act was also passed to provide means whereby the Commonwealth Government might advance up to 80 per cent. of the value of produce exported overseas through such boards. Although these arrangements were under Government auspices, they were made on the urgent representations of organisations of producers which desired to obtain co-ordination of effort more quickly and more effectively than was possible through purely voluntary organisation.

The marketing difficulties with which producers had to contend had been accentuated by the continued adverse movement of exchange with London due to the heavy flow of exports and the favourable prices realised. Australian funds had steadily accumulated in London since 1922, and in the latter half of 1924 reached such heights that the banks temporarily lost control of the exchanges, and for a time the cost of transferring funds to Australia exceeded 5 per cent. This constituted a heavy burden on the returns received by exporters of Australian produce, notwithstanding that it caused a corresponding reduction in payments for goods imported. In October the Commonwealth Bank made available temporarily additional currency where needed and agreed with the associated banks to inaugurate a scheme for the partial pooling of exchange facilities. By these means a measure of stability was brought about. Further relief was afforded from December onwards, when, as a result of the appreciation of the English pound in terms of the dollar and the continuance of the premium on the Australian pound in terms of the English pound, it became profitable to import gold to Australia from the United States and other countries in which no export embargo existed. The first shipment of gold was received in January, and during the first four months of 1925 no less than £6,000,000 worth of gold was imported into New South Wales from overseas. Although these measures eased the situation, it was not until the removal of the embargo on the export of gold from the United Kingdom and from Australia simultaneously at the end of April that the exchanges were restored to virtual parity. At the same time a considerable reduction was made by the banks in the margin between their buying and selling rates of exchange.

These developments proved to be a substantial relief to Australian exporters, and, insofar as the conditions of markets caused the benefit to be transferred to the producers in the form of higher prices, a stimulus was given to production for export. The saving on exchange was particularly valuable in the beef export trade, which had been struggling against adverse market conditions since 1921, because costs of marketing absorbed a very high proportion of the value of frozen beef in London.

While the exchange difficulties continued it was frequently urged that the troubles were accentuated by public borrowings abroad, but, although this was true in the sense that it applied to all transactions requiring the transmission of funds from London to Australia, there remained the fact that from the time when the dislocation in exchanges commenced in the middle of 1922 until the end of 1924 the net amount of public loans raised abroad by Australian Governments was £47,800,000, and the amount transmitted abroad as interest and other charges on the public debt was £68,300,000, so that actually the net result of transactions in connection with the public debt tended to relieve the tension of the exchanges. Nevertheless, endeavours were made to restrict Government borrowings on the London market, and the only new loan placed abroad during the year by the Government of New South Wales was one for £6,500,000 in May, 1925, at a price yielding £5 1s. 9d. to investors. There were, however, other reasons for the State refraining from borrowing abroad, principal among which was the temporary depletion of the London lending market. In addition, an endeavour was made to limit borrowing on local markets, and for its loan expenditure for 1924-25 the State relied to a great extent on the very favourable state of the ledger balances.

The difficult position in respect of public borrowing brought about by the state of the exchanges, the depletion of London lending funds, and the desire, as far as possible, to leave local supplies of money for investment in industrial expansion led to concerted action being taken by the Governments of the States and Commonwealth through a joint Loan Council to restrict all borrowings. Where it was found necessary to borrow locally, joint loans were floated in order to avoid such competition as would cause an increase in the rate of interest. In furtherance of this policy, a joint loan was raised in Australia in September and October, 1924, for the sum of £10,300,000, from which New South Wales received approximately £2,900,000. The actual yield to investors in this loan, calculated on the latest date of repayment, was £6 4s. per cent. A further loan for £5,400,000, yielding £6 2s. 9d. was raised under the same arrangement in March, 1925, but in this New South Wales did not participate. Early in 1925 the customary rate at which advances were made was reduced by the ordinary trading banks to 6½ per cent. Evidence that loanable funds were accumulating locally during the first half of 1925 was afforded by the increase in fixed deposits in trading banks, and by a steady increase in the market prices of Government securities on the Stock Exchange. It was calculated that, between February and June, the average yield to the investor in eight typical Government stocks decreased from about 6 per cent. to 5½ per cent. In July a joint States and Commonwealth loan for £20,000,000 (in which again New South Wales did not participate) was floated simultaneously in London and New York at a price yielding approximately £5 1s. 9d. per cent. to investors, and, following upon the success of this loan, the terms of the Commonwealth conversion loan of approximately £67,000,000 of 4½ per cent. tax-free war loans was placed on the local market at a price calculated to yield 5½ per cent. to investors, subject to Federal income-tax. Throughout the year the rate of interest on deposits fixed for two years was maintained by the banks at 5 per cent.

In view of the exigencies of the financial situation opportunity was taken to reorganise the Commonwealth Bank of Australia by placing it under the control of a board of experts, entrusting to it the control of the issue of Australian notes, and conferring on it some additional functions of a central bank in respect of the settlement of inter-bank balances.

Near the close of the financial year the State Parliament expired by effluxion of time, and at the elections held at the end of May, 1925, there was a change of Government, and a Labour Ministry assumed office upon a policy which included restoration of the 44-hour working week, the granting of pensions to widows, and a body of industrial legislation.

1925-26.

Although the rainfall in the north-western pastoral areas and in the agricultural districts was not so bountiful as in the preceding season, conditions were on the whole very favourable to rural industries. The wool production increased by 9 per cent., and exceeded a total of 400,000,000 lb. for the second time in the history of the State. The factory output of butter exceeded 100,000,000 lb. for the second year in succession, and was greater than for any previous season except that which immediately preceded it. The wheat crop was equal to the average.

Ample rains fell in the first nine months of 1926, and gave promise of a maintenance of production at the high level that had been reached in dairying and agriculture, and of a large increase in the wool clip. The stability of prices at comparatively favourable levels stimulated confidence in the future.

A preliminary examination of a proportion of factory returns for 1925-26 showed that appreciable expansion had taken place in their operations, and, in conjunction with other data, suggested that secondary industries had shared in the general increase in business activity. Constructional work in the building trade also increased, and a gratifying feature of the increase was the pronounced expansion that occurred in country districts.

With this sound industrial foundation it is not surprising that prosperity was reflected almost generally throughout those statistics accepted as providing an indication of business conditions and of the economic well-being of the population.

Though the cost of living increased between the early part of 1925 and the middle of 1926, the increase was due mainly to the rise in prices for butter and wheat from which the rural industries were benefiting in oversea markets, also to a rise in the prices of eggs and milk. As the periodical declaration of the living wage was delayed pending a fuller investigation of the standard of living, wages lagged slightly behind the rising cost of living, but the average effective wage still remained considerably above the level of 1911.

Deposits in savings banks showed larger increases than had been apparent for several years, and the increase in the number of depositors accelerated. Unemployment diminished. The marriage rate, which is an accepted index of prosperity, rose appreciably, and the steady gain of population by migration continued. Industrial dislocations due to disputes were of small extent outside the mining and shipping industries. But a protracted dispute concerning a reduction in wages in British ships held up a large part of the oversea shipping trade during the third quarter of 1925, and many coastal and interstate vessels were idle during part of August and September through a dispute as to working conditions. Disputes in the coal-mining industry led to a number of small dislocations during 1925 and in the early part of 1926, but in the middle of the latter year considerable time was lost owing to disputes.

The outstanding developments of the year, however, were the fall in interest rates, the continued increase in profits of public companies, the steady rise in the prices of stocks and shares, the rapid increase in bank deposits, the expansion of transactions represented by bank clearings, the maintenance of confidence on the part of the investing public indicated by the tone of the Stock Exchange, and the large supply of money for investment at reduced rates of interest.

The sharp decline which had occurred in the yield to investors in Government stocks on the Stock Exchange during the first half of 1925 became general in nearly all shares in 1925-26. The average yield from fifty-five typical stocks and shares fell from 6·1 per cent. at the end of March, 1925, to 5·6 per cent. at the beginning of July, 1926, when the average yield to investors in Government stocks was 5·2 per cent., as compared with 6 per cent. at the beginning of February, 1925. These developments being accompanied by general increases in the earning power of public companies, taken as a whole, gave evidence of very healthy financial conditions. Concurrently the rapid increase in deposits in trading banks continued, and the record total of £130,000,000 was reached in June quarter, 1926, having grown by successive annual increases of £9,100,000 and £9,300,000. A very significant feature of this growth was that, despite a large falling off in the volume of money available from the sale of primary products, the aggregate bank deposits not only maintained the large increase that occurred in 1924-25, but expanded more than in that year of unexcelled bounty. Added to this, the amount of inter-bank clearings showed an increase of nearly £53,000,000, or more than 6 per cent., over 1924-25.

Offsetting these favourable developments in some measure was a decline in the value of merchandise exported oversea from £60,500,000 in 1924-25 to £50,800,000 in 1925-26. This decrease was due mainly to the diminution in the wheat crop; but was contributed to also by a falling off in the export of butter and lead. Although the price of wool had declined, the value exported was maintained by a carry-over of approximately one-sixth of the clip of the previous year. But, despite the decline from the high level reached in 1924-25, the value of exports of merchandise in 1925-26 was 15 per cent. greater than the average of the three years ending in June, 1924. The imports of merchandise oversea in the year 1925-26 showed a continuance of the steady increase that had been proceeding during the previous two years. An outstanding feature of the oversea trade of the State was the large movements of gold. In 1925-26 gold specie to the value of £3,100,000 was re-exported to America, whence a large quantity had been imported in the previous year to meet the special exchange difficulties that had existed in the early part of 1925. These difficulties having been satisfactorily overcome, it became unnecessary to retain gold in excess of normal requirements, and the large export resulted.

Changes of far-reaching importance were made in the industrial system during the year. The State scheme of industrial arbitration was completely remodelled, and an Industrial Commission, with exclusive and final jurisdiction over industrial matters, was appointed, with subsidiary Conciliation Committees to deal with groups of industries, thereby replacing the State Courts of Industrial Arbitration.

As from 1st January, 1926, the ordinary working hours in all industries, except coal-mining and the rural industries, were fixed at forty-four per week, but this Act was subsequently held by the High Court of Australia to be inapplicable to workers operating under Federal awards. Toward the middle of the year the Commonwealth Arbitration Court commenced a general inquiry into the matter of working hours.

These fundamental changes were supplemented by the introduction of a scheme of widows' pensions as from 10th March, 1926, and by an Act extending the scope and increasing the amount of compensation payable to the victims of industrial accidents. The new Act came into force from 1st July, 1926, and the operations of the Government Insurance Department were extended to embrace the transaction of business with the general public covering liabilities for the compensation of injured workers under this Act and at common law. A considerable increase was at first announced in premium rates, but, as new experience was gained, confidence increased and substantial reductions were effected.

Continued activity was displayed by primary producers in dealing with the problem of marketing. The number of rural co-operative societies steadily increased. A far-reaching scheme was introduced in regard to oversea export and the limitation of interstate competition in butter. The initial success of this scheme encouraged the formulation of similar plans in regard to cheese, and steps were taken to organise more closely the marketing of bacon. A new association was organised among poultry-farmers, with a co-operative society for the marketing of produce. Special endeavours were made by co-operative marketing bodies to export large quantities of eggs in order to lift their depressing influence from the local markets. The wheat pool practically ceased to function, as it received only three-quarters of a million bushels of grain. This result was probably not unconnected with the favourable prices offering for wheat, and the tardiness of the realisation and payments under the conditions which had governed previous pools. Owing to the objections of landholders affected by the compulsory levy, the Australian Meat Council and its subsidiary bodies ceased to function, but steps were taken to bring about a new organisation to improve methods of marketing meat.

In September, 1926, a conference of producer and consumers was convened by the Government at Bathurst, with a view to disseminating education on the problem of marketing, to discuss the spread of prices between producer and consumer, and to formulate improved schemes of marketing products. The conference proved very successful, and agreed upon a number of important resolutions, which were taken into consideration by the Government with a view to providing legislative and governmental assistance in improving marketing conditions.

RURAL SETTLEMENT.

Spread of Settlement.

SOME knowledge of the history of settlement in New South Wales is necessary, to a proper understanding of the present position in regard to rural settlement, and the following brief summary is designed to show how it has arisen.

Population spread very slowly during the first forty years which succeeded the foundation of the colony. Settlement was confined at first to coastal lands accessible from Sydney, and it was not until 1813 that a way was found across the Great Dividing Range to the fertile plains of the west. But even after that discovery, population was not sufficient for some years to promote a rapid spread of settlement despite the growing flocks of sheep which required new pastures. Even by 1830 the area settled did not extend more than 200 miles in any direction, and the boundaries within which settlers were allowed to select land embraced only 22,083,000 acres. But the steady infiltration of population, which occurred after 1815, placed an increasing strain upon the capacity of the settled region to supply a ready livelihood, and with the arrival of assisted immigrants in increasing numbers after 1828, certain bold and lawless spirits occupied extensive lands with their sheep beyond the arbitrary legal boundaries, in defiance of authority. This practice was termed "squatting."

Such occupation was at first illegal for another reason, namely, that until 1831 the use of land could be obtained only by grant from the Governor on special conditions. Unsuccessful attempts were made to dispossess the "squatters" until 1832, when their right to remain was recognised, and grazing leases were granted at fixed rentals. At the same time an Imperial Act of 1831 provided for the sale of Crown lands in the colony at a fixed price of 5s. per acre with a nominal quit-rent. Thus the way was cleared for rural settlement, a more rapid flow of immigration began, and a boom in settlement occurred, with the attendant evils of land traffic. This boom did not end until the price of Crown land had been raised to 12s. per acre in 1839, and further to 20s. per acre in 1842 (where it remained until 1895). The system of free grants was terminated in 1840. By that year nearly 6,000,000 acres of land had been alienated, of which approximately one-third had been sold. In addition, extensive areas were occupied as grazing leases.

The system of selling land was replaced by that of leasing, and the spread of settlement became more rapid. The State was divided arbitrarily into three districts—settled, intermediate, and unsettled—which remained until 1884. Leases were granted upon tender for areas of 25 square miles in the intermediate districts and 50 square miles in the unsettled districts. The grant in the intermediate districts carried the right to purchase 1 square

nile in every 25 square miles leased. Under this system, practically the whole of the State was speedily occupied in extensive "runs," for the possession of which competition, not without malpractices, was very keen.

Although a steady flow of immigrants was maintained the population numbered only 178,668 in 1851, when the gold rushes commenced, bringing a rapid influx of eager fortune-hunters. By 1861 the gold fever was subsiding, and the number of inhabitants of the State had increased to 357,978. Men now began to seek anxiously for land on which to settle, and found it occupied in extensive runs held on lease and not available for purchase, except by the holders, in limited areas. The remedy applied by Parliament was expressed in the famous principle "free selection before survey," introduced in 1861. Grave abuses arose in the bitter conflict which resulted between the competitors for land, and holdings were selected without classification and regardless of public interest. But a real development of rural settlement now occurred, and, before the Act expired in 1884, the population had reached 904,980, the State was occupied in pastoral holdings of varying sizes and had begun to assume importance as a principal source of the wool supply of the world. More than 35,000,000 acres were alienated, or in course of alienation—of which 28,000,000 acres were sold between 1861 and 1884—and practically the whole of the remaining area of the State suitable for occupation was leased definitely for varying periods.

The Land Problem.

The nature of the demand for land now changed. A decline in the prices realised for wool, the increase in wheat-growing for export, and the growth of the dairying industry and mixed farming to supply oversea markets with butter and mutton, after the application of refrigeration to sea cargoes, led to a new and more intense development in rural settlement. In view of the immense areas of lands alienated and leased a difficult problem arose to which the Legislature has since devoted a large amount of attention.

Practically the whole State was occupied, the great proportion of the land being in large holdings with more or less stable tenure, and the problem of development assumed the form of re-settlement.

The State was divided into three new districts—Eastern, Central, and Western—and into Land Board districts in 1884 for purposes of administration. In 1895 the principles of classification of lands, survey before selection, one man one selection, and *bona fide* selection were introduced. Special provision for financial assistance to settlers was made in 1899, and in 1903 the closer settlement policy was entered upon whereby the State repurchased suitable lands, subdivided them, and sold "living areas" to settlers on easy terms. The Murrumbidgee irrigation project was initiated in 1906, aiming to provide more than 5,000 farms.

Meanwhile, alienation of Crown lands continued. In 1912 a number of leasehold tenures were introduced, but, in 1916, the right to convert certain leases into freehold tenures was extended. By June, 1925, more than 84,000,000 acres of land in the Eastern and Central Divisions had passed out of control of the Crown, and extensive areas were leased for long terms. The experience of settlers in the Western Division has been such that very little of that immense area comprising 80,318,708 acres may be considered available for intensive settlement. The total area of the State, including the Federal Territory, Lord Howe Island, and the area covered by water

is 198,638,080 acres. If allowance be made for the large reserves necessary for public purposes, the lands unfit for occupation, and the area occupied by water, towns, roads, and railways, a surprisingly small area of land within range of practical rural settlement now remains within the disposal of the Crown.

The available Crown lands are being opened for settlement, classified according to the purpose for which they are suitable, and the extensions of the railway system and the development of projects for conserving water for irrigation is tending to increase the capacity of certain parts of the State to maintain settlement. It is recognised, however, that future needs will have to be met mainly by the subdivision of private estates. Details relating to the tenure under which lands are now held, the area available for settlement, and the resumption by the Crown of private estates for closer settlement, are shown in the following chapter entitled "Land Settlement."

Since 1923 it has been the practice of the Department of Lands to register persons who are applicants for land. Up to 30th June, 1925, the number registered was 4,047.

Use of term "Alienated Land."

In collecting statistical returns relating to agricultural and pastoral holdings, the term "alienated land" is intended to relate to lands absolutely alienated, lands in course of alienation, homestead selections and homestead farms embraced within rural holdings one acre or more in extent. These tenures include practically the whole of the land alienated and virtually alienated, the only considerable omission being settlement purchases which, it would appear, are probably included by the collectors as "alienated land" together with conditional purchases embraced by the definition. The term "alienated land" used throughout this chapter refers to the area so returned by individual landholders, and it does not, therefore, correspond to lands absolutely alienated for which deeds of purchase have been issued. This area has been shown as land absolutely alienated in the chapter entitled "Land Legislation and Settlement," which follows.

RURAL HOLDINGS.

The land of New South Wales which is occupied in rural holdings consists either of alienated lands, lands in course of alienation, leased Crown lands, or various combinations of these tenures, while a considerable area remains as Crown reserves. At 30th June, 1925, the number of agricultural and pastoral holdings of 1 acre or more in extent was 78,893, including 1,169 unoccupied or not used for agricultural or pastoral purposes at that date, and 1,994 used only incidentally for such purposes. These holdings embraced a total area of 172,550,000 acres.

The area of land neither alienated nor leased from the Crown—18,000,000 acres—does not represent the area of unoccupied land available for settlement. It includes the land unfit for occupation of any kind—estimated to be approximately 5,000,000 acres in extent; land embraced in State forests and not otherwise occupied; unoccupied reserves for necessary public purposes, such as commons, travelling stock and water reserves; roadways; railway enclosures; and unoccupied land covered by water or too rugged or arid for occupation. Such lands are situated mainly in the coastal and tableland divisions, but smaller proportions are found in all divisions.

Purposes for which Holdings are Used.

The problem of rural development in New South Wales relates largely to the task of settling men permanently on the land as productive units of the population. In addition to human factors, this problem is complicated by the variations of seasons and of markets, which determine largely the profitableness of rural pursuits. An approximate classification of the main purposes for which rural holdings of 1 acre and upwards were used is available for each year since 1908, and provides the following comparison which shows at intervals the distribution of rural settlement according to purposes:—

Main purpose for which holdings are used.	Number of Holdings.					
	1908.	1911-12.	1915-16.	1921-22.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Agriculture only	7,244	6,814	10,856	11,468	11,643	11,510
Dairying only	3,575	3,157	6,074	9,092	9,191	9,499
Grazing only	21,874	22,011	23,497	25,438	25,354	25,218
Agriculture and Dairying ...	8,377	8,258	5,641	5,214	5,561	5,919
Agriculture and Grazing ...	18,733	21,969	20,895	18,758	18,773	18,399
Dairying and Grazing	1,818	2,099	1,402	2,342	1,969	1,766
Agriculture, Dairying, and Grazing	3,312	4,362	1,537	1,818	1,756	1,990
Poultry, Pig, or Bee Farming ...	529	879	1,256	1,453	1,399	1,429
Total Holdings of 1 acre and upwards used mainly for Agricultural and Pastoral purposes	65,462	69,549	71,158	75,583	75,646	75,730

In addition, a considerable number of small holdings—usually less than 30 acres in extent—were used partly for agricultural and pastoral purposes, but mainly for residential and other purposes, or were unoccupied at the time of collecting the returns. They numbered 3,163 in 1924-25.

While the above table does not indicate the actual number of settlers occupying the land—because some holdings are held conjointly, and a number of landholders own more than one holding—the figures quoted may be considered a reliable index of the development of settlement.

Despite seasonal variations, there has been a marked increase since 1908 in the number of holdings used exclusively for each of the main pursuits, and the growth has been most marked in the case of dairying and agriculture. It is especially noteworthy that the number of farmers engaged in agriculture only or dairying only has increased, while the number engaged in mixed farming has declined. This tendency has not been so apparent in the last few years. Grazing is still the predominant rural activity, but mixed farming, agriculture, and dairying are of great importance.

Size of Holdings.

Information regarding the size of rural holdings is available in two distinct classifications, one in accordance with the size of the alienated area only, excluding the Crown lands attached thereto, and the other in accordance with the total area of alienated and Crown land contained in each holding. The former is tabulated triennially, the latter annually.

The following table shows in area series as at the 30th June, 1925, the freehold area of holdings and of the Crown lands attached, classified according to the size of the privately-owned land.

Area of Holding alienated.†	Number of Alienated Holdings.	Area Occupied.			Proportion in each area group.	
		Alienated.†	Crown Lands Attached to Alienated.†	Total.	Holdings.	Alienated Land.†
acres.		acres.	acres.	acres.	per cent.	per cent.
1— 50 ..	14,192	322,159	2,041,037	2,363,196	19·7	0·5
51— 100 ...	7,531	584,594	1,676,500	2,261,094	10·5	0·9
101— 500 ...	25,741	6,745,696	10,789,393	17,535,089	35·8	10·3
501— 1,000 ..	11,411	8,069,481	12,160,145	20,229,626	15·9	12·4
1,001— 3,000 ...	9,285	15,413,724	17,418,840	32,832,564	12·9	23·6
3,001— 5,000 ...	1,684	6,492,551	8,764,989	15,257,540	2·3	10·0
5,001— 10,000 ...	1,260	8,629,240	7,476,792	16,106,032	1·8	13·9
10,001— 20,000 ...	524	7,240,069	6,240,419	13,480,488	0·7	11·1
20,001— 50,000 ...	214	6,374,610	3,387,442	9,762,052	0·3	9·8
50,001— 100,000 ...	38	2,666,791	433,374	3,100,165	0·1	4·1
Over 100,000 ...	21	2,670,497	1,043,769	3,714,266	...	4·1
Total*... ..	71,901	65,209,412	71,432,700	136,642,112	100·0	100·0

* Exclusive of 6,992 holdings, embracing 35,907,736 acres of Crown lands only. † See explanation page 749.

The maximum area allowed for a residential conditional purchase is 1,280 acres in the Eastern Land Division and 2,560 acres in the Central Land Division. The table shows, therefore, that the number of holdings in excess of a living area is very considerable and that they embrace a very large extent of land.

A classification of the holdings according to size, however, does not measure in a reliable manner the scope for increased settlement, owing to the wide variations between the productivity of the various districts. In order to ascertain how far the existence of large alienated holdings is impeding settlement, it would be necessary to consider the quality of the holdings concerned, the rainfall, situation in respect of market and transport facilities and other matters which determine the productivity and profitable use of land.

