

IAH3/25

The

Official Year Book

of

New South Wales.

1931-1932.



T. WAITES.

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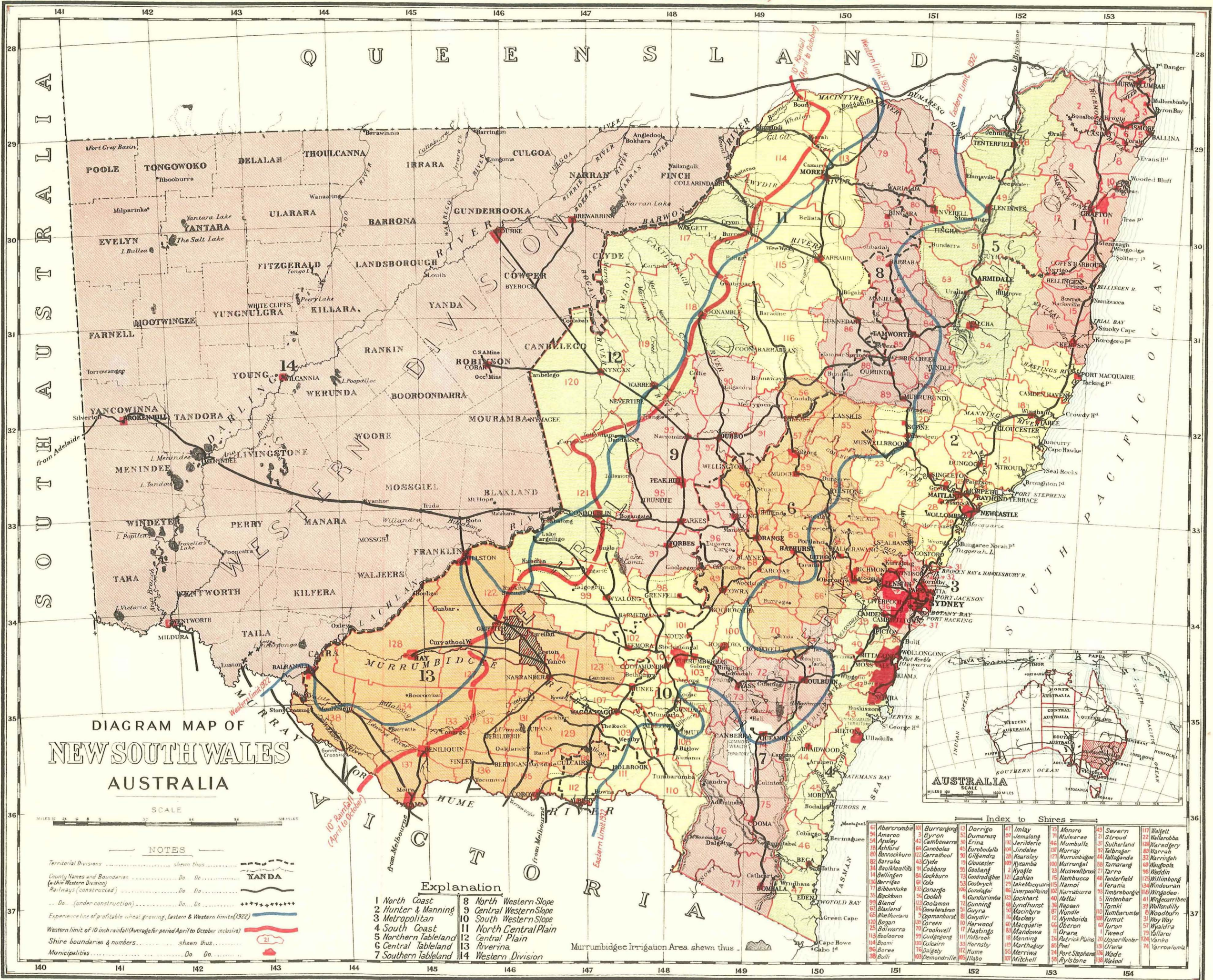


DIAGRAM MAP OF
NEW SOUTH WALES
AUSTRALIA

NOTES

Territorial Divisions shown thus
County Names and Boundaries Do Do
Railways (constructed) Do Do
Do (under construction) Do Do
Expense lines of profitable wheat growing, Eastern & Western limits (1922)
Western limit of 10 inch rainfall (Average for period April to October inclusive)
Shire boundaries & numbers shown thus
Municipalities Do Do
Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area shewn thus

Explanation

- 1 North Coast
- 2 Hunter & Manning
- 3 Metropolitan
- 4 South Coast
- 5 Northern Tableland
- 6 Central Tableland
- 7 Southern Tableland
- 8 North Western Slope
- 9 Central Western Slope
- 10 South Western Slope
- 11 North Central Plain
- 12 Central Plain
- 13 Riverina
- 14 Western Division

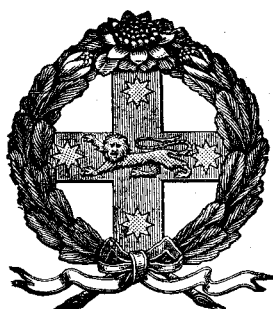


Index to Shires

1 Abercrombie	101 Berrigan	189 Dorrigo	277 Inlay	365 Monaro	453 Severn	541 Walfelt
2 Amara	102 Byron	190 Dumaresq	278 Jeralong	366 Mulwaree	454 Sturt	542 Wallaroba
3 Aspley	103 Camberrra	191 Erina	279 Kurleri	367 Murrumbidgee	455 Sutherland	543 Waradagby
4 Bathurst	104 Caroolas	192 Eurobodalla	280 Kyndalee	368 Murrumbidgee	456 Talbragar	544 Warrah
5 Barraba	105 Carrathool	193 Gungahlin	281 Kyrle	369 Murrumbidgee	457 Murrumbidgee	545 Warrangah
6 Baulkhanahills	106 Clyde	194 Gungahlin	282 Kyogee	370 Murrumbidgee	458 Tarro	546 Waggon
7 Bellingen	107 Cobargo	195 Gungahlin	283 Lachlan	371 Murrumbidgee	459 Tumbarumba	547 Waddell
8 Berrigan	108 Cockburn	196 Gungahlin	284 Lake Macquarie	372 Murrumbidgee	460 Tenterfield	548 Wadell
9 Bibberli	109 Colo	197 Gungahlin	285 Liverpool Plains	373 Murrumbidgee	461 Terania	549 Wadell
10 Blacktown	110 Conargo	198 Gungahlin	286 Gungahlin	374 Murrumbidgee	462 Timbaroo	550 Wingcarrie
11 Bland	111 Coolah	199 Gungahlin	287 Gungahlin	375 Murrumbidgee	463 Tomki	551 Wandandilly
12 Blaxland	112 Coolman	200 Gungahlin	288 Gungahlin	376 Murrumbidgee	464 Tumbarumba	552 Woodburn
13 Bogan	113 Gosford	201 Gungahlin	289 Gungahlin	377 Murrumbidgee	465 Tumbalong	553 Wy Woy
14 Bolwarra	114 Gungahlin	202 Gungahlin	290 Gungahlin	378 Murrumbidgee	466 Turreton	554 Wyaldra
15 Boree	115 Gungahlin	203 Gungahlin	291 Gungahlin	379 Murrumbidgee	467 Urebra	555 Yarraluen
16 Bourke	116 Gungahlin	204 Gungahlin	292 Gungahlin	380 Murrumbidgee	468 Yerrin	556 Yerrin
17 Bulli	117 Gungahlin	205 Gungahlin	293 Gungahlin	381 Murrumbidgee	469 Yerrin	557 Yerrin
18 Burrell	118 Gungahlin	206 Gungahlin	294 Gungahlin	382 Murrumbidgee	470 Yerrin	558 Yerrin

THE
OFFICIAL YEAR BOOK
OF
NEW SOUTH WALES.

1931-32.



PREFACE AND INDEX.

T. WAITES,
GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF
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ERRATA.

PART VI.

Page 389, line 10—For “5 per cent.” read “6 per cent.”

Page 390, 2nd last line of sixth paragraph—For “incomes” read “invoices.”

Page 397, line 14—For “£7,126,226” read “£7,164,094.”

ERRATA.

PART VII.

Page 540, line 6—For “6·0 per cent.” read “60·1 per cent.”

Page 540, line 14—For “49” read “499.”

Page 601, 8th line below table—For “essential” read “estimated.”

Page 698, line 19—For “30th June, 1931” read “30th June, 1932.”

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PREFACE.

THIS is the thirty-ninth 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 eight parts, as they became available from the printer at dates between September, 1932, and December, 1933. Each part contains the latest information available at the time it was sent to press. Much of the text, therefore, relates to the years 1932 and 1933.

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

With the volume is published a diagram map of New South Wales showing railways, land and statistical divisions, shire boundaries, and limits of the wheat belt. The boundaries of the statistical divisions (as adopted in 1923) coincide with those of Shires because it is thought desirable that statistics generally should be compiled with the local governing area as the geographical unit. The text has been illustrated with a number of graphs and diagrams.

The "Statistical Register of New South Wales," published annually from this Bureau, will prove serviceable to those who wish to obtain more details regarding the matters treated generally in this Year Book. The "Statistical Bulletin," issued quarterly, and the "Monthly Summary of Business Statistics" published monthly, contain 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 and Economics,
Sydney, 8th December, 1933.

CENSUS 1933.

Revision of Inter-censal Populations, Per Capita Rates, etc.

The population of New South Wales at the Census taken on 30th June, 1933, was 2,601,104 (males 1,318,728, females 1,282,376), exclusive of aboriginals.

The inter-censal estimates of population (1921-1932) contained herein, and the per capita rates dependent thereon, will be revised in the next issue of this Year Book.

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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 are 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 one-sixth smaller than South Australia. Queensland is more than 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
Great Britain	89,041	·283	·030
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, for the purpose of representation in the State Parliament, is included in King, one of the metropolitan electorates; 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.

An outline of the physiography of the State was published on pages 3 to 9 of the Official Year Book for 1929-30. More particular reference to the distribution of industries and settlement will be found in "Rural Settlement" of this or previous issues of the Year Book and in the chapters relating to individual industries. A map showing the distribution of rainfall, rural population, and the principal industries was published at page 728 of the Year Book for 1924.

Size of Rivers.

Owing to the existence of conflicting statements as to the lengths of the various rivers of the State steps were taken in 1926 by the Lands Department of New South Wales to compute the lengths of the principal rivers on a uniform basis. Considerable data were obtained from the results of surveys of the greater part of the Murray, Darling, Murrumbidgee and Lachlan Rivers and the remainder of the lengths were carefully measured on the standard parish maps. In every case the starting point was the furthest source of the river. The lengths as determined were as follow:—

Inland Rivers.	Length.	Coastal Rivers.	Length.	Coastal Rivers.	Length.
	miles.		miles.		miles.
Murray	1,609	Tweed	50	Wollomba	46
Darling	1,702	Richmond	163	Hunter	287
Murrumbidgee	981	Clarence	245	Hawkesbury	293
Lachlan	922	Bellinger	68	Shoalhaven	206
Bogan	451	Nambucca	69	Clyde	67
Macquarie	590	Macleay	250	Moruya	97
Castlereagh	341	Hastings	108	Tuross	91
Namoi	526	Camden Haven	33	Bega	53
Gwydir	415	Manning	139	Towamba	57

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	Menindie	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 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.

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. 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 18° Fahr. 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. Snow has been known to fall over nearly two-thirds of the State, but 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. They are generally as follows:—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 are directed from Sydney as the centre of a subdivision of Australia, embracing the whole of the State of New South Wales. Climatological stations are established at a number of representative towns, and rainfall recording stations at most centres.

Weather observations are telegraphed daily to the Meteorological Bureau, Sydney, where bulletins, rain maps and isobaric charts are prepared and issued for public information. Weather forecasts for the State, sections of the State and the metropolitan area are prepared daily, telegraphed to country centres and disseminated through the press and broadcasting companies. Forecasts of conditions over the ocean and for aviation purposes are also issued daily. On request, detailed forecasts of conditions likely to effect any particular area or function can be obtained free of charge from the Divisional Meteorologist and, if required, the advice will be telegraphed on payment of the cost of the message.

When occasion warrants, flood and storm warnings are issued to the press, broadcasting companies and to public departments, enabling precautions to be taken wherever possible.

Particulars of meteorological observations at various stations in New South Wales are published annually in the Statistical Register of New South Wales.

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 continually 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. Rainfall exerts a very powerful influence in determining the character of settlement, but its effects can be gauged only in a general way from annual averages as to quantity because consideration must be given also to other important factors such as seasonal distribution and reliability.

The coastal districts receive the largest annual falls, ranging from an average of 30 inches in the south to 80 inches in the extreme 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. Over 70	668	427,520	·2	inches. 20 to 30	77,202	49,409,280	24·8
60 to 70	1,765	1,129,600	·6	15 to 20	57,639	36,888,960	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	14·5
30 to 40	30,700	19,648,000	9·9	Total ..	310,372	198,638,080	100 0

Approximately 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 35 per cent. from the mean, but in the south-eastern corner the degree of variation is less and in the north-western quarter it is more. Protracted periods of dry weather in one part or another are not uncommon, but simultaneous drought over the whole territory of the State has been experienced only very rarely.

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 on page 728 of the 1924 edition of this Year Book shows diagrammatically the distribution of rainfall in New South Wales.

Records of Rainfall.

Records of annual rainfall at individual stations in New South Wales are published in the Statistical Register of New South Wales annually. Detailed records over a period of years are contained in the Statistical Register for 1924-25.

Summary tables indicating the average rainfall of the principal districts of New South Wales are published below. The first table shows the average amount of rainfall registered at recording stations in each of thirty topographical divisions of New South Wales during each of the past ten years in comparison with the mean annual rainfall for each division over a long period of years. The second table shows the mean monthly averages or normal rainfall in each division on the basis of the actual rainfall recorded at the various stations over a long period of years. These tables indicate in some degree the variability of annual rainfall in various parts of the State as well as the seasonal and divisional distribution.

Average Annual Rainfall in Divisions.

Division.	Mean Annual Rainfall, in inches.	Average Rainfall (in inches) in District for Years—									
		1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
Coast—											
North	N 55·33	46·95	32·14	51·62	80·20	45·61	68·97	54·58	66·61	66·04	68·10
	S 56·35	61·21	55·15	49·50	69·40	45·74	60·13	67·27	77·58	58·99	55·08
Hunter and Manning	N 60·13	59·62	36·94	47·18	49·82	42·58	60·27	46·66	84·22	68·31	51·78
	S 34·72	31·59	26·20	38·33	31·29	38·79	39·69	34·45	39·78	39·02	42·80
Metropolitan Area	N 42·69	37·49	35·37	36·48	47·16	35·72	48·22	37·83	51·21	41·79	48·35
Balance of Cumberland	N 30·02	25·13	16·05	27·66	28·74	25·73	28·76	25·87	37·57	25·19	37·24
South	N 41·02	42·24	36·48	35·43	51·14	33·55	42·07	43·95	52·63	38·83	45·58
	S 35·36	39·72	24·79	34·25	47·92	27·86	39·33	37·35	44·54	32·68	29·86
Tablelands—											
North	E 37·63	31·06	25·78	44·85	48·42	24·96	46·84	49·95	37·05	42·50	39·64
	W 31·25	24·91	21·72	37·93	29·13	26·95	27·48	36·82	30·06	29·96	41·30
Central	N 25·65	16·63	17·53	29·75	16·46	39·65	20·21	26·40	18·44	28·25	28·37
	S 34·84	30·54	27·96	33·44	34·10	36·17	32·33	36·12	35·59	34·12	42·26
South	N 24·57	28·68	24·09	26·07	33·65	22·85	22·21	24·55	26·51	20·69	27·21
Kosciusko Plateau...	N 40·24	35·18	45·12	42·15	38·70	36·88	31·96	35·07	32·17	32·86	37·64
Slopes—											
North	N 26·31	19·76	18·04	30·98	24·14	18·28	24·29	26·55	24·94	28·72	35·28
	S 26·17	19·92	18·67	30·80	19·59	28·00	19·20	27·85	19·76	24·58	30·81
Central	N 24·99	12·90	18·04	26·35	17·65	36·50	17·50	22·65	17·61	26·87	30·73
	S 22·67	15·90	18·56	25·61	23·05	30·05	18·29	21·73	17·50	23·24	30·37
South	N 22·44	18·04	24·54	25·27	24·25	23·21	17·77	25·11	17·98	20·99	33·79
	S 30·00	24·74	32·24	36·38	28·00	31·44	21·34	26·84	21·29	23·41	42·56
Plains—											
North	E 23·12	19·46	15·31	26·41	18·52	20·93	17·22	22·01	20·61	20·23	30·51
	W 19·85	15·15	14·20	25·62	18·82	19·58	18·49	17·39	12·53	18·83	26·08
Central	N 18·17	10·57	13·51	21·85	20·88	20·92	12·82	16·47	9·35	20·66	25·92
	S 17·67	10·34	13·61	20·45	21·34	20·49	15·64	22·95	12·63	18·78	24·63
Riverina	E 17·85	12·59	18·23	11·55	18·00	19·28	11·60	20·00	14·07	19·26	24·83
	W 13·66	10·07	13·83	8·63	12·34	13·50	8·41	13·76	11·38	16·11	19·21
Western Division—											
Eastern half ...	N 13·68	7·41	8·02	14·04	13·24	16·13	9·51	10·57	5·69	14·14	18·37
	S 13·21	8·98	12·88	14·75	14·22	12·31	7·05	13·34	9·27	14·69	16·19
Western half ...	N 8·29	4·81	8·02	5·65	9·18	7·52	4·37	7·74	4·09	12·13	11·37
	S 10·22	6·96	10·51	8·37	8·36	9·97	4·66	8·90	6·13	9·45	12·06

NOTE.—The main divisions (Coast, Tablelands, Slopes and Plains) divided into Northern, Central and Southern sections, refer to areas delineated on the map forming the frontispiece of this Year Book. For purposes of this table these are again subdivided into northern or southern or eastern and western sectors indicated above by the letters "N," "S," "E," or "W" respectively.

Average Monthly Rainfall in Divisions.

Division.	Mean of Average Monthly Rainfall (in inches) Period ended 1931.												
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
Coast—													
North	N	6.88	6.45	7.43	5.62	5.35	4.32	3.81	2.73	2.60	2.87	3.72	4.69
	S	6.52	6.83	7.39	6.56	5.33	4.46	3.55	2.54	2.64	3.52	3.83	4.67
Hunter and Manning	N	4.59	5.56	5.35	5.29	5.16	3.30	4.20	3.06	3.08	3.03	3.28	4.52
	S	3.22	3.26	3.59	3.23	2.70	2.97	3.14	2.15	2.39	2.29	2.50	3.51
Metropolitan Area ...	...	3.72	3.33	4.17	5.51	4.88	3.56	4.36	2.22	2.41	2.81	2.57	3.46
Balance of Cumberland	...	3.04	2.88	3.26	2.71	2.51	2.32	2.80	1.75	1.72	2.04	2.24	2.94
South	N	3.90	3.55	4.05	4.11	4.14	3.81	4.25	2.42	2.46	2.67	2.55	3.60
	S	3.62	3.56	3.79	2.88	3.37	3.26	2.74	1.94	2.48	2.53	2.33	3.05
Tablelands—													
North	E	5.43	5.18	4.98	2.99	2.20	2.53	1.92	1.33	1.76	2.56	3.26	4.08
	W	3.81	3.00	2.84	1.83	1.70	2.60	2.16	1.96	2.06	2.70	3.08	3.64
Central	N	2.42	2.06	2.21	1.84	1.82	2.46	1.96	1.93	1.97	2.08	2.25	2.71
	S	3.38	3.10	3.31	2.68	2.56	3.22	2.94	2.46	2.39	2.59	2.60	3.12
South	S	2.39	2.01	2.18	1.65	1.95	2.26	2.05	1.82	1.96	2.11	1.92	2.35
Kosciusko Plateau ...	...	2.72	2.46	2.63	2.16	3.12	3.80	3.27	3.08	3.69	3.64	2.73	3.14
Slopes—													
North	N	3.30	2.65	2.53	1.70	1.63	2.21	1.85	1.64	1.55	2.19	2.43	2.90
	S	2.78	2.37	2.32	1.72	1.56	2.33	1.84	1.85	1.78	2.07	2.48	2.99
Central	N	2.52	2.27	2.15	1.85	1.79	2.35	2.15	1.79	1.74	1.74	2.04	2.69
	S	2.07	1.62	1.86	1.70	1.72	2.33	1.89	1.94	1.79	1.83	1.74	2.21
South	N	1.79	1.39	1.71	1.64	1.79	2.53	2.11	2.08	1.91	1.96	1.61	1.94
	S	1.88	1.63	2.15	2.04	2.58	3.85	3.03	3.12	2.66	2.78	1.98	2.17
Plains—													
North	E	2.56	2.34	2.21	1.55	1.60	2.10	1.70	1.37	1.38	1.63	2.08	2.64
	W	2.36	2.12	1.83	1.31	1.38	1.88	1.37	1.10	1.01	1.32	1.70	2.30
Central	N	1.86	1.62	1.56	1.53	1.34	1.79	1.40	1.32	1.14	1.17	1.52	1.89
	S	1.58	1.40	1.37	1.42	1.34	2.02	1.43	1.42	1.28	1.34	1.38	1.82
Riverina	E	1.17	1.19	1.32	1.26	1.32	2.17	1.62	1.77	1.58	1.69	1.23	1.37
	W	0.98	0.88	0.97	0.94	1.36	1.64	1.14	1.24	1.14	1.21	1.01	1.14
Western Division—													
Eastern half	N	1.52	1.47	1.22	0.91	1.03	1.23	0.90	0.81	0.81	0.97	1.18	1.52
	S	1.07	1.00	1.03	0.87	1.21	1.47	1.06	1.18	1.09	1.10	0.97	1.24
Western half	N	0.83	0.86	0.78	0.51	0.70	0.87	0.54	0.53	0.52	0.71	0.65	0.96
	S	0.67	0.81	0.70	0.65	1.08	1.20	0.74	0.94	0.86	0.88	0.77	0.86

For description of divisions see footnote to previous table.

Evaporation.

In New South Wales 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.

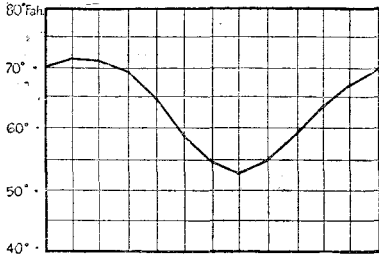
The territory of New South Wales may be divided into four climatic divisions, which correspond with the terrain—the Coast, the Tablelands, the Western Slopes of the Dividing Range, and the Western Plains.*

The northern parts of the State are generally warmer than the southern, the difference between the average temperatures of the extreme north and

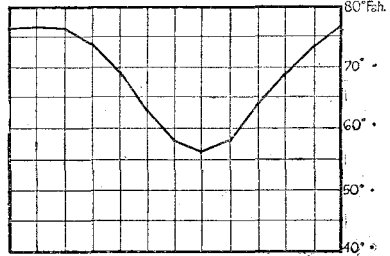
*See map in frontispiece.

MEAN MONTHLY TEMPERATURE.

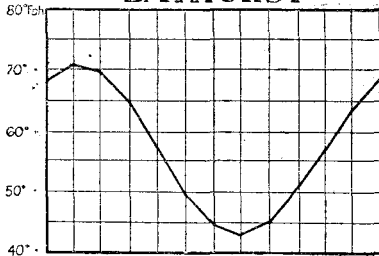
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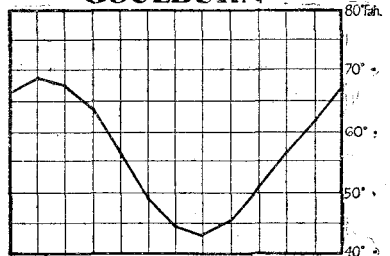
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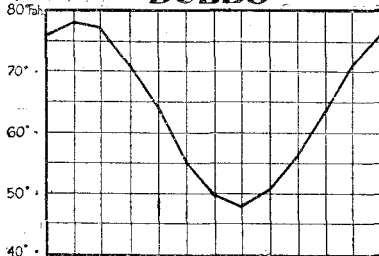
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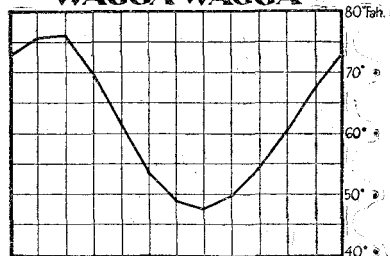
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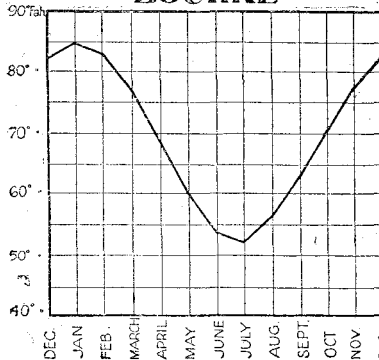
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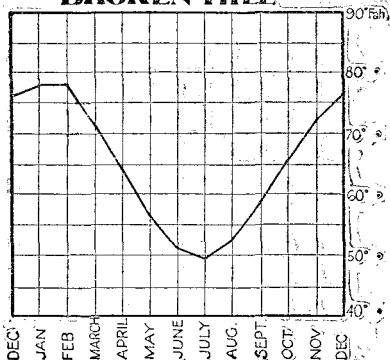
WAGGA WAGGA



BOURKE

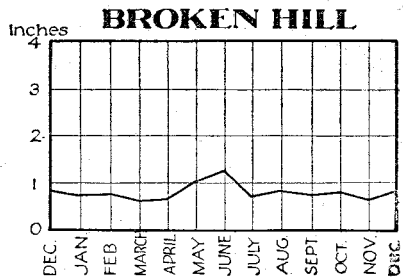
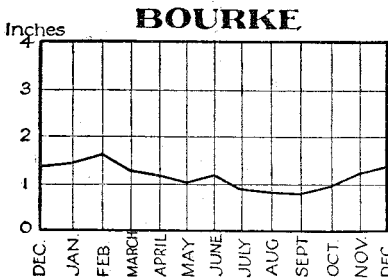
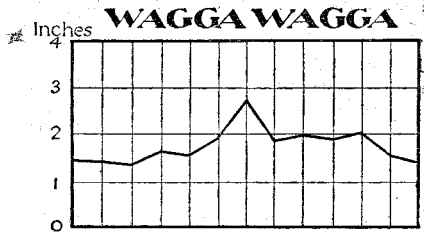
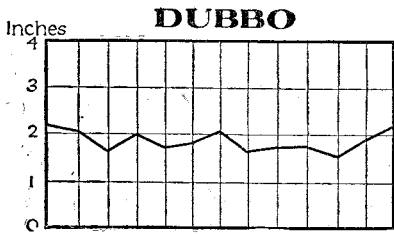
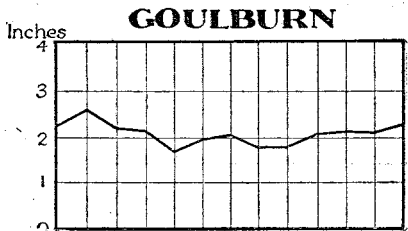
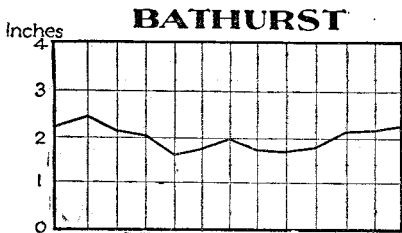
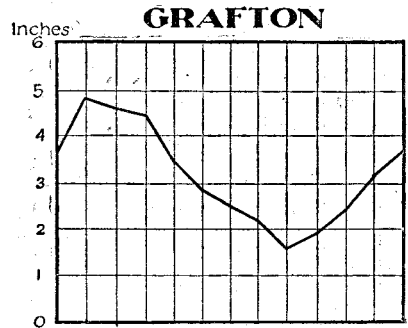
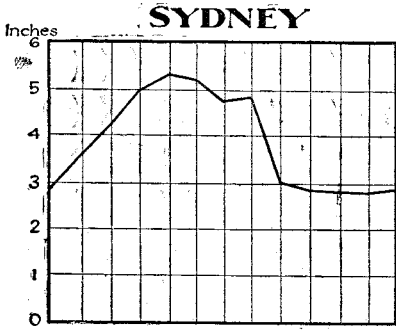


BROKEN HILL



The graph shows Mean Temperature in shade (Deg. Fah.) at each station over a series of years.

MONTHLY RAINFALL.



The graph shows Average Monthly Rainfall (inches) at each station over a series of years.

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, 1912-1931.	
			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	56·9	22·8	113·0	23·0	52·35	
Grafton	22	21	68·0	76·5	58·0	24·5	114·0	24·9	34·56	
<i>Hunter and Manning—</i>										
Jerry's Plains	53	367	64·4	75·6	52·3	28·3	118·0	19·0	26·36	
West Maitland	18	40	64·4	74·6	53·4	21·5	114·0	28·0	35·82	
Newcastle	1	34	64·5	72·1	55·5	14·6	110·5	31·0	42·67	
Sydney	5	138	63·2	71·0	54·2	14·0	108·5	35·9	46·16	
<i>South Coast—</i>										
Wollongong	0	54	63·0	70·2	54·8	17·0	106·0	33·6	52·24	
Nowra	6	30	62·8	70·6	54·6	20·8	110·0	31·5	41·71	
Moruya Heads	0	50	60·9	67·8	53·1	17·7	114·8	22·6	34·35	
Bega	8	50	59·9	68·9	50·0	26·6	111·0	20·0	35·49	

Taking the coast as a whole, the difference between the mean summer and mean winter temperature is about 18° 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 seventy-two years, the mean summer temperature being 71°, and the mean winter temperature 54°.

The following table shows the average meteorological conditions of Sydney, based on the experience of the seventy-three years ended 1931:—

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	29.897	71.6	78.4	34.9	3.60	15.26	0.25	14
February	29.944	71.3	77.7	65.0	4.24	18.56	0.34	14
March	30.013	69.3	75.7	62.9	5.00	18.70	0.42	15
April	30.072	64.7	71.3	58.1	5.53	24.49	0.06	13
May	30.080	58.8	65.5	52.2	5.19	23.03	0.18	15
June	30.063	54.7	61.1	48.3	4.81	16.30	0.19	12
July	30.070	52.8	59.7	45.9	4.90	13.21	0.12	12
August	30.068	55.2	62.8	47.5	2.90	14.89	0.04	11
September	30.008	59.2	67.0	51.4	2.79	14.05	0.08	12
October	29.968	63.6	71.3	55.8	2.83	11.14	0.21	12
November	29.939	67.0	74.4	59.6	2.80	9.88	0.07	12
December	29.882	70.0	77.1	62.9	2.86	15.82	0.23	13
Annual	30.000	63.2	70.2	56.2	47.50	82.76	23.01	155

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 annual average 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 45°. At Kiandra, the elevation of which is 4,640 feet, the mean annual temperature is 44.3°. Near the southern extremity of the tableland, on the Snowy and Muniung Ranges, the snow is usually present throughout the year.

The statement below shows, for the Tableland districts, particulars of average temperature and rainfall at typical stations over a period of years:—

Station.	Least Distance from East Coast.	Altitude.	Temperature (in Shade).						Rainfall— Mean Annual, 1912-1931.
			Mean Annual.	Mean Summer.	Mean Winter.	Mean Daily Range.	Highest.	Lowest.	
<i>Northern Tableland—</i>									
Tenterfield	80	2,827	53·4	68·5	47·0	23·9	101·0	18·0	30·54
Inverell	124	1,980	59·7	71·4	47·2	29·6	105·5	14·0	29·21
Glen Innes	90	3,518	56·1	66·5	44·6	24·3	101·4	16·0	30·96
<i>Central Tableland—</i>									
Cassilis (Dalkeith) ...	120	1,500	60·1	71·9	47·7	24·4	109·5	17·5	22·72
Mudgee	121	1,635	59·9	72·5	45·9	28·4	108·0	15·0	24·62
Bathurst	96	2,200	57·1	69·6	44·4	27·5	112·9	13·0	23·36
Katoomba	53	3,349	53·8	63·3	43·4	15·7	98·0	26·5	54·16
<i>Southern Tableland—</i>									
Crookwell	81	2,000	53·0	64·4	41·6	23·0	100·0	15·0	34·25
Goulburn	54	2,129	56·2	67·7	44·3	23·4	111·0	13·0	24·18
Yass	92	1,657	57·2	70·0	44·8	24·4	108·0	21·0	24·42
Kiandra	88	4,640	44·3	55·4	32·7	20·8	89·0	⁵ below zero	60·94
Bombala	37	3,000	52·8	62·8	42·0	24·4	101·5	17·0	25·29

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 74°, and in the winter from 53° to 48°.

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 information as to average temperature and rainfall for the principal stations on the Western Slopes over a period of years:—

Station.	Least Distance from East Coast.	Altitude.	Temperature (in Shade).						Rainfall— Mean Annual, 1912-1931.
			Mean Annual.	Mean Summer.	Mean Winter.	Mean Daily Range.	Highest.	Lowest.	
<i>North Western—</i>									
Moree	204	680	67·4	80·2	53·3	28·8	117·0	19·0	22·29
Bingara	153	1,200	64·2	77·1	50·4	28·7	112·5	16·0	30·58
Quirindi	115	1,278	61·7	74·1	48·4	29·6	109·0	13·0	26·48
<i>Central Western—</i>									
Dubbo	177	863	63·7	77·3	49·7	27·6	115·4	16·9	21·35
<i>South Western—</i>									
Young	140	1,416	59·3	72·6	46·5	25·3	109·0	21·9	24·80
Wagga Wagga	158	615	61·5	75·1	48·3	24·9	116·8	22·0	21·15
Urana	213	400	62·3	75·4	48·7	26·6	113·0	26·3	17·74
Albury	175	531	60·8	74·2	47·8	26·9	117·3	19·9	27·74

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 north-western boundary of the State to 10 and 15 inches along the Darling River, and 20 inches on the eastern limits of the plain country. The mean annual temperature ranges from 69° in the north to 62° in the south; in the summer from 83° to 74°, 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 during the summer season, 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° accumulates only 20° to 25° by contact with the radiation from the soil during its passage across the continent to the western districts of New South Wales.

The winter, with an average temperature over 50°, 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, 1912-1931.
			Mean Annual.	Mean Summer.	Mean Winter.	Mean Daily Range.	Highest.	Lowest.	
	miles.	feet.	°	°	°	°	°	°	inches.
Brewarrina	345	430	68·0	81·7	53·6	27·1	120·0	22·0	13·83
Bourke	386	350	69·2	83·3	54·2	27·9	125·0	25·0	11·25
Wilcannia	473	246	66·5	80·1	52·5	26·2	120·8	21·8	9·26
Broken Hill	555	1,000	64·6	77·5	51·4	23·2	115·9	28·5	9·52
Condobolin	227	700	65·0	78·7	50·9	26·9	115·0	20·0	16·26
Wentworth	478	144	63·7	76·0	51·7	24·3	117·0	21·0	11·02
Hay	309	291	62·8	75·4	50·1	26·9	117·3	22·9	13·70
Deniliquin	287	268	61·8	74·4	49·6	24·5	116·5	22·0	15·65

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, astroglyph, equatorial, and seismograph. 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 activities of the Observatory were restricted to the more important branches of research work as from July, 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, which is, therefore, 10 hours ahead of the standard time adopted in England. 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 $4\frac{1}{2}$ 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.

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT.

THERE are in New South Wales three administrations, viz., the Federal, whose seat is in the Federal Capital at Canberra (New South Wales), and which 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 1902-1929, and is not entirely written. It is drawn from several 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, including amendments to the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act; certain 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, and 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." This provision, however, is modified by the further direction that if, in any case the Governor should see sufficient cause to dissent from the opinion of his Ministers, he may act in the exercise of his powers and authority in opposition to the opinion of his Ministers, reporting the matter to His Majesty through the Secretary of State for the Dominions without delay. The extent of the Governor's powers, however, tends to contract, though he possesses important spheres of discretionary action as *e.g.* in regard to dissolution of Parliament. Moreover, he is 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 he usually acts on the advice of his Ministers, and they take the responsibility for their advice. 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. His salary is £5,000 per annum, which, with certain allowances, is provided by the Constitution Act out of the revenues of the State. As from June, 1931, His Excellency returned 25 per cent. of his salary to the Treasury.

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.

Air Vice-Marshal Sir Philip Woolcott Game, G.B.E., K.C.B., D.S.O., was appointed Governor of New South Wales on 29th May, 1930.

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.

During the term of the thirtieth Parliament, elected in 1930, conflict arose between the State and the Commonwealth owing to the failure of the State to meet its obligations under the Financial Agreement described in the chapter of this volume, relating to Public Finance. The Federal Parliament passed legislation authorising the Commonwealth Government to collect revenues accruing to the State. Then the State Government issued to its officers instructions which contravened this legislation. Thereupon the Governor of New South Wales dismissed the State Government on 13th May, 1932, and commissioned the Leader of the Opposition to form a Cabinet. General elections were held in the following month and the party from which the new Cabinet was formed was returned to power.

The Ministry which assumed office after general elections in June, 1932, consists of the following members:—

Premier and Colonial Treasurer.—The Hon. B. S. B. Stevens, M.L.A.
Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport.—Lieut.-Col., The Hon. M. F. Bruxner, M.L.A.

Secretary for Public Works and Minister for Health.—The Hon. R. W. D. Weaver, M.L.A.

Attorney-General and Vice-President of the Executive Council.—The Hon. H. E. Manning, K.C., M.L.C.

Secretary for Lands.—The Hon. E. A. Buttenshaw, M.L.A.

Colonial Secretary.—Capt. The Hon. F. A. Chaffey, M.L.A.

Minister for Education.—The Hon. D. H. Drummond, M.L.A.

Minister for Labour and Industry.—The Hon. J. M. Dunningham, M.L.A.

Minister for Agriculture.—The Hon. H. Main, M.L.A.

Assistant Minister in the Legislative Council.—The Hon. J. Ryan, M.L.C.

Minister for Local Government.—The Hon. J. Jackson, M.L.A.

Secretary for Mines and Minister for Forests.—The Hon. R. S. Vincent, M.L.A.

Minister of Justice.—The Hon. L. O. Martin, M.L.A.

Hon. Minister Assisting Colonial Treasurer.—The Hon. E. S. Spooner, M.L.A.

Hon. Minister Assisting Minister for Labour and Industry.—The Hon. H. M. Hawkins, M.L.C.

The salaries of Ministers as fixed by statute in 1925 were reduced by 15 per cent. as from 1st April, 1930, and further as from 7th August, 1931, as shown below:—

	As from 1st July, 1925. £	As from 1st April, 1930. £	As from 7th August, 1931. £
The Premier	2,445	2,078	1,800
The Attorney-General	2,095	1,781	1,564
The Vice-President of the Executive Council (and leader of the Govern- ment in the Legislative Council)...	1,375	1,169	1,072
Nine other Ministers of the Crown ...	17,505	14,879	13,167
Total	<u>23,420</u>	<u>19,907</u>	<u>17,603</u>

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

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 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. Moreover the responsibility of the Ministry for financial measures is secured by a provision of the Constitution Act that the Legislative Assembly may not appropriate any part of the Consolidated Revenue Fund or of any other tax or impost for any purpose unless it has been first recommended by a message of the Governor to the Assembly during the current session.

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 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 law. The Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act, passed in 1912 and amended in subsequent years, 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, and women were appointed for the first time in November, 1931.

In making appointments to the Legislative Council the Governor acts ordinarily on the advice of the Ministry, and no special instructions have been issued to him respecting the acceptance or rejection of such advice.

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 total membership in September, 1932, was 106, including two women.

A President appointed from among the members by the Governor presides over the Council. He receives an annual salary of £945. There is also a Chairman of Committees, who receives a salary of £573 per annum. Members of the Legislative Council are supplied with free passes on State railways and tramways.

Proposed Reform of Legislative Council.

Under the provision of the Constitution (Legislative Council) Amendment Act, 1929, a bill for the abolition of the Upper House or for the alteration of its constitution or powers may not be presented for Royal Assent until it has been approved by the electors at a referendum at least two months after the bill has been passed by Parliament. A bill for the reform of the Council was passed by both Houses of Parliament in November, 1929, providing for a vote of the electors to be taken on a date to be proclaimed. An outline of the provisions of this Bill was published on page 26 of the Official Year Book for 1929-30.

On 10th March, 1930, assent was given to the Constitution Further Amendment (Referendum) Act, 1930, which provided for the holding of a referendum upon this bill and for means of giving effect to the bill if approved by the electors and assented to by the King. The referendum, however, was not held during 1930 and, after a change of Government at the general elections of 25th October, 1930, two further bills were passed. The first repealed the Constitution (Legislative Council) Amendment Act, 1929, and the Constitution Further Amendment (Referendum) Act, 1930. The second (The Constitution Further Amendment—Legislative Council Abolition Bill, 1930) provided that the Legislative Council of New South Wales should be abolished without a referendum. Thereupon certain members of the Legislative Council applied on constitutional grounds to the Supreme Court of New South Wales for an injunction restraining the President of the Legislative Council from presenting these bills for His Majesty's assent. The injunction was granted and an appeal against it by the Government of New South Wales to the High Court was disallowed. The appeal was then carried to the Privy Council and again disallowed.

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; but 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. All legal impediments to the election of women to the Legislative Assembly were removed in 1918. 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.

A Speaker presides over the House, and his election is the first business when the House 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 at £300 per annum, 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 in July, 1922, restored to £875 in July, 1925, reduced to £744 in April, 1930, and £706 on 7th August, 1931. An aggregate amount of £2,700 is provided for postage, each member receiving an order monthly for one-twelfth of his annual allowance. In addition, each member is supplied with a free pass on State railways and tramways. The salary of the Speaker is £1,281, and of the Chairman of Committees £883 per annum. The leader of the Opposition formerly received an annual allowance of £250 in addition to his allowance as member, but as from 7th August, 1931, the two allowances combined were £881 per annum.

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 usually appointed by ballot soon 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 conduct inquiries, to summon witnesses, and to compel the production of books, etc. No appointments to this committee have been made since the commencement of the Parliament elected in 1930.

Proposals for public works of an estimated cost exceeding £20,000 must be submitted and explained by a Minister in the Legislative Assembly, and then referred to the Public Works Committee for report.

The chairman receives as remuneration £3 3s. for each sitting of the committee, and the other members £2 2s. each, subject to the Public Service Salaries (No. 2) Act, 1931.

Public Accounts Committee.

For the better supervision of the financial business of the State a Public Accounts Committee is appointed every Parliament under provisions of the Audit Act, 1902, from among the members of the Legislative Assembly. It consists of five members, and is clothed with 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.

Court of Disputed Returns.

The Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act, provides for the establishment of a Court of Disputed Returns—a jurisdiction conferred on the Supreme Court. The business of the Court 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:—

- Transport Commissioners.
- Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board.
- Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage Board.
- Sydney Harbour Trust Commissioners.
- Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission.
- Board of Fire Commissioners of New South Wales.
- Metropolitan Meat Industry Board.
- Forestry Commission.
- Western Land Board.
- Prickly-pear Destruction Commission.
- Hospital Commission.
- Workers' Compensation Commission.
- Industrial Commission.
- Electoral Commission.
- Gas and Electricity Commission.
- Milk Board.

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. There are also a number of marketing boards constituted in respect of primary products under the Marketing Act.

Auditor-General.

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 electoral system is controlled by an Electoral Commissioner—who is charged with the administration of the Act and legal provisions relating to the registration or enrolment of electors, the preparation of rolls and the conduct of elections of the Legislative Assembly. The Electoral Commissioner holds office for seven years and is eligible for reappointment. He may be removed from office only by resolution of both Houses of Parliament or through performing some disqualifying action laid down in the law.

Franchise.

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 any subdivision of an electoral district for one month preceding the date of claim for enrolment.

Persons are disqualified from voting who are of unsound mind or who have been convicted and are under sentence for an offence punishable in any part of the British Empire by imprisonment for one year or longer.

Each elector is entitled to one vote only. The electoral rolls are compiled under provisions for compulsory enrolment introduced in 1921. Compulsory voting first came into force at the elections of 1930. In accordance with an Act passed in 1928, arrangements have been made with the Commonwealth for joint electoral rolls for State and Federal purposes.

Electors absent from their districts are permitted to record their votes at any polling-place in the State, and 97,958 votes were so recorded in 1930, compared with 64,871 in 1927, and 36,054 in 1925. Postal voting is provided for in the case of persons precluded from attendance at any polling-place by reason of illness or infirmity, distant over 10 miles, or travelling. In 1927 there were 9,289 such votes, and 15,947 in 1930.

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 "open votes" made in this way. The number has not been recorded since. At the elections of 1930 provision was made under the amended legislation whereby an elector, who was not enrolled or whose name had been marked as having voted, might in certain circumstances vote after making a declaration that he had not already voted. There were 6,757 such votes known as "section" 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.

A system of voting intended to secure proportional representation was introduced by an Act passed in 1918 and operated at the general elections of 1920, 1922, and 1925. A description of the system and an analysis of the party representation secured under it is shown on page 42 of the Year

Book for 1926-27. In 1926 an Act was passed restoring the system of single seats and providing for preferential voting. This Act also provided that casual vacancies occurring after the dissolution of the twenty-seventh Parliament should be filled at by-elections.

Voters must number the candidates in order of preference on the ballot-paper, and votes are informal unless preferences have been duly expressed for all candidates. In counting votes, the candidate is elected who has secured an absolute majority of votes either of first preferences outright or of first preferences plus votes transferred to him in due order of preference by excluding in turn candidates with the lowest number of votes and re-allotting their votes according to the next preference indicated.

Electorates and Electors.

The electoral law provides that electorates are to be redistributed when 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, viz., the Electoral Commissioner, the Government Statistician, and the Surveyor-General.

For the purposes of the distribution it is prescribed by the Parliamentary Electorates and Elections (Amendment) Act of 1928 that the State must be divided into three parts, viz., the Sydney area, to which 43 seats are allotted, the Newcastle area 5 seats, and the Country area 42 seats.

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 1891 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 number of members in the State Parliament was submitted to the electors by referendum, and as a result the number of districts and of representatives was reduced to 90 in 1904.

The following table shows certain particulars as to parliamentary representation at the various dates on which the membership of the Assembly or the franchise was altered, and for each year in which elections have been held since 1901:—

Year of Election.	Number of Members of Legislative Assembly.	Population per Member.	Proportion of persons enrolled to Total Population.	Total Number of Electors qualified to Vote.	Average number of Electors per Member.
1856	54	5,200	per cent. 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	298,817	2,390
1901	125	10,900	25·3	346,184	2,769
1904	90	15,900	48·3	689,490	7,661
1907	90	17,000	48·8	745,900	8,288
1910	90	18,200	53·3	867,695	9,641
1913	90	20,590	55·1	1,037,999	11,533
1917	90	21,000	58·5	1,109,830	12,331
1920	90	22,800	56·1	1,154,437	12,827
1922	90	23,800	58·5	1,251,023	13,900
1925	90	25,300	58·8	1,339,080	14,879
1927	90	26,300	59·1	1,409,493	15,661
1930	90	27,700	57·8	1,440,785	16,008
1932	90	28,100	57·9	1,465,003	16,278

The number of individual 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. Women voted for the first time in 1904, and since that year practically the whole of the adult population has been qualified to vote.

Votes cast at Elections.

The following table shows the voting at the elections held in New South Wales since the general election in 1920. In the 1930-31 issue of the Year Book similar particulars are shown regarding each election since 1894, when a system based on single electorates and the principle of "one man one vote" was introduced. The number of electors as stated represents the number qualified to vote:—

Year of Election.	Electors Enrolled (whole State).	Contested Electorates.				Number.	Percentage.	
		Electors Enrolled.	Votes Recorded.		Informal Votes.			
			Number.	Percentage.	Number.			Percentage.
1920 { Men ...	593,244	593,244	363,115	61.21	62,900	9.70		
1920 { Women ...	561,193	561,193	285,594	50.89				
1920 { Total ...	1,154,437	1,154,437	648,709	56.19				
1922 { Men ...	636,662	636,662	466,949	73.34	31,771	3.63		
1922 { Women ...	614,361	614,361	408,515	66.49				
1922 { Total ...	1,251,023	1,251,023	875,464	69.98				
1925 { Men ...	678,749	678,749	489,126	72.06	30,155	3.28		
1925 { Women ...	660,331	660,331	435,853	66.00				
1925 { Total ...	1,339,080	1,339,080	924,979	69.07				
1927 { Men ...	714,886	706,316	*591,820	*83.79	15,086	1.08		
1927 { Women ...	694,607	687,938	*558,957	*81.25				
1927 { Total ...	1,409,493	1,394,254	1,150,777	82.54				
1930 { Men ...	724,471	717,999	682,747	95.09	15,947	1.17		
1930 { Women ...	716,314	710,649	673,676	94.79				
1930 { Total ...	1,440,785	1,428,648	1,356,423	94.94				
1931 { Men ...	739,009	715,661	690,094	96.42	30,260	2.21		
1931 { Women ...	725,999	702,480	676,993	96.37				
1931 { Total ...	1,465,008	1,418,141	1,367,087	96.39				

* Estimated, only partly recorded.

The analysis shown above indicates that prior to the introduction of compulsory voting at the election of 1930 the proportion of electors who failed to record their votes was large, even if due allowance were made for obstacles to voting. The highest proportion of votes to enrolment under the voluntary system was 82.54 per cent., recorded in 1927, and the lowest proportion, 56.2 per cent. Under the compulsory system nearly 95 per cent. of electors recorded their votes in 1930 and over 96 per cent. in 1932.

The abnormally low proportion of votes recorded in 1920 was probably due to the complexities of the procedure for voting in that year. 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 influenced the size of the polling was the intensity of interest in party issues.

The number of women exercising their right to vote under the voluntary system was considerably less than the number of men, but the proportions were approximately equal under the compulsory system in 1930 and 1932.

State Parliaments.

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...	7 Sept., 1927...	2	2	17	5
28	29 Oct., 1927...	3 Nov., 1927...	18 Sept., 1930...	2	10	22	4
29	21 Nov., 1930...	25 Nov., 1930...	13 May, 1932...	1	5	23	1
30	30 June, 1932...	23 June., 1932...	Sitting* .....	.....	.....	.....	...

* 5th September, 1932. † 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 three years and sixty days.

State Ministries.

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 seventy-five years under the present system there have been forty-five Ministries, but only twenty-nine Parliaments. Up to 3rd August, 1894, twenty-seven Ministries had held office.

Ministry.		In Office.		Duration.
Number.	Name of Premier and Party.	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 (Liberal) ...	30 Aug. 1904	1 Oct. 1907	3 1 2
33	Wade (Liberal)	2 Oct. 1907	20 Oct. 1910	3 0 19
34	McGowen (Labour)... ..	21 Oct. 1910	29 June 1913	2 8 9
35	Holman (Labour)	30 June 1913	15 Nov. 1916	3 4 16
36	Holman (National)	16 Nov. 1916	12 April 1920	3 4 28
37	Storey (Labour)	13 April 1920	10 Oct. 1921	1 5 27
38	Dooley (Labour)	10 Oct. 1921	20 Dec. 1921	0 2 11
39	Fuller (National)	20 Dec. 1921	20 Dec. 1921	About 7 hours.
40	Dooley (Labour)	20 Dec. 1921	13 April 1922	0 3 24
41	Fuller (National)†	13 April 1922	17 June 1925	3 2 4
42	Lang (Labour)	17 June 1925	26 May 1927	1 11 9
43	Lang (Labour)	27 May 1927	18 Oct. 1927	0 4 22
44	Bavin (National)†	19 Oct. 1927	3 Nov. 1930	3 0 15
45	Lang (Labour)	4 Nov. 1930	13 May 1932	1 6 10
46	Stevens (National)†	13 May 1932	18 June 1932	0 1 5
47	Stevens (United Australia)	18 June, 1932	*	..

* In office 5th September, 1932.

† And Country Party.

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 government are not included:—

Head of Expenditure.	1915-16.	1925-26.	1929-30.	1932-31.
	£	£	£	£
Governor—				
Salary	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Salaries, etc., of Staff... ..	3,549	4,028	3,988	3,518
Other expenses	1,547	1,945	1,014	1,095
	10,096	10,973	10,002	9,613
Executive Council—				
Salaries of Officers ... ..	...	570	834	716
Other expenses ... ..	...	333	46	3
	...	903	880	719
Ministry—				
Salaries of Ministers	11,040	23,420	22,542	19,907
Conferences, Special Reports, etc. ...	5,244	1,078	91	15
	16,284	24,498	22,633	19,922
Parliament—				
Legislative Council—				
Salaries of President and Chairman of Committees	1,220	1,900	1,829	1,615
Railway passes for Members	6,070	15,906	17,744	16,855
Postage for Members ... ..	...	...	80	60
Legislative Assembly—				
Salaries of Speaker and Chairman of Committees	1,740	2,790	2,685	2,198
Allowances to Members*	40,335	67,417	66,680	57,853
Railway passes for Members	10,387	17,462	18,542	18,709
Postage for Members	1,770	2,700	2,700	2,704
Both Houses—Joint expenditure—				
Standing Committee on Public Works—				
Remuneration of Members	3,599	3,966	5,123	1,050
Salaries of Staff and contingencies	2,626	2,145	2,036	1,732
Salaries of Reporting Staff	included	8,269	8,946	7,564
Library—Salaries of Staff	in	2,541	2,883	2,982
Contingencies... ..	“other”	942	951	1,051
Other Salaries of Staff	below.	23,516	26,726	26,029
Printing—Hansard	6,689	6,189	11,290	5,677
Other	14,967	13,562	13,837	10,981
Other Expenses	24,490	5,478	3,219	2,456
	113,893	174,783	185,271	159,516
Electoral—				
Salaries	1,123	2,104	4,743	3,956
Contingencies	59,491†	8,195	12,491	54,448
	57,614	10,299	17,234	58,404
Royal Commissions and Select Committees	4,114	7,790	18,493	720
Grand Total	£ 202,001	229,246	254,513	248,894
Per head of population	2s. 2d.	2s. 0d.	2s. 1d.	2s. 0d.

* Excluding salaries of Ministers, Speaker, and Chairman of Committees. † Includes Liquor Referendum £30,244.

In considering such a table as shown 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 is to be observed particularly in regard to ministers of the Crown who fill dual roles as 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 1930-31 included the cost of general elections and it represented 1.2 per cent. of the total expenditure from consolidated revenue during the year.

The foregoing statement does not, however, represent the total cost of Parliamentary Government because it excludes the expense of Federal government. During the year 1929-30 this amounted to £602,529 for the whole Commonwealth, equivalent to 1s. 11d. per head of population.

THE COMMONWEALTH.

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 that joint action was desirable. 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 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. State laws remain operative in all spheres until superseded by laws passed by the Federal Parliament in the exercise of its assigned powers. State laws, however, are invalid only to the extent of their inconsistency with valid Federal enactments.

The Senate consists of 36 members, six being elected in each State.

It is prescribed by the Constitution Act that the number of members in the House of Representatives shall be as nearly as practicable twice the number of senators. The number to be elected in each State is determined in the following manner: A quota is ascertained by dividing the number of people of the Commonwealth by twice the number of senators, then the number of the people of each State is divided by the quota. The result indicates the number of representatives for each State, one more member being chosen if on the division there is a remainder greater than one-half of the quota. It is provided also that at least five members shall be elected in each original State. The representation of the States may be adjusted in every fifth year.

The number of representatives elected from the various States to the House of Representatives in 1931 was as follows:—New South Wales, 28; Victoria, 20; Queensland, 10; South Australia, 7; Western Australia, 5; Tasmania, 5. In addition, one representative of the Northern Territory was elected to attend and participate in debates without having the right to vote.

For the purpose of electing representatives to the Senate of the Federal Parliament, each State is treated as one constituency, returning six members each for six years, three of whom retire triennially. The members of the House of Representatives are elected for three years from single-member constituencies. The system of voting is preferential, and the electoral system is similar to that of the State. In 1924 the Commonwealth Electoral Act was amended to make provision for compulsory voting.

The voting at elections of members of the House of Representatives from New South Wales has been as follows:—

Year.	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	640,533	627,214	581,678	563,215	90·81	89·80	90·31	21,389	1·87
1928	584,545	576,857	547,095	534,817	93·59	92·71	93·16	52,229	4·83
1929	624,068	614,550	591,438	583,007	94·77	94·87	94·82	33,158	2·82
1931	722,450	710,672	689,905	671,786	95·49	94·53	95·01	48,824	3·59

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 higher than at any Federal elections before the introduction of compulsory voting at the elections of 1925.

At the Senate elections of 1931, the total number of votes cast was 1,361,691, of which 127,794 or 9·38 per cent. were informal. Included in the votes cast were 1,229,872 ordinary votes, 19,623 postal, 106,906 absent, 5,075 under Section 121 (persons whose names were not on roll by reason of error, etc.), and 215 declaration votes. The proportion of votes recorded to electors enrolled was 95·01 per cent.

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, and in the 1926-27 edition at page 47.

On 17th November, 1928, the question of amending the Federal Constitution in such a way as to permit the Commonwealth to make statutory provision in respect of the agreement relating to the public debts of the States was submitted to referendum. Statistics of the polling in New South Wales were as follows:—Electors enrolled, 1,335,660; votes polled, 1,244,918; affirmative votes, 754,446; negative votes, 415,846; informal, 74,626.

SEAT OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

An outline of the provisions of the Constitution Act with respect to the seat of government and the development of the territory was published on page 48 of the Year Book for 1926-27. The Federal Parliament commenced its regular sittings at Canberra on 9th May, 1927.

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 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. As from 1st November, 1929, all compulsory obligations under Part XII of the Defence Act were suspended and the forces were reconstituted on the basis of voluntary enlistment. The peace nucleus was reduced from 48,000 Citizen Forces and 16,000 Senior Cadets to 35,000 Militia Forces and 7,000 Senior Cadets. Under the voluntary system men from 18 to 40 years of age are enlisted in the Militia Forces for a first period of three years subject to annual re-engagement until reaching the retiring age of 48 years. The normal duration of training is sixteen days per year, inclusive of eight days continuous training in camp.

Senior Cadets.

Formerly training was commenced by senior cadets in the year in which they reached the age of 17 years, one year later they were 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.

The Senior Cadet Corps, in which enrolment is voluntary, is organised now on the following basis:—

(a) Detachments affiliated with Militia Units:—

Light Horse—Nil;

Infantry, Signals and A.S.C.—25 per cent. of the establishment of the Militia Unit;

Other Arms—20 per cent. of the establishment of the Militia Unit;

and (b) Detachments consisting of pupils attending approved educational establishments. The ages for enrolment in the regimental detachments are 16 and 17 years, and in the school detachments over 14 years.

TRAINING STRENGTH OF ACTIVE MILITARY FORCES.

Date.	*1 Mar., 1901.	30 June, 1913.	31 Dec., 1922.	1 Aug., 1926.	1 Feb., 1929.	30 April, 1930.	31 Mar., 1932.
Commonwealth ...	28,886	34,537	37,156	44,634	47,931	27,454	29,821
New South Wales	9,772	12,105	14,561	17,249	18,825	10,810	10,848

* Date of taking over the military forces from States by Commonwealth.

The following table shows the strength of the Land Forces in the Commonwealth and New South Wales, classified according to the nature of the Service, on the 31st March, 1932:—

Branch of Service.	Commonwealth.	New South Wales.
Permanent Forces	1,536	624
Militia Forces	28,285	10,224
Engineer and Railway Staff Corps... ..	58	10
Unattached List of Officers	328	124
Reserve of Officers	6,105	2,190
Chaplains	279	81
A. A. M. C. Reserve	2,380	683
Total	38,971	13,936

The strength of Militia Forces and Senior Cadets in New South Wales on 31st March, 1932, was as follows:—

Military Formation.	Militia Forces.	Senior Cadets.	
		Regimental Detachments.	Educational Establishments.
1st Cavalry Division	1,954	79	68
1st Division	3,035	416	325
2nd Division	4,213	645	551
2nd District Base	1,022	149	...
Total	10,224	1,289	944

Royal Military College.

This College was established in 1911 at Duntroon, in the Federal Capital Territory, for the purpose of providing trained officers for the permanent forces. In January, 1931, the College was transferred to Victoria Barracks, Sydney. Admission is by open competitive examination.

Rifle Clubs.

On the 30th June, 1931, there were 299 rifle clubs in New South Wales with a membership of 12,024 and 11 miniature rifle clubs, having a membership of 267. Members of rifle clubs must fire an annual course of musketry, but do not undergo any drill.

For the purposes of administration, the control of rifle club activities reverted from the Secretary for Defence to the Military Board, with effect from 1st March, 1931. Government grants are made for the construction and maintenance of rifle ranges, etc., and 200 rounds of ammunition are issued free annually to each efficient member.

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.

In May, 1932, the Australian Squadron in Commission consisted of 2 cruisers, 1 seaplane carrier, and 1 destroyer. In addition, there were in reserve 2 cruisers, 1 flotilla leader, 4 destroyers, 3 sloops, 1 surveying ship, 1 depot ship, and 1 fleet auxiliary.

The seagoing force consisted of 341 officers and 2,776 ratings. Ninety-eight per cent. of the personnel were Australians, the remainder being on loan from the Royal Navy.

Reserves of officers and men for the Royal Australian Navy are provided from the following sources, the number of personnel in May, 1932, being shown in brackets:—(a) Royal Australian Fleet Reserve (209 men); (b) Royal Australian Naval Reserve (Seagoing) (45 officers); (c) Royal Australian Naval Reserve and Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve (282 officers and 4,910 men).

Junior officers are trained at the Naval College, Flinders Naval Depot, which contained 25 cadet midshipmen undergoing training in May, 1932. An additional twelve will join the College in September, 1932, and twelve in January, 1933. The general depot of the Navy is at Western Port, Victoria, where the more advanced training of petty officers and men and the training of the men on first entry are conducted.

AIR DEFENCE.

A Royal 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 102 officers and 788 airmen, and of the Citizen Air Force 48 officers and 260 airmen.

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF EVENTS IN THE HISTORY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

A brief historical sketch of New South Wales was published in the Official Year Book for 1929-30, at pages 40 to 52, and a chronological table of events in the history of New South Wales from 1770 to 1919 was published in the Official Year Book for 1919, at pages 1 to 8. This table is repeated below in a revised form as from 1901 with a continuation from 1920 to 1932.

- 1901 Federation of Australian Colonies—Interstate free-trade established—Industrial Arbitration Act (State)—Sydney Harbour Trust formed—Closer Settlement Act—Western Lands Act—Introduction of Pacific Islanders prohibited.
- 1902 Mt. Kembla Colliery Explosion (ninety-five lives lost)—Women's Franchise—Pacific Cable completed—First sitting of (State) Arbitration Court—Parliamentary Select Committee *re* Greater Sydney—First Federal Tariff.
- 1903 High Court of Australia inaugurated.
- 1904 Reduction of number of members of (State) Parliament from 125 to 90—Educational Reforms commenced—Patents, Trade Marks, &c., transferred to Commonwealth—Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act.
- 1905 Assisted Immigration reintroduced—Children's Courts instituted—Local Government (Shires) Act extending local government to whole State.
- 1906 Barren Jack (Burrinjuck) Dam authorised—Public School fees abolished—Sydney Central Railway Station opened.
- 1907 Invalidity and Accident Pensions—Telephone connected, Sydney-Melbourne—Opening of blast furnace for manufacture of iron and steel at Lithgow—Medical inspection of School Children initiated—"Harvester" Wage determined.
- 1908 Visit of United States (American) Fleet—Minimum Wage Act—Industrial Wages Boards constituted—Subventions to Friendly Societies Act—Yass-Canberra Federal Capital Site selected—Crown Lands Amendment Act (Conversions)—Cataract Dam completed—Private Hospitals Act.
- 1909 Fisher Library (Sydney University) opened—Old-age Pensions administration transferred to Commonwealth—Pure Food Act.
- 1910 Mitchell Library opened—Referenda favouring transfer of State Debts to Federal Government and rejecting proposed States finance agreement with Commonwealth—Australian Notes Act—Australian silver coinage issued—Saturday Half-holiday instituted in Sydney and the larger towns of N.S.W.—Workmen's Compensation Act—Federal Land Tax—Invalidity and Accidents Pensions administration transferred to Commonwealth—Arrival of "Yarra" and "Parramatta," first vessels of Australian Navy—Australian Penny Postage.
- 1911 First Australian Notes issue—Federal Referenda relating to monopolies and industrial legislation; proposals rejected—Federal Capital Site at Yass-Canberra transferred to Commonwealth—Compulsory defence training initiated—Murrumbidgee Irrigation Trust appointed—First wireless station (private) licensed for transaction of public business—Imperial Conference in London—Randwick wireless station transmitted messages over 2,000 miles—First section of North Coast Railway opened—Flight of first Australian Aviator (W. E. Hart) from Sydney to Penrith.
- 1912 Bursary Endowment, Secondary Education—Murray Waters Agreement—Murrumbidgee Irrigation Farms available, and irrigation commenced—Commonwealth Bank (Savings Bank Department) established—Commonwealth Maternity allowances—Sydney (Pennant Hills) Wireless Station opened.

- 1913 Federal Capital City named Canberra, and foundation stones laid—Visit of Dominions Royal Commission—British Trade Commissioners office established at Sydney—First elective Senate, University of Sydney—Arrival at Sydney (4th October) of Australian Fleet, including battle cruiser "Australia" and cruisers "Sydney" and "Melbourne"—Departure of (Imperial) Admiral King-Hall—First Cost of Living and Living Wage Inquiry in Industrial Arbitration Court—Appointment of Interstate Commission—Commonwealth Bank commenced ordinary banking business.
- 1914 Norfolk Island transferred to control of Commonwealth Government—First Aerial Mail, Melbourne to Sydney, carried by M. Guillaux—Direct telephone, Sydney to Adelaide, opened—Murray Waters Agreement (Premiers' Conference)—First Baby Clinic opened—State advances for homes initiated—European War—Expeditionary force of volunteers despatched to co-operate with Imperial forces—Australia Naval Unit transferred to direct Imperial control—Necessary Commodities Control and Wheat Acquisition Acts—War Precautions Act.
- 1915 Australian Expeditionary Forces in action at Dardanelles and in Egypt—Iron and steel works opened at Newcastle—Conservatorium of Music opened—War census—Commonwealth Powers (War) Act—Commonwealth Income Tax—Wheat harvest marketed by Australian Governments.
- 1916 Australian Expeditionary Forces in action in France—Liquor Referendum resulted in closing hotels at 6 p.m.—Fair Rents Court established—Valuation of Land Act—Eight Hours Act (48-hours week)—Soldiers Repatriation Fund established—Military Service Referendum rejected—Registration of private schools initiated—Workmen's Compensation law extended to all workers—Imperial Wool Purchase Scheme initiated.
- 1917 Transcontinental Railway opened—River Murray Waters Act in operation—Daylight Saving initiated and abandoned—Second Military Service Referendum rejected—Extensive industrial dislocation—Interstate Commission Prices investigation—War-time Profits Tax imposed.
- 1918 European War Armistice declared—N.S.W. Board of Trade constituted—Women's Legal Status Act passed—Commonwealth Repatriation Department created—Poor Persons Legal Remedies Act—Introduction of proportional representation at State Parliamentary elections.
- 1919 Peace signed between European Powers—State Housing scheme initiated—Influenza epidemic—Wheat Silos scheme initiated—First aeroplane flight, England to Australia (twenty-eight days) by Sir Ross and Sir Keith Smith—Commonwealth Royal Commission appointed to inquire into basic wage and cost of living—First Federal General Elections on preferential voting system—Federal Referenda; proposals to extend legislative powers and to provide for nationalisation of monopolies rejected.
- 1920 Compulsory school attendance introduced—Proportional representation and multiple electorates—Profiteering Prevention Act—Control of Note issue transferred to Commonwealth Note Board.
- 1921 Forty-four hour week introduced (State)—Voluntary wheat pool inaugurated—First direct wireless press message, England to Australia.
- 1922 Rural Bank established—Sydney Harbour Bridge Act—Conference of employers and employees (Sydney)—Reversion to 48-hour week (State).
- 1923 Agreement to extend certain Victorian Railways into New South Wales.
- 1924 Grafton-Kyogle-South Brisbane Railway Agreement—Migration Agreement with British Government on basis of £34,000,000 loan—Control of Notes Issue transferred to Commonwealth Bank Board.
- 1925 Main Roads Board established—Sydney Harbour Bridge commenced—Broadcasting stations established—Compulsory voting at Federal elections—Visit of American Fleet.
- 1926 First section of City Underground Railway opened—Electrification of suburban railway lines commenced—44-hour week re-introduced—Widows' pensions instituted—Workers' Compensation extended—Sydney Branch of Royal Mint ceased operations.

- 1927 First sitting of Federal Parliament at Canberra opened, 9th May—Commercial wireless communication established with England—Family Endowment instituted—Marketing of Primary Products Act—System of single seats and preferential voting introduced at State elections—Forty-four hour week (federal awards)—Western railway opened to Broken Hill.
- 1928 Financial Agreement signed between Australian States—Loan Council created—Prohibition proposal negated at referendum—Aeroplane flight, United States to Australia, by Kingsford-Smith and Ulm—Aeroplane flight, England to Australia, in sixteen days (Hinkler)—Visit of British Economic Mission.
- 1929 Protracted disputes in timber and coal-mining industries—Royal Commission on Coal Industry—Compulsory voting at State elections—Suspension of compulsory military training.
- 1930 Wireless telephone service to England established—Reversion to 48-hour week (1st July)—Transport Trusts appointed—Unemployment Relief Tax imposed—Aeroplane flight, England to Australia, in 10½ days (Kingsford-Smith)—Acute economic depression—Moratorium Act—Prohibitive duties and embargoes placed on certain imports—Sales tax imposed—Brisbane-Kyogle railway opened.
- 1931 Forty-four hour week re-introduced (1st January)—Government Savings Bank of New South Wales suspended payment (22nd April)—Premiers' Financial Agreement (reduction of expenditure)—Commonwealth Conversion Loan (internal debts £556,000,000)—State Lottery initiated—New trade treaty, Australia and Canada—Government Savings Bank reopened and amalgamated with Commonwealth Savings Bank—Commonwealth wheat bounty—Flour "tax" levied—Legislation for reduction of interest and rents.
- 1932 Sydney Harbour Bridge opened—Transport commissioners appointed to control transport services and main roads—Conflict between Commonwealth and State Government in reference to State's failure to meet obligations resulted in dismissal of State Cabinet by Governor—Imperial Economic Conference at Ottawa—Clarence River bridge opened; final link Albury to Brisbane standard gauge railway.

FACTORIES.

THE manufacturing industries of New South Wales expanded rapidly during the post-war decade, signs of progress being apparent in all phases of factory production. There was a steady increase in the number of employees, in the use of machinery, in the amount of capital invested in premises and equipment, and in the value of the output. Many new industries were established and existing industries were expanded into new branches of production, and in the introduction of scientific processes requiring a high standard of technical skill and of organisation and a large capital outlay. The progress in regard to production was attended by steady improvement in the conditions of industrial employment.

At the beginning of the twentieth century very few of the factories in New South Wales were concerned in the production of the higher classes of manufactures, notwithstanding the immense quantities of raw materials, such as wool, minerals, etc., readily available. The great majority of the establishments were engaged in the production for local use of food commodities, furniture and bricks; in making clothing from imported materials; in printing; in the repair rather than the manufacture of machinery; or in the preliminary treatment of primary products, such as wool-scouring or saw-milling.

After the federation of the Australian States a protective customs tariff was introduced in order to encourage local manufactures, with the object of rendering the Commonwealth self-contained for purposes of defence, and for other national reasons. Assistance for some industries is provided in the form of bounties on the products.

During the decade which preceded the outbreak of war the secondary industries expanded steadily. Such development was then almost world-wide, as the demand for manufactured products grew apace by reason of increasing population and changing conditions of life, while the progress of science assisted producers to increase their output. In New South Wales economic conditions were especially favourable for the growth of secondary production. The State was prosperous, primary production was increasing, and the population was being augmented by immigration as well as by natural increase. The outbreak of war, which occurred at a time when the primary industries were affected by adverse seasonal conditions, caused a measure of disorganisation in the factories. But the setback was temporary, and recovery was rapid in consequence of the demand for products for war purposes and the increase in the spending power of the people by reason of the circulation of war moneys and the returns received from high-priced exports. Moreover, the curtailment or cessation of supplies of many imported articles caused greater attention to be directed towards local resources.

Under these conditions the manufacturing industries entered upon a more advanced stage of development. Iron and steel works, and many subsidiary industries were established, the manufacture of various classes of machinery was undertaken, large ocean steamers were built, and many other high-grade products were added to the list of commodities made in New South Wales. The production of woollen goods and clothing became sufficient to meet local requirements.

In 1927-28, however, the movement became irregular and there were signs of decreasing activity in some of the more important groups of industries, though the aggregate value of production was greater than in any earlier year. In 1928-29 there was a measure of recovery, then the decline became general.

Between November, 1929, and July, 1931, there were numerous increases in the Customs tariff, and the importation of a number of manufactured commodities was severely restricted as from April, 1930, when the duty on many items was raised by 50 per cent.

The products of the factories are used for the most part for local consumption, those which are exported in large quantities being flour, butter, frozen meat, tallow, and leather, and—in smaller, but appreciable quantities—biscuits, confectionery, preserved fruits, tobacco, wool tops, medicines, gramophones and records, apparel and metal manufactures.

An account of the legislation relating to hours and conditions of work in factories will be found in chapter "Industrial Arbitration" of this Year Book.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND STANDARDISATION.

Organisations have been formed on a federal basis to promote scientific research and standardisation in the industries of Australia.

The Commonwealth Council of Scientific and Industrial Research was created in 1916, in the form of a temporary Advisory Council. It prepared the way for a permanent body, which was appointed in 1921, and reorganised in 1926 in terms of the Science and Industry Research Act, 1920-26. There is a central council and a committee in each State to advise the Council as to the problems to be investigated. The Council consists of three members appointed by the Commonwealth Government, who form the executive committee, the chairman of each State committee, and other persons with scientific knowledge co-opted by the Council.

The Council is empowered to conduct scientific researches in connection with primary and secondary industries, to train research workers, to make grants in aid of scientific research, to test and standardise scientific apparatus, to conduct investigations in reference to standardisation of machinery and materials used in industry, and to establish a bureau of information relating to scientific and technical matters.

Two sums of £250,000 each have been appropriated under the Act for the purpose of scientific and industrial investigation, and an Endowment Fund of £100,000 was created in 1926 to assist persons engaged in scientific work and students in training as research officers. Up to the present time the council has confined its activities for the most part to primary industries, its assistance to secondary industries being mainly in the form of technical and scientific information.

The Australian Commonwealth Engineering Standards Association was founded in 1922 to prepare standards in connection with engineering structures and materials, to promote their general adoption, and to coordinate efforts for their improvement. The main committee includes members representing the Governments of the Commonwealth and of the States and various technical associations. Sectional committees prepare the specifications for standardisation, which are published in a tentative form, to be revised twelve months later, with a view to adoption as Australian standards. The specifications are based, to a large extent, upon those of the British Engineering Standards Association.

Another organisation for the improvement of industry, the Australian Association of Simplified Practice, which had been formed to eliminate waste, has amalgamated with the Engineering Standards Association, and the amalgamated body now operates under the name of the Standards Association of Australia. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is the means of liaison between this association and the Commonwealth Government.

The activities of the Tariff Board, which is described in the chapter "Commerce," have an important bearing on the manufacturing industries. The Board investigates proposals for altering the tariff and for granting bounties, and considers the effect of the tariff and customs laws and of bounties on the industries of Australia.

BOUNTIES.

For the encouragement of production and manufacturing in Australia the Commonwealth Government provides bounties in respect of certain commodities, viz., fencing wire, galvanised sheets, wire netting, traction engines, sulphur, fortified wine (exported), seed cotton, cotton yarn (to 30th June, 1932), power alcohol, flax and linseed.

The commodities for which producers in New South Wales received bounty during the last three years and the rates at which bounty was payable were as follows:—

Iron and steel products manufactured from materials produced in Australia:—

Fencing Wire.—52s. per ton, reduced to 46s. in July, 1930, and suspended in November, 1930.

Galvanised Sheets.—72s. per ton, increased to 90s. in January, 1930, reduced to 70s. in June, 1930, and to 63s. in July, 1930; suspended in October, 1930.

Wire Netting.—68s. per ton, reduced to 54s. in July, 1930, to 45s. 6d. in November, 1930, and to 40s. 4.8d. in July, 1931.

Sulphur from Australian pyrites and other sulphide ores and concentrates—45s. per ton, reduced to 36s. in July, 1931.

Fortified wine—payable on export—1s. per gallon, increased to 1s. 9d. in March, 1930, reduced to 1s. 4.8d. in July, 1931.

Cotton yarn— $\frac{1}{8}$ d. to 1s. per lb. according to "count", reduced to rates ranging from $\frac{4}{18}$ d. to 9.6d. in July, 1931; abolished as from 1st July, 1932.

The reduction of 20 per cent. in the rates of bounty in July, 1931, was made in terms of the Financial Emergency Act, 1931.

Particulars of other bounties provided by the Government of the Commonwealth on gold and on wheat (1931-32 crop) are shown in the chapters of the volume relating to mining and agriculture respectively.

Particulars of the bounties paid on products of New South Wales during three years ended 30th June, 1932, are shown below:—

Product.	1929-30.		1930-31.		1931-32.	
	Quantity on which Bounty was Paid.	Amount of Bounty.	Quantity on which Bounty was Paid.	Amount of Bounty.	Quantity on which Bounty was Paid.	Amount of Bounty.
Iron and Steel Products—		£		£		£
Fencing Wire ton	43,900	114,140	16,532	39,682	...	...
Galvanised Sheets ,,	24,118	89,561	22,054	79,429	...	...
Wire Netting ,,	14,940	50,798	7,594	20,854	7,300	5,763
Sulphur ,,	6,588	14,823	3,585	8,068	801	1,803
Fortified Wine gal.	25,295	1,795	33,267	2,821	74,284	5,474
Cotton Yarn lb.	1,359,358	38,162	1,726,058	46,817	3,252,150	64,526
Total, New South Wales...	...	309,279	...	197,671	...	77,566

PROGRESS OF FACTORIES SINCE 1921.

The statistics published in this chapter relate only to the establishments which may be included in the definition of a factory, as shown on page . . . The figures are not a complete record of either the income or expenditure of the undertakings concerned, and are not intended to show their financial position collectively or individually. The following summary indicates the progress of the factories in New South Wales since 1921:—

Particulars.	1920-21.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
Number of Establishments	5,837	8,456	8,208	7,544
Average Number of Em- ployees.*	{ Male ... 107,700 Female ... 31,511 Total ... 139,211	{ 135,773 44,983 180,756	{ 122,005 40,908 162,913	{ 93,881 33,724 127,605
Salaries and Wages paid to Employees.†	{ Male £000 22,766 Female £000 2,853 Total £000 25,619	{ 33,509 5,036 38,545	{ 30,229 4,647 34,876	{ 21,605 3,595 25,200
Capital Value of Land, Buildings, and Fixtures (owned and rented) £000	28,429	51,375	53,785	49,822
Value of Plant and Machinery... £000	31,115	51,366	53,515	50,866
Machinery—Average Horse-power in use h.p.	312,309	648,450	782,526	749,016
Value of Materials and Fuel used £000	94,713	111,671	100,403	63,960
Value of Production £000	43,128	73,628	66,848	49,524
Total Value of Output £000	137,841	185,299	167,251	118,484
Average per Factory—				
Employees No.	23·8	21·4	19·8	16·9
Horse-power of Machinery ... h.p.	53·5	76·6	95·3	99·2
Land and Buildings... .. £	4,870	6,069	6,553	6,604
Plant and Machinery... .. £	5,331	6,068	6,520	6,743
Material and Fuel £	16,226	13,192	12,232	9,141
Value of Production £	7,389	8,698	8,144	6,565
Total Output £	23,615	21,890	20,376	15,706
Average Time Worked months	11·52	11·72	11·66	11·48
Average per Employee*—				
Salaries and Wages †... ..	{ Males £ 222 Females £ 90 Total £ 184	{ 259 113 221	{ 260 115 223	{ 244 107 207
Value of Materials and Fuel... .. £	680	618	616	540
Value of Production £	310	407	411	288
Total Output £	990	1,025	1,027	928

* Basis amended since last issue—see pages 52 and 56.

† Excluding drawings of working proprietors.

The year 1928-29 marks the peak of factory production in New South Wales. In comparison with the year 1920-21 the number of factories in that year showed an increase of 45 per cent., and the value of land, buildings, plant and machinery an increase of 73 per cent. The average number of employees was greater by 30 per cent., the wages bill by 50 per cent., and the value of output 34 per cent.

Between 1928-29 and 1930-31 there was a decline of 11 per cent. in the number of factories, 29 per cent. in the average number of employees, 35 per cent. in wages, and 36 per cent. in the value of output.

GOVERNMENT FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The foregoing statement includes particulars of a number of factories and workshops under Government control in New South Wales.

The results shown by Government establishments, however, 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. Moreover, in Government establishments the profit would appear in reducing the price of the product rather than in showing a large margin over cost. Another fact which militates against comparison is that repair work constitutes a large proportion of the work done in these factories.

The following table shows the details of the operations of the establishments under the control of the State and Commonwealth in 1930-31 separately from those conducted by private enterprise:—

Particulars.	Government Workshops, etc.	Other Establishments.	Total.
Number of Establishments*	75	7,469	7,544
Average Number of Em- ployees. †			
{ Male	16,269	82,080	98,349
{ Female	816	34,199	35,015
{ Total	17,085	116,279	133,364
Salaries and Wages paid to Employees. ‡			
{ Male	£ 3,882,828	17,722,604	21,605,432
{ Female	£ 51,999	3,542,859	3,594,858
{ Total	£ 3,934,827	21,265,463	25,200,290
Capital Value of Land, Buildings, and Fix- tures, owned by Occupier	£ 6,502,396	29,652,171	36,154,567
Rent paid	£ 5,305	905,878	911,183
Value of Plant and Machinery	£ 8,490,240	42,375,644	50,865,884
Machinery—Average Horse-power in use h.p.	215,213	533,803	749,016
Value of Materials and Fuel used... ..	£ 2,947,437	66,012,326	68,959,763
Value of Production	£ 5,658,816	43,864,957	49,523,773
Total Value of Output	£ 8,606,253	109,877,233	118,483,536

* Each railway workshop is counted as a separate establishment.

† Excluding drawings of working proprietors.

‡ See page 56.

The Government establishments include railway and tramway workshops, electric light and power works, dockyards, printing works, and factories for the production of bricks, monier pipes, meat products, canned fruits, small arms, and clothing.

CLASSIFICATION OF FACTORIES.

The statistics relating to factories, as shown in this chapter, have been compiled from returns supplied by manufacturers in terms of the Census Act of 1901. A return must be supplied in respect of every factory where four or more persons are employed or where power is used—including educational or charitable institutions, reformatories and other public institutions, except penitentiaries. Returns from bakeries were collected for the first time for the year 1927-28, and returns have not been collected in respect of smallgoods-making and farriery.

In a few industries returns are collected from all establishments, even if they have less than four employees and manual labour only is used, and the particulars of such factories are included in the statistics with the object of ascertaining the total output of the products, viz., aerated waters, bacon, butter, cheese, bricks, gas, lime, soap and candles, boots, also tanneries.

For statistical purposes a standard classification of the manufacturing industries was formulated at a conference of Australian statisticians in 1902 and revised at more recent conferences. This classification was used in the compilation of the statistics relating to factories in New South Wales until the year 1930-31, when a new classification, as shown later, was used.

If a manufacturing business is conducted in conjunction with an importing or a retail business, particulars relating to the manufacturing section only are included in the statistics. Where two or more industries are conducted in the same establishment a separate return is obtained for each industry. If power from the same generating plant is used for more than one industry, the cost is distributed proportionately amongst such industries. 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 classes are as follow :—

CLASS I.—TREATMENT OF NON-METALLIFEROUS
MINE AND QUARRY PRODUCTS.

Coke Works.
Briquetting and Pulverised Coal.
Carbide.
Lime, Plaster and Asphalt.
Marble, Slate, etc.
Cement and Cement Goods.
Other.

CLASS II.—BRICKS, POTTERY, GLASS, ETC.

Bricks and Tiles, Fire Bricks and Fire-clay Goods.
Earthenware, China, Porcelain, Terra-cotta.
Glass (other than Bottles).
Glass Bottles.
Modelling.
Other.

CLASS III.—CHEMICALS, DYES, EXPLOSIVES, PAINT,
OILS, GREASE.

Chemicals, Drugs and Medicines.
Explosives.
White Lead, Paints and Varnish.
Oils, Vegetable (including Oil Cake).
Oils, Mineral.
Oils, Animal (including Greases and Glue).
Boiling Down, Tallow Refining, Bone Mills, etc.
Soap and Candles.
Chemical Fertilisers.
Inks, Polishes, etc.
Matches.
Other.

CLASS IV.—INDUSTRIAL METALS, MACHINES,
IMPLEMENTS AND CONVEYANCES.

Smelting, Converting, Refining, and Rolling of
Iron and Steel.
Engineering (not Marine or Electrical).
Extracting and Refining of other Metals and Alloys.
Electrical Installations, Cables and Apparatus.
Construction and Repair of Vehicles.
Ship and Boat-building and Repairing, Marine
Engineering.
Cutlery and Small Tools (not Machine Tools).
Agricultural Implements.
Brass and Copper.
Galvanised Iron-working and Tinsmithing.
Wireworking (including Nails).
Art Metal Works.
Stoves and Ovens.
Gas Fittings and Meters.
Lead Mills.
Sewing Machines.
Lamps and Fittings.
Arms.
Wireless Apparatus.
Other Metal Works.

CLASS V.—PRECIOUS METALS, JEWELLERY, PLATE.

Jewellery.
Watches and Clocks.
Gold, Silver and Electroplate.
Other.

The classes—*continued.*

CLASS VI.—TEXTILES AND TEXTILE GOODS (NOT DRESS).

Cotton.
Wool, Worsted and Shoddy.
Hosiery and other Knitted Goods.
Silk, Natural and Artificial.
Rope and Cordage.
Canvas Goods, Tents, Tarpaulins and Saitmaking.
Bags and Sacks.
Other.

CLASS VII.—SKINS AND LEATHER (NOT CLOTHING OR FOOTWEAR).

Furs, Skins, Leather.
Saddlery, Harness, Bags, Trunks, and other Goods of Leather and Leather Substitutes (not Clothing or Footwear).
Other.

CLASS VIII.—CLOTHING.

Tailoring and Slop Clothing (Makers' Material).
" " (Customers' Material).
Clothing—Waterproof and Oilskin.
Dressmaking (Makers' Material).
Hemstitching.
Millinery (Makers' Material).
" " (Customers' Material).
Shirts, Collars, and Underclothing (Makers' Material).
Shirts, Collars, and Underclothing (Customers' Material).
Stays and Corsets.
Handkerchiefs, Ties and Scarves (Makers' Material).
Handkerchiefs, Ties and Scarves (Customers' Material).
Hats and Caps.
Gloves.
Boots and Shoes.
Boot Repairing.
Boot Accessories.
Umbrellas and Walking Sticks.
Dyeworks and Cleaning (including Renovating and Repairing).
Other.

CLASS IX.—FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO.

Flour Milling.
Cereal Foods and Starch.
Cattle and Poultry Foods (not Oilcake).
Chaffcutting and Corn Crushing.
Bakeries (including Cakes and Pastry).
Biscuits.
Sugar Mills.
Sugar Refining.
Sugar Confectionery (including Chocolate).
Jam, Fruit and Vegetable Canning.
Pickles, Sauces and Vinegar.
Bacon Curing.
Butter and Cheese Factories, etc.
Margarine and Butterine.
Meat and Fish Preserving, Meat Extracts.
Cocoa.
Condiments, Coffee, Spices, etc.
Ice and Refrigerating.
Salt Refining.
Aerated Waters, Cordials, etc.
Breweries.
Distilleries.
Wine Making.
Cider and Perry Making.
Malting.
Bottling.
Tobacco, Cigars, Cigarettes, Snuff, etc.

CLASS IX.—*continued.*

Dried Fruits.
Ice-cream.
Sausage Skins.
Other.

CLASS X.—WOOD WORKING AND BASKETWARE.

Sawmills (Forest).
" " (Town).
Plywood Mills.
Bark Mills.
Joinery.
Cooperage.
Boxes and Cases.
Wood Turning, Wood Carving, etc.
Basketware and Wickerware, including Seagrass and Bamboo Furniture.
Perambulators.
Other.

CLASS XI.—FURNITURE, BEDDING, ETC.

Billiard Tables, Cabinet and Furniture Making and Upholstery.
Bedding and Mattresses.
Furnishing Drapery, etc.
Picture Frames.
Window Blinds, Verandah Blinds.
Other.

CLASS XII.—PAPER, STATIONERY, PRINTING, BOOKBINDING, ETC.

Papermaking, etc.
Envelopes, Stationery, Paper Boxes, Bags, etc.
Pencils, Penholders, etc.
Newspapers and Periodicals.
General Printing and Bookbinding (including Account Books and Diaries).
Die-sinking and Engraving.
Electrotyping and Stereotyping.
Photo. Engraving, Lithography and Photo. Lithography.
Other.

CLASS XIII.—RUBBER.

Rubber Boots and Shoes.
Tyres, Motor and Cycle.
Other Rubber Goods (not Clothing or Belting).

CLASS XIV.—MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

Gramophones.
Gramophone Records.
Pianos, Piano-players, Organs.
Other.

CLASS XV.—MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTS.

Linoleum, Leather Cloth, Oil Cloth, etc.
Bone, Horn, Ivory and Tortoiseshell.
Celluloid and Similar Composition.
Buttons.
Ornamental Feather Dressing, Cleaning and Dyeing.
Brooms and Brushes.
Surgical, Optical, and other Scientific Instruments (not Electrical).
Toys, Games, and Sports Requisites.
Artificial Flowers.
Other.

CLASS XVI.—HEAT, LIGHT, AND POWER.

Electric Light and Power.
Gas Works.
Hydraulic Power.
Other.

The following table summarises the operations of the factories in New South Wales and in the metropolitan district during the year 1930-31, grouped according to the class of industry. The metropolitan district includes such areas as Auburn, Granville, Lidcombe, and Parramatta, which were classed as extra metropolitan prior to the year 1928-29:—

Class of Industry.	Establishments.	Average Number of Employees.*			Materials and Fuel Used.	Total Salaries and Wages, exclusive of Drawing of Working Proprietors.	Value of Goods Manufactured or Work done.	Value of Production, being Value added to Raw Materials.
		Males.	Females.	Total.				
NEW SOUTH WALES.								
Treatment of Non-metalliferous					£(000)	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)
Mine and Quarry Products ..	139	2,158	48	2,206	1,138	573	2,201	1,063
Bricks, Pottery, Glass ...	159	2,386	159	2,545	462	548	1,262	800
Chemicals, Paint, Oil, Grease...	221	3,429	1,550	4,979	4,546	1,027	8,693	4,147
Industrial Metals, Machines, Conveyances	1,981	39,765	1,637	41,402	16,896	9,160	29,831	12,935
Precious Metals, Jewellery ...	74	419	72	491	58	79	185	127
Textiles and Textile Goods (not dress)	129	2,934	5,427	8,361	2,637	1,219	4,721	2,084
Skins, Leather (not clothing or footwear)	182	2,267	493	2,760	2,215	525	3,047	832
Clothing... ..	1,421	5,713	13,286	18,999	3,836	2,372	7,691	3,855
Food, Drink, Tobacco ...	1,239	14,199	5,944	20,143	27,335	4,180	38,232	10,897
Wood Working, Basket Ware...	714	4,200	141	4,341	1,990	841	3,322	1,332
Furniture, Bedding	295	2,195	499	2,694	791	458	1,483	702
Paper, Printing	601	8,195	3,246	11,441	2,978	2,471	7,303	4,325
Rubber	88	1,250	523	1,773	890	434	1,615	725
Musical Instruments	18	520	198	718	196	150	403	207
Miscellaneous Products ...	110	1,036	473	1,509	433	243	832	399
Heat, Light, Power	173	3,215	28	3,243	2,559	922	7,653	5,094
Total	7,544	93,881	33,724	127,605	68,960	25,200	118,484	49,524
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT.								
Treatment of Non-metalliferous								
Mine and Quarry Products...	90	847	28	875	279	208	607	328
Bricks, Pottery, Glass ...	69	1,855	131	1,986	389	442	1,030	641
Chemicals, Paint, Oil, Grease...	194	3,106	1,523	4,629	4,176	937	8,100	3,924
Industrial Metals, Machines, Conveyances	1,130	28,439	1,438	29,877	7,209	6,457	15,986	8,777
Precious Metals, Jewellery ...	71	410	71	481	56	78	182	126
Textiles and Textile Goods (not dress)	114	2,377	4,690	7,067	2,289	1,051	4,137	1,848
Skins, Leather (not clothing or footwear)	143	2,021	480	2,501	1,974	487	2,739	765
Clothing... ..	1,128	5,039	12,548	17,587	3,637	2,228	7,241	3,604
Food, Drink, Tobacco ...	596	9,726	5,092	14,818	17,905	3,147	26,591	8,686
Wood Working, Basket Ware...	298	2,161	86	2,247	1,242	510	2,051	809
Furniture, Bedding	252	2,042	485	2,527	758	487	1,425	667
Paper, Printing	394	7,007	3,074	10,081	2,808	2,176	6,664	3,856
Rubber	41	1,113	515	1,628	842	415	1,530	683
Musical Instruments	17	516	196	712	194	149	401	207
Miscellaneous Products ...	101	956	476	1,432	409	233	793	384
Heat, Light, Power	27	2,120	5	2,125	1,950	595	6,110	4,160
Total	4,665	69,735	30,838	100,573	46,117	19,550	85,587	39,470

* During the whole year, see page 56.

The most important group of secondary industries in the State consists of metal and machinery works, in which the number of employees, 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 and fuel 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.

FACTORIES.

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The number of factories in the more important classes and the average number of persons employed during the year 1930-31 in the various divisions of the State were as follows:—

Division.	Bricks, Pottery, Glass.	Chemicals, Paint, Oil, Grease.	Industrial Metals.	Textiles.	Clothing.	Food, Drink, &c.	Wood.	Furniture, &c.	Paper, Printing.	Heat, Light, Power.	Other Classes.	Total.
NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS.												
Cumberland—												
Metropolis	69	194	1,130	114	1,123	596	298	252	394	27	463	4,665
Balance of	15	2	32	6	14	33	12	1	9	3	15	142
North Coast	5	1	100	...	30	98	85	9	21	18	12	379
Hunter and Manning	17	13	173	4	94	126	101	20	33	20	30	631
South Coast	7	1	57	...	22	76	34	...	18	14	15	244
Tablelands—												
Northern	4	2	36	...	9	29	35	2	9	8	7	141
Central	7	2	69	2	38	59	16	4	18	20	14	249
Southern	4	...	41	1	9	22	10	1	9	7	11	115
Western Slopes—												
North	6	1	49	...	8	23	23	...	9	7	5	131
Central	3	1	57	...	8	30	18	1	13	11	8	150
South	15	1	87	2	34	53	27	2	31	12	15	279
Plains—												
Northern	1	1	21	...	4	15	17	2	6	4	5	76
Central ... ..	...	...	21	...	3	6	11	...	6	3	3	53
Riverina	5	1	78	...	11	42	22	...	16	11	4	190
Western Division	1	1	30	...	9	31	5	1	9	8	4	99
Total	159	221	1,981	129	1,421	1,239	714	295	601	173	611	7,544
AVERAGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES.*												
Cumberland—												
Metropolis	2,544	4,784	30,487	7,162	18,320	15,862	2,758	2,623	10,218	2,141	7,927	104,826
Balance of	262	18	171	851	123	310	65	1	48	20	111	1,980
North Coast	20	2	458	...	110	1,181	755	23	168	114	59	2,890
Hunter and Manning	146	253	6,394	9	672	1,360	753	117	340	289	474	10,807
South Coast	115	60	985	...	50	357	229	...	77	91	361	2,325
Tablelands—												
Northern	21	8	162	...	65	126	131	5	44	37	35	634
Central	31	5	1,266	161	109	368	61	10	145	201	679	3,036
Southern	16	...	363	79	107	83	32	2	51	63	60	856
Western Slopes—												
North	21	2	231	...	19	141	79	...	73	35	17	618
Central	23	3	213	...	13	143	61	3	73	43	27	602
South	33	5	482	210	125	360	99	6	176	50	80	1,626
Plains—												
Northern	2	1	125	...	11	47	97	4	27	23	18	355
Central ... ..	...	...	57	...	10	16	38	...	24	17	28	190
Riverina	17	1	230	...	17	1,020	103	...	69	33	18	1,508
Western Division	6	4	626	...	42	177	60	2	62	109	23	1,111
Total	3,257	5,146	42,250	8,472	19,793	21,551	5,321	2,796	11,595	3,266	9,917	133,364

* During period of operation, see page 56.

The metropolitan area contains the majority of the factories. Other important manufacturing centres are in proximity to the coal-fields, viz., at Newcastle in the Hunter and Manning division, at Port Kembla in the South Coast division, and at Lithgow in the Central Tablelands division, though activity at the last mentioned locality has dwindled with the gradual transfer of the iron and steel works to Port Kembla. In the Western division the mining of the silver-lead deposits at Broken Hill has given rise to a number of subsidiary factories, such as ore-treating and sulphuric acid plants.

In the metropolitan district metal and machinery workshops and clothing factories 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 and in the South Coast divisions, metal and machinery workshops give employment to the greatest number of employees. In the northern coastal districts butter and bacon factories are most prominent. 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 extent of the operations of the factories in each division is indicated in the following table:—

Division.	No. of Estab- lishments.	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.
	No.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Metropolis ...	4,665	104,826	28,010,424	768,842	32,854,989	19,550,152	43,695,874	2,581,008	85,586,572
Balance of Cum- berland.	142	1,980	474,620	7,783	540,578	298,913	625,604	51,631	1,162,155
North Coast ...	379	2,890	748,862	16,263	1,443,474	520,033	4,472,747	82,595	5,525,527
Hunter and Manning.	631	10,807	3,098,108	36,084	8,620,905	2,506,774	8,428,463	815,918	13,307,093
South Coast ...	244	2,325	1,132,666	15,582	2,551,816	479,739	2,467,404	231,039	3,670,314
Northern Table- land.	141	634	114,585	6,055	229,046	97,754	218,257	17,811	425,205
Central Table- land.	249	3,036	1,013,059	13,403	1,904,308	649,339	1,295,624	217,433	2,737,193
Southern Table- land.	115	856	267,040	5,830	303,086	149,604	179,905	28,724	459,183
North-western Slopes.	131	618	124,839	5,721	274,781	109,259	342,471	20,598	584,609
Central-western Slopes.	150	602	156,571	6,726	263,935	104,018	236,319	19,154	497,738
South-western Slopes.	279	1,626	408,353	15,589	626,005	259,336	747,972	39,329	1,361,777
Northern Plains...	76	355	52,370	2,483	107,008	53,824	76,568	8,556	188,632
Central Plains ...	53	190	25,910	1,751	66,896	27,343	66,820	4,070	123,016
Riverina ...	190	1,508	264,513	6,453	299,080	143,286	454,928	23,670	765,967
Western Division..	99	1,111	262,647	2,618	779,977	250,866	1,270,086	239,185	2,088,555
Total ...	7,544	133,364	36,154,567	911,183	50,865,884	25,200,290	64,579,042	4,380,721	118,433,536

* During period of operation, see page 56.

FACTORIES.

SIZE OF ESTABLISHMENTS.

The following comparative statement shows the distribution of establishments in the metropolitan and extra-metropolitan districts, according to the number of persons engaged. Where two or more classes of manufacturing are conducted in one factory, each branch is treated, in the compilation of the factory statistics, as if it were a separate establishment:—

Establishments employing on the average—	1911.		1920-21.		1929-30.		1930-31.	
	Establishments.	† Em- ployees.	Establishments.	† Em- ployees.	Establishments.	† Em- ployees.	Establishments.	† Em- ployees.
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT.								
Under 4 employees	238	547	493	1,083	1,297	2,561	1,390	2,704
4 employees ...	179	716	230	920	362	1,448	375	1,500
5 to 10 employees	743	5,336	1,072	7,566	1,361	9,597	1,232	8,618
11 ,, 20 ,, ...	520	7,834	684	10,118	811	11,937	695	10,233
21 ,, 50 ,, ...	477	14,655	639	20,437	795	25,472	623	19,921
51 ,, 100 ,, ...	202	14,360	222	15,158	262	17,963	197	13,558
101 and upwards...	151	34,144	183	49,270	210	63,110	153	48,292
Total ...	2,510	77,592	3,523	104,552	5,098	132,088	4,665	104,826
REMAINDER OF STATE.								
Under 4 employees	538	1,282	513	1,173	1,306	2,649	1,383	2,735
4 employees ...	371	1,484	270	1,080	391	1,564	352	1,408
5 to 10 employees	993	6,817	864	5,896	874	5,898	744	4,974
11 ,, 20 ,, ...	381	5,390	380	5,351	293	4,086	207	2,882
21 ,, 50 ,, ...	164	4,874	181	5,569	158	4,742	119	3,544
51 ,, 100 ,, ...	40	2,858	43	2,903	35	2,425	29	2,051
101 and upwards...	42	8,327	63	18,487	53	14,238	45	10,944
Total ...	2,529	31,032	2,314	40,459	3,110	35,602	2,879	28,538
NEW SOUTH WALES.								
Under 4 employees	776	1,829	1,006	2,256	2,603	5,210	2,773	5,439
4 employees ...	550	2,200	500	2,000	753	3,012	727	2,908
5 to 10 employees	1,736	12,153	1,936	13,462	2,235	15,495	1,976	13,592
11 ,, 20 ,, ...	901	13,224	1,064	15,469	1,104	16,023	902	13,115
21 ,, 50 ,, ...	641	19,529	820	26,006	953	30,214	742	23,465
51 ,, 100 ,, ...	242	17,218	265	18,061	297	20,388	226	15,609
101 and upwards...	193	42,471	246	67,757	263	77,348	198	59,236
Total ...	5,039	108,624	5,837	145,011	8,208	167,690	7,544	133,364

† During period of operation (see page 56), working proprietors included.

The data for the metropolitan district in 1929-30 and 1930-31 include particulars of factories in Auburn, Granville, Lidcombe and Parramatta, formerly classified as extra-metropolitan.

The establishments employing 10 hands or less represent 64 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 22.5 in the Metropolis, 9.9 in the remainder of the State, and 17.7 in the whole State; in 1911 the averages were 31, 12, and 22 respectively.

The increase in the number of small factories in recent years occurred for the most part in boot-repairing establishments and garages where motor repairs are effected. There were 88 boot-repairing establishments with 386 employees in 1920-21 and 615 with 1,080 employees in 1930-31, and the works for motor vehicles and accessories in the respective years numbered 283 with 3,090 employees and 897 with 4,630 employees. The establishments with less than 4 employees in 1930-31 included 573, with 816 persons engaged in boot repairing and 561 motor vehicle works with 1,077 employees.

Establishments employing on the average--	Proportion of each Group to Total.							
	Metropolitan District.				Remainder of State.			
	1911.	1920-21.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1911.	1920-21.	1929-30.	1930-31.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Under 4 employees ...	9.5	14.0	25.4	29.8	21.3	22.2	42.0	48.0
4 employees...	7.1	6.5	7.1	8.0	14.7	11.7	12.6	12.2
5 to 10 employees...	29.6	30.4	26.7	26.4	39.2	37.3	28.1	25.9
11 ,, 20 ,, ...	20.7	19.4	16.0	14.9	15.1	16.4	9.4	7.2
21 ,, 50 ,, ...	19.0	18.2	15.6	13.4	6.5	7.8	5.1	4.1
51 ,, 100 ,, ...	8.1	6.3	5.1	4.2	1.6	1.9	1.1	1.0
101 and upwards ..	6.0	5.2	4.1	3.3	1.6	2.7	1.7	1.6
Total ...	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

In the metropolitan district the proportion of establishments employing less than five hands was 37.8 per cent. in 1930-31. In the country districts the proportion of such factories was 60.2 per cent.

MOTIVE POWER.

The power used for driving machinery in factories is derived mainly from steam. There are electric engines of considerable voltage, but the generation of their power depends upon some other class of engine. Gas is used only to a limited extent.

The following table shows the distribution of motive power through the various agencies of steam, gas, electricity, water and oil, expressed in units of horse-power:—

Year.	Establishments using Manual labour only.	Establishments using Machinery.	Horse-power of Machinery (Average used).					
			Steam.	Gas.	Electricity.	Water.	Oil.	Total.
1901	1,398	1,969	42,555	1,577	330	97	36	44,595
1911	1,489	3,550	113,939	12,201	20,671	222	1,185	148,218
1920-21	835	5,002	192,816	13,242	103,846	24	2,381	312,309
1925-26	920	7,276	299,538	15,618	181,890	1,585	5,308	503,939
1926-27	827	7,395	331,036	13,896	204,094	1,041	8,778	558,845
1927-28	885	7,477	384,711	14,545	223,190	1,190	12,495	636,131
1928-29	805	7,660	376,737	14,521	236,255	5,869	15,058	648,450
1929-30	620	7,588	490,116	11,919	249,606	11,351	19,534	782,526
1930-31	418	7,126	466,599	11,078	237,274	12,346	21,719	749,016

The proportion of factories in which machinery is used increased from 70 per cent. in 1911 to 94 per cent. in 1930-31, and the power actually used in operating the machines from 148,218 horse-power to 749,016 horse-power. The greatest development occurred in electrical power. The proportion of each kind of power in 1930-31 was:—Steam 62 per cent., gas 1 per cent., electricity 32 per cent., and oil and water 5 per cent.; the corresponding proportions in 1911 being steam 77 per cent., gas 8 per cent., electricity 14 per cent., and oil and water 1 per cent. The increase in water power in recent years was due to the operations of the hydro-electric power station at Burrinjuck.

The full capacity of the factory machinery in 1930-31 was 1,368,140 horse-power, viz.: Steam 928,374, gas 14,231, electricity 374,499, water 19,035, oil 32,001.

CAPITAL VALUE OF PREMISES.

With regard to capital permanently invested in manufacturing industries, particulars are available only of the value of the 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. In the following table, the capital value of the rented premises is computed by capitalising the rent paid at fifteen years' purchase.

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
1911	5,039	13,140,207	12,510,600	2,608	2,483
1920-21	5,837	28,428,917	31,115,444	4,870	5,331
1925-26	8,196	43,954,312	45,994,534	5,363	5,610
1926-27	8,222	46,950,706	48,659,375	5,710	5,918
1927-28	8,362	49,414,310	50,489,674	5,909	6,038
1928-29	8,465	51,375,003	51,365,710	6,069	6,068
1929-30	8,208	53,785,319	53,515,363	6,553	6,520
1930-31	7,544	49,822,312	50,865,88	6,604	6,743

* Excluding a number of small country establishments.

The premises owned by the occupiers in 1930-31 were valued at £36,154,567 and rented premises on the basis described above at £13,667,745, the corresponding values in 1920-21 being £19,111,772 for premises owned by occupiers and £9,317,145 for rented premises. Investigations made in 1928 disclosed the fact that many firms had been stating the value of their land, buildings and plant at the original cost. The values shown for the last four years are those appearing in the firms' books after allowing for depreciation.

A marked improvement in the class of buildings used as factories has been a feature of the progress of the industries. In the construction of new factory buildings provision has been made for ventilation and good lighting, in accordance with the requirements of the Factories and Shops Acts, and for the general comfort and welfare of the employees, as well as for the expeditious handling of materials and products.

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 factories amounted in 1930-31 to £25,200,290. Male workers, including juveniles, received £21,605,432, equal to £244 7s. 3d. per head; and female workers, including juveniles, £3,594,858, or £107 10s. 9d. per head.

A comparison of the amount of salaries and wages paid during the last six years is given in the next table, together with the average amount received per employee.

Similar information regarding each class of industry is published in Part "Factories and Mines" of the Statistical Register.

Year.	Salaries and Wages (exclusive of Drawings by Working Proprietors).					
	Amount.			Average per Employee, including Juveniles.*		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
	£	£	£	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.
1911	8,917,583	1,130,079	10,047,662	118 18	44 16	100 5
1920-21	22,766,216	2,852,375	25,618,591	211 8	90 10	198 5
1925-26	29,370,062	4,196,484	33,566,546	240 1	103 12	206 2
1926-27	32,319,649	4,772,547	37,092,196	250 11	109 6	214 17
1927-28	32,929,659	4,888,482	37,818,141	257 5	113 14	221 3
1928-29	33,508,975	5,035,712	38,544,687	258 15	112 19	221 8
1929-30	30,228,967	4,647,028	34,875,995	260 8	114 12	222 13
1930-31	21,605,432	3,594,858	25,200,290	244 7	107 11	206 16

*Amended since last issue, see context below.

The average amounts of wages per employee in each year, as shown above, have been amended since the last issue of the Year Book. Previously they were calculated on the average number of employees engaged during the time the factories were in operation in each year. The amended figures are based on the average number of employees over the whole year, and represent the amount which would have been received by an employee working full time.

The average earnings of males in 1930-31 were highest in rubber factories and in heat, light and power works; the average amounts paid per male worker, including the management staff, being £291 6s. 7d. and £287 17s. respectively.

Of the female workers, those employed in the food and drink factories, and in the printing and bookbinding trades received in 1930-31 an average wage of £107 2s. 6d. and £107 18s. 8d. respectively.

VALUE OF MATERIALS AND OUTPUT.

The following statement shows the value of materials and fuel used, the value of production, and the amount paid in wages in factories in various years since 1901:—

Year.	Value of—					Salaries and Wages paid, exclusive of Drawings of Working Proprietors.	Balance (Output, less Materials, Fuel and Wages).
	Materials Used.	Fuel Consumed, including Motive-power Rented.	Goods Manufactured or Work Done.	Factory Production.	Production per Em- ployee. †		
	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)
1901	15,141	496	25,648	10,011	160.2	4,952	5,059
1911	33,671	1,243	54,346	19,432	185.9	10,048	9,384
1920-21	91,104	3,609	137,841	43,128	309.8	25,619	17,509
1925-26	99,303	5,822	169,963	64,838	381.9	33,566	31,272
1926-27	102,983	6,470	179,302	69,849	389.4	37,092	32,757
1927-28	103,265	6,333	181,403	71,805	404.1	37,818	33,987
1928-29	105,357	6,314	185,298	73,627	407.3	38,544	35,083
1929-30	94,365	6,038	167,251	66,848	410.3	34,876	31,972
1930-31	64,579	4,381	118,484	49,524	388.1	25,200	24,324

*Not available on comparable basis.

†Based on average number of employees over full year, see page 56.

The value of the output expanded from £25,648,471 in 1901 to £185,298,575 in 1928-29, then declined to £118,483,536 in 1930-31, and the value of production in these years was £10,010,860, £73,627,441 and £49,523,773. The cost of materials used and fuel consumed in the latest year amounted to £68,959,763, and salaries and wages to £25,200,290.

Thus on the average, out of every hundred pounds worth of goods produced in manufactories in 1930-31, the materials and the fuel cost £58 4s., while the employees received £21 6s., leaving a balance of £20 10s. for the payment of overhead charges and other expenses, and for profits. The corresponding amounts in 1901 were £61, £19 6s., and £19 14s. respectively.

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 capital invested in factories other than Government establishments.

Excluding Government workshops and factories from consideration, the capital value of land, buildings and fixtures in 1930-31 amounted to £29,652,000. Municipal valuations indicate that the unimproved value of property is about 33 per cent. of the improved value, and on this basis the value of the buildings and fixtures would be about £19,867,000.

Factory buildings probably depreciate in value more quickly than any other class of buildings, and therefore 4 per cent. may 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. Therefore the allowance to be made for depreciation of buildings and fixtures would be about £795,000, and on plant and machinery £2,754,000, or a total of £3,549,000.

In addition to the allowance for depreciation, an allowance should be made for interest on invested capital. Excluding Government workshops and factories the capital value of machinery and plant is £42,376,000, and in land and buildings, £29,652,000, 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 £14,193,000 would have been invested in this way during 1930-31. 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 £5,494,000. The total capital invested in 1930-31, therefore, may be set down at about £91,715,000. Interest on this amount at 6 per cent., which could have been obtained by investment in Government loans, would be £5,503,000. The allowance to be made for depreciation and interest is estimated, on this basis, to be £9,052,000, to which must be added cost of rented premises, £906,000, so that £9,958,000 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 £12,641,000, equal to 11.5 per cent. of the total output, and such items of expense as insurance, rates and taxes, etc., would still have to be paid.

The proportions of the items which made up the total value of output of the manufacturing industries in various years since 1901 are shown below:—

Year.	Proportion per cent. of Total Value of Output absorbed by—				Total.
	Materials.	Fuel.	Salaries and Wages.	Overhead Charges, Profit, etc.	
1901	59.0	2.0	19.3	19.7	100
1911	61.9	2.3	18.6	17.2	100
1920-21	66.1	2.6	18.6	12.7	100
1925-26	58.5	3.4	19.7	18.4	100
1926-27	57.4	3.6	20.7	18.3	100
1927-28	56.9	3.5	20.8	18.8	100
1928-29	56.9	3.4	20.8	18.9	100
1929-30	56.4	3.6	20.9	19.1	100
1930-31	54.5	3.7	21.3	20.5	100

Between 1920-21 and 1925-26 the proportion absorbed by materials fell from 66.1 per cent. to 58.5 per cent., then it declined slowly to 54.5 per cent. in 1930-31. Meanwhile the proportion for expenses and profits rose from 12.7 per cent. to 18.4 per cent. in 1925-26 and to 20.5 per cent. in 1930-31.

The ratio of salaries and wages, which had been fairly constant in recent years at 20.8 per cent., increased to 21.3 per cent. in 1930-31, as compared with 18.6 per cent. in 1911 and 1921. The proportion of value of output absorbed by fuel was 2.3 per cent. in 1911, and about 3.6 in recent years, the increase of over 50 per cent. being due partly to the greater use of power-driven machinery and largely to increase in prices.

The following table shows, in each class of industry, the proportions which 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, bore to the total output in 1930-31:—

Class of Industry.	Proportionate Value of Manufactured Goods represented by—			
	Materials used.	Fuel, etc.	Salaries and Wages.	Balance.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Treatment of Non-metalliferous Mine and Quarry Products	43.3	8.4	26.0	22.3
Bricks, Pottery, Glass	25.6	11.0	43.3	20.1
Chemicals, Paint, Oil, Grease	50.5	1.8	11.8	35.9
Industrial Metals, Machines, Conveyances	52.5	4.1	30.7	12.7
Precious Metals, Jewellery	28.9	2.3	42.8	26.0
Textiles and Textile Goods (not Dress)	53.7	2.2	25.8	18.3
Skins, Leather (not Clothing or Footwear)	70.9	1.8	17.2	10.1
Clothing	49.1	0.8	30.8	19.3
Food, Drink, Tobacco	69.7	1.8	10.9	17.6
Woodworking, Basketware	58.7	1.2	25.3	14.8
Furniture, Bedding	51.8	1.2	30.7	16.3
Paper, Printing	39.3	1.5	33.8	25.4
Rubber	50.8	4.3	26.9	18.0
Musical Instruments	45.8	2.8	37.3	14.1
Miscellaneous Products	50.5	1.5	29.2	18.8
Heat, Light, Power	13.9	19.5	12.1	54.5
Total	54.5	3.7	21.3	20.5

The ratio of the total amount of wages to the value of production, that is, the value added to raw materials remained fairly constant for the industries as a whole, though it varied considerably in different industries, as well be seen in the following table relating to the last six years.

Class of Industry.	Ratio of Amount of Wages Paid to Value of Production.					
	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Treatment of Non-metalliferous Mine and Quarry Products	53.7	51.8	50.4	49.9	51.1	53.8
Bricks, Pottery, Glass	58.9	58.4	61.2	60.0	64.1	68.3
Chemicals, Paint, Oil, Grease	30.5	31.9	33.9	33.9	32.7	24.8
Industrial Metals, Machines, Conveyances	63.9	66.7	67.0	65.2	67.7	70.8
Precious Metals, Jewellery	61.7	59.7	57.4	61.5	61.9	62.2
Textiles and Textile Goods (not Dress)	48.7	54.4	54.8	53.5	55.9	58.5
Skins, Leather (not Clothing or Footwear)	57.9	53.0	56.2	60.4	61.2	63.1
Clothing	60.8	60.5	59.9	61.6	62.0	61.5
Food, Drink, Tobacco	35.2	34.4	34.4	35.4	35.3	38.4
Woodworking, Basketware	64.9	62.8	61.9	62.3	63.9	63.1
Furniture, Bedding	63.3	59.4	62.4	63.6	64.0	65.3
Paper, Printing	57.4	57.8	56.5	57.1	57.4	57.1
Rubber	52.7	69.0	54.7	45.0	49.0	59.8
Musical Instruments	61.9	53.0	54.8	57.5	58.6	72.6
Miscellaneous Products	61.7	59.4	67.4	62.2	50.1	60.8
Heat, Light, Power	19.6	23.9	21.9	21.9	20.2	18.1
Total	51.8	53.1	52.7	52.4	52.2	50.9

FUEL CONSUMED.

The value of the coal, coke, and wood consumed in factories in 1930-31 was £2,468,578. The value of oil, gas, etc., and of electricity used was £1,912,143, so that the value of all fuel consumed, including motive power rented, amounted to £4,380,721. 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 1930-31 were as follows:—

Industry.	Coal.		Coke.		Wood.		Total Value of Fuel Consumed including Motive Power Rented.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
	tons.	£	tons.	£	tons.	£	£
Treatment of Non-metalliferous							
Mine and Quarry Products ...	104,576	71,220	598	1,207	6,467	3,504	186,010
Bricks, Pottery, Glass ...	69,902	85,230	845	1,152	8,891	6,518	138,893
Chemicals, Paint, Oil, Grease ..	50,601	65,331	6,759	8,191	1,044	928	152,296
Industrial Metals, Machines,							
Conveyances ...	297,019	251,460	268,701	448,623	1,938	2,327	1,239,438
Precious Metals, Jewellery ...	2	3	83	126	...	...	4,286
Textiles and Textile Goods (not							
Dress) ...	17,688	25,389	911	1,427	35	58	104,773
Skins, Leather (not Clothing or							
Footwear) ...	14,618	20,856	367	604	1,718	1,547	53,570
Clothing ...	4,197	6,352	1,017	1,467	279	318	63,489
Food, Drink, Tobacco ...	180,652	223,997	21,120	30,474	66,541	68,707	682,438
Woodworking, Basketware ...	2,772	3,317	242	380	2,745	1,591	40,805
Furniture, Bedding ...	350	501	162	231	20	25	18,659
Paper, Printing ...	6,296	7,597	491	774	231	267	113,083
Rubber ...	13,946	15,169	649	994	397	379	69,703
Musical Instruments ...	1,046	1,570	...	...	...	...	11,122
Miscellaneous Products ...	2,824	3,873	52	74	868	651	12,198
Heat, Light, Power ...	836,912	938,080	153,522	158,734	8,880	7,355	1,489,958
Total ...	1,603,401	1,719,945	455,519	654,458	100,054	94,175	4,380,721

NOTE.—These figures do not include 440,727 tons of coal used for making coke, nor 551,634 tons used for making gas.

The fuel used in factories during the year 1921-22 consisted of coal 1,654,262 tons, coke 548,418 tons, and wood 134,121 tons. In comparison the quantity of coal was slightly less in 1930-31, and coke and wood showed decreases of 16 per cent. and 30 per cent. respectively.

The coke used in smelting works is specially prepared for the purpose and is much more costly than the coke obtained as a by-product in making gas and used by the gas companies at the place of production.

EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES.

The number of factory employees in the various years is shown in this chapter by two sets of figures. The first represents the sum of the average number employed in each factory which was in operation for the full year specified, and, in the case of factories in operation for only part of the year, the average number during the time work was in progress. In the second set of figures (which are shown where available) the number of employees in the part-time factories is reduced to the equivalent number working for a full year, so that the total for each year represents the average number in all the factories over the whole year. The number on the first of these bases, i.e., the average during the period of operation, was 133,364 in 1930-31, and the equivalent average over the full year was 127,605.

A comparative statement of average number of persons engaged in the various classes of manufacturing industries during the whole of each of the last six years is shown below:—

Class of Industry.	Persons engaged, including Working Proprietors.					
	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
Treatment of Non-metalliferous						
Mine and Quarry Products ...	3,887	4,292	4,275	4,060	3,534	2,206
Bricks, Pottery, Glass ...	6,582	6,832	6,911	6,674	5,480	2,545
Chemicals, Paint, Oil, Grease ...	5,805	5,895	5,849	5,947	5,715	4,979
Industrial Metals, Machines, Conveyances ...	58,179	62,387	60,825	62,090	54,574	41,402
Precious Metals, Jewellery ...	837	798	767	775	654	491
Textiles and Textile Goods (not Dress) ...	6,883	7,934	7,917	8,894	8,722	8,361
Skins, Leather (not Clothing or Footwear) ...	4,174	4,051	3,556	3,246	3,137	2,760
Clothing ...	27,489	29,195	28,228	28,473	24,399	18,999
Food, Drink, Tobacco ...	20,139	20,479	21,625	22,490	21,706	20,143
Woodworking, Basketware ...	10,044	9,868	9,154	8,864	7,446	4,341
Furniture, Bedding ...	5,315	5,571	5,780	5,737	4,661	2,694
Paper, Printing ...	13,226	13,640	13,947	13,932	13,392	11,441
Rubber ...	1,758	2,272	2,603	2,775	2,676	1,773
Musical Instruments ...	964	1,281	1,187	1,257	1,107	718
Miscellaneous Products...	1,138	1,121	1,237	1,422	1,569	1,509
Heat, Light, Power ...	3,354	3,762	3,837	4,120	4,141	3,243
Total, Average over whole Year ...	169,774	179,378	177,698	180,756	162,913	127,605

In 1926-27 there was a marked increase in employment in nearly all groups of factories. In 1927-28 there was a decrease in metal works and clothing factories—the largest groups. In 1928-29 the metal works almost regained the former level, there was a slight improvement in clothing factories, and the total of all groups was larger than in any earlier year, notwithstanding an industrial dislocation in the timber trade which affected a number of factories during the latter six months of the year. In 1929-30 there was a general decline, and in the following year employment in most of the groups fell below the level of 1925-26. The exceptions were the textile group, with an average of 8,361 employees in 1930-31 as compared with 6,883 in 1925-6; food factories and rubber works, in which the numbers were almost equal in both years; and the miscellaneous group.

The decline between 1925-26 and 1930-31 was greatest in the group bricks, pottery and glass, viz. 61 per cent, woodworking 57 per cent, furniture and bedding 49 per cent., and factories treating non-metalliferous mine products 43 per cent. The decrease in metal works was 29 per cent., in clothing factories 31 per cent., and in the printing group 13 per cent.

Between 1901 and 1929 the number of employees in factories increased at a much faster rate than the total population. The growth of factories was most rapid between 1906 and 1911, and there was steady progress between 1916 and 1926. In three years of the quinquennium there was a decrease in numbers, and the average annual rate of decline was 5½ per cent.

In the following table the growth in factory employment is compared with the increase in the total population since 1901. The factory figures relate to averages over the whole of the years specified, having been amended since last issue of the Year Book:—

Period.	Increase in Factory Employees.		Increase in Population— Average Annual Rate.
	Number.	Average Annual Rate.	
1901-06 (5 years)...	11,767	per cent. 3·5	per cent. 1·7
1906-11 (5 years)...	30,309	7·1	2·6
1911-16 (4½ years)...	7,578	1·6	2·4
1916-21 (5 years)...	27,082	4·4	2·1
1921-26 (5 years)...	30,563	4·1	2·0
1926-31 (5 years)...	(—)42,169	(—) 5·6	1·7

(—) Denotes decrease.

Nature of Employment.

Of the persons engaged in manufacturing industries during the year 1930-31 approximately 81 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 average number during the period of operation and the nature of employment of the persons engaged in each class of industry in that year:—

Class of Industry.	Working Proprietors, Managers, and Overseers.	Clerks, etc.	Engine-drivers, etc.	Workers in Factory, Mill, etc.	Carters, Messengers, and others.	Persons regularly employed at their own homes.	Total.
Treatment of Non-metalliferous							
Mine and Quarry Products ...	270	153	77	1,922	29	...	2,451
Bricks, Pottery, Glass ...	297	199	72	2,626	63	...	3,257
Chemicals, Paint, Oil, Grease ...	432	688	100	3,781	144	1	5,146
Industrial Metals, Machines, Conveyances ...	3,448	2,545	377	35,653	226	1	42,250
Precious Metals, Jewellery ...	100	33	...	344	19	2	493
Textiles and Textile Goods (not Dress) ...	350	250	34	7,745	60	33	8,472
Skins, Leather (not Clothing or Footwear) ...	306	120	42	2,396	37	...	2,901
Clothing ...	1,882	545	18	17,085	194	69	19,793
Food, Drink, Tobacco ...	1,769	1,986	721	16,574	495	6	21,551
Woodworking, Basketware ...	956	325	204	3,726	110	...	5,321
Furniture, Bedding ...	421	121	9	2,216	29	...	2,796
Paper, Printing ...	1,127	1,101	15	9,138	212	2	11,595
Rubber ...	155	194	18	1,378	34	1	1,780
Musical Instruments ...	43	121	7	548	4	...	723
Miscellaneous Products ...	163	110	7	1,260	15	9	1,564
Heat, Light, Power ...	355	172	672	2,038	29	...	3,266
Total ...	12,074	8,663	2,373	108,430	1,700	124	133,364
Males ...	11,369	5,047	2,373	77,931	1,591	38	98,349
Females ...	705	3,616	...	30,499	109	86	35,015

The status of workers employed varied greatly in the sixteen standard classes of manufacturing industry. The average proportion of working proprietors, managers, and overseers was 9 per cent. for all classes, but it varied from 4.6 per cent. in textiles to 20.1 per cent. in those making jewellery, time-pieces, and plated ware.

Amongst the males the proportion of working proprietors, etc., was 11.6 per cent., and of workers in the factories 70.9 per cent. The corresponding proportions amongst the females were 2.0 per cent. and 87.1 per cent. respectively.

Only 6.0 per cent. of the employees were clerical workers, and of these 41.7 per cent. were females. The practice of giving out work at piece rates is very limited. Workers employed in their own homes represented under 1 per thousand of the total number employed, and nearly all were engaged by textile and clothing manufacturers.

Sex Distribution of Employees.

The following table shows the number of males and of females employed in factories, and the ratio to the male and female population respectively during various years since 1920-21. The figures have been amended since last issue of the Year Book, and are based now on the average number of employees during the full year, and not the average during the period the factories were in operation as in former issues (see page 56):—

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.
1920-21	107,700	100.9	31,511	30.8	139,211	66.6
1925-26	128,846	110.0	40,928	36.3	169,774	73.9
1926-27	135,305	113.1	44,073	38.3	179,378	76.4
1927-28	134,341	109.7	43,357	36.8	177,698	74.0
1928-29	135,773	108.8	44,983	37.5	180,756	73.8
1929-30	122,005	96.7	40,908	33.6	162,913	65.7
1930-31	93,881	73.9	33,724	27.4	127,605	51.0

In 1930-31 the manufacturing industries provided employment for 5.1 per cent. of the total population, viz., about 7 per cent. of males, but less than 3 per cent. of females.

The Factories and Shops Act imposes certain restrictions on the employment of women and of young persons, and the Minister for Labour and Industry may prohibit the employment of boys under 16 or of females in connection with dangerous machinery or in any work in which he considers it undesirable that they should be employed.

The following table shows, for the years 1911, 1920-21 and 1930-31, 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.	1930-31.	1911.	1920-21.	1930-31.
Food, etc.—						
Biscuits	690	822	822	121	102	133
Confectionery	442	1,190	1,205	70	113	136
Jam and fruit canning, pickles, etc...	610	951	863	150	122	136
Condiments, etc.	209	545	574	122	125	163
Tobacco	746	1,262	1,308	128	131	153
Other food, etc.	459	325	693	8	6	9
Clothing, etc.—						
Woollen mills		793	1,883		101	192
Hosiery and knitting factories	561	1,186	2,740	172	663	347
Boots and shoes	1,499	1,612	1,519	61	61	70
Clothing, dressmaking, and millinery	12,475	11,080	7,002	488	620	642
Hats and caps	995	815	870	227	160	226
Shirts, underclothing, etc.	1,599	2,719	3,335	1,859	2,124	1,568
Paper, paper bags and boxes	727	827	1,140	201	119	127
Printing and bookbinding	1,387	1,711	1,406	29	34	27
Rubber goods	59	344	460	28	57	50
Other industries	1,929	3,420	4,679	4	5	9
Total	24,387	29,602	30,499	36	32	39

* During period of operation, see page 56.

The table shows that women workers predominate in industries relating to the preparation of food and clothing, and the "lighter" manufactures.

Child Labour.

The Factories and Shops Act prescribes that no child under 13 years may be employed in a factory, and that a child between the ages of 13 and 14 years may not be employed unless by special permission of the Minister for Labour and Industry. Moreover, the Public Instruction Act prescribes that children must attend school until they reach the age of 14 years, but exemptions from attendance may be granted in special cases, e.g., if the Minister for Education is satisfied that exemption is necessary or desirable, or in the case of children aged 13 years, if they have attained a certain standard of education.

In regard to children under 16 years of age the Factories and Shops Act authorises the issue of regulations prohibiting the employment of children under 16 years of age in specified classes of factories unless the occupier of the factory has obtained a certificate by a legally qualified medical practitioner that the child is fit for employment in that factory.

Special permits to children between the ages of 13 and 14 years numbered 85 in 1931, viz., to 36 boys and 49 girls, all but one being in the metropolitan district.

During the same year 4,994 certificates of fitness were issued to children under 16 years of age, viz., 1,619 to boys and 3,375 to girls.

Ages of Employees.

The age distribution of the male employees in factories in 1930-31 was as follows:—Boys under 16 years numbered 1,826 or 1.9 per cent.; 16,422, or 17.5 per cent., were between 16 and 21 years; and 75,633, or 80.6 per cent., were adults. Of the females, the number and proportion in the respective groups were 2,734, or 8.1 per cent.; 13,254, or 39.3 per cent.; and 17,736, or 52.6 per cent.

The following table shows the average number of persons under and over the age of 16 years engaged in the factories in various years since 1907, the first year for which statistics respecting the employment of children are available:—

Year.	Persons Employed in Factories, 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†	60,528	17,749	78,277	2,292	1,791	4,083	62,820	19,540	82,360
1911†	76,624	23,364	99,988	2,381	2,182	4,563	79,005	25,546	104,551
1920-21	104,174	28,045	132,219	3,526	3,466	6,992	107,700	31,511	139,211
1925-26	124,435	36,345	160,780	4,411	4,583	8,994	128,846	40,928	169,774
1926-27	130,811	39,163	169,974	4,494	4,910	9,404	135,305	44,073	179,378
1927-28	130,430	38,755	169,185	3,911	4,602	8,513	134,341	43,357	177,698
1928-29	131,815	39,929	171,744	3,958	5,054	9,012	135,773	44,983	180,756
1929-30	118,740	36,747	155,487	3,265	4,161	7,426	122,005	40,908	162,913
1930-31	92,055	30,990	123,045	1,826	2,734	4,560	93,881	33,724	127,605

* Amended since last issue to show average during the whole year (see page 56). † Estimated.

During the year 1930-31 there was a decrease of 28,124 in the number of male employees and of 7,184 in the number of females. Of those aged 16 years and over there was a decrease of 26,685 males and 5,757 females; and there were 2,866 less children in the factories than in the previous year, the number of boys having decreased by 1,439, the number of girls by 1,427.

Of 4,560 juveniles engaged in manufacturing, 4,158 were employed within the metropolitan area. Up to the year 1914 the boys outnumbered the girls, but in more recent years the number of girls was the greater. About 94 per cent. of the girls and 87 per cent. of the boys were working in Sydney and suburbs.

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 and under 16 years who were 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 and under 16.
1907 ...	36.5	91.7	49.6	43.7
1911 ...	30.1	85.4	43.6	47.3
1920-21 ...	32.7	110.0	50.2	60.8
1925-26 ...	34.2	112.0	53.0	70.6
1926-27 ...	33.2	111.4	52.4	72.3
1927-28 ...	29.1	106.1	47.9	64.0
1928-29 ...	29.2	112.4	49.9	66.5
1929-30 ...	26.8	101.7	45.6	54.1
1930-31 ...	19.5	81.1	35.7	32.9

During the prosperous years up to 1928-29 the proportion of boys to men had shown a downward trend, while the proportion of girls amongst the female employees, which had increased in a marked degree between 1911 and 1921, remained fairly constant. There was a decline in both ratios in 1929-30, then a fall of 27 per cent. and 20 per cent. respectively. The number of children employed in factories in 1920-21 represented about 6 per cent. of the children between 13 and 16 years of age in the State. The ratio as estimated in 1930-31 was 3½ per cent.

INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIES.

PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS.

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, cannot be classified readily. Therefore the following statement of principal products includes only those for which particulars of quantity and value are available.