The following table shows for each statistical division of the State the number and area of holdings in area series, based on the aggregate area of alienated and Crown land in each holding at 30th June, 1925. The boundary between the Eastern and Central Land Divisions passes through the Western Slopes Division as shown on the map in the frontispiece of this Year Book:—

Size of Holding (Alienated and Crown Lands Combined).	Number and Area of Holdings in Divisions.					
	Coastal.	Tablelands.	Western Slopes.	Plains and Riverina.	Western Division.	Whole State.
Acres:						
Under 51	No. ... 8,804	2,661	2,032	1,719	227	15,443
	Acres ... 185,982	64,866	51,433	37,006	4,125	343,412
51- 100	No. ... 4,579	1,396	978	850	34	7,337
	Acres ... 358,434	106,821	73,544	25,394	2,812	567,005
101- 500	No. ... 13,803	4,670	4,276	1,951	79	24,779
	Acres ... 3,244,216	1,268,140	1,324,258	603,422	20,373	6,460,409
501- 1,000	No. ... 2,668	2,635	4,169	2,238	66	11,776
	Acres ... 1,860,046	1,902,839	2,976,786	1,602,340	45,714	8,387,725
1,001- 3,000	No. ... 1,847	3,375	4,103	2,716	75	12,116
	Acres ... 2,934,473	5,732,216	7,065,702	4,897,215	125,676	20,755,282
3,001- 5,000	No. ... 256	725	856	1,039	45	2,921
	Acres ... 979,930	2,744,856	3,283,640	4,130,605	181,658	11,320,689
5,001-10,000	No. ... 151	413	600	992	121	2,277
	Acres ... 1,014,899	2,868,672	4,115,182	6,602,803	949,488	15,551,624
10,001-20,000	No. ... 45	192	183	340	274	1,034
	Acres ... 623,301	2,633,442	2,530,517	4,698,644	3,798,860	14,284,764
20,001-50,000	No. ... 26	70	71	193	387	747
	Acres ... 818,832	1,950,258	2,046,896	6,000,230	12,041,011	22,857,236
Over 50,000	No. ... 8	11	8	92	344	463
	Acres ... 850,127	786,365	760,655	8,583,202	61,041,953	72,022,302
Total	No. ... 32,187	16,148	17,276	11,630	1,652	78,893
	Acres ... 12,870,240	20,058,475	24,228,613	37,180,870	78,211,650	172,549,848
Total Area of Division ... Acres	22,425,000*	26,659,000	28,261,000	40,858,000	80,319,000	198,522,000*

* Excluding area of principal harbours and of Lord Howe Island.

Approximately 47,559, or 60 per cent. of the rural holdings of the State are less than 500 acres in extent, and occupy only 7,370,826 acres, or 4.3 per cent. of the total area used for agricultural and pastoral purposes. Of these, 27,186 are in the coastal districts, 8,727 in the Tablelands Division, 7,286 in the Western Slopes, 4,020 on the plains of the Eastern Division, and 340 in the Western Division. Eighty-four per cent. of the holdings in the Coastal Division are less than 500 acres in extent, but they embrace less than 30 per cent. of the area occupied by rural holdings in the division.

Holdings which exceed more than twice the maximum area prescribed for residential conditional purchases may be considered for purposes of discussion as large holdings. Their suitability for subdivision could be determined only after individual consideration. Holdings exceeding 3,000 acres in extent number 486 in the Coastal Division and embrace 4,287,089 acres, and in the Tableland Division 1,411, embracing 10,983,593 acres. On the Western Slopes there are 862 holdings exceeding 5,000 acres in area, embracing a total of 9,453,250 acres of land, and on the plains of the Central land division (including the Riverina) 1,617 such holdings, embracing a total of 25,884,888 acres. Thus, in the Eastern and Central land divisions 62 per cent. of the total area occupied is contained in 8 per cent. of the holdings. Practically the whole of the land of the Western Division is occupied by 1,005 holdings, exceeding 10,000 acres in extent, embracing 76,881,824 acres; of this area 51,075,760 acres comprise holdings exceeding 100,000 acres in area.

Number of Holdings and Average Area.

In the past sixty years land legislation in New South Wales has been directed principally towards producing an increase in the number of land holdings, and, at the same time, efforts have been made to discourage the aggregation of large areas under individual owners; for, when settlers had spread throughout the State, the existence of large estates began to prove an obstacle to further development.

Since the first Crown Lands Act was passed in 1861 the Legislature has been frequently occupied with the problem of rural development, but only limited success has been achieved in promoting fresh settlement. Many varieties of tenure have been devised, but none has been effective in attracting population to the vast tracts of land in the interior. Large holdings over 5,000 acres in extent have increased, and far more land has been alienated than is necessary to maintain the number of settlers remaining upon it.

The whole story of rural settlement in recent years may be summed up as follows:—Between 1861 and 1920 the number of original selections made was approximately 131,730, and this number does not include such holdings as Suburban, Returned Soldiers' Special, Residential on Goldfields, and Irrigation Farms, which are generally small in extent. At the last-named date there were in existence 61,794 holdings containing over 30 acres of alienated land. Allowing for the number of holdings already in existence in 1861 and remaining in existence in 1920, and for the inclusion in the number of some original selections less than 30 acres in extent, it is clear that more than half of the individual selections made during the period have been disposed of and combined into large holdings either for the profit accruing from the sale, or through the financial or other disabilities of the original selectors.

Omitting holdings of less than 30 acres in extent, which are not important in relation to rural settlement, it is possible to trace from 1881 to 1925 the increase in the number of holdings in relation to the growth of population. This is shown in the following table:—

Year.	Holdings containing over 30 acres of Alienated* Land.			Mean Population.
	Number.	Area.	Average Area.	
		acres.	acres.	
1881	32,521	27,791,076	855	765,015
1891	38,706	41,046,249	1,060	1,142,025
1901	48,360	45,869,742	948	1,366,900
1911	57,089	51,943,846	910	1,665,265
1916	60,435	56,047,062	927	1,893,479
1921	61,505	61,003,468	992	2,108,369
1925	62,475	65,209,412	1,044	2,275,886

* See explanation page 749.

Many of the holdings enumerated above have leases attached to them, but the areas shown relate to alienated land only. Where two or more holdings are owned by the same person they are enumerated separately.

The development of alienation has been slower since 1901 than previously. The relative growth of settlement, alienation, and population may be readily illustrated by reference to index-numbers in which, in each case, the year 1901 is chosen as base and called 100:—

Year.	Index of Holdings containing over 30 acres of Alienated* Land.			Index of Mean Population.
	Number.	Area.	Average Area.	
1881	67	61	90	56
1891	80	90	112	84
1901	100	100	100	100
1911	118	113	96	122
1916	125	122	98	138
1921	127	133	105	154
1925	129	142	110	166

* See explanation page 749.

It is significant that the population has grown at a much faster rate throughout than the number of holdings containing alienated land. This fact is an enlightening commentary on the drift of population from rural to urban settlements.

The number of alienated holdings has increased at a slower rate than the area alienated, and the number of large holdings of alienated land has increased in a marked degree during the past thirty-five years. The increase, however, has not been uniform, and it assumed a new phase in 1912, after the imposition of the Federal Land Tax. The following table, which relates to individual holdings without regard to ownership, shows the number and area of the larger alienated holdings at intervals since 1891:—

Year.	Number of Alienated* Holdings of—			Area of Alienated* Holdings of—		
	5,000 to 20,000 acres.	Over 20,000 acres.	Total, Over 5,000 acres.	5,000 to 20,000 acres.	Over 20,000 acres.	Total, Over 5,000 acres.
1891	865	320	1,185	8,459,384	16,129,163	24,588,547
1901	938	357	1,295	9,286,972	17,203,765	26,490,737
1911	1,081	362	1,443	9,873,180	16,560,215	26,433,395
1921	1,558	301	1,859	13,935,997	12,949,858	26,885,855
1925	1,784	273	2,057	15,869,309	11,711,898	27,581,207

* See explanation page 749.

The Federal Land Tax (particulars of which are published on page 255 of this Year Book) was first imposed in 1910 upon so much of the unimproved value of lands owned by residents of Australia as exceeded £5,000, and upon all lands owned by absentees. The value of land in New South Wales owned by absentees is negligible, and the assessed value of lands held on lease from the Crown is relatively of small account. The incidence of the tax, therefore, has fallen mainly upon large holdings of land absolutely alienated, or lands in course of alienation.

Up to 1911 the increase in the number of large alienated holdings had progressed fairly regularly, but in 1912 there was a decrease from 362 to 335 in the number of alienated holdings exceeding 20,000 acres in area, and an increase from 1,081 to 1,201 in the number between 5,000 acres and 20,000 acres in extent. This change did not produce any reduction in the total area of alienated land contained in these large holdings and, although the number and area of alienated holdings containing more than 20,000

acres have continued to decline at an appreciable rate, the diminution has been offset by an increase since 1911 of 703 in the number, and 5,996,129 acres in the area of alienated holdings between 5,000 acres and 20,000 acres in extent. The total area of alienated land embraced in holdings exceeding 5,000 acres in area was almost stationary between 1901 and 1911, but since 1911 it has increased by nearly 1,148,000 acres.

Tenure of Holdings.

The tenure of land-holdings in New South Wales is principally of two classes—freehold and leasehold from the Crown. Only a small proportion of the total area occupied (approximately 2·1 per cent.) is rented from private owners, although the area held on lease from the Crown is very large. Tenancy, as understood in older countries is, therefore, of small extent, 94·5 per cent. of the total alienated area being occupied by its owners.

The following table shows the area occupied in each division of New South Wales, according to the class of tenure as at 30th June, 1925. Owing to rearrangement of the divisions on the basis of Local Government areas in 1922-23, divisional comparisons cannot be made effectively with figures published in earlier years.

Division.	Area of Alienated* Holdings.			Crown Lands occupied as separate holdings or attached to alienated holdings.	Total Area in Holdings.
	Occupied by Owner.	Private Rented.	Total.		
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
Coastal	8,807,953	1,198,160	9,506,113	3,364,127	12,870,240
Tableland... ..	12,219,739	709,072	12,928,811	7,129,664	20,058,475
Western Slopes	17,987,261	734,830	18,722,091	5,508,522	24,228,613
Central Plains and Riverina	21,419,171	886,459	22,304,630	14,876,240	37,180,870
Western	1,706,731	41,036	1,747,767	76,463,883	78,211,680
New South Wales	61,640,855	3,568,557	65,209,412	107,340,436	172,549,848

*See explanation page 749.

Of the total area occupied, 38 per cent. was classed as freehold, although a considerable proportion of the total was in course of purchase from the Crown, and 62 per cent. was leased from the Crown. Over 71 per cent. of the Crown lands so leased were in the Western Division, and utilised almost exclusively for depasturing stock.

More than one-third of the land privately rented is situated in the Coastal Division, where it amounts to over 12 per cent. of the total area occupied in holdings. These farms are used chiefly for dairying, and the system of renting was subjected to adverse criticism in the report of the Select Committee of Inquiry into the Agricultural Industry in 1921.

The proportions of the total area of the respective divisions, occupied in holdings of various classes are shown in the following table:—

Division.	Area of Alienated* Holdings.			Crown Lands occupied as separate holdings or attached to alienated holdings.	Total Area in Holdings.
	Occupied by Owner.	Private Rented.	Total.		
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Coastal	37·05	5·34	42·39	15·00	57·39
Tableland... ..	45·84	2·65	48·50	26·74	75·24
Western Slopes	63·65	2·60	66·25	19·48	85·73
Central Plains and Riverina	52·42	2·17	54·59	36·41	91·00
Western	2·13	0·05	2·18	95·20	97·38
New South Wales... ..	31·05	1·83	32·85	54·67	86·92

* See explanation page 749.

Slightly less than 87 per cent. of the total area contained within the boundaries of the State is occupied in holdings of 1 acre and upwards, used for agricultural or pastoral purposes. The highest proportion of alienation, 66 per cent. of the area of the division, has taken place in the Western Slopes, and the lowest, 2.2 per cent., in the Western Division. But taking the total area of holdings, the Western Division shows the largest proportion of its area—97.4 per cent.—under occupation. The proportions are high also in the Central Plains and Riverina, 91 per cent., and in the Western Slopes, 85.7 per cent.

If reference be made to the table on page 752 it will be seen that the proportion of lands not used for agricultural and pastoral purposes in each division decreases as the intensity of settlement decreases. At the same time it is apparent that the density of settlement bears an approximate relationship to physical configuration and average rainfall. While the greater intensity of settlement in the more easterly districts necessitates the allocation of larger proportions of land for public purposes, it is undeniable that a very considerable proportion of the remaining Crown land in the Eastern Division is so rugged or wooded as to be unfit or unprofitable for occupation. This is especially the case in the South Coast Division, which in parts is very mountainous, only 42 per cent. of the total area being occupied by rural holdings, as compared with 64 per cent. in the North Coast Division and 66 per cent. in the Hunter and Manning.

Crown Land Holdings.

Crown lands are held, as has been explained, either in conjunction with alienated land or as separate holdings. The total area held in conjunction with alienated lands has been shown already. Particulars of holdings consisting of Crown lands only at 30th June, 1925, were as follow:—

Division.	Number of Holdings.	Area held.	Average area of Holdings.
		acres.	acres.
Coastal	536	461,431	861
Tableland	1,129	1,351,719	1,197
Western Slopes	1,042	1,660,525	1,594
Central Plains and Riverina ...	3,330	5,568,770	1,672
Western... ..	955	26,865,291	28,131
New South Wales	6,992	35,907,736	5,136

By reason of the definition of alienated land used in collecting agricultural and pastoral statistics particulars of holdings containing lands under the tenures of homestead farm or homestead selection are not included in the figures shown above.

The average area of the holdings is comparatively small in the Eastern and Central Land Divisions. In the Western Division, intense settlement has not yet been found practicable, and the area of holdings consisting of Crown lands only is very large.

VALUE OF ALIENATED RURAL LANDS.

The particulars which follow relate to the value, on a freehold basis, of lands absolutely alienated, in course of alienation or held as homestead farms or homestead selections and used for agricultural and pastoral purposes. Information as to the improved and unimproved capital values of such lands was first collected in 1920-21.

The unimproved capital value was defined as being the amount which the land might be expected to realise if sold under such reasonable conditions as a *bona fide* seller would require, assuming that the actual improvements had not been made, and the improved capital value as the value of the land with all improvements and buildings thereon under similar conditions of sale. Where particulars of unimproved value were not available from owners, collectors were instructed to obtain them from the records of Shire Councils, and it is probable that local government assessments were returned as the unimproved value of the whole of the lands, except in the Western Division, where no shires exist.

Where valuations have been made by the Valuer-General it has been found that valuations formerly made for local government purposes were below actual values. In many cases the discrepancy was considerable, and in the aggregate the valuations of shires are probably under-estimated by more than 20 per cent. Since municipal lands are of comparatively small extent, and very few shires assess improved values, particulars of improved capital value were obtained from the owners. The unimproved and improved values as returned, therefore, are not comparable because they are apparently stated upon different bases and represent respectively the shire assessment of the unimproved value of the land and the owner's opinion of the value of the land and its improvements. The value of improvements cannot be deduced from them.

The following table shows in divisions of the State (on the basis of Local Government areas) the distribution of alienated and Crown lands occupied in holdings of one acre and upwards for agricultural and pastoral purposes, together with the total and average value of the alienated lands at 30th June, 1925.

Division.	Alienated* Land in Occupation in Holdings of 1 acre and over.					Area of Crown Land.
	Area.	Unimproved Capital Value of Land.		Improved Capital Value.		
		Total.	Average per acre.	Total.	Average per acre.	
	Acres.	£	£	£	£	Acres.
<i>Coastal</i> —	000.	000.		000.		000.
North Coast ...	3,145	11,616	3·7	34,120	10·8	1,348
Hunter and Manning ...	4,136	9,246	2·2	28,308	6·8	1,347
Metropolitan ...	325	2,877	8·9	6,864	21·1	2
South Coast ...	1,900	4,555	2·4	12,623	6·6	667
Total ...	9,506	28,294	3·0	81,915	8·6	3,364
<i>Tablelands</i> —						
Northern ...	3,726	5,138	1·4	13,255	3·6	2,786
Central ...	5,253	8,178	1·6	23,656	4·5	2,210
Southern ...	3,950	4,598	1·2	14,108	3·6	2,134
Total ...	12,929	17,914	1·4	51,019	4·0	7,130
<i>Western Slopes</i> —						
North ...	5,547	9,792	1·8	22,332	4·0	2,731
Central ...	5,444	7,600	1·4	23,232	4·3	1,347
South ...	7,731	13,622	1·8	42,229	5·5	1,428
Total ...	18,722	31,014	1·7	87,793	4·7	5,506
<i>Plains</i> —						
North-central ...	4,048	5,024	1·2	10,668	2·6	3,561
Central ...	5,711	5,691	1·0	11,956	2·1	7,878
Riverina ...	12,545	18,806	1·5	45,579	3·6	3,437
Total ...	22,304	29,521	1·3	68,203	3·1	14,876
<i>Western Division</i> ...	1,748	881	0·5	2,354	1·3	76,464
<i>Whole State</i> ...	65,209	107,624	1·7	291,284	4·5	107,340

* See explanation, page 749.

Particulars of the rainfall, productivity, and population of each of these divisions are shown on page 761. It will be observed that the average value per acre is closely related to these factors. The alienated lands in the Western Division are situated mainly in its eastern confines, and the value thereof does not afford any indication of the value of the extensive Crown lands situated further west.

Capital Invested in Rural Industries.

The capital value of farm property in New South Wales was approximately £387,938,000 at 30th June, 1925, made up as follows:—

		£
Alienated land and improvements thereto	...	291,284,000
Capitalised value of leases held from Crown	...	13,000,000
Machinery and implements	... ..	14,654,000
Live stock	... ..	69,000,000

Alienated Holdings in Value Series.

The following is a statement of the unimproved value of land in alienated holdings in value series as at 30th June, 1925:—

Alienated Land,† Unimproved Value Series.	No. of Holdings.	Alienated† Area.	Value Unimproved.	Average Value Unim- proved, per acre.	Proportion per cent. of total.		
					Number.	Area.	Unim- proved value.
£		acres.	£	£ s.			
Under 500	31,368	4,898,705	6,546,840	1 7	43.6	7.5	6.1
500 to 1,000	15,936	6,713,431	10,801,520	1 12	20.9	10.3	10.0
1,000 „ 2,000	13,984	10,342,519	19,401,070	1 18	19.5	15.9	18.0
2,000 „ 3,000	4,851	6,211,725	11,569,060	1 17	6.8	9.5	10.8
3,000 „ 5,000	3,243	6,930,552	12,154,250	1 15	4.5	10.6	11.3
5,000 „ 10,000	2,040	8,466,132	13,776,790	1 13	2.8	13.0	12.8
10,000 „ 15,000	633	4,294,885	6,872,300	1 12	.9	6.6	6.4
15,000 „ 20,000	283	3,090,902	4,942,810	1 12	.4	4.7	4.6
20,000 and over	463	14,260,561	21,559,150	1 10	.6	21.9	20.0
Total	71,901*	65,209,412	107,623,790	1 13	100	100	100

* Excludes 6,992 holdings consisting of Crown lands only.

† See explanation, page 749.

A most striking feature of this statement is the very large number of holdings containing alienated land of an unimproved value of less than £500. They number 31,368, or 44 per cent. of the total, and 16,225, or more than one-half of them, are in the coastal districts.

Nearly 22 per cent. of the alienated land is contained in holdings of which the unimproved value exceeds £20,000. There are 3,419 holdings (4·7 per cent. of the total) containing alienated land valued at more than £5,000. They embrace in all 30,112,480 acres of alienated land, valued at £47,151,050, which is 44 per cent. of the total value for the State. It is noteworthy that the average value per acre of large estates is little less than that of smaller areas.

It should be noted, however, that no account is taken of the value of Crown leases attached to alienated holdings, and that where two or more holdings are owned by the same individual they are, unless in close proximity to each other, treated as separate holdings.

Live Stock, and Improved Value in Area Series.

The following statement shows the number of livestock and the improved capital value of alienated holdings in area series as at 30th June, 1925 :—

Area Series (Alienated Land). §	No. of Holdings.	Alienated Land in Holdings.‡		Total Area of Holdings, including Crown Lands.	No. of Sheep at 30th June, 1925.	No. of Cattle at 30th June, 1925.
		Improved Capital Value.	Area.			
Acres.	No.	£ 000.	acres. 000.	acres. 000.	000.	000.
0* ...	6,992*	...	...	35,908	4,221	151
1- 30 ...	9,426	7,565	126	517	55	40
31- 320 ...	30,526	51,781	4,430	13,624	1,635	876
321- 640 ...	12,453	35,145	5,960	15,754	3,005	432
641- 1,280 ...	9,071	40,930	8,899	19,747	5,568	358
1,281- 2,000 ...	3,713	24,518	5,910	12,555	3,982	176
2,001- 3,000 ...	2,371	22,087	5,811	13,024	4,218	144
3,001- 5,000 ...	1,684	23,746	6,492	15,258	4,911	156
5,001- 10,000 ...	1,260	31,072	8,629	16,106	6,600	159
10,001- 50,000 ...	738	40,922	13,615	23,243	9,937	243
50,001-100,000 ...	38	6,410	2,667	3,100	1,293	23
Over 100,000 ...	21	7,108	2,670	3,714	1,657	33
Total ...	78,893	291,284	65,209	172,550	47,082†	2,821†

* Holdings consisting of Crown lands only.

† Excluding live stock not on rural holdings.

‡ See explanation, page 749.

Holdings with an alienated area of 3,000 acres or less carry 39 per cent. of the sheep and 72 per cent. of the cattle. They embrace 48 per cent. of the alienated land and 62 per cent. of the attached Crown lands, and their improved value is 63 per cent. of the total. Information is not available to show the acreage under crops in the various groups of holdings at 30th June, 1925, but the experience of earlier years indicates that about 80 per cent. of the area under wheat is on holdings with an alienated area not exceeding 3,000 acres.

CHARACTER OF SETTLEMENT.

The character of the rural settlement of New South Wales has been determined largely by economic factors, *e.g.*, the geographical features of the land, the distribution of rainfall, fertility of the soil., accessibility of markets, and local factors, such as water supply, timber growth, and means of communication. The distribution of industrial activity is principally into pastoral, agricultural, dairying, mining, and manufacturing localities, and along lines of traffic.

The pastoral industry, which caused the original spread of settlement over the State, is still maintained in practically every part of it, although it diminishes in importance from the sole industry in the west to a secondary position in the central and eastern land divisions, where agriculture and dairying are assuming greater importance. From its nature it requires extensive areas and little labour, and it promotes settlement of a scattered nature characterised by small towns, which become smaller and more scattered towards the western boundary, where only isolated sheep and cattle stations exist.

Superimposed on the pastoral foundation in the central division the main belt of agricultural settlement stretches from the northern to the southern boundary of the State between the Great Dividing Range and a line to the west, which follows generally the line of 20-inch rainfall in the south, and the 25-inch line in the north. This extensive belt is roughly wedge-shaped, and diminishes from a breadth of about 200 miles in the extreme south to about 100 miles in the north. Practically the whole of the wheat crops of the State are produced there, but only a small portion of the suitable lands have been utilised for agriculture, and pastoral pursuits are still carried on extensively. Settlement in these central districts is more intense than in the west, and there are a number of flourishing towns with populations ranging from 2,000 to 10,000.

East of the Dividing Range, in the coastal district, dairying is the staple industry, but there is also a certain amount of miscellaneous agriculture in the more fertile portions, and some cattle-grazing in the more rugged and less accessible districts. Only a small quantity of wool is produced, and the production of wheat is negligible. Population in the coastal districts is denser than in any other region of the State, and the farms are usually small and intensively cultivated.

The following analysis of the State, according to natural divisions on the basis of Local Government areas, shows the rainfall, population, area, and production of each. A map showing these divisions is published as a frontispiece to this Year Book:—

Division.	Range of Average Annual Rainfall.	Population at Census, 1921.	Total Area.	Production (1924-25).				
				Wool.	Wheat.	Butter.	Minerals.	Manufactures.*
	inches.	000	acres.	lb.	bushels.	lb.	£	£
<i>Coastal—</i>				000.	000.	000.	000.	000.
North Coast ...	35-76	124	7,009	17	...	62,190	1	1,333
Hunter and Manning ...	22-60	245	8,355	4,427	20	27,975	6,467	5,347
Cumberland ...	29-50	1,060	972	63	...	953	215	43,910
South Coast ...	27-61	89	6,039	2,230	1	11,368	1,483	1,639
Total ...	...	1,518	22,425	6,737	21	102,486	8,166	52,229
<i>Tablelands—</i>								
Northern ...	30-38	51	8,165	20,852	220	2,076	189	256
Central ...	23-55	131	10,897	30,004	3,523	1,590	1,226	1,757
Southern† ...	19-65	48	7,597	26,221	73	1,136	13	384
Total ...	...	230	26,659	77,077	3,816	4,802	1,428	2,397
<i>Western Slopes—</i>								
North ...	24-33	52	9,193	33,591	5,485	2,276	85	242
Central ...	17-28	52	7,839	26,386	14,976	782	1	327
South ...	16-40	96	11,230	42,832	16,030	4,530	93	695
Total ...	...	200	23,262	102,809	36,491	7,597	179	1,264
<i>Central Plains—</i>								
Northern ...	18-28	24	9,500	29,406	1,612	112	1	125
Central ...	15-19	20	14,650	39,325	1,590	131	23	79
Riverina ...	12-22	64	16,708	56,440	16,235	2,046	37	460
Total ...	...	108	40,858	125,171	19,437	2,289	61	664
<i>Western Division ...</i>	8-19	48	80,319	57,324	2	37	1,951	2,491
Whole State† ...	...	2,104	198,523	369,118	59,767	117,211	11,785	50,045

* Value added in process of manufacture. † Including Federal Territory.

Manufactories are not extensive outside the metropolitan and Newcastle districts, but dairy factories operate on a large scale along the coast. Smelting and metal works of considerable importance are established on the coal-fields of the South Coast and Central Tableland and on the silver-lead fields at Broken Hill in the Western Division.

The five principal topographical divisions are strips of territory running from the northern to the southern boundary in a south-westerly direction, and, except for the Western Plains, each is divided into three portions—northern, central, and southern—whereby fourteen subdivisions are secured, each of which presents fairly uniform natural features and is affected by uniform physiographic factors. In the north the region of high average rainfall extends further inland than in the south, with the result that the isohyets run in a general north and south direction. The south-western extremity of the Riverina lies about 100 miles further from the coast than does the north-western extremity of the northern plain, and, as the average annual rainfall diminishes with increasing rapidity towards the west, the northern subdivisions shown above generally receive more rain than the central, and the

central more than the southern subdivisions. Rather less than one-half of the total area of the State receives average rains exceeding 20 inches per year, and rather more than one-half receives an average of more than 15 inches per year. Where the rainfall is greatest conditions generally favour the dairying industry, the areas with moderate rainfall being more suitable for sheep and wheat. In the dry western areas wool-growing is the only important rural industry.

Not only the quantity, but the season and reliableness of the rainfall, and the amount of evaporation are important considerations in determining the productive possibilities of any region. In common with most countries, New South Wales suffers periodically in one part or another from the effects of intermittent rainfall, a disability which local conditions such as the abnormal evaporation and the absorbent nature of the soils of the interior tend to aggravate. This difficulty may be overcome ultimately by water conservation and improvement in cultural methods, but at present it operates powerfully to the detriment of the western hinterland.*

SETTLEMENT IN DIVISIONS.

Pluvial circumstances exert a decisive effect on the nature of the pursuits and the extent of settlement in the various rural districts of the State, and explain their industrial characteristics.

For the purpose of considering rural settlement, the State may be distributed into five statistical divisions, viz., Coast, Tableland, Western Slopes of the Great Dividing Range, Central Plains and Riverina, and the Western Division. The statistics for 1922-23 and subsequent years have been collected upon the basis of Local Government areas instead of counties, as formerly, and this necessitated considerable rearrangement of divisional boundaries. Therefore the divisional totals are not comparable with those of previous years. The first four divisions, however, cover the Eastern and Central Land Divisions of the State, trending from north to south in the same general direction as the coastline and principal mountain range.

The nature of the industries and settlement of each of the principal divisions of the State were discussed in the Official Year Book, 1922, at page 681 *et seq.* Statistics for 1924-25 are shown below :—

Coastal Districts.

The following table presents a summary of the tenure and extent of occupied holdings in the four main divisions of the coastal belt as at 30th June, 1925 :—

Division of Coast.	Total Area of Division.	Holdings of 1 acre and upwards.	Area of land occupied in holdings of 1 acre and upwards for Agricultural and Pastoral Purposes.					Area of Alienated Land suitable for Cultivation.†
			Alienated†.			Crown Lands.	Total.	
			Freehold.	Private Rented.	Total.			
	acres.	No.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
	000		000	000	000	000	000	000
North	7,009	11,779	2,710	435	3,145	1,348	4,493	518
Hunter-Manning ...	8,355	10,533	3,748	388	4,136	1,347	5,483	442
Cumberland	872	4,746	271	54	325	2	327	129
South	6,089	5,129	1,579	321	1,900	667	2,567	320
Total	22,425	32,187	8,308	1,198	9,506	3,364	12,870	1,409

† See explanation, page 749.

* Further particulars of rainfall and evaporation are published on pages 12 to 16 of this Year Book.

Apart from the small area in the county of Cumberland which surrounds the metropolis, the North Coast is by far the most closely-settled part of the Coastal Division. The average areas of holdings in the various divisions are—North Coast, 381 acres; Hunter and Manning, 521 acres; and South Coast, 500 acres. The proportion of the total area of each division occupied in holdings is 64 per cent. in the North Coast Division, 66 per cent. in that of Hunter and Manning, but only 42 per cent. on the South Coast. The system of renting land from private owners is practised more extensively in the coastal districts than elsewhere in New South Wales. Almost 13 per cent. of the alienated land is rented from private owners. Of the total land in occupation about 64 per cent. is used by its owners, 26 per cent. is leased from the Crown, and 10 per cent. is rented privately.

Included in the coastal districts are 596 holdings, on which 910 share farmers occupy 12,434 acres of cultivation and 201,851 acres as dairy farms.

Owing to the rugged nature of the country only a small proportion of the land is considered suitable for cultivation, and of this area less than one-quarter was cultivated in 1924–25.

The following analysis shows the main purposes for which these holdings were used in 1924–25 :—

Principal Purpose for which Holdings were used.	Number of Holdings in Division.				
	North Coast.	Hunter and Manning.	Cumberland.	South Coast.	Total.
Agriculture	733	1,726	2,011	411	4,881
Dairying	4,822	2,018	376	1,818	9,034
Grazing	2,332	3,035	477	1,551	7,395
Agriculture and dairying	2,488	1,649	148	331	4,616
Agriculture and grazing	288	559	220	202	1,269
Dairying and grazing	428	466	35	248	1,177
Agriculture, dairying, and grazing	279	321	27	57	684
Poultry	4	127	961	78	1,170
Poultry, Bees, Pigs, etc.	12	23	99	19	153
Unoccupied, or used mainly for other purposes	393	609	392	414	1,808
Total	11,779	10,533	4,746	5,129	32,187

The coastal district contains 95 per cent. of the holdings used mainly for dairying in New South Wales, and the North Coast district contains 51 per cent. of the number. Dairying and mixed farming pursuits are the main activities of the population, but a considerable proportion of the farms is used for cattle-raising.

The following table shows the number and extent of alienated holdings of various sizes in the coastal division, together with their total value and the area of Crown lands attached to them on 30th June, 1925 :—

Area of Holdings (Alienated Land).	Number of Holdings.	Area Occupied.			Value of Alienated Land.	
		Alienated Land.	Crown Land attached to Alienated Holdings.	Total.	Un- improved.	Improved.
Acres.		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	£ 000.	£ 000.
0*	536	...	...	461,431	...	...
1- 30	6,192	77,976	20,906	98,882	2,028	5,880
31- 320	18,713	2,660,347	647,887	3,308,234	13,261	39,611
321- 640	3,902	1,766,764	542,984	2,309,748	4,463	13,240
641- 1,280	1,812	1,629,760	371,091	2,000,851	3,085	8,655
1,281- 2,000	515	801,224	216,076	1,017,300	1,391	3,983
2,001- 3,000	230	559,076	141,092	700,168	1,020	2,463
3,001- 5,000	150	579,667	284,202	863,869	921	2,434
5,001-10,000	96	637,452	191,073	828,525	959	2,595
10,001 and over	41	793,847	487,385	1,281,232	1,166	3,054
Total ...	32,187	9,506,113	2,902,696	12,870,240	28,294	81,915

* Holdings consisting of Crown Lands only.

More than 90 per cent. of the alienated holdings do not exceed 640 acres in extent. They embrace 47 per cent. of the alienated land, with 4.2 per cent. of the attached Crown lands. Their aggregate improved value is 72 per cent. of the total.

Tablelands.

Although extensive plateaux exist in the tableland divisions, considerable areas are rugged and rock-strewn and not adaptable to agriculture. Hence grazing has remained the staple industry, although many farmers combine agriculture with grazing, and large areas are cultivated in suitable localities. The rainfall is ample throughout, and the headwaters of most of the principal rivers make this a well-watered region. Railway communications are good, but, on the whole, settlement is sparse, fewer flourishing towns exist than on the coast, and small settlements are rarer because lands suitable for intense farming are more scattered. Neither dairying nor agriculture has been developed, and pastoral pursuits alone are extensive.

The following table provides an analysis of the number and tenure of rural holdings in the three main divisions of the Tablelands as at 30th June, 1925 :

Division of Tableland.	Total area of division.	Holdings of 1 acre and upwards.	Area of land occupied in Holdings of 1 acre and upwards for agricultural and pastoral purposes.				Area of Alienated Land suitable for culti- vation.*	
			Alienated.*			Crown Lands.		Total.
			Freehold.	Private rented.	Total.			
	acres. 000	No.	acres. 000	acres. 000	acres. 000	acres. 000	acres. 000	
Northern ...	8,165	3,955	3,602	124	3,726	2,786	6,512	381
Central ...	10,897	8,422	4,919	334	5,253	2,209	7,462	1,480
Southern ...	7,597	3,771	3,699	251	3,950	2,134	6,084	313
Total ...	26,659	16,148	12,220	709	12,929	7,129	20,058	2,174

* See explanation, page 749.

While the proportion of land occupied in each division varies from 79 per cent. in the northern to 68 per cent. in the central, and 80 per cent. in the southern tablelands, rural settlement is densest in the central districts, which were the first to be occupied. Less than one-half of the total area of the tableland division is alienated, and nearly two-fifths of the area occupied is owned by the Crown. The system of private-renting is much less extensive than in the coastal districts, only 5.5 per cent. of the area alienated, or 3.5 per cent. of the total area occupied, being held in this way. In addition, there were 597 share-farmers on 323 holdings, comprising 50,827 acres of cultivation and 10,694 acres of dairy farms. As in the coastal division the proportion of alienated land suitable for cultivation is very small, but only about 25 per cent. of such land was cultivated in 1924-25.

The main purposes for which holdings were used in each division of the tablelands during 1924-25 are shown in the following table:—

Principal Purpose for which Holdings were used.	Number of Holdings.			
	Northern Tableland.	Central Tableland.	Southern Tableland.	Total.
Agriculture	291	1,476	98	1,865
Dairying	102	77	89	268
Grazing	2,001	2,863	2,762	7,626
Agriculture and Dairying	170	375	53	598
Agriculture and Grazing	969	2,786	536	4,291
Dairying and Grazing	103	133	113	349
Agriculture, Dairying, and Grazing	182	211	66	459
Poultry, Bees, Pigs, etc.	4	54	8	66
Unoccupied or used for other purposes	133	447	46	626
Total	3,955	8,422	3,771	16,148

Grazing pursuits predominate throughout, but a considerable proportion of the holdings is used for agricultural purposes.

The following statement relating to the tableland division shows the number and extent of alienated holdings of various sizes, together with their total value and the area of Crown lands attached to them on 30th June, 1925:—

Area of Holding Alienated.	Number of Holdings.	Area Occupied.			Value of Alienated Land.	
		Alienated Land.	Crown lands attached to Alienated Holdings.	Total.	Un-improved.	Improved.
Acres.		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	£	£
0*	1,129*	...	...	1,351,719	000	000
1- 30	1,615	23,482	80,358	103,840	236	917
31- 320	6,358	934,741	1,054,761	1,989,502	1,955	6,167
321- 640	2,654	1,247,312	910,846	2,158,158	1,876	5,315
641- 1,280	2,146	1,973,622	1,032,243	3,005,865	2,625	7,365
1,281- 2,000	876	1,389,194	492,008	1,881,202	1,788	5,159
2,001- 3,000	535	1,309,951	498,273	1,808,224	1,608	4,495
3,001- 5,000	412	1,585,751	642,379	2,228,130	1,909	5,535
5,001-10,000	264	1,837,791	557,344	2,395,135	2,439	6,673
10,001 and over	159	2,626,967	509,733	3,136,700	3,478	9,393
Total	16,148	12,928,811	5,777,945	20,058,475	17,914	51,019

* Holdings consisting of Crown lands only.

Nearly 85 per cent. of the alienated holdings do not exceed 1,280 acres in extent. They embrace only 32 per cent. of the total area alienated, and contained 53 per cent. of the Crown lands attached to alienated holdings. Their improved value is only 39 per cent. of the total.

Western Slopes.

The divisions of the Western Slopes contain gently undulating lands with a westerly trend, watered by the upper courses of the inland rivers, and an adequate and regular rainfall. These fertile areas are eminently suitable for agriculture and are the most productive portions of the interior. As yet they are only sparsely settled, and very great development is possible.

The area, number, and tenure of rural holdings in the various districts of the Western Slopes as at 30th June, 1925, are shown below :—

Division of Slopes.	Total Area of Division.	Holdings of 1 acre and upwards.	Area of Land occupied in Holdings of 1 acre and upwards for Agricultural and Pastoral purposes.					Area of Alienated Land suitable for Cultivation.*
			Alienated *			Crown Lands.	Total.	
			Freehold	Private Rented.	Total.			
	acres. 000	No.	acres. 000	acres. 000	acres. 000	acres. 000	acres. 000	acres. 000
North Western...	9,193	4,567	3,365	182	5,547	2,731	8,278	1,471
Central Western..	7,839	4,619	5,231	213	5,444	1,347	6,791	3,582
South Western ...	11,230	8,090	7,391	340	7,731	1,429	9,160	4,047
Total ...	28,262	17,276	17,987	735	18,722	5,507	24,229	9,100

* See explanation page 749.

In this division settlement is most dense on the South Western Slope, but the proportion of occupied land is greatest in the northern districts. The proportion of Crown lands occupied is 23 per cent. of the total. The system of private renting is less extensive than in the coastal or tableland districts, the area so rented being only 4 per cent. of the total area alienated and 3 per cent. of the area occupied. The area of alienated land suitable for cultivation is considerable, constituting over 42 per cent. of the total area of such land in the State. Almost 50 per cent. of the alienated lands of the division are alienated, and the proportion is as great as 66 per cent. in the Central Western Slope. Only 28 per cent. of the suitable land in alienated holdings in the Slopes Division was under crop in 1924-25.

The following statement shows the principal purposes for which rural holdings were used in the Western Slopes Division in 1924-25 :—

Principal Purpose for which Holdings were used.	Number of Holdings in Division.			
	North Western Slope.	Central Western Slope.	South Western Slope.	Total.
Agriculture	435	536	1,286	2,257
Dairying	36	14	54	104
Grazing	1,813	787	2,011	4,611
Agriculture and Dairying	238	41	165	444
Agriculture and Grazing	1,781	2,986	3,853	8,620
Dairying and Grazing	45	5	138	188
Agriculture, Dairying, and Grazing	165	110	381	656
Poultry, Bees, Pigs, etc.	10	2	14	26
Unoccupied or used for Other Purposes	44	138	183	370
Total	4,567	4,619	8,090	17,276

Mixed farming—agricultural and grazing—is the principal rural activity, but grazing predominates on the North-western Slope, where the lands fit for agriculture are relatively of small extent. The number of holdings used principally for agricultural purposes is large, but dairying and small farming are not extensive.

The number and extent of alienated holdings of various sizes, together with their total value and the area of Crown lands attached to them, are shown in the following statement relating to the Western Slopes Division as at 30th June, 1925 :—

Area of Holding Alienated.	Number of Holdings.	Area Occupied.			Value of Alienated Land.	
		Alienated Land.	Crown lands attached to Alienated Holdings.	Total.	Un-improved.	Improved.
Acres.		acres.	acres.	acres.	£ 000	£ 000
0*	1,042*	...	...	1,660,525	...	...
1- 30	1,242	18,887	48,697	67,584	133	581
31- 320	4,117	621,145	368,767	989,912	1,656	4,782
321- 640	3,920	1,925,625	613,277	2,538,902	3,872	11,266
641- 1,280	3,557	3,274,861	819,790	4,094,651	5,408	16,124
1,281- 2,000	1,316	2,096,123	416,220	2,512,343	3,238	9,758
2,001- 3,000	915	2,247,979	339,979	2,587,958	3,217	9,642
3,001- 5,000	553	2,117,731	376,129	2,493,860	3,130	9,009
5,001-10,000	434	3,000,701	481,621	3,482,322	4,825	13,386
10,001 and over	180	3,419,039	381,517	3,800,556	5,535	13,245
Total	17,276	18,722,091	3,845,997	24,228,613	31,014	87,793

* Holdings consisting of Crown lands only.

Of the 16,234 alienated holdings only 1,167 exceed 3,000 acres in area, but they embrace 8,537,500 acres, or nearly 46 per cent., of the alienated land, and in addition have attached to them 1,239,000 acres, or 32 per cent. of the attached Crown lands.

Plains and Riverina.

The Plains of the Central Division, including the Riverina, constitute the eastern portion of a remarkable extent of almost level country, stretching from the last hills of the Western Slopes to the western boundary of the State, with an average width of 120 miles. They comprise the great sheep districts of the State and about 40 per cent. of the agricultural lands. Generally speaking, they are not well watered, the average rainfall is low, and its intermittency is a source of frequent loss. They are traversed by the western rivers in their lower courses, but they do not supply water to a very extensive area, as they are few and their flow is irregular. Railway facilities are not so good as in the more easterly districts, but they are being improved steadily, particularly in the Riverina. Communication and transport to outlying districts depend mostly on motor and horse-drawn conveyances. Artesian water underlies a considerable area on the north, and bores serve to supply permanent water in a number of localities. In the south, sub-artesian bores are of great practical utility.

The following table shows the number, tenure, and extent of holdings occupied for agricultural and pastoral purposes in the division on 30th June, 1925:—

Plains of Central Division.	Total Area of Division.	Holdings of 1 acre and upwards.	Area of Land occupied in Holdings of 1 acre and upwards for Agricultural and Pastoral Purposes.					Area of alienated Land suitable for Cultivation. *
			Alienated.*			Crown Lands.	Total.	
			Freehold.	Private rented.	Total.			
	acres.	No.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
North	9,500	2,023	3,971	77	4,048	3,561	7,609	1,114
Central... ..	14,650	2,258	5,441	271	5,712	7,878	13,590	2,208
Riverina	16,708	7,349	12,007	538	12,545	3,437	15,982	5,432
Total	40,858	11,630	21,419	886	22,305	14,876	37,181	8,754

* See explanation page 749.

The existence of a closely-settled but comparatively small area of irrigated lands in the Riverina exaggerates the apparent density of settlement in that division. Little more than one-half of the total area occupied has been alienated, but while the proportion alienated is 53 per cent. of the total area in the northern districts it is 78 per cent. in the Riverina, where the land is more productive.

The area held under the system of private-renting is of small extent, being less than 4 per cent. of the total area alienated. The area of Crown lands occupied is considerable in all divisions, and in the central districts it greatly exceeds the area of occupied alienated lands.

Share-farming is not extensive in the north, but in the Riverina 372 holdings are occupied by 532 share-farmers, who had 166,827 acres in cultivation in 1924-25, in addition to 1,120 acres of dairy farms. Only 28 per cent. of the alienated land in the Northern Plains is considered suitable for agriculture, but the proportions in the Central Plains and Riverina are 39 and 43 per cent. respectively.

The following table shows the main purposes for which the holdings in the Central Plains Division were used in 1924-25:—

Principal Purpose for which Holdings were used.	Number of Holdings in Plains of Central Division.			
	North.	Central.	Riverina.	Total.
Agriculture	24	87	2,205	2,316
Dairying	6	6	70	82
Grazing	1,289	1,619	1,325	4,233
Agriculture and Dairying	3	3	254	260
Agriculture and Grazing	659	487	3,044	4,190
Dairying and Grazing	3	4	41	48
Agriculture, Dairying, and Grazing	11	2	178	191
Poultry, Bees, Pigs, etc.	2	1	3	6
Unoccupied or used for other purposes ..	26	49	229	304
Total	2,023	2,258	7,349	11,630

While grazing, with a very little mixed-farming and agriculture, predominates in the northern districts, agriculture assumes increasing importance in the south, and, combined with grazing, it predominates in the Riverina. On the irrigated lands of the Murrumbidgee a considerable number of holdings are used for small farming, and this accounts for the greater part of the holdings used for agriculture and for dairying in the Riverina. Nevertheless, taking into account the areas shown in the previous table, the existence of agricultural pursuits is seen to have a very pronounced effect on the density of settlement.

The number, total area of alienated land and of Crown lands attached, and the value of alienated land in rural holdings in the plains of the Central Division (including the Riverina), as at 30th June, 1925, are shown in area series in the following table:—

Area of Holding Alienated.	No. of Holdings.	Area Occupied.			Value of Alienated Land.	
		Alienated Land.	Crown lands attached to Alienated Holdings.	Total.	Un-improved.	Improved.
Acres.		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	£	£
0* ...	3,330*	...	...	5,568,770	...	...
1- 30 ...	307	4,662	25,922	30,584	23	145
31- 320 ...	1,100	184,531	425,459	609,990	401	1,095
321- 640 ...	1,868	963,006	659,727	1,622,733	1,883	5,150
641- 1,280 ...	2,072	1,941,792	1,650,004	3,591,796	3,169	8,578
1,281- 2,000 ...	968	1,559,743	785,468	2,345,211	2,195	5,469
2,001- 3,000 ...	662	1,622,767	757,968	2,380,735	2,208	5,327
3,001- 5,000 ...	524	2,029,402	664,320	2,693,722	2,713	6,496
5,001-10,000 ...	421	2,839,903	1,376,493	4,216,396	3,553	8,075
10,001 and over ...	378	11,158,824	2,962,109	14,120,933	13,375	27,868
Total ...	11,630	22,304,630	9,307,470	37,180,870	29,520	68,203

* Holdings consisting of Crown lands only.

Approximately 76 per cent. of the alienated holdings contain less than 2,000 acres of alienated land embracing 21 per cent. of the total alienated area with 38 per cent. of the Crown lands attached. Their aggregate improved value represents 30 per cent. of the total improved value of alienated holdings.

Western Division.

It would appear that the plains of the Western Division will never be developed into a productive region maintaining a population commensurate with its area. One-third of the division receives less than 10 inches of rain per year and practically the whole of the remainder less than 15 inches. Though the soils are uniformly fertile, the lack of rain, permanent water and grasses, and the high rate of evaporation, ranging up to 90 inches per year, render it unproductive in a high degree. Except on a few small irrigated areas there is scarcely a sign of agriculture or dairying, and by reason of the small rainfall, the sheep-carrying capacity of the land is only about one-fifth as great as that of the plains further east; but the climate is well suited to the production of high-grade merinos. It is a lonely region for the most part occupied in large holdings on a long lease tenure. It presents an immense field for scientific development, but its possibilities are problematical. Whether irrigation from the Murray and the vast lake reservoirs of the South

Darling, or from the artesian water zone of the north, combined with dry-farming methods will render any extensive areas adaptable to agriculture, or whether water and fodder conservation will render it capable of maintaining large numbers of sheep and suitable for closer settlement, remain questions which are not likely to be considered until the more attractive easterly regions have made very great advances in settlement. It is contended, however, that in the south there are large areas which only require railway facilities to render them profitable for agriculture. At present, excluding the mining districts, it is a vast region comprising two-fifths of the area of the State, producing less than one-sixth of the pastoral produce, and practically nothing besides, and inhabited by less than 20,000 persons (one person to 6 square miles) or one-hundredth part of the population of the State. Near the western boundary, however, is situated one of the richest silver-lead fields of the world, and in the large mining town of Broken Hill there is a population of 23,800 persons. In the eastern part of the division exist extensive copper deposits, which formerly maintained thriving settlements at Cobar, Canbelego, and Nymagee, but with the suspension of mining activities the population of these localities has decreased. For the rest, the division possesses only one town, Bourke, with a population exceeding 1,000, five exceeding 500, and about twenty smaller townships.