Commodities.	1928-29.		1929-30.		1930-31.	
	Quantity.	Value at Works.	Quantity.	Value at Works.	Quantity.	Value at Works.
Wool, Scoured ... ..lb.	19,649,577	2,106,373	18,616,990	1,360,933	20,512,086	1,192,558
Tops and Nolls ... ..lb.	2,274,959	301,886	2,469,421	276,515	2,410,477	197,043
Leather—						
Dressed and Upper ... sq. ft. }			14,768,638	804,540	14,970,207	644,870
Other ... ..lb. }	19,396,613*	1,660,787	10,085,177	698,827	8,324,224	511,433
Soap ... ..cwt.	433,531	1,152,735	410,248	1,002,605	378,679	913,223
Candles ... ..lb.	2,896,276	104,297	1,459,808	53,511	1,867,842	65,610
Tallow, Raw ... ..cwt.	354,566	604,165	276,365	421,055	262,440	329,569
Bricks ... ..1,000	437,158	1,325,464	307,054	1,094,325	56,701	175,286
Cement ... ..ton	414,913	1,744,792	423,258	1,642,067	222,212	877,954
Timber, Sawn ... ..cu. ft.	11,627,475	1,750,408	10,413,449	1,521,589	4,881,149	669,802
Steel, Ingots ... ..ton	432,773	...	314,917	...	228,363	...
Pig Iron ... ..ton	461,110	...	308,369	...	232,788	...
Bacon and Ham †lb.	22,340,106	1,163,507	20,984,249	1,047,625	20,984,266	772,786
Butter †lb.	91,733,572	7,173,360	100,814,354	7,405,007	109,291,988	6,539,676
Cheese †lb.	6,203,409	282,755	6,163,295	279,929	6,425,093	229,270
Margarine ... ..lb.	16,627,959	551,014	17,615,391	554,028	13,842,311	423,570
Biscuits ... ..lb.	43,289,522	1,462,757	40,820,175	1,351,068	31,988,672	1,022,228
Ice ... ..ton	258,833	503,605	216,513	410,734	188,785	347,726
Aerated Waters, etc. ...gal.	76,980,373	1,071,897	7,110,981	914,437	5,062,206	595,828
Jams and Preserves ... ..lb.	30,579,055	755,268	32,939,456	728,155	30,359,436	712,438
Pickles and Sauces ... ..pint	10,419,549	528,713	7,549,486	387,323	5,766,068	314,623
Flour ... ..ton (2,000 lb.)	449,011	4,977,770	432,472	4,612,248	449,439	3,640,885
Bran ... ..ton	87,259	559,012	82,263	592,999	90,537	460,586
Pollard ... ..ton	95,641	645,294	94,277	702,226	102,098	538,768
Meat, Preserved in Tins ...lb.	4,251,040	172,627	4,185,438	162,408	4,157,661	149,387
Sugar, Raw ... ..cwt.	339,078	364,175	391,366	471,320	376,830	455,625
Beer and Stout ... ..gal.	29,420,920	3,176,085	26,113,448	2,827,267	19,771,075	2,228,909
Tobacco ... ..lb.	10,134,242	3,064,680	10,386,232	3,414,110	8,464,407	2,989,868
Cigarettes and Cigars ...lb.	5,203,558	1,790,623	5,229,362	1,936,144	3,630,480	1,596,836
Tweed and Cloth ... ..yds.	2,822,663	1,190,526	3,118,672	1,225,372	2,255,088	940,480
Socks and Stockings doz. prs.	1,142,192	1,343,990	1,021,646	1,146,938	784,992	858,197
Knitted Goods—Woolen ...No.	1,397,172	538,395	1,170,046	445,140	916,565	322,533
" Cotton ... ..No.	5,609,330	297,073	5,628,527	252,229	4,025,792	235,687
Boots, Shoes and Slippers ...prs.	5,108,946	2,627,023	4,445,664	2,095,601	4,091,581	1,564,756
Hats and Caps ... ..No.	2,860,332	948,292	2,808,396	848,111	2,540,592	500,390
Gramophone Records ...No.	5,905,619	450,173	4,238,225	310,251	2,576,586	208,569
Gas ... ..1,000 cub. ft.	10,683,530	2,139,694	10,991,780	2,190,737	9,784,531	1,786,933
Coke ... ..ton	1,003,626	1,441,321	821,257	1,131,455	655,298	865,198
Electricity ... ..1,000 units	959,985	4,930,839	996,116	5,319,891	1,059,829	5,183,823
Motor Bodies ... ..No.	13,321	845,727	6,834	607,866	784	54,061

* lb.

† Dozens.

‡ Exclusive of quantity made on farms.

The commodities shown above represent less than one-third of the total value of the factory production. It is exclusive of most of the products of the following important groups, viz., metal and machinery works, which in 1930-31 contributed £29,830,729, or 25 per cent. of the total value; the printing and furniture trades, and rubber factories, of which the collective output was valued at £10,411,543, or 9 per cent. of the total. The largest items shown in the statement are butter and flour—of which the output is liable to fluctuation on account of seasonal conditions affecting rural production—electricity and tobacco.

TANNERIES.

Skins and hides are available in large quantities, and the tanning industry provides nearly all the raw material needed for local requirements, and a fairly extensive oversea trade in leather. The oversea exports of sole leather amounted to 23,699 cwt., valued at £109,942, in 1930-31, and 22,714 cwt., valued at £109,986, in 1931-32. The value of other leather (excluding re-exports) sent overseas in these years was £125,408 and £123,891 respectively. Supplies of fancy leather are obtained partly by importation. The quantity of glace kid imported annually was about 250,000 square feet, but declined during the last two years, and in 1931-32 the quantity was only 16,814 square feet. Even larger quantities of patent and enamelled leather used to be imported, but with an expansion of local manufacture oversea imports declined from 1,244,533 square feet in 1925-26 to 4,051 square feet in 1931-32.

The following table gives particulars of the industry for the year 1920-21 and at intervals thereafter:—

Items.	1920-21.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.									
Number of Establishments ...	80	69	69	65									
Average Number of Employees† ...	1,209	1,174	1,152	1,046									
Average Horse-power used ...	2,688	2,962	2,901	2,849									
Value of Land and Buildings†	£ 265,166	253,423	262,937	246,634									
Value of Plant and Machinery	£ 172,132	164,981	170,091	157,763									
Salaries and Wages paid ...	£ 262,724	267,453	269,828	218,146									
Value of Fuel and Power used	£ 17,855	22,816	22,759	21,269									
Value of Materials used ...	£ 1,684,791	1,587,055	1,234,541	885,406									
Value of Output ...	£ 2,103,525	2,089,373	1,701,895	1,282,015									
Value of Production ...	£ 400,879	479,502	444,595	375,340									
Materials Treated—													
Hides—													
Cattle ...	No. ...	} 4,098,250	} 3,008,387	} 395,502									
Calf ...	No. ...				} 4,098,250	} 3,008,387	} 369,802						
Other ...	No. ...							} 4,098,250	} 3,008,387	} 13,128			
Sheep Pelts ...	No. ...										} 4,098,250	} 3,008,387	} 1,762,392
Sheep Skins ...	No. ...													} 4,098,250	} 3,008,387	} 988,577
Other Skins ...	No. ...	} 4,098,250	} 3,008,387	} 518,754									
Bark ...	tons. ...				11,570	9,078	9,191						
Articles Produced—													
Leather—													
Dressed and Upper from													
Hides ...	sq. ft. ...	} *17,707,065	} *19,396,619	} 4,652,250									
Dressed, from Skins ...	sq. ft. ...				} 4,652,250	} 4,652,250	} 4,336,265						
Sole and Harness ...	lb. ...							} 4,652,250	} 4,652,250	} 10,116,388			
Other ...	lb. ...										} 4,652,250	} 4,652,250	} 9,772,903
Basils ...	lb. ...	2,730,162	1,990,712	1,580,831									
Other... ...	lb. ...	296,113	148,594	17,057									
	£												

* lb.

† Includes rented premises.

‡ Average over whole year—amended since last issue of Year Book.

WOOL-SCOURING AND FELLMONGERING.

Only a very small proportion of the wool clip of New South Wales is scoured locally, as oversea manufacturers generally prefer to buy wool in the grease and to treat it in accordance with the purpose for which they require it. The exports of wool in 1930-31 were greasy 334,602,517 lb., scoured 17,371,983 lb., and tops, noils, etc., 1,302,118 lb. The corresponding figures for 1931-32 were greasy 340,002,867 lb., scoured 22,250,182 lb., and tops, noils, etc., 2,616,147 lb.

Particulars of the operations of the wool scouring and fellmongering works during the last four years are shown below:—

Items.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
Number of Establishments ...	32	31	29	30
Average Number of Employees* ...	739	564	559	656
Average Horse-power used ...	1,843	2,076	2,162	2,242
Value of Land and Buildings†	£ 166,588	174,034	178,547	146,090
Value of Plant and Machinery	£ 156,397	156,767	140,085	135,861
Salaries and Wages paid ...	£ 190,665	150,594	142,286	148,008
Value of Fuel and Power used	£ 32,656	25,716	26,467	28,800
Value of Materials used ...	£ 3,043,775	1,972,092	1,202,767	1,000,957
Value of Output ...	£ 3,380,319	2,175,240	1,460,421	1,223,656
Value of Production ...	£ 303,888	177,432	231,187	193,899
Materials Treated—				
Greasy Wool ... lb.	32,422,990	28,547,411	22,862,351	22,963,156
Skins ... No.	2,695,873	2,040,259	2,555,776	3,071,569
Articles Produced—				
Scoured Wool ... lb.	24,672,168	19,649,577	18,616,990	20,512,086
Pelts ... No.	2,356,907	1,647,472	2,295,823	2,426,317

* Average over whole year—amended since last issue of Year Book. † Includes rented premises.

The fellmongering establishments treated 3,071,569 skins and produced 10,714,960 lb. of scoured wool in 1930-31, the balance being the output of the scouring works.

SOAP AND CANDLE FACTORIES.

The soap and candle factories supply practically the whole of the local requirements and there is a small export trade with the islands of the Pacific. The following table shows particulars relating to the industry:—

Items.	1920-21.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
Number of Establishments ...	26	27	25	23
Average Number of Employees* ...	939	1,080	997	971
Average Horse-power used ...	964	1,196	1,040	1,125
Value of Land and Buildings†	£ 223,423	352,700	330,964	322,320
Value of Plant and Machinery	£ 287,714	304,446	274,106	272,248
Salaries and Wages paid ...	£ 141,135	218,551	194,109	196,737
Value of Fuel and Power used	£ 40,160	35,441	32,547	29,512
Value of Materials used ...	£ 859,555	913,071	761,932	696,386
Value of Output ...	£ 1,177,511	1,613,066	1,389,285	1,288,607
Value of Production ...	£ 277,796	664,554	594,806	562,709
Materials Treated—				
Tallow ... cwt.	139,153	212,568	177,082	175,751
Alkali ... lb.	4,516,054	10,476,170	9,998,643	7,252,938
Wax ... lb.	2,481,854	2,102,789	1,533,996	1,525,860
Resin ... cwt.	22,327	38,638	31,674	28,098
Copra Oil ... cwt.	15,560	37,311	37,677	40,419
Sand ... cwt.	3,595	21,180	19,888	20,019
Principal Products—				
Soap ... cwt.	280,620	483,531	409,464	378,679
Soap Extract, etc. ... lb.	4,051,251	6,022,338	5,476,466	6,340,079
Candles (including wax) ... lb.	4,191,534	2,896,276	1,459,808	1,867,842
Glycerine ... lb.	1,882,423	2,442,745	2,080,669	2,366,788
Soda Crystals ... lb.	681,024	3,430,067	1,076,112	2,052,288

* Average over whole year—amended since last issue of Year Book. † Includes rented premises.

BRICK AND TILE WORKS.

Owing to the abundance of clay, brickworks have been established in many parts of the State. In a number of cases the industry is associated with tile-making, so the figures for the two industries have been combined in the following table:—

Items.	1920-21.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
Number of Establishments ...	159	178	163	100
Average Number of Employees* ...	3,518	3,700	2,795	772
Average Horse-power used ...	9,181	13,013	12,395	6,552
Value of Land and Buildings †	£ 865,182	1,113,623	1,060,562	687,177
Value of Plant and Machinery	£ 1,114,500	1,440,659	1,389,079	803,578
Salaries and Wages paid ...	£ 777,536	944,390	706,340	200,425
Value of Fuel and Power used	£ 276,402	376,130	281,135	61,264
Value of Materials used ...	£ 189,150	370,699	277,430	56,723
Value of Output ...	£ 1,640,743	2,216,401	1,574,401	374,073
Value of Production ...	£ 1,175,191	1,469,572	1,015,836	256,086
Articles Produced—				
Bricks ...	No. 360,092,005	437,157,614	307,054,500	56,561,351
Tiles ...	£ 286,862	373,180	276,206	56,454
Fire Bricks, etc. ...	£ 72,225	153,375	111,217	67,193
Pipes and Pottery ...	£ 6,754	36,641	67,407	25,783

* Average over whole year—amended since last issue of Year Book. † Includes rented premises.

In addition to the bricks made in the brick and tile works, a small number are manufactured in other establishments, but are not included in the figures shown above.

The local factories are capable of supplying all the bricks and tiles required for use in New South Wales. Owing to the depressed condition of the building industry in 1930-31 the output diminished to such an extent that it was less than one-fifth of the production in the previous year.

State Brickworks, Homebush.

In the latter part of 1911 the Government established State Brickworks at Homebush, near Sydney, and the undertaking has proved very profitable. The requirements of the different Government Departments are supplied and bricks are sold to the public at prices below those ruling in private brick-yards.

The following table gives particulars of the operations of the State Brickworks at Homebush Bay during each of the last five years. The sale prices as stated in the table were for bricks loaded into trucks at the yard, Homebush Bay:—

Particulars.	1925-26	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
Bricks manufactured ..	43,116,786	58,083,139	60,663,064	62,276,611	£1,888,568	15,863,256
Used for Public Works ..	22,740,727	23,169,934	11,389,203	10,231,720	9,043,980	7,855,846
Sold to Private Purchasers ..	24,666,518	35,153,800	47,795,517	50,800,410	39,902,077	8,925,935
Used at Works ..	1,231,798	104,237	1,127,923	626,484	154,237	40,200
Stocks at 30th June ..	1,078,542	713,701	1,034,122	1,652,119	4,440,393	3,481,668
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cost of Manufacture per 1,000 ..	2 7 10	2 8 9	2 11 3	2 14 2	2 14 3	2 15 4
Sale price per 1,000—						
Seconds ..	2 12 6	2 13 0	2 13 6	2 13 6	2 9 0	*2 6 6
Commons ..	2 15 0	2 15 6	2 15 6	2 18 6	2 14 0	*2 10 0
Face... ..	4 15 0	4 16 0	5 2 0	5 2 0	5 0 0	*5 2 0

* At 30th June, 1931.

A system of profit-sharing by the employees is in operation, and, apart from the amounts distributed under this scheme, the undistributed surplus amounted at 30th June, 1931, to £142,272.

SAWMILLS.

Sawmilling is an important industry in many parts of the State, the majority of the mills being situated in the forest areas. Moulding and planing are undertaken at some mills, also the cutting of wood-paving blocks. In the metropolitan district 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 1921 are as follow:—

Items.	1920-21.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
Number of Establishments ...	496	477	433	372
Average Number of Employees*	4,977	3,982	3,250	1,738
Average Horse-power used ...	14,597	17,695	16,696	14,069
Value of Land and Buildings†	£ 811,830	986,290	933,092	785,938
Value of Plant and Machinery	£ 908,192	813,170	754,574	628,662
Salaries and Wages Paid ...	£ 926,276	888,891	734,300	353,583
Value of Fuel and Power used	£ 24,405	35,123	32,133	20,548
Value of Materials used ...	£ 2,732,656	3,295,133	2,507,300	1,043,792
Value of Output ...	£ 4,103,924	4,891,185	3,754,782	1,626,066
Value of Production ...	£ 1,346,863	1,560,929	1,215,349	561,726
Logs Treated—				
Hardwood cub. ft. ...	14,844,000	12,299,271	10,622,745	5,454,143
Softwood " ...	5,652,000	5,893,421	5,453,123	2,123,209
Sawn Timber Produced—				
Hardwood sup. ft. ...	117,781,837	94,696,465	81,556,393	41,412,881
Softwood " ...	45,628,945	44,833,240	43,405,003	17,160,917

* Average over whole year—amended since last issue of Year Book. † Includes rented premises.

The native timbers treated during 1930-31 consisted of 5,454,143 cubic feet of hardwoods and 1,911,977 cubic feet of softwoods; the quantities of sawn timber produced therefrom being 41,412,881 super. feet, and 15,119,109 super. feet respectively. The output of the sawmills during the last three years was affected by slackness in the building trades.

METAL AND MACHINERY WORKS, ETC.

The groups of factories relating to industrial metals, machines and conveyances 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 works in 1930-31 are shown:—

Industries.	No. of establishments.	Average Number of Employees.	Average Horse-power Used.	Value of Land and Buildings.	Value of Plant and Machinery.	Salaries and Wages Paid.	Value of Materials, Fuel & Power Used.	Value of Output.
Smelting, Refining, etc., Iron and Steel	161	5,302	41,819	£000 1,919	£000 4,528	£000 1,388	£000 6,087	£000 8,295
Engineering (not Marine or Electrical)	263	4,292	7,584	1,438	1,166	936	989	2,270
Extracting and Refining other Metals...	10	672	7,884	223	526	197	2,459	2,881
Electrical Installations, Cables ...	93	2,657	2,839	686	424	531	671	1,414
Tram and Railway Rolling Stock ...	37	12,210	15,379	2,846	2,425	2,871	1,787	5,301
Motor Vehicles (including Bodies and Repairs)	891	4,395	3,893	2,398	413	758	891	2,126
Ship and Boat-building ...	44	3,053	7,789	1,578	2,302	738	296	1,083
Galvanised Iron, Tinsmithing ...	100	2,874	4,356	667	710	541	1,393	2,202
Wireworking (including Nails)...	36	1,318	4,771	534	452	307	1,014	1,457
Other ...	346	4,629	7,260	1,496	965	893	1,330	2,802
Total ...	1,981	41,402	103,574	13,785	13,911	9,160	16,897	29,831

The output and the horse-power of machinery of the iron and steel works exceed those of any other group in this class. The number of employees is greater in railway and tramway workshops, but nearly all of these are Government establishments concerned with repairs to a greater extent than manufacture. Of the motor vehicle works 824 are repair shops, employing, on the average, less than four persons, including the working proprietors.

A comparative statement relating to the metal and machinery works is shown below:—

Year.	Number of Establishments.	Average Number of Employees.	Salaries and Wages Paid.	Value of Materials and Fuel Used.	Value of Output.	Value of Production.
1925-26	2,075	58,179	£000 13,082	£000 29,872	£000 50,341	£000 20,469
1926-27	2,121	62,387	14,617	31,332	53,245	21,913
1927-28	2,132	60,825	14,687	30,246	52,178	21,932
1928-29	2,170	62,090	15,045	31,922	54,995	23,073
1929-30	2,144	54,574	13,314	26,610	46,274	19,664
1930-31	1,981	41,402	9,160	16,897	29,831	12,934

The comparison indicates that these industries experienced a period of activity in the years 1926-27 to 1928-29—the number of employees was greatest in 1926-27, but the value of the output, etc., was at a maximum in 1928-29. The expansion was stimulated by reasons of large projects undertaken in the State, *e.g.*, the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the City Railway, and the electrification of the suburban railways and the construction of water conservation works. During the last two years the number of employees has decreased by one-third and the value of output by 46 per cent., the decline in the latter being due in part to lower prices.

Various classes of engineering are undertaken at the dockyards, of which particulars are published in the chapter of this volume entitled "Shipping."

Iron and Steel Works.

Iron and steel works are in operation at Newcastle, Lithgow and Port Kembla. The works at Newcastle were opened in 1915. The products include iron and steel of various grades, pipes and boilers, steel sleepers, rails, and such by-products as sulphate of ammonia, tar, benzol and solvent naphtha. The ore treated at Newcastle is imported from South Australia.

Local iron ores were treated at Lithgow, where the oldest of the existing iron and steel works had been remodelled and extended into a large establishment with modern furnaces, coke ovens, rolling mills, etc. In recent years, however, the operations carried on at Lithgow have been transferred gradually to Port Kembla, where the owners of the Lithgow works established new works under agreement with the State Government. The Government, on its part, undertook to construct a railway from Moss Vale, on the main southern line, to Port Kembla, and the line was opened in August, 1932. In 1928 the business was merged into a new organisation, known as Australian Iron and Steel Limited, with which are associated two English engineering firms and an Australian firm of shipowners and colliery proprietors. The purpose of the enterprise is the development of the iron and steel industry at Port Kembla. The first unit of the Port Kembla works—a blast furnace with a capacity of 800 tons of pig-iron a day—was brought into operation in August, 1928.

The following table shows the production of steel and pig-iron in New South Wales since 1921:—

Year ended 30th June.	Pig Iron.	Steel Ingots.	Steel Rails, Bars and Sections.	Year ended 30th June.	Pig Iron.	Steel Ingots.	Steel Rails, Bars and Sections.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1921	366,549	259,608	145,507	1927	468,899	410,728	360,212
1922	301,307	250,982	164,119	1928	428,404	405,590	350,941
1923*	138,114	87,814	70,481	1929	461,110	432,773	353,921
1924	367,099	336,150	279,317	1930	308,369	314,917	256,696
1925	460,154	388,156	320,693	1931	232,783	228,363	188,708
1926	430,597	385,231	339,463				

*The Newcastle works were operating for three months only during this period.

The iron ore used in 1930-31 for the production of pig-iron was imported from South Australia; the quantity was 363,023 tons.

Factories have been established in proximity to the iron and steel works for the production of all kinds of steel wire, wire netting, barbed wire, wire nails, wire ropes, black and galvanised steel sheets, steel castings, railway and tramway tyres, axles and centres, structural steel for bridges, and other steel products, also copper wire, copper and brass cable and tubes, insulated telephone cables, and spun cast-iron pipes.

Metal Extraction and Ore Reduction.

The treatment of ores, as a distinct industry, is conducted at Broken Hill, Newcastle and Port Kembla, and there were ten establishments in 1930-31.

The following statement shows the operations of the smelting companies in connection with both local and imported ores during 1930-31:—

Metals.	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.	51,744	10,002	1,526	438	2,120	128,428	...	9,067	8,048
Copper ... ..tons	575	28	244	31	1	10,924	...	...	2
Tin"	793	21	335	...	28	366	18	...	...
Iron—pig ... .."	...	...	...	232,783	...	...	...	...	...
Antimony"	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

BUTTER FACTORIES.

Butter-making is one of the chief industries connected with the preparation of articles of food. More than 1,000 persons were employed in butter factories in 1930-31, and the output, 109,300,000 lb., was exceeded in only one earlier year, viz., 112,505,000 lb. in 1924-25. Preliminary figures for the year 1931-32 indicate that the production was larger than in 1924-25. The increase in quantity has offset, to some extent, a marked decline in prices. The butter factories are organised for the most part on a co-operative basis, and each dairy-farmer who supplies cream is paid according to the amount of butter obtained from it. The factories are under the supervision of Government officials, who are trained for the purpose of instructing the dairy-farmers and factory managers. By this means the

quality of the butter produced in New South Wales factories is maintained at a high standard. 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 1921 are as follow:—

Items.	1920-21.	1928-29.‡	1929-30.§	1930-31.§
Number of Establishments ...	126	108	106	105
Average Number of Employees*	1,002	1,021	1,001	1,020
Average Horse-power used ...	3,843	7,597	8,272	8,077
Value of Land and Buildings † £	308,189	627,717	605,225	605,179
Value of Plant and Machinery † £	395,668	663,756	669,992	661,508
Salaries and Wages paid £	225,392	284,729	282,036	282,557
Value of Fuel and Power used £	61,655	69,169	69,655	64,844
Value of Materials used ...	£ 8,017,379	6,925,551	6,930,802	6,075,064
Value of Output ...	£ 8,974,967	7,557,363	7,666,293	6,738,316
Value of Production ...	£ 895,933	562,643	665,836	598,408
Cream used for butter ... lb.	174,837,000‡	192,150,314	210,191,798	228,374,726
Butter Produced ... lb.	79,864,745‡	91,733,572	100,814,354	109,291,988

* Average over whole year, amended since last issue of Year Book.

† Includes rented premises.

‡ Excludes small quantities in farm factories worked by farm employees.

§ Includes 4 creameries.

The cream used included interstate imports, 1,849,388 lb., from which 906,990 lb. of butter were made during 1928-29, and 1,708,462 lb., which yielded 847,044 lb. of butter, in 1929-30, and 2,006,366 lb. of cream, yielding 964,414 lb. of butter, in 1930-31.

The annual production of butter depends largely on seasonal conditions in the dairy-farming districts, but the general trend has been towards an increased output, and the increase in quantity has been accompanied by a marked improvement in quality. About 96 per cent. of the butter made in factories is graded as choicest by official graders.

The 105 butter factories mentioned in the foregoing table include four creameries and six factories, in which cheese is made, as well as butter. There were also 56 other establishments engaged in the treatment of dairy produce, viz., 31 cheese factories, 23 bacon and ham factories, and 2 factories manufacturing condensed milk. Particulars of the operations of these factories for the year 1930-31 were:—

Number of employees ..	...	...	...	540
Value of land and buildings	...	...	...	£253,612
Value of plant and machinery	...	...	...	£208,928
Salaries and wages paid	...	...	...	£141,762
Value of output	...	...	...	£1,273,737
Value of production	...	...	...	£273,345

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, and information as to the total production is shown in the chapter of this Year Book relating to the dairying industry, also details as to supervision of factories, marketing of the products, etc.

MEAT-PRESERVING AND REFRIGERATING.

The demand for preserved meat has become comparatively small; the output has fallen by about 43 per cent. during the last quinquennium. The operations of the refrigerating works are affected by a number of factors, most important being the seasons and the condition of world markets.

The following table shows the production of establishments treating meat by canning and chilling during the last five years:—

Products.		1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
Preserving Works—						
Tinned Meat ...	lb.	6,673,406	3,919,866	4,251,040	4,185,438	3,802,832
Other Products ...	£	138,653	42,619	70,524	70,238	31,459
Refrigerating Works—						
Carcases Frozen for Export*—						
Cattle ...	No.	12,499	6,451	36,411	30,021	13,421
Sheep ...	No.	480,879	186,018	319,995	481,294	498,225
Lambs ...	No.	685,154	365,329	358,582	610,295	774,877
Pigs ...	No.	7,449	22,628	3,474	3,344	9,479
Carcases Chilled—						
Cattle ...	No.	17,748	23,751	14,999	18,400	16,840
Sheep ...	No.	41,018	76,702	13,732	26,237	39,943
Lambs ...	No.	9,441	8,909	10,495	14,726	14,647
Pigs ...	No.	6,512	13,211	14,533	11,353	16,813

*Exclusive of meat for export as ships' stores.

In 1929-30 there was a marked increase in the number of sheep and lambs frozen for export, and a further increase in the following year.

BISCUIT FACTORIES.

There are in the State ten establishments engaged in the manufacture of biscuits, of which nine are within the Metropolitan area. The output of biscuits was 31,988,672 lb., with a value of £1,022,228 in 1930-31. An export trade in biscuits is maintained with the islands of the Pacific and Eastern countries, the total exports amounted to 1,791,452 lb. in 1930-31, and to 1,436,664 lb. in the following year. Small quantities are imported from abroad, viz., 13,567 lb. in 1930-31, and 12,268 lb. in 1931-32.

Details relating to the biscuit factories for 1921 and other years, including 1930-31, are given below:—

Items.		1920-21.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
Number of Establishments ...	...	10	11	10	10
Average Number of Employees *	...	1,783	1,832	1,797	1,651
Average Horse-power used ...	...	1,115	515	508	515
Value of Land and Buildings†	£	164,031	226,962	228,704	240,969
Value of Plant and Machinery	£	135,285	132,521	128,805	123,545
Salaries and Wages paid ...	£	221,791	273,660	264,525	224,823
Value of Fuel and Power used	£	23,614	37,172	36,220	28,701
Value of Materials used ...	£	936,747	786,824	709,593	558,045
Value of Output ...	£	1,358,266	1,510,415	1,397,348	1,057,192
Value of Production ...	£	397,905	686,419	651,535	470,446
Materials Treated—					
Flour ...	tons (2,000 lb.)	12,210	13,808	12,875	10,195
Sugar ...	...	3,024	3,455	3,140	2,396
Biscuits produced ...	lb.	38,308,360	43,289,522	40,820,175	31,988,672

* Average over whole year—amended since last issue of Year Book.

† Includes rented premises.

FLOUR MILLS.

The amount of mill-power for grinding and dressing grain is ample for manufacturing the flour consumed in the State, and there is a considerable export trade.

Details concerning flour-milling at intervals since 1921 are as follow:—

Items.	1920-21.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
Number of Establishments ...	60	56	53	52
Average Number of Employees*	918	1,094	1,043	1,086
Average Horse-power used ...	6,384	7,893	7,331	7,355
Value of Land and Buildings †	£ 561,688	804,901	810,602	754,623
Value of Plant and Machinery	£ 572,456	884,194	864,462	822,369
Salaries and Wages paid ...	£ 219,964	312,880	301,866	291,843
Value of Fuel and Power used	£ 37,746	70,282	64,820	69,097
Value of Materials used ...	£ 4,951,650	5,498,861	5,096,618	3,739,963
Value of Output ...	£ 5,590,405	6,276,317	5,976,447	4,722,855
Value of Production ...	£ 601,009	707,174	815,009	913,795
Wheat Treated ... bus.	11,595,807	21,478,082	20,572,332	21,656,919
Articles Produced—				
Flour ... tons (2,000 lb.)	244,818	449,011	432,472	449,439
Bran, Pollard, Sharps, etc. „	100,545	185,993	179,219	196,950
Wheat Meal, etc. ... cwt.	21,863	75,289	71,062	55,577

* Average over full year—amended since last issue of Year Book.

† Includes rented premises.

The average annual production of flour during the three years ended June, 1931, was about 443,640 tons, and the annual export—oversea and interstate—was approximately 217,810 tons, or 47 per cent. of the output. Since March, 1931, the flour sold for human consumption in New South Wales has been subject to a levy. The rate was £2 15s. per ton to 31st December, 1931, and £1 10s. in 1932. The proceeds are used for the relief of necessitous farmers. Flour for export or other purposes is exempt.

SUGAR MILLS.

Sugar cane is cultivated in the lower valleys of the northern coastal rivers of New South Wales, and the cane is crushed at three large mills, situated, respectively, at Harwood Island, on the Clarence River, at Broadwater, on the Richmond, and at Condong, on the Tweed.

Items.	1920-21.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
Number of Establishments ...	3	3	3	3
Average Number of Employees ...	159*	111*	170*	136
Average Horse-power used ...	1,279	2,114	2,114	2,094
Value of Land and Buildings	£ 106,070	133,870	135,042	134,000
Value of Plant and Machinery	£ 425,283	538,046	540,679	540,809
Salaries and Wages paid ...	£ 63,003	77,995	75,135	63,585
Value of Fuel and Power used	£ 8,636	7,749	13,550	10,379
Value of Materials used ...	£ 303,651	259,355	329,885	314,538
Value of Output ...	£ 476,405	367,983	476,355	455,625
Value of Production ...	£ 164,118	100,879	132,920	130,708
Cane crushed ... tons	131,313	147,412	174,110	160,209
Articles produced—				
Raw Sugar ... cwt.	302,480	339,078	391,366	376,830
Molasses ... gals.	649,800	914,000	1,064,405	918,800

* Amended since last issue to show average over full year; mills in operation about 4 months annually.

The industry has been assisted by the provision of bounties and other measures. Since July, 1915, there has been an embargo on the importation of foreign sugar, except with the permission of the Minister for Trade and Customs, and it was renewed recently for five years from 1st September, 1931. The Government of Queensland, in terms of an agreement with the Commonwealth Government, purchases the raw sugar produced in New South Wales and makes arrangements for its refining and distribution at prices fixed by the agreement.

Sugar Refinery.

There is but one sugar refinery in the State. It is situated at Pymont, Sydney, and it treats raw sugar from the North Coast and Queensland mills. During the year 1930-31 the quantity of raw sugar treated was 2,676,800 cwt., and it gave an output of 2,661,860 cwt. of the refined article, valued at £4,658,255.

The three mills and the refinery provided employment for 966 persons during the period of operation in the year 1930-31.

BREWERIES.

In 1930-31 there were in the State seven establishments classed as breweries, of which the three largest were within the Metropolitan boundaries.

Items.	1920-21.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
Number of Establishments	17	8	8	7
Average Number of Employees * ...	1,122	1,275	1,156	974
Average Horse-power used	3,289	4,124	4,609	5,624
Value of Land and Buildings† £	714,155	843,365	847,108	905,320
Value of Plant and Machinery £	924,181	1,038,768	1,003,849	978,438
Salaries and Wages paid	£ 286,685	387,017	350,178	285,004
Value of Fuel and Power used £	66,848	78,000	69,288	57,255
Value of Materials used	£ 1,316,561	1,381,494	1,015,261	730,957
Value of Output	£ 2,515,224	3,215,957	2,856,464	2,248,544
Value of Production	£ 1,131,815	1,756,463	1,771,915	1,460,332
Materials Treated—				
Malt bus.	832,850	992,385	850,707	642,849
Hops lb.	831,656	935,989	809,098	619,397
Sugar tons	5,477	5,505	4,765	3,539
Articles produced—				
Ale, Beer, Stout gals.	25,470,404	29,420,920	26,113,448	19,771,075

* Average over whole year—amended since last issue of Year Book.

† Includes rented premises.

Nearly all the beer consumed by New South Wales is brewed in the local factories.

TOBACCO FACTORIES.

Eight tobacco factories were in operation during the year 1930-31, all within the Metropolitan area. The industry is highly organised, all but a small proportion of the output being produced in four large establishments. Conditions of employment in the tobacco factories are maintained at a high standard.

Most of the tobacco treated is imported from the United States of America. Only a small quantity is produced in New South Wales, where tobacco was grown on 547 acres in 1930-31, and the crop was 2,048 cwt., valued at £19,400.

The following table shows details of the operations of tobacco factories in New South Wales at intervals since 1921:—

Items.	1920-21.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
Number of Establishments	16	8	8	8
Average Number of Employees* ...	2,358	2,492	2,505	2,351
Average Horse-power used	657	1,199	1,221	1,168
Value of Land and Buildings† £	291,604	527,350	587,033	523,517
Value of Plant and Machinery £	226,043	363,150	382,545	388,736
Salaries and Wages paid	£ 356,781	468,904	481,679	452,406
Value of Fuel and Power used	11,697	12,598	13,440	13,668
Value of Materials used	£ 3,403,517	3,345,869	3,895,042	3,504,642
Value of Output	£ 4,240,746	4,863,300	5,406,662	4,589,275
Value of Production	£ 825,532	1,504,833	1,498,180	1,070,965
Materials Treated—				
Australian Leaf lb.	876,007	504,633	650,790	1,228,483
Imported Leaf „	9,546,861	13,362,076	13,445,890	9,602,113
Articles produced—				
Tobacco lb.	6,622,540	10,134,242	10,386,232	8,464,407
Cigars „	146,433	86,057	77,596	50,266
Cigarettes „	5,072,903	5,117,501	5,151,766	3,580,214

* Average over whole year—amended since last issue of Year Book. † Includes rented premises.

Large quantities of tobacco and cigarettes are exported, mainly to other Australian States. The annual consumption in New South Wales of Australian-made tobacco during the three years ended June, 1932, was estimated as follows:—Tobacco, 5,350,200lb.; cigars, 141,500lb.; cigarettes, 1,945,900.

WOOLLEN AND TWEED MILLS.

The woollen goods required in the State, with the exception of a small proportion imported overseas, are manufactured in Australia, and the yarn used in knitting mills is supplied by Australian factories. In contrast to the general retrogression in other manufacturing industries, signs of progress were still apparent in the woollen and tweed mills in 1929-30, and there were increases in the number of factory employees and materials treated and in the quantity of tweed, cloth, and yarn made. There was some diminution in the following year, but it was not so marked as in other industries.

Details of employment, output, and other items, at intervals since 1921, are shown in the following table:—

Items.	1920-21.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
Number of Establishments ...	9	14	15	14
Average Number of Employees*	1,628	2,993	3,197	3,046
Average Horse-power used ...	2,795	6,704	7,933	7,378
Value of Land and Buildings†	£ 224,474	540,680	601,207	616,693
Value of Plant and Machinery	£ 384,662	1,023,692	1,048,301	1,020,443
Salaries and Wages paid	£ 235,668	469,019	493,085	442,571
Value of Fuel and Power used	£ 23,517	57,941	61,151	60,424
Value of Materials used	£ 745,848	1,311,049	1,183,899	802,741
Value of Output	£ 1,437,647	2,144,234	2,082,499	1,584,811
Value of Production	£ 668,282	775,244	837,449	721,646
Materials Treated—				
Scoured Wool ... lb.	3,603,448	5,748,343	6,228,018	5,660,212
Cotton	332,501	272,005	286,210	192,284
Tops	†	1,567,122	1,714,243	1,438,995
Yarn	†	253,996	285,034	323,705
Articles Produced—				
Tweed and Cloth ... yds.	2,494,417	2,822,663	3,118,673	2,930,288
Flannel and Blankets ...	£ 198,504	227,738	188,199	148,185
Rugs and Shawls... ..	£ 23,000	12,726	8,780	8,808
Tops and Noils	£ 69,672	301,886	276,515	197,043
Yarn	£ 278,072	301,530	355,959	255,780

* Average over whole year—amended since last issue of Year Book. † Includes rented premises.

‡ Not available.

Woollen mills have been established in Sydney, Goulburn, Albury, and Orange. The customs duties on imported goods have been increased during recent years with a view to assisting the local factories.

Hosiery and Knitting Factories.

Marked progress has been made in the production of hosiery and knitted goods. In 1920-21 there were 33 establishments with 1,425 employees; the value of materials and fuel used amounted to £573,128, and the output was valued at £872,476. In 1930-31 there were 61 establishments employing 3,759 persons, and the value of materials and fuel was £1,020,808, and the value of the output was £2,004,212.

The following statement shows a comparative review of the operations of the hosiery and knitting factories during the four years ended 30th June, 1931:—

Particulars.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
Number of Establishments ...	61	67	62	61
Average Number of Employees*	3,507	4,492	4,093	3,759
Average Horse-power used ...	1,586	1,736	1,938	1,820
Value of Land and Buildings†	£ 551,934	665,628	639,064	568,182
Value of Plant and Machinery	£ 490,975	541,795	558,292	506,023
Salaries and Wages paid ...	£ 501,640	619,780	628,824	542,619
Value of Fuel and Power used	£ 18,176	26,920	27,847	23,579
Value of Materials used	£ 1,048,208	1,413,195	1,196,120	997,229
Value of Output	£ 2,034,159	2,732,950	2,379,961	2,004,212
Value of Production	£ 967,775	1,292,835	1,155,994	983,404
Materials used—				
Yarn lb.	980,557	1,273,522	1,289,393	1,041,413
Cotton	1,387,098	1,942,479	2,235,544	2,025,445
Silk	103,631	102,653	126,213	162,624
Artificial Silk	1,024,225	2,282,590	1,381,520	1,310,270
Articles Produced—				
Socks and Stockings doz. pairs	767,214	1,142,192	1,021,696	784,992
Other Garments	£ 1,105,020	1,297,679	1,110,746	1,047,475

* Average over whole year—amended since last issue of Year Book.

† Includes rented premises.

The quantities of yarn, cotton and silk used during 1930-31 were greater than the quantities in 1927-28, though somewhat less than in 1929-30.

BOOT AND SHOE FACTORIES.

Many varieties of footwear are made in the local factories. The bulk of the output is used in the State, and small quantities are exported, principally to New Guinea, Papua, and Fiji.

Particulars of the operation of these factories since 1921 are shown in the following table:—

Items.	1920-21.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
Number of Establishments	101	103	97	93
Average Number of Employees* ...	4,459	5,110	4,241	3,498
Average Horse-power used	1,379	1,798	1,702	1,580
Value of Land and Buildings† £	371,985	538,339	502,900	432,156
Value of Plant and Machinery £	184,549	255,323	238,604	223,509
Salaries and Wages paid	£ 628,541	888,314	733,898	542,944
Value of Fuel and Power used £	10,365	13,226	12,945	10,775
Value of Materials used	£ 1,496,068	1,424,791	1,049,072	820,754
Value of Output	£ 2,540,222	2,665,943	2,146,083	1,585,381
Value of Production	£ 1,033,789	1,227,926	1,084,066	753,852
Leather Used—				
Sole lb.	4,822,678	4,873,665	4,283,615	3,791,100
Upper sq. ft.	7,282,176	7,773,595	7,193,136	5,816,005
Articles Produced—				
Boots and Shoes pairs	3,232,413	3,908,103	3,277,104	2,637,859
Slippers, etc. „	609,398	1,200,843	1,162,836	1,451,089
Uppers, N.E.I. „	41,925	62,244	51,713	40,640

* Average over whole year—amended since last issue of Year Book.

† Includes rented premises.

The figures are exclusive of particulars of boot repairing establishments, which numbered 615 in 1930-31; 1,065 persons were employed, and their wages amounted to £76,467. Materials to the value of £142,754 were used, including 728,555 lb. of sole leather and 13,595 square feet of upper leather; the output was valued at £395,124.

The number of factories for the manufacture of boots and shoes was 93, of which 87 were situated within the metropolitan area and 6 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. The Australian products have gained an important place in local markets and some are exported to New Zealand. In 1930-31 the employees numbered 1,378, of whom 67 per cent. were females.

There were 28 establishments listed under this classification in 1930-31, and 27 were situated in the metropolitan area. Particulars of the operations in various years since 1921 are as follow:—

Items.	1920-21.	1923-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
Number of Establishments ...	28	31	30	28
Average Number of Employees† ...	1,433	1,868	1,798	1,378
Average Horse-power used ...	764	716	726	524
Value of Land and Buildings* £	174,315	412,094	312,107	229,477
Value of Plant and Machinery £	88,817	147,103	141,842	80,430
Salaries and Wages paid ... £	185,394	314,616	296,846	207,427
Value of Fuel and Power used £	7,574	11,416	12,245	8,096
Value of Materials used ... £	393,372	509,393	439,596	268,453
Value of Output £	747,545	1,058,126	954,984	637,441
Value of Production £	346,599	537,317	503,143	360,892
Hats and Caps made ... No.	2,284,572	2,860,322	2,808,396	2,540,592

* Includes rented premises. † Average over whole year, amended since last issue of Year Book.

ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER WORKS.

The industries connected with the production and supply of electric light and power are making steady progress. The establishments include a number of Governmental undertakings.

The Railway Commissioners control large works in Sydney and Newcastle to supply electricity for transport and for the railway and tramway workshops. A Government undertaking is maintained at Port Kembla, whence power is supplied for harbour works, etc., and current is transmitted to constructional works in the vicinity and to a number of townships along the South Coast and in the Southern Highlands. Another scheme is operated by means of power available from the waters discharged through the Burrinjuck Dam for irrigation purposes. The current is supplied in bulk and by retail over a wide area which embraces Wagga, Cootamundra, Junee, Cowra and the Federal Capital.

There are many municipal electricity works, the largest being the City of Sydney undertaking. Two hydro-electric schemes, viz., the Dorrigo and Nymboida, have been established by local governing bodies in the north eastern areas.

The development in electric light and power works since 1921 is shown by the details given in the following table:—

Items.	1920-21.	1923-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
Number of Establishments ...	117	126	127	126
Average Number of Employees* ...	1,292	2,180	2,188	1,847
Average Horse-power used ...	111,591	334,294	465,645	436,673
Value of Land and Buildings† £	1,381,092	2,938,924	4,610,185	4,564,534
Value of Plant and Machinery £	2,531,358	8,354,176	10,680,578	9,931,602
Salaries and Wages paid ... £	327,157	676,195	675,336	532,582
Value of Fuel and Power used £	590,373	1,431,186	1,593,937	1,307,785
Value of Materials used ... £	54,995	238,422	215,804	229,954
Value of Output £	1,697,763	4,956,461	5,398,470	5,200,072
Value of Production £	1,052,395	3,286,853	3,588,729	3,662,333
Coal used tons	510,088	882,355	907,461	835,237
Electricity generated—				
Light 1,000 units	53,691	959,985	996,117	1,059,829
Power " "	288,845			

* Average over whole year, amended since last issue of Year Book. † Includes rented premises.

GAS WORKS.

Despite the substantial progress that has been made in the installation of electric plants for purposes of illumination, power, and cooking, the use of gas has extended also, as will be seen in the following table:—

Items.	1920-21.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
Number of Establishments ...	46	48	46	46
Average Number of Employees*	1,642	1,668	1,659	1,339
Average Horse-power used ...	3,125	4,018	4,329	4,317
Value of Land and Buildings†	£ 1,066,074	874,702	862,529	861,878
Value of Plant and Machinery	£ 1,892,835	2,907,445	2,995,379	3,001,295
Salaries and Wages paid	£ 437,318	373,412	372,444	369,118
Value of Fuel and Power used	£ 112,995	247,331	235,589	178,925
Value of Materials used	£ 829,906	1,130,072	1,161,964	837,393
Value of Output ...	£ 2,264,644	2,867,142	2,850,931	2,413,759
Value of Production ...	£ 1,321,743	1,489,739	1,453,378	1,397,441
Materials Treated—				
Coal tons	564,122	661,878	653,449	551,634
Shale tons	27,298	...	...	...
Oil gals	3,700,462	1,851,132	4,185,102	2,446,080
Articles Produced—				
Gas ... 1,000 cub. feet	8,131,712	10,683,530	10,991,780	9,784,531
Coke tons	346,380	435,816	421,093	370,234
Tar gals.	9,861,830	13,244,818	10,335,587	10,987,284
Ammoniacal Liquor ... gals.	4,216,929	4,885,155	5,571,941	6,099,153
Sulphate of Ammonia ... tons	1,061	6,546	5,273	4,996

* Average over whole year, amended since last issue of Year Book. † Includes rented premises.

In addition to the coke and sulphate of ammonia made in gas works, considerable quantities are made in other establishments in which coal is treated. The total quantity of coke produced by all plants in 1930-31 was 655,298 tons, and of sulphate of ammonia 8,169 tons.

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.

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. Coal and silver-lead have proved to be the richest sources of mineral production.

SUPERVISION OF MINING.

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 Warden's 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.

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 1931 was 27,701, the largest number in any year since 1897. The number of business licenses issued was 191, as against 261 in 1929-30. The number has declined in each year since 1906.

Crown lands may be granted as mining leases, which authorise mining on the land, or 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.

Land occupied for Mining.

The area under mining occupation in New South Wales at 31st December, 1931, was approximately 630,433 acres, as shown below, as against 583,390 acres in 1930. The area is not stated definitely, as the area held under miners' rights is estimated by the mining registrars in some cases, where the holders are not required to register the areas they occupy.

Nature of Holding.	Crown Lands.	Private Lands.	Total.
Leases—	acres.	acres.	acres.
Mining	237,991	112,443	350,434
Mining Purposes	7,549	1,909	9,458
Agreements ... ..	...	51,713	51,713
Authority to Enter ... ..	...	70,878	70,878
Authority to Prospect	70,336	...	70,336
Miners' Rights and Business Licenses	14,000	...	14,000
Applications for Leases—			
Mining	16,251	8,308	24,559
Mining Purposes	734	375	1,109
Dredging	2,801*	...	2,801
Applications for Authority to Prospect	34,114	...	34,114
Other Mining Titles	1,031	...	1,031
Total	384,807	245,626	630,433

* 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 rent for dredging leases is 2s. 6d per acre in respect of Crown lands, and it is assessed by the wardens 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. The royalty on gold is payable to the Crown in all cases.

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 1931 was £117,957, of which £335 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 from the Prospecting Vote to prospectors for the various minerals:—

Period (years ended 30th June).	Amounts allotted to Prospectors for—						
	Gold.	Silver and Lead.	Copper.	Tin.	Coal.	Other Minerals.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1887-1900	245,791	13,026	9,267	4,684	4,090	7,587	284,445
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	57,255
1921-1925	44,926	8,009	3,709	8,478	1,713	4,578	71,413
1926	9,163	1,756	1,237	2,288	30	1,153	15,627
1927	7,003	3,428	1,550	3,391	625	1,922	17,919
1928	9,063	3,783	179	3,050	400	1,752	18,227
1929	5,735	1,002	...	1,260	...	904	8,901
1930	5,816	2,058	616	2,304	...	664	11,458
1931	15,246	702	17	435	...	150	16,550
Total ...	545,386	58,740	66,472	46,712	7,298	31,677	756,285

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 1931 in encouraging prospecting was £633,556.

In addition to assistance afforded by means of the Prospecting Vote, sums have been expended from the Unemployment Relief Fund for the purpose of encouraging prospecting as a measure of unemployment relief. The expenditure during the year ended 30th June, 1931, amounted to £42,266.

The Government of New South Wales has promised a bonus of £10,000 for the production of 100,000 gallons of petroleum in the State, and has offered for the discovery of a new mineral field rewards ranging up to £1,000 according to the output and to the number of miners employed by the discovery.

In 1926 the Commonwealth Government appropriated from public revenue the sum of £60,000, which was increased subsequently to £178,800 for the encouragement of prospecting for petroleum oil in Australia, New Guinea, and Papua. Up to the 30th June, 1931, the sum of £184,363 had been expended, including £5,924 in 1930-31. Another appropriation, £40,000, was made in 1926, and placed in a Trust Fund for the assistance of persons engaged in prospecting for precious metals in Australia. Of this sum £2,592 was disbursed in 1930-31, making £15,623 to the 30th June, 1931. Information relating to a grant by the Commonwealth, which was expended in developing shale oil deposits, is shown later in this chapter.

The Government of the Commonwealth has made provision for the payment of a bounty on gold in terms of the Gold Bounty Act, which are shown on page 91.

In terms of an arrangement between the Government of the Commonwealth and the Empire Marketing Board, as representing the Imperial Government, certain areas in New South Wales were prospected by geological methods in 1928 and 1929, and the surveys showed generally that these methods may be applied successfully.

PRICES OF METALS.

The prices of the principal metals depend on market conditions in oversea countries, 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.	
1901	2	3 2	12	10 5	17	0 7	66	19 8	118	12 8
1911	2	0 6	13	19 3	25	3 2	56	1 9	182	13 5
1921	3	0 9	22	14 4	26	4 1	69	8 7	165	6 7
1926	2	4 7	31	2 3	34	2 8	58	0 8	291	3 0
1927	2	2 1	24	8 1	28	9 11	55	12 3	289	1 5
1928	2	2 8	21	3 4	25	5 5	63	14 8	227	4 8
1929	2	0 5	23	4 11	24	17 8	75	9 7	203	18 10
1930	1	5 7	18	1 5	16	16 9	54	13 7	141	19 1
1931	1	2 6	13	0 7	12	8 11	38	7 9	118	9 1
1932—June.	1	4 8	9	15 0	11	14 2	26	18 5	114	12 11
Aug.	1	6	11	9 5	13	14 5	31	9 1	142	2 5
Sept.	1	6	13	4 9	15	10 9	35	0 8	152	16 3

There was an almost continuous fall in the average prices of silver, zinc, and tin during the five years 1926 to 1930. In the case of lead the downward movement was interrupted for a short period during 1929 and prices of copper increased considerably in 1928 and 1929. In 1930 the average price of silver, 17.7d., was lower than any annual average during the past ninety-seven years, and in February, 1931, it fell below 12½d. per oz. The prices of lead, zinc, copper, and tin dropped below pre-war level in 1930, and the fall continued until 21st September, 1931, when an embargo was placed on the export of gold from Great Britain, and with the devaluation of sterling prices began to rise. During the ensuing month silver rose from 12½d. to 17½d., lead from £10 13s. 9d. to £13 3s. 9d., and zinc from £10 7s. 6d. to £12 8s. 9d. The rise in prices continued until the end of the

year, then there was a rapid decline, and prices were low during the months January to June, lead and copper being quoted lower than in the middle of September, 1931. At the end of July prices began to rise and within a month tin had regained the level of January, 1932, and other prices were improving steadily.

PRICES OF COAL.

Prices of coal depend to a great extent upon local factors. The western coal, being of lower calorific value than the northern or southern, is the cheapest. The movement in prices since 1916 is illustrated by the following comparison, which was published in the report of the Royal Commission which investigated the coal industry in 1929-30. The quotations refer to the best large coal per ton in each district in the years in which the prices were varied between 1916 and 1930.

Year.		Northern— f.o.b., Newcastle.	Southern— f.o.b., Jetty.	Western— f.o.r., Lithgow.
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1916	...	12 0	12 0	7 3
1917	...	15 0	15 0	10 3
1919	...	17 9	17 6	12 9
1920	...	21 9	21 6	16 9
1927	...	26 1	25 6	15 6
1930 (June)	...	22 10	22 3	13 9

The prices quoted above were observed generally throughout the trade up to June, 1930. Subsequently greater competition prevailed and contracts for large supplies were undertaken at lower rates—the reductions ranging from 2s. to 8s. per ton as compared with those stated in the table.

STATISTICS OF MINES.

The statistics relating to 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 1921 and later years collected from owners by the Government Statistician under the authority of the Census Act, 1901. The principal distinction between the data obtained from these two sources lies in the statistics of the metalliferous mines. The particulars recorded by the Department of Mines relate to metals won during each year, including in many instances those won from minerals brought to grass in past years, whereas the Statistician collects returns of the minerals actually mined during the year.

Moreover, the statistics collected by the Department of Mines sometimes include particulars of ore-dressing operations, and the use of the Department's figures for years prior to 1921 involved duplication in regard to the mining and manufacturing industries. In order to obviate this difficulty, 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 when 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.

Further difficulty arises in regard to the value of the annual output of the metalliferous mines. The value at the mines and before treatment cannot be determined until the minerals have been subjected to the final process for the extraction of the metallic contents, and such operations extend over a long period and in some cases are conducted in localities outside the State. In view of these difficulties the value of the production of metalliferous mines can be calculated only approximately, and attention is directed to the fact that the values as stated in this Year Book are to be regarded as estimates.

The statistics of mines, other than metalliferous, as recorded for years prior to 1926, include particulars of quarries held under mining title. In the compilation of the returns collected for 1926 and later years, these have been excluded from the statistics of the mining industry; therefore, the figures are not strictly comparable with those for the earlier years.

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 years 1921 and 1926 and in the last four years. The number of miners is the sum of the average number employed at each mine in operation during the year, and the number of "fossickers" represents the number engaged, as reported by the wardens in the various mining districts.

Particulars.	1921.	1926.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
Miners—						
Coal	20,973*	24,125	21,743	22,470†	21,343†	15,522
Metals—						
Gold	900	378	245	194	252	520
Silver, Lead, Zinc	2,035	3,272	2,638	3,094	2,996	1,755
Tin	826	671	592	533	255	229
Copper	68	62	4	25	4	8
Other Metals		419	229	108	59	140
Other Minerals	810†	259	100	138	101	196*
Total, Metalliferous, etc.	4,639†	5,061	3,808	4,092	3,667	2,848*
Total, Miners	25,612†	29,186	25,551	26,562	25,010	18,370
Fossickers—						
Gold	52	464	487	507	3,706	8,767
Tin	343	551	461	361	438	687
Other	55	228	234	253	600	657
Total, Fossickers	450	1,243	1,182	1,121	4,744	10,111

* Includes shale miners, 189 in 1921 and 62 in 1931.

† Overstated—see context below.

‡ Includes workers in quarries held under mining title, excluded in later years.

There is some overstatement in regard to the number of coal miners as shown above for the years 1929 and 1930, owing to duplication arising from the movement of miners during the period March, 1929, to June, 1930, when the majority of northern collieries were closed. No shale miners were included in the figures for the years 1926 to 1930.

There was increased activity in gold mining in 1930 and 1931, when widespread unemployment led to a revival of prospecting, and Government assistance was granted to a large number of unemployed workers for this purpose. Mining for silver, lead, tin, etc., was restricted owing to the low prices of the products.

Additional information regarding miners is shown in the following statement:—

Year.	Coal Mines.				Other Mines.			
	Working Pro-prietors.	Employees above ground.	Employees below ground.	Total.	Working Pro-prietors.	Employees above ground.	Employees below ground.	Total.
1921	5,385		15,588	20,973†	2,353*		2,286*	4,639*
1926	73	6,130	17,922	24,125	292	1,654	3,115	5,061
1927	69	6,203	18,211	24,483	273	1,554	3,063	4,890
1928	72	5,598	16,073	21,743	212	1,157	2,439	3,808
1929	137	5,522	16,811	22,470	222	981	2,889	4,092
1930†	198	5,020	14,872	20,090	227	807	2,758	3,792
1931†	178	4,047	11,583	15,808	472	765	1,739	2,976‡

* Including workers in quarries held under mining title, excluded in later years.

† Number employed on last full working day.

‡ Includes shale miners.

Of the coal miners over 73 per cent. are employed below ground. In other mines the proportion is somewhat lower.

The employment of boys under 14 years of age and of women and girls in or about a mine is prohibited, and restrictions are placed upon the employment of youths. In 1931 the number of employees under 21 years of age employed on the last full working day in coal mines was 1,201, of whom 750 worked below ground and 451 on the surface. At other mines the employees under 21 years of age numbered 16, of whom 6 worked below ground.

The value of the machinery used in connection with mining in New South Wales during the year 1931 was £7,453,590; viz., coal mines, £6,736,886, metalliferous mines, £699,679, and other mines, £17,025. The value in 1921 and in each of the last six years is shown below:—

Year.	Coal and Shale Mines.	Metalliferous Mines.	Other Mines.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1921	6,636,857†	1,481,966	*	8,118,823†
1926	7,747,139	947,911	41,858	8,736,908
1927	8,000,373	957,673	16,083	8,974,129
1928	6,989,492	791,530	17,523	7,798,545
1929	7,127,140	790,761	21,123	7,939,024
1930	6,932,874	659,033	16,723	7,608,630
1931	6,736,886	699,679	17,025‡	7,453,590

* Included with metalliferous mines. † Including machinery in quarries held under mining title, excluded in later years.

‡ Includes Shale mines.

The value of the machinery used in mining for the various metals during 1931 was as follows:—Gold, £25,024, silver, lead and zinc, £560,868; tin, £100,094; other metals, £13,693.

The following statement shows separately the value of the plant used in actual mining operations, that is, in winning and weighing the minerals, hauling them to the surface, ventilating the mines, etc.; and the value of the conveyance plant for transporting the minerals from the surface to wharf or railway:—

Year.	Coal Mines.			Other Mines.			Total Value of Mining Machinery.
	Mining Operations.	Transporting Minerals to Wharf or Railway.	Other Machinery.	Mining Operations.	Transporting Minerals to Wharf or Railway.	Other Machinery.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1921†	3,614,955	2,561,172	460,730	924,870*	122,481*	434,615*	8,118,823*
1926	4,524,850	2,880,051	342,238	796,461	110,820	82,488	8,736,908
1927	4,703,423	2,922,499	374,451	801,396	103,942	68,418	8,974,129
1928	4,142,718	2,596,756	250,018	681,578	78,605	48,870	7,798,545
1929	4,231,639	2,601,774	293,727	734,977	29,655	47,252	7,939,024
1930	4,044,939	2,612,395	275,540	619,968	14,276	41,512	7,608,630
1931†	3,954,708	2,528,302	253,876	680,616	14,531	21,557	7,453,590

* Including particulars of quarries held under mining title which were excluded in later years.

† Shale mines included with coal mines in 1921 and with other mines in 1931.

In the coal mines, the value of the machinery employed in mining operations during 1931 represented 59 per cent. of the total value; 38 per cent. was used for transporting the minerals from the surface of the mine to a wharf or railway station. In other mines the proportions were as follows:—Mining operations, 95 per cent.; transporting minerals, 2 per cent. 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 of the power used for operating mining machinery during 1921 and the last six years are shown below:—

Year.	Horse power of Machinery—Average used.						Total, all Mines.
	Coal Mines.			Other Mines.			
	Steam.	Elec- tricity.	Other.	Steam.	Elec- tricity.	Other.	
1921†	47,321	16,138	113	12,136*	1,931*	593*	78,232*
1926	62,691	23,008	511	13,847	2,632	533	103,222
1927	58,177	23,931	154	11,460	2,631	751	97,104
1928	54,322	27,724	129	7,692	3,041	779	93,687
1929	54,608	25,914	238	8,010	2,851	630	92,251
1930	53,617	23,448	169	7,056	2,901	1,777	88,968
1931†	49,436	22,907	86	3,350	1,528	494	77,801

* Including particulars of quarries held under mining title, excluded in later years.

† Shale mines included with coal mines in 1921 and with other mines in 1931.

Steam is the principal agency used for operating the machinery. In coal mines the average motive force actually used in 1931 amounted to 72,429 horse-power, of which 68 per cent. was steam and nearly 32 per cent. electricity. Machinery is used extensively for mining coal. The quantity cut by machines during 1931 was 1,378,544 tons, or 21 per cent. of the total output. Of 208 machines in use, 87 were operated by electricity and 121 by compressed air.

In mines other than coal mines, steam power represented 63 per cent. in 1931, electricity 28 per cent., and oil 7 per cent. of the power used. The use of oil increased in 1930 as a result of the installation of oil-burning

machinery in metalliferous mining at Broken Hill, but it decreased in the following year, when some of the Broken Hill mines were closed. A number of the mining companies at this locality have erected a central power station for the supply of electrical power and compressed air to the mines. The plant was brought into operation during 1931.

The full capacity of mining machinery in 1931 amounted to 138,256 horse-power, viz., 129,286 h.p. in coal mines and 8,970 h.p. in other mines.

The value of the fuel used during 1931 was £328,992, including 280,924 tons of coal valued at £192,199, and electricity to the value of £127,629.

MINES IN OPERATION.

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 1921 and each year from 1926 to 1931. The figures are not a complete record of either the income or expenditure of the undertakings concerned and are not intended to show their financial position collectively or individually:—

Year.	Mines in Operation.	Persons Employed (excluding Fossickers).	Value of—				Output.
			Salaries and Wages.	Land, Buildings, etc.	Machinery and Plant.	Materials and Fuel Used, etc.	
	No.	No.	£	£	£	£	£
1921*	493	25,612	6,430,988	3,428,735	8,118,823	1,770,320	10,191,975
1926	427	29,186	7,511,862	4,224,676	8,736,908	2,266,410	12,084,083
1927	378	29,373	7,878,842	4,305,777	8,974,129	2,452,014	12,351,521
1928	357	25,551	6,464,788	4,081,725	7,798,545	1,718,760	10,435,522
1929	369	26,562	5,242,393	3,981,000	7,939,024	1,346,519	8,832,874
1930	377	25,010	4,856,579	3,991,991	7,608,630	1,280,654	7,498,565
1931	431	18,370	3,838,763	3,724,217	7,453,590	962,370	5,706,425

* Including particulars (excluded in later years) of quarries held under mining title.

The figures in the table include the value of minerals won by fossickers, who numbered 10,111 in 1931, and obtained an output valued at £79,336. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were 4,744 fossickers and output, £43,838. The cost of replacing tools worn out each year and of repairing plant, machinery, etc., is included with the value of materials and fuel used, but many other costs and overhead charges are not included.

Coal mining is the main factor of the progress of the mineral industry, as it supplies more than three-fourths of the output. Coal mining in New South Wales, as in other countries, is liable to intermittency owing to various causes, and in recent years the industry has been affected by reason of the more extensive use of oil as a substitute. Particulars of interruptions to work in the principal collieries over a series of years are shown in the chapter of this volume relating to employment.

In 1927 the value of coal raised was exceptionally high. In 1928 serious depression was apparent in the coal trade, due mainly to diminished demand for export, and practically all the northern collieries were idle on account of an industrial dispute from 1st March, 1929, to 2nd June, 1930. The value of the output was reduced also by reason of a fall in price. In 1931 there was a further decline in both quantity and in price.

Apart from coal mining the output of the Broken Hill silver-lead fields is the most important. In 1921 conditions were unfavourable as prices of metals were low. Moreover, operations at some of the mines were suspended for the greater part of the year in consequence of the partial destruction by fire of the smelting works in South Australia where the products are treated. Between 1921 and 1926 there was a rise in metal prices and a steady increase in the value of the output of the metalliferous mines.

A drop in the prices which commenced during 1926 led to a decrease in output in 1927 and later years. The value of the output in 1931 was 50 per cent. lower than in 1929.

Summaries relating to coal mines and to other mines are shown below:—

Year.	Mines in Operation.	Persons Employed (excluding Fossilickers).	Salaries and Wages.	Value of—			
				Land, Buildings, etc.	Machinery and Plant.	Materials and Fuel Used, etc.	Output.
Coal Mines.							
			£	£	£	£	£
1921†	143	20,973	5,703,999	3,222,721	6,636,857	1,469,578	9,036,474
1926	141	24,125	6,058,270	3,999,836	7,747,139	1,496,436	9,096,611
1927	135	24,483	6,515,487	4,089,139	8,000,373	1,667,034	9,586,693
1928	153	21,743	5,317,243	3,883,349	6,989,492	1,221,027	8,113,600
1929	180	22,470†	4,053,746	3,778,955	7,127,140	824,940	6,294,870
1930	216	21,343†	3,731,380	3,804,875	6,932,874	797,689	5,493,150
1931	169	15,522	3,222,379	3,541,988	6,736,886	654,319	4,441,335
Other Mines.							
			£	£	£	£	£
1921*	350	4,639	726,989	206,014	1,481,966	300,742	1,155,501
1926	286	5,061	1,453,592	224,840	989,769	769,974	2,987,472
1927	243	4,890	1,363,355	216,638	973,756	784,980	2,764,828
1928	204	3,808	1,147,545	198,376	809,053	497,733	2,321,922
1929	189	4,092	1,188,647	202,045	811,884	521,579	2,538,004
1930	161	3,667	1,125,199	187,116	675,756	482,965	2,005,415
1931†	262	2,848	616,384	182,229	716,704	308,051	1,265,090

* Including particulars of quarries held under mining title, excluded in later years. † See page 84.
 † Includes shale mines.

The amount of wages, as shown in the foregoing tables, includes the value of explosives sold to employers, viz., coalminers £98,767, and other miners £30,605, making a total amount of £129,372.

The materials used in coal mines in 1931 consisted of timber, £99,858, and other materials, £305,262. The value of fuel used was £249,199.

In other mines the value of timber used in 1931 was £114,339, other materials £113,919, fuel consumed £79,793.

MINERALS WON—AS RECORDED BY DEPARTMENT OF MINES.

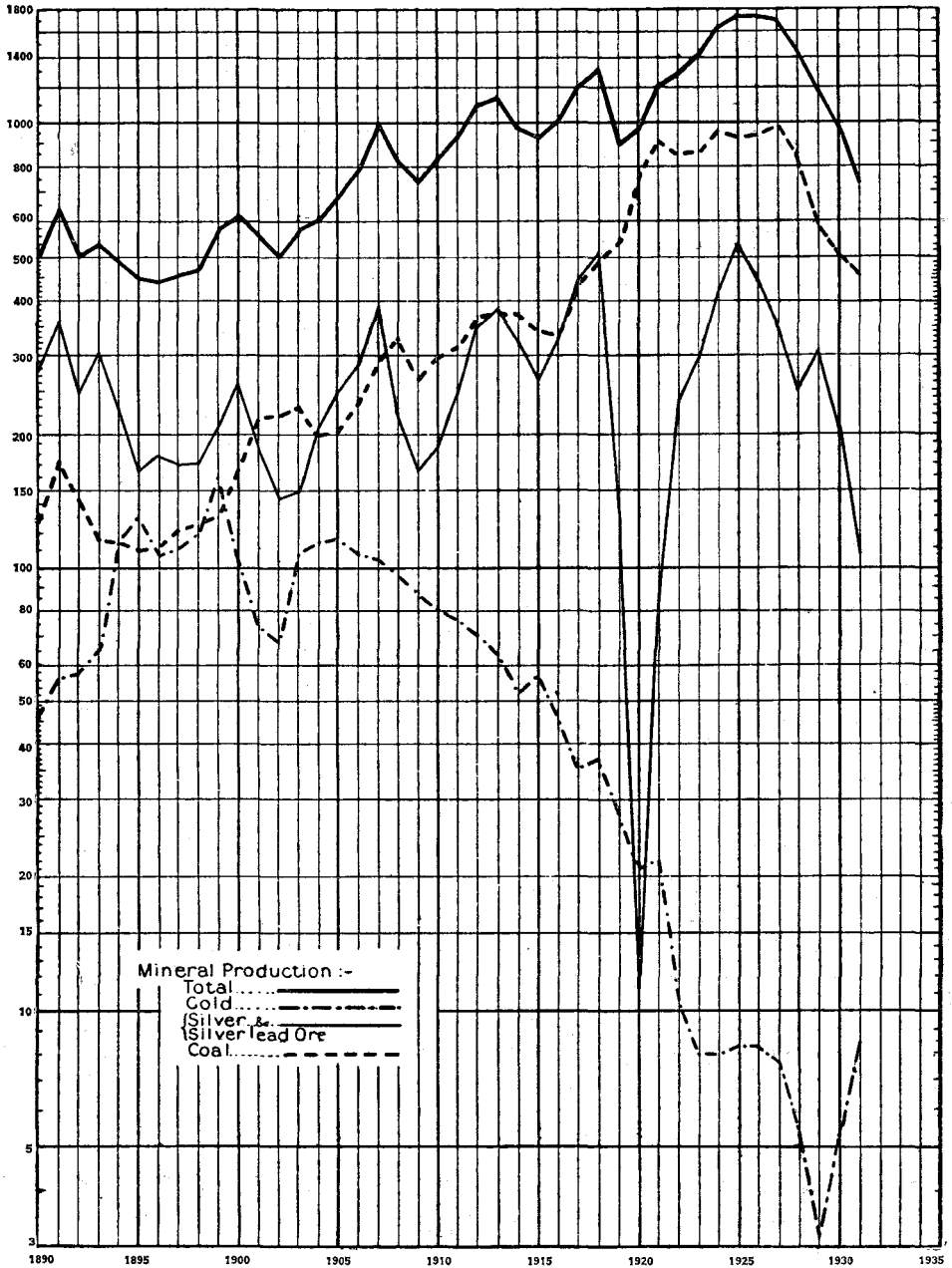
The particulars relating to the minerals won, as shown in the following pages of this chapter, have been obtained from the records of the Department of Mines. For reasons stated in page 82, they differ from those in the preceding tables, and the figures relating to production include, in many cases, the value of the ores after treatment at the mines. From the particulars shown in the annual reports of the Department those regarding the output of iron made from scrap, Portland cement and lime have been deducted, as they are included in the statistics of factories in the preceding chapter of this volume.

The average annual value of the minerals won in each quinquennial period from 1901 to 1930, the annual production since 1926, and the total production to the end of each period are shown below:—

Period.	Value of Minerals Won.		Year.	Value of Minerals Won.	
	Average per annum.	Total to end of period.		During year.	To end of year.
	£	£		£	£
To end of 1900	...	132,535,358	1926	17,509,718	399,134,680
1901-05	5,873,176	161,901,240	1927	17,048,370	416,183,050
1906-10	8,330,883	203,555,656	1928	14,363,569	430,546,619
1911-15	10,169,752	254,404,418	1929	11,923,515	442,470,134
1916-20	10,821,478	308,511,806	1930	9,781,606	452,251,740
1921-25	14,622,631	381,624,962	1931	7,246,873	459,498,613
1926-30	14,125,356	459,498,613			

VALUE OF MINERAL PRODUCTION, 1890 to 1931.

Ratio Graph.



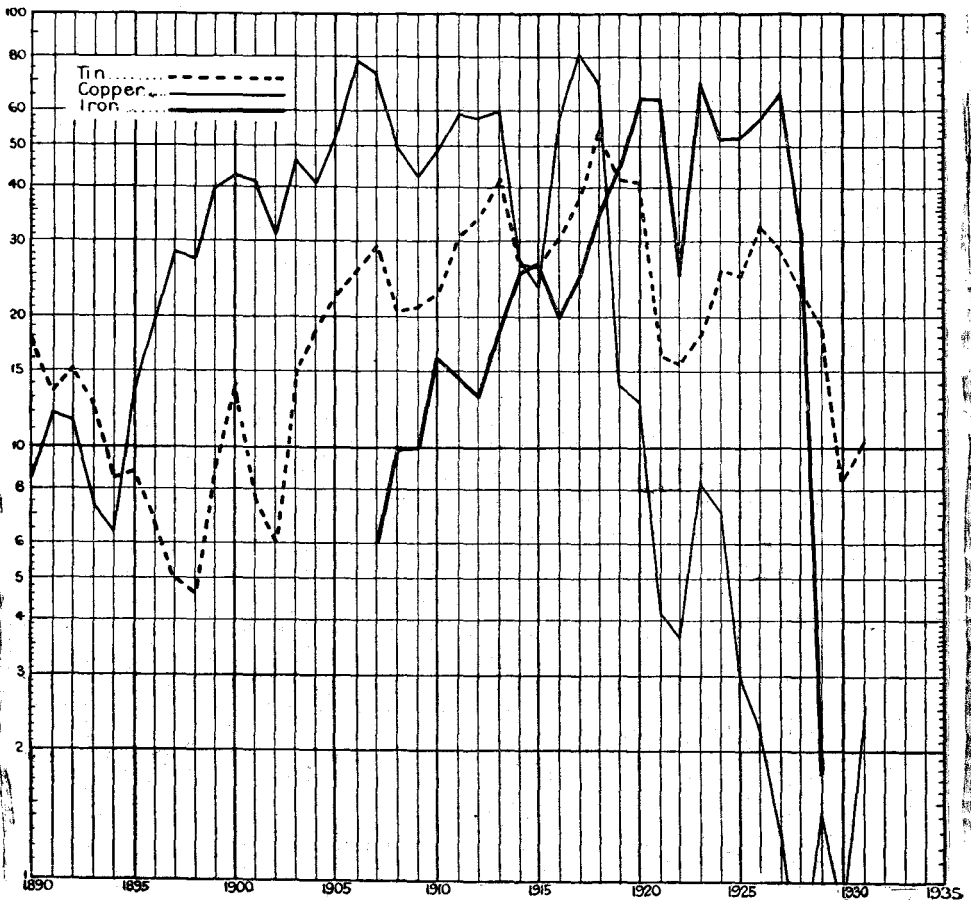
The numbers at the side of the graph represent £10,000.
 The diagram is a ratio graph. The vertical scale is logarithmic, and the curves rise and fall according to the rate of increase or decrease. Actual values are shown by means of the numbers at the side of the graph.

The value in 1926 was the highest yet recorded. There was a decline of £461,000 in 1927, which may be attributed to a fall in the prices of lead and zinc. In the following years, the value declined as a result of depression in the coal-mining industry, and a fall in the prices of the principal metalliferous products.

At the end of the year 1900 the value of the gold won, £48,422,000, 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 1931 the value of the coal production represented 42 per cent. of the total value, silver and lead 26 per cent., and gold 14 per cent.

VALUE OF PRODUCTION—TIN, COPPER, AND IRON, 1890 to 1931.

Ratio Graph.



*The value of the copper produced in 1928 and 1930 was below the limit of the graph; no iron was produced in 1930 or 1931.

The numbers at the side of the graph represent £10,000.
The diagram is a ratio graph. The vertical scale is logarithmic, and the curves rise and fall according to the rate of increase or decrease. Actual values are shown by means of the numbers at the side of the graph.

The values of the ores are estimated after assay. Many of the metals are associated in the same mineral matter and it is very difficult to make a reliable estimate of the quantity and value, especially in cases where the ores are exported before final treatment.

The following statement shows the quantity and value of the various minerals won as estimated for the years 1930 and 1931, also the total yield to the end of 1931:—

Minerals.	Output for year.				Total Output to end of 1931.	
	1930.		1931.		Quantity.	Value.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		
		£		£		£
Gold oz. fine	12,493	53,066	19,673	**83,565	15,020,839	63,804,430
Silver "	5,290	247	50,353	3,151	45,524,717	6,107,084
Silver-lead ore, etc. ... tons	279,513	2,088,523	172,380	1,076,208	11,882,637	168,554,925
Lead—Pig, etc. ... "	...	...	...	...	326,621	6,442,397
Zinc—Spelter and concentrates "	297,762	986,087	220,982	512,795	7,489,634	24,363,512
Copper "	242	8,347	541	23,048	266,860	15,602,929
Tin ingots and ore "	590	84,800	794	103,111	135,104	14,576,630
Iron—Pig (from local ores) ... "	...	...	...	...	1,409,728	7,493,435
Iron oxide "	3,800	2,600	3,665	2,135	84,262	85,305
Ironstone flux ... .. "	...	...	...	...	132,655	108,791
Chrome iron ore "	168	420	26	47	39,088	122,525
Wolfram "	10	637	54	2,633	2,356	272,667
Scheelite "	5	220	2	93	1,706	193,506
Platinum oz.	155	1,073	283	2,201	19,366	121,996
Molybdenite tons	3	435	$\frac{1}{2}$	54	833	212,725
Antimony "	65	3,178	65	1,990	19,411	362,001
Manganese ore "	125	375	...	...	36,952	80,617
Bismuth "	2	508	37	5,387	863	241,760
Coal "	7,093,055	5,193,032	6,432,382	4,607,343	363,753,230	194,189,255
Shale "	346	125	2,131	1,814	1,922,162	2,692,649
Alumite ... .. "	...	...	...	...	58,180	208,795
Limestone flux "	28,556	10,708	30,304	11,364	2,683,339	1,224,422
Diamonds carats	667	714	725	604	203,970	146,372
Opal "	...	5,500	...	2,178	...	1,599,511
Clays tons	744,730	153,705	233,296	51,774	...	...
Building material "	619,856	207,921	475,395	147,436	...	...
Road material "	...	892,733	...	558,112	...	*10,690,374
Other "	...	86,582	...	48,835	...	...
Total "	...	9,731,606	...	7,246,873	...	*450,498,613

* Includes output of quarries under mining title prior to 1925, and of all quarries in later years.

**Value at Standard Rate.

The production of gold, silver, tin and copper in 1931 was greater than in 1930, but there were decreases in respect of coal, silver-lead ore, and zinc.

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. In 1904, however, a steady decline commenced, and the yield in 1929, viz., 7,496 oz. fine, was the lowest recorded in any year since 1851. When economic stress directed greater attention to prospecting, the yield increased to 12,493 oz. fine in 1930, and to 19,673 oz. fine in 1931. Of these quantities 3,620 oz. and 2,769 oz. respectively were obtained from the treatment of silver-lead ores from Broken Hill. The value of the output in 1931 at standard rate was £83,565. Gold was at a substantial premium throughout the year, so that the value in Australian currency would be expressed by a much higher figure than the value at standard rate. The prices paid for gold lodged at the Mint since March, 1930, are shown in the Official Year Book, 1930-31, page 688, and in chapter Private Finance of this issue.

In terms of the Gold Bounty Act, 1930-31, the Commonwealth Government undertook to pay bounty in respect of gold produced in Australia in each of the ten years 1931 to 1940, in which the production would exceed the average annual production during the three years 1928 to 1930 (approximately 486,000 oz. fine). The rate of bounty in respect of gold produced during the six months, January to June, 1931, was £1 (Australian currency) per ounce of fine gold in excess of half the average annual production, 1928 to 1930. The rate of bounty in respect of subsequent production was calculated on the basis of 10s. (Australian currency) per oz. fine, and was to be increased if the average rate of exchange for telegraphic transfers from Australia to London fell below 30 per cent., viz., by 1s. for each decrease of 3 per cent. in the rate of exchange, the maximum bounty being £1 (Australian currency). The bounty payable on each year's production of gold was distributed amongst the producers in proportion to the quantity produced. During the year ended June, 1932, bounty amounting to £2,062 was paid in respect of 14,076½ oz. (fine) of New South Wales gold. A bill to abolish the bounty as from 1st October, 1932, and to restore it when Melbourne Mint price does not exceed £5 10s. per oz. is before Parliament.

The following table shows the quantity and value of the gold won in New South Wales to the end of 1931.

Period.	Quantity.	Value at Standard Rate.	Period.	Quantity.	Value at Standard Rate.
	oz. fine.	£		oz. fine.	£
1851-1900	11,399,508	48,422,001	1928	12,831	54,503
1901-1910	2,252,851	9,569,492	1929	7,496	31,842
1911-1920	1,145,185	4,864,440	1930	12,493	53,066
1921-1925	133,335	566,375	1931	19,673	83,565
1926	19,435	82,551			
1927	18,032	76,595	Total	15,020,839	63,804,430

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, until in 1929 it was only 91 oz. fine. The output in 1931 was 331 oz. fine. Dredges are employed also for the recovery of stream tin; particulars are shown on page 95.

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. 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 large quantities are treated in Australia at Risdon, Tasmania.

During 1931 the output of ore from the Broken Hill mines amounted to 874,088 tons, valued at £1,154,860.

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, and extensive developmental work has been done at Captain's Flat. An Act was passed in 1930 to authorise the construction of a railway to link Captain's Flat with Bungendore on the Sydney to Cooma railway, but mining was not commenced owing to unfavourable market conditions.

In assessing the quantity and value of the metals won from the silver-lead ores mined in New South Wales, 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 1900	9,572,829	3,020,611	14,680	138,901
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
1921-1925	2,960,993	1,013,376	28,466	1,449,599
1926	9,342	274,513	...	267,533
1927	5,341	290,259	...	277,425
1928	8,573	247,847	...	314,864
1929	4,471	285,031	...	231,237
1930	5,290	279,513	...	297,762
1931	50,353	172,380	...	220,982
Total ...	45,524,919	11,882,637	326,621	7,489,634
Value.				
	£	£	£	£
To 1900	1,562,501	28,924,613	274,585	157,066
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
1921-1925	471,312	15,360,784	657,574	5,171,152
1926	1,130	4,398,823	...	1,359,588
1927	534	3,487,446	...	996,877
1928	936	2,491,153	...	1,118,541
1929	392	3,032,349	...	802,693
1930	267	2,088,523	...	986,087
1931	3,151	1,076,208	...	512,795
Total ...	6,107,084	108,554,925	6,442,397	24,363,512

* Includes 2,758 tons of spelter.

The total value of the production, as shown above, amounted to £1,592,154 in 1931, as compared with £3,074,877 in the preceding year. Owing to the low prices obtainable mining operations were severely restricted during the year.

As stated previously, 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 overseas 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 overseas 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.			Assessed Value.	Total Value of Production from Silver-lead Ores of New South Wales.
	Silver.	Lead.	Zinc.	Aggregate Value.		Contents by average assay.				
						Silver.	Lead.	Zinc.		
1921	oz. fine. 3,624,413	tons. 47,426	tons. 1,425	£ 1,723,864	tons. 47,127	oz. fine. 617,477	tons. 6,539	tons. 19,272	£ 261,238	£ 1,985,102
1926	7,338,477	142,654	39,277	6,730,689	251,294	2,371,264	23,242	96,167	1,591,673	8,322,362
1927	7,901,861	156,306	42,757	5,955,009	259,989	2,339,382	26,709	115,123	1,467,235	7,422,244
1928	7,068,964	151,475	44,004	5,256,649	178,714	1,259,931	11,732	94,987	836,620	6,093,269
1929	7,619,884	165,364	46,163	5,918,014	156,532	835,697	7,009	76,619	734,261	6,652,275
1930	7,876,894	162,703	53,958	4,579,412	187,228	844,188	14,044	87,913	911,724	5,491,136
1931	6,177,863	129,819	53,832	2,995,029	95,421	460,958	13,405	43,629	257,705	3,252,734

The silver-lead ores mined in New South Wales contain, in addition to silver, lead, and zinc, a number of other metals, *e.g.*, cadmium, copper, gold, and antimony, but unless these metals are extracted within New South Wales they are not represented in statistics of the mineral production of the State, except by inclusion as zinc concentrates.

Cadmium is recovered at Risdon, Tasmania, as a by-product in the treatment of zinc ores mined at Broken Hill. The quantity extracted during 1931 was 199 tons, valued at £45,514.

COPPER.

The ores of copper are distributed widely throughout New South Wales. Deposits of commercial value have been mined in the central portion of the State, but the industry 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, as estimated by the Department of Mines, are shown below:—

Period.	Ingots, Matte, and Regulus.		Ore.		Total Value.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
	tons.	£	tons.	£	£
1858-1900	95,501	5,474,309	6,101	92,651	5,566,960
1901-1905	33,989	2,011,609	8,578	104,533	2,116,142
1906-1910	41,898	2,869,101	6,872	62,006	2,931,107
1911-1915	36,305	2,169,508	9,870	108,226	2,277,734
1916-1920	21,453	2,355,248	554	8,887	2,364,135
1921-1925	3,863	259,926	129	1,822	261,748
1926	357	22,473	...	...	22,473
1927	186	11,290	190	1,365	12,655
1928	55	3,497	...	...	3,497
1929	176	14,183	...	...	14,183
1930	93	6,610	149	1,737	8,347
1931	485	23,298	56	650	23,948
Total ...	234,361	15,221,052	32,499	381,877	15,602,929

The output of copper in 1931 was obtained for the most part in the treatment of other ores mined at Broken Hill.

TIN.

Tin, unlike copper, is restricted in its geographical and petrological range, and is the rarest of the common metals of commerce. The lodes discovered in New South Wales are numerous, but they are on a small scale. The maximum depth attained is about 300 feet.

Tin ore occurs in the northern, southern, and western divisions. The areas in which workable quantities have been located 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 in the northern rivers are exploited by means of dredging.

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.

Particulars of the output and the value of production of tin are shown below:—

Period.	Ingots.		Ore.		Total Value.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
	tons.	£	tons.	£	£
1872-1900	67,055	5,879,803	18,581	908,130	6,787,933
1901-1905	4,319	557,855	1,994	142,977	700,832
1906-1910	5,244	816,061	3,947	377,620	1,193,681
1911-1915	4,268	793,550	7,262	806,815	1,600,365
1916-1920	4,346	1,053,645	6,953	1,005,841	2,059,486
1921-1925	3,628	805,294	2,005	204,073	1,009,367
1926	1,134	326,474	...	...	326,474
1927	976	285,806	54	1,733	287,539
1928	1,020	231,843	...	...	231,843
1929	934	191,199	...	...	191,199
1930	590	84,800	...	...	84,800
1931	777	101,761	17	1,350	103,111
Total ...	94,291	11,128,091	40,813	3,448,539	14,576,630

Owing to a persistent decline in the price of tin the output declined in 1929 and 1930, but the production increased again in 1931, when there was greater activity amongst prospectors and fossickers.

There are a number of dredges for the recovery of tin in the northern districts, but very few were continuously in operation during 1931. The quantity of tin so obtained was 200 tons, valued at £17,230 in 1931, as compared with 294 tons, valued at £25,266, in the previous year. The total yield by dredging since 1901 has been 28,768 tons, valued at £3,689,473.

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, iron ore was produced on a more extensive scale, mainly from the Cadia and Carcoar deposits. In 1928 new iron and steelworks were opened at Port Kembla, and arrangements were made to transfer the Lithgow works to the new site. The iron ore used at the Port Kembla and Newcastle iron and steel works is imported from South Australia, and with the restriction of operations at Lithgow the production of local iron ore was suspended.

The production of pig-iron from local ores since 1907 is shown in the following table. The output prior to that year was principally from scrap iron:—

Year.	Pig-iron.		Year.	Pig-iron.	
	Production.	Value.		Production.	Value.
1907-10	tons. 116,273	£ 421,632	1928	tons. 56,776	£ 312,268
1911-15	267,062	983,633	1929	3,911	17,600
1916-20	332,690	1,885,617	1930	...	...
1921-25	408,864	2,639,850	1931	...	...
1926	105,201	578,605			
1927	118,951	654,230	Total ...	1,409,728	7,493,435

Further details relating to the operations of ironworks are shown in the chapter relating to factories.

Iron Oxide.

Iron oxide is obtained in the Port Macquarie, Moss Vale, Newcastle, Milton, and Goulburn districts for use in purifying gas or as a pigment. The output during 1931 was 3,665 tons, valued at £2,135, mined in Port Macquarie district. The total output to the end of that year was 84,262 tons, valued at £85,305.

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 1931 amounted to 19,366 oz., valued at £121,996, of which 283 oz., valued at £2,201, were obtained during 1931.

Chromite.—Chromite, or chromic iron ore, is the only commercially important ore of chromium. It is found usually in association with serpentine. The chromite mined in New South Wales is used as a refractory material. 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 during 1931 was 26 tons, valued at £47, making a total output of 39,088 tons, valued at £122,525.

Tungsten ores.—The tungsten ores, wolfram and scheelite, occur in many localities in New South Wales generally in association with tinstone (cassiterite) bismuth, and molybdenite. These ores are used mainly in the manufacture of special steels for which the demand increased during the war period and declined upon the cessation of hostilities. Owing to the low price offered for the products, there was no production of scheelite between 1920 and 1928 and no wolfram was won between 1925 and 1928. In 1929 a small demand set in for both ores, and 9 tons of scheelite valued at £813, and 14 tons of wolfram valued at £1,402 were produced. In 1930, five tons of scheelite, £220, and 10 tons of wolfram, £637, were won. The output in 1931 was 2 tons of scheelite and 54 tons of wolfram, valued at £2,731, making a total production at the end of 1931 of 1,706 tons of scheelite, valued at £193,506, and 2,356 tons of wolfram, valued at £272,667.

Molybdenum.—Supplies of molybdenite, the principal ore of molybdenum, exist in New South Wales. Its main use, however, is for the manufacture of molybdenum steel, and, as in the case of tungsten ores, the demand has become almost negligible.

Antimony.—This mineral may be obtained in a number of districts, in the north-east of the State. Owing to fluctuations in the price of the metal, mining is spasmodic. The total output of antimony to the end of the year 1931 was 19,411 tons, valued at £362,001, of which 65 tons, valued at £1,990, were produced in 1931.

Manganese.—Manganese ores have been discovered in various places but generally in localities which lack facilities for transport. During the year 1930 the quantity obtained was 125 tons, valued at £375. No production was recorded in 1931.

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 1931 was about 37 tons, valued at £5,387, the quantity produced to the end of 1931 being 863 tons of ore, valued at £241,760.

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 mined profitably. No production of quick-silver has been recorded since 1916.

COAL.

The main coal basin extends along the coast from Port Stephens on the north to Ulladulla on the south, and this seaboard of nearly 200 miles 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. They emerge to the surface at Newcastle on the north, at Bulli in the Illawarra district to the south, and at Lithgow, in the Blue Mountains region, to the west, and these three districts contain the important coal mining centres.

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 has been worked to a depth of nearly 3,000 feet.

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 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.

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 1931. The output from the mine was 527,293 tons in 1929-30, and 552,320 tons in 1930-31, and 535,220 tons in 1931-32.

Production of Coal.

The following table shows the quantity and value of coal raised in New South Wales to the close of 1931, the total production being 363,753,230 tons, valued at £194,189,255:—

Period.	Coal Raised.	Value	Average value
		at Pit's Mouth.	per ton.
	tons.	£	s. d.
To 1900	91,476,633	37,315,915	8 1
1901-05	30,917,230	10,703,600	6 11
1906-10	40,624,698	14,240,992	7 0
1911-15	48,831,214	17,759,946	7 3
1916-20	44,830,757	25,847,168	11 6
1921-25	54,469,448	45,086,283	16 7
1926	10,885,766	9,436,520	17 4
1927	11,126,114	9,782,002	17 7
1928	9,448,197	8,263,729	17 6
1929	7,617,736	5,952,720	15 8
1930	7,093,055	5,193,032	14 8
1931	6,432,382	4,607,343	14 4
Total ...	363,753,230	194,189,255	10 8

The production of coal exceeded 10,000,000 tons in each year from 1920 to 1927, reaching the maximum in 1924 when the production was 11,618,216 tons. In 1928 there was a marked decline in the demand for coal, and in 1929 and 1930 operations were affected also by a prolonged cessation of work in the northern mines.

The bulk of the coal is obtained from the northern coal-fields. The output of each district during 1931 was:—Northern, 4,161,798 tons, valued at £3,160,984; Southern, 981,964 tons, £684,726; Western, 1,288,620 tons, £761,633. With the resumption of work in the northern mines, in June, 1930, the trade reverted to its normal distribution amongst the various districts. The output of the northern mines increased by 445,993 tons in 1931, as compared with the output in 1930, and the production of the southern and western decreased by 547,710 tons and 558,956 tons respectively.

A comparative statement of prices of coal is shown on page 82.

The following statement shows the quantity of coal retained for local consumption, and the interstate and oversea exports in the last six years. The bunker coal loaded in Sydney Harbour into interstate steamers in 1921 and in the years 1926 to 1928 inclusive is included in the table under the heading "domestic consumption," because it was not distinguished in the records from the coal taken in that port by intrastate vessels. In this group is included also coal used in the coal mines, miners' coal, dirt, etc., which amounted to 387,000 tons in 1929, 400,000 tons in 1930, and 433,700 tons in 1931:—

Year.	Retained for Domestic Consumption	Sent to other Australian States.	Total quantity consumed in Australia.	Exported to Oversea Countries.	Total Production.
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
1921	5,268,628	2,752,810	8,021,438	2,771,949	10,793,387
1926	6,347,939	2,740,570	9,088,509	1,797,257	10,885,766
1927	6,786,906	2,651,492	9,438,398	1,687,716	11,126,114
1928	6,102,644	2,209,981	8,312,625	1,135,572	9,448,197
1929	5,436,114	1,486,902	6,923,016	694,720	7,617,736
1930	4,994,552	1,451,594	6,446,146	646,909	7,093,055
1931	4,090,554	1,540,416	5,630,970	801,412	6,432,382
	Per cent. of Total.				
1921	48·8	25·5	74·3	25·7	100
1926	58·3	25·2	83·5	16·5	100
1927	61·0	23·8	84·8	15·2	100
1928	64·6	23·4	88·0	12·0	100
1929	71·4	19·5	90·9	9·1	100
1930	70·4	20·5	90·9	9·1	100
1931	63·6	23·9	87·5	12·5	100

The greatest decline, absolutely and relatively, occurred in the oversea exports, which represented 9 per cent. of the output in 1930 as compared with 25 per cent. in 1921 and 16 per cent. in 1926. There was a diminution in interstate exports also—relatively greater than the foregoing figures indicate, as those for the earlier years do not include Sydney bunker trade. In 1931 there was a slight increase in exports, but a marked decline in the quantity retained for local consumption. Some of the coal sent to South Australia is re-exported to Broken Hill.

Full particulars are not available as to the purposes for which coal is used locally, but statistics of factories and railways with those of the export trade contain information which covers a large proportion of the total production. The following statement shows these details for the last six

years, though they differ from those shown in other tables in so far as they refer to periods of twelve months ending June, and not to calendar years:—

Coal Used.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
In Factories—						
Fuel in Electricity Works ...	tons. 856,997	tons. 916,344	tons. 882,355	tons. 907,461	tons. 835,237	} tons.
„ Other Factories ...	1,396,090	1,324,477	1,318,880	1,207,420	768,164	
	2,253,087	2,240,821	2,201,235	2,114,881	1,603,401	
Raw Material in Gas Works	620,640	637,646	661,878	653,449	551,634	} †
„ Coke Works	1,060,368	896,877	869,257	606,729	440,727	
	1,681,008	1,534,523	1,531,135	1,259,178	992,361	
Total in Factories ...	3,934,095	3,775,344	3,732,370	3,374,059	2,595,762	
On Railways for Locomotive Purposes ...	1,342,034	1,267,823	1,212,272	1,097,049	961,739	896,147
Total, Factories and Railways ...	5,276,129	5,043,167	4,944,642	4,471,108	3,557,501	†
Exports—						
Interstate*—Cargo ...	2,505,174	2,268,048	1,541,788	895,321	1,322,273	1,250,940
„ Bunker ...	410,062†	300,830†	488,200	281,122	308,074	262,604
Total, Interstate ...	2,915,236	2,568,878	2,029,988	1,176,443	1,630,347	1,513,544
Oversea—Cargo ...	803,254	546,075	311,008	153,344	357,367	342,419
„ Bunker ...	899,413	841,227	645,266	393,196	445,714	456,202
Total, Oversea ...	1,702,667	1,387,302	956,874	546,540	803,081	798,621
Total Exports ...	4,617,903†	3,956,180†	2,986,862	1,722,983	2,433,428	2,312,165
Total, Factories, Railways and Exports ...	9,894,032†	8,999,347†	7,931,504	6,194,091	5,990,929	†

* Approximate.

† Excluding bunker coal shipped on interstate vessels in Sydney Harbour. ‡ Not yet available.

The quantity of coal used as fuel in factories rose and fell with the general movement in the secondary industries, the requirements of the electric light and power works being an important factor. The demand for coal as raw material in gas works has been fairly steady, but the quantity used in coke works has fluctuated. The quantity consumed by railway locomotives has declined on account of the electrification of some of the railway services, economy in the use of coal for steam engines, and a reduction in traffic. The export trade declined by reason of a diminution in the demand due to such causes as the substitution of oil.

On the average it appears that local factories absorb about 40 per cent. of the output, the railways approximately 15 per cent., and the export trade over 30 per cent.

In May, 1929, the Governments of the Commonwealth and of the State of New South Wales, acting in conjunction, appointed a Royal Commission to investigate the position of the coal industry and the causes which had led to a marked decline in the local demand as well as in the export trade. The report of the Commission issued in March, 1930, contains a comprehensive review of the industry. The Commission recommended that coal-mining be placed under the control of a commission with far-reaching powers to regulate all phases of the industry, including conditions of employment; also that advisory committees of experts be appointed to assist the board. Further particulars relating to the recommendations and details regarding the working of the mines are shown in the 1929-30 issue of the Year Book.

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 1924 amounted to 1,919,685 tons, valued at £2,690,710. There was no-commercial production between 1925 and 1929, but 346 tons valued at £125 were produced in 1930. In the following year the production consisted of 2,131 tons, valued at £1,814, and 1,500 tons, of which the value has not been ascertained.

The revival of activity in shale mining in 1931 was an outcome of a grant of £100,000 made available by the Commonwealth Government for the employment of surplus coal miners. The Shale Oil Development Committee was formed to administer the grant, and arrangements were made to subsidise holders of shale oil leases to enable them to provide work, but as this policy resulted in the employment of only a few of the miners, the Committee was incorporated as a limited company and commenced mining operations at Newnes, in the Wolgan Valley, in August, 1931. About two months later a quantity of shale was despatched abroad, and the retorts at Newnes were brought into operation for the extraction of oil at the mine, over 100,000 gallons of crude oil being produced before the end of the year. In June, 1932, the oil works at this locality were transferred to a private organisation.

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.
		£			£
1867-1900	100,103	55,535	1926	64	77
1901-1905	54,206	46,434	1927	199	227
1906-1910	16,651	12,374	1928	28	60
1911-1915	16,003	13,353	1929	119	148
1916-1920	11,973	12,573	1930	667	714
1921-1925	3,232	4,183	1931	725	694
			Total ...	203,970	146,372

OPAL.

Precious opal occurs in two geological formations in New South Wales, viz., in tertiary vesicular basalt and in the 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 1931:—

Period.	Value.	Period.	Value.
	£		£
1890-1900	456,599	1926	11,485
1901-1905	476,000	1927	13,353
1906-1910	305,300	1928	11,000
1911-1915	154,738	1929	6,071
1916-1920	105,547	1930	5,500
1921-1925	51,740	1931	2,178
		Total ...	1,599,511

The output of opal was greatest during the five years ended 1903, when the average value was £115,000 per annum.

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 mainly of alunite, of greater or less purity. Owing to the nature of the occurrences, it has not been possible to estimate the ore reserves of commercial value. Four varieties of alunite are recognised at the mines, but operations were confined mainly to the light-pink ore, the average yield being about 80 per cent. of alum.

In 1926 the production of alunite was 580 tons, valued at £2,320, and the quantity exported since 1890 was 58,189 tons, valued at £208,795. No alunite was produced during the last five years.

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.

Limestone.—Immense supplies of limestone are distributed widely throughout the State. The commercial value of the deposits depends mainly on their accessibility and proximity to market. The bulk of the limestone is raised for the manufacture of cement in localities where coal and shale are readily available.

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, chiefly in Sydney and Wollongong districts.

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 1931 was 3,425 tons, valued at £6,850.

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, fluor spar, Fuller's earth, ochre, graphite, gypsum, 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 quarried generally in places near the coast, whence transport is cheaper than from less accessible localities. A large quantity was quarried in 1931 for use in the construction of water conservation works, etc.

Basalt or blue metal, suitable for ballasting roads and railway lines and for making concrete, is obtained at Kiama and other localities.

The following statement shows the output of the quarries and clay, gravel and sand pits during the years 1930 and 1931, as recorded in returns collected from the owners by the Statistician under the Census Act of 1901:—

Stone, etc.	1930.		1931.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	tons.	£	tons.	£
Building Stone—				
Sandstone	32,318	45,142	61,569	36,499
Granite	7,106	26,529	126,499	61,366
Basalt and Dolerite... ..	115,771	29,009	143,347	35,961
Trachyte, etc.	3,730	3,200	1,076	1,825
Limestone ... ..	...	...	2,277	379
Marble	671	4,983	198	801
Other... ..	69	133	89	181
Macadam, Ballast, etc.—				
Sandstone	429,870	131,177	189,353	49,187
Granite	27,980	9,406	32,175	8,219
Bluestone, Basalt, etc.	1,139,947	307,837	801,223	182,138
Quartzite	16,444	6,025	37,279	8,770
Trachyte	19,615	3,697	2,384	715
Limestone	5,018	1,632	11,180	2,781
Gravel	590,368	103,425	971,155	120,914
Sand	339,391	46,215	255,491	22,066
Shale	25,637	2,111	49,640	7,910
Chert ... ..	...	...	8,514	1,723
Slate	750	85	1,000	127
Ironstone	2,774	348	2,123	356
Other... ..	19,134	8,913	21,637	4,345
Limestone—				
For Cement	341,840	63,449	173,789	28,378
For Burning	36,303	17,164	20,110	11,433
For Flux	34,341	7,340	25,615	6,868
Shale for Cement... ..	73,341	9,308	34,441	5,254
Clays—				
Brick	440,553	90,020	166,722	16,388
Pottery and Earthenware	41,722	10,339	10,325	2,027
Pigment	15	23	5	11
Kaolin	2,151	2,880	2,072	2,502
Fire Clay	24,299	6,254	18,697	5,249
Silica	7,716	4,016	3,444	2,020
Other... ..	138	776	41,758	4,257
Total	3,779,012	£940,836	3,215,187	£630,650

The output of the quarries was large in the years 1926 to 1929 when there was great activity in building, road construction, etc. Then a marked decline occurred in volume and in value during 1930, and a further decrease, especially in value, during the following year. The output, as recorded for each year since 1926, is shown below.

Year.	Output.		Year.	Output.	
	Quantity.	Value.		Quantity.	Value.
	tons.	£		tons.	£
1926	5,000,810	1,239,941	1929	6,313,050	1,373,855
1927	6,043,859	1,521,500	1930	3,779,012	940,836
1928	6,268,636	1,500,082	1931	3,215,187	630,650

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. It is provided that a person may not be employed in getting coal or shale in the face of the 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, appointed in July, 1925, conducted an inquiry 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. As a result of its recommendations the Coal Mines Regulation Act was amended with the object of minimising the risks attached to this class of mining, and Courts of Coal Mines Regulations may be constituted to determine matters relating to the safe working of the coal mines. The Governor may appoint a District Court judge, a stipendiary or police magistrate, or a mining warden to sit as a Court. Courts have been proclaimed at East Maitland, Newcastle, Muswellbrook, Gunnedah, Sydney, Wollongong, Lithgow, and Mudgee.

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 have been established, and the mine owners in each district are required to contribute to a fund for their upkeep. The rates of contribution for the year 1931 were as follows:—Western, 3d.; Southern, 1.0d.; Newcastle, 1.43d.; and Maitland, 0.884d. per ton of coal raised during the preceding year. The amount contributed during 1931 was £23,840.

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 ten 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.
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
1926	25	102	20	60	1·01	4·12	1·27	3·82
1927	24	107	11	58	·98	4·37	·81	4·26
1928	14	103	12	60	·65	4·80	·99	4·94
1929	12	89	10	55	·53	3·96	·82	4·51
1930	16	73	14	63	·77	3·53	1·04	4·69
1931	7	66	13	35	·44	4·19	·78	2·11

The accident rates are not based on the number of employees as shown on page 83. 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. The particulars relating to all quarries are included in the figures for the years 1925 to 1931 inclusive.

Allowance paid during 1931 to beneficiaries under the provisions of the Miners' Accident Relief Act amounted to £19,153. The beneficiaries at the end of the year were: widows, 247; mothers, 19; sisters, 4; permanently disabled persons, 203; and children, 65.

In the chapter relating to Industrial Arbitration, particulars are given regarding industrial diseases in mines and the compensation provided in cases of accident or illness.

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.

The Census.

In New South Wales it has been the practice to take a census at decennial intervals. The last two, viz., in 1911 and 1921, were taken by the Commonwealth Statistician, but the census due in 1931 was postponed for reasons of economy. It has been decided, however, that a census be taken throughout Australia in June, 1933.

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 from 1861 to 1921. These particulars furnish a connected summary of the development of population during that period, 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. (Census 1861=100).	Increase in Population since previous Census.			Number of Persons per Square Mile.
			Numerical.	Proportional.	Average Annual Rate.	

CENSUS RECORDS.†

Year.	Population.	Index Number of Population. (Census 1861=100).	Numerical.	Proportional.	Average Annual Rate.	Number of Persons per Square Mile.
1861	350,860	100	172,192*	per cent. 91-00	per cent. 6-98	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	4-18	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

ESTIMATES AS AT 31ST DECEMBER.

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	154,122	7-33	1-90	7-30
1925	2,300,081	656	198,113	9-42	1-91	7-42
1926	2,349,401	669	247,433	11-77	1-95	7-59
1927	2,401,884	684	299,916	14-27	2-00	7-76
1928	2,446,874	697	344,906	16-41	1-98	7-91
1929	2,479,147	707	377,179	17-94	1-90	8-01
1930	2,502,039	713	400,071	19-03	1-80	8-09
1931	2,519,300	718	417,332	19-85	1-70	8-14

* Since 1851.

† Census held at end of March or beginning of April.

Aboriginals 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.

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. This expansion, however, 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, and 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 Great 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 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 restricted, and the increase in population depended mainly upon natural causes. Immigration, however, was substantial in the five years 1924 to 1928, but declined in 1929, and with the advent of the severe depression there was an appreciable loss of population by migration from the State in 1930 and 1931. The net increase in the population in the ten and three-quarter years between the last census and the end of 1931 was 417,332, or 19.85 per cent., equal to an annual rate of 1.70; the corresponding figures for the ten years which elapsed between the censuses of 1911 and 1921 were an increase of 453,222, or 27.49 per cent., equal to an annual rate of 2.46 per cent.

The annual rate of growth was 1.95 per cent. in 1925, 2.14 per cent. in 1926, 2.23 per cent. in 1927, 1.87 per cent. in 1928, 1.32 per cent. in 1929, 0.92 per cent. in 1930, and 0.69 per cent. in 1931. The figures for recent years however should be used with caution until the results of the forthcoming census are available for the purpose of any necessary adjustment.

The estimated population at the end of the year and the mean population of New South Wales, including aboriginals, for the last eleven years are shown below:—

Year.	Estimated Population at End of Year.			Mean Population.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
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
1925	1,172,470	1,127,611	2,300,081	2,275,886
1926	1,197,428	1,151,973	2,349,401	2,321,917
1927	1,224,847	1,177,037	2,401,884	2,374,264
1928	1,247,091	1,189,783	2,446,874	2,426,300
1929	1,261,970	1,217,177	2,479,147	2,464,510
1930	1,271,356	1,230,683	2,502,039	2,489,657
1931	1,278,491	1,240,809	2,519,300	2,510,083

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, 1931, also the proportion of population in each State. Aboriginals of full blood are excluded from account.

State or Territory.	Population, Census 1911.	Population, Census 1921.	Estimated Population, 31st Dec., 1931.	Proportion in each State or Territory.		
				1911.	1921.	1931.
New South Wales ...	1,646,734	2,100,371	2,517,758	per cent. 36·96	per cent. 38·67	per cent. 38·58
Victoria ...	1,315,551	1,531,280	1,801,294	29·53	28·19	27·60
Queensland ...	605,813	755,972	963,711	13·60	13·92	14·77
South Australia ...	408,558	495,160	584,968	9·17	9·13	8·97
Western Australia ...	282,114	332,732	421,609	6·33	6·06	6·46
Tasmania ...	191,211	213,780	223,390	4·29	3·91	3·42
Northern Territory ...	3,310	3,867	4,458	0·08	0·07	0·07
Federal Capital Terr... Commonwealth ...	1,714 4,455,005	2,572 5,435,734	8,732 6,525,920	0·04 100·00	0·05 100·00	0·13 100·00

During the inter-censal period 1911 to 1921, 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.

The growth of population in New South Wales during each of the last eleven years was as follows:—

Year ended December—	Increase during Year.			Increase per cent. during Year.		
	Natural.	Net Immigration.	Total.	Natural.	Net Immigration.	Total.
1921	34,600	1,916	36,516	1·65	0·09	1·74
1922	36,036	9,012	45,048	1·69	0·43	2·12
1923	33,061	3,492	36,553	1·52	0·16	1·68
1924	32,849	12,135	44,984	1·48	0·55	2·03
1925	33,792	10,199	43,991	1·50	0·45	1·95
1926	30,938	18,382	49,320	1·34	0·80	2·14
1927	31,088	21,395	52,483	1·32	0·91	2·23
1928	32,106	12,884	44,990	1·34	0·53	1·87
1929	28,057	4,216	32,273	1·15	0·17	1·32
1930	30,884	(-)7,992	22,892	1·24	(-)0·32	0·92
1931	26,440	(-)9,179	17,261	1·06	(-)0·37	0·69

The net immigration of the year 1921 was inconsiderable, then the annual gain from this source began to grow rapidly though irregularly until 1928. A steep decline occurred in 1928 and 1929, and in the last two years there

was an excess of emigrants. The natural increase in 1922 was numerically the greatest on record, though proportionately it was considerably below that of former years. The number and proportion were somewhat lower in the years 1923 to 1925. In 1926 a decrease in the number of births synchronised with an increase in the number of deaths and, excepting some of the war years, resulted in the lowest natural increase recorded in any year since 1911. Similar conditions with regard to the births and deaths caused a further decline in 1929. There was a slight improvement in 1930, when fewer deaths occurred, then the number of births decreased to such an extent that the rate of natural increase fell in 1931 below the rate of any earlier year. On the whole, the rate of increase in the population in 1931 was the lowest annual rate during the last 75 years, except in 1916, when large numbers of troops were transferred overseas.

MIGRATION.

A large movement of population takes place each year into and out of New South Wales, but is due more to the movement of tourists, business men, and persons following itinerant callings, than to immigration or emigration properly so-called.

The net immigration, that is, the excess of arrivals in New South Wales over departures from the State, is the result principally of intercourse with overseas countries. During 1928 there was an appreciable falling-off in the excess of arrivals, the total gain by migration being 12,884 as against 21,395 in 1927; during 1929 the increase dropped to 4,216. The State lost by migration 7,992 persons in 1930 and 9,179 in 1931.

The interstate and overseas movement of people to and from New South Wales, as estimated for each of the past eleven 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 Direct.	Total.	Interstate. *	To other Countries Direct.	Total.	Interstate. *	Other Countries Direct.
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	301,095	39,652	343,747	(-) 3,279	15,414
1925	308,241	55,201	363,442	311,035	42,208	353,243	(-) 2,794	12,993
1926	288,354	62,395	350,749	288,793	43,574	332,367	(-) 439	18,821
1927	244,456	35,485	309,941	242,541	46,005	288,546	1,915	19,480
1928	231,523	60,786	292,309	230,885	48,540	279,425	638	12,246
1929	211,940	52,406	264,346	211,356	48,774	260,130	584	3,632
1930	172,390	41,987	214,377	174,450	47,919	222,369	(-) 2,060	(-) 5,932
1931	131,633	28,637	160,270	135,634	33,815	169,449	(-) 4,001	(-) 5,178

(-) Denotes excess of departures. * Including movement of population to and from overseas countries via other States.

Oversea Migration.

Since the middle of 1924 statistics have been collected as to the residential intentions of persons arriving and departing oversea in each of the Australian States. These distinguish between persons migrating for permanent settlement, Australians travelling abroad, and visitors from other countries. The following summary shows the numbers in the various categories in the years 1929 to 1931, comparing the totals for New South Wales with those for all Australia. Persons arriving from oversea intending to reside permanently in Australia are described in the table as "immigrants," and Australian citizens departing with the intention of residing permanently in some other country as "emigrants." The particulars for New South Wales relate to persons arriving from oversea at New South Wales ports, irrespective of which State is their ultimate destination. Owing to the difficulty of securing accurate records at all coastal points the recorded totals are not the actual numbers, and a small addition is made to the number of departures in order to adjust the balance:—

Heading.	1929.		1930.		1931.	
	New South Wales.	Commonwealth.	New South Wales.	Commonwealth.	New South Wales.	Commonwealth.
Arrivals—						
Immigrants... ..	14,475	31,698	8,164	17,537	4,219	9,441
Australians returning ...	17,035	25,652	14,848	23,369	8,951	13,357
Visitors	20,891	24,892	18,975	22,186	15,467	17,616
Not stated	5	6	...	1	...	...
Total arrivals ...	52,406	82,248	41,987	63,093	28,637	40,414
Departures*—						
Emigrants	11,604	22,445	14,433	28,417	10,280	22,352
Australians who intend to return	15,508	25,125	12,135	20,898	6,744	10,614
Visitors	21,661	25,708	21,351	25,186	16,790	19,504
Not stated	1	7	...	...	1	5
Total departures...	48,774	73,285	47,919	74,501	33,815	52,475

* Approximate only, includes allowance for unrecorded departures.

The majority of travellers between Australia and other countries embark or disembark at ports in New South Wales, and this is particularly noticeable in respect of visitors from abroad.

Nationality of Oversea Migrants.

Since the middle of 1924, the nationality of oversea migrants has been recorded, and the following table shows the numbers of each of the principal nationalities arriving in or departing from Australia *via* the ports of New South Wales in 1929, 1930, and 1931.

Nationality.	1929.			1930.			1931.		
	Arrivals.	Departures.	Excess of Arrivals.*	Arrivals.	Departures.	Excess of Arrivals.*	Arrivals.	Departures.	Excess of Arrivals.*
British	44,717	41,354	3,333	34,867	40,396	(-5,529)	23,641	27,572	(-3,931)
French	500	563	(-) 63	550	532	18	571	599	(-) 28
German	294	300	(-) 6	340	339	1	192	191	1
Italian... ..	727	562	165	667	664	3	304	495	(-) 191
Jugo Slavs	210	246	(-) 36	218	298	(-) 80	186	267	(-) 81
Russians	67	94	(-) 27	90	110	(-) 20	54	95	(-) 41
United States	1,674	1,548	126	1,323	1,424	(-) 96	701	940	(-) 239
Other European	1,129	1,061	68	940	1,079	(-) 139	471	843	(-) 372
Total, European	49,318	45,728	3,590	39,000	44,842	(-5,842)	26,120	31,002	(-4,882)
Chinese	2,195	2,310	(-) 115	2,056	2,350	(-) 294	1,803	2,175	(-) 372
Indians	501	382	119	520	315	205	462	386	76
Japanese	117	124	(-) 7	135	169	(-) 34	97	112	(-) 15
Syrians	32	28	4	45	47	(-) 2	36	29	7
Other Asiatic	59	57	2	45	44	1	8	27	(-) 19
Pacific Islanders	141	136	5	154	146	8	104	58	46
Other Non-Europeans	43	9	34	32	6	26	7	26	(-) 19
Total, Non-European	3,088	3,046	42	2,987	3,077	(-) 90	2,517	2,813	(-296)
Grand Total	52,406	48,774	3,632	41,987	47,919	(-5,932)	28,637	33,815	(-5,178)

* (-) Denotes excess of departures.

The numbers in the above table represent migrants arriving or departing, visitors from oversea, and Australian residents travelling abroad. An adjustment for unrecorded departures has been made, as explained on the preceding page.

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 £1, 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 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, 1901-32, 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.

Assisted Immigration.

In December, 1930, all provisions for assisting immigrants were suspended, but in March, 1931, it was decided that assisted passages would be granted to wives and children (under 14 years) of persons in permanent employment in New South Wales.

Particulars of the earlier history of assisted migration will be found in previous issues of the Year Book.

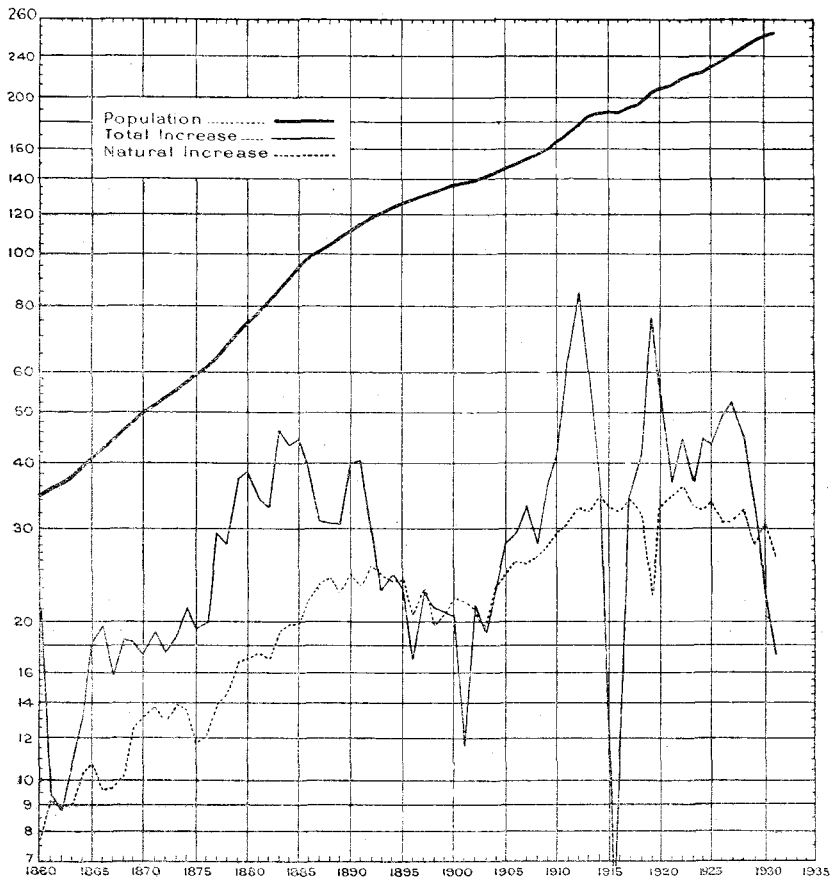
Numbers of Assisted Immigrants.

The following table shows particulars of the manner of choosing and the age and sex of assisted migrants who arrived in New South Wales during each of the last nine calendar years:—

Year.	Selected.	Nominated.	Adults and Children over 12 years of age.		Children under 12 years of age.		Grand Total.
			M.	F.	M.	F.	
1923	984	4,058	2,134	1,841	527	540	5,042
1924	1,499	4,714	2,575	2,334	660	644	6,213
1925	2,239	6,548	3,812	2,993	1,030	952	8,787
1926	1,572	11,257	5,082	4,539	1,633	1,575	12,829
1927	1,542	8,718	3,593	4,174	1,268	1,225	10,260
1928	1,628	7,104	3,190	3,726	940	876	8,732
1929	1,008	4,418	2,004	2,342	563	517	5,426
1930	169	1,005	357	588	106	123	1,174
1931	7	67	12	38	13	11	74

POPULATION AND ANNUAL INCREASE, 1860 TO 1931.

Ratio Graph.



NOTE.—(i) The numbers at the side of the graph represent 10,000 of population, 1,000 Total Increase and 1,000 Natural Increase.

(ii) In 1916 there was a decrease of 8,711 in the population owing to the departure of troops and the curve fell below the limits of the graph.

The diagram is a ratio graph. The vertical scale is logarithmic, and the curves rise and fall according to the percentage of increase or decrease. Actual numbers are shown by means of the numbers at the side of the graph.

The following statement shows the migration to the State since 1832, and the total number of assisted migrants who arrived in New South Wales under various schemes, inclusive of Victoria and Queensland before their separation. After 1905 the number of migrants nominated by residents of the State and the number selected abroad are shown separately.

Period.	Immigrants assisted.				
	Nominated.	Selected.	Total Arrivals.		
			Males.	Females.	Total.
1832-1905 § ...	...	...	104,106	107,866	211,972
1905-1909 § ...	6,144	2,713	*	*	8,857
1909-1914 § ...	32,406	12,444	23,816	21,034	44,850
1914-1919 § ...	4,123	1,322	2,067	3,378	5,445
1919-1924** ...	22,214	4,384	13,927	12,671	26,598
1925-1929 ...	38,645	7,989	23,115	22,919	46,034
1930 ...	1,005	169	463	711	1,174
1931 ...	67	7	25	49	74
1832-1931 ...	104,004‡	29,028‡	167,519†	168,628†	345,004

* Information not available.
‡ To 30th June.

† Excluding immigrants, 1905-1909.

‡ 1905 to 1931.

** 5½ years ended 31st December, 1924.

In October, 1927, the State Government decided to restrict nominations to such classes as were not likely to disturb the labour market, and this system was applied more vigorously as the industrial situation became more acute, until December, 1930, when it was decided that all assisted migration should cease. Consequently arrivals of selected immigrants in 1931 numbered only 7, who arrived in January. The nominated immigrants, numbering 67, were mainly wives and children of persons in the State.

Occupations of Assisted Migrants.

The following statement shows the distribution of assisted migrants in their respective occupational classes in each of the last five years:—

Classification of Occupations.	1927.		1928.		1929.		1930.		1931.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Manufacture of—										
Wood products ...	59	...	30	1	11	...	2	...	...	1
Metal, Engineering, &c. ...	420	...	335	1	134	...	26	...	...	...
Food, Drink, &c. ...	42	28	63	14	53	10	7	2	...	...
Clothing, &c. ...	78	84	49	129	37	89	8	22	...	1
Books, Printing, &c. ...	19	13	20	7	8	5	1	...	...	...
Other Manufactures ...	31	4	21	14	6	9	8	3	...	...
Building Industry ...	142	...	178	...	101	...	17	...	...	...
Mining Industry ...	190	...	122	...	63	...	2	...	...	...
Rail and Tram Transport ...	30	...	22	...	16	...	2	...	...	...
Other Land Transport ...	75	...	50	...	33	...	3	...	...	...
Shipping and Wharf Labouring ...	16	...	12	...	11	...	2	...	...	...
Rural Industries ...	1,325	...	1,432	1	970	...	161	...	...	...
Domestic and Hotel Workers ...	11	1,422	8	1,440	3	1,013	...	268	...	14
Other trades ...	581	171	401	186	290	140	64	47	5	2
Dependents—										
Over 12 years of age ...	574	2,452	447	1,933	268	1,076	54	246	7	20
Under 12 years of age ...	1,263	1,225	940	876	563	517	106	123	13	11
Total each sex ...	4,861	5,399	4,130	4,602	2,567	2,859	463	711	25	49
Grand Total ...	10,260		8,732		5,426		1,174		74	

Latterly selected migrants have been mainly rural workers and household servants. Nominated migrants have been distributed over many trades, but more especially those of the rural and mining industries, and engineering, and the manufacture of metals.

Country of Origin of Assisted Migrants.

Nearly all the assisted migrants in the last nine years have come from the United Kingdom; the relatively small number from other countries is shown in the following statement:—

Year ended 31st Dec.	Assisted Migrants from—						Total Assisted Migrants.		
	United Kingdom.		Other British Possessions.		Foreign Countries.		Nomin-ated.	Selected.	Total.
	Nomin-ated.	Selected.	Nomin-ated.	Selected.	Nomin-ated.	Selected.			
1923	4,005	984	8	...	45	...	4,058	984	5,042
1924	4,614	1,499	25	...	75	...	4,714	1,499	6,213
1925	6,425	2,239	56	...	67	...	6,548	2,239	8,787
1926	11,089	1,572	148	...	20	...	11,257	1,572	12,829
1927	8,533	1,542	183	...	2	...	8,718	1,542	10,260
1928	6,988	1,628	116	...	...	...	7,104	1,628	8,732
1929	4,384	1,008	34	...	...	...	4,418	1,008	5,426
1930	975	169	29	...	1	...	1,005	169	1,174
1931	59	7	8	...	...	...	67	7	74

Adolescent Migrants.

A number of private organisations have operated to assist the immigration of young persons, including the Dreadnought Fund Trust, the Dr. Barnardo Homes, the Salvation Army, and the Catholic Immigration League. The activities of these organisations were suspended in December, 1930, and only five girl domestics arrived in 1931. Therefore particulars regarding them which were published in previous issues of the Year Book are not included in this issue.

Passage Money for Assisted Migrants.

Prior to the war several steamship companies conveyed migrants from the United Kingdom at very low rates, the State Governments contributing a portion. Since the war the cost per berth has increased, and since 1st May, 1925, under the Imperial scheme, contributions have been made in equal proportions by the Federal and Imperial Governments towards the cost of assisted passages for approved persons from the United Kingdom. Contributions are on the following scale:—

	Government Subsidy.			Paid by Migrant.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Children under 12 years	16	10	0	Nil.		
Juveniles over 12 and under 14 years ..	27	10	0	5	10	0
Wives with one or more children	22	0	0	11	0	0
Wives without children	16	10	0	16	10	0
Children over age 14 who wish to accom- pany parents	Nil.			33	0	0

One child under 3 years of age in each family is carried free.

In the case of persons nominated for assisted passages by relatives or friends in the State, nominators are required to guarantee that adequate provision will be made for their maintenance.

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 migrants 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, nor to personal attendants accompanying their employers.

British Settlers' Welfare Committee.

This committee has taken up the work previously carried on by the New Settlers' League, which is now defunct.

It was formed to undertake the obligations entered into with the British Government as to the after-care of migrants, and works in close co-operation with the State Government to this end.

Its officers, with the aid of committees in important centres, keep in touch with all lads and other migrants.

DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION.

The population of New South Wales is distributed in a rather remarkable manner. At 31st December, 1931, including shipping, the city of Sydney contained 109,400 persons in a small area surrounded by an extensive group of suburbs with 1,146,830 inhabitants, making a total of 1,256,230 dwellers in the metropolis. Outside the boundaries of the metropolis, in what is termed the extra metropolitan area, there are two municipalities and three shires, containing in all 57,780 inhabitants. Then scattered throughout the State are 132 municipalities, with a total population of 534,610, of these 11 municipalities in the County of Cumberland contained 51,750 persons, and the four large mining centres of Newcastle, Broken Hill, Lithgow, and Wollongong, 152,500 inhabitants; leaving 330,360 in 117 of the larger rural towns incorporated as municipalities. Distributed over the remainder of the State—99 per cent. of its area—are 670,567 persons; of whom a small number live in the unincorporated towns, and only 14,627 in the unincorporated portion of the Western Division, which covers 40.5 per cent. of the area of the State.

The tendency of migrants to remain in the capital city was shown by the fact that at the census of 1921, of the 14,447 males and 18,799 females who had resided in the State for less than five years, 8,749 males and 11,719 females were resident in the metropolis. In each case the proportion is slightly over 60 per cent.

The distribution of population at 31st December, 1931, together with the proportion in each division and the average population per square mile, are shown in the following table:—

Division.	Area (including Harbours, Rivers and Lakes).	Population at 31st December, 1931, including Shipping and Aboriginals.		
		Total.	Proportion in each Division	Average per sq. mile.
	sq. miles.		per cent.	
Sydney	5	109,400	4.4	21,880.0
Suburbs of Sydney	228	1,146,830	45.5	5,030.0
Metropolis	233	1,256,230	49.9	5,391.5
Extra Metropolitan Area	451	57,780	2.3	128.1
Total	684	1,314,010	52.2	1,921.1
Country Municipalities	2,184	534,610	21.2	244.8
Country Shires	181,140	655,940	26.0	3.6
Western Division (Part unincor- porated)	125,419	14,627	0.6	0.1
Lord Howe Island	5	113	0.0	22.6
Total, New South Wales ...	309,432‡	2,519,309	100.0	8.1

‡ 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, though low, is greater than that of any other State of the Commonwealth except Victoria and Tasmania.

The low average in New South Wales—8.14 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 136 persons per square mile.

Municipal and Shire Population.

Slightly more than two-thirds of the population of New South Wales live within the 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, 1931, is shown below:—

Division.	Municipalities.	Shires.	Total.
Metropolis	1,256,230	...	1,256,230
Balance—Cumberland	59,630	71,180	130,810
North Coast... ..	38,040	89,740	127,780
Hunter and Manning	149,140	135,890	285,030
South Coast	51,660	44,280	95,940
Northern Tableland	22,040	30,250	52,290
Central Tableland	60,770	73,810	134,580
Southern Tableland	22,320	25,740	48,060
North-Western Slope	18,360	36,050	54,410
Central-Western Slope	21,160	37,240	58,400
South-Western Slope	41,480	63,960	105,440
North-Central Plain	7,830	19,110	26,940
Central Plain	7,200	15,760	22,960
Riverina	13,970	62,830	76,800
Western Division—			
Incorporated	28,890	...	28,890
Unincorporated ... ..	...	...	14,627
Lord Howe Island ... ..	...	...	113
New South Wales	1,798,720	705,840	2,519,300

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.

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 from 1891 to 1921 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 show 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 period 1911 to 1921 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.

Up to 31st December, 1928, the metropolis was taken to include the City of Sydney, forty municipalities, the Ku-ring-gai Shire (proclaimed a municipality 1st November, 1928), and the islands of Port Jackson, embracing an area of 181 square miles. From 1st January, 1929, the municipalities of Auburn, Bankstown, Lidcombe, Granville, and Parramatta were added so that the boundaries of the metropolis 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 Bankstown, Granville, Parramatta, Ryde, Eastwood, and Ku-ring-gai municipalities; on the north, the eastern boundary of Ku-ring-gai, the north-eastern boundary of Willoughby, and the northern boundary of Manly municipality. The area embraced by these boundaries is 233 square miles.

The following statement shows the population of each municipality within the present boundaries of the metropolis at the censuses of 1911 and 1921, and at 31st December, 1931, including aboriginals and shipping:—

Municipality.	Population.			Municipality.	Population.		
	Census, 1911.	Census, 1921.	31st Dec., 1931.		Census, 1911.	Census, 1921.	31st Dec., 1931.
City of Sydney ...	119,774	111,059	109,400	Lane Cove ...	3,306	7,552	14,970
Alexandria ...	10,123	9,793	10,380	Leichhardt ...	24,254	29,356	31,490
Annandale ...	11,241	12,648	13,150	Lidcombe ...	5,419	10,524	15,780
Ashfield ...	20,431	33,637	39,810	Manly ...	10,465	18,507	26,300
Auburn ...	5,559	13,563	19,920	Marrickville ...	30,653	42,240	46,680
Balmain ...	32,038	32,122	33,270	Mascot ...	5,836	10,929	13,950
Bankstown ...	2,039	10,670	22,450	Mosman ...	13,243	20,063	25,200
Bexley ...	6,517	14,746	20,420	Newtown ...	26,498	28,169	28,680
Botany ...	4,409	6,214	8,050	North Sydney ...	34,648	48,446	55,190
Burwood ...	9,382	15,711	19,600	Paddington ...	24,317	26,364	27,080
Canterbury ...	11,335	37,639	74,090	Parramatta ...	12,476	14,595	17,770
Concord ...	4,076	11,013	22,460	Petersham ...	21,712	26,236	28,380
Darlington ...	3,816	3,651	3,660	Randwick ...	19,475	50,849	74,310
Drummoyne ...	8,678	18,764	29,110	Redfern ...	24,427	23,978	24,160
Eastwood ...	968	2,133	2,970	Rockdale ...	14,095	25,190	37,800
Enfield ...	3,444	8,530	14,030	Ryde ...	5,281	14,855	26,180
Erskineville ...	7,299	7,553	7,620	St. Peter's ...	8,410	12,700	13,890
Glebe ...	21,944	22,772	23,170	Strathfield ...	4,046	7,594	12,300
Granville ...	7,231	13,328	19,290	Vaucluse ...	1,673	3,730	7,460
Homebush ...	676	1,622	3,190	Waterloo ...	10,072	11,199	12,930
Hunter's Hill ...	5,019	7,334	9,800	Waverley ...	19,832	36,797	52,460
Hurstville ...	6,533	13,394	21,820	Willoughby ...	13,037	28,074	42,500
Kogarah ...	6,954	18,226	29,810	Woollahra ...	16,992	25,461	34,580
Ku-ring-gai ...	9,459	19,213	28,720				
				Total ...	669,112	968,783	1,256,230

Some of the suburbs nearest the city have attained their maximum development as residential districts and some are even losing population as dwellings are replaced by industrial and commercial establishments. The

rate of growth of population in recent years was greatest in the more remote municipalities, such as Auburn, Bankstown, Bexley, Canterbury, Concord, Hurstville, Kogarah, Lane Cove, 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 a large proportion of their inhabitants gain their livelihood in the city. A definition of an extended metropolitan area was given in the Local Government Act of 1919 (Schedule Four). It includes the following additional localities, whose populations, including aboriginals and shipping, are shown:—

Locality.	Population.		
	Census, 1911.	Census, 1921.	31st Dec., 1931.
Municipalities—			
Dundas	1,136	3,523	5,630
Ermington and Rydalmere	1,716	1,981	2,250
Shires—			
Hornsby	8,907	15,291	21,640
Sutherland	2,896	7,707	12,400
Warringah	2,823	9,644	15,860
Total Extra-Metropolitan Area	17,478	38,146	57,780
Population of Metropolis as shown above...	669,112	968,783	1,256,230
Metropolitan Area as defined in Local Government Act	686,590	1,006,929	1,314,010

The population of the metropolis, including aboriginals and shipping,* at census periods and at the end of each year since 1926 is shown in the following table, together with the proportion which the metropolitan population bears to that of the whole State:—

Year.	Population.			Increase during Interval.		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*	30·00*	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	312,086	324,302	636,388	148,421	30·42	49·04	38·5
1921	439,691	466,412	906,103	269,750	42·34	48·54	43·1
1926	525,225	545,285	1,070,510	31,120	3·00	49·06	45·5
1927	541,840	559,350	1,101,190	30,680	2·87	49·20	45·8
1923	555,350	572,120	1,127,470	26,280	2·39	49·26	46·1
1929†	610,570	628,090	1,238,660	20,950	1·72	49·29	50·0
1930†	617,210	636,350	1,253,560	14,900	1·20	49·24	50·1
1931†	618,050	638,180	1,256,230	2,670	0·21	49·20	49·9

*Since 1851.

†Area extended as from 1st January, 1929.

In calculating the numerical increase and the increase per cent. in 1929 over 1928 in the above table, the municipalities of Auburn, Bankstown, Granville, Lidcombe, and Parramatta, which have been included in the metropolitan areas since 1929, were taken into consideration.

The proportion of the population of the State resident in the metropolis has increased rapidly in the past half-century. The apparently large increase in 1928, however, is due to the inclusion of the five municipalities mentioned above. 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 population of the capital cities (including suburbs) of the States of the Commonwealth is shown below:—

Metropolis.	Census, 1911.*	Census, 1921.*	31st December, 1931.†			
			Males.	Females.	Total.	Proportion to Population of Whole State.
						per cent.
Sydney‡	669,112	968,783	618,050	638,180	1,256,230	49·9
Melbourne	588,971	766,465	...	...	1,030,750	57·2
Adelaide	189,646	255,375	157,920	166,417	324,337	55·4
Brisbane	139,480	209,946	...	...	317,150	32·9
Perth	106,792	154,873	105,925	105,915	211,840	49·7
Hobart	39,937	52,361	...	...	58,270§	26·1

* Excluding Shipping.