The following table shows the number and extent of holdings in the Western Division as at 30th June, 1925 :—

Area Series (alienated and Crown lands combined).	East of Darling.		West of Darling.	
	No. of Holdings.	Area of Holdings.	No. of Holdings.	Area of Holdings.
Acres.		Acres.		Acres.
1- 3,000	337	113,709	144	84,991
3,001- 10,000	95	610,867	71	520,259
10,001- 20,000	163	2,332,299	111	1,466,561
20,001- 50,000	220	6,742,667	167	5,298,344
50,001-100,000	69	4,650,415	76	5,306,778
Over 100,000	96	20,308,653	103	30,767,107
Total	980	34,767,610	672	43,444,040

Although the area west of the Darling constitutes more than one-half of the total area occupied, the number of holdings in all groups is less than in the eastern sector. Over 65 per cent. of the total area is occupied by 199 holdings exceeding 100,000 acres in extent.

The total area of alienated land in the rural holdings in the Western Division is only 1,747,767 acres and of this 41,036 acres are privately rented. The total area of Crown lands in rural holdings is 76,463,883 acres. Of the total area of land occupied only 5,724 acres were under crop in 1924-25, although 140,749 acres were considered by the occupiers to be suitable for cultivation. The unimproved value of the alienated land was returned as £880,900 and the improved value as £2,353,960.

VALUE OF MACHINERY USED IN RURAL INDUSTRIES.

A comparison of the value of agricultural, pastoral and dairying implements and machinery in use on rural holdings during various years since 1901 is shown in the following table, allowance being made for depreciation:—

Season.	Farming.	Dairying (excluding Machinery in Factories).	Pastoral.*	Total Value.
	£	£	£	£
1900-01	2,065,780	237,220	754,050	3,057,050
19 5-06	2,557,260	365,440	1,120,990	4,043,690
1910-11	3,414,620	534,740	1,483,080	5,432,440
1915-16	5,362,030	570,950	2,015,050	7,948,030
1919-20	6,128,750	812,070	3,016,070	9,956,890
1920-21	7,120,380	910,260	3,141,030	11,171,670
1921-22	7,884,710	1,042,100	3,419,040	12,345,850
1922-23	8,536,170	1,124,960	3,816,250	13,477,380
1923-24	8,799,350	1,038,380	3,825,920	13,713,650
1924-25	9,427,730	1,119,290	4,106,820	14,653,840

* Includes in many cases farming implements used on pastoral holdings.

The foregoing figures are exclusive of the value of travelling machinery, *e.g.*, harvesters, chaffcutters, etc., for which the records show a value of £100,694 in 1924-25.

AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL LABOUR.

Particulars of persons above the age of 14 years permanently engaged in farm work on a rural holding are collected annually. They are classified according to status, and the amount of the salaries and wages paid to employees in receipt of remuneration is ascertained. Returns were obtained in 1924-25 concerning temporary hands employed during harvesting and shearing operations, or by contractors doing rural work, or engaged in other work. There are many workers who earn their livelihood from such casual employment, but their numbers cannot be stated. In 1924-25, however, the total amount of wages (including board and lodging) paid to casual employees was about 45 per cent. of the aggregate sum paid to permanent employees, who numbered 37,962. Persons engaged principally in domestic work are excluded from account.

The number of persons permanently employed in farm work on rural holdings during the year ended 30th June, 1925, is shown below, together with the amount of wages paid to permanent and casual employees during the year:—

Capacity.	Males.	Females.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.
Owners,, Lessees, and Share Farmers	68,819	1,390	70,209
Permanent employees receiving wages... ..	36,733	1,229	37,962
Relatives not receiving wages	17,673	13,636	31,309
Total	123,225	16,255	139,480
Wages paid (including value of board and lodging):—	£	£	£
Permanent employees	6,516,004	114,353	6,630,447
Casual employees	2,988,923	9,700	2,998,623

Of the relatives not receiving wages, 8,852 males and 12,106 females above the age of 14 years were employed in the coastal districts, where dairying is the principal farming activity. This accounts for nearly 89 per cent. of the number of females employed; the remainder of the female relatives employed were uniformly distributed over the other divisions of the State.

The total amount of wages paid to permanent employees during the year was £4,989,559 in addition to board and lodging, etc., valued at £1,646,888. or a total of £6,630,447, the average remuneration being £177 per annum to males and £93 per annum to females. The wages paid to casual employees amounted to £2,575,579 in addition to "keep," valued at £423,053.

RURAL FINANCE.

The problem of promoting effective rural settlement in New South Wales has been associated closely with that of rural finance. While comparatively few settlers have possessed sufficient capital to purchase land outright from the Crown, there has been a general desire to acquire a freehold tenure, neither private nor State tenancy proving popular. Moreover, the proper development of rural holdings requires the investment of much capital for lengthy periods, and facilities for temporary financial accommodation, particularly during periods of drought.

The Land Act of 1861, aiming to encourage the settlement of an agricultural population beside the pastoral lessees, introduced "free selection before survey" and sales of Crown land by deposit and instalments with conditions as to residence, etc. By this means much more land was sold in the following twenty-three years than was sold at auction, and since 1889 alienation has been almost exclusively by conditional purchase. Beyond the introduction of this plan of selling Crown lands on terms, little was done to provide financial aid for settlers until the end of the last century, when the agricultural and dairying industries were developing, and droughts were destroying settlement.

In 1899 an Advances to Settlers Board was appointed by the Government to make loans to farmers in necessitous circumstances or embarrassed by droughts. Advances were limited to £200 for a term of ten years at 4 per cent. interest. The scope of the Act was widened in 1902 when the Board was empowered to make advances to farmers for any approved purpose up to £500, repayable within thirty years.

In 1907 the functions of the Board were taken over by the Commissioners of the Government Savings Bank, and the limit of individual advances was raised to £2,000. By 1921, when the Rural Bank was established to carry on and extend the work, the outstanding advances amounted to £3,250,000, secured by mortgages from 7,000 borrowers. In all, 28,066 advances amounting to £12,843,416 had been made to 30th June, 1925.

In 1901 a Closer Settlement policy was introduced by the Government with a view to acquiring and subdividing large estates and leases suitable for closer settlement. Operations under this scheme commenced actively in 1905 and by 30th June, 1925, an area of 3,819,376 acres had been acquired at a capital cost of £13,795,172 and allotted in 7,736 farms. In addition, at 30th June, 1925, about 3,100,000 acres comprised in large holdings within 15 miles of railway lines, contemplated or recently constructed, were under proclamation, limiting the value at which they might be resumed by the Government for purposes of closer settlement. In April, 1923, the Rural Bank inaugurated a scheme of advancing money for the purchase of farms created by subdivision.

Of similar character to the schemes of closer settlement was the entry by the Government upon a scheme of irrigation in connection with the Murrumbidgee River (in 1906) to provide ultimately about 5,000 farms. Here settlers are assisted by advances and by the provision of factories to handle their products. Another large irrigation scheme has been initiated in connection with the Murray River. The Government also undertakes to finance the construction of shallow bores, weirs, etc., when settlers are willing to manage them, and in some cases, to repay by instalments the capital cost. The amount expended by the Government on water conservation and irrigation projects for farm purposes is shown on page 651 of this Year Book.

The marketing difficulties of the war period necessitated a further extension of Government activity. The disposal of most of the primary products came within the purview of legislation, partly to assist settlers in their difficulties, and partly to secure control of supplies necessary for prosecuting the war. Such control, however, had ceased by 1921.

In 1915 certain schemes of limited scope were initiated by the Departments of Lands and Agriculture to assist farmers by loans to cultivate new areas and to relieve necessitous farmers. During the severe drought of 1919-20 a sum of £2,000,000 was made available by two special local loans to assist farmers whose ordinary commercial credit had been destroyed by the bad seasons. The advances were administered by the Rural Industries Board, instituted in December, 1919. Particulars of these operations are shown below.

In the Commonwealth Bank of Australia a rural credits department was established in October, 1925, to assist the marketing of the products of the rural industries. For this purpose advances for a period not exceeding one year may be made to banks, co-operative associations, etc., and bills secured on primary produce may be discounted on behalf of these institutions. Further particulars regarding the department are shown on page 206 of this Year Book.

The Governments of the State and of the Commonwealth provide assistance to settlers to enable them to construct fencing to protect their holdings from the ravages of rabbits and wild dogs. Details are published in the chapter of this volume entitled "Pastoral Industry."

Rural Credit and Community Settlement Scheme.

In 1920 and 1921 a Select Committee of the Legislative Council sat under the chairmanship of Sir Joseph Carruthers to inquire into the condition of the agricultural industry in New South Wales. Among other matters investigated was the system of rural finance. The Committee found the existing system deficient in certain respects and recommended its improvement along co-operative lines.

During 1922 a Bill was prepared and submitted to Parliament by the former chairman of the Committee with a view to providing an efficient system of rural credit on co-operative principles, and to stimulating local development through community settlement. The scheme put forward provided for local co-operative societies and unions, and an extensive educational campaign was arranged through a series of conferences in the country districts to explain the proposed measure and to prepare the way for its adoption.

This Bill was amended extensively and its provisions—enlarged to embrace a complete scheme of co-operation—became law at the close of 1923. The keynote of the scheme is the formation of new organisations as corporate bodies with limited liability. The purposes for which societies may be formed include the provision of rural credit, the promotion of community settlement and development, and co-operative trading, marketing and transport. A rural co-operative association consisting of registered co-operative societies may be formed for the purposes of doing anything that a component society may do, of supervising the affairs of member-societies and of promoting co-operation. Up to 30th September, 1926, seventy-six rural co-operative societies had been registered under the Act.

Advances by Rural Industries Board.

The Rural Industries Board was formed on the 1st December, 1919,

- (a) to take over, consolidate and collect all advances by the State for drought relief, seed wheat and clearing land since 1915, and
- (b) to extend the scope of relief given to necessitous farmers.

The total amount expended by the Board in assisting farmers and in purchasing stocks of supplies, from 1st December, 1919, to the 30th June 1926, was £3,021,479, distributed as follows:—

	£
Seed Wheat	783,264
Fodder	1,414,145
Stores, etc.	751,608
Fallowing Allowances	72,462
	£3,021,479

In addition, a sum of £437,006 was advanced between 1915 and 1919 under schemes controlled by the Departments of Lands and Agriculture. Of this £259,794 were repaid or otherwise adjusted, and debits amounting to about £177,000 were taken over by the Rural Industries Board. The advances actually granted to farmers by the Board from 1919 to 1926 amounted to £2,459,285, making a grand total in all schemes of £2,896,291. Of this sum £2,543,647 had been repaid up to the 30th June, 1926. Of the outstanding balance about £240,000 will not fall due for repayment until 1927.

Originally operations were restricted to assisting wheat-growers, but in 1920 assistance was afforded also to dairy-farmers and small graziers. Of the amount expended in 1923-24 a sum of £25,180 was granted to dairy-farmers through the agency of co-operative dairy companies. The companies were made responsible for repayment of the principal and interest. By the 30th June, 1926, £24,377 of the principal had been repaid.

Farmers are charged interest on the amounts advanced at the rate of 6 per cent.; in some cases the rate was increased to 7 per cent., but since 1st July, 1925, the charge has been at the former rate of 6 per cent. The amount collected from this source to the 30th June, 1926, was £180,291. The amount of bad debts written off to the same date was £24,708.

The cost of administration in 1925-26 was £12,495, but this sum is not debited to the farmers.

Considerable stocks of fodder were on hand and in transit in June, 1920, when the drought broke. Part of this was distributed to farmers for fallowing purposes and the balance was sold.

During 1925-26 assistance was granted to 1,462 farmers, involving an expenditure of £132,325. In 1924-25 a sum of £74,920 was advanced to 779 farmers. The estimated area planted as a result of this assistance was 322,000 acres in 1925-26, and 200,000 acres in 1924-25.

Fallowing allowances amounting to £13,975 were granted in respect of 56,448 acres in 1925-26, and £17,856 in respect of 69,584 acres in 1924-25.

Advances by the Rural Bank.

Under authority of the Government Savings Bank (Rural Bank) Act, 1920, steps were taken early in 1921 to establish a rural bank in New South Wales. The new bank was placed under the direction of the Commissioners of the Government Savings Bank, who continue on an extended basis the operations transacted previously by the Advances to Settlers Department.

The primary object of the bank is to afford greater financial assistance to primary producers than is usually obtainable from other institutions, and thus to promote rural settlement and development.

The Commissioners are empowered to make advances upon mortgage of land in fee-simple, and of land held under conditional purchase or lease, settlement purchase or lease, and homestead grant or selection. The advances are made to repay existing encumbrances, to purchase land, to effect improvements, to utilise resources, or to build homes. By this means material assistance is afforded to both prospective and established settlers.

Funds are obtainable from deposits at current account, fixed deposits, and the issue of deposit stock, rural bank debentures, and inscribed stock. Interest is allowed on fixed deposits at current bank rates, and current accounts are subject to trading bank conditions.

Loans are made only to persons engaged in primary production, or in closely-allied pursuits. The loans are of three kinds—(a) Overdrafts on current account with interest at the rate of $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; (b) instalment loans, repayable by equal half-yearly instalments of interest at $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and principal extending over thirty-one years; and (c) fixed loans for limited terms. The security required may be land, either freehold or held under any Crown tenure, stock, plant, crops, wool, etc.

The Commissioners are empowered to make advances to assist the subdivision of large estates. For this purpose advances up to 80 per cent. of the Commissioners' valuation of the security or £3,000, may be made on lands which have a freehold or certificated conditional purchase title. In order to facilitate negotiations for sale, the Commissioners may issue a certificate to either the vendor or the purchaser, setting forth the amount they are prepared to advance upon a sound title in any such farm. The Act prescribes that a fixed or amortization loan to any individual may not exceed £2,000, but in practice the Commissioners restrict them to £1,500, the demand for advances being in excess of the available funds.

More than 170 branches of the Bank have been opened at branches of the Savings Bank throughout the State.

At 30th June, 1926, the amount of deposits with the Rural Bank was £1,624,826 at current account and £3,294,619 at fixed deposit, while outstanding advances amounted to £9,339,727.

The following table shows the transactions in long term and fixed loans by the Advances to Settlers Department or the Rural Bank in various years since 1901 :—

Year ended 30th June.	Advances Made.			Repayments.		Balances Repayable.		
	Number.	Total Amount.	Average.	Number.	Total Amount.	Number.	Total Amount.	Average.
		£	£		£		£	£
1911*	838	331,693	395	743	185,420	3,754	1,074,359	286
1913*	1,386	771,272	556	414	116,476	5,094	2,051,132	403
1915	860	387,715	451	436	171,617	5,860	2,514,078	429
1921	1,365	813,525	596	577	293,540	7,242	3,423,371	473
1922	1,774	1,340,490	756	433	238,987	8,583	4,525,374	527
1923	1,110	725,315	653	508	297,375	9,185	4,953,314	539
1924	1,081	888,479	822	500	315,049	9,766	5,526,744	566
1925	603	587,508	974	620	392,568	9,749	5,721,684	587

* 31st December.

In addition, short-term loans in the nature of overdraft are provided by the Rural Bank to settlers or persons carrying on industries immediately associated with rural pursuits. Particulars of these are shown below :—

Year ended 30th June.	Advances made during year.		Advances current at end of year.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£		£
1922 ...	1,383	980,375	1,364	728,584
1923 ...	1,565	794,499	2,743	1,381,113
1924 ...	1,827	1,081,335	4,205	2,144,333
1925 ...	1,710	1,196,280	5,291	2,830,915

The net profit of the Bank for the year 1924-25 was £58,104, which was added to the reserve fund, making it £243,273.

Other Advances to Settlers.

Particulars of the number and amount of registered loans made on the security of live-stock, wool, and growing crops are published on page 242 of this Year Book. During 1925 the number of such advances was 10,855, and the total consideration £4,495,119, as compared with 13,330 advances for consideration amounting to £4,484,137 in the previous year.

LAND LEGISLATION AND SETTLEMENT.

AREA OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE area of New South Wales, including Lord Howe Island (5 square miles) and the Federal Capital Territory (about 940 square miles), as stated on a previous page in this Year Book, is estimated at 310,372 square miles, or 198,638,080 acres, being a little over two and a half times the combined area of Great Britain and Ireland. Excluding the surface covered by rivers and lakes, etc. (2,969,080 acres), the land area within the boundaries of the State is 195,669,000 acres, or about 305,733 square miles. The formal transfer on 1st January, 1911, of 583,660 acres at Yass-Canberra, and of 17,920 acres at Jervis Bay in 1915, to the Commonwealth Government as Federal Capital Territory, reduced the land surface of the State to 195,067,420 acres.

LAND ADMINISTRATION.

At the foundation of the Colony in 1788, the whole of the lands of the State vested in the British Crown.

The administration of public lands passed entirely under local control by virtue of the Constitution Act on the establishment of responsible government in 1856. Since that year the administration has been directed by a Secretary for Lands, who is a member of the State Parliament and of Cabinet. A Department of Lands was created and a permanent Under-Secretary appointed, with defined powers subordinate to those of the Minister. This system of administration may be described as political control through a permanent salaried staff.

Control of the lands of the Western Division is vested in the Western Land Board, consisting of three commissioners. There are ten ordinary Land Board Districts.

The Eastern and Central Divisions are subdivided into ninety-one Land Districts, in each of which is stationed a Crown Land Agent, whose duty it is to receive applications and furnish information regarding Crown lands. Groups of these districts are arranged in larger areas, under the control of thirteen local Land Boards. There are also special Land Districts for the Yanco and Coomealla Irrigation areas. These Boards, sitting as open courts, hear and determine, in the first instance, many minor matters as provided by the Act and Regulations.

*Land and Valuation Court.**

A Land and Valuation Court, whose awards and judgments have the same force as those of the Supreme Court, was constituted in 1921 in continuance of the Land Appeal Court. To this Court are referred appeals,

* Further particulars of Local Land Boards, and of the Land and Valuation Court, are published on page 483 of this Year Book.

references, and a number of other matters under the Crown Lands Acts, the Pastures Protection Act, the Closer Settlement Acts, the Water Act, the Public Roads Act, and certain other Acts.

Territorial Divisions.

The State is divided, for administrative purposes, into three territorial divisions, Eastern, Central, and Western, the boundary lines running approximately north and south, as shown on the map in the frontispiece. The conditions governing alienation and occupation of Crown Lands differ in each of the three divisions of the State.

The Eastern Division has an area of 60,661,946 acres (exclusive of an area of 601,580 acres of Commonwealth territory), and includes a broad belt of land between the sea-coast and a line nearly parallel to it, thus embracing the coastal districts of the State, as well as the tablelands. In this division is excellent agricultural land, and it includes all the original centres of settlement most accessible to the markets of the State.

The Central Division embraces an area of 57,055,846 acres, extending from north to south between the western limit of the Eastern Division and a line drawn along the Macintyre and Darling Rivers, Marra Creek, the Bogan River, across to the River Lachlan, along that river to Balranald, and thence to the junction of the Edward River with the Murray. The area thus defined contains the eastern part of the upper basin of the Darling River in the northern part of the State, and the basins of the Lachlan, the Murrumbidgee, and other affluents of the Murray in the southern portions. The land in this division is still devoted mainly to pastoral pursuits, but about 3,000,000 acres are cultivated for wheat in a normal season.

The Western Division is situated between the western limit of the Central Division and the South Australian border. It contains an area of 80,318,708 acres, watered by the Darling River and its tributaries, and is mainly devoted to pastoral pursuits. Water conservation and irrigation, and railway and other means of communication may ultimately make agriculture possible in parts of this large area, and at the present time special attention is being directed to this matter. However, legislation in regard to the occupation of the lands of the district is based upon the assumption that for many years to come there will be little inducement for agricultural settlement.*

DISPOSAL OF LANDS OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

As was explained in the Official Year Book for 1923, certain figures formerly published purporting to show the area of land alienated and in course of alienation were based on inaccurate information, and it was found necessary to discard them in part. The work of adjustment was both protracted and involved, but it has now been brought sufficiently near conclusion to permit the publication of a statement compiled upon the revised basis.

The following table, compiled upon the new basis, provides a brief summary of the manner in which the lands of the State were held as at 30th June,

* See also page 762.

1925, distinguishing lands in the Western Division from the remainder of the State :—

Manner of Disposal.	Area.		
	Eastern and Central Divisions.	Western Division.	Whole State.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
{ (1) Absolutely alienated, dedicated*, &c. (less area resumed for re-settlement)	60,852,075†	2,031,282†	41,860,222†
(2) In course of alienation			21,267,985
(3) Virtually alienated (i.e., held under perpetual, conditional, and conditional purchase leases)	18,842,860	207,896	19,050,756
(4) Under Crown and settlement leases alienable wholly or in part	8,587,477	...	8,587,477
(5) Under improvement, scrub, inferior lands and prickly-pear leases with limited rights of alienation	3,324,046	20,448	3,344,494
Total area under foregoing tenures	91,006,458†	2,259,626†	94,110,934†
(6) Under other long leases with no right of alienation unless with approval of Minister‡	1,309,807	73,178,090	74,487,897
(7) Under short lease and temporary tenures (annual lease, permissive occupancy and occupation license) ...	6,751,997	2,434,247	9,186,244
(8) Under forestry leases, &c., wholly within dedicated State forests ...	1,934,220	...	1,934,220
(9) Under mining leases and permits ...	193,649	8,052	201,701
(10) Reserves, dedicated State forests not under pastoral occupation and other lands neither alienated nor leased ...	15,921,661‡	2,438,693‡	18,115,504‡
Total area	117,717,792	80,318,708	198,036,500

* Exclusive of 5,094,807 acres of dedicated State forest in Eastern and Central Divisions, and 51,150 acres in Western Division, considerable parts of which are covered by leases for pastoral purposes and included under appropriate headings below.

† Exclusive of lands dedicated for public and religious purposes, viz., 244,850 acres for the whole State, the divisions of which cannot be stated.

‡ Inclusive of foregoing lands dedicated for public and religious purposes.

§ Comprising special, section 18, mining, snow lands, residential, irrigation leases at Hay and Curlew, and Western Lands leases.

Particulars of the areas under, and the conditions attaching to, each of these tenures are given on later pages.

In considering the matter of lands remaining within the disposal of the State for new settlement, it is important to note that the Eastern and Central land divisions embrace practically the whole of the lands in the State which receive an average annual rainfall of 15 inches or more, and that the rainfall in the Western Division ranges from that average down to 8 inches in the extreme north-west. This circumstance places important limitations upon the utility of land in the Western Division, practically none of which is utilised for agricultural purposes. It is sparsely occupied, being held in large pastoral holdings lightly stocked, and 65 per cent. of its total area is held in 199 holdings each exceeding 100,000 acres in extent. (See page 770).

The total area of land embraced within freeholds, dedications, purchases by deferred payments, and leases alienable wholly or in part at 30th June, 1925, was 94,355,784 acres and, of this area, nearly 92,000,000 acres were in

the Eastern and Central land divisions. By reason of the indefinite nature of the conditions governing the conversion of leases to freehold tenures, it is not possible to ascertain accurately how much of the lands embraced in this area will not revert to the disposal of the Crown, but, assuming that one-half of the areas remaining under Crown, settlement, scrub and improvement leases fulfil conditions requisite for conversion into tenures leading to freehold, it is estimated that the area of former Crown lands in the Eastern and Central Divisions placed definitely beyond State control is in the vicinity of 85,000,000 acres, and probably it is appreciably more. Of the remaining area of about 32,000,000 acres in the Eastern and Central Divisions, about 8,000,000 acres are held under long lease, with no rights of conversion, and numbers of these revert to the Crown for disposal year by year; approximately 7,000,000 acres are held under short lease and temporary tenures, and the balance is comprised within reserves of various kinds—commons, roads, dedicated State forests not under lease administered by the Department of Lands, unalienated town lands, and lands neither alienated nor leased, including inferior Crown lands not held under any tenure.

In the Western Division the area placed permanently beyond State control is approximately only 2,260,000 acres, but more than 73,000,000 acres out of a total area of 80,000,000 acres are held under long-lease tenures, practically all of which expire in 1943. The area under short lease and temporary tenures is approximately 2,400,000 acres, and there remain approximately 1,500,000 acres of unoccupied lands of low grade and about 900,000 acres of unalienated town lands, commonages, beds of rivers, etc.

It has been estimated that the area of land in the State unfit for occupation of any sort does not exceed 5,000,000 acres.

Alienation Prior to 1861.

From the early days of settlement until the year 1861 the Crown disposed of land, under prescribed conditions, by grants and by sales, so alienating, by the end of 1861, an aggregate area of 7,146,579 acres, made up as follows:—

	Acres.
1. By grants, and sales by private tender to close of 1831	3,906,327
2. By grants in virtue of promises of early Governors made prior to 1831, from 1832-40 inclusive	171,071
3. By sales at auction, at 5s., 7s. 6d., and 10s. per acre, from 1832-38 inclusive	1,450,508
4. By sales at auction, at 12s. and upwards per acre, at Governor's discretion, from 1839-41 inclusive	371,447
5. By sales at auction, at 20s. per acre, from 1842-46 inclusive	20,250
6. By sales at auction and in respect of pre-emptive rights, from 1847-61 inclusive	1,219,375
7. By grants for public purposes, grants in virtue of promises of Governors made prior to the year 1831, and grants in exchange for lands resumed from 1841-61 inclusive	7,601
Total area absolutely alienated as to 31st December, 1861 ...	7,146,579

In the year 1861 the first Crown Lands Act was passed, and from that date alienation was controlled by the laws of the State Government.

Progress of Alienation.

A brief account of the spread of settlement appears on page 747 of this Year Book. Details are shown hereunder of the areas of freehold land resumed

for re-settlement and of the Crown lands remaining alienated, after deducting the areas resumed for re-settlement, at intervals since 1881 :—

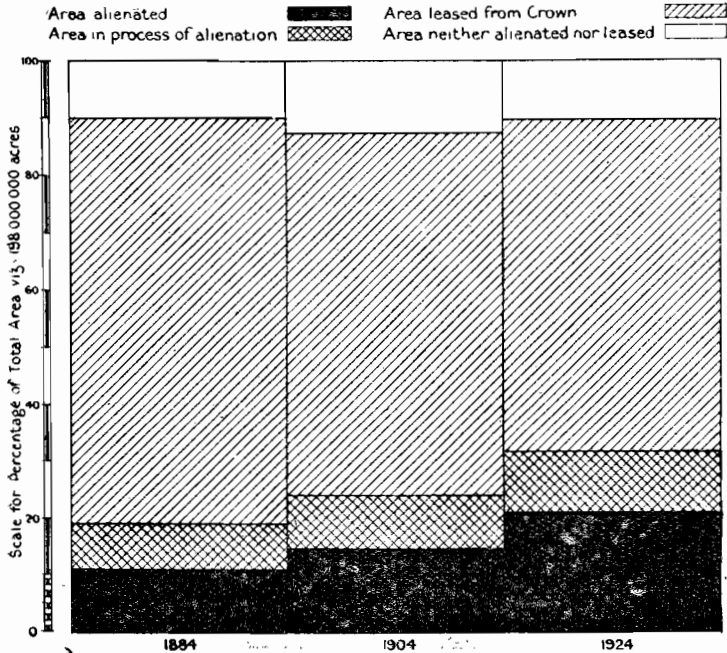
As at 30th June.	Area of freehold resumed for re-settlement.	Area remaining absolutely alienated.	As at 30th June.	Area of freehold resumed for re-settlement.	Area remaining absolutely alienated.	As at 30th June.	Area of freehold resumed for re-settlement.	Area remaining absolutely alienated.
	acres.	acres.		acres.	acres.		acres.	acres.
1861*	7,146,579	1906	36,719	31,362,302	1920	1,523,038	39,366,710
1871*	8,630,604	1911	605,641	36,234,256	1921	1,857,216	39,679,986
1881*	19,615,299	1916	1,089,079	37,783,666	1922	2,169,416	40,133,518
1891*	23,682,516	1917	1,183,246	38,048,493	1923	2,273,460	40,698,834
1896*	24,698,195	1918	1,286,136	38,339,670	1924	2,302,050	41,283,395
1901*	26,407,376	1919	1,399,425	38,797,742	1925	2,496,081	41,860,222

* As at 31st December.

The area shown above as remaining alienated represents lands absolutely alienated and is exclusive of lands under perpetual lease which were formerly included in similar computations as being virtually alienated.

The Federal Territory at Canberra, containing 173,451 acres of alienated land, was transferred, to the Commonwealth on 1st January, 1911. This area has, therefore, been excluded from the figures shown for 1911 and subsequent years. The principal method of alienation is by conditional purchase, which was introduced in 1861. Lands sold by this means are not included as alienated until all payments have been made and deeds have been issued. For this reason the influence of the introduction of conditional purchases does not appear appreciable in the table until 1881. It is also understood that there is an appreciable area of land upon which all payments have been made and all conditions for alienation fulfilled, but, as deeds have not been issued, this area is included under conditional purchase in course of alienation.

LAND TENURE - 1884, 1904 & 1924



The differently shaded portions of the Graph represent the percentage of the total area of New South Wales which was alienated, in process of alienation under systems of deferred payments, and held under lease from the Crown

The following table shows the areas of land alienated in New South Wales by each of the principal methods up to 30th June, 1925, and the area re-acquired for purposes of irrigation and closer settlement:—

	Area.	Acres.
Granted and sold by private tender and public auction prior to 1862		7,146,579
Sold by auction, after auction, and under deferred payment sales since 1862		11,586,052
Sold by Improvement and Special Purchases		2,844,691
Sold by Conditional Purchase since 1862 (deeds issued)... ..		21,823,491
Granted under Volunteer Land Regulations of 1867		172,198
Dedicated for public and religious purposes since 1862		244,850
Sold under Closer Settlement Acts (acquired and Crown Lands)		10,354
Suburban Holdings Purchases (deeds issued)		1,819
Returned Soldiers' Special Purchases (deeds issued)		542
Week-end Lease Purchases (deeds issued)		159
Town Lands Lease Purchases (deeds issued)		17
Sold by all other forms of sale		525,551
Total		44,356,303*
Less—	Acres.	
Freehold land purchased for Closer Settlement	2,109,930	
Freehold land purchased for Irrigation Settlements	212,700	
Lands alienated in Federal Capital Territory prior to its transfer to the Commonwealth	173,451	
		2,496,081
Land absolutely alienated as at 30th June, 1925		41,860,222

As has already been pointed out, there was, in addition, a considerable area of land under conditional purchase which awaited only the formality of the issue of deeds to make their alienation complete. This area is included in the following statement showing the areas in course of alienation by each of the principal methods as at 30th June, 1925:—

Area in course of Alienation.	Acres.	Acres.
By Conditional Purchase ... ..	...	18,156,194
As Settlement Purchases	2,674,217	
As Group Settlement Purchases	390,396	
As Group and Settlement Purchases provisionally allotted... ..	32,200	
		3,096,813
As Suburban Holdings approved for purchase		8,920
As Returned Soldiers' Special Holdings approved for purchase		5,925
As Week-end Leases approved for purchase		107
As purchases under Irrigated Holdings Freehold Act, 1924 (Coomoalla)		25
As Town Lands Leases approved for purchase		1
Total area in course of alienation at 30th June, 1925		21,267,985

* Inclusive of area alienated within Federal Territory prior to 1911.

The area of land shown above under the heading of settlement purchases relates to lands made available under the closer settlement policy inaugurated in 1904. This provided for the re-purchase of freehold lands and the resumption of certain leases, with compensation. These, with certain adjacent Crown lands, were made available for purchase on easy terms in home maintenance areas for settlers of small means. In 1916-17 the policy of providing land for returned soldiers was introduced, and this led to a considerable expansion of closer settlement operations.

Area Leased at 30th June, 1925.

The total area of Crown lands leased in New South Wales as at 30th June, 1925, was 117,025,800 acres inclusive of 39,287,106 acres under the Crown Lands Acts, 75,602,773 acres under the Western Lands Acts, 1,934,220 acres under the Forestry Act, and 201,701 acres under the Mining Act. The area under each tenure is shown below:—

Lease.	Area.*	Lease.	Area.*
Perpetual Leases—	Acres.	Other Long Term Leases—	
Homestead Farm	3,772,847	Special Lease*	796,054
Homestead Selections and Grants*	918,806	18th Section Lease	227,240
Suburban Holdings	53,994	Snow Lands Lease	126,020
Returned Soldiers' Special Holdings	24,986	Residential Lease	10,928
Week-end Leases	575	Church and School Land Lease	11
Town Lands Leases	121	Western Lands Leases—	
Irrigation Farms (Murrumbidgee)	133,374	New... ..	23,148,032
Town Blocks (Murrumbidgee)	208	Formerly under Crown Lands Act	50,028,029
		Irrigation Lands*†	138,243
Total	4,904,911	Total	74,474,557
Alienable Leases—		Short Term Leases—	
Conditional Lease*	14,145,841	Annual Lease*	1,502,623
Conditional Purchase Lease... ..	246,355	Occupation License*... ..	3,848,023
Total	14,392,196	Preferential Occupation License*	861,716
Leases alienable wholly or in part—		Permissive Occupancy*	2,963,461
Settlement Lease	3,712,740	Irrigation Lands*†	10,421
Crown Lease	4,874,737	Total	9,186,244
Total	8,587,477		
Leases with limited right of alienation—		Leased by Forestry Department—	
Improvement Lease*	2,206,400	Forestry Leases and Occupation Permits	1,934,220
Scrub Lease	1,046,596	Leased by Mines Department—	
Inferior Lands Lease	72,200	Mining Lease and Permit*	201,701
Prickly-pear Lease	19,298		
Total	3,344,494	Grand Total	117,025,800

* Includes the following tenures in Western Division, 1,118 acres of homestead selections and grants, 206,778 acres of conditional lease, 20,448 acres of improvement lease, 146 acres of special lease, 1,883 acres of long term leases of irrigation lands, 7,545 acres of short term lease of irrigation lands, 25,052 acres of annual lease, 1,596,693 acres of occupation license, 282,786 acres of preferential occupation license, 522,171 acres of permissive occupancies, and 8,052 acres of mining leases, besides the whole of the areas shown as Western Lands leases.

† Temporary tenure in Murrumbidgee irrigation area pending development.

Certain of the perpetual leases, such as homestead farm, homestead selection and grant and irrigation farms, carry statutory rights of purchase, while practically the whole of the conditional leases and conditional purchase

leases are convertible in this way. Settlement leases and Crown leases may also be converted into conditional purchases, but the area so converted in any individual case, together with other freehold, alienable, or leased lands with more than five years to run held by the same individual, may not exceed a home maintenance area as determined by the Local Land Board. Where there is such an excess area of lease it is converted into a conditional lease without any right of further conversion, and the area of unconvertible conditional leases so created is included in the total shown in the table.

Improvement and scrub leases are granted in respect of lands which require improvement before being made available for original holdings. Usually they are held in conjunction with other lands or in considerable areas, and the holder is given the right to apply for the conversion of sufficient to complete a home maintenance area into an alienable tenure during the last year of the currency of the lease. The holder also has the right to sell his lease, and considerable areas are transferred to persons eligible to convert. As a consequence, considerable areas of improvement and scrub leases do not again revert to the disposal of the State.

Special leases may be purchased by their holders with the approval of the Minister, and so also may the residential lease. The leases under the Western Lands Act are all situated in the Western Division, and an area of approximately 73,000,000 acres revert in 1943, subject to certain powers of withdrawal and extension of leases exercised by the Commissioners.

The short-term leases enumerated represent Crown lands reserved for various purposes, as well as lands available for settlement, but not yet taken up. The Forestry leases and occupation permits include only grazing leases which are wholly within State forests, and are therefore administered by the Forestry Department.

RESERVES.

The total area of reserved lands in the State as at 30th June, 1925, was 18,815,641 acres. Reserves are not necessarily unoccupied, considerable areas being held under annual, special, scrub, or forestry leases or on occupation license or permissive occupancy. Such are included under appropriate headings in the list of leasehold tenures shown above.

The following is a classification of reserves according to the principal purpose for which reserved:—

Class of Reserves.	Acres.
Travelling Stock	5,373,247
Water	743,368
Mining	1,369,088
Forest	2,962,036
Temporary Commons	412,052
Railway	46,669
Recreation and Parks	235,911
Pending Classification and Survey... ..	3,827,405
From Conditional Purchase, within Gold-fields	608,866
From Sale or Lease other than Improvement Lease	517,321
From Sale or Lease other than 18th Section Lease	168,058
Other	2,551,620
Total	18,815,641

The statement printed above is only intended to give an approximate idea of the relative extent of reserves of various kinds, and should not be taken as a measure of their absolute magnitude, because considerable areas are reserved for more than one purpose. For instance, the area principally reserved for forests is stated at only 2,962,036 acres, while the actual area of dedicated forest lands as at 30th June, 1925, was 5,145,957 acres, and in addition 1,637,458 acres were under timber reserve, making a total of 6,783,415 acres. Of the area dedicated, 1,852,446 acres of leases, situated entirely within State forests, were let to graziers by the Forestry Department, 81,774 acres of State Forests under tenures of the Crown Lands Act were administered by the Forestry Department, and further areas, comprising portions of leases not wholly within State forests, were administered by the Department of Lands.

Of the total area of reserves, 13,580,898 acres, or 72 per cent., were situated in the Eastern and Central Divisions of the State.

An annual revision of the reserved lands is made with the object of withdrawing from reserve any area the continued reservation of which is not required in the public interest.

AREA AVAILABLE FOR SETTLEMENT.

The area of land within the disposal of the Crown without the necessity of resumptions and consequent compensation is not definitely ascertainable, since clauses providing for revocation or withdrawal have been inserted in a number of lease contracts, and considerable areas leased for long periods revert to the Crown periodically by the effluxion of time. Particulars of those areas are not available.

Apart from these, however, certain lands under reserve, in addition to the lands comprised in the following short leases, may be considered to have been within the disposal of the Crown at 30th June, 1925 :—

Under Crown Lands Acts—	Area.
	Acres.
Occupation license (including 44,017 acres in Western Division)	2,251,330
Preferential occupation license	578,930
Annual lease (including 36,572 acres in Western Division)	1,477,571
Permissive occupancy	2,441,260
 Under Western Lands Act—	
Occupation licenses	1,552,676
Preferential occupation license	282,786
Permissive occupancy	522,171
<hr/>	
Total	9,106,724

The area of land held under the above tenures at 30th June, 1924, was 11,994,087 acres.

With a view to classifying and bringing forward those areas which are suitable for settlement, systematic inspections of Crown lands are made in each district. To meet the demand for land, 1,459,740 acres, including 259,813

acres for returned soldiers, were made available during the year 1923-24, and in 1924-25 the following areas were made available for the classes of holdings specified:—

	For Ordinary Settlement.	For Returned Soldiers.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
For Crown Lease	269,765	...	269,765
Homestead Farm	342,665	61,836	404,501
Irrigation Farms and Allotments	2,487	...	2,487
Conditional Purchase (original)	5,961	...	5,961
Conditional Purchase and Conditional Lease	8,314	...	8,314
Week-end leases	38	...	38
Soldiers' Group Purchases ... ..	...	7,086	7,086
Soldiers' Special Holding ... ..	...	5	5
Settlement Purchases	116,194	4,118	120,312
Additional Holdings (all classes)	60,321	1,165	61,486
	805,745	74,210	879,955
Area gazetted prior to 30th June, 1925, but not available until after that date ...	277,451	34,763	312,214
Total	1,083,196	108,973	1,192,169

The total areas available for settlement under the various tenures on 30th June, 1925, were as follow:—

	For Ordinary Settlement.	For Returned Soldiers.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
For Crown Lease	1,487,232	3,200	1,490,432
Homestead Farms	56,955	8,956	65,911
Suburban Holdings	2,803	...	2,803
Conditional Purchase (Original)	4,010,682	...	4,010,682
Week-end Leases	360	...	360
Settlement Leases	1,044	...	1,044
Improvement Leases	39,120	...	39,120
Settlement Purchases	18,234	1,056	19,340
Returned Soldiers' Special Holdings ... ..	...	80	80
Additional Holdings (Generally)	586,559	170	586,729
Total	6,203,044	13,462	6,216,506

The area of 4,010,682 acres, shown above as available for original conditional purchases, consists mostly of unclassified Crown lands of a rough and inferior nature. A considerable proportion of the lands comprised in this area has been available for years, but has remained unselected.

EASTERN AND CENTRAL LAND DIVISIONS.

METHODS OF ACQUISITION AND OCCUPATION.

The acquisition and tenure of land in the Eastern and Central Land Divisions are controlled principally by the Crown Lands Act (consolidated in 1913) and its amendments, together with regulations thereunder. In addition, the Closer Settlement Acts, Returned Soldiers' Settlement Acts, and the Forestry, Mining, Irrigation, and Prickly Pear Destruction Acts regulate certain tenures for specific purposes.

By these acts a great variety of tenures—more than thirty in number—have been created to suit the various circumstances of the lands and settlers of New South Wales and the changing character of rural settlement.

The principal means by which Crown lands in the Eastern and Central Divisions and lands in the Western Division remaining under the Crown Lands Act may be acquired, and the tenures under which they may be held, may be classified as follows :—

Non-Residential Tenures.	Tenures involving Residential Conditions	
Methods of Absolute Alienation.		
Auction sale.	Conditional purchase. Settlement purchase. Returned soldiers' special holding.‡ Improvement purchase on goldfields. Soldiers' Group Purchase.	
After-auction purchase.		
Special non competitive sales.		
Conditional purchase (40 to 320 acres)		
Exchange.		
Leases Alienable wholly or in Part.		
Improvement lease.	Conditional lease. Settlement lease. Crown lease. Homestead farm.‡ Homestead selection and grant.‡ Conditional purchase lease. Suburban holding.‡ Residential lease on goldfields.§ Homestead lease.† Irrigation Farm lease. Non-irrigable lease. Town Lands lease (Irrigation Area).	
Scrub lease.		
Inferior lands lease.		
Special lease.§		
Special conditional purchase lease (up to 320 acres).		
Annual lease.		
Town lands lease.†		
Week-end lease.‡		
Prickly-pear lease.		
Leases not Alienable.		
Occupation license.		Pastoral lease.* Lease to outgoing pastoral lessees (section 18).
Permissive occupancy.		
Occupation permit (forest lands).		
Forestry lease.		
Snow lease.		
Mineral and auriferous lease.		
Church and school lands lease.§		

* No holdings. † Holdings in Western Division only ‡ Perpetual. § With consent of Minister.

The rights of alienation attaching to the various classes of leases shown above differ widely, and are usually subject to the qualification that the area to be alienated, together with all other lands held (other than non-convertible leases within five years of expiry), shall not exceed a home maintenance area. Conditional purchase leases and conditional leases are almost entirely alienable, while homestead farms, homestead selections and grants, Crown and settlement leases are subject to restriction in regard to home maintenance area. Improvement leases, scrub leases, and inferior lands leases are alienable only when about to expire and are subject to reservation, the home maintenance limitation and other restrictions inserted in individual leases.

METHODS OF PURCHASE.

Conditional Purchase.

This method of alienation was introduced by the Crown Lands Act of 1861, and has become the most extensively used of all. Briefly, it is a system of Crown land sales by deposit and annual instalment, and operations under other forms of sale are now of small importance. All the principal leasehold tenures may, under certain conditions, be converted wholly or in part into conditional purchases, which may be considered the basal tenure of land settlement in New South Wales.

The outstanding feature of the tenure is the limitation placed upon the area of land which may be held by a conditional purchaser during the currency of his purchase. Lands available for conditional purchase comprise all Crown lands in the Eastern and Central land divisions other than those reserved from sale, leased for a term of years, within the boundaries of towns or other populated areas, or set apart for other classes of holdings. The area to be purchased under residential conditions may not be less than 40 acres, and must not exceed 1,280 acres in the Eastern land division, and 2,560 acres in the Central land division, or must not exceed 320 acres in either division when the buyer does not undertake to reside on the holding. Special areas without residential conditions, ranging up to 320 acres in the Eastern land division, and up to 640 acres in the Central land division, may also be made available.

Any conditional purchaser may take up the maximum area at once, if it is available, or may make a series of additional purchases as land becomes available. To facilitate this, a special tenure (conditional lease) has been created whereby a conditional purchaser may take up land not exceeding three times the area of his conditional purchase, and this may be converted into conditional purchase. The combined area so acquired may exceed the prescribed divisional limit only to make up a home maintenance area as determined in individual cases by the Local Land Board. Holders of freehold lands of at least 40 acres are also permitted to acquire lands as additional conditional purchases and conditional leases, provided the total area of each holding so increased does not exceed the divisional maximum nor a home maintenance area.

Applicants for lands under this tenure must have attained the age of 16 years if males, and 18 years if females, or 21 years in either case if the holding is non-residential. Alien applicants must have resided in New South Wales for at least twelve months, and must become naturalised within five years of acquiring the purchase.

The price of the land for a residential purchase is £1 per acre, unless otherwise notified, in addition to the value of improvements (if any) assessed by the Local Land Board. A deposit of 5 per cent. of the purchase money must be paid in addition to survey fee and stamp duty. The first annual instalment is due at the end of three years from the date of application and, at the holder's option, may be at the rate of 9d. or 1s. for each £ of the price of the land. Such payment comprises repayment of principal, with interest at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum. The term of purchase, according to the rate of instalment paid, is forty-one or twenty-eight years. Payment for improvements may be made in fifteen equal annual instalments, including interest at the rate of 4 per cent.

The conditions to be observed by purchasers include *bona fide* residence upon the holding for five years after confirmation unless modified by the Local Land Board; fencing or other improvements, as prescribed, to the value of at least 30 per cent. of the price of the land (but not exceeding £384) effected within three years, and to the value of 50 per cent. of the price of the land (but not exceeding £640) effected within five years of confirmation; and the payment of all instalments and prescribed charges.

The price of land taken up as a non-residential purchase is double that of a residential purchase, and the term of payment is twenty-seven years. Fencing to the value of £1 per acre, or other improvements to the value of £1 10s. per acre, must be effected within five years.

All applications connected with the purchases are considered by the Local Land Board, and certificates are issued to the holder by the chairman

upon survey and confirmation, and a further certificate when all conditions, other than payment of balance of purchase money or survey fees have been fulfilled. After all conditions have been fulfilled a Crown grant is issued to the holder.

Under certain conditions a residential conditional purchase may be converted into a homestead farm, and a non-residential purchase into a residential purchase or a homestead farm.

Transfer may be made after the certificate has been issued, but purchases applied for after 31st January, 1909, may be transferred only with the consent of the Minister for Lands.

A conditional lease of not less than 40 acres may be obtained only by the holder of a conditional purchase, subject to the various conditions set out above in respect of conditional purchases. The term of lease is forty years, but may be extended to sixty years upon application during the last five years of the term with the right to convert an area of not less than 40 acres to additional conditional purchase at any time after confirmation. The rent is payable annually at rates appraised by the Land Board, subject to reappraisal at the end of each period of fifteen years. (Further particulars as to conditional leases are given on a later page.)

Number and Area of Conditional Purchases and Conditional Leases.

Transactions in respect of original and additional conditional purchases from 1862 to 30th June, 1925, were as follow :—

Year ended 30th June.	Conditional Purchases— Applications made during year.		Completed Conditional Purchases— Deeds issued during year.		Uncompleted Conditional Purchases in existence.		Conditional Leases Gazetted during year.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
		acres.		acres.		acres.		acres.
1862-1914	257,667	40,675,414	121,749	15,960,930	91,935	17,837,702	20,675	15,688,322
1915	262	46,175	2,354	304,012	90,904	18,035,210	301	319,362
1916	216	22,485	2,462	307,016	80,670	18,315,095	315	259,802
1917	168	25,761	2,881	357,828	88,493	18,693,429	133	122,137
1918	271	32,085	2,861	388,338	87,651	19,225,738	171	184,093
1919	511	75,370	3,698	550,779	86,203	19,435,807	269	263,791
1920	772	126,179	5,397	686,385	82,938	19,365,856	321	221,153
1921	533	90,573	4,792	664,822	78,971	18,672,521	351	88,478
1922	311	59,878	4,882	741,263	75,532	18,436,627	370	201,866
1923	361	69,524	4,113	667,073	72,883	18,199,432	224	132,444
1924	379	70,784	3,374	596,124	71,202	18,122,045	231	233,123
1925	423	68,496	3,325	590,221	69,470	18,156,194	166	179,241
Total (as at 30th June, 1925)	291,375	41,332,734	161,888	21,828,491	69,470	18,156,194	22,527	13,930,063

The particulars of applications for conditional purchases shown above are exclusive of applications to convert the tenures into conditional purchases, whereas the figures relating to completed and uncompleted conditional purchases include large areas converted from other tenures. The total area alienated and in course of alienation by conditional purchase as at 30th June, 1925, was 39,979,685 acres, and, in addition, there were 13,939,063 acres of associated conditional leases which were almost wholly convertible into conditional purchases. The area of uncompleted conditional purchases shown above includes a number upon which payments have been completed, although deeds have not yet been issued.