† Including Shipping.

‡ New Boundaries.

§ 31st March, 1932.

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, and Cessnock, the fourth, largest towns outside County Cumberland, are also dependent on mining. Apart from these and the centres in the County of Cumberland dependent upon the city, there are only five country municipal towns with a population exceeding 10,000; twelve, including two unincorporated, between 5,000 and 10,000; and twenty-six, including five 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 the years 1930 and 1931 of the towns which at the end of 1931 had more than 3,000 inhabitants, including aboriginals

and shipping, the metropolitan and closely dependent municipalities being shown first, in the order of numerical importance in 1921.

Municipality.	Population.					
	Census 1891.	Census 1901.	Census 1911.	Census 1921	31st Dec., 1930 (estimated)	31st Dec., 1931 (estimated).
Sydney and Suburbs*	387,331	487,900	636,388	906,103	1,253,560	1,256,230
Parramatta*	11,677	12,560	12,476	14,595		
Auburn*†	2,026	2,948	5,559	13,563		
Granville*	4,248	5,094	7,231	13,328		
Bankstown*†	108	1,246	2,039	10,670		
Lidcombe*†	2,084	4,496	5,419	10,524		
Dundas*	881	1,087	1,136	3,523			5,600	5,630
Newcastle and Suburbs	50,662	54,991	55,380	86,267	104,170	103,700
Broken Hill	19,789	27,500	30,974	26,338	22,990	22,950
Lithgow	3,865	5,268	8,196	13,275	15,300	15,050
Goulburn	10,916	10,612	10,023	12,715	12,560	12,570
Maitland	10,214	10,073	11,318	12,009	11,810	11,940
Bathurst	9,162	9,223	8,578	9,441	9,690	10,050
Katoomba	1,592	2,270	4,924	9,057	10,060	9,580
Lismore	2,925	4,464	7,382	8,712	10,370	10,510
Albury	5,447	5,821	6,309	7,752	9,320	9,770
Wagga Wagga	4,596	5,108	6,419	7,679	8,920	9,110
Orange	5,064	6,331	6,722	7,398	8,590	8,640
Cessnock†	203	165	3,957	7,343	13,930	13,860
Tamworth	4,602	5,799	7,147	7,264	7,690	7,790
Wollongong	3,058	3,554	4,673	6,708	10,130	10,800
Kurri Kurri§	...	...	4,154	5,542	6,845	6,825
Armidale	3,826	4,249	4,739	5,417	7,090	6,960
Dubbo	3,551	3,409	4,455	5,032	6,180	6,300
Glen Innes	2,532	2,918	4,089	4,974	4,680	4,250
Grafton	3,618	4,173	4,685	4,593	4,900	4,800
Forbes	3,011	4,294	4,436	4,476	5,120	5,120
Inverell	2,534	3,293	4,549	4,369	5,390	5,409
Parkes	2,449	3,181	2,935	3,941	5,660	5,860
Wellington	1,545	2,984	3,958	3,924	3,560	3,580
Windsor*	2,033	2,039	3,466	3,808	3,360	3,380
Cowra	1,546	1,811	3,292	3,732	4,490	4,580
Kempsey	2,194	2,329	2,947	3,613	3,660	3,700
Penrith*	3,099	3,559	3,683	3,605	4,150	4,180
Cootamundra	2,026	2,424	2,967	3,531	4,280	4,310
Casino	1,486	1,926	3,429	3,461	4,090	4,180
Young	2,746	2,755	3,140	3,284	3,870	3,890
Singleton	2,595	2,872	2,999	3,275	3,420	3,500
Mudgee	2,410	2,789	2,942	3,170	3,090	3,140
Temora	915	1,603	3,784	3,019	3,420	3,450
Moree	1,143	2,298	2,937	3,028	3,990	4,020
Narrandera	1,815	2,255	2,374	2,986	3,670	3,760
Ballina	1,140	1,819	2,124	2,768	3,800	3,950
Deniliquin	2,273	2,644	2,496	2,660	3,240	3,200
Bowral	2,258	1,752	1,751	2,620	3,200	3,190
Tenterfield	2,477	2,604	2,792	2,493	2,710	3,080
Nowra...	1,705	1,909	1,885	2,202	2,970	3,090
Queanbeyan	1,262	1,219	1,273	1,825	3,800	3,820

*Towns in County Cumberland.

†Not incorporated 1891.

‡ Incorporated 1926 and district enlarged. § Locality, not incorporated, aborigines excluded.

In addition to the municipalities shown above it is estimated that the population of the following towns not incorporated as municipalities at 31st December, 1931, were:—Gosford, 5,018; Thirroul, 4,302; West Wyalong, 3,980; Cardiff, 3,838; Weston, 3,665; Portland, 3,102. The foregoing list excludes municipalities with extensive areas or whose boundaries embrace more than one distinct locality.

The population of these larger towns has grown at a fairly uniform rate during the whole of the period covered and some towns of County Cumberland have shown an especially rapid increase. Newcastle, after twenty

years of slow progress, made rapid headway between 1911 and 1921, and for some years after largely on account of the growth of its manufacturing industries, but this advance has not been maintained in the last two years. 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, continued to grow rapidly until 1927, then the population began to decrease owing to slackness in the coal-mining industry and the gradual removal of the ironworks to Port Kembla. This movement has been reflected in a considerable increase in the population of Wollongong. Goulburn has developed, after twenty years of stagnation, into the leading town of the interior not dependent on mining; and Katoomba, a tourist centre 60 miles from Sydney, grew rapidly between 1901 and 1921.

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 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 later years the predominance of males among immigrants tended to increase the disparity between the sexes.

On the other hand, the higher rate of mortality among males renders the natural increase of females the greater, despite the excess of male over female births. 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 ten years ended 1931 the natural increase of females was 16,545 greater than that of males, while the increase of males by migration was 13,182 greater than the increase of females from the same cause.

The distribution of the sexes at each census from 1871 to 1921, and at the end of each of the last six 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.
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
1925	1,197,428	1,151,973	50·97	49·03	104
1927	1,224,847	1,177,037	50·99	49·01	104
1928	1,247,091	1,199,773	50·97	49·03	104
1929	1,261,970	1,217,177	50·90	49·10	104
1930	1,271,356	1,230,683	50·81	49·19	103
1931	1,278,491	1,240,809	50·75	49·25	103

An analysis of the excess of males at each age-group at the census of 1921, showed that greatest surpluses of males were then at ages 50 to 65. From this fact it was concluded* that as time passes the proportion of females will increase.

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 nationality of the population of the State at the census of 1921 was preponderatingly British, no less than 99.1 per cent. of the inhabitants being of British allegiance. The proportion born in Australia was 84.4 per cent.

ABORIGINALS.

The number of aboriginals in New South Wales during the first century 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 aboriginals 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 aboriginals 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 aboriginals of full blood recorded at 30th June, 1931, was 867, of whom 530 were males and 337 were 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 aboriginals of full blood enumerated in 1931, 133 were nomadic, 120 were in regular employment and 290 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 30th June, 1931, was 8,503, of whom 4,554 were males and 3,949 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 1931, 1,106 were nomadic and 2,685 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 a function of the Commonwealth.

* Official Year Book, 1922, page 243.

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 441 persons naturalised during 1931. The total number of persons naturalised since 1849 was 21,218, of whom 6,849 were of German origin; 1,836 were Swedes; 1,276 Danes; 1,833 Italians; and 911 French. The number classified as Russians was 1,276 and (since 1922) 137 as Poles, 90 as Finns, and 103 as natives of Esthonia, Latvia or Lithuania: The number of Asiatics was 1,273, of whom 911 were Chinese and 337 Syrians. More than 21 per cent. of the persons naturalised obtained their certificates since 1919. The principal nationality affected was that of Greeks, of whom 987 changed during the last twelve years as against 428 previously. Corresponding figures for others were Italians, 938 and 895; Germans, 463 and 6,386; Syrians, 194 and 143; Swedes, 170 and 1,666; Danes, 160 and 1,116. Only 3 Chinese have been naturalised in New South Wales since the passage of the Chinese Restriction and Regulation Act of 1888. Certificates of Naturalisation issued under former State laws remain in force under the present Federal statute, the Nationality Act 1920-30.

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, amended in 1930, and those relating to marriage by the Marriage Act, 1899, amended by the Marriage (Amendment) Acts, 1923 and 1925. New South Wales was divided into 218 registry districts at 1st January, 1932, and in each there is a District Registrar.

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. As a general rule, births have been registered promptly in order to obtain the benefit of the maternity allowances. Stillbirths are not registered. Provision has been made for the notification of cases of stillbirth, attended by midwives registered under the Nurses Registration Act, but the returns forwarded under the Act have been too incomplete to give any indication of the number of stillbirths.

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 a minister of religion registered for that purpose by the Registrar-General or by the District Registrar for marriages of the district in which the intended wife ordinarily resides. In the latter case the parties to be married must sign, before the District Registrar officiating, a declaration that they desire to be married, and affirming the usual place of residence of the intended wife. The proportion of marriages performed by Registrars has increased steadily from 3.5 per cent. in 1917 to 9.7 per cent. in 1931. Marriage of minors is permissible only with the written consent of parents or guardians. Marriage with a deceased wife's sister or a deceased brother's widow is valid in law in New South Wales.

At the beginning of 1932 there were 2,210 persons registered as ministers of religion for the celebration of marriages in New South Wales. Of these, 618 belonged to the Church of England, 642 were Roman Catholics, 304 Methodist, 278 Presbyterian, 80 Congregational, 92 Baptist, 56 belonged to the Salvation Army, 30 were Seventh Day Adventists, 34 belonged to the Church of Christ, 7 to the Latter Day Saints, and 6 to the Jewish faith. There were 30 other religious bodies, represented by 63 ministers.

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 37.4 per cent., which represents an increase from 33.5 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	32·19	32·56	32·37
Age 15 and over	302,574	237,693	540,267	28·32	23·14	25·78
Married	391,844	391,886	783,730	36·68	38·16	37·40
Widowed	27,851	60,701	88,552	2·60	5·91	4·23
Divorced	2,214	2,395	4,609	·21	·23	·22
Not stated	3,039	1,810	4,849	...	...	...
Total	1,071,501	1,028,870	2,100,371	100·00	100·00	100·00

The persons never married constituted 58.15 per cent. of the total population, but of these 678,364 (or 32.37 per cent. of the population) were under the age of 15 years. The number of males over the age of 15 years who had 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, 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 following table affords a comparison of the proportions of each of the principal groups to the total population where the necessary particulars were stated at each of the last seven censuses:—

Census.	Males.				Females.			
	Never married.	Married.	Widowed.	Divorced.	Never married.	Married.	Widowed.	Divorced.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
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	35·63	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 re-married.

MARRIAGES.

The number of marriages celebrated in New South Wales during 1931 was 15,377, corresponding to a rate of 6.13 per 1,000 of the population.

The following table shows the average annual number of marriages and the rates per 1,000 of the population 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	1910-14	15,978	9.17
1885-89	7,679	7.67	1915-19	15,345	7.97
1890-94	7,954	6.80	1920-24	18,374	8.55
1895-99	8,700	6.74	1925-29	19,481	8.21
1900-04	10,240	7.37	1930	17,383	6.98
1905-09	12,080	7.97	1931	15,377	6.13

A review of the marriage rates since 1880 shows that the rates declined steadily for ten years prior to 1894, when the rate was 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, but coincident with the return of men from active service the rate rose appreciably in 1919 and still more in 1920. The movement of the subsequent years shows a sharp decline followed by a recovery, then another decline. The average for the five years 1925-29, though appreciably less than in the quinquennia immediately before and after the war, was greater than for any other similar period since 1880. The rate in 1930 was 15 per cent., lower than this average, and a further decline in 1931 brought it below the low level of the year 1894.

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 1931, compared with the rates of the previous five years:—

State.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
<i>New South Wales</i> ...	8.28	8.45	8.27	7.93	6.98	6.13
Victoria ...	7.90	7.88	7.52	7.31	6.52	5.67
Queensland ...	7.34	7.04	6.95	6.67	6.59	6.21
South Australia ...	8.06	7.98	7.18	6.42	5.70	5.26
Western Australia	7.58	8.07	8.29	8.18	7.66	6.51
Tasmania ...	6.79	6.82	7.09	8.01	6.70	6.82
Commonwealth ...	7.92	7.95	7.73	7.45	6.71	5.98
New Zealand ...	7.90	7.62	7.58	7.79	7.77	6.79

Divorces.

The number of marriages dissolved annually by divorce and decree of nullity has increased materially during recent years, and they are now of considerable magnitude in relation to the number of marriages celebrated annually. Particulars of the duration of such marriages and number of issue are shown in the chapter, "Law Courts," of this Year Book.

The number of marriages dissolved in New South Wales by decrees of divorce made absolute or by declarations of nullity, in 1931, was 1084 being in the proportion of 7 per cent. to the number of marriages celebrated during the year. The corresponding numbers for 1930 were 944, equivalent to 5.4 per cent. of marriages.

Condition before Marriage.

During the year 1931 of the males married, 14,124 were bachelors, 885 were widowers, and 368 were divorced. Of the females, 14,382 were spinsters, 590 were widows, and 405 were divorced. The proportion of males remarried was 8.15 per cent., and of females 6.47 per cent.

The following table shows particulars relating to first marriages and re-marriages in quinquennial periods since 1890.

Period.	Males who were—			Females who were—			Rates per 10,000 Married.				
	Bachelors.	Widowers.	Divorced.	Spinsters.	Widows.	Divorced.	Bridegrooms.		Brides.		
							Bachelors.	Widowers and Divorced Men.	Spinsters.	Widows and Divorced Women.	
1890-94	36,610	3,063	97	36,565	3,040	165	9,205	795	9,194	806	
1895-99	39,982	3,246	273	40,031	3,036	434	9,191	809	9,202	798	
1900-04	47,243	3,657	301	47,593	3,122	486	9,227	773	9,295	705	
1905-09	56,322	3,708	370	56,762	3,129	509	9,325	675	9,398	602	
1910-14	75,155	4,193	541	75,227	3,846	816	9,407	593	9,416	584	
1915-19	71,502	4,461	764	71,559	4,235	933	9,319	681	9,326	674	
1920-24	84,834	5,571	1,463	84,723	5,428	1,717	9,234	766	9,222	778	
1925-29	89,794	5,555	2,055	90,622	4,394	2,388	9,219	781	9,304	696	
1930	15,972	1,609	462	16,186	736	461	9,188	812	9,311	689	
1931	14,124	885	368	14,382	590	405	9,185	815	9,353	647	

Since 1898 the proportion of re-marriages has usually been greater among men than women, but the reverse was the case in 1901, 1914, 1916, 1920-22; the variation in the later years was probably due to the loss of life among married men at the war.

The proportion of re-marriages has shown a tendency to increase since the year 1915, but latterly the increase has been due mainly to the re-marriages of divorced persons. The number of widowers re-married increased from 950 in 1919 to 1,233 in 1920, but it has since decreased steadily.

Age at Marriage.

The number of brides and bridegrooms in age groups in each of the last five years is shown in the following table. The ages recorded are those stated at marriage by the contracting parties, without verification, and they represent age last birthday.

Year.	Ages of Bridegrooms.				Ages of Brides.			
	Under 21 years.	21 to 29 years.	30 to 44 years.	45 and over.	Under 21 years.	21 to 29 years.	30 to 44 years.	45 and over.
1927 ...	1,405	12,546	4,956	1,145	5,285	11,184	3,008	575
1928 ...	1,519	12,403	5,016	1,133	5,426	11,079	3,000	571
1929 ...	1,405	12,339	4,611	1,180	5,167	10,939	2,843	586
1930 ...	1,401	10,797	4,108	1,077	5,053	9,441	2,370	519
1931 ...	1,402	9,634	3,425	916	4,698	8,751	1,976	452
1931	B. 1,402	9,609	2,839	374	S. 4,697	8,041	1,457	187
	W. ...	77	360	448	W. ...	95	267	228
	D. ...	48	226	94	D. ...	1	115	252

B, bachelors; S, spinsters; W, widowed; D, divorced.

Further details of the ages and condition of persons married each year are published in the Statistical Register of New South Wales.

In 1931 approximately 77 per cent. of first marriages among men and 89 per cent. among women were celebrated before attaining age 30, and the majority of marriages of persons over 45 years of age were re-marriages of one or both of the contracting parties.

The following statement shows the average age at marriage both of bridegrooms and of brides in various years since 1905. The difference between the ages at marriage of males and females is on the average about $3\frac{1}{2}$ 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.
1905	years. 29·1	years. 28·2	years. 25·0	years. 24·2	1927	years. 29·1	years. 27·8	years. 25·6	years. 24·6
1910	29·0	28·2	25·3	24·6	1928	29·0	27·8	25·6	24·6
1915	28·7	28·0	25·5	25·0	1929	29·0	27·7	25·5	24·5
1920	29·5	28·5	26·1	25·2	1930	29·0	27·6	25·3	24·2
1925	29·4	28·1	25·8	24·8	1931	28·7	27·3	25·0	24·0
1926	29·2	28·6	25·8	24·7					

The average age at marriage of bridegrooms in 1931 (excluding those who had been married previously) was nearly twelve months lower than in 1905. In the case of spinsters the average age increased by a year between 1905 and 1920, and has since declined below the former level.

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 1931 were 1 at 13, 11 at 14, 62 at 15, 282 at 16, 728 at 17, 1109 at 18, 1250 at 19, and 1255 at 20. The corresponding numbers of bridegrooms were 2 at 16, 59 at 17, 201 at 18, 440 at 19, and 700 at 20.

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	3,850	4·50	20·79
1926	1,380	4,985	7·18	25·94
1927	1,405	5,285	7·01	26·36
1928	1,519	5,426	7·57	27·03
1929	1,405	5,167	7·19	26·45
1930	1,401	5,053	8·06	29·07
1931	1,402	4,698	9·12	30·55

The proportion of minors among bridegrooms increased over a long period of years up to the year 1912, when it was 4.62 per cent., fluctuating thence down and up to 4.68 per cent. in 1920. In the years that have ensued there has been a sustained increase, and over 9 per cent. of the bridegrooms married in 1931 were minors. Among brides the proportion of minors has always been much larger than among bridegrooms, but it decreased continuously, with irregular fluctuations until the low level of 20.79 per cent. was reached in 1921. Since that year there has been an appreciable increase, and the proportion in 1931 was 30.55 per cent.

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 the number of persons who signed in this way in 1931 was only 59, equal to 1.9 per 1,000 persons married in the year.

Marriages according to Denomination.

Of the marriages performed in New South Wales in 1931 over 90 per cent. are celebrated by ministers of religion licensed under the authority of the Registrar-General. The number of marriages at which clergymen officiated was 15,886 in the year 1930 and 13,887 in 1931. The number contracted before District Registrars was 1,497 in 1930 and 1,490 in 1931, the proportion being 8.6 per cent. in 1930 and 9.7 per cent. in 1931.

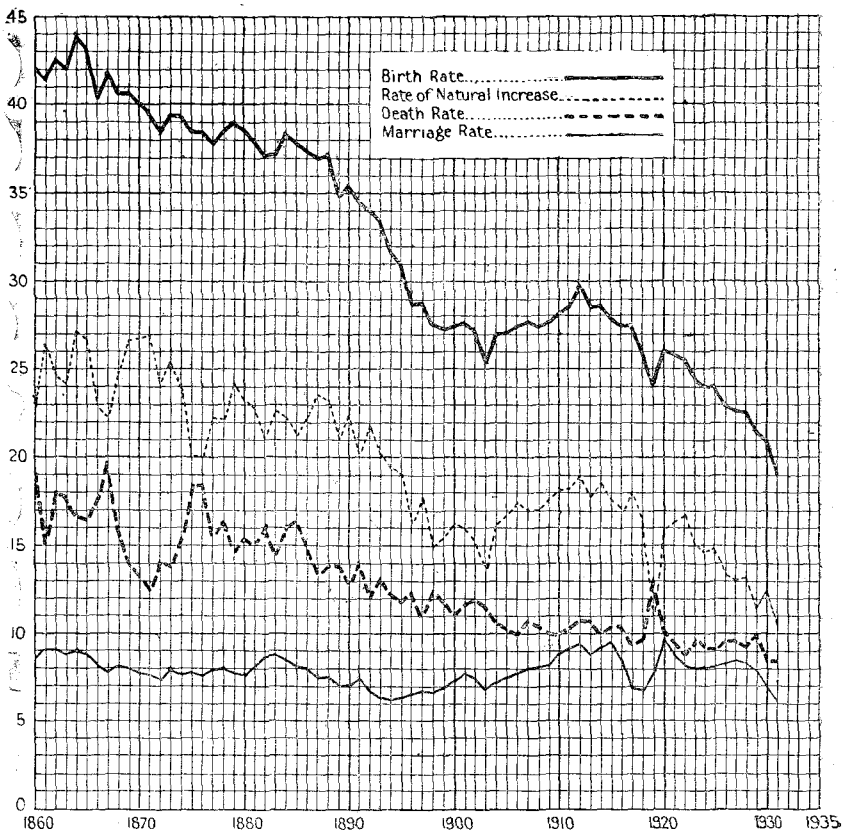
The following table gives the number and proportion per cent. of marriages registered by the several denominations during 1931, in comparison with the previous ten years:—

Denomination.	1921-30.		1931.	
	Marriages.	Proportion per cent.	Marriages.	Proportion per cent.
Church of England	79,379	42.57	6,160	40.06
Roman Catholic	38,105	20.43	3,239	21.06
Presbyterian... ..	24,926	13.37	1,943	12.64
Methodist	21,935	11.76	1,643	10.69
Congregational	4,304	2.31	291	1.89
Baptist	2,732	1.46	227	1.48
Hebrew	468	.25	36	.23
All Other Sects	3,387	1.82	348	2.26
Registrars' Offices	11,236	6.03	1,490	9.69
Total Marriages	186,472	100.00	15,377	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 Methodist churches, the position was the reverse...

RATES OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES, AND OF NATURAL INCREASE, 1860-1931.



The numbers at the side of the Graph represent rates per 1,000 of mean population.

BIRTHS.

After the first few years included in the graph shown above the birth-rate showed a steady downward tendency. 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, and it continued to fall in the years succeeding the war, despite a slight revival in the marriage rate. The birth-rate of 1924 was lower than in any previous year, and there has since been a pronounced decline.

Owing to the lapse of time since the last Census in 1921—the rates of marriages, births, and deaths based on recent estimates of population, should be regarded as tentative until new census records are available.

The following table shows the average annual number of births and the birth-rate per 1,000 of the total population since 1880:—

Period.	Average Annual Number of Births.	Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population.	Period.	Average Annual Number of Births.	Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population.
1880-84	30,417	37·89	1910-14	50,190	28·79
1885-89	36,877	36·85	1915-19	51,331	26·64
1890-94	39,550	33·80	1920-24	54,321	25·27
1895-99	37,042	28·68	1925-29	53,814	22·68
1900-04	37,498	26·99	1930	52,136	20·94
1905-09	41,788	27·86	1931	47,724	19·01

The rates shown above are calculated by the usual "crude" method of relating the births to the total population, which is not altogether satisfactory. A preferable method for purposes of strict analysis is to relate the number of mothers giving birth to children at various ages to the total number of women at corresponding ages, or to relate the annual number of births to the number of women of child-bearing ages living during the year. 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	169·49	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 7·4 per cent. lower.

From the foregoing table it will be seen that the decline since 1891 has been general in all age-groups, although it was more marked at the later than at the earlier ages, and became increasingly pronounced as age advanced. The contrast in experience in regard to the first and last quinquennia of the normal years of child-bearing is particularly striking. Whereas the birth-rate for women in the last quinquennium of child bearing years in 1891 was 174 per cent. greater than the rate for those in the first quinquennium of child bearing years, the corresponding proportion in 1921 was only 34 per cent. The rate in age group 20-24 showed a persistent improvement after 1901, and the rate for the group 15-19 was higher in 1921 than in 1901.

The crude birth-rates per 1,000 of the population of each State of the Commonwealth and of New Zealand in the last seven years are given in the following table:—

State.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
<i>New South Wales</i> ...	24·00	22·88	22·68	22·59	21·87	20·94	19·01
Victoria ...	21·49	20·84	20·30	19·70	18·99	18·56	16·88
Queensland ...	23·82	22·58	22·24	21·76	19·99	20·14	18·62
South Australia ...	21·06	20·55	20·12	19·76	18·40	17·19	15·56
Western Australia ...	22·23	22·14	22·03	21·79	22·00	21·98	20·32
Tasmania ...	24·44	23·62	23·01	22·13	22·44	22·11	21·65
Commonwealth ...	22·89	22·02	21·67	21·33	20·31	19·93	18·23
New Zealand ...	21·17	21·05	20·29	19·56	19·01	18·80	18·42

Birth-Rates—Metropolis and Remainder of the State.

Data for distinguishing the births in the metropolis from those in other districts are not available on a comparable basis beyond 1st January, 1927, because the births since that date have been allocated according to the usual address of the mother and not according to the district of registration as formerly. Five municipalities were added to the metropolitan district in 1929, and for the purpose of the comparison the births allocated to those areas in 1927 and 1928 are included with the metropolitan births in the following table:—

Year.	Number of Births.			Births per 1,000 of Population.		
	Metropolis.	Remainder of State.	New South Wales.	Metropolis.	Remainder of State.	New South Wales.
1927	22,645	31,213	53,858	19·37	25·89	22·68
1928	23,322	31,478	54,800	19·38	25·75	22·59
1929	22,347	30,325	52,672	18·18	24·55	21·37
1930	21,927	30,209	52,136	17·61	24·28	20·94
1931	19,080	23,644	42,724	15·21	22·81	19·01

* Births in Auburn, Bankstown, Granville, Lidcombe and Parramatta, included with Metropolitan births.

The age and sex constitution of the metropolitan population is considerably different from that of the remainder of the State, therefore, comparisons of crude birth-rates are to be taken with reserve.

The Sexes of Children.

Of the 47,724 children born during 1931 (exclusive of those still-born), 24,545 were males and 23,179 were females, the proportion being 106 males to 100 females. As far as observation extends, the number of female births has not exceeded that of males in any year, although the difference has sometimes been very small.

The table below shows the number of males born to every 100 females born, both in nuptial and ex-nuptial births, during the last fifty-two years:

Years.	Nuptial Births.	Ex-Nuptial Births.	All Births.	Years.	Nuptial Births.	Ex-Nuptial Births.	All Births.
1880-84	104·9	103·9	104·8	1910-14	105·2	105·1	105·2
1885-89	105·4	98·8	105·1	1915-19	105·3	104·0	105·2
1890-94	105·7	105·4	105·7	1920-24	104·6	107·3	104·8
1895-99	105·0	105·4	105·1	1925-29	105·6	106·5	105·7
1900-04	104·3	102·8	104·2	1930	104·2	109·1	104·5
1905-09	105·0	104·9	105·0	1931	106·3	99·1	105·9

Plural Births.

During the year 1931 there were 519 cases of plural births, of which one child or more was registered. They consisted of 517 cases of twins; and 2 cases of triplets. The live children thus born numbered 1,023 twins (519 males, 498 females), and 6 triplets (3 males and 3 females). There were 17 still-births. Of these 519 cases, 29 were classified as ex-nuptial.

The number of children born at plural births was 2.14 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 year 1931 in comparison with the number in the previous ten years, excluding those cases in which all were still-born, and distinguishing nuptial and ex-nuptial:—

		Twins.	Triplets.			Twins.	Triplets.
1931 Nuptial ...	...	488	2	1922-31 Nuptial ...	...	5,304	43
Ex-Nuptial ...	...	29	...	Ex-Nuptial ...	...	229	...
Total ...	...	517	2	Total ...	...	5,533	43

The total number of confinements recorded during the ten years was 526,439; hence the rates per million confinements were 10,510 cases of twins and 82 of triplets; otherwise stated, there were 11 plural births in every 1,000 confinements.

EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS.

The number of ex-nuptial births in 1931 was 2,547, equal to 5.34 per cent. of the total births and 1.01 per 1,000 of population. A statement of the ex-nuptial births in New South Wales at intervals since 1900 is given below:—

Year.	Number of Ex-Nuptial Births.	Ratio per cent. to Total Births.	Crude Rate per 1,000 of Population.	Year.	Number of Ex-Nuptial Births.	Ratio per cent. to Total Births.	Crude Rate per 1,000 of Population.
1900	2,605	7.01	1.92	1926	2,748	5.17	1.18
1905	2,912	7.37	2.00	1927	2,693	5.00	1.13
1910	2,900	6.37	1.79	1928	2,707	4.94	1.12
1915	2,681	5.07	1.42	1929	2,720	5.16	1.10
1920	2,635	4.88	1.27	1930	2,541	4.87	1.02
1925	2,756	5.05	1.21	1931	2,547	5.34	1.01

Over the whole State the proportion of ex-nuptial to total births has declined in a marked degree 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 ratio rose again during the years 1917 to 1919, when the number of legitimate births declined, and it fell to 4.9 per cent. in 1920. In subsequent years, except 1930, the number of ex-nuptial births was fairly constant and the ratio varied according to the increase or decrease in nuptial births. In 1930 the latter number was almost the same as in 1929, but the ex-nuptial births declined in a marked degree. The position was reversed in the following year.

The most accurate test to the extent of ex-nuptial births is obtained by relating the total number of such births recorded to the number of unmarried women of child-bearing age. This can only be done satisfactorily at census periods, but it indicates that, though the proportion of such births was increasing up to about 1890, it declined considerably in the next thirty years, the proportion of ex-nuptial 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 purpose 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. The total number of registrations under the Act up to the end of the year 1931 was 11,080. The number in each year of the last ten years is shown in the following table:—

Year.	Registrations.	Year.	Registrations.
1922	371	1927	646
1923	397	1928	668
1924	396	1929	496
1925	414	1930	385
1926	532	1931	472

NATURAL INCREASE.

The excess of births over deaths, or "natural increase," during 1931 was 26,440, equal to 10.53 per 1,000 of the population.

The following table shows the natural increase of population since 1890:—

Year.	Natural Increase.			Annual Rate of Natural Increase per 1,000 of Population.
	Whole State.			
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
1890-94	57,233	64,413	121,646	20.79
1895-99	49,885	57,746	107,631	16.67
1900-04	49,695	58,152	107,847	15.52
1905-09	61,652	68,993	130,645	17.23
1910-14	75,648	84,539	160,187	18.38
1915-19	71,992	82,005	153,997	15.98
1920-24	80,484	89,075	169,559	15.77
1925-29	73,812	82,169	155,981	13.15
1930	14,502	16,382	30,884	12.40
1931	12,647	13,793	26,440	10.53

Despite slight fluctuations the rate of natural increase is declining, and since 1922 the decline has been rapid. 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; in 1922 it showed a slight improvement as compared with the years immediately preceding it, but the average for the five years ending 1931 shows a decline of 34 per cent. below the pre-war average.

Although the number of males born is more numerous than that of females, the increase of population from the excess of births over deaths is

greatly in favour of the latter, since there is a disproportionately large number of deaths among males. There is also a greater mortality among male than among female children, and by this cause alone the natural excess of male births is almost neutralised. During the ten years which closed with 1931, the number of females added to the population by excess of births over deaths exceeded the males by 16,545, or 11 per cent.

The respective increases from natural and migratory causes are shown in chapter "Population" of this Year Book.

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.

Since 1925 there has been a decrease in the rates of natural increase in all the Australian States, and in New Zealand, as will be seen from the table below. The rates are per 1,000 of population.

State.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
<i>New South Wales</i> ...	14·85	13·32	13·09	13·24	11·38	12·40	10·53
Victoria ...	12·02	11·21	10·59	9·59	9·54	9·62	7·40
Queensland ...	14·96	13·19	13·18	12·99	11·01	12·21	10·76
South Australia ...	11·91	11·82	11·14	10·84	9·70	8·84	7·18
Western Australia	13·23	13·21	13·22	12·68	12·45	12·96	11·57
Tasmania ...	15·03	14·57	13·33	12·67	12·26	13·11	12·30
Commonwealth	13·69	12·60	12·22	11·88	10·76	11·34	9·53
New Zealand ...	12·88	12·31	11·84	11·07	10·26	10·24	10·08

DEATHS.

The deaths during 1931 numbered 21,284, equal to a rate of 8.48 per 1,000 of the mean population. Of the total, 11,898 were males and 9,386 females, the rate for the former being 9.34 and for the latter 7.60 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
1920-24	11,696	8,713	20,409	10·67	8·27	9·43	129
1925-29	12,886	9,732	22,618	10·65	8·37	9·53	127
1930	12,140	9,112	21,252	9·59	7·45	8·54	129
1931	11,898	9,386	21,284	9·34	7·60	8·48	127

The death-rate has fallen continuously for both sexes, but faster for females than for males. As shown above, the rate during the five years 1880-84 was over 62 per cent. higher than that experienced during the five years 1925-29. 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 mean population in each of the Australian States and in New Zealand from 1925 to 1931 is shown below:—

State.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
New South Wales ...	9·15	9·56	9·59	9·35	9·99	8·54	8·48
Victoria ...	9·47	9·63	9·71	10·11	9·45	8·94	9·48
Queensland ...	8·86	9·39	9·06	8·77	8·98	7·93	7·86
South Australia ...	9·15	8·73	8·98	8·92	8·70	8·35	8·33
Western Australia ...	9·00	8·93	8·81	9·11	9·55	9·02	8·75
Tasmania ...	9·35	9·05	9·68	10·06	10·18	9·00	9·35
Commonwealth ...	9·20	9·42	9·45	9·45	9·55	8·59	8·70
New Zealand ...	8·29	8·74	8·45	8·49	8·75	8·56	8·34

This comparison represents the respective crude death-rates of the States enumerated, but the Australian rates should be used with caution in so far as they depend upon estimates of population made several years after a census was taken. Moreover, differences in the age and sex constitution of the individual populations have not been taken into account, therefore the rates are not strictly comparable with each other as showing the true incidence of mortality in the various States.

Such a comparison can be made by applying the rates of mortality in age and sex groups to a standard population embodying a fixed distribution according to age and sex. The resultant rates constitute an index of mortality or weighted average death-rate which, in effect, shows what would have been the death-rate if the age and sex distribution of the population compared each year had been in accordance with the standard adopted. The standard used is identical with that provided by the International Statistical Institute in Part II, p. viii of the *Annuaire International de Statistique*, 1917.

The index of mortality so calculated for each of the Australian States and New Zealand is shown below:—

State.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
New South Wales	10·13	10·62	10·64	10·49	11·14	9·54	9·59
Victoria ...	9·74	9·91	10·02	10·46	9·78	9·31	9·88
Queensland ...	9·94	10·47	10·20	9·92	10·21	9·03	9·04
South Australia ...	9·43	9·02	9·36	9·21	8·97	8·69	8·69
West Australia ...	10·67	10·63	10·71	11·14	11·69	11·16	10·99
Tasmania ...	9·94	9·70	10·43	10·76	10·98	9·66	10·14
Commonwealth ...	9·93	10·20	10·43	10·44	10·39	9·33	9·56
New Zealand ...	8·75	9·17	8·65	8·63	8·86	8·58	8·24

It is necessary to emphasise that the above rates are hypothetical and are serviceable only for purposes of comparison *inter se* and with death-rates of other countries calculated on the same basis. The age and sex distribution in the standard population is supposititious, being based on an agglomeration of European populations.

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 tables of 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 usually more than half the deaths are of persons over 55

years of age, the rates of mortality below and above that age being roughly 5 and 45 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 the death-rate of males is much higher 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	4·38	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	149·36	148·98	142·43	147·36	4
All Ages	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	13·83	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
All Ages	13·47	11·02	9·47	8·96	30
Total.					
0-4	42·56	35·35	26·08	21·49	39
5-9	3·46	2·83	1·98	1·87	42
10-14	2·32	1·93	1·68	1·39	28
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
All Ages	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; and between the ages of 5 and 45 years they are generally considerably below the average.

Deaths—Metropolis and Remainder of the State.

A summary of the annual deaths and death rates in the metropolis and in the remainder of the State during the last five years is shown below. Data for comparison with earlier years are not available owing to a change in the method of classification introduced at the beginning of the year 1927 by which the deaths are grouped according to the usual residence of the deceased persons, whereas they were allocated formerly to the district of registration. The area included in the metropolis was extended in January, 1929, by the addition of the municipalities of Auburn, Bankstown, Granville, Lidcombe and Parramatta, and for the purposes of the comparison shown below the deaths allocated to these municipalities in 1927 and 1928 are included with those in the metropolis:—

Year.	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.
1927	11,574	9·90	11,196	9·22	22,770	9·59
1928	11,482	9·54	11,212	9·17	22,694	9·35
1929	12,469	10·15	12,146	9·83	24,615	9·99
1930	10,854	8·71	10,398	8·36	21,252	8·54
1931	10,901	8·69	10,385	8·27	21,284	8·48

* Deaths in Auburn, Bankstown, Granville, Lidcombe and Parramatta are included in metropolis.

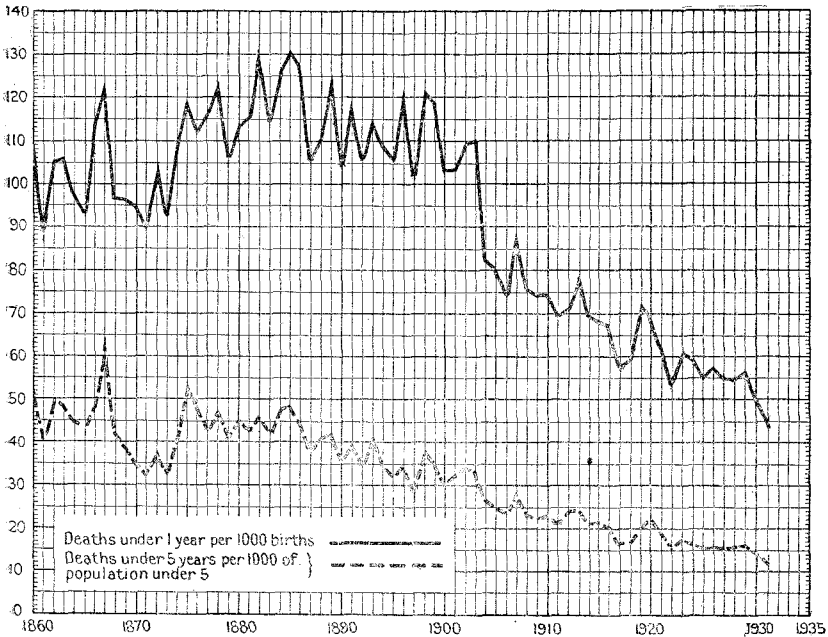
The death rate appears to be higher in the metropolis than in the country, but crude rates should be used with caution, owing to differences in the proportions of each sex and in the various age groups of the populations of these divisions.

THE MORTALITY OF INFANTS.

Deaths of Children under 1 Year.

During the year 1931 the children who died before completing the first year of life numbered 2,077, equivalent to a rate of 43·5 per 1,000 births. This rate is the lowest on record.

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1860-1931.



The death-rate is higher for male infants than for females, the rates in 1931 being 48.7 and 38.0 per 1,000 births respectively. The rates for each sex are shown in the following table in quinquennial periods since the year 1880.

Period.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Annual Average Deaths under 1.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Annual Average Deaths under 1.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Annual Average Deaths under 1.	Rate per 1,000 Births.
1880-84	1,992	127.9	1,671	112.5	3,663	120.4
1885-89	2,405	127.2	2,019	112.3	4,424	120.0
1890-94	2,413	118.7	1,986	102.3	4,379	110.7
1895-99	2,304	121.4	1,914	105.9	4,218	113.9
1900-04	2,677	108.5	1,738	94.6	3,815	101.7
1905-09	1,832	85.6	1,458	71.5	3,290	78.7
1910-14	2,037	79.2	1,611	65.8	3,648	72.7
1915-19	1,892	71.9	1,440	57.6	3,332	64.9
1920-24	1,900	68.4	1,436	54.1	3,336	61.4
1925-29	1,682	60.8	1,319	50.4	3,001	55.8
1930	1,505	56.5	1,092	42.8	2,597	49.8
1931	1,196	48.7	881	38.0	2,077	43.5

During the period reviewed, the excess of the male infantile death-rate per 1,000 births fluctuated from 16.4 in the quinquennium 1890-94 and in the year 1922, to a minimum of 6.9 in 1927. In 1931 the difference was 10.7.

* 89125-C

The remarkable improvement which has taken place in the infantile mortality rate in the period covered by the above table is due in a large degree to the measure adopted to combat preventable diseases by health laws and by education. The first important step was taken in 1881, when the Infectious Diseases Supervision Act became law. In 1896 the Public Health Act was passed, and in 1902 the acts relating to Public Health were consolidated. 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 a decrease was experienced in all causes in which care and knowledge could have effect. Thus the mortality from diarrhœa 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 in various country localities of baby health centres, and through the formation of a number of public bodies which are affiliated with the Royal Society for the Welfare of Mothers and Babies. Particulars relating to these institutions will be found in chapter "Social Condition" of this Year Book.

In 1926 the Senior Medical Officer of the Department of Public Health was appointed a Director of Maternal and Baby Welfare to supervise public activities relating to the health of women and children.

The decline in infantile mortality, especially in diarrhœal diseases, is illustrated by the following table, which gives the mortality rate per 1,000 births since 1900 from diarrhœal diseases, and from all other causes:—

Period.	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.
1900-04	29.52	72.21	101.73	1926	11.76	45.84	57.60
1905-09	21.06	57.66	78.72	1927	7.32	47.64	54.96
1910-14	20.64	52.04	72.68	1928	10.95	43.87	54.82
1915-19	13.94	50.97	64.91	1929	6.95	49.68	56.63
1920-24	13.77	47.64	61.41	1930	7.98	41.83	49.81
1925-29	8.94	46.83	55.77	1931	4.44	39.08	43.52

The incidence of diarrhœal diseases in recent years has tended to fluctuate irregularly with seasonal conditions, being relatively high in dry seasons and low in years of bountiful rainfall. In 1926, when the rainfall was below normal during several months, diarrhœal diseases caused 20.5 per cent. of the deaths of infants under 1 year of age, as compared with 14 per cent. in 1925, and 13 per cent. in 1927, when there were abundant rains. In 1931 seasonal conditions were exceptionally favourable and the proportion of diarrhœal diseases was 10.2 per cent.

Infantile Mortality by Age.

Of the total number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age, more than 40 per cent. occur within a week of birth; within the first months the proportion is over one-half, and within three months more than two-thirds. The following statement shows the number and proportion of deaths at various ages under one year in the metropolis and in the whole State:—

Age at Death.	1930.				1931.			
	Metropolis.		State.		Metropolis.		State.	
	Number of Deaths.	Deaths per 1,000 Births.	Number of Deaths.	Deaths per 1,000 Births.	Number of Deaths.	Deaths per 1,000 Births.	Number of Deaths.	Deaths per 1,000 Births.
Under 1 week ...	504	23.0	1,191	22.9	381	20.0	1,030	21.6
1 week ...	50	2.3	127	2.4	45	2.4	117	2.5
2 weeks ...	37	1.7	89	1.7	33	1.7	73	1.5
3 " ...	31	1.4	78	1.5	23	1.2	59	1.2
Under 1 month, Total	622	28.4	1,485	28.5	482	25.3	1,279	26.8
1 month ...	45	2.1	148	2.8	48	2.5	118	2.5
2 months ...	56	2.6	123	2.4	41	2.1	78	1.6
3 " ...	60	2.7	123	2.4	31	1.6	69	1.4
4 " ...	40	1.8	98	1.9	31	1.6	82	1.7
5 " ...	38	1.7	94	1.8	34	1.8	69	1.4
6 " ...	42	1.9	91	1.7	41	2.1	87	1.8
7 " ...	39	1.8	92	1.7	29	1.5	58	1.2
8 " ...	53	2.4	99	1.9	24	1.3	65	1.4
9 " ...	40	1.8	88	1.7	31	1.6	51	1.1
10 " ...	20	.9	63	1.2	28	1.5	59	1.3
11 " ...	40	1.8	93	1.8	26	1.4	62	1.3
Under 1 year, Total	1,095	49.9	2,597	49.8	846	44.3	2,077	43.5

Despite the marked decline in infantile mortality, the proportion of deaths of children under 1 week old is higher now than it was thirty years ago, 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 21.6 per 1,000 births in 1931, the corresponding rates among children over one week and under twelve months old were 83.2 per 1,000 in 1901, and 21.9 per 1,000 in 1931—a decline of 74 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 in 1931 were responsible for 83 per cent of the deaths of children during the first week of life, causing 18.0 deaths per 1,000 births out of the total rate of 21.6. These causes are not generally connected 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 decrease the number of infants who died from pre-natal causes, it is fully recognised that a general improvement in the rate of mortality among infants in the first week of life will not be attained except through increased pre-natal care, and considerable attention is being given to the care and instruction of expectant mothers.

The following table shows the rates of mortality among infants in age groups during the first year of life in quinquennial periods since 1901. Details for each year from 1901 to 1930 inclusive are published in the 1930-31 issue of this Year Book.

Period.	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.
1901-04*	21.19	11.37	19.65	52.21	22.26	26.88	101.35
1905-09	22.36	10.12	13.21	45.69	15.34	17.69	78.72
1910-14	22.28	9.14	11.53	42.95	13.07	16.66	72.68
1915-19	24.53	8.02	9.15	41.70	9.22	13.99	64.91
1920-24	23.10	7.64	8.95	39.69	9.08	12.64	61.41
1925-29	23.37	6.76	6.90	37.03	7.35	11.39	55.77
1930	22.84	5.64	5.20	33.68	6.34	10.09	49.81
1931	21.58	5.22	4.11	30.91	4.61	8.00	43.52

* Four year period.

Allowing for the operation of pre-natal causes upon the mortality in the first week of life, it is evident that pronounced improvement 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. In 1930 the rate was below 50 deaths per 1,000 births for the first time on record, and in 1931 it was less than 44 per 1,000. This rate is only 40 per cent. of the rate prevailing thirty years ago.

Infantile Mortality in Metropolis and Remainder of State.

The number of deaths of children under one year of age in the metropolis in 1931 was 846, or 44.3 per 1,000 births, and in the remainder of the State 1,231, or 43.0 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 each of the last five years. The basis of the classification as to locality is the usual residence of the mother:—

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.
1927	1,273	56.2	1,687	54.0	2,960	55.0
1928	1,183	50.7	1,821	57.8	3,004	54.8
1929	1,263	56.5	1,720	56.7	2,983	56.6
1930	1,095	49.9	1,502	49.7	2,597	49.8
1931	846	44.3	1,231	43.0	2,077	43.5

*Births allocated to five municipalities added to metropolitan area in 1929 have been included in metropolitan births.

The following table shows 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. As the rates quoted are for a single year only and fluctuate from year to year they do not show the permanent relativity between the rates prevailing in the countries named.

State.	Year.	Rate.	Country.	Year.	Rate.
New Zealand ...	1931	32.1	Norway	1930	49
South Australia ...	1931	36.3	Netherlands	1930	51
Queensland	1931	36.7	Switzerland	1930	51
Western Australia ...	1931	41.5	England and Wales..	1930	60
Commonwealth ...	1931	42.1	Sweden	1929	60
<i>New South Wales</i> ...	1931	43.5	Irish Free State ..	1930	67
Victoria	1931	44.5	Northern Ireland ...	1930	67
Tasmania	1931	46.0	*United States ...	1929	68
			†South Africa... ..	1930	70
			France	1930	79
			Scotland	1930	83
			Denmark	1929	83
			Germany	1930	84
			Prussia	1928	89
			Canada	1929	92
			Finland	1927	97
			Belgium	1929	104
			Spain	1930	117
			Italy	1928	120
			Austria	1928	120
			Czechoslovakia ...	1930	137
			Japan... ..	1929	142
			Hungary	1930	154

* Registration Area.

† White people only.

The rate of infantile mortality in New Zealand is the lowest of the rates shown in the foregoing table, and 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 115 of the Statistical Register for 1919-20 and continued in subsequent years shows the rates of infantile mortality for each of the principal causes in each year since 1895. 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, diseases of the stomach, accident, and general diseases. On the other hand, deaths from malformation, premature births, and diseases of early infancy have increased proportionately. The mortality from epidemic diseases fluctuates considerably with a tendency to decline.

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 1931, 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 (1931).							
	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 ...	·05	·11	4·82	4·98	·02	·23	3·40	3·65
Tuberculosis ...	...	...	·21	·21	...	...	·25	·25
Syphilis ...	·05	...	·37	·42	·04	·02	·21	·27
Meningitis ...	...	·10	·11	·21	·02	·04	·11	·17
Convulsions ...	·21	·05	·11	·37	·11	·06	·04	·21
Bronchitis ...	·10	·16	·31	·57	·04	·15	·46	·65
Pneumonia ...	·42	·73	3·67	4·82	·21	·46	3·48	4·15
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	...	·10	5·40	5·50	...	·15	4·30	4·45
Malformation ...	1·26	1·65	1·04	3·35	1·88	·78	1·17	3·83
Congenital Debility ...	1·05	·21	·73	1·99	1·26	·46	·65	2·37
Premature Birth ...	11·01	1·57	·21	12·79	12·09	1·76	·44	14·29
Injury at Birth ...	3·41	·37	·05	3·83	2·79	·31	·02	3·12
Other Diseases of early Infancy ...	1·68	·42	·21	2·31	2·41	·38	·16	2·95
All Other Causes ...	·73	·42	1·84	2·99	·71	·42	2·03	3·16
Total ...	19·97	5·29	19·08	44·34	21·58	5·22	16·72	43·52

In 1931 the infantile mortality rates arising from diarrhoea and enteritis, epidemic diseases, and pneumonia, were higher in the metropolis than in the State as a whole, but they were lower in respect of such causes as premature birth and congenital debility.

Approximately 84 per cent. of the deaths during the first week after birth and 55 per cent. of the deaths which occurred 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 represented 2·2 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.

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.

A dissection of the proportion of deaths from principal causes in divisions in 1931 gave the following interesting results:—

Divisions.	Deaths of Children under 1 year of Age per 1,000 Births (1931).								
	Epidemic Diseases.	Bronchitis.	Pneumonia.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis.	Malformations.	Congenital Debility.	Premature Birth.	All Other Diseases.	All Diseases.
Metropolis	4.98	.58	4.82	5.50	3.35	1.99	12.79	10.33	44.34
Country Municipalities	3.10	.78	4.50	5.43	4.96	2.79	17.84	10.55	49.95
Country Shires	2.48	.63	3.05	2.35	3.49	2.48	13.20	9.59	37.27
New South Wales	3.65	.65	4.15	4.44	3.83	2.37	14.29	10.14	43.52

Deaths of Ex-nuptial Children under 1 year.

During 1931 there were born 45,177 nuptial and 2,547 ex-nuptial children. During the same period the deaths of nuptial children under 1 year of age numbered 1,904 and of ex-nuptial children 173.

The death rate of ex-nuptial children was 61 per cent. greater than the rate for nuptial children, 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 ex-nuptial children is shown in the following table which relates to the years 1930 and 1931.

Age at Death.	Deaths per 1,000 Births, 1930.				Deaths per 1,000 Births, 1931.			
	Nuptial.	Ex-nuptial.		Total.	Nuptial.	Ex-nuptial.		Total.
		Rate.	Per cent. of Nuptial Rate.			Rate.	Per cent. of Nuptial Rate.	
Under 1 week...	21.9	41.7	190	22.9	21.2	28.7	135	21.6
1 week	2.4	2.0	83	2.4	2.4	3.9	166	2.5
2 weeks	1.7	2.0	117	1.7	1.5	1.2	76	1.5
3 ,,	1.4	3.1	221	1.5	1.2	2.3	201	1.2
Total— under 1 month	27.4	48.8	178	28.5	26.3	36.1	137	26.8
1 month	2.6	6.7	258	2.8	2.3	6.3	278	2.5
2 months	2.2	5.9	268	2.4	1.5	3.5	231	1.6
3 ,,	2.1	7.9	376	2.4	1.4	2.3	170	1.5
4 ,,	1.7	6.3	371	1.9	1.5	5.1	333	1.7
5 ,,	1.6	5.1	319	1.8	1.4	2.4	170	1.4
6 ,,	1.6	5.5	344	1.7	1.7	3.1	179	1.3
7 ,,	1.6	3.9	244	1.7	1.2	2.0	168	1.2
8 ,,	1.9	2.4	126	1.9	1.3	2.7	215	1.4
9 ,,	1.6	2.4	150	1.7	1.0	1.6	151	1.1
10 ,,	1.1	3.1	282	1.2	1.2	1.6	129	1.2
11 ,,	1.8	2.0	111	1.8	1.3	1.2	90	1.3
Total— under 1 year...	47.2	100.0	212	49.8	42.1	67.9	161	43.5

The number of ex-nuptial children who die during one year is comparatively small, consequently the annual rates of mortality for such children in age groups under one year are unstable.

The largest proportional excess of deaths of ex-nuptial children over those of nuptial children is not immediately after birth, but usually one

month or more later. During the year 1931 the mortality of ex-nuptial children exceeded that of other children by 35 per cent. during the first week of life, by 37 per cent. in the first month, and by 178 per cent. in the second, 131 per cent. in the third and 70 per cent. in the fourth, and in the succeeding month it was more than three times the rate of nuptial children.

The following table shows the number of births and deaths and the rate per 1,000 births of ex-nuptial as compared with those of nuptial children in New South Wales during various years since 1901.

Year.	Total Births.		Deaths under 1 month.				Deaths under 1 year.			
			Nuptial.		Ex-Nuptial.		Nuptial.		Ex-Nuptial.	
	Nuptial.	Ex-Nuptial.	No.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	No.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	No.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	No.	Rate per 1,000 Births.
1901	35,163	2,712	*	*	*	*	3,213	91·37	716	264·01
1906	38,066	2,882	1,116	29·32	146	50·66	2,527	66·38	525	182·16
1911	44,728	2,949	1,396	31·21	138	46·80	2,877	64·32	436	147·85
1916	49,574	2,501	1,520	30·66	137	54·78	3,168	63·90	365	145·94
1921	51,961	2,673	1,567	30·16	115	43·02	3,134	60·31	302	113·07
1926	50,378	2,748	1,490	29·58	145	52·77	2,758	54·75	302	109·90
1927	51,165	2,693	1,471	28·75	128	47·53	2,678	52·34	282	104·72
1928	52,093	2,707	1,490	28·60	113	41·74	2,732	52·44	272	100·48
1929	49,952	2,720	1,526	30·55	116	42·61	2,711	54·27	272	100·00
1930	49,595	2,541	1,361	27·44	124	48·80	2,343	47·24	254	99·96
1931	47,724	2,547	1,187	26·27	92	36·12	1,904	42·14	173	67·92

* Not available.

The table shows that whilst the ex-nuptial death rates are uniformly high compared with the nuptial rates, they have improved considerably in the period covered by the table. In 1901, one out of every four ex-nuptial children died within a year of birth; the rate in 1931 was one in fifteen.

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 of children under 5 years of age:—

Period.	New South Wales.		Period.	New South Wales.	
	Average Annual Number of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Living.		Average Annual Number of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Living.
1890-94	6,220	37·5	1915-19	4,676	19·1
1895-99	5,693	34·2	1920-24	4,518	18·4
1900-04	5,056	31·4	1925-29	4,069	15·7
1905-09	4,335	24·8	1930	3,588	14·2
1910-14	4,881	23·1	1931	2,869	11·5

The rate of mortality in 1931, compared with that of the quinquennium 1890-94, represents a saving of 26 lives in every 1000 children under 5 years in the State.

Children are more susceptible to the attacks of disease in the earliest years of life than later, and the death rate decreases steadily 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.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The system of classification adopted in this section of vital statistics is in accordance with the International List of Causes of Death, based on the fourth decennial revision by the International Commission at Paris in 1929.

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 is a summary of the principal individual causes of death in 1931, compared with the average annual number in the period 1926-30, adjusted to the population of the year 1931.

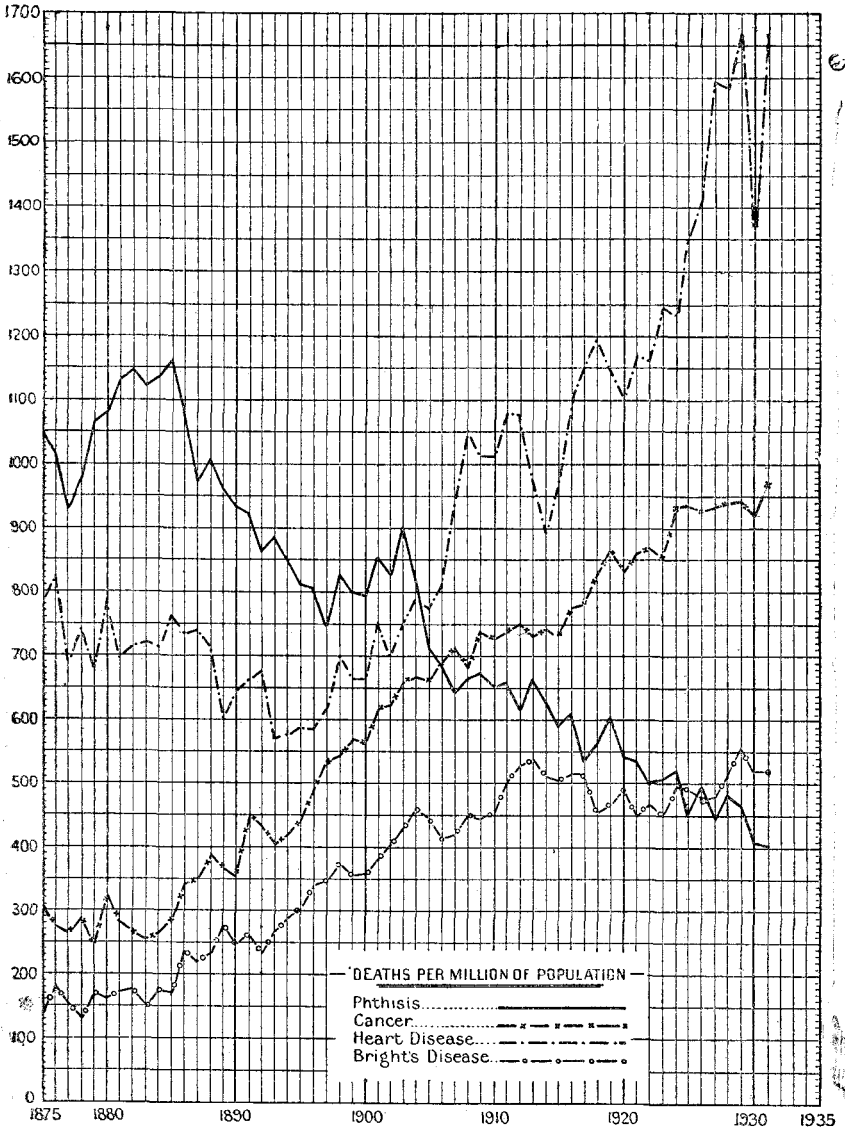
Causes of Death.	Num-ber, 1931.	Adjusted Avera-ge, 1926-30.		Causes of Death.	Num-ber, 1931.	Adjusted Avera-ge, 1926-30.	
		Num-ber.	Propor-tion.			Num-ber.	Propor-tion.
Typhoid Fever	35	63	.27	Other Diseases of the Cir-culatory System	25	92	.39
Measles	29	91	.39	Bronchitis	366	446	1.89
Scarlet Fever	36	84	.36	Pneumonia	1,398	1,817	7.70
Whooping-cough	186	171	.72	Other Diseases of the Re-spiratory System	260	306	1.30
Diphtheria and Croup	168	185	.78	Diseases of the Stomach... ..	124	155	.66
Influenza	281	304	1.29	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)... ..	253	648	2.75
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (2 years and over)	137	208	.88
Erysipelas	37	44	.19	Appendicitis	197	209	.89
Infantile Paralysis	10	9	.04	Hernia, Intestinal Obstruc-tion	179	209	.89
Lethargic Encephalitis	16	28	.12	Cirrhosis of the Liver	98	118	.50
Epidemic Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	9	13	.06	Other Diseases of the Di-gestive System	349	394	1.67
Other Epidemic Diseases	39	57	.24	Bright's Disease (Acute and Chronic)	1,311	1,280	5.42
Tuberculosis, Respiratory System	1,014	1,151	4.88	Other Genito-Urinary Di-seases	367	403	1.71
Tuberculosis Meninges and Nervous System	45	58	.25	Puerperal Septicæmia	83	90	.38
Other Tuberculous Di-seases	65	88	.37	Other Puerperal Diseases	205	230	.97
Cancer	2,439	2,340	9.92	Malignancies	205	257	1.09
Diabetes	389	302	1.28	Congenital Debility	113	234	.99
Other General Diseases	536	498	2.11	Premature Birth	682	892	3.78
Diseases of the Blood	284	222	.94	Other Developmental Di-seases	290	310	1.31
Chronic Poisonings and Intoxications	27	55	.23	Senility	684	1,008	4.27
Meningitis	74	103	.69	Suicide	277	314	1.33
Cerebral Hæmorrhage and Apoplexy*	742	938	3.98	Accident	1,071†	1,378	5.84
Insanity	104	94	.40	All other Causes	303	336	1.42
Convulsions of Infants	13	43	.18				
Other Diseases of the Ner-vous System*	523	683	2.89	Total	21,284	23,594	100.00
Diseases of the Heart	4,188§	3,852	16.24				
Diseases of the Arteries, Atheroma, &c.*	983	744	3.15				

* See paragraph below, "Cerebral Hæmorrhage." † Includes 332 from motor accidents.
 § See remarks in paragraph on Heart Diseases on page 163.

Generally speaking, the mortality from tuberculosis, bronchitis, diarrhoea and enteritis, diphtheria, and typhoid fever is decreasing; while the mortality from diseases of the heart, cancer, and Bright's disease is increasing. In the case of cerebral hæmorrhage and diseases of the arteries the figures for 1931 are not comparable with those of the previous quinquennium, because arterio sclerosis combined with any cerebral vascular lesion has been classified as a disease of the arteries since 1928, whereas it was included previously with deaths from cerebral hæmorrhage.

The figures in the foregoing 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

DEATH RATES—PRINCIPAL DISEASES—1875-1931.



with varying degrees of diagnostic equipment, and again because the age incidence is very different for the several diseases. Some diseases of the heart and diseases of the arteries, etc., affect persons of advanced years, and from the standpoint of rate of natural increase are relatively less important than are diseases like tuberculosis and pneumonia, which cause heavy mortality between ages 20 and 65. 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 disease, with the result that deaths from senility, so described, have shown a considerable decrease.

Interesting features of the table are that 11.2 per cent. of all deaths in the quinquennium 1926-30 were due to the following diseases, which are generally diseases of early childhood:—Diarrhoea and enteritis (under 2 years), malformations, diseases of infancy, whooping cough, convulsions of infants, measles, and infantile paralysis. Of the remaining deaths, more than half are due to a limited number of major causes, of which diseases of the heart, 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.

Reliable statistics are not 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. A large proportion of the deaths from these diseases are among children under school age, but the rate of mortality from them rises and falls with the recurrence of epidemics among school children. Statistics of the occurrence of infectious diseases among school children are collected quarterly, with the object of facilitating steps towards preventive and remedial measures.

Typhoid Fever.

Typhoid fever is 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 last four decades, and the mortality from typhoid, which was formerly heavy, has 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 since 1884, are stated below.

Period.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 living.
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
1924-28	245	0.41	140	0.25	385	0.33
1929	23	0.18	22	0.18	45	0.18
1930	34	0.27	14	0.11	48	0.19
1931	23	0.18	12	0.10	35	0.14

The rate of mortality from typhoid fever in 1931 represents only 14 persons per million living. This rate is 44 per cent. below that of the previous five years.

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 1931 was only 2.7 per cent. of the rate for the period 1884-88. The rate is considerably higher than that experienced in England and Wales, where during 1930 it was only 8 per million living.

Owing to a superior system of sewerage and to the greater attention given to sanitary inspection and garbage disposal, the rate of mortality from typhoid fever in the metropolis is very much lower than in the remainder of the State. The persons who died in 1931 included 9 who resided in the metropolis and 26 in other districts. The rates per 10,000 living were 0.07 and 0.21 respectively.

Most deaths from typhoid fever occur during the summer and autumn. In 1931 there were 14 deaths during the summer months of December, January, and February, and 8 during the autumn months of March, April, and May; making a total of 22 out of 35 in the whole year.

Smallpox.

There has been no death from smallpox in New South Wales since the year 1915.

Vaccination is not compulsory in this State, and the precaution is rarely adopted unless epidemics threaten, as in the year 1913, when about 425,000 persons voluntarily submitted themselves to vaccination.

Measles.

Although measles is a common complaint, the resultant mortality is comparatively very small. The following statement shows the deaths from this cause, and the rate for each sex.

Period.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 living.
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
1924-28	177	0.30	161	0.28	338	0.29
1929	38	0.30	28	0.23	66	0.27
1930	60	0.47	40	0.33	100	0.40
1931	12	0.09	17	0.14	29	0.12

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. During the year 1931 deaths from measles among children under 1 year of age numbered 7, and among children under 5 years of age, 23. The total number of deaths in this year was 29.

Scarlet Fever.

In 1931 the number of deaths from this disease was 36, equivalent to a rate of 0.14 per 10,000 of the population. Of these, 23 occurred in the metropolis, and 13 in the remainder of the State, showing rates of 0.18 and 0.10 per 10,000 for the respective divisions. The rate of mortality from this cause during 1931 was 57 per cent. below that of the preceding quinquennium. Since 1884 the deaths from scarlet fever and the rates for each sex have been as follows:—

Period.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 living.
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	.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
1924-28	142	0.24	185	0.32	327	0.28
1929	30	0.24	48	0.40	78	0.32
1930	29	0.23	25	0.20	54	0.22
1931	18	0.14	18	0.15	36	0.14

Like measles, scarlet fever is an epidemic disease which mainly affects children, the rate generally being somewhat higher for females than for males. Of the deaths during 1931, 22 were of children under 10 years of age, viz., 14 males and 8 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.

Whooping-cough.

Whooping-cough is another disease which mainly affects children, and to which, like scarlet fever, females are more susceptible than males. The number of deaths and rates of mortality for each sex since 1884 are shown below.

Period.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 living.
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	382	0.82	717	0.75
1919-23	440	0.82	497	0.96	937	0.89
1924-28	390	0.66	462	0.81	852	0.73
1929	90	0.72	122	1.01	212	0.86
1930	69	0.54	95	0.78	164	0.66
1931	81	0.64	105	0.85	186	0.74

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 months of January and September to December.

Epidemics of whooping-cough among school children are only second in magnitude to those of measles. The records show that, during the past nineteen years, this disease has affected large numbers of school children every year and that virulent epidemics occurred in 1913, 1920, 1921, and 1925. The total number of deaths from whooping-cough in these years was 344, 369, 257, and 323 respectively.

Diphtheria and Croup.

As causes of death these diseases decreased in importance between 1884 and 1904. During the next ten years there was a slight increase in mortality, but the years which have since elapsed have shown an appreciable decline.

Diphtheria and croup, under which heading membranous laryngitis is included, caused 168 deaths in 1931. Deaths from these diseases in the metropolitan area numbered 65, and those in the remainder of the State,

103, the respective rates per 10,000 living for each division being 0.52 and 0.82. The following table shows the number of deaths and the rates since 1884:—

Period.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 living.
1884-88	1,069	4.04	950	4.51	2,049	4.25
1889-93	1,433	4.65	1,399	5.36	2,832	4.98
1894-98	712	2.10	710	2.39	1,422	2.24
1899-1903	310	3.86	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
1924-28	448	0.76	394	0.69	842	0.72
1929	103	0.82	112	0.92	215	0.87
1930	90	0.71	86	0.69	176	0.70
1931	81	0.64	87	0.70	168	0.67

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.

The experience of the quinquennial period 1927-31 shows the disease to be most fatal during the months of April, May, and June. Ninety-six per cent. of the persons who died from diphtheria during 1931 were under 10 years of age, and 77 per cent. were under 5 years of age.

Influenza.

During 1931 there were 281 deaths due to influenza, the rate of mortality being 8 per cent. below the average of the previous quinquennium. 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 an outbreak resulted in 372 deaths. This was completely overshadowed by the disastrous epidemic in 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.	
1875-1890	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
1920-1924	864	788	1,652	1.54
1925-1929	794	685	1,479	1.25
1930	62	67	129	0.52
1931	143	138	281	1.12

Prior to 1919 influenza was essentially a disease fatal to young children and persons past 45 years of age, 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 1920 with those of 1914-18 and 1919 in age groups representing approximately the different stages of life, it will be seen that the character of the disease has reverted to the type experienced prior to 1919.

Age Group.	Deaths per cent. of Total.					
	1914-1918.	1919.	1920-1924.	1925-1929.	1930.	1931.
Under 10 ...	14	6	11	10	19	13
10-24 ...	7	12	7	7	7	4
25-44 ...	15	53	20	18	16	14
45-64 ...	21	22	27	26	27	27
65 and over ...	43	7	35	39	31	42
Total ...	100	100	100	100	100	100

Tuberculous Diseases.

The number of deaths ascribed to the several classified forms of tuberculous diseases during 1931 was 1,124, or 5.3 per cent. of the actual mortality in the State, and equal to 4.48 per 10,000 living—a rate about 13 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 seven years is given below. The rates are stated per 1,000 of the total population, and do not take account of differences in the distribution of age and sex in the respective populations, which have a material influence on the rates.

State.	Death-rate from tuberculous diseases per 1,000 of Total Population.						
	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
New South Wales ...	0.51	0.55	0.50	0.54	0.53	0.46	0.45
Victoria ...	0.66	0.63	0.65	0.66	0.59	0.59	0.55
Queensland ...	0.42	0.45	0.42	0.41	0.37	0.41	0.37
South Australia ...	0.70	0.70	0.63	0.59	0.60	0.50	0.57
Western Australia ...	0.78	0.72	0.65	0.62	0.68	0.60	0.58
Tasmania ...	0.64	0.62	0.69	0.65	0.59	0.60	0.55
Commonwealth ...	0.58	0.59	0.56	0.56	0.54	0.51	0.49
New Zealand ...	0.51	0.54	0.49	0.50	0.46	0.46	0.43

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 1,014 deaths, or 90.2 per cent. of the number due to tuberculosis during the year 1931, being fifth in the order of magnitude among the fatal diseases of the State. The mortality rate per 10,000 living was slightly lower than in the previous year. The male rate in 1931 was 4.77 and the female rate 3.29.

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 living	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 living	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 living.
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	1,983	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	2,286	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
1924-28	3,337	5·63	2,217	3·89	5,554	4·78
1929	684	5·47	467	3·86	1,151	4·67
1930	614	4·85	408	3·33	1,022	4·10
1931	608	4·77	406	3·29	1,014	4·04

The general rate has decreased more than 50 per cent. in the period under review, that for females slightly more than that for males. The female rate ranged 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 table below shows the death-rates from tuberculosis of the respiratory system or phthisis according to age and sex in decennial periods from 1891 to 1920:—

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	1·06	1·17	·68	·97	·97	·62	1·01	1·07	·66
5-9	·34	·31	·18	·37	·39	·25	·45	·35	·21
10-14	·54	·52	·28	1·08	1·07	·59	·81	·79	·43
15-19	3·37	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	6·88	10·17	8·45	6·78
25-34	15·68	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	10·97
55-64	21·98	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	8·80	7·31	5·94

The decrease shown in female rates was slightly greater than that in male rates. The rates according to age, however, showed a remarkable difference when the sexes were compared. For male the rates increased steadily until age 60, after which a rapid decrease was shown.

For females the rates reached their highest point in the age group 25-34, and did not decline in after life in any marked degree.

The rates for the whole population, while negligible under the age of 15 years, increased from that age to 25 years, and then remained practically constant until 75 is reached, after which age the rate dropped quickly.

Pulmonary tuberculosis has been notifiable throughout the State since 1st March, 1929.

Other Tuberculous Diseases.

Of the 1,124 deaths during 1931 from tuberculosis, only 110 were from tuberculosis of organs other than the lungs. The corresponding figures for 1930 were 122 from a total of 1,144. For the year 1931, 32 deaths, equivalent to 29 per cent., were of children under 5 years of age. Taking the age group under 5 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 living—Tuberculosis other than Phthisis.					
	Ages under 5 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	5·98	6·55	1·70	1·51	1·61
1911-1920	3·13	2·96	3·06	1·00	·86	·93
1921-1930	1·83	1·65	1·74	·63	·53	·58
1931	1·42	1·15	1·29	·49	·38	·44

Cancer.

In 1931 the deaths from cancer numbered 2,439, equal to a rate of 9.72 per 10,000 living. The average rate of mortality in the five years 1924-28 was much higher than in any preceding period, being 9.34 per 10,000 living as compared with 3.30 for a similar period forty years previously. The total for 1931 included 1,266 males and 1,173 females, the rates being 9.93 and 9.49 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 in 1931:—Stomach and duodenum 625, intestines 293, other of digestive tract 354, female genital organs 268, breast 233, male genito-urinary organs 177, buccal cavity 139, respiratory organs 102, skin 64, and other organs 184.

The following table shows the deaths and rates of each sex since 1884:—

Period.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 living.
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
1924-28	5,790	9·77	5,068	8·89	10,858	9·34
1929	1,224	9·75	1,098	9·08	2,322	9·42
1930	1,212	9·57	1,078	8·81	2,290	9·20
1931	1,266	9·93	1,173	9·49	2,439	9·72

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, and in 1924 the first time on record, and in each succeeding

year to 1930 the male rate was greater than the female rate. This change is attributed by the Registrar-General in his Annual Review to the operation of two factors which probably exercises 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 crude rate for both sexes combined is usually much higher, and is increasing more rapidly than in New South Wales.

The ages of the 2,439 persons who died from cancer in New South Wales during 1931 ranged from under 1 year to 99 years, but the disease is one of advanced age, 97 per cent. of the persons who died from cancer in 1931 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 from 1891 to 1920:—

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	·89	1·09	1·24	1·37	1·47	1·07	1·12	1·28
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	31·52	35·65	34·59
65-74	51·32	72·00	69·19	43·60	62·06	59·07	47·18	67·71	64·60
75 and over ..	63·78	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 group 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. Steps have been taken by the University of Sydney to organise research work in relation to the disease. Laboratories have been equipped within the University, and research workers have been engaged to conduct investigations locally and abroad.

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 and sex incidence.

State.	Cancer Death-rate per 1,000 of Total Population.							
	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
New South Wales ...	0·93	0·94	0·93	0·93	0·94	0·94	0·92	0·97
Victoria ...	1·00	0·98	1·01	1·00	1·07	1·07	1·04	1·09
Queensland ...	0·79	0·81	0·88	0·82	0·85	0·87	0·79	0·91
South Australia ...	0·94	0·93	0·95	0·93	1·00	1·10	1·02	1·18
Western Australia ...	0·91	0·81	0·90	0·88	0·86	0·92	1·00	0·97
Tasmania ...	0·92	0·92	0·88	1·03	0·78	0·95	0·95	1·00
Commonwealth ...	0·93	0·92	0·94	0·93	0·96	0·97	0·95	1·01
New Zealand...	0·96	0·91	0·99	0·96	0·99	1·04	1·02	1·03

Diabetes.

The proportion of deaths due to diabetes has been growing during the past twenty-five years and now it ranks thirteenth in the list of individual causes arranged in order of number of deaths. Although the disease is responsible for less than 2 per cent. of the annual number of deaths the rate of mortality from diabetes has increased, the average of the last five years being 45 per cent. higher than that for a similar period twenty years ago.

The deaths due to diabetes in 1931 numbered 389, equal to a rate of 1.55 per 10,000 living. The rate for males was 4.99 and for females 2.13 per 10,000 living of each sex. Most of the deaths occurred after middle life, 339 out of 389 deaths in 1931, or 87 per cent. being persons over 45 years of age.

Meningitis.

The diseases included under the above heading—encephalitis, simple meningitis, and non-epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis—caused 74 deaths during 1931; the corresponding rate being 0.29 per 10,000 living. Of this number 41 were males and 33 females, equivalent to rates per 10,000 living of each sex of 0.32 and 0.27 respectively. The deaths in the metropolis and country were 27 and 47, with corresponding rates per 10,000 living of 0.22 and 0.37.

Of those who died during 1931, 22, or 30 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, then there was an appreciable decline until 1924. Since that year the figures are not strictly comparable owing to changes in the method of classification due to a revision in the classification of causes of death. In 1925 greater preference was given to cerebral hæmorrhage as a cause of death when found in combination with diseases of the arteries, atheroma, etc. In 1928, however, a further change was made, and all cases of arterio-sclerosis combined with any cerebral vascular lesion are now included with diseases of the arteries.

The number of deaths due to cerebral hæmorrhage and apoplexy during the year 1931 under the new classification, was 742, of which 338 were of males and 404 of females. The rate was 2.96 per 10,000 living, viz., 2.65 for males and 3.27 for females.

The following table shows the number of deaths and the rates for both sexes from cerebral hæmorrhage and apoplexy since 1884, but the comparison over the last seven years is affected by the alterations in classification mentioned above.

Period.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 living.
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	3.4	1,587	3.08	3,322	3.16
1924-28	2,225	3.75	2,210	3.88	4,435	3.81
1929	436	3.47	418	3.46	854	3.47
1930	373	2.95	395	3.23	768	3.08
1931	338	2.65	404	3.27	742	2.96

Convulsions of Children.

Convulsions of children (under 5 years of age) caused 13 deaths during 1931, or 0.05 per 10,000 living at all ages, which is 70 per cent. below the rate for the previous quinquennium. The corresponding number of deaths in 1875 was 18.

The following table shows the number of deaths and the rates from convulsions of children for both sexes in periods since 1875:—

Year.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 Living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 Living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 Living.
1875-79	1,538	8.93	1,291	8.94	2,829	8.93
1880-84	2,007	9.12	1,600	8.83	3,607	8.99
1885-89	1,916	6.99	1,615	7.14	3,531	7.06
1890-94	1,601	5.07	1,355	5.03	2,956	5.05
1895-99	1,281	3.73	1,119	3.70	2,400	3.72
1900-04	781	2.15	625	1.89	1,406	2.02
1905-09	550	1.40	480	1.32	1,030	1.36
1910-14	458	1.00	343	0.83	801	0.92
1915-19	404	0.83	291	0.61	695	0.72
1920-24	208	0.38	183	0.35	391	0.26
1925-29	145	0.24	98	0.17	243	0.20
1930	13	0.10	5	0.04	18	0.07
1931	4	0.03	9	0.07	13	0.05

The rates of mortality show a remarkably steady decline. The disease, once of formidable importance, is now only a minor cause of death. Being limited to children under 5 years of age, the rates are better stated proportionately at that age-period. On this basis the death-rate in 1931 was 0.52, as compared with 1.62 of the previous quinquennium. Of the total deaths during 1931, ten occurred during the first year of life, the equivalent rate being 0.21 per 1,000 births. The deaths of males and females during the first year of life were 4 and 6 respectively; for all children under 5 years of age, 4 males and 9 females. 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, 1931, there were 9,703 persons under official cognisance, including 33 patients from the Broken Hill district who were under treatment in South Australian hospitals. The proportion per 1,000 of the population was 3.87, or about 4.9 per cent. more than the average for the previous five years. The number at 30th June, 1932, was 9,926 or 3.92 per 1000 of population.

The number of deaths from insanity was 104—75 males and 29 females—in the year 1931. The death-rate per 10,000 living was 0.59 for males and 0.23 for females. In England and Wales the corresponding figures in 1930 were 0.73 and 0.43.

In the year 1930-31 there were 525 deaths in mental hospitals, equivalent to 58.5 per 1,000 of the average number of patients in residence. In the following year there were 586 deaths. The 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 Living—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	90.8	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 was very much higher than among the general population. In the earlier years the ratio of the disparity was nearly 10 to 1, but it diminished as age increased, and after age 70 it was about 3 to 1.

Diseases of the Heart.

Statistics of mortality from diseases of the heart are of limited value, because there are important factors connected with the mode of certification and classification which affect the numbers from year to year.

The causes classified as diseases of the heart include pericarditis, endocarditis and other valvular diseases, disease of the myocardium, angina pectoris, and, for the first time in 1931, diseases of the coronary arteries.

The figures in the following statement indicate that the death-rate in respect of diseases of the heart has more than doubled during the last thirty years. This may be due to an actual increase in mortality from these causes or it may be rather a result of more highly specialised biological knowledge and of greater attention to pathological diagnoses. There is no doubt, for instance, that many deaths recorded in former years as being caused by senile decay would be assigned now to some cardiac trouble. Moreover, it is considered that there has been an increasing tendency on the part of medical practitioners in recent years to give prominence to myocarditis as a cause of death, whether it was chronic or a terminal condition supervening in illness due primarily to some other cause. Again death certificates frequently show diseases of the heart in combination with one or more other diseases as the cause of death, and in classifying such certificates according to cause, definite principles are observed, a large measure of preference being given to diseases of the heart. This is another factor which may have operated in the direction of swelling the increase in the number of deaths ascribed to this group of diseases. It is not practicable, however, to gauge the effects of the various changes which occur over a period of years, so that the figures may not be regarded as a satisfactory basis for comparison.

The number of deaths ascribed to diseases of the heart since 1884, and the death-rates of each sex are shown below:—

Period.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 Living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 Living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 Living.
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
1919-1923	6,901	12·87	5,384	10·44	12,285	11·68
1924-1928	9,360	15·79	7,377	12·94	16,737	14·39
1929	2,286	18·20	1,816	15·02	4,102	16·64
1930	1,934	15·27	1,487	12·15	3,421	13·74
1931	2,359	18·51	1,829	14·80	4,188	16·68

In 1930 there was a marked decline in the death-rate from diseases of the heart, the movement being similar to the trend of the death-rate from all causes combined. In the following year the general death-rate was as low as in 1930, but the death-rate from diseases of the heart rose to a very high level. Part of the increase was due to the inclusion of 245 deaths from diseases of the coronary arteries—not included in former years.

The ages of persons who died from diseases of the heart during 1931 ranged between 3 years and 108 years, and 92 per cent. were 45 years or over.

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	.35	.39	.97	.49	1.02	1.05	.42
5-9 .. ..	.99	1.10	.94	.98	1.16	.95	.99	1.13	.94
10-14 .. .	1.23	1.49	1.13	1.31	1.84	1.49	1.30	1.68	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	1.33	1.94	2.02	1.62	1.74	2.09
25-34 .. .	2.66	2.15	2.88	2.53	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
45-54 .. .	13.36	13.79	15.01	11.20	11.80	11.90	12.47	12.93	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	91.34	99.07	54.65	78.67	81.78	62.37	86.15	91.21
75 and over ..	104.74	178.83	237.73	89.54	141.23	201.76	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 increased by nearly 70 per cent. during the period reviewed, the increase is practically confined to ages 55 and over, due to causes explained in the previous paragraph.

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 366 deaths during 1931, equal to a rate of 1.46 per 10,000 living. Of the total, 176 were males and 190 females, the corresponding rates per 10,000 of each sex being 1.38 and 1.54. The rate for the State was 18 per cent. lower than that experienced during the previous five years. Deaths in the metropolis numbered 180, and there were 186 in other parts of the State. The corresponding rates were 1.43 and 1.48 per 10,000 living. Of the total deaths, 126 were caused by acute bronchitis, 155 cases were shown as being due to the disease in its chronic form, and 85 were unspecified. Of those persons who died of acute bronchitis, 25 per cent. were under one year of age, and 86 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 1,398 deaths during 1931, the equivalent rate per 10,000 living being 5.57, which was 23 per cent. below the average for the preceding quinquennium. Of the total 818 were males and 580 females. The male and female rates per 10,000 living were 6.42 and 4.69 respectively. The deaths in the metropolis numbered 702 and those in the remainder of the State 696. 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 1931, 26 per cent. were under 5 years of age and 51 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 Living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 Living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 Living.
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	5.83
1914-1918	3,779	7.78	2,402	5.17	6,181	6.50
1919-1923	4,217	7.87	3,042	5.90	7,259	6.90
1924-1928	4,810	8.11	3,498	6.14	8,308	7.14
1929	1,273	10.13	943	7.80	2,216	8.99
1930	705	5.57	570	4.66	1,275	5.12
1931	818	6.42	580	4.69	1,398	5.57

The greatest mortality from pneumonia occurs in the cold weather and early spring.

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 ..	3.03	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	2.39	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 ..	16.08	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	28.89	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 information being available as to cause of death.

Diseases of the Digestive System.

Diseases of the digestive system caused the deaths of 779 males and 588 females during 1931, the respective rates per 10,000 living being 6.11 and 4.76. The rate corresponding to the total deaths from these diseases in the State was 5.45 per 10,000 living, and was 30 per cent. lower than 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 appendicitis, hernia and intestinal obstruction, and cirrhosis of the liver next in order of fatality.

Diarrhœa and Enteritis.

The incidence of these diseases is mainly upon young children, and the pronounced effect of seasonal conditions upon the mortality from this cause

is dealt with in discussing deaths of children under 1 year of age. The deaths of children under 1 year from these causes in 1931, totalled 212—128 males and 84 females. In 1931 there were 420 deaths from these causes at all ages, equivalent to a rate of 1.67 per 10,000 of the general population, the rate for males being 1.83 and for females 1.51. The combined rate was 51 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 Living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 Living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 Living.
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
1924-1928	2,436	4.11	2,036	3.57	4,472	3.85
1929	363	2.89	278	2.30	641	2.60
1930	422	3.33	295	2.41	717	2.88
1931	233	1.83	187	1.51	420	1.67

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, which, however, was not maintained, and during the last eleven years the general trend has been downward, though the rate has fluctuated. The unusually low mortality in 1931 was probably due in a large measure to favorable seasonal conditions.

Of the total deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis during 1931, 181 or 43 per cent., occurred in the months of January, February, and March; and 58 or 14 per cent., in the months of June, July, and August. As a rule, nearly 50 per cent. of the deaths occur in the months first mentioned.

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 283 or 67 per cent. of the total, and in the second, 137. Additional particulars are shown on page 146.

Since such a large proportion of the deaths is 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 diarrhoea and enteritis are related to the total number of children in that age group:—

Year.	No.	Rate per 1,000 Living.	Year.	No.	Rate per 1,000 Living.
1881	733	33.50	1927	513	4.93
1891	985	14.76	1928	775	7.43
1901	1,165	18.10	1929	474	4.50
1911	963	11.21	1930	557	5.50
1921	988	10.08	1931	283	2.94

Although the rate of mortality from these causes is still comparatively heavy, there has been a very marked improvement. The proportion of deaths in 1931 was one-eleventh of the rate in 1881.

Appendicitis.

To this cause 197 deaths were ascribed in 1931, the rate being 0.78 per 10,000 living, which is 6 per cent. below the average of the preceding quinquennium. Appendicitis is more fatal to males than to females, the rate for the former in 1931 being 0.98, and for the latter 0.58 per 10,000 living. The number of deaths from appendicitis in 1930 was 211.

Cirrhosis of the Liver.

Information relating to mortality from cirrhosis of the liver is of interest in connection with alcoholism.

Deaths from cirrhosis of the liver in 1931 numbered 98—73 males and 25 females, the rate being 0.39 per 10,000 living—17 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 1931, being 0.57, and for the latter 0.20 per 10,000 living in each sex.

The number of deaths from this cause in 1930 was 108.

Bright's Disease or Nephritis.

Bright's disease or nephritis has grown from a comparatively infrequent cause of death to a prominent position among the major causes, and now it ranks fourth 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 more than doubled. A check in the increase then set in, and was followed after 1918 by an appreciable decrease, and the average annual rate for the next five years fell to 456 per million inhabitants as against 501 in 1914-18. In 1924, 1925, 1928, and 1929, however, the rates exceeded 490, and reached a maximum figure of 555 per million in 1929.

During 1931 there were 1,678 deaths due to diseases of the genito-urinary system, of which 1,311 were caused by Bright's disease, acute and chronic. The rate was 5.22 per 10,000 living, and for males and females 5.75 and 4.68 respectively, the general rate being nearly 2 per cent. above that experienced during the previous quinquennium. The deaths due to these diseases in the metropolis were 719, and in the rest of the State 592, the corresponding rates per 10,000 living being 5.73 and 4.71. 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 Living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 Living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 Living.
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
1924-1928	3,391	5.72	2,324	4.08	5,715	4.91
1929	769	6.12	598	4.95	1,367	5.55
1930	747	5.90	553	4.52	1,300	5.22
1931	733	5.75	578	4.68	1,311	5.22

During the period covered by the foregoing table the rate of mortality both for males and females has more than doubled. The rate for males in 1931 was 23 per cent. higher than that for females. Comparatively few persons under 35 years of age die from nephritis, the proportion in 1931 being 8 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	.40	.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	1.23	1.07	1.29	1.13	1.05	1.31
25-34 ..	1.89	1.85	1.88	2.33	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	9.03	8.37
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 had decreased. The male rate at practically every age was 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 from Puerperal Causes.

The word "puerperal" is used in the broadest sense and includes all deaths due to pregnancy, parturition, or diseases of the breast during lactation.

Details of the deaths due to puerperal causes according to age, duration of marriage, previous issue, cause, locality and conjugal condition are shown in the Statistical Register. In 1931 the deaths of 288 women were due to puerperal causes, viz., 254 married and 34 single women. Of the married mothers 12 and of the single mothers 15 died before reaching the age of 21 years; the ages at death of the married women ranged from 18 years to 47 years, and of single women from 17 years to 42 years. The age at marriage of mothers who died ranged from 15 to 43 years. In one case the duration of marriage was 27 years, but 15 mothers died within a year of marriage. In 61 cases there was no previous issue and in 37 of these cases the death occurred within two years of marriage, while in one case 13 children survived the mother. In 59 cases of the 288 deaths from puerperal causes the child was still-born.

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 thousand births. Such rates showed a persistent though fluctuating decline in the three decades 1895-1924. During the period 1895-1904 the annual average number of deaths of mothers in child-birth was 268, equal to 7.1 deaths per 1,000 births. The corresponding number in the period 1905-1914 was 284, and the rate 6.2, compared with 289 and 5.2 respectively in the period 1915-1924. The lower proportion of unmarried mothers contributed slightly to this decline; but the rates

quoted represent very closely the improvement that occurred in mortality in childbirth among married mothers. A comparison of deaths in childbirth in this State with those of other countries must be made with caution. In the international list of causes of death criminal abortion is classified with homicide. In the table given below deaths from this cause are included to show the total deaths incidental to childbirth, but the totals are also shown excluding criminal abortion to enable comparison to be made with other countries where these deaths are not included.

Causes.	Deaths, 1926-30.		Deaths, 1931.	
	No.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	No.	Rate per 1,000 Births.
Accidents of Pregnancy	167	.63	35	.73
Puerperal Hæmorrhage	180	.67	33	.69
Puerperal Septicæmia	431	1.62	41	.86
Puerperal Septicæmia, following Abortion, Miscarriage.			41	.86
Albuminuria and Eclampsia	285	1.07	42	.88
Phlegmasia Alba Dolens, Embolus, Sudden Death.	121	.45	23	.48
Other Casualties of Childbirth	158	.59	28	.59
Total, excluding Illegal Operations	1,342	5.03	243	5.09
Illegal Operations	195	.73	45	.94
Total	1,537	5.76	288	6.03

The number of deaths of women resulting from various diseases and casualties due to puerperal causes was 288 in 1931, as compared with 304 in 1930, equivalent to a rate of 6.0 in 1931 and 5.8 in 1930 per 1,000 births. The causes of deaths in 1931 with the corresponding total for 1930 shown in brackets were:—Puerperal septicaemia 82 (80) deaths, puerperal hæmorrhage 33 (36), accidents of pregnancy 35 (33), albuminuria and eclampsia 42 (41), phlegmasia alba dolens, embolus, sudden death 23 (24), and other casualties of childbirth 28 (46). The experience of the five years 1927-31 shows that the average number of fatal cases per 1,000 births for married and for single women are 5.7 and 10.6 respectively. Plural births are reckoned as single confinements.

Cause of Death in Childbirth.	Number of Deaths, 1927-31.			Proportion per cent. due to each Cause.	
	Married.	Single.	Total.	Married.	Single.
Accidents of Pregnancy	155	14	169	10.99	10.07
Puerperal Hæmorrhage	180	6	186	12.77	4.32
Puerperal Septicæmia	412	34	446	29.22	24.46
Albuminuria and Eclampsia	255	13	268	18.08	9.35
Phlegmasia Alba Dolens, Embolus, Sudden Death.	118	4	122	8.37	2.88
Other Casualties of Childbirth	152	6	158	10.78	4.32
Total, excluding Illegal Operations ...	1,272	77	1,349	90.21	55.40
Illegal Operations	138	62	200	9.79	44.60
Total	1,410	139	1,549	100.00	100.00

Illegal operations caused almost 45 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. Over 25 per cent. of the deaths are due to this cause, but the proportion has declined appreciably in recent years. The annual rates of mortality of mothers in childbirth per 1,000 births in 1931 as compared with the preceding four years were as follows:—

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.
1927	2.0	1.9	1.9	7.9	5.7	6.5
1928	2.0	1.8	1.9	6.3	5.8	6.0
1929	2.0	1.1	1.5	6.1	4.7	5.3
1930	2.0	1.2	1.5	6.1	5.7	5.8
1931	2.0	1.5	1.7	6.7	5.6	6.0

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. 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 1931 numbered 1,457, or 6.8 per cent. of the total deaths of the year. This number includes 277 suicides, 1,071 accidents, 42 homicides, 62 "open verdicts" and 5 other. The rate, 5.80 per 10,000 living, was 18 per cent. below the rate for the preceding quinquennium, which was 7.04. In the year 1931 the males numbered 1,137 or 8.92 per 10,000 living, and the females 320, or 2.59 per 10,000, and 29 per cent. of the male rate.

Deaths from Suicide.

The number of persons who took their own lives in 1931 was 277 or a rate of 1.10 per 10,000 living, and about 12 per cent. below the average for the preceding quinquennium. The number of male suicides was 225, or a rate of 1.77 per 10,000 living, and of female 52, or a rate of 0.42 per 10,000 living—the male rate being four times that of the females.

The number of deaths from suicide and the rates since 1884 are shown in the following table:—

Period.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 Living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 Living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 Living.
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
1924-1928	1,100	1.86	269	0.47	1,369	1.18
1929	239	1.90	62	0.51	301	1.22
1930	298	2.35	63	0.51	361	1.45
1931	225	1.77	52	0.42	277	1.10

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 during the five years 1927-31, 29 were by the agency of poison, 20 by shooting, 14 by cutting, 13 by hanging, 9 by gas and 8 by drowning. The proportion of suicides by shooting during the five years 1917-21 was 28 per cent., and the decrease since that period is probably the result of the introduction in 1921 of regulations regarding the possession of firearms.

Experience indicates that the suicidal tendency is probably influenced by the seasons. During the last ten years, 1922-1931, the proportion of male suicides per 1,000 was approximately as follows:—In spring 252, summer 271, autumn 239, and winter 238. The number of suicides is usually greater in January and December, 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 1931 the number of fatal accidents was 1,071, viz., 826 of males and 245 of females, or equal to rates of 6.48 and 1.98 per 10,000 living of each sex, and the general rate was 4.27 per 10,000 living.

The number of deaths from accident and the rates since 1884 are shown in the table below:—

Period.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 Living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 Living.	Deaths.	Rate per 10,000 Living.
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	5.04
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
1924-1928	4,816	8.12	1,331	2.34	6,147	5.29
1929	1,134	9.03	297	2.46	1,431	5.81
1930	963	7.61	263	2.15	1,226	4.92
1931	826	6.48	245	1.98	1,071	4.27

Although the death-rate from accidents is still high compared with that of more closely settled countries, it has decreased, the lowest rates being in the years 1922, 1923 and 1931. In the years prior to 1894 certain causes not now classed as accidents were included and the figures for 1931 do not include violent deaths in respect of which "open verdicts" were recorded at coroners' inquests. These cases, numbering 62 in 1931 were classified in earlier years with accidental deaths.

The experience of the quinquennium ended 1931 shows that out of every 1,000 fatal accidents 360 are due to vehicles and horses, 145 to drowning, 146 to falls, 82 to burns or scalds, 66 to railway or tramway accidents, 19 to accidents in mines and quarries, and 14 were due to weather, i.e., excessive cold or heat, and lightning.

Out of 370 deaths caused by accidents with vehicles and horses, 332 were due to motor vehicle accidents, viz., 192 in accidents which occurred in

the metropolitan area and 140 in accidents in other districts. Accidents of this class became more numerous as the use of motor vehicles increased, and they diminished during the last two years as motor transport declined; there were 227 in 1925, 256 in 1926, 335 in 1927, 384 in 1928, 478 in 1929 and 431 in 1930. Of the 332 persons killed in 1931, 70 were under 15 years, 103 were between 15 and 30 years, and 46 were over 60 years of age.

THE SEASONAL PREVALENCE OF DISEASES.

The following table shows for each month of the year the proportion of deaths due to each of nine principal causes. The figures are based on the experience of the five years 1927-31, 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 ...	155	33	81	113	88	59	53	161	73
February ..	141	27	61	83	78	50	37	163	70
March ...	108	15	98	49	70	46	42	153	67
April ...	116	34	110	44	71	59	65	108	78
May ...	97	34	146	30	85	77	76	64	79
June ...	52	59	111	32	84	102	109	33	88
July ...	50	104	101	45	87	120	152	34	102
August ...	38	225	85	66	94	140	176	33	96
September.	36	201	50	118	91	121	108	35	96
October ...	58	116	62	122	84	92	70	38	86
November.	72	104	39	151	90	72	61	73	84
December..	97	48	56	147	78	62	51	105	81
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000

In interpreting the foregoing table comparison should be made vertically and not horizontally, the figures representing proportions per thousand and not absolute numbers.

The chief features of the foregoing 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.

COMMERCE.

POWER to make laws with respect to trade and commerce with other countries and between the States of Australia is vested in the Commonwealth Parliament, and in the year 1901 control of the Customs and Excise Department of New South Wales was transferred to the Commonwealth.

The first Federal Act relating to customs came into operation by proclamation on 4th October, 1901. The Act, with amendments, provides administrative machinery in relation to customs, prescribes the manner in which duties are to be computed and paid, and authorises the inspection of imports and exports.

Prior to federation 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.

By the Customs Act certain imports are prohibited, and the prohibition may be extended by proclamation to other commodities. The conditions under which goods for export are prepared may be prescribed by regulation, and the exportation of goods which do not conform to the required standards may be prohibited. In terms of the Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act, 1905-1930, the importation or exportation of any goods may be prohibited by regulation unless they bear a prescribed trade description.

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 consists of four members, including an administrative officer of the Department of Trade and Customs, who is chairman. The Act prescribes that the Minister must refer to the Board for investigation such matters as the classification of goods for duty; the determination of the value of goods for duty; appeals against the decisions of the Comptroller-General in respect of the interpretation of the tariff; the necessity for new or increased or reduced duties, or for bounties; the effect of 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. In addition, 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 industries in relation to the tariff.

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, but evidence of a confidential nature may be taken in private.

The Federal Department of Markets was established in 1925 to take over 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. In a revision of administrative arrangements in April, 1932, the Department of Markets was reorganised as the Department of Commerce.

The functions of the Commonwealth 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 Chamber 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.

The oversea export of a number of Australian products is controlled by boards constituted under federal legislation to organise the marketing of these commodities. As a preliminary step towards initiating this form of control special legislation is passed in respect of each commodity, but it does not become effective until the project has been submitted to a poll of the producers. If a majority of the producers are favourable, a board elected by them is appointed to supervise the export from Australia and the subsequent sale and distribution of the product, and the expenses are defrayed by means of a levy on the exports. Thus boards have been organised in respect of dairy produce (butter and cheese), dried fruits (sultanas, currants, and lexias), canned fruits (apricots, peaches, and pears, and any other varieties as may be prescribed), and wine. Legislation was enacted also in respect of fresh fruits (apples and pears), but the poll of growers proved unfavourable and the Act was not brought into operation.

In terms of the Export Guarantee Act, 1924-1925, 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.

For some products, assistance has been given by the Government of the Commonwealth in the form of bounties payable on export. Details are shown in the other chapters of this Year Book.

STATISTICS OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Statistics relating to the oversea trade of the various States of Australia are recorded by the Federal Department of Trade and Customs. The

records of imports as shown in this chapter relate to those received into New South Wales and include those re-exported for consumption in other States or elsewhere. In regard to exports those classified as "Australian Produce" include products of other Australian States which have been shipped oversea at ports in New South Wales, but they do not include products of New South Wales despatched abroad from ports in other States.

Complete records of interstate trade have not been available since 12th September, 1910, when the Customs Department ceased to record them. Therefore, the figures in this chapter, except those on page 193, are exclusive of the large volume of interstate trade, and do not represent the total external trade of New South Wales.

OVERSEA TRADE.

The values, as shown in the following tables relating to the goods imported and exported oversea, are based on the values recorded by the Department of Trade and Customs. In the records the value of goods imported represents the amount on which duty is payable or would be payable if the duty were *ad valorem*, such value being 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 of 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).

The value of goods exported is assessed by the Department, as a general rule, upon the basis of the value in the principal markets of New South Wales, but from 1st July, 1929, exception has been made in respect of goods subject to special marketing arrangements, which have the effect of raising prices in the local markets above world parity. For instance, sugar if sold to an oversea buyer is assessed at the value f.o.b., and, if consigned for sale abroad, at the f.o.b. value which is equivalent to the London market price. In the case of butter, the amount of export bonus paid under the Paterson scheme is deducted from the current market value, and other goods subject to rebate or bounty are valued as in the principal markets of New South Wales less the amount of rebate or bounty. As from 1st July, 1930, a special basis of valuation was adopted in respect of wool, viz., wool sold in Australia is valued at the actual price paid plus the cost of placing it on board ship, and wool shipped on consignment is valued at the f.o.b. equivalent of ruling prices.

As a general rule, the value of imports is recorded by the Department of Trade and Customs in the currency of the United Kingdom, and the value of exports in Australian currency. Owing to the operation of abnormally high rates of exchange during 1930-31 and 1931-32, the values in the following table are shown in both British and Australian currency. Rates of exchange, Australia on London, as shown in the chapter of this volume entitled Private Finance, illustrate the variations in the relation between these currencies.

The total value of oversea imports and exports, as recorded by the Customs Department, during various years since 1901 is shown in the following

table, with the value per head of population. The figures, with the exception of those relating to the year 1901, do not include the value of exports in the form of ships' stores.

Year ended 30th June.	Oversea Imports.	Oversea Exports.			Total Trade Oversea.
		Australian Products.	Other Products.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
1901*	17,560,207	†	†	18,210,627	35,770,834
1911*	27,343,428	29,938,415	2,222,986	32,161,401	59,504,829
1921	72,466,388	48,302,717	4,299,089	52,601,806	125,068,194
1926	64,009,919	51,565,742	2,436,072	54,001,814	118,011,733
1927	68,940,081	60,407,280	2,407,797	62,815,077	131,755,158
1928	65,072,266	49,493,820	2,389,109	51,882,929	116,955,195
1929	63,491,123	47,170,407	2,118,483	49,288,890	112,780,013
1930	57,129,636	33,877,534	1,884,273	35,761,807	92,891,443
1931	(a) 30,258,377	30,116,057	1,508,535	31,624,592	61,880,969
	(b) 26,311,260	25,657,453	1,285,201	26,942,654	53,253,914
1932	(a) 23,949,400	23,059,009	1,549,862	34,608,871	58,558,271
	(b) 18,797,584	25,994,048	1,218,681	27,212,729	46,010,313

Per head of Population.

	£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1901*	12	16	11	†	†	†	13	6	6	26	3	5
1911*	16	8	5	17	19	7	1	6	8	19	6	3
1921	34	13	4	23	2	2	2	1	1	25	3	3
1926	27	17	1	22	8	9	1	1	3	23	10	0
1927	29	7	3	25	14	7	1	0	6	26	15	1
1928	27	2	0	20	12	3	0	19	11	21	12	2
1929	25	18	9	19	5	5	0	17	4	20	2	9
1930	23	1	1	13	13	5	0	15	3	14	8	8
1931	(a) 12	2	0	12	0	11	0	12	1	12	13	0
	(b) 10	10	6	10	5	3	0	10	3	10	15	6
1932	(a) 9	10	0	13	2	4	0	12	4	13	14	8
	(b) 7	9	2	10	6	3	0	9	8	10	15	11

* Year ended 31st December. † Not available.
(a) Australian currency. (b) British currency.

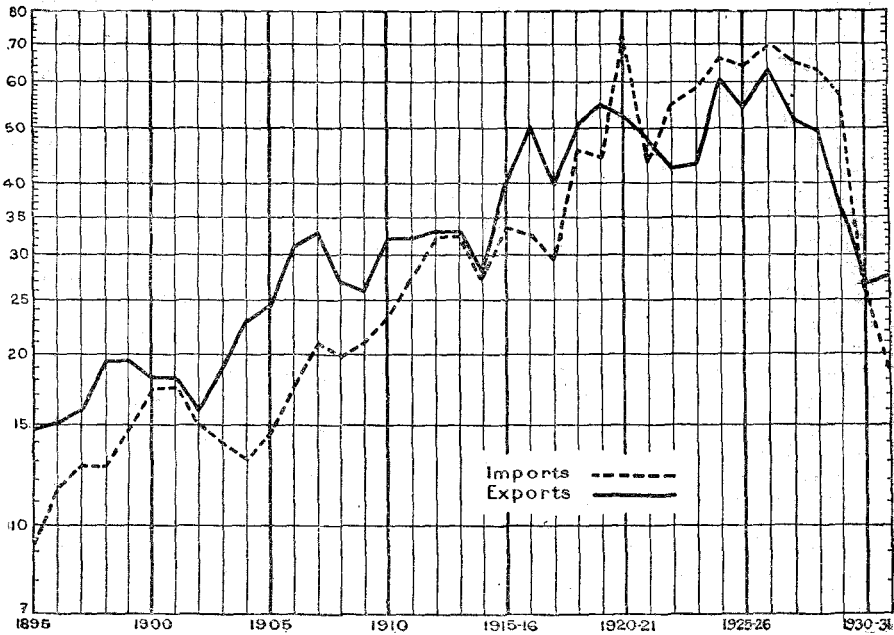
The increase in the aggregate value of trade during the decennium 1901 to 1911 was the result of industrial expansion, and the increase in trade between 1911 and 1921 was due in a large measure to enhanced prices.

In 1920-21 the value of imports was abnormally high, as a result of the prompt despatch of goods ordered abroad during the post war period of trade expansion, in anticipation of a curtailment of quantity and protracted delivery. After a decline in the following year the value rose rapidly and remained at a high level for several years.

In 1929-30 the value, £57,129,636, was lower by £6,400,000 than in the previous year, the imports of machinery and metal manufactures having decreased by about £3,000,000, and apparel and textiles by nearly £2,000,000.

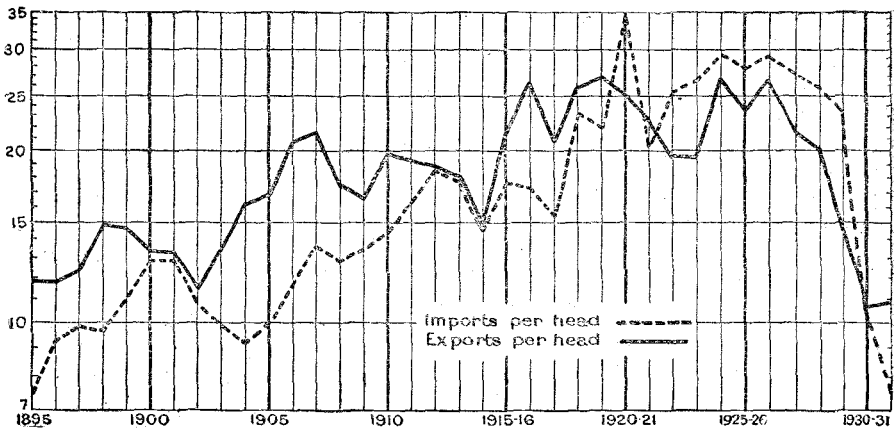
The marked decline in 1930-31 followed upon measures taken to discourage importations in view of the effects of an adverse trade balance upon economic conditions in Australia, though it was due in part to a fall in prices of the goods imported. There was a further decline in 1931-32.

OVERSEA TRADE, 1895 TO 1931-32.
Ratio Graph.



The numbers at the side of the graph represent £1,000,000.

OVERSEA TRADE PER HEAD OF POPULATION, 1895 TO 1931-32.
Ratio Graph.



The numbers at the side of the graph represent £ per head.

The diagrams are ratio graphs. The vertical scale of each graph is logarithmic, and the curves rise and fall according to the percentage of increase or decrease. Actual values are shown by means of the numbers at the side of the graphs.

The bulk of the exports are products of the rural industries, and the quantities available for export vary with seasonal conditions. Between 1901 and 1911 the value of exports, increasing with production, rose by 77 per cent. During the following decade the industries suffered severely by

reason of drought and war, which caused a diminution in production, but the value of exports continued to rise under the influence of higher prices.

In 1926-27 the total value of exports was the highest yet recorded, but it included over £10,000,000 of gold.

In 1927-28 exports of gold dropped to £2,000,000, and there was a decline of £2,300,000 in respect of wheat and flour and of £1,000,000 in minerals. Exports of meat, tallow, skins and hides also were lower, but this was compensated by an increase in the value of wool despatched overseas.

In 1928-29 the exports of wheat and flour showed an increase of £4,000,000, but there were decreases in wool £3,000,000 and gold £1,800,000. There were smaller decreases in the values of lead, coal, tin, butter, and skins, and the total value was reduced by £2,600,000 as compared with the preceding year.

In 1929-30 the exports of gold amounted to £4,000,000, as compared with £206,000 in the previous year, but there was a decline of £17,000,000 in the value of other exports, due mainly to a fall in prices. The value of wool declined by £11,000,000, wheat and flour by nearly £5,000,000, and skins and hides by £1,500,000.

In 1930-31 there was an increase of nearly £3,500,000 in the wheat and flour trade, but wool declined further by £2,000,000, skins and hides by nearly £1,500,000, and bullion and specie by £2,600,000. The net result was a decline of £4,000,000 in the total value of oversea exports. These figures show values in Australian currency which was depreciated in relation to sterling during the year, so that the value of exports in British currency was only £26,900,000, which is lower by £8,800,000 than in 1929-30.

The volume of exports of staple products was very large in 1931-32, and, notwithstanding a decline in prices, the total value in British currency was £270,000 in excess of the corresponding value in 1930-31. The increase in value, according to Australian currency, which had depreciated further during the year, was as much as £3,000,000.

VOLUME OF EXPORTS.

The export trade of New South Wales consists to a very large extent of primary products, comparatively few in number, of which quantities, as well as values, are recorded. Therefore, the Customs returns furnish ample data for an approximate measure of changes in the volume of trade. With the object of ascertaining the extent of the changes in recent years, an index has been compiled from the average values assigned to the principal exports during each year from 1920-21 to 1931-32, the averages for each commodity being "weighted" by the average annual quantity exported during this period of twelve years. Then the following statement of the relative volume of trade in Australian produce (exclusive of bullion and specie) during the period has been prepared by applying the index to the value of the exports as recorded:—

Year.	Relative Volume of Exports of Australian Produce from New South Wales (1920-21 = 100).	Year.	Relative Volume of Exports of Australian Produce from New South Wales (1920-21 = 100).	Year.	Relative Volume of Exports of Australian Produce from New South Wales (1920-21 = 100).
1920-21	100	1924-25	101	1928-29	111
1921-22	125	1925-26	109	1929-30	91
1922-23	97	1926-27	116	1930-31	122
1923-24	80	1927-28	102	1931-32	131

Wool and wheat are the principal items to be considered in relation to the volume of exports. In 1920-21 the export of wool was comparatively

light, but there was a large export of wheat. In the following year exports of wool were unusually heavy, and there was an increase in wheat shipments, so that the volume of exports rose by 25 per cent. During the next two years the quantity of wheat was much smaller, and in 1923-24 a general decline in wool and other rural products caused the volume of trade to fall to a level 20 per cent. below the base year. Trade recovered rapidly as a result of a bounteous wheat crop in 1924-25. Then the wool industry entered upon a period of high productivity so that there was a large export in each of the last seven years, especially in 1926-27 and 1931-32. The quantity was not so great in 1929-30 as in other recent years, and as there was only a very small shipment of wheat in that year the volume of exports showed a marked decline. Abundance has been a feature of the trade in staple products during the last two years, and the rise in the volume of trade has mitigated to some extent the disastrous effects of the fall in world prices.

MOVEMENT OF GOLD.

Gold is an item of domestic produce in Australia, and the figures relating to the oversea trade of New South Wales include imports and exports of bullion and specie. Only a small proportion of the Australian output, however, is produced in New South Wales, and consignments received in or despatched from this State in recent years are to be regarded as affecting the trade of the Commonwealth rather than that of New South Wales.

In the following statement of oversea trade imports and exports of bullion and specie are distinguished from those of other commodities:—

Year ended June.	Imports.			Exports.						
	Mer- chandise.	Bullion and Specie.	All Imports.	Merchandise.			Bullion and Specie.			All Exports.
				Austra- lian Pro- duce.	Other.	Total.	Austra- lian Pro- duce.	Other.	Total.	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
1911*	26,089	1,254	27,343	26,657	1,126	27,783	3,281	1,097	4,378	32,161
1921 ...	72,437	29	72,466	44,533	4,284	48,817	3,770	15	3,785	52,602
1922 ...	43,253	68	43,321	42,702	3,282	45,984	2,027	2	2,029	48,013
1923 ...	54,962	48	55,010	40,134	2,406	42,540	41	1	42	42,582
1924 ...	58,163	62	58,225	39,980	2,641	42,621	526	...	526	43,147
1925 ...	60,314	6,008	66,322	58,080	2,361	60,441	133	3	136	60,577
1926 ...	63,630	380	64,010	48,314	2,421	50,735	3,252	15	3,267	54,002
1927 ...	68,437	503	68,940	50,102	2,402	52,504	10,305	6	10,311	62,815
1928 ...	64,272	800	65,072	47,422	2,380	49,802	2,072	9	2,081	51,883
1929 ...	63,281	210	63,491	46,994	2,089	49,083	177	29	206	49,289
1930 ...	56,927	203	57,130	29,744	1,884	31,628	4,134	...	4,134	35,762
1931 {	29,980	276	30,256	28,782	1,289	30,071	1,334	220	1,554	31,625
(a)	26,071	240	26,311	24,515	1,106	25,621	1,142	179	1,321	26,942
1932 {	23,442	507	23,949	29,645	1,078	30,723	3,414	472	3,886	34,609
(b)	18,399	398	18,797	23,261	841	24,102	2,733	378	3,111	27,213

* Calendar Year. (a) Australian currency. (b) British currency.

The Federal Government imposed restrictions upon the movement of gold during the war period, and its embargo upon export was not removed until April, 1925. In the earlier part of that year the Australian pound was at a premium in relation to sterling, and a large quantity of gold was imported from the United States. Subsequently the movement was reversed, and in 1926-27 the exports from New South Wales to the United States included gold specie to the value of £10,000,000.

The export of gold again became subject to approval by the Commonwealth authorities in January, 1930, and during the last three years large amounts have been transmitted abroad.

Imports of bullion and specie during 1930-31 included gold, 48,116 oz., from New Guinea, and 21,393 oz. from New Zealand, the values in British currency being £139,815 and £78,797 respectively. In the following year 60,957 oz., valued at £322,512, were imported from New Guinea, and 7902 oz., valued at £45,167, from New Zealand.

The gold exports in 1930-31 amounted to £1,391,327, Australian currency, of which Great Britain received £1,369,050. Exports of silver during the year were valued at £149,979, and bronze £12,970. The exports in 1931-32 consisted of gold £3,719,583, silver £146,153, and bronze £20,077—Australian currency. Shipments of gold to Great Britain were valued at £1,613,303 and those to the United States at £2,106,148.

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 years ended June, 1931 and 1932, in comparison with similar information for the year 1920-21. Particulars regarding the imports relate to the country of origin:—

Country.	Oversea Imports (Country of Origin).			Oversea Exports.		
	1920-21.	1930-31. (b)	1931-32. (b)	1920-21.	1930-31.* (a)	1931-32. (a)
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	32,960,437	9,555,320	6,791,235	20,630,150	11,058,568	13,616,313
Canada	1,857,411	582,525	720,811	125,242	394,235	326,280
South African Customs Union	236,005	51,068	34,617	463,902	124,264	102,594
India and the East	3,337,251	2,000,335	1,380,399	1,699,290	569,456	791,904
New Zealand	965,682	430,728	353,898	4,797,519	1,947,800	1,563,073
South Sea Islands	1,511,143	406,745	622,501	2,082,277	1,003,358	900,460
Other British Possessions...	322,214	170,921	129,875	2,066,382	178,262	655,814
Total, British	41,240,143	13,196,742	10,033,336	31,865,762	15,275,943	17,956,438
Belgium	812,096	134,344	120,766	2,732,907	1,475,133	1,214,815
France	1,440,873	748,868	564,629	2,655,324	3,442,569	1,963,376
Germany	9,548	860,034	561,152	628,161	2,245,264	1,670,215
Italy	337,432	280,183	184,717	795,299	1,210,873	1,285,779
Netherlands	229,575	442,688	223,679	409,503	111,162	88,880
Norway	445,052	72,827	83,119	30,817	16,089	432
Sweden	1,126,569	355,659	278,137	98,687	26,507	123,660
Switzerland... ..	874,319	338,333	192,124	8,808	14,646	10,309
Other European	271,134	300,896	273,000	583,920	101,982	59,844
United States and Hawaii...	17,403,732	5,583,007	3,278,591	7,513,329	1,561,809	3,196,654
Japan	2,612,101	1,168,229	1,141,139	2,147,444	4,297,418	5,048,239
Netherlands East Indies ...	2,803,990	1,064,365	1,035,956	1,935,376	361,157	369,277
China and other Eastern Countries	577,275	189,707	175,052	403,648	894,236	1,188,724
South Sea Islands	149,802	34,711	17,798	573,972	208,502	231,153
Other Foreign Countries ...	2,132,738	276,570	173,135	1,951,710	381,302	201,076
Total, Foreign	31,226,245	12,419,451	8,303,604	20,736,044	16,348,649	16,652,433
Outside Packages and Containers ... ..	...	695,067	461,244	...	...	...
Total, All Countries	72,466,388	26,311,260	18,797,524	52,601,806	31,624,592	34,608,871

* Amended since last issue.

(a) Australian currency.

(b) British currency.

In the oversea trade of New South Wales the value of the goods to and from the United Kingdom exceeds the trade with any other country. In 1931-32 imports valued at £6,791,235 or 37 per cent. of the total imports were the products of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Exports shipped to these countries were valued at £13,616,313, representing nearly 39.4 per cent. of the total exports. The corresponding proportions in 1921 were imports 45.5 per cent. and exports 39.2 per cent. The

figures shown in respect of trade with the United Kingdom in 1930-31 and 1931-32 are exclusive of imports from and exports to the Irish Free State.

Direct trade with European countries other than Great Britain and Ireland in 1931-32 consisted of imports valued at £2,481,333 or 13.5 per cent., and exports valued at £6,417,310 or 18.5 per cent. The value of imports from the continent of Europe in 1920-21 was £5,546,598, the value of exports thereto was £7,945,366, and the relative proportions were 7.6 per cent. of imports and 15.1 per cent. of exports.

The interchange between New South Wales and British countries usually shows a pronounced excess of imports from the United Kingdom, Canada, India and Ceylon and an excess of exports to New Zealand and the South Sea Islands. In 1931-32, however, an excess of exports to the United Kingdom was recorded. Trade with most of the foreign countries with which the interchange is large, *e.g.*, France, Germany, Belgium, Italy and Japan, results in a large excess of exports. In contrast there is an excess of imports from the United States and Netherlands East Indies.

OVERSEA IMPORTS, COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, 1905 TO 1931-32.
Ratio Graph.



The numbers at the side of the graph represent £100,000. The diagram is a ratio graph. The vertical scale is logarithmic, and the curves rise and fall according to the percentage of increase or decrease. Actual values are shown by means of the numbers at the side of the graph.

The following statement shows the value of British and foreign overseas imports in each of the last six years, as compared with the annual average values in the three quinquennial periods between 1911 and 1926:—

Period.	Value of Oversea Imports, according to Country of Origin—Annual Average.								Total Imports.
	United Kingdom	Other British Countries	Total British Empire	Continent of Europe.	United States of America	Japan.	Other Foreign Countries	Total Foreign Countries	
1911 to 1915-16* ...	£600 14,000	£000 4,459	£000 18,465	£000 4,541	£000 5,479	£000 662	£000 1,393	£000 12,075	£000 30,540
1916-17 to 1920-21	17,227	7,376	24,597	2,825	11,979	2,747	2,938	20,489	45,086
1921-22 to 1925-26	25,068	7,396	32,464	5,674	14,405	1,951	2,884	24,914	57,378
1926-27 ...	26,830	9,921	36,751	7,721	17,891	2,644	3,933	32,189	68,940
1927-28 ...	26,321	8,574	34,895	7,822	16,746	2,150	3,459	30,177	65,072
1928-29 ...	23,619	8,449	32,068	7,760	16,684	2,391	4,388	31,423	63,491
1929-30 ...	22,200	7,246	29,446	7,143	13,947	2,080	3,904	27,074	57,136†
1930-31 ...	9,555	3,642	13,197	3,564	5,582	1,108	2,165	12,419	26,311†
1931-32 ...	6,791	3,242	10,033	2,481	3,278	1,141	1,403	8,303	18,797†

Per cent. of Total Oversea Imports.

1911 to 1915-16* ...	45.9	14.6	60.5	14.9	17.9	2.2	4.5	39.5	100
1916-17 to 1920-21	38.2	16.4	54.6	6.2	26.6	6.1	6.5	45.4	100
1921-22 to 1925-26	43.7	12.9	56.6	9.9	25.1	3.4	5.0	43.4	100
1926-27 ...	38.9	14.4	53.5	11.2	26.0	3.8	5.7	46.7	100
1927-28 ...	40.4	13.2	53.6	12.0	25.8	3.3	5.3	46.4	100
1928-29 ...	37.2	13.3	50.5	12.2	26.6	3.8	6.9	49.5	100
1929-30 ...	39.3	12.8	52.1	12.6	24.7	3.7	6.9	47.9	100
1930-31 ...	37.3	14.2	51.5	13.9	21.8	4.3	8.5	48.5	100
1931-32 ...	37.0	17.7	54.7	13.5	17.9	6.2	7.7	45.3	100

* Calendar years 1911 to 1913, and years ended June, 1915 and 1916.

† Includes outside packages not included in previous columns viz., £610,219 in January-June, 1930, £695,067 in 1930-31, and £461,244 in 1931-32.

The imports of British origin represent nearly 55 per cent. of the total, and about 75 per cent. of the British goods are imported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The proportion of imports from the Continent of Europe has risen slowly. Importations from the United States increased very rapidly during the war period until they represented 27 per cent. of the total, but the proportion in 1931-32, viz., 17.9 per cent., was the lowest since 1913. The ratio of Japanese goods, usually between 3 per cent. and 4 per cent. increased during the last two years. The bulk of the goods classed as "other foreign" are imported from Netherlands East Indies, the proportion in 1931-32 being 5.7 per cent.

The following comparison relates to the annual value of oversea exports from New South Wales to British and foreign countries since 1911:—

Period.	Value of Oversea Exports to British and Foreign Countries—Annual Average.								Total Exports
	United Kingdom	Other British Countries	Total British Empire	Continent of Europe	United States of America	Japan.	Other Foreign Countries	Total Foreign Countries	
1911 to 1915-16* ...	£000 13,212	£000 5,069	£000 18,281	£000 8,117	£000 4,002	£000 1,335	£000 1,673	£000 15,127	£000 33,408
1916-17 to 1920-21	22,279	11,778	34,057	3,349	6,688	2,895	2,722	15,654	49,711
1921-22 to 1925-26	16,614	6,217	22,831	14,656	5,109	5,066	2,002	26,833	49,664
1926-27 ...	15,417	5,770	21,187	18,597	14,847†	5,466	2,718	41,628	62,815
1927-28 ...	13,673	5,227	18,900	18,988	5,613	6,551	1,821	32,983	51,883
1928-29 ...	13,011	6,037	19,048	17,732	3,166	6,391	2,952	30,241	49,289
1929-30 ...	11,623	5,566	17,189	10,886	2,391	2,785	1,511	18,573	35,762
1930-31‡ ...	11,059	4,217	15,276	8,644	1,555	4,298	1,852	16,349	31,625
1931-32 ...	13,617	4,340	17,957	6,417	3,189	5,048	1,998	16,652	34,609

PER CENT. OF TOTAL OVERSEA EXPORTS.

1911 to 1915-16* ...	39.5	15.2	54.7	24.3	12.0	4.0	5.0	45.3	100
1916-17 to 1920-21	44.8	23.7	68.5	6.7	13.5	5.8	5.5	31.5	100
1921-22 to 1925-26	33.5	12.5	46.0	29.5	10.3	10.2	4.0	54.0	100
1926-27 ...	24.5	9.2	33.7	29.6	23.7	8.7	4.3	66.3	100
1927-28 ...	26.3	10.1	36.4	36.6	10.8	12.6	3.6	63.6	100
1928-29 ...	26.4	12.2	38.6	36.0	6.4	13.0	6.0	61.4	100
1929-30 ...	32.5	15.6	48.1	30.4	9.5	7.8	4.2	51.9	100
1930-31‡ ...	35.0	13.3	48.3	27.3	4.9	13.6	5.9	51.7	100
1931-32 ...	39.4	12.5	51.9	18.5	9.2	14.6	5.8	48.1	100

* Calendar years 1911 to 1913 and years ended June, 1915 and 1916.
‡ Amended since last issue.

† Includes gold, £10,000,000.

The proportion of exports sent to British countries during the last three years was above the average, but it has not yet regained pre-war level. The United States of America, which usually provides more than one-fifth of the imports, takes a comparatively small proportion of exports, and in some years these include gold of considerable value, e.g. £10,000,000 in 1926-27, and £2,000,000 in 1927-28 and in 1931-32. In the trade with Eastern countries the value of imports exceeded £9,000,000 in 1920-21 and 1929-30, then it fell below £4,000,000. Exports, on the other hand, increased in value during the last two years, and in 1931-32 the value was £7,398,000, as compared with £5,346,000 in 1920-21.

ARTICLES OF IMPORT.

A classification of the oversea goods imported into New South Wales during the four years ended June, 1932, is shown in the following table. The items are grouped in accordance with a statistical classification of imports adopted by the Department of Trade and Customs:—

Classification of Oversea Impto. ts.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
	£	£	£	£
Foodstuffs of Animal Origin... ..	1,126,533	1,054,458	404,225	362,032
Foodstuffs of Vegetable Origin, Beverages (non-alcoholic), etc.... ..	3,445,517	3,430,724	1,755,719	1,280,287
Spirituous and Alcoholic Liquors ..	1,040,186	932,436	299,048	98,501
Tobacco and Preparations thereof ...	1,905,452	1,757,597	1,112,097	406,075
Live Animals	118,334	151,931	45,327	20,738
Animal Substances not Foodstuffs	665,708	776,231	407,196	269,216
Vegetable Substances and Unmanufactured Fibres	1,776,112	1,669,590	682,593	624,226
Apparel	2,512,082	1,977,285	537,277	356,983
Textiles	10,031,607	9,316,892	4,228,572	3,813,550
Yarns and Manufactured Fibres	2,280,143	1,745,498	1,181,247	1,27,662
Oils, Fats, and Waxes... ..	4,393,111	4,234,832	2,586,923	1,630,609
Paints and Varnishes	197,543	363,656	150,307	138,105
Stones and Minerals (including Ores and Concentrates)	402,354	350,424	152,878	108,087
Machines and Machinery	7,206,591	6,690,019	2,893,856	1,218,665
Metals and Metal Manufactures other than Machinery	10,996,937	8,469,715	2,385,618	1,441,346
Rubber and Rubber Manufactures ...	1,219,534	858,276	338,810	180,068
Leather and Leather Manufactures ...	168,033	147,052	32,356	22,600
Wood and Wicker	2,555,612	2,198,307	431,780	393,710
Earthenware, China, Glass, etc.	1,159,811	1,033,476	360,064	220,937
Paper	2,346,891	2,443,024	1,203,602	1,232,336
Stationery and Paper Manufactures	1,282,106	1,265,563	771,199	526,676
Jewellery, Timepieces, and Fancy Goods	1,342,620	1,032,898	400,943	208,032
Optical, Surgical, and Scientific Instruments	891,186	908,889	819,242	724,112
Drugs, Chemicals, and Fertilisers ...	1,828,559	1,708,394	1,133,905	1,079,398
Miscellaneous	2,188,698	2,419,728	1,756,363	915,428
Gold and Silver; and Bronze Specie	210,523	202,741	240,143	398,255
Total Imports	63,491,123	57,129,636	26,311,260	18,797,584

The group of imports which consists of minerals, machinery, and other metal manufactures is usually the most important in point of value. During the last two years, however, the decline affecting all classes of trade was much more pronounced in this group, and in 1931-32 the value, £2,768,048 or 14.7 per cent. of the total, was nearly £16,000,000 below the value in 1928-29, when the proportion was 29.3 per cent. Electrical machinery and appliances represent about half the machinery imported in each year, the value being £3,442,023 in 1928-29 and £668,476 in 1931-32. The value of imports of vehicles and parts was nearly £5,000,000 lower in 1930-31 than two years earlier, the decrease in motor bodies and chassis being nearly £4,000,000. The decline continued in 1931-32.

In the textile group, the value, £5,198,195, or 27.7 per cent., has declined from £14,823,832 since 1928-29. The principal item—piece goods—has declined by £4,600,000, floor coverings by more than £900,000, bags and sacks by £700,000, and yarns by £400,000 (approximately), while the imports of socks and stockings declined in value from £793,000 to £1,500.

The decline in the value of petroleum spirit was due to a fall in price as well as a reduction in quantity. Importations of crude petroleum have increased in a marked degree. With an expansion in local manufacture, imports of pneumatic tyres diminished, and imports of crude rubber increased though the value declined. Thus the average value of crude rubber was £4 15s. per cwt. in 1929-30 and £1 9s. 6d. in 1931-32.

The imports of tobacco were fairly well maintained as to quantity until 1931-32, when there was a decrease of more than one third in quantity and of nearly two-thirds in value. Imports of tea in 1931-32 showed a reduction of 24 per cent. in quantity and 62 per cent. in value as compared with 1929-30. Imports of tinned fish and whisky declined in a marked degree in 1930-31. In the following year the quantity of fish increased somewhat, but another steep decline occurred in the importation of whisky.

A comparative statement of the principal items in the groups machinery, etc., apparel and textiles, and food, drink, etc., and of other items of considerable value is shown below. Where quantities are recorded they are stated as well as values.

Articles of Oversea Imports.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Electrical cable and wire (covered)	cwt. £ 208,713	199,501	224,399	88,014	19,453
Other electrical machinery appliances	£ 1,075,664	795,436	970,556	286,812	155,614
Other machinery	£ 2,580,082	2,646,587	2,353,416	1,310,077	512,862
Iron and steel—Plate and sheet	£ 5,825,243	3,764,568	3,276,047	1,297,012	550,183
Other	cwt. £ 1,639,330	1,478,360	1,523,954	582,299	443,913
Iron pipes and tubes	£ 1,431,838	1,250,034	1,320,417	505,543	364,771
Motor-car—Bodies	£ 757,922	567,183	584,461	173,272	118,149
Chassis—Unassembled	cwt. £ 554,010	556,256	428,800	119,441	72,749
Assembled	£ 602,245	671,207	527,796	156,906	80,555
Other metals and metal manufactures	No. £ 4,936	6,719	3,174	66	40
Socks and stockings	£ 584,401	690,461	550,811	6,898	5,356
Floor coverings	No. £ 20,503	33,559	19,709	2,216	782
Bags and sacks	£ 2,029,223	2,973,537	1,922,464	182,580	80,548
Yarns	No. £ 4,617	2,641	1,197	42	37
Tobacco, cigars, etc.	£ 637,039	417,523	232,964	6,142	11,618
Tea	£ 1,027,853	1,292,574	914,253	237,979	109,999
Whisky	£ 3,155,746	3,134,377	2,616,552	1,116,299	670,450
Fish, in tins	£ 610,658	793,114	405,342	42,041	1,542
Copra	£ 8,553,295	7,874,705	7,285,852	3,445,689	3,258,099
Oil—Petroleum spirit, etc.	£ 685,290	1,066,508	959,662	277,365	148,825
Lubricating (mineral)	£ 945,163	1,239,308	727,279	746,415	502,683
Rubber—Crude and waste	£ 685,290	932,427	938,156	400,641	501,011
Tyres, pneumatic	lb. £ 17,891,076	17,803,558	16,718,200	16,819,910	10,560,379
Timber, undressed	£ 1,976,669	1,905,482	1,757,597	1,112,067	406,075
Printing paper	£ 25,813,496	28,732,712	30,285,470	23,831,410	23,084,565
Books (printed)	£ 2,046,024	2,114,514	2,119,034	1,239,505	808,899
Glass and glassware	gal. £ 640,220	650,133	643,997	227,725	66,042
Jewellery and precious stones	£ 622,499	744,358	751,246	262,955	6,662,110
Musical instruments	lb. £ 9,962,856	12,237,172	12,388,075	5,013,490	201,760
Kinematograph films	£ 514,398	568,319	639,009	203,938	237,377
Gramophones, records, etc.	£ 611,167	576,414	520,262	190,110	134,788
Bullion and specie	£ 701,013	651,683	497,320	87,878	73,432
Electrical cable and wire (covered)	gal. £ 63,916,047	72,200,636	80,525,117	59,792,848	27,583,377
Other electrical machinery appliances	£ 2,389,299	2,697,151	2,596,246	1,376,737	291,653
Other machinery	gal. £ 17,262,208	26,980,605	39,914,219	33,847,936	43,676,653
Iron and steel—Plate and sheet	£ 221,161	378,348	650,898	472,133	737,432
Iron pipes and tubes	gal. £ 5,170,909	6,576,245	5,040,725	4,264,042	3,042,585
Motor-car—Bodies	£ 388,631	526,596	400,172	275,723	198,948
Chassis—Unassembled	cwt. £ 78,206	123,659	97,587	79,407	102,248
Assembled	£ 691,204	626,443	438,135	179,232	151,239
Other metals and metal manufactures	lb. £ 3,108,098	1,282,042	634,225	81,778	54,495
Socks and stockings	£ 509,055	174,853	79,511	9,240	5,838
Floor coverings	000 sup. ft. £ 229,977	179,595	167,384	46,989	49,772
Bags and sacks	£ 2,207,103	1,821,245	1,587,917	284,247	306,052
Yarns	tons £ 74,090	75,486	77,177	46,937	48,658
Tobacco, cigars, etc.	£ 1,435,535	1,440,864	1,483,929	713,279	780,535
Tea	£ 622,755	533,999	520,881	378,439	276,898
Whisky	£ 536,537	529,253	457,967	113,805	67,060
Fish, in tins	£ 490,515	493,445	294,076	66,888	52,806
Copra	£ 448,740	292,623	143,524	25,661	8,437
Oil—Petroleum spirit, etc.	£ 226,407	229,072	279,953	505,502	516,430
Lubricating (mineral)	£ 217,296	209,902	237,037	73,444	29,615
Rubber—Crude and waste	£ 800,300	210,523	202,741	240,143	398,255
Tyres, pneumatic					
Timber, undressed					
Printing paper					
Books (printed)					
Glass and glassware					
Jewellery and precious stones					
Musical instruments					
Kinematograph films					
Gramophones, records, etc.					
Bullion and specie					

The United Kingdom is the main source of supply of most of the manufactured articles imported into New South Wales, the largest items in 1931-32, being piece goods, valued at £1,895,000, other textiles, £388,000; yarns, £308,000; machinery, £498,000; iron and steel, £418,000; vehicles and parts, £139,000; other metals and metal manufactures, £473,000; books, £223,000; printing paper, £474,000; writing paper, £104,000; drugs and chemicals, £530,000. The principal products of other European countries imported into New South Wales in 1931-32 were as follow:—France, argol, £161,000; piece goods, £151,000; and paper manufactures, £48,000; Switzer-

land, piece goods, £62,000; Netherlands, valves for wireless, £78,000, and silk yarns, £55,000; Norway, paper, £46,000; Sweden, paper, £114,000 and wood pulp, £73,600; Italy, piece goods, £44,000; Germany, drugs and chemicals, £116,000; machinery, over £70,000; Belgium, piece goods, £41,000. The items of Eastern origin include the following:—From Japan, piece goods, £726,000; raw silk, £90,000; yarns, £60,000; from India, bags and sacks, £503,000; hessian and other jute goods, £142,000; linseed, £70,000; goat and other skins, £46,000; from Ceylon, tea, £315,000; and crude rubber, £48,000; from British Malaya, crude rubber, £60,900; from China, textiles, £75,000; from Netherlands East Indies, tea, £453,000; oils, £467,000; kapok, £43,000.