The area of conditional purchases converted to other tenures—6,419 acres—has been deducted from the above totals.

The number of conditional purchase selections shown is several times greater than the total number of rural holdings in the State, and does not, of course, represent individual holdings. It represents the number of individual blocks, both original and additional, taken up as conditional purchases and it includes those which have been sold after deeds have been issued and incorporated with other holdings.

Auction Sales and After-auction Purchases.

Crown lands are submitted for auction sale under two systems. Under the ordinary system the balance of purchase money is payable, without interest, within three months of the day of sale, while, under the deferred payment system, the balance is payable by instalments, with 5 per cent. interest, distributed over a period not exceeding ten years; in either case, not less than 10 per cent. of the purchase money must be deposited at the time of sale.

Auction sales were limited by law in 1884 to 200,000 acres in any one year, but the area sold by auction and after-auction purchases, although formerly extensive, has amounted to only 38,885 acres in the last ten years. Town lands may be sold in blocks not exceeding half an acre, at an upset price of not less than £8 per acre; and suburban lands must not exceed 20 acres in one block, the minimum upset price being £2 10s. per acre. Country lands may be submitted in areas not exceeding 640 acres, the upset price being not less than 15s. per acre. The value of improvements on the land may be added to the upset price.

Town or suburban land or portions of country land of less than 40 acres each, which have been passed at auction, may be bought with the Minister's consent, at the upset price; a deposit of 25 per cent. of such upset price is payable at the time of application, the balance being payable on the terms fixed for the auction sale.

Alienation by this method is now very restricted. Only 3,362 acres were sold by auction during 1924-25 in 740 lots, realising £34,431. In addition, 483 acres were sold as after-auction purchases in 530 lots, realising £9,272.

Improvement Purchases.

Holders of miners' rights or of business licenses on a gold-field, being in authorised occupation by residence on land containing improvements, may purchase such land without competition. Improvements must include a residence or place of business, and be of the value of £8 per acre on town land, and of £2 10s. per acre on any other land. Alienation by this means has never been extensive. During 1924-25 the area sold was 39 acres in 75 lots for a total sum of £1,298.

Special Non-Competitive Sales.

These comprise land reclamations, rescissions of reservations, unnecessary roads, public land to which no way of access is available, or which is insufficient in area for conditional sale, etc., also residential leases, and the area of Newcastle pasturage reserves for which the purchase money has been paid in full. The amount realised by special sales in 1924-25 was £7,856 in respect of 1,410 acres of land.

The owner in fee-simple of land having frontage to the sea, or to any tidal water or lake, who desires to reclaim and purchase any adjoining land lying below high-water mark, may apply to the Minister for Lands to do so, except in the case of Port Jackson, the control of which is vested in the Sydney Harbour Trust. Reclamations which might interrupt or interfere with navigation are not authorised.

Area Alienated by Crown Land Sales.

Particulars of areas disposed of under the three preceding headings, in quinquennial periods, since 1900, are as follow :—

Years.	Auction Sales.	After-auction Sales.	Improvement Purchases.	Special Sales.	Total.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
1900-04* ...	261,328	10,004	942	3,782	276,056
1905-09 ...	80,430	15,801	181	5,817	102,229
1910-14 ...	16,768	6,994	269	9,976	34,007
1915-19 ...	20,527	2,709	241	9,743	33,220
1920 ...	5,661	1,037	28	1,642	8,368
1921 ...	296	360	22	2,036	2,714
1922 ...	241	545	51	2,118	2,955
1923 ...	1,007	563	22	2,674	4,266
1924 ...	2,135	458	20	2,322	4,935
1925 ...	3,362	483	39	1,410	5,294

* Calendar years. Subsequent years are for year ended 30th June.

Exchange of Land between the Crown and Private Owners.

Before the granting of fixity of tenure in connection with pastoral leases, the lessees had made it a practice to secure portions of their runs by conditional purchases and purchases in fee-simple. The practice was disadvantageous to the public estate, because Crown lands, were left in detached blocks severed by lessees' freehold properties; and the lessees realised that it would be convenient to them to gather their freeholds together in one or more consolidated blocks by surrender of the private lands in exchange for Crown lands elsewhere.

Under the provisions of the Crown Lands Consolidation Act, 1913, the Governor, with the consent of the owner, may exchange any Crown lands for any other lands of which a grant in fee-simple has been issued.

The Governor may accept, in exchange for Crown lands, lands in respect of which a balance of purchase money remains unpaid, if upon payment of such balance the right to a grant in fee-simple becomes absolute. In any such case a grant of Crown lands in exchange will not be issued until the balance of purchase money has been duly paid.

Under this head 32 applications, embracing 42,186 acres, were granted in 1924-25, 10 were either refused or withdrawn, &c., and 132 cases were pending at 30th June, 1925.

Settlement Purchase and Irrigation Farm Purchase.

Particulars of these methods of acquiring land are shown on later pages in relation to Closer Settlement and Irrigation Settlement.

ALIENABLE LEASES.

The principal kinds of leases which may be converted under specified conditions to freehold tenures wholly or in part are the conditional lease, Crown lease, settlement lease, improvement lease, homestead farm, homestead selection and homestead grant, annual lease, special lease, scrub lease, inferior lands lease, conditional purchase lease, irrigation farm lease, non-irrigible lease, prickly-pear lease, and homestead lease. Other leases of this class are suburban holding, residential lease, week-end lease, and leases of town lands.

Conditional Leases.

Certain particulars regarding these leases have been shown on a previous page in connection with conditional purchases. The tenure was introduced by the Act of 1884. A conditional lease may be obtained by any holder of a conditional purchase (other than non-residential), or a conditional purchase within a special area in the Eastern Division. Lands available for conditional purchase are also available for conditional lease, with the exception of lands in the Western Division, and of lands within a special area or a reserve. Applications must be accompanied by a provisional rent of 2d. per acre and a survey fee, except where otherwise provided. The lease was formerly for a period of forty years, but it was provided in 1924 that, upon application during the last five years of its currency, a lease might be extended for a period of twenty years. To 30th June, 1925, such extensions were granted in 209 cases embracing 82,698 acres.

The rent is determined by the Land Board, and is payable yearly in advance. Any conditional lease, with the exception of a small number of inconvertible conditional leases created by conversion from other tenures, may be converted at any time during its currency into a conditional purchase.

Applications for 115 leases, of an area of 65,754 acres, were lodged during 1924-25, and 111, including applications outstanding from the previous year, representing 53,834 acres, were confirmed.

Conditional leases, to the number of 727, embracing 351,200 acres, were converted into conditional purchases, and conditional leases containing an area of 209,275 acres, were created by conversion. Gazetted conditional leases in existence at 30th June, 1925, numbered 22,527, embracing 13,939,063 acres, at an annual rental of £202,627.

Crown Leases.

Crown leases were constituted under the Crown Lands Amendment Act, 1912, and lands are specially set apart by notification in the *Government Gazette* as available for Crown lease. Crown lands available for conditional purchase (unless otherwise specified in the *Gazette*) are also available for Crown lease. Land may be set apart for Crown lease to be acquired only as additional holdings.

The term of lease is forty-five years, and the annual rent $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. of the capital value, as determined every fifteen years. The rent payable for the first year may be remitted if, in addition to the improvements required as a condition of the lease, an equal sum be spent by the lessee in improving the land. Upon the expiration of a Crown lease the last holder thereof possesses tenant rights in all improvements other than Crown improvements. The lessee is required to reside on the land for five years, commencing within six months of the confirmation of the lease. Under the conditions attached to the lease when granted in 1912 the lessee was empowered during the last five years of the lease, unless debarred by notification setting the land apart, to apply to convert into a homestead farm so much of the land as would not exceed a home-maintenance area. But by the Act of 1917 where a Crown lease is not covered by reservation of any kind, so much of it as, with other freehold or convertible leases held by the lessee, does not exceed a home maintenance area may be converted into a conditional purchase, with or without a conditional lease. Since the passing of this Act 326,313 acres of Crown lease have been converted into conditional purchase and conditional purchase lease. The lease may be protected against sale for debt in certain circumstances. Any person qualified to apply for a homestead farm may apply for a Crown lease.

Operations under this class of lease have been as follow :—

Year ended 30th June.	Applications.		Confirmed.		Leases current at 30th June.		
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	Rent.
		acres.		acres.		acres.	£
1912-1914	1,429	1,563,219	825	915,215	1,189	1,605,041	16,468
1915	628	643,189	598	487,155	1,600	1,563,684	16,114
1916	571	864,158	501	780,373	1,760	1,896,765	21,561
1917	541	595,409	445	441,313	2,033	2,134,446	24,845
1918	463	500,386	291	285,248	2,337	2,449,587	28,292
1919	628	934,072	313	341,324	2,565	2,694,879	31,303
1920	1,039	1,399,270	419	593,554	2,841	3,092,904	34,521
1921	686	790,926	548	671,247	3,186	3,664,798	38,512
1922	424	555,629	604	700,419	3,384	4,128,533	38,860
1923	496	790,775	308	550,254	3,613	4,519,500	41,871
1924	412	590,044	277	406,721	3,731	4,764,214	43,464
1925	347	522,434	274	367,031	3,819	4,874,737	45,085
Total ...	7,664	9,749,511	5,403	6,539,854	3,819	4,874,737	45,085

Since 1916-17 the figures shown above have included a number of Crown leases made available specially for returned soldiers. Particulars of these are shown on page .

This tenure was extensively applied immediately from its inception, and it practically superseded the settlement lease under which operations were extensive until 1912. Most of the Crown lands made available each year are set apart under this tenure and that of the homestead farm, also introduced in 1912. The total area of Crown leases confirmed during the thirteen years the tenure has been in existence was 6,539,854 acres, which has been reduced by forfeitures, conversions, &c., so that the area remaining under Crown lease at 30th June, 1925, was 4,874,737 acres.

Settlement Leases.

This tenure was created in 1895. Until 1912 it was extensively used in making land available for settlement, but since the introduction of the Crown lease in that year fresh operations under it have been inconsiderable. Under its conditions farms gazetted as available for settlement lease can be obtained on application accompanied by a deposit of six months' rent and one-tenth of survey fee. The duration of the lease is forty years, and the leaseholder is required to reside on the lease for the first five years of its currency. Rent is payable at the rate specified upon gazettal, subject to the lessee's right to apply for appraisalment within five years and to re-appraisalment at the end of each fifteen years of the currency of the lease.

From its inception very considerable areas of land were taken up under this lease, and by 30th June, 1913, the total area of settlement leases confirmed to applicants was 8,793,663 acres. An amendment of the Crown Lands Act gave holders of settlement leases the right to convert such part of their leases as, with freehold or convertible lands already held, does not exceed a home maintenance area into a conditional purchase with an associated conditional purchase, but where the total holding of freehold land so created would exceed a home maintenance area the excess is granted as conditional lease without rights of conversion.

Between 1909 and 30th June, 1925, a total area of 4,720,754 acres of settlement leases were converted under these conditions into other tenures, and 49,466 acres, chiefly of special leases, had been converted into settlement

leases. Since 1913 only 75,539 acres of new settlement leases have been confirmed, while considerable areas have reverted to the Crown by forfeiture, &c. At 30th June, 1925, there remained under this tenure 1,413 leases, comprising 3,712,740 acres, at an annual rental of £53,517.

The transactions in respect of settlement leases during 1924-25 were as follow :—Applications for original settlement leases, nil; for additional leases, 7 in respect of 9,315 acres; 4 leases, with a total area of 4,731 acres, were confirmed; and 5, of 1,211 acres, were created by conversion of special leases into settlement leases.

Improvement Leases.

This tenure was introduced in 1895 and, by the end of 1903, an area of 9,716,006 acres of improvement leases had been let although the area actually current was considerably smaller. After that year the areas taken up annually showed a considerable falling-off and, up to 30th June, 1925, the total area of improvement leases which had been let was 11,549,839 acres, of which only 2,185,952 acres remained current. The maximum area of improvement leases current at any time was 6,884,330 acres in 1910, the subsequent decrease having been brought about mainly by the withdrawal of leases for settlement in terms of individual leases and a number of other causes, such as forfeiture, expiry, resumption, and the transfer of improvement leases wholly within State forests to the control of the Forestry Commission and their conversion into forestry leases.

In 1924-25 an area of 385,071 acres, comprised in 65 improvement leases and 1 lease of 472 acres under improvement conditions, expired by effluxion of time, and in 1925-26 an area of 186,043 acres comprised in 37 improvement leases and 2 leases containing 1,067 acres expired similarly. However, after exercise of the rights of leaseholders to apply during the last year for conversion of their lease into a homestead grant, only a proportion of this area reverted to the Crown for re-allotment.

An improvement lease may consist of any land in the Eastern or Central Divisions considered unsuitable for closer settlement until improved. It may be obtained only by auction or tender, but prior to 1920 certain leases were granted at fixed rentals under improvement conditions. The rent is payable annually, and the lease is for a period of twenty-eight years, with an area not exceeding 20,480 acres. Upon the expiration of the lease the last holder is deemed to have tenant-right in improvements. During the last year of the lease the lessee may apply for a homestead grant of an area not in excess of a home-maintenance area, including the area on which his dwelling-house is erected. However, only 174,292 acres have been converted in this way. The Advisory Board, constituted under the Closer Settlement Act, 1907, may inspect any land comprised in an improvement lease, and if it finds such land suitable for closer settlement, the Minister may resume the lease, the lessee being compensated. To 30th June, 1925, a total area of 342,821 acres had been withdrawn in this way, £126,794 being paid as compensation to lessees.

During 1924-25, one improvement lease of 3,500 acres was let by tender at an annual rental of £10, and 2 leases comprising 8,372 acres were granted under improvement conditions at an annual rental of £102. Thirteen improvement leases, with a total area of 33,479 acres, were converted into homestead selections. There remained current at 30th June, 1925, 510 improvement leases and leases under improvement conditions, with an area of 2,185,952 acres, and rental £16,415.

Homestead Farms.

This tenure was created in 1912. The title of a homestead farm is a lease in perpetuity. Annual rent is charged at the rate of 2½ per cent. of the capital value, but for the first five years the holder, in lieu of payment of rent, may expend an equal amount on improvements of a permanent character, which (except boundary fencing) are in addition to those which are required otherwise by the conditions of the lease. The capital value of the holding is subject to reappraisal after the first twenty-five years and subsequently at intervals of twenty years.

Crown lands available for conditional purchases (unless otherwise notified in the *Gazette*) are also available for homestead farms. Land may be set apart for additional homestead farms, but is available only to applicants whose total holding, if successful, would not substantially exceed a home-maintenance area. Any Crown lands may be set apart for disposal as homestead farms before survey. There is no definite limit placed on the area of a homestead farm, but it is generally notified as available in home-maintenance areas.

A condition of five years' residence is attached to every homestead farm, but in special cases residence in a town or village, or anywhere within reasonable working distance, may be allowed. Residence may be permitted on a holding of a member of the same family, or on another of the selector's holdings within reasonable working distance. Suspensions or remissions may be granted for such periods as determined by the Land Board. In certain cases a wife may carry out residence on her husband's holding, or, conversely, a husband may carry out residence on his wife's holding.

A perpetual lease grant is issued after the expiration of five years from confirmation of the application, if the holder has complied with all required conditions.

Applications received for homestead farms and those dealt with since 1912, are as follow :—

Year ended 30th June.	Applications.				Created by Conversion from other tenures.		Reversal of forfeiture and increased area.		Less—		Homestead Farms in existence at end of year.	
	Received.		Confirmed.						Forfeited, decrease in area, and conversions into other tenures.			
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
1912-14	1,013	595,080	760	452,756	28	17,378	...	...	32	19,635	756	450,490
1915	605	467,873	437	327,098	11	4,550	1	210	50	33,439	1,155	748,918
1916	372	281,655	348	252,166	6	3,848	...	...	57	35,479	1,452	969,453
1917	271	181,722	167	115,259	2	1,209	2	486	75	49,722	1,548	1,036,685
1918	245	186,853	158	89,020	...	...	4	2,783	82	46,866	1,628	1,081,622
1919	498	572,713	339	383,833	3	1,602	4	2,379	107	58,824	1,867	1,410,612
1920	840	989,884	491	507,417	5	3,211	1	857	76	32,988	2,288	1,880,400
1921	573	562,797	449	437,713	1	151	2	1,056	69	31,181	2,671	2,296,648
1922	473	570,582	375	378,180	8	9,505	...	238	93	62,464	2,961	2,622,307
1923	405	558,531	338	460,502	12	10,690	7	7,537	90	88,131	3,228	3,012,905
1924	331	552,386	269	371,816	4	2,862	9	8,449	105	86,891	3,405	3,360,144
1925	463	697,939	352	524,632	12	31,729	9	21,506	118	114,161	3,660	3,772,347
Total	6,139	6,218,045	4,483	4,300,392	92	86,735	39	45,501	954	659,781	3,660	3,772,847

Since 1916-17 homestead farms have been made available specially for returned soldiers. These are included in the above table and are also shown separately on page 811.

The total area of homestead farms confirmed to 30th June, 1925, was 4,300,392 acres and, after adjustments of area by reason of conversion, forfeiture, etc., there remained in existence 3,772,847 acres under this tenure-

The holder of a conditional purchase, or conditional purchase and conditional lease, or homestead selection, or homestead grant, or conditional purchase lease, under certain conditions, may convert such holding into a homestead farm. The area of homestead farms so created to 30th June, 1925, was 86,735 acres. Under certain conditions a homestead farm may be converted into a conditional purchase lease or into a conditional purchase, with or without a conditional lease, and 107,530 acres of homestead farms have been so converted into other tenures. A homestead farm, which is a conversion of a settlement purchase under provision now repealed, may be reconverted into a settlement purchase. Two homestead farms of 449 acres and 722 acres respectively have been so converted.

Homestead Selections and Homestead Grants.

The appropriation of areas for homestead selection was a prominent feature of the Act of 1895, the land chosen for subdivision being generally agricultural land, and the maximum area of holdings limited to 1,280 acres. The tenure is lease in perpetuity with rent at the rate of $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. per annum for the first five years or until the issue of the homestead grant, when it is raised to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. or to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the appraised value if residence is performed by deputy. Certain residential and improvement conditions were imposed, and on compliance with these for a term of five years a homestead grant is issued.

Since 1912 practically no lands have been made available for original homestead selections, such tenure having been replaced by that of homestead farm. Applications dealt with after 1912, are either in connection with areas previously set apart for homestead selection, or as additional areas, principally the latter. A large number of persons have, however, selected under this form of holding, as will be seen from the following statement which shows the applications and confirmations in regard to homestead selections and homestead grants issued up to 30th June, 1925.

Year ended 30th June.	Homestead Selections.				Homestead Grants issued.		Homestead Selections and Grants in existence.	
	Applications.		Confirmations.		No.	Acres.	No.	Acres.
1895 to 1914	10,039	3,824,103	7,947	2,763,683	4,917	1,934,388	3,868	1,396,911
1915 ...	30	16,983	18	7,233	198	59,919	3,788	1,365,715
1916 ...	8	3,141	17	7,559	161	48,479	3,694	1,317,124
1917 ...	5	3,970	5	1,337	212	54,791	3,585	1,256,033
1918 ...	24	18,175	10	5,535	189	49,306	3,295	1,055,910
1919 ...	20	17,266	23	19,232	172	30,807	3,091	985,918
1920 ...	23	15,365	8	9,690	55	20,502	2,936	912,573
1921 ...	21	14,069	21	7,819	25	9,004	2,863	895,334
1922 ...	15	9,090	9	7,507	33	17,896	2,803	895,298
1923 ...	14	10,080	15	9,124	33	11,973	2,779	915,480
1924 ...	16	11,495	14	10,017	35	21,896	2,752	951,599
1925 ..	5	1,573	5	2,922	29	17,854	2,695	917,688
Total ...	10,220	3,945,310	8,092	2,851,658	6,059	2,276,815	2,695	917,688

On account of adjustments for conversions to and from other tenures, forfeitures, etc., the number and area of homestead selections and grants in existence have been greatly reduced.

Operations under this tenure were at first very extensive, but they gradually diminished, and in 1911-12, the year before the homestead farm was introduced, only 94,641 acres of homestead selections were confirmed. The Crown Lands Amendment Act of 1908 authorised the conversion of homestead selections and grants into conditional purchases and conditional leases. Extensive advantage has been taken of this provision, and to 30th June, 1925, an area of 1,911,776 acres of homestead selections and grants had been so converted. This accounts for practically the whole of the difference between the area of homestead selections confirmed (2,851,658 acres) and the area remaining in existence (917,688 acres) the remainder having reverted to the Crown by forfeiture, diminution of area, etc. Under the Crown Lands (Amendment) Act of 1912, a homestead selection or grant may be converted into a homestead farm, but there have been only seven cases of conversion of this kind, covering 29,634 acres.

Leases of Scrub and Inferior Lands.

These tenures were introduced in 1889 in order to provide for the effective occupation and improvement of lands not suited for ordinary pastoral occupation.

Scrub leases and inferior lands leases may be obtained by auction, or by tender, and scrub leases may also be obtained by application. There is no definite limitation as to area, and in the case of a scrub lease obtained by application the rent is appraised by the Local Land Board. The initial rent of an inferior lands lease prevails throughout the whole term; but the term of a scrub lease may be divided into periods, the rent for each period being determined by reappraisal. The term of each class of lease normally does not exceed twenty-one years, but may be extended to twenty-eight years. The holder of a scrub lease must take such steps as the Land Board may direct for the purpose of destroying the scrub, and keeping the land clear afterwards. Upon the recommendation of the Closer Settlement Advisory Board the Minister may resume any scrub lease considered suitable for closer settlement and compensate the lessee. To 30th June, 1925, an area of 207,450 acres had been so resumed, and £70,731 had been paid as compensation to lessees. During the last year of either class of lease, application may be made for a homestead grant of an area not in excess of a home-maintenance area, but where the lease does not substantially exceed a home-maintenance area it may be so converted at any time during its currency. The first leases were granted in 1890, and the first conversions of scrub leases occurred in 1920-21, since when 49,290 acres have been converted into homestead grants. In addition considerable areas of scrub leases wholly within State forests have been transferred to the control of the Forestry Department and largely converted into forestry leases.

The area of inferior-lands leases has never been extensive, while that under scrub leases reached its maximum of 2,273,123 acres in 1912, since when it has steadily diminished.

At 30th June, 1925, there were in existence 174 scrub leases, with an area of 1,046,596 acres, and rental of £4,525; and 26 inferior land leases, embracing 72,200 acres, at a rental of £253. During 1924-25, scrub leases covering an area of 62,629 acres were determined, and in the following year 17 leases covering 185,127 acres expired by effluxion of time.

Annual Leases.

Unoccupied lands, not reserved from lease, may be obtained for pastoral purposes as annual leases on application, or they may be offered by auction or tender. No conditions of residence or improvement are attached to

annual leases, which convey no security of tenure, the land being alienable by conditional purchase, auction sale, &c. The area in any one lease is restricted to 1,920 acres. In certain circumstances an annual lease may be converted into a lease under improvement conditions for a term not exceeding ten years.

The area under annual lease fluctuates from year to year, but is steadily diminishing. It amounted to 8,687,837 acres in 1903 and 2,953,296 in 1920. The number of annual leases current at 30th June, 1925, was 3,934, embracing 1,477,571 acres, with an annual rent of £12,175, inclusive of 25 annual leases, comprising 25,052 acres in the Western Division.

Special Leases.

Special leases not exceeding an area of 320 acres are issued to meet cases where land is required for some industrial or business purpose, but between 1917 and 1924 areas up to 1,920 acres were made available for agriculture or grazing. A special lease may be obtained by application, auction, or otherwise, but the term of the lease may not exceed twenty-eight years. Conditions as to the rent, residence, improvements, etc., in each case are determined by the Minister.

The Crown Lands Act, passed in 1908, provides for the conversion of a special lease by a qualified leaseholder, with the consent of the Minister, into a conditional purchase lease, an original or additional conditional purchase, an original or additional homestead selection, an original or additional settlement lease, a conditional lease, or homestead farm. Under this provision 733,977 acres of special leases have been converted into various new tenures.

The number of special leases granted during 1924-25 was 730, with a total area of 109,692 acres; and 460 leases, representing 68,904 acres, were converted into other tenures. After allowance has been made for leases which had terminated, were forfeited, surrendered, etc., and those which expired by effluxion of time, 7,257 leases, with an area of 795,908 acres and rental of £44,264, were current at 30th June, 1925.

Conditional Purchase Leases.

This form of tenure was created in 1905; but, as in the case of homestead selections and settlement leases, it is obsolete for the purpose of selection, as lands are not now made available under it. The area held under conditional purchase lease reached a maximum of 677,961 acres in 1911, since when it has steadily decreased.

The term of the lease was originally forty years, but in 1924 it was increased to fifty years with rent at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum of the capital value, which is to be re-appraised at the end of the first twenty-five years. No fixed limit was placed on areas made available, but conditions as to residence, cultivation, etc., were prescribed. Conversion to the tenures of conditional purchase and homestead farms are permitted, the total area so converted being 467,091 acres.

A special conditional purchase lease may be granted without obligation of residence in respect of areas not exceeding 320 acres on condition that improvements to the value of 10s. or more per acre, as determined by the Minister, are effected within three years of application.

During the year 1924-25 one application was received for an original lease of 4,352 acres, and one for a special conditional purchase lease of 58 acres. No applications were confirmed during the year, but one lease was created by conversion from another tenure, and the area of existing leases was

increased by 18 acres. Thirty-four leases, of 19,760 acres, were converted into conditional purchases. The leases holding good at 30th June, 1925, numbered 336, with an area of 246,355 acres, the annual rent amounting to £6,861.

Prickly Pear Leases.

Under the Prickly Pear Destruction Act, 1901, certain common or Crown lands infested with prickly pear may be offered for lease by auction or tender, and may be let for a term not exceeding 21 years, subject to prescribed conditions as to improvements, rent, &c. At 30th June, 1925, the number of prickly pear leases was 50, and the area so leased was 19,298 acres, at a total annual rental of £285. Under certain conditions a prickly pear lease may be converted to a homestead selection and two leases of 446 acres have been so converted.

Homestead Leases.

The last leases under this tenure terminated during 1923-24.

Suburban Holdings.

The tenure of suburban holding was introduced in 1912. It is a lease in perpetuity with certain conditions as to residence and perpetual payment of rent. Under certain conditions the leaseholder may be permitted to purchase his holding. Any suburban Crown lands, or Crown lands within population boundaries, or within the Newcastle pasturage reserve, or any other Crown land, may be set apart for disposal by way of suburban holding.

The area of a suburban holding is determined by the Minister for Lands ; the rent—minimum, 5s. per annum—is calculated at the rate of 2½ per cent. of the capital value, to be appraised for each period of twenty years. Males under 16 years and females under 18 years are disqualified from applying. A married woman may apply in certain cases, provided her husband has not acquired a suburban holding. After the expiration of five years from date of confirmation, and subject to fulfilment of all conditions, a perpetual lease grant is issued. The right to purchase suburban holdings was conferred in 1917.

No rent is chargeable on holdings in course of purchase, the principal with interest at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum on the balance being paid by annual instalments extending over a period of 10 years.

The number of confirmations and purchases of suburban holdings since the introduction of the tenure were as under :—

Yearended 30th June.	Confirmations.		Suburban Holdings in existence at the end of year.*		Annual Rent.	Suburban Holdings— Purchases approved to the end of the year.		
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.		No.	Area.	Price.
		acres.		acres.	£		acres.	£
1912-1914	964	23,230	902	22,114	2,473	...	...	...
1915 ...	477	9,299	1,311	30,717	3,495	...	...	...
1916 ...	400	6,775	1,535	34,110	4,043	...	...	...
1917 ...	230	2,937	1,662	36,631	4,246	...	...	...
1918 ...	186	3,318	1,804	38,354	4,381	11	289	915
1919 ...	183	3,226	1,809	39,170	4,670	136	2,057	12,035
1920 ...	181	4,073	1,826	40,198	4,401	259	4,252	23,207
1921 ...	282	6,764	1,995	45,475	4,830	333	5,169	30,446
1922 ...	415	9,121	2,260	51,071	5,470	397	6,382	35,535
1923 ...	272	5,130	2,389	55,025	5,818	468	7,253	40,566
1924 ...	153	3,617	2,373	56,376	5,766	559	8,908	49,514
1925 ...	47	641	2,370	53,994	5,734	662	10,739	57,258

* Exclusive of purchases approved.

The average size of suburban holdings in existence at 30th June, 1925, was 23 acres, the average size of such holdings sold was 16 acres, and the average price of purchases approved £5 7s. per acre.

To 30th June, 1925, deeds of purchase had been issued in respect of 171 suburban holdings, embracing 1,818 acres; these are excluded from the above table.

Residential Leases.

The holder of a "miner's right" within a gold or mineral field may obtain a residential lease. A provisional rent of 1s. per acre is charged, the maximum area allowed is 20 acres, and the longest term of the lease twenty-eight years; the annual rent is appraised by the Land Board. The principal conditions of the lease are residence during its currency, and the erection within twelve months of necessary buildings and fences. Tenant-right in improvements is conferred upon the lessee. The holder of any residential lease may, after five years, acquire the land by improvement purchase with the consent of the Minister as described on a previous page.

There were 793 leases, embracing 10,928 acres at a rental of £1,482 current at 30th June, 1925.

Week-end Leases.

This tenure, created by the Crown Lands Amendment Act, 1916, is a lease in perpetuity of an area not exceeding 60 acres, subject to payment of rent at the rate of 2½ per cent. of the capital value, to the effecting of substantial improvements worth £1 per acre within five years from confirmation, and to the performance of such special conditions as may be notified. Residence is not necessary. The minimum rent is £1. Any adult (except a married woman not judicially separated from her husband) may apply, but persons who already hold land within areas defined in a notification setting apart the land for week-end leases are generally disqualified.

Week-end leases, on approval by the Minister, may be purchased, and payment must be made within three months from date of demand, or within such further period as the Minister may allow.

Transfers may be made at any time with the Minister's consent, but must be to a qualified person, except in cases of devolution under a will or intestacy. The consideration for a transfer must not exceed the capital value of the improvements on the land.

During the year ended 30th June, 1925, 9 applications for 60 acres were received, and confirmation was made in 8 cases with an area of 61 acres at an annual rental of £9. At 30th June, 1925, the leases current numbered 115, of an area of 575 acres, and annual rental £122. In addition, 40 leases of 160 acres had been made freehold, and approval to purchase had been granted in the case of 20 leases of 107 acres.

Leases of Town Lands.

Crown lands within the boundaries of any town may be leased by public auction or by tender. The lease is perpetual, and the area included must not exceed half an acre. The amount bid at auction or offered by tender (not being less than the upset value) is the capital value on which the annual rent at the rate of 2½ per cent. is based for the first period of twenty years. The capital value for each subsequent twenty years' period is determined by the Land Board.

The lease may contain such covenants and provisions as may be gazetted prior to sale or tender. Residence is not necessary. No person is allowed to hold more than one lease, unless with the permission of the Minister on recommendation by the Land Board. The holder of a town lease may be allowed to purchase.

In the year 1924-25* no after-auction tenders were received. Deeds of purchase have been issued for 50 lots embracing 17 acres, and approval to purchase granted in 51 cases for an area of 15 acres. On 30th June, 1925, there were 339 leases, containing 121 acres, the annual rental being £263.

INALIENABLE LEASES.

The term "inalienable leases" is here used to signify that the statutory conditions attaching to the leases so classified do not permit the leaseholder to purchase any part of his lease nor to convert into another leasehold tenure involving the right of purchase.

On the foundation of the Colony all lands vested in the Crown, and for many years permits to occupy unsold Crown lands were issued on various conditions.

The principal inalienable tenures now in existence are described below.

18th Section and Pastoral Leases.

Under the Crown Lands Amendment Act of 1903, the registered holder of any pastoral lease, preferential occupation license, or occupation license, could apply for a lease, for not more than twenty-eight years, of an area not exceeding one-third of the total area of the land comprised within the lease or license, subject to such rent, conditions or improvements, and withdrawal for settlement as may have been determined. These are known as 18th Section Leases, having been granted under the Land Act of 1903, which has been repealed. The area of land held under this tenure has decreased rapidly since 1914, when the area so held exceeded a million acres.

At 30th June, 1925, these leases, also known as "Leases to Outgoing Pastoral Lessees," numbered 64, with an area of 227,240 acres, and rental of £2,285. There were no pastoral leases in existence on 30th June, 1925, in the Western Division which had not been brought under the provisions of the Western Lands Act. Upon the recommendation of the Closer Settlement Advisory Board the Minister may resume for closer settlement any 18th Section lease; and to 30th June, 1925, an area of 14,424 acres had been so resumed and £3,274 paid as compensation to lessees.

Forestry Leases and Occupation Permits.

Unoccupied Crown Lands and leases situated entirely within dedicated forests are controlled exclusively by the Forestry Commission, which has power to lease or otherwise permit their use for pastoral or other approved purposes.

Forestry leases limited to twenty years have been granted for grazing purposes, and occupation permits usually on an annual tenancy, but sometimes for a period of fourteen years, have been granted for grazing, bee-farming, and forest saw-mills. For grazing purposes the rent is usually fixed in relation to the grazing capacity of the land.

The area of forestry leases and occupations permits wholly within State forests, at 30th June, 1925, was 1,852,446 acres under the Forestry Acts, besides 81,773 acres under the Crown Lands Acts administered by the Forestry Department; in addition, there were portions of other leases not wholly within State forests administered by the Department of Lands. Particulars of these are not at present available.

Snow Leases.

Vacant Crown lands on the Southern Highlands, which for a portion of each year are usually covered with snow, and are thereby unfit for continuous use or occupation, may be leased by auction or tender as snow leases.

Not more than one snow lease may be held by the same person. The maximum area of any snow lease is 10,240 acres. The term of the lease is seven years, but may be extended for a further three years.

At 30th June, 1925, there were 19 leases current, embracing 126,020 acres; and rent, £1,097. This tenure was introduced in 1889, and the area of snow leases reached a maximum of 134,420 acres in 1920.

Mineral and Auriferous Leases.

Under the Mining Act, the Minister for Mines is empowered to grant certain rights for the operations of miners on any lands within the State. These are known as mineral and auriferous, leases and generally they take precedence over other forms of tenure. The area so held has steadily increased since 1914, when it was 199,060 acres. At 30th June, 1925, there were 201,273 acres held as mineral and auriferous leases, exclusive of leases to mine on private lands. The area leased in this way is not included in the areas covered by other land tenures. Permits to mine under roads and reserves covered an area of 428 acres.

Church and School Lands Leases.

The history of Church and School lands leases, showing the present status of leaseholders, was published on page 859 of the Year Book for 1921.

The total area of Church and School lands held under lease at 30th June, 1925, in the Eastern Division, was 11 acres, at a rental of £330 per annum the subdivision being as follows:—

	No.	Area. acres.	Rent. £
Agricultural	1	1	1
Ninety-nine Year	37	10	326
Water Races	1	10 miles (about)	3
Total	39	11	330

Occupation Licenses.

Occupation licenses may be of two kinds (a) preferential occupation licenses, consisting of the area within an expired pastoral lease, and (b) ordinary occupation licenses, which relate to the parts of the holdings formerly known as resumed areas. They may be acquired by auction or tender. Occupation licenses extend from January to December, being renewable annually at a rent determined by the Land Board.

An occupation license entitles the holder to occupy Crown lands so granted for grazing purposes, but it does not exempt such lands from sale or lease of any other kind. The licensee, however, is granted tenant rights in any improvements made to his holding with the written consent of the Crown.

The area under occupation license (Crown Lands Act) was represented at 30th June, 1925, by 477 ordinary licenses for 2,251,330 acres, rental £4,127; and 255 preferential licenses, representing 578,930 acres, and rent £3,759. The area occupied in this way was formerly very extensive, being nearly 10,000,000 acres in 1904.

Permissive Occupancy.

Permissive occupancy is a form of tenancy at will from the Crown, at a fixed rental for a short period, terminable at any time by a written demand for possession from the Secretary for Lands or by written notice from the tenant. The occupant has tenant rights in improvements effected by him.

The number of permissive occupancies in existence at 30th June, 1925, was 5,864, comprising 2,976,106 acres, with a rental of £14,127. The area held under this tenure has increased gradually during the last twenty years.

CONVERSION OF TENURES.

In describing the various methods of acquisition and occupation, details have been given of provisions of the Crown Lands Act which confer on certain holders of Crown lands the right of conversion into more desirable tenures. These may be summarised briefly thus :—

A conditional lease or a conditional purchase lease may be converted, at the option of the holder, into a conditional purchase. A homestead farm, a homestead selection, a settlement lease, or a Crown lease may be converted into a conditional purchase with (if desired) an associated conditional lease, subject to the proviso as to a home maintenance area described below. A homestead farm or homestead selection may, in certain circumstances, be converted into a conditional purchase lease and a conditional purchase lease may be converted into a homestead farm. During the last five years of its currency a Crown lease may, with the approval of the Minister, be converted into a homestead farm, while up to 1,280 acres of a settlement lease may (after five years) be converted into a homestead grant. A special lease, unless debarred, may be converted, at the discretion of the Minister, into a conditional purchase lease, conditional purchase, conditional lease, homestead selection, settlement lease, or homestead farm. Under various conditions an improvement lease, scrub lease or prickly pear lease not otherwise reserved may be converted into a homestead selection not exceeding in extent a home maintenance area.

In the case of a homestead farm, homestead selection, Crown lease or settlement lease the area that may be converted, together with the area held by the applicant under any other tenure (other than a lease having less than five years to run without the right to purchase the freehold), must not exceed a home maintenance area as determined by the Local Land Board.

The following statement shows the number and area of holdings in respect of which conversions were confirmed during the year 1924-25 :—

Tenure of Holding Converted.	New Tenures Confirmed.												Total Confirmations.		
	Conditional Purchase.		Conditional Purchase and Associated Conditional Lease.		Conditional, and Conditional Purchase, Leases.		Homestead Selection.		Settlement Lease.		Homestead Farm.				
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.			
Conditional Purchase	..	acres.	..	acres.	..	acres.	..	acres.	..	acres.	1	320	1	acres.	320
Conditional Leases	727	351,200	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	727	351,200	..
Conditional Purchases & Leases	34	19,760	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34	19,760	..
Homestead Selections or Grants	75	36,832	6	13,636	1	454	..	..	..	..	5	26,530	87	77,452	..
Settlement Leases	15	31,145	65	295,450	..	..	1	663	..	..	..	..	81	268,236	..
Non-residential Conditional Purchases	2	240	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	240	..
Special Leases	402	48,804	1	320	37	12,096	9	1,594	5	1,211	6	4,879	460	68,904	..
Prickly-pear Leases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scrub Leases	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	4,896	..	..	..	..	8	4,896	..
Improvement Leases	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	33,479	..	..	..	..	18	33,479	..
Crown Leases	53	15,520	14	28,015	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	67	43,535	..
Homestead Farms	24	10,813	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	10,813	..
Total	1,332	514,312	86	278,421	38	12,550	26	40,632	5	1,211	12	31,729	1,499	878,855	..

* Includes 86 associated Conditional Leases, 197,179 acres. embracing 454 acres.

† Includes 1 Conditional Purchase Leases

Particulars of the number and area of new tenures obtained by conversion during each of the past ten years are shown below :—

Year ended 30th June.	New Tenure Confirmed.													
	Conditional Purchase.*		Conditional Purchase and Associated Conditional Lease.†		Conditional and Conditional Purchase Lease.*		Homestead Selection.		Settlement Lease.		Homestead Farm.		Total Confirmations.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
		acres.		acres.		acres.		acres.		acres.		acres.		acres.
1915	1,095	420,933	54	194,325	12	2,265	8	2,503	1	31	11	4,550	1,181	626,607
1916	1,216	547,347	46	165,275	13	5,092	11	4,597	2	600	6	3,848	1,294	726,859
1917	1,492	686,809	43	162,842	25	15,831	12	2,641	12	3,408	2	1,209	1,586	872,740
1918	1,880	883,461	87	218,849	12	4,272	6	2,272	...	...	...	...	1,985	1,083,854
1919	1,952	711,042	64	157,021	32	23,213	1	6,100	1	283	3	1,602	2,053	896,261
1920	1,659	511,315	96	217,835	30	6,099	7	3,178	3	380	5	3,211	1,800	742,018
1921	1,598	501,861	78	174,756	34	11,074	23	36,986	3	2,894	1	151	1,737	727,722
1922	1,302	455,018	56	122,923	30	8,207	29	39,371	23	18,238	8	9,505	1,449†	†653,861
1923	1,201	393,649	43	115,421	24	8,339	27	46,973	15	4,298	12	10,690	1,323†	†560,095
1924	1,200	438,722	68	169,383	38	10,787	22	55,783	4	5,923	4	2,862	1,396	683,465
1925	1,332	514,312	86	278,421	38	12,550	26	40,632	5	1,211	12	31,729	1,499	878,852

* Including non-residential conditional purchases. † Including 1 homestead farm converted to a settlement purchase of 449 acres in 1922, and 1 of 722 acres in 1923.

The above table includes particulars of leases converted under the original conditions on which they were granted as well as of leases granted under the special conversion privileges allowed by the Acts of 1909 and 1916. For instance, the right to convert conditional leases and conditional purchase leases into conditional purchases was granted when they were first introduced, as also was the right to convert scrub and improvement leases under certain conditions into homestead selections. On the other hand, the Crown Lands Amendment Act of 1908 conferred on holders the right to convert homestead selections, settlement leases and non-residential conditional purchases into conditional purchases, while special leases were made convertible into any of a number of tenures with the consent of the Minister.

In 1916 Crown leases and homestead farms which had been created as leases in 1912 were made convertible into conditional purchases.

WESTERN LAND DIVISION.

The lands of the Western Division, comprising 80,318,708 acres, or two-fifths of the area of the State, are for the most part sparsely settled, and occupation is somewhat precarious on account of the low and uncertain rainfall.

The administration of these lands is regulated by the Western Lands Act, 1901, and is controlled by three Commissioners, constituting "The Western Land Board of New South Wales," who, sitting in open Court, exercise all the powers conferred upon Local Land Boards by the Crown Lands Acts.

Subject to existing rights and extension of tenure granted under certain conditions, all forms of alienation (other than by auction) and lease prescribed by the Crown Lands Acts, ceased to operate within the Western Lands Division from 1st January, 1902.

The registered holder of a homestead selection or grant, pastoral, homestead, settlement, residential, special, artesian well, improvement, scrub, or inferior lands lease or occupation license of land in the Western Division, may apply to bring his lease or license under the provisions of the Western Lands Acts of 1901 and 1905; in cases where application has not been made, such lease or license is treated as if the Acts had not been passed.

PRICKLY PEAR LANDS.

Public attention was first called in Parliament to the growth of prickly pear as a pest in 1882, and in 1885 it was stated that an area of 5,000 acres had become infested in the upper Hunter district. In 1886 a Prickly Pear Destruction Act was passed, and with some modification in 1901 this remained the law relating to the pest until 1924. The law, however, was not put into operation extensively, and the spread of the pest continued practically unchecked. In 1911 it was estimated that 2,000,000 acres of land were infested with pear, and at the end of 1924 the area so infested was stated to be 7,600,000 acres, the greater part of which, however, was lightly infested.

At this juncture the law was completely revised and the Prickly Pear Act, 1924, was designed to provide means for preventing the further spread of the pest and of eradicating it where possible. This Act (as amended in 1925) related to all lands infested by prickly pear and provided for the appointment of a Commissioner to administer its provisions. It was made an obligation for owners and occupiers of all lands within the State to keep uninfested land entirely free from prickly pear, and all owners and occupiers of freehold or leased lands already infested were required to make an annual return to the Commissioner, showing the area of their holdings upon which prickly pear is growing, together with information as to the steps being taken to deal with it.

The Commissioner may delimit prickly pear zones and classify the land within such zones into four grades, according to whether it is free from prickly pear, lightly infested, heavily infested or very heavily infested, and may issue instructions to land holders requiring them to take steps to clear their lands. Failure to comply with such a direction may be met by penalty, and, in addition, the Commissioner may have the land cleared at the expense of the owner. Upon the recommendation of the Commissioner, the Minister may give assistance to any owner in clearing his land in the form of an advance repayable over a term not exceeding twenty years; and by agreement with the holder, the terms and conditions of leases of any infested lands leased from the Crown may be varied in any manner approved by the Governor. Crown lands already infested may be leased under the Prickly Pear Act, under special conditions.

Where any private land is classified as very heavily infested, *i.e.*, as land of less value than the cost of freeing it from pear, the owner may divest himself thereof by surrendering it to the Crown, and in such case he is required to fence off the surrendered portion and to maintain free of pear a strip of land 10 feet wide within and around such surrendered portion. Crown lands classified as very heavily infested may be granted by the Minister to any person who has freed them from pear.

The Act establishes a Prickly Pear Destruction Fund by providing for five years from 1st January, 1925, an annual appropriation of £30,000 from Consolidated Revenue. This fund is under control of the Minister, to be applied by him for the administration of the Act. The Minister is empowered to make grants from this fund for the purpose of assisting councils, pastures protection boards, and the trustees of cemeteries, commons, or reserves to meet their obligations under the Act.

CLOSER SETTLEMENT.

The circumstances leading to the adoption of what is known as the "Closer Settlement Policy" are described on page 748. Further reference to the subject may be found in previous Year Books.

The Closer Settlement Acts provide that the Minister for Lands may, with the sanction of the Governor and the approval of Parliament, purchase private estates at a price approved by Parliament. But any alienated estate whose unimproved value exceeds £20,000 may be compulsorily resumed for closer settlement.

Land comprised in any improvement or scrub lease, or section 18 lease, may also be resumed or purchased under agreement for closer settlement upon the recommendation of the Closer Settlement Advisory Board. To 30th June, 1925, an area of 564,695 acres comprised in 64 long-term leases had been re-acquired in this way at a cost of £200,799, and had been disposed of in 605 farms consisting of homestead farms and Crown leases under the Crown Lands Consolidation Act.

Within six months after the passing of an Act sanctioning the construction of a line of railway, the governor may notify a list of estates within 15 miles of the railway line; within six months of this notification the Governor may notify his intention to consider the advisableness of acquiring for purposes of closer settlement land so notified, the property of one owner, and exceeding £10,000 in value. The area of land under notification at 30th June, 1925, was 3,104,197 acres, embraced in 195 estates.

At any time after a proclamation of intention to consider the advisableness of acquiring an estate, if an agreement be made that the land shall be subdivided for closer settlement by the owner, the power of resumption may be suspended for a term not exceeding two years. Any sale or lease made under such agreement, and any subsequent sale, lease, or transfer made within five years of the original sale or lease, must be submitted to the Minister, and if it be found that the owner has failed to fulfil the conditions, the suspension of the power of resumption shall cease.

The total area acquired under the ordinary provisions of the Closer Settlement Acts, was 1,166,641 acres, at an aggregate purchase price of £4,619,709. This area originally consisting of sixty-one estates, was divided into 2,492 farms. Operations under the ordinary provisions of the Closer Settlement Acts have practically ceased and are now confined mainly to promotion proposals. *i.e.*, cases where owners agree to sell estates under closer settlement conditions. Particulars of the provisions of the earlier Closer Settlement Acts and details of the operations thereunder are given in previous Year Books.