The products of the United States are imported in large quantities, *e.g.*, oils, £944,000; machines and machinery of various kinds, £447,000; films for kinematographs, £321,000; and piece goods, £99,000; drugs and chemicals, £180,000; tobacco, £395,000. The value of vehicles and parts, formerly a large item, was only £56,000 in 1931-32.

The principal imports of Canadian origin were printing paper, £239,000; tinned fish, £133,000; timber, £123,000; kinematograph films, £88,000.

Timber is usually the principal item of import from New Zealand, the value in 1931-32 being £133,000. Copra, £103,000, was imported from the British Solomon Islands and Nauru; crude rubber, £61,000, from British Malaya; gold, £322,500, from New Guinea; oils £51,000, from Persia; linseed, £47,000, from Argentina.

ARTICLES OF EXPORT.

The exports of Australian produce consist mainly of raw materials. In regard to such commodities as wool, wheat, etc., 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 principal commodities exported from New South Wales during each of the last three years is shown below in comparison with the annual average value during the five years ended 30th June, 1929, *i.e.*, the period of prosperous trading which immediately preceded the decline due to world-wide depression.

Items.	Value of Australian Produce exported Oversea from New South Wales.			Percentage of Total.				
	Annual Average, 1924-25 to 1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	Annual Average, 1924-25 to 1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Wool ...	£ 27,964,589	£ 16,235,877	£ 14,126,432	£ 13,896,102	52.4	47.9	46.9	42.0
Hides and skins ...	4,384,494	2,875,056	1,447,860	976,413	8.2	8.5	4.8	3.6
Meat—								
Frozen Mutton and Lamb ...	651,179	777,353	625,456	1,218,131	1.2	2.3	2.1	3.7
Other ...	892,224	745,280	587,076	£ 63,946	1.7	2.2	2.0	2.4
Leather ...	369,915	288,371	235,350	233,877	.7	.8	.8	.7
Tallow ...	592,456	429,222	282,400	352,790	1.1	1.3	.9	1.1
Butter ...	1,724,816	1,415,340	1,676,247	1,990,564	3.2	4.2	5.6	6.0
Wheat ...	4,742,730	220,402	3,818,105	4,294,919	8.9	.6	12.7	13.0
Flour ...	1,895,052	1,428,566	1,242,475	1,362,167	3.5	4.2	4.1	4.1
Copper Ingots ...	175,303	496,465	376,073	390,162	.3	1.5	1.2	1.2
Lead-Pig ...	2,071,788	1,114,415	947,145	763,087	3.9	3.3	3.1	2.3
Tin Ingots ...	374,685	159,779	75,364	124,926	.7	.5	.3	.4
Coal ...	797,006	194,042	386,289	340,536	1.5	.6	1.3	1.0
Timber undressed	365,498	270,019	228,561	129,897	.7	.8	.8	.4
Bullion and Specie	3,187,474	4,133,437	1,334,443	3,413,565	6.0	12.2	4.4	10.3
Other ...	2,180,791	3,093,910	2,723,781	2,764,927	6.0	9.1	9.0	8.4
Total ...	53,370,000	33,877,534	30,116,057	33,059,009	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The value of domestic products exported overseas during 1929-30 was lower by £19,500,000 than the annual average of the preceding quinquen-

nium. There was a further decline of nearly £3,800,000 in 1930-31, then an increase of £2,900,000 in the following year.

The main factor of the decline in 1929-30 was a decrease in the value of exports of wool which usually represents about half the total value. The decrease in quantity in 1929-30 was less than 3 per cent., but there was such a steep fall in prices that the value was reduced by 42 per cent. The decline in value has continued notwithstanding substantial increases in quantity. The exports of hides and skins also have registered a similar series of falls in value, so that the figure for the year 1931-32 was less than 23 per cent. of the average value during the quinquennium ended June, 1929. In regard to frozen meat and butter the growth in volume has been more than sufficient to offset the decline in prices.

As a general rule wheat ranks second to wool amongst the items of the export trade. In 1929-30, however, a very small quantity of wheat was available for shipment oversea, and the value was only £220,400 or .6 per cent. of the total. In the following years the quantities were unusually large and the value in 1931-32, viz., £4,295,000, was within 10 per cent. of the annual average of the quinquennium 1925-1929.

The aggregate value of the exports of the staple products, wool, hides and skins, frozen meat, butter, wheat and flour, amounted to £42,300,000 per annum during the five years ended June, 1929, then it declined to £23,700,000 in 1929-30. It was maintained at this level in 1930-31 and rose to £24,500,000 in 1931-32.

Details of the quantity and value of the principal items of the oversea export trade from New South Wales during each of the last five years are shown below:—

Commodities.	Oversea Exports of Australian Produce from New South Wales.				
	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Wool—Greasy	lb. 314,747,186	340,541,026	308,265,801	334,602,517	340,002,867
Scoured	£ 26,892,422	25,221,441	14,916,935	13,021,206	12,524,008
£ 24,592,623	18,741,799	16,669,157	17,371,983	22,250,182	
£ 3,088,600	2,055,854	1,256,867	983,289	1,109,109	
Tops, Noils, etc. ...	lb. 1,633,546	469,187	353,766	1,302,118	2,616,147
£ 389,175	100,503	62,075	121,957	262,994	
Total, Wool	£ 30,320,197	27,377,798	16,235,877	14,126,432	13,896,102
Cattle hides and calf skins	No. 672,177	618,276	494,802	520,895	120,249
£ 869,093	696,715	386,933	302,435	82,679	
Rabbit and hare skins ...	lb. 9,316,863	8,223,218	5,813,615	4,675,901	5,177,364
£ 1,886,523	1,948,852	1,040,943	414,408	345,152	
Other furred skins	£ 445,714	312,741	446,991	176,328	298,969
Sheep skins with wool ...	No. 3,170,630	3,176,168	3,970,013	3,248,523	1,808,002
£ 1,311,511	1,343,559	982,401	550,391	247,779	
Frozen lamb	lb. 9,783,792	9,811,112	17,870,438	21,395,742	44,483,457
£ 273,857	291,205	474,735	427,081	844,756	
Mutton	lb. 7,887,037	12,832,235	16,897,390	15,313,005	30,079,218
£ 136,888	265,959	302,618	198,375	373,375	
Rabbits and hares	prs. 2,884,026	1,956,508	2,371,506	3,526,033	5,064,189
£ 262,759	193,525	214,203	252,074	313,029	
Leather	£ 339,394	321,119	288,371	235,350	233,877
Tallow	cwt. 283,937	300,284	257,649	227,922	328,073
£ 457,255	541,039	429,222	282,400	352,790	
Butter	lb. 20,820,334	15,455,928	19,916,763	31,388,919	39,463,306
£ 1,392,797	1,160,443	1,415,340	1,676,247	1,990,564	
Wheat	centsals. 2,971,449	11,361,843	511,644	18,633,141	16,868,606
£ 1,444,290	4,609,101	220,402	3,818,105	4,294,919	
Flour	centsals. 2,015,840	3,664,001	2,624,095	3,640,930	4,214,043
£ 1,285,299	1,992,130	1,428,566	1,242,475	1,362,167	
Copper ingots	cwt. 47,157	57,904	126,953	153,150	197,474
£ 157,930	225,029	496,465	376,073	590,162	
Lead, pig	cwt. 1,494,684	995,531	1,028,917	1,091,237	905,893
£ 1,637,207	1,132,592	1,114,415	947,145	763,067	
Tin, ingots	cwt. 26,270	21,040	16,325	11,565	15,573
£ 340,419	232,468	159,779	78,364	124,928	
Coal	£ 546,075	311,608	153,344	357,367	342,419
£ 680,929	589,407	194,042	386,289	340,536	
Timber, undressed	super. ft. 16,576,815	13,989,086	15,898,348	16,383,875	11,370,598
£ 283,053	241,504	270,019	228,561	129,897	
Bullion and specie	£ 2,071,413	176,809	4,133,437	1,334,443*	3,413,565
Other	£ 3,897,212	3,613,482	3,742,775	3,063,081	3,260,678
Total	£ 49,493,820	47,170,407	33,877,534	30,116,657*	33,059,009

* Amended since last issue.

The foregoing comparison indicates that the volume of wool exports was large throughout the period and that there was a remarkable expansion in recent years in the exports of frozen meat, butter, and wheat and flour.

The quantity of wool (stated as in the grease) was 375,000,000 lb. in 1930-31 and 394,000,000 lb. in 1931-32, the latter being almost as large as the record—399,000,000 lb.—in 1926-27.

The range of export values of wool during the five years was as follows:—20½d. per lb. (greasy) in 1927-28, 17½d. in 1928-29, 11½d. in 1929-30, 9½d. in 1930-31, and 8½d. in 1931-32. The bulk of the wool exported from New South Wales is shipped direct to the United Kingdom, the Continent of Europe and Japan. The countries to which shipments were made in the last two years are shown below:—

Country.	1930-31.			1931-32.		
	Greasy wool.	Scoured wool, tops, noils, etc.	Total value.	Greasy wool.	Scoured wool, tops, noils, etc.	Total value.
	bales.	bales.	£	bales.	bales.	£
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	247,963	26,253	3,372,653	319,275	44,285	4,294,308
Belgium ...	115,220	13,522	1,355,781	85,899	17,183	1,071,357
France ...	237,171	17,449	2,941,441	168,732	12,720	1,817,228
Germany ...	161,261	9,859	2,047,078	133,401	6,645	1,579,110
Italy ...	49,959	1,362	649,949	71,844	7,336	864,865
Japan ...	232,448	5,041	2,972,939	303,912	6,498	3,674,946
United States of America	35,553	356	566,367	18,931	281	307,276
Other Countries ...	7,584	2,953	220,224	7,213	4,656	287,012
Total ...	1,087,159	76,795	14,126,432	1,109,207	99,604	13,896,102

In addition to the wool to which the foregoing statement relates, a large quantity is exported on sheep skins, mainly to France, where 2,532,829 woolly skins, valued at £408,685, were sent in 1930-31 and 1,150,674, valued at £123,397, in 1931-32. The total value of hides and skins of all kinds exported in 1931-32 was £976,413, the value of those exported to the United States being £449,544, and to the United Kingdom, £292,980.

The tallow consigned to Japan was valued at £134,164, and to Great Britain at £90,271, and leather sent to Eastern countries was valued at £122,492.

Butter and meat are exported mainly to Great Britain, and these shipments of butter were 309,937 cwt., valued at £1,744,833, in 1931-32. Exports of meat to Great Britain consisted of 1,803,237 carcasses of frozen mutton and lamb, valued at £1,145,687, and other meat to the value of £578,971. The value of butter sent to Eastern ports was £147,614, and meat £88,505.

The quantity of wheat exported to Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 1931-32 was 5,196,040 centals, valued at £1,247,191; to the Irish Free State, 2,174,473 centals, £511,978; to Japan and China, 7,136,373 centals, £1,882,802; to Italy, 1,216,971 centals, £342,541; and to the other European countries, 972,838 centals, £261,846.

The exports of flour to Great Britain in 1931-32 were 1,393,804 centals, £395,512; to Egypt and Sudan, 428,602 centals, £121,581. The flour exported to Eastern countries amounted to 2,000,456 centals, valued at £698,431, the principal markets being in Netherlands East Indies, Hong Kong, and British Malaya. Exports of flour to New Zealand and South Sea Islands consisted of 304,272 centals, £117,776. Exports of bran,

pollard, and sharps amounted to 811,397 centals, the value being £180,372. Eggs in shell, 3,627,853 dozen, valued at £191,140, were exported—all but a small quantity to Great Britain. Consignments of fruit were valued at £328,281, of which fresh fruit to the value of £120,549 was sent to New Zealand.

The trade in metals is mainly with the United Kingdom. Exports in 1931-32 included pig lead, 808,033 cwt., valued at £683,160, to Great Britain. Exports of coal to New Zealand in 1931-32 were 110,778 tons, £119,995, and to Eastern countries 149,247 tons, £148,086.

Re-exports.

There is a fairly large re-export trade in provisions and manufactured articles with New Zealand, New Caledonia, Fiji and other South Sea Islands. The principal items re-exported in the last three years are shown below:—

Commodity.	Value of Re-exports from New South Wales to Oversea Ports.		
	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
	£	£	£
Machinery	274,134	271,648	290,989
Metals and Metal Manufactures	195,776	164,417	147,994
Tea	105,772	56,482	26,061
Tobacco, etc.	96,580	79,408	75,448
Whisky	61,721	29,440	12,704
Piece Goods	81,768	63,114	36,197
Films for Kinematographs, etc.	36,851	85,170	88,809

Oversea Exports—Ships' Stores.

The figures relating to oversea 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 from New South Wales in 1911 and 1921, and in each of the last seven years:—

Year ended 30th June.	Oversea Ships' Stores Exported from New South Wales.		
	Australian Produce.	Other Produce.	Total.
	£	£	£
1911*	839,700	76,547	916,247
1921	2,028,728	300,969	2,329,697
1926	1,906,153	322,007	2,228,160
1927	1,608,241	142,009	1,750,250
1928	1,485,038	93,737	1,578,775
1929	1,210,007	84,241	1,294,248
1930	914,943	87,010	1,001,953
1931	787,881	95,942	883,823
1932	717,477	77,343	794,820

* Calendar Year.

The most important items of Australian produce exported as ships' stores in 1931-32 were bunker coal 456,202 tons valued at £451,690, and meats £75,878. The chief item of foreign produce was oil 6,545,552 gallons, valued at £41,827.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TARIFFS.

The customs tariff as contained in the Customs Tariff Acts, passed between 1921 and October, 1932, provided 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 might have been applied in respect of goods from any part of the British Dominions or from a foreign country, but it was abolished in October, 1932. The general tariff is imposed on all goods to which the other tariffs do not apply.

Between August, 1929, and July, 1931, substantial increases were made in the customs tariff with the object of rectifying an adverse exchange position and of affording further protection to local industries. In addition to the higher rates of duty on various items a special duty at the rate of 50 per cent. of existing duty was imposed in respect of 54 commodities in April, 1930, and the importation of 78 commodities was prohibited, except by permission of the Minister for Trade and Customs.

In July, 1930, a primage duty at the rate of 2½ per cent. ad valorem was imposed on nearly all goods entered for home consumption. This rate was raised to 4 per cent. in November, 1930, and to 10 per cent. in respect of most of the items in July, 1931.

Alterations were proposed in February, 1932, mainly for the reduction of duties, or for the curtailment of restrictions imposed in 1930. In May following, customs duty on some items was increased and there were further remissions of the special tax and prohibitions.

In October, 1932, after the Imperial Economic Conference at Ottawa, agreements formulated there were submitted to the Parliament of the Commonwealth for ratification, and a new tariff schedule was introduced. It had been arranged at Ottawa that as a general rule the minimum margin of preference in respect of British goods entering Australia would be determined according to the following formula, viz., Free goods or those dutiable up to 19 per cent. ad valorem under British Preferential Tariff, margin 15 per cent.; goods dutiable from 19 to 29 per cent, margin 17½ per cent.; goods dutiable at 30 per cent. or over, margin 20 per cent., provided that this margin will not result in a duty exceeding 75 per cent. ad valorem.

The agreement contains a general provision for the continuance of existing preferences of 10 per cent. on Australian goods imported into the United Kingdom. There are special terms in respect of such commodities as wheat, flour, wine, fruits, dairy produce, eggs, poultry, meats, leather, tallow, copper, lead, and zinc. As a general rule the terms give these Australian products, with the exception of frozen meat, a margin of preference against foreign supplies to the United Kingdom, the preference in regard to wheat, copper, lead and zinc being conditional on Australian producers continuing to offer these products on first sale in the United Kingdom at

prices not exceeding world prices. In the case of meat the Australian Government agrees to co-operate in regulating imports into the United Kingdom with the object of raising the level of wholesale prices of meat in the British markets.

The new tariff proposals introduced in October, 1932, include authority to extend by proclamation the British Preferential Tariff to British Crown colonies and protectorates.

Reciprocal trade treaties are in operation in respect of New Zealand and Canada. A measure of preference is accorded to the territories of Papua and New Guinea in terms of an Act which commenced on 1st April, 1926, certain tropical products imported direct therefrom being free of duty.

Reciprocity with New Zealand was introduced in 1922. The British preferential tariff is applied generally to goods produced in New Zealand, and special rates have been fixed in relation to certain commodities. The British preferential rates are charged also on goods transhipped from New Zealand, which would have been classified under the British preferential tariff if they had been imported direct from the country of origin to Australia. The New Zealand Re-exports Act, 1924, which commenced on 1st October, 1925, 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. In 1926 it was agreed reciprocally that except by mutual arrangement a custom duty shall not be imposed, nor an existing rate increased, on the products of either country entering the other until six months' notice has been given.

The tariff treaty with Canada was brought into operation on 1st October, 1925, and it was replaced in 1931 by a new treaty providing a larger measure of reciprocity. This treaty contains an agreement that neither country will apply "dumping" duties to the products of the other country. Concessions in respect of Canadian products entering Australia include canned salmon, timber, newsprinting paper, and motor chassis. Australian products to be admitted to Canada under preferential rates include meats, butter, fruits (fresh, dried, canned), hops, rice, and wine.

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.

Goods imported into Australia, as well as local secondary products, have been subject to sales tax, unless specifically exempted, as from 1st August, 1930. The rate was 2½ per cent. of value from 1st August, 1930, to 11th July, 1931, when it was increased to 6 per cent.

Excise duty is levied on beer, spirits, concentrated grape, saccharin, starch made from imported rice, tobacco, cigars, cigarettes, snuff, petrol, playing cards, cigarette tubes and papers, and matches.

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.

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 the years ended June, 1911, 1921, 1931, and 1932. Sydney is an important distributing centre, and the collections include receipts on account of goods which were transferred for consumption in other States. A notable instance is the excise collected in New South Wales on cigarettes made locally, though more than half the output of the factories is subsequently exported interstate. On the other hand, the receipts do not include duties on goods from other States consumed in New South Wales:—

Tariff Division.	1910-11.	1920-21.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Customs—	£	£	£	£
1. Stimulants, Ale, Beer, etc. ...	1,169,212	832,473	556,739	495,640
2. Narcotics	506,426	1,013,697	2,104,793	2,263,635
3. Sugar	67,438	1,296	381	132
4. Agricultural Products and Groceries	354,855	339,997	492,401	555,582
5. Apparel and Textiles	822,576	2,625,199	874,654	658,723
6. Metals and Machinery	477,766	2,050,953	692,670	291,699
7. Oils, Paints, and Varnishes	92,800	231,733	1,391,318	1,581,177
8. Earthenware, etc.	128,593	276,091	157,686	79,966
9. Drugs and Chemicals... ..	42,350	214,132	178,889	132,721
10. Wood, Wicker, etc.	156,632	214,043	149,236	69,556
11. Jewellery and Fancy Goods	120,335	395,041	339,502	137,759
12. Leather and Rubber	110,351	284,894	152,823	188,114
13. Paper and Stationery	83,521	490,762	369,868	217,041
14. Vehicles	66,317	361,343	120,710	30,353
15. Musical Instruments	50,707	112,997	6,680	948
16. Miscellaneous	104,395	323,468	318,290	203,866
Primage Duty ... ..	...	...	777,952	1,586,490
Other Receipts	12,678	29,043	70,570	73,954
Total, Customs	£4,306,952	£9,797,982	£8,746,162	£8,567,356
Excise—				
Beer	210,728	2,019,397	1,903,032	1,679,874
Spirits	119,169	677,537	485,081	542,546
Tobacco	188,763	586,760	752,745	944,941
Cigars	958	18,072	1,766	814
Cigarettes	250,093	1,721,252	1,381,984	775,019
Sugar	261,758	...	...	...
Petrol ... ..	...	...	220,272	252,182
Other	507	...	6,657	16,020
Licenses—Tobacco, etc.	2,259	4,479	3,714	3,730
Total, Excise	£1,034,235	£5,027,497	£4,755,251	£4,215,126
Total, Customs and Excise	£5,341,187	£14,825,479	£13,501,413	£12,782,482
Per head of population	£ s. d. 3 5 2	£ s. d. 7 1 10	£ s. d. 5 8 0	£ s. d. 5 1 5

The net customs collections, apart from primage duty, were less than £7,000,000 in 1931-32, as compared with £14,000,000 in each of the four years 1926-27 to 1929-30. Proportionately the decrease was greatest in the groups vehicles, wood, etc., metals and machinery, apparel and textiles, stimulants, etc. Narcotics was the only group in which there was an increase. The excise receipts declined by £1,000,000, or 18 per cent., in 1930-31, as compared with the previous three years, though new duties were imposed. In the following year there was a further decline of 11 per cent.

The amount of customs and excise revenue obtained from duties on stimulants, etc., and narcotics was £7,186,152 or £2 17s. 6d. per head of population in 1930-31, and £6,702,962, or £2 13s. 2d. per head in 1931-32.

INTERSTATE TRADE.

At a conference of the Statisticians of Australia in 1930 it was resolved that steps be taken to publish statistics in respect of interstate trade. With this object in view the following summary has been compiled from data obtained from the Sydney Harbour Trust, the railway authorities of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, and persons and firms engaged in interstate trade. The available data are shown below. The figures are not complete, but probably represent the bulk of the interstate consignments of the products specified.

Commodity.	Interstate Imports.			Interstate Exports.		
	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Wheat centals.	19,000	9,200	16,700	1,313,500	1,214,300	2,232,500
Flour "	146,900	169,600	134,100	950,200	622,000	521,800
Oats† "	188,600	125,200	37,400	*	*	*
Maize "	1,024,200	361,600	232,700	*	*	*
Barley "	238,900	47,400	153,600	*	*	*
Potatoes cwt.	1,896,500	2,036,700	1,947,600	63,100	53,600	80,500
Onions "	489,200	500,800	379,200	...	30	800
Butter lb.	3,748,300	2,114,100	1,128,000	5,087,200	1,971,400	1,986,300
Cheese "	4,096,700	3,086,500	3,254,000	*	*	*
Bacon and Ham "	10,843,300	9,418,600	8,084,000	940,600‡	971,100‡	629,300‡
Eggs—In shell § doz.	2,071,400	1,992,500	1,573,100	*	*	*
Egg Pulp § cub. tons	1,500	700	500	*	*	*
Fruit—Fresh cases	2,139,200	2,161,200	1,923,000	400,800	529,700	307,500
Tomatoes ½-bush.	579,900	427,000	342,700	...	...	...
Wool lb.	9,800,000	11,344,000	12,667,000	64,340,000	54,940,000	77,715,000
Sheep No.	1,412,000	1,581,300	1,864,100	3,487,000	2,405,600	2,731,500
Horses "	15,400	17,700	22,100	11,200	15,000	14,400
Cattle "	172,900	274,400	286,400	122,300	133,400	177,500
Pigs "	20,500	8,100	5,600	4,500	4,200	5,300
Coal—Cargo (a) tons	110,400	57,500	*	746,700	1,322,300	1,250,900
Bunker "	900	...	...	281,200	308,100	262,600
Ale, Beer, and Stout** gallons	1,199,060	1,438,600	1,470,300	419,500	273,000	289,300
Tobacco** lb.	739,400	541,200	542,700	2,147,900	1,446,700	1,964,800
Cigars** "	43,100	30,300	34,400	5,400	3,800	6,400
Cigarettes** "	200,300	181,300	233,900	3,248,500	2,161,400	682,200

* Not available. † Excluding arrivals at Newcastle. ‡ Exports by principal firms.

§ Imports into Sydney only. ** Excluding movements in bond.

(a) N.S.W. coal sent to Broken Hill via South Australia, is included in both exports and imports.

The imports of maize, dairy products, tomatoes and cattle are obtained mainly from Queensland. Potatoes, onions, barley and oats are imported from Victoria, potatoes and oats from Tasmania, and large quantities of fresh fruits from all three States. Exports of wheat from New South Wales consist almost entirely, and those of flour to a large extent, of consignments from the southern districts to Victoria; flour is exported to Queensland also. Victoria is the main outlet for sheep and cattle, and Western Australia for butter. Coal is exported to all the States except Queensland, and some is re-exported from South Australia to Broken Hill.

Further information relating to the interstate trade with Tasmania, Western Australia, and South Australia, as shown below, has been compiled by the Statisticians of those States, the South Australian records being complete only so far as the items could be traced.

Principal Items of Interstate Trade.	1929-30.		1930-31.		1931-32.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
<i>South Australia.</i>						
Imports from New South Wales—*		£		£		£
Ores (Broken Hill to Port Pirie) ...	...	2,983,955	...	1,210,140		
Coal tons	350,076	759,949	461,800	1,035,217		
Iron and steel (rails)	19,896	243,726	12,686	101,488		
Butter lb.	984,760	78,967	182,000	11,513		
Sheep No.	114,154	85,616	130,539	92,735		
Wool lb.	9,865,000	373,884	11,257,215	319,705		
Exports to New South Wales—*					†	†
Lead tons	62,207	1,193,997	61,801	803,594		
Iron ore	463,785	533,353	390,611	449,203		
Motor bodies No.	6,736	521,236	1,157	111,365		
Coal (to Broken Hill) tons	107,223	232,760	57,460	128,808		
Brandy pf. gal.	76,648	153,296	46,359	92,718		
Wine gal.	846,356	230,933	593,589	161,980		
<i>Western Australia.</i>						
Imports from New South Wales—		£		£		£
Butter lb.	4,080,888	376,089	2,529,083	205,021	2,014,930	135,464
Confectionery	1,305,900	127,852	872,212	75,068	1,125,743	95,743
Sugar ton	14,157	525,691	930	37,782	816	32,927
Tobacco, manufactured lb.	671,622	263,214	419,889	177,991	564,716	256,919
Cigarettes	411,826	345,942	262,999	234,152	258,958	173,134
Apparel and textiles ... ..	...	453,594†	...	304,387†	...	362,753
Coal tons	22,327	29,955	49,698	64,382	88,174	125,899
Machinery ... ..	...	202,314	...	162,639	...	212,237
Metal manufactures ... ..	...	510,704	...	324,511	...	304,890
Rubber manufactures ... ..	...	174,662	...	101,326	...	170,324
Drugs, chemicals, and fertilisers ... ..	...	198,421	...	193,213	...	209,460
Total Imports from New Sth. Wales	...	4,010,014	...	2,476,070	...	2,715,239
Total Exports to New South Wales	...	330,326	...	229,924	...	234,631
<i>Tasmania.</i>						
Imports from New South Wales—		£		£		£
Sugar ton	12,217	450,986	7,684	322,779	11,651	431,423
Tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes ... ..	...	151,751	...	126,809	...	119,641
Machinery and metal manufactures ... ..	...	247,961	...	248,869	...	226,017
Total Imports from New Sth. Wales	...	1,852,815	...	1,569,989	...	1,540,910
Exports to New South Wales—						
Fruits—Fresh bush.	786,829	237,057	895,213	210,252	1,351,116	330,654
Preserved, pulped lb.	6,224,320	114,693	4,617,486	90,583	5,020,102	70,846
Jams and jellies	7,150,000	203,181	4,674,740	153,296	6,986,000	160,425
Potatoes tons.	54,112	547,012	58,341	304,806	57,111	360,221
Copper (blister)	6,887	593,959	12,057	532,708	10,561	354,532
Zinc	9,663	268,433	11,971	193,328	9,470	154,042
Other metals and ores	2,975	103,550	2,624	126,852	2,766	126,604
Woollen manufactures ... ..	...	248,002	...	195,985	...	331,247
Total Exports to New South Wales	...	3,162,084	...	2,401,397	...	2,429,415

* As far as recorded.

† Exclusive of textiles, other than piece goods.

‡ Not yet available.

SHIPPING.

OWING to the geographic position of New South Wales, efficient transport services are essential to maintain regular and speedy communication with other countries, and to place the staple products upon distant markets in a satisfactory condition without unduly increasing the cost. In modern ships special provision is made for refrigerated cargoes, and improved methods of carrying perishable products have promoted the growth of a permanent export trade in such commodities as butter, frozen meat, and fruit.

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, 1912-26. It is drafted on the lines of the Merchant Shipping Act and of the Navigation Act of New South Wales and embodies the rules of an international convention for Safety of Life at Sea signed in London in 1914.

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.

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 of 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.

The Governor-General may suspend by proclamation the operation of the foregoing provisions, and under certain conditions he may grant permission to British ships to carry tourist traffic between ports in the Commonwealth and the territories, such traffic to be exempt from the provisions of the Navigation Act relating to the coasting trade of Australia.

The part of the Navigation Act which relates to pilotage has not been brought into operation, and this service 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.

An Act was passed in December, 1932, to authorise the appointment of the Maritime Services Co-ordination Board to make investigations with

relation to the co-ordination of the activities of the Sydney Harbour Trust Commissioners, the State Department of Navigation, the Reclamation Trust (which investigates proposals for the reclamation of submerged and lowlying lands) and the Dredges Branch of the Public Works Department.

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 diseases 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 overseas 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, and the Commonwealth Act of 1924 applies to the interstate and the outward overseas trade.

INTERSTATE AND OVERSEA 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 overseas 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 overseas 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
1911*	3,127	6,822,135	3,146	6,833,782	2,177
1921	3,019	7,123,331	3,023	7,122,209	2,358
1926	2,945	8,534,292	2,906	8,495,031	2,910
1927	3,229	9,084,476	3,267	9,213,319	2,817
1928	3,039	8,674,540	3,041	8,705,497	2,859
1929	2,865	8,516,413	2,847	8,532,023	2,985
1930	2,623	8,258,562	2,600	8,187,996	3,149
1931	2,547	7,938,164	2,568	8,008,827	3,118
1932	2,420	7,838,949	2,451	7,859,067	3,223

* Year ended 31st December.

In 1926-27 the tonnage of vessels entered and cleared was the largest on record. It declined by 5 per cent. in the following year, when there was a smaller quantity of wheat available for oversea export and a marked diminution in the coal trade. There was a further decline in the next two years, mainly in interstate trade due to dislocations in the coal-mining industry, and in 1929-30 only a small quantity of wheat was exported overseas. A reduction in the import trade in 1930-31 and 1931-32 was offset for the most part by a heavy volume of exports.

The diminution in imports, however, has led to an increase in the proportion of shipping entered in ballast. The number of vessels in 1931-32 being 407, and their aggregate net tonnage 946,936 tons, or 12.1 per cent. of the total. The clearances in ballast were 141 vessels, 435,480 tons (net), or 5.5 per cent. of the total tonnage cleared. In 1930-31 the entries in ballast were 418 vessels 874,768 tons, and the clearances 160 vessels 443,853 tons.

Very few sailing vessels are engaged in the trade of New South Wales, and in 1931-32 the entries included only one sailer with a net tonnage of 1,709 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, 1932, excluding the coastal trade:—

State.	Interstate and Oversea.			
	Entries.		Clearances.	
	Vessels.	Net Tonnage.	Vessels.	Net Tonnage.
New South Wales	2,420	7,838,949	2,451	7,859,067
Victoria	2,097	5,996,094	2,101	6,018,664
Queensland	917	3,230,676	931	3,265,988
South Australia	999	4,139,455	1,002	4,150,308
Western Australia	698	3,555,403	694	3,530,279
Tasmania	980	1,306,625	992	1,309,400
North Australia	39	95,560	39	96,632

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 overseas countries, grouped according to geographical position, indicates, as far as practicable, the growth or decline of shipping along the main trade routes since 1920-21:—

Destination.	1920-21.		1930-31.		1931-32.	
	Vessels.	Net Tonnage.	Vessels.	Net Tonnage.	Vessels.	Net Tonnage.
Australian States	3,206	6,382,297	3,164	8,076,145	2,979	7,821,502
New Zealand	769	1,473,057	346	901,695	306	862,821
Great Britain and Europe	582	2,798,459	594	3,499,602	599	3,535,790
Africa	81	225,856	16	50,294	14	45,643
Asia and Pacific Islands	1,009	2,179,040	691	2,129,777	704	2,180,026
North and Central America	299	1,003,137	297	1,269,104	261	1,229,145
South America	96	183,694	7	20,374	8	23,089
Total	6,042	14,245,540	5,115	15,646,991	4,871	15,698,016

Shipping to and from the other Australian States in 1931-32 was greater by 1,439,200 tons than in 1920-21, though somewhat less than in 1930-31. A decrease was recorded in respect of the New Zealand trade, but the figures do not include the tonnage of vessels which called at New Zealand ports en route to and from America. The tonnage engaged in trade with North and Central America has increased by 23 per cent. The South American trade, which was mainly for the export of coal, has lost its former importance, and trade with Asia and Pacific Islands is fairly constant.

INTERSTATE AND OVERSEA CARGOES.

A comparative statement of the interstate and oversea cargoes discharged and shipped in New South Wales in each year since 1924-25 is shown below:—

Year ended June—	Cargo Discharged.			Cargo Shipped.		
	Interstate.	Oversea.	Total.	Interstate.	Oversea.	Total.
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
1925	1,651,936	1,804,416	3,456,352	3,559,476	2,702,003	6,261,479
1926	1,613,036	2,084,052	3,697,088	3,038,259	1,993,228	5,031,487
1927	1,768,175	2,196,135	3,964,310	3,713,721	1,925,622	5,639,343
1928	1,712,724	2,275,833	3,988,557	3,289,426	1,394,084	4,683,510
1929	1,877,919	2,284,817	4,162,736	2,519,279	1,601,254	4,120,533
1930	1,510,177	2,175,266	3,685,443	1,804,415	874,304	2,678,719
1931	1,194,061	1,200,861	2,394,862	2,030,847	1,908,396	3,939,243
1932	1,102,574	1,066,619	2,163,193	1,969,358	1,912,753	3,882,111

NOTE.—Cargo recorded by measurement has been converted to tons on the basis of 40 cubic feet = 1 ton.

Cargoes from other States of the Commonwealth have declined by 41 per cent. since 1928-29. Oversea import trade was maintained at a high level until 1930-31, when there was a decline of 45 per cent., followed by a further decline of 12 per cent. in 1931-1932. Fluctuations in the coal trade have been the main cause of variations in the outward interstate trade. Oversea shipments were exceptionally small in 1929-30, when only a small quantity of wheat was exported, and there was a recovery in the following year.

NATIONALITY OF VESSELS.

The majority of the vessels engaged in the trade of the State of New South Wales are 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. In the table below the British and the foreign shipping are shown under distinctive headings.

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	1,314,582	8,407,301	39·8	44·2	16·0
1911*	4,645,195	6,594,649	2,416,073	13,655,917	34·0	48·3	17·7
1921	4,739,555	6,739,914	2,766,071	14,245,540	33·3	47·3	19·4
1926	5,540,386	8,389,138	3,099,799	17,029,323	32·5	49·3	18·2
1927	6,448,697	8,768,280	3,080,818	18,297,795	35·3	47·9	16·8
1928	5,799,805	8,396,707	3,183,525	17,380,037	33·4	48·3	18·3
1929	4,656,402	9,247,088	3,144,946	17,048,436	27·3	54·3	18·4
1930	4,338,726	8,785,023	3,322,809	16,446,558	26·4	53·4	20·2
1931	4,639,497	7,930,626	3,376,868	15,946,991	29·1	49·7	21·2
1932	4,310,726	7,925,935	3,461,355	15,698,016	27·5	50·5	22·0

* Year ended 31st December.

The marked decline in Australian tonnage in 1928-1929 was due partly to the fact that fewer vessels were engaged in the interstate coal trade, and partly to the cessation of regular oversea voyages by Australian vessels as a result of the sale of the Commonwealth Government steamers. This event is reflected in an increase in "other British" tonnage in the same year. In 1929-30 there was a further decline in Australian tonnage, and a reduction, which has since continued, in other British shipping. Foreign tonnage has increased absolutely and relatively during the last three years.

Particulars relating to the nationality of vessels engaged in trade with New South Wales in 1920-21, 1930-31, and 1931-32 are shown in greater detail in the following statement:—

Nationality of Shipping.	Entries and Clearances.						Net Tonnage— Percentage of each Nationality.		
	1920-21.		1930-31.		1931-32.		1920-21.	1930-31.	1931-32.
	Vessels.	Net Tonnage.	Vessels.	Net Tonnage.	Vessels.	Net Tonnage.			
British—									
Australia	2,904	4,739,555	2,584	4,639,497	2,395	4,310,726	33·3	29·1	27·5
New Zealand	299	321,420	274	591,455	218	512,473	3·2	3·7	3·3
Great Britain	1,608	6,267,994	1,303	7,026,026	1,282	7,127,464	44·0	44·0	45·4
Other British	74	150,500	110	313,145	107	285,998	·1	2·0	1·8
Total	4,885	11,479,469	4,271	12,570,123	4,002	12,236,661	80·6	78·8	78·0
Foreign—									
Denmark	16	58,790	19	50,662	9	28,456	·4	·3	·2
France	102	129,743	79	241,764	106	247,066	·9	1·5	1·6
Germany .. ..	..	..	84	377,911	84	364,229	..	2·4	2·3
Italy	29	107,610	35	198,453	37	209,355	·8	1·2	1·3
Netherlands	97	315,795	89	486,639	94	487,408	2·2	3·1	3·1
Norway	93	179,041	129	462,036	117	471,516	1·3	2·9	3·0
Sweden	39	121,353	59	185,178	66	214,023	·9	1·2	1·4
Japan	444	1,159,010	235	932,783	223	882,695	8·1	5·8	5·6
United States of America	290	604,451	103	401,885	101	441,448	4·2	2·5	2·8
Other Nationalities	46	90,275	7	39,557	32	115,761	·6	·3	·7
Total	1,157	2,766,071	844	3,376,868	869	3,461,355	19·4	21·2	22·0
Grand Total	6,042	14,245,540	5,115	15,946,991	4,871	15,698,016	100·0	100·0	100·0

The tonnage owned in Great Britain represented 45·4 per cent. of the total in 1931-32, and the Australian tonnage 27·5 per cent. The foreign tonnage is owned for the most part in Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, or the United States. The foreign tonnage in 1931-32 was 22 per cent. of the total, as compared with 21·2 per cent. in 1930-31 and 19·4 in 1920-21.

Of the Australian tonnage, entries and clearances in interstate trade amounted to 3,912,247 tons, or 91 per cent., and voyages in oversea trade to 398,479 tons, the tonnage to and from New Zealand being 201,626. Of the other British tonnage, including ships owned in Great Britain, 2,878,288 tons were entered from and cleared for interstate ports and 2,681,851 tons plied between Australia and Great Britain. The tonnage belonging to other nations was employed chiefly in the foreign trade.

During the year 1931-32 the interstate cargo discharged at ports in New South Wales amounted to 1,102,574 tons, and the oversea cargo to 1,060,619 tons, and the shipments to interstate ports represented 1,369,358 tons, and to oversea countries 1,912,753 tons. The interstate trade is carried for the

most part in Australian ships, and the nationality of the vessels in which oversea trade is carried is shown below:—

Nationality of Shipping.	1929-30.		1930-31.		1931-32.	
	Discharged.	Shipped.	Discharged.	Shipped.	Discharged.	Shipped.
Oversea Cargoes.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Australia	71,047	88,293	64,395	131,447	68,323	118,888
New Zealand	50,987	221,527	27,117	246,950	30,000	149,290
Great Britain	1,253,871	315,534	673,861	843,882	554,471	973,476
Other British	61,387	27,973	42,367	31,225	28,474	38,466
Total British	1,437,292	653,327	807,740	1,253,504	681,268	1,280,120
Denmark	84,669	1,470	16,722	6,393	9,806	12,124
France	21,982	31,662	5,702	27,842	3,677	56,832
Germany	52,285	33,152	16,861	36,343	16,197	34,153
Italy	16,191	21,191	6,478	26,698	7,938	19,739
Japan	72,643	33,682	23,734	358,479	22,102	274,268
Netherlands	31,988	49,963	38,051	75,018	27,432	70,003
Norway	226,133	23,343	140,698	71,349	146,974	68,117
Sweden	66,925	6,400	50,721	13,301	42,667	22,198
United States of America	161,738	20,114	78,996	39,469	70,097	44,726
Other Foreign	3,420	...	15,158	...	32,461	30,473
Total, Foreign	737,974	220,977	393,121	654,892	379,351	632,633
Total, Oversea	2,175,266	874,304	1,260,861	1,908,396	1,060,619	1,912,753

Note.—Cargo recorded by measurement is converted to tons on basis of 40 cubic feet = 1 ton.

In 1931-32 British vessels carried 64 per cent. of the oversea cargo discharged at ports in New South Wales and 67 per cent. of the cargo shipped abroad.

The interstate and oversea 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 at intervals since 1901 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.
1901*	1,884	2,953,511	702	1,036,178	89†	108,526†	85	34,985
1911*	2,181	5,246,351	701	1,357,132	64	102,886	131	115,786
1921	1,869	4,776,182	1,082	2,255,040	42	85,514	26	6,595
1926	1,988	6,304,313	826	1,964,191	83	243,918	48	21,870
1927	2,174	6,809,112	890	1,961,909	90	241,208	75	42,187
1928	2,137	6,674,798	793	1,772,952	72	200,825	37	25,965
1929	2,071	6,768,664	620	1,355,411	144	366,401	30	25,937
1930	2,044	6,958,916	371	836,229	183	445,473	25	17,914
1931	1,800	6,430,904	601	1,262,149	114	232,228	32	12,883
1932	1,719	6,334,450	546	1,252,757	129	264,122	26	17,620

*Year ended 31st December.

† Wollongong.

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 between 1911 and 1921 was due mainly to the omission of Twofold Bay as a port of call for interstate vessels.

The trade of the various ports, as indicated by the quantity of interstate and oversea cargo discharged and shipped in each year since 1924-25 is shown in the following table:—

Year ended 30 June.	Sydney.		Newcastle.		Port Kembla.		Other Ports.	
	Interstate.	Oversea.	Interstate.	Oversea.	Interstate.	Oversea.	Interstate.	Oversea.
<i>Cargo Discharged.</i>								
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
1925	819,200	1,684,031	811,533	99,727	11,484	20,658	9,719	...
1926	842,990	1,936,033	760,277	123,921	8,014	24,098	1,755	...
1927	972,967	2,049,695	782,089	119,482	11,854	26,958	1,263	...
1928	969,889	2,111,777	720,113	133,776	22,146	30,280	576	...
1929	962,779	2,106,814	711,637	123,598	203,455	54,405	48	...
1930	878,455	1,994,373	427,233	131,458	204,199	49,435	290	...
1931	690,391	1,107,895	416,037	67,821	86,903	25,145	670	...
1932	703,569	1,002,921	345,321	42,484	52,851	15,214	833	...
<i>Cargo Shipped.</i>								
1925	603,791	1,595,356	2,754,367	1,028,109	153,598	40,636	47,720	37,902
1926	665,529	1,098,731	2,256,279	828,450	67,617	43,606	48,834	22,441
1927	781,642	1,063,716	2,705,139	763,892	136,361	54,281	90,579	13,733
1928	664,259	819,407	2,477,640	511,933	100,863	49,265	46,664	13,479
1929	669,227	1,265,845	1,647,563	251,581	134,741	73,605	67,748	10,223
1930	727,857	701,745	650,269	57,150	352,259	105,085	74,030	10,324
1931	472,183	1,539,099	1,428,633	337,450	95,584	12,900	34,447	18,947
1932	494,594	1,550,447	1,347,457	314,310	99,335	39,672	27,972	8,324

NOTE.—Cargo recorded by measurement is converted on basis of 40 cubic feet = 1 ton.

The inward interstate trade was divided almost evenly between Sydney and Newcastle at the beginning of the period under review, and more than three-fourths of the outward cargoes were shipped at Newcastle. With a decline in coal exports both the inward and outward trade of the latter port decreased by more than 50 per cent., and the proportion of the interstate cargoes handled in Sydney Harbour increased, though the total volume of trade was smaller in 1931 and 1932 than in any year from 1925 to 1929. The interstate trade of Port Kembla increased after the establishment of the iron and steel works in 1928, and there was a diversion of coal trade to this port when the northern mines were closed in 1929 and 1930. In 1930-31 the coal trade reverted to Newcastle.

The bulk of the oversea trade is shipped inwards and outwards at Sydney. The inward cargoes declined by more than half between 1928-29 and 1931-32, but the volume of outward shipments during the last two years was almost as great as in 1924-25.

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. Port Stephens, 21 nautical miles north of Newcastle,

and Broken Bay at the mouth of the Hawkesbury River, have not been developed owing to proximity with Newcastle and Sydney Harbour respectively. Jervis Bay is 82 miles south of Sydney; part of the bay has been ceded to the Commonwealth Government as a port for Canberra, the Federal Capital. Newcastle is a bar harbour at the mouth of the Hunter River, where extensive accommodation has been provided for oversea shipping. 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.

The shipping trade of the ports other than Sydney, Newcastle, and Port Kembla is relatively small.

Sydney Harbour.

Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour) is the principal port of New South Wales. It has a safe entrance and provides good shelter. 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, over 700 feet wide, and 40 feet deep. The total area of the harbour 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 control of the port was vested in the Sydney Harbour Trust in the year 1901. The Trust 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 wharves are situated in close proximity to the business centre of the city, about 4 or 5 miles from the Heads. Excluding private lighter and ferry berths, there are 77,030 feet of wharfage in Sydney Harbour. 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. Details relating to the number and length of the berths are shown below:—

Particulars.	Controlled by Sydney Harbour Trust.		Private Wharfage.		Total.	
	No. of Berths.	Length.	No. of Berths.	Length.	No. of Berths.	Length.
Ship berths—		feet.		feet.		feet.
Oversea	67	35,245	14	3,819	81	39,064
Interstate	24	9,242	3	516	27	9,758
Intrastate	38	10,523	5	772	43	11,295
Cross wharves adjoining ships' berths	39	4,693	...	...	39	4,693
Harbour trade berths	19	4,633	30	4,160	49	8,793
Ferry berths	25	3,427	...	...	25	3,427
Total	212	67,763	52	9,267	264	77,030

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. Storage sheds have been erected for bagged wheat and plant is available for mechanical handling. For bulk wheat there are silos with a capacity of 6,750,000 bushels, and grain may be delivered in bulk into the holds of vessels at the rate of 1,400 tons per hour.

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 storage for 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 1931-32 certificates were issued to 51 steamers in Port Jackson with an aggregate tonnage of 13,363 tons (gross) and capacity to carry 40,826 passengers.

An arch bridge spanning the harbour from Dawes' Point to Milson's Point was opened on 19th March, 1932. It provides for pedestrian, vehicular, railway and tramway traffic. A description of the bridge is published in the chapter of this volume relating to Roads and Bridges.

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 six years, as recorded by the Harbour Trust, are shown below. The figures differ from those in the table on page 200, 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.
1927	5,740	1,667,968	2,626	7,879,005	8,366	9,546,973
1928	5,261	1,612,012	2,539	7,600,283	7,800	9,212,295
1929	4,564	1,352,945	2,498	7,707,208	7,062	9,060,153
1930	3,743	1,183,437	2,449	7,757,098	6,192	8,940,535
1931	3,798	1,260,344	2,184	7,207,938	5,982	8,468,282
1932	3,716	1,218,489	2,133	7,009,467	5,849	8,227,956

The aggregate tonnage of vessels which entered the port of Sydney during the year 1926-27 was the largest on record. The subsequent decline in the coastal trade was due mainly to adverse conditions in the coal-mining industry. Oversea tonnage decreased in 1927-28 with a diminution in wheat exports, and in 1930-31, when there was a marked decline in the import trade. There was a further decline in imports in 1931-32, but it was almost offset by the large volume of shipping for the export trade.

Very few sailing vessels are engaged in the trade of New South Wales. Only one, with a net tonnage of 1,208 tons, entered Sydney Harbour in 1931-32, as compared with 242 vessels and a tonnage of 124,328 in 1920-21. On the other hand the number of motor ships is increasing. The oversea and interstate shipping included 86 motor vessels, 303,695 tons (net) in 1925-26, and 323 of an aggregate net tonnage of 1,199,064 tons in 1931-32. The steamers included 461 oil-burning vessels with a tonnage of 2,490,895 tons (net) in 1931-32.

The following statement shows the arrivals in the principal ports of Australasia and Great Britain. The figures include coastwise trade and tonnage which arrived at the respective ports, although not recorded by the Customs Department.

Port.	Arrivals incl. Coastwise— Net Tonnage.	Port.	Arrivals incl. Coastwise— Net Tonnage.
<i>Australia (1931-32)—</i>		<i>England (1931)—</i>	
Sydney	8,227,956	London	27,989,066
Melbourne	6,083,072	Liverpool (including Birkenhead) ...	15,524,453
Port Adelaide ...	3,937,915	Southampton ...	12,104,413
Newcastle	3,308,320	Newcastle and Shields	9,336,720
Brisbane	3,453,826	Cardiff	7,466,642
Fremantle	3,310,750	Hull	5,623,271
Townsville	1,089,976	Plymouth	7,264,375
Hobart	817,171		
Port Kembla ...	535,276		
Geelong (1930-31)...	755,462		
<i>New Zealand (1931)—</i>		<i>Scotland (1931)—</i>	
Wellington	3,349,212	Glasgow	5,580,469
Auckland	2,383,549	Greenock	3,185,389
Lyttelton	1,921,564	Leith	2,009,596

Up to 30th June, 1928, the revenues collected by the Sydney Harbour Trust were paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the State. This arrangement was altered as from 1st July, 1928, when the accounts of the Harbour Trust were separated from the Consolidated Revenue Account, and the receipts are paid now into the Sydney Harbour Trust Fund. A renewals fund has been created to meet the cost of renewals and reconstruction of wasting assets and the Trust is required to contribute a proportionate share of the sinking fund established under the financial agreement between the Commonwealth and the States. The net profits are payable into a reserve fund to meet losses and for the reduction of rates and charges.

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

Year ended 30th June.	Capital Debt.	Income.	Expenditure.				Surplus.
			Administration and Maintenance Expenses.	Interest and Sinking Fund.	Exchange, etc.	Total Ex- penditure.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1929	11,488,441	1,103,598	369,037	614,067	...	983,104	120,494
1930	11,673,981	1,017,934	381,421	629,806	...	1,011,227	6,707
1931	11,622,200	840,077	269,831	635,571	25,805	931,207	(-)91,130
1932	11,611,905	832,186	244,581	595,698	149,281	939,560	(-)137,374

(-) Denotes deficiency.

During the year 1931-32, the ratio of administration and maintenance expenses to the income was 29.4 per cent. After deducting interest, £554,696, and sinking fund charges, £41,002, and exchange, £147,360, and loans management expenses £1,921, there was a deficiency on the year's transactions of £157,374.

The principal sources of revenue in 1931-32 were wharfage and transshipment rates, which amounted to £484,362, and rents from properties £278,386. The corresponding amounts in 1930-31 were £456,853 and £295,500.

Newcastle Harbour.

Newcastle Harbour (Port Hunter) is the second port of New South Wales and the fourth 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 Moscheto 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 500 feet wide. The minimum depth is 25 feet 6 inches at low water ordinary spring tide, but vessels which draw 29 feet can enter at high water spring tides. Works are in progress with the object of ultimately increasing 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 coalfields 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. Progress has been made in the shipment of wool, wheat and frozen meat, and a wharf is available for timber.

Wharfage accommodation to the extent of 23,663 feet is provided; 9,198 feet are used for the shipment of coal, 8,840 feet for general cargo, 2,428 feet for Government purposes, and 3,197 feet are leased. There are 111 mooring dolphins and jetties for vessels awaiting cargo. A floating dock of 15,000 tons capacity is available at the Government Dockyard, Walsh Island. The general cargo wharves are connected with the main railway system, and the railway extends along the coal wharves.

The shipping entered during 1931-32 included coastal, 2,315 vessels, 949,879 tons; interstate, 802 vessels, 1,117,464 tons; and oversea, 350 vessels, 1,240,977 tons; total 3,467 vessels, 3,308,320 tons. In 1930-31 the total was 3,383,198 tons.

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. 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, which provides that, except in times of unusual drought, sufficient water must be maintained in the weirs and locks for navigation by vessels drawing 5 feet of water.

ADDENDUM—Page 206.

Page 206.—If freight was prepaid in Australia, shippers were required to pay an additional charge in respect of exchange, viz.:—

1930-31.—Refrigerated cargoes, 3 per cent. on rates shown in table on page 206; general cargoes, nil.

1931-32.—Refrigerated cargoes, July to December, 23 per cent.; January-June, 18 per cent. General cargoes, July-November, 30½ per cent.; December to June, 25½ per cent.

At 30th June, 1932, ten weirs and locks had been completed and were in operation, and two were under construction. The expenditure for the construction of reservoirs, locks and other works at that date amounted to £8,769,598.

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, 1932, thirty-nine boats licensed to carry 33,040 passengers were in service, and 665 persons were employed. Approximately 44,640,000 passengers were carried during the year 1931-32; and in accidents 16 passengers and 55 employees were injured; the total revenue amounted to £567,117, and the expenditure to £467,103. Some of the services in Sydney Harbour were discontinued after the opening of the Harbour Bridge in March, 1932.

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.

An association of shipowners and shippers, known as the Australian Oversea Transport Association, was formed in June, 1929, with the object of organising on an economical basis the shipping services to and from Australia. A series of agreements has been arranged in regard to rates of freight and other conditions affecting the shipment of cargoes by vessels engaged regularly in the trade between Australia and Europe.

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. During the four years ended June, 1932, rates for most commodities were 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 two years, as compared with the rates in 1911 and later years:—

Article.	1911.	1920-21.	1925-26.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Butter box 56 lb.	2s. to 2s. 6d.	6s.	4s. 6d.	4s.	4s.
Copra ton	40s.	225s. to 120s.	61s. 3d.	61s. 3d.	61s. 3d.
Hides lb.	40s. to 52s. 6d. †	1½d. to 1d.	¾d.	¾d.	¾d.
Leather ton	60s.	270s. to 244s.	153s.	137s. 9d.	137s. 9d.
Mutton—Frozen lb.	5d. to ½d.	1½d.	1½d.	1d.	1d.
Tallow ton	40s. to 42s. 6d.	180s. to 170s.	78s. 9d.	70s. 9d.	70s. 9d.
Wheat ton	17s. 6d. to 30s.	120s. to 46s. 8d.	38s. 9d. to 20s.	32s. 6d. to 20s.	32s. 6d. to 20s.
Wool—Greasy lb.	½d. to ¼d.	1½d. †	1½d. †	1½d. †	1½d. †
Measured Goods—40 cub. ft. ...	25s. to 45s.	120s. to 105s.	70s.	68s.	68s.
Timber 100 sup. ft.	6s.	35s. to 22s.	11s.	11s.	11s.

† Per ton. ‡ Plus 5% primage, less 10% rebate.

Wool is carried direct to Continental ports in Europe at the same rates as to London, but higher rates are charged if it is taken to London and transhipped there to the Continent. The rate for wool from Sydney to Japan in the years ended June, 1931 and 1932, 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, published annually, 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 are shown below in comparison with those during the years 1910-11 and 1920-21:—

Charges.	Year ended 30th June.				
	1911.	1921.	1930.	1931.	1932.
	£	£	£	£	£
Pilotage	43,856	74,733	64,527	58,221	56,501
Harbour Removal Fees	7,306	10,647	3,958	3,786	4,072
Harbour and Light Rates	41,331	49,551	48,722	46,015	43,606
Navigation Department Fees, etc. ...	9,256	10,839	2,328	1,170	1,116
Harbour and Tonnage Rates (Out-ports)	6,792	72,865	132,482	116,690	110,278
Sydney Harbour Trust—					
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates ...	228,379	475,230	654,625	499,736	520,834
Rents of Wharves, Jetties, etc. ...	77,930	188,473	202,724	192,649	190,281
Rents of other premises	46,178	71,666	108,766	102,851	88,166
Miscellaneous	22,273	61,629	51,819	44,841	32,965
Total	483,301	1,015,633	1,269,951	1,065,959	1,047,759

The light-houses and light dues collected in Australia by the Commonwealth Government during the year ended 30th June, 1932, amounted to £191,604, and receipts under the Federal Navigation Act to £9,614.

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 Federal 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 of sailing ships (15 tons and over) 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. The rate is 1½d. per ton (net), on arrival and on departure 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 for other ships is 2½d. per ton on arrival and on departure. 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 of 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, 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 ¾d. per ton, which is payable on firewood.

The general outward rate in operation in Sydney Harbour is 1s. 6d. per ton. The rate in respect of coal is 6d. per ton; wheat and coke 9d. per ton; wool 9d. per bale; ore 4½d. per ton.

In ports other than Sydney there is a schedule of inward rates for coastwise and interstate goods, and a separate schedule for oversea goods. The inward general rate for coastwise and interstate 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; ores 4½d. per ton; ore products 9d. per ton; timber 2s. per 630 super. feet. The general inward rate imposed on oversea goods is 4s. per ton by weight or by measurement, and the special rates include coal 1s. per ton; undressed timber 3s. 6d. per 630 super feet; ore 9d. per ton.

The outward rate on coastwise, interstate, and oversea goods is 1s. per ton, unless otherwise specified; ore and ore products are rated at 4½d. per ton; timber—sawn or rough—1s. 3d. per 630 super feet; wool shipped overseas 6d. per bale.

Storage Charges.

In order to avoid congestion on the wharves, storage and shed charges are imposed on goods placed on a wharf if not removed within a specified period.

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 a white seven-pointed star indicating the six federated States of Australia and the territories of the Commonwealth and the five smaller white stars representing the Southern Cross.

In New South Wales shipping registers are kept at the ports of Sydney and Newcastle. The following statement shows particulars regarding the shipping on the registers, as at 30th June, 1932:—

Tonnage Class.	Steam.		Motor.		Sailing.		Total.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Under 50 tons	223	4,892	257	2,636	196	2,716	676	10,244
50 and under 500...	179	28,234	2	307	68	10,350	249	38,891
500 ,, ,, 1,000...	16	11,033	1	516	9	7,056	26	18,605
1,000 ,, ,, 2,000...	7	11,075	...	...	3	3,727	10	14,802
2,000 and over	8	21,189	1	2,626	...	...	9	23,815
Total	433	76,423	261	6,085	276	23,849	970	106,357

Forty-eight vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 7,803 tons (net), were sold during the year 1931-32. All these vessels were sold to British subjects, and the transactions did not necessarily involve removal from the registers.

Excluding yachts, launches, and boats, one vessel was imported into New South Wales during 1931-32, and one vessel, valued at £6,250, was exported to New Zealand.

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 720 feet long, and can accommodate a vessel with a breadth of 88 feet, and a draught of 30 feet. The Fitzroy Dock is 497 feet long 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, 1932, numbered 63, including 25 warships; their gross tonnage was 289,336. The vessels slipped numbered 30, with a gross tonnage of 990 tons.

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 635 feet long, and vessels drawing 17 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 another 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 a floating dock and two patent slips attached to the State Government Dockyards at Walsh Island, and two slips which are privately owned.

The works at Walsh Island were established on a site which was originally a sandspit, and has 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 length of the dock is 630 feet and it is 82 feet broad, with a capacity for floating vessels up to 15,000 tons. The cost of constructing the floating dock to 30th June, 1932, amounted to £502,330, including £135,000 contributed by the Commonwealth. 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, 1932, thirty-two vessels were slipped at Walsh Island, and twenty-four were docked. The gross tonnage of these vessels was 53,350 tons.

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-nine vessels with a gross tonnage of 3,584 tons were docked at these ports during the year 1931-32.

During recent years only a few vessels have been built in New South Wales, the number in 1931-32 being four, viz., one steam vessel, 341 tons; two motor vessels, 33 tons; and a sailing vessel, 8 tons.

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.
1928	22,389	3,772	26,161	23,273	3,874	27,147	804	142	946
1929	17,848	2,091	19,939	18,195	2,138	20,333	579	63	642
1930	17,740	1,573	19,313	17,429	1,337	18,766	501	35	536
1931	13,916	1,836	15,752	13,271	2,134	15,405	315	40	355
1932	15,600	1,598	17,198	15,138	1,408	16,546	259	47	306

The rates of wages, hours of labour, and conditions under which crews work on vessels engaged in the interstate and coastal trade of Australia are fixed by awards and agreements under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act. In accordance with the practice of the Federal industrial tribunals the rates are subject to periodical adjustment on account of changes in retail prices, and they were reduced by 10 per cent. in 1931 by order of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court.

The rates ruling in December, 1932, were as follow, victualling and accommodation being provided in addition to wages:—

Occupation.	Rates of Wages per Month.						
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Officers—Chief	17	7	0	to	29	14	0
Second	15	11	0	„	26	2	0
Third	16	9	0	„	22	1	0
Junior	£15 11s. 0d.						
Engineers—Chief	25	17	6	to	58	14	0
Second	21	3	0	„	34	11	3
Third	18	13	6	„	27	0	0
Fourth	16	0	0	„	22	16	3
Firemen	£14 1s. 3d.						
Trimmers	£12 5s. 3d.						
Seamen—Steamers	£12 5s. 3d.						
Cooks	10	19	3	to	18	12	3
Stewards	11	0	6	to	15	1	6
Stewardesses	£7 13s. 0d.						

The monthly rates payable to officers and engineers vary according to the size of the vessels on which they are engaged.

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 a federal law, 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.

Seamen employed on New South Wales ships, *i.e.*, ships registered in New South Wales, or owned or chartered by the Government or by a person or body corporate whose place of business is in the State, may claim compensation under the Workers' Compensation Act of New South Wales, if they agree not to proceed under the federal law.

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 about thirty light-houses, and lighted beacons, leading lights, and other guides have been placed for the safety of harbour navigation in the ports of Sydney, Newcastle, Port Kembla and other shipping places. The lights on the sea coast are under the control of the Commonwealth.

Pilotage is a State service under the provisions of the Navigation Act of New South Wales. 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. The pilotage rates are shown on page 208.

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 relate to vessels with crews who were domiciled in New South Wales:—

Year ended 30th June.	British Vessels.				Total Tonnage (net).	Crews and Passengers.	Lives Lost.
	Steam.	Motor.	Sailing.	Total.			
1928	6	...	1	7	2,322	206	45
1929	4	...	...	4	581	29	6
1930	3	...	...	3	302	31	...
1931	2	1	...	3	2,722	258	...
1932	2	...	1	3	1,265	42	...

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 1931-32 amounted to £1,250.

LAND TRANSPORT SERVICES.

The railways and tramways in New South Wales, with the exception of a few private lines, are the property of the State, and the other land transport services, as a general rule, are conducted by private enterprise.

Since the passing of the Transport Act in June, 1930, there has been a series of important changes in respect of the administration of these services. At that time the railways and tramways were controlled by the same statutory body, which consisted of three Commissioners appointed by the Governor, the other land transport services were subject to a measure of supervision by the police and local authorities, and matters relating to the maintenance and construction of main roads were administered by the Main Roads Board. Large sums of money had been expended by the Main Roads Board on the improvement of the highways, and motor transport services for both passenger and goods traffic had expanded rapidly to the detriment of the railway and tramway revenues.

The Transport Act—which relates to land transport services, except railways—was designed to effect an improvement in the tramway services and to provide a greater measure of control over privately-owned motor services with the object of eliminating wasteful duplication. A Commissioner of Road Transport was appointed to administer the Act, transport trusts were constituted to supervise the services in the metropolitan and Newcastle districts, the tramways were removed from the control of the Railway Commissioners and vested in the transport trusts to be administered by a management board, and the Government was authorised to appoint advisory committees from time to time to report upon matters relating to transport.

The Metropolitan Transport Trust was appointed in August, 1930, to exercise supervision in a district comprised by the county of Cumberland, and the parish of Cowan, in the county of Northumberland, was added to proclamation on 1st October, 1930. The Newcastle and District Transport Trust was appointed in October, 1930, for an area embracing the city of Newcastle, its suburban municipalities and parts of the Tarro and Lake Macquarie Shires.

Each trust consisted of seven members, viz., the Commissioner of Road Transport as chairman, a vice-chairman, appointed by the Governor, to represent business interests in the district concerned, and five other members whose appointment was liable to be terminated after a month's notice, so that the vacancies might be filled by representatives of the councils of the municipalities and shires in the district. The trusts had the exclusive right of operating tramway services, they were empowered to levy special license fees in respect of motor omnibus services, and in assessing the fees to take into consideration the measure of competition with the tramways.

In August, 1931, the State Transport (Co-ordination) Act was passed and the State Transport (Co-ordination) Board was appointed for the purpose of improving and co-ordinating the services and facilities relating to transport. The board was required to furnish a report to the Government as to steps to be taken to co-ordinate the activities of the various transport authorities and the Main Roads Board, and to provide for the administration of the services under one corporate body. The Act also contained provisions which commenced on 2nd November, 1931, imposing further obligations upon persons conducting motor transport services and gave the board authority to levy special charges in respect of passengers and goods carried in motor vehicles.

Legislation for merging the transport administrative authorities was embodied in the Ministry for Transport Act passed in March, 1932. A Department of Transport was created under a responsible Minister of the Crown, the offices of the Railway Commissioners, the Transport Trusts, the Commissioner of Road Transport, the Tramways Management Board, the Main Roads Board, and the State Transport (Co-ordination) Board were abolished, and their functions were transferred to a Board of Transport Commissioners comprised by a Chief Commissioner, seven other Transport Commissioners, and the Commissioner of Police. Each of the seven transport Commissioners was appointed to the charge of one of the following branches of the Department, viz., (1) railway and tramway transportation, (2) highway and roads transportation (3) power and mechanical, (4) ways and works, (5) commercial, (6) finance and (7) staff. There were also a legal branch and a branch controlled by the secretary to the Board of Commissioners.

After a short period another important change was made in terms of the Transport (Division of Functions) Act, 1932, which was proclaimed on 29th December, 1932. The Board of Transport Commissioners was abolished, the Ministry of Transport was divided into three departments, each under the control of a Commissioner, viz., (1) railways, (2) road transport and tramways, (3) main roads, and authority was given for the appointment of an assistant commissioner in each department.

RAILWAYS.

The railways open for traffic at 30th June, 1932, included 6,125 miles of line vested in the Railway Commissioner of New South Wales; a line 5 miles long running from Liverpool to Holdsworthy which is owned by the Federal Government; 203 miles of border railways in the Riverina district owned by the State of Victoria; and 109 miles of private railways available for general traffic. The total length of the routes covered by these railways was 6,442 miles. The length of State railways laid with one or more tracks is shown on page 219.

STATE RAILWAYS.

The control of the State railways, which was vested in the Chief Railway Commissioner and two assistant commissioners, was transferred on 22nd March, 1932, to the Board of Transport Commissioners in terms of the Ministry of Transport Act, 1932, as described on page 216. At the end of the year 1932 this Board was abolished and the Department of Railways was organised in the Ministry of Transport under the administrative authority of the Commissioner for Railways. The term of the Commissioner's appointment is seven years, and there is an Assistant Commissioner to exercise such powers and charged with such duties as the Commissioner may determine.

The railway property is vested in the Railway Commissioner as a body corporate to conduct the services on existing lines and to construct the new lines authorised by the Legislature. By-laws for the regulation of the services, including those by which rates of freight and fares are prescribed, must be approved by the Government before they become operative.

Up to 30th June, 1928, the Railway Commissioners paid all receipts into consolidated revenue, and moneys to be expended on the services as well as funds for construction were appropriated annually by Parliament. This procedure was altered as from 1st July, 1928, when the railway and tramway accounts were separated from the Consolidated Revenue Fund in terms of the Government Railways Amendment Act, 1928, which provides that the receipts, loan moneys for railway purposes, and fines and penalties recovered by the Commissioners be paid into the Government Railways Fund.

Provision has been made for the establishment of a renewals fund to meet Parliamentary appropriations for renewals, reconstruction and conversion of lines, buildings and other wasting assets. These provisions are to commence on a date to be proclaimed, and after proclamation the Commissioner will be required to transfer from revenue to the renewals fund an amount determined annually by the Governor after investigation by a Committee of Review. The renewals fund will receive also any additional amounts appropriated by Parliament. The net profit in each year, as certified by the Auditor-General, is transferable to a reserve account to be available only to meet losses incurred in any year, and for the reduction of rates and fares.

The Committee of Review consists of the Auditor-General, the Commissioner for Railways, and the Under Secretary to the Treasury. Two additional members may be appointed by the Governor. The Committee will

determine the capital debt of the railways and tramways as at 30th June 1928, and interest, sinking fund, and other charges in respect of the public debt will be charged against the railway revenues in the same proportion as the capital debt so determined bears to the outstanding public debt. The Government continues to raise loan moneys for railways and tramways, and interest and charges on moneys so provided since 30th June, 1928, are payable out of railway and tramway receipts.

The Railways Fund shares proportionately in the benefits and obligations of the State under the financial agreement between the Commonwealth and the States, which is described in the chapter of the volume entitled "Public Finance," as if the fund had not been separated from the Consolidated Revenue Fund. For this reason the Government Railways Amendment Act, 1928, provided that contributions for sinking fund were to be a charge against the revenue of the railways as from 1st July, 1928, but the operation of these provisions was suspended in 1930, to a date to be proclaimed.

Provision is made in the amending Act of 1928 for annual contributions from State revenues to make good two-thirds of the loss incurred on country developmental railways, the amount of contribution not to exceed £800,000 in any year. This is offset to a considerable extent by additional charges against the receipts of the railways, *e.g.*, superannuation, etc.

Proposals for the construction of new railway lines are submitted in the Legislative Assembly by the Minister for Railways and are investigated by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament. If the Assembly passes a resolution in favour of a proposal, a bill is introduced to sanction its construction. The order of construction and the rate of progress of railway lines and works are determined by the Commissioner, and interest on lines under construction may be added to the capital cost.

The finances of the railways and tramways, as Government business undertakings, and their relation to the revenue, expenditure, and public debt of the State, are discussed in the chapter of this volume entitled "Public Finance."

LENGTH AND COST OF STATE RAILWAYS.

The statistics of State railways shown in this chapter refer to the lines vested in the Railway Commissioner of New South Wales, including the Campbelltown to Camden and Yass tramways, which are worked in conjunction with the railways.

The first railway line, 14 miles in length, was opened for traffic between Sydney and Parramatta on 26th September, 1855, and communication was established between Newcastle and East Maitland on 11th April, 1857.

The total length of the lines open at 30th June, 1932, was 6,125 miles, distributed as follows:—Southern system, 2,124 miles; Western, 2,255 miles; and Northern, 1,746 miles; in addition there were 1,226 miles of sidings and crossovers.

The total capital expenditure on lines open for traffic as at 30th June, 1932, amounted to £139,667,319, excluding the cost of the line, 2½ miles in length, from Wynyard across the Sydney Harbour Bridge to Waverton. The cost of construction was £98,205,194, and the expenditure on rolling stock, etc., was £41,462,125, *viz.*: Rolling stock, £25,926,478; power stations, substations and plant, £8,240,319; machinery, £2,240,794; workshops, £2,614,654; Lithgow coal mine, £554,844; and other, £1,885,036.

The growth of the State railway system is illustrated in the following table:—

Period.†	Lines opened for traffic during the period.	Lines open for traffic at end of period.			Capital expenditure on lines open for traffic—	
		Total length.	Population per mile.	Area per mile.	During the period.	Total at end of period.
	Miles.	Miles.	No.	Sq. miles.	£	£
1855-64 ...	143	143	2,789	2,170	2,631,790	2,631,790
1835-74 ...	260	403	1,427	770	4,212,756	6,844,546
1875-84 ...	1,215	1,618	559	192	13,235,592	20,080,138
1885-94 ...	883	2,501	490	124	15,775,133	35,855,271
1895-1904 ...	780	3,281	435	95	6,433,246	42,288,517
1905-14 ...	683	3,967	472	78	18,976,352	61,264,869
1915-24 ...	1,556	5,523	403	56	32,090,298	93,355,167
1925 ...	133	5,656	402	55	6,268,049	99,623,216
1926 ...	86	5,742	404	54	5,614,452	105,237,668
1927 ...	8	5,750	413	54	7,551,481	112,789,149
1928 ...	117	5,867	413	53	5,195,225	117,984,374
1929 ...	73	5,940	415	52	6,345,048	124,329,422
1930 ...	34	5,974	416	52	1,988,814	126,318,236
1931 ...	70	6,044	415	51	6,247,126*	132,565,362
1932 ...	81	6,125	413	51	7,101,957	139,667,319

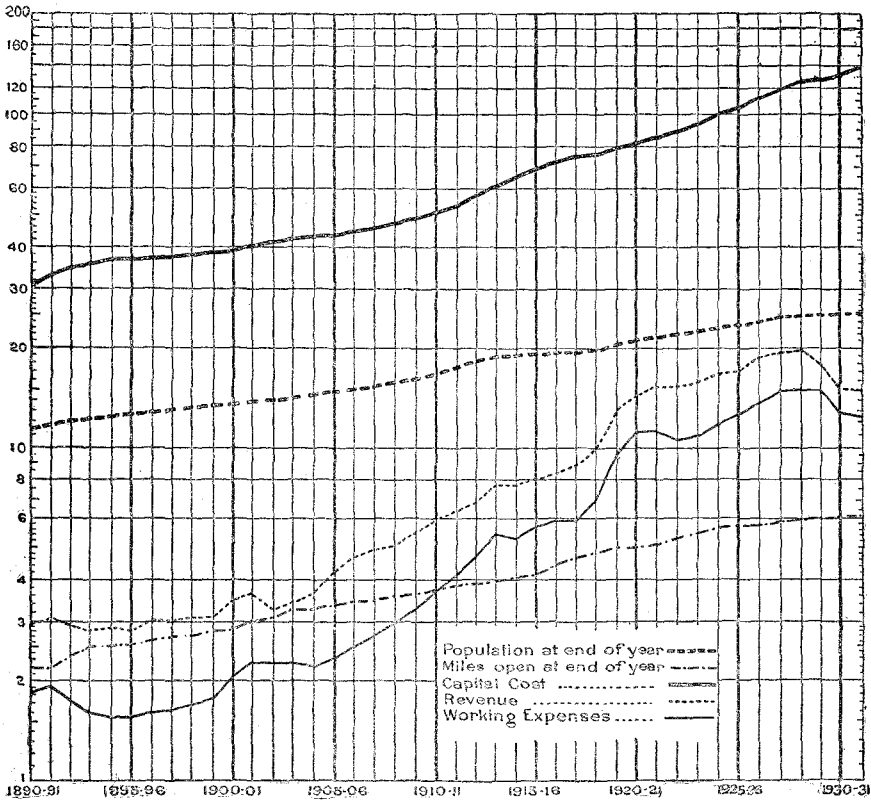
* Includes £3,341,254 in respect of power-stations, etc., transferred from tramways, being expenditure of earlier years. † Calendar years to end of 1887, later years ended June.

Of £139,667,319 expended to 30th June, 1932, an amount of £669,390 was provided from consolidated revenue, leaving a balance of £138,997,929 raised by debentures and stock.

The average cost of construction and equipment per mile (exclusive of the section of the city railway from Wynyard to Waverton) as at 30th June, 1932, was £22,810. The cost of construction varies greatly according to the class of traffic for which the lines are constructed and the number of tracks laid, also by reason of the different physical characteristics of the wide expanse of territory through which they run.

The standard rails are 100 lb. in the metropolitan area, 80 lb. and 90 lb. on the main trunk lines, and 60 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.

RAILWAYS, 1890-91 TO 1931-32.
Ratio Graph.



The numbers at the side of the graph represent £1,000,000 of capital cost, revenue and working expenses; 100,000 of population and 1,000 miles of railway.

The diagram is a ratio graph. The vertical scale is logarithmic, and the curves rise and fall according to the rate of increase or decrease. Actual values are shown by means of the numbers at the side of the graph.

The following statement shows the length of line laid with one or more tracks at intervals since 30th June, 1901:—

At 30th June.	Single.	Double.	Triple.	Quadruple.	Sextuple.	Total.
	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.
1901	2,678	158½	...	8½	...	2,845
1911	3,476½	276	...	8½	...	3,761
1921	4,428	572	7½	34½	1*	5,043
1926	5,083	606½	9½	42	1*	5,742
1927	5,090	609	8	39	4	5,750
1928	5,207	609	8	35	8	5,867
1929	5,278	611	8	25	8†	5,940
1930	5,312	611	8	35	8†	5,974
1931	5,381	612	8	35	8†	6,044
1932	5,457	617	8	35	8†	6,125

*Five tracks. †Includes 47 chains with eight tracks.

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 and bridges.

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 many of these lines do not earn the cost of maintenance.

Year.	Gross Earnings.	Working Expenses.		Net Earnings.		Interest on Capital.	Loss.
		Amount.	Proportion to Gross Earnings.	Amount.	Per cent. on Capital.		
1901	£ 3,573,779	£ 2,118,201	per cent. 59.3	£ 1,455,578	per cent. 3.78	£ 1,424,940	£ ‡30,638
1911	6,042,205	3,691,061	61.1	2,351,144	4.67	1,797,146	‡553,998
1916	8,006,078	5,661,168	70.7	2,344,910	3.45	2,568,659	223,749
1921	14,267,205	11,032,677	77.3	3,234,528	4.01	3,811,560	577,032
1926	16,939,032	12,519,993	73.9	4,419,039	4.30	5,249,710	830,671
1927	18,906,543	13,795,853	73.0	5,110,690	4.69	5,562,308	451,618
1928	19,029,512	14,756,327	77.5	4,273,185	3.70	5,882,452	1,609,267
1929	19,615,616	14,978,050	76.4	4,637,566	3.82	6,150,000	712,434*
1930	17,826,692	14,962,423	83.9	2,864,269	2.28	6,420,643	2,756,374*
1931	15,205,741	12,899,646	84.8	2,306,095	1.75	7,527,715†	4,421,620*
1932	15,001,622	12,532,869	83.6	2,468,153	1.83	7,832,758†	4,564,605*

* In addition to loss covered by annual contribution from consolidated revenue. £800,000.

† Includes exchange on remittances abroad, £737,633 in 1930-31, and £1,313,541 in 1931-32. ‡ Profit.

State railways being regarded as a developmental agency in the settlement of the country rather than as a revenue-producing enterprise, freights and fares have not been raised sufficiently to cover the increases in cost of maintenance and interest charges which occurred in recent years. Moreover the railway finances bear the burden of substantial concessions made for the direct benefit of primary and secondary industries. These include rebates from ordinary charges for the transport of livestock and fodder, and concessions in respect of the carriage of raw materials and the products of certain manufacturing industries which are assisted for national reasons. The ratio of working expenses to gross earnings was exceptionally high in 1929-30. Earnings were low on account of the small wheat harvest, dislocation in the coal-mining industry, and adverse business conditions. On the other hand, there was no appreciable reduction in working expenses, and the interest bill was high. A sum of £800,000 was contributed from consolidated revenue towards losses on country developmental lines; nevertheless there was a deficiency of £2,756,374 on the year's operations.

In the following year there was a general decline in receipts on account of adverse economic conditions and the proportion absorbed by working expenses increased to 84.8 per cent., moreover the contribution of £800,000 from the State's revenue was almost offset by the cost of remitting moneys abroad for the payment of interest, etc., viz., £737,633.

In 1931-32 net earnings were somewhat greater than in the preceding year, but interest charges also were higher, and the deficit increased. Progress returns for the current year show that the net earnings during the eight months July, 1932, to February, 1933, were 50 per cent. greater than in the corresponding months of the year 1931-32.

The following table shows the gross earnings, working expenses, and net earnings per train mile and per average mile open at intervals since 1901:—

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.	£	£	£
1901	79·68	47·23	32·45	1,268	751	517
1911	85·27	52·09	33·18	1,627	994	633
1921	150·23	116·17	34·06	2,843	2,198	645
1926	165·09	122·02	43·07	2,960	2,188	772
1927	172·36	125·77	46·59	3,290	2,401	889
1928	169·80	131·67	38·13	3,266	2,533	733
1929	171·93	131·28	40·65	3,323	2,537	786
1930	160·16	134·42	25·74	2,992	2,511	481
1931	143·15	121·44	21·71	2,529	2,145	384
1932	139·28	116·37	22·91	2,480	2,072	408

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, and most of the branch lines of comparatively recent construction are unprofitable.

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 worked at a loss.

Particulars relating to non-paying lines are shown below, mainly for the year ended 31st December, 1931:—

Line.	Length.	Capital Cost.	Interest.	Working Expenses.	Earnings.	Loss after providing for Working Expenses and Interest.
Northern—						
Main Line—Tamworth to Wallangarra	miles. 211	£ 3,076,930	£ 175,217	£ 203,258	£ 213,203	£ 165,272
Branch lines	477	2,487,657	141,661	171,056	146,630	166,027
Total Northern	688	5,564,587	316,878	374,314	359,833	331,359
North Coast and Branches	563	11,333,065	656,417	762,418	793,221	625,614
Southern—Branch lines	1,405	9,757,129	555,845	533,127	462,796	626,176
South Coast—Kiama to Nowra	23	423,281	24,104	28,438	16,506	36,066
Western—						
Main Line—Nyngan to Bourke	127	734,437	41,823	37,336	42,225	36,934
Branch lines	1,332	8,861,618	504,629	666,450	556,338	614,741
Total Western	1,459	9,596,055	546,452	703,786	598,563	651,675
Suburban*—	15	719,878	27,076	41,568	15,655	52,989
Total Specified Lines	4,153	37,392,995	2,126,772	2,443,651	2,246,574	2,323,849

* Includes 10 miles in operation part of year only.

Similar data in calendar years are not available for all lines; the total deficiency on paying and non-paying lines being £5,221,620 in 1930-31 and £5,364,605 in 1931-32.

DISTRIBUTION OF EARNINGS AND EXPENSES.

A statement of the various items of earnings and working expenses of all lines during each of the last five years is shown below:—

Particulars.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
<i>Earnings.</i>					
Passengers	£ 6,998,147	£ 7,238,329	£ 6,610,951	£ 5,172,359	£ 4,943,790
Mails, parcels, horses, etc. £	853,365	886,387	829,065	698,317	662,640
Total Coaching	7,851,512	8,124,716	7,440,016	5,870,676	5,606,430
Refreshment-rooms	688,984	745,070	660,142	515,156	502,484
<i>Goods—</i>					
Merchandise	5,556,712	6,196,543	5,110,608	4,546,155	4,533,059
Wool	754,961	804,064	767,650	739,586	849,641
Livestock	1,645,305	1,315,552	1,454,448	1,200,983	1,250,462
Minerals	2,271,608	2,063,033	2,021,161	1,354,682	1,220,153
Total Goods	£ 10,228,586	10,379,192	9,353,867	7,841,406	7,853,315
Rents	164,178	221,088	225,472	190,123	168,937
Sale of electrical energy	} 96,252	145,550	4,449	640,351	737,929
Miscellaneous			142,746	148,029	131,927
Total Earnings	£ 19,029,512	19,615,616	17,826,692	15,205,741	15,001,022
<i>Working Expenses.</i>					
Maintenance of way and works	2,573,142	2,538,981	2,583,896	2,199,347	2,346,791
<i>Rolling Stock—</i>					
Maintenance	3,336,934	3,448,215	3,676,728	2,991,184	2,848,143
<i>Motive power—</i>					
Coal, etc.	1,174,478	1,151,235	1,009,554	786,403	689,610
Other	2,260,667	2,203,501	2,024,369	1,678,301	1,563,938
Other rolling stock	212,547	200,513	215,645	186,831	178,939
Transportation and traffic	3,877,254	3,848,525	3,703,106	3,212,276	3,059,815
Electrical	197,592	292,176	405,940	623,829	694,418
General charges and stores	500,255	506,093	553,683	527,024	456,329
Refreshment-rooms	623,458	728,811	655,302	527,001	523,886
Contribution to Superannuation Fund ... ..	...	60,000	134,200	167,450	171,000
Total Working Expenses	£ 14,756,327	14,978,050	14,962,423	12,899,646	12,532,869
Net Earnings	£ 4,273,185	4,637,566	2,864,269	2,306,095	2,468,153

During 1931-32 the earnings derived from the carriage of passengers represented 33 per cent. of the total; mails, parcels, etc., 4.4 per cent.; goods, 52.4 per cent.; refreshment rooms, 3.3 per cent.; sales of electricity to tramways, etc., 4.9 per cent.; rent and miscellaneous items, 2 per cent. The expenditure on locomotive power represented 18 per cent. of the working expenses; transportation and traffic, 24.4 per cent.; maintenance of rolling stock, 22.7 per cent.; and maintenance of way and works, 18.7 per cent.

Coaching Traffic.

Particulars of the passenger traffic—suburban and country—and the receipts therefrom are shown in the following statement. Suburban lines are those within 34 miles of Sydney or Newcastle. The figures relating to miles travelled in years prior to 1926 are not strictly comparable with those

of later years, owing to an alteration in the method of estimating the mileage travelled by season ticket holders:—

Year ended June 30.	Passenger Train Mileage.	Number of Passenger Journeys.			Miles Travelled.			Amount Received from Passengers.
		Suburban.	Country.	Total.	Suburban.	Country.	Total.	
000 omitted.								£
1901 ...	4,927	26,042	3,219	29,261	164,638	*	*	1,143,430
1911 ...	8,094	54,103	6,817	60,920	367,729	538,488	906,217	2,074,860
1921 ...	11,301	110,256	10,479	120,735	799,586	821,271	1,620,857	5,736,256
1926 ...	14,038	119,825	10,901	130,726	912,757	762,334	1,675,091	6,311,690
1927 ...	15,044	130,317	11,299	141,616	982,579	782,799	1,765,378	6,643,337
1928 ...	16,036	136,796	11,251	148,047	1,026,075	783,232	1,809,307	6,998,147
1929 ...	16,738	140,158	10,958	151,116	1,045,854	774,847	1,820,701	7,238,329
1930 ...	16,952	137,548	10,345	147,893	1,018,192	712,881	1,731,073	6,610,951
1931 ...	16,496	119,016	7,796	126,812	867,733	546,328	1,414,061	5,172,359
1932 ...	17,148	120,864	7,495	128,359	860,811	505,953	1,366,764	4,943,790

* Not available.

Passenger traffic increased very rapidly between 1901 and 1921. The increase was most marked on suburban lines, where it continued until 1929-30, though country traffic commenced to decline in 1927-28. Further analysis of the traffic figures indicates that the expansion between 1920-21 and 1928-29 occurred for the most part in second-class journeys on the suburban lines. First-class traffic on both suburban and country lines has been declining since 1926-27, when the journeys on suburban lines numbered 14,565,000 and on country lines 2,742,000, as compared with 8,073,000 and 1,417,000, respectively, in 1931-32. Second-class suburban traffic reached the maximum in 1928-29, when there were 125,858,000 journeys. Two years later the number had declined to 108,129,000, and it rose to 112,791,000 in 1931-32. Second-class journeys on country lines exceeded 8,000,000 during each of the years 1926 to 1930, and have since declined to 6,080,000.

In the aggregate second-class passengers paid £3,796,805, or 77 per cent. of the total receipts from passengers in 1931-32, and first-class passengers £1,146,985, or 23 per cent. Corresponding ratios in 1920-21 were 65 per cent., and 35 per cent.

Particulars are shown below regarding first and second class passenger traffic on suburban and country lines during the years ended June, 1927, and 1932:—

Particulars.	Year ended June, 1927.			Year ended June, 1932.		
	First Class.	Second Class.	Total.	First Class.	Second Class.	Total.
<i>Suburban Lines.</i>						
Journeys—						
Ordinary Passengers ... 000	4,735	44,109	48,844	1,577	48,923	50,500
Season Ticket Holders ... 000	9,830	28,957	38,787	6,496	43,670	50,166
Workmen's ... 000	...	42,686	42,686	...	20,198	20,198
Total Journeys ... 000	14,565	115,752	130,317	8,073	112,791	120,864
Miles Travelled ... 000	110,847	871,732	982,579	64,728	796,083	860,811
Average Mileage per Passenger	7.61	7.53	7.54	8.02	7.06	7.12
Amount Received from Passengers ... £	358,187	2,106,918	2,465,105	194,906	2,287,067	2,481,973
Average Receipts per Passenger per mile ... d.	0.78	0.58	0.60	0.72	0.69	0.69
<i>Country Lines.</i>						
Passengers ... 000	2,742	8,557	11,299	1,417	6,078	7,495
Miles travelled ... 000	274,607	508,192	782,799	145,083	360,870	505,953
Average Mileage per Passenger ...	100.15	59.39	69.28	102.38	59.37	67.50
Amount Received from Passengers ... £	1,857,041	2,321,191	4,178,232	952,079	1,509,788	2,461,817
Average Receipts per Passenger per mile ... d.	1.62	1.09	1.28	1.57	1.00	1.17

On suburban lines in 1931-32 the average journey was about $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles, the rate paid by first-class passengers was .72d. per mile and by second-class passengers, .69d. per mile. On country lines the average journey by first-class passengers was $102\frac{1}{2}$ miles and by second-class $59\frac{1}{2}$ miles, the rates per mile being slightly over $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d., respectively. The journeys of second-class passengers represented $92\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the mileage and 92 per cent. of the receipts on suburban lines. The corresponding proportions on country lines were 81 per cent. of the mileage and $71\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. of the receipts.

Information relating to the density of passenger traffic from 1911 onwards is contained in the following table:—

Year ended 30th June.	Average Number of Passengers carried per Train Mile.	Average Mileage per Passenger Journey.*	Average Receipt per Passenger Mile.*	Average Fare per Passenger Journey.	Density of Traffic per Average Mile Worked.*
1911	112	14.88	d. 0.55	d. 8.17	244,066
1921	143	13.42	0.85	11.40	322,976
1926	119	12.81	0.90	11.59	292,733
1927	117	12.47	0.90	11.26	307,184
1928	113	12.22	0.93	11.34	310,568
1929	109	12.05	0.95	11.50	308,410
1930	102	11.70	0.92	10.73	290,519
1931	86	11.15	0.88	9.79	235,158
1932	86	10.65	0.87	9.24	225,918

* The figures for the last seven years are not strictly comparable with those for earlier years.

Goods Traffic.

The following figures show the volume of the goods traffic in recent years, as compared with 1901 and 1911. The term "ton-mileage" used in the statement is the product of the load in tons, and the distance over which it is carried:—

Year ended 30th June.	Goods train mileage.	Goods and Live-stock Tonnage.	Ton mileage (000 omitted)*	Gross Earnings.
				£
1901	5,836,587	6,398,227	404,740	2,203,249
1911	8,913,171	10,355,565	810,949	3,585,424
1921	11,490,782	15,563,131	1,418,386	7,270,856
1926	10,587,285	15,032,811	1,509,555	8,941,123
1927	11,282,100	17,224,894	1,654,815	10,490,593
1928	10,860,778	15,433,083	1,550,375	10,228,586
1929	10,644,549	14,516,643	1,690,560	10,379,192
1930	9,761,798	12,150,964	1,498,723	9,353,867
1931	8,997,391	10,743,169	1,425,184	7,841,406
1932	8,700,471	10,211,322	1,407,456	7,853,315

*Exclusive of coal on which only wayleave charges were collected.

The tonnage and gross earnings in 1926-27 were the largest on record. In 1927-28 there was a reduction in the tonnage of nearly all the principal classes of freight, viz., grain, wool, coal, and general merchandise. In 1928-29 there were increases over the previous year's figures for grain and for wool, but there was a decline in the total tonnage. In 1929-30 there was a general decline in all classes, except livestock, and the total was the lowest since 1917-18. A further decline of 1,408,000 tons occurred in 1930-31, the wheat traffic increased, but the tonnage of other classes of goods diminished. In 1931-32 the traffic in wheat and wool was heavier

but the increase was not quite sufficient to offset the decline in other classes. Actually the decrease has been greatest in the tonnage of general merchandise (other than grain and flour), which has declined by nearly 2,000,000 tons or 50 per cent. since 1926-27. The decrease in minerals, other than coal and coke, has been relatively greater, viz., from 2,501,890 tons in 1927-28, when large quantities were transported for constructional purposes, to 704,662 tons in 1931-32.

The next statement shows the classes of goods carried on the railways in various years since 1901:—

Year ended 30th June.	General Merchandise.		Wool.	Live Stock.	Minerals.		Total Goods.
	Grain, Flour, etc.	Other.			Coal, Coke, and Shale.	Other.	
1901	Tons. 504,880	Tons. 1,267,742	Tons. 99,104	Tons. 200,339	Tons. 3,956,033	Tons. 370,129	Tons. 6,398,227
1911	787,632	2,298,078	137,599	485,021	6,059,648	587,587	10,355,565
1921	1,216,834	3,375,443	93,760	732,804	8,881,796	1,262,494	15,563,131
1926	1,450,813	3,656,355	154,946	766,557	7,145,225	1,858,915	15,032,811
1927	1,523,519	3,971,798	189,605	810,515	8,289,937	2,439,520	17,224,894
1928	1,222,382	3,632,926	171,249	829,791	7,074,845	2,501,890	15,433,083
1929	1,767,585	3,631,914	179,960	729,581	5,801,880	2,405,723	14,516,643
1930	1,211,030	3,245,905	170,884	783,599	4,761,633	1,977,913	12,150,964
1931	2,128,431	2,067,786	162,031	639,043	4,564,964	1,180,854	10,743,109
1932	2,233,809	1,975,640	186,610	612,443	4,498,153	704,662	10,211,322

The gross earnings in respect of the various classes of goods carried during 1931-32 were as follows:—Coal, coke, and shale, £1,027,316; other minerals, £192,837; live stock, £1,250,462; grain and flour, £1,564,367; wool, £849,641; general merchandise, £2,968,692.

The following table contains information relating to the density of goods traffic. The average distance in 1931-32 was 140 miles, and the average earnings per ton mile 1.33d.:

Year ended 30th June—	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.
1911	90.98	80.65	0.91	218,408
1921	148.44	92.94	1.10	282,631
1926	164.94	101.93	1.39	263,802
1927	165.30	98.13	1.50	287,994
1928	157.51	101.84	1.56	266,408
1929	183.17	118.16	1.45	286,376
1930	177.06	126.35	1.48	251,778
1931	183.62	134.25	1.30	237,260
1932	186.00	139.99	1.33	233,030

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

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 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, 1921.		30th June, 1926.		31st December, 1932.	
	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 3½	0 2	0 2	0 1½	0 2½	0 2
5	0 5	0 4	0 8	0 6	0 8	0 6	0 8½	0 6½
10	0 9	0 6	1 3	0 10½	1 2	0 10½	1 3	0 11
20	1 6	0 11	2 5	1 6	2 0	1 6	2 1	1 7
30	2 2	1 5	3 7	2 4	2 10	2 1½	3 0	2 3½
34	2 6	1 7	4 1	2 7½	3 2	2 4½	3 4	2 6½
50	4 6	2 11	7 7	5 0	6 8	4 9	6 10	4 11
100	10 9	7 1	18 7	12 2	17 7	12 0	17 9	12 2
200	23 3	14 9	40 7	25 7	37 7	25 4	37 9	25 6
300	35 9	22 1	62 2	38 3	56 5	37 11	56 7	38 1
400	48 3	28 8	83 7	49 10	73 8	49 5	73 10	49 7
500	58 0	33 4	100 8	57 10	86 4	57 10	86 6	58 0

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. In December, 1927, when the last alteration was made, fares were raised again, and the increases on second-class tickets ranged from 33 per cent. to 7 per cent. in the suburban area.

The average fare paid by suburban passengers, including those who held periodical tickets, increased by about 50 per cent. between 1911 and 1926-27. Similar information is not available in respect of country traffic, but, generally, the first-class single fares were between 50 per cent. and 60 per cent. higher in 1931 than in 1911, and the second-class single fares were about 70 per cent. higher.

Particulars relating to changes in the cost of monthly periodical tickets since 1911 are shown below:—

Periodical Tickets.

Distance.	30th June, 1911.		30th June, 1921.		30th June, 1926.		31st December, 1932.	
	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	14 6	9 9	12 11	9 8	13 9	10 4
5	16 0	10 9	30 9	20 6	27 4	20 6	29 4	22 0
10	22 9	15 0	44 0	29 0	38 3	28 8	41 0	30 9
20	30 3	20 3	58 0	39 3	52 3	39 2	55 11	42 0
30	34 3	22 9	66 6	44 9	58 0	43 6	62 1	46 7
34	35 9	23 6	69 3	46 0	59 9	44 10	64 0	48 0
50	41 0	26 3	79 9	51 0	77 0	51 3	81 6	54 3
100	57 9	34 6	112 6	66 9	100 3	66 9	106 6	70 9
200	83 0	49 0	156 3	92 6	138 9	92 6	147 0	98 0
300	100 6	61 6	181 9	112 6	168 0	112 0	178 0	118 9
400	118 0	74 0	207 0	131 3	197 0	131 3	208 9	139 0
500	135 6	86 6	231 6	150 6	225 9	150 6	239 3	159 6

The above rates represent the maximum charges, but liberal concessions are made to school pupils, youths, and women. 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. At the beginning of January, 1923, the rates were raised by about 7 per cent. in the suburban area and by 6 per cent. over longer distances.

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 week on every week day, the forward journey being by certain trains only. The charges for these tickets were increased by about 30 per cent. in December, 1927, and the increased rates were in operation until October, 1932. The rates at various dates since June, 1911, were as follows:—

Distance.	Workmen's Weekly Tickets—Second Class.				
	June, 1911.	June, 1916.	June, 1921.	June, 1931.	December, 1932.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1	0 6	0 9	1 3	1 8	1 5
5	1 6	1 9	2 11	3 11	3 4
10	2 2	2 6	4 1	5 6	4 8
20	3 0	3 4	5 5	7 4	6 4
30	3 10	4 2	6 11	9 0	7 10
34	4 2	4 6	7 5	9 8	8 2

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, 1921.		30th June, 1926.		31st Dec., 1932.	
	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	75 0	193 3	76 8	197 6	76 8	197 6
Lowest „ „ ...	3 7	11 11	6 6	15 0	6 9	12 4	6 9	12 4
Agricultural Produce ...	7 6	12 0	11 5	18 2	11 5	19 0	12 0	19 11
Butter	18 10	56 4	31 7	94 0	24 10	57 7	27 4	63 3
Beef, Mutton, Veal, etc. (frozen) ...	9 2	45 10	14 7	72 11	18 11	43 11	18 11	43 11
Wool—Greasy	25 0	68 9	37 11	104 4	41 8	109 5	37 6	98 5
„ —Scoured	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	6 5	22 6	6 5	22 5½	6 5	22 5½
Not exceeding £10 per ton in value ...								
Live Stock (per 4-wheeled truck)—	63 4	173 9	110 5	303 4	109 9	299 9	108 8	296 8

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 applies to fertilisers.

The freight charges for a distance of 100 miles in 1921 were from 50 to 100 per cent. higher than in 1911. For a distance of 500 miles the increases have not been so great proportionately, and the charges for frozen meat have been reduced. Some of the rates were increased in November, 1926. In the latter part of 1932 rates for wool and livestock were reduced by 10 per cent., and a similar reduction is to be made in July, 1933.

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 railway station at Roslyn, near Crookwell, is situated at 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 a height of 3,503 feet is attained at Newnes Junction, on the Blue Mountains, and 3,623 feet at Oberon, the terminus of a branch line from Tarana. On the northern line Ben Lomond is 4,473 feet above sea level.

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, 1932:—

Gradients.	Southern System.	Western System.	Northern System.	Total.
	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.
1 in				
18 to 30	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
31 " 40	65 $\frac{3}{4}$	61	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	182 $\frac{1}{4}$
41 " 50	74	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	88	215 $\frac{1}{2}$
51 " 60	68	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{3}{4}$	215 $\frac{1}{4}$
61 " 70	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{4}$	42 $\frac{3}{4}$	171 $\frac{3}{4}$
71 " 80	178 $\frac{1}{2}$	142 $\frac{3}{4}$	181 $\frac{1}{2}$	503
81 " 90	46 $\frac{1}{4}$	58	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	156 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 " 100	118 $\frac{1}{4}$	179 $\frac{1}{4}$	98	395 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 " 150	253 $\frac{1}{4}$	288 $\frac{1}{4}$	177 $\frac{1}{2}$	719
151 " 200	134 $\frac{3}{4}$	124	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	357 $\frac{1}{4}$
201 " 250	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{4}$	50 $\frac{1}{4}$	200 $\frac{1}{2}$
251 " 300	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	112	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	286
301 " level	938 $\frac{1}{2}$	964	758 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,661
Total ...	2,122 $\frac{3}{4}$	2,215 $\frac{1}{4}$	1,745 $\frac{3}{4}$	6,083 $\frac{3}{4}$

The above table is exclusive of the line from Broken Hill to Tarrawin-gee, measuring 39 miles 41 chains, and a line 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 inter-locked on all the lines with the exception of a few in remote country districts where the traffic is light. The automatic signalling system is in operation on all the suburban lines under the electrical system.

Particulars regarding the various systems employed for the safe working of the lines in 1922 and 1932 are shown below:—

Single Line.	1922.		1932.	
	Mls.	Chs.	Mls.	Chs.
By automatic or track block system ... ..	...	...	83	43
electric train tablet	312	17	165	42
electric train staff	1,895	5	2,971	77
train staff and ticket with line clear reports..	1,448	25	1,378	26
train staff and ticket without line clear report	714	1	915	15
train staff and one engine only	116	57	3	39
	<u>4,486</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>5,518</u>	<u>2</u>
Double Line.				
By automatic or track block system	273	51	399	22
absolute manual block system	369	52	317	31
permissive manual block system	3	44	3	41
telephone	0	33	...	...
	<u>647</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>720</u>	<u>14</u>

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

ROLLING STOCK.

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

Classification.	June, 1922.		June, 1926.		June, 1931.	
	No.	Capacity.	No.	Capacity.	No.	Capacity.
Locomotive—Steam	1,321	Tractive power. 000 lb. 32,349	1,402	Tractive power. 000 lb. 35,369	1,432	Tractive power. 000 lb. 37,342
Coaching—		Pas'gers.		Pas'gers.		Pas'gers.
Passenger	1,674	97,324	1,719	101,890	2,210	139,205
Motor Passenger	1	33	22	1,144	37	1,924
Sleeping and Special	97	2,338	107	2,466	123	2,719
Horse Boxes, Brake Vans, etc.	422	158	419	78	387	481
Total	<u>2,194</u>	<u>99,853</u>	<u>2,267</u>	<u>105,578</u>	<u>2,757</u>	<u>144,329</u>
Goods—		tons.		tons.		tons.
Open Waggon	16,498	262,693	17,255	287,345	17,424	285,999
Livestock Waggon	2,957	18,370	3,156	19,564	3,012	19,100
Louvred Vans	967	9,932	1,007	14,944	1,027	16,324
Refrigerator Vans	161	2,382	237	3,430	235	3,400
Brake Vans... ..	639	...	643	...	706	...
Other	251	3,250	69	755	65	775
Total	<u>21,473</u>	<u>296,627</u>	<u>22,367</u>	<u>326,038</u>	<u>22,469</u>	<u>325,598</u>
Service Stock	1,846	...	1,601	...	1,527	...

The average tractive power of the railway locomotives, as at 30th June, 1931, was 26,077 lb.; the average capacity of the passenger vehicles was 61 passengers, and of the goods stock 15 tons. Additions to railway rolling stock since June, 1926, included 55 locomotives, and 538 suburban passenger cars designed for use on the electric railways.

SYDNEY AND SUBURBAN PASSENGER SERVICES.

The passenger traffic between Sydney and suburbs is carried by suburban railways and tramways and a few motor omnibus services 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 through Granville and Parramatta. The main southern system branches from the western line at Lidcombe (10 miles from Central Station), and another branch runs southward from Granville (13 miles), joining the line from Lidcombe at Cabramatta. The South Coast or Illawarra railway brings passengers from the suburbs situated south of Sydney on the western shore of Botany Bay. It has two branches, one from Sydenham to Bankstown and the other from Tempe to East Hills. A line from Bankstown connects with the main southern line at Regent's Park, 2 miles from Lidcombe. The northern system branches from the main trunk line at Strathfield (8 miles from Central Station) and a line from Hornsby on the northern railway runs to the northern shore of the harbour and crossing the Harbour Bridge into the city, connecting the suburban systems with one another. The suburban railways have been converted to electric traction.

Tramways run through the city streets from the Central Railway Station to Circular Quay. The populous suburbs of the north, western, central, and eastern divisions of the metropolitan area are served by tramways and at various points along the shores of the harbour tramways connect with the ferry services plying to the Circular Quay.

City and Suburban Electric Railways.

The city electric railway, which is under construction, will form a complete two-track loop railway around the city, running, for the most part underground, along the eastern side of the city to Circular Quay and returning along the western side to the Central Station. The scheme includes 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 for rail transport as well as roadways and footways, has placed the northern suburbs in direct communication with the city.

The construction of the city railway was commenced in 1916 by a private company under contract with the Government, but the contract was cancelled and the work was suspended in 1917. Construction was resumed by the Railway Commissioners in February, 1922, and the eastern part of the railway to a temporary terminal station at St. James, Queen's-square, was opened for traffic in December, 1926. Work on the western part was commenced in November, 1925 and the section from Central Station to Wynyard was completed in February, 1932.

The eastern section of the city railway being the first to be opened for traffic, the most easterly of the suburban lines, viz., the Illawarra, were the first to be converted to the electric system. Electric trains were run on the Illawarra lines on 1st March, 1926, and with the opening of the City Railway the services were extended to St. James Station. The work of converting the North Sydney line was completed in 1928, and electric services were installed on the Sydney-Parramatta section of the main suburban line and on the section between Strathfield and Hornsby in 1929. The two last mentioned services were extended into the city to Wynyard Station in February, 1932, and were connected with the North Sydney services when the line across the Harbour Bridge from Wynyard to Waverton was opened in the following month.

The total length of the lines under the electric system as at 30th June, 1932, was 94 miles 2 chains, as shown below:—

Line.	Length of Route.		Line.	Length of Route.	
	miles	chs.		miles	chs.
City Railway	2	46	Lidcombe to Cabramatta...	7	10
Sydney to National Park...	17	58	Granville to Liverpool ...	9	16
Sydenham to Bankstown...	8	33	Warwick Farm Racecourse	0	71
Tempe to Kingsgrove ...	3	45	North Shore Line ...	14	38
Sydney to Parramatta ...	14	64			
Strathfield to Hornsby ...	14	13	Total	94	2
North Strathfield Triangle	1	8			

Nearly all these lines are laid with at least two tracks, 26½ miles being laid with four tracks or more.

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. A few local services in the suburban districts are conducted by motor trains.

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

In the southern portion of New South Wales the Government of Victoria has acquired certain railway interests by the purchase from a private company of a line between Deniliquin and Moama, and by agreement with the Government of New South Wales for the construction and maintenance of five border railways.

The agreement provides for railways on the 5 ft. 3 in. gauge, but all the works within New South Wales are being constructed suitably for conversion to the standard gauge, viz., 4 ft. 8½ in. When complete they are operated by the Victorian Railway Commissioners, but the fares and rates for the carriage of passengers, goods, and live stock thereon must 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 must be observed.

Two of the lines authorised under the agreement have been opened for traffic, viz., from Moama to Balranald, and from Gonn Crossing to Stony Crossing. Two are under construction, viz., from Euston to Lette, 30 miles, to serve en route the Benanee Settlement Area, and from Yarrawonga to Oaklands 37 miles; goods traffic has been carried on parts of these lines since 1930. The fifth line will cross the Murray at or near Golgol, New South Wales, and extend into this State for a distance not exceeding 20 miles.

The railway between Deniliquin and Moama, 44½ miles on the 5 ft. 3 in. gauge, was constructed by a private company, and opened for traffic in 1876. It became part of the Victorian railway system in December, 1923. A branch line to Balranald, 120 miles, was opened for traffic in March, 1926, and the line from Gonn Crossing to Stony Crossing, 38½ miles, on 16th March, 1928. The capital expended on these lines to the end of

February, 1932, was £1,234,045. During the year ended February, 1932, the receipts amounted to £46,279, working expenses to £40,505, and interest to £62,722. The train mileage was 73,776. The number of passengers was 14,144, and the goods traffic amounted to 77,644 tons.

PRIVATE RAILWAY LINES.

The established policy in New South Wales has been to keep the railways under State control, and at the present time, with the exception of short lines connecting coal and other mines with the main railways, there are only 109½ miles of private lines, on some of which provision has been made for the carriage of passengers and goods.

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.

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 new Red Head line runs between Belmont and Adamstown. 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 ended June, 1932:—

Name of Private Railway.	Line.		Total Capital Expended.	Reserve Fund.	Train Miles run.	Passengers carried.	Goods carried.	Live Stock carried.
	Length.	Gauge.						
	m.	ch ft. in.	£	£	No.	No.	tons.	No.
Silvertown	35	48 3 6	568,440	95,583	69,546	18,513	475,496	123,906
Warwick Farm	1	14 8½	5,807	...	132	46,780	...	4
Seaham-West Wallsend	5	10 4 8½	16,000	...	1,236	...	1,128	...
South Maitland— East Greta, Stanford Merthyr, and Cess- nock	19	35 4 8½	663,920	...	318,831	672,650	54,737	40
Hexham-Minmi	6	0 4 8½	30,000	...	300	...	322,315	...
New Red Head	9	38 4 8½	190,424	...	57,652	120,892	...	...
Commonwealth Oil Cor- poration.	33	0 4 8½	194,000	...	‡	‡	‡	‡

‡ No traffic.

The Silvertown Company has 20 locomotives and 678 goods vehicles, and passenger carriages are hired from the South Australian Government railways as required. The Seaham Colliery has 2 locomotives, and Government rolling stock is hired. On the South Maitland system there are 23 locomotives, 5 passenger carriages, and 43 goods carriages. The Hexham-Minmi Company has 1 locomotive and 1 passenger carriage. The Warwick Farm and New Red Head lines are operated by the Government Railway Commissioner.

In addition to the private railway lines shown in the previous table, there are several lines connected principally with coal and other mines.

RAILWAY GAUGES OF AUSTRALIA.

Particulars of the gauges of the railways in each State as at 30th June, 1932, are shown below. The figures relate to Government lines and to private railways open for general traffic, classified according to 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 ...	...	...	...	76	6,168	203	6,447
Victoria ...	...	122	11	...	...	4,410	4,543
Queensland ...	201	7	...	6,560	69	...	6,837
South Australia (inc. N. Territory) ...	...	...	...	2,200	597	1,451	4,248
Western Australia ...	...	...	...	4,512	454	...	4,966
Tasmania ...	28	...	...	778	...	...	806
Total ...	229	129	11	14,126	7,288	6,064	27,847

The distances by rail between Sydney and the other capital cities are as follows:—Brisbane *via* North Coast line 611 miles, Brisbane *via* Wallangarra 715 miles, Melbourne 591 miles, Adelaide *via* Melbourne 1,074 miles, and Perth *via* Melbourne 2,761 miles. The journey from Sydney to Broken Hill *via* Melbourne and Adelaide is more than 1,400 miles, but a line across New South Wales opened for traffic in November, 1927, affords direct communication over a distance of 698½ miles.

Diversity of gauge hampers interstate railway communications, and in a journey from New South Wales to Western Australia breaks of gauge occur 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. There is a break also at Wallangarra where the New South Wales and Queensland railways meet but communication on a uniform gauge—4 feet 8½ inches—was provided in September, 1930, with the opening of a line between Kyogle, on the North Coast railway in New South Wales, and Brisbane. The journey from Sydney to Brisbane by this route is shorter by 104 miles than the journey *via* Wallangarra.

The subject of a uniform gauge to connect the capital cities of the mainland has been discussed at conferences between the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth and Premiers of the States, and was investigated by a Royal Commission in 1921. It has been resolved that the adoption of a uniform gauge is essential to the development and safety of the Commonwealth, and that the gauge should be 4 ft. 8½ in., but an agreement has not been reached in regard to any comprehensive scheme for giving effect to the resolutions. As an outcome of the negotiations, however, the Kyogle-Brisbane line was constructed and an agreement was made between the Commonwealth and South Australia for works which would provide uniformity of gauge between Adelaide and Kalgoorlie.

The construction of the Kyogle-Brisbane line and the strengthening of the line between Kyogle and Grafton were undertaken by the two States concerned. The cost was approximately £4,450,000, and the States of New

South Wales and Queensland, and the Commonwealth each agreed to pay a share. The agreement between the Commonwealth and South Australia provides for the construction of a 4 ft. 8½ in. line in South Australia, from Port Augusta to Red Hill, and for laying a third rail on the existing 5 ft. 3 in. line between Red Hill and Adelaide. By these works the trans-Australian journey would be shortened by about 70 miles, and the breaks of gauge at Terowie and Port Augusta would be eliminated.

RAILWAYS OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

The length of railways—State and private—in various countries is shown below in relation to population and area. The figures for the Australian States include the Federal Government lines as at 30th June, 1932, and the private lines available for general traffic. The particulars relating to other countries are the latest available.

Country.	Length of Railways.	Per Mile of Line Open.		Country.	Length of Railways.	Per Mile of Line Open.	
		Population (approx)	Area.			Population (approx)	Area.
	miles.	No.	sq.mls.		miles.	No.	sq.mls.
New South Wales	6,447	394	48	Italy	13,756	3,000	9
Victoria	4,543	396	19	Austria	4,433	1,500	7
Queensland	6,837	142	98	Hungary	5,387	1,580	7
South Australia and Northern Territory	4,248	139	213	Russia (Soviet)	48,236	3,200	171
Western Australia	4,966	85	196	Union of S. Africa	13,459	600	35
Tasmania	806	274	33	India	42,281	8,300	43
New Zealand	3,431	444	30	Japan	12,821	5,000	12
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	21,157	2,180	4	Canada	43,684	234	85
Irish Free State	2,671	1,107	10	United States of America	262,215	470	12
France	33,688	1,164	6	Argentina	25,435	450	45
Germany	36,231	1,800	5	Brazil	19,840	2,000	165

TRAMWAYS.

The tramways of New South Wales, with the exception of one short line, are the property of the State Government. The metropolis and Newcastle are the only districts in which tramway services have been in operation since 1st January, 1927, when services in Maitland and Broken Hill were abolished. The tramways were administered by the Railway Commissioners until 1930, when the tramway property—except the electric power stations—was vested in the Transport Trusts, and the services in Newcastle, as well as in Sydney, were placed under the administration of a Management Board constituted in terms of the Transport Act, 1930. The tramway employees were transferred to the service of the Metropolitan Transport Trust, and the staff required for the Newcastle services was made available

by the Metropolitan Trust under agreement between the trusts. The administration of the tramways was transferred to the Board of Transport Commissioners in March, 1932, and to the Commissioner of Road Transport and Tramways in December, 1932, as described on page 215. The capital indebtedness in respect of the metropolitan tramways was declared by the Transport Act, 1930, to be £7,487,154, and in respect of the Newcastle tramways £944,651, these amounts being subject to revision by a committee of review appointed by the Governor. Interest and sinking fund charges on the capital indebtedness of the tramways in each district are payable to the State Treasury.

The gauge of the tramways is 4 feet 8½ inches, and all the services are operated by electric power, except the Kogarah-Sans Souci tramway. Steam services in the Newcastle district were discontinued in November, 1930, and on the Sutherland-Cronulla line in August, 1931.

The total length of lines on which services were in operation at 30th June, 1932, was 192¾ miles. Many of the lines are laid with duplicate tracks, and the aggregate length of the tracks was 341½ miles. There were also 57¾ miles of sidings, loops, and crossovers.

Line.	Route Mileage.	Track Mileage.
Metropolitan—	mfs. ch.	mfs. ch.
City and Suburban	118 35	217 29
North Sydney	23 24	42 16
Ashfield to Mortlake and Cabarita	8 28	15 9
Rockdale to Brighton-le-Sands	1 49	1 49
Manly to The Spit and Manly to Narrabeen	11 48	16 36
Kogarah to Sans Souci	5 45	6 79
Total, Metropolitan	168 79	299 58
Newcastle City and Suburban	23 60	41 72
Total, Tramways June, 1932...	192 59	341 50

There has been very little extension of the tramway system in recent years, except the extension of the North Sydney services across the Harbour Bridge to Wynward Station, which occurred on 20th March, 1932.

The capital cost of the State tramways on 30th June, 1931, amounted to £8,436,850. The cost of construction was £4,997,946, and the expenditure on rolling-stock, workshops, machinery, etc., amounted to £3,438,904. These figures are exclusive of the cost of the power stations, etc., which were transferred to the Railway Commissioners in August, 1930.

In the following table are given particulars of the miles open, cost of construction, and the financial results of the State tramways at intervals since 1901:—

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.
1901	79½	2,194,493	551,674	432,471	89,203	4·10
1911	189½	5,121,586	1,365,631	1,143,949	221,682	4·53
1921	227½	9,060,757	3,471,733	2,943,252	528,486	5·93
1926	228½	11,434,523	3,619,496	3,319,996	299,500	2·65
1927	209½	11,586,050	3,806,098	3,487,334	318,264	2·77
1928	209½	11,609,078	4,556,561	3,937,356	619,205	5·34
1929	210½	11,743,189	4,457,390	3,835,644	622,246	5·33
1930	210½	11,764,978	3,903,470	3,625,564	277,906	2·36
1931	260	8,436,850	3,058,471	3,103,225*	(—) 47,754*	...
1932	192¾	8,338,200	3,305,222	3,046,632	258,690	3·10

* Amended since last issue, by excluding exchange as item of working expenses.

The receipts increased by £750,000 in 1927-28 in consequence of higher fares introduced in December, 1927. There was a decline in 1928-29, but working expenses were reduced and the net earnings were the highest during the period under review. In 1929-30 traffic declined on all the tramways except the Rockdale line, and the revenue from passengers decreased by £346,597, while the cessation of sales of electricity to the Sydney Municipal authorities, in consequence of the opening of the municipal power station at Bunnerong, caused receipts from that source to fall by £207,823. The decrease in working expenses did not offset the reduction in revenue, and net earnings declined to £277,906. In the following year working expenses exceeded revenue. In the year 1931-32 the services yielded net earnings amounting to £258,690, the improvement being due chiefly to restrictions imposed on competitive omnibus services. The tramways benefited also by the extension of the North Sydney lines into the city, though the net earnings arising from special charges for the Harbour Bridge section itself are payable to the Bridge fund, and not to tramway revenue.

The percentage of working expenses to the total receipts was 92.17 during the year ending 30th June, 1932, as compared with 101.56 in the previous year. The net earnings represented about 3 per cent. on cost of construction and equipment, as compared with 4.86 per cent., the average interest payable on the loan liabilities of the State.

A comparative statement of the profit or loss on the tramways after allowing for interest, contributions to sinking fund, and exchange on interest transmitted overseas is shown below:—

Year ended 30th June.	Net earnings.	Interest.	Sinking Fund.	Exchange.	Profit (+) Loss (—) allowing for interest.
	£	£	£	£	£
1911	221,682	174,055	...	...	(+) 47,627
1921	528,486	421,814	...	...	(+) 106,672
1926	299,500	577,900	...	...	(—) 278,400
1927	318,264	588,180	...	...	(—) 269,916
1928	619,205	591,397	...	...	(+) 27,808
1929	622,246	600,000	31,589	...	(—) 9,343
1930	277,906	630,150	33,000	...	(—) 385,244
1931	(—) 47,754	449,185	26,386	15,170	(—) 538,495
1932	258,690	412,700	29,630	106,500	(—) 290,140

Until 1923-24 the tramways usually yielded a substantial surplus over working expenses and interest. Then there occurred a marked expansion in motor omnibus services and in the use of private motor vehicles, and tramway traffic began to decline. Meanwhile interest charges rose continuously, and there was a large deficit of earnings as compared with interest charges in 1925-26 and 1926-27. In order to effect an improvement it was decided to abandon a number of unprofitable lines at the beginning of 1927, and in December, 1927, fares were increased. Consequently there was a surplus of £27,808 in 1927-28, notwithstanding the fact that a large sum had been written off to working expenses on account of the abandoned lines.

In 1928-29 sinking fund charges £31,589 were debited for the first time, and there was a deficit of £9,343. In the following year the deficit was £385,244, and in 1930-31 the receipts were not sufficient to cover working expenses so that the deficit increased to £538,495. In 1931-32 the deficit

was reduced to £290,140, notwithstanding an additional charge in respect of exchange on interest payable abroad which amounted to £106,500. There has been a substantial increase in the net earnings during the current year 1932-33, notwithstanding reductions in fares as from 1st October, 1932.

In the following statement particulars regarding the Metropolitan and Newcastle tramways are shown separately for a period of five years:—

Year ended June.	Length of line 30th June.	Cost of Construction and Equipment.	Gross Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Net Earnings.	Interest, Exchange and Sinking Fund.	Loss after paying Interest, Etc.
Metropolitan Tramways.							
	miles.	£	£	£	£	£	£
1928	175	11,089,338	4,182,141	3,536,363	645,778	511,268§	134,510†
1929	176	10,162,357	4,106,527	3,532,362	574,165	547,110	27,055†
1930	176	10,202,850	3,591,171	3,331,518	259,653	574,899	315,246
1931	176	7,516,845	2,894,285	2,891,834	2,451	435,547	433,096
1932	169	7,416,739	3,117,334	2,851,449	265,885	488,880	222,995
Newcastle Tramways.							
1928	34½	1,528,740	374,420	307,637	66,783	77,975§	11,192
1929	34½	1,580,832	351,363	301,577	49,786	84,479	34,693
1930	34½	1,562,128	312,299	293,819	18,480	88,251	69,771
1931	24	920,005	164,186	214,391	56,205*	55,194	105,399
1932	24	919,461	187,888	195,083	7,195*	59,950	67,145

* Excess of working expenses. † Profit. § Sinking Fund not included.

The receipts of the Metropolitan tramways declined by £1,287,856 between 1927-28 and 1930-31, while the reduction in working expenses was only half that amount. In the following year working expenses declined by about £40,000 and receipts increased by £223,000. The data for the last two years, however, do not include particulars of the electric power stations as in earlier years.

The financial results of the Newcastle services were unsatisfactory throughout the period under review, though some improvement was effected in 1931-32, as compared with the previous year.

Comparison of Tramway Traffic.

The following statement contains a comparison of the passenger traffic and the tram mileage since 1901:—

Year ended 30th June.	Length of line open at 30th June.	Passengers.	Tram mileage.	Earnings per tram mile.	Working Expenses per tram mile.
	miles.	No.		s. d.	s. d.
1901	79½	93,703,685	6,835,926	1 7½	1 4½
1911	189¾	230,275,938	22,541,429	1 2½	1 0½
1921	227¼	337,689,873	28,654,172	2 5	2 0½
1926	228½	339,411,765	34,214,733	2 1½	1 11½
1927	209¾	347,231,141	34,188,015	2 2¾	2 0½
1928	209½	346,013,775	34,471,601	2 7¾	2 3½
1929	210½	333,476,049	34,081,498	2 7½	2 3
1930	210½	307,789,621	32,862,832	2 4½	2 2½
1931	200	266,346,801	32,193,040	1 10¾	1 11½
1932	192¾	284,310,863*	35,914,272	1 10	1 8½

* Exclusive of Sydney Harbour Bridge passengers where journey did not extend beyond the bridge section

Complete information is not available as to the number of passengers carried in 1931-32, and the figure shown in the table is somewhat understated, as it is exclusive of passengers who travelled on the Sydney Harbour Bridge section, *i.e.*, between Wynyard and North Sydney Station, and did not on the same journey travel over any other section. This deficiency arises from the fact that a special ticket is issued for the Bridge section and a second ticket is issued where the journey extends over any other part of the North Sydney lines, so that such passengers are recorded twice. The number of passengers carried over the Sydney Harbour Bridge section from 20th March to 30th June, 1932, was 2,143,494, and the number on ordinary sections during 1931-32 was 284,310,868. The latter figure includes the majority of the Bridge passengers.

There was a rapid extension of the tramway system between 1901 and 1911, and the traffic increased, but the average earnings declined from 1s. 7½d. to 1s. 2½d. per tram mile, and the excess of earnings over working expenses from 3d. to 2½d. Ten years later the earnings and expenses per tram mile were twice as high. The net earnings reached the maximum of 4¾d. per tram mile in 1921-22, then declined, the average during the two years ended June, 1927, being only 2½d. It was 4½d. in 1928-29, only 2d. in 1929-30, and in the following year working expenses exceeded receipts by ½d. per mile. In 1931-32 there was an excess of receipts amounting to 1½d. per tram line.

Year ended June.	Metropolitan Lines.		Newcastle Lines.	
	Passengers.	Tram Mileage.	Passengers.	Tram Mileage.
	000.	000.	000.	000.
1928	325,833	31,826	20,181	2,645
1929	315,668	31,576	17,808	2,506
1930	293,126	30,519	14,664	2,343
1931	253,243	29,620	13,104	2,573
1932	266,813*	33,000	17,498	2,914

* Exclusive of Sydney Harbour Bridge passengers, whose journey did not extend beyond the bridge section.

TRAM FARES.

The tramways are divided into sections of an average length of nearly 2 miles.

From November, 1920, to December, 1927, the fares on week-days were charged at the following rates, *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. In December, 1927, the fare for each journey extending over two, three or four sections was increased by 1d.

In December, 1930, fares were reduced for journeys extending beyond one section during the hours 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on week-days (except Saturdays)—the fare being 3d. for two sections, and 4d. for three or more sections. On 2nd February, 1931, these concession fares became general on the Newcastle tramways, irrespective of the day or hour of journey.

On 1st October, 1931, fares in the Metropolitan district for journeys of two, three or four sections, outside the hours of the concession fares, were reduced by 1d. Since that date the ordinary charges have been 2d. for one section, 3d. for two sections, 4d. for three sections, 5d. for four sections, 6d. for five or six sections. The fare for the Sydney Harbour Bridge section between Wynyard Station and North Sydney was 4d. from 20th March to 30th September, then it was reduced to 3d.

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. The line has been constructed to the standard gauge of 4 ft. 8½ in., and was opened in 1883.

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY WORKSHOPS.

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 were situated at Eveleigh, close to the Central Railway Station. On this site the workshops could not be extended to meet the increasing requirements of the railway system, and some of the buildings had to be demolished to make way for extra tracks for the suburban electric railways. Therefore a new site was selected at Chullora, 11 miles distant, and workshops are being constructed on an area of 485 acres. Some of the workshops at Chullora are in use and a new township has been erected in the vicinity. When the Chullora scheme is complete all the works at Eveleigh will be removed.

Engine repairs are undertaken at Honeysuckle Point (Newcastle) and at a number of smaller workshops in country localities. There are 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.

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 Factories.

RAILWAY ELECTRICITY WORKS.

For the supply and distribution of electric current to the railways and tramways there are three main generating stations, viz., Ultimo and White Bay in Sydney, and one in Newcastle. A smaller station was opened in January, 1928, at Lithgow, near the State coal mine. A number of substations are in operation throughout the suburban areas. During 1931-32 the electric energy generated at Ultimo was 147,332,462 kilowatt hours, at White Bay 232,670,420 kilowatt hours, at Newcastle 55,902,198 kilowatt hours, and at Lithgow 10,506,831 kilowatt hours. The supply of energy to the electric railway system amounted to 181,584,000 kilowatt hours.

Electric current is supplied also to a number of public bodies and factories. The amount was 80,900,000 kilowatt hours in 1931-32.

When the tramways were transferred to the administration of the Transport Trusts the electricity works remained under the control of the Railway Commissioners, and since that date electricity for the tramways has been purchased from the railway authorities.

The energy supplied for tramway purposes during 1931-32 was 134,600,000 kilowatt hours.

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY EMPLOYEES AND WAGES.

The average number of persons employed on existing lines of railways and tramways during 1920-21, and later years is shown in the following statement, also the amount of salaries and wages paid. The figures are exclusive of the staff of the construction branch.

Year ended 30th June.	Average number of Employees.			Salaries and Wages paid.		
	Railways.	Tramways.	Total.	Railways.	Tramways.	Total.
1921 ...	37,558	9,018	46,576	£ 9,153,089	£ 2,278,998	£ 11,432,087
1926 ...	42,174	11,246	53,420	11,192,851	2,947,313	14,140,164
1927 ...	45,265	11,524	56,789	12,509,021	3,143,657	15,652,678
1928 ...	44,973	11,184	56,157	12,693,706	3,144,067	15,837,773
1929 ...	43,972	11,121	55,093	12,422,298	3,121,457	15,543,755
1930 ...	41,342	10,493	51,835	11,656,142	3,005,881	14,662,023
1931* ...	40,620	8,388	49,008	10,167,293	2,119,794	12,287,087
1932* ...	40,329	8,356	48,685	9,637,122	2,015,941	11,653,063

* Employees in electric power stations included as railway employees.

Particulars relating to the staff of the tramways in the years 1930-31 and 1931-32, shown above, refer to persons employed by the Tramways Management Board in Sydney and Newcastle. When the tramways were separated from the railways in August, 1930, employees, numbering 1,200 (engaged mainly in the supply of electric power for trams), were transferred to the railway staff, and have been classified since as railway employees.

COAL SUPPLIES FOR RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAYS.

Coal for use in connection with the railways and tramways is an important item of working expenses, the annual consumption being over 1,250,000 tons. As a result of the gradual electrification of the suburban railways the use of coal for locomotives diminished and the consumption for the generation of electricity increased between 1926 and 1930. The quantity used during each of the last nine years was as follows:—

Year.	Coal used in Connection with Railways and Tramways.				
	Locomotive Purposes.	Electric Power Stations.	Gas Making.	Other Purposes.	Total.
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
1923-24	1,150,526	219,414	9,425	46,681	1,426,046
1924-25	1,263,176	243,385	8,661	48,195	1,563,417
1925-26	1,342,280	273,244	6,908	46,455	1,668,887
1926-27	1,342,034	326,885	7,437	46,219	1,722,575
1927-28	1,267,823	384,637	7,630	43,946	1,704,036
1928-29	1,212,272	391,904	7,038	45,719	1,656,933
1929-30	1,097,049	370,627	6,471	33,939	1,508,086
1930-31	961,739	340,328	5,615	29,299	1,336,981
1931-32	896,147	332,497	5,744	28,657	1,263,045

A coal-mine at Lithgow, on the main Western line, has been worked by the Railway Commissioners to supply coal for the railways, but in 1933 the control of the mine was transferred to a board consisting of the Under-Secretary of the Department of Mines, a railway officer, and the Chief Inspector of Coal Mines. The output during the year 1931-32 was 535,220 tons, as compared with 552,320 tons in the previous year.

RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY ACCIDENTS.

All accidents are recorded which occur in the working of the railways and tramways, or on railway or tramway premises, to persons other than railway and tramway employees, however slight the injuries may be. In the case of the employees all accidents must be reported which cause the employee to be absent from his ordinary work for at least five hours on any of the three days immediately following the day on which the accident occurred.

The railway and tramway accidents during each year of the quinquennium ended 30th June, 1932, 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>								
1928 ...	10	255	30	6,633	50	293	90	7,181
1929 ...	9	269	38	6,757	39	289	86	7,315
1930 ...	11	232	28	5,439	43	246	82	5,917
1931 ...	3	233	14	3,054	34	239	51	3,526
1932 ...	11	221	25	2,669	49	205	85	3,095
<i>Tramway Accidents.</i>								
1928 ...	6	356	3	1,398	30	375	39	2,129
1929 ...	7	275	5	1,287	22	326	34	1,888
1930 ...	10	227	...	910	17	277	27	1,414
1931 ...	7	258	...	603	18	273	25	1,134
1932 ...	13	314	3	697	14	221	30	1,232

The deaths of the eight railway employees included in the figures for the year 1931-32 were results of accidents not connected with the movement of the railway vehicles. The majority of injuries to employees occurred in similar accidents, the number so injured in 1931-32 being 2,556 in the railway service and 564 in the tramway service.

The number of passengers carried on the railways during the year ended June, 1932, was 128,359,000 and on the tramways about 285,000,000. The accident rates per million passengers were as follows:—Railways: Killed, 0.09; injured 1.72. Tramways: Killed 0.05, injured 1.10. The rates for the railways are usually the higher on account of the greater length of the average journey travelled by railway passengers.

The amount of compensation paid in respect of injuries to passengers and damage to goods during each of the last five years was as follows:—

Accidents.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Railway—	£	£	£	£	£
Passengers ...	14,238	6,928	6,606	2,099	1,590
Goods ...	18,634	16,925	17,647	12,253	12,749
Tramway ...	26,348	17,166	19,283	8,537	10,432
Total ... £	59,220	41,019	43,536	22,889	24,771

MOTOR AND OTHER LICENSED VEHICLES.