Closer Settlement Promotion.

The provisions of the Closer Settlement Acts of 1918 and 1919, which replace the Closer Settlement Promotion Act, 1910 (repealed), enable three or more persons, or one or more discharged soldiers, each of whom is qualified to hold a settlement purchase, to negotiate with an owner of private lands, and under certain conditions to enter into agreements with him to purchase a specified area on a freehold basis, for a price to be set out in each agreement. Any one or more discharged soldiers or sailors may also enter into agreements to purchase on a present title basis from the holder a conditional purchase; a conditional purchase lease; a conditional purchase and conditional lease, including an inconvertible conditional lease; a homestead selection; a homestead farm; a settlement lease; a Crown lease, or any part of one or more of such holdings, or an improvement or scrub lease, not substantially more than sufficient for the maintenance of a home.

Upon approval by the Minister, the vendor, in the case of private land, surrenders the area to the Crown, and the purchaser acquires it as a settlement purchase. In the case of land acquired on present title basis, the vendor transfers it to the purchaser. The vendor is paid by the Crown, either in cash or in Closer Settlement Debentures, and the freehold value of the land, inclusive of improvements thereon, purchased for any one person must not exceed £3,000, except in special cases where the improvements warrant it, when the freehold value may be up to £3,500; if the land is found suitable for grazing only, the freehold value may be up to £4,000.

Each farm is worked independently, the co-operation of the applicants ceasing with the allotment of an area. Each applicant has to pay a deposit of $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the Crown valuation of the farm granted to him, except discharged soldiers or sailors, who are not required to pay any deposit. Repayments of the balance of the purchase money to the Crown are subject to the regulations in force at the date of commencement of title. At present the regulations provide for repayment at the rate of $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum of the capital value of the farm, where the purchase money is paid in cash; this includes interest at the rate of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the outstanding balance, the whole indebtedness being discharged in thirty-two years, where the initial deposit is paid. If the land is paid for by debentures, the deposit and annual instalments to be paid by applicants are $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in advance of the rate of interest paid by the Crown in connection with the debentures, and the interest to be paid on the unpaid balance of purchase money is $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in advance of the rate of interest paid by the Crown as aforesaid.

Postponement of the payment of instalments and of interest for a period may be sanctioned in special circumstances, and holders of farms may obtain advances from the Rural Bank Commissioners on account of improvements effected.

From the commencement of the Closer Settlement Promotion Act in September, 1910, till 30th June, 1925, promotion proposals were received in respect of 7,524 farms of a total area of 3,906,995 acres, the amount involved being £17,947,449, but many of these proposals were either withdrawn or refused. The total number of promotion proposals under the Closer Settlement Acts allotted and finally dealt with for which payment had been made by the Government Savings Bank and from the Closer Settlement Fund as at 30th June, 1925, were 3,731 farms, representing 1,774,920 acres, in respect of which a sum of £8,254,009 had been advanced; of this number 1,149 farms, embracing an area of 471,104 acres at a cost of £2,439,230, were paid for by the Government Savings Bank, and payment was made from the Closer Settlement Fund in respect of the balance.

In all (exclusive of irrigation projects) 1,844 estates and leases had been acquired by the Government for purposes of closer settlement of civilians and returned soldiers. These estates embraced 3,819,376 acres, for which the purchase price was £13,795,192, and there were added 104,326 acres of adjacent Crown lands. The total number of farms made available was 7,736.

Summary of Closer Settlement Operations.

The following table provides a summary of the various closer settlement operations, including lands acquired and administered under the Closer Settlement and Returned Soldiers' Settlement Acts, lands acquired by executive authority and by virtue of section 197 of the Crown Lands Act,

and administered by the Closer Settlement Board, but omitting long-term leases acquired under Closer Settlement Act No. 74 and disposed of under the Crown Lands Act.

Mode of Acquisition.	Estates Acquired	Area.		Price paid for Acquired Land.	Farms made available.		
		Acquired.	Adjacent Crown Lands.		No.	Area.	Value.
	No.	Acres.	Acres.	£		Acres.	£
Direct Purchase* ...	27	266,917	173	466,887	505	266,015	506,660
Crown Lands Act (s. 197)†	23	46,203	374	254,268	408	45,594	324,942
Closer Settlement Act—							
Promotion Provisions ...	1,669	1,774,920	...	8,254,009	3,731	1,774,920	8,254,009
Ordinary Provisions ...	61	1,166,641	103,779	4,619,709	2,492	1,239,752	4,677,535
Total ...	1,780	3,254,681	104,326	13,594,363	7,131	3,326,281	13,768,146

*Including 19,646 acres of improvement lease, and 160,028 of scrub lease acquired at nominal value.

† Including one estate of 21,309 acres, surrendered at nominal value for returned soldiers.

The difference between the area acquired (with adjacent Crown lands added) and the area of farms made available was 32,726 acres, absorbed in reserves, roads, school and village sites. The number of estates acquired under the promotion provisions of the Closer Settlement Act is comparatively large, because 952 individual holdings, besides holdings containing only a few farms, were acquired mainly for soldier settlers.

So far as can be ascertained, the lands covered by the above table were disposed of as follows at 30th June, 1925 :—

Manner of Disposal.	Farms Occupied.		
	No.	Area.	Capital Value.
		acres.	£
Settlement Purchases—In existence* ...	5,555	2,674,217	11,667,485
Alienated (deeds issued)—Farms ...	21	8,820	§
Small portions ...	...	1,534	§
Converted into Homestead Farms ...	43	23,543	102,929
Soldiers' Group Purchases Confirmed** ...	793	390,396	1,833,899
Sold by auction and tender... †	36	90†	§
Provisionally Allotted ... ‡	365	32,200†	§
under Cultural System† ...	154	7,700†	§
Seven Estates disposed of under Crown Lands and Returned Soldiers' Settlement Acts ...	46	186,151	§
Total disposed of and in occupation ...	7,013	3,324,651	§
Balance ...	118	31,356	§

* Including settlement purchases occupied by returned soldiers, and including a small area temporarily under permissive occupancy. † Orchard blocks in course of development. ‡ Partly estimated. § Not available. ** As revised to meet legal requirements.

Of the balance of lands not in occupation at 30th June, 1925, an area of 19,340 acres of settlement purchases and 1,056 acres of soldier's group settlement purchases were available for application, the remainder being lands used for administrative purposes or forfeited lands being prepared for re-alotment.

The number and area of Soldiers' Group Purchases confirmed is considerably less than that shown last year, as the non-compliance with technical legal requirements necessitated re-classification.

In addition to the lands shown in the foregoing tables, 64 improvement, scrub, and 18th section leases were resumed by the Crown upon the recommendation of the Closer Settlement Advisory Board. These embraced an area of 564,695 acres, for which a sum of £200,799 was paid as compensation, and they were subdivided into 605 farms and allotted as Crown leases and homestead farms under the Crown Lands Act.

The balance of purchase money in respect of the above farms under the Closer Settlement Acts, omitting group soldier settlements, as at 30th November, 1922, including deferred and postponed instalments and adjusting interest, amounted to £10,233,173, and it was estimated that the balance of assets over liabilities was £889,705. Arrears of instalments at the same date were £349,043, and at 30th June, 1925, £957,058.

Other Closer Settlement Operations.

The Rural Bank in April, 1923, issued particulars of a scheme of advances to facilitate subdivision of private estates, and the first Rural Bank loan of £1,000,000 at 5½ per cent. was raised locally for the purpose. The scheme is that the Bank is prepared, after inspection, to issue certificates as to the amount it is willing to advance to purchasers of land under subdivisional plans approved by the Land Settlement Board and the Bank. Interest is charged at the rate of 6¼ per cent., and the maximum advance is £3,000, or two-thirds of the Bank's valuation of the property, whichever is the less. In the case of properties not fully improved the advance may be as great as 80 per cent. of the Bank's valuation, subject to specified improvements being carried out at the purchaser's expense.

By 30th June, 1925, Rural Bank certificates had been issued in connection with the proposed subdivision of ninety estates into 455 farms, containing in all 352,610 acres, valued at £1,494,270. The amount of loans covered by the certificates was £1,075,390. In all 203 estates, comprising 899,000 acres, had been submitted under the scheme; of these 173, containing 819,590 acres had been inspected or recommended for inspection. Altogether 255 farms covering 190,236 acres, had been selected under the scheme. The average area of farms in the proposed subdivisions was 775 acres; the average value £3,284, and the average amount of the loan certificate £2,363.

Records were also kept of subdivisions undertaken without the assistance of the Rural Bank. During 1923-24 and 1924-25 an area of 916,547 acres, contained in 109 estates, had been subdivided into 1,150 farms, of which 890, containing 748,625 acres, had been sold, the approximate purchase price being £3,400,700. The average area of these farms was 796 acres, and the average price per farm £3,820.

Besides these, the owners of large estates within 15 miles of the railways being constructed in New South Wales by the Victorian Government, were approached by the Land Settlement Board, with the result that 394 farms were made available by subdivision, and of these 147, covering 314,625 acres, had been taken up at 30th June, 1925. These included 110 mixed farms, embracing 140,618 acres, the balance being for grazing.

In addition, thirteen holdings, containing in all 207,798 acres, more than 15 miles from the proposed railway lines, were subdivided for grazing purposes.

SETTLEMENT OF RETURNED SOLDIERS.

To 30th June, 1925, farms had been allotted to 9,098 returned soldiers, and there remained 6,963 returned soldier settlers on an area of 8,081,070 acres, including 3,936,898 acres in the Western Division. The total expenditure was £17,384,539, of which £9,826,203 was advanced on loan to the State Government by the Commonwealth, and £7,558,336 was expended from State funds. The headings of expenditure were :—

	£
Resumption of holdings for settlement	7,886,313
Advances to settlers	5,034,394
Development of group settlements	1,222,284
Railways	1,654,102
Irrigation works	1,587,446
Total	17,384,539

Under the Returned Soldiers' Settlement Acts, special provision is made for the settlement of discharged soldiers on Crown lands, including the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas, and on lands acquired under the Closer Settlement Acts and otherwise.

Land has been made available principally under the following tenures :—

1. Homestead Farm.—Lease in perpetuity.
2. Crown Lease.—Lease for 45 years.
3. Returned Soldiers' Special Holding.—Purchase or lease.
4. Suburban Holding.—Lease in perpetuity.
5. Irrigation Farm.—Purchase or lease in perpetuity.
6. Group purchase.
7. Settlement purchase.

Provision also exists in the Closer Settlement Acts under which one or more discharged soldiers may purchase privately-owned land upon terms approved by the Minister for Lands, the Crown providing the whole of the purchase money. Transactions of this nature are permitted only in cases in which additional settlement is provided. The Minister has discretionary power to refuse any such proposal.

The maximum value of land and improvements which may be so purchased by any individual is £3,000; in special cases, however, this may be increased to £3,500 or £4,000 for purely grazing areas.

An advance not exceeding £625 may be made available for each soldier settler, but it must be used only for the general improvement of the land, purchase of implements, stock, seed, and other necessaries, or in the erection of buildings. The total amount advanced by the Department of Lands under the Returned Soldiers' Settlement Act to 30th June, 1925, was £2,970,172, and of this sum £697,155 had been repaid, while interest amounting to £230,133 had been paid.

Terms of repayment are usually as follows :—

House and other Permanent Improvements.—By payments over **twenty-five** years, interest only being charged during first five years.

Stock and Implements.—Six years, interest only being charged during first year.

Seeds, Plants, etc.—One year.

From April, 1923, a scheme of consolidating advances was introduced, and the terms upon which loans were granted were liberalised, being usually extended to twenty-five years on the security of a mortgage over the holding

Interest as fixed under the Acts may not exceed $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the first year and 4 per cent. for the second year, and it increases progressively by not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for each subsequent year, the maximum rate at present being $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

If the circumstances so warrant, a returned soldier settler approved by the Department of Lands may obtain an allowance for sustenance from the Department of Repatriation for a period not exceeding six months, the rates being :—

For a Single Man.—£1 per week inclusive of pension.

Married Man.—£1 10s. per week, plus 2s. 6d. for each child (up to 4) under 16 years of age (inclusive of pension).

The amount of such gifts to settlers in New South Wales for sustenance and other expenses to 30th June, 1924, was £136,446.

Subject to such conditions as to security and terms of repayment as the Commission may think fit to impose, soldier settlers on the Murrumbidgee and Cullwaa Irrigation Areas may obtain an advance, or have payment of rent and water rates suspended. The expenditure by the Irrigation Commission on returned soldiers' settlement during 1924–25 was £242,067, making a total of £3,903,778 to 30th June, 1925. Repayments and collections to the same date amounted to £344,802.

The following table affords a summary of the number, area, and cost of private estates acquired for soldiers' settlement to 30th June, 1925 :—

Class of Acquisition.	Estates.	Area.	Purchase Money.	Farms made available.
	No.	acres.	£	No.
Promotion Provisions Closer Settlement Acts* ...	1,446	1,192,623	5,346,178	2,379
Group Settlement—Closer Settlement Acts ...	25	381,505	1,753,941	756
Section 197, Crown Lands Act† ...	23	46,203	253,918	403
Direct Purchase under authority of Executive Council‡ ...	27	266,917	466,387	505
Total ...	1,521	1,887,248	7,820,424	4,043

* Includes 952 single farms. † Includes 179,674 acres long term leases at nominal value.

‡ Includes one estate surrendered at nominal value, practically as a gift.

IRRIGATION AREAS.

The principal irrigation scheme is on the Murrumbidgee River. It covers an area of 359,000 acres, of which 301,000 acres were formerly freehold and leasehold land. On 30th June, 1925, irrigated farms of a total area of

112,480 acres were held in 1,991 farms and, in addition, 135,325 acres were leased for long terms as dry areas pending development. In addition there were 14,177 acres of irrigable and non-irrigable land held as factory and business sites and industrial blocks; 6,717 acres held by settlers under permissive occupancy, with a view to taking up as perpetual lease, and 208 acres held as town land leases. The total area occupied by settlement was thus 268,907 acres.

The disposal of Crown lands within irrigation areas is regulated by the Crown Lands Consolidation Act, 1913, the Irrigation Act, 1912, and the Irrigation Holdings (Freehold) Act, 1924. These areas are administered by the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission. A special land board, with the powers and duties of a Local Land Board, has been appointed in connection with certain provisions of the Crown Land Acts relating to lands within an irrigation area; the lands are classified as town, irrigable, and dry or non-irrigable lands. A person (except a married woman not separated from her husband by judicial decree) 16 years or over, if a male, or 18 years or over, if a female, or two or more such persons, may apply for an irrigation farm or block. An alien is not debarred, but he must become naturalised within three years under penalty of forfeiture.

In terms of the Act of 1924 the normal title to holdings within irrigation areas is perpetual lease, subject to perpetual payment of rent, performance of residence and the making of certain improvements. Conversion into freehold is permitted in the manner described on the next page. The rent is at the rate of 2½ per cent. of the capital value—minimum for town blocks, £1 per annum. At the expiration of five years after the granting of the application, a grant of the farm or block will be issued to the holder, provided that the required conditions have been observed. The holding may be protected against sale for debt in certain circumstances. Non-irrigable leases may be issued for any term approved by the Minister, and it is also provided that lands may be set aside for purchase, or that any existing lease may be converted into a purchase by application and the payment of instalments extending over thirty-seven years.

In respect of town land blocks, the conditions of residence are not imposed, but no person may hold more than three adjoining blocks for residence, or four adjoining blocks for business purposes.

Irrigation settlements have been established also at Hay and at Curlwaa, near Wentworth. These were, in 1913, placed under the control of the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission. The tenure under which farms are held in these two areas is leasehold, ranging from three to thirty years' duration, and the policy adopted by the Commissioners has been to extend the tenures, subject to such conditions and reappraisal of rent as they may decide.

The Hay Irrigation Area consists of an area of 4,500 acres; and at 30th June, 1925, 1,035 acres were held by sixty-five settlers in 1,088 irrigation blocks, ranging from 3 up to 34 acres with a leasehold tenure of thirty years, while 2,876 acres were leased as fifty-one non-irrigated blocks for short terms up to five years. The Curlwaa Area comprises 10,550 acres; and at 30th June, 1925, an area of 1,883 acres was under occupation with a leasehold tenure of thirty years. In addition, 7,545 acres were leased for short terms, 165 acres of irrigated land and 84 acres of dry area were vacant. Roads, channels, and reserves occupied 873 acres.

The following table shows the number and area of farms in occupation on each of the irrigation areas at 30th June in each of the past five years:—

Year ended 30th June.	Murrumbidgee.				Hay.		Curlwaa.	
	Farms.		Town Blocks.		Farms.		Farms.	
	No.	Acres.	No.	Acres.	No.	Acres.	No.	Acres.
1921	1,361	75,974	543	136	69	3,737	106	8,393
1922	1,781	108,240	732	175	70	3,737	120	9,531
1923	2,064	119,610	839	204	65*	3,733†	123	9,531†
1924	2,061	116,000	879	222	71	3,911	124	9,529
1925	1,991	112,480	835	208	71	3,911	119	9,428

* Reduction in number of lessees is due to group settlers transferring to individuals.

† Balance of area not occupied as farms, comprises roads, channels, and other reserves, including permissive occupancy.

Further information concerning the irrigation schemes of the State will be found in chapter "Water Conservation and Irrigation" of this Year Book.

Tenures in Irrigation Areas.

The Irrigation Holdings (Freehold) Act, which came into force on 23rd December, 1924, was applied to all lands within any irrigation area of the State. It created three classes of leases, viz., irrigation farm lease, town lands lease, and non-irrigable lease. These are perpetual leases, subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions, such as residence and the making of improvements, but it is also provided that non-irrigable leases may be granted for such term as may be determined by the Minister. The term of residence must commence within six months of the granting of a lease, and must continue until the Irrigation Commission certifies that improvements have been performed as required by the notification which made the lands available. The freehold of any of these leases may be acquired by purchase upon application accompanied by the prescribed fees and deposits and the payment of the balance in seventy-three half-yearly instalments. Such purchases, however, are subject to the covenant that dairying lands and horticultural lands will be used for their respective purposes, to the reservation of all minerals in the land, and conditions securing upon the land all rates and charges for water, as provided by the Irrigation Act.

LAND RESUMPTIONS AND APPROPRIATIONS.

Alienated land required by the State may be obtained by resumption, purchase, exchange, surrender, or gift. Resumptions are made under the Public Works, Lands for Public Purposes Acquisition, and Local Governments Acts, and except when made for purposes of Public Instruction or Railways they are treated by the Valuer-General. Resumptions for Federal purposes are made under the Commonwealth Lands Acquisition Act, 1906-16, Lands Acquisition (Defence) Act, 1918, and War Service Homes Act, 1918-20. Any Crown lands may be appropriated for public purposes.

The following statement shows the area of resumptions and appropriations and of the principal purchases which were made during the past five years. Purchases of land for hospitals and other semi-public purposes are not included.

Year ended 30th June.	Resumptions and Purchases.			Crown Lands Appropriated.			Gifts.			Total.		
	a.	r.	p.	a.	r.	p.	a.	r.	p.	a.	r.	p.
1921	8,605	0	28				40	3	25	8,646	0	13
1922	4,346	1	9	2,236	0	26	9	3	17	6,592	1	12
1923	28,354	1	12	10,648	2	15	13	0	17	39,016	0	4
1924	1,538	0	23	477	0	31	10	0	11	2,025	1	25
1925	2,640	3	20	3,062	0	10	7	2	0	5,710	3	30

* Not available.

The purposes of resumptions, appropriations, and purchases during 1923-24 were:—

	Area.				Area.		
	a.	r.	p.		a.	r.	p.
Artesian Bore	10	2	8	Sewerage	629	0	5
Bridge	6	3	32	Shire Quarry or Gravel Reserve	57	1	24
Defence	15	2	1	State Forest Plantation	1	0	0
Harbour Improvements ...	256	1	6	State Hospitals and Asylums	8	2	32
Hospital	0	3	24	Storm Water Channels and Drainage ..	5	0	24
Municipal Streets Depôts, etc.	15	1	13	Water Storage and River Dam	1	2	16
Police Stations	3	1	38	Water Supply	345	2	1
Postal	6	3	17	Wharf Improvements ...	5	2	38
Public Parks and Recreation Reserves	8	0	16				
Public School Sites	458	1	23	Total	5,710	3	29
Railways and Tramways	3,293	3	4				
River Improvements	44	1	33				
Sanitary Depôts	91	0	31				
Savings Bank	1	1	25				

Land resumptions, purchases, and gifts in quinquennial groups from the year 1900 inclusive, were as follow:—

Year.	Resumptions, Appropriations, and Purchases.			Gifts.			Total.		
	a.	r.	p.	a.	r.	p.	a.	r.	p.
1900-04	8,876	1	37	833	3	23	9,710	1	20
1905-09	105,848	3	8	439	1	27	106,288	0	35
1910-14	282,008	3	17	117	0	10	282,125	3	27
1915-19	64,194	0	35	81	0	35	64,275	1	30
1920-24	84,046	1	6	91	1	32	84,137	2	38
1925	5,703	1	29	7	2	0	5,710	3	29

The total area of land dealt with in this way between 1890 and June, 1924 was approximately 557,000 acres, including about 279,500 acres for water conservation and irrigation projects, 52,000 acres for defence, 48,000 acres for railways and tramways, 31,000 acres for town water supplies, and 89,000 acres for closer settlement.

Dedication of Land.

The area and the purposes for which land was dedicated during 1924-25 were as follows:—

Purpose.	Area.			Purpose.	Area.		
	a.	r.	p.		a.	r.	p.
Agricultural Colleges	58	2	5	Public Recreation and Access	0	1	6½
Ambulance Stations	0	1	11	Public Recreation and Show Ground	11	2	0
Asylum Site	12	2	12	Public Roads	304	2	14½
Electric Light Station	0	1	2	Public Schools	87	2	24
Fire Brigade Station Sites ...	0	1	31½	School of Arts	0	1	10
General Cemeteries ..	80	2	3½	Shire Council Chamber Site	0	1	4½
Literary Institute Sites	1	0	6	Show Grounds	13	2	9
Mechanics' Institute Site ...	0	1	0	Town Halls	0	0	37½
Mental Hospitals	79	3	35	War Memorial	0	0	2½
Permanent Common	222	0	0				
Preservation of Water Supply	1,499	0	27½	Total	2,370	1	5
Public Halls	1	3	7½				
Public Recreation	44	3	36½				

REVENUE FROM PUBLIC LANDS, 1921-25.

The following statement shows the revenue received from public lands during the years ended 30th June, 1921, to 1925, also the revenue per capita :—

Head of Revenue.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
	£	£	£	£	£
Auction and Special Sales ...	58,595	43,550	69,296	92,341	90,714
Conditional Purchases ...	1,191,166	1,099,465	965,938	909,563	952,936
Pastoral Occupation ...	541,419	503,200	510,192	539,632	568,404
Mining Occupation ...	158,313	156,574	168,290	185,567	210,181
*Miscellaneous Land Receipts...	249,165	249,649	236,664	243,514	267,184
Gross Revenue ...	£ 2,198,658	2,052,438	1,950,380	1,970,617	2,089,419
Refunds ...	£ 47,193	43,618	36,147	40,911	43,251
Net Revenue ...	£ 2,151,465	2,008,820	1,914,233	1,929,706	2,046,168
REVENUE PER CAPITA.					
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auction and Special Sales ...	0 0 7	6 0 5	0 0 8	0 0 10	0 0 10
Conditional Purchases ...	0 11 5	0 10 4	0 8 11	0 8 3	0 8 6
Pastoral Occupation ...	0 5 2	0 4 9	0 4 8	0 4 11	0 5 0
Mining Occupation ...	0 1 6	0 1 5	0 1 6	0 1 8	0 1 10
Miscellaneous Land Receipts ...	0 2 4	0 2 4	0 2 2	0 2 2	0 2 4
Gross Revenue ...	£ 1 1 0	0 19 3	0 17 11	0 17 10	0 18 6
Refunds ...	£ 0 0 5	0 0 5	0 0 4	0 0 4	0 0 4
Net Revenue ...	£ 1 0 7	0 18 10	0 17 7	0 17 6	0 18 2

* Including half Forestry Revenue paid into Consolidated Revenue under Section 13 of Forestry Act 1916.

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