The use of motor transport vehicles is subject to special laws and restrictions in order that the risk of accidents may be minimised and the flow of traffic regulated where necessary; also to facilitate the collection of taxes for the upkeep of roads, etc. In recent years commercial services by motor vehicles have been restricted in a greater degree with a view to reducing competition with the State-owned railways and tramways.

Motor vehicles and drivers must be registered and the registrations must be renewed periodically. Persons who apply for a license to drive are required to pass a test as to their ability and they hold their licenses subject to the observance of the motor traffic regulations. Public vehicles, whether motor or horse-drawn, and persons driving them must be licensed if they ply or stand in a public street for hire.

In the transport districts proclaimed under the Transport Act, 1930, the licensing and regulation of public vehicles and drivers and conductors thereof are functions of the Commissioner of Road Transport and Tramways, and he is charged with the registration of other motor vehicles, the licensing of drivers under the Motor Traffic Act, and the collection of taxes and fees.

The police have general authority to take action against dangerous or disorderly traffic. Their services are utilised also by arrangement between the Commissioner of Police and the Commissioner of Road Transport and Tramways to issue the licenses and to collect the taxes and fees in all parts of the State, and to regulate the street traffic, vehicular and pedestrian, in the metropolitan area.

In municipalities and shires outside the transport districts 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.

In terms of the Transport Act, 1930, the proceeds of the registration and taxation of vehicles and the licensing of drivers, etc., are paid into the Road Transport and Traffic Fund, or the Public Vehicles Fund, or the Main Roads Funds for the purposes shown hereunder.

The fees for the registration of motor and public vehicles, drivers, etc. (except service license fees in respect of motor omnibus services) are payable into the Road Transport and Traffic Fund at the Treasury to meet the cost of police supervision of road transport, administrative and other costs under the Transport Act (except expenses of the transport services conducted by a trust), and expenses relating to traffic facilities, and to provide certain contributions to local authorities towards the maintenance of roads used by trams, etc. The credit balance of the Road Transport and Traffic Fund at the end of each financial year is payable to the Country Main Roads Fund.

Annual service license fees payable in respect of motor omnibus services in the transport districts and the taxes on public motor vehicles are paid into the Public Vehicles Fund, which is subject to the control of the Commissioner of Road Transport. The taxes on motor omnibuses and half the service license fees are payable from this fund to the Main Roads Board and to councils of municipalities and shires for the maintenance of roads used by motor omnibuses. The balance of the service licenses fees is applied to the reduction of the capital indebtedness of the Trust.

The tax on public vehicles other than motor omnibuses is to be expended on resumptions and traffic facilities, and a proportion of the tax on tourist

motor service vehicles operating partly within and partly outside a transport district may be paid to the Country Main Roads Fund. The proceeds of taxation of motor vehicles, other than public vehicles, after a deduction of 5 per cent. to cover cost of collection, are paid into the Main Roads Funds, viz., half the taxes paid on vehicles owned by residents of the county of Cumberland to the County of Cumberland Main Roads Fund and the balance to the Country Main Roads Fund.

The State Transport (Co-ordination) Act passed in August, 1931, contains provisions which came into force on 2nd November, 1931, by which owners of public motor vehicles *i.e.*, those used for the conveyance of passengers or of goods for hire or for any consideration or in the course of trade or business, may be required to obtain licenses under this Act in addition to registration under the Motor Traffic and Transport Acts. Exemptions from the obligation to license may be granted by the Commissioner of Road Transport and Tramways, and licenses are not required where permits are issued for carrying passengers over specified routes or in specified districts.

The conditions of any licenses or class of licenses may be prescribed by regulation or determined by the Commissioner of Road Transport and Tramways and charges may be imposed in respect of the transport of passengers and goods by public motor vehicles, the maximum in respect of passengers being 1d. per passenger for each mile or part thereof, or for each section or part thereof (whichever is the greater sum). The maximum rate for goods is 3d. per ton of the aggregate weight of the vehicle unladen and its carrying capacity for each mile or part thereof. The charges on goods are not imposed where a vehicle is used solely for carrying goods to the nearest railway station, and they may be remitted for any reason. The Act prescribes that exemption from the special charges may be granted where a vehicle is used solely for journeys which do not exceed 20 miles, and in July, 1932, exemptions were granted generally for journeys up to 50 miles, also for primary produce conveyed to market by the producers, irrespective of distance.

Agents for persons operating public motor vehicles and agents in respect of the carriage of persons or goods, otherwise than by ship, are required to obtain licenses and to renew them annually.

The charges imposed in respect of the transport of passengers and goods by public motor vehicles and fees for licenses and permits are paid into the State Transport (Co-ordination) Fund at the Treasury, from which may be paid costs of administration and subsidies for motor services which are feeders to railways or tramways. With the Minister's approval payments may be made from the fund to the Government Railways Fund or to the general funds of the transport trusts.

The annual fees for the registration of motor vehicles, etc., to be paid on the issue of a license and on each annual renewal are as follows:— Motor cycle 2s. 6d., other motor vehicle £1, driver 10s., motor cycle rider 5s. For a learner's permit to drive 5s. is charged. Annual fees for traders' plates are £2 for motor cycles and £8 for other motor vehicles.

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.

Until December, 1932, certificates of registration were current for twelve months from the date of issue, and the tax for that period was paid at the time of registration or renewal. Under existing arrangements, dating from 1st December, 1932, registration may be effected for quarterly periods and the tax paid in quarterly instalments at the option of the owners. The charges in such cases are proportionately higher than for annual registrations. Regulations have been issued to prescribe that visible labels must be attached to motor vehicles (except cycles) registered on or after

1st December, 1932, and to cycles registered as from 1st January, 1933. In the case of vehicles already registered the labels are being introduced gradually and they are being affixed when registration is renewed.

A statement showing the number of vehicles on the register at various dates is shown below. The usefulness of the figures for purposes of comparison is circumscribed by several factors. For instance the number of registered vehicles as at 31st October, 1931, was reduced by 3,261—viz., 1,938 cars, 565 lorries and 758 cycles—as a result of a revision of the records which disclosed that the method formerly used for assessing the monthly figures had led to overstatement. A similar revision was made in February, 1932, in respect to the vehicles classified in the table as public vehicles, i.e., cabs, vans and omnibuses, and a number of omnibuses which had ceased to ply after the State Transport (Co-ordination) Act became law were removed from the register.

The figures shown below under the heading "public vehicles" relate exclusively to those registered in the metropolitan traffic district up to and including September, 1930. Since October, 1930, registrations in Newcastle and district have been included. The public vehicles in other districts are registered as cars or lorries, and licensed by the local councils to ply for public hire.

End of year or month.	Registrations in force.								
	Public vehicles registered in Metropolitan District.†			Other Motor Vehicles.			All Motor vehicles. ‡	Per 100 of population.	
	Cab.	Van.	Omnibus.	Car.	Lorry.	Cycle.		Cars only	All motor vehicles.
1911	175	3	4	3,975			6,945	0.23	0.41
1916	268	32	12	14,175	845	7,070	22,402	0.75	1.19
1921	407	376	180	28,665	3,524	11,291	44,443	1.35	2.09
1926	779	1,723	456	104,675	22,989	25,424	156,078	4.46	6.64
1927	997	2,016	525	129,985	30,517	28,054	192,094	5.41	8.00
1928	1,173	2,126	565	155,403	37,129	30,882	227,278	6.35	9.29
1929	1,364	2,274	612	170,039	42,504	30,655	247,538	6.36	9.98
1930 Mar.	1,351	2,272	628	171,492	43,371	30,198	244,312	6.60	10.03
June	1,340	2,235	640	169,495	43,074	29,410	246,194	6.82	9.90
Sept.	1,233	2,104	643	167,812	42,821	28,514	243,217	6.73	9.75
Dec.	1,221	2,186	523	164,160	42,278	27,258	237,635	6.56	9.49
1931 Jan.	1,218	2,165	559	161,776	41,858	26,815	234,419	...	...
Feb.	1,161	2,145	610	160,248	41,480	26,593	232,297	...	...
Mar.	1,159	2,152	640	158,833	41,088	26,345	230,217	6.34	9.19
April	1,125	2,130	639	156,580	40,552	25,938	226,964	...	...
May	1,113	2,101	660	154,421	39,897	25,584	223,776	...	...
June	1,078	2,092	676	154,096	39,696	25,453	223,091	6.14	8.89
July	1,077	2,061	627	151,760	39,055	24,955	219,535	...	...
Aug.	1,071	2,039	637	151,117	38,710	24,770	218,344	...	...
Sept.	1,052	2,011	649	148,874	38,123	24,330	215,639	5.92	8.55
Oct.*	1,058	2,003	701	145,393	37,266	23,289	209,710	...	...
Nov.	1,076	1,995	733	144,432	37,175	23,049	208,460	...	...
Dec.	1,091	1,967	776	144,749	37,259	23,124	208,966	5.75	8.29
1932 Jan.	1,085	1,922	736	144,529	37,098	23,003	208,383	...	...
Feb.*	1,067	1,882	396	144,592	36,848	22,962	207,747	...	...
Mar.	1,068	1,875	385	144,749	36,823	22,964	207,894	5.73	8.22
April	1,068	1,849	389	144,478	36,818	23,014	207,616	...	...
May	1,069	1,846	372	144,151	36,758	22,888	207,084	...	...
June	1,070	1,856	362	143,370	36,782	22,741	206,761	5.69	8.17
July	1,068	1,842	353	144,112	36,917	22,696	206,988	...	...
Aug.	1,071	1,847	352	144,029	37,079	22,759	207,137	...	...
Sept.	1,068	1,851	351	144,229	37,318	22,803	207,620	5.69	8.19
Oct.	1,069	1,854	346	144,379	37,629	22,742	208,019	...	...
Nov.	1,066	1,854	346	144,522	38,240	22,740	208,768	...	...
Dec.	1,068	1,861	360	146,582	39,029	22,808	211,708	5.77	8.33
1933 Jan.	1,069	1,873	370	147,235	39,346	22,715	212,608	...	...
Feb.	1,066	1,880	378	147,633	39,611	22,688	213,256	...	...
Mar.	1,062	1,854	392	147,644	39,798	22,515	213,265	...	...

* Decrease due partly to revision of records and exclusion of inoperative registrations (see context above table).

† Newcastle district included as from October, 1930.

‡ Exclusive of traders plates.

The figures show that a remarkable development occurred in motor transport between 1911 and 1930. The number of vehicles seems to have reached the maximum early in the latter year, when the number per 1,000 of population was about 100, as compared with 4 in 1911 and 21 in 1921. During the second quarter of the year 1930 a rapid decline commenced and it persisted throughout the following year. The number of vehicles increased slowly during the latter half of 1932 and in December the net addition to the register amounted to 2,940. It is probable that some of these additional registrations were a result of the provision of facilities for the payment of charges in quarterly instalments and of the introduction of visible registration labels.

The figures relating to omnibuses on the register from December, 1930, to January, 1932, inclusive, do not indicate the number of such vehicles in use. When the Transport Act, 1930, was proclaimed action regarding the renewals of registration was delayed in some cases so that the persons conducting the services might make arrangements for insurance, etc., as prescribed by the Act. Subsequently, when the State Transport (Co-ordination) Act became law, a number of services were discontinued at the end of October, 1931, but the vehicles were not removed from the register until February, 1932.

The number of motor vehicles registered during each year from 1927 to 1932 is shown in the following statement, with separate details regarding new vehicles and old vehicles registered after a change of ownership. Renewals of registration are not included:—

Year.	Registrations of Motor Vehicles (excluding renewals).										
	Cars.		Lorries and Vans.		Cycles. New.	Cabs (Metropolitan)*		Omnibuses (Metropolitan)*		All Vehicles.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.		New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1927	30,757	11,094	9,157	3,657	9,716	215	142	105	88	49,950	14,981
1928	30,188	12,812	7,497	4,537	11,288	156	213	66	78	49,195	17,640
1929	26,825	13,888	8,477	5,131	10,579	213	209	86	59	46,180	19,287
1930	11,152	13,197	4,172	5,936	8,098	79	158	57	34	23,558	19,325
1931	3,273	16,560	1,260	7,104	7,681	7	99	16	51	12,237	23,814
1932	3,645	20,531	937	9,478	7,864	...	35	1	36	12,447	30,080

* Registrations in Newcastle district included as from 13th October, 1930.

Nearly 50,000 new vehicles were registered in 1927 and in 1928, there was a decline of 3,000 in 1929. Then the rate of decrease became very rapid, amounting to 50 per cent. in 1930 and again in 1931. There was a slight increase in 1932, but the total number of new vehicles registered during the year was only 25 per cent. of the registrations five or six years ago. On the other hand there has been an increase throughout the period in registrations of second-hand cars and lorries, and twice as many were registered in 1932 as in 1927. Only a few new cabs, vans, or omnibuses have been registered in the metropolitan district during the last two years.

MOTOR DRIVERS' LICENSES.

The development in motor transport facilities is illustrated also by the following statement of the number of persons holding licenses to drive motor vehicles at the end of the years specified:—

Year.	Licenses in force at 31st December.					
	Public motor vehicles registered in Metropolitan District.*				Other motor vehicles.	
	Cab drivers.	Van drivers.	Omnibus.		Car and Lorry drivers.	Cycle riders.
			Drivers.	Conductors.		
1911	248	9	6	9	5,517	3,323
1916	387	47	21	5	22,598	9,444
1921	627	523	441	200	52,538	16,115
1926	2,174	2,194	1,926	1,118	183,680	32,228
1927	2,087	2,401	1,065	1,756	224,575	34,267
1928	2,053	2,591	1,886	1,081	266,708	36,780
1929	1,997	2,714	2,107	1,077	297,491	36,784
1930	1,989	2,693	1,981	958	302,472	33,935
1931	1,663	2,468	1,856	849	277,546	29,794
1932	1,690	2,384	1,327	352	272,848	28,739

* Newcastle district included in 1930 and later years.

TAXATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

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. The rates of tax are based upon the weight of the vehicle and the type of tyre used, except in the case of motor cycles. Prior to 1st January, 1925, they were fixed in relation to horse-power.

The rates per ½ cwt. imposed upon 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 ½ cwt., and for an omnibus 4s. 3d. per ½ cwt. The tax on a motor cycle is 22s. 6d., or if a side car is attached £2. For tractors the rate is 3s. 6d. per ½ cwt. up to a maximum of £15. Trailers and other motor vehicles are taxable at the rate of 3s. 6d. per ½ cwt. Tractors, motor lorries, and other motor vehicles owned by farmers and used solely for carting the produce of their farms are taxable at half-rates. A reduction of 6d. per ½ 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; motor vehicles owned by the council of a municipality or shire and used solely for the purposes of road construction, maintenance, or repair; trailers and motor vehicles used solely for work on farms; trailers owned by farmers and used solely for carting the produce of their farms, or owned by timber-cutters and used solely for carting their timber from forest to mill.

The tax and registration fee (£1) payable annually for a British-made car or light lorry of a type in common use, weighing 25 cwt. is £6 17s. or if the vehicle is of foreign manufacture £8 3s. If registration is effected

quarterly the tax for four successive quarters amounts to £1 17s. 3½d. or £2 5s. 7d. per quarter according to country of origin, and the registration fee is £1 for the first quarter and 5s. each for the second, third and fourth quarters.

The total receipts from the registrations, licenses and taxation of motor vehicles during each year since 1921, as recorded by the Police Department and the Commissioner of Road Transport, are shown below:—

Year.	Fees for Registration and Licenses.	Motor Vehicles Tax.	Search fees and Exchange.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1921 ...	56,546	131,025	...	187,571
1922 ...	68,091	161,874	...	229,965
1923 ...	91,891	219,952	...	311,843
1924 ...	124,652	300,248	...	424,900
1925 ...	208,300	657,979	901	867,180
1926 ...	262,059	856,354	1,647	1,120,060
1927 ...	320,388	1,035,639	2,002	1,358,029
1928 ...	381,881	1,246,424	2,682	1,630,987
1929 ...	419,020	1,386,565	3,147	1,808,732
1930 ...	406,151	1,345,801	3,194	1,755,146
1931 ...	364,724	1,218,003	4,909	1,587,636
1932 ...	420,621	1,203,933	4,714	1,629,268

The rates of taxation in respect of motor vehicles were raised on 1st January, 1925, and the revenue in 1936 was more than twice the tax in 1925. The fees in 1932 included £57,336 under the State Transport (Co-ordination) Act.

MOTOR OMNIBUS SERVICES.

The motor omnibus services in the Metropolitan and Newcastle Districts are subject to provisions of the Transport Act, 1930, and the Transport (Co-ordination) Act (see pages 214 and 243). The vehicles, drivers and conductors are registered annually, and an annual service license must be obtained for each service. Where a service would come into competition with railway or other transport services, conditions may be imposed with a view to preventing undue competition or overlapping. The registration of each omnibus is conditional upon fitness, the observance of regulations regarding design and construction, and provision for the safety and comfort of passengers. Owners of motor omnibuses are required to insure against liability by way of damages in the case of injury to persons or property. The amount of insurance is fixed at £5,000 in respect of each omnibus, but it may be reduced to £1,000 where there are special circumstances, or a comprehensive policy for £15,000 may be accepted from an owner in respect of all his omnibuses.

The annual fee for each service license is fixed with regard to the nature and extent of the benefit enjoyed by the holder of the license, the nature of the route traversed and the effect on State-owned services the maximum fee being an amount equivalent to £4 for each passenger each omnibus is authorised to carry. The fee for experimental or developmental or unprofitable services may be fixed at a nominal rate.

On 2nd November, 1931, the omnibus services became liable to pay special charges under the Transport Co-ordination Act ranging up to 1d. per mile or part of a mile for each passenger, or 1d. for each section or part of a section included in each passenger's journey, whichever is the greater.

Under the Transport Act owners of motor omnibuses for which a license was in force at the commencement of the Act were entitled to a service license for the existing services for a period of one year without variation as to fares or time-tables. For this reason action by the administrative authority towards the elimination of overlapping services was delayed until the year 1931. Then the maximum fee for a service license was imposed where the omnibus service was competing with the tramways. As a result a number of owners in the Newcastle district declined to pay the fees, and their licenses were cancelled in October, 1931. In the metropolitan district the services were maintained until the imposition of additional charges under the State Transport (Co-ordination) Act in November, 1931, led to the discontinuance of a large proportion of the services. The reduction in the services in each district since 1930 is indicated in the following statement:—

Date.	Metropolitan District.		Newcastle and District.	
	Services.	Motor Omnibuses.	Services.	Motor Omnibuses.
1930—October ...	219	587	77	126
1931—October ...	224	582	56	73
1932—June ...	162	318	47	61

In August, 1932, an Advisory Committee was appointed to inquire into the use of motor omnibuses for transport services in the metropolitan and Newcastle districts. In its report the Committee favoured the establishment of a public utility company in each district to purchase the tramways from the State and the motor omnibuses from the owners, and other proposals were made for the reorganisation of the tramway and omnibus services.

Towards the end of December, 1932, the Government purchased a number of omnibuses and established a few services in the metropolitan district.

Particulars of the motor omnibus traffic in the metropolitan district were collected for the first time in 1929, and a summary of the information supplied by the proprietors for the years ended 30th June, 1929 to 1932, is shown below. The statement contains similar particulars relating to the Newcastle district for the year ended 30th June, 1931, and the nine months 1st October, 1931, to 30th June, 1932:—

Year.	Licensed Omnibuses at end of Period.			Omnibus Miles Run.	Passengers Carried.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Number in Service.	Number in Reserve.	Carrying Capacity. (Persons).				
Metropolitan District.							
1928-29 ...	480	92	13,665	16,911,793	89,845,001	1,446,876	1,293,437
1929-30 ...	492	132	15,376	19,227,383	94,481,982	1,540,456	1,256,773
1930-31 ...	483	107	17,908	19,548,162	92,125,207	1,357,505	1,352,649
1931-32 ...	252	55	7,623	10,988,878	43,544,551	624,102	668,117
Newcastle District.							
1930-31 ...	83	10	2,551	3,113,477	8,248,000	140,110	139,914
1931-32 ...	46	9	1,437	1,153,857*	2,221,200*	41,994*	50,089*

* Nine months October to June; figures for September quarter not available.

The number of persons employed in connection with the metropolitan motor omnibus services at 30th June, 1932, was 619, viz., 17 office employees, 530 drivers and conductors, and 72 other employees. The employees in the Newcastle district numbered 95.

An analysis of the expenditure of the metropolitan services during the year ended June, 1932, shows that management and general expenses amounted to £98,720, operating expenses to £425,044, and repairs, depreciation and interest to £144,353. Similar details for the Newcastle district during the nine months ended 30th June, 1932, were £6,367, £32,752, and £10,970 respectively.

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 in Accidents caused by—				Total Number of Persons.	
		Trams.		Motor Vehicles.		Killed.	Injured.
		Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.		
1911	963	10	633	5	130	28	1,212
1921	1,199	10	318	36	792	62	1,616
1926	7,360	11	303	144	3,660	187	4,861
1927	8,029	17	339	157	4,443	206	5,644
1928	9,399	9	415	185	5,612	212	6,881
1929	10,864	10	374	239	6,243	272	7,299
1930	8,825	7	335	220	5,627	238	6,388
1931	6,757	14	483	184	4,492	210	5,371
1932	4,770	18	433	151	3,928	185	4,817

The number of persons killed or injured in tram accidents, as shown above, does not include accidents due to persons getting on or off trams in motion. Administrative changes introduced into the Police Department in September, 1932, have tended to restrict the number of reports of accidents received by the police. There has, however, been a decrease in accidents owing to a decline in traffic during the last two years.

During the year 1931 the motor accidents reported by the police in localities outside the Metropolitan Traffic District numbered 1,734. In such accidents 106 persons were killed and 1,133 were injured. In 1932 there were reports of 1,381 accidents in which 107 persons were killed and 902 were injured.

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 has afforded assistance to private organisations for the encouragement of civil aviation. A service for the carriage of aerial mails and passengers between Sydney and Adelaide was established in 1924. Subsequently the route was altered, and a contract was arranged for a service between Cootamundra and Adelaide, with branch services between Hay and Melbourne and between Broken Hill and Mildura. The contract expired in June, 1930.

A daily service between Sydney and Brisbane was commenced on 1st January, 1930, and extended during the year to Melbourne and Tasmania. Surcharged mails were conveyed at poundage rates until the services were suspended in June, 1931. Subsequently the daily service between Sydney and Brisbane was resumed.

Certain provisions of the State Transport (Co-ordination) Act, 1931, for the regulation of transport services by public motor vehicles, as described on page 244, are applicable to aircraft.

Particulars relating to aircraft in each of the last five years are shown below. The figures refer only to aircraft registered in New South Wales, and owing to interstate flying they do not cover all the aviation which has taken place within its boundaries.

Particulars.	Year ended 30th June.				
	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
Companies or persons owning aircraft ...	14	39	53	49	46
Aircraft	18	53	78	70	59
Licensed Pilots—					
Private	*	96	145	164	123
Commercial	*	45	70	77	63
Flights—Number	35,829	51,301	46,225	33,333	25,139
Hours	5,470	10,480	14,801	18,933	9,444
Mileage (approximate)	375,055	758,246	1,118,704	1,640,130	790,317
Passengers carried	20,995	29,110	34,811	26,967	22,496
Accidents—Persons killed ... ..	...	3	9	11	2
Persons injured ... ..	...	6	10	9	6

* Not available.

It is evident that the great majority of the flights are pleasure trips of short duration, the average time being less than 35 minutes and the average length 49 miles per flight in 1930-31. The corresponding averages in the following year were 23 minutes and 31 miles.

Aero clubs have been established in Sydney and Goulburn for the advancement of civil aviation. The Federal Government subsidises the clubs in respect of licenses issued to qualified pilots.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

The postal, telegraph, and telephone services of New South Wales have been controlled by the Commonwealth Government since 1st March, 1901. 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 by a few aerial services. The number of inland mail services in operation in New South Wales in 1931-32 was 2,108. The cost of road services amounted to £270,199, and of railway services to £149,020.

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 £110,000 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 letters, postcards, lettercards, and packets posted in New South Wales in 1931-32 for delivery within the Commonwealth of Australia was 264,860,200; the number despatched beyond the Commonwealth was 13,339,600; and 9,500,100 were received from places outside Australia. Similar details regarding newspapers are as follows:—56,753,500 posted for delivery within the Commonwealth; 1,969,500 despatched overseas; and 6,152,300 received from places outside Australia.

Particulars regarding the postal matter received from the other Australian States are not available. In 1931-32 the parcels posted in New South Wales for delivery in the Commonwealth numbered 3,675,100, and 78,700 were posted for delivery in other countries, the number received from overseas being 88,150. The number of registered articles (other than parcels) posted in New South Wales for delivery in Australia was 2,275,603, and 131,659 were despatched to and 177,261 were received from other countries.

A system of value-payable parcel post has been established, mainly for the convenience of people who reside at a distance from the trading centres. 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, 1932, the number of such articles posted in New South Wales was 280,589, and the value collected was £331,328, the revenue, including postage, commission on value, registration, and money-order commission, being £36,606.

Postage rates for letters to places within the British Empire were increased in August, 1930, from 1½d. to 2d. per oz.

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 three main routes. The oldest, dating from 1871, is from Darwin to Banjoewangie (Java), and it is duplicated. A second route is from Cottesloe, near Fremantle (Western Australia), by duplicate cables via Cocos Island to Durban (South Africa), with a link to Singapore. This route is continued by cable to Adelaide.

The third route was laid by the Pacific Cable Board. It was formerly the property of the Governments of the United Kingdom, Canada, and New Zealand, but it is included now in the merger of the Empire's cable and wireless routes under Imperial and International Communications, Ltd. The route is from Sydney by cable to Southport (Queensland), thence to Norfolk Island, Suva, Fanning Island, and Bamfield (Canada), with a link from Norfolk Island to Auckland (New Zealand). Another branch (duplicated) goes from Sydney to Auckland, and connects with the main system by cable, Auckland to Suva. The latter route has replaced a cable which ran direct from La Perouse (Sydney) to Wellington (New Zealand). All these cables land at Bondi, near Sydney.

Lines have been laid also between the Australian mainland and Tasmania. A cable between Bundaberg (Queensland) and New Caledonia was maintained for many years by a French company, but a wireless link has been substituted, and the cable has been abandoned.

For a cable message to Great Britain, the ordinary rate is 2s. 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 most other British and foreign countries. Daily letter telegrams with normal delivery on the morning of the second day after the day of acceptance may be exchanged with a number of countries at one-third of the ordinary rates and a minimum charge for twenty-five words. Press telegrams are handled by telegraph or cable at cheap rates and under special conditions.

The following table shows the number of telegrams despatched in New South Wales for delivery within the Commonwealth and the number despatched to and received from countries outside Australia, in various years since 1901. Messages to and from Tasmania are classified as Australian telegrams and not as cablegrams. The total number of telegrams handled in New South Wales cannot be stated, as full particulars are not available regarding messages received from other States nor those in transit.

Year.	Telegraph Stations.	Telegrams despatched for delivery in Australia.	Cablegrams.		Revenue Received.
			Despatched.	Received.	
1901	978	2,669,724	59,360	72,735	£ 186,135
1911	1,406	4,314,252	129,809	123,910	253,398
1920-21	2,252	5,906,243	249,705	263,482	489,805
1925-26	2,894	6,214,370	350,146	350,129	516,176
1926-27	2,985	6,090,777	357,860	360,572	503,682
1927-28	3,041	5,942,912	385,179	376,491	508,914
1928-29	3,069	5,972,606	415,813	388,093	526,508
1929-30	3,093	5,653,070	399,653	382,323	485,094
1930-31	3,055	4,609,851	326,857	282,253	384,452
1931-32	3,072	4,362,975	301,117	287,696	354,296

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

During the years 1912 to 1914, a chain of stations was erected around Australia by the Commonwealth to give wireless communication with shipping, three of the stations, including the Sydney station, being capable of long distance communication. The stations were controlled by the Department of the Navy during the years 1915 to 1920. 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 a high-power station in Australia for communication with Great Britain and Canada, where corresponding stations were to be established. In consequence of the development of the beam system the agreement was altered in 1924, and instead of high-power stations, services under the beam system have been provided. The service between Australia and Great Britain was opened on 8th April, 1927, and between Australia and Canada on 16th June, 1928. The rate for ordinary messages is 1s. 8d. per word to Great Britain and 1s. 5½d. to Vancouver (Canada). Deferred messages are cheaper.

The radio traffic during 1931-32 consisted of 62,276 paid messages, 1,085,495 words; 1,969 service messages, 21,996 words; and 2,229 weather messages, 47,267 words.

Private installations for wireless communication and for broadcasting are operated under license, but they are not permitted to engage in commercial traffic unless authorised to do so. A national broadcasting service was inaugurated in July, 1929, and two private stations were transferred to the control of the Commonwealth Government. In July, 1931, there were also 15 licenses for private broadcasting stations in the State.

The wireless licenses issued in New South Wales during the last five years were as follows:—

Licenses.	Year ended 30th June—				
	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
Station—					
Coast	1	1	2	2	2
Ship	24	11	10	9	10
Land	4	6	6	7	8
Broadcasting	9	9	9	15	15
Broadcast listeners	79,931	100,798	111,080	122,061	141,027
Dealers' listening					
Experimental	266	214	173	278	291
Portable	6	6	5	7	9
Aircraft ... ..	...	1	...	...	...
Special	16	20	18	3	28
Total	80,257	101,066	111,303	122,382	141,390

The revenue collected in New South Wales in respect of broadcast listeners' licenses in 1931-32 amounted to £169,859, of which the sum of £63,550 accrued to the Post office.

An overseas telephone service was established in April, 1930, when a commercial service was opened between Australia and Great Britain. It has been extended to other European countries and to America. Towards the end of the year 1930 services were inaugurated between Australia and New Zealand, and between Australia and Java.

TELEPHONES.

The telephone system was established in Sydney in 1880, 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. During the years 1930 and 1931 the services were extended to Northern Queensland and to Western Australia. The "carrier wave" system of operating long-distance telephone traffic was introduced in September, 1925. By this means a number of conversations may be conducted simultaneously over one pair of wires.

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
1920-21	921	74,490	1,693	96,710
1925-26	1,621	117,249	2,379	152,969
1926-27	1,740	127,784	2,555	167,301
1927-28	1,811	137,602	2,651	181,484
1928-29	1,890	146,492	2,779	193,718
1929-30	1,951	150,606	2,879	199,007
1930-31	1,946	141,445	2,944	188,345
1931-32	1,942	135,179	2,986	181,326

The number of exchanges as stated above for 1925-26 and later years represents the number of offices with one or more lines connected. The figures for earlier years do not include offices with only one line.

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 10s. where there are over 10,000 lines. For each effective outward call where the number of lines connected with the exchange does not exceed 300, a charge of 1d. per call is made; at other exchanges the charge is 1½d.

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, 1931, also the aggregate figures for the year 1931-32, are shown below:—

Branch.	Earnings.	Working Expenses.	Surplus.	Interest on Capital and Exchange Charges.	Net Profit.
	£	£	£	£	£
Postal	2,370,490	2,038,700	331,790	90,261	241,529
Telegraph	423,096	501,990	(-) 78,894	61,239	(-) 140,133
Telephone	2,246,395	1,643,800	602,595	662,365	(-) 59,770
Wireless	54,795	40,399	14,396	1,099	13,297
Total, All Branches 1930-31...	5,094,776	4,224,889	869,887	814,964	54,923
1931-32...	4,874,758	3,541,374	1,333,384	961,324	372,060

(-) Denotes loss.

The services earned a substantial surplus over expenses in the whole Commonwealth, as well as in New South Wales, during the years ended June, 1929, 1930, and 1932.

A comparative statement of the financial results for the whole Commonwealth is shown in the following statement:—

Year.	Earnings.	Working Expenses.	Surplus.	Interest on Capital and Exchange Charges.	Net Profit.
	£	£	£	£	£
1920-21	8,511,494	6,724,543	1,786,951	643,183	1,143,768
1925-26	10,802,917	9,829,065	973,852	1,259,189	(-)285,337
1926-27	11,650,265	10,411,508	1,238,757	1,410,818	(-)172,061
1927-28	12,325,082	11,028,632	1,296,450	1,527,113	(-)230,663
1928-29	12,933,835	11,190,467	1,743,368	1,686,844	56,524
1929-30	13,391,008	11,310,481	2,080,527	1,882,644	197,883
1930-31	12,994,287	10,879,238	2,115,049	2,182,053	(-) 67,004

(-) Denotes loss.

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 sufficient food is produced to supply 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. Family allowances are paid for the benefit of dependent children in families with small incomes, and provision is made to safeguard the welfare of juveniles and of women in industrial occupations. During the last three years, when an unusual degree of unemployment prevailed as a result of economic causes mainly world-wide in effect, the central and local governing bodies and private organisations became active in undertaking relief works and providing sustenance for the workless, funds for the purpose being obtained by means of a special tax on wages and other incomes.

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. The railways, being owned by the State, are used to develop national resources, and the tariff laws aim at the extension of local industries without any encroachment upon existing standards of industrial employment. 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. Education is free at both primary and secondary public schools.

The mildness of the climate enables the people to engage in outdoor recreation at all times of the year. Measures for the prevention of sickness and the encouragement of hygienic conditions of life 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. 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 and to widows with dependent children.

HOSPITALS AND CHARITIES.

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 ten members, including five 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 services and the State institutions for the treatment of the sick and infirm, and a microbiological laboratory.

The medical inspection of school children and institutions for defective children are controlled by the Department of Education.

The executive personnel of the Department of Public Health includes medical officers and sanitary inspectors. The former are appointed by the Government, and are permanent salaried officers, who devote the whole of their time to matters relating to public health.

Medical officers exercise constant supervision in the Metropolitan area, in the Hunter River district, which includes Newcastle, and in Broken Hill. 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.

In the Department of Public Health the principal activities are organised in special divisions, *e.g.*, industrial hygiene, maternal and baby welfare, tuberculosis, laboratories, sanitation, and pure food, each in charge of a specially-qualified officer. The medical officers of the Department act also as medical referees in regard to claims under the Workers' Compensation Act.

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 hospitals; and provisions of the Local Government Act which specify the powers and duties of the municipal and shire councils for safeguarding health in 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.

A Federal Health Council was constituted in November, 1926, to advise the Commonwealth and State Governments on health questions generally and to devise measures for co-operation and for promoting uniformity in legislation and administration. The membership includes the principal health officers of each State, with the Federal Director-General of Health as chairman.

CHARITABLE RELIEF BY STATE GOVERNMENT.

The activities of the State Government for the purposes of charitable relief—formerly administered by various branches of the State services—have been brought under the control of one department in terms of the Government Relief Administration Act, 1930, which, with an amendment in 1932, was proclaimed in January, 1933. The offices concerned in the

administration of the family allowances, widows' pensions, the boarding out of destitute children to their own mothers under the Child Welfare Act, food relief for unemployed persons and their dependants, and other forms of charitable relief have been reorganised under the control of a Minister of the Crown, the Chief Secretary, with a permanent officer of the Public Service as Director of Government Relief.

Records of persons in receipt of charitable aid in various forms are being collected in a central bureau with the object of preventing imposition and the overlapping of services.

Government Expenditure on Charitable Relief.

The expenditure from public revenue on eleemosynary objects in New South Wales includes the expenditure from consolidated revenue on hospitals and charitable relief which covers the cost of maintenance of the State institutions, and subsidies granted to other institutions, the subvention to friendly societies and pensions to widows which are paid by the State Government. In 1930-31 and 1931-32 large sums were expended by the State from the proceeds of special taxation for the relief of unemployed persons and their dependents. Payments by the State in the form of family endowment are made also from moneys which are provided to a large extent by special taxation. Old-age and invalidity pensions and maternity allowances are paid by the Commonwealth Government.

Excluding expenditure from loans and sums allocated as advances or grants for unemployment relief works the total expenditure by State and Commonwealth on charitable relief amounted to £10,754,037 or £4 6s. per head of population in 1930-31 and to £14,440,848 or £5 14s. 7d. per head in 1931-32. A classification of the items is shown below in comparison with the expenditure in 1911-12 and 1921-22. Expenditure in connection with the medical inspection of school children is not included, nor costs of administration, except in regard to the Child Welfare Department, the mental hospitals, and the protection of aboriginals.

Head of Expenditure.	1911-12.	1921-22.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
General Hospitals and Charitable Institution	£ 130,368	£ 511,971	£ 827,973	£ 680,621	£ 736,201
Mental Hospitals... ..	212,616	537,096	717,674	644,397	605,224
Child Welfare... ..	106,557	472,268	584,933	571,729	557,234
Government Asylums for the Infirm	87,708	164,679	204,026	165,762	160,203
Aborigines' Protection	16,475	22,506	31,144	31,314	47,312
Subvention to Friendly Societies	14,000	56,796	*75,034	*23,736	113,587
Widows' Pensions ... ..	...	...	611,947	620,258	638,970
Charitable Relief, Medical Services, etc.	36,905	175,266	714,460	88,518	69,650
Food Relief and Cash Payments for unemployed ... ..	...	...	...	1,939,745	5,201,676
Family Endowment payments ...	...	...	1,261,202	1,196,484	1,805,685
Miscellaneous	2,401	22,117	*72,592	*76,523	78,714
Total, State	607,030	1,962,699	5,100,985	6,039,687	10,014,456
Old-age and Invalid Pensions ...	821,993	2,029,077	4,071,778	4,456,650	4,276,522
Maternity Allowances ... ..	...	277,065	261,675	258,300	149,870
Commonwealth	821,993	2,306,142	4,333,453	4,714,950	4,426,392
Total	1,429,023	4,268,841	9,434,438	10,754,037	14,440,848
Expenditure per head of Population—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
State	0 7 2	0 18 5	2 1 2	2 8 4	3 19 5
Commonwealth	0 9 8	1 1 8	1 15 0	1 17 8	1 15 2
Total	0 16 10	2 0 1	3 16 2	4 6 0	5 14 7

* Amended since last issue.

FOOD RELIEF FOR UNEMPLOYED PERSONS.

As a means of relieving distress arising from the widespread unemployment which has developed since 1929, a system of food relief has been organised by the Government throughout the State. Prior to its co-ordination in January, 1933, with other charitable services in the Government Relief Department, the food relief was administered by the Department of Labour and Industry in the metropolitan district, Newcastle, Maitland and Wollongong, and by the Chief Secretary's Department in other districts.

All the orders for relief were in the form of coupons on which were printed various scales of rations, and they were accepted by the traders who supplied the goods under agreement with the Government. But this arrangement is being replaced by a method by which the applicant for relief selects from a list of approved persons the suppliers from whom he wishes to obtain the food, and indicates the proportion of the total value of his food order which he wishes to be allocated to the various suppliers—grocer, butcher, baker, etc. Then orders to supply food to a specified value are issued direct to the suppliers.

The applicant for food relief is required to sign a declaration as to his income during the fortnight preceding the date of his application, and relief is not granted unless it was below a certain amount, which varies according to the size of the family to be provided for. The limit of income ranges from 20s. per fortnight in the case of a single man or woman to 60s. for a married couple and four children, and it increases by 10s. for each additional child.

The scale of limits of income and the approximate value in the metropolitan district of the food relief orders for the various family units in April, 1933, are shown below:—

Family Unit.	Limit of Income per Fortnight.	Value of Food Relief per Fortnight.	Family Unit.	Limit of Income per Fortnight.	Value of Food Relief per Fortnight.
Single man or woman ...	s. 20	s. d. 10 7½	Married couple, 4 children ...	s. 60	s. d. 42 4
Married couple ...	40	16 5½	" " 5 children ...	70	} 50 1
" " 1 child ...	40	26 5½	" " 6 children ...	80	
" " 2 or 3 children	50	35 11¼	" " 7 children ...	90	

Infants under twelve months are not included in the family unit, and special foods are provided for them upon a certificate from a nurse in charge of a baby health centre, or, where there is no centre, from a medical practitioner.

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 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, pharmacists, and optometrists are required to register with a board established for each profession under statutory authority. At the end of the year 1932 there were on the registers 3,179 medical practitioners, 1,415 dentists, 1,889 pharmacists, and 645 optometrists. There were in addition 380 dealers in poison, and 7 persons were licensed, under an Act relating to drugs, to manufacture opium and other dangerous drugs, and 56 to distribute them.

Nurses also are required to register in terms of the Nurses Registration Act, 1924, and amendments. Four classes of nurses may be registered, viz., general, mental, midwifery, and infants. In the case of midwifery nurses, registration must be renewed annually. The Registration Board may suspend nurses temporarily from practice in order to prevent the spread of infection and may pay compensation to midwifery nurses suspended for that reason. The number of registrations at 31st December, 1932, was as follows:—General nurses 6,643, midwifery 4,477, mental 821, infants 72. Information is not available as to the actual number of nurses, as many are registered under more than one classification.

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. Similar provision is made by the Country Women's Association, and both these organisations have arranged for the maintenance of cottage homes in a number of remote localities. The cottages serve as residences for the nurses and as accommodation for patients in cases of emergency.

Private Hospitals.

A private hospital may not be conducted except under license in accordance with the Private Hospitals Act of 1908, as amended by the Nurses Registration Act, 1924. The legislation 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.

At 31st December, 1931, the private hospitals numbered 661, viz., 273 in the metropolitan district and 388 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.	Private 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.
Sydney	No. 95	No. 24	No. 154	No. 273	No. 1,869	No. 446	No. 632	No. 2,947
Country	192	9	187	388	1,681	139	794	2,614
Total	287	33	341	661	3,550	585	1,426	5,561

There has been an increase of 218 in the number of private hospitals since 1911, when there were 114 in Sydney and 329 in the country. In 506 hospitals the accommodation at the end of 1931 did not exceed 10 beds, 113 had from 11 to 20 beds, and 42 hospitals had over 20 beds. The accommodation in registered private hospitals showed a decrease of 236 beds in 1930 as compared with the previous year. This was a result of a decision that private hospitals attached to institutions listed in the schedules of the Public Hospitals Act of 1929 need not be licensed under the Private Hospitals Act. Later the decision was reversed, and these hospitals were licensed again in 1931. In that year there was an increase of 213 beds.

Public Hospitals.

Institutions for the care of the sick are classed as public hospitals, unless they are owned and maintained entirely by private persons. Some are maintained wholly by the State, those in the metropolitan district being the Coast Hospital, with a branch at the Prince Edward (Military) Hospital, for medical, surgical, and infectious cases, the Lady Edeline Hospital for babies, and two convalescent hospitals. There are two State institutions in the country, viz., the Waterfall Hospital for Consumptives and the David Berry Hospital at Berry for general treatment. Some of the public hospitals are under the aegis of religious denominations, and are conducted by religious communities who own the establishments or by committees nominated by subscribers. They are open to persons of all creeds, and the majority of them receive a small subsidy from the State.

The Public Hospitals Act of 1898 and an amending Act passed in 1900 defined the procedure for the election of officers for the management of the institutions.

In 1929 this Act was replaced by a new law, which was designed with the object of a systematic organisation of the hospital services. The Hospitals Commission of five members was appointed to administer the Act. The chairman is a full-time officer, appointed for a term of five years. The other members are remunerated by fees, viz., a medical practitioner; one member representing the hospitals within the county of Cumberland, and another the hospitals outside the county; and a woman.

The public hospitals are classified in two main groups, according to the schedules of the Act. One group termed the "incorporated hospitals" consists entirely of suburban and country general hospitals incorporated by the Act. The second group, known as "separate institutions," includes the large general hospitals in or around the metropolis; the Newcastle Hospital; the hospitals for women, children, tubercular cases, convalescents, or incurables; the dental hospital; the hospitals conducted by religious organisations; and a few country hospitals.

Each incorporated hospital is managed by a board of directors elected annually by the subscribers, power being reserved to the Governor, on recommendation of the Commission, to appoint any or all the directors of a hospital or to remove them from office and place the hospital under the management of the Commission, or a person nominated by the Commission. A person who contributes, otherwise than by way of payment for relief, an amount of at least ten shillings in one sum is deemed to be a subscriber for the year in which his subscription is paid; also persons nominated by firms or associations who contributed to the funds of the hospital, the number of nominees being fixed according to the amount contributed. Persons who render meritorious service to a hospital or contribute £10 in one sum may become *life* members.

The Act defines the liability of patients to pay a reasonable sum for the cost of hospital services, and such sum is recoverable in the courts of law, though destitute persons may not be refused relief by reason only of inability to pay therefor. On the authority of the Commission portion of a hospital may be set aside for paying patients, who may contract for private or intermediate accommodation.

It is the duty of the Hospitals Commission to inspect the hospitals which receive or apply for subsidy, to report to the Government as to the amount of State aid required to meet the needs of the hospitals, to determine which hospital shall be subsidised, and the amount of subsidy to be paid to each institution. Under certain conditions the Commission may exercise special powers to close or amalgamate incorporated hospitals with a view to effective and economical administration, or to authorise the board of a hospital to provide accommodation for the treatment of infectious diseases, or convalescent or incurable cases, or to define the functions and activities of a hospital.

Moneys appropriated by Parliament for the assistance of hospitals are paid into the Hospital Fund administered by the Commission.

The receipts and expenditure of this Fund during the years 1930-31 and 1931-32 are shown below. The figures do not cover any transactions relating to State institutions so that disbursements from the Hospitals Fund represent only portion of the Government expenditure on hospitals.

Year ended June.	Receipts.				Expenditure.			
	Transfers from—		Other.	Total.	Adminis- tration.	Subsidies to Hospitals.	Grants for buildings, etc.	Total.
	Consoli- dated Revenue Fund.	Unem- ployment Relief Fund.						
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1931 ...	433,527	48,250	27,223	509,000	5,566	428,949	73,723	508,238
1932 ...	520,892	5,150	10,824	536,866	5,050	508,642	16,766	530,458

The subsidies to hospitals amounted to £428,949 in 1930-31 and to £508,642 in 1931-32. The latter sum represented proceeds of the State lotteries (see page 300) distributed to 158 institutions, viz., £284,075 to 26 metropolitan institutions, and £224,567 to 132 in the country districts. The largest subsidies to metropolitan hospitals were Sydney £62,915, Royal Prince Alfred £60,000, Royal Alexandra for Children £35,050, Royal North Shore £30,750. The Benevolent Society of New South Wales was allotted £19,850 for three institutions. St. George District Hospital received £13,500 and Balmain £10,550. Subsidies to institutions outside the metropolitan area included £24,000 to Newcastle, £23,380 to Broken Hill, £12,000 to Cessnock, and £11,252 to Kurri Kurri Hospital, and three other hospitals received amounts exceeding £5,000. The hospitals conducted by religious organisations were subsidised to the extent of £10,036, viz., £7,260 to six institutions in the metropolitan district, and £2,776 to six in the country.

Before the appointment of the Hospitals Commission statistics of public hospitals, as shown in earlier issues of the Year Book, were compiled from annual returns collected by the Government Statistician, the latest being for the calendar year 1929. Then the collection of the returns became a function of the Hospitals Commission and statistics are not yet available for any subsequent period. As the details for the year 1929 have been included in the last two issues of the Year Book, only a brief summary is

inserted in this volume, viz., the number of public hospitals (including certain State institutions) in 1929 was 166, and the number of beds was 10,441. The patients treated during the year numbered 152,155, or an average of 7,501 per day. The receipts amounted to £1,891,860, including State aid £903,078, and the expenditure was £1,849,657. At the end of the year the invested funds of the hospitals amounted to £717,591, but current accounts showed a debit balance of £299,578.

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 encephalitis lethargica, must be notified to the Board of Health. Puerperal infection was proclaimed as notifiable from 16th August, 1929. Typhus, yellow fever, and cholera were proclaimed as notifiable diseases on 12th August, 1927, in conformity with the terms of the International Sanitary Convention of 1926. Cases of bubonic plague are rare; no case has occurred since 1923. Cases of pulmonary tuberculosis previously notifiable in certain areas, were proclaimed as notifiable throughout the whole State from 1st March, 1929.

Where necessary, provision is made for the isolation of infectious cases. In the metropolis the majority are treated at the Coast Hospital, and further provision is being made by the erection of an infectious diseases hospital in the grounds of the State Hospital at Lidcombe. Country cases are accommodated in special wards of the local hospitals.

The following table shows the notifications of the various diseases in 1921 and later years. Particulars relating to the deaths and death rates are shown in the chapter relating to Vital Statistics:—

Disease.	1921.	1926.	1930.	1931.				
				Metro- politan District.	Hunter River District.	Broken Hill District.	Other Districts.	Total.
Typhoid Fever	949	698	380	86	27	109	118	340
Scarlet Fever	1,060	4,755	4,400	3,108	244	38	1,087	4,477
Diphtheria... ..	6,854	3,579	4,051	1,838	389	52	2,153	4,432
Infantile Paralysis	184	81	30	73	1	4	25	103
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	30	32	43	17	4	...	9	30
Encephalitis Lethargica	†	...	14	15	2	...	3	20
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1,240	1,265	1,917	1,151	79	33	325	1,588
Leprosy	2	1	4†	1	1	...	...	2
Bubonic Plague	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Infection	*	*	269	220	26	16	57	319
Typhus Fever ... ..	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...

*Notifiable since 13th August, 1929.

†Notifiable since 1st April, 1926.

‡ Includes one 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 1931 two persons were admitted, one person (discharged in 1925) was re-admitted, and two died. There were 20 inmates in the lazaret on 31st December, 1931, viz., 16 males and 4 females. Their birth-places were New South Wales 10, West Australia 1, Queensland 1. Four were born in China, 2 in the Pacific Islands, and 2 were Australian aboriginals. The cost of management in 1931 was £3,189, or an average of £162 14s. per inmate.

Tuberculosis.

Pulmonary tuberculosis has been notifiable throughout the State since 1st March, 1929. It has been notifiable in the Metropolitan and Newcastle districts since 1915, and in the Blue Mountains tourist district since 1916. During the year 1931 the notifications numbered 1,588, viz., 1,151 in the metropolitan sanitary district, 79 in Hunter River district, 33 in the district of Broken Hill, and 325 elsewhere.

A remarkable reduction in the mortality from tuberculosis has been effected as a result of measures for the protection of the milk and food supply, the supervision of immigration, a stricter regulation of conditions of employment, and improved methods of medical treatment. Nevertheless tuberculosis causes over 5 per cent. of the deaths in New South Wales, and while so many new cases occur in each year there is pressing necessity for further organised efforts to control the disease.

A special division of the Department of Public Health has been formed to co-ordinate measures for the cure and prevention of the disease, to regulate the admission of patients to institutions, to arrange for the after-care of those discharged, etc. There is a Board of Control with the Director-General as chairman *ex officio*, and other members to represent the British Medical Association and various institutions and societies concerned with the care of tubercular patients, and two nominees of the Minister of Public Health.

Institutions for the care of tubercular cases have been established by the Governments of the State and the Commonwealth, and others are assisted by State subsidy. As far as practicable the cases are graded for admission to the sanatoria. The Waterfall Sanatorium contains 417 beds for patients in the intermediate stages of the disease, and a branch of the Coast Hospital with 90 beds for advanced patients is located at the Prince of Wales (Repatriation) Hospital. Both these are State Government institutions. The Government of the Commonwealth controls two institutions for returned soldiers with accommodation for 142 patients. The Queen Victoria Homes at Thirlmere and Wentworth Falls, with 108 beds for patients in the early stages, and three sanatoria administered by the Red Cross Society with 103 beds, are subsidised by the State Government. There are 16 beds in the R. T. Hall Sanatorium at Hazelbrook and about 40 beds in private hospitals. 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 of the sanatoria. The number of patients under treatment during 1931 was 897, and 414 were in the hospital at the end of the year. The cost of maintenance was £31,922, equal to £78 8s. 7d. per occupied bed.

A village settlement for tubercular cases was opened at Picton Lakes in May, 1929. It was founded and is maintained by public subscription and admission is arranged by the Department of Public Health. There are 19 cottages for married patients and two hostels for single patients. The number of residents at the end of 1931 was 63, including the families of the patients.

With object of checking the spread of tuberculosis, dispensaries have been opened for diagnosis and the examination of patients and the supervision of those who are not under treatment in an institution. The first dispensary in Sydney was opened by the National Association for the Prevention and Cure of Consumption in 1912. Two dispensaries have been established in connection with metropolitan hospitals and there is one in Newcastle. Medical advice is given to patients, and nurses attached to the dispensaries or the Department of Public Health visit their homes and instruct the inmates in precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the disease.

Veneral 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 eleven metropolitan public hospitals, and free treatment is provided at 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 there is an isolation block at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

The notifications during the year 1931 numbered 4,617, of which 4,343 cases were notified in the metropolitan area, and 51 in the Newcastle district. Public hospitals and clinics notified about 50 per cent. of the cases. It is not considered, however, that notification is fully effective.

Prisoners suffering from venereal diseases are detained for treatment in lock hospitals attached to the gaols, in terms of the Prisoners Detention Acts, 1908 and 1918. Such prisoners may be detained even after the definite sentence is served, until certified by the medical officer as free from disease. During the year ended 30th June, 1930, the cases of venereal diseases treated in the gaols numbered 133, and orders for detention in the lock hospitals were obtained in the cases of 82 men and 7 women.

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 has been established.

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 ten Government mental hospitals, in addition to a hospital for criminal insane, and two 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, 1932, there were in the mental hospitals and licensed houses in New South Wales 9,326 patients—5,196 males and 4,130 females; in the South Australian hospitals there were 20 men and 12 women from this State; 251 men and 317 women were on leave from the institutions; so that the total number of persons under cognisance as being of unsound mind was 9,926, consisting of 5,467 males and 4,459 females. These figures are exclusive of voluntary patients. The number at intervals since 1901 is shown below:—

At 30th June.	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
1921	4,510	3,432	7,942	4·21	3·33	3·78
1926	4,634	3,802	8,436	3·92	3·34	3·64
1927	4,754	3,856	8,610	3·93	3·32	3·63
1928	4,897	4,037	8,934	3·96	3·40	3·68
1929	5,035	4,105	9,140	4·01	3·40	3·71
1930	5,201	4,212	9,413	4·11	3·45	3·79
1931	5,346	4,357	9,703	4·20	3·53	3·87
1932	5,467	4,459	9,926	4·26	3·58	3·92

* At 31st December.

The proportion of the population who were under official cognisance as mental patients showed a tendency to decline between 1921 and 1928, but the ratio in 1932 was higher than in the former year. 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.

The law 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 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 1931-32 the number of resident patients under treatment at the clinic was 638, and there were 138 in the institution at 30th June, 1932. At the other mental hospitals voluntary patients are treated and the total number resident at 30th June, 1932, including those at the psychiatric clinic, was 319, viz., 195 males and 124 females. Psychiatric clinics have been established also within the wards of six general hospitals in the metropolitan district and in three country towns. On the average there were 313 voluntary patients under treatment in Government hospitals during the year 1931-32 and 56 in other hospitals.

Reception houses have been established in Sydney, Newcastle, Kenmore (Goulburn), and Orange, 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 1931-32 was 1,933, and 1,202 were transferred to mental hospitals. At the State Penitentiary at Long Bay 70 persons were under observation during the year, and 19 were sent to mental institutions.

The number of admissions and re-admissions to mental hospitals in various years since 1901 are shown below:—

Year ended 30th June.	Admissions.			Re-admissions.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1901*	387	309	696	77	75	152
1911*	674	387	1,061	113	73	186
1921	711	622	1,333	115	106	221
1926	709	612	1,321	130	87	217
1927	807	620	1,427	87	56	143
1928	793	667	1,460	89	65	154
1929	769	624	1,393	136	108	244
1930	789	569	1,358	125	111	236
1931	724	600	1,324	124	120	244
1932	684	575	1,259	129	99	228

* Calendar Year.

Of the admissions and re-admissions in 1931-32, natives of New South Wales numbered 939, England 194, Ireland 52, Scotland 46, other British countries 199, foreign countries 50, and in 7 cases the nationality was unknown.

During 1931-32 the deaths numbered 586, or 6.3 per cent., and the discharges included 498 persons, or 5.4 per cent., who had recovered, and 137, or 1.5 per cent., who had been relieved.

The records of persons admitted show that, among the exciting causes of insanity, mental anxiety, intemperance in drink, epilepsy, and venereal diseases were the most prominent. Among predisposing causes the most important were old age, congenital defects, and hereditary influence.

The average weekly cost of maintaining mental patients in Government institutions during the year 1931-32 was 22s. per patient, of which the State paid 18s. 2d., the balance being derived from private contributions. The following table shows the average weekly cost per patient during the years cited:—

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
1926	562,281	22 11	4 0	26 11
1927	599,657	23 11	4 2	28 1
1928	632,622	24 4	4 6	28 10
1929	658,755	24 1	4 11	29 0
1930	671,461	23 10	5 0	28 10
1931	613,665	21 0	4 6	25 6
1932	541,957	18 2	3 10	22 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, 1932, salaries and fees amounted to £385,828, the cost of provisions, stores, etc., was £122,678; fuel, light, and water, £24,504, and miscellaneous items, £8,947. These amounts are exclusive of the value of the farm products grown and consumed at the institutions, viz., £14,704.

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 in 1921, 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.								
4 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, the Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act, 1905.

The provisions of the 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 State relief in regard to neglected and destitute children, and it contains provisions for regulating the adoption of children and their maintenance in foster homes and in institutions for protecting them from ill-treatment and neglect, for preventing their employment in dangerous occupations, and for regulating their employment in public performances and in street trading. Special courts, called Children's Courts, are maintained to deal with cases relating to children, and to adjudicate in regard to affiliation proceedings.

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 amendments.

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. A Federal law, passed in 1912, authorises the payment of an allowance to mothers, to assist in defraying the expenses incidental to childbirth.

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 Factories and to Employment.

In terms of the Widows' Pensions Act, 1925-1932, the State pays allowances to assist widows to maintain their children during years of dependency and family allowances are paid under the Family Endowment Act to mothers with limited means for the maintenance of their children.

Maternity Allowances.

The Maternity Allowances Act of the Commonwealth, which came into operation on 10th October, 1912, provided for the payment to mothers of a sum of £5 in respect of each birth occurring in Australia. The Act was amended by the Financial Emergency Acts, 1931, reducing the amount of the allowances to £4, and restricting them to cases where satisfactory evidence was produced that the income of the claimant and her husband (or in the case of a posthumous or ex-nuptial child, the income of the claimant) did not exceed £260 per annum. The amendment came into force on 20th July, 1931. The limit of income was reduced to £208 per annum in October, 1932.

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 the years stated, in comparison with the number of confinements:—

Year.	Confinements (excluding Still- births).	Maternity Allowances.	
		Claims passed for payment.	Amount.
1921	54,047	54,390	£ 271,950
1926	52,573	53,420	267,100
1927	53,268	53,790	268,950
1928	54,257	55,250	276,250
1929	52,129	53,130	263,650
1930	51,555	52,730	263,650
1931	47,220	43,650	203,596
1932	44,485	35,039	140,156

Prior to the amendment of the law in July, 1931, the number of claims passed for payment usually 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.

The maternity allowances paid in New South Wales up to the end of the year 1932 amounted, in the aggregate, to £5,161,342.

Baby Health Centres and Day Nurseries.

With the object of reducing the wastage of child life due to preventable causes 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 December, 1932, there were 98 centres, viz., 41 in the metropolitan area, 16 in the district of Newcastle, 4 in Broken Hill, and 37 in other country districts. During the year 1931 the attendances at the centres numbered 512,200, and the nurses made 85,400 visits to cases within the area served by the centres. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 413,400 attendances and 100,100 visits.

The Royal Society for the Welfare of Mothers and Children, incorporated in 1919, was established with the object of co-ordinating measures for the welfare of mothers and children. The society maintains two welfare centres in the city and conducts two training schools, where nurses may receive post-graduate training in infant hygiene and mothercraft. Associations of medical practitioners and of nurses, charitable organisations, and institutions for children are affiliated with the Society.

Six 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.

In the outlying country districts nurses engaged by the Bush Nursing Association give 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. If over 12 years of age, the child's consent to adoption 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 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.

The number of children who had been adopted in accordance with the provisions of the Act up to 31st December, 1931, was 3,819.

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 periodical contributions for their support. In cases relating to ex-nuptial children the father may be ordered, under the Child Welfare Act, to pay the expenses incidental to birth and periodical contributions for maintenance. In certain cases mothers may be required to contribute towards the support of their children.

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. Under an amendment of the law in August, 1931, the period of imprisonment has been limited to one day for every 4s. due and an offender may not be detained for a longer period than twelve months.

Legislation has been enacted to provide for reciprocity in respect of orders for maintenance between New South Wales and other parts of the British Empire.

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 1932:—

Cases.	Applications for Orders.			Non-compliance with Orders.		
	Order made.	Order refused.	Case with-drawn.	Order obeyed subse- quently.	Defend- ant im- prisoned.	Case with- drawn or dis- missed.
For maintenance—Wife ...	1,568	258	1,091	1,892	436	2,034
Child ...	951	71	242	1,554	262	1,200
For expenses incidental to birth of illegitimate child ...	779	89	97	81	17	63
Total	3,298	418	1,430	3,527	715	3,297

The mothers were the respondents in six cases in which orders were made and in three cases of non-compliance with orders.

Children under State Supervision.

The function of supervising the children under the care of the State is exercised by the Child Welfare Department under the direction of the Minister for Education.

The Government has established 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, 1931, on account of the services of the Child Welfare Department, was £549,457. Of this amount, £109,942 represented the cost of maintaining State wards, being mainly payments to guardians of children boarded out apart from their parents. Allowances to mothers towards the support of their own children amounted to £286,303. Contributions by parents and relatives and repayments of maintenance allow- ances amounted to £12,319.

The following statement shows the annual expenditure of the Depart- ment during the last six years:—

Year.	Boarding out.	Payments for Children in their own homes.	Institu- tions, Homes, Hostels, etc.	Salaries.	Miscel- laneous.	Total Expendi- ture.	Contribu- tions by Parents and other Revenue.	Net Expendi- ture.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1927 ...	105,341	259,765	45,318	71,246	44,987	526,657	18,351	508,306
1928 ...	108,672	259,884	48,623	79,281	47,166	543,626	23,720	519,906
1929 ...	109,570	259,510	42,893	93,073	48,529	553,575	22,055	531,520
1930 ...	110,570	266,326	34,428	89,234	37,276	537,834	27,790	510,044
1931 ...	109,942	286,303	35,914	88,043	29,255	549,457	16,568	532,889
1932 ...	107,059	273,278	33,136	81,377	22,924	517,774	17,227	500,547

The total expenditure increased from £94,064 in the year ended April, 1911, to £390,652 in 1920-21 and to £587,235 in 1925. A decline to £526,657 in 1926 was mainly the result of the introduction in March, 1926, of the widows' pensions, of which the cost is not included in the table. Since 1927 the main items of expenditure have increased. This was due partly to an increase in the number of children assisted, but in a greater

degree to increases in the rates of payment, owing to higher cost of living. Thus, in 1911, the average rate of payment for children boarded out apart from their parents was about 5s. 3d. per week, and for children with their mothers 3s. The weekly rate for children apart from their mothers in 1931 was 15s. if under 1 year of age, and 10s. at ages 1 to 14 years, and the rate for the majority of children living with their mothers was 10s. It was reduced to 8s. 9d. in 1932.

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 number in December, 1932, was 23,158:—

Classification.	1911.	1921.	1926.	1930.	1931.	1932.
State wards { Boarded out, etc. } { In shelters and } { industrial schools }	4,677	5,439	5,676	5,516	5,284	4,841
708			1,094	954	912	
Children boarded-out with own mothers	4,453	11,462	10,014	11,117	11,481	11,174
In licensed institutions	263	689	737	889	809	829
In foster homes... ..	559	290	505	427	382	333
Employed in theatres	216	280	894	844	867	770
On probation from Children's Courts	1,148	1,381	3,548	5,553*	4,858*	4,299*
Total	11,316	19,541	22,082	25,440	24,388	23,158

* Includes children on probation from State institutions.

These figures do not include the children who are licensed to engage in street trading under conditions which are described later.

State Wards.

The boarding-out system has been adopted in regard to State wards, and treatment in institutions is restricted to special cases. 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 children are supervised 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 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 are banked to the credit of the apprentice and one-third of the accumulated amount is paid to them on completion of apprenticeship, the balance remaining at interest till age 21 is attained. The majority of the girls are apprenticed in domestic service, and the boys to farmers, orchardists, and artisans in country districts.

The children boarded out as State wards in December, 1931, consisted of 2,879 boys and 2,405 girls, and they were distributed as follows:—Supported by the Government, 2,422 boys, 2,010 girls; adopted or boarded without subsidy, 257 boys, 269 girls; and apprenticed, 200 boys, 126 girls.

At December, 1932, there were 2,612 boys and 2,229 girls in this group; 4,163 were supported by the State, 394 were adopted or boarded without subsidy, and 284 were apprenticed.

These figures do not include the children in the State industrial schools nor those in the metropolitan shelters.

Relief of Children of Deserted Wives, etc.

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 may be granted also in respect of ex-nuptial children. Contributions were paid to 5,604 mothers for the support of 11,481 children in 1931, and to 5,559 mothers for 11,174 children in 1932.

Since March, 1926, when the payment of widows' pensions was commenced, relief has not been payable under the Child Welfare Act in respect of children whose mothers are qualified for widows' pensions, but assistance has been given in respect of the children of widows who are not eligible for such pensions, such as those qualified to receive invalid pensions which are provided by the Commonwealth Government.

The work of administering relief in this form has become a function of the new department of charitable relief (see page 258).

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 1932 was 366, and the number of children 556. Four children died during the year, 153 were discharged to their parents, and 66 were removed from State supervision for other reasons, so that 333 remained in the foster homes at the end of the year.

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 1931 there were 4,109 children in these charitable institutions, and there were 1,184 in the State institutions, such as homes for delicate children, industrial schools, and shelters. Particulars of the children in the various kinds of institutions are shown below:—

Institutions.	Metropolitan.		Country.		Total.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Lying-in Homes	22	7	9	7	31	14	45
Benevolent Asylums	3	5	5	7	8	12	20
Orphan Asylums	409	514	746	842	1,155	1,356	2,511
Neglected Children's Homes—State ...	88	347	728	21	816	368	1,184
Others	184	551	49	61	233	612	845
Institutes for Deaf, Dumb, and Blind	94	91	49	44	143	135	278
Infants' Homes	99	86	53	55	152	141	293
Other Charitable Institutions	35	70	12	...	47	70	117
Total	934	1,671	1,651	1,037	2,585	2,708	5,293

Delinquent Children.

Cases of juvenile offenders under the age of 18 years are dealt with in the Children's Courts, by magistrates with special qualifications for the treatment of delinquent children.

Leniency is an outstanding feature in the treatment of the young offenders, and a large number are released after admonition, 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 three and four months. The gross enrolment during 1931 was 154, and the average daily attendance 53.

The other State institutions for the reformation and training of delinquent children include the Farm Homes for Boys at Mittagong, Gosford, Narara, and Yanco, and the Girls' Industrial Schools at Parramatta and La Perouse. 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 boys under 14 years of age. There were 274 admissions and 263 discharges during the year 1931, the number in the home at the end of the year being 308. The Gosford and Narara institutions are for older boys, who need strict 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 296 boys were admitted during 1931, and 359 were discharged. The number at the end of the year was 235. The Yanco Home was established in 1928 when an experiment farm in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area was transferred to the Child Welfare Department for the purpose of providing training in the various branches of agriculture and rural pursuits for boys up to 18 years of age. Seventy-eight boys were admitted during 1931 and 76 were discharged, and the number at 31st December, 1931, was 160.

The Industrial Schools for Girls at Parramatta and La Perouse receive uncontrollable girls mostly between the ages of 13 and 18 years. During the year 1931 the number of girls admitted at Parramatta was 191, and 214 were discharged. The number remaining at 31st December, 1931, was 163. At the school at La Perouse 54 girls were admitted and 53 discharged, and 50 remained in the institution at the end of 1931.

Mentally-deficient Children.

Experience obtained by the medical inspection of school children indicates that about 1 per cent. require special tuition on account of mental deficiency and efforts are being made to establish a comprehensive system for their treatment. The State maintains three special schools for mentally

afflicted children. One is a residential school which was opened in 1927 at Glenfield. Four cottages and a central administrative building have been erected on a plan which will allow the construction of four additional cottages if required. In each cottage accommodation is provided for 32 children. The site occupies 110 acres in a healthy locality, 4 miles from Liverpool, and the buildings are connected with the metropolitan water supply and electricity systems.

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, singing or performing for profit, or any like occupation conducted in a public place. Boys under 12 years and girls are not allowed to engage in street trading, and the boys under 16 years must be licensed, and 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:—

Year.	Theatre Licenses issued.	Street Trading Licenses Granted to Boys.		
		Under 14 years of age.	14 to 16 years of age.	Total.
1927	809	1,562	605	2,167
1928	816	1,703	761	2,464
1929	722	1,684	759	2,443
1930	844	1,308	803	2,111
1931	867	799	790	1,589

With few exceptions the street trading licenses are issued to newspaper vendors. The licenses are issued half-yearly, therefore the number issued each year is approximately double the number of boys licensed. The number of licenses current at the end of 1931 was 673, viz., 340 held by boys under 14 and 333 boys over 14 years of age.

Medical Inspection of School Children.

A system of medical inspection of school children was organised in New South Wales in 1913. The system is controlled by the Principal Medical Officer and the inspections are conducted by a staff attached to the Department of Education, consisting of 12 medical officers, 9 dentists, 9 nurses, and 8 dental assistants.

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 was paid to each school, so that every child was examined twice during the period of compulsory school attendance, *i.e.*, between the ages of 7 and 14 years. Under existing arrangements, however, work in country districts is limited for reasons of economy to medical inspection and ocular survey by one oculist, and dental treatment by three travelling dental clinics.

In the metropolitan district children may be treated as out-door patients at hospitals, or at the school dental clinics, seven in number.

During 1931 the number of children examined was 52,340 and 19,990 were found to have defects. The most numerous defects were in respect of teeth, 13,913 cases, nose and throat 5,060 cases, vision 2,360 cases, and hearing 617 cases. In addition to these children who were submitted for a full medical examination, the health of 38,513 children, examined in former years, was reviewed during 1931, and 15,091 were found to have defects, *viz.*, teeth 9,988 cases, nose and throat 3,895 cases, eyes 2,660 cases, and ears 290 cases.

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' Colleges; lectures to senior girls in metropolitan high 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 medical inspection in 1931, exclusive of administration, was £21,593.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIETIES.

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, and a hospital for the treatment of infectious diseases is being erected in the grounds of the institution at Lidcombe.

The average number resident in the State asylums during the year 1931 was 3,595 as compared with 3,570 during the previous year. The average cost per inmate was £30 9s. 4d. In the hospitals attached to the three institutions 5,527 cases of illness were treated during 1931—males 4,384 and females, 1,143—and at the end of the year 1,519 cases remained under treatment.

The total number of inmates in the charitable institutions during the year 1931 was 38,234 persons, including 14,913 children. The discharges numbered 26,351, and the deaths 1,134. The number remaining at the end of the year was 10,749, viz., 3,571 men, 1,885 women, and 5,293 children. A classification of the institutions in which the children were resident is shown on page 275. The receipts of the charitable institutions amounted to £966,824, including the cost of State institutions and State aid to other establishments £700,241, and the expenditure amounted to £990,543.

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 1931-32 the Hospital Saturday Fund collected voluntary subscriptions and donations amounting to £18,388, and the United Charities Fund collected £4,728.

The following is a comparative statement of the receipts and expenditure of the charitable institutions and societies:—

Particulars.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1930.	1931.
Receipts—	£	£	£	£	£
State Aid	153,752	192,941	668,044	972,931	839,016
Subscriptions, Fees, etc. ...	34,906	78,786	229,547	319,839	319,731
Other	44,999	67,519	68,363	164,037	137,049
Total	233,657	339,246	965,954	1,456,827	1,295,796
Expenditure—					
Buildings and Repairs	40,247	21,063	41,771	59,421	41,611
Maintenance, Salaries, Wages ...	174,679	293,460	871,475	1,383,185	1,202,709
Other	39,008	11,142	39,371	87,450	65,780
Total	253,934	325,665	952,617	1,530,056	1,310,100

Financial aid from the State in 1931 represented 65 per cent. of the total receipts. It included moneys provided by the State in respect of Governmental charitable institutions, baby health centres, the Aborigines Protection Board, and the boarding out of children.

PROTECTION OF THE ABORIGINALS.

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 aboriginals in various localities, dwellings have been erected, and assistance in the form of food and clothing is supplied when necessary.

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. The Board controls a training home for girls at Cootamundra, and a home for boys at Kinchela, on the Macleay River. A home for young children is maintained at Bomaderry by the United Aborigines' Mission with assistance from the State.

The Aborigines Protection Board collects certain particulars of aboriginals in the State, as far as it is practicable in each year. The number recorded as at 30th June, 1932, included 913 full bloods and 8,767 half-castes, as well as a number of quadroons and octoroons. The number living in supervised camps was 3,180, of whom 368 were full bloods.

The expenditure by the Aborigines Protection Board during the year ended 30th June, 1932, amounted to £55,517; including £43,204 for general maintenance, £4,042 for the purchase of stores, £7,116 for educational purposes, and £1,155 for medical attention and other services. An amount of £2,393 was received as revenue from sales of products raised on the reserves. The net expenditure during the year was £53,124.

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 most sections of the Government services. An Act to provide a scheme of superannuation for certain employees of local governing bodies was passed in March, 1927, the cost to be borne partly by the councils and partly by the employees. The Act was proclaimed on 1st October, 1927. Several of the banking companies and other firms have made arrangements for the superannuation of employees.

Old Age and Invalid Pensions.

Old-age pensions are payable to women 60 years of age and over, and to men 65 years of age and over, with a reduction to 60 years in the case of men permanently incapacitated, the prescribed period of residence in Australia being twenty years continuously. 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.

Naturalised persons are eligible for pensions, but aliens, Asiatics (except those born in Australia and Indians born in British India), 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 who is adequately maintained by relatives, *i.e.*, father, mother, husband, wife, or children, either severally or collectively, nor if the net value of his property, exclusive of his home, exceeds £1,400, nor if his income exceeds a prescribed limit, *viz.*, £71 10s. per annum under current legislation.

An amending Act was passed in October, 1932, with the object of restricting Government expenditure on pensions. The rate of pension and the limit of income were reduced, and provision was made for the recovery from the pensioner's estate, upon death, of the amount of pension paid after the commencement of the Act, also for requiring relatives to contribute towards the support of pensioners or persons claiming pension. The charge against a pensioner's estate on his death may be deferred in certain cases, *e.g.*, until the death of the pensioner's widow or widower who is also a pensioner. Where a pensioner becomes the owner of property (not including his home) in excess of £400 in value, or £800 in the case of a married couple who are both pensioners, the amount of pension paid to him after the commencement of the Act may be charged forthwith against the property to the extent to which its value exceeds the respective limit—£400 or £800. In the realisation of property for the purpose of satisfying a charge under the Act, personal effects up to £50 and other property up to £50 are exempt.

The maximum rate of pension, as varied from time to time, is shown below. The amount of pension is subject to reduction so that the pensioner's income, together with pension, will not exceed the limit stated in the table. It is reduced also by £1 for every complete £10 of the pensioner's property in excess of £50:—

Date.	Maximum Rate of Pension Per annum.	Limit of Income (including pension) Per annum.
	£ s.	£ s.
1901, August... ..	26 0	52 0
1916, October	32 10	58 10
1920, January	39 0	65 0
1923, September	45 10	78 0
1925, October	52 0	84 10
1931, July	45 10	78 0
1932, October	39 10 to 45 10	71 10

The maximum rate of pension was fixed in October, 1932, at 15s. per week, except in cases where the pensioner is entirely dependent upon the pension, when it may be paid at the rate of 17s. 6d. per week; or where the pensioner's income (including gifts or allowances from relatives) is less than 2s. 6d. per week, when pension may be paid at a rate which with the income will not exceed 17s. 6d. per week.

If a pensioner is an inmate of a public benevolent asylum, or remains in a public hospital for over twenty-eight days, he receives an allowance instead of a full pension. The rate was fixed at 3s. per week in 1923, increased to 4s. in October, 1925, and to 5s. 6d. in October, 1928. It was

prescribed in July, 1931, that the rate may not exceed 5s. per week, the maximum was reduced to 3s. 9d. in October, 1932. If the pensioner had applied for a pension before entering the institution, the Federal Government also pays to the institution an allowance for his maintenance, but such allowance is not made in respect of a pensioner who was an inmate when he applied for a pension. The rate of these allowances was reduced from 14s. 6d. to 12s. 6d. per week in July, 1931, and to 11s. 3d. in October, 1932.

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.			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.	Max.	Average.		
Old-age Pensions.								
					s. d.	s. d.	£	s. d.
1912	4,763	13,639	16,029	29,668	10 0	9 7	734,526	8 7
1921	5,727	16,033	23,004	39,027	15 0	14 1	1,428,258	13 8
1926	9,336	20,969	28,419	49,388	20 0	19 2	2,460,718	21 3
1927	8,140	21,990	29,540	51,530	20 0	19 1	2,563,028	21 7
1928	7,696	22,899	30,376	53,275	20 0	19 1	2,645,604	21 10
1929	7,702	23,401	31,183	54,584	20 0	19 1	2,710,734	22 0
1930	10,249	25,651	32,787	58,438	20 0	19 2	2,906,176	23 4
1931	12,814	28,003	37,029	65,032	20 0	19 1	3,225,872	25 9
1932	11,625	30,093	39,769	69,867	17 6	16 6	2,996,266	23 8
Invalid Pensions.								
					s. d.	s. d.	£	s. d.
1912	1,784	2,549	2,278	4,827	10 0	9 9	121,836	1 5
1921	3,278	7,016	8,371	15,387	15 0	14 9	588,583	5 8
1926	4,453	8,896	11,297	20,193	20 0	19 7	1,033,552	8 11
1927	4,434	9,576	12,069	21,645	20 0	19 7	1,105,624	9 4
1928	4,365	9,980	12,763	22,743	20 0	19 7	1,160,146	9 7
1929	4,652	10,486	13,480	23,966	20 0	19 7	1,220,908	9 11
1930	5,220	11,361	14,379	25,740	20 0	19 7	1,308,892	10 6
1931	6,383	12,148	15,948	28,096	20 0	19 6	1,425,996	11 4
1932	6,025	13,025	16,930	29,955	17 6	17 0	1,326,988	10 6

At 30th June, 1932, the number of pensioners in public benevolent asylums in New South Wales was 1,623, and the annual liability for their pensions at the rate of 5s. or less per week was £21,099.

The old-age and the invalid pensioners in New South Wales as at 30th June, 1932, represented respectively 27.6 and 11.8 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 28.0 per 1,000 and 11.0 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, 1932, was £11,125,956, of which an amount of £10,978,633 was paid as pensions, including payments to pensioners in benevolent asylums and hospitals, and £147,323 to public benevolent asylums and hospitals for the maintenance of pensioners. In addition, the cost of administration amounted to £81,859.

The amount of pensions, etc., paid in New South Wales during 1931-32 was £4,276,522, including £39,225 to asylums and hospitals.

Widows' Pensions.

The Widows' Pensions Act, 1925, as amended, 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 (except in cases noted below) 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. If a child is an invalid or possesses special scholastic ability the age limit for the purposes of this provision of the Act is 16 years.

A widow without dependent child may be granted a pension if she is at least 50 years of age and destitute, or if on the death of her husband she is left unprovided for—the pension in the latter case being limited to the period of six months after the death of her husband.

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 was in New South Wales.

A pension may not be paid to any widow if she is receiving any other pension or allowance exceeding the amount of pension which, if 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. In terms of an amendment of the Act proclaimed on 1st February, 1933, a widow is disqualified also if she or her children, individually or collectively, own property exceeding £1,000 in value—apart from their dwelling, furniture and other personal effects.

Up to 1st February, 1933, the maximum rate of pension was £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 was ascertained by deducting from the maximum annual amount £1 for each £1 by which the net income of the widow exceeded £26 per annum, but in assessing the net income of a widow who was paying rent for her home she was allowed a deduction of the amount of the rent up to a maximum of £78 per annum. On 1st February, 1933, the rate of pension was reduced to 17s. 6d. for the widow with 8s. 9d. for each child, the limit of income was raised to £39 and the concession of rent for home was discontinued. For the purpose of assessing a widow's income it 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; and any payment for the children's maintenance or education from any estate, etc.

The widow's income is deemed to include also 50 per cent. of the earnings of children over 14 years of age residing with her, and 25 per cent. of the earnings of unmarried children not residing with her. In special circumstances, however, the whole or part of such earnings may be disregarded. 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.

Pensions are not payable for any period while the pensioner resides out of New South Wales, except during occasional absences 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 and cost in each year are shown below:—

Year ended 30th June.	Pensions current at end of year.	Pensions paid during year.	Cost of administration.
	No.	£	£
1926*	4,404	126,555	2,421
1927	5,449	553,707	7,489
1928	6,038	608,808	8,257
1929	6,328	637,551	7,827
1930	6,023	611,947	†
1931	6,661	620,258	†
1932	7,218	638,970	†

* March to June.

† Not available.

The Widows' Pensions Act was administered by the Child Welfare Department during the three years ended June, 1932, and particulars as to cost of administration during that period are not available.

War Pensions.

War pensions are granted by the Commonwealth Government upon the death or incapacitation, as the result of warlike operations, of members of the naval or military forces, and are administered by the Department of Repatriation. The pensions, with certain exceptions, were reduced in July and August, 1931, in accordance with the Financial Emergency Act, 1931.

The number of pensioners under the War Pensions Act as at 30th June, 1932, was as follows:—

Pensioners.	New South Wales.		Commonwealth.	
	Number of Pensioners.	Average Fortnightly Rate.	Number of Pensioners.	Average Fortnightly Rate.
Incapacitated Soldiers	25,330	£ s. d. 2 0 7	75,646	£ s. d. 1 17 1½
Dependents of Deceased Soldiers	9,660	} 0 13 0	{ 31,619	} 0 12 6
Dependents of Incapacitated Soldiers	53,328		{ 166,846	
Total	88,318	1 0 11	274,111	0 19 6

At 30th June, 1932, there were 88,318 war pensions current in New South Wales, and the annual liability was estimated to be £2,397,980. The actual expenditure on account of pensions in New South Wales during the year ended 30th June, 1932, was £2,552,380, the total expenditure by the Commonwealth being £7,449,180. The cost of administration was £152,281.

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, 1932, being £10,366.

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 became 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. Contributors under this scheme were authorised to exchange their rights for new rights under the Superannuation Act of 1916.

On 30th June, 1932, there were 579 officers in receipt of pensions amounting to £156,122; and pensions amounting, in the aggregate, to £1,162, were being paid in respect of twelve deceased officers who had commuted their pensions rights in terms of the Superannuation Act of 1916. In addition, 146 officers, who had been transferred to the Commonwealth Service, were receiving pensions amounting to £38,393, a portion, £10,440, being payable by the State and the balance by the Commonwealth Government.

The existing Public Service Superannuation Fund was constituted by the provisions of the Superannuation Act, 1916 and amendments, the provisions of which have been described in earlier issues 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, 1931, the number of employees contributing to the fund was 22,164, viz., 14,470 men and 7,694 women. The pensions in force in respect of contributors numbered 2,887, amounting to £236,154 annually, and 1,444 pensions were payable in respect of persons who had not contributed to the fund, the annual amount being £99,635. At 30th June, 1932, contributors numbered 21,685 of whom 14,234 were men and 7,451 were women. The pensions in force consisted of 3,153 contributing pensions for £262,685 per annum, and 1,380 non-contributory pensions for £94,035. During the year ended 30th June, 1932, the income of the fund amounted to £995,098, including contributions due by employees £326,521, and £252,751 due by employers. The expenditure amounted to £301,784 including pensions £246,707, refunds of contributions to employees £28,490, and retrenchment benefits £15,522.

The funds of the Board at 30th June, 1932, amounted to £9,771,089, including £9,477,356 invested in securities. An agreement was made between the Superannuation Board and the State Treasury for the payment of the Crown contributions in respect of employees who were over the age of 30 at the commencement of the Act by equated payments of £233,253 per annum for a period of thirty-four years from 1st July, 1925. Subsequently this arrangement was abandoned and in terms of amending legislation the Crown contributions from Consolidated Revenue as from 1st July, 1929, are to be paid as the pensions become due. Some of the corporate bodies, *e.g.*, Metropolitan and Hunter District Water and Sewerage Boards, continue to contribute on the basis provided by the original Act.

The total amount of pensions payable under the Civil Service and the Superannuation Acts as at 30th June, 1932, was £552,397, including £27,953 payable by the Commonwealth.

A pension fund for the police was established in 1899, amending legislation being passed in 1906 and 1925. 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 incapacitation, 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, 1932, the receipts of the Police Superannuation and Reward Fund amounted to £262,867, including deductions from salaries, £49,880, and special appropriation from Consolidated Revenue, £191,500. The disbursements, £263,863, included pensions, £258,353, and gratuities, £5,035.

The Railway Service Superannuation Fund was established in October, 1910. The contributions from employees are at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of wages or salary, and the railway and tramway funds provide 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, 1932, there were 46,310 contributors. The number of pensions in force was 4,050, amounting in the aggregate to £352,092 per annum. Since the inception of the fund, 6,851 pensions have been granted, and 2,543 pensioners have died; 235 officers have been re-employed, and 23 pensions have been written off the books. During the year 1931-32 the receipts of the fund amounted to £376,902, including deductions from salaries £170,997, and an amount of £171,000 from the Government Railways Fund and £28,657 from the Transport Trust. The disbursements, representing pensions, gratuities, refunds, etc., amounted to £376,854. The total subsidy from the public revenues up to 30th June, 1932, was £984,896, *viz.*, £402,650 from Consolidated Revenue, £537,389 from the Government Railways Fund, and £44,857 from the Transport Trust.

In the Superannuation Fund for the Commonwealth Public Service as at 30th June, 1932, there were 31,358 contributors, of whom approximately one-third were in the State of New South Wales.

FAMILY ALLOWANCES.

The introduction of family allowances in New South Wales in terms of the Family Endowment Act, 1927, was an outcome of the system of wage regulation which is described in the chapter relating to wages. Endowment is not restricted to the children of wage and salary earners, and it is payable in respect of all families with more than one dependent child where the income is below the limit prescribed by the Family Endowment Act and its amendments.

The maximum rate of endowment is 5s. per week in respect of each child for whom endowment is payable. The age limit is 14 years, but payments may be continued to 16 years if the child is incapacitated. Children in charitable institutions are included within the scope of the system. Illegitimate children are excluded generally, but the Commissioner of Family Endowment has discretionary power to pay endowment in respect of such children under special circumstances. Other exemptions are children of fathers who are aliens, Asiatics, or aboriginal natives of Africa, the Pacific Islands, or New Zealand, unless born in Australia; children for whom pension is payable under the Widows' Pensions Act or any other State or Federal Act except the War Pensions Act; children for whom family allowance is paid in the Commonwealth Public Service.

Where practicable, the endowment is paid to the mothers, and for them there is a residence qualification of two years in New South Wales immediately preceding the date of claim. There is a similar qualification in respect of the children except those under 2 years of age who were born in the State.

The maximum amount of endowment at the rate of 5s. per week per child is reduced where necessary so that it will not raise the family income beyond the prescribed limit. Up to December, 1929, the limit was the amount of the current living wage, based on the requirements of a man and his wife without children, and £13 per annum for each dependent child, and allowances were granted for a period of a year on the basis of the family income of the twelve months preceding the application. On the date mentioned the Industrial Commission was required to base its determinations of the living wage on the requirements of a family consisting of a man, wife and one child, and the Family Endowment Act was amended to exclude from the allowance payable to each family one of the children who would have been eligible but for the amendment, exception being made in regard to children in charitable institutions. The living wages fixed by the Industrial Commission since the introduction of family allowances were as follows: 85s. per week in June, 1927, to cover the cost of man and wife; 82s. 6d. per week in December, 1929 and 70s. per week in August, 1932, and 68s. 6d. in May, 1933, to cover the cost of man, wife and one child.

The amending Act of 1929 provides that in the case of wage-earners, except those following occupations of a seasonal character, endowment may be granted for a period of one, two, three or four quarters on the basis of the average family income for a similar period before the date of a claim. In practice, however, the frequent review of allowances proved to be expensive, and in October, 1930, it was decided that as a general rule the claims be granted for the period of one year.

The family income is defined as the combined income of the claimant, his spouse, and children under 14 years, including weekly payments as workers' compensation, and 5 per cent. per annum of real or personal property

(except their residence, and the furniture and personal effects therein), which produces less than 5 per cent. per annum. In assessing the income the following amounts are excluded, viz., sick pay and funeral benefits from any society; money received under fire insurance policy; lump sum payments as workers' compensation or superannuation or gratuity; earnings of children under 14 years; earnings of mother from casual employment; war pension for a member of the Forces or his wife or widow or his children; earnings from overtime up to £26; payments by the State in respect of a child's attendance at school; and where income is derived otherwise than from wages, the amount expended in the production of that income.

The number of claims for endowment received during the year ended 30th June, 1928, was 44,703, and the number of original claims was 13,315 in 1928-29, and 13,198 in 1929-30. Notwithstanding the elimination of one child per family the number of original claims increased to 17,734 in 1930-31. The number of claims and renewals granted in the respective years was 39,132, 38,940, 40,324, and 66,320. The number in the year 1930-31 included some claims and renewals for periods of three months. In 1931-32 the number of original claims was 16,495, and the number of original claims and renewals granted was 74,085. The number of families receiving endowment at 30th June, 1932, was 59,293 and the average fortnightly liability was £69,449.

The moneys for endowment were payable from the Family Endowment Fund until it was merged into the Consolidated Revenue Fund as from 1st July, 1932. The moneys have been obtained for the most part by a tax which employers are required to pay on amounts paid to employees in the form of wages, salaries, bonuses, commission, or remuneration for piece-work; and for each employee for whom board and lodging are provided £1 per week is added to the wages for the purpose of assessing the tax. The tax is not levied on wages paid to domestic servants otherwise than in the employer's trade or business, or to members of a family employed by a parent, nor in cases where the employer's wages bill does not exceed £3 per week, nor where the employer is a public hospital or public benevolent or charitable institution.

In respect of employees working under federal award or agreement the tax was reduced by 10 per cent. until 1st January, 1930, when such wages became exempt from tax. Other wages exempted at that date were those paid under awards, etc., which provided for allowances for children and the wages of Crown employees except those employed in connection with industrial undertakings and statutory bodies. An amendment of the Act in 1931 restored all these wages to the area of taxation as from 1st July, 1931, and provided that full tax must be paid on the amount of wages under federal awards and agreements.

The Family Endowment Act came into operation on 23rd July, 1927, and the tax was collected at the rate of 3 per cent. on the wages paid between that date and 31st October following. Then the tax was suspended because the assessments exceeded the amount required to meet the claims for endowment which had been lodged and to defray costs of administration. The tax was re-imposed on 1st April, 1929, the rate being 2 per cent. It was reduced to 1 per cent. on 1st January, 1930, and increased to 2 per cent. on 1st July, 1931. On wages paid since 1st January, 1932, the rate has been 5d. in the £, and the tax is payable by means of stamps affixed to pay sheets.

Particulars regarding the family allowances paid and the tax collected in each year are shown below.

Year ended 30th June.	Families receiving endowment at end of year.	Expenditure.			Tax collected.
		Endowment payments.	Expenses including interest on advances.	Total expenditure.	
	No.	£	£	£	£
1928	39,132	814,518	63,047	877,565	1,012,758
1929	42,000*	1,553,986	99,353	1,653,339	52,598
1930	37,000*	1,261,202	175,632	1,436,834	1,886,715
1931	38,948	1,196,484	139,475	1,335,959	† 558,555
1932	59,293	1,805,685	192,712	1,998,397	930,264

* Approximate. † Amended since last issue.

Approximately 8,000 families receiving endowment for one child were excluded from endowment in December, 1929. The expenses charged to the Family Endowment Fund during 1929-30 included £65,013 in respect of advances from the Treasury during a period of two years, a large deficiency having accumulated while the tax was suspended, viz., on wages paid between 31st October, 1927, and 1st April, 1929. The interest on advances amounted to £23,429 in 1930-31, and to £73,397 in 1931-32.

Officers of the Public Service of the Commonwealth, of whom a large number are employed in New South Wales, have received child endowment since November, 1920. The payments are at the rate of 5s. per week for each dependent child under the age of 14 years, provided that it does not bring the remuneration of the officer above £500 per annum. In effect the cost is borne by the employees in the service, because in assessing the basic wage upon which he determines their salaries and wages, the Public Service Arbitrator deducts from the rate, which otherwise would be awarded, a sum to cover the cost of endowment.

Employees of banks in New South Wales also receive child endowment in terms of an award for bank officers made originally by the Industrial Commission of New South Wales in June, 1927. The banks are required to pay allowances to officers covered by the award, at the rate of £29 per annum for each child under the age of 14 years, or, if at school, under the age of 16 years, provided that the amount of these allowances, together with salary, apart from other allowances, does not exceed £750 per annum. This provision of the award has been modified in the case of some of the institutions by agreement between the parties.

THRIFT.

Evidence that thrift is practised extensively in New South Wales is found in the strong position of friendly societies—both in membership and finances; in the large number of savings bank accounts and of life assurances; and in the growth of Starr-Bowkett building societies and co-operative trading societies. For particulars of the savings banks, and other financial institutions, reference should be made to the chapter of this volume relating to private finance.

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.

The benefits assured 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 sickness benefit in the largest societies is 21s. per week during the first six months of illness. Then the rate of benefit is reduced at six-monthly intervals, so that it is 15s. for the second period of six months, 5s. or 10s. for the third period, 5s. for the fourth period, and a rate of 2s. 6d. per week is paid during the remainder of illness, that is, after the first two years.

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, 1931, there were 52 societies, including 20 miscellaneous; 16 possessed branches, and 36, including one with a juvenile branch, were classed as Single Societies.

The following summary shows the branches, membership, and funds as at 30th June, 1931:—

Classification.	Branches.	Members.	Funds.
Friendly Societies Proper—	No.	No.	£
Affiliated	2,531	239,603	3,966,605
Single	17	2,741	52,635
	2,548	242,344	4,019,240
Miscellaneous Societies	20	...	79,371
Total	2,568	242,344	4,098,611

In 1899, when societies were first subjected to supervision by the Registrar, 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. There was an increase in each year after the termination of the war until 1930-31, when there was a decrease of 9,742, or 3.86 per cent.

The membership at intervals since 1899 is shown in the following table:—

At 30th June.	Aggregate Membership.		At 30th June.	Aggregate Membership.	
	Members.	Percentage of Population.		Members.	Percentage of Population.
1899*	78,245	5.9	1927	238,527	10.0
1901*	89,684	6.5	1928	242,199	10.0
1911*	164,910	9.7	1929	247,730	10.0
1921	199,688	9.5	1930	252,086	10.1
1926	234,699	10.1	1931	242,344	9.7

* At 31st December.

The number of members entitled to benefits at 30th June, 1931, was 209,467, and 32,877 were ineligible 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, 1931, included 196,228 men, 21,686 women, and 24,430 juveniles. As compared with the membership at 30th June, 1930, there were decreases of 8,835 men, 757 women, and 150 juveniles; the total decrease being 9,742.

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, 1931, twenty miscellaneous societies registered under the Friendly Societies Act. These organisations were medical institutions or dispensaries for the supply of medicine to those members of contributing branches of the ordinary friendly societies whose names have been placed on their lists. In some cases the miscellaneous societies arrange for medical attendance for such members.

The receipts of the dispensaries during the twelve months ended 30th June, 1931, were £57,519, and the expenditure was £54,498, so that there was an excess of receipts amounting to £3,021. Many of these bodies have received liberal grants from the Government, and with this assistance have purchased land and erected buildings. In some cases funds were raised by the issue of interest-bearing debentures to component societies. In addition to paying interest, most of the dispensaries have made substantial reductions in the principal. The funds at 30th June, 1931, amounted to £79,371.

State Subvention of 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 for the purpose of enabling them to pay sickness benefits for extended periods, and to relieve aged members of the necessity of paying contributions:—

(1) In respect of male members under 65 years of age and female members under 60 years of age, half the cost of sickness pay in respect of continuous sickness after twelve months—up to a maximum of 5s. per week in each case;

(2) In respect of members over the ages stated—the whole cost of sickness pay up to a maximum of 5s. per week in each case; and an amount equal to contributions payable for medicine and medical attendance, and for funeral donations not exceeding £50.

The total amount of subventions paid in respect of claims for the period of twenty-two and a-half years from the introduction of the system to 30th June, 1930, was £843,485.

The following is a summary of the claims in respect of each of the last five years of the period ended 30th June, 1930. The amounts relate to the year for which subventions were claimed, and for this reason they differ from the amounts actually paid to the societies in each year, as shown in an earlier table:—

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.	
1926	26	1,565	8,368	3,576	23,589	11,604	20,654	12,283	6,469	59,080
1927	25	1,603	8,526	3,847	25,508	12,359	21,959	13,099	6,730	62,723
1928	25	1,732	9,155	4,027	26,709	13,321	24,106	13,866	7,336	67,806
1929	26	1,933	10,167	4,207	28,675	14,019	25,085	14,720	7,836	71,763
1930	26	2,130	11,164	4,635	31,042	14,901	26,920	15,765	8,307	77,433

The amount of subvention increased steadily until the payments in respect of the year 1929-30 reached the sum of £77,433. Then the Government decided, in view of adverse financial conditions, to limit the subvention to a fixed sum—£50,000—per annum, and the law was amended to provide for its distribution amongst the societies on the basis of aged membership. Subsequently this arrangement was altered and in terms of the Friendly Societies (Amendment) Act, 1932, provision has been made for the payment of subvention in respect of the years ended June, 1931, and 1932, on the same basis as for earlier years, less a deduction of 20 per cent.

For subvention after 30th June, 1932 a new basis has been formulated so that it will be the amount of contributions for sickness, funeral and medical benefits in respect of the following persons:—(a) those who were members at 30th June, 1932, and at the date of application for subvention had been members for a continuous period of 15 years, and (b) widows or widowed mothers of deceased members who were members at 30th June, 1932, and who had been members for 15 years continuously (c) widows and widowed mothers in respect of whom subvention was being paid at 30th June, 1932. Subvention will be payable no longer in respect of sickness pay as under the former arrangement.

A certain proportion of each year's subvention in respect of contributions for medical attendance and medicine may be advanced to the societies at quarterly intervals. The first advance is to be paid in September, 1933.

COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT AND SETTLEMENT SOCIETIES.

The Co-operation Act, 1923-32, 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 December, 1932, twenty-three community advancement societies had been registered under the Act. Four have been dissolved and three are in liquidation. Most of these societies were formed for the object of erecting and maintaining public halls or for establishing recreation or social clubs. Three community settlement societies have been registered, and one is in liquidation.

HOUSING.

A classification of the occupied dwellings in New South Wales, as disclosed by the Census of 1921, according to the nature of the dwelling, the number of rooms and materials used appears in the 1928-29 issue of this Year Book.

Construction of Dwellings.

The Local Government Act confers extensive powers on municipal and shire councils for supervising and regulating the construction of buildings, and for 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.

A Board of Architects has been established, in terms of the Architects Act, 1921, for the purpose of regulating the practice of architecture. 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, 1933, there were 592 registered architects.

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 extensive building operations were undertaken by private enterprise during the decennium 1920-29, and the City Council resumed and remodelled many insanitary and congested areas. Then the construction of the City electric railway and the Sydney Harbour Bridge led to the rebuilding of many city properties.

During 1929 the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage, and Drainage Board assessed 151 new buildings erected at a cost of £4,390,657 in the city, and additions, which cost £554,415, to buildings already assessed. In the following year there was a rapid decline and the cost of new buildings and additions was only £542,551. In 1932 the cost rose to £1,073,622.

The following statement shows the number of new buildings assessed by the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage, and Drainage Board in the metropolitan

area—including Auburn, Bankstown, Granville, Lidcombe, and Parramatta—in each year since 1922. The cost of the new buildings assessed and of additions to existing buildings is shown also.

Year.	City of Sydney.		Suburbs.*		Metropolitan Area.*	
	Number of new buildings.	Cost of new buildings and of additions to old buildings.	Number of new buildings.	Cost of new buildings and of additions to old buildings.	Number of new buildings.	Cost of new buildings and of additions to old buildings.
		£		£		£
1922	153	1,593,684	7,852	7,663,659	8,005	9,257,343
1923	277	1,634,081	9,080	7,826,744	9,357	9,460,825
1924	402	3,501,809	10,454	9,835,324	10,856	13,337,133
1925	263	2,593,452	9,408	8,180,965	9,671	10,774,417
1926	168	2,621,780	9,596	9,677,187	9,764	12,298,967
1927	214	2,795,277	9,490	10,598,945	9,704	13,394,222
1928	324	3,630,037	10,216	11,496,270	10,540	15,126,307
1929	151	4,945,072	8,490	10,393,236	8,641	15,338,308
1930	231	2,865,204	4,691	5,616,313	4,922	8,481,517
1931	126	542,551	1,203	1,068,129	1,329	1,610,680
1932	74	1,073,622	1,069	686,541	1,143	1,754,163

* Including Auburn, Bankstown, Granville, Lidcombe, and Parramatta.

The figures in the foregoing table show that there had been remarkable activity in the erection of buildings in the suburbs as well as in the city up to the year 1929. The cost of buildings assessed in the metropolitan area rose from £9,500,000 in 1923 to £13,300,000 in 1924, then after a temporary contraction increased further until it exceeded £15,000,000 in 1928 and 1929. From this high level there was a decline to £8,500,000 in 1930, and to £1,600,000 in 1931. A further decline in the suburban area in 1932 was offset by an increase in respect of the city proper.

Assessments by the Water, Sewerage, and Drainage Board are made when a building or a section of it is practically completed. Another aspect of the building operations is obtainable from records of the Local Government authorities concerning permits which must be obtained from the councils before construction is commenced. Particulars relating to the permits issued for new buildings and for additions, and alterations in the metropolitan area (except the city of Sydney, for which they are not available) are shown below; also the number and estimated cost in relation to new buildings in country municipalities.

Year.	Metropolitan Area* (except City of Sydney).				Country Municipalities.*	
	Permits for new buildings.		Permits for additions and alterations.		Permits for new buildings.	
	Number	Estimated Cost.	Number.	Estimated Cost.	Number.	Estimated Cost.
		£		£		£
1922	9,317	7,689,727	5,233	779,223	3,757	2,161,649
1923	11,931	9,752,670	5,109	832,352	4,020	3,028,494
1924	10,857	8,374,021	6,132	931,839	5,024	3,161,594
1925	11,919	8,950,844	5,863	840,620	6,092	3,495,815
1926	11,859	9,339,118	6,708	1,091,051	6,463	3,633,641
1927	10,582	10,905,988	10,270	1,510,452	4,772	3,579,569
1928	10,177	10,781,502	10,513	1,691,121	4,329	3,378,297
1929	8,134	9,070,006	10,512	1,728,050	4,375	3,775,862
1930	2,129	2,356,053	6,912	699,290	1,945	1,495,793
1931	472	454,971	4,106	347,658	904	458,871
1932	676	657,637	4,332	440,233	1,126	593,665

* Auburn, Bankstown, Granville, Lidcombe, and Parramatta included in Metropolitan Area.

These figures show that the decline in building projects in 1930 was greater than is indicated by the particulars of assessments shown in the table on page 294. The estimated cost of new buildings for which permits were issued by suburban councils in 1930 showed a decrease of 74 per cent., as compared with 1929, and a further decrease of 81 per cent. in 1931. There was a substantial increase in 1932, though the cost, as estimated, was only 7 per cent. of the corresponding figure for the year 1929.

The particulars regarding permits for new suburban buildings in 1926 and earlier years probably include a number for the erection of garages as annexes to existing premises, which have since been classified as additions.

Information has been collected regarding the classes of new buildings for which permits were granted in suburban and country municipalities during the last two years. In these areas the majority of the permits relate to dwellings to be built of brick or concrete in the suburbs or of fibro-cement or weatherboard in the country districts. Complete details are not obtainable as to the estimated cost in the city of Sydney.

Classification.	City of Sydney.	1931.				City of Sydney.	1932.			
		Suburban Municipalities.		Country Municipalities.			Suburban Municipalities.		Country Municipalities.	
		No.	Estimated Cost.	No.	Estimated Cost.		No.	Estimated Cost.	No.	Estimated Cost.
			£		£		£		£	
Dwellings of Brick, Concrete, etc.	1	232	244,899	118	89,368	1	321	326,953	170	142,967
Dwellings of Fibro cement or weatherboard ....	...	106	36,780	580	223,550	...	127	41,046	708	258,952
Flats ....	...	5	8,025	...	...	...	15	39,820	4	2,805
Shops with dwellings	1	23	21,710	25	22,510	...	39	43,035	32	28,138
Shops (only)	5	25	15,247	45	22,174	2	64	33,131	80	47,992
Factories ....	...	17	35,980	14	22,995	2	33	27,127	32	47,684
Garages, public	3	8	4,300	13	3,200	2	8	5,080	14	1,985
Other	10	56	88,030	109	75,073	4	69	141,445	86	64,042
Total ...	20	472	454,971	904	458,871	12	676	657,637	1,126	593,665

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 the estimated cost exceeded £25,000 in any of these years, and the other municipalities are grouped:—

Country Municipalities.	Estimated Population 31st Dec., 1931.	1930.		1931.		1932.	
		No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
			£		£		£
Dundas ...	5,630	39	34,343	6	6,540	12	8,957
Holroyd ...	14,990	85	48,063	29	11,530	31	10,525
Lismore ...	10,510	60	113,031	37	39,176	59	79,157
Newcastle and suburbs ...	103,700	229	176,304	79	51,464	65	47,624
Illawarra Central ...	6,940	51	25,821	16	4,061	20	8,470
Wollongong ...	10,860	72	72,908	6	12,380	18	9,638
Cowra ...	4,580	23	27,537	6	2,710	7	4,040
Katoomba ...	9,580	26	29,528	16	6,626	10	9,995
Orange ...	8,640	28	27,149	8	8,560	8	4,225
Tamworth ...	7,790	63	52,863	12	7,860	18	8,031
Albury ...	9,770	38	30,799	5	4,163	21	11,535
Broken Hill ...	22,950	28	111,082	13	2,476	16	4,217
Other Municipalities ...	326,610	1,203	746,365	671	301,325	841	387,251
Total ...	542,490	1,945	1,495,793	904	458,871	1,126	593,665

ASSISTANCE TO HOME BUILDERS.

Active measures for assisting the people to acquire homes have been taken in New South Wales by both State and Federal Governments. Assistance is given by erecting dwellings to be sold on the rent purchase system or by advances to defray the cost of erection or purchase, repayments being extended over a period of years.

In 1912 when there was a shortage of small dwelling-houses in Sydney, the Government undertook the construction of a model suburb, which was named Daceyville. The Housing Act was passed to make provision for the appointment of a Housing Board, and for the purchase and subdivision of land, and the erection of residences. In 1919 the Housing Board was authorised also to assist persons owning land to erect dwellings thereon, and to make advances for the purchase of dwellings already erected.

In 1924 arrangements were made to dissolve the Board, and its powers were vested in the Minister for Local Government.

During the period of its administration the Housing Board erected 818 dwellings and made advances in respect of 516 properties. Upon the dissolution of the Board 966 accounts, representing advances made by the Board, were transferred to the Commissioners of the Savings Bank for liquidation. The number of loans outstanding was 842 and the amount £486,210 at 30th June, 1932.

In addition to the areas acquired 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 expenditure to 30th June, 1932, amounted to £935,692.

The Municipal Council of the City of Sydney controls four blocks of workmen's dwellings. The Strickland Buildings were opened in April, 1914. They consist of 8 shops and 70 self-contained flats of two, four, or six rooms. The rents range from 11s. 7d. to 26s. 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 20s. 2d. to 22s. 6d. per week. The Pyrmont dwellings were opened on 2nd November, 1925. They contain 41 flats of four or five rooms, and the weekly rentals range from 14s. 9d. to 17s. 6d. The Alexandria dwellings, opened on 17th October, 1927, consist of 22 dwellings and a shop. The rental is 20s. per week. The total cost, including the land, was—Strickland £49,814; Dowling-street, £23,357; and Pyrmont, £33,000; and the cost of the erection of the Alexandria dwellings was £26,156.

ADVANCES FOR HOMES—SAVINGS BANK FUNDS.

The use of the funds of the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales for the purpose of making advances to home-builders was authorised by the Government Savings Bank Amendment Act of 1913.

In 1927 the Federal Parliament passed legislation by which the Commissioners of the Commonwealth Savings Bank of Australia were authorised to advance moneys to federal, territorial, State, or municipal authorities to be used under certain conditions for the purpose of housing schemes. This legislation was proclaimed on 9th June, 1928, and in November following an Act was passed by the Parliament of New South Wales to enable the Commissioners of the State Savings Bank to obtain

funds thus provided in terms of the Commonwealth Housing Act. At the same time the Bank was authorised to use its own funds for the erection of dwellings, and its existing scheme of advances for homes was amended.

Thus there are three housing schemes under the administration of the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales, viz., (1) Advances for homes under the Act of 1913; (2) the erection of dwellings by the Commissioners in terms of the Act of 1928; (3) advances from funds obtained from the Commonwealth Savings Bank. An explanation of these schemes appears in the 1928-29 issue of this Year Book.

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. For current loans at higher interest, the rate was reduced to 6½ per cent. from 1st July, 1925, and to 6¼ per cent. from 1st July, 1928.

The current rates of interest were reduced further, as from 1st October, 1931, in terms of the Interest Reduction Act passed by the State Parliament. The Act prescribed a general reduction of 4s. 6d. in every pound of interest, with a proviso that the rate of interest should not be reduced below 5¾ per cent. in the case of the advances from funds made available by the Commonwealth Savings Bank, or below 5 per cent. on the other advances for homes. As a result of this Act the average rate of interest on the advances was reduced to 5.075 per cent.

The advances during the years stated were as follow:—

Year ended 30th June.	Advances made.		Year ended 30th June.	Advances made.	
	No.	Amount.		No.	Amount.
		£			£
1915	575	221,900	1928	3,019	1,794,435
1921	2,489	1,282,360	1929	2,628	1,690,803
1925	2,673	1,531,775	1930	2,889	2,177,759
1926	2,724	1,619,650	1931	216	220,928
1927	2,578	1,519,610	1932	8	8,195

The loans outstanding at 30th June, 1932, numbered, £23,522 for an aggregate amount of £12,355,402, viz, 22,088 loans for the building or purchase of homes or the discharge of mortgages £11,175,535; 370 loans in respect of homes erected by the bank, £290,662; and 1,064 loans from funds made available by the Commissioners of the Commonwealth Savings Bank, £889,205.

War Service Homes.

The Commonwealth Government assists Australian sailors and soldiers and their female dependents to acquire homes, the operations being conducted under the Commonwealth War Service Homes Act, 1918-32.

A summary of the activities of the Commission charged with the administration of the Act in New South Wales up to 30th June, 1932, shows that the Commission had decided to grant 13,661 applications for homes. The number of homes provided at that date was 12,079, viz., 6,572 by the construction of new houses, 4,246 by the purchase of existing dwellings, and 1,261 by the discharge of mortgages.

The sums paid as instalments of principal and interest to 30th June, 1932, amounted to £5,001,489, and arrears of instalments amounted to £250,015.

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. All the towns of importance possess extensive parks and recreation reserves.

The city of Sydney contains within its boundaries 614 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, 474 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 over 11,500 acres of public parks and reserves in suburban municipalities. This figure representing nearly 7½ 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 57 acres. In their preparation the natural formation has been retained as far as practicable, with the object of displaying the animals in natural surroundings. An aquarium has been built within the gardens.

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 townfolk 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 area reserved for parks and recreation reserves, excluding alienated lands acquired by local councils or donated by private persons, was 314,089 acres at 30th June, 1932, and the area of permanent commons was about 39,000 acres, and 357,494 acres were reserved temporarily as commons.

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 30th June, 1932, there were 2,445 buildings to which the provisions of the Act applied, and they contained seating accommodation for approximately 1,107,300 persons. The total amount of fees received for licenses during 1931-32 was £4,582.

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. Racecourses must be licensed.

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 1932 the licensed racecourses numbered 295, and the licenses issued in respect thereof numbered 351. The maximum number of days on which it was permissible to hold race meetings in the metropolitan district during 1932 was 196, viz., horse racing 64 on six racecourses, pony racing 72 on four racecourses, trotting 60 on three racecourses. An Act was passed in December, 1932, to reduce the number of racing days, and the maximum number on metropolitan racecourses in any year was fixed at 57 for horse racing, 54 for pony racing, and 40 for trotting contests—the licenses for trotting being restricted to two racecourses.

In the district of Newcastle the maximum number of days for horse racing was 90 per annum, of which 60 were for horse racing on six racecourses. Under recent economic conditions meetings for horse races have been held on only one racecourse for which the limit was 15 days per annum. The amending Act provides that additional days up to 10 per annum may be allotted to this racecourse while the right to hold meetings on the other racecourses is not fully exercised.

In November, 1931, a law was passed for the regulation of greyhound racing on racecourses specially licensed therefor. Not more than two racecourses may be licensed in the metropolitan district, and not more than one in any town outside the metropolitan area. Meetings may not be held on a licensed racecourse on more than fifty-two days in a year.

Betting or wagering is prohibited in connection with any sports except horse, pony, trotting and greyhound races on licensed racecourses, and coursing on grounds approved by the Chief Secretary, and betting or wagering is illegal after sunset on licensed racecourses or coursing grounds except at greyhound races. 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 stamp duty in respect of betting, bookmakers are required to use stamped tickets and to keep a record of credit bets. During the year ended 30th June, 1932, the number of betting tickets issued to bookmakers was 9,872,000, and approximately 230,000 credit bets were recorded. The investments on totalisators during the same period amounted to £1,409,150.

As from 20th December, 1930, a tax was imposed on winning bets. The rate was 1s. for each 10s. of the bets, including the amounts wagered by the backer. In November, 1931, the sum wagered by the backer was excluded from the tax. On 1st October, 1932, the tax was abolished and replaced by a tax of 1 per cent. on the bookmaker's turnover, i.e., the total amount of bets made by backers with bookmakers. The Winning Bets Tax collections from 20th December, 1930, to 30th June, 1931, amounted to £227,650, to £204,098 during the year 1931-32, and to £27,521 in the remaining period for which it was levied.

Particulars relating to taxes in connection with racing are shown in the chapter relating to Public Finance.

State Lotteries.

State lotteries are conducted in New South Wales, in terms of the State Lotteries Act, 1930, which was brought into operation by proclamation on 22nd June, 1931. The administration of the Act is entrusted to a director, and the lotteries are conducted on the cash-prize system. From the proceeds of the sale of tickets in each lottery a sum is apportioned for prizes and the balance is payable to consolidated revenue. The first lottery was drawn on 20th August, 1931.

At 30th June, 1932, sixty-seven lotteries had been filled and sixty-five had been drawn. The proceeds of sale of tickets amounted to £2,095,678 of which £48,181 were in respect of incomplete lotteries. Prizes amounted to £1,280,394; administrative expenses and preliminary charges, such as office equipment, alterations to buildings, to £69,064. The net surplus was £698,039.

TAXATION OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS.

Commonwealth Tax.

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 which did not exceed 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.

Particulars of taxable entertainments held in New South Wales and the Federal Capital Territory during the years 1927-28 to 1931-32, as recorded for the purposes of the Commonwealth Entertainments Tax, are shown below:—

Year ended June.	Racing.	Theatres.	Picture Shows.	Dancing and Skating.	Other.	Total.
Taxable Admissions (Commonwealth Tax).						
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1928	2,138,351	2,790,088	1,326,930	450,548	744,637	7,450,554
1929	1,788,829	2,460,148	1,776,272	475,988	928,792	7,430,029
1930	1,660,068	1,090,756	2,744,924	419,868	632,244	6,547,860
1931	1,170,913	468,205	1,709,939	267,432	319,823	3,936,312
1932	883,941	528,381	917,067	131,709	256,623	2,717,721
Commonwealth Tax Collections.						
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1928	57,302	60,402	18,364	8,634	12,403	157,105
1929	48,499	58,686	27,104	9,107	15,581	158,977
1930	46,263	24,761	42,556	8,104	10,708	132,392
1931	33,055	9,120	24,466	4,654	5,302	76,597
1932	22,890	10,597	12,574	2,148	4,069	52,278

In 1929-30 there was an increase of 55 per cent. in taxable admissions to picture shows, as a result of the introduction of sound equipment, and there was a decrease in respect of nearly all other classes of entertainments taxable by the Commonwealth, especially the theatres where it amounted to 56 per cent. The decline in the total number of taxable admissions was 12 per cent in 1929-30 and 40 per cent. in the following year. The decrease has been due partly to a general decline in admissions, partly to reductions in charges to amounts below the minimum subject to tax, and partly to a change in patronage from dearer to cheaper admissions.

In the three years ended June, 1930, admissions to theatres were the source of a greater proportion of the Commonwealth tax than any other class of entertainments. In later years the largest proportions were collected from racing and picture shows. The bulk of the tax in respect of racing is collected on annual subscriptions paid by members of racing clubs.

The total amount of tax collected in the Commonwealth amounted to £316,000 in 1929-30, then it declined to £186,700 in 1930-31, and to £133,600 in the following year.

State Entertainments Tax.

The State Government imposed a tax on entertainments as from 1st January, 1930. Admissions are taxable if payments exceed 1s. 6d., at the following rates:—Over 1s. 6d. and under 2s., tax $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 2s. and over, tax 1d., and $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for each additional 6d. The State Taxation Act is similar to the federal law except in regard to certain exemptions and the taxation of admissions for which the charge is between 1s. 6d. and 2s. 6d. By agreement between Governments the Federal Taxation Commissioner collects the State tax.

The amount of tax collected during the six months January to June, 1930, was £54,748, and in the following year £78,436. In 1931-32 the amount was £55,173. These sums do not include taxes on admissions to race-courses in the metropolitan district and Newcastle, which the State has taxed since 1st October, 1920, at rates shown on a later page, the amount collected being £129,320 in 1929-30 and £86,579 in 1930-31, and £76,992 in 1931-32.

A classification of admissions taxable under the State Entertainments Tax Act during the calendar years 1930 and 1931 is shown below:—

Calendar Year.	Racing.	Theatres.	Picture Shows.	Dancing and Skating.	Other.	Total.
Taxable Admissions (State Tax).						
	No	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1930	275,231	1,263,601	11,388,188	920,513	975,903	14,823,436
1931	173,830	1,027,900	7,931,410	816,623	748,563	10,698,326
State Tax Collections.						
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1930	7,750	14,071	62,185	6,804	7,378	98,188
1931	4,244	9,687	38,584	4,528	4,490	61,533

The number of admissions taxable under the State Entertainments Tax Act declined by 28 per cent. in 1931, and the collections by 37 per cent. Admissions to picture shows bear the greatest proportion of the tax. Collections on racecourse admissions relate to racing in the less populous parts of the State and represent only a small proportion of this tax, but the special tax levied under the Racecourses Admission Act in each year exceeds the total collections under the Entertainments Tax Act.

Further analysis of the collections during 1930 and 1931 shows that taxable admissions at charges which exceeded 1s. 6d. but were less than 2s. (excluding tax), increased by 40 per cent. during 1931, while those at higher charges decreased. Admissions at 2s. outnumber the taxable admissions at any other price, notwithstanding the recent decline in this group.

Year.	Charges for Taxable Admissions (State Tax)						Total.
	Over 1s. 6d. and under 2s.	2s.	Over 2s. to 2s. 6d.	Over 2s. 6d. to 3s.	Over 3s. to 5s.	Over 5s.	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1930	1,880,393	6,503,612	2,824,802	1,859,098	1,216,115	539,416	14,823,436
1931	2,624,891	3,843,334	2,216,238	1,036,982	717,160	259,721	10,698,326

REGULATION OF LIQUOR TRADE.

The sale of intoxicating liquor is subject to regulation by the State Government in terms of 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 large quantities.

The authority given by each of these licenses and the conditions attached thereto are described in the 1928-29 issue of this Year Book.

The Licenses Reduction Board, appointed under the Act of 1919, may reduce the number of publicans' licenses in any electorate where the existing licenses exceed the "statutory number," prescribed by the Act, which is proportionate to the number of electors. For the purposes of the liquor licensing laws, the electorates are those which existed before they were rearranged in 1927 on the basis of single-member districts.

When deprived of their hotel licenses the holders, owners, lessees, etc., of the premises are entitled to compensation, as assessed by the Board, payable from a fund obtained by levies on the licensees. In the case of wine licenses, only the licensees are entitled to compensation.

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 publicans' 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, viz., Byron and Oxley, that the number of licenses was no longer in excess of the statutory number. A decrease in population placed the Balmain electorate within the jurisdiction of the Licenses Reduction Board in 1925, and for a similar reason the Oxley electorate was restored to its jurisdiction in 1926.

During the period from 1st January, 1920, to 31st December, 1932, the Board deprived 291 hotels of licenses and accepted the surrender of 152 licenses. Seventy-six of the hotels were situated in the Sydney electoral district, 26 in the district of Newcastle, and 341 in other country districts. The compensation awarded in respect of 430 publicans' licenses amounted to £737,612, distributed as follows:—Licensees, £256,037; owners, £468,950; lessees, £12,225; and sub-lessees, £400. Compensation has not yet been determined in the case of thirteen hotels. The compensation fees collected by the Board up to 31st December, 1926, when contributions ceased, amounted to approximately £1,500,000.

In addition to the hotel licenses terminated or ordered to close by the action of the Licenses Reduction Board, 69 licenses were terminated during the period by reason of expiration, cancellation, surrender to the Licensing Court, etc. One of these licenses was restored and 60 new licenses were granted.

The number of hotels was reduced by 32 during the year 1932 as a result of the surrender of 33 licenses, while only one new license was granted. The number in existence at 31st December, 1932, was 2,088, of which 537 were in the Metropolitan licensing district, 62 in the Parramatta district, 115 in Newcastle, 58 in Maitland, and 49 in Broken Hill district.

The Licenses Reduction Board may reduce the number of Australian wine licenses in any electorate by one-fourth of the number in force on 1st January, 1923, and may make a greater reduction where considered necessary in the public interest.

On 1st January, 1923, there were 441 Australian wine licenses, of which 220 were in the metropolitan electoral districts. Between that date and 31st December, 1932, the Board deprived 65 licensees of wine licenses, and accepted the surrender of 10 licenses. Compensation in respect of 74 licenses amounted to £63,650. Compensation was not claimed in respect of one license.

Twelve wine licenses terminated by reason of expiration, cancellation, etc. One of these licenses was restored and three new licenses have been granted since 1st January, 1923. The number in existence at 31st December, 1932, was 358, of which 160 were in the metropolitan licensing district.

The number of licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquor issued during various years since 1901 is shown below:—

Licenses.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1930.	1931.	1932.
Publicans'	3,151	2,775	2,488	2,147	2,134	2,122
Additional Bar ... ..	...	118	153	257	263	273
Permits to Supply Liquor with Meals—(6 p.m. to 9 p.m.) ... ..	...	...	...	148	118	148
Club ... ..	...	76	78	80	83	83
Railway Refreshment—						
General Liquor	22	24	29	37	59	41
Wine	*	*	*	19	14	12
Booth or Stand	1,787	1,829	2,337	2,618	2,054	2,149
Packet	20	24	13	6	6	5
Australian Wine, Cider, Perry... ..	675	532	450	362	360	359
Spirit Merchants'	225	198	244	262	241	230
Brewers'	53	39	17	7	6	5

* Not available.

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 publicans' licenses the annual fees are assessed by the Licenses Reduction Board at the rate of 5 per cent. of the amount spent by the licensees in the purchase of liquor during the preceding calendar year. For renewals of packet, wine, club and spirit merchants' licenses the rate is 2 per cent., 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. The owner of the premises is liable for two-fifths of the license fee, but if his share exceeds one-third of the rent he may obtain a refund of part or the whole of the excess as determined by the Board.

The fees for licenses in respect of railway refreshment rooms are assessed at the same rate as those for publicans' licenses, but the Railway Commissioners do not pay the fees assessed for those refreshment rooms for which Australian wine licenses only are issued.

The amount expended by licensees in the purchase of liquor which was the basis of the fees for the renewal of various classes of licenses during the years 1928 to 1932 are shown below. The licenses, except booth and stand licenses, must be renewed on 1st July of each year, and the figures regarding purchases relate to the calendar year preceding assessment.

Licenses.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
	£	£	£	£	£
Purchases by licensees (preceding year)	10,121,293	10,241,783	10,410,456	7,717,587	6,169,173
Fees assessed on purchases—					
Publicans'	448,414	454,752	462,858	388,246	268,627
Club	3,836	4,041	4,418	3,676	2,952
Railway Refreshment	2,554	2,159	2,172	1,747	952
Packet	41	44	38	29	21
Australian Wine	7,264	6,971	6,460	5,711	4,628
Spirit Merchants'	10,673	11,153	11,032	8,722	7,799
Other fees—					
Brewers'	275	309	250	225	200
Booth or Stand	6,412	7,070	6,148	4,813	5,115

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 have been charged at the rate of £2 for each period up to seven days. This fee was altered in June, 1928, to £2 per day.

Consumption of Intoxicants.

The following estimate of the consumption of intoxicating liquors in New South Wales during the year ended June, 1930, was published in the 1929-30 issue of this Year Book:—Spirits, 1,005,000 proof gallons; beer 26,108,000 gallons; and wine, 1,785,000 gallons. Information obtained since the estimate was published indicates the probability that the consumption of spirits was overstated. There is evidence that the consumption of spirits declined in a marked degree in 1930-31, but satisfactory data are not available for an estimate of the quantity of spirits or of wine consumed in this year.

The figures relating to spirits represent the proof alcoholic contents 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. It is prescribed by regulation under the Pure Food Act that the standards of strength for whisky, brandy, gin and rum may not be less than 35 degrees under proof, and spirits of the best quality are retailed usually at about 30.5 degrees under proof. Prior to 24th December, 1930, the minimum strength of whisky and brandy was 25 degrees under proof, and in the retail trade it was sold usually at about 23.5 degrees 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 gallon
1901	12,400	1,233,300	1,245,700	.01	.89	.90
1911	194,300	1,337,800	1,532,100	.12	.80	.92
1920-21	451,100	456,500	907,600	.22	.21	.43
1925-26	489,800	670,100	1,159,900	.21	.29	.50
1926-27	493,500	639,100	1,132,600	.21	.27	.48
1927-28	487,400	666,000	1,153,400	.20	.28	.48
1928-29	468,500	607,900	1,076,400	.19	.25	.44
1929-30	449,000	556,000	1,005,000	.18	.22	.40

The estimated consumption of spirits per head in 1920-21 was 53 per cent. lower than in 1911. The decline has been in the quantity of foreign spirits, as more Australian spirits are consumed now than formerly. The figures for the year 1929-30 indicate only a slight variation in consumption, but it is probable that they are overstated by the inclusion of appreciable quantities

which were withdrawn from bond in anticipation of increased duties and distributed to retailers but not actually consumed before the end of the year.

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
1911	18,332,900	1,200,100	19,533,000	11·01	·72	11·73
1920-21	25,163,500	129,800	25,293,300	12·04	·06	12·10
1925-26	25,946,000	144,000	26,090,000	11·29	·06	11·35
1926-27	27,698,000	143,000	27,841,000	11·79	·06	11·85
1927-28	28,167,000	158,000	28,325,000	11·73	·07	11·80
1928-29	29,475,000	156,000	29,631,000	12·04	·06	12·10
1929-30	25,975,000	133,000	26,108,000	10·48	·05	10·53
1930-31	20,375,000	35,000	20,410,000	8·15	·01	8·16
1931-32	18,122,000	27,000	18,149,000	7·19	·01	7·20

The consumption of beer per head declined by 13 per cent. in 1929-30, by 23 per cent. in 1930-31, and by 11 per cent. in 1931-32. 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, less than 2 per cent. being imported.

Year.	Estimated 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
1911	908,700	57,900	966,600	·55	·03	·58
1920-21	1,480,100	21,500	1,501,600	·71	·01	·72
1925-26	1,466,000	31,000	1,497,000	·64	·01	·65
1926-27	1,641,000	48,000	1,689,000	·70	·02	·72
1927-28	1,721,000	31,000	1,752,000	·72	·01	·73
1928-29	1,753,000	31,000	1,784,000	·72	·01	·73
1929-30	1,752,000	33,000	1,785,000	·71	·01	·72

The consumption of wine per head of population in recent years was about 25 per cent. greater than in 1911.

Expenditure on Intoxicants.

The amount of money expended by the public on intoxicating liquors in New South Wales in the year ended 30th June, 1930, is estimated to have been £14,500,000, or £5 17s. per head. The estimate, however, should be

used with caution, because it relates to a period when many unusual factors were affecting the trade. The expenditure, as estimated for various years since 1901, is shown below:—

Year.	Expenditure on Intoxicants.		Year.	Expenditure on Intoxicants.	
	Total.	Per Head of Population.		Total.	Per Head of Population.
	£	£ s. d.		£	£ s. d.
1901	5,000,000	3 13 2	1926-27	13,220,000	5 12 7
1911	5,962,000	3 11 7	1927-28	13,607,000	5 13 4
1920-21	11,034,000	5 5 7	1928-29	13,849,000	5 13 2
1925-26	12,633,000	5 9 11	1929-30	14,500,000	5 17 0

The increase in the expenditure between 1911 and 1920-21 was due mainly to higher prices, though there was also an increase in consumption of beer and of wine. There was a decline between 1920-21 and 1923-24 owing to diminished consumption of beer and wine, and the average expenditure per head did not regain the former level until 1925-26, when there was a general increase in the quantity consumed, and a rise in the price of imported whisky in consequence of an addition of 5s. per gallon to the rate of customs duty. The subsequent increase until 1929-30 was due to the larger quantities of beer and wine consumed rather than to higher prices.

Drunkenness.

Persons apprehended by the police for drunkenness 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 1932 the number of persons charged with drunkenness was 21,815, of whom 2,133 were females. In the cases of 267 males and 38 females the charges were withdrawn or dismissed, 14,320 males and 1,401 females were convicted after trial by the Courts, and 5,095 males and 694 females, who did not appear for trial, forfeited their bail. The following statement shows the number of convictions for drunkenness, including the cases in which bail was forfeited, during each of the seven years, 1926 to 1932:—

Year.	Convictions.		Bail Forfeited.		Total Cases.			Cases per 1,000 of mean population.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
1926	18,736	1,202	10,238	1,185	28,974	2,387	31,361	13·51
1927	19,013	1,035	11,461	1,140	30,474	2,175	32,649	13·75
1928	19,769	1,172	12,975	1,239	32,744	2,411	35,155	14·49
1929	19,769	1,330	10,920	1,117	30,689	2,447	33,136	13·44
1930	15,811	1,414	7,526	904	23,337	2,318	25,655	10·30
1931	13,285	1,472	5,068	734	18,353	2,206	20,559	8·19
1932	14,320	1,401	5,095	694	19,415	2,095	21,510	8·50

Relatively to the population, the number of convictions for drunkenness in 1928 was the highest since 1923. There was a decline in the next three years and in 1931 the proportion was lower by 43 per cent. than in 1918. There was a slight increase in 1932.

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 come in this way 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.

The institutions where special provision was made for the treatment of the inebriates up to the year 1929 were under the control of the prison authorities, viz., the State Penitentiary for men and the State Reformatory for women who had been convicted previously for offences other than drunkenness and the Shaftesbury Inebriate Institution for those of the non-criminal class. In 1929 Shaftesbury was closed and some of the State mental hospitals were gazetted under the Inebriates Act for the detention of inebriates who are now under the supervision of the Inspector-General of Mental Hospitals. The number under his control at 30th June, 1932, was 22, viz., 18 men and 4 women.

The majority of persons admitted to the institutions for inebriates have been chronic offenders over 40 years of age. During the period dating from the first reception in August, 1907, to 30th June, 1932, the total number of original receptions amounted to 1778—827 men and 951 women.

CONSUMPTION OF TOBACCO.

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, prescribes that persons who sell tobacco in New South Wales must obtain a license, for which an annual fee of 5s. is charged. The number of licenses issued in 1931 was 19,983. 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
1911	3,827	271	1,076	5,174	2·30	·16	·65	3·11
1920-21	4,370	273	1,958	6,601	2·09	·13	·94	3·16
1925-26	5,263	224	2,011	7,498	2·29	·10	·87	3·26
1926-27	5,387	223	2,188	7,798	2·29	·10	·93	3·32
1927-28	5,397	215	2,335	7,947	2·25	·09	·97	3·31
1928-29	5,631	185	2,446	8,262	2·30	·08	1·00	3·38
1929-30	5,622	204	2,364	8,190	2·27	·08	·95	3·30
1930-31	5,215	124	1,833	7,172	2·09	·05	·73	2·87
1931-32	5,214	96	1,641	6,951	2·07	·04	·65	2·76

The quantity of tobacco (including cigars and cigarettes) consumed in 1931-32 was 6,951,000 lb. and the average $2\frac{3}{4}$ lb. per head. The annual consumption per head, which had been increasing slowly, declined by 20 per cent. during the last three years. It is estimated that the expenditure on tobacco in 1931-32 amounted to £5,500,000, or £2 3s. 6d. per head of population, as compared with £2,858,000, or £1 11s. 6d. per head in 1913.

As regards the description of tobacco used, the proportion of cigarettes advanced from 10 to 30 per cent. between 1901 and 1921, and the proportion of ordinary tobacco declined from 84 to 66 per cent. With the recent decline in consumption the proportion of ordinary tobacco rose again to 75 per cent., and the proportion of cigarettes declined to 24 per cent.

The tobacco consumed in 1931-32 consisted of 6,896,000 lb. manufactured in Australia, principally from imported leaf, and 55,000 lb. manufactured overseas. The proportion of ordinary tobacco and cigarettes made in Australia was over 99 per cent., and of cigars 97 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, pawnbrokers, hawkers, pedlars, collectors, second-hand dealers, fishermen, and persons who sell tobacco, conduct billiard and bagatelle tables, or engage in Sunday trading. The Pistol License Act, 1927, prescribes the licensing of pistols; licenses may not be issued to persons under 18 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 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 five years 1928-1932:—

Occupation.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
Auctioneers—General	403	360	346	247	220
District	1,623	1,753	1,504	1,296	1,344
Billiard	717	723	675	615	530
Tobacco	21,159	20,871	21,793	19,983	19,617
Pawnbrokers	100	100	94	88	92
Hawkers and Pedlars	3,132	3,295	4,170	3,222	2,890
Collectors	1,824	2,118	2,602	2,544	2,543
Second-hand Dealers	1,146	1,058	1,155	1,158	1,326
Sunday Trading	10,410	11,014	11,773	10,848	10,759
Fishermen	3,390	3,198	3,816	3,672	3,091
Fishing Boats	1,825	1,655	1,941	1,858	1,572
Oyster Vendors	373	362	411	343	315
Gun or Pistol Licenses (ordinary)	9,187	11,409	13,148	16,360	16,559
" " (special)	102	121	192	240	411
Gun or Pistol Dealers	109	95	89	85	95

A law was enacted in 1927 with the object of preventing the improper use of such drugs as opium, morphine, and cocaine. Registered medical practitioners, pharmacists, dentists, etc., are authorised generally to use the drugs in the conduct of their profession or business, but other persons must obtain a license to manufacture, distribute, or have possession of them. Particulars of these licenses are shown on page 261.

STATUS OF WOMEN.

In New South Wales women have the right to exercise the franchise and sex does 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, or as member of the Legislative Council. Women have contested Parliamentary elections, and one was elected as member of the Legislative Assembly in 1925. Two women were appointed members of the Legislative Council in November, 1931. Many women have been appointed justices of the peace, and some have been admitted to the practice of the legal profession. They are eligible for all degrees at the University of Sydney, but are not ordained as ministers of religion. Women may not act on juries. The employment of married women in the teaching service of the State has been restricted by an Act passed in October, 1932, which provides for the termination of the services of married women employed as teachers or lecturers unless an extension is granted under special circumstances. The Act prescribes also that women in these occupations shall cease to hold office upon marriage.

The employment of women in factories and shops is regulated specially by the Factories and Shops Act, 1912, and its amendments, which limit the continuous employment of women to five hours, restrict the time they may be employed in excess of forty-eight hours per week and between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m., also the weight they may be allowed or required to lift, and prohibit the employment of girls under 18 years of age in certain dangerous occupations. 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 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 24 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 the 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 numbers of adherents of the principal religions, as disclosed by the census records, are shown in the 1928-29 issue of this Year Book.

EDUCATION.

IN New South Wales there is a State system of national education which embraces primary, secondary, and technical education, and there are numerous private educational institutions, of which the majority are conducted under the auspices of the religious denominations. The University of Sydney is maintained partly by State endowment and partly by moneys derived from private sources.

The Public Instruction Act of 1880, as amended by the Free Education Act, 1906, the Bursary Endowment Act, 1912, and the Public Instruction (Amendment) Acts of 1916 and 1917, is the statutory basis of the State system. 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 special religious instruction for limited periods, with the consent of parents, by ministers of religion. The Free Education Act, 1906, provides that education in State primary schools must be free. Secondary schools also have been free since the beginning of 1911, except during a period of eighteen months from 1st January, 1923. The Act of 1880 prescribed that children between the ages of 6 and 14 must attend school, and 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 system is subject to central guidance and control, being administered by a responsible Minister of the Crown, through a permanent Director of Education. Practically the whole of the State expenditure on education is provided by appropriation from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, but part of the expenditure on buildings, additions, and renewals has been defrayed from loan and other funds.

The private schools are not endowed by the State, but, with few exceptions, they are subject to State inspection. If children of statutory school age are enrolled at a private school it must be certified as efficient in terms of the Public Instruction (Amendment) Act of 1916, and private schools supplying education for State bursars must be registered under the Bursary Endowment Act of 1912. The fact that the school examinations, which mark the various stages of primary and secondary education, are based on the curricula of the State system tends towards uniformity in the teaching of the subjects covered by the examinations.

The school medical service organised by the State for the benefit of children attending both State and private schools, and the school for backward children at Glenfield have been described in the preceding chapter of this volume.

The complete scheme of education provides a direct avenue from Kindergarten to University. In the State schools kindergarten classes are conducted under the Montessori method. Many private schools make provision for kindergarten, and an organisation known as the Kindergarten Union of New South Wales conducts a school for training in Frœbelian methods, and maintains free kindergarten schools and playgrounds in the more congested parts of the metropolitan area.

The course in the primary schools supplies education of a general character in such subjects as English, mathematics, nature knowledge, civics and morals, art and manual work. Beyond the primary stage, the courses assume a vocational bias. The pupil may continue his general education and at the same time enter upon a course of training to fit him for the

occupation he intends to follow after leaving school. In the selection of the super-primary course an important consideration is the probable length of the school life of the individual pupil. At high schools the full course leading to professional occupations or to tertiary education at the University and elsewhere extends over a period of five years. Shorter courses are provided for those who will probably leave school at an earlier stage. A vocational guidance bureau has been organised for the purpose of assisting boys and girls leaving State schools to obtain employment in occupations for which they are best fitted.

Preparatory education for commercial pursuits is provided at commercial schools and at high schools where economics, shorthand, business principles and practice are included in the curriculum. At the University there is a degree course in economics and a diploma course in commerce. A lectureship in Japanese language has been established by means of a special grant to the University from the public revenue of the Commonwealth to assist in the teaching of languages serviceable to the development of commercial relations between Australia and other countries.

Industrial training, commenced in the form of manual training in the primary course, may be continued at continuation schools, and at the trades-schools and technical colleges. Training in domestic subjects is a feature of the schools for girls, advanced courses being provided at the schools under the technical system. At the University there is a school of domestic science.

Special attention is directed towards education in subjects pertaining to rural industries, and an organiser has been appointed to develop the system in State schools. At district rural schools boys may acquire basic knowledge of agricultural science, rural economics, etc., and there are two high schools—at Glenfield and Yanco—where the studies are arranged for boys who intend to become farmers. The school at Glenfield is known as the Hurlstone Agricultural High School. Its grounds cover 100 acres and those at Yanco 629 acres. The course includes general education as well as scientific training with laboratory practice and field work, and it leads to higher courses at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College.

Advanced training in agriculture, dairying, etc., is provided for farmers and students at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College and at experiment farms in various districts. Particulars of these institutions are published in the chapter relating to agriculture.

The final stages of education for rural pursuits are reached at the University, where there is a degree course in agriculture and in veterinary science.

CENSUS RECORDS.

Particulars of the numbers of persons receiving education and of those who had acquired the rudiments of education (reading and writing) as recorded as at the censuses of 1901, 1911, and 1921 are shown in the Year Book for 1922 at pages 148-150.

An indication that illiteracy is unusual in New South Wales may be deduced from the fact that there are few mark signatures in the marriage registers. The number in 1931 represented less than 2 per 1,000 persons married.

SCHOOLS AND TEACHING STAFFS.

The following table shows the total number of public and private schools in operation at the end of 1901, 1911, 1921 and the past six 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 other 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
1921	3,170	677	3,847	3,554	5,118	8,672	465	2,463	2,928	11,600
1926	3,125	704	3,829	4,256	5,801	10,057	517	2,647	3,164	13,221
1927	3,087	713	3,800	4,311	5,978	10,289	546	2,735	3,281	13,570
1928	3,103	721	3,824	4,466	6,203	10,669	586	2,742	3,328	13,997
1929	3,104	726	3,830	4,624	6,368	10,992	639	2,780	3,419	14,411
1930	3,173	730	3,903	4,794	6,515	11,309	641	2,753	3,394	14,703
1931	3,195	733	3,928	4,940	6,641	11,581	630	2,863	3,493	15,074

* Including subsidised schools.

The number of teachers in public schools, as shown above, is exclusive of students in training, who numbered 1,445 in 1930, and 1,545 in 1931. In the case of private schools, visiting or part-time teachers, viz., 325 men and 890 women in 1931 are excluded, as some of them attended more than one school and were included 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 1931 was only 43 per cent. of the total. In the private schools the proportion of men teachers has been small always, and in 1931 it was less than 18 per cent. of the full-time teaching staffs of private schools.

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 in regard to private schools in the earlier years are available for that period only. The following statement shows the 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.
1901	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	26,962	34,588	61,550	283,360	78·3	21·7
1921	163,699	151,529	315,228	35,903	42,557	78,460	393,688	80·1	19·9
1926	178,939	164,248	343,187	37,739	46,045	83,784	426,971	80·4	19·6
1927	184,017	168,293	352,310	39,213	46,871	86,084	438,394	80·4	19·6
1928	189,476	173,049	362,525	40,136	47,494	87,630	450,155	80·5	19·5
1929	193,872	177,458	371,330	42,024	48,564	90,588	461,918	80·4	19·6
1930	198,793	181,852	380,645	42,680	48,551	91,231	471,876	80·7	19·3
1931	202,873	185,008	387,881	42,982	49,303	92,285	480,166	80·8	19·2

* The numbers of pupils so excluded were as follows in 1931 :—Evening continuation, about 5,500 ; schools for deaf mutes, etc., 286 ; private charitable, 1,451 ; free kindergarten, 1,122 ; technical colleges and trade schools, 15,152 ; business colleges and shorthand schools, about 6,100.

† Including Subsidised Schools.

Since 1901 the enrolment in public schools has increased by 84 per cent., while in the private schools it has risen by only 52 per cent., so that the proportion of children in public schools has advanced from 77.6 per cent. to 80.8 per cent. In the public schools there are more boys than girls, the proportion being boys 53 per cent. and girls 47 per cent. In the private schools girls are in the majority, representing 53 per cent. of the enrolment.

Considering only children for whom education is compulsory, viz., between 7 and 14 years, 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:—

Year.	Public Schools.	Private Schools.	Total.	Proportion per cent.	
				Public Schools.	Private Schools.
1927	271,162	58,006	329,168	82.4	17.6
1928	277,601	58,652	336,253	82.6	17.4
1929	282,517	60,441	342,958	82.4	17.6
1930	285,856	60,241	346,097	82.6	17.4
1931	288,730	61,395	350,125	82.5	17.5

Nearly 23 per cent. of the pupils under 7 years of age in December quarter, 1931, and 25 per cent. of those over 14 years were enrolled at private schools, the proportion in both groups being much greater than the proportion at statutory ages, viz., 17.5 per cent.

CHILDREN RECEIVING EDUCATION.

It is probable that a considerable number of children between the ages of 7 and 14 years, when education is compulsory, are not enrolled in schools for the whole of those years, although they may attend 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 facilities for conveyance, and of subsidies for private teachers of small rural schools, tend to reduce the number of children not reached by the education system.

It has been estimated that the average weekly enrolment at State and private schools represents more than 90 per cent. of the children "requiring education," i.e. the children of statutory school age and those of other ages enrolled.

The following comparison indicates the degree of regularity of attendance among children enrolled at State and private schools:—

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	203,385	160,776	per cent. 79·0	*	52,122	*
1921	292,284	248,605	85·1	74,206	64,172	86·4
1926	319,835	272,287	85·1	79,363	69,205	87·2
1927	328,967	283,615	86·2	80,800	71,821	89·0
1928	339,413	290,914	85·7	83,153	73,109	87·9
1929	346,644	298,743	86·1	84,827	76,178	89·8
1930	357,319	314,052	87·9	86,280	78,780	91·3
1931	366,378	322,816	88·1	87,190	78,435	90·0

* Not available.

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 ratio of attendance has increased slightly since 1921.

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 314:—

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.
1927	49,993	271,162	31,155	352,310	14,980	58,006	13,098	86,084
1928	50,977	277,601	33,947	362,525	14,850	58,652	14,128	87,630
1929	52,943	282,517	35,870	371,330	15,483	60,441	14,664	90,588
1930	53,276	285,856	41,513	380,645	15,619	60,241	15,371	91,231
1931	53,120	288,730	46,031	387,881	15,315	61,395	15,575	92,285

In 1931 there were enrolled 68,435 children below the statutory school age, viz., 34,387 boys and 34,048 girls; and 61,606 were over 14 years of age—33,960 boys and 27,646 girls.

It is evident that owing to lack of employment there has been a large increase in the enrolment of children over school age during the last two years, the number in 1931 being higher by 11,072, or nearly 22 per cent., than in 1929. Meanwhile, the increase in the enrolment of children of school ages for 7,167, or only 2 per cent., and the number in the youngest group was the same in both years.

More details 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, which shows the ages of children in the various school classes.

RELIGIONS.

Particulars of the religion of each child attending a State 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 314) 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.	Udenom- 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
1921	176,998	35,532	37,497	44,210	20,991	5,265	63,060	8,131	2,004
1926	194,313	36,251	42,712	47,273	22,638	5,776	67,573	7,889	2,546
1927	199,884	37,215	44,129	48,011	23,071	6,094	69,488	7,829	2,673
1928	205,268	38,601	45,894	49,022	23,740	6,248	70,922	7,696	2,764
1929	210,286	39,614	47,232	49,447	24,751	6,097	73,846	7,521	3,124
1930	214,912	41,199	48,107	50,573	25,854	6,008	75,326	6,744	3,153
1931	218,333	42,590	49,200	51,244	26,514	5,335	78,267	6,104	2,579

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
1921	45.0	9.0	9.5	11.2	5.3	1.4	16.0	2.1	0.5
1926	45.5	8.5	10.0	11.1	5.3	1.4	15.8	1.8	0.6
1927	45.6	8.5	10.1	10.9	5.3	1.4	15.8	1.8	0.6
1928	45.6	8.6	10.2	10.9	5.3	1.4	15.7	1.7	0.6
1929	45.5	8.6	10.2	10.7	5.4	1.3	16.0	1.6	0.7
1930	45.5	8.7	10.2	10.7	5.5	1.3	16.0	1.4	0.7
1931	45.5	8.9	10.2	10.7	5.5	1.1	16.3	1.3	0.5

The pupils attending Roman Catholic schools constitute approximately 85 per cent. of the pupils attending private schools and 16 per cent. of the total pupils at all schools. Although the proportion of the total enrolment at all schools comprised by Roman Catholic children enrolled in the State schools declined from 10.9 to 9.0 per cent. between 1911 and 1921, the proportion comprised by children enrolled in Roman Catholic schools also declined from 16.3 to 16.0 per cent. of the total. This decline was coincident with a decrease in the proportion of persons of the Roman Catholic faith in the population. The increase in the enrolment of children belonging to the Church of England was coincident with an increase in the proportion of persons of that faith.

The enrolment at undenominational private 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.				
	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
Church of England	46,123	51,758	55,733	53,560	54,560
Roman Catholic	3,619	3,482	3,740	4,300	5,073
Presbyterian	15,215	18,297	19,312	19,887	20,287
Methodist	20,788	24,133	25,991	26,131	25,472
Other Denominations	11,532	13,511	14,354	14,229	16,225
Total	97,297	111,181	119,130	118,107	121,617

SCHOOL SAVINGS BANKS.

A system of school savings banks in connection with State schools was commenced in the year 1887 with the object of inculcating principles of thrift amongst the children. The system was extended later to private schools. Deposits are received by the teachers, and an account for each depositor is opened at the local branch or agency of the savings bank.

At 30th June, 1932, there were 125,599 school savings bank accounts in the Commonwealth Savings Bank, with which the State Savings Bank was merged in December, 1931, and the amount at the credit was £92,622.

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.	1931.
Primary Schools—						
Public	1,007	1,686	1,874	1,915	2,020	2,029
Provisional	227	320	398	475	477	599
Half-time	83*	280	414	271	90	38
House-to-house and Travel- ling ... ..	...	83	17	6	3	1
Correspondence ... ..	...	...	...	...	4	1
Subsidised ... ..	...	...	...	414	546	486
Evening	33	13	34	16	...	...
Industrial and Reformatory ...	2	3	4	2	3	3
Total—Primary	1,352	2,385	2,741	3,099	3,143	3,157
Secondary Schools—						
High ... ..	...	5	4	8	27	38
Intermediate High ... ..	...	...	...	...	25	54
District ... ..	...	...	...	...	13	6
Continuation Schools—						
Commercial ... ..	...	...	...	...	15	16
Junior Technical ... ..	...	...	...	...	26	32
Domestic ... ..	...	...	...	...	46	53
Evening ... ..	...	...	...	18	46	45
Rural Schools ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	14
Composite†	58	78	113	145	57	461
Total—Secondary and Continuation Schools	58	83	117	171	255	719

* Including Third-time Schools. † Superior Public Schools.

The number of individual schools at the end of 1931 was 3,240, which is less than the foregoing figures indicate, owing to the fact that with the exception of high schools the majority of secondary schools are conducted in conjunction with primary schools.

It is the policy of the State educational authorities to supply as far as practicable the demand for post primary education. For this purpose composite courses have been arranged in a number of primary schools, and super-primary courses were conducted by the correspondence school. The figures in the table are exclusive of a number of small country schools where, by means of lesson sheets and with the assistance of the teacher, pupils may secure a year's course of super-primary instruction.

State Primary Schools.

Primary work in its various stages is undertaken in State 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) a correspondence school instructing children so isolated as to be unable to attend school.

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 is completed generally between the ages of 13 and 14 years.

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 1931 there were 599 such schools in operation with an effective enrolment of 11,304 pupils.

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 1931 was 38, and the number of pupils enrolled was 384. The course of instruction in provisional and half-time schools follows the course of full-time schools.

There is one travelling school which visits localities where families are so isolated that we 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. Formerly there were a number of travelling schools, but in recent years teaching by correspondence has been developed as a more satisfactory method of educating children in isolated localities.

Subsidised Schools.

Subsidised schools are formed for the benefit of families in remote districts where there is a single family with at least four children of school age or where two or more families combine to engage a teacher. The teacher is selected with the approval of the Department of Education, and

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 a post-primary course may be given by means of leaflets issued by the correspondence school. The subsidised schools are subject to inspection by the State school inspectors. The number of subsidised schools in 1931 was 486 and there were 3,917 pupils on the roll. About 1,500 of the pupils were receiving post primary instruction by means of leaflets.

Correspondence School.

The pupils who are being taught by correspondence are organised as one school located in Sydney where there were 102 teachers in 1931. The course of instruction is mainly the ordinary primary course, and when it is completed pupils may undertake a course of super-primary instruction in such subjects as English, economic geography, arithmetic, practical mensuration and farm bookkeeping. A pupil is not admitted to instruction by correspondence before he reaches the age of 7 years and the young children are taught by kindergarten teachers. The number of children receiving education by correspondence in 1931 was 5,467, including about 150 taking the course leading to the Intermediate certificate. The leaflets for the post-primary instruction of children in small country schools are prepared by the correspondence school.

Central Schools and Boarding Allowances.

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, and the cost of conveyance is defrayed by the Department according to fixed rates.

Attendance at central schools is encouraged also by means of subsidies which may be paid under certain conditions as an aid towards boarding children with relations or friends in a township for the purpose of attending school. The amounts expended for conveyance and boarding allowances during the years 1930 and 1931 were £62,869 and £53,322 respectively.

Secondary Education in State Schools.

The number of pupils receiving secondary education at State schools at intervals since the year 1916 is shown in the following statement. Particulars relating to evening continuation schools are not included, but are shown later:—

Year.	Secondary Schools.			Super-Primary Courses at Primary Schools.			
	Schools.	Gross Enrolment.	Average Daily Attendance.	Schools.	Effective Enrolment.	Average Attendance.	
1916	...	133	13,961	9,732	*	*	*
1921	...	152	26,728	18,680	57	1,530	1,281
1926	...	202	45,137	32,505	682	4,178	3,583
1927	...	210	47,521	35,274	740	4,219	3,670
1928	...	210	54,518	39,964	826	4,275	3,708
1929	...	217	56,194	42,218	1,176	5,690	4,804
1930	...	213	59,290	46,315	1,043	5,001	4,196
1931	...	213	66,248	51,620	461	3,733	3,062

* Not available.

The secondary schools consist of high, intermediate high, district continuation and rural schools.

Each high school is a self-contained unit conducted apart from any other type of school, to provide courses of instruction covering five years leading to the Leaving Certificate examination.

Intermediate high and district schools are conducted in the same group of buildings as a primary school and are controlled by the same head master. The courses of instruction cover the first three years of the secondary 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.

At the end of 1931 there were thirteen High Schools in the metropolitan area (including a Technical High School), and twenty-six in the country districts providing a full course of instruction. There were fifty-four Intermediate High Schools, thirty-five being in the country, and nineteen in the metropolis.

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. In recent years scholarships have not been awarded, all pupils being supplied with text-books free of cost.

Year	High Schools.	Intermediate High Schools.	Teachers.			Pupils.			Bursaries.
			M.	F.	Total.	Enrolment.		Average Attendance.	
						Total.	Average Weekly.		
1901	4	...	16	11	27	676	526	439	†
1911	8	...	59	38	97	2,293	1,864	1,786	201
1921	27	25	349	299	648	14,247	12,199	11,253	1,005
1926	30	38	434	365	799	18,460	16,867	15,576	805
1927	30	39	487	398	885	19,852	17,918	17,089	815
1928	31	47	553	475	1,028	23,570	21,596	20,074	850
1929	34	49	594	525	1,119	25,370	23,778	22,026	881
1930	35	52	641	593	1,234	28,519	26,550	24,825	853
1931	39	54	707	613	1,320	33,229	30,710	28,524	863

† Not available.

There was a rapid expansion in secondary education by the State during the years 1901 to 1921, and a steady growth during the following quinquennium. The increase in enrolment has been more pronounced in recent years when many pupils who in normal times would have sought employment continued to attend school.

The District Schools numbered six in 1931. All were located in country towns. The number of teachers was 29, the total enrolment was 599 and the average attendance 476.

Day Continuation and Rural Schools.

Training in commercial subjects is provided in Commercial Continuation Schools and a preparatory course leading to the trade courses under the technical system is given in Junior Technical Continuation Schools. At these schools boys may continue for a period of three years elementary courses commenced in primary schools in commercial subjects and in manual training respectively. In the Junior Technical Schools the subjects 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 on the same standard as in High Schools.

The Continuation Schools for girls are known as *Domestic Continuation Schools*. The syllabus provides for a course commencing at the end of the primary school stage and extending over three years. The course 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 at the Technical College.

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 and an average attendance of 2,829. In 1931 the corresponding numbers were fifty-three schools, gross enrolment 14,963, and average daily attendance 10,625.

Rural Schools are 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 general subjects and in elementary agriculture, agricultural nature study, applied farm mechanics, rural economics and horticulture.

The following table provides a comparison of the number of continuation schools and the gross enrolment during each of the last five years:—

Year .	Day Continuation Schools.						Rural Schools.	
	Commercial.		Junior Technical.		Domestic Type.		No.	Gross Enrolment.
	No.	Gross Enrolment.	No.	Gross Enrolment.	No.	Gross Enrolment.		
1927	20	2,565	31	8,460	60	12,938	15	1,535
1928	17	2,719	31	10,040	56	14,195	15	1,767
1929	17	2,693	30	9,956	57	13,543	15	1,762
1930	16	2,758	32	10,309	53	13,930	13	1,745
1931	16	3,395	32	11,313	53	14,963	14	1,864

The average attendance during 1931 was as follows:—Commercial 2,428, junior technical 8,120, domestic 10,625, rural, 1,447.

Composite courses are provided at primary schools in country districts where secondary schools are not readily accessible. The courses lead to the intermediate certificate, the commercial superior public school certificate and the Public Service entrance examinations.

Superprimary instruction by means of leaflets is arranged for children attending small country schools who have passed the primary final examination and are prepared to continue their education for at least one year. The subjects of instruction are English, history, arithmetic, elementary science, business principles, and for girls, hygiene and home management. A series of eleven papers comprises a course, and each paper contains sufficient work for one month. This system differs from instruction by correspondence in that the pupil's work is arranged and corrected by the teacher in charge of the school.

Evening Continuation Schools.

Evening Continuation Schools for the benefit of pupils who leave school to engage in occupations at the termination of the primary course 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 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 in the years 1930 and 1931:—

Classification.	1930.			1931.		
	Number of Schools.	Average Weekly Enrolment.	Average Attendance.	Number of Schools.	Average Weekly Enrolment.	Average Attendance.
Junior Technical (Boys)...	17	2,171	1,910	17	1,798	1,446
Commercial (Boys) ...	18	2,415	1,776	18	2,045	1,644
Domestic (Girls) ...	9	1,255	953	10	1,621	1,288
Total ...	44	5,841	4,639	45	5,464	4,378

There was a decrease in the attendance of boys at the Evening Continuation Schools in 1931 when a large proportion of such students being unemployed were able to attend day classes. Consequently four junior technical and four commercial schools were not reopened at the beginning of the following year.

Vocational Guidance Bureau.

A vocational guidance bureau has been established as part of the State educational system for the purpose of affording advice to boys and girls in regard to their choice of a vocation, and of assisting them as far as practicable in obtaining the employment for which they are suited. Those who wish to obtain the assistance of the bureau are submitted to a series of psychological and physical tests which, with school records of educational attainments, serve to indicate mental ability, intelligence, aptitude, and capacity for various kinds of work, etc.

Many firms engage employees through the bureau and the development of its activities depends in a large degree upon the co-operation of employers.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

The position of private schools in the education system of the State has been discussed at the beginning of this chapter.

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.

The total number of private schools certified by the Minister for Education in 1931 was 803. Of these, 634 were certified under the Public Instruction (Amendment) Act of 1916, including 69 which were certified for the instruction of children up to a specified age only; 100 secondary schools were registered under the Bursary Endowment as efficient to provide the full secondary course; and 61 were recognised officially as qualified for the education of pupils to the Intermediate Certificate stage of the secondary course.

The Roman Catholic schools comprise the largest group of private schools in New South Wales. They are organised on a diocesan basis to provide religious and secular education. A Director of Catholic Education with special qualifications for the work exercises general supervision, and there are religious and secular inspectors in each diocese. In addition to general primary and super-primary education, commercial and domestic courses are provided at the parochial schools, and a number of the schools have been specially equipped for commercial, junior technical, or domestic training. English and commercial classes are conducted also by correspondence. At some of the schools rural training is provided and an agricultural college was opened at Woodlawn, Lismore, in 1931, to give practical education in scientific agriculture, as well as the academic course of a secondary school.

The pupils at the Roman Catholic schools attend the public examinations, described on page 326, also examinations conducted by the diocesan inspectors at the end of the primary and in the intermediate stages. On the results of these examinations scholarships and bursaries are awarded. There are two Roman Catholic colleges for resident students at the University of Sydney. Information relating to the training of teachers for Roman Catholic schools is shown on page 335.

The following table shows particulars of the schools of each denomination in 1930 and 1931, excluding charitable schools described on page 325:—

Classification.	1930.				1931.			
	Schools.	Teachers.	Enrolment December Quarter.	Average Daily At- tendance.	Schools.	Teachers.	Enrolment December Quarter.	Average Daily At- tendance.
Udenominational ...	133	417	6,813	6,003	138	432	6,143	5,405
Roman Catholic ..	513	2,416	75,326	64,383	518	2,538	78,267	65,763
Church of England ...	61	380	6,008	5,550	55	358	5,335	4,923
Presbyterian	8	97	1,592	1,533	8	84	1,235	1,149
Methodist	4	61	1,032	912	4	57	890	849
Lutheran	3	3	111	95	3	3	105	94
Seventh Day Adventist	7	14	292	239	7	21	310	252
Theosophical	1	6	57	65	...	...	...	...
Total	730	3,394	91,231	78,780	733	3,493	92,285	78,435

The number of teachers, as shown in the table, does not include those who visit schools to give tuition in special subjects only. 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 many 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. In 1931 there were 85,652 day scholars and 6,633 boarders.

The following statement shows the number of secondary pupils enrolled during the December quarter in each of the last five years:—

Year.	Schools.	Secondary Pupils Enrolled.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
1927	295	6,451	7,523	13,974
1928	307	6,896	7,721	14,617
1929	314	7,388	8,364	15,752
1930	324	7,627	8,004	15,631
1931	358	8,340	8,050	16,390

The number of secondary pupils in private schools has shown a considerable increase. 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 follow super-primary courses.

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 14 such schools in 1931. Thirteen were under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church and one under the Church of England. The gross enrolment at these institutional schools during 1931 was 1,642.

The Kindergarten Union maintains in the city and suburbs fifteen free kindergarten schools and playgrounds for children under statutory school age. In 1931 there were enrolled 1,645 scholars, and the average daily attendance was 843. 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. At the end of 1931 there were 196 children in the institution. Deaf mutes are trained also at two Roman Catholic institutions, one at Waratah for girls, with 46 inmates at the end of 1931, and the other established at Castle Hill, where 44 boys were enrolled.

The total number of private charitable schools in 1931 was 33, and there were 189 teachers. The gross enrolment during the year was 3,572, and the average daily attendance 2,413. In December quarter there were 2,359 scholars on the roll, of whom 1,359 were under 7 years of age, 1,298 between 7 and 14 years, and 202 over 14 years.

Enrolment in Private Schools.

A comparative statement of the enrolment in private schools (including the schools at private charitable institutions) is shown below. The enrolment at Kindergarten schools and playgrounds is not included.

Year.	Scholars on Roll during December Quarter.								
	Un-denominational.	Roman Catholic.	Church of England.	Presbyterian.	Methodist.	Seventh Day Adventist.	Lutheran.	Salvation Army.	Total.*
1911 ...	11,097	46,656	3,397	370	311	213	34	...	62,078
1921 ...	8,496†	63,486	5,417	788	605	301	51	163	79,307
1926 ...	8,046	68,856	5,919	1,168	982	308	88	63	85,430
1927 ...	7,992	70,945	6,223	1,217	1,004	356	96	58	87,891
1928 ...	7,865	72,349	6,409	1,333	1,024	324	83	62	89,449
1929 ...	7,760	75,311	6,220	1,599	1,074	311	76	50	92,401
1930 ...	7,052†	76,824	6,131	1,592	1,032	292	111	...	93,034
1931 ...	6,339	79,684	5,459	1,235	890	310	105	...	94,022

*Includes schools at private charitable institutions.

† Includes scholars at Theosophical school.

Between 1911 and 1931 the enrolment in private schools increased by 31,944 or 51 per cent. In undenominational schools there has been a marked decline. The enrolment in Roman Catholic schools, which constitute the great majority of the private establishments, has increased by nearly 26 per cent. since 1921. Other groups of denominational schools expanded between 1921 and 1929, but in most cases the enrolment has declined during the last two years.

SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS.

To test the proficiency of students who have completed the primary course and those who are attending higher courses, a system of public examinations has been organised by the Department of Education with the concurrence of the University authorities, who accept as evidence of satisfactory educational qualification appropriate certificates issued by the Department. The University also holds an annual matriculation examination, on the results of which a number of University scholarships and prizes are awarded.

The regulations of the Department of Education provide for the issue of certificates which mark definite stages in the progress of school pupils. An examination known as the Primary Final is held at the end of the primary course. On the results admission to secondary schools and super-primary courses is determined, and bursaries under the Bursary Endowment Act are awarded.

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 years 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 four delegates appointed by the University, and four officials of the Department of Education, viz.: The Director of Education, the Chief Inspector, the Principal of the Teachers' College, the Inspector of Secondary Schools.

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 examinations for entrance to the high school, for which the primary final examination has been substituted, and for intermediate and leaving certificates during 1930 and 1931 are shown below:—

Examinations.	1930.			1931.		
	Candidates.	Passes.		Candidates.	Passes.	
		Number.	Per cent.		Number.	Per cent.
High School Entrance and Bursary ...	20,617	14,710	71·3	22,415	15,607	69·6
Intermediate Certificate ...	13,142	9,262	70·5	11,995	8,842	73·7
Leaving Certificate (5th year) ...	3,167	2,216	70·0	3,930	2,726	69·4

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

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.

The Central Technical College is in Sydney, and there is a college at East Sydney (Darlinghurst). Colleges have been established also at Newcastle and Broken Hill and there are sixteen trade schools, viz., seven in the suburbs, eight in country towns and one at Canberra. In addition, elementary instruction is provided in special subjects at nine metropolitan and sixty-nine country centres (including the colleges and trade schools) and correspondence courses are provided in a number of subjects.

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. Fees may be deferred in cases where students are unemployed.

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 usually 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 Trade 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.†
					£	£
1927	743	552	30,399	13,238	29,771	170,269
1928	751	604	32,960	15,326	23,359	176,004
1929	755	628	33,280	15,253	26,111	193,791
1930	766	632	34,776	15,819	25,445	180,294
1931	747	574	33,315	15,152	23,020	145,164

* Students being counted in each class.

† After deducting fees received.

The net expenditure shown above is exclusive of interest on capital value of land, buildings, and equipment. The average net cost per student in 1931 was £9 11s. 7d.

The ages and sexes of the individual students attending technical classes in 1930 and 1931 were as follows:—

Age last Birthday.	1930.			1931.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
14	207	526	733	158	488	646
15	622	690	1,312	401	716	1,117
16	1,486	690	2,176	1,151	850	2,001
17	1,879	551	2,430	1,582	703	2,285
18	1,731	423	2,154	1,634	449	2,083
19	1,312	316	1,628	1,234	288	1,522
20	939	260	1,199	922	241	1,163
21 and over	2,981	1,203	4,187	2,978	1,357	4,335
Total	11,157	4,662	15,819	10,060	5,092	15,152

In 1931 diploma courses were followed by 772 males and 4 females, trade courses by 5,646 males and 47 females, women's handicrafts and art classes by 397 males and 4,560 females, and miscellaneous courses by 3,245 males and 481 females.

Technical Education Examinations.

The following are particulars of examinations conducted under the technical education system during the last five years:—

Particulars.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
Number Examined	24,116	27,602	29,193	28,670	26,256
Number of Passes	20,822	23,093	23,738	24,096	22,828
Percentage of Passes	86·3	83·6	81·3	84·0	86·9

These figures afford evidence of a very encouraging growth in this important branch of education. A larger increase would have occurred in 1929 if accommodation had been available for all applicants. The decline during 1930 and 1931 is attributed to prevailing economic conditions, especially in the building trade.

Railway and Tramway Institute.

Classes for the technical, commercial and general education of railway employees are conducted by the Railway and Tramway Institute, which is under the control of a director and advisory council.

The headquarters of the institute are in Sydney, and there are a number of branches in various parts of the State. The total membership is 25,142, or more than half the railway employees. The number of students in 1931-32 was 5,208, and the courses ranged from elementary railway principles to the University matriculation standard. Correspondence courses are provided.

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 on 1st October, 1850, and 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.

Within the University there are 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, Tropical Hygiene, Psychiatry, Anthropology, Public Administration, and Journalism. There is also a course of study for pharmacy students proceeding to the final examination of the Pharmacy Board of New South Wales. The University is precluded by statute from providing instruction or granting degrees in Theology and Divinity.

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 and the year in which each college was incorporated by Act of Parliament are as follows:—The Church of England (St. Paul's) 1854, Roman Catholic (St. John's) 1857 and (Sancta Sophia

for women) 1929, Presbyterian (St. Andrew's), 1867, Methodist (Wesley) 1910. There is also the Women's College (1889), which is conducted on an undenominational basis. A 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.

Many benefactions have been bestowed on the University by private persons. These endowments include the Challis Fund, of which the original amount, £276,856, has been increased by investment to £386,946, the G. H. Bosch Fund over £250,000, 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 1931 being £21,410. Excluding the principal of the McCaughey bequest, the credit balances of the private foundations amounted to £1,219,455 on the 31st December, 1931.

In 1930 the Rockefeller Foundation of New York authorised a grant of £100,000 towards the cost of building a clinical laboratory for the medical school.

University Finances.

The University is supported chiefly by Government aid, the fees paid by students, and income derived from the private foundations.

The following statement shows the amounts derived from the principal sources of revenue, and the total expenditure during each of the last five years. Under the items are included sums received for capital expenditure on buildings, etc., and amounts from benefactors to establish new benefactions:—

Year.	Receipts.					Disbursements.	Private Endowment Funds Credit Balance at end of Year. *
	Government Aid.	Fees.	Private Foundations.	Other Sources.	Total.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1927	75,132	45,297	84,624	3,260	208,313	189,814	744,201
1928	87,170	44,335	347,399	32,330	511,234	201,871	1,026,129
1929	81,170	46,575	117,650	16,256	261,651	206,796	1,153,356
1930	73,161	51,791	134,258	8,177	267,387	210,833	1,205,923
1931	61,496	59,696	112,585	13,133	246,820	216,903	1,219,455

* Includes Retiring Allowances Fund, but excludes the capital of McCaughey bequest.

The increase in receipts from private foundations in 1928 was a result of a special public appeal for donations towards the funds of the University. The moneys received therefrom were donated mainly for the development of education in medicine.

Salaries comprise the principal item of disbursements in each year. The total expenditure inclusive of capital expenditure in the last five years was distributed as follows:—

Classification.	Amount.				
	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries	142,477	152,222	153,690	155,750	157,741
Maintenance, Apparatus, etc.	34,599	35,440	34,813	32,102	32,110
Buildings and Grounds ...	4,739	7,138	11,344	15,803	19,616
Scholarships and Bursaries ...	6,890	6,859	5,917	6,686	7,022
Other	1,109	212	1,032	492	414
Total	189,814	201,871	206,796	210,833	216,903

Lectures, Staff, and Students.

Before admission to courses of study leading to degrees, students must afford proof of 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. 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, £259; Dentistry, 4 years, £223; Agriculture, 4 years, £125; Veterinary Science, 4 years, £120; Science, 3 years, £105; Engineering, 4 years—Civil, £170; Mechanical and Electrical, £177; Mining and Metallurgy, £184; Technology, £177; and Architecture, 5 years, £195.

Public exhibitions or exemptions from the payment of fees are granted annually on the results of the leaving certificate examination to 200 students entering the University, and fees are remitted in the case of teachers or students in training for the teaching profession attending University lectures. A number of scholarships are awarded from private foundations, and bursaries may be awarded by the Senate. In 1931 fees were remitted in respect of 1,396 students, including exhibitors, State and University bursars and students in training as teachers. A general service fee of £1 1s. per term is 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 1931 was 12,059, made up as follows:—

Degree.	Number Conferred.		Degree.	Number Conferred.		Degree.	Number Conferred.	
	During 1931.	To end of 1931.		During 1931.	To end of 1931.		During 1931.	To end of 1931.
M.A. ...	9	640	B.D.S. ...	14	229	D.Sc.Eng. ...	...	1
B.A. ...	177	3,974	L.D.S. ...	...	30	M.E. ...	...	16
LL.D. ...	1	35	D.Sc. ...	1	38	B.E. ...	23	699
LL.B. ...	38	745	M.Sc. ...	3	24	M.Ec. ...	...	5
M.D. ...	2	89	B.Sc. ...	75	903	B.Ec. ...	18	266
M.B. ...	43	2,282	B.Sc.Agr. ...	2	70	B. Arch. ...	8	73
Ch. M. ...	2	1,660	D.Sc.Agr. ...	...	1			
			D.V.Sc., ...	...	1			
B.S. ...	31	221	B.V.Sc. ...	5	53			
D.D.S. ...	1	3	B.Sc. Dom. ...	...	1	Total ...	453	12,059

In 1931 the teaching staff of the University included 48 professors and 170 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.

The following statement shows the number of students attending the various courses in 1921, 1926, and in each of the years 1928 to 1931:—

Course.	1921.	1926.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.		
						Men.	Women.	Total.
Degree and Special Courses—								
Arts	856	794	839	873	956	486	559	1,045
Law	328	288	255	260	279	292	8	300
Medicine	985	403	362	385	430	440	43	483
Science	220	217	242	237	280	235	98	333
Engineering	224	124	128	131	153	166	...	166
Dentistry	82	59	71	65	61	59	5	64
Veterinary Science	16	10	25	33	33	41	2	43
Agriculture	23	25	29	35	45	53	7	60
Architecture	55	41	55	50	48	33	11	44
Economics	138	118	127	153	194	193	50	243
Japanese	12	8	4	7	2	...	...	...
Diploma Courses—								
Commerce*	148	95	109	98	146	128	3	131
Public Administration ... ..	...	...	...	15	16	24	...	24
Journalism ... ..	...	11	9	10	6	2	1	3
Anthropology ... ..	...	...	7	25	6	4	1	5
Pharmacy Students	204	243	123	130	133	139	22	161
Massage Students	21	11	21	27	48	...	38	38
Social Study and Training ... ..	...	...	...	12	11	...	4	4
<i>Less Students enrolled twice ...</i>	3,317	2,447	2,406	2,546	2,852	2,295	852	3,147
	42	25	24	26	28	26	2	28
Total, Individual Students ...	3,275	2,422	2,382	2,520	2,824	2,269	850	3,119

* Economics and Commerce in earlier years.

There were 56 post-graduate students and research scholars in 1931, viz., 27 in the faculty of arts, 6 in medicine, 16 in science, 6 in engineering, and 1 in agriculture.

The decline of 893 students between 1921 and 1928 may be attributed partly to the completion of courses delayed by the war and partly to an increase in fees in 1921. The decline was general in all courses except science, being greatest in respect of medical students. In 1931 there was an increase as compared with 1930 in all degree courses except architecture. The number of students admitted to matriculation in 1931 was 734, as compared with 575 in 1921.

University Clinics.

Three metropolitan hospitals, viz., Royal Prince Alfred, Sydney, and St. Vincent's, provide clinical schools for students in medicine.

Such 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.

At the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children provision is made for systematic instruction to medical students in diseases of children.

Other hospitals where studies may be undertaken in connection with the faculty of medicine are:—The Royal Hospital for Women, the Callan Park and Newcastle Mental Hospitals, the Broughton Hall Psychiatric Clinic, 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 provides facilities for the instruction of students. 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 students 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 while attending the courses at the University.

Extension Lectures.

University Extension Lectures are conducted under the direction of a University Extension Board of from twelve to eighteen members appointed annually by the Senate. Courses of lectures upon topics of literary, historical, and scientific interest are given in various centres at a charge of £2 per lecture. At the conclusion of a systematic course of ten lectures, an examination may be held and certificates awarded to successful candidates. In 1931 the Board conducted courses in Sydney, Canberra, and two country towns. The total number of lectures delivered was 149, including 41 broadcast lectures.

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 an annual grant for the maintenance of tutorial classes and extension lectures, the amount in 1931-32 being 4,126. 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.

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 and a number are provided by private endowment. Particulars of these scholarships and bursaries and the conditions attached thereto have been given in previous issues of the Year Book.

Scholarships tenable at State secondary schools are not awarded because fees are not charged, and school material is supplied to all pupils. A few scholarships—six in 1931—are provided by the State to enable boys to attend the Sydney Grammar School.

At Day Continuation Schools in 1931 fifty girls gained scholarships tenable for three years at a technical college. At the Intermediate Certificate and Junior Technical examinations 40 scholarships for Lower Trades Courses were awarded, viz., 30 to boys and 10 to girls, and 14 Agricultural Scholarships. At the Leaving Certificate Examination 25 boys 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., 134 pupils of State schools, and 66 pupils of registered secondary schools. In the same year 10 boys 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.

The Bursary Endowment Act, 1912, provides public moneys for bursaries, tenable in public or private secondary schools and in the University of Sydney. The fund is administered by a 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.

The bursaries awarded in 1931 numbered 302, of which 293 were accepted, viz., 174 by boys and 119 by girls. Of these 195 were tenable at State high schools and 98 at private schools for 5 years from 1st January, 1931.

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. Thirteen were awarded to boys and two to girls in 1931.

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 inadequate for the expense of a University education. The number of such bursaries awarded annually ranges from 25 to 40. Thirty were awarded in 1931, of which 21 were accepted by boys and 3 by girls.

At 30th June, 1931, excluding 237 holders of war bursaries, there were 1,394 pupils holding bursaries under the Bursary Endowment Act, viz., 1,297 were attending courses of secondary instruction, and 97 were attending University lectures. The annual monetary allowances paid in 1930-31 were as follow:—

Allowances.	Bursars.	Allowances.	Bursars.
£		£	
12	497	40	313
18	187	50	182
24	116	65	41
25	56		
30	2	Total ...	1,394

The allowances payable to bursars were reduced in 1932 by 20 per cent.

In addition to the bursaries made available by the Bursary Endowment Board, two 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.

War bursaries are provided by the Bursary Endowment Board for children of incapacitated and fallen soldiers. The number in operation at 30th June, 1931, was 234, each receiving £10 per annum. The total number awarded since they were initiated in 1916 was 2,454.

The war bursaries are awarded usually to children between the ages of 10 and 13 years. Upon reaching the latter age the children become eligible for benefits under a scheme adopted by the Repatriation Commission to assist such children to obtain higher education and training for skilled trades, technical or professional careers. From the date these benefits became

available in February, 1921, to 30th June, 1932, applications to the Commission were approved in 4,570 cases in New South Wales and a sum of £467,242 was expended in the State. This sum included private gifts and bequests, but the greater part was provided by the Commonwealth Government.

For the education of the children of fallen soldiers and sailors assistance is granted also from the Anzac Memorial Bursary Fund which was created by public subscription and vested in the Bursary Endowment Board. Bursaries awarded from this fund are tenable at secondary schools or the University. To 30th June, 1931, the number of such bursaries awarded was 78, of which one at the rate of £25 per annum was awarded in 1930-31.

TRAINING OF SCHOOL TEACHERS.

The Teachers' College which is located in the grounds of the Sydney University is maintained by the State for the training of teachers for the State service. Another college was opened at Armidale in 1928 with the object of decentralising the training. Teachers for private schools also may be trained at the colleges on certain conditions, but few persons avail themselves of this provision.

A course extending over a period of two years prepares teachers for the various classes of primary and infant schools. Teachers of small rural schools are required to undergo an abbreviated course of one year, and the course for teachers of secondary schools extends over four years. Special courses are arranged to meet the requirements of the State schools and for the benefit of individual students possessing special capabilities.

The training of the students enrolled at the Teachers' College is conducted at the University and at various practice schools. There is a hostel for the accommodation of women students in Sydney and a property has been acquired for use as a hostel in connection with the Armidale College.

The staff of the Teachers' College, Sydney, in 1931 included a principal, vice-principal, forty-four lecturers, and two visiting lecturers. The staff at the Armidale College included a principal, twelve lecturers, six visiting or part-time lecturers. At each college there was a warden of women students. Members of the teaching staffs are afforded opportunities to study abroad, and leave of absence, on full pay, may be granted for this purpose.

There were 1,546 students enrolled at the Teachers' Colleges during the year 1931, as shown in the following statement:—

Students.	Men.	Women.	Total.
First year	295	316	611
Second year	247	296	543
Third year	68	64	132
Fourth year	64	41	105
Graduate	10	22	32
Short Course (one year)	45	48	93
Home Economics ... ..	...	30	30
Total	729	817	1,546

The libraries in connection with the Teachers' Colleges contained 44,500 volumes in 1931.

Teachers of Roman Catholic schools are, with few exceptions, members of religious communities. They are trained at thirty-three centres, and are registered by a Board of Registration—a central body appointed by ecclesiastical authority—after they have passed examinations conducted by the board.

Classification of State Teachers.

Teachers in the service of the State are classified, and are promoted from one grade to another according to their efficiency, which is gauged on reports of inspectors and their attainments as tested by written and oral examinations. Students who have completed a course of training at the Teachers' College are required to obtain practical experience as teachers before they are classified.

A comparative statement of the classification of the teaching staff of the State schools (including students in training) at the end of the years 1921 and 1931 is shown below; those in the Technical Education Branch are not included.

Teachers.	1921.			1931.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
High School Teachers	349	299	648	722	627	1,349
Principals and Assistants—						
First Class	418	132	550	479	155	634
Second Class	1,200	900	2,100	1,473	1,421	2,899
Third Class	1,120	1,442	2,562	1,313	1,931	3,244
Unclassified	275	936	1,211	172	418	590
Awaiting Classification	165	653	818	476	735	1,211
Cookery Teachers ... ..	...	68	68	...	234	234
Sewing Mistresses ... ..	...	169	169	...	212	212
Manual Training Teachers ... ..	...	...	...	221	...	221
Visiting Teachers ... ..	...	...	...	3	69	72
Temporary Teachers ... ..	...	...	...	26	403	429
Total	3,527	4,599	8,126	4,890	6,205	11,095
Subsidised School Teachers	27	519	546	50	436	486
Students in Training	336	592	928	728	817	1,545
Grand Total	3,890	5,710	9,600	5,668	7,458	13,126

There has been a general advance in the standard of educational attainments of teachers in New South Wales during the past ten years. The number of unclassified teachers has decreased absolutely and relatively, and a large increase has occurred among high school teachers and those holding first class certificates. At the end of 1931 there were 1,387 University graduates in the teaching service, viz., 733 men and 654 women.

Teachers awaiting classification consist mainly of ex-students of the Training College ineligible for classification until they have obtained the requisite teaching experience. Most of them possess the educational attainments for second or third class certificates.

Teachers of subsidised schools are not required to be trained, but they must have sufficient educational attainments to teach the curriculum of primary schools, and supervisors have been appointed to instruct them with a view to increasing their efficiency. The average number of pupils enrolled in subsidised schools is seven per teacher, the schools being situated in remote districts.

In October, 1932, legislation was passed to restrict the employment of married women as lecturers or teachers in the service of the State and provision was made for the termination of the services of a number of such teachers in order that positions might be made available for students who had completed courses of training provided by the State.

STATE EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION.

State Schools.

The following statement provides a comparison of the State expenditure on schools at intervals since 1891. The expenditure on technical education is not included.

Year.	Maintenance and Administration.	School Premises.	Total Expenditure.	Per Pupil—Mean Quarterly Enrolment.		
				Maintenance and Administration.	School Premises.	Total Expenditure.
1891	£ 578,191	£ 191,374	£ 769,565	£ s. d. 3 7 10	£ s. d. 1 2 6	£ s. d. 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
1921	3,229,042	329,795	3,558,837	10 4 4	1 0 10	11 5 2
1926	3,627,652	699,918	4,327,570	10 10 4	2 0 7	12 10 11
1927	3,698,973	721,352	4,420,325	10 8 7	2 0 8	12 9 3
1928	3,939,338	1,069,409	5,008,747	10 12 5	2 17 8	13 10 1
1929	4,207,754	846,625	5,054,379	11 1 4	2 4 7	13 5 11
1930	3,921,501	563,792	4,485,293	10 1 5	1 9 0	11 10 5
1931	3,823,684	415,379	4,239,063	9 11 3	1 0 9	10 12 0

Although the expenditure on the State schools rose steadily between 1901 and 1911, the expansion of the system caused a more rapid increase in expenditure during the following decade. Part of this additional expenditure was occasioned by the increase in the number of scholars, but the cost of education per pupil was doubled between 1911 and 1921. The expenditure continued to rise steadily until 1929 when the cost of maintenance and administration was £11 1s. 4d. per pupil and the expenditure on school premises £2 4s. 7d. making a total of £13 5s. 11d. per pupil. The average was even higher in the preceding year when the expenditure on school buildings was £2 17s. 8d. per pupil. In 1930 measures were taken to restrict general expenditure, and moneys for buildings were curtailed so that the total expenditure on primary and secondary schools during 1931 was reduced to £4,239,063 or £10 12s. per pupil.

The following statement shows the distribution of expenditure, including capital expenditure in connection with primary and secondary schools (but omitting expenditure on technical education) in 1921 and subsequent years:—

Particulars.	1921.	1926.	1929.	1930.	1931.
Sites, Buildings, Additions*—	£	£	£	£	£
Primary Schools†	173,781	429,501	465,286	265,065	145,012
High Schools	26,703	40,742	121,179	57,329	13,505
Teachers' College	3,816	...	15,428	31,374	26,427
Rates (municipal and shire)†	36,376	61,531	74,329	75,016	69,625
Rent, Furniture and Repairs	89,120	168,144	170,403	135,008	160,810
Salaries and Allowances—					
Primary Schools†	2,446,638	2,645,591	2,986,730	2,757,693	2,736,554
High Schools	200,028	333,966	451,597	447,248	465,767
Evening Continuation Schools...	12,190	16,191	17,750	17,048	16,826
Other Maintenance Expenditure—					
Primary Schools†	188,975	195,673	274,283	234,068	202,755
High Schools	27,314	39,990	51,967	57,751	37,470
Evening Continuation Schools...	1,541	1,558	1,235	1,222	1,219
Bursaries and Scholarships	58,285	36,805	40,306	38,992	39,237
Boarding and Conveyance Allowances	36,149	44,503	51,195	62,869	53,332
Training of Teachers	98,537	118,315	154,143	150,434	135,503
School Medical Inspections	22,197	34,219	36,683	30,598	21,593
School Inspection	47,971	50,288	141,865	123,578	113,428
Administration and other Expenses	89,216	110,553			
Total...	£ 3,558,837	4,327,570	5,054,379	4,485,293	4,239,063

* Includes State Insurance on School Buildings. † Expended by Resumed Properties Depart-
ment on behalf of Department of Education. ‡ Includes expenditure on super-primary
education in intermediate high, district, continuation and rural schools.

The amounts shown in the foregoing tables do not include any allowance for vested residences granted to teachers, of which the annual value was estimated at £48,179 in 1931. The figures are exclusive also of interest paid on loan money used for the erection of schools.

Capital Expenditure on School Buildings, etc.

Large sums have been expended for the purpose of building new schools, teachers' residences, etc., though the funds available in 1931 were abnormally low owing to financial stringency. The total amount so expended during the decennium ended 30th June, 1932, was £5,323,583, the expenditure in each year being as follows:—

Year ended 30th June.	Expenditure from Loan and Public Works Funds.	Year ended 30th June.	Expenditure from Loan and Public Works Funds.
1923	530,428	1928	769,943
1924	591,784	1929	788,701
1925	657,119	1930	400,323
1926	505,153	1931	335,647
1927	653,047	1932	91,438

A large proportion of the moneys was obtained from loans, but in some cases provision was made that the amounts be recouped to the Loan Fund from the Public Works Fund, which represented money derived from the sale of Crown lands and grants from consolidated revenue. The expenditure in 1930-31 included the sum of £180,275 from the Unemployment Relief Fund, being proceeds of special taxation. The corresponding amount in 1931-32 was £50,662.

Total Public Expenditure on Education.

In addition to expenses incurred in respect of the State school system, the public expenditure on education in New South Wales includes grants and subsidies to the University and other educational and scientific organisations. A summary of the total expenditure by the State in respect of education in various years since 1911 is shown below. 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.
1911	176,778	1,213,368	1,390,146	0 17 5
1921	251,880	3,473,545	3,725,425	1 15 8
1926	512,225	4,039,154	4,551,379	1 19 7
1927	666,304	4,223,077	4,889,381	2 1 8
1928	800,328	4,448,579	5,248,907	2 3 8
1929	798,955	4,756,250	5,555,205	2 5 5
1930	410,356	4,938,942	5,349,298	2 3 2
1931	345,870	4,662,103	5,007,973	2 0 1
1932	93,786	4,175,204	4,268,990	1 13 10

These figures are exclusive of amounts spent by the State on the agricultural college and experiment farms and societies for the promotion of agricultural and allied interests, of which particulars are shown in the chapter relating to the agricultural industry. They exclude also the interest paid on loan money invested in works used for public instruction.

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. These include the Royal Society of New South Wales, which has for its objects the advancement of science in Australia, and the encouragement of original research in all subjects of scientific, artistic, and philosophic interest, and the Linnæan Society of New South Wales, established for the special purpose of promoting the advancement of the botany and natural history of Australia.

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. It organises tutorial classes, study circles, summer and holiday schools, and public lectures. In 1931 the membership of the association in New South Wales consisted of 1,071 individual members, and 120 organisations were affiliated with it.

In 1931 fifty-seven classes were held, viz., fifteen at the University, fifteen in the city and suburbs, eleven in the Newcastle district, and sixteen in other country districts. The number of students enrolled was 2,068, and the effective enrolment was 1,798. The association received an endowment of £500 from the State and its subscription fees amounted to £730.

CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC.

The State Conservatorium of Music, which was established in 1915, provides tuition in 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 is available for juveniles who have not previously received musical tuition.

The number of students enrolled in the various courses of study at the Conservatorium was 1,116 in 1930 and 924 in 1931. The latter number included diploma students, of whom thirteen gained the diploma during the year. The receipts in 1931 consisted of fees, receipts from concerts, etc., amounting to £17,548, and the expenditure to £23,633.

MUSEUMS, LIBRARIES, AND ART GALLERY.

The Government of New South Wales maintains a number of museums and libraries and a National Art Gallery. The expenditure by the State on buildings for these institutions to 30th June, 1932, amounted to £487,505.

Museums.

The Australian Museum in Sydney is the oldest institution of its kind in Australia. It is incorporated under control of trustees, with a State endowment, which is 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 1931 visitors to the Museum numbered 266,344, as compared with 267,823 in 1930. The expenditure during the year 1931 was £19,476. The institution is supported by a statutory endowment of £800 per year and by an annual parliamentary appropriation, the amount received from the Consolidated Revenue Fund in the financial year ended 30th June, 1932, being £18,142.

A Technological Museum has been established as an adjunct to the Central Technical College. It contains a valuable series of specimens illustrative of various stages of manufacturing, and a 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 at the Technological Museum in connection with the development of the natural resources of Australia.

There is a Mining and Geological Museum attached to the Department of Mines. Its functions include the preparation and collection 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 incorporated in 1890 with a statutory endowment of £2,000 per annum for the purchase of books. In 1924 the National Library Act authorised the erection of new buildings at an estimated cost of £495,500 and the work of construction is in progress.

The scope of the 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, 1932, the Reference Department of the Public Library (exclusive of the Mitchell Library) contained 324,846 volumes, including 74,146 volumes for country libraries under the lending system. The attendance of visitors during the year 1931-32 numbered 255,603.

The Mitchell Library contains a unique collection, principally of books and manuscripts relating to Australasia and paintings of local historic interest donated by Mr. David Scott Mitchell to the trustees of the Public Library. Mr. Mitchell endowed the library with an amount of £70,000, the income from which is expended on books and manuscripts. In 1932 there were 128,340 volumes in the Mitchell Library, which is located in a separate building. There were 34,935 visitors during the year ended 30th June, 1932.

The total cost to the State of the Public Library buildings was £29,771, and of the Mitchell Library, £100,574, at 30th June, 1932. The expenditure on maintaining the Public Library (including the Mitchell Library) during 1931-32 was £29,044, including £7,323 from the Mitchell Library Endowment Fund.

Sydney Municipal Library.

The Sydney Municipal Library is a free lending library administered by the Council of the City of Sydney. It contained 53,508 volumes in 1931.

Maintenance costs during 1931 amounted to £12,946, made up as follows:—Salaries, etc., £7,803; books, periodicals, binding, and electric lighting, £5,143.

Other Libraries.

Local libraries established in a large number of centres throughout the State, may be classed broadly under two heads—Schools of Arts, which have 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 library of the Australian Museum, though intended primarily as a scientific library for staff use, is accessible to students, and 27,296 volumes may be found on the shelves. In the library attached to the National Herbarium there are approximately 10,000 volumes.

The libraries in connection with the Technological Museum, and the Technical College and branches, contain approximately 16,000 text-books. In the library of the Teachers' College there are 41,635 volumes; in libraries attached to State Schools, 519,860 volumes; and in the Fisher Library at the University, 199,500 volumes.

The Parliamentary Library contains over 77,000 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 oil paintings, water colours and statuary, including some works of prominent modern artists, and some valuable gifts from private persons.

The present value of the contents of the Gallery is £185,686, and the cost of the building to 30th June, 1932, was £95,594.

The number of paintings, etc., in the Gallery at end of year 1931 was 3,072, and the total amount expended in purchasing works of art during that year was £819, distributed as shown below:—

Classification.	Paintings, etc., in Gallery.	Expenditure during 1931.
	No.	£
Oil Paintings	624	556
Water Colours	457	168
Black and White Works	975	87
Various Art Works in Metals, Ivory, Ceramics, Glass, Mosaic, etc.	187 829	 8
Total	3,072	819

The total expenditure during the year 1931 amounted to £4,515, including salaries and wages of £3,209.

The attendance at the National Art Gallery during 1931 was 149,245 on week-days and 72,910 on Sundays.

Art students, under certain regulations, may copy works and enjoy the benefit of a collection of books of reference on art subjects. Collections of pictures are sent to the principal country towns for temporary exhibition, 316 pictures being so distributed during 1931.

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 consisting of the interest on approximately £1,000 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 is awarded 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.

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.

The main features of the system are that established law is enforced by public law courts 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. Minor civil and criminal cases are relegated to Courts of Petty Sessions within the districts in which they arise, and more important civil cases are heard before a judge of the District Court, who also presides in criminal jurisdiction over Courts of Quarter Sessions.

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 exercise general powers of supervision over the administration of justice through its right to issue and enforce writs and to hear appeals.

A number of courts of law have been established to deal with certain special matters, viz., Licensing Courts, Fair Rents Courts, Taxation Courts of Review, (Mining) Wardens' Courts, Courts of Marine Inquiry, Land and Valuation Court, and, among criminal courts of magisterial rank, Coroners' Courts and Children's Courts. Special jurisdictions are exercised by the Industrial Commission and by the Workers' Compensation Commission. Special matters arising under the various land laws of the State are dealt with by Local Land Boards. A Transport Appeal Court, consisting of a District Court Judge, hears appeals from certain decisions of the transport authorities.

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.

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).

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.

ADMINISTRATION OF LAW.

Ministers of the Crown.

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." 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.

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.

The Minister of Justice supervises the working of the 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.

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. By these provisions the judiciary is rendered independent of the executive, but a judge may be removed from office by the Crown on the address of both Houses of Parliament. Each member of the Industrial Commission of New South Wales has the same status and rights as a puisne judge of the Supreme Court.

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 to exercise the jurisdiction of the Court in districts allotted by the Governor. Such persons hold office during ability and good behaviour up to the age of 70 years. They may be removed from office by the Governor for inability or misbehaviour subject first to appeal to the Governor-in-Council. A judge may not engage in the practice of the legal profession. The chairman of the Workers' Compensation Commission has the same status as a District Court Judge.

Other Officers of the Courts.

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 the 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.

The Prothonotary of the Supreme Court is its principal officer in the common law and criminal jurisdiction. He acts as registrar of 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 the liberty of the subject.

The office of Sheriff is regulated 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 and available for such office. Persons so appointed must have attained the full age of thirty-five years, and have passed the prescribed examination in law. 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 is 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, and Industrial Magistrates.

Justices of the Peace.

Persons of mature age and good character may be appointed as Justices 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, but appointees 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.

In December, 1932, there were approximately 27,000 Justices of the Peace in New South Wales, including 1,230 women.

Registration of Legal Documents, etc.

The Registrar-General in New South Wales registers 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; of bills of sale; and of instruments under the Newspapers and Printing and certain other Acts.

The documents relating to registration 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 registration, inspection, and searches, and for public documents sold by the Registrar-General during 1930, was £191,510; and in 1931 it was £120,583, of which £73,671 was collected by the Lands Titles Branch and £38,558 by the Deeds branch.

The registration of patents, copyrights, trade marks, and designs, devolves upon the federal authorities. A patent granted under the Commonwealth law is 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.

Public Trustee.

The Public Trustee exercises administrative functions in regard to estates in terms of the Public Trustee Act, 1913, as amended in 1923. 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 he may 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:—

Particulars.	Year ended 30th June.				
	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
Estates received for Administration	2,219	2,376	2,246	1,884	1,944
	£	£	£	£	£
Amount Received*	1,202,317	1,542,609	1,298,118	1,040,138	850,236
Amount Paid*	1,165,359	1,362,891	1,942,154	1,041,634	844,309
Commission and Fees	44,598	45,171	44,857	44,954	48,705
Unclaimed Money—					
Paid into Treasury	9,280	26,434	11,902	5,481	22,261
Subsequently Claimed... ..	765	3,381	310	374	346
Credit Balances of Estates	4,610,686	4,908,651	5,600,624	6,410,847	6,743,050

* On behalf of estates.

The cost of administration amounted to £42,677 in 1930-31 and to £39,788 in the following year.

JURY SYSTEM.

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 Jury Act, 1912, and its amendments, and other Acts regulate special cases.

Persons liable to service on juries include, with certain exceptions, any man 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. Men specially exempt include judges, members of Parliament, certain public officers, officers of the public service of the Commonwealth, members of the defence forces, employees of the State Governments, clergymen, barristers, solicitors, magistrates, police officers, doctors, dentists, chemists, schoolmasters, certain employees of banks, incapacitated persons, and men above the age of 60 years who claim exemption. Women are not liable for service on juries.

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 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.

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 of 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 in certain instances costs of suits are 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
1921	185	681	431	1,112
1926	229	835	477	1,312
1927	227	853	494	1,352
1928	233	898	503	1,401
1929	233	972	517	1,489
1930	235	983	555	1,543
1931	236	1,013	568	1,581
1932	257	1,020	586	1,606

The number of barristers at the end of 1932 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 also 58 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.

Poor Persons' Legal Expenses.

Under the Poor Prisoners' Defence Act, 1907, a 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.

COURTS OF CIVIL JURISDICTION.

Courts of Petty Sessions (Small Debts Court).

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, or where claims are admitted and agreed upon, and such bailiffs as are appointed from time to time for the service and execution of judgments.

Particulars of the transactions of Courts of Petty Sessions in their civil jurisdiction during the last five years are shown below:—

Year.	Plaints entered.	Verdicts for Plaintiff.		Executions issued.	Garnishee Orders issued.
		Number.	Amount.		
			£		
1927	84,740	34,633	336,058	11,646	6,337
1928	88,033	33,398	368,242	12,904	7,147
1929	92,016	39,153	395,233	14,321	7,239
1930	92,054	45,147	462,803	17,089	7,665
1931	71,509	40,442	397,902	16,318	5,722

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 1931 numbered 5,722.

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. There are seven District Court Judges and arrangements have been made for sittings in sixty-two districts in 1933. The courts sit at intervals during ten months of the year in Sydney, 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 a judge sitting alone, but a jury may be empanelled 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.

The findings of the District Court are intended to be final, but new trials may be granted, and appeals may be made to the Supreme Court in certain cases.

Particulars of suits brought in District Courts in their original jurisdictions during the last six 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.
	Verdict for Plaintiff.	Verdict for Defendant (including Nonsuit, etc.).						
1927	896	369	3,249	5,780	14	10,308	11,155	5,267
1928	1,091	417	3,881	6,362	9	11,760	11,521	5,028
1929	1,353	451	3,665	7,405	9	12,833	14,144	6,289
1930	1,373	474	4,123	9,204	4	15,178	15,710	6,821
1931	1,280	479	3,217	7,939	...	12,915	11,533	5,444
1932	1,228	343	2,856	6,438	...	10,855	10,060	4,639

Of the cases tried during 1932, 120 were tried by jury and 1,451 without a jury. The amount of judgment for plaintiffs during the year was £317,233.

In addition to the suits covered by the foregoing table a considerable amount of work is done in the District Courts under various Acts.

SUPREME COURT.

The Supreme Court of New South Wales was established in 1824 under the Charter of Justice. Jurisdiction is exercised by a Chief Justice and not more than eight 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 jurisdiction of the Supreme Court at Common Law extends to 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.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
Writs Issued	7,560	8,139	10,064	6,857	4,907
Judgments Signed	3,643	3,928	4,835	4,040	2,654
Causes Tried—					
Verdict for Plaintiff	202	251	217	211	154
" Defendant	47	78	71	70	63
Jury Disagreed	1	1	2	3	2
Nonsuits	16	26	15	21	18
Total	266	356	305	305	237
Causes—					
Not proceeded with	396	400	423	372	315
Referred to Arbitration... ..	3	1	1	1	...
Total Causes dealt with	665	757	729	678	552

Litigation in this jurisdiction, as indicated by the number of writs issued, has decreased since 1930. The difference between the number of writs issued and judgments signed indicates the extent to which suits are not proceeded with, and 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 jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in Equity (which includes infancy) 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 transactions in Equity during the year ended 30th June, 1932, included the following:—Decrees 100; orders on motions and petitions 966, and orders by Judge in Chambers 366.

Lunacy Jurisdiction.

Jurisdiction in Lunacy in the Supreme Court is 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 controlled by the Master in Lunacy at 30th June, 1932, was £1,052,430, consisting of mortgages £194,500, Commonwealth Government securities £748,421, fixed deposits £68,482, cash £18,932, Commonwealth Savings Bank deposits £22,095. In addition there were assets of considerable value in the form of scrip, real estate, etc. A deduction ranging up to 4 per cent. from the net income of insane persons and patients whose estates are managed by the Master in Lunacy amounted in 1931-32 to £3,722, and the fees collected to £180.

Bankruptcy Jurisdiction.

Bankruptcy law and procedure in New South Wales were virtually codified by a consolidating Act passed in 1898. The State law has been superseded by the Bankruptcy Act of the Commonwealth which came into force on 1st August, 1928, so that the State Act applies only to matters not dealt with in the federal Act, and to proceedings pending at 1st August, 1928.

Under the federal 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 receiver named in the order, and no creditor has any remedy against the property or person of the bankrupt except by appeal to the Court. Under certain conditions a bankrupt may compound with his creditors or enter into a scheme of arrangement, if approved by the Court.

An Inspector-General in Bankruptcy has been appointed under the Commonwealth Act, and bankruptcy jurisdiction in New South Wales, which forms one of the federal bankruptcy districts, is vested in the Supreme Court of the State. One judge in particular exercises the jurisdiction, but for purposes of convenience all the Supreme Court Justices are invested with bankruptcy jurisdiction. A Federal Court of Bankruptcy has been constituted also, in terms of an amending Act passed in July, 1930.

The Court has power to decide questions of priorities and other questions of law affecting a bankrupt estate. Questions of fact may be tried before a jury.

The Registrar in Bankruptcy has such duties as the Attorney-General of the Commonwealth directs, or as are prescribed, and he exercises powers of an administrative nature delegated by the Court. He may hear debtors' petitions, make full examination of bankrupts or of persons suspected to be indebted to a bankrupt, make sequestration orders, and grant orders of discharge where the applications are not opposed. There are deputy registrars in the country districts.

Official receivers who manage assigned estates for the benefit of creditors, act under the general authority of the Attorney-General and are controlled by the Court, and the receiverships of particular estates are distributed amongst them by the Court. Persons registered by the Court as qualified to act as trustees, as well as official receivers, may be appointed by resolution of the creditors to manage sequestrated estates.

Particulars of the operations in New South Wales under the Bankruptcy Act of the Commonwealth are shown in the chapter of this Year Book relating to Private Finance.

Probate Jurisdiction.

Probate jurisdiction 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, 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.

The following table shows the number and values of estates dealt with in the past six years:—

Year.	Probates Granted.		Letters of Administration.		Total.	
	Number of Estates.	Gross Value of Estates.	Number of Estates.	Gross Value of Estates.	Number of Estates.	Gross Value of Estates.
		£		£		£
1927	4,369	21,880,669	2,554	3,550,107	6,923	25,430,776
1928	4,641	23,605,364	2,581	3,037,228	7,222	26,642,592
1929	5,355	23,010,133	2,795	3,079,249	8,150	26,089,382
1930	4,616	23,460,033	2,623	2,693,246	7,239	26,153,279
1931	4,574	19,049,172	2,195	2,201,860	6,769	21,251,032
1932	4,900	19,705,399	2,546	2,399,712	7,446	22,105,111

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 foregoing 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.

Jurisdiction in Matrimonial Causes (Divorce).

This jurisdiction was conferred on the Supreme Court by the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1873. Previously 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. 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 and the conditions as to domicile have been set out in previous issues of this Year Book.

The following statement shows the number of petitions in matrimonial causes made and granted in New South Wales during the past three years in comparison with the average per year in quinquennial periods since 1908:—

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
1913-17*	642	393	342	9	3	3	74	51
1918-22*	1,041	672	562	13	7	5	236	141
1923-27*	1,391	992	903	13	9	8	266	168
1928	1,508	1,069	913	6	8	8	330	179
1929	1,595	1,132	1,066	17	17	12	315	192
1930	1,476	1,141	933	7	13	11	298	179
1931	1,303	897	1,076	3	8	8	281	170

* Average per year.

The number of petitions lodged in *forma pauperis* during 1931 was 610, of which 516 were for divorce, 2 for nullity of marriage, 6 for judicial separation, and 86 for restitution of conjugal rights.

The number 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 was 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.
1922	296	397	693	1927	421	667	1,088
1923	314	438	752	1928	373	554	927
1924	359	486	845	1929	429	666	1,095
1925	439	645	1,084	1930	396	555	951
1926	323	524	847	1931	440	647	1,087

The proportion of the petitions lodged by husbands is about 40 per cent.

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.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
Adultery	257	190	249	202	265
Bigamy	7	8	6	7	7
Cruelty and Repeated Assaults	12	6	9	5	5
„ „ Habitual Drunkenness	16	20	15	15	16
Desertion	643	558	611	552	612
Habitual Drunkenness and Neglect to Sup- port, or Neglect of Domestic Duties	9	12	21	22	29
Non-compliance with Order for Restitution of Conjugal Rights	121	125	156	135	142
Other	3	2	11	6	8
Total	1,068	921	1,078	944	1,084

In the 1,076 cases in which decrees for divorce were made absolute during 1931, the duration of marriage was as follows:—Under 5 years, 68; 5-9 years, 328; 10-14 years, 309; 15-19 years, 171. In 157 cases the duration was between 20 and 30 years; in 38 it was between 30 and 40 years; and in 5 between 40 and 50 years. In the case of 348 marriages there were no children; one child in 336 cases; two children, 208; three children, 82; four children, 46; and five or more children in 47 cases. In 9 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.

Courts of Marine Inquiry.

Cases of shipwreck or casualty to British vessels, or the detention of any ships 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 proceedings of the Court are governed by the Navigation Acts of the State and Commonwealth.

Licensing Courts.

Under the Liquor Act of 1912 and its amendments, a Licensing Court in each of the licensing districts in New South Wales deals with applications for new licenses, renewals, removals, or transfers of existing licenses to manufacture or sell intoxicating liquors.

Three police magistrates, appointed as licensing magistrates, constitute the Licensing Courts for all the districts of the State. The same magistrates constitute the Licenses Reduction Board. They may delegate minor functions to a police or stipendiary magistrate. The Court sits as an open court, and appeals from its decisions lie to the District Court.

Particulars relating to the operations of the Licensing Courts and the Licenses Reduction Board are shown in the chapter entitled "Social Condition."

Fair Rents Courts.

These courts were established under the Fair Rents Act, 1915, for the regulation of the rents of dwellings let at a rental not exceeding the rate of £3 per week. The jurisdiction was extended in 1926 to retail shops at rentals not exceeding £6 per week, but it was curtailed by an amendment passed in 1928, which provides also that the Fair Rents Act will cease to have effect on 1st July, 1933.

Particulars of the operations of the Courts are published in the chapter "Food and Prices" of this Year Book.

(Mining) Wardens' Courts.

By virtue of the Mining Act, 1906, and amendments, mining wardens may hold courts to determine disputes 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.

Judges of the District Courts have been authorised to sit as Taxation Courts of Review under the Land and Income Tax Act, 1895, and the Income Tax (Management) Act, 1928. 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.

Industrial Tribunals.

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.

The constitution of the Industrial Commission, as provided by the Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act passed in December, 1927, consists of a President and two other members, holding office during good behaviour with the same status and rights as a puisne Judge of the Supreme Court. Persons eligible for appointment as a member of the Commission are puisne judges of the Supreme Court, District Court Judges, barristers of five years standing, and solicitors of seven years standing. The Commission has authority to adjudicate in cases of illegal strikes, lockouts or unlawful dismissals; to inquire into any industrial matter referred by the Minister; to determine a standard of living and to declare the living wage; to hold conferences regarding the 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. There is a Conciliation Commissioner who exercises powers delegated by the Commission and acts as chairman of the conciliation committees. Additional conciliation commissioners may be appointed.

Conciliation committees may be established for various industries on the recommendation of the Industrial Commission. Their functions are to inquire into industrial matters and to make awards governing working conditions. The committees have original jurisdiction in respect of industrial matters arising in industries for which they have been established.

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 "Industrial Arbitration."

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, and its amendments. 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.

During the year 1930-31, the Commission in open Court dealt with 1179 applications for determination regarding the liability of employers to pay compensation and in Chambers considered 1,251 applications by dependents of deceased workers, or by workers under a legal disability. Further particulars relating to compensation are shown in the chapter relating to Employment.

*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 Acts, and other matters referred by the Minister. Sittings are held as required at appointed places in each of twelve Land Board Districts in the Eastern and Central Divisions of the State. There are also special Land Boards for the Yanco, Mirrool, and Ccomealla Irrigation Areas.

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.

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 decision on points of law.

Broadly stated, the functions of the court are to hear and determine 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.

COURTS OF FEDERAL JURISDICTION.

By the Commonwealth Judiciary Act, 1903-1927, jurisdiction under federal laws is vested in the courts of the States within the limits of their several jurisdictions, as to locality, subject-matter, etc. Justices of the Peace are, however, excluded from exercising federal jurisdiction. Certain Acts (*e.g.*, the Postal Act and Customs Act) also confer jurisdiction in special cases on State Courts. Bankruptcy jurisdiction under federal legislation is vested in the Supreme Court of New South Wales. A Federal Court of Bankruptcy was constituted in 1930.

There are two Commonwealth courts which possess certain jurisdiction, exclusive of State courts, *viz.*, the High Court of Australia and the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. An account of the latter court is given in the chapter of this volume entitled "Industrial Arbitration."

The High Court of Australia was established in 1903, and consists of a Chief Justice and five 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. The Federal Court of Bankruptcy consists of one or two Judges appointed by the Governor-General by Commission.

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, and its amendments. These courts deal with minor offences, which may be

treated summarily, while serious charges are investigated, 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 courts deal 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. 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 decision 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 available, as they are included with those of ordinary Courts of Petty Sessions.

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 where multiple charges are preferred at the same time, separate account is taken of each. The figures should not be used for the purpose of comparison with other States or countries, unless the same rules are observed in tabulating the statistics of crime. They are not comparable, for instance, with the statistics of Magistrates' Courts in the States of Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia, where an accused person charged with a number of offences at the same time is counted once only:—

Year.	Offences Charged.				Per cent.		
	Withdrawn or Discharged.	Convicted.	Committed to Higher Courts.	Total.	With-drawn.	Con-victed.	Com-mitted to Higher Courts.
1911	8,878	65,058	1,178	75,114	11·8	86·6	1·6
1921	11,877	80,214	2,594	94,685	12·6	84·7	2·7
1926	14,199	100,644	1,832	116,675	12·2	86·2	1·6
1927	14,478	107,657	1,895	124,030	11·7	86·8	1·5
1928	15,140	119,936	2,003	137,079	11·0	87·5	1·5
1929	16,638	113,398	2,403	132,439	12·6	85·6	1·8
1930	19,143	102,670	2,725	124,538	15·4	82·4	2·2
1931	17,317	101,675	2,751	121,743	14·2	83·5	2·3
1932	20,237	93,860	2,244	116,341	17·4	80·7	1·9

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 dealt with in this manner, and they are included in the statistics as convictions, as well as those cases where the offender is admonished and set free without penalty.

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.
			Drunkenness.	Other.		
1911	1,664	3,404	29,299	14,886	15,805	65,058
1921	2,127	5,924	28,702	13,086	25,375	80,214
1926	1,913	7,328	31,361	16,485	43,557	100,644
1927	1,924	8,114	32,649	17,401	47,569	107,657
1928	1,889	8,274	35,155	18,967	55,651	119,936
1929	1,930	9,677	33,136	18,846	49,809	113,398
1930	1,893	9,859	25,655	15,228	50,035	102,670
1931	1,849	11,708	20,559	15,598	51,961	101,675
1932	1,993	10,104	21,510	15,057	45,196	93,860
	Number per 1,000 of Mean Population.					
1911	1.00	2.04	17.60	8.94	9.49	39.07
1921	1.01	2.81	13.61	8.58	12.04	38.05
1926	0.82	3.16	13.51	7.10	18.76	43.35
1927	0.81	3.42	13.75	7.33	20.03	45.34
1928	0.78	3.41	14.49	7.82	22.93	49.43
1929	0.78	3.93	13.44	7.65	20.21	46.01
1930	0.76	3.96	10.31	6.12	20.09	41.24
1931	0.74	4.67	8.19	6.22	20.71	40.53
1932	0.79	3.99	8.50	5.95	17.85	37.08

There has been a marked increase in convictions classified under the heading "other offences," which consist mainly of breaches of administrative law, *e.g.*, traffic regulations and local government by-laws. A large proportion are minor breaches or are committed through inadvertence or in ignorance of the law, and are met with the infliction of a fine. As local and other administrative activities have been extended, it is a natural corollary that such offences should become more numerous. Thus the convictions under the traffic regulations have increased to such an extent that in recent years they have represented half or more of the offences classified in this group, and the number in 1932 was 22,236, as compared with 4,192 in 1921. Excluding offences of this class, the number of convictions per 1,000 of population in 1932 was 26 per cent. lower than in 1921. There has been an increase in summary convictions for offences against property, though the number in 1932 was lower than in the preceding year. The number of convictions for drunkenness in 1931 was the lowest since 1919. The number was somewhat higher in the following year, but the proportion was 25 per cent. lower than in 1921.

Coroners' Courts.

The office of Coroner was established in New South Wales by letters patent in 1787, and is 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 appointed coroner.

At the discretion of the Coroner, inquiries are held into the causes of violent or unnatural deaths, into the causes of 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. Persons apprehended by the police subsequent to the decisions of coroners are charged in the Courts of Petty Sessions.

During 1931, 17 persons were committed for trial by coroners on charges of murder, 28 for manslaughter, and 30 for arson. The corresponding figures for the year 1932, were:—Murder, 24; manslaughter, 25; and arson, 16.

The coroners held inquiries into the origin of 234 fires in 1931 and found that 29 fires were accidental, and 69 were caused wilfully. In 135 cases the evidence was insufficient to indicate the origin. The inquiries in 1932 related to 188 fires and there were verdicts of arson in 60 cases and accident in 25 cases.

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 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 1933, courts being held usually at the conclusion of District Court sittings, from two to four times a year in country centres, but eleven times in Sydney, and six 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. 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 a similar jurisdiction in circuit towns. Usually capital offences, and 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 returns of such prisoners supplied by the gaolers of the State under rules of the Court.

Cases before Higher Criminal Courts.

The following table relates to the number of distinct persons charged before Courts of Quarter Sessions, sittings of the Supreme Court at circuit towns, and the Central Criminal Court, and it shows the number convicted for each of the classes of more serious offences. Where two or more charges were preferred against the same person, account has been taken only of the principal charge.

Year.	Distinct Persons Charged.	Not Guilty, etc.	Convictions—Principal Offence.				Total Persons Convicted	
			Against Person.	Against Property.	Against Currency, and Forgery.	Other Offences.	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
1921	1,722	611	166	853	48	44	1,111	5·27
1926-27	1,181	437	156	515	23	50	744	3·17
1927-28	1,348	471	191	615	23	48	877	3·65
1928-29	1,369	523	179	588	31	48	846	3·46
1929-30	1,495	461	172	805	29	28	1,034	4·15
1930-31	1,711	503	170	977	36	25	1,208	4·83
1931-32	1,597	458	162	892	48	37	1,139	4·52

In view of the facts 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 only about two-thirds of the persons charged are convicted, and in the case of offences against the person the proportion is approximately one-half.

Of the persons convicted during the year ended 30th June, 1932, the males numbered 1,097 and females 42. The proportion per hundred thousand of each sex was: Males 86, females 3.

The following table shows the number of persons convicted for specific offences included in the foregoing statement:—

Offences.	Number of Offenders Convicted.				
	1911.	1921.	1926-27.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Murder	3	8	7	8	11
Attempted Murder, Shooting with Intent ...	3	3	2	4	12
Manslaughter	4	13	6	1	9
Rape and other Offences against Females ...	29	21	33	44	30
Unnatural Offences	2	23	15	13	20
Abortion and Attempts to Procure... ..	3	2	4	4	6
Bigamy	16	22	18	17	22
Assault	80	63	55	56	32
Burglary and Housebreaking	62	244	198	383	479
Robbery and Stealing from the Person ...	14	35	45	52	63
Stealing Horses, Cattle, Sheep	26	48	1	2	9
Embezzlement and Stealing by Servants ...	26	42	18	24	15
Larceny and Receiving	131	376	160	326	206
Fraud and False Pretences	38	80	59	72	70
Arson ... ..	...	1	4	7	12
Forgery, Uttering Forged Documents ...	41	44	22	29	33
Conspiracy	10	16	38	12	3
Perjury and Subornation	10	17	5	5	4

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 housebreaking. On the other hand considerable decreases took place in the number of assaults and cases of forgery.

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.

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 even if a State law provides that the decision of the Supreme Court is final.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

Appeals from Dominion Courts to the Crown-in-Council are heard by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council 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.

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 recognizance 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.

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.

POLICE.

THE police force of New South Wales is organised under the Police Regulation Act of 1899 and amendments. 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.

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. 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 may be paid to him or his dependents. Particulars of the pension fund are shown in the chapter entitled "Social Condition."

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, and they collect a large volume of statistical returns. In the metropolitan area the police regulate the street traffic.

New South Wales is divided into nine superintendents' districts, containing 660 police stations, and a police force numbering 3,614, of whom twelve are women. The distribution of the force in December, 1932, was as follows:—

Classification.	Commissioner and Superintendents.	Inspectors.	Sergeants.	Constables.	Trackers.	Matrons.	Total.
General	14	65	594	2,321	20	...	3,014
Criminal Investigation Branch.	...	5	25	71	...	...	101
Others on detective work	...	...	37	138	...	...	175
Traffic	2	...	12	229	...	...	243
Mounted Traffic Patrol ...	...	...	...	17	...	...	17
Water ... ..	...	1	10	41	...	...	52
Women ... ..	...	...	1	7	...	4	12
Total	16	71	679	2,824	20	4	3,614

The mounted police numbered 752, including the inspectors and superintendents, 162 sergeants, 483 constables, and 20 black trackers.

The following statement shows for various years since 1901 the strength of the police establishment (exclusive of trackers and women police) in relation to the population. With a greater volume of administrative legislation their duties have been increased considerably during the period:—

Year.	Number of Police.	Inhabitants to each Policeman.	Year.	Number of Police.	Inhabitants to each Policeman.
1901	2,172	634	1928	3,439	712
1911	2,487	684	1929	3,623	684
1921	2,734	779	1930	3,701	673
1926	2,966	792	1931	3,646	691
1927	3,105	774	1932	3,582	710

During each period intervening between the years shown above there was a decline in the strength of the police force in relation to the population until 1926. In the four years 1927 to 1930 the net additions to the force were greater than the increase in population, then the number of police was reduced and the ratio to the population fell back to the level of the year 1928.

A comparative statement of the annual expenditure of the Police Department is shown below:—

Year ended 30th June—	Expenditure.				State Contribution to Superannuation Fund.
	Salaries.	Contingences.	Total.	Per Head of Population.	
	£	£	£	s. d.	£
1911	392,602	99,951	492,553	5 11	24,000
1921	833,818	228,283	1,062,101	10 2	80,000
1926	949,842	258,222	1,208,064	10 6	153,650
1927	964,817	269,690	1,234,507	10 6	170,600
1928	1,111,101	291,853	1,402,954	11 8	165,200
1929	1,210,918	313,421	1,524,339	12 5	167,450
1930	1,286,700	353,990	1,640,690	13 3	175,525
1931	1,291,737	302,089	1,593,826	12 9	190,800
1932	954,041	261,285	1,215,326	9 8	191,500

Including State contribution to the Police Superannuation Fund the cost of the Police Department reached the maximum in 1929-30, viz., £1,816,215, or 14s. 8d. per head of population. The corresponding figures in 1931-32 were £1,406,826 or 11s. 2d. per head, the decline being due mainly to reductions in salaries.

PRISONS.

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 is 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. 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 30th June, 1932, there were 26 gaols in New South Wales. Six were classed as principal gaols, 12 as minor, and 8 as police gaols. The principal gaols were the State Penitentiary for men and the State Reformatory for Women—both at Long Bay, Sydney—and the gaols at Parramatta, Bathurst, Goulburn, and Maitland. Each of these gaols is used for a particular class of prisoners.

The State Penitentiary is used for prisoners awaiting trial, etc., and those sentenced at metropolitan courts to short periods of detention, and it is a centre from which long-sentence prisoners are distributed to country establishments. The State Reformatory is used for female prisoners of all classes. At Goulburn Gaol special treatment is provided for first offenders, and at Bathurst and Parramatta prisoners convicted more than once are imprisoned.

The smaller gaols are used for prisoners undergoing short sentences, and for the detention of those who require special treatment apart from other long-sentence prisoners. Among the minor gaols are the Afforestation Camps at Tuncurry, Mila (Bombala), Glen Innes, Oberon, and Tumbarumba and the Emu Plains Prison Farm. At the Prison Farm, prisoners—usually first offenders—under 25 years of age are trained in farm work; at Tuncurry older men are employed on a pine plantation, and similar work is provided at other afforestation camps. At these establishments the conditions of gaol life are modified with the object of befitting the men to lead useful lives after release, and for this reason the prisoners sent to the camps are selected with discrimination.

The police gaols are used for the detention of persons sentenced in the various districts for periods not exceeding fourteen days.

In the larger gaols the prisoners are classified according to character and previous record, and the principle of restricted association is in operation.

PRISONERS.

The number of gaol entries during various years since 1901 and the number of prisoners in gaol at the close of each year are shown below. The figures are exclusive of persons detained under the Inebriates Act:—

Year.	Number of Gaol Entries during Year.	Prisoners under Sentence.							
		Received during Year.				In Prison at end of Year.			
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Per 1,000 of Population.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Per 10,000 of Population.
1901	14,361	8,899	2,941	11,840	8·6	1,605	207	1,812	12·3
1911	9,532	6,086	1,347	7,433	4·5	1,134	115	1,249	6·9
1921	8,817	5,541	1,073	6,614	3·1	1,272	97	1,369	6·0
1925-26	8,750	5,811	1,059	6,870	3·0	1,378	85	1,463	6·1
1926-27	8,158	5,248	941	6,189	2·6	1,434	69	1,503	6·1
1927-28	9,414	6,134	953	7,092	3·0	1,690	85	1,775	6·9
1928-29	10,033	6,530	1,093	7,623	3·1	1,710	89	1,799	6·8
1929-30	11,271	7,378	1,286	8,664	3·5	1,749	94	1,843	7·4
1930-31	12,148	8,863	1,264	10,127	4·1	1,628	63	1,691	6·7
1931-32	13,504	9,644	1,241	10,885	4·3	1,596	52	1,648	6·5

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.

The number of persons received into prison under sentence, counted once each time received, in 1931-32 was 10,885, viz., males 9,644, and females 1,241. The total number was above the average of recent years owing to an increase in the number detained for short periods in default of the payment of fines. Nevertheless the ratio to the population, 4·3 per 10,000, was slightly lower than in 1911 and only half the ratio in 1901.

The number of distinct persons received into gaol under sentence in 1931-32 was 8,145, of whom 671 were women. The number was greater by 263 than in the preceding year, but there were fewer prisoners in gaol at 30th June, 1932, than there were twelve months earlier.

The sentences imposed on the prisoners received into gaol during the years ended 30th June, 1931 and 1932, were as follows:—

	1930-31.	1931-32.
Not exceeding one week	3,557	5,440
Over one week and not exceeding one month ..	3,040	2,230
Over one month and not exceeding six months..	1,862	1,637
Over six months and not exceeding one year ..	500	478
Over one year and not exceeding two years ..	329	303
Over two years and not exceeding five years ..	130	103
Over five years and not exceeding ten years ..	8	11
Over ten years	2	2
Life	5	5
Death .. .. .	..	5
Term not specified	694	671
	10,127	10,885

Capital punishment may be inflicted in New South Wales, but executions are unusual. Since the beginning of the year 1918 there have been three executions—two in 1924, and one in 1932.

The prisoners remaining in gaol under sentence on 30th June, 1932, numbering 1,648, included 59 serving life sentences, and 85 who had been declared habitual criminals and sentenced for an indefinite period.

The system of indeterminate sentences was introduced in terms of the Habitual Criminals Act, 1905, which 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 declarations were made only in the case of convictions on indictment until the Act was amended in 1924 to extend the system to persistent offenders, who are convicted summarily. In such cases a stipendiary or police magistrate may direct that an application be forwarded to a Judge of the Supreme Court or a Court of Quarter Sessions to have the prisoner declared an habitual criminal.

In gaol, the habitual criminal serves the definite sentence imposed for the offence of which he has been convicted, then he is detained for an indefinite term, until he is deemed fit for freedom. The indeterminate stage is divided into three grades—intermediate, higher, and special. A minimum period of 4 years 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 on license. After release he is required to report to the authorities at stated intervals during a period specified in the license.

The Habitual Criminals Act prescribes that while under detention as an habitual criminal every prisoner must work at some useful trade, and receive a share 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.

Thirteen men were declared habitual criminals during the year ended 30th June, 1932, and 18 in the previous year. At 30th June, 1932, there were under detention 29 men who had not yet completed the definite period of their sentence, and 56 men who had passed into the indeterminate stage.

Among the special classes of prisoners are those known as "maintenance confinees," who have been imprisoned for disobeying orders of the courts for the maintenance of their wives and children. Such prisoners are required to work, and the value of the work, after deducting the cost of the prisoner's keep, is applied towards the satisfaction of the orders for maintenance, etc.

During 1931-32 the number of maintenance confinees received into gaol was 546, as compared with 805 during the year 1930-31. Gaol earnings to the amount of £2,298 were paid to dependants of confinees during the year. Fifty-six confinees paid the amount of their orders from gaol earnings, and 76 partly from gaol earnings. The number in gaol at the end of the year was 81.

Sickness and Mortality in Gaols.

The medical statistics of prisons show that, with an average daily number of 1,826 inmates during 1931-32, the total number of cases of sickness treated in hospital was 700. Fourteen prisoners died, and 8 were released on medical grounds. The death rate per 1,000 of the average number of inmates was 7.7. There were no executions during the year ended June, 1932.

Particulars relating to cases of venereal diseases amongst prisoners and those detained in lock hospitals are shown in the chapter entitled "Social Condition."

Industrial Activity in Prison Establishments.

It is accepted as a principle that useful employment is one of the most important factors in promoting discipline and good conduct in the gaols and in reforming those who have lapsed into crime. 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, and the scope for employment in skilled trades is being extended steadily. Under a system introduced in April, 1922, prisoners may receive payment for work produced in excess of a fixed task.

In 1931-32 the value of prisoners' labour of a productive nature, excluding domestic employment, amounted to £71,098.

BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND EDUCATION OF PRISONERS.

The number of persons serving sentences in gaols at 30th June, 1932, were distributed according to birthplaces and to religions as follow:—

Birthplace.				Religion.			
	Males.	Females.	Total.		Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales ...	972	30	1,002	Church of England	727	18	745
Other Australian ...	294	12	306	Roman Catholic ..	577	30	607
New Zealand ...	44	2	46	Methodist ...	58	3	61
England and Wales ...	138	4	142	Presbyterian ...	96	1	97
Scotland ...	36	...	36	Other Christian ..	31	...	31
Ireland ...	24	3	27	Non-Christian ...	16	...	16
Other British ...	32	...	32	No religion ...	91	...	91
Foreign Countries	55	...	55	Total ...	1,596	52	1,648
At Sea ...	1	1	2				
Total ..	1,596	52	1,648				

Sixteen prisoners were illiterate, 10 could read English, but could not write, and 9 could read and write in a foreign language only.

REMISSION OF SENTENCES.

First Offenders.

Special provision is made by the Crimes Act, 1900, and its amendments, for lenience towards any person convicted of a minor offence and sentenced to imprisonment, provided such person has not been convicted previously of an indictable offence. The term "minor offence" includes offences punishable summarily, and any other offence to which the court applies these provisions of the Act. In such cases the execution of the sentence is suspended upon the offender entering into recognisance to be of good behaviour for a fixed period, which may not be less than twelve months. Such persons are required to undergo an examination to facilitate future identification and to report periodically to the police. During the period of probation they may be arrested and committed to prison for the term of sentence imposed for any breach of the conditions of their release.

The hearing of charges against female first offenders must be in private unless the defendant elects to be heard in open court, and reports of such cases may not be published. In terms of an amending Act passed in 1929 this law does not apply to cases of larceny in retail shops.

The following table shows particulars concerning persons released as first offenders in the various years since 1901; cases of children released on probation by the Children's Courts are not included.

Year.	First Offenders Released on Probation.			Year. †	First Offenders Released on Probation.		
	By Higher Courts.	By Magistrates Courts.	Total.		By Higher Courts.	By Magistrates Courts.	Total.
1901	156	23	179	1928	*	*	*
1911	220	61	281	1929	21	436	457
1921	246	395	641	1930	2	573	575
1926†	29	502	531	1931	1	703	704
1927†	30	364	394	1932	9	464	473

* Not available.

† Year ended 30 June.

Prisoners released on Probation.

By good conduct and industry certain classes of prisoners may gain the remission of part of their sentences. They are released on license on terms similar to those applied to first offenders as described above.

The licenses operate for the unexpired portion of the sentence, and a breach of the conditions of release may be punished by the cancellation of the license, and recommittal to gaol for the balance of the sentence. Licenses under the Crimes Act were granted to 90 men and 8 women during the year ended 30th June, 1931, and to 71 men and 6 women during 1931-32.

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 1920-21, 1925-26, and in each of the last three years; also the amount of fines and fees, and net returns from prisoners' labour paid into the Consolidated Revenue:—

Expenditure and Revenue.	1920-21.	1925-26.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Expenditure—					
Law Administration—					
Salaries, Pensions, etc., of Judges	£ 59,106	£ 61,434	£ 68,091	£ 63,903	£ 52,495
Other	288,742	379,158	409,933	380,919	350,558
	347,848	440,592	478,024	444,822	403,053
Police—					
Administration, etc.	1,062,201	1,208,064	1,640,690	1,593,826	1,215,326
Payments to Pension Fund	80,000	153,650	175,525	190,800	191,500
	1,142,201	1,361,714	1,816,215	1,784,626	1,406,826
Prisons	126,122*	187,284	226,908	215,809	193,123
Total Expenditure	1,616,171	1,989,590	2,521,147	2,445,257	2,003,002
Revenue—					
Fees	100,188	149,332	220,140	210,418	181,753
Fines and Forfeitures	45,303	47,332	88,765	62,503	52,068
Receipts by Prisons Department	212	15,380	18,312	15,029	7,237
Total Revenue	145,703	212,044	327,217	287,950	241,058
Net Cost	1,470,468	1,777,546	2,193,930	2,157,307	1,761,944
Expenditure per Head of Mean Population—					
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Law Administration	3 4	3 10	3 10	3 7	3 2
Police	10 11	11 10	14 8	14 3	11 2
Prisons	1 2	1 8	1 10	1 9	1 6
Total Expenditure	15 5	17 4	20 4	19 7	15 10
Revenue	1 5	1 10	2 8	2 4	1 11
Net Cost	14 0	15 6	17 8	17 3	13 11

*Calendar year preceding.

The expenditure on law administration includes the salaries, etc., of judges, and the expenditure of the Departments 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.

The receipts of the Prisons Department as stated in the table do not include the value of work done by the prisoners for the prisons and Government departments.

PUBLIC FINANCE.

The collection and expenditure of public moneys in New South Wales are controlled by four authorities, viz.:—(1) The Government of the State of New South Wales; (2) the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia; (3) the Municipal, Shire, and County Councils (local governing bodies operating in defined areas); and (4) statutory bodies appointed by the Government to administer such public services as railways, tramways, water and sewerage, Sydney Harbour, irrigation, and main roads.

The governmental revenue of the State Government is derived mainly from taxes such as the income tax, stamp and probate duties, motor, betting, totalisator, racecourses admission and entertainments taxes, unemployment relief tax, proceeds of the State lottery; fees for licenses; from the sale and leasing of its lands and forests; and from the contribution by the Commonwealth under the financial agreement of 1927. The expenditure of the State on governmental account includes the cost of such services as education, public health, hospitals, police, prisons, the State law courts, Industrial Commission and conciliation boards, navigation (in part), agriculture, and lands administration, water conservation and irrigation, local government (administration and grants), widows' pensions, care of the destitute, administration of mining, fisheries, and factory laws, the construction of public works and unemployment relief.

The governmental revenue of the Commonwealth Government is derived mainly from the customs and excise and primage duties, income tax, land tax, estate duty, sales tax, and entertainments tax. Its expenditure is mainly in connection with war and repatriation services, old age and invalid pensions, maternity allowances, naval and military defence, lighthouses, navigation (in part), quarantine, bounties on production, the control of customs, meteorological observations, assistance in marketing operations, bankruptcy law (as proclaimed in August, 1928), the maintenance of a High Court and courts of industrial arbitration.

Local governing bodies are required to levy a rate of not less than 1d. in the £1 on the unimproved capital value of lands within the areas administered by them, and, in some cases, they are empowered also to levy rates on the improved capital value. They provide minor services, such as the construction, maintenance, and lighting of streets and roads, the control and maintenance of public parks and recreation areas, the supervision of building operations, and, in some cases, the provision of water and sanitary services. In general the cost of these services is defrayed from the rates, but not infrequently charges are imposed for special services rendered. In some instances loans are raised for expenditure on revenue services and are repaid by special or increased general taxation in the area concerned.

The revenue of the statutory bodies such as the railways, tramways, Sydney Harbour Trust, etc., is derived almost entirely from charges for the use of services which they administer, and all are ultimately subject to the control of the Government.

Besides their ordinary governmental activities, the various Governments conduct certain business and industrial undertakings. Thus the State Government owns brickworks, monier pipe works, and metal quarries and other establishments, and many of the local governing bodies have established light and power services which are retailed to the general public.

Both State and Federal Governments have power to borrow money as approved by the Loan Council. Loans are applied to capital expenditure on works usually of a reproductive character, the interest, sinking fund, and cost of repairs and renewals to the works being paid from revenue. The Commonwealth Government, however, incurred a heavy debt for war

and repatriation services and for the soldier settlement schemes. Arrangements made under the Financial Agreement of 1927 to co-ordinate borrowing and sinking funds are described on page 682 of the 1930-31 Year Book. In terms of this agreement the Commonwealth took over the debts of the States on 1st July, 1929, and agreed to contribute a certain sum towards the annual interest and sinking fund charges thereon. A national debt sinking fund was established, and the management of the debts and the supervision of public borrowing were entrusted to the Australian Loan Council of representatives of the Commonwealth and each of the States.

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.

Of the statutory bodies referred to, the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board alone has power to raise loans on its own initiative, but such loans are subject to the approval of the Governor and of the Australian Loan Council.

TAXATION.

The following statement shows the amount of taxation collected in New South Wales by the State Government, and the rates and charges received by local bodies, etc., during the five years ended 30th June, 1932.

Head of Taxation, or Charge.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
STATE.					
Land Tax	£ 2,744	£ 2,870	£ 2,588	£ 2,486	£ 2,453
Income Tax	6,382,467	7,343,049	7,084,465	6,183,481	3,411,146
Unemployment Relief Tax ...	...	...	...	4,375,803	5,799,519
Family Endowment Tax ...	1,012,758	52,813	1,886,715	558,555	930,264
Stamp and Probate Duties—					
Stamps	1,552,117	1,586,776	1,362,147	931,419	843,986
Betting Tickets	124,059	119,351	116,933	75,674	65,488
Probate	1,596,804	1,816,927	1,860,052	1,496,530	1,251,650
Motor Tax†	1,130,280	1,310,565	1,388,771	1,258,641	1,189,035
Motor Licenses	348,766	399,888	418,605	376,394	353,336
Motor Fees (Transport Act, 1930) ... ..	...	...	...	34,934	21,718
Motor Fees (Transport Co- ordination, 1931) ... ..	...	...	...	...	16,698
Motor Charges (Transport Co- ordination, 1931) ... ..	...	...	...	...	36,600
Betting Taxes	114,527	113,127	107,211	316,273	287,032
Totalizator Tax	201,008	193,868	193,172	142,939	122,049
Racecourses Admission Tax...	136,175	129,713	129,320	86,579	76,992
Entertainments Tax ... ..	...	...	54,711	78,345	55,174
Fees for Registration of Dogs..	20,336	21,051	22,184	22,000	20,718
Other Licenses	615,356	535,455	543,708	243,176	371,448
Total, State Taxation £	13,237,337	13,625,453	15,170,582	16,183,229	14,855,366
LOCAL, ETC.					
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates	895,137	873,579	787,548	616,426	631,112
Municipal Rates*—					
City of Sydney	1,016,882	1,033,634	1,085,382	1,148,778	1,082,930
Suburban and Country	3,093,476	3,490,996	3,753,855	3,963,814	3,751,689
Shire Rates*	1,598,035	1,551,386	1,679,538	1,719,530	1,420,061
Water and Sewerage Rates ...	2,768,833	3,029,918	3,080,686	3,037,313	3,110,476
Total, Local Rates and Charges	£ 9,372,363	9,979,513	10,387,009	10,485,861	9,996,268
Grand Total	£ 22,609,700	23,604,966	25,557,591	26,669,090	24,851,574

* Year ended 31st December preceding; Harbour Bridge and Main Roads rates are included.

† Part of the Motor Taxation included above is credited to the Main Roads Board, and not included as Governmental Revenue.

The Family Endowment Tax was first imposed as from 23rd July, 1927, and the Unemployment Relief Tax as from 1st July, 1930. The proceeds of the former are distributed for the maintenance of children where the family income is below the living wage standard, and the latter is utilised for the provision of food relief and special work for the unemployed. Particulars of amounts collected, rates and allocations are shown on pages 287 and 383 and in chapter dealing with "Employment."

It is not practicable to determine the precise amount of federal taxation which is borne by the people of New South Wales. The amount of customs and excise revenue actually collected in the State is shown on page 192 of this Year Book, but some of these taxes relate to goods consumed in other States, as there is considerable interstate trade. Federal land and income taxes paid by persons owning property and deriving income in more than one State are included in single assessments made by the Central Office, and cannot be allocated to the individual States except arbitrarily. It may be assumed, however, that the average federal taxation per head in New South Wales is not less than the average calculated on the receipts and population of the whole Commonwealth. These averages, were £9 1s. 10d. in 1927-28 and £8 17s. 10d., £9 1s. 6d., £7 15s. 10d., and £8 5s. 5d. in the succeeding years.

Taxation per Head of Population.

The amounts in the preceding table stated in their equivalent rates per head of population are shown below:—

Head of Taxation, or Charge.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
STATE.					
Land Tax	£	£	£	£	£
Income Tax	2 13 2	3 0 0	2 17 2	2 9 6	1 7 1
Unemployment Relief Tax ... ..	...	...	...	1 15 0	2 6 0
Family Endowment Tax	0 8 5	0 0 6	0 15 3	0 4 6	0 7 5
Stamp and Probate Duties—					
Stamps	0 13 0	0 12 11	0 11 0	0 7 5	0 6 8
Betting Tickets	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 0 11	0 0 7	0 0 6
Probate, etc.	0 13 3	0 14 10	0 15 1	0 12 0	0 9 11
Motor Tax	0 9 5	0 10 8	0 11 2	0 10 1	0 9 5
Motor Licenses	0 2 11	0 3 3	0 3 5	0 3 0	0 2 10
Motor Fees (Transport Act, 1930) ... ..	...	...	...	0 0 3	0 0 2
Motor Fees (Transport Co-ordination Act, 1931) ... ..	...	...	...	...	0 0 2
Motor Charges (Transport Co-ordination Act, 1931) ... ..	...	...	...	...	0 0 3
Betting Taxes	0 1 0	0 0 11	0 0 10	0 2 6	0 2 3
Totalizator Tax	0 1 8	0 1 7	0 1 7	0 1 2	0 1 0
Racecourse Admission Tax	0 1 2	0 1 1	0 1 0	0 0 8	0 0 7
Entertainments Tax ... ..	...	...	0 0 5	0 0 8	0 0 5
Fees for Registration of Dogs	0 0 2	0 0 2	0 0 2	0 0 2	0 0 2
Other Licenses	0 5 1	0 4 5	0 4 5	0 2 0	0 3 0
Total, State Taxation ...	5 10 3	5 11 4	6 2 5	6 9 6	5 17 10
LOCAL, ETC.					
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates ...	0 7 5	0 7 2	0 6 4	0 4 11	0 5 0
Municipal Rates*—					
City of Sydney	0 8 6	0 8 5	0 8 9	0 9 2	0 8 7
Suburban and Country	1 5 9	1 8 6	1 10 4	1 11 8	1 9 9
Shire Rates*	0 13 4	0 12 8	0 13 7	0 13 9	0 11 3
Water and Sewerage Rates ...	1 3 1	1 4 9	1 4 10	1 4 4	1 4 8
Total, Local Rates and Charges	3 18 1	4 1 6	4 3 10	4 3 10	3 19 3
Total, State and Local Taxation ...	9 8 4	9 12 10	10 6 3	10 13 4	9 17 1

* See footnote to previous table.

STATE TAXES.

State Land Tax.

Land tax is levied by the State only on the unincorporated districts of the Western Division where no local rates are imposed. The rate of tax is 1d. in the £ on the unimproved value. For the purpose of assessment a statutory deduction of £240 is made from the assessed value of the lands held by each individual. The amount of land tax collected in the year ended 30th June, 1932 was £2,453.

State Income Tax.

Income tax was first levied in New South Wales as from 1st January, 1896, and it has since been levied annually with, latterly, frequent changes of incidence. Incomes are usually assessed for taxation in the year following that in which they are derived, the returns for assessment being normally made up for the twelve months ended 30th June.

The income tax law was revised in 1928, and the new Acts apply to the taxation of incomes derived in 1927-28 and following years. The field of taxation was extended by reducing the statutory deduction and by repealing certain exemptions. Special provisions were inserted to lessen opportunities for the avoidance of tax, and the rates in respect of the higher incomes were increased. In certain matters further concessional deductions were allowed.

Taxable Income is gross income less expenses incurred in earning it and (except in respect of companies) less the statutory deduction and concessional deductions.

Statutory Deductions.—Resident taxpayers are allowed a statutory deduction of £250, and absentees £50, less £1 for every £8 by which the net income exceeds £250 or £50, respectively, the net income being the assessable income less all deductions except the statutory deduction. Thus this exemption is a diminishing deduction which vanishes altogether at net incomes of £2,250 in the case of residents and £450 in the case of absentees. For net incomes exceeding those amounts there is no statutory deduction.

Concessional Deductions include rates and taxes (except income tax) imposed by the State or a State authority, Federal land tax, contributions up to £50 to industrial unions, and to approved agricultural societies, gifts of 10s. and over to public charitable institutions in the State and to the Sydney University and affiliated colleges. In the case of resident taxpayers the following concessional deductions also are allowed:—(a) Premiums up to £50 for life assurance, annuity or fidelity guarantee; (b) contributions up to £100 paid by a salary or wage earner, or by a taxpayer with a taxable income not exceeding £800, in respect of superannuation, or sustenance, or widows or orphans funds, or registered friendly societies; (c) £50 for each child under 16 years of age; (d) £50 in respect of the wife of a married taxpayer and contributions up to £50 by unmarried taxpayers for the maintenance of dependants. Where the taxable income does not exceed £400, medical and dental expenses for the taxpayer, his family, or dependants may be deducted, also funeral expenses up to £20; and where the taxable income does not exceed £800, expenses up to £50 per child for the education of children under 18 years, if suitable facilities are not provided by the State within reasonable daily travelling distance.

Tax is levied on the net income of companies without deduction, and dividends are treated as income in the hands of the shareholders, but shareholder-taxpayers are allowed a rebate in respect of the tax paid by the companies.

Rates of Tax on Individuals.—The tax payable in respect of the incomes of individuals derived in the year 1927-28 was assessed at the following rates:—

On income from personal exertion the tax was graduated from a commencing rate of 7d. in the £, reaching 35d. in the £ on a taxable income of £7,000, the intermediate rates being determined on the formula $7d. + (\frac{1}{250} \times \text{number of } \pounds \text{ in taxable income})$ pence in the £. Taxable incomes over £7,000 were taxed at 35d. in the £ on the first £7,000 and 60d. in the £ on the excess over £7,000.

On income from property the rate of tax was graduated from 9d. in the £ to 42d. in the £ on a taxable income of £5,500, the intermediate rates being determined on the formula $9d. + (\frac{3}{500} \times \text{number of } \pounds \text{ in taxable income})$ pence in the £. Taxable incomes over £5,500 were taxed at 42d. in the £ on the first £5,500 and 60d. in the £ on the excess over £5,500.

The tax on incomes derived in the years 1928-29 to 1931-32 was assessed at the foregoing rates less 5 per cent., and on incomes derived in 1932-33 at the foregoing rates less 15 per cent.

Where income is derived partly from personal exertion and partly from property the rate on the income from personal exertion is calculated as if the total taxable income had been derived from personal exertion, and the rate on the income from property as if the total had been derived from property.

The minimum amount of tax is 10s.

The rate of tax applicable to income derived by individuals from the pastoral, dairying, and agricultural industries is determined under a system of averaging, the rate applied to such income being the rate chargeable in the year of assessment on an amount of taxable income equal to the taxpayer's average taxable income derived from such industries during not more than the preceding five years, including the year of assessment. It is provided, however, that where the taxable income of the fifth preceding year was more than that of the fourth preceding year, the averaging period shall commence from the next succeeding year in which the taxable income was less than in that which followed it.

Rates of Tax on Companies.—The rates of tax payable by New South Wales companies are graduated according to taxable income. The scale applicable to income derived in the years 1928-29 to 1931-32 commenced at a rate of 2s. in the £ if the income did not exceed £500, and increased by 1d. in the £ for each £500 until it reached 32d. for each £ where the taxable income was £4,500. On incomes over £4,500 the rate was 33d. per £. The rate for all foreign companies was 33d. in the £. The rate payable by mutual life assurance companies was 24d. per £. On income derived in 1932-33 the rate of tax was reduced by 6d. in the £ in the case of mutual life assurance companies and 3d. in the £ in the case of all other companies.

A tabular summary of the deductions allowed and rates of tax in the years 1923 to 1928 was published on page 397 of the Year Book for 1927-28.

The incomes exempt from income tax include the following:—The salary of the State Governor, the official salaries of representatives of the Government of another country, including foreign consuls and British trade commissioners and members of their staffs temporarily resident in New South Wales (subject to certain conditions as to reciprocity, etc.); the revenues of municipal corporations and of local or public authorities; the income of mutual life assurance companies not being income from

investments or rent or casual profits on the sale of property; the income of registered friendly societies and trade unions; the incomes of ecclesiastical, charitable, and educational institutions of a public character, and of trust funds for public charitable purposes; the incomes of Starr-Bowkett building societies, and of societies not carried on for the purpose of profit, established to promote the development of the resources of Australia, or for the encouragement of music, art, science or literature; pensions paid by the Federal Government under the Australian Soldiers Repatriation Act; incomes derived by individuals in 1928-29 and four succeeding years from gold mines in Australia, Papua, or New Guinea, including dividends paid by a company out of such income.

In regard to registered co-operative societies, exemption is provided also in respect of the following:—Undistributed profits; profits paid to members as rebate or bonus on business done with the society (where 90 per cent. of the society's business is done with its own members); and dividends from other societies or from incorporated companies, and interest on bonds of other societies, received by investment societies. Members of investment societies are not taxable in respect of dividends paid to them out of the non-taxable income of the society.

State tax is not levied on interest from bonds, debentures, stock and other securities issued by the Commonwealth Government or on certain loans raised by the Commissioners of the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales. As from 1st July, 1927, Government borrowings have been by way of the issue of Commonwealth securities which are free of State tax.

The statistics published by the State Income Tax Commissioner since those for assessments made in 1910-11 have been very scanty, but the following data have been made available:—

Returns supplied in year ended 30th June (Income derived previous year).	Companies.		Individuals.		Total Amount of Tax Assessed.
	Number Assessed.	Amount of Tax Assessed.	Number Assessed.	Amount of Tax Assessed.	
		£		£	£
1921	2,201	2,344,043	68,599	2,472,281	4,816,324
1922	2,261	2,258,441	97,334	2,148,370	4,406,811
1923	2,236	2,326,141	101,578	2,092,461	4,418,602
1924	2,720	2,757,822	111,528	2,156,641	4,914,463
1925	3,068	3,104,151	120,557	1,970,845	5,074,996
1926	3,338	3,692,863	85,795	2,054,146	5,747,009
1927†	3,478	4,342,248	83,775	1,788,424	6,130,672
1928§	3,190	4,500,000	93,238	2,000,000	6,500,000
1929	3,346	4,618,594	119,507	2,813,378	7,431,972
1930	3,946	4,404,311	135,459	2,937,594	7,341,905
1931	3,418	3,123,846	121,567	2,125,815	5,249,661
1932†	2,305	1,684,817	63,641	891,138	2,575,955

† Incomplete.

‡ Partly estimated.

§ Approximate.

In considering the variations in the number of assessments and the amount of tax assessed from year to year, due allowance should be made for changes in the rates and incidence of the tax. Particulars for the years ended 30th June, 1928, were shown in the Year Book for 1927-28 at page 397. In 1928-29 the taxable field and rates of tax were increased substantially, as described on pages 376 and 377 hereof.

A summary of assessments actually issued, amounts collected, and carry-over in each of the past three years is provided below. The transactions of individual years presented in this way do not relate to the income derived in any individual year, but to the actual time of issuing assessments:—

Heading.	Years ended 30th June.		
	1930.	1931.	1932.
	£	£	£
Tax Assessed—			
Net Tax Assessed and Levied	7,698,792	6,365,887	3,639,175
Miscellaneous Receipts	17,063	6,227	8,643
Net Tax unpaid from previous year	422,661	1,044,540	1,205,524
Total Receivable	8,138,516	7,416,654	4,853,342
Tax Collected—			
Net collections, amounts written off, etc.	7,093,976	6,211,130	3,439,643
Unpaid Tax carried forward to succeeding year £	1,044,540	1,205,524	1,413,699

The amount of unpaid tax as at 30th June, 1932 (£1,413,699) representing 38.84 per cent. of the net tax assessed and levied during the year was distributed as follows, according to years of assessment:—1931-32, £375,969; 1930-31, £310,148; 1929-30, £257,831; 1928-29, £228,561; 1927-28, £126,052 and previous years £115,138.

State Probate Duties.

Probate duties have been imposed as a State tax continuously since 1880. The rates of probate duty payable on estates of persons dying between 1st January, 1921, and 31st March, 1931, on the assessed value of estates of deceased persons were as follow:—

Estates valued at—

Over £1,000 and under £5,000—2 per cent. of total value.	
„ £5,000 „ £10,000—2½ to 4½ per cent. Increasing by ½ per cent. per £1,000.	
„ £10,000 „ £20,000—5 to 7 „ „ by ½ „ £2,000.	
„ £20,000 „ £140,000—7½ to 19 „ „ by ½ „ £5,000.	
„ £140,000 „ £150,000—19½ „ „	
Exceeding £150,000—20 per cent.	

As from 1st April, 1931, the rates were as follow:—

Estates of residents valued at—

Over £1,000 but under £61,000, rate 2 per cent. on first £1,000, increasing by steps of ¼ per cent. per £1,000 up to 17 per cent. on estates valued at £60,000 to £61,000.

Over £61,000 but under £100,000, rate 17½ per cent., increasing to 24 ¼ per cent. by steps of ½ per cent. per £1,000.

£100,000 and over, rate 25 per cent.

Estates of non-residents valued at—

Up to £500, rate 3 per cent.

£501 to £1,000, rate 3½ per cent., thence increasing in steps of ½ per cent. to 20 per cent. on £50,000 to £51,000.

£51,000 to £75,000, rate 20½ per cent., increasing to 25 per cent. by steps of ½ per cent. per £1,000.

Over £75,000, rate 25 per cent.

Duty at the rates specified is charged upon the whole value of the estate. Up to the end of March, 1931, estates were exempt from the tax if the value did not exceed £1,000, and half rates were levied on estates under £5,000 in value when the property passed to widows, or to legitimate children under 21 years of age. The amending Act passed in March, 1931, provides that where the value of an estate, wherever situate, does not exceed £1,000 property passing to dependants is exempt, and half rates may be levied under certain conditions on property passing to dependent widow or children under 21 years of age if the value of the estate does not exceed £3,000.

The tax is due and payable on assessment or within six months after the death of the deceased.

The dutiable value of the estate of a deceased person is the assessed value of all property of the deceased situated in New South Wales at his death, and in case of persons deceased since 31st March, 1931, domiciled in New South Wales, personal property outside New South Wales. It includes all property disposed of by trust to take effect after his death; any gift made by him within three years of his death (inclusive of any money paid or property transferred by him without equivalent consideration other than by way of gifts for charitable or patriotic purposes); any property so disposed of that a life interest therein was reserved to deceased or that deceased reserved power to restore to himself; any gift not assumed by the donee to the entire exclusion of deceased; any property comprised in a *donatio mortis causa*; any property vested by deceased in himself and another jointly, so that the beneficial interest therein passes to such other person on the death of deceased; money payable under policy of assurance on the life of deceased kept paid by him for the benefit of a beneficiary; any annuity purchased by deceased to accrue at his death to a beneficiary; any property over which deceased at his death had general power of appointment; any property which on death of deceased passes to any other person by virtue of an agreement made by deceased to the extent which the value of the property exceeds the value of the consideration; any property which deceased had within three years of his death vested in a private company in consideration of shares or an interest in the company.

Whether deceased was domiciled in New South Wales or not at the time of his death, his estate includes every specialty debt secured to him over property in New South Wales; any shares or stocks held in any company carrying on mining or treatment of minerals, or the processes of pastoral or agricultural production in New South Wales; any shares held by deceased in any company carrying on business in New South Wales and having a share register therein where such shares are registered.

The deductions allowed are all debts actually due and owing by deceased.

Particulars of the amount of probate duty collected in each of the past five years are shown on page 374. The number and values of estates assessed annually are shown in the chapter relating to "Private Finance" of this Year Book, and in greater detail in the Statistical Register.

State Stamp Duties.

In addition to the probate duty, stamp duty is imposed on a considerable number of legal and commercial documents, such as agreements, appointments of trustees, bank notes, betting tickets, bills of exchange and promissory notes, bills of lading, company capital, memoranda and articles of association, and certificates of incorporation of companies, contract notes on marketable securities, conveyances of property, declarations of trust, deeds

of all kinds, hire purchase agreements, leases, letters or power of attorney, insurance policies (other than life), receipts or discharges given for payments of money of £2 or more (other than wages and salaries), share certificates and transfer of shares. Certain exemptions in all cases are laid down in the Stamp Duties Act, and specifically in other statutes, notably in regard to documents of organisations not operating for profit. The rates of certain stamp duties were reduced as from 1st January, 1934.

The amount of stamp duty collected in each of the past five years is shown on page 374.

State Motor Taxes.

Particulars of the rates and amount of taxes on motor vehicles and fees for licenses in respect thereof, and the allocation of the proceeds, are shown on pages 243 to 248 of this Year Book.

Between 1st July, 1924, and 30th June, 1929, except in the year ended 30th June, 1927, when special provisions operated (as explained on page 394 of the Year Book for 1926-27), 90 per cent. of the proceeds of taxes, fees, and fines collected under the Motor Traffic Acts, the Motor Vehicle (Taxation) Acts, and the Metropolitan Traffic Acts were paid into the funds of the Main Roads Board. The remaining 10 per cent. of this revenue was credited to Consolidated Revenue Account to cover cost of collection. The amounts paid to the Main Roads Board in respect of the taxes collected in each year were as follows:—£560,467 in 1924-25, £897,664 in 1925-26, £644,278 in 1926-27, £1,330,399 in 1927-28, and £1,537,598 in 1928-29, £1,511,639 in 1929-30, £1,351,909 in 1930-31, and £1,181,220 in 1931-32. As from 1st July, 1929, the Transport Act, 1930, provided that there should be credited to Consolidated Revenue 5 per cent. of motor taxes (other than taxes on public vehicles) plus a recoup of the actual cost of police supervision and control of road transport and traffic. The total amounts so credited to Consolidated Revenue were £333,207 in 1929-30 and £284,258 in 1930-31. In 1931-32 the 5 per cent. recoup amounted to £57,026, while the actual cost of supervision was £170,486.

In the latter part of 1931 a special license fee of 5s. per annum was placed on public hire vehicles, and certain taxes were imposed upon the carriage of passengers and goods by motor vehicles.

State Taxes on Betting and Horse-racing.

The following table shows the total amount of taxation in connection with betting and horse-racing during each of the last ten years:—

Year-ended 30th June.	Racing Clubs and Associations.	Book-makers.	Betting Tickets Stamp Duty.	Totalisator Tax.	Racecourse Admission Tax.	Winning Bets Tax.	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1923	67,476	43,603	109,550	275,944	150,587	.....	647,160
1924	67,941	40,789	108,638	266,893	143,013	.....	627,324
1925	69,579	43,365	119,144	248,283	139,499	.....	619,870
1926	65,434	40,210	118,624	237,431	137,903	.....	599,602
1927	68,149	42,808	125,645	233,867	143,608	.....	614,077
1928	73,136	41,391	124,059	201,008	136,175	.....	575,769
1929	71,785	41,342	119,351	193,868	129,713	.....	556,059
1930	68,704	38,507	116,933	193,172	129,320	.....	546,636
1931	57,676	30,947	75,674	142,939	86,579	227,650	621,465
1932	53,202	29,732	65,488	122,049	76,992	204,098	551,561

Further references to this matter are contained on page 299 of this Year Book.

State Betting Taxes.

The Finance (Taxation) Act, 1915, and amending Acts, imposed taxes on racing clubs and associations, on bookmakers, and on betting tickets. The last-named tax is now imposed by the Stamp Duties Act, 1924.

Taxes in respect of racing clubs 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, to 20 per cent. on courses outside that limit.

The taxes payable by bookmakers are regulated according to the particular courses and enclosures where operations are carried on, and they vary considerably.

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-halfpenny 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. As from the 1st October, 1932, the rates reverted to one penny in the saddling paddock and one-halfpenny for the other parts of the racecourse. In addition to these amounts, bookmakers are required to furnish a monthly statement showing the number of credit bets made, the duty on them being the same as if tickets had been issued.

In terms of the Winning Bets Taxation Acts, as from 20th December, 1930, a tax was imposed at the rate of one shilling in each ten shillings of the amount of each winning bet, but as from 26th November, 1931, the amount of the wager was excluded from the taxable amount. The tax was abolished as from 1st October, 1932, and was replaced by a turnover tax upon the operations of bookmakers at the rate of 1 per cent. of the total amount of bets made by backers with any bookmaker upon any event relating to a horse race or to greyhound racing.

State Totalizator Tax.

Under the Totalizator Act passed on 20th December, 1916, amended in 1919, 1920, and 1927, registered racing clubs and associations must establish an approved totalizator if so directed by the Government. The commission to be deducted by the clubs and associations from the total amount invested by patrons is 12½ per cent. Of this the Colonial Treasurer receives from the Australian Jockey Club and the metropolitan clubs racing for profit (with the exception of trotting clubs) 9 per cent. of the total payments into the machine, and from other clubs (including metropolitan trotting clubs) 5½ per cent.

State Racecourses 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 racecourses within 40 miles of the General Post Office, Sydney, and to the racecourse of the Newcastle Jockey Club. The rates vary from 2d. to 3s. 4d. on the charges for admission, the highest rates being levied on admission of males to the saddling paddock at Randwick. Members of racing clubs 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.

State Entertainments Tax.

A tax on entertainments was imposed by the State Government as from 1st January, 1930. Entertainments for purely philanthropic, religious or charitable objects are exempt, also race meetings taxable under the Race-

courses Admission Tax Act. The entertainments tax is collected on the payments for admission at the following rates, those which do not exceed 1s. 6d. being free from taxation:—Over 1s. 6d. and under 2s., tax $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; 2s. and over, tax 1d. for the first 2s. and $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for each additional 6d.

Family Endowment Tax.

In order to provide the funds necessary for making effective the provisions of the Family Endowment Act for the payment of allowances in respect of dependent children, a tax was imposed on the amount of wages paid by employers as from 23rd July, 1927. The tax is paid by employers except those who paid less than £150 in wages in the twelve months immediately preceding the period of assessment, and employers who are public hospitals or public benevolent or charitable institutions. Wages paid to employer's children and to domestic servants are exempt and instrumentalities of the Federal Government are not taxable. The tax was assessed on quarterly returns lodged with the State Commissioner of Taxation until 1st July, 1932, when it became payable by stamps affixed to pay sheets.

The rate of the Family Endowment Tax and the principal changes in basis of assessment have been as follows:—

Tax levied on assessable wages paid with a remission of 10 per cent. of tax in respect of wages paid under federal awards or agreements—

23 July, 1927, to 31 October, 1927—3 per cent.

1 November, 1927, to 30 March, 1929—nil.

1 April, 1929, to 19 December, 1929—2 per cent.

Tax levied on assessable wages the following being exempt—

(a) Wages fixed on federal basic wages or under awards or agreements prescribing allowances for children;

(b) wages of Crown employees except those employed in connection with State industrial undertakings or statutory bodies—
20 December, 1929, to 31 December, 1929—2 per cent.

1 January, 1930, to 30 June, 1931—1 per cent.

Tax levied on all assessable wages, including those paid under federal awards, and wages of Crown employees—

As from 1 July, 1931, 2 per cent.

As from 1 January, 1932, 5d. in each £.

By the Taxation Reduction Act, 1933, the tax is abolished as from 1st January, 1934.

Since the 1st July, 1932, the proceeds of the tax have been paid into Consolidated Revenue Fund.

The amounts of tax collected are shown in the table on page 374, and further general information is contained on page 30 of the Report of the Auditor-General on Ministerial Departments, 1931-32.

A description of the family endowment scheme is given on page 287 of this Year Book.

Unemployment Relief Tax.

The Unemployment Relief Tax Acts passed in June and December, 1930, and in June, 1931 and 1932, imposed taxes on all incomes at the rates set out on page 643 of the Year Book for 1930-31. The Prevention and Relief of Unemployment (Income from Employment) Act, which operated from 1st October, 1932, to 1st December, 1933, exempted from tax the wages paid on works proclaimed as works for relief of unemployment, and pro-

vided for a reduction in the tax on income from employment where the rate of pay does not exceed £3 10s. per week, by substituting the following scale for the flat rate of 1s. in each full £.

- (1) Where the weekly rate of pay is not less than £2 and not over £2 10s. the tax is 1s.
- (2) Where the weekly rate of pay is not less than £2 10s. and not over £3 the tax is 1s. 6d.
- (3) Where the rate of pay is not less than £3 and not over £3 10s. the tax is 2s. On incomes over £3 10s. per week the flat rate of 1s. in the £ of total net income was retained. Residents are exempt where the total income from all sources does not exceed £100 per annum.

The rates of unemployment relief tax on all incomes other than wages and salaries remained at 1s. in the £, but incomes of residents derived in 1931-32, not exceeding £100 per annum were exempt.

The tax on wages and salaries is collected on behalf of the Government by employers who affix stamps to receipts for the amount of tax due on gross payment. The tax on other incomes is levied by annual assessment.

The proceeds of the tax have, since 1st July, 1932, been paid into Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Incomes entirely exempt include old-age, invalid, war, and widows' pensions and allowances under the Family Endowment Act, the official salaries of consuls, etc., the incomes of bodies who do not conduct business for profit or gain, the incomes of life assurance companies except dividends taxable in the hands of shareholders, and the wages of crews employed on ships trading between Australia and New Zealand and on New Zealand articles.

The amounts collected during recent years are shown on page 374.

Special Income Tax and Wages Tax.

In terms of the Taxation Reduction Act, 1933, a special income tax and a wages tax replaced those formerly imposed under the Unemployment Relief Tax Acts.

Special income tax is levied at the following rates on all incomes (other than those arising from employment) derived in the year 1932-33:—

On net assessable income of individuals who derived no income from employment—1s. in each £ of five-twelfths of net assessable income and, as to the remaining seven-twelfths of net assessable income 6d. in the £ on the first £60, 8d. in the £ on the next £60, and 10d. in the £ on the remainder.

On net assessable incomes of individuals who also derived income from employment—1s. in each £ of five-twelfths of net assessable income, and as to the remaining seven-twelfths of net assessable income (i) where seven-twelfths of the income from employment does not exceed £60—6d. in the £ on the difference between seven-twelfths of the income from employment and £60; 8d. in the £ of a further amount not exceeding £60; 10d. in the £ on the remainder of net assessable income; (ii) where seven-twelfths of the income from employment exceeds £60, but does not exceed £120—8d. in the £ on the difference between seven-twelfths of the income from employment and £120; 10d. in the £ on the remainder of net assessable income; (iii) where seven-twelfths of the income from employment exceeds £120—10d. in the £ on the total assessable income.

On dividends or interest derived by any person not domiciled in the State, 10d. in the £.

On net assessable incomes of companies—1s. in each £ of five-twelfths of net assessable income and 10d. in each £ of the remainder of net assessable income.

Wages tax was levied at the following rates on income from wages, salary, etc., derived on and after 1st December, 1933:—

- (1) Where income from wages, salary, etc., does not exceed £3 10s. per week, the tax on earnings not less than £2 and not more than £2 10s. per week is 9d. per week; on earnings exceeding £2 10s. and not more than £3 per week the tax is 1s. 3d. per week on earnings exceeding £3 per week, but not exceeding £3 10s. per week, 1s. 9d. per week.
- (2) Where income from wages, salary, etc., exceeds £3 10s. per week, the tax on the first £2 of earnings is 6d. in the £, on the next £2 the tax is 1d. in each 2s. 6d. thereof, on the remainder of earnings in excess of £4 per week the tax is 1d. in each 2s. thereof.

COMMONWEALTH TAXES.

Federal Land Tax.

The first direct taxation by the Federal Government was the land tax imposed in 1910. This is a graduated tax on the unimproved value of the lands in the Commonwealth. In the case of landowners who are not absentees, an amount of £5,000 is exempt from taxation, and the rate of tax is $1\frac{1}{8}\frac{1}{50}$ d. for the first £1 of value in excess of that amount, increasing 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 $2\frac{1}{8}\frac{1}{50}$ d. to 6d. for the next £75,000. On every £ in excess of £80,000, the rate payable is 10d. The amount of tax payable on assessments made for financial years subsequent to 1st July, 1927, was reduced by 10 per cent. of the amounts determined under the foregoing rates. In terms of the Financial Relief Act, 1933, the amount of tax in respect of assessments for the year 1931-32 is reduced by one-third and for the year 1932-33 and subsequent years by one-half.

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, grounds owned by clubs, etc., and used for sports (except golf and horse-racing), and pastoral lands leased from the Crown.

The latest statement issued by the Commonwealth Commissioner of Taxation shows the following particulars in respect of taxable lands held in New South Wales and in the Commonwealth at 30th June, 1926:—

Heading.	New South Wales.			Commonwealth.		
	Residents.	Absentees.	Total.	Residents.	Absentees.	Total.
Improved value—						
Town Lands	£ 101,224,887	£ 1,414,838	£ 102,639,725	£ 234,459,854	£ 3,274,381	£ 237,734,235
Country Lands	110,138,837	592,991	110,731,828	235,400,017	1,683,839	237,083,856
Total	211,363,724	2,007,829	213,371,553	469,859,871	4,958,220	474,818,091
Unimproved value—						
Town Lands	50,166,453	863,235	51,029,688	127,029,311	2,084,673	129,113,984
Country Lands	58,520,331	318,958	58,839,289	139,433,688	1,119,786	140,553,474
Total	108,686,784	1,182,193	109,868,977	266,462,999	3,204,459	269,667,458
Tax Assessed—						
Town Lands	664,362	9,060	673,422	1,567,125	24,836	1,591,961
Country Lands	551,380	3,292	554,672	973,092	12,126	985,218
Total	1,215,742	12,352	1,228,094	2,540,217	36,962	2,577,179
Area of Country Lands assessed	30,807,529	142,949	30,950,478	60,109,491	707,777	60,817,268

The land tax assessed in the Commonwealth up to 30th June, 1931, was £2,870,874 for the year 1927-28, £2,840,903 for the year 1928-29, £2,883,440 for the year 1929-30, and £3,297,189 for the year 1930-31. As an Act, assented to on 22nd December, 1927, allows the department a maximum period of two years from the date of assessment in which to revise valuations, the latest complete assessment available is that for 1927-28, when the amount of tax assessed was £2,870,874 for the Commonwealth. The same Act provided that assessments of land shall be made in respect of valuations made at the end of every third year. The first triennial valuation date was 30th June, 1927, which was the basis of the assessments for 1927-28, 1928-29 and 1929-30. Valuations as at 30th June, 1930, for the assessments of the ensuing three years were greatly modified as a result of landholders' appeals in view of the heavy decline in values of rural products.

In view of the recent decline in land values it was decided that valuations hitherto considered as fixed by law for three years, may in future be legally reviewed each year for reduction but not for increase.

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), except that assessment may be made on income derived by an Australian resident from sources outside Australia to the extent that that income is not exempt from income tax in another country or is derived from the sale of produce not chargeable with royalty or export duty by the Government of another country. The tax was first levied as a war measure in the year ended 30th June, 1916, in respect of income derived in the previous year.

Towards the end of 1923 arrangements were made between the Commonwealth and State Governments for the collection by the State Commissioners of Taxation of the income tax payable under Commonwealth law, thus obviating the necessity for taxpayers to supply separate returns, and leading to an amalgamation of the Federal and State Taxation Departments. This arrangement was entered into in all States except Western Australia, where the Commonwealth Taxation Office collects both Federal and State taxes. Originally the Commonwealth Government contributed 60 per cent. of the working expenses of the Taxation Office in New South Wales, but this was reduced to 50 per cent. on 1st April, 1925, consequent on the raising of the federal statutory exemption and the diminution in the number of assessments.

Returns for purposes of taxation are made up normally for the twelve months ending 30th June, and the tax is assessed and is usually payable before the next succeeding 30th June.

The *taxable income* is the net income (*i.e.*, gross income after deducting what may broadly be described as the cost of earning it) less statutory and concessional deductions allowed by law. The *statutory deduction* allowed to resident individual taxpayers in respect of income derived in each of the seven years ended 30th June, 1930, was £300 less £1 for every £3 by which the net taxable income exceeded £300, so that the deduction gradually diminished on successive grades of income, and vanished when the net income exceeded £1,200. The statutory deduction on income derived by resident individuals from property in 1929-30 was £200 less £1 for every £2 by which the net income exceeded £200, vanishing at £600. In

respect of income derived in the year ended 30th June, 1931, and following years, this statutory deduction was reduced in the case of resident individuals deriving income from personal exertion, to £250 less £1 for every £2 by which the net income exceeded £250 vanishing at £750. Absentees are taxed on the total income derived by them from all sources in Australia.

The concessional deductions include £50 for every child under 16 years of age maintained by a resident taxpayer; actual 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 of £1 and over to public charitable institutions, or Universities in Australia, or to public funds for war memorials, or contributions to the Department of Repatriation; donations to any public authority for research in respect of diseases of human beings, animals, and plants, payments in calls on shares in companies mining for gold, silver, base metals, rare minerals or oil or engaged in afforestation in Australia, rates and taxes including State and Federal land taxes and State income-tax. Where the taxable income is less than £900 the deduction is allowed of 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 incomes exempt from the tax 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; 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; official salaries of Governor-General, State Governors, foreign consuls, and trade commissioners of any part of the British Dominions and of members of their staffs where reciprocal arrangements exist; the revenues of agricultural, pastoral and horticultural, viticultural, stock-raising, manufacturing and other industrial societies not carried on for profit or gain, and of musical, art, scientific, and literary societies; remuneration paid by the Commonwealth or a State Government to persons domiciled outside Australia 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 or in the Territory of New Guinea worked for the purpose of obtaining gold, or gold and copper, if gold represents at least 40 per cent. of the total output; income derived by a *bona-fide* prospector from the sale of gold-mining rights in a particular area; so much of the assessable income of co-operative societies or companies as is distributed among their shareholders as interest or dividends on shares, and rebates or bonuses made to a customer by a co-operative society or company and treated as a charge on profits.

Certain Commonwealth War Loans were issued tax free prior to 1923, but 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. The position in relation to taxation of securities converted under the National Debt Conversion Loan, 1931, is shown on pages 668 and 670 of the previous Year Book.

As a general rule the rate of tax applied to the taxable income is calculated as if the taxable income were the average taxable amount derived in a period of at least two and not more than five years immediately preceding except in assessing the special tax on interest, etc., described below in respect of income derived in the years 1929-30 and 1930-31.

The tax payable in respect of income derived by individuals in the years ended 30th June, 1928, 1929, and 1930 was calculated according to the basic or schedule rates shown below, plus 8 per cent. of the amounts so determined. A super-tax was imposed on the incomes derived in 1928-29 and 1929-30 where the taxable income exceeded £200, viz., 10 per cent. of tax on taxable incomes from £201 to £1,500; 15 per cent. from £1,501 to £3,000; and 20 per cent. where the taxable income exceeds £3,000. In addition, taxable incomes exceeding £500 derived in the year ended 30th June, 1930, were subject to a further tax equal to 15 per cent. of the total amount of tax (including the 8 per cent. additional tax and the super-tax). Furthermore, income from property, income which would have been property income if not derived from carrying on a business and income from personal exertion derived by way of interest, dividends, rents, and royalties was subject to a further tax of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of that taxable income.

The basic or schedule rates of tax in respect of incomes derived prior to 30th June, 1930, were shown on page 647 of the Year Book for 1930-31.

In respect of income derived in the years ended 30th June, 1931 and 1932, the rates of tax were calculated according to the following formulae in which I represents the number of £ of taxable income:—

Rate of Tax on Income from Personal Exertion.—3d. plus $\frac{I}{100}$ pence per £ of taxable income up to £6,900. If taxable income exceeds £6,900, 46.125d. per £ up to £6,900, and 90d. in each £ in excess of £6,900.

The rate of tax on income derived from personal exertion in 1932-33 was reduced by 15 per cent.

Rate of Tax on Income from Property.—3d. plus $\frac{I}{100}$ pence per £ of taxable income up to £500; 1d. plus $\frac{1314}{1000}$ pence per £ of taxable income where total taxable income is between £501 and £1,500; $4\frac{3}{4}$ d. plus $\frac{1323}{3000}$ pence per £ of taxable income where taxable income is between £1,501 and £3,700. Where taxable income from property exceeds £3,700 the amount of tax is 47.3d in each £ of the first £3,700 and 90d. in each £ of taxable income in excess of £3,700.

On taxable income derived in 1931-32 from property and from carrying on a business which, if derived otherwise, would be income from property and on income derived by way of interest, dividends, rents and royalties there was a further tax of 10 per cent. of the amount of that income. On such income derived in 1932-33 the further tax was 6 per cent. only. Government bonds converted in 1931 at reduced rates of interest are not subject to this additional tax.

Income derived from both personal exertion and property.—The average rate of tax on that part of the income derived from personal exertion is the average rate that would have been payable had the whole income been derived from personal exertion and the average rate of tax on that part of the income derived from property is the average rate that would have been payable had the whole income been derived from property.

Income of Trustee.—Where a trustee is liable to be separately assessed the rate of tax is determined as above as if one individual were liable to be separately assessed on the income concerned.

Income of Companies.—No statutory or concessional deductions are allowed to companies. The rate of tax on the taxable income derived by companies in the six years ended June, 1928, was 1s. in the £, and the company was liable also to pay a tax of 1s. for every £ of interest paid or credited to any person who is an absentee in respect of debentures of the company or money lodged at interest with the company. Additional tax was levied at the rate of 20 per cent. in respect of income derived in the year 1928-29 and 33½ per cent. in 1929-30. In respect of income derived in the years 1930-31 and 1931-32, the rate of tax was 16.8d. in the £, and in 1932-33, 1s. in the £, with a further tax of 10 per cent. in 1931-32 and 5 per cent. in 1932-33 of income from property as above in respect of individual incomes.

In respect of income derived in 1932-33, life assurance companies are allowed a deduction from taxable income equal to 4 per cent. of valuation of liabilities.

Dividends paid by a company to a shareholder in respect of income derived since 30th June, 1922, are taxable as part of the income of the individual, but where the rate of tax payable by him on income from property is less than the rate paid by the company he is entitled to a rebate of the amount of tax on the dividends included in his taxable income. If on the other hand the rate of tax is not less than the rate paid by the company the tax-paying shareholder is entitled to a rebate of the tax paid by the company in respect of them.

Particulars of the number and amount of income according to grade are shown in the annual reports of the Federal Commissioner of Taxation, the latest report showing details of the assessments of the year 1930-31.

Commonwealth Estate Duties.

The Estates Assessment Act, which came into operation on 21st December, 1914, provided for the imposition of a duty on properties of persons who died after the commencement of the Act. The rate of tax is 1 per cent. of the value of the estate 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 £2,000, the maximum being 15 per cent. of the value of the estate. These rates of tax have remained unchanged since the inception of the Act.

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 from the tax.

Commonwealth Entertainments Tax.

The Entertainments Tax is levied on payments for admission to almost every class of amusement. Since 15th October, 1925, the rates of tax have been two pence 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. Details will be found on page 404 of this Year Book. The tax was abolished as from 26th October, 1933.

Primage Duty.

As from 10th July, 1930, a primage duty of 2½ per cent. was imposed on practically all imports, and subsequently increased to 4 per cent. as from 6th November, 1930. On 10th July, 1931, the rate of primage was raised to 10 per cent. on most goods. Certain remissions of primage duty were made on 26th October, 1933.

The principal classes of goods exempt are:—Bullion and specie, cornsacks, flourbags and materials therefor, fertilisers, spraying materials, radium, rock phosphates, sulphur and woolpacks.

The principal classes of goods taxed at 4 per cent. are machines and machine tools, tools of trade, materials for manufacture, manufactures for use in developmental industries, branbags, gunny bags, and bags for ore and potatoes, books for public libraries, cream separators, fibres for making binder twine, fuel oil and coal consumed in Australian waters, goods for public hospitals, newsprinting paper, power kerosene, rock salt, sheep-shearing machines, stud stock, and vessels exceeding 1,000 tons gross register.

Sales Tax.

As from 1st August, 1930, a sales tax at the rate of 2½ per cent. of sale value was imposed upon most locally-manufactured goods and imported goods. The general exemptions included primary products produced in Australia, all goods for export, goods sold by or to a Government or Government authority, and goods subject to special customs revenue duties, e.g., petrol, tobacco, cigarettes, cigars, films, newsprint, and wireless valves. Typical examples of exemptions were:—Bacon and hams, bags and sacks used in marketing primary products, bread, boxes, etc., to be used in marketing exempt goods, electricity, gas, fertilisers, metals as recovered from ores, meat, milk products, newspapers, and water supplied by local authorities. Manufacturers with a small turnover, whose tax amounts to a few shillings only per month, may be exempted from payment of tax.

As from 11th July, 1931, the rate of tax was increased from 2½ per cent. to 6 per cent., and certain additional exemptions were granted.

In September, 1932, further exemptions were made, principally in respect of articles used as aids to primary production.

On the 26th October, 1933, the rate of tax was reduced to 5 per cent., further articles were exempted, the principal being meat and meat products (whether or not marketed in containers); prescribed infants and invalids' foods; prepared breakfast foods, consisting of processed grain; rice, barley, sago and tapioca; drugs and medicines; prescribed surgical, dental and veterinary instruments, appliances and materials; articles used in fruit-growing, bee-keeping, fishing, poultry, farming and mining; and building materials, such as bricks (Australian), cement, timber, tiles and slates for roofing.

The Act requires all manufacturers and wholesale merchants to register. A certificate of registration is issued to each person who effects registration and, by means of this certificate, a manufacturer is able to obtain the raw materials for his products free of tax. Wholesale merchants also are able to obtain their trading stocks free of tax by quotation of certificate of registration. The tax is paid monthly by the manufacturer or wholesale merchant who sells taxable goods to an unregistered person. The amount of tax must be shown separately on incomes and not included in the price of the goods.

The tax collected upon sales in New South Wales in the eleven months ended 30th June, 1931, amounted to £1,454,462. In the year 1931-32 the amount was £3,308,288, and in 1932-33, £3,535,946.

STATE FINANCE.

It had been the practice for many years to keep the State Accounts on a cash basis, and the statements of revenue and expenditure included only the moneys actually deposited in or paid out of the Treasury during the year. A change of method was introduced as from 1st July, 1928, with the object of placing the accounts as far as practicable upon the income and expenditure basis, by crediting income to the accounts of the period in which it is earned or accrued and debiting the expenditure to the year in which it is incurred. In effect, however (but subject to

qualifications as to some variations of dates for closing accounts of receipts and expenditure at the end of certain years), the Consolidated Revenue Account remains a statement of receipts and payments in the twelve months ended 30th June, so far as the Sydney accounts are concerned, and the twelve months ended 30th April so far as the London account is concerned. From time to time the accounts of the principal business undertakings have been separated from consolidated revenue and placed on an income and expenditure basis. Special funds have been created in respect of such matters as motor taxation and unemployment relief. In addition, as from 1st July, 1928, the Public Works Fund was replaced by the Special Purposes (Revenue) Fund, and the relationship of this account with Consolidated Revenue Account was completely altered. As from 1st July, 1931, a system practically the same as that in operation prior to 1st July, 1928, was reverted to. In some cases, however, the earnings of Departments were deducted from expenditure and treated as repayments to credit of Votes, and the net amounts taken to account. In others, the earnings were taken in as revenue receipts. By reason of these and other changes of which details are shown in later pages it is difficult to make comparisons as between the accounts of recent years.

The principal accounts of the State Government in operation during 1931-32 related to the Consolidated Revenue Fund, the Closer Settlement Fund, the Special Deposits, the General Loan Fund, Unemployment Relief Fund, Family Endowment Fund, a State Lottery Fund, and various road and transport funds. There were also the accounts of the State business undertakings. Since the 1st July, 1932, the Unemployment Relief Fund, the Family Endowment Fund and the State Lotteries Fund have been included in the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

The *Consolidated Revenue Fund* was created by the Constitution Act. All taxes and territorial and other revenues of the Crown are paid to this fund, unless it is prescribed by statute that they are to be paid into some other fund. Subject to certain charges fixed by the Constitution Act, the fund may be appropriated by Parliament for expenditure on specific purposes, as prescribed by statute. Parliamentary appropriations may be either special or annual. A special appropriation is one which is contained in an Act which itself gives authority for the expenditure incurred on the object or function to which it relates. Annual appropriations are made each year to meet expenses of government not covered by special appropriations and not provided for by payments from special funds. Annual appropriations or balances of consolidated revenue are not available for expenditure after the end of the year for which they were voted.

Prior to 30th June, 1924, the Consolidated Revenue Account embraced practically the whole of the receipts and expenditure on revenue account of the State Government and of the statutory bodies appointed by it, inclusive of those in connection with railways, tramways, water and sewerage works, harbours and navigation works, housing and the Government grain elevators, but exclusive of certain industrial undertakings, and of the Metropolitan Meat Industry Board.

As from 1st April, 1925, the accounts of the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board were separated from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, and from 1st July, 1924, the whole or part of the revenue obtained from taxation of motor vehicles and from licenses therefor has been credited to the funds of the Main Roads Board, which came into being after that date, or to funds created in terms of the Transport Act, 1930.

As from 1st July, 1928, the accounts of the railways and tramways, the Sydney Harbour Trust, and the Hunter District Water and Sewerage works were taken out of the Consolidated Revenue Account, and the

Special Purposes (Revenue) Fund was constituted within the Consolidated Revenue Fund upon the abolition of the Public Works Fund, of which particulars are shown in the 1928-29 issue of the Year Book at page 148. The Special Purposes (Revenue) Fund was abolished as from 1st July 1931. Its scope was outlined on page 650 of the 1930-31 Year Book.

The *Closer Settlement Fund* relates to moneys used for the promotion of land settlement. Particulars of the fund are shown on page 398.

The *Special Deposits Account* is an account in the Treasury books for recording transactions on a number of accounts relating to sums held by or deposited with the Treasurer for store accounts, advance accounts, and moneys (not included in the consolidated revenue, general loan, or trust accounts) which the Treasurer directs to be carried to the Special Deposits Account. The funds in this account are not subject to annual appropriations by Parliament, and balances may be expended at any time subject to certain regulations and the issue of warrants.

The *General Loan Account* relates to the moneys which the Government has borrowed by the issue of stock, Treasury bills, and debentures under the authority of a Loan Act.

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 a 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. At the close of a financial year unapplied appropriations and balances of appropriations made by a Loan Act passed two years or longer lapse except for the payment of claims in respect of any outstanding contract or work in progress.

Revenue Accounts.

The following table shows the receipts and expenditure of the principal revenue accounts combined during the seven years ended 30th June, 1932, that is, the period since the exclusion of the accounts of the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board from Consolidated revenue.

Year ended 30th June.	Receipts.		Expenditure.	
	Governmental.	Principal Business Undertakings. *	Governmental.	Principal Business Undertakings. **
	£	£	£	£
1926	16,306,574	22,233,457	16,643,687	23,170,648
1927	19,839,448	24,310,118	17,807,260	24,883,374
1928	18,931,433	25,267,539	19,155,238	26,138,730
1929	20,703,940	26,284,015	20,110,771	27,201,503
1930	19,750,801	23,859,727	21,130,064	26,989,364
1931	17,444,514	20,220,361	20,318,778	25,278,600
1932	14,866,995†	20,211,022	22,920,392	25,254,188

*Omitting Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board.

† Including interest chargeable on loan capital.

‡ Receipts exclude certain revenue, collection of which was delayed until 1932-33, and expenditure includes certain interest payments delayed from 1930-31.

Under Governmental are grouped the accounts of the various Government Departments, including lands, mines, and forestry revenue and administration, services rendered, revenue and working expenses of the ports other than Sydney, of the Government grain elevators, and amounts of interest paid and received other than from business undertakings. These accounts are on a cash basis and, since 1st July, 1928, have been designated Consolidated Revenue Fund in the Treasurer's accounts.

The expenditure shown above under Governmental for 1930-31 is exclusive of a sum of £1,544,750 due for payment to the Commonwealth Government in respect of oversea interest, and not paid until after 30th June, 1931.

Under the heading "Principal Business Undertakings" are included the New South Wales Government Railways and Tramways, the Sydney Harbour Trust, the Hunter District Board of Water and Sewerage. Since 1st July, 1928, the accounts of these undertakings have been on an income and expenditure basis. In tables published in this Year Book for 1923-24 and previous years, totals for the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board were also included under this heading, but as from 1st April, 1925, the Board was placed in an autonomous financial position and its accounts have been excluded from the foregoing table.

An amount of £800,000 contributed from Consolidated Revenue Fund as a contribution towards losses on non-paying railways is duplicated in the above statement, being included as receipts and expenditure under both "Governmental" and "Business Undertakings" headings. Furthermore, sundry alterations as to methods of allocation of receipts and payments as between the Consolidated Revenue Fund and the Main Roads Fund, the Public Works Fund (Special Revenue Fund), the Unemployment Relief Fund, and others, have affected the comparability of the foregoing figures. For these reasons the table is of very limited use, and does not present a complete summary of the annual finances of the State. The receipts and expenditure of the Unemployment Relief Fund and the Family Endowment Fund are excluded throughout, though they have now been included in Consolidated Revenue Fund by legislation.

The following table shows the debit and credit balances of the respective sections of the Revenue Accounts shown in the previous table:—

Year ended 30th June.	Surplus (+) or Deficiency (—).		
	Governmental.	Principal Business Undertakings.†	Total for Year.*
	£	£	£
1926	(—) 337,113	(—) 937,191	(—) 1,274,304
1927	(+) 2,032,138	(—) 573,256	(+) 1,458,932
1928	(—) 223,805	(—) 871,191	(—) 1,094,996
1929	(+) 593,169	(—) 917,488	(—) 324,319
1930	(—) 1,379,263	(—) 3,129,637	(—) 4,508,900
1931	(—) 2,874,264	(—) 5,058,239	(—) 7,932,503
1932	(—) 8,053,397‡	(—) 5,043,166	(—) 13,096,563‡

* Omitting Metropolitan Water, Sewerage, and Drainage Board.

† After payment of interest chargeable on loan capital. ‡ See note to foregoing table.

The amounts of the two deficits combined, as shown above, as at 30th June in each of the past four years, do not represent the aggregate position for reasons above stated, and they may need modification when all accounts are presented on a uniform cash basis. In addition to the deficit of £2,874,264 on governmental account as at 30th June, 1931, there was outstanding an amount of £1,544,750 for oversea interest due but not paid to the Commonwealth Government until August, 1931.

Since 1st July, 1928, "Governmental" receipts and expenditure include some items not previously taken into account and excludes others, while further changes have been made in 1930-31, 1931-32, and 1932-33. On the aggregate basis at present adopted, including Unemployment Relief Fund and Family Endowment Fund, the deficit was £14,227,844 in 1931-32 and £3,758,839 in 1932-33.

A summary of the items of Governmental (Consolidated Revenue Fund) revenue and expenditure is shown below for the past three years:—

Classification.	Amount.			Per Head of Population.		
	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Revenue.	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Contribution by Commonwealth	2,917,411	2,917,411	2,917,411	1 3 7	1 3 4	1 3 2
State Taxation	11,476,491	9,578,902	6,598,136	4 12 7	3 16 8	2 11 8
Land Revenue	1,989,626	1,578,085	1,714,960	0 16 1	0 12 8	0 13 7
Receipts for Services Rendered	1,661,821	1,718,925	1,176,106	0 13 5	0 13 9	0 9 4
General Miscellaneous	1,705,452	1,651,188	2,550,382	0 13 9	0 13 2	1 0 3
Total Revenue	19,750,801	17,444,514	14,866,995	7 19 5	6 19 7	5 18 0
Expenditure.						
Legislative and General Administration	5,766,132	6,549,007	10,173,791	2 6 7	2 12 5	4 0 9
Maintenance of Law, Order and Public Safety	3,024,572	2,867,272	2,399,235	1 4 5	1 2 11	0 19 0
Regulation of Trade and Industry	124,970	124,776	97,810	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 0 6
Education	4,791,747	4,504,392	4,114,785	1 18 8	1 16 0	1 12 8
Encouragement of Science, Art and Research	76,881	68,635	68,107	0 0 8	0 0 7	0 0 6
Promotion of Public Health and Recreation	1,910,705	1,593,634	1,594,738	0 15 5	0 12 9	0 12 8
Social Amelioration	2,075,321	*1,363,589	1,464,941	0 16 9	*0 10 11	0 11 7
War Obligations	75,631	82,012	1,588	0 0 7	0 0 8	0 0 8
Development and Maintenance of State Resources	2,932,150	2,890,237	2,672,129	1 3 8	1 3 1	1 1 2
Local Government	351,955	275,224	258,268	0 2 10	0 2 2	0 2 1
Total Expenditure	21,130,064	20,318,778	22,920,392	8 10 7	8 2 6	9 1 10

* Certain expenditure on Unemployment and Charitable Relief was met from Unemployment Relief Fund.

Particulars of the total taxation imposed are shown on a comparative basis in the table on page 374, where the figures include also motor taxes and license fees which are paid to the other funds after the deductions to cover the cost of collection and administration, viz., £172,855 in 1928-29, £297,124 in 1929-30, £283,629 in 1930-31 and £227,511 in 1931-32. The amounts so deducted were credited to the Consolidated Revenue Fund under the category of receipts for services rendered. An annual contribution of £2,917,411 is made by the Commonwealth to the State in terms of the financial agreement between the Commonwealth and the States, of which details are shown on a later page. The amount received in the year 1928-29 was reduced below this figure owing to the adjustment of an overpayment of £60,932 in the preceding financial year.

Land, Forestry, and Mining Revenue of the State.

At the establishment of responsible government in New South Wales in 1856, the control of lands was vested exclusively in the State Parliament. At that date only 7,000,000 acres had been alienated, and approximately 191,000,000 acres of land were owned by the Crown. Nearly all these lands have been made available for settlement, approximately 43,500,000 acres having been absolutely alienated, 23,200,000 acres being in course of sale on terms, and 115,200,000 acres being occupied by landholders at rental under various leasehold tenures.

Over a considerable proportion of the whole area the State has reserved to itself mineral rights, which produce a substantial income from royalties. In addition, there are approximately 6,900,000 acres of State forests and timber reserves returning revenue to the Government.

The receipts from lands, mineral resources, and forests credited to Consolidated Revenue Fund during the last five years are shown below:—

Particulars.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue from Sales—					
Principal	1,102,858	767,098	664,862	498,421	893,084
Interest		372,832	356,835	301,961	
Rentals for Leases	701,967	684,840	611,770	507,099	636,266
Fees and other Receipts	82,722	85,819	79,198	66,526	
Royalties on Minerals, Rents for Mining Leases, etc.	255,275	214,599	187,856	160,877	137,418
Forestry—Royalties, Rentals, etc.	133,500	119,383	89,105	43,211	48,192
Total, Land Revenue	2,276,322	2,244,571	1,989,626	1,578,086	1,714,960

The figures quoted for 1930-31 and 1931-32 are not strictly comparable with those of other years, owing to the change in accounting procedure, whereby receipts by Clerks of Petty Sessions and other agents during June, 1930 and 1931, were not included in the totals of the years ending with those months. The figures for 1930-31 were not therefore those of a full year portion of the collections being carried to 1931-32. The interest on deferred sales and rentals for leases of land are classified as revenue proper.

Royalties on minerals and one-half of the royalties from timber and other forestry receipts are payable to Consolidated Revenue Fund. The balance of the forestry receipts are not included in the accounts of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, but are paid to a special fund and set apart for afforestation, the amounts so credited being £118,663 in 1927-28 and £108,411 in 1928-29, £96,692 in 1929-30, £52,169 in 1930-31, and £41,466 in 1931-32.

Royalties on minerals which constitute the principal item of mining revenue are subject to fluctuation, royalty being assessed in some cases on the profits of the mining companies and in other cases on the quantity of minerals produced. The bulk of the receipts from this source are paid in respect of coal-mining.

Receipts for Services Rendered.

The receipts for services rendered which are credited to Consolidated Revenue consist largely of "collections in aid." The principal items are shown below:—

Particulars.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
	£	£	£	£	£
Harbour Rates and Fees, Pilotage, etc. ...	310,184	282,778	250,942	225,301	215,241
Fees—					
Registrar-General	222,456	227,480	207,864	136,779	93,603
Law Courts	199,895	195,296	220,133	209,570	180,819
Valuation of Land	85,040	39,392	39,900	31,099	40,860
Grain Elevators—Handling Fees, etc. ...	77,064	149,916	69,036	246,315	274,327
Charge for Collection of Motor Taxes ...	148,588	172,855	64,633†	61,649†	57,025
Maintenance of Inmates of Public Institutions	54,293	63,271	71,385	50,876	55,582
Maintenance of Patients in Mental Hospitals	96,477	108,996	114,665	107,236	92,282
Other	255,586	344,036	426,447	415,689	166,367†
Total... ..	1,399,083	1,584,020	1,465,005†	1,484,514†	1,176,107

† In addition, sums of £219,000 in 1929-30, £256,411 in 1930-31, £170,486 in 1931-32 and £171,865 in 1931-32 were credited to Consolidated Revenue from motor taxation as a recoup to Police Department for supervision of road traffic.

Amounts included above as contributions for the principal services rendered to the Commonwealth Government in 1931-32 were:—Maintenance of old-age and invalid pensions in State institutions £30,090; contribution for services of magistrates £1,398, and other £1,307.

General Miscellaneous Receipts.

All items not placed under headings already shown are included in the general miscellaneous group, a substantial part of the total amount being interest collections:—

Particulars.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Interest Collections—	£	£	£	£	£
Properties transferred to Commonwealth ...	171,470	315,110	‡	‡	‡
Metropolitan Water, Sewerage, and Drainage Board—					
Advances	264,931	357,590	354,883	199,779	179,078
Capital Expenditure	26,926	26,868	42,000	29,111	.....
Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Works	109,469	134,280	199,265	179,027	214,682
Trust Works under Water Act, 1912	8,462	9,744	10,938	9,828	10,001
Sydney Harbour Bridge Loan Expenditure	42,056	90,017	16,881	3,753	11,916
Fixed deposits with Banks ... ..	.....	14,197	.....	.....	.....
Daily credit balances with Banks	19,503	22,773	4,803	10,421	10,233
Advances to Returned Soldiers	59,602	†	†	†	†
Advances to Necessitous Farmers	7,486	31,860	21,453	52,342	70,157
Advances for Wire-netting	17,204	18,887	16,967	10,293	12,005
Capital Value of State Abattoirs	61,574	61,443	61,637	61,827	.....
Other Interest	141,621	172,536	216,825	199,495	169,332
Rents of Buildings, Wharves, etc.	75,149	40,254	40,465	43,033	39,139
Fines and Forfeitures	60,414	66,363	90,892	62,503	52,068
Darling Harbour Resumed Area	69,400	65,798	64,692	59,318	47,423
Sale of products of Experiment Farms, Institutions, etc.	*	82,175	172,080	125,866	118,019
Repayment—Balances not required	39,990	30,204	19,635	17,344	7,449
Repayments to Credit of Votes, previous years	170,684	181,605	89,761	113,306	716,760
Transfer from Public Works Fund ... ..	.....	147,840	.....	.....	.....
State Lotteries ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	738,146
Other Miscellaneous Receipts	206,487	308,190	285,275	473,942§	133,979
Total... ..	1,552,428	2,177,734	1,705,452	1,651,188	2,550,382

* Credited to Special Deposit Account.

‡ Debt transferred, no interest due (see page 416).

† Transferred to Closer Settlement Fund. § Includes exchange £334,841.

The amounts of interest receipts shown in the foregoing table comprise only miscellaneous minor interest receipts and are exclusive of large sums received on outstanding balances of land sold on the instalment system, interest earned by business undertakings, etc. The interest shown as paid by the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage, and Drainage Board relates to only portion of their indebtedness.

Under the provisions of the Interest Reduction Act, 1931, interest rates on private debts were reduced as described on page 435. Rates on debts due to the Government were reduced to a similar extent by the Finances Adjustment Act, No. 27, 1932, as amended by Act No. 64 of 1932, the effect of which was to provide for a reduction of 22½ per cent. in all interest rates, establishing a maximum rate of 4 per cent. Relief was afforded thereby to public bodies, including municipal and shire councils, as from 1st January, 1933, and to the Metropolitan and Hunter District Water Board as from 1st July, 1933. Interest on debts owing by necessitous farmers, on loans and advances to settlers, on land debts under the Closer Settlement and the Returned Soldiers' Settlement Acts was reduced to a maximum of 4 per cent. as from 1st January, 1933.

The miscellaneous receipts in 1928-29 and subsequent years included large sums for which corresponding entries were not made under the system of accounts previously in operation, *e.g.*, the proceeds of the sale of the produce of the Agricultural College, experiment farms and other State institutions. The receipts in 1928-29 included also the credit balance amounting to £147,840 transferred from the Public Works Fund to the Special Purposes (Revenue) Fund. On the other hand, interest on advances to returned soldiers, paid previously to the Consolidated Revenue Fund, was credited to the Closer Settlement Fund in 1928-29 and subsequent years.

The amount of interest received from the Commonwealth in respect of the value of transferred properties in 1928-29 was greater by £143,640 than the sum received in 1927-28. Under the financial agreement with the Commonwealth the rate of interest, formerly $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., was raised to 5 per cent. for 1927-28 and 1928-29, and the amount paid in the latter year represented interest at the higher rate for that year and an adjustment in respect of 1927-28. The payment of interest ceased as from 1st July, 1929, when the Commonwealth became the owner of the properties and assumed liability for debts of the State equal to the value thereof, viz., £4,788,005.

Expenditure from Revenue.

The total expenditure from Consolidated Revenue Fund in 1931-32 amounted to £28,120,341, but this amount included Interest £5,115,347 and Sinking Fund £84,602, borne by the fund on behalf of Business Undertakings. Of the net amount £22,920,392, which is comparable with the previous years' figures, £7,126,226 was expended on salaries and payments in the nature of salaries.

A classification of the expenditure according to the functions of Government is shown on page 394. An analysis of expenditure under the principal departmental headings is shown below:—

Department.	1930-31.	1931-32.	Department.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Education—	£	£	Special Appropriations—	£	£
General	4,373,511	4,011,106	Interest on portion of		
Child Welfare	555,071	544,966	Funded Debt	2,524,861	5,724,605
	4,928,582	4,556,072	Sinking Fund	677,000	830,950
Chief Secretary—			Widows' Pensions Act	620,000	638,970
Police	1,557,124	1,190,586	Other	1,468,083	1,069,491
Other	223,617	210,225		5,289,944	8,264,016
	1,780,741	1,400,811	Attorney-General and Jus-		
Treasury—			tice	793,048	726,802
Interest	1,010,131	1,144,194	Public Works	502,678	461,070
Exchange	632,270	1,175,096	Agriculture	589,570	520,877
Contribution to Railways	800,000	800,000	Lands	389,987	323,374
Coal Settlement Agree-			Local Government—		
ment	254,088	288,107	Subsidies, &c.	194,577	178,225
Other	937,176	852,841	Other	78,443	78,774
State Lotteries ... ..	.....	78,813	Premier	223,954	204,907
	3,623,665	4,339,051	Labour and Industry	97,024	80,384
Public Health—			Water Conservation	114,116	83,029
Hospital Fund	432,777	519,992	Mines	96,259	77,761
Care of Sick, Aged, etc.	327,550	335,993	Forests	68,835	57,701
Mental Hospitals	581,195	539,848	Other	78,432	69,675
Other	127,401	102,030			
	1,468,923	1,497,863	Grand Total	£ 20,318,778	22,920,392

An analysis of payments from Consolidated Revenue according to objects of expenditure in the years ended 30th June, 1930, 1931 and 1932 is as follows:—

Head of Expenditure.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
	£	£	£
Salaries and Payments in Nature of Salaries...	8,493,265	8,140,941	7,164,094
Maintenance and Working Expenses	2,814,556	2,368,429	} 15,756,298
Other Services	9,817,243	9,809,408	
Total	£ 21,130,064	20,318,778	22,920,392

SPECIAL PURPOSES (REVENUE) FUND.

The Special Purposes (Revenue) Fund was created as from 1st July, 1928, the sources of its receipts and the purposes for which its moneys might be expended were stated on page 650 of the previous Year Book. The Fund was abolished as from 1st July, 1931.

CLOSER SETTLEMENT ACCOUNT.

The Closer Settlement Fund was established under Act No. 9 of 1906. Under an amending Act which commenced as from 1st July, 1928, this fund was closed and its liabilities were transferred to a new Closer Settlement Fund, incorporating the Returned Soldier Settlement Accounts. A liability of £3,544,005, being the net loan expenditure as at 30th June, 1928, in respect of the settlement of returned soldiers was transferred to the new fund. The fund is maintained as a separate account, and its transactions are not included in the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

The working capital of the fund is derived from loan moneys made available by the State, Parliamentary appropriations from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, assurance fees paid in respect of property under the Real Property Act, and capital and interest repaid by settlers. The expenditure from the fund consists mainly of the purchase price of estates, the cost of subdivisions and improvements, advances to returned soldiers, interest and sinking fund charges on loan moneys, sums paid in respect of assurance claims under the Real Property Act, amounts for the redemption of closer settlement debentures issued in lieu of cash payments for estates, and premiums for fire insurance in respect of improvements. The fund is charged also with costs of administration.

The total receipts and expenditure of the Closer Settlement Fund from its inception to 30th June, 1928, were summarized on page 148 of the Official Year Book for 1928-29. A summary for the three years ended 30th June, 1932, is as follows:—

Receipts.	Amount.	Expenditure.	Amount.
	£		£
Credit Balance at 30th June, 1928 ...	48,599	Purchase of Estates and Contingent Expenses ...	518,454
Transfer from General Loan Account of amount voted for Redemption of Debentures ...	1,256,300	Advances to Returned Soldiers ...	77,718
Repayments of Principal and Interest on account of—		Subdivision of Lands for Returned Soldiers ...	137,301
Estates acquired ...	2,086,936	Fire Insurance Premiums ...	79,541
Improvement Leases resumed, etc. ...	88,236	Interest on—	
Advances to Soldiers (including interest) ...	492,818	Loans—Recoup to Consolidated Revenue ...	2,468,099
Fire Insurance premiums ...	10,295	Closer Settlement Debentures ...	258,015
Fees under Real Property Act ...	75,219	Contribution to Sinking Fund ...	151,530
Various Repayments ...	809	Redemption of Debentures ...	1,078,300
Debit Balance at 30th June, 1932 ...	759,865	Other ...	22,703
		Exchange on Remittances ...	27,416
Total ...	£ 4,819,077	Total ...	£ 4,819,077

The aggregate balance-sheet of the Closer Settlement Fund is not available. The loan liability of the fund as at 30th June, 1932, was £13,312,467 comprising £13,180,267 Australian Consolidated Stock and £132,200 Closer Settlement Debentures, £500 of the latter not having been presented for conversion. At the same date, arrears owing to the fund by settlers amounted to £1,951,100 compared with £1,578,531 at 30th June, 1931, and the principal in respect of land holdings and advances unpaid, including the arrears, amounted to £15,211,666.

The amount of debentures issued was £97,300 during 1928-29, £34,400 during 1929-30 and none were issued during 1930-31. Redemptions amounted to £471,000 in 1928-29, £580,000 in 1929-30, £25,200 in 1930-31, and £500 in 1931-32.

Cash Balances.

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 various headings, 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 cash balance on the 30th June in each of the last five years was distributed as follows:—

		1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
		£	£	£	£	£
Sydney	... ..	Cr. 1,082,116	Cr. 2,516,043	Cr. 1,022,914	Cr. 2,242,587	Cr. 2,770,660
London	... ..	Dr. 1,047,573	Dr. 863,782	Dr. 4,612,002	Dr. 2,813,027	Cr. 2,010,577
Total	... ..	Cr. £34,543	Cr. £1,652,261	Dr. £3,589,088	Dr. £570,440	Cr. £4,781,237

In order to obtain a complete view of the cash position it is necessary to take into account the increase in recent years in the issue of short-term Treasury Bills and debentures to cover cash deficiencies.

ACCOUNTS OF STATE ENTERPRISES.

The principal State enterprises are those usually known as the business undertakings, viz., the railways and tramways, under the management of the Railway Commissioners, the Sydney Harbour Works under the control of the Sydney Harbour Trust, and the Metropolitan and the Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage Works, each administered by a board. The accounts of these concerns have been placed on an income and expenditure basis and separated from the Consolidated Revenue Account as from 1st July, 1928. The finances of the Hunter District Water and Sewerage Works are transacted through a Special Deposits Account, and those of the other enterprises through separate funds. Further reference to these undertakings may be found in the chapters of this Year Book relating to "Railways and Tramways," "Shipping" as to Sydney Harbour Trust, and "Local Government" as to water and sewerage works.

In addition to these business undertakings, there are a number of other utilities and enterprises whose accounts, with a few exceptions, have been kept, on a quasi-commercial basis, separated from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, and the receipts and expenditure of these pass through the Special Deposits Account of the Treasury. Of such undertakings which were operated during 1931-32, five were classed as industrial undertakings, viz., the State Metal Quarries, the State Brickworks, the Monier Pipe Works, the Building Construction Branch, and the Government Tourist Bureau and Resorts. There was one undertaking of a national character, viz., the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. The public utilities included the State Abattoirs administered by the Metropolitan Meat Industry Board, the Government Dockyard at Newcastle, the Port Kembla and Burrinjuck Electricity Supply Works, and the Government Grain Elevators. There is also the Government Insurance Office. Particulars relating to the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales and the Housing Funds, which the bank administered, are shown in other chapters of this Year Book.

The receipts and expenditure of the business undertakings during the year ended 30th June, 1932, are shown below:—

Particulars.	Railways.	Tramways.	Sydney Harbour Trust.	Water Supply and Sewerage Works.		Total Business Undertakings.
				Metro-politan.	Hunter District.	
Capital Indebtedness to 30th June, 1932	£ 139,667,319	£ 8,336,200	£ 11,778,123	£ 38,870,637	£ 5,080,446	£ 203,732,725
Revenue, 1931-32—						
Earnings	15,001,022	3,305,222	832,187	2,796,753	272,591	22,207,775
Contribution from Consolidated Revenue for Developmental Lines	800,000	...	...	...	...	800,000
Total Revenue	15,801,022	3,305,222	832,187	2,796,753	272,591	23,007,775
Expenditure, 1931-32—						
Working Expenses	12,532,869	3,046,532	246,502	622,200	96,240	16,544,343
Interest	6,519,217	412,700	560,715	1,807,754	170,189	9,470,575
Sinking Fund ... ..	...	29,630	41,000	103,300	13,972	187,902
Exchange	1,304,600	106,500	147,360	262,493	26,162	1,847,115
Total Expenditure	20,356,686	3,595,362	995,577	2,795,747	306,563	23,049,935
Net Revenue, 1931-32 ...	*4,555,664	*290,140	*163,390	1,006	*33,072	*5,042,160

* Net Expenditure.

The interest and sinking fund charges in respect of the railways and tramways, as shown above, are approximate amounts which are subject to alteration when the capital indebtedness of these undertakings has been determined finally. Under current legislation the railways are required to contribute a proportion of the sinking fund charges payable under the financial agreement between the Commonwealth and the States, but arrangements have been made for the charges for 1928-29 and subsequent years to be met from Consolidated Revenue. The sum of £800,000 contributed from Consolidated Revenue towards the loss on the working and maintenance of non-paying developmental railways is the maximum amount payable in each year for this purpose.

The following statement shows particulars of the financial transactions of various enterprises, other than the business undertakings, during the year 1931-32.

Enterprise.	Capital Indebtedness to 30-6-32.	Revenue 1931-32.	Expenditure, 1931-32.			Net Revenue 1931-32.
			Working Expenses.	Interest, Sinking Fund, &c.	Total.	
Industrial Undertakings—						
State Metal Quarries	£ 290,064	£ 68,531	£ 62,571	£ 8,323	£ 70,894	(—) 2,362
State Brickworks	259,650	33,567	38,068	4,128	42,196	(—) 8,629
Building Construction	34,588	422,814	399,103	5,582	404,685	18,129
State Monier Pipe Works	58,093	40,675	35,184	862	36,046	4,629
Government Tourist Bureau and Resorts	330,721	82,875	100,470	6,811	107,281	(—) 24,406
Other Enterprises—						
Metropolitan Meat Industry Board	2,181,060	500,163	391,885	107,271	499,156	1,007
Government Dockyard, Newcastle	1,536,231	145,199	210,234	5,110	215,344	(—) 70,145
Port Kembla—						
Coal Loading and Shipping	83,317	19,285	14,201	4,433	18,634	651
Electricity Supply	536,344	53,955	29,050	50,658	79,708	(—) 25,753
Burrinjuck Hydro-Electric Supply	846,228	86,423	20,506	64,494	85,000	1,428
Observatory Hill Resumed Area	935,692	49,817	22,946	45,444	68,390	(—) 18,573
Dacey Garden Suburb	182,377	18,959	10,643	8,660	19,303	(—) 344
Water Supply—						
Broken Hill	478,384	42,455	24,946	3,672	28,618	13,837
Junee	220,308	17,582	5,195	12,387	17,582	...
Grain Elevators—						
Site Operations	4,092,722	143,933	70,323	197,606	267,929	(—)123,991
Freight ... ..	...	291,623	374,706	...	374,706	(—) 83,083
Government Insurance Office ... ..	...	226,297	156,536	...	156,536	69,761

* Not available.

The expenditures of the activities classified as "industrial undertakings" and those of the Newcastle Dockyard and the Government Insurance Office include amounts equivalent to the State and Federal income taxes which would be payable if these concerns were liable to pay such taxes. These amounts were paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Certain Industrial Undertakings and Enterprises have, in past years, been very profitable, but recently several concerns have shown substantial losses, a notable exception being the Building Construction Branch, which showed a net profit in 1931-32 of £18,129 as compared with £8,490 in the previous year. In regard to the State Metal Quarries, which have been in operation since 1st September, 1911, profits amounting to £15,487 have been applied in reducing the capital, £202,344 in extending the works, and the credit balance of the Profit and Loss Accumulated Account at 30th June, 1931, was £85,064.

At the State Brickworks, capital expenditure from the funds of the undertaking to 30th June, 1932, was £177,324, repayments of capital £83,326, and reserves amounted to £43,792. The Building Construction Branch of the Public Works Department was established as an industrial undertaking on 1st October, 1913. The profits to 30th June, 1932, were £194,700, of which, £26,663 were applied in the repayments of capital expenditure, and £7,086 in the purchase of additional plant. The State Monier Pipe and Reinforced Concrete Works were established as an industrial undertaking on 1st February, 1914. The total profits have amounted to £192,664. Repayments of capital from this source amount to £27,068, and additions to buildings and plant to £44,601.

The Government Tourist Bureau and Tourist Resorts were gazetted as an industrial undertaking as from 1st July, 1929. Previously their transactions were recorded in the Special Deposits Account. As at 30th June, 1930, surplus earnings amounting to £140,711 had been applied from that account to new works.

Ten other industrial undertakings established in earlier years have been closed, leaving at 30th June, 1932, an unpaid loan liability of £299,988 (subject to further adjustment) and an unpaid capital liability of £58,119 to the Consolidated Revenue Fund. The loss on working capital provided by overdraft amounted at the same date to £177,539 and the liability to Consolidated Revenue Fund for interest, etc., to £264,889, making an aggregate loss to the State on these inoperative Undertakings £800,535.

The first sales of electricity by the Burrinjuck Hydro-Electric scheme were in 1928. At 30th June, 1932, the accumulated deficiency amounted to £26,930 as compared with £28,358 at the end of June, 1931.

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 reserve on which the Treasurer may draw to meet temporary requirements. 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 the Special Deposits and Special Accounts in each of the last fifteen years:—

As at 30th June.	Amount.	As at 30th June.	Amount.	As at 30th June.	Amount.
	£		£		£
1918	5,957,608	1923	18,527,873	1928	22,738,617
1919	6,222,291	1924	19,666,636	1929	24,705,014
1920	9,848,520	1925	26,001,112	1930	24,544,829
1921	13,097,856	1926	25,069,338	1931	23,698,304
1922	17,491,833	1927	20,009,040	1932	25,163,347

The amount at the credit of each of these funds at 30th June, 1932, was: Special Deposits Account, £24,718,652, and the Special Accounts, £444,695.

The amount of the credit of the principal accounts is shown in the following table:—

Special Deposits Accounts.

	£		£
Commonwealth Bank Advance Deposit Account	500,000	Public Trustee—Unclaimed Balances of Intestate Estates	222,183
Commonwealth Savings Bank of Australia Deposit Account	7,112,565	Sydney Harbour Bridge Rate Account	54,875
Advances by Commonwealth— Settlement of Soldiers ...	8,465,983	Sydney Harbour Bridge Ac- count	78,682
Other	193	Relief to Necessitous Farmers Working Account	876,766
Grafton-Kyogle-South Brisbane Railway Working Account	175,000	Deposits lodged by Trustee companies	80,870
Fixed Deposit Account... ..	500,000	Security Deposits—Workers' Compensation Act	681,017
State Debt Commissioners Trust Accounts	296,033	Store Advance Accounts	286,020
Government Insurance Office Funds	956,347	Industrial Undertakings	457,736
Prickly Pear Destruction Fund	5,372	Government Dockyard Work- ing Account	206,675
Main Roads Board Funds	890,857	Sundry Working Accounts	214,884
Main Roads Account	94,878	Deposits on Tenders	47,583
Liquor Act Compensation Fund	734,242	Sundry Deposits Account	196,070
Family Endowment Fund	39,522	Other	732,549
Unemployment Relief Fund	457,554		
State Lotteries Account	110,371		
Superannuation Board Account	243,820	Total	£24,718,652

Special Accounts.

	£		£
Master-in-Equity Account	229,585	Prothonotary Account	6,323
Master-in-Lunacy Account	19,540	Registrar of Probates' Account	17,462
Public Trustee Account	171,785	Total	444,695

The total sum at the credits of the accounts on the 30th June, 1932, was £25,163,347, of which £1,558,925 were invested in securities; £20,115,164 were uninvested but used in advances and on public account at interest, the rates allowed ranging from 1 to 5½ per cent.; the remainder, £3,489,258, was similarly used, but without any interest allowance. In cases where interest

was being paid by the Treasurer on the 30th June, 1932, the rate was 3 per cent., with the following exceptions:—

Fixed Deposit Account	4 per cent.
Commonwealth Savings Bank Accounts	4 "
State Debt Commissioners' Trust Account, Municipal Council of Sydney Sinking Fund... ..	4 "
Commonwealth Advance re Settlement of Returned Soldiers	4 "
Master-in-Lunacy Account	1 "
Workers' Compensation Commission, Trust Account	2 "
City of Sydney Sinking Fund	4 "
Main Roads Funds	1 "
Grafton-Kyogle-Brisbane Railway Working Account	5½ "
Insurance Funds and Treasury Guarantee Funds... ..	2½ "
Industrial Undertakings	4·85673%
Sydney Harbour Bridge—	
Municipal and Shire Rate Account	4·85673%
Railways Superannuation Account	2 per cent.
Architects' Fund	4 "
Commonwealth Bank Advance Account	5 "
Mine Subsidence Insurance Fund	2 "

Some of the foregoing rates of interest were reduced in the latter part of 1931 in terms of the Interest Reduction Act.

The funds in the custody of the State Treasurer at credit of Special Deposits and Special Accounts, were held as follows:—

Funds.	30th June, 1929.	30th June, 1930.	30th June, 1931.
In Banks—	£	£	£
Special Deposits Account	22,395,883	22,660,953	23,159,727
Special Accounts	958,697	405,889	444,695
Commonwealth Government Inscribed Stock ... ..	.....	94,320	.....
Australian Consolidated Inscribed Stock ... ..	.....	.....	807,497
New South Wales Funded Stock	561,500	571,509	.....
Deposits on Tenders	66,520	63,690	46,700
Security Deposits	677,968	702,917	670,580
Miscellaneous Securities	33,721	24,452	34,148
Remittances in transit	10,716	21,099	.....
Total	£ 24,705,014	24,544,829	25,163,347

STATE LOAN FUNDS.

In recent years the moneys raised on loans, with the exception of a revenue deficiency loan in 1929, and proceeds of Treasury Bills applied to revenue purposes have been credited to General Loan Account. Formerly other loan accounts were in existence for varying periods, but they have, in effect, been amalgamated into a combined account.

The whole of the loans outstanding, with the exceptions noted above, have been raised for capital expenditure on various works and services. Prior to the year 1900 loans not credited to General Loan Account were raised for defence works, for promoting immigration, etc., and some revenue deficits were met, temporarily, by the issue of special Treasury bills. The stocks issued in this way have been repaid from revenue.

The relationship between the loan liability of the State and the net expenditure on loan works and services was as follows as at 30th June, 1932:—

	£
Outstanding Loan Liability (see page 412)	306,525,598
Add Debt liability assumed by Commonwealth Government in respect of transferred properties	4,788,004
	311,313,602
Deduct Amounts included in loan liability, but not in net loan expenditure statements—	£
Commonwealth Advances—	
Returned Soldier Settlement	8,465,983
Grafton—South Brisbane Railway	1,419,593
Closer Settlement Debentures	907,950
Revenue Deficiency Loans	4,923,725
Advances to Settlers	120,050
Deficiency Bills	21,135,000
* True net expenses of Loan Flotations (including discounts on various issues)... ..	12,081,427
	49,053,728
	262,259,874
Add Redemptions from Revenue and Sinking Funds	10,640,801
General Loan Overdraft	5,971,873
	£278,872,548

* Difference between securities sold and proceeds realised.

Loan Expenditure.

The specific services on which the above expenditure has been incurred and the amount expended as at 30th June, 1932, may be classified as follows:—

Work or Services.	Expenditure to 30th June, 1932.
	£
Railways	a138,639,636
Tramways	a12,168,973
Metropolitan Water Sewerage, and Drainage Board	b26,048,874
Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage Board	6,219,634
Sydney Harbour Trust	11,805,807
Industrial Undertakings	6,407,579
Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas	c9,444,391
Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission	5,129,998
Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Services	5,130,584
Grain Elevators	4,092,722
Acquisition of land for Closer Settlement	8,707,779
Advances to Farmers and Settlers	5,879,060
Advances to Councils for Relief of Unemployment... ..	193,761
Roads, Bridges, Punts, Ferries, and Public Watering Places	8,130,661
Sydney Harbour Bridge	6,088,437
Improvements to Harbours and Rivers (other than Sydney Harbour)	7,274,623
Public Buildings and Sites (other than those vested in business or industrial undertakings above)... ..	10,329,188
Commonwealth Services	d3,965,937
Miscellaneous	1,214,904
Total Loan Expenditure on Works and Services	£ 278,872,548

a Subject to transfer of certain capital expenditure from tramways to railways. b Exclusive of expenditure incurred by Board from other funds. c Inclusive of acquisition of land and advances to settlers. d Liability has been accepted by Commonwealth Government.

In addition, a liability of £12,081,427 has been incurred in connection with discounts allowed on loans, flotation expenses, etc., during the past eighty years.

The amounts shown above represent the net expenditure after deducting repayments and recoups. Expenditure from general loan overdraft is included. There was no loan expenditure in suspense at 30th June, 1932.

Annual Loan Expenditure (State).

The actual loan expenditure by the State Government and statutory bodies under its control was as follows in each of the past nine years:—

Year ended 30th June.	Actual Loan Expenditure.	Year ended 30th June.	Actual Loan Expenditure.	Year ended 30th June.	Actual Loan Expenditure.
	£		£		£
1924	9,775,293	1927	16,344,094	1930	13,192,755
1925	11,269,571	1928	16,565,543	1931	7,714,000
1926	13,193,576	1929	19,663,889	1932	4,374,502

A summary of the Loan Expenditure Accounts under State control is provided below, showing the actual loan expenditure during each of the past five years. Loan moneys expended by Federal and local bodies are not included.

Service.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
	£	£	£	£	£
Gross amount charged to General Loan Fund in respect of works and services.*	15,633,605	14,930,854	11,492,917	6,605,707	4,032,067
Less Loan expenditure suspense of previous year included above.	2,002,887	129,546	1,941,829	453,240	.....
	13,630,718	14,801,308	9,551,088	6,152,467	4,032,067
Plus Loan expenditure suspense of year..	129,546	1,941,829	453,240	.....	.....
Actual expenditure from Treasury Loan Accounts.	13,760,234	16,743,137	10,004,328	6,152,467	4,032,067
Expended by Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board.	2,406,686	2,698,924	3,008,139	1,548,513	342,435
Commonwealth advance for Grafton-Kyogle-Brisbane Railway.	398,593	221,828	180,288	13,020	.....
Actual Loan expenditure under State control.	16,565,543	19,663,889	13,192,755	7,714,000	4,374,502

* Excluding repayments to votes in respect of expenditure during the year shown.

The grand total of the foregoing table represents as nearly as may be the gross amount of loan moneys actually expended each year under State, as distinct from Federal and local authority. The figures include the total amount of advances to settlers and local bodies, irrespective of repayments. The amount of repayments to credit of previous years' votes, not deducted above were:—£1,225,986 in 1927-28; £681,772 in 1928-29, besides £29,054 from Loans Repayment Account; £614,290 in 1929-30; £654,218 in 1930-31 and £644,924 in 1931-32.

Distribution of Annual Loan Expenditure.

The principal heads of the State loan expenditure on works and services during each of the past three years is shown below in summary form. Full

*15711—B

details are shown in tabular form in the Public Accounts and Auditor-General's Reports:—

Work or Services.	Expenditure during year ended 30th June.		
	1930.	1931.	1932.
<i>State Loan Funds.</i>			
Railways and Tramways—	£	£	£
Railways	3,842,192	2,173,698	1,370,373
Tramways	31,495	792	15,393
	3,873,687	2,174,490	1,385,766
Water Supply, Sewerage, etc.—			
Hunter District	498,955	216,901	305,450
Country Towns	504,360	457,340	253,867
	1,003,315	674,241	559,317
Irrigation, etc.—			
Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area	297,178	93,108	132,072
River Murray Commission	200,141	116,636	112,470
Wyangala Storage Reservoir	338,690	170,804	188,727
Other	105,170	76,416	59,370
	941,179	456,964	492,639
Harbours—			
Sydney Harbour Trust	169,381	70,890	19,735
Other Harbours and Rivers	145,545	75,523	86,652
	314,926	146,413	106,387
Roads and Bridges—			
Roads and Bridges	347,060	245,592	4,966
Sydney Harbour Bridge	1,386,325	1,458,853	1,366,982
	1,733,385	1,704,445	1,371,948
Land Settlement—			
Advances, etc.	290,176	604,933	124
Closer Settlement (Redemption of Debentures) ..	606,100	...	...
	896,276	604,933	124
Public Buildings—			
School Buildings	332,662	118,957	35,253
Hospital Buildings	241,836	41,670	14,635
Other Government Buildings	203,988	51,374	10,900
	778,486	212,001	60,788
Other Undertakings—			
Government Dockyard	92,764	2,376	652
Port Kembla Power	39,423	14,439	5,389
Grain Elevators	77,620	55,671	48,840
	209,807	72,486	54,881
Other—			
Advances to Councils, etc., to assist Unemployed	182,657	10,100	...
Other	70,610	96,394	217
	253,267	106,494	217
Total	£ 10,004,328	6,152,467	4,032,067
Expended by Metropolitan Water, Sewerage, and Drainage Board*	3,008,139	1,548,513	342,435
Commonwealth Advances—Grafton—Kyogle—Brisbane Railway*	180,288	13,020	...
Grand Total Expenditure on State Works and Services	£ 13,192,755	7,714,000	4,374,502

* Not included in General Loan Account of State.

The amounts expended as shown under the various headings above represent the actual new expenditure during the year—that is, expenditure from

General Loan Account plus payments from and less receipts of Loan Expenditure Suspense Account. Repayments to credits of votes have not been deducted.

The State Government's net expenditure from General Loan Account on works and services (exclusive of redemptions, conversions, and renewals of loans, and after deducting repayments to credit of votes) is shown below for the period of thirty-nine years, 1842-1880, and in decennial periods from 1881 to 1930, and for the years 1930-31 and 1931-32:—

Years.	During Each Period.		Total at end of Period.	
	Amount.	Per Inhabitant.	Amount.	Per Inhabitant.
	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
1842-1880	16,316,530	41 12 2	16,316,530	21 9 1½
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	75 13 5
1921-1930	112,957,971	49 9 8	269,533,9 6	107 15 11
1930-1931	*5,951,489	*2 7 7	275,485,465	110 3 7
1931-1932	*3,387,143	*1 6 10	278,872,548	110 4 9

* One year.

The amount of expenditure shown above is the gross expenditure from General Loan Account less amounts repaid or recouped to the credit of votes and less the amount of discount, flotation charges, etc., on loans, viz., £12,081,427 at 30th June, 1932. On the other hand, the expenditure as shown has not been reduced by the amount of loans redeemed from revenue. A reconciliation between the public debt and the net expenditure on works and services from General Loan Account appears on page 404.

External Loans Maturing.

The amounts, rates of interest, and latest dates of maturity of the overseas loans of New South Wales outstanding in London and New York at 30th June, 1932, are shown below:—

Latest Date of Maturity.	Amount.	Rate of Interest.	Latest Date of Maturity.	Amount.	Rate of Interest.
<i>Repayable in London.</i>			<i>Repayable in London.</i>		
	£	per cent.		£	per cent.
14 July, 1932	2,119,258	†	1 Dec., 1965	14,130,000	5
2 Aug., 1932	4,502,524	3½	1 July, 1975	877,502	5
15 Aug., 1932	1,617,197	5	1 „ 1975	668,552	(a)
2 Sept., 1932	1,928,055	5	1 „ 1975	1,419,593	5
30 „ 1932	2,507,500	†	Indefinite ...	1,200	5
1 Nov., 1932	12,360,958	5½	Overdue ...	9,950	...
1 July, 1933	9,621,846	4	Total, London..	£164,971,509	...
1 „ 1934	2,980,400	5½	<i>Repayable in New York.</i>		
1 Jan., 1935	4,901,232	5½	1 May, 1956	\$18,944,500	4½
1 Oct., 1935	12,420,113	3		(£3,892,839)	
1 Aug., 1940	6,427,465	6½	1 Feb., 1957	\$23,639,500	5
1 Nov., 1940	9,527,090	6		(£4,857,598)	
1 Sept., 1942	3,979,050	5	1 April, 1958	£23,640,000	5
1 July, 1945	10,984,700	4½		(£4,857,700)	
1 July, 1950	12,067,428	3½	Total, New York ...	\$66,224,000	...
1 Oct., 1955	21,657,000	5		(£13,608,137)	...
1 July, 1957	17,870,500	5½			
1 „ 1962	10,392,396	4			

† Treasury Bills discounted at 5 per cent.

‡ Treasury Bills discounted at 4½ per cent.

(a) Variable rates under Migration Agreement.

NATIONAL DEBT CONVERSION LOAN.

As part of the plan (known as "The Premiers' Plan") to meet the economic crisis in Australia consequent on the world depression, the Premiers' Conference held in Melbourne in May and June, 1931, decided to invite holders of Government securities in Australia to convert them into new issues on terms involving reduced rates of interest and alternative dates of redemption.

A brief summary of the remainder of the plan and of the circumstances leading up to it is published on pages 757 to 765 of the Commonwealth Year Book for 1931 and detailed reports of the various conferences have been issued as printed documents by the Commonwealth Parliament.

The conversion was authorised in terms of the (Commonwealth) Debt Conversion Agreement Acts (July and November, 1931); the Commonwealth Debt Conversion Act (August, 1931); and the (State) Debt Conversion Agreement Act (July, 1931) as modified by supplementary and amending enactments. The terms and conditions were set out on page 667 and following pages of the 1930-31 Year Book.

COST OF RAISING AND MANAGING LOANS.

Operations incidental to the issue of loans in London were formerly conducted by the Bank of England, and more recently by the Westminster Bank. The former charged $\frac{1}{4}$ 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 charged $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. and £150 per million respectively for similar services. At 30th June, 1932, stock to the value of £22,061,959 was managed by the Bank of England, while the Westminster Bank held the remainder other than loans issued or converted subsequent to the Commonwealth Financial Agreement of 1927. These loans are arranged and managed under authority of the Loan Council by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

Since the conversion of the internal loans of Australia into Commonwealth Consolidated Stock in the latter half of 1931, the management of the internal debts of Australian Governments has been conducted by the Commonwealth authorities in accordance with the Commonwealth Inscribed Stock Regulations.

With the approval of the Loan Council Commonwealth securities may be sold at the State Treasury, the proceeds being applied as part of the loan proceeds allocated to the State in terms of the financial agreement. Such issues are not underwritten, and the price of flotation is usually par.

Commission paid 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 amount so charged, together with discounts allowed to subscribers at various issues, amounted to £12,081,427 at 30th June, 1932.

The following statement shows the charges for the negotiation of recent loans, inclusive of the accrued interest and discounts allowed to investors. Local Debentures and Treasury Bills have not been included, as in Sydney they are usually issued 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. The statement includes both new loans and conversions:—

Year of Flotation.	Amount of Principal	Price of Issue per cent.	Gross Amount Raised.	Costs of Negotiation.	Net Amount Credited to General Loan Account.*	Date from which Interest Accrues.	Nominal Rate of Interest.	Year of Maturity.
Issued in London.								
1927-28	(a) £ 3,080,000	98	£ 3,018,400	£ 55,941	£ 2,970,829	1-7-28	5	1975
"	7,000,000	99½	6,965,000	140,299	6,840,827	1-7-28	5½	1957
1928-29	(a) 3,212,000	98	3,147,760	49,498	3,090,634	18-1-29	5	1975
1929-30	(b) 150,320	98	147,314	2,322	144,792	26-8-28	(b)	1975
1930-31	(b) 518,232	98	507,868	8,733	499,135	26-8-28	(b)	1975
"	22,650	98	22,197	398	21,799	14-3-29	5	1975
"	4,502,524	100	4,502,524	.....	4,502,524	30-1-31	3½	1931
Issued in New York.								
1927-28	(a) 3,955,615	90	3,560,053	14,653	3,545,400	1-5-28	4½	1956
Issued in Sydney.								
1927-28	1,658,876	100	1,658,876	1,817	1,657,059	£	5½	1932 to 1942
"	62,840	100	62,840	.....	62,840	£	5½	1932 to 1942
"	2,646,876	98½	2,607,173	7,518	2,599,655	£	5½	1932 to 1943
"	500,000	100	500,000	.....	500,000	£	7	1928 to 1929
1928-29	\$1,196,945	98½	1,179,261	2,685	1,176,305	£	5½	\$1933 to 1943
"	\$8,609,650	100	8,609,650	27,015	8,598,619	£	5½	\$1935 to 1943
"	\$519,800	99	514,602	1,779	512,823	£	5½	\$1935 to 1942
1929-30	250,000	100	250,000	...	250,000	30-6-30	£ 7s.	15-12-30
"	\$4,358,745	100	4,358,745	7,407	3,900,419	£	6	\$1937 to 1938
"	\$1,102,390	100	1,102,390	2,500	1,099,890	£	5½	\$1939 to 1943
"	\$157,500	99	155,926	500	155,426	£	5½	\$1939 to 1943
"	\$2,410,060	98	2,361,859	24,990	2,341,369	£	5½	\$1934 to 1943
1930-31	35,000	100	35,000	} 20,167	35,000	£	5½	15-9-35
"	\$102,970	100	102,970		102,880	£	5½	\$1941 to 1950
"	1,552,790	100	1,552,790		1,551,423	£	5½	15-12-40
"	\$13,514,440	100	13,514,440		13,493,177	£	6	\$1932 to 1939
1931-32	c117,863,247	100	c117,863,247	‡	117,863,247	£	£	£

* Allowing for adjustments from Consolidated Revenue Account and profits on exchange.
 † Various amounts at various dates. †† £5 11s. 10d. (a) Issued by Commonwealth Government. (b) Commonwealth Advances under Migration Agreement—Rate of interest variable.
 ‡ Not available. (c) Securities sold, viz., £97,698,717 in terms of Debt Conversion Acts, and £20,164,530 other. Securities and advances paid off, £99 516,983.

THE PUBLIC DEBT.

Growth of Funded 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 purposes 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.

The amount of public debt outstanding at the end of each year from 1842 to 1860 was published on page 423 of the Official Year Book for 1926-27. The amount of debt at the end of each subsequent year is shown on page 744 of the "Statistical Register" for 1925-26.

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

Since 1855 the Funded Debt has grown steadily by reason of the expenditure of loan funds on railways, water supply and sewerage, harbour works and other public services enumerated on a previous page.

The following table shows the amount of funded Public Debt outstanding at the end of each year named, the financial year ending on 30th June in 1895 and subsequent years:—

Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.
	£		£		£
1842	49,500	1875	11,470,637	1910	92,525,095
1845	97,700	1880	14,903,919	1915	127,735,405
1850	132,500	1885	35,564,259	1920	152,776,082
1855	1,000,800	1890	48,383,333	1925	201,702,327
1860	3,830,230	1895	58,220,933	1930	259,589,967
1865	5,749,630	1900	65,332,993	1931	272,747,529*
1870	9,681,130	1905	82,321,998	1932	275,504,521

* Excluding £2,950,000 loan proceeds due credited in following year.

The annual growth of the public debt cannot be traced accurately from the growth of funded debt outstanding. During recent years it has become increasingly the practice to finance loan expenditure by overdraft on the loan account against the security of special deposits which consist largely of funds made available on loan by the Commonwealth Government. In addition, since 1916, there have been in existence Closer Settlement Debentures and ministerial certificates issued in payment for some of the estates resumed for closer settlement. From time to time part of these debentures have been redeemed from loan funds.

In considering the rate of growth of the debt, attention should be paid to the effect of variations in the purchasing power of the money expended, the steady growth of population throughout the period, the economic development of the State, as measured by the growth of its wealth, income and productiveness, and the earning power of the works constructed from loan.

Furthermore, comparisons of the rate of growth of the State debt with that of other States of Australia should take into account the various distributions of governmental functions as between the State and local governments and the inclusion or non-inclusion of the capital debts of public utilities controlled by governmental authority.

Especial care should be taken in making international comparisons to make due allowance for the differing distributions of debt as between central, provincial and local governments and the existence or otherwise of reproductive assets acquired from loan funds. Superficial comparisons made without reference to these factors lead to very erroneous conclusions.

The following statement shows the amount of funded debt on each register at quinquennial intervals from 1900 to 1932. Stocks are transferable normally from London to Australia:—

As at 30th June	Stock, Debentures and Treasury Bills Registered in—				Funded Debt.	
	London and New York.		Australia.		Total.	Per head of Population.
	Amount.	Proportion to Funded Debt.	Amount.	Proportion to Funded Debt.		
	£	per cent.	£	per cent.	£	£ s. d.
1900	55,060,650	84.28	10,272,343	15.72	65,332,993	48 4 9
1905	64,007,550	77.75	18,314,448	22.25	82,321,998	56 12 2
1910	67,154,805	72.58	25,370,290	27.42	92,525,095	57 6 6
1915	86,167,288	67.46	41,568,117	32.54	127,735,405	67 10 11
1920	101,977,445	66.75	50,798,637	33.25	152,776,082	73 16 11
1925	136,064,505	67.45	65,637,822	32.55	201,702,327	88 14 4
1930	168,993,285*	65.10	90,596,682	34.90	259,589,967	104 7 9
1931	176,767,275*†	64.12	98,930,254	35.88	275,697,529†	109 18 0
1932	177,160,053	64.30	98,344,468	35.70	275,504,521	108 18 2

* Including £13,945,628 in 1930, £13,825,624 in 1931, and £13,603,137 in 1932 in New York

† Includes £2,950,000 proceeds to be credited in 1931-32.

Formerly the State Government depended principally on the London money market for the flotation of its loans and more than 84 per cent. of the loans outstanding at 30th June, 1900, were registered in London. As the State developed, however, loanable funds became available on the local market and, despite huge borrowings by the Commonwealth Government in Australia for war purposes, the State's loan capital has been provided to an increasing extent from local resources. Thus of £210,364,536 added to the funded debt of the State between 1900 and 1931 no less than £88,657,911, or 42.1 per cent., were subscribed locally, and at 30th June, 1931, approximately 36 per cent. of the outstanding funded debt was registered locally. Owing to the stringency on the London money market in the early part of 1927 the State raised two 25,000,000 dollar loans in New York, the total amount of principal being £10,273,973. In the following year the State received £3,955,615, part of the proceeds of a 50,000,000 dollar loan raised in New York by the Commonwealth. The increased London borrowings in June, 1931, consisted principally of short-dated debentures and Treasury bills.

TOTAL PUBLIC DEBT OF STATE.

The total public debt of New South Wales consists of (a) funded debt; (b) unfunded debt, viz., the debit balances on general loan account and on loan expenditure suspense account and advances by the Commonwealth Government for various purposes; and (c) the amount of debentures and

ministerial certificates issued in payment for estates acquired for purposes of Closer Settlement adjusted in accordance with the balance at debit or credit of the Closer Settlement Fund.

Since the commencement of the Commonwealth Financial Agreement on 1st July, 1928 (see page 416), it has been necessary to introduce a new classification of items comprised in the public debt. These are shown in the following table:—

	Amount of Debt as at 30th June,—			
	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
	£	£	£	£
Funded Debt*	256,701,944	259,589,967	275,697,529	275,504,521
Treasury Bills carried to Special Treasury Account .....	...	...	...	21,135,000
Advances by Commonwealth Government—				
Returned Soldier Settlement	8,465,983	8,465,984	8,465,984	8,465,984
Silo Construction	250,000	...	...	...
Migration	150,320	275,071	...	...
Grafton-South Brisbane Railway	1,226,285	1,406,573	1,419,593	1,419,593
Closer Settlement Debentures	1,751,350	1,170,450	908,450	500
Advances by Commonwealth Bank .....	...	...	1,617,197	...
Gross Debt taken over by Commonwealth	268,635,882	270,908,045	288,108,753	306,525,598
Deduct—				
Value of properties transferred in 1929-30	4,788,005	...	...	...
Sinking Fund Balances	428,232	145,739	174,663	443,212
	5,216,237	145,739	174,663	443,212
Net Debt as defined by Financial Agreement	263,419,645	270,762,306	287,934,090	306,082,386
Closer Settlement Debentures external to Agreement	97,300	131,700	131,700	131,700
General Loan Overdraft	10,684,964	13,603,220	3,278,994	5,971,873
Loans Expenditure Suspense Overdraft	1,941,829	453,240	...	...
	276,143,738	284,950,466	291,344,784	312,185,959
Less Loan Proceeds due, credited following year... ..	...	...	2,950,000	...
	276,143,738	284,950,466	288,394,784	312,185,959
Less Advances from Commonwealth Government in Special Deposits Account	8,866,303	8,741,054	8,465,984	8,465,984
Public Debt*	237,277,435	276,209,412	279,928,800	303,719,975

* Funded Debt embraces outstanding Debentures, Stock and Treasury Bills at face value.

The item £4,788,005 (value of transferred properties) is offset in 1929 in order to validate comparison with succeeding years, when the liability had been actually transferred to the Commonwealth.

Debit balances on revenue accounts have been excluded from the foregoing statement since October, 1930. Treasury bills have been issued in respect of these.

Domicile and Rates of Interest on Public Debt.

The following tables show the amount of New South Wales public debt taken over by the Commonwealth in the various registers, the rates of interest, and the latest dates of maturity as at 30th June, 1932. It should be noted that the rates of interest and the dates of maturity of the debt

registered in Australia were altered in the latter part of 1931 in terms of the Commonwealth Debt Conversion Loan, and that these alterations are reflected in the tables here shown:—

Rate per cent.	Payable in—			Total.	Annual Interest Payable.
	London.	New York.	Australia.		
£ s. d.	£	£	£	£	£
1 0 0*	668,552	...	...	668,552	6,686
2 6 6	...	...	687,474	687,474	15,984
2 14 3	...	...	291,514	291,514	7,907
2 18 1·5	...	...	411,650	411,650	11,964
3 0 0	12,420,113	...	6,572,640	18,992,753	569,782
3 2 0	...	...	532,665	532,665	16,515
3 9 9	...	...	74,700	74,700	2,604
3 10 0	16,569,952	...	...	16,569,952	579,948
3 17 6	...	...	3,138,819	3,138,819	121,630
4 0 0	20,014,242	...	86,105,601	106,119,843	4,244,792
4 1 4·5	...	...	15,382,079	15,382,079	625,859
4 5 3	...	...	14,065,081	14,065,081	599,524
4 9 1·5	...	...	101,933	101,933	4,542
4 10 0	13,492,200	3,892,839	...	17,385,039	782,328
4 13 0	...	...	577,910	577,910	26,873
5 0 0	47,728,855	9,715,299	...	57,444,154	2,872,207
5 0 9	...	...	3,035	3,035	153
5 5 0	17,870,500	...	...	17,870,500	938,201
5 10 0	2,980,400	...	...	2,980,400	163,922
5 15 0	17,262,190	...	...	17,262,190	992,576
6 0 0	9,527,090	...	...	9,527,090	571,625
6 10 0	6,427,465	...	...	6,427,465	417,785
Matured ...	9,950	...	350	10,300	...
Not presented† ...	...	...	500	500	...
Total ...	164,971,509	13,608,138	127,945,951	306,525,598	13,573,407

* Advance from Commonwealth Government under Migration Agreement.

† Closer Settlement Debentures.

Domicile and Term of Public Debt.

The dates of repayment of the debt extend to 1976, and the sums falling due for redemption each year vary considerably, as will be seen from the following table, which shows the latest due dates and the amount repayable in London, in New York and in Sydney at 30th June, 1932:—

Due Date.	Registered in—				Annual Interest.			
	London.	New York.	Australia.	Total.*	Payable in—			
					London.	New York.	Australia.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Matured	9,950	...	850	10,800	...	...	...	...
Government option ... ..	...	...	6,072,241	6,072,241	...	...	176,801	176,801
1932-33	25,035,492	...	30,225,776	55,261,268	1,264,406	...	1,214,391	2,478,797
1933-34	12,602,246	...	3,059,324	15,661,570	548,796	...	117,643	666,439
1934-35	4,901,233	...	10,926,666	15,827,899	281,821	...	464,988	746,809
1935-36	12,420,113	...	417,524	12,837,637	372,603	...	15,015	387,618
1936-37 ... ..	...	...	95,400	95,400	...	...	2,772	2,772
1937-38 ... ..	...	...	86,150	86,150	...	...	2,552	2,552
1938-39 ... ..	...	...	10,482,494	10,482,494	...	...	413,160	413,160
1939-40 ... ..	...	...	466,680	466,680	...	...	18,946	18,946
1940-41	15,954,554	...	441,846	16,396,400	989,411	...	20,490	1,009,901
1941-42 ... ..	...	...	20,833,054	20,833,054	...	...	841,983	841,983
1942-43	3,979,050	...	1,794,510	5,773,560	198,953	...	75,221	274,174
1943-44 ... ..	...	...	503,200	503,200	...	...	20,940	20,940
1944-45 ... ..	...	...	6,235,536	6,235,536	...	...	242,429	242,429
1945-46	10,984,700	...	1,100	10,985,800	494,312	...	35	494,347
1947-48 ... ..	...	...	4,203,631	4,203,631	...	...	168,020	168,020
1948-49 ... ..	...	...	3,200	3,200	...	...	112	112
1949-50 ... ..	...	...	5,300	5,300	...	...	175	175
1950-51	12,067,428	...	4,133,229	16,200,657	422,360	...	165,245	587,605
1952-53 ... ..	...	...	6,900	6,900	...	...	241	241
1953-54 ... ..	...	...	3,911,259	3,911,259	...	...	156,434	156,434
1954-55 ... ..	...	...	2,700	2,700	...	...	94	94
1955-56	21,657,000	3,892,839	3,866,795	29,416,634	1,082,850	175,178	154,672	1,412,700
1956-57 ... ..	...	4,857,598	...	4,857,598	...	242,880	...	242,880
1957-58	17,870,500	4,857,700	3,762,168	26,490,368	938,201	242,885	150,487	1,331,573
1958-59 ... ..	...	...	3,802,278	3,802,278	...	...	152,091	152,091
1960-61 ... ..	...	...	3,669,646	3,669,646	...	...	146,786	146,786
1962-63	10,392,396	...	106,804	10,499,200	415,696	...	3,311	419,007
1965-66	14,130,000	...	...	14,130,000	706,500	...	...	706,500
1975-76	2,965,647	...	...	2,965,647	121,540	...	...	121,540
Indeterminate ... ..	...	...	8,465,983	8,465,983	...	...	338,639	338,639
Interminable	1,200	...	363,707	364,907	60	...	11,282	11,342
Total	£ 164,971,509	13,608,137	127,945,951	306,525,597	7,837,509	660,943	5,074,955	13,573,407

* Total Debt as defined by Financial Agreement.

The due dates of repayment of debt registered in Australia were varied in accordance with the Commonwealth Debt Conversion Loan in the latter half of 1931. The dates of repayment in London and New York remain unchanged.

THE INTEREST BILL OF THE STATE.

The annual interest payable on the debt outstanding at 30th June, 1932, is quoted on page 413 at £13,573,407, which represents a full year's interest calculated on the various securities outstanding and advances from the Commonwealth Government at each of the respective rates of interest. The amount of interest actually paid during the year 1931-32 was £15,726,989, inclusive of £14,582,795 on funded debt, £1,115,048 on moneys in temporary possession and £29,146 on advances by Banks. Part of this interest was due in respect of overdrafts on revenue accounts.

The total amount and average rate of interest payable on the gross loan liability to the Commonwealth outstanding as at 30th June, 1931 and 1932, are shown below distinguishing between the various registers—

Registered in—	As at 30th June, 1931.		As at 30th June, 1932.	
	Annual Interest Payable on Outstanding Loans.	Average Rate.	Annual Interest Payable on Outstanding Loans.	Average Rate.
	£	per cent.	£	per cent.
Australia	5,772,171	5.33	5,074,955	3.96
London	7,840,497	4.72	7,837,509	4.75
New York... ..	671,667	4.86	660,943	4.85
Total	14,284,335	4.96	13,573,407	4.43

The amounts of interest are payable in the currencies of the respective countries, the amount due in New York being payable in dollar equivalent at par. Cost of oversea exchange in remitting interest is not included in the figures shown.

In the latter part of 1931 the rate and amount of interest due on loans registered in Australia were reduced in terms of the Conversion Loan.

Average Rate of Interest.

The average rate of interest on the public debt is calculated in two ways, showing the average nominal rate payable and the effective rate or actual rate paid.

The average nominal rate of interest payable on the debt outstanding at 30th June, 1931 and 1932, are shown above.

The average effective rate of interest is calculated each year to determine the amount of interest properly chargeable to the various undertakings and enterprises. The rates calculated in recent years have been 5.144 per cent. in 1925-26; 5.1312 per cent. in 1926-27; 5.12027 per cent. in 1927-28; 5.14062 per cent. in 1928-29; 5.17204 in 1929-30; 5.14421 in 1930-31; and 4.85673 in 1931-32. Interest at the rates shown was charged to business undertakings in respect of loan capital used by them.

REDEMPTIONS AND SINKING FUNDS.

An account of the debt redemptions and sinking funds of New South Wales prior to the transfer to the National Debt Commission in terms of the Financial Agreement, was published on pages 170 and 171 of the official Year Book for 1929-30. The present sinking fund is described on page 417 hereof.

FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COMMONWEALTH AND STATES.

The history of the financial relationships existing between the Commonwealth and States since federation in 1901 has been sketched in earlier issues of this Year Book, and the trend of discussions on proposals for the readjustment of these relationships was outlined on page 284 of the Year Book for 1925-26.

Financial Agreement, 1927.

All the matters under discussion were incorporated in a comprehensive scheme propounded by the Commonwealth and placed before conferences of Premiers in Melbourne in May, 1927, and in Sydney in July, 1927. After amendment the scheme was accepted by all the States and by the Commonwealth, and, except in certain minor matters, it was brought into operation as from 1st July, 1927. The provisions were outlined on page 682 of the 1930-31 Year Book.

Australian Loan Council.

All borrowings by the State are arranged by the Commonwealth, in accordance with the decisions of the Australian Loan Council, which consists of a Minister of the Commonwealth appointed by the Prime Minister, and one Minister of each State appointed by the Premiers of the respective States. The Council determines the amount, rates and conditions of loans to be raised after consideration of the annual programmes submitted by the Commonwealth and by each State. The functions of the Council and the method by which the amounts to be borrowed are determined were outlined on pages 682-3 of the previous Year Book.

Transfer of States' Debts to Commonwealth.

On 1st July, 1929, the Commonwealth took over, in terms of the financial agreement, the debts of the States, and assumed, as between the Commonwealth and States, the liabilities of the States to bondholders. The debts taken over consisted of the balance then unpaid of the gross public debt of each State existing on 30th June, 1927, and of all other debts of each State existing on 1st July, 1929, other than for temporary purposes.

The net public debt of each State represents the gross debt less (1) the value of properties transferred to the Commonwealth, which amounted to £4,788,005 and £10,924,323 for this State and for the Commonwealth respectively, and (2) the balances of the States' sinking funds at 30th June, 1927.

Transferred Properties.

The Commonwealth had been paying to the various States interest at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the value of properties transferred to the Commonwealth after federation. For the purposes of the financial agreement new valuations were agreed upon, and on these values the Commonwealth paid to the States during the two years 1927-28 and 1928-29 interest at the rate of 5 per cent. At the end of this period the Commonwealth, on 1st July, 1929, relieved the States of the liability for principal, interest and sinking fund on an amount of debt equal to the value of the properties, each State having agreed to issue to the Commonwealth freehold titles to the properties consisting of land or interests in land.

Payment of Interest on Public Debt.

The Commonwealth, as agent for the States, has agreed to pay to bondholders interest due on the public debt of the States and, for a period of fifty-eight years from the 1st July, 1927, to contribute £7,584,912 per annum towards the interest, the States paying the balance to the Commonwealth. After that period the whole of the interest due will be paid by the States to the Commonwealth. The amounts paid are equal to the sums paid by the Commonwealth to each State in 1926-27, at the rate of 2s. per head of population, this State's amount being £2,917,411.

National Debt Sinking Fund.

A national debt sinking fund was established in terms of the agreement, and is controlled by the National Debt Commission. The annual payments to the fund are contributed partly by the Commonwealth and partly by the States. Contributions in respect of the net debts of the States at 30th June, 1927, and on conversions thereof, are at the rate of 7s. 6d. per cent. per annum, the Commonwealth contributing 2s. 6d. per cent. and the States 5s. per cent. for a period of fifty-eight years, commencing on 1st July, 1927, as regards all States except New South Wales, whose period commenced on 1st July, 1928. Further information relating to the Sinking Fund was given on page 685 of the 1930-31 Year Book.

Separate accounts are kept by the Commonwealth for each State in respect of debt, interest, and sinking funds. The operations of the National Debt Sinking Fund in regard to the debts of the State of New South Wales during the three years ended 30th June, 1932, are shown below:—

Heading.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	Total, three years.
	£	£	£	£
Contributions by—				
Commonwealth	375,418	402,441	448,142	1,226,001
New South Wales	755,987	871,432	976,290	2,603,709
Contributions in terms of Federal Aid				
Roads agreement.	28,561	26,866	13,883	69,310
Interest	32,609	11,148	12,628	56,385
Total	£ 1,192,575	1,311,887	1,450,943	3,955,405
Cost of Repurchases—				
In London	671,417	423,273	687,526	1,782,216
In New York	82,235	87,270	140,087	309,592
Redemptions in Australia	721,416	681,099	141,526	1,543,841
Total	£ 1,475,068	1,191,642	968,939	3,635,649

The face value of securities repurchased or redeemed during this period was £2,049,784 in London, £429,035 in New York and £1,555,819 in Australia—a total of £4,034,638. The balance at credit of the sinking fund as at 30th June, 1932, was £443,212.

PRIVATE FINANCE.

CURRENCY.

CURRENCY matters in Australia are 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, 1911-1932, 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 international transactions in April, 1925, but the use of notes for internal currency was continued. In order to protect the currency and public credit of the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth Bank Act was amended in December, 1929, to provide that the Bank Board might (with the authority of the Commonwealth Treasurer) require any persons to furnish particulars of gold coin and bullion held by them and might require them to exchange any gold coin or bullion for its equivalent in Australian notes, such equivalent of gold coin and bullion being the nominal value, £3 17s. 10½d. per oz. of standard gold content, standard gold being eleven-twelfths fine gold. In addition it was made an offence to export gold oversea except with the concurrence of the Commonwealth Treasurer after recommendation of the Commonwealth Bank Board. Any person travelling oversea was allowed to take with him Commonwealth gold of a value not exceeding £25.

The face value of coins held by banks in New South Wales at 30th June, 1932, was: Gold £69,257, silver £925,015, and copper £42,562. In addition, the Note Issue Department of the Commonwealth Bank held, in Sydney, gold coin to the value of £6,901,987. The corresponding figures as at 30th June, 1931, were: Gold coin £20,362, silver £799,587, copper £56,307, and gold coin in Note Issue Department, Sydney, £8,284,500.

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.

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, but in recent years British coins have practically disappeared from circulation.

A branch of the Royal Mint, London, was opened in Sydney on 14th May, 1855, for minting gold, and operated until 18th November, 1926. Branches are in operation 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 Mint for melting, assaying, and coining is accounted for at the rate of £3 17s. 10½s., or 3.8937 sovereigns per standard oz. equivalent to £4 4s. 11½d. per oz. fine.

Early in 1930 the price of gold in Australia rose to a premium, and a further advance occurred after the gold standard was suspended in England in September, 1931. Subsequently arrangements were made by which the

price for gold lodged at the Mint in Australia is fixed weekly by the Commonwealth Bank on the basis of the forward open market price in London, plus the ruling rate of exchange for telegraphic transfers, Australia on London, less a small allowance for realisation charges.

The following table shows the monthly averages of the daily prices per oz. of fine gold in London and Australia, together with the average value of the sovereign. London prices are expressed in sterling and Australian in local currency:—

Month.	London.		Australia.		Premium.
	Average Price per Oz. Fine.	Average Value of Sovereign.	Average Price per Oz. Fine.	Average Value of Sovereign.	
	Stg.	Stg.	A	A	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Per cent.
1931—					
January to August ...	4 4 11	1 0 0	5 8 0	1 5 5	28.4
September ...	4 11 3	1 1 6	5 17 2	1 7 7	37.9
October ...	5 6 3	1 5 0	6 16 5	1 12 1	60.6
November ...	5 10 9	1 6 1	7 2 2	1 13 6	67.3
December ...	6 2 6	1 8 10	7 11 9	1 15 9	78.5
1932—					
January ...	6 0 5	1 8 4	7 8 8	1 15 0	74.9
February ...	5 19 8	1 8 2	7 7 9	1 14 9	73.9
March ...	5 14 1	1 6 10	7 0 1	1 13 2	65.8
April ...	5 10 3	1 6 0	6 16 2	1 12 1	60.2
May ...	5 12 10	1 6 7	6 19 3	1 12 9	64.0
June ...	5 13 4	1 6 8	6 19 11	1 12 11	64.7
July ...	5 16 0	1 7 4	7 3 2	1 13 8	68.5
August ...	5 18 6	1 7 10	7 7 1	1 14 7	73.2
September ...	5 18 8	1 7 11	7 6 11	1 14 7	73.0
October ...	6 1 5	1 8 7	7 10 4	1 15 5	77.3
November ...	6 5 9	1 9 7	7 15 6	1 16 7	83.1
December ...	6 5 9	1 9 7	7 15 6	1 16 7	83.1
1933—					
January ...	6 2 6	1 8 10	7 11 8	1 15 8	78.6
February ...	6 0 9	1 8 5	7 8 11	1 15 0	75.3
March ...	6 0 4	1 8 4	7 7 6	1 14 8	73.7
April ...	6 0 8	1 8 5	7 8 2	1 14 10	74.4
May ...	6 3 4	1 9 1	7 11 6	1 15 8	78.3
June ...	6 2 3	1 8 9	7 10 7	1 15 6	77.2

Stg.—Sterling. A.—Australian Currency (see exchange rates, page 436).

The nominal value of one ounce of standard silver ($\frac{37}{40}$ fine) is approximately 5s. 6d., and of one pound (avoirdupois) of bronze coined into pence 4s., and into half pence 3s. 4d.

A substantial profit is usually made on the silver and bronze coinage, after the minting and other expenses have been deducted. Under normal conditions, and subject to exchange and incidental costs, the Australian price of silver is determined by transactions in the London market, and the average of the London prices ruling (English currency) in recent years is shown below:—

Year.	Price of Silver per standard oz. (London.)	Year.	Price of Silver per standard oz. (London.)
	s. d.		s. d.
1921	3 0.9	1927	2 2
1922	2 10.4	1928	2 2.7
1923	2 7.9	1929	2 0.5
1924	2 9.9	1930	1 5.7
1925	2 8.1	1931	1 2.6
1926	2 4.7	1932	1 5.9

Average monthly London prices per oz. of standard silver are available in Part Mining of the Statistical Register, the 1920-21 issue of which covers the period 1913 to 1921.

In 1918 the price of silver in London was subject to regulation by the Imperial Government. It was decontrolled in May, 1919. In the latter part of the year it commenced to rise, and in February, 1928, the average price was 7s. 6d. per oz. Thereafter it declined with considerable degree of variation. The downward movement accelerated in 1930 until the price fell to 12½d. in August, 1931. There was a recovery over the following months to 1s. 8d. in December. Fluctuations during 1932 were slight, the price ranging between 1s. 7½d. in January and 1s. 4¾d. in June, with an average of 1s. 6d. over the whole year.

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 current are 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, 1932, the amount was £62,467.

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 denominations which had been issued as at the end of 1932 were 10s., £1, £5, £10, £20, £50, £100, and £1,000.

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, until 21st May, 1932, when an amending Act removed the provision for redemption, were 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 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 gold reserve in respect of the notes was fixed in 1910 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 1931 an Act was passed reducing the statutory limit of gold reserve to 15 per cent. of the notes on issue during the two years ending 30th June, 1933, 18 and 21½ per cent. of the notes on issue in 1934 and 1935 respectively and 25 per cent. thereafter.

In May, 1932, the law was amended to provide that the reserve may be held either in gold or in English sterling or partly in both. The part in English sterling must consist of (a) balances with the Bank of England or other banks in London; (b) bills of exchange payable in English sterling maturing in not more than three months; or (c) Treasury bills or other securities of the United Kingdom not exceeding three months' maturity. Any sum accruing by reason of the sale of gold in the reserve must be transferred to a special reserve account for use in stabilising exchange or for the purposes of the Note Issue Department.

The total value of the Australian notes in circulation in New South Wales and elsewhere, and the gold reserve held by the Notes Issue Department, in various years since 1914, are shown below. The figures for June, 1914, are as at the last Wednesday and those for later years relate to the last Monday of the month:—

End of June.	Notes in Circulation.			† Gold Reserve.	
	Held by Banks.	Held by Public.	Total.	Total.	Proportion of Note Circulation.
1914	£ *	£ *	£ 9,573,738	£ 4,106,767	Per cent. 42·90
1921 ...	34,303,896	23,924,174	58,228,070	23,478,128	40·32
1926 ...	30,254,500	23,635,726	53,890,226	28,182,387	52·30
1927 ...	23,479,995	24,913,231	48,393,226	22,065,071	45·60
1928 ...	19,540,226	24,913,000	44,453,226	22,485,972	50·58
1929 ...	17,805,812	24,452,414	42,258,226	22,151,497	52·42
1930 ...	22,342,161	22,572,165	44,914,326	19,931,102	44·38
1931 ...	25,302,258	25,351,168	50,653,426	15,226,530	30·06
1932 ...	26,504,968	24,798,458	51,303,426	10,500,455	20·47
1933 ...	23,346,413	24,207,013	47,553,426	11,506,949	24·20

* Banks held £5,032,149 and public £4,822,774 at 3rd August, 1914 (earliest figures available).
† Held partly in English sterling from July, 1932.

The note issue expanded under war conditions until it amounted to £59,676,401 in October, 1918. This is the maximum since the commencement of the issue, though, after a decline of £5,000,000 in the following year, increases between November, 1920, and March, 1921, brought it to the high level of £59,462,000. By October, 1922, it had fallen below £52,000,000 and remained fairly constant until March, 1924, when notes to the value of £4,200,000 were issued to the banks to discharge certain liabilities incurred by the Federal Government in connection with the war. The amount of the issue increased in this manner, was £56,890,226 in May, 1924, and no change was made until notes to the value of £3,000,000 were cancelled twelve months later. Cancellations in July and August, 1926, reduced the issue to £49,890,226 and in March, 1927, to £48,393,226. It was increased temporarily by £3,400,000 in December, 1927, to meet seasonal demand and to facilitate the flotation of a federal conversion loan which the banks had underwritten. Before the end of the following month, the issue had contracted to £47,893,226 and thereafter the general trend was downwards. The value of the notes in circulation was £44,103,226 at the end of July, 1928, and twelve months later it had fallen to £41,608,226—the lowest amount since 1915. At that time, however, its distribution between the banks and the public was dissimilar to that in recent years, as in 1915 the banks held nearly £29,000,000 and the public £11,000,000, and in July, 1929, the banks held less than £18,000,000 and the public £24,500,000.

The reduction in the notes held by the banks was a result of a change in the method of settling interbank clearings which was introduced in 1925 when the banks began to settle these transactions by means of cheques drawn on the Commonwealth Bank, which replaced notes of large denomination formerly used for the purpose. Later it became the policy of the Board of Directors to restrict the note circulation to immediate requirements and to provide additional currency when required to meet seasonal demands of trade and industry. Consequently the banks found it unnecessary to hold notes in excess of those required as till money and the surplus notes were deposited with the Commonwealth Bank and cancelled. Normally the seasonal demand for currency is at a minimum in July and August, increasing during the later months of the year owing to the requirements of the rural industries for shearing, harvesting, etc., and rising to a maximum in December under the additional influence of the Christmas holiday period. The latter influence is short-lived and a marked reduction occurs in January, then the demand declines gradually as the wool, wheat, and other products are sold.

During 1930 the movement in the issue did not follow the normal course. The Commonwealth Bank under the authority of legislation passed in December, 1929, was mobilizing the gold in Australia and in exchange for their reserves the banks received notes or the right to notes on demand. As a result the notes held by the banks increased from £17,188,000 in January to £22,342,000 in June, 1930, and the total issue expanded from £42,639,000 to £44,914,000. During this period the amount of gold held in the Note Issue Department increased as it was requisitioned from the banks, and declined when it was exported overseas. Nevertheless the value of the gold reserve held by the Department was considerably above the proportion of 25 per cent. required by law, the excess in June, 1930, being £8,702,621. In 1931 the issue was increased from £45,653,426 in January to £52,153,426 in August, at which date the ratio of gold reserve fell to 20.13 per cent. from 30.06 per cent. and 25.86 per cent. in June and July respectively. During 1932 there was a diminution from £52,303,426 in January to £49,053,426 in August, at which level the amount

remained constant until December, and a further fall to £47,553,426 in March, 1933, when £22,798,342 was held by the banks and £24,755,084 by the public. From £15,226,530 in June, 1931, the reserve fell to £13,225,927 in July and £10,500,439 in August where it was maintained with little variation until November, 1932. Conversion into sterling of part of the gold holding first became evident in July, 1932, when £2,000,000 was held in sterling and £8,499,338 in gold. These amounts practically remained constant until December, at the end of which month the quotation of separate figures was discontinued. The combined gold and sterling holdings in June, 1933, amounted to £11,506,949, representing a ratio to the note circulation of 24.2 per cent.

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 Common- wealth.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1928 ...	6,461,496	892,412	498,209	7,852,117	919,796	285,860	1,205,656
1929 ...	6,554,752	878,158	492,359	7,925,269	869,859	294,892	1,164,751
1930 ...	6,791,331	871,723	492,530	8,155,584	831,657	308,171	1,139,828
1931 ...	6,412,620	686,001	394,686	7,493,307	747,655	287,833	1,035,488
1932 ...	6,324,052	618,859	158,137	7,101,048	643,575	208,561	852,136

In 1932, the amount of the money orders issued in other Australian States and overseas for payment in New South Wales exceeded the amount sent from this State, the favourable balance in respect of international money orders being a reversal of the experience of the four earlier years shown.

The maximum amount for which a single postal note is issued is £1, and particulars regarding postal notes are shown below:—

Year ended 30th June.	New South Wales Postal Notes paid in—			Postal Notes of other Aus- tralian States paid in New South Wales.
	New South Wales.	Other Australian States.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1928 ...	1,747,175	712,123	2,459,298	207,031
1929 ...	1,804,395	728,291	2,532,686	212,860
1930 ...	1,828,878	724,906	2,553,784	192,140
1931 ...	1,710,193	566,987	2,277,180	182,298
1932 ...	2,306,020	251,264	2,557,284	277,030

The heavy adverse balance of payments on interstate postal notes existing in the earlier years was converted into a balance favourable to New South Wales during 1932.

The number of New South Wales postal notes paid in the State during the year ended June, 1932, was 6,734,619, and 741,362 were paid in other Australian States. The postal notes issued in other States and paid in New South Wales numbered 895,644.

BANKS.

Institutions which transact banking business in New South Wales are required under the Banks and Bank Holidays Act to furnish to the Chief Secretary in New South Wales 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 the banks are required to supply weekly statements of their Australian business to the Commonwealth Bank.

The banking institutions which transact business in New South Wales were fourteen in number at 30th June, 1932, but only nine had more than one office in the State. Those with head offices in Australia and England transact practically the whole of their business in Australia.

The location of the head offices and the distribution of the branches of the fourteen banks operating in New South Wales at 30th June, 1932, are shown in the following table:—

Banks Operating in New South Wales.	Number of Offices in—										
	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Federal Capital.	New Zealand.	London.	Elsewhere.	Total.
Head Office in N.S.W.—											
Commonwealth of Australia	193	14	31	5	9	4	1	...	2	1	260
Rural	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
New South Wales	260	71	77	9	80	3	1	69	1	8	579
Commercial of Sydney	222	121	31	5	...	...	1	...	1	...	381
Head Office in Victoria—											
Commercial of Australia	82	173	83	79*	35	39	1	42	1	...	535
National of Australasia	43	148	41	47	47	2	...	...	2	...	330
Head Office in Queensland—											
Queensland National	6	1	92	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	101
Head Office in South Australia—											
Adelaide	1	1	1	111	2	...	...	...	1	...	117
Head Office in New Zealand—											
New Zealand	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	224	1	3	230
Head Office in London—											
Australasia	57	72	19	7	15	11	1	49	2	...	233
Union of Australia... ..	53	50	18	15	24	3	...	47	1	...	211
English, Scottish, and Australian	104	150	53	48*	11	27	...	...	1	...	394
Head Office in France—											
Comptoir National... ..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	577	581
Head Office in Japan—											
Yokohama Specie	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	40	42
Total	1,025	803	446	326	223	89	6	431	17	629	3,995

* Includes one in Northern Territory.

The foregoing statement shows the total number of branches of trading banks in New South Wales as at 30th June, 1932, but not the total number of bank offices in other States, because banks which have no offices in New South Wales are not included.

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia functions partly as a trading bank and partly as a central bank, besides handling the business of the Federal Government, floating its local loans, and managing the note issue.

The Primary Producers' Bank suspended operations as from 28th September, 1931, the Australian Bank of Commerce was amalgamated with the Bank of New South Wales as from 17th November, 1931, and the Rural Bank, the deposits of which were taken over by the Commonwealth Bank as from 15th December, 1931, now conducts operations only in so far as loan accounts are concerned.

Capital and Profits of Private Trading Banks.

Particulars relating to the aggregate capital and profits of the six private banks with head offices in Australia and three with head offices in England as listed in the foregoing statement are shown in the following table. The particulars relate to the whole of the business of the banks in New South Wales and elsewhere. The New Zealand, French and Japanese banks are not included, as they have only one branch, each with a small business in the State. The Government banks, viz., Commonwealth and Rural, which are not strictly upon the same trading basis as the private institutions, are also excluded.

Year.	Number of Private Trading Banks.	Capital paid up.	Reserve Fund and Balance of Profit and Loss.	Net Profits.	Dividends.	
					Total.	Percentage to Paid-up Capital.
		£	£	£	£	
1900	12	14,812,686	4,916,784	1,112,383	689,969	4·66
1910-11	14	14,193,550	8,522,829	1,849,733	1,232,885	8·69
1920-21	12	23,135,782	17,610,317	3,611,902	2,323,423	10·04
1925-26	12	31,644,864	26,303,351	4,764,967	3,488,980	11·03
1926-27	12	33,349,715	28,448,196	5,041,514	3,639,167	10·91
1927-28	11	37,350,311	31,824,105	5,319,680	4,105,005	10·99
1928-29	11	38,185,047	33,454,133	5,352,840	4,265,575	11·17
1929-30	11	38,426,564	34,308,621	4,939,579	3,999,093	10·41
1930-31	11	38,503,764	34,032,549	3,520,928	3,258,899	8·46
1931-32	9	35,856,362	32,309,416	1,960,183	2,138,040	5·96

The capital of the Commonwealth Bank was £5,893,446 in 1932, profits for the years ending 30th June, 1931, and 1932 being £720,372 and £503,914 respectively. Stock and debentures issued on behalf of the Rural Bank increased from £5,630,277 in 1931 to £14,483,289 in 1932, the pronounced movement being due to an issue to the Commonwealth Bank as consideration for the assumption by that body of liability in respect of Rural Bank deposits. Profits during the years mentioned were £61,437 and £27,350.

The total paid-up capital of the private banks has increased by 55 per cent. since 1921, a sum of £12,720,580 having been added since that year, whilst reserves and undivided profits have risen by £14,699,099, or 84 per cent. Deposits which over the period moved from £237,111,159 to £291,741,192 were at their highest level in 1929, when they amounted to £319,162,154.

Average Liabilities and Assets within New South Wales (all Trading Banks).

The following statements, which include particulars of all banks mentioned on page 424 show the average liabilities and assets within New South Wales, exclusive of inter-branch balances and shareholders' funds. Particulars of the Savings Bank Department of the Commonwealth Bank, included under liabilities and assets from 1921 to 1928, are omitted for 1929 and subsequent years as a consequence of the separation in 1928 of the savings and general banking functions.

Average Liabilities within New South Wales (all Trading Banks).

June Quarter.	Bank Notes.	Deposits.				Other Liabilities.	Total Liabilities within N.S.W. (exclusive of liabilities to shareholders).
		Bearing Interest.		Not Bearing Interest.	Total Deposits.		
		In Commonwealth Savings Bank.	Other.				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
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
1911	1,819,180	...	29,341,683	25,985,355	55,327,038	608,941	57,755,159
1921	71,654	6,308,826	48,322,625	53,044,965	107,676,416	3,661,412	111,409,482
1926	64,990	8,928,872	62,372,127	59,255,212	130,556,211	4,988,163	135,609,364
1927	64,681	9,890,238	66,487,594	56,468,226	132,846,058	4,814,656	137,725,395
1928	64,398	10,434,395	73,018,292	55,357,004	138,809,691	5,753,663	144,627,752
1929†	64,115	...	78,332,622	56,283,642	134,616,264	6,553,549	141,233,928
1930†	63,870	...	82,405,723	48,287,572	130,693,295	9,234,179	139,991,344
1931†	63,366	...	80,372,531	41,243,590	121,616,121	9,313,917	130,993,404
1932†	62,467	...	70,105,231	41,066,823	111,172,054	4,831,282	116,065,803

* December quarter.

† Commonwealth Savings Bank excluded.

The remarkable growth of deposits between 1911 and 1921 was largely due to the war expenditure and increase in prices, but since 1921 the rise and fall have been determined mainly by fluctuations in the volume and value of production. Deposits (excluding Commonwealth Savings Bank) reached their highest level in 1929, but they have been subject since to a sudden and substantial decline, together with a change in distribution as between "bearing interest" and "not bearing interest," the ratio of each of which to total deposits was respectively 58 per cent. and 42 per cent. in 1929, and 63 per cent. and 37 per cent. in 1932. The latter movement is more pronounced when the ratios are compared to those of 51 per cent. and 49 per cent. existing in 1926. Government deposits which in June quarter, 1931, consisted of £1,992,431 at interest and £1,110,286 on current account, and in 1932 of £709,881 and £1,859,127, respectively, are included in the above figures.

Average Assets within New South Wales (all Trading Banks).

June Quarter	Coin and Bullion.	Australian Notes.	Advances (including Government Securities), etc.	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
1911	14,524,960	1,770,751	42,456,515	1,871,811	1,282,787	61,906,824
1921	10,151,949	11,812,417	104,709,314	2,573,628	3,186,625	132,433,933
1926	14,659,610	16,114,987*	123,950,187	3,112,343	3,924,044	161,761,171
1927	12,243,797	10,762,818*	135,439,590	3,025,719	4,813,069	166,284,993
1928	12,132,148	10,374,870*	140,690,523	2,987,197	4,756,964	170,941,702
1929†	11,984,120	11,046,465*	143,822,569	3,187,582	3,787,975	173,823,711
1930†	2,254,799	15,767,082*	151,023,652	3,472,418	5,513,234	178,031,185
1931†	908,255	15,922,237*	136,353,383	3,653,313	3,286,699	160,123,887
1932†	1,054,732	12,510,112*	138,639,011§	3,876,379	2,419,705	158,499,939

* Includes cash deposited with the Commonwealth Bank by other banks. † December Quarter.
 ‡ Commonwealth Savings Bank excluded. § Includes Rural Bank Stock held in New South Wales by Commonwealth Bank, £9,268,231.

The cash reserves of the banks consist of coin and bullion and Australian notes. The amount of notes increased very rapidly during the war period when 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.

There was a decline in 1927 when, as a result of arrangements with the note issuing authority, the banks discontinued a former practice of holding large amounts of notes. There was an increase in 1930 when the banks transferred a considerable quantity of gold to the Commonwealth Bank for export, but a further fall took place in the September quarter of 1931.

By reason of these arrangements there has been a marked decline in the proportion of coin, bullion and Australian notes to liabilities and to deposits, but the significance of the ratios has been diminished, as the cash resources available to the banks in recent years have been greater than the amount of cash actually held by reason of investments in Commonwealth Treasury Bills payable on demand. Moreover an extension of interstate banking operations affects the conclusions which might be drawn from the consideration of ratios for only one State.

Under the head of advances are included overdrafts and loans of all kinds, notes and bills discounted, sums invested in Government and municipal securities 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 funds invested in Government and municipal securities in June quarter of the successive years from 1926 to 1928 amounted to £24,425,503, £26,959,511 and £34,235,388 respectively. The amounts in 1929, 1930, 1931 and 1932, being exclusive of the Commonwealth Savings Bank, were £24,248,272, £22,172,392, £9,346,250 and £25,604,772; Commonwealth Treasury Bills largely contributing to the big increase over the last year.

The amounts advanced to Governments other than those for which securities were issued cannot be stated.

The following table shows the ratio of advances to deposits, and to total assets, at various dates from 1895, the figures being for the June quarter of each year from 1911. Owing to the incidence of export operations, deposits are usually at a maximum and advances at a minimum in the first half of the year.

June Quarter.	Deposits. †	Advances, etc. (including Govern- ment Securities).	Ratio of Advances, etc.		Amount of Deposits per head of Popu- lation.‡
			To Deposits.	To Total Assets.	
	£	£	per cent.	per cent.	£ s. d.
1895*	30,629,258	35,707,153	116·6	78·3	24 5 4
1900*	32,233,591	34,385,388	101·2	79·9	23 12 5
1911	55,327,038	42,456,515	76·7	68·6	33 5 11
1921	107,676,416	104,709,314	97·2	79·1	51 3 8
1926	130,556,211	123,950,187	94·9	76·6	56 6 3
1927	132,846,058	135,439,590	102·0	81·4	56 0 0
1928	138,809,691	140,690,523	101·3	82·3	57 5 0
1929	134,616,264	143,822,569	106·8	82·7	54 12 8
1930	130,693,295	151,023,652	115·6	84·8	52 11 1
1931	121,616,121	136,353,383	112·1	85·2	48 9 7
1932	111,172,054	‡129,370,780	‡116·4	86·7	43 18 11

* December quarter.

† Including deposits in Commonwealth Savings Bank in years 1921 to 1928.

‡ Exclusive of £9,268,231 average Rural Bank Stock held in New South Wales by Commonwealth Bank

The deposits shown above include Government deposits, which amounted to £16,375,313 in June quarter, 1926, to £9,507,823, £7,239,150, £7,454,818, £6,281,291, £3,102,717, and £2,569,008 in the succeeding years. Between 1921 and 1928 they include also deposits in the Commonwealth Savings Bank incorporated in the accounts of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, viz., £8,928,872 in 1926, £9,890,238 in 1927, and £10,434,395 in 1928.

Deposits and advances fluctuate from year to year with changes of seasonal and industrial conditions. Deposits increased during the post war period under the stimulus of bountiful production and high prices in favourable seasons. At the same time an active investment market and industrial and commercial expansion caused a heavy demand for advances.

During 1929-30, however, deposits decreased and advances increased in an unusual degree owing to a steep decline in the values and the smaller realisations of the principal primary products, and consequent reactions upon business generally. The downward movement of deposits continued throughout 1930-31 and 1931-32, but the progress of advances was checked, a large decrease in private advances being offset by an increase in Government securities.

Banking Statistics in relation to general business activities.

A statement of the liabilities and assets of the trading banks would indicate more clearly their relation to general business conditions in New South Wales if the particulars of the Commonwealth Bank and Rural Bank were excluded, on account of the special nature of their activities, e.g., savings bank and Federal Government business, the control of the note issue and other functions of central banking in the case of the former, and the high ratio of advances to deposits in the case of the latter. For this purpose the following statement has been prepared to show the average liabilities, exclusive of shareholders' funds, and assets within New South Wales of the trading banks, other than the Commonwealth Bank and Rural Bank, in June quarter of the eight years 1925 to 1932:—

Trading Banks' Liabilities in New South Wales (excluding Commonwealth and Rural Banks).

June Quarter	Deposits Bearing Interest.		Deposits not Bearing Interest.		Total Deposits.	Bank Notes and Other Liabilities.	Total Liabilities in N.S.W.
	Government.	Other.	Government.	Other.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1925	9,388,218	44,276,860	679,550	44,460,376	98,805,004	1,936,681	100,741,685
1926	8,177,574	49,315,017	813,016	46,061,482	104,367,089	2,164,140	106,531,229
1927	4,703,083	54,800,466	600,303	46,446,453	106,550,305	2,497,017	109,047,322
1928	4,916,303	59,811,802	825,204	47,204,134	112,757,443	2,763,640	115,521,083
1929	5,081,115	63,589,008	770,249	47,684,316	117,124,688	2,835,543	119,960,231
1930	4,128,824	65,515,794	559,201	40,675,740	110,879,559	3,046,251	113,925,810
1931	1,980,849	63,519,376	609,099	34,890,394	100,999,718	1,701,021	102,700,739
1932	606,467	56,293,644	541,631	34,876,262	92,408,004	1,232,851	93,640,855

* Excluding liabilities to shareholders.

Trading Banks' Assets in New South Wales (excluding Commonwealth and Rural Banks).

June Quarter	Coin, Bullion, Australian Notes, and Cash with Commonwealth Bank.	Advances, etc.			Landed and House Property.	Other Assets.	Total Assets in N.S.W.
		Government and Municipal Securities.	Other Advances, etc.	Total Advances and Securities.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1925	22,371,780	7,347,365	77,993,259	85,340,624	2,714,704	2,264,317	112,691,425
1926	20,999,196	9,217,462	85,124,897	94,342,359	2,796,691	2,231,764	120,370,010
1927	19,874,203	8,525,678	91,213,825	99,739,503	2,730,849	2,503,504	124,848,059
	20,485,271	12,347,319	88,409,371	100,756,690	2,702,948	2,891,906	126,836,815
1929	20,663,966	11,582,579	100,808,247	112,390,826	2,944,229	2,636,731	138,635,752
1930	15,106,399	7,746,737	107,474,718	115,221,455	3,286,047	3,464,371	137,078,272
1931	15,316,138	5,906,431	97,360,245	103,266,676	3,438,339	1,511,378	123,532,531
1932	10,989,909	8,265,120	92,189,388	100,454,508	3,460,572	1,342,221	116,247,210

The statement shows that there was a fairly steady expansion of non-governmental deposits between 1925 and 1929, followed by a marked decrease in the three years ended June, 1932. The increase occurred for the most part in the deposits at interest. In 1930 the increase in interest-bearing deposits continued, while there was a substantial decline in non-interest-bearing deposits. In 1931 there was a slight decline in interest-bearing deposits and a substantial decline in non-interest-bearing deposits, which movement was arrested in 1932, though interest-bearing deposits diminished to a far greater extent.

The increase in public securities in 1928 was a result of the underwriting by the banks of the Federal loan raised at the end of 1927. The distribution in November, 1927, of £8,000,000 to Australian wool-growers in respect of Bawra operations had the effect of increasing deposits and lessening the demand for advances. Between 1929 and 1931 the banks apparently disposed of some of their investments in public securities in order to meet the demand for other advances. The increase in 1932 was due largely to investment in Commonwealth Treasury Bills.

The following statement shows the ratio of advances, etc., to deposits and to total assets and of cash to deposits at call on the basis of the figures in the preceding table, that is excluding particulars of the Commonwealth and Rural Banks:—

June Quarter.	Ratio of Advances to Deposits.	Ratio of Advances to Total Assets.	Ratio of Cash, etc., to Deposits at Call.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
1925	86.37	75.73	49.56
1926	90.39	78.38	44.80
1927	93.61	79.89	42.24
1928	89.36	79.44	42.65
1929	95.96	81.07	42.65
1930	103.92	84.06	36.63
1931	102.24	83.59	43.14
1932	108.71	86.41	31.03

The ratios of "Cash, etc." to "Deposits at Call," shown above, do not truly reflect the liquidity of the banks' position, as Treasury Bills, which are discountable at the Commonwealth Bank on demand, have been included under the head of "Advances." In 1932 the ratio of "Cash, etc." (including Treasury Bills £4,250,000) to "Deposits at Call" was 43.03 per cent.

Banks' Exchange Settlement.

The Banks' Exchange Settlement Office was established in Sydney on the 18th January, 1894.

Exchanges are effected daily between the metropolitan banks. The results of the operations are notified to the secretary of the Banks' Exchange Settlement, who notifies each institution daily of the amount of its balance. The Commonwealth Bank Act of 1924 provided 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 accounts with the Commonwealth Bank through which settlements are made in full daily. The daily clearances are still made through the Settlement Office, and since 27th April, 1925, the amount of the cheques drawn on the Commonwealth Bank is included in the exchanges.

The following table shows the growth in the volume of exchanges made through the Settlement Office. The figures represent the aggregate value of cheques drawn on one bank and deposited in another in the metropolitan area and the net balances of transactions at country interbank clearings:—

Year.	Amount of Exchanges.	Year.	Amount of Exchanges.
	£		£
1896	117,718,862	1928	1,033,511,119
1901	167,676,707	1929	1,043,324,614
1911	304,488,435	1930	†872,387,876
1921	709,734,554	1931	†690,521,592
1926	954,253,166	1932	†588,732,343
1927	1,034,894,890		

† Adjusted by excluding abnormal transactions on Government accounts.

Figures for 1932 are affected by the amalgamations mentioned on page 425 and the suspension of State Government banking transactions during the months March to May.

These exchanges do not represent all the cheque operations of the banks, but may be considered an indication of variations in the volume of business activity from year to year, provided due allowance is made for normal growth and changes in price levels.

Index of Bank Clearings.

The principal statistical application of data as to bank clearings is in measuring variations in business activity over relatively short periods of time. In this connection due allowance has to be made for the facts that bank clearings (as indicated above) embrace only a proportion of the cheques drawn, that the amount of clearances is affected from time to time by banking amalgamations and by changes of banking procedure, and that seasonal influences cause fluctuations from month to month in the amount of recorded clearings. Again, from time to time, occurrences such as large conversion loans or heavy governmental transactions swell the amount of

clearings to abnormal proportions. Careful inquiry and due allowances are necessary in respect of all these factors before an index of bank clearings can be compiled, and such an index is necessarily an approximation. The data relates substantially to inter-bank clearings in the city and suburbs.

Owing to the change in the method of recording clearing-house transactions, valid comparison is possible only subsequent to May, 1925. In compiling the following index the years 1926 to 1930 (inclusive) are taken as base, and the monthly index represents the ratio per cent. of the actual amount of clearings for each month to the average amount of clearings for that month in the base years. By this means seasonal fluctuations are virtually eliminated. In order to smooth out casual fluctuations the index as published below for each month represents a three months' moving average. That is, the index number for each month is the average of the actual indexes for that month and the two preceding months.

INDEX OF BANK CLEARINGS.

Month.	Average monthly clearings, 1926-1930.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931. *	1932. *	1933. *
	£ million.								
January ...	80.0	920	975	1070	1038	990	809	622†	683†
February ...	81.6	910	977	1080	1047	958	808	617†	655†
March ...	88.3	916	1007	1069	1058	950	807	§	636†
April ...	75.9	923	1018	1040	1093	926	811	§	617†
May ...	84.6	944	1015	1035	1087	920	768	§	657†
June ...	82.7	975	1025	1018	1089	893	741	655†	668†
July ...	80.9	982	1037	1028	1061	895	663	631†	677†
August ...	75.6	981	1057	1033	1078	850	648	634†	659†
September ...	78.0	983	1060	1059	1073	825	643	646†	687†
October ...	84.9	997	1059	1085	1057	802	655	664†	...
November ...	83.9	1012	1083	1072	1026	806	658†	680†	...
December ...	86.0	990	1089	1042	1014	803	635†	680†	...

* Adjusted by elimination of abnormal transactions on account of Governments.

† Adjusted on account of amalgamation.

§ Index not ascertainable on account of suspension of State Government banking transactions.

The averages for respective months in the period 1926-1930 are taken as base and represented by 1000. It should be noted that no allowance has been made for normal growth nor for changes of price levels. It is possible that the net effect of these would not be large, because as the decrease in prices began in 1929 the respective movements would be in opposite directions. Over that period prices of non-rural products have shown very little variation, and although prices of such things as stocks, shares, and real estate declined very heavily in the latter part of 1929 and during 1930, the variations during 1931 were not substantial.

Interest Rates.

The effective interest rates in the various financial fields are of fundamental importance, as interest charges represent an important factor of cost in certain major industries, and, considered in conjunction with returns from industry, they exercise an influence on the flow of funds into the various channels of investment. Precise data as to the whole field of interest rates being unavailable, the following figures are presented as an indication of movements which, in the absence of disturbing elements affecting individual securities, have been general over the period covered.

Most important as a determinant of interest rates in other spheres is the yield on Government Securities sold on the Stock Exchanges. Particulars of these are shown below for periods before and after the general conversion of Australian Government Securities payable in Australia, described on page 408 of this Year Book. The yields quoted to May, 1931, are based upon analyses contained in the official list of the Sydney Stock Exchange and relate to a date in the middle of each month. Subsequent quotations represent for each month the averages of weekly statements of yields on the Melbourne Stock Exchange.

Prior to Conversion (Commonwealth 5-5 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cents., 1936-1950).

Date.	Redemption Yield per cent.	Date.	Redemption Yield per cent.	Date.	Redemption Yield per cent.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1927—		1930 (contd)—		1931—	
March ...	5 6 2	July ...	6 1 10	January ...	6 17 3
1928—		August ...	6 2 2	February ...	7 3 8
February ...	5 9 2	September ...	6 5 8	March ...	6 18 5
1930—		October ...	6 8 3	April ...	6 9 3
April ...	6 1 3	November ...	6 7 3	May ...	7 0 5
May ...	5 16 3	December ...	6 13 3		
June ...	5 14 7				

Subsequent to Conversion (Consolidated 4 per cents.).

Month.	Redemption Yield Per Cent. 1			Month.	Redemption Yield Per Cent.		
	Short Dated. (a)	Long Dated. (b)	Over All.		Short Dated. (a)	Long Dated. (b)	Over All.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1931—				1932—			
October ...	5 18 1	5 3 5	5 9 3	<i>continued.</i>			
November ...	5 11 2	4 18 7	5 3 7	August ...	4 4 1	4 3 3	4 3 7
December ...	4 15 0	4 10 4	4 12 3	September ...	4 1 11	4 1 11	4 1 11
1932—				October ...	3 19 4	4 0 0	3 19 8
January ...	4 17 4	4 11 0	4 13 7	November ...	3 17 5	3 19 1	3 18 5
February ...	4 17 5	4 12 8	4 15 7	December ...	3 18 0	3 19 3	3 18 9
March ...	5 1 2	4 14 9	4 17 4	1933—			
April ...	5 0 0	4 14 5	4 16 8	January ...	3 15 11	3 18 0	3 17 2
May ...	5 4 5	4 18 9	5 1 0	February ...	3 14 10	3 17 5	3 16 5
June ...	4 19 4	4 13 11	4 16 1	March ...	3 15 4	3 17 8	3 16 11
July ...	4 8 1	4 5 6	4 6 7	April ...	3 13 10	3 16 9	3 15 7
				May ...	3 13 2	3 16 1	3 14 11
				June ...	3 13 2	3 16 4	3 15 1

(a) 4 per cent. Commonwealth Consolidated Stocks maturing 1938 to 1947.

(b) 4 per cent. Commonwealth Consolidated Stocks maturing 1950 to 1961.

Stocks prior to conversion are composed of Commonwealth 5 per cent. to 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. issues maturing in the years 1936 to 1950, and cover an amount of about £111,000,000. They were subject to Federal taxation, but not State, the former including a special property tax at the rate of 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. first levied in 1930, and increased in 1931 to 10 per cent. Interest on converted stocks is free of State taxation, but subject to Federal to the limit of rates existing as at the date of conversion but excluding the special impost on income from property.

Under the general conversion of all internal loans in accordance with the Premiers' Plan, interest rates on Government bonds were reduced by 22½ per cent., and steps were taken, partly by legislation, to procure a corresponding decrease in interest rates generally. Since the conversion, yields on Commonwealth Consolidated Stocks have, with minor fluctuations, moved in a downward direction, under the influence of monetary policy.

Commonwealth Treasury Bills for the purposes of financing Australian Governments' deficits and moderate loan programmes are discounted by the Commonwealth Bank and trading banks, the Commonwealth Bank undertaking to re-discount on demand the holdings of the latter institutions. Variations since July, 1931, in the rates of discount are—

Treasury Bills.					Rate of Discount.
					Per cent.
1931—July	...	...	...	...	4
1932—November	...	...	...	...	3½
1933—January	...	...	...	...	3¼
February	...	...	...	...	2¾
June	...	...	...	...	2½

The trading banks provide a large part of the temporary financial accommodation needed in various business activities. Part of the funds for this purpose are obtained as fixed deposits from customers. The rates of interest paid by trading banks to such customers in New South Wales have varied as follow in recent years:—

Month of Change.	Fixed Deposit Rates—Period of Deposit.			
	3 months.	6 months.	12 months.	24 months.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
July, 1920	4	4	4½	5
January, 1930	4½	4¾	5	5¼
June, 1931	3½	3¾	4	4¼
November, 1931	3	3¼	3¾	4
March, 1932	2½	3	3½	4
May-June, 1932	2½	3	3¼	3½
August, 1932	2½	2¾	3	3¼
November, 1932	2¼	2¾	3	3¼
February, 1933	2	2½	2¾	3

The comparatively high level of interest rates ruling during the period 1920-1929 was due to a steady demand for accommodation to finance investment. The increase in January, 1930, synchronised with the onset of the depression when banking deposits began to decrease while, pending the slower liquidation of stocks and adjustment to lower price levels, advances increased, with the result that though deposits on current account declined very heavily, fixed deposits were substantially maintained. The reductions since June, 1931, have followed upon undertakings entered into at the Premiers' Conference in that month, and the continued relative accumulation of fixed deposits, together with the partial replacement of other advances by lower yielding Government securities. It should be noted that the alterations in rates apply to deposits lodged or renewed after the date of change and not to deposits accepted at previous rates.

According to information supplied by trading banks, the dates of change and the altered rates of interest on overdrafts and discounts charged by the trading banks up to the close of 1932 are as follow:—

Date.	Overdraft rates.	Rates of Discount on Bills at—	
		Three months.	Over three months.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
July, 1920	6 to 8	5 to 6	6 to 7
January, 1924	6 to 8	5½ to 7	5½ to 7
January, 1925	6 to 8	5½ to 7	6 to 7
August, 1927	6½ to 8	6 to 7	6½ to 7
March, 1930	6½ to 8½	6 to 7½	6½ to 7½
July, 1931	5 to 7	5 to 7	5 to 7
July, 1932	5 to 6	5 to 6	5 to 6

The above rates, quoted as a range between the minimum and maximum rates charged, are subject to influences similar to those affecting rates of interest on fixed deposits over the same period.

Rates of interest charged on overdrafts by the Commonwealth Bank were reduced from a maximum of 5½ per cent. in July, 1931, to 5 per cent. in July, 1932, and to 4½ per cent. in January, 1933; corresponding rates in the Rural Credits Department and on the discount of trade bills being one-half per cent. lower.

Reduction of Interest Act, 1931.

As one of the financial measures arranged by the Premiers of the States and the Commonwealth for rehabilitating the economic position of Australia, the Interest Reduction Act, 1931, was passed by the Parliament of New South Wales to effect a reduction of 22½ per cent. in rates of interest on private debts created prior to the commencement of the Act. The Act applies to the Crown where the debtor is the Crown, but does not apply where the Crown is entitled to receive interest, in which case a maximum rate of 4 per cent. was established by the operation of the Finance Adjustment Act, 1932, described on page 396 of this Year Book. The Act provides that it may not have the effect of reducing the rate of interest on mortgages or hire purchase agreements below 5 per cent., the rate on mortgages to the Government Savings Bank on advances for homes from funds made available by the Commonwealth Savings Bank below 5½ per cent., or the rate payable under any debenture below 4 per cent. Where the rate of interest has been already reduced under the Moratorium Act, which is described on a later page, the reduction is taken into account in applying the provisions of this Act, and provision was made whereby creditors might apply to a court within three months of the commencement of the Act for an order modifying or excluding the operation of the reduction. Every reduction of interest made by the Act continues in force during the continuance of the obligation affected.

Oversea Exchange.

The relationship of Australian currency to that of the rest of the world is determined substantially by its value in relation to British currency and by the value of British currency relative to the currencies of the respective nations of the world. These relationships in turn are determined largely by the balance of international payments and by purchasing power parity, although, within limits, policy and other factors may have a modifying effect.

On 29th April, 1925, the Commonwealth Government withdrew the embargo on the export of gold, thus restoring the gold standard of exchange concurrently with Great Britain, and the exchange rates quoted

by the Australian banks were revised. The discount on English currency was substantially reduced, and in August, 1926, it went to par. Early in April, 1927, it went to a small premium, and rose progressively and steadily until towards the end of 1929, when a steep and unprecedented rise commenced, culminating in a premium of £30 per cent. in the telegraphic transfer buying rate at the end of January, 1931. The movement was due to the influence of a sudden shrinkage in the value of export commodities, a cessation of oversea borrowing and restrictions on the export of gold.

Toward the end of 1930 a scheme was formulated for the pooling of the London funds of the Australian banks for the purpose of meeting national interest obligations, and it has been arranged by the trading banks and the Loan Council that the Governments should have first call upon the funds. Formerly it had been the practice of the Australian Governments to use loan moneys to pay interest accruing abroad and to apply an equivalent amount of revenue to loan expenditure in Australia.

The variations in the rates of exchange, Australia on London since October, 1924, are shown below. The rates are the amount of discount or premium payable in Australian currency per £100 payable in British currency in London. Except where marked par or "p" to indicate premium, the rates are discounts.

Date.	Buying.				Selling.			
	T.T.	O.D.	30 days.	60 days.	T.T.	O.D.	30 days.	60 days.
1924—15 October ...	s. d. 70 0	s. d. 77 6	s. d. 85 0	s. d. 92 6	s. d. 50 0	s. d. 55 0	s. d. 60 0	s. d. 65 0
1925— 6 May ...	15 0	30 0	40 0	50 0	10 0	17 6	27 6	37 6
10 June ...	5 0	17 6	27 6	37 6	par.	7 6	15 0	22 6
4 December ..	5 0	20 0	30 0	40 0	par.	7 6	15 0	22 6
1926— 9 June ...	5 0	17 6	27 6	37 6	2 6p	5 0	12 6	20 0
12 July ...	2 6	15 0	25 0	35 0	5 0p	2 6	10 0	17 6
5 August ...	par.	12 6	22 6	32 6	7 6p	par.	7 6	15 0
1 October ...	5 0	17 6	27 6	37 6	2 6p	5 0	12 6	20 0
1927—20 April ...	2 6p	10 0	20 0	30 0	10 0p	2 6p	5 0	12 6
27 June ...	5 0p	7 6	17 6	27 6	12 6p	5 0p	2 6	10 0
25 July ...	7 6p	5 0	15 0	25 0	15 0p	7 6p	par.	7 6
7 Nov. ...	7 6p	7 6	17 6	27 6	15 0p	7 6p	par.	7 6
1928—19 March ...	10 0p	5 6	15 0	25 0	20 0p	12 6p	5 0p	2 6
4 October ...	10 0p	5 0	16 3	26 3	20 0p	12 6p	5 0p	2 6
1929—22 July ...	15 0p	par.	11 3	21 3	25 0p	17 6p	10 0p	2 6p
3 September..	20 0p	5 0p	6 3	16 3	30 0p	22 6p	15 0p	7 6p
10 October ...	25 0p	10 0p	2 6	13 9	35 0p	26 3p	17 6p	8 9p
18 December...	32 6p	17 6p	5 0p	6 3	42 6p	33 9p	25 0p	16 3p
1930—28 January ...	40 0p	25 0p	12 6p	1 3p	52 6p	43 9p	35 0p	26 3p
17 February ...	50 0p	35 0p	22 6p	11 3p	62 6p	53 9p	45 0p	36 3p
10 March ...	70 0p	55 0p	42 6p	31 3p	82 6p	73 9p	65 0p	56 3p
24 March ...	122 6p	107 6p	95 0p	83 9p	130 0p	121 3p	112 6p	103 9p
9 October ...	170 0p	157 6p	148 9p	141 3p	180 0p	175 0p	165 0p	165 0p
1931— 6 January ...	302 6p	290 0p	281 3p	273 9p	310 0p	305 0p	300 0p	295 0p
13 „ ...	360 0p	347 6p	338 9p	331 3p	367 6p	362 6p	357 6p	352 6p
17 „ ...	500 0p	487 6p	478 9p	471 3p	510 0p	505 0p	500 0p	495 0p
28 „ ...	600 0p	587 6p	578 9p	571 3p	610 0p	605 0p	600 0p	595 0p
3December...	500 0p	487 6p	475 0p	463 9p	510 0p	505 0p	500 0p	495 0p
1932—12 March ...	500 0p	490 0p	480 0p	471 3p	510 0p	505 0p	500 0p	495 0p
19 „ ...	500 0p	491 3p	482 6p	475 0p	510 0p	505 0p	500 0p	495 0p
23 April ...	500 0p	492 6p	485 0p	478 9p	510 0p	506 3p	502 6p	498 9p
14 May ...	500 0p	493 9p	487 6p	482 6p	510 0p	507 6p	505 0p	502 6p
2 July ...	500 0p	495 0p	490 0p	486 3p	510 0p	507 6p	505 0p	502 6p

The foregoing rates are now usually quoted on the basis of the price in Australia (Australian currency) of £100 London (British currency). Thus, as from 3rd December, 1931, the banks were prepared to pay £125 Australian currency for a telegraphic transfer of the right to £100 in London (British currency), and to sell such a right for £125 10s. Australian currency. The margin between the buying and selling rates (10s. per £100) represents the bankers' commission. The margins for other usances include allowances for interest. Quotations are available also in respect of usances of three, fifteen, and ninety days.

THE COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia was established under an Act passed by the Federal Government in 1911, and since amended from time to time. The bank commenced operations on 15th July, 1912, by opening a savings bank department. Ordinary banking business was commenced on 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.

The Commonwealth Government 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, and, with the approval of the Treasurer of the Commonwealth, it may take over the business of banking corporations. Since 1920 the control of the Australian note issue has been one of the functions of a separate department of the Commonwealth Bank. The Savings Bank Department was separated from the bank in June, 1928, and it is managed by a Commission of three persons, one being a director of the Commonwealth Bank. Further details regarding the Commonwealth Savings Bank thus established are stated on page 445.

Central Reserve Bank.

An amending Act, passed in 1924, made provision for extending the scope of the bank's operations with the object of facilitating its transition into a central reserve bank. In May, 1930, a further bill was introduced in the Parliament of the Commonwealth to make material alteration in the constitution of the bank with a view to transforming it into a central reserve bank. The Senate submitted this bill to a Select Committee for report, and it was not passed into law.

Following on consultation between the Directors of the Commonwealth Bank and the Comptroller of the Bank of England in the early part of 1927 discussions were initiated between the Commonwealth Bank and trading banks on the establishment of a central reserve system. Little practical result ensued until 1930, when the Commonwealth Bank reported that the trading banks were, to a much larger extent, treating the Commonwealth Bank as a central reserve bank and had substantially increased their deposits with it, partly as a result of the acquisition of gold by the Commonwealth Bank from the trading banks to meet the exchange crisis. In March, 1931, the Directors of the bank reported that it was in reality functioning as a central bank, and the function of exchange control was assumed in December, 1931, when the Commonwealth Bank undertook to buy London exchange at a stated price.

Control.

The Commonwealth Bank 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.

Capital and Profits.

The capital of the Bank is limited to £20,000,000, consisting of £4,000,000 from accumulated profits, a sum not exceeding £6,000,000 which the Federal Treasurer is authorised to borrow, and such sum as may be raised by the sale and issue of debentures up to £10,000,000. The Bank will pay the interest on any loan raised for its purposes. It has not yet exercised its authority to issue debentures.

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. Three-fourths of the annual profits from the Note Issue Department are paid to the Commonwealth Treasury and one-fourth to the capital account of the Rural Credits Department, the limit of these latter payments being £2,000,000. The aggregate profits to 30th June, 1932, excluding the Note Issue Department, amounted to £10,054,017, which have been distributed as follow:—General Bank, capital account, £4,000,000, and reserve fund, £1,406,581; Rural Credits Department reserve fund £164,039, and development fund, £164,039; Savings Bank reserve fund, £1,658,382; and National Debt sinking fund, £2,660,976. Up to 30th June, 1932, an aggregate amount of £1,893,446 had been paid to the Rural Credits Department capital account from the profits of the Note Issue Department.

Rural Credits Department.

The Rural Credits Department was established towards the end of 1925 to assist the marketing of products of the rural industries. 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 not 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.

Capital for the Rural Credits Department is provided from the profits of the note issue, as already indicated, and additional capital may be provided by loans from the Federal Government up to a limit of £3,000,000. 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 (i) outstanding loans to the department from the Federal Government, (ii) moneys received from the profits of the note issue, (iii) 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 following statement shows the liabilities and assets of the Commonwealth Bank (including the Rural Credits Department) in New South Wales in the June quarter of each of the years 1929 to 1932.

Particulars.	June Quarter.			
	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
Liabilities—	£	£	£	£
Deposits at interest—				
Government	4,642	7,630	11,582	13,414
Ordinary	2,786,522	3,945,215	5,268,445	13,101,706
Deposits not bearing interest—				
Government	1,598,812	1,585,636	501,187	1,317,496
Ordinary	4,115,525	3,794,745	3,989,808	4,331,434
Total deposits	8,505,501	9,333,226	9,771,022	18,764,050
Other liabilities	3,664,098	6,094,284	7,576,262	3,660,898
Total Liabilities in New South Wales	12,169,599	15,427,510	17,347,284	22,424,948
Assets—				
Coin and Bullion	186,563	339,391	186,011	367,821
Australian Notes	1,067,081	2,174,161	1,328,343	2,207,114
Advances, etc.	5,777,069	6,966,912	7,065,382	6,646,564
Government Securities†	12,242,680	13,949,102	10,410,446†	16,785,801†
Landed Property	243,353	186,371	214,974	415,807
Other Assets	65,649	108,531	86,296	621,259
Total Assets in New South Wales	19,582,395	23,724,468	19,291,452	27,044,366

† Includes £7,498,030 advances of a temporary nature to Governments and Local Government bodies in 1931 and £5,138,602 in 1932.

‡ Including municipal.

The sudden rise in deposits is due to the transfer in December, 1931, of Rural Bank deposits as consideration for which the Rural Bank issued inscribed stock, included under the head of Government securities.

The liabilities classified as "other" in the table consist for the most part of amounts deposited with the Commonwealth Bank by the trading banks.

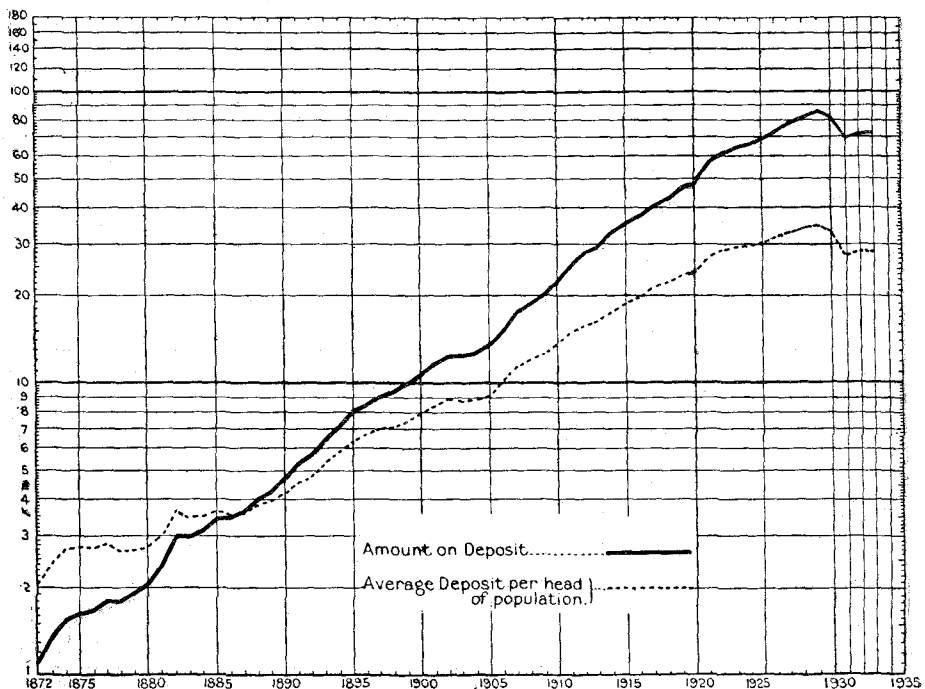
The total liabilities and assets of the bank in New South Wales and elsewhere at 30th June, 1913, amounted to £5,055,382. At 30th June, 1932, the liabilities and assets of the General Bank and Rural Credits Departments amounted to £75,341,558, those of the Note Issue Department to £51,346,911, and those of the Savings Bank to £121,706,867, the latter having risen from £51,601,897 in 1931, when it was amalgamated with the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales.

SAVINGS BANKS.

Savings bank business in New South Wales has been conducted by the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales, and by the Commonwealth Savings Bank, and extensive use is made of the facilities offered for the accumulation of small sums on which interest is paid. These banks are now amalgamated.

SAVINGS BANKS, 1872 to 1933.

(Ratio Graph.)



The numbers at the side of the graph represent 10,000 depositors, £1,000,000 of deposits, £1 of average amount per depositor, and £1 of average deposit per head of population. The diagram is a ratio graph. The vertical scale is logarithmic, and each curve rises and falls according to the rate of increase or decrease. Actual values are shown by means of the numbers at the side of the graph.

The following statement shows the number of accounts and the amount of deposits in the State and Commonwealth savings banks in New South Wales at the end of various years. The figures for 1910 and earlier years do not include School Savings Bank accounts of which particulars are now included in the Commonwealth Savings Bank.

At 30th June.	Accounts.	Savings Bank Deposits.				
		State Bank. †	Commonwealth Bank.	Total. †	Per Account.	Per head of Population.
	No.	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1880*	61,531	2,075,856	...	2,075,856	33 14 9	2 17 0
1890*	143,826	4,730,469	...	4,730,469	32 17 10	4 5 10
1900*	282,643	10,901,382	...	10,901,382	38 11 5	8 2 8
1910*	478,006	20,823,764	...	20,823,764	43 11 3	12 18 0
1921	1,126,157	50,820,334	6,592,304	57,412,638	50 19 4	27 5 10
1926	1,446,432	64,371,265	9,436,386	73,807,651	50 19 8	31 16 8
1927	1,528,287	67,858,089	10,493,644	78,351,733	51 4 0	32 0 7
1928	1,599,007	70,652,735	10,974,932	81,627,667	50 19 4	33 13 4
1929	1,685,181	73,895,207	11,832,307	85,727,514	50 15 5	34 15 10
1930	1,729,553	70,566,232	11,899,198	82,465,430	47 11 4	33 3 3
1931	1,744,488	55,317,832	14,492,937	69,810,769	39 18 3	27 16 7
1932	§	‡	71,647,869	71,647,869	§	28 6 5
1933	§	‡	72,307,685	72,307,685	§	28 7 1

* As at 31st December. † Includes amount of deposits in Schools Savings Banks in 1921 and later years.
‡ Amalgamated with Commonwealth Savings Bank. § Not available.

Included in the number of accounts in the State Savings Bank shown above are a large number of small inoperative accounts. In some measure the inclusion of these destroys the comparative value of "number of accounts" and "amount deposited per account." The number of operative accounts was 955,931 as at 30th June, 1921, with an average amount of £60 0s. 2d. per account; 1,215,917 with an average of £60 12s. 3d. as at 30th June, 1926, and 1,403,632 with an average of £49 10s. 8d. as at 30th June, 1931. Comparable figures as at 30th June, 1932, are not available.

In 1928-29 a sum of £3,043,110 was added as interest to depositors' accounts by the banks, and the net increase in the amount at depositors' credit during the year was £4,099,847 inclusive of added interest. In 1929-30 added interest amounted to £3,117,342 and depositors' credits decreased by £3,262,084. In 1930-31 the corresponding figures were:—Interest added, £2,792,014; decrease in depositors' credits, £12,654,661, and in 1931-32, interest added, £2,025,943; increase in depositors' credits, £1,837,100.

The number of accounts does not represent individual depositors, as considerable duplication is caused by persons having deposits in both banks. Many of the accounts are joint accounts and accounts of societies, trusts,

etc., whose members have personal accounts also. It is apparent, however, that a large proportion of the people practise thrift through the medium of the savings banks.

THE GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

Particulars of the foundation and changes in the constitution of the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales, together with trading results achieved, have been stated in earlier issues of the Year Book.

On 23rd of April, 1931, the bank suspended payment, and, after a short period of activity under a plan of reconstruction involving the trans- action of new business, amalgamated with the Commonwealth Savings Bank as from 15th December, 1931. The agreements under which the merging of interests was effected primarily related to the business of the Savings Bank Department and the release of deposits in the Rural Bank Department. To enable the continued functioning of the Rural Bank and Advances for Homes Departments, the Commissioners of the Govern- ment Savings Bank of New South Wales may, for a period of five years from the date of amalgamation, borrow from the Commonwealth Savings Bank 70 per cent. of the quarterly increases in the deposits of that bank in New South Wales, to the extent of £500,000 in any one year. Also, they may, for the purpose of making further advances to existing debtors and meeting management expenses, retain from the net proceeds of assets after the payment of interest obligations, an amount of £300,000 in the case of the Rural Bank Department and £75,000 in the case of the Advances for Homes Department, during the first year, and £180,000 and £25,000 respectively during each of the following four years. Special issues of inscribed stock, bearing interest at the rate mentioned later, must be made by the departments concerned, to cover loans made or funds retained in accordance with the above provisions.

Savings Bank Department.

The business and assets of the Savings Bank Department were trans- ferred to the Commonwealth Savings Bank on the basis of the following balance-sheet as at 31st October, 1931, subject to adjustment in respect of subsequent transactions and the exclusion of a small number of assets of minor importance:—

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
	£		£
Depositors Balances, with Interest to date	55,692,785	Cash on hand and at Bankers ...	762,966
Balances due to Rural Bank, and other Liabilities	565,532	Commonwealth Treasury Bills...	618,630
Special Advance from Commonwealth Bank	1,015,500		1,381,596
Reserve Fund	1,500,000	Fixed Deposit at New South Wales Treasury	7,112,565
Mortgages and General Investment Depreciation Fund	62,360	Accrued Interest	94,834
Guarantee and Other Funds	78,974		7,207,399
Profit and Loss Account	439,568	Investments—	
	2,080,902	Australian Consolidated In- scribed Stock	29,058,644
		Inscribed Stock—Rural Bank Department	4,187,169
		Inscribed Stock—Advances for Homes Department	10,347,049
		Preferred and Debenture Stock	23,320
		Loans to Municipal Councils	2,766,641
		Loans on Mortgage and Con- tracts of Sale	2,614,915
			48,997,738
		Sundry Debtors	26,889
		Bank Premises, Furniture, Equipment, etc.	1,741,097
			£59,354,719
	£59,354,719		£59,354,719

Assets consisting of Rural Bank Stock, £4,187,169, Advances for Homes Department Stock £10,347,049 and Treasury Fixed Deposits £7,112,565, are to be paid by forty equal half yearly instalments, the first of which falls due for payment on 30th November, 1936. Interest is chargeable on these amounts at a rate one per cent. above the rate allowed depositors during any six monthly period ending on 30th June or 31st December.

The payment of all sums due under inscribed stock issued by the Rural Bank and Advances for Homes Departments, together with interest charges thereon, is further secured by stipulations as to the application of net proceeds of assets during a period of five years commencing on 31st October, 1931, and a guarantee by the New South Wales Government. In the event of a liquidation of either department, net proceeds from the realisation of assets are to be applied in accordance with the rules governing the winding up of companies under the New South Wales Companies Act.

The Commonwealth Savings Bank undertook to make immediately available 10 per cent. of depositors' balances in the Old Business Division as at the date of amalgamation, with a minimum of £10 or the full amount when the balance did not exceed £10, and to open up the balance of deposits at the earliest opportunity. Deposits in the New Business Division were to be fully operative and all deposits were to be interest bearing.

Other liabilities set out in the balance-sheet as at 31st October, 1931, were undertaken by the Commonwealth Savings Bank, which also assumed liability in respect of any claims or actions arising out of the normal conduct of the business of the Savings Bank Department and certain other items relating to staff pensions, existing contracts, etc., but specifically excluding the redemption of stock amounting to £120,050 and any action based upon the closure of the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales. Profits and losses from the future conduct of savings bank business in New South Wales are to be divided equally between the Commonwealth Savings Bank and the Commissioners of the Government Savings Bank, investments are to be made and maintained in New South Wales to an extent proportionate to deposits held and any additional benefits conceded in future amalgamations of the Commonwealth Savings Bank with State Savings Banks are to be extended to the Commissioners. The Government of New South Wales has undertaken to refrain from competing in the field of savings bank business.

As a result of the operation of the agreement all restrictions on the deferred balances of the Old Business Division were removed within one month of the date of amalgamation and the Commissioners' share in the profits for the half year ended 30th June, 1932, amounted to £68,354.

Rural Bank Department.

An account of the origin and operations of the Rural Bank is given in the chapter "Rural Settlement," of this Year Book.

The business, assets and liabilities of the New Business Division of the Rural Bank Department were transferred to the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. In the Old Business Division, liability in respect of fixed deposits £9,871,776, and deposits on current account £1,295,920, was assumed by the Commonwealth Bank, which took over assets consisting of fixed deposits with other banks £936,280 and deposits at the New South Wales Treasury, £506,685; the difference between the assets and liabilities, after adjustment to provide for subsequent transactions and accrued interest, being covered by the issue of Rural Bank Inscribed Stock. Deposits on

current account were to be fully operative and fixed deposits to the extent of ten per cent., the deferred balances of the latter bearing interest at savings bank rates. Within one month of the date of amalgamation deferred fixed deposits were converted into fixed deposits with the Commonwealth Bank, one half for twelve months and one half for twenty-four months.

The balance sheet of the Rural Bank, which continues to function insofar as loan accounts are concerned, as at 30th June, 1932, was:—

<i>Liabilities.</i>		<i>Assets.</i>	
	£		£
Rural Bank Department		Cash	76,445
Stock and Debentures ...	14,483,289	Investments—	
		Government Securities ...	531,821
Deposits and Other Liabilities		Commonwealth Treasury	
to Customers	199,495	Bills and other Invest-	
		ments	404,910
Reserve Fund	586,351	Loans and Advances to	
		Customers	14,257,051
Sundry Creditors	11,785	Amount due by Other	
		Departments	9,162
		Sundry Debtors	1,531
Total	£15,280,920	Total	£15,280,920

The assets shown above are included in the particulars of trading banks published on page 426 *et seq.*

The net profit for the year was £27,350, which was transferred to the reserve fund.

Advances for Homes Department.

An account of the operations of the Advances for Homes Department appears in the chapter "Social Condition," of this Year Book.

The Department does not receive deposits, and its funds have been obtained mainly by loan from the Savings Bank Department and by the issue of a special Treasury loan. In the latter part of the year 1928 arrangements were made to authorise the Commissioners to obtain advances from the Housing Fund constituted by the Commonwealth Government, and the sum of £1,000,000 was made available for the first year's operations.

The balance-sheet of the Advances for Homes Department at 30th June, 1932, was as follows:—

<i>Liabilities.</i>		<i>Assets.</i>	
	£		£
Advances for Homes Department		Loans for Homes	12,355,435
Stock and Debentures... ..	11,930,296	Invested in Government Securities	575,244
Liability to Borrowers, etc. ...	424,300	Commonwealth Treasury Bills	14,946
Amount due to Other		Cash at Bankers	25,304
Departments	9,008	Sundry Debtors	355
Reserve Fund	607,680		
Total	£ 12,971,284	Total	£ 12,971,284

The net balance of profit in 1931-32 was £20,592, which was transferred to the reserve fund.

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 were described in earlier issues of the Year Book, 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. At 30th June, 1932, the number of loans current was 842 and the amount of principal outstanding, £486,210.

The following statement shows the growth of loans current in each department of the bank in recent years, excluding from account Government and Municipal securities held:—

30th June	Savings Bank	Rural Bank.		Advances for Homes.	Government Housing Department.	Total Loans administered by Government Savings Bank.
		Long Term & Fixed Loan*	Overdrafts.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1925	2,179,456	5,721,678	2,930,915	7,145,187	262,916	18,140,152
1927	2,364,905	5,783,776	4,746,220	9,244,999	587,518	22,727,418
1928	2,724,077	5,759,410	6,098,405	10,431,837	562,470	25,576,199
1929	2,920,973	5,951,428	6,938,041	11,424,862	536,242	27,771,546
1930	2,833,764	6,272,685	7,988,275	12,937,522	515,842	30,548,088
1931	2,694,596	6,166,523	8,254,745	12,661,842	497,888	30,275,594
1932	†	5,966,586	7,857,288	12,128,213	486,210	26,438,297

* Excluding accrued interest.

† Amalgamated with Commonwealth Savings Bank.

COMMONWEALTH SAVINGS BANK.

The Savings Bank Department of the Commonwealth Bank was opened on 15th July, 1912, and its business has been transacted at all branches of the Commonwealth Bank as well as at numerous post offices and agencies. As from 15th December, 1931, the business of the bank was transacted also in former branches and agencies of the Government Savings Bank, which, as from that date, became offices of the Commonwealth Savings Bank. Legislation was passed in 1927 and proclaimed on 9th June, 1928, for the purpose of establishing this department of the Commonwealth Bank as a separate institution—the Commonwealth Savings Bank of Australia. It is controlled by a commission consisting of a chief commissioner and two other persons, and its funds are available for long-term investments, e.g., loans on the security of land, advances for homes or for warehouses and stores for primary products, in debentures of the Rural Credits Department of the Commonwealth Bank and on fixed deposits with the Commonwealth Bank. One member of the Savings Bank Commission is a director of the Commonwealth Bank nominated by the Board of Directors. This facilitates co-operation between the two institutions and enables the Commission to obtain the advice of the Board of Directors regarding the investment of the Savings Bank funds.

Deposits are received in sums of one shilling or more, and interest has been allowed on the minimum monthly balances at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum up to £1,000 and at 3 per cent. for an additional £300 on personal accounts, and at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum on the whole

credit balance of bodies such as friendly societies not operating for profit. On 1st October, 1928, the rate on personal accounts up to £500, and on the deposits of friendly societies, etc., was raised to 4 per cent. The rates were reduced on 1st July, 1931, to the following, viz., personal accounts 3 per cent. up to £500, 2½ per cent. from £500 to £1,000, and 2 per cent. from £1,000 to £1,300; and the rate on deposits by friendly societies, etc., to 3 per cent. As from 1st July, 1932, the rates on personal accounts up to £1,000 and on accounts of friendly societies, etc., were reduced by ¼ per cent. On 1st November, 1933, the rates on accounts of friendly societies, etc., and personal accounts up to £500 were reduced to 2½ per cent., and on personal accounts between £500 and £1,300 to 2 per cent.

The growth of deposits since 1921 is shown in the table on a previous page.

The total liabilities and assets of the Commonwealth Savings Bank at 30th June, 1932, amounted to £121,706,867. The liabilities included reserve fund £1,658,382, and depositors' balances £116,300,001. The assets consisted of Government and other public securities £111,634,820; coin and cash balances and Australian notes, £3,041,596, Bank Premises £1,739,636, and other, £5,290,815.

DEPOSITS IN ALL BANKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

In June, 1932, the net amount of deposits at credit of private and public accounts in the savings and the trading banks in New South Wales was £182,819,923, or £72 10s. 8d. per head of population. In previous years, a deduction has been necessary to remove duplication arising from the deposit with trading banks of savings banks funds. Such deduction amounted to £10,022,438 in June, 1930, when the net amount of deposits was £203,136,287, or £81 19s. 7d. per head, and £2,940,687 in June, 1931, when the net amount was £188,486,203, or £75 7s. 8d. per head of population. The figures for the savings banks in the following table represent the deposits on 30th June in each year, and those for the trading banks are the averages of the June quarter:—

June.	Net Deposits bearing Interest.			Net Deposits not bearing Interest.*	All Deposits.*	
	Savings Banks.	Trading Banks.*	Total.		Total.	Per head of Population.
	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1924	66,174,117	43,748,948	109,923,065	52,514,431†	162,437,496†	72 18 2
1925	69,149,433	48,628,465	117,777,898	54,446,766†	172,224,664†	75 15 6
1926	73,807,651	52,148,006	125,955,657	58,135,332	184,090,989	79 8 1
1927	78,351,733	55,888,031	134,239,764	55,064,313	189,304,077	79 16 0
1928	81,627,667	63,483,867	145,111,534	54,018,990	199,130,524	82 2 6
1929	85,727,514	67,211,856	152,939,370	55,099,134	208,038,504	84 1 11
1930	82,465,430	73,509,636	155,975,066	47,161,221	203,136,287	81 19 7
1931	69,810,769	77,794,555	147,605,324	40,880,879	188,486,203	75 7 8
1932	71,647,869	70,105,231	141,753,100	41,066,823	182,819,923	72 10 8

* Excluding deposits lodged by Savings Banks in Trading Banks.

† Approximate.

Included in the above figures are deposits by children in the School Savings Bank which amounted to £197,035 at 30th June, 1930, and to £184,377 at 30th June, 1931. Separate details are not available for 1932.

The amounts of interest-bearing deposits in the trading banks shown above differ from the figures in preceding tables, which include the savings deposits in the Commonwealth Bank up to 1928 inclusive and the deposits of the savings banks in the trading banks.

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, providing for the registration of debentures issued by companies. These enactments follow the general provisions of Imperial Acts relating to companies, with variations 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.

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.

Local limited companies (*i.e.*, those whose original registration is in New South Wales) are required to file an annual summary statement of their capital, and a list of shareholders with the amount of their shares, besides an original copy of their memorandum and articles of association and amendments thereto and other particulars as to the location of their registered office. In addition to the foregoing particulars no-liability mining companies and foreign companies, *i.e.*, those whose original registration is outside New South Wales, are required to file an annual balance-sheet and a list of debentures or other securities secured on the property of the company.

Particulars relating to the registration of new companies in New South Wales 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
*1906-10 ...	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
*1916-20 ...	321	17,465,293	93	3,624,272	14	284,271	1	11,400
*1921-25 ...	523	16,940,799	94	5,585,987	16	273,350	3	16,690
*1926-30 ...	709	33,316,333	96	9,164,442	21	677,630	1	3,200
1927 ...	774	29,413,417	116	9,520,500	9	485,500	...	...
1928 ...	770	44,933,850	97	8,809,150	28	749,600	...	...
1929 ...	737	36,063,240	90	7,038,800	33	1,599,650	3	9,000
1930 ...	571	13,389,850	59	4,784,020	10	63,250	1	2,000
1931 ...	447†	10,678,450†	29	1,208,700	11	93,800	1	50,000
1932 ..	502	12,325,906	20	701,658	24	871,800	...	...

* Average per annum.

† Excluding two ephemeral companies capital, £112,000,000.

The total number of limited companies which appeared to be in active existence in New South Wales at the end of 1925 was 5,809, including 4,967 local and 842 "foreign," as defined above. This number had increased by the end of 1929 to 6,979, of which 6,044 were local and 935 were "foreign." These numbers decreased respectively to 5,888 local and 911 "foreign" as at the end of 1930 and to 5,587 local and 900 "foreign" as at the end of 1931, a slight increase at the end of 1932 bringing the numbers up to 5,750 and 902 respectively.

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 and over 800 companies with nominal capital amounting to £16,700,000 were registered in 1920.

The figures for the years 1926 to 1929 were on a high level, and the aggregate capital was unusually large in 1926 and 1928. The companies registered in 1926, viz., 695 with nominal capital of £42,731,310, included a number with very large capital, *e.g.*, one with £5,000,000 and five with £1,000,000 or more. In 1928 the registrations included two companies with nominal capital of £5,000,000 and six others with £1,000,000 or over.

During the period 1911 to 1920 the number of foreign companies registered was, on an average, about 56 per annum. The number registered in each of the past ten years was as follows:—

	No.	Nominal Capital. £		No.	Nominal Capital. £
1923	69	34,971,400	1928	81	10,849,780
1924	83	14,131,711	1929	74	11,759,100
1925	78	94,833,857	1930	54	6,023,284
1926	83	17,752,806	1931	38	9,670,480
1927	69	15,192,065	1932	55	5,499,688

The particulars for the year 1925 include the Canadian Pacific Railway with a nominal capital of £75,000,000.

Stock Exchange Index.

An index of the prices of company shares on Sydney Stock Exchange is in course of compilation, and monthly indexes have been compiled as from January, 1928, based on the ratio of prices to par value of ordinary shares. The prices represent the average values for the respective months, and are based on records of actual sales or, where no sales have taken place, on a valuation determined from previous sales, current quotations, etc. In addition to the indexes for component groups and the total index for 75 companies, an index has been compiled in respect of 34 companies in whose

shares there is a considerable volume of business. The indexes are un-weighted, the par value of shares being taken as base (100):—

Average for Year or month.	23 Manufacturing and Distributing Companies.	10 Retail Companies.	8 Public Utility Companies.	5 Pastoral and Finance Companies.	5 Insurance Companies.	Total Companies, 75.	34 Active Shares Included in foregoing.
1928	158·6	176·6	126·6	172·9	218·8	163·8	160·7
1929	174·0	172·0	127·7	158·4	229·6	166·6	164·5
1930	113·7	103·2	107·6	85·8	167·5	112·2	111·6
1931—							
January ...	81·2	66·7	90·8	60·2	134·6	81·4	85·3
February ...	80·8	66·1	90·0	61·2	127·5	80·0	84·8
March ...	82·9	71·5	88·9	80·7	132·1	83·7	90·2
April ...	82·9	71·3	89·1	81·5	137·6	85·1	90·7
May ...	81·7	67·9	86·7	79·8	126·8	82·6	88·5
June ...	78·2	66·5	89·4	78·0	120·0	80·1	85·4
July ...	77·3	65·9	90·8	79·3	119·0	79·5	83·5
August ...	76·1	62·9	89·3	77·6	118·3	77·4	80·6
September...	72·3	60·2	87·9	75·2	121·3	74·4	77·2
October ...	77·4	64·3	90·6	84·8	129·8	78·9	84·2
November ..	88·0	73·5	95·1	95·9	143·9	87·7	94·4
December ...	92·6	74·5	98·5	95·4	153·7	91·5	98·6
1932—							
January ...	94·2	75·5	110·0	95·2	158·3	93·3	100·9
February ...	92·6	75·3	111·9	92·0	154·5	92·3	99·0
March ...	90·3	73·9	105·1	88·8	148·2	89·5	95·5
April ...	90·0	72·4	104·6	87·5	139·5	87·8	94·4
May ...	91·9	74·8	104·7	89·3	132·3	88·5	95·3
June ...	96·3	77·8	109·0	87·3	145·6	92·2	99·4
July ...	100·0	78·0	112·1	94·9	152·0	95·3	102·1
August ...	106·1	83·2	118·6	106·1	155·2	100·6	108·4
September...	114·8	89·4	125·6	114·6	163·8	107·6	116·3
October ...	121·6	95·9	129·4	115·9	174·6	113·5	121·5
November ..	120·6	93·2	130·4	108·8	172·1	111·4	118·9
December...	114·0	90·8	132·6	102·9	167·8	107·5	115·2
1933—							
January ...	114·4	90·2	131·9	106·2	163·3	107·0	115·4
February ...	116·4	92·1	133·6	103·6	164·6	108·6	117·3
March ...	115·2	91·6	132·8	100·4	164·9	108·3	116·3
April ...	116·8	91·3	130·8	102·9	165·2	109·2	117·3
May ...	122·5	95·0	134·4	112·1	169·6	114·0	121·8
June ...	129·1	99·3	138·3	119·6	176·6	119·3	127·2
July ...	130·8	102·9	139·6	124·3	182·5	121·3	129·0

Monthly averages, July, 1929, to December, 1930, were published on page 716 of the Year Book for 1930-31 and the indexes for current months are published in the "Monthly Summary of Business Statistics."

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

The laws relating to co-operation in New South Wales are embodied in the Co-operation, Community Settlement, and Credit Act, 1923, with subsequent amendments, known now as the Co-operation Act, 1923-32.

The 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.

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 community service, *e.g.*, water, gas, electricity, transport, recreation, etc.; (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.

Societies are corporate bodies with limited liability except that a rural credit society may be formed with unlimited liability. Existing societies (with the exception of seven permanent building societies) were deemed to have applied for registration under the new Act, and were required to alter their rules to conform thereto.

Co-operative companies registered as limited companies under the Companies Act, 1899, are permitted to transfer their registration to the Co-operation Act, without winding up or loss of identity, and societies registered under the Co-operation Act similarly may transfer their registration to the Companies Act. The use of the word "co-operative" by any company not specially authorised in that regard or by any person or firm as part of a trade or business name is prohibited, and such bodies 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. A member may not hold more than one-fifth of the shares. No dividend may be paid in respect of shares in a rural credit society with unlimited liability, and in other cases the maximum rate of dividend is 8 per cent. per annum. 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 of persons appointed by the Governor to represent different forms of co-operative enterprise.

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.

The following table shows particulars relating to various classes of co-operative societies, other than building societies, in the year 1931-32.

Type of Society.	Number at 30th June, 1932.	Number supplying Returns for Year.	Number of Members.	Amount of Share Capital Paid-up.	Surplus and Reserves.
				£	£
Rural	119	102	44,904	906,029	718,380
Trading	70	46	41,845	630,820	325,867
Community Advancement	21	14	989	3,765	5,213
Investment	6	5	1,254	40,218	2,005
Total	216	167	88,972	1,580,832	1,051,465

There were also at 30th June, 1932, four associations of co-operative societies, one, comprised by fifteen co-operative trading societies, with a share capital of £93,313 and reserves and undistributed surplus amounting to £54,533. Two are acting as marketing agents for groups of five rural societies in the case of each, engaged in the fruit-growing industry, and one new association was registered during the year.

The difference between the number of societies in existence at the end of the year and the number of returns received represents mainly societies in liquidation and those registered during the year from which returns were not due.

Further details regarding the co-operative movement are set forth in the chapters of this book relating to agriculture and the dairying industry.

Trading Societies.

The transactions of co-operative trading societies during the last six years are given in the following table:—

Particulars.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Number of Societies	58	66	68	64	68	70
„ Returns	51	45	46	47	47	46
Number of Members	54,610	57,775	59,350	59,019	42,547	41,845
Liabilities—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Share Capital ...	868,395	977,627	1,034,600	1,016,778	643,465	630,820
Reserves and Net Profits	435,315	444,469	448,802	432,544	365,726	325,867
Other Liabilities...	367,358	365,696	468,477	682,842	445,839	448,547
Total Liabilities £	1,671,098	1,787,792	1,951,879	2,132,164	1,455,030	1,405,234
Assets—						
Freehold, Plant, etc.	718,160	804,211	895,193	1,072,568	557,628	546,482
Stock	490,703	501,190	502,817	507,616	377,857	337,034
Other Assets	462,235	482,391	553,869	551,980	519,545	521,718
Total Assets £	1,671,098	1,787,792	1,951,879	2,132,164	1,455,030	1,405,234
Sales, etc.	3,680,785	3,840,014	3,863,524	3,553,038	2,466,126	2,055,464

The diminution of turnover was due partly to the acute economic depression, but also very largely to the closing down of a large co-operative store in 1930-31.

The trading societies are mainly consumers' distributive societies organised on the Rochdale plan of "dividend upon purchase," conducting retail stores. They buy their supplies largely from a wholesale co-operative society with which a considerable number of them are affiliated. The societies have met with success in the Newcastle and other mining districts, and to a limited extent in other centres where large numbers of industrial workers reside.

Rural Societies.

There were 119 rural societies at 30th June, 1932. Their objects covered a variety of activities, including the manufacture and distribution of butter, cheese and bacon, the packing and marketing of fruit, and the purchase of poultry feed or general requisites.

The rural societies are for the most part new societies formed since the commencement of the Co-operation Act of 1923 or organisations which had been registered previously as companies under the Companies Act.

A statement of the liabilities and assets of these societies in the last five years is shown below.

Particulars.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Societies—						
Number at 30th June	90	102	107	115	118	119
Returns received ...	82	81	89	92	98	102
Members	13,490	23,487	24,973	38,498	43,941	44,904
Liabilities—						
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Share Capital ...	235,960	385,488	449,783	834,816	883,834	906,029
Other liabilities ...	513,906	974,078	1,139,643	1,733,067	1,698,411	1,483,682
Assets—						
Land, Buildings, Plant, etc. ...	549,974	872,623	1,045,387	1,645,412	1,739,770	1,716,488
Stock	75,742	299,404	377,570	528,638	452,559	390,346
Other Assets ...	222,445	490,493	595,600	1,037,659	1,065,738	1,001,257

Investment Societies.

There are six investment societies, one being in the process of liquidating at 30th June, 1932. Two were formed during 1923 amongst employees of the Australian Gas Light Company, one in 1926 by employees of the City of Newcastle Gas and Coke Works, and one in 1930 by employees of the North Shore Gas Company. The object of these societies is to purchase shares in the respective companies by means of periodical 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 the shares. At the middle of 1932 the amount of members' share capital was £39,774, and shares to the value of £40,950 were held in public companies.

Permanent Building Societies.

The aggregate liabilities and assets of permanent building societies in the last five years are shown in the following statement:—

Particulars.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Number of Societies ...	7	7	7	7	7
Liabilities—					
Deposits	£ 588,366	£ 616,457	£ 621,073	£ 610,010	£ 597,170
Share Capital	473,680	492,677	508,773	510,639	501,678
Reserves and net profits	320,188	327,151	329,528	330,398	331,717
Other Liabilities	25,259	30,294	49,404	27,926	24,549
Total	1,407,493	1,466,579	1,508,778	1,478,973	1,455,114
Assets—					
Advances	1,203,928	1,254,172	1,283,811	1,240,606	1,175,608
Other Assets	203,565	212,407	224,967	238,367	279,506
Total	1,407,493	1,466,579	1,508,778	1,478,973	1,455,114

The income during the year 1931-32 amounted to £99,797, of which the largest item was interest. The expenditure amounted to £58,228 including dividend on shares and interest on deposits and bonuses.

Starr-Bowkett and other Terminating Building Societies.

Starr-Bowkett building societies are terminating societies, in which the rights of members to appropriation are determined by ballot or by sale. The usual procedure is that the member pays a subscription of 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. The duration of societies varies, but frequently over 20 years elapse before the last loan is made. When an advance has been made to all members remaining in the society the process of winding-up commences and share capital is repaid as repayments in respect of loans accumulate. The life-time of a society of this type often extends to about 28 years. Particulars relating to their operations during the last five years are shown below:—

Particulars	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Number of Societies ...	148	145	147	146	145
Number of Returns ...	133	137	137	134	125
Liabilities—					
To Members	£ 2,496,272	£ 2,475,702	£ 2,342,104	£ 2,364,716	£ 2,187,852
Other Liabilities	47,778	88,240	65,298	59,202	50,421
Surplus	334,520	318,262	212,130	375,415	361,875
Total	2,878,570	2,882,204	2,619,532	2,799,333	2,600,148
Assets—					
Advances	2,428,385	2,448,313	2,341,722	2,382,726	2,207,111
Other Assets	450,185	433,891	277,810	416,607	393,037
Total	2,878,570	2,882,204	2,619,532	2,799,333	2,600,148

Subscriptions received from shareholders in 1930-31 amounted to £183,620, and the withdrawals to £210,430; the advances on mortgage amounted to £335,409, and repayments to £386,234, and the sum due on account of advances at the end of the year was £2,382,726. The income during the year amounted to £60,506, and the expenses to £36,835.

In 1931-32 subscriptions amounted to £137,267, withdrawals were £219,012, advances £262,377, repayments £332,594, income £54,166, and expenses £34,318.

Besides the Starr-Bowkett building societies there is another class of terminating building societies which work principally on a bank overdraft, and loans are made available to members practically as soon as they require them, the ballot being very rarely resorted to. A member receiving a loan does not repay the actual amount borrowed, but is 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 were six such societies in existence at 30th June, 1932. The following statement shows particulars of the transactions of these societies:—

Particulars.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Number of Societies	8	10	8	6	6
Number of Returns	7	8	7	6	6
Receipts—					
Subscriptions from Members ...	£ 65,202	64,213	52,834	24,698	21,481
Fines and other Charges ...	£ 1,582	1,621	1,459	710	576
Interest received from borrowers	£ 3,570	3,378	1,741	1,444	1,441
Expenditure—					
Advances to members ...	£ 52,361	33,080	22,010	11,300	12,610
Withdrawals of share capital ...	£ 15,822	7,727	5,208	11,557	12,076
Interest paid by society ...	£ 6,885	6,842	5,964	4,066	3,267
Management Expenses ...	£ 1,793	2,042	1,842	1,777	1,713
Number of shares at end of year ...	No. 14,339	12,170	10,311	9,202	8,469

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 to the Registrar, 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.

As a general rule, the moneys received or paid on account of a particular benefit must be kept in a separate account and be used only for the specific purpose. It is provided, however, that where the sickness and funeral funds of a society are administered by one central body for the whole society they may be treated 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 the societies are to be valued in groups in successive years.

Particulars of the valuation—made at various dates between 1926 and 1930—are summarised below, together with valuations of two groups of affiliated societies as at 30th June, 1930 and 1931:—

Valued as at—	Number.	Liabilities.	Assets.			Surplus or Deficiency (—)
			Accumulated Funds.	Future contributions.	Total.	
<i>Affiliated Societies.</i>						
		£	£	£	£	£
30th June, 1926 ...	5	943,662	313,488	610,081	923,569	(-) 20,093
do 1927 ...	4	2,740,176	1,195,145	1,608,109	2,803,254	63,078
do 1928 ...	3	2,175,976	750,043	1,389,947	2,139,990	(-) 35,986
do 1929 ...	3	1,934,730	849,475	1,168,930	2,018,405	83,675
Total ...	15	7,794,544	3,108,151	4,777,067	7,885,218	90,674
30th June, 1930 ...	4	408,677	183,702	230,797	414,499	5,822
do 1931 ..	3	314,308	123,573	159,260	282,833	(-) 31,475
<i>Single Societies.</i>						
30th June, 1926 ...	14	61,646	54,263	23,626	77,889	16,243
do 1929 ...	1	2,226	1,013	1,533	2,546	320
do 1930 ...	11	54,743	46,676	20,063	66,739	11,996
Total ...	26	118,615	101,952	45,222	147,174	28,559

Accumulated Funds.

The following statement illustrates the growth of the funds of the Friendly Societies since 1911:—

At 30th June.	Sickness and Funeral Funds.	Medical and Management Fund.	Other Funds.	All Funds.	
				Total.	Per Member.
	£	£	£	£	£
1911*	1,378,722	78,264	49,852	1,506,838	9·14
1916*	1,820,708	101,092	48,471	1,970,271	11·02
1921	2,134,339	194,358	83,065	2,411,762	12·08
1926	2,866,486	237,296	111,688	3,215,470	13·70
1928	3,214,550	260,176	116,392	3,591,118	14·83
1929	3,376,326	272,536	115,370	3,764,232	15·19
1930	3,535,056	266,944	122,594	3,924,594	15·57
1931	3,640,368	261,663	117,209	4,019,240	16·58
1932	3,725,954	278,985	130,129	4,135,068	18·35

* At 31st December.

During the twelve months ended 30th June, 1930, the total funds of the societies increased by £160,362, the increases being common to all the societies. The addition to funds in 1930-31 was £94,646, and £115,828 in 1931-32.

Receipts and Expenditure.

The receipts and expenditure of the friendly societies during the last six years are shown in the following statement:—

Year ended 30th June.	Receipts.				Expenditure.					
	Contributions.	Interest.	Other.	Total.	Sick Pay.	Funeral Donations.	Medical Attendance and Medicine.	Expenses of Management.	Other.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1927	795,542	191,753	83,467	1,070,762	232,216	69,136	319,325	154,115	42,141	867,433
1928	808,887	205,222	60,836	1,074,945	307,321	75,460	329,816	156,444	33,583	902,625
1929	832,187	219,788	66,173	1,118,148	319,787	77,928	343,381	161,300	42,638	945,034
1930	815,551	226,889	75,664	1,118,104	319,329	86,790	331,052	171,410	49,161	957,742
1931	765,113	210,164	49,290	1,024,567	307,979	75,747	298,299	171,820	76,076	929,921
1932	758,229	162,321	106,244	1,026,794	299,508	78,144	292,065	153,500	87,749	910,966

The total amount disbursed in benefits in the year ended June, 1932, was £669,717, as compared with £330,000 in 1911 and £601,673 in 1924-25. The cost of medical attendance and medicine has increased, as additional charges were made by medical practitioners and pharmacists, and the average cost per adult member rose from 19s. in 1911 to 27s. 11d. in 1923-24, to 30s. 10d. in 1928-29, and dropped to 29s. 3d. in 1929-30, and to 26s. 9d. in 1930-31, a slight increase in 1931-32 taking the amount to 27s. 9d.

In the year 1929-30 the total expenses, £167,072, were equal to 13s. 4d. per head of mean membership as compared with 7s. 6d. per head in 1911, and 13s. 10d. in 1920-21. In proportion to contributions and to total income, expenses in 1929-30 represented 20.5 per cent. and 15.0 per cent. respectively, as compared with 14.4 per cent. and 11.5 per cent. in 1911. In 1931-32 expenses represented 13s. 2d. per head of mean membership.

INSURANCE.

Insurance in New South Wales, apart from Government pension funds, is mainly the province of private organisations. The question of national insurance was investigated by a Royal Commission appointed by the Government of the Commonwealth in September, 1923, the final report being issued in March, 1927. The Commission recommended the creation of a national insurance fund to provide sickness, invalidity, maternity, and superannuation benefits. In September, 1928, a National Insurance Bill was introduced into the Federal Parliament, but it was not taken beyond the early stages in view of an impending dissolution of Parliament.

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.

A bill for the purpose of regulating the conduct of life assurance business in Australia was introduced in the Federal Parliament in August, 1929, and again after a change of Government in March, 1930, but it has not been passed into law. In March, 1932, an Act was passed to provide that insurance companies may be required, when the Act has been proclaimed, to lodge deposits with the Commonwealth Treasurer.

LIFE ASSURANCE.

The volume of life assurance business transacted in New South Wales increased very rapidly both absolutely and in proportion to the population until the advent of the depression in 1929-30. At the same time there has been a marked tendency for the local business of non-Australian assurance companies to diminish, and, especially after the war, the number of local assurance institutions increased.

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 years 1930-31 and 1931-32 is shown below.

The business 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.

Classification.	1930-31.				1931-32.			
	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.
Assurance...	No.	£	£	£	No.	£	£	£
Endowment	112,619	64,496,247	13,063,039	1,023,677	111,454	62,873,358	13,779,687	1,870,470
Assurance	149,502	33,050,505	5,251,751	1,263,480	143,870	32,101,587	5,388,497	1,240,411
Pure Endowment.	15,439	2,510,928	57,091	95,808	14,329	2,265,322	63,078	87,106
Total...	277,610	100,057,680	18,371,881	3,302,965	269,653	97,240,267	19,231,262	3,197,987

In 1931-32 the majority of the policies, *viz.*, 53 per cent., represented endowment assurances; whole-life policies were 41 per cent., and endow-

ments 6 per cent. of the total number. The amount assured under the whole-life policies represented 65 per cent. of the total (exclusive of bonus additions), the average per policy being £564, endowment assurance policies, with an average of £223 per policy, covered 33 per cent. of the total amount assured; and endowment policies, with an average of £158 per policy, 2 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.

A classification of the industrial business in force in New South Wales is shown below:—

Classification.	1930-31.				1931-32.			
	Policies in Force.	Amount Assured exclusive of Bonus Additions.	Bonus Additions.*	Annual Premiums Payable.	Policies in Force.	Amount Assured exclusive of Bonus Additions.	Bonus Additions.*	Annual Premiums Payable.
	No.	£	£	£	No.	£	£	£
Assurance	71,475	2,042,523	55,743	105,875	69,682	2,045,155	55,405	100,618
Endowment Assurance	493,518	23,379,013	720,927	1,432,089	471,555	22,079,262	713,091	1,330,004
Pure Endowment	39,168	1,603,721	77	108,185	34,816	1,365,709	56	87,041
Total	604,161	27,025,257	776,747	1,646,149	576,053	25,490,126	768,552	1,517,663

* Partly estimated.

Annuities.

Transactions in annuities are not numerous, the business in force in New South Wales in 1931-32 being 483 policies for an aggregate amount of £44,105 per annum in the ordinary branch, and three policies representing £217 per annum in the industrial department.

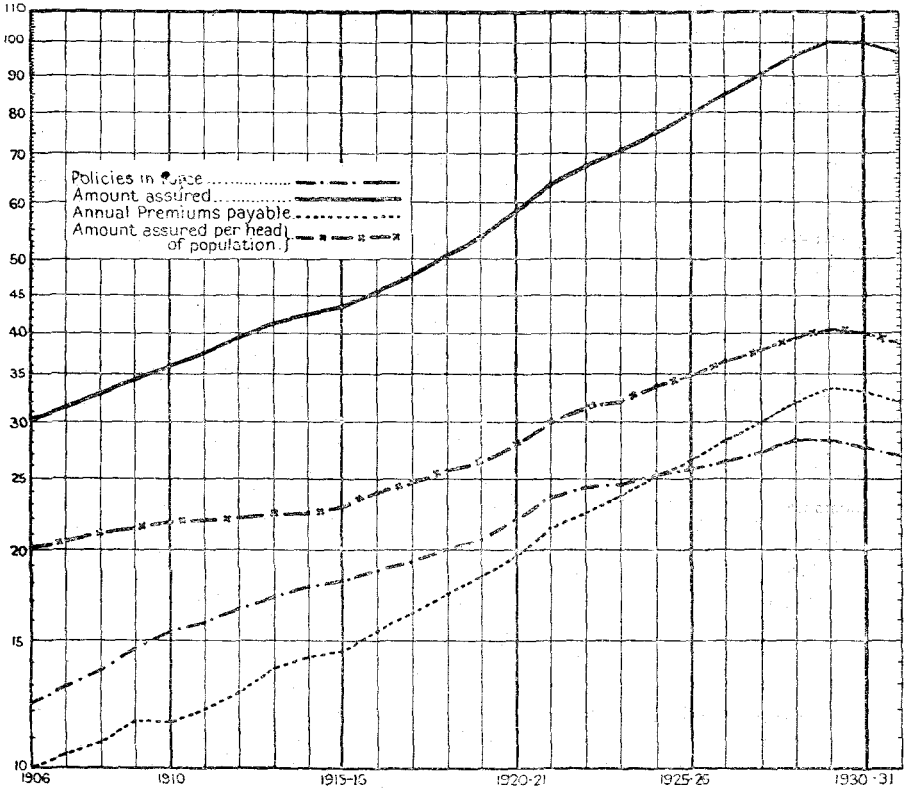
New Business.

The new life assurance business, ordinary and industrial, effected in New South Wales during the last five 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.
		£	£		£	£
1927-28	26,743	11,331,420	395,129	119,469	6,284,517	381,050
1928-29	33,298	12,984,604	453,724	131,498	6,987,127	417,364
1929-30	26,422	11,650,396	405,031	124,013	6,821,670	405,139
1930-31	19,515	9,058,478	320,555	97,970	5,102,788	307,401
1931-32	18,784	7,460,868	263,102	89,736	4,203,452	252,045

The amount assured under new policies rose each year until 1928-29. In the industrial branch business had been expanding more rapidly than in the ordinary branch, but in 1928-29 the increase in the amount assured in the ordinary branch was 15 per cent. and in the industrial branch 11 per cent. The decline in volume of new business in 1929-30 was relatively much more severe in the ordinary branch than in the industrial branch, but during the years 1930-31 and 1931-32 the proportionate decreases in both departments were about equal.

LIFE ASSURANCE—ORDINARY BUSINESS, 1906 to 1932.
(Ratio Graph.)



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. The vertical scale is logarithmic, and each curve rises and falls according to the rate of increase or decrease. In this it differs from the natural scale graph, in which the curves rise and fall according to the actual increase or decrease. Actual values are shown 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 at the end of the last five 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.	£	£
1927-28	270,973	90,203,018	2,985,500	562,329	23,729,585	1,448,405
1928-29	283,416	96,368,918	3,199,603	604,275	26,186,916	1,604,964
1929-30	283,516	100,129,679	3,323,428	620,027	27,801,127	1,695,877
1930-31	277,610	100,057,680	3,302,965	604,161	27,025,257	1,646,149
1931-32	269,653	97,240,267	3,197,987	576,053	25,490,126	1,517,663

The bonus additions effective in 1931-32 amounted to £19,231,262 in the ordinary branch, and those in the industrial branch were estimated at £768,552.

The amount assured in the ordinary branch increased by approximately £25,000,000, or by 35 per cent., in the five years ended 30th June, 1929, and in the industrial branch by £11,000,000 or by 73 per cent. The rate of growth diminished in 1929-30 and in 1930-31 there was a slight recession in both departments which extended in 1931-32.

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.
1926-27	113	223	36 3 10	9 2 7	321	41	10 12 9	2 8 11
1927-28	113	234	37 11 5	9 17 8	333	42	11 0 4	2 11 6
1928-29	116	247	39 7 5	10 14 0	340	43	11 5 9	2 13 1
1929-30	114	250	40 8 2	11 4 5	353	45	11 14 5	2 14 8
1930-31	111	242	40 0 4	10 16 2	360	45	11 17 11	2 14 6
1931-32	107	228	38 8 9	10 1 6	351	44	11 17 2	2 12 8

Until 1929-30 ordinary insurance business was growing steadily at a rate somewhat more rapid than the growth of population, and industrial business was growing at a much faster rate. The increase was much smaller in 1929-30, and in 1930-31 there was a general recession which developed in intensity during 1931-32.

Australasian Assurance Societies—Total Business.

The life assurances undertaken in New South Wales by foreign companies represent a very small proportion of their total business and an insignificant proportion of the business done in New South Wales.

A summary of the total business—ordinary and industrial—of the Australasian societies operating in New South Wales, 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 and Reserves.	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
1925-26	33	2,678,790	22,189	12,860	124,361	6,595	5.52
1930-31	24	3,190,768	29,898	20,032	178,307	9,802	5.67
1931-32	21	3,110,635	29,275	23,073	185,432	9,637	5.30

* Exclusive of capital and reserve funds, etc.

The annual additions to the funds have shown a considerable increase since 1911, and there was gradual increase in earning power of funds from 1910-11, when 4.46 per cent. was realised, until a rate equal to 5.64 per cent. was reached in 1926-1927. The rate in 1928 and 1929 was somewhat lower; then it rose to 5.67 per cent. in 1930-31, from which level it relapsed to 5.3 per cent., being the lowest point reached since 1921-2.

The following table shows details of the total receipts and disbursements of the Australasian institutions during 1931-32 for both classes of business, including small amounts of business done in New South Wales by non-Australasian companies.

Particulars.	Ordinary Branch.	Industrial Branch.	Total.
Receipts—			
Premiums—	£	£	£
New	1,266,912	} 4,992,347	19,094,060
Renewal	12,834,801		
Consideration for Annuities... ..	83,363	...	83,363
Interest on Investments*	8,053,110	1,390,017	9,443,127
Rents	156,754	37,414	194,168
Other Receipts	438,829	20,979	459,808
Total Receipts	22,833,769	6,440,757	29,274,526
Expenditure—			
Claims and Policies matured	8,376,377	1,989,242	10,365,619
Surrenders	3,943,400	481,196	4,427,596
Annuities	139,116	285	139,401
Cash Bonuses and Dividends	1,082,185	86,120	1,168,305
Expenses, incl. commission, and brokerage	2,137,191	1,637,351	3,774,542
Taxes	1,409,321	228,644	1,637,965
Depreciation, Reserves, Transfers, etc. ...	1,156,987	402,826	1,559,813
Total Expenditure	18,244,577	4,828,664	23,073,241

* Includes rent in some cases.

A more detailed comparison of receipts and expenditure for each of the past ten years is shown on pages 44 and 45 of the Statistical Register for 1931-32.

The receipts of the societies consist mainly of premiums on policies and of interest arising from investments. The former represented 61.8 per cent. of the receipts in 1931-32 and the latter 35.3 per cent. in the ordinary branch, corresponding figures for the industrial branch being 77.5 per cent. and 21.6 per cent. respectively. Payments on account of death claims, policies matured and surrendered, and cash bonuses and dividends amounted in 1931-32 to £13,541,078, or 74.2 per cent. in the ordinary branch, and in the industrial branch £2,559,843, or 53.0 per cent. Expenses of management, including taxes, constituted 19.4 per cent. of the expenditure in the ordinary branch and 38.6 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, Taxes, etc.	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
1925-26	3,727,350	14,635,673	22,189,345	25·47	16·80
1930-31*	4,897,622	19,557,848	29,897,842	25·04	16·38
1931-32*	5,412,507	19,094,060	29,274,526	28·35	18·49

* Includes a small amount of New South Wales business of foreign companies.

The expenses of management in 1931-32 include £1,745,434 commission and brokerage, £439,677 payments to agents, etc., £1,637,965 income and other taxes, and £1,589,431 in general office management expenses. The increase in the relative and absolute amount of management since 1928-29 has been due to the increase in taxation from £351,329 in that year to £1,637,965 in 1931-32.

Particulars regarding the management expenses of the ordinary and industrial branches are stated separately in the following table for each of the past five years:—

Year.	Ordinary Branch.		Industrial Branch.	
	Proportion of Management Expenses (including Taxes) to—			
	Premium Income.	Total Receipts.	Premium Income.	Total Receipts.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
1927-28	19·71	12·59	38·72	31·32
1928-29	18·45	11·92	37·36	30·11
1929-30	20·83	13·09	37·42	29·87
1930-31	21·03	12·96	36·16	28·45
1931-32	25·15	15·53	37·38	28·97

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.

Liabilities and Assets.

The following table gives a summary of the total liabilities and assets of the Australasian societies in the year 1931-32:—

Liabilities.		Assets.	
Assurance Funds—	£	Loans—	£
Participating in Profits ...	167,672,969	On Mortgage ...	41,168,931
Not participating in Profits ...	1,183,784	„ Municipal and Other	
Claims Investment Fund ...	1,816	Local Rates ...	37,768,553
Other Assurance Funds ...	10,847,203	„ Reversionary, Life, and	
		Other Interests ...	548,637
Total ...	179,705,772	„ Policies ...	26,806,927
Other Funds—		„ Personal Security ...	38,481
Guarantee and Contingency		„ Government Securities..	56,874
Funds ...	462,786	„ Other Debentures and	
Investment Fluctuation		Bonds ...	1,471,358
Fund ...	2,256,165	Miscellaneous Loans ...	982,331
Paid-up Capital ...	1,648,670		
Reserve Funds ...	1,358,629	Total ...	108,842,092
Total Funds ...	185,432,022		
Other Liabilities—		Government Securities ...	50,627,881
Claims admitted but not		Other Securities and Shares ...	10,585,319
paid ...	1,564,293	Real Estate ...	8,538,083
Outstanding Accounts ...	863,281	Other Assets ...	10,173,237
Miscellaneous ...	907,016		
Total Liabilities ...	£188,766,612	Total Assets ...	£188,766,612

Under legislation passed in 1932 companies are obliged to deposit certain sums with the Commonwealth 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 in more recent years attention was given to Government securities and investments in shares, and large sums were 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 1931-32 being only £38,481.

The following comparison relating to liabilities and assets of Australasian life assurance institutions illustrates the rapid growth of the funds, etc., of the assurance societies:—

Year.	Liabilities.			Assets.		
	Paid-up Capital and Accumulated Funds.	Other Liabilities.	Total.	Loans on Mortgages, Policies, etc.	Securities, Freehold Property, etc.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1895-96	21,497,059*	...	21,497,059	15,600,229	5,896,830	21,497,059
1900-01	27,471,223*	...	27,471,223	19,013,579	8,457,644	27,471,223
1905-06	34,915,842	951,520	35,867,362	22,072,061	13,795,301	35,867,362
1910-11	45,668,204	775,785	46,443,989	30,625,778	15,818,211	46,443,989
1915-16	61,572,309	1,619,028	63,191,337	45,535,992	17,655,345	63,191,337
1920-21	83,028,808	6,992,147	90,020,955	40,127,817	49,893,138	90,020,955
1925-26	124,361,308	4,576,073	128,937,381	62,387,027	66,550,354	128,937,381
1930-31	178,306,700	3,530,543	181,837,243	106,095,791	75,741,452	181,837,243
1931-32	185,432,022	3,334,590	188,766,612	108,842,092	79,924,520	188,766,612

* Includes other liabilities.

The ratio of loans on the security of mortgages, local rates, policies, etc., to total assets, which was between 60 and 70 per cent. up to the year 1915-16, was reduced to 43 per cent. by 1921-22 and has risen since that year to 58 per cent. in 1931-32. These changes were due mainly to fluctuating investments in war loans of the Governments, which represented 17 per cent. in 1915-16, compared with 44 per cent. in 1921-22 and 27 per cent. in 1931-32.

FIRE, MARINE, AND GENERAL INSURANCE.

The nature of the local insurances effected during the year 1931-32 is shown in the following table. The particulars relate to New South Wales risks only. 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.	Premiums in New South Wales, less Re-insurances in Australia and New Zealand.		Expenditure in New South Wales.					Proportion of Premium Income.		
	£	£	Losses, less Re-insurances.	Expenses of Management.		Total.	Losses	Com-mission and Agents' Charges	Other Management Expenses.	
				Com-mission and Agents' Charges	Other.					
	£	£	£	£	£	percent.	percent.	percent.		
Fire	2,115,679	821,614	337,998	664,868	1,824,480	38.83	15.98	31.43		
Marine	337,224	321,765	27,736	105,492	454,993	95.42	8.22	31.28		
Personal Accident	110,478	53,769	20,746	26,804	101,259	48.62	18.78	24.26		
Employers' Liability and Workmen's Compensation..	775,088	646,216	38,521	193,205	878,042	53.37	4.97	24.94		
Public Risk, Third Party ..	42,677	9,024	6,521	10,338	25,883	21.45	15.50	24.57		
Plate-glass	59,755	20,354	10,535	15,800	46,189	34.06	17.63	25.60		
Motor Car and Motor Cycle ..	640,253	334,739	76,976	134,284	545,699	52.28	11.98	20.97		
Hailstone	34,320	14,499	6,058	7,813	28,370	42.25	17.65	22.77		
Boiler Explosion	10,691	3,439	1,071	2,199	6,760	32.17	10.02	20.57		
Live Stock	7,697	15,119	1,461	2,143	18,723	196.43	18.98	27.84		
Burglary	62,480	29,218	10,571	14,040	53,829	46.78	16.92	22.47		
Guarantee	30,852	6,852	4,214	7,543	18,609	22.21	13.66	24.45		
Loss of Profits	38,017	2,929	6,410	10,351	19,690	7.70	16.86	27.23		
Elevator	3,335	10	536	923	1,469	.30	16.07	27.68		
Sprinkler	2,899	3,815	420	727	4,962	131.60	14.49	25.08		
Plinius	6,604	2,260	648	1,751	4,659	34.22	9.81	26.51		
Householders' Comprehensive..	51,821	17,270	6,576	11,809	35,745	33.33	12.69	22.96		
Other	4,956	11,212	645	801	12,658	226.23	13.01	16.16		
Total Premiums	4,334,226	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Interest, etc.	278,314	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	4,612,540	2,314,044	557,343	1,210,581	4,081,968	53.39	12.86	27.93		

The total losses amounted to 53.4 per cent. of the premiums. The expenses for commission and agents' charges were £57,343, and for general management £1,210,581, making a total of £1,767,924 or 40.79 per cent. of the premium income. In 1930-31 losses amounted to £2,641,941, or 55.2 per cent. of premium income, and expenses, £1,950,752, represented 40.7 per cent.

The principal classes of insurance, according to the amount of net premiums are fire, employers' liability and workmen's compensation, motor vehicles, and marine.

General insurance business transacted in New South Wales has decreased since 1928-29, when premium income from all classes of risk reached the high level of £6,229,699. After a slight decline in 1929-30 amounting to £190,825, there was a pronounced fall of £1,249,472 in 1930-31, representing 20.7 per cent. of the premium income of the previous year. All of the main classes of business suffered; those most seriously affected being workers' compensation with a decline of £541,915, motor car and cycle £330,354, fire £189,787, marine £130,661, and personal accident £41,425. Further recessions in 1931-32, amounting to £455,176 in the aggregate, were workers' compensation £239,016, motor car and cycle £138,913, fire £70,978 and personal accident £22,067. Marine insurance with a premium income of £337,224 showed an increase of £41,337 over 1930-31.

The total fall of 52 per cent. of premium income from workers' compensation insurance is due mainly to the revision of charges consequent upon a restriction of benefits and the accumulation of experience regarding risks carried, together with the widespread growth of unemployment.

A summary of the revenue and expenditure in respect of general insurance transactions in New South Wales in the period of five years ended June, 1932, is shown below:—

Particulars.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Revenue—					
Net Premiums	£ 6,189,643	£ 6,229,699	£ 6,038,874	£ 4,789,402	£ 4,334,226
Interest, etc.	305,434	329,369	354,407	355,089	278,314
Total	6,495,077	6,559,068	6,393,281	5,144,491	4,612,540
Expenditure—					
Losses	3,601,889	3,804,141	3,330,404	2,641,941	2,314,044
Management— Commission and Agents' Charges	804,054	838,496	790,875	621,037	557,343
Other Expenses	1,370,591	1,396,078	1,397,116	1,320,715	1,210,581
Total	5,776,534	6,038,715	5,518,395	4,592,693	4,081,968
Excess of Revenue..	718,543	520,353	874,886	551,798	530,572
Proportion to Premium In- come—	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Losses	58.19	61.06	55.15	55.16	53.39
Expenses—					
Commission, etc.	12.99	13.46	13.10	12.97	12.86
Other	22.14	22.41	23.14	27.76	27.93

During the five years shown above approximately 57 per cent. of the premiums have been repaid to insurers to cover losses. The fluctuations in the excess of revenue were due mainly to the amount of losses in fire insurance.

In proportion to premium income the losses and expenses vary greatly in the different classes of insurance. The following table shows a comparison under these heads for the past five years:—

Class.	Proportion per cent. of Losses to Premiums.					Proportion per cent. of Expenses to Premiums.				
	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
	Fire	56.3	67.5	54.4	49.3	38.83	43.8	44.8	44.5	47.4	47.4
Marine	42.7	51.6	43.1	40.8	95.42	33.1	33.4	34.7	52.2	39.5
General Accident ...	49.7	50.0	48.5	45.4	48.62	46.0	35.1	44.2	41.3	43.0
Employers' Liability and Workers' Compensation	67.9	69.8	62.8	73.2	83.37	20.6	22.8	24.4	28.1	29.9
Public Risk, Third Party	34.3	28.1	29.4	26.3	21.45	37.2	36.5	35.5	45.0	40.1
Plate Glass	33.2	30.8	30.9	33.3	34.06	38.5	37.8	42.5	42.4	43.2
Motor Car and Motor Cycle	59.0	52.0	58.4	62.0	52.28	36.3	35.1	33.7	34.2	33.0
Hailstone... ..	39.7	18.1	32.4	32.3	42.25	47.2	46.6	42.6	40.4	40.4
Boiler Explosion	27.9	24.6	37.8	62.7	32.17	32.0	23.3	25.0	26.1	30.6
Live Stock	104.2	53.1	48.7	39.1	196.43	47.4	45.9	46.5	51.2	46.8
Burglary	39.8	44.1	45.0	46.3	46.76	39.5	36.3	36.3	39.1	39.4
Guarantee	44.4	54.5	69.7	39.2	22.21	37.1	36.1	38.8	36.6	38.1
Loss of Profits	66.7	8.5	25.7	19.4	7.70	37.6	37.2	38.5	41.4	44.1
Elevator ... ..	...	...	...	14.4	0.30	38.7	40.5	34.7	38.8	43.8
Sprinkler	51.1	30.1	33.1	13.9	131.60	36.2	36.1	34.0	37.6	39.6
Other	47.1	29.1	32.4	90.0	48.50	128.2	35.8	33.4	36.2	35.4
Total	59.2	61.1	55.1	55.2	53.39	35.1	35.9	36.2	40.7	40.8

In some cases the losses and expenses of management combined exceed the amount of premium income. This does not necessarily mean an aggregate loss on the class of business concerned, because societies have other sources of income, such as interest, which it is not possible to allocate to respective classes of insurance.

Many policies are for a period of twelve months, and the majority of the insurance companies set aside annually a reserve for unexpired risks. In the case of fire insurance the amount so set aside is usually 40 per cent. of the net premium income of the year. By reviewing the figures to calculate a reserve on that basis, it is found that fire business in New South Wales showed a substantial underwriting surplus in 1924-25, and a small surplus in 1925-26. In the next three years, however, there were deficits to be made good by interest earnings, etc., the amounts being large in 1926-27 and in 1928-29. Small surpluses were shown in 1929-30 and 1930-31, whilst that for 1931-32 amounted to £291,199.

The total amount of the fire insurance written in New South Wales was £520,473,844 in 1925, £525,252,189 in 1926, £556,098,507 in 1927, £620,259,548 in 1928, £626,946,940 in 1929, £632,831,566 in 1930, £584,810,551 in 1931, and £599,096,810 in 1932. The measures taken for the prevention of fire are described in the chapter "Local Government."

Insurance relating to the liability of employers grew rapidly while wages were rising and as the scope of workers' compensation was extended by legislation. An amended Workers' Compensation Act, which commenced on 1st July, 1926, increased the amount of compensation payable, extended the benefits to a large body of workers previously excluded, and placed upon employers the obligation of insuring against liability in respect of practically all classes of employees. The premiums amounted to £1,749,775 in 1927-28,

to £1,626,742 in 1928-29, to £1,556,019 in 1929-30, to £1,014,104 in 1930-31, and to £775,088 in 1931-32. Details regarding the workers' compensation law and its operation are shown in chapter "Employment" of this Year Book.

The insurance of motor cars also developed rapidly, its growth being due to an increased use of these vehicles, but premiums declined from £1,109,520 in 1929-30 to £779,166 in 1930-31 and to £640,253 in 1931-32.

For marine insurance the premium receipts, which amounted to £552,202 in 1925-26, have declined since to £337,224, the latter amount representing an improvement on the previous year of £41,337.

Government Insurance Office.

The Government Insurance Office of New South Wales transacts workers' compensation insurance for employers generally, as well as fire and other classes of insurance (except life assurance) for Government departments and statutory bodies and their employees. The establishment of the office was an outcome of the extension of workers' compensation benefits under the Act of 1926. It took over the internal insurance fund which had been created under the Treasury Insurance Board in 1911 for the insurance of Government buildings against fire risks. From time to time its operations were extended to provide other classes of insurance for Government and public bodies. The Government Insurance Office provides workers' compensation insurance in respect of private as well as public employment in order that employers may be enabled to fulfil at the lowest cost their obligations to insure their employees as prescribed by the Act. The scope of the activities of the Government Office is defined by the Government Insurance (Enabling and Validating) Act, 1927, deemed to have commenced on 30th June, 1926. The activities of the Government Insurance Office were confined during the middle of 1933 to risks where the Crown is the direct owner or employer except that, in the case of Workers' Compensation insurance, insurances offered by the public must be accepted until the passage of amending legislation.

Particulars of the business transacted by the Government Insurance Office during the year 1931-32 are shown below:—

Particulars.	Workers' Compensation.	Fire and Marine.	Motor Vehicles.	Other. *	Total.
Premiums <i>less</i> Reinsurances, etc. ...	£ 112,861	£ 41,050	£ 28,930	£ 3,610	£ 186,451
Interest, etc.	19,308	14,913	2,832	2,391	39,444
Total Revenue ...	£ 132,169	55,963	31,762	6,001	225,895
Claims <i>less</i> Reinsurances, etc.	75,496	8,869	12,768	1,106	98,239
Expenses (and Taxation)	31,186	17,975	7,461	1,273	57,895
Total Expenditure ...	£ 106,682	26,844	20,229	2,379	156,134
Surplus	25,487	29,119	11,533	3,622	69,761

* Including Treasury Guarantee Fund.

Premium income from workers' compensation insurance declined in 1931-32 by £88,444, due to reduced charges and prevailing unemployment. Business in other departments showed a slight increase on the previous year.

In 1930-31 net premium income amounted to £272,970, including £201,305 in respect of workers' compensation; interest amounted to £47,747; net claims to £121,147 and expenses, including taxes, to £72,369—leaving a surplus of £127,201 on the year's transactions.

The general reserve funds accumulated in six years' operations amount to £783,576, and the assets of the office amounted to £986,749 at 30th June, 1932.

BANKRUPTCY.

The Bankruptcy Act, 1924-30, of the Commonwealth superseded the bankruptcy laws of the States as from 1st August, 1928. Under the Federal law sequestration orders may be made by the Bankruptcy Court on a bankruptcy petition presented either by a debtor or by a creditor. The Court may refuse to make an order on a debtor's petition if his unsecured liabilities are under £50, and creditors may not petition unless the indebtedness amounts to £50. Upon sequestration the property of the bankrupt vests in an official receiver for division amongst the creditors. Provision is made also for compositions and assignments without sequestration and for deeds of arrangement.

Statistics relating to the sequestration and assignment of estates of persons who are unable to pay their debts afford some indication of the fluctuations in the business conditions of the community. At the present time, however, it is not practicable to make comparisons between the transactions in former years under the State law and those recorded since the commencement of the federal system owing to the material alterations made in regard to legal proceedings between debtors and creditors. Moreover the federal records will not provide an entirely satisfactory basis for conclusions until the people have become familiar with these changes.

The following statement shows particulars of the bankruptcies (sequestrations, compositions, assignments, and deeds of arrangement) in New South Wales under the Bankruptcy Act of the Commonwealth in each of the past four years. The records are inclusive of cases in the Federal Capital Territory which for the purposes of the Act is included in the Bankruptcy district of New South Wales:—

Particulars.	Year ended 31st December—			
	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
Sequestration Orders—	No.	No.	No.	No.
Number... ..	500	659	557	318
Liabilities as estimated by Debtors £	729,552	1,101,619	732,477	684,496
Assets " " " " £	545,724	787,244	486,525	330,483
Composition and Assignments without Sequestration—				
Number... ..	28	52	25	5
Liabilities as estimated by Debtors £	25,591	89,627	394,409	278,178
Assets " " " " £	19,480	81,378	297,673	39,142
Deeds of Arrangement—				
Number... ..	319	640	713	324
Liabilities as estimated by Debtors £	709,233	1,495,456	1,750,097	553,221
Assets " " " " £	662,980	1,506,054	1,983,617	511,182
Total—Number	847	1,351	1,295	647
Liabilities £	1,464,376	2,686,702	2,876,983	1,515,895
Assets £	1,228,184	2,374,676	2,767,815	880,807

There was a marked decline in the volume of failures over the last year, but the value of assets relatively to the amount of liabilities fell from 84 per cent. in 1929, 88 per cent. in 1930, and 96 per cent. in 1931, to 58 per cent. in 1932.

Data as to the number of bankruptcies and the amount of liabilities of bankrupts each month are published in the "Monthly Summary of Business Statistics."

At any time after he has been publicly examined, or at such times as are prescribed, a bankrupt may apply for an order of discharge releasing him from his debts, and he must apply when the Court orders him to do so. The Court may either grant or refuse an absolute order of discharge, or may suspend its operation for a specified time or may grant an order subject to conditions with respect to future income or property acquired subsequently. During the year ended 31st July, 1932, 128 applications were made for orders of discharge, 126 orders were granted—41 unconditionally, 51 with conditions, and 34 were subject to suspension for periods under two years—and 16 cases were pending at the end of the year.

TRANSACTIONS IN REAL ESTATE.

The procedure in regard to land transfers is regulated under the Real Property Act, 1900 and its amendments. The title under this Act first conferred under the Real Property Act, 1862, is known as "Torrens" title. 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 of the past five years 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.	£	£	£
1928	572,247	47,755	620,002	532,980	2,972,948	3,505,928
1929	549,746	38,986	588,732	436,572	2,417,307	2,853,879
1930	550,461	32,130	582,591	493,781	1,899,281	2,393,062
1931	442,681	8,728	451,409	473,718	801,903	1,275,621
1932	399,790	10,689	410,479	445,610	2,359,856	2,805,466

At the close of 1932 lands of a total area of 49,155,237 acres were registered under the Act, the declared value as at date of registration being £118,712,448. The great part of this land consists of Crown grants issued since 1863, but it includes also 2,858,582 acres of land originally under the Registration of Deeds Act, but now under the Real Property Act.

The following table shows for each year of the past decade the amount paid as money consideration on sales of private lands, that is, of lands absolutely alienated with titles registered under the statutes shown. Transfers of conditional purchases and of leases from the Crown are 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
1923	9,632	44,204	53,836	1928	9,364	47,462	56,826
1924	9,417	38,554	47,971	1929	9,500	45,100	54,600
1925	8,874	39,311	48,185	1930	5,123	20,987	26,110
1926	9,851	48,915	58,766	1931	3,213	10,473	13,686
1927	8,857	47,844	56,701	1932	2,255	9,987	12,242

Monthly statistics of sales of real estate are published in the "Monthly Summary of Business Statistics."

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, 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 1932 was 98.

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.

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.

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 of a bill of sale 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.

Particulars of the mortgages of land, crops, wool, and live stock effected during each of the last five years, are shown below.

Year.	Mortgages of Land.		Mortgages on Crops, Wool, and Live Stock.			
	Number.	Consideration.	Number.			Consideration.
			Crops.	Wool.	Live Stock.	
		£				£
1928	50,005	47,728,870	10,259	3,614	4,614	6,266,633
1929	50,841	48,420,657	7,211	3,709	4,481	6,451,596
1930	36,402	35,037,786	13,542	4,508	4,453	9,842,668
1931	18,959	18,790,164	12,377	5,565	6,437	10,739,592
1932	14,557	8,642,026	10,346	4,773	5,578	8,474,237

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. Where the sum advanced is liable to fluctuation, it is usual to insert the words "valuable consideration" or "cash credit," etc., instead of a definite sum. 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.

The rights of mortgagees have been restricted by the operation since December, 1930, of moratorium laws, now revised and consolidated by the Moratorium Act, 1932. Bankers' liens and liens on crops and wool do not come within the scope of the Act, nor do mortgages executed in favour of a building society or the Crown, except those under the Returned Soldiers Settlement Act or in favour of the Commissioners of the Government

Savings Bank. Hire purchase agreements and judgment debts are subject to special provisions. Benefits extend to mortgages executed both before and after the commencement of the moratorium, unless specially excluded by agreement in the prescribed form.

Without leave of the Court, a mortgagee may not exercise any of his rights for the recovery of money, or for the enforcement or realisation of the security, unless he gives to the mortgagor, who may seek the Court's protection, at least one month's notice of his intention. The mortgagee is not precluded from entering into possession without an order of the Court, if interest, rates and taxes are in arrears for at least two years, or if there has been default in insurance or maintenance, or if the mortgagor abandons possession or comes under the influence of the bankruptcy laws or their equivalent; but in any such case the mortgagor may within three months apply to the Court for an order directing the mortgagee to vacate possession.

In the case of mortgages of land, the moratorium extends to interest payments. Here the mortgagee can only exercise his right to sue if the mortgagor relinquishes his right to protection or comes within the influence of the bankruptcy laws or their equivalent.

The due date for payment of principal moneys is extended to the day of the month in 1936 corresponding to the day of the month specified in the mortgage, or to 28th February, 1936, when payable on demand, except that the Court may grant a further extension.

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 summary of the estimates relating to private wealth at ten-year intervals since 1901 and in 1925.

Year.	Estimated Value.	
	Total.	Per He. d.
	£	£
1901	368,568,000	270
1911	553,816,000	333
1921	947,930,000	450
1925	1,132,000,000	498

Estates of Deceased Persons.

Some 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 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, 1932, including intestate and other estates administered by the Public Trustee:—

Year ended 30th June.	Estates.	Amount.	Year ended 30th June.	Estates.	Amount.
	No.	£		No.	£
1923	5,631	15,441,378	1928	7,749	21,819,953
1924	6,281	16,429,860	1929	7,494	24,548,457
1925	6,410	17,970,385	1930	8,406	25,002,546
1926	6,909	18,390,924	1931	7,332	20,562,001
1927	7,064	18,188,133	1932	8,089	17,504,038

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 relation 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	1910-14	22.9
1885-89	11.6	1915-19	30.1
1890-94	13.2	1920-24	29.0
1895-99	14.9	1925-29	31.5
1900-04	17.0	1930	34.5
1905-09	19.1	1931	33.0

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	1910-14	56.6	34.0
1885-89	37.5	23.8	1915-19	71.3	42.1
1890-94	41.2	25.8	1920-24	68.1	39.3
1895-99	42.7	26.2	1925-29	71.6	41.0
1900-04	46.0	27.8	1930	77.4	44.1
1905-09	48.8	29.2	1931	83.7	46.5

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, it is apparent that the proportion of property-owners in the State has increased.

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, 1932, 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	41,636	14,700,234	58.30	7.51
£1,000 to £5,000	22,075	44,588,302	30.91	22.77
£5,000 to £12,500	4,679	35,937,238	6.55	18.35
£12,500 to £25,000	1,922	32,185,839	2.69	16.44
£25,000 to £50,000	703	24,803,554	0.99	12.67
Over £50,000	400	43,592,508	0.56	22.26
Total	71,415	195,807,675	100.00	100.00

The average value per estate during the period was £2,742, but of the property-owners who died 58 per cent. possessed less than £1,000, the total value of their property being 7.5 per cent. of the aggregate. More than half the property devised was contained in 4 per cent. of the estates.

PRIVATE INCOMES.

Formerly the narrow scope of the State income-tax and latterly the inadequacy of statistical data made available concerning 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 has been of very limited assistance. However, satisfactory results were 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, published by the Federal Commissioner of Taxation. An estimate based on these data was set forth in detail in the 1924 issue of this Year Book.

A comparative statement of estimates of the incomes in various years from 1892 to 1926 is shown below:—

Year.	Net Income of Resident Individuals.	Undistributed Income of Local Companies, etc.	Income accruing to absentees.		Private 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
1925-26†	234,000,000	16,500,000	3,500,000	8,100,000	262,100,000

* Not available.

† Commonwealth and State.

‡ Subject to revision.

The estimate of 1892 relates to a year in which the financial boom had reached its highest point and the income of that year was consequently 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 partly nominal owing to depreciation in the purchasing power of money, though it is certain that the growing prosperity of the community has had a very 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
1925-26§	995,200	42·9	251·7	109·0	4·4

* 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. § Subject to revision.

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.

Existing data as to price levels are insufficient to enable a satisfactory measure of comparison to be made between the real income of post-war and earlier years, because of the difficulty of properly assessing the effect of the inflation of prices, which reached a maximum in 1920.

The foregoing estimates represent, as nearly as may be, the sum of the net incomes derived by private individuals and by companies from sources within New South Wales. As such they contain some duplication in respect of amounts paid from the proceeds of taxation to old-age, invalid and war pensioners and to bondholders in war and other Government loans. On the other hand, appreciable amounts of income derived by the various Governments from State lands, forests and mines and from governmental business enterprises are excluded from account.

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. 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. Slight modification has been made in the system by the Main Roads Act and other laws. The system extends over the whole of the Eastern and Central Land Divisions of the State, with the exception of the Federal Capital Territory. The Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area also was excluded until the year 1928. The sparsely-populated Western Division, embracing two-fifths of the area of the State, is unincorporated, with the exception of the portions included in the municipalities of Bourke, Brewarrina, Broken Hill, Cobar, Wentworth, and Wilcannia, and parts of the municipalities of Balranald and Hillston which lie within its boundaries.

Local governing areas are of two main kinds, viz., municipalities and shires. At the end of 1931 there were 181 municipalities, including the City of Sydney, and their aggregate area was 1,551,555 acres. The smallest municipality is Darlington, a suburb of Sydney, with 54 acres, and the largest is Central Illawarra, 83,054 acres. There were 138 shires, extending over an area of about 181,584 square miles. The smallest is Woy Woy, 48 square miles, which was separated from Erina Shire on 1st August, 1928. The largest is Lachlan, with headquarters at Condobolin, 5,883 square miles. Certain of the municipalities and shires have combined to form county councils, which are local governing bodies, constituted to administer specific services.

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 City of Sydney and forty-one suburban municipalities, including Ku-ring-gai, formerly a shire, which was proclaimed as a municipality as from 1st November, 1928.

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 fifteen aldermen, three for each of the five wards. The Lord Mayor is elected annually by the aldermen from their own number.

Elections are held every third year. In November, 1927, however, an Act was passed which placed the administration of the city in the hands of a temporary Commission until June, 1930, when a new council was elected for a term dating from 1st July, 1930, to 31st December, 1932. The last election was held on 30th June, 1930.

The functions of the Council, exercised during its term of office by the Commission, include the maintenance of the streets and other public ways of the city, though the traffic is regulated by the police. Similarly 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.

The Council exercises authority to generate and supply electricity for public and private purposes; to elect two members of the Board which administers the metropolitan water supply and sewerage services, one being elected in every second year to hold office for a period of four years; and, at the triennial elections of members of the Board of Fire Commissioners of New South Wales, to vote at the election of one member to represent the City of Sydney and the councils of the suburban municipalities.

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 in respect of a ward by those who have occupied continuously for a period of six months a house, shop, or other building of a yearly value of £10 in that ward, also by lodgers who have occupied lodgings of a yearly value of £10 for a period of six months continuously in the same dwelling-house in the ward. In the case of joint occupation as lodger or otherwise only one occupier may be placed on the roll for every £10 of the annual value of the premises. 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.

Enrolment entitles the elector to one vote in each ward in which he is enrolled. Any person qualified to vote is eligible for election as an alderman unless disqualified under the provisions of the Sydney Corporation Act.

System of Local Government.

The Local Government Act of 1919 and its amendments, with ordinances thereunder, 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, but otherwise the services of aldermen and councillors are gratuitous.

Every adult natural-born or naturalised British subject of either sex is qualified to be enrolled as an elector, provided he or she is either a land-owner, 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 rent. By the Local Government (Amendment) Act, 1927, the franchise was extended to all adult residents of a ward or riding who have been residing there continuously for a period of six months. Persons may be enrolled and may vote in respect of each ward or riding in which they are qualified as owners or as rate-paying lessees, but not more than once in respect of the same ward or riding. A person qualified as owner or as rate-paying lessee in a ward or riding who is qualified also as an occupier in another ward or riding of the same municipality or shire may not be enrolled under both qualifications. He may choose the ward or riding in which he desires to be enrolled, and failing due notice of his choice he is enrolled where he is qualified as owner or lessee. A person qualified as occupier in more than one ward or riding may be enrolled in one only.

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 under the Local Government Act as a city if it is an independent centre of population with an average population of at least 20,000 people, and an average annual income of at least £20,000. Sydney, Armidale, Bathurst, Goulburn, Grafton, and Newcastle were proclaimed as cities under the Crown Lands Act in 1885, and Broken Hill was proclaimed under the Local Government Act in 1907.

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, 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.

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.

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.

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 1931 four county districts were in existence. 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.

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 1931 the incorporated area was about 184,010 square miles, or nearly 60 per cent. of the total area of the State (309,432 square miles). The population in municipalities and shires as at 31st December, 1931, was 2,504,560, or 99 per cent. of the total population.

The area, population, and unimproved capital value of ratable property in the incorporated areas as at 31st December, 1931, are stated below:—

Local Areas.	Area.	Population.	Unimproved Capital Value.
Metropolitan Area—	acres.	No	£
City of Sydney	3,244	109,400	†56,960,774
Other Municipalities	150,704	1,154,710	118,250,241
Shires	284,160	49,900	10,223,471
Total, Metropolitan*	438,108	1,314,010	185,434,486
Country—			
Municipalities	1,397,607	534,610	40,786,230
Shires	115,929,600	655,840	152,516,099
Total, Country	117,327,207	1,190,550	193,302,329
Grand Total	117,765,315	2,504,560	378,736,815

* Schedule IV, Local Government Act, 1919. † Excluding Federal Government and other non-ratable properties.

The area of the country shires as shown above excludes 28 square miles of Federal Territory at Jervis Bay, and the Federal Capital Territory, containing an area of 912 square miles.

The improved capital value of ratable property in the City of Sydney, as at 31st December, 1931, was £192,194,440, and the assessed annual value £8,253,241. In the older municipalities included in the metropolitan area, as defined by Schedule IV of the Local Government Act, the improved

capital value was £334,390,936 and the assessed annual value was £25,689,642. In the three shires in the metropolitan area the corresponding values were improved £20,658,777 and annual £1,305,784, so that the improved capital value of the metropolitan area was £547,244,153 and the assessed annual value £35,248,667. In the country municipalities the improved value was £131,552,584, and the annual value £10,277,515. Similar particulars are not available for the country shires.

The financial position of the municipalities and shires in 1931 was as follows:—

Local Areas.	Total Revenue.			Total Expenditure.	Total Liabilities.	Total Assets.
	Rates Levied.	Other.	Total.			
Metropolitan Area—						
City of Sydney	£ 11,082,930	£ 2,885,163	£ 3,968,093	£ 4,237,481	£ 28,326,823	£ 29,751,548
Other Municipalities .. .	2,497,057	764,188	3,261,245	3,124,933	7,189,166	3,624,079
Shires	193,581	156,655	350,236	319,962	979,950	702,754
Total, Metropolitan* ..	3,773,568	3,806,006	7,579,574	7,682,376	36,445,939	34,058,381
Country—						
Municipalities	1,254,632	1,623,372	2,878,004	2,612,817	7,642,538	16,092,042
Shires	1,226,480	1,156,238	2,382,718	2,154,577	1,618,274	2,534,025
Total, Country	2,481,112	2,779,610	5,260,722	4,767,394	9,260,812	12,626,067
Grand Total	6,254,680	6,585,616	12,840,296	12,449,770	45,706,751	46,684,448

* Schedule IV, Local Government Act, 1919.

† Includes Harbour Bridge Rates, £118,888, and Main Roads Board Rates, £59,273.

The revenue shown under "Other" is mainly derived from business undertakings, such as lighting services, etc. Particulars of these and of the operations of individual councils are published annually in the Statistical Register of New South Wales. The revenue and expenditure shown above include the main roads and harbour bridge rates, collected by the councils for the Main Roads Board and the State Treasury respectively.

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 had remained 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 the Valuer-General. The Act prescribed that rates and taxes based on land values must be levied on the values determined by the Valuer-General, and that the power of a council to assess values ceased when the Valuer-General delivered a valuation list. A council may, however, ask the Valuer-General to re-value any land which it considers has not been valued correctly, and pending action by the Valuer-General the valuations are made by the council's assessors as formerly. Valuations either by the Valuer-General or the councils' valuers are subject to review on appeal to the Land and Valuation Court, described in the chapter of this Year Book relating to Law Courts.

This system was modified by the Local Government Act, 1924, to provide that the council of a shire, other than the Blue Mountains Shire or any shire wholly or partly within the County of Cumberland, may decide whether the valuation should 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 must show 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 determination 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 Valuer-General usually determines such values for shires within his jurisdiction.

The unimproved capital value is defined, in both the Local Government Act and the Valuation of Land Act, 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 Valuer-General's valuations cover all land except Commonwealth properties, reserves, parks, etc., and unoccupied Crown lands, and the values are on a freehold basis. For purposes of rating, however, the unimproved capital value of Crown lands occupied as pastoral or agricultural holdings is twenty times the rent payable to the Crown during the year preceding the assessment. After the expiry of ten years of the term of leases, lands leased from the Crown with right of conversion to freehold are rated on thirty times the annual rental paid.

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.

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 1930 Crown lands in the City of Sydney were ratable whether built upon or not, and following properties were 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 schools certified under the Public Instruction Act, and playgrounds in connection therewith.

In terms of the Rating (Exemption) Act, 1931, which commenced on 1st January, 1932, all Crown lands have been exempted from rating except those leased for private purposes or used in connection with a State industrial undertaking. By the same Act the exemption of church and school lands was extended to embrace all lands belonging to religious bodies, including those occupied solely by clergymen or official heads of religious bodies or used for religious teaching or training; all State schools and those certified

under the Public Instruction Act or registered under the Bursary Endowment Act, and playgrounds and teachers' and caretakers' residences belonging to or used in connection with these schools.

The underground mains of the gas and hydraulic power companies are ratable. Properties of the Commonwealth Government are not ratable, though a contribution is made to the funds of the Council in respect of part of them.

In municipalities and shires under the Local Government Act all lands, including areas vested in the Railway Commissioners and the Sydney Harbour Trust, were ratable in 1931 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 for public hospitals, public benevolent institutions, or public 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; church lands belonging to religious bodies, used for public worship, or solely as the clergyman's residence; public roads, streets, wharves, etc; lands belonging to and used for schools registered under the Bursary Endowment Act, or certified under the Public Instruction (Amendment) Act, 1916, including playgrounds belonging to and used in connection with such schools. As from the beginning of the year 1932 Crown lands and church and school properties in areas under the Local Government Act were exempted by the Rating (Exemption) Act, 1931, under the same conditions as in the City of Sydney (see above). Where water is supplied or sewerage or drainage services are rendered, a charge or fee may be imposed in respect of properties thus exempted from rating.

In the following table are shown the aggregate valuations used for assessing rates on ratable property and the value of improvements in local government areas in the year 1931. Complete data as to the value of improvements in shires is not available as only a few of the country shires record the improved capital or assessed annual value, but for the purpose of completing the table, it has been assumed that in the aggregate improvements in country shires are equivalent to the unimproved value.

Division.	Unimproved Value of Ratable Land.			Value of Improvements on Ratable Land.		
	Total.	Average Per Head.	Average Per Acre.	Total.	Average Per Head.	Average Per Acre.
	£000	£	£ s.	£000	£	£ s.
Metropolitan—						
City of Sydney† ...	56,961	522	17,558 17	135,234	1,236	41,687 8
Other Municipalities	118,250	102	784 13	216,141	187	1,434 4
Shires	10,224	205	35 19	10,435	209	36 17
Total, Metropolitan	185,435	141	423 5	361,810	275	825 17
Country—Municipalities	40,786	76	29 4	90,767	170	64 19
Shires	152,516	233	1 6	152,516†	233	1 6
Total Incorporated Areas ...	378,737	151	3 4	605,093	242	5 3

† Federal Government and other non-ratable properties are excluded.

‡ Estimated.

Lands leased from the Crown and assessed on a capitalised rental basis are included above at such capitalised value.

The unincorporated portion of the Western Division contains about 79,600,000 acres, of which 76,000,000 acres are pastoral or agricultural lands held under lease from the Crown at annual rentals. The unimproved capital value of these leaseholds assessed at twenty times the annual rent payable to the Crown would not exceed £3,500,000.

A comparative summary of the unimproved and improved capital values, and the assessed annual value of ratable property, excluding lands coming within the exemptions noted above, is shown in the following statement.

The valuations for the City of Sydney exclude the values of federal and other non-ratable properties and the value of underground mains laid in the city by gas and hydraulic power undertakings which are ratable on the basis of length.

Division.	1921.	1926.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£	£
Unimproved Capital Value.				
Metropolitan—				
City of Sydney	35,887,412	44,758,056	60,896,333	56,960,774
Other Municipalities	57,290,654	84,803,345	118,852,033	118,250,241
Shires	4,875,448	7,601,004	10,218,243	10,223,471
Total Metropolitan	98,053,514	137,162,405	189,966,609	185,434,486
Country—				
Municipalities	27,004,608	34,028,277	40,673,365	40,786,230
Shires	123,398,006	143,152,312	158,635,454	152,516,099
Total Country	150,402,614	177,180,589	199,308,819	193,302,329
Total Incorporated Areas	248,456,128	314,342,994	389,275,428	378,736,815
Improved Capital Value.				
Metropolitan—				
City of Sydney	99,647,080	151,528,760	221,856,440	192,194,440
Other Municipalities	156,849,137	249,835,896	330,381,039	334,390,936
Shires	9,750,000†	14,821,477†	20,484,205	20,658,777
Total Metropolitan	266,246,197	416,186,133	572,721,684	547,244,153
Country Municipalities	74,565,192	104,126,174	128,768,077	131,552,584
Assessed Annual Value.				
Metropolitan—				
City of Sydney	4,484,118	6,818,794	9,553,692	8,253,241
Other Municipalities	10,718,438	18,924,404	25,246,454	25,689,642
Shires	‡	928,218†	1,299,665	1,305,784
Total Metropolitan	‡	26,671,416	36,099,811	35,248,667
Country Municipalities	5,354,867	8,035,997	10,309,586	10,277,515

† Partly estimated. ‡ Not available.

The unimproved capital values for 1931 show a considerable reduction on those for 1930, amounting to £10,539,000, which is accounted for mainly by reductions of £3,936,000 in the City of Sydney, and £6,119,000 in country shires.

Between 1921 and 1931 the unimproved capital values increased by £130,281,000, or 52 per cent., viz., by £87,381,000, or 89 per cent., in the metropolitan areas; and by £42,900,000, or 28 per cent., in the country districts. The increase in the country shires (excluding that due to the incorporation of two new shires in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area) was nearly £27,225,000, or 22 per cent. As the urban and residential lands in shires are not relatively large, this represents roughly the assessed increment of rural land values in the period. In making comparisons, however, allowance should be made for the operations of the Valuer-General in revaluing lands which had been undervalued formerly, therefore it is probable that the actual increase was not so great as the increase indicated by the figures in the foregoing statement.

The ratio of assessed annual value to improved capital value in 1931 was 4.3 per cent. in the City of Sydney, 7.6 per cent. in other metropolitan areas, and 7.8 per cent. in country municipalities. As the assessed annual value is nine-tenths of the actual annual value, the proportions per cent. of annual value to improved value were 4.8 per cent., 8.4 per cent., and 8.7 per cent., respectively.

It is the practice in the City of Sydney to derive the aggregate improved capital value of properties by capitalising the fair average rental at 5 per cent. For this reason the ratio of the assessed annual to the capital values of city properties is lower than the ratios for properties in suburban and country municipalities. It is noteworthy, however, that the appreciation of value, which may be regarded as part of the return on capital value, has been more rapid in the city than in suburban and country municipalities.

The value of improvements, ascertained by deducting the unimproved from the improved values, indicates that very great increases have occurred in all divisions:—

Areas.	Value of Improvements.			
	1921.	1926.	1930.	1931.
Metropolitan—				
City of Sydney	£ 63,760,000	£ 106,771,000	£ 160,960,000†	£ 135,234,000
Other Municipalities	99,558,000	165,033,000	211,529,000	216,141,000
Shires*	4,875,000	7,220,000	10,266,000	10,435,000
Total, Metropolitan	168,193,000	279,024,000	382,755,000	361,810,000
Country Municipalities	47,560,000	70,098,000	88,094,000	90,767,000
Total Municipalities and Metropolitan Shires	215,753,000	349,122,000	470,849,000	452,577,000

* Hornsby, Sutherland, and Warringah Shires.

† Based on unimproved values assessed in 1927, and improved values assessed in 1931.

Valuations by the Valuer-General.

Up to the end of the June, 1932, valuations had been issued by the Valuer-General in respect of 115 municipalities and 39 shires, including one shire valued in 1924 in which the more recent valuations have been made by the council in terms of the amending legislation of 1924. All the districts in the County of Cumberland have been valued by the Valuer-General except the City of Sydney. The assessments are made under the Valuation of Land Act, which provides that all lands shall be valued on a freehold basis, and that all lands shall be valued except those owned by the Commonwealth Government, unoccupied lands owned by the State Government, and Crown reserves, parks, etc. When preparing the rate books of the council,

adjustments are made to provide for the exclusion of non-ratable properties and for the difference between the value of the fee-simple and the capitalised-rent value of leases held from the Crown.

It has been the usual practice to revise the valuations triennially, but in view of a marked depreciation many new valuations have been revised during the last three years.

TAXATION BY LOCAL GOVERNING BODIES.

The total revenue in 1930 of all the Local governing bodies from rates and charges amounted to £9,869,435, equal to £3 19s. 4d. per head of the population residing in the taxable districts. In 1931 the amount was £9,365,156, or £3 15s. 5d. per head. These amounts include rates levied by the municipalities and by shires and rates and charges levied by the various Water and Sewerage Boards referred to later.

The collections by the councils include special and loan rates, Harbour Bridge and main roads rates, amounting to £1,476,567 in 1930 and £1,479,342 in 1931. Of these sums, £278,497 in 1930 and £254,829 in 1931 were levied in the shires.

The distribution of the total amounts is as follows:—

Local Bodies.	1930.		1931.	
	Rates and charges.	Per head of population living in local areas.	Rates and charges.	Per head of population living in local areas.
	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
Municipalities (including City of Sydney)	5,112,592	2 17 1	4,834,619	2 13 9
Shires	1,719,530	2 9 6	1,420,061	2 0 3
†Metropolitan water and sewerage charges	2,704,088	1 15 1	2,796,753	1 15 11
†Hunter District water and sewerage charges	326,483	1 10 8	306,624	1 8 8
Grafton and South Grafton Water Board	6,742	0 19 5	7,099	1 1 8
Total	£ 9,869,435	3 19 4	9 365,156	3 15 5

† Years ended 30th June, 1931 and 1932.

The total amount per head of population was £1 6s. in 1911, and £2 11s. 2d. in 1921.

A comparative statement of the local government rates and charges levied in each of the last five years will be found on pages 374 and 375 of this Year Book, where they are considered in relation to the total taxation imposed in the State.

City of Sydney—Rating.

In 1916 the City Council adopted the principle, embodied in the Local Government Act of 1906, of levying rates for general expenditure upon the unimproved value. Formerly the rates had been levied on the annual rental, with an additional rate since 1909 on the improved capital value. The maximum rate is fixed at 6d. in the £. The exemption from rating was removed from Crown lands in 1916, 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.

In 1923 and subsequent years a rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the £ on the unimproved capital value was levied in respect of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, and since 1925 a rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the £ for main roads.

The following table shows the rates struck and the total amounts levied by the City Council annually since 1923. The amount of rates levied in earlier years is shown in the 1922 issue of the Year Book at page 341.

Year.	City Fund.		Main Roads Rates.	Harbour Bridge Rates.	Total Rates Levied.
	Rate struck in the £ on u.c.v.	Total Amount Levied.			
	pence.	£	£	£	£
1923	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	713,018	...	75,054	788,072
1924	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	651,338	...	93,048	744,386
1925	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	652,397	...	93,199	745,596
1926	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	655,921	46,201	93,246	795,368
1927	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	826,287*	63,537	127,058	1,016,882
1928	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	842,463	63,724	127,447	1,033,634
1929	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	959,112	63,107	126,270	1,148,489
1930	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	959,400	63,068	126,310	1,148,778
1931	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	904,769	59,273	118,888	1,082,930

* Includes £4,906 other rates.

The City Fund rate struck for the years 1932 and 1933 was 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the £.

Suburban and Country Ratings.

Suburban and country municipalities may levy rates of four kinds, viz., general, special, local, and loan rates, and certain of them may be required to levy special rates in respect of main roads and the Sydney Harbour Bridge. 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 the requirements of the area 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 of land ratable to the local fund. 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 1931 the general rates levied in the metropolitan municipalities ranged from 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 6d. In the country municipalities the general rate ranged from 1d. to 18d. on the unimproved value, but in the case of the municipality in which this rate was 1d. there was an additional general rate of 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. on the improved value, and in one with a general rate of 5d. on the unimproved value there was an additional rate of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on the improved value.

The first year in which the general rate was levied on the unimproved capital value was 1908, and a comparison of the general rates struck for various years since then is shown below.

The figures for the metropolitan municipalities exclude the City of Sydney but include all those municipalities in the metropolitan district as defined by Schedule IV of the Local Government Act of 1919, and listed on page 476 of this Year Book:—

General Rate.	Number of Municipalities.*									
	1908.		1916.		1921.		1926.		1931.	
	Metro- politan.	Coun- try.	Metro- politan.	Coun- try.	Metro- politan.	Coun- try.	Metro- politan.	Coun- try.	Metro- politan.	Coun- try.
1d. under 2d. ...	4	28	2	21	...	5	...	3	...	4
2d. „ 3d. ...	11	36	5	28	1	9	1	14	3	11
3d. „ 4d. ...	21	38	18	41	7	18	7	20	16	24
4d. „ 5d. ...	9	26	19	29	20	33	22	28	15	29
5d. „ 6d. ...	3	9	3	16	18	28	16	24	10	19
6d. „ 7d. ...	...	2	...	4	1	23	1	25	4	24
7d. „ 8d. ...	...	2	...	1	...	11	...	8	...	5
8d. „ 9d. ...	...	...	...	1	...	6	...	6	...	10
9d. and over ...	...	1	...	1	...	3	...	4	...	6
Total ...	48	142	47	142	47	136	47	132	48	132
Amount of General and Additional General Rate levied* £	547,110		954,340		1,508,332		2,111,493		2,705,337	

* Excluding City of Sydney.

There was a tendency towards higher rating until 1930, particularly in the country municipalities, where the rise in assessed value of ratable property has been less than in the suburbs. In 1931 lower rates were levied in many municipalities. The number of country municipalities in 1926, as stated in the table, does not include Cessnock, which was part of Cessnock Shire until 1st November, 1926.

One hundred and forty-seven municipalities, other than the City of Sydney, levied rates other than the general rate, *e.g.*, special, local, and loan rates. The amount of such rates levied by those municipalities, including the Sydney Harbour Bridge rate and the rates requisitioned by the Main Roads Board, was £1,071,760 in 1930 and £1,046,352 in 1931.

The amount of rates levied by the five suburban municipalities ratable in connection with the Sydney Harbour Bridge was £34,077 in 1926, and the amount levied by six municipalities (Ku-ring-gai being included) was £54,293 in the fiscal year 1931, and £45,812 in 1932. The rates requisitioned from municipalities by the Main Roads Board amounted to £179,711 in 1926, to £257,056 in 1930, and to £257,829 in 1931. These amounts are exclusive of contributions by the City of Sydney, for which, in 1931, the Main Roads Board rate was £59,273 and the Harbour Bridge rate £118,888.

Shire Ratings.

In the shires the 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 2s. 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.					1931.	
	1907.	1911.	1916.	1921.	1926.	Number.	Unimproved Capital Value.
							£
d.	1	1	1	...	...	...	...
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	3	2	...	...	...	...
2	3	2	5	1	...	...	...
2 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
1	104	64	20	13	7	24	59,230,826
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	3	1	...	1	1	2,296,462
1 $\frac{3}{4}$	10	23	15	8	4	6	11,040,467
1 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
1 $\frac{7}{8}$	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	12	22	33	12	8	24	26,447,578
1	...	1	...	1	1	1	1,452,232
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	...	1	1,349,914
1 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	6	7	7	11	11,209,429
1 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
2	3	14	53	83	78	34	29,342,899
2 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	...	2	1,487,624
2 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...	...	3	7	9,250,978
2 $\frac{3}{8}$	...	...	...	...	...	1	624,192
2 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	...	1	701,146
2 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	...	4	14	15	16,846,655
2 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	1	2	1,055,961
3	...	...	...	6	9	8	10,403,207
Total	134	134	136	136	136	138	162,739,570
Amount of General and additional General Rates levied	£ 358,751	461,971	633,973	959,446	1,260,618		1,165,232

The tendency towards higher taxation was very marked until 1930. In 1907 the predominant rate of 1d. in the £ was levied in 104 shires and only 25 shires imposed a higher rate, whereas in 1930 only 27 shires levied a rate lower than 2d., 60 shires levied the rate of 2d., and 51 councils took advantage of the special provisions of the Act, and were allowed, after inquiry, to levy rates beyond that amount. As in the case of municipalities, many shires levied lower rates in 1931, 68 shires charging less than 2d. in the £, 34 charged 2d., and 36 rates varying from 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 3d. in the £.

On 57 per cent. of the ratable property in shires the general rate was under 2d. in the £ in 1931, on 18 per cent. the rate was 2d. and 25 per cent. was subject to even higher rates.

In addition to the general and additional general rates, special, local, or loan rates were levied by 81 shires. 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 in 1931 was £1,165,232, equal to an average rate of 1.72d. in the £, and the special and local rates (including the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Main Roads rates levied in the metropolitan area) amounted to £254,829. These

amounts represent the rates actually levied in respect of the year 1931, and do not agree with the amounts shown in the following tables, which include interest on rates in arrears.

The amount of rates levied by the three metropolitan shires ratable in connection with the Sydney Harbour Bridge was £18,110 in 1926, and by two shires ratable in 1931 the amount was £14,552. The rates requisitioned by the Main Roads Board from shires amounted to £32,275 in 1926 and to £28,005 in 1931, the decrease being due to the exclusion of Ku-ring-gai—now a municipality.

City of Sydney Finances.

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 however, have been kept in the same manner as those of other local bodies, so that the financial statements show the income accrued and expenditure incurred during the period to which they relate.

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, and these accounts now form part of the City Fund. The financial operations of the city electricity undertaking constitute a separate account.

The income of the various funds in 1931 amounted to £3,968,093, viz., the City Fund, £1,433,080, including the Public Markets Fund, £128,769 and the Resumption Account, £145,647; the Electricity Supply Fund, £2,319,578; other funds, £37,274; rates levied in respect of the Harbour Bridge, £118,888; and Main Roads Board rates, £59,273.

The disbursements in 1931 amounted to £4,237,481, viz., City Fund, £1,522,370, including the Public Markets Fund, £146,151; Resumptions Account, £512,615; Electricity Supply Fund, £2,523,897; other funds, £13,053; Harbour Bridge rates, £118,888, and Main Roads Board rates, £59,273.

The following is a statement of the expenditure and income of the City of Sydney during 1931:—

Particulars.	City Fund.			
	Public Markets.	Resumptions.	Other.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
Expenditure—				
Salaries and wages	23,080	4,944	374,202	402,226
Stores and sundries	19,755	24,993	216,816	261,564
Insurance and rates	21,593	47,258	18,731	87,582
Electricity	4,550	1,276	44,094	49,920
Interest	62,664	364,198	172,006	598,868
Sinking Fund	14,509	69,946	37,755	122,210
Total, City Fund	146,151	512,615	863,604	1,522,370
Insurance Fund				13,053
Main Roads Board and Harbour Bridge Rates				178,161
Electricity Works Fund				2,523,897
Total, Expenditure				4,237,481
Income—				
Rates			904,769	904,769
Rents and hire	69,130	145,087	24,339	238,556
Licenses, fees, dues, fines and proceeds	58,950		39,692	98,642
Sundries	689	560	189,864	191,113
Total, City Fund	128,769	145,647	1,158,664	1,433,080
Insurance Fund				37,274
Harbour Bridge Rates				178,161
Electricity Works Fund				2,319,578
Total, Income				3,968,093

Salaries and wages absorbed 26 per cent. of the expenditure from the City Fund and interest and sinking fund contributions 47 per cent.—over 60 per cent. of the latter item of expenditure was incurred in respect of resumptions.

The expenditure of the Public Markets Fund in 1931 exceeded the income by £17,382, after the payment of interest and sinking fund contributions amounting to £77,173. The Queen Victoria Buildings brought in a revenue of £19,984, and the receipts from the municipal markets and cold storage works amounted to £86,951.

The income of the resumptions account was £145,647, and the expenditure £512,615, showing a debit of £366,968. The principal items of the expenditure were interest and sinking fund contributions £434,144.

City of Sydney—Liabilities and Assets.

The following is a summary of liabilities and assets of all funds of the City of Sydney as at 31st December, 1931:—

Liabilities.		Assets.	
	£	£	£
Debentures ...	24,793,179	Land and Buildings ...	12,018,639
Sundry Creditors ...	2,014,212	Machinery, Plant, and	
Overdrafts ...	1,519,432	Stores ...	15,389,271
	28,326,823		27,407,910
		Less Depreciation Reserve ...	3,788,982
			23,618,928
Reserves, Revenue Ac-		Sundry Debtors ...	758,169
counts, etc. ...	4,416,142	Cash and Bank Balances ...	1,322,148
		Investments—Sinking Funds ...	3,116,356
		Other ...	915,947
		Total Tangible Assets	£29,731,548
		Loan Discounts and Flotation Ex-	
		penses ...	573,157
		Revenue Accounts—Deficits	472,238
		Expenditure on Streets, etc.—Capital-	
		ised ...	1,816,562
		Other ...	149,460
		Total Intangible Assets	£3,911,417
Total Liabilities	£32,742,965	Total Assets	£32,742,965

The liabilities at 31st December, 1931, excluding reserves and balances on revenue accounts, amounted to £28,326,823. The tangible assets, apart from depreciation reserve in respect thereof, amounted to £29,731,548, the excess over liabilities being £1,404,725.

The total amount of debentures outstanding at the end of 1931 was £24,793,179, and the accumulated sinking fund amounted to £3,116,356, leaving the net indebtedness on capital account at £21,676,823.

The debentures included £13,915,099 borrowed in connection with electric lighting, £7,589,876 for resumptions, and £921,404 for public markets. The proceeds of such loans have been spent mainly on reproductive municipal works, and in 1931 the various funds were debited with £1,437,614 to meet annual interest charges and £242,753 for sinking fund contributions. After meeting these charges there was a net deficit of £269,388 on all funds for the year.

Land and buildings include such large items as public markets, £1,608,599; town hall, etc., £1,240,514; resumptions, £6,020,972; land and buildings used for the electricity works, £3,148,554. The investments of the accumulated sinking fund, £3,116,356, consisted of Commonwealth Government loans, £904,425, State Treasury deposits, £253,159, Municipal Council of Sydney debentures and deposit £1,914,900, and Commonwealth Bank deposits £43,871.

Progress of City of Sydney.

The following table shows the progress of the City of Sydney since 1927:—

Particulars.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
Area Acres	3,244	3,244	3,244	3,244	3,244
Population No.	109,640	110,000	109,000	109,500	109,400
Value*—	£	£	£	£	£
Unimproved Capital ...	61,352,514	61,162,239	60,983,094	60,896,333	56,960,774
Improved Capital ...	185,394,260	190,990,120	193,988,920	221,856,440	192,194,440
Assessed Annual ...	8,001,840	8,236,784	8,343,732	9,553,692	8,253,241
City Fund†—					
Income—Rates† ...	821,381	842,463	959,112	1,022,468	904,769
Other sources	992,769	705,708	655,817	654,432	528,311
Total ...	1,814,150	1,548,171	1,614,929	1,676,900	1,433,080
Expenditure	1,873,084	1,596,398	1,562,747	1,638,014	1,522,370
Electricity Works Fund—					
Income	2,135,780	2,249,796	2,549,685	2,480,745	2,319,578
Expenditure	2,157,818	2,283,533	2,358,336	2,456,048	2,523,897
All Funds—					
Total Income†	4,193,797	4,063,853	4,338,851	4,327,437	3,968,093
Total Expenditure† ...	4,246,020	4,099,618	4,073,546	4,240,286	4,237,481
Excess of Income ...	(-)52,223	(-)35,765	265,305	87,147	(-)269,388
All Funds—					
Liabilities	20,355,128	24,571,822	26,905,640	28,393,821	28,326,823
Assets	21,053,983	25,573,545	28,066,416	29,706,539	29,731,548
Excess of Assets ..	704,855	1,001,723	1,160,776	1,312,719	1,404,725
Loans outstanding ...	15,301,812	19,075,148	21,982,947	24,546,946	24,793,179
Sinking Fund	2,085,236	2,137,207	2,428,784	2,761,086	3,116,356

(-) Denotes excess of Expenditure. * Excluding properties not ratable. † See context below.

‡ Including subsidiary accounts, Public Markets, and Resumptions.

‡ Includes £25,368 adjustment of exchange on accrued overseas interest, properly applicable to 1930.

There was a revaluation of city properties in 1927, and improved capital and annual values were reassessed in 1930. The value of Federal Government properties is not included in the figures shown above.

The total income and expenditure of all funds as shown in the foregoing table include rates collected in respect of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the main roads and transmitted to the State Treasury and the Main Roads Board respectively. On the other hand, the income and expenditure of the City Fund do not include the bridge rates, and include the main roads rates in 1929 and 1930 only. Details as to the amount of these rates levied in each year are shown in the table on page 486.

The total liabilities, as shown above, are exclusive of reserves and balances on revenue accounts. The total assets refer to tangible assets only, less depreciation reserve in respect to them, and intangible assets have been omitted. The loans outstanding increased by 62 per cent. between 1927 and 1931, and the sinking fund by 49 per cent. The sinking fund in 1931 represented 12.5 per cent. of the loan indebtedness.

FINANCES OF SUBURBAN AND COUNTRY MUNICIPALITIES AND OF SHIRES.

The Local Government Act 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.

Expenditure and Income.

A summary of the expenditure and income of all municipalities and shires is shown below for the year 1931. The statement relates to income accrued and expenditure incurred irrespective of amounts actually received and paid. In regard to the City of Sydney, the expenditure and income of the City fund and its subsidiary accounts are shown, but the classification of the items is only approximate, as the City accounts are not compiled in the same form as those of the other councils.

Particulars.	City of Sydney.	Other Metropolitan Municipalities.	Country Municipalities.	Shires.	Total.
Expenditure.					
Ordinary Services—	£	£	£	£	£
Administration	71,535	177,453	141,982	225,624	616,594
Public Works *	161,661	1,476,793	567,917	1,604,560	3,810,931
Health Administration	165,039	415,322	288,822	138,252	1,007,435
Public Services	155,507	272,889	165,307	87,480	681,183
Municipal or Shire Property	40,864	40,033	31,089	15,025	127,011
Interest on Loans and Over-drafts, etc.	598,868	331,840	97,766	93,513	1,121,987
Contribution to Main Roads Board and Harbour Bridge Funds	341,949	35,050	36,958	45,100	453,057
Miscellaneous	178,161	301,437	10,502	40,726	530,826
Total (Ordinary Services)	1,713,584	3,050,817	1,334,343	2,250,280	8,349,024
Trading Accounts	2,523,897	74,116	921,635	203,202	3,722,850
Water and Sewerage Accounts ... ..	...	...	356,839	21,057	377,896
Total Expenditure	4,237,481	3,124,933	2,612,817	2,474,539	12,449,770
Income.					
Ordinary Services—	£	£	£	£	£
Rates (inc. Interest, etc.)	1,082,930	2,540,087	930,758	1,399,548	5,953,323
Government Endowment ... ..	...	...	...	149,533	149,533
Public Works—Government Grants ... ..	...	194,717	147,990	678,980	1,021,687
Other	34,548	146,198	20,034	47,010	247,790
Public Health	43,517	193,181	244,555	136,808	618,061
Public Services	137,587	34,681	30,129	15,840	218,237
Municipal or Shire Property	24,873	28,602	55,879	28,427	137,781
Other	325,060	31,936	22,401	13,326	392,723
Total (Ordinary Services)	1,648,515	3,169,402	1,451,746	2,469,472	8,739,135
Trading Accounts	2,319,578	91,843	1,025,216	240,491	3,677,128
Water and Sewerage Accounts ... ..	...	...	401,042	22,991	424,033
Total Income	3,968,093	3,261,245	2,878,004	2,732,954	12,840,296

* Classification of items in this column is approximate only.

† Includes Harbour Bridge Rates, £118,888, and £59,273 Main Roads Board Rate.

Expenditure shown above, other than that for City of Sydney, was financed in part by loan funds, the total expenditure of which, for all purposes, is shown on page 500. Rates levied for the Main Roads Board and the Sydney Harbour Bridge are included under the heads of expenditure and income.

The total expenditure by municipalities other than the City of Sydney, amounted in 1931 to £5,737,750, or £3 8s. 1d. per head of population in those areas, and the expenditure by the shires to £2,474,539, or £3 10s. 8d. per head. Expenditure on works was the largest item, viz., £2,044,710 in the municipalities, and £1,604,560 in the shires.

The expenditure on the actual maintenance and construction of works of a public character, viz., roads, streets, bridges, culverts, drains, wharves, ferries, etc., and sundry expenses amounted to £3,441,780, of which the sum of £1,413,888 was expended by the municipalities in the metropolitan area except Sydney, £544,731 by country municipalities, and £1,483,161 by the shires. The expenses of supervision, such as the salary of the engineers, etc., amounted to £207,490, or 5.7 per cent. of the amount expended on public works as against 3.9 per cent. in 1930.

The cost of administration is relatively high in the country on account of the sparse population and small revenue of many of the country municipalities, as in such cases the expenses on account of salaries, etc., are larger proportionately than those in the more closely settled localities. The cost in the metropolitan municipalities (other than Sydney), represented 5.8 per cent. of the expenditure on ordinary services, 10.6 per cent. in the country municipalities and 10.0 per cent. in the shires.

The total income of the suburban and country municipalities in 1931 was £6,139,249, or £3 12s. 10d. per head, and of the shires £2,732,954, or £3 18s. per head. These amounts include Government endowments and grants.

The amount of Government assistance to municipalities in 1931 was £351,780. Of this amount £342,707 represented contributions to public works (roads, streets, bridges, etc.); and £6,184 were granted for health administration, chiefly as contributions to inspectors' salaries, etc. The shires received Government assistance amounting to £828,828 in 1931, including £678,980 on account of public works.

The trading accounts of the city and of the shires relate to the supply of electricity and those of the other municipalities to gas and electricity.

Only a few metropolitan councils are concerned directly in the supply of these services, gas being supplied for the most part by non-governmental works, and electricity from the City of Sydney undertaking, or from private enterprises. Country municipalities and shires conducting water supply local funds number 68 and 16 respectively, and 14 municipalities provide sewerage services.

Liabilities and Assets.

Balance-sheets of Local Governing bodies, other than the city of Sydney, are divided into two sections, viz., Available Funds and Invested Funds. In the former are included liquid assets and current liabilities, while the latter covers fixed assets, investments, debts on extended terms and long-term liabilities.

The liabilities and assets of the City of Sydney as at 31st December, 1931, are shown on page 490, and the following statement indicates the nature of

the liabilities and "realisable" assets of the suburban and country municipalities and the shires as at that date, amounts due from one fund to another being excluded:—

Funds.	Municipalities.		Shires.	Total.
	Metropolitan (excluding Sydney).	Country.		
Liabilities—	£	£	£	£
Sundry creditors, including Loans outstanding and interest	6,231,902	3,060,505	1,626,833	10,919,240
Debts due to Government, including interest	212,948	4,071,139	490,443	4,774,530
Bank overdraft	652,103	430,664	416,328	1,499,100
Other (including Deposits on Contracts and unexpended Government grants)	42,208	80,230	64,620	187,058
Total	£ 7,139,166	7,642,538	2,598,224	17,379,928
Assets—				
Cash in hand and bank balances	300,634	551,211	269,971	1,121,816
Outstanding rates and interest	808,061	542,839	652,969	2,003,869
Sundry debtors	310,366	435,587	178,713	924,666
Furniture	55,702	72,746	40,854	169,302
Stores and materials	49,881	126,515	58,086	234,482
Land, buildings, plant and machinery	2,078,355	8,296,724	1,997,886	12,372,965
Other	21,080	66,420	38,300	125,800
Total	£ 3,624,079	10,092,042	3,236,779	16,952,900
Balance—				
Available Funds	278,816	651,329	489,993	1,420,138
Invested Funds	(-) 3,793,903	1,798,175	148,562	(-) 1,847,166
Net	(-) 3,515,087	2,449,504	638,555	(-) 427,028

(-) Indicates excess of liabilities.

The policy of constructing works from loan moneys has been more extensively followed in the metropolitan area—where development has been rapid—than in the country districts. These loans are raised on the security of future revenue, and neither this nor the value of works such as streets, etc., constructed from loans is included in the table. There is, consequently, little significance in the total relationship of the assets shown to liabilities. The statement, however, contains interesting items of an informative character.

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 endowment 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 amount of endowment, which, in recent years had been about £150,000 per annum, was increased in 1928 to £250,000 and reduced to £150,450 in 1931. The allotment for the three years commencing 1st January, 1931, was as follows:—

30 shires receive no endowment.					
19	„	„	less than £500 per annum.		
23	„	„	£500 and. under £1,000	per annum.	
24	„	„	£1,000	„	£1,500
12	„	„	£1,500	„	£2,000
18	„	„	£2,000	„	£3,000
8	„	„	£3,000	„	£4,000
3	„	„	£4,000	„	£5,000
1	„	„	receives £5,000		

The shires which receive the largest endowment are Bellingen, £4,000; Kearsley, £4,250; Manning, £4,550; and Dorrigo, £5,000.

Beyond this endowment the State on occasion makes available funds for specific purposes which have usually been the subject of application by individual local governing bodies. Prior to 1925 the State voted to shires and municipalities considerable sums annually for the maintenance of main roads and bridges, and these sums are included below under the heading "Public Works." In 1925, however, the Main Roads Board came into being and increased funds were set aside for main roads construction and maintenance. Of these funds large sums are disbursed through the councils of municipalities and shires, and are included in the following comparison of funds provided by the State and Commonwealth Governments and expended by the councils.

Year.	Municipalities.			Shires.				Total Government Assistance.
	Public Works.	Other.	Total Municipalities.	Endowment.	Public Works.	Other.	Total Shires.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
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
1925	232,354	5,959	238,313	149,345	613,045	7,253	769,643	1,007,956
1926	242,051	5,441	247,492	147,525	958,447	7,123	1,113,095	1,360,587
1927	298,184	9,196	307,380	153,410	1,051,454	1,296	1,206,160	1,513,540
1928	372,133	6,152	378,285	261,315	1,007,937	1,444	1,270,696	1,648,981
1929	424,732	6,102	430,834	254,948	1,488,384	498	1,743,780	2,174,614
1930	603,857	28,865	632,722	250,303	1,467,358	4,930	1,722,591	2,355,313
1931	342,707	9,073	351,780	149,533	678,980	315	828,828	1,180,608

The amounts stated above do not include repayable advances by the State or Federal Governments. The expenditure from such advances in the years 1927 to 1931 is shown in the table on page 500.

LOANS.

Loans obtained by the Council of the City of Sydney prior to 1905 were raised under the provisions of special Acts of Parliament. In 1905 the Sydney Corporation Amendment Act authorised the Council to raise loans, with the approval of the Governor, by the sale of debentures secured upon the corporate rates and revenues of the Council from whatever source arising, and to issue new debentures to repay any such debentures upon

maturity. The term of the debentures may not exceed in the aggregate fifty years, and a sinking fund must be established for each loan raised under the Act of 1905, on the basis of 3 per cent. per annum compound interest over the period of fifty years. The maximum rate of interest was fixed at 4 per cent. until 1917, when amending legislation provided that the rate of interest be fixed by the Council with the approval of the Governor. The Act of 1917 provided also that the Council, in lieu of issuing debentures subject to the provisions of the Act of 1905, may issue debentures to secure the repayment of its loans, together with interest thereon, by equal yearly or half-yearly instalments. An Act passed in 1928 authorised the City Council to raise loans outside Australia.

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 rateable 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. Certain loans expended on reproductive works may be excluded in calculating the limit.

Loans under the Local Government Act may be raised by four methods, viz., limited overdraft, and renewal, ordinary, or special loans.

Limited overdrafts may be obtained for any purpose upon which the council is authorised to expend a fund (except a trust fund) or for any purpose for which moneys raised by ordinary loan may be applied. The sum raised may not exceed half the preceding year's income of the fund in respect of which it is obtained.

The purpose of limited overdrafts is to enable the councils to finance a regular programme of works and services and 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 the 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.

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. As a general rule 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 sinking fund 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 sinking fund 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 fixed loans by municipalities and shires, as at 31st December, 1931, amounted to £34,843,661, redeemable as follows:—New South Wales, £25,408,718; Victoria, £104,310; London, £7,305,000; and New York, £2,025,633. The interest accrued during 1931 was distributed as follows:—New South Wales, £1,218,812; Victoria, £6,538; London, £405,394; and New York, £111,564. Particulars regarding the loans and the sinking funds set apart to meet them, are shown in the following statement. Overdrafts are not included:—

Division.	Loans Outstanding.				Accumulated Sinking Funds.	Interest Accrued during 1931.
	New South Wales.	London.	New York.	Total.		
Municipalities—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sydney	15,767,546	7,000,000	2,025,633	24,793,179	3,116,356	1,184,647
Other Metropolitan	5,836,446	...	...	5,836,446	250	317,060
Country	2,776,524	...	...	2,776,524	51,822	157,306
Total Municipalities	£24,380,516*	7,000,000	2,025,633	33,406,149	3,168,428	1,659,013
Shires	1,132,512	305,000	...	1,437,512	27,780	83,295
Total	£25,513,028*	7,305,000	2,025,633	34,843,661	3,196,208	1,742,308

* Including £104,310 raised in Victoria.

The interest accrued in respect of the City of Sydney as shown above represents the amount payable for a full year on the loans outstanding at the end of the year.

During the year 1931 loans were raised as follows:—£148,000 by the City of Sydney, £118,000 by other metropolitan municipalities, £24,240 by country municipalities, and £10,000 by shires.

Apart from the liability to the State under the Country Towns Water and Sewerage Act, and the Main Roads Act, the total amount of municipal and shire loans outstanding at the close of the year 1931 was £34,843,661. and towards this amount there was at the credit of the sinking funds a sum of £3,196,208. The average rate of interest payable on loans of municipalities was 5.5 per cent., viz., Sydney, 4.8 per cent., other metropolitan 5.4 per cent., and country municipalities 5.6 per cent. The average rate on the shire loans was 5.8 per cent.

Since 1921 the loan indebtedness of the municipal and shire councils has increased threefold. The following comparison shows the fixed loans outstanding at the end of various years since 1916, also the ratio of loans to the unimproved capital value of ratable property in the incorporated areas:—

At 31st Dec.	Amount of Fixed Loans Outstanding (excluding bank overdrafts).				Proportion to Unimproved Capital Value of Ratable Property.			
	City of Sydney.	Other Muni- cipalities.	Shires.	Total.	City of Sydney.	Other Muni- cipalities	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	1,982,953	109,573	11,434,268	26·03	2·43	0·08	4·60
1926	14,288,088	4,388,386	1,036,391	19,712,815	31·92	3·82	0·67	6·27
1927	15,306,812	5,667,016	1,202,773	22,176,601	24·95	4·57	0·76	6·44
1923	19,075,148	7,400,542	1,247,955	27,723,645	31·19	5·38	0·79	7·76
1929	21,982,947	8,145,285	1,397,352	31,525,584	36·05	5·42	0·84	8·34
1930	24,546,946	8,590,689	1,488,501	34,626,136	40·31	5·39	0·88	8·90
1931	24,793,179	8,612,970	1,437,512	34,843,661	43·53	5·42	0·88	9·20

* Including bank overdrafts.

The effect of re-valuations is noticeable in the decline in the ratio of loans in the City of Sydney in 1927. The ratio of loans to the improved capital value in 1931 was 12·9 per cent. in the City of Sydney, and 1·85 per cent. in the other municipalities.

It is apparent that the borrowing by the municipalities and shires is, in the aggregate, well within the limits allowed by the Local Government Act already referred to. The relatively extensive loans of the City of Sydney are invested largely in the acquisition of revenue-producing assets, and considerable amounts have been expended on resumptions for city improvements, which are partly reproductive. Of the city loans current at 31st December, 1931, an amount of £13,915,099 was invested in the city electricity works from which electricity is supplied not only to the city proper but to a large number of other local areas.

The place of redemption and the approximate amount of interest payable on the foregoing loans of the City of Sydney, the other municipalities and the shires in New South Wales are shown in the following table. The amounts are exclusive of advances from the Government:—

Year.	Principal raised in—			Interest accrued during each year.		
	Australia.	Oversea.	Total.	In Australia.	Oversea.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1916	8,066,745†	823,855	8,890,600	316,371	33,208	349,579
1921	9,922,268	1,512,000	11,434,268	423,746	85,690	509,436
1926	16,480,315	3,232,500	19,712,815	835,089	187,862	1,022,951
1927	18,951,601	3,225,000	22,176,601	944,226	186,685	1,130,911
1928	22,418,645	5,305,000	27,723,645	1,155,198	294,414	1,449,612
1929	24,220,584	7,305,000	31,525,584	1,297,849	405,840	1,703,689
1930	25,277,156	9,348,986	34,626,136	1,391,541	514,194	1,905,735
1931	25,513,028	9,330,633	34,843,661	1,225,350	516,958	1,742,308

* Years 1916 to 1929 London only; New York included, in 1930, viz: Loan £2,510,138, Interest £112,419, and in 1931, Loan £2,025,633, Interest £111,564.

† Includes interest on bank overdrafts in years 1916 to 1926 inclusive.

‡ Includes bank overdrafts, except in City of Sydney.

The amounts stated above do not include the sums due to the Government as capital debt on water and sewerage and drainage works, viz., £4,057,066 owing by municipalities and shires at the end of 1931, and £78,182 in respect of the Grafton and South Grafton works. The statement is exclusive also of loans of county councils, viz., £521,185 in 1931, and the interest, £26,085, which was payable in Sydney.

The amount of loan expenditure by local governing bodies in New South Wales during 1931 was considerably lower than during preceding years, on account of the prevailing financial stringency. Details for the years 1927 to 1931 are shown below:—

Districts.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
Government Advances.					
Municipalities—	£	£	£	£	£
Metropolitan (excluding Sydney)	738	24,631	48,873	10,914	7,776
Country	32,058	348,112	48,999	22,169	438,622
Shires	71,779	81,464	49,591	20,583	141,858
Total, Government Advances	104,575	454,207	147,463	53,666	*588,256
Other Loans.					
Municipalities—					
City of Sydney	3,299,516	3,144,892	3,675,806	2,092,548	679,127
Metropolitan	996,968	1,264,461	884,525	838,394	516,068
Country	510,496	485,685	460,285	334,509	100,068
Shires	305,448	270,404	294,223	196,315	62,130
County Councils	39,127	55,972	44,834	39,702	45,168
Total, other Loans	5,151,555	5,221,414	5,359,673	3,501,468	1,402,561
Total, Loan Expenditure	5,256,130	5,675,621	5,507,136	3,555,134	1,990,817

* Deferred payment debt liabilities.

The amount of expenditure by councils from loan funds provided by, but not repayable to, the State is excluded. The total loan expenditure by local government bodies over and above Government loans and deferred payment debt liabilities was £1,402,561 in 1931, as compared with £3,501,468 in 1930.

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. Eighteen country municipalities maintain works for coal gas, and others have installed acetylene and other plants. The metropolitan districts are served by private companies.

Details of the accounts of the works of various municipalities are shown in the section "Local Government" of the Statistical Register, 1931-32. A summary of the gasworks revenue accounts of the municipalities with coal gasworks in 1931 is shown in the following statement:—

Expenditure.		Income.	
	£		£
Cost of gas and residuals	103,814	Private lighting	89,821
Public lighting, attendance, etc. ...	2,503	Public lighting	511
Total Trading Expenditure ...	106,317	Sale of residual products	13,419
Surplus	5,441	Other	2,567
Total	£ 111,758	Total Trading Income	106,318
		Loan Rates	4,631
		Other	809
		Total	£ 111,758

The quantity of gas sold to private consumers during 1931 was 237,082,000 cubic feet at prices ranging from 6s. to 12s. 4d. per 1,000, the general average being 7s. 7d. per 1,000 cubic feet. The quantity used for public lighting was 1,398,000 cubic feet, and the revenue therefrom represented 7s. 4d. per 1,000 cubic feet. Income was derived also from rates, and from the sale of residuals, etc. On the operations during 1931 there was a surplus of £5,441 after paying interest. Six municipalities incurred a loss. The average cost of manufacture was about 6s. per 1,000 cubic feet, the cost being calculated by deducting from the cost of gas and residuals the income derived from the sale of residuals.

The balance-sheet of the gasworks trading undertakings for 1931 is given below:—

Liabilities.		Assets.	
	£		£
Loans and deferred payment debts	60,067	Buildings, land, stock, plant, etc.	294,923
Sundry creditors, etc.	19,047	Sundry debtors, including amounts	
Overdrafts	14,014	due from other funds	31,692
Total liabilities	93,128	Fixed deposits and investments ...	14,708
Excess of Assets	258,822	Bank balance, and cash	10,627
Total	£351,950	Total	£351,950

The total excess of assets amounted to £258,822, and none of the municipalities showed a deficit at the close of 1931.

MUNICIPAL AND SHIRE ELECTRICITY WORKS.

The supply of electricity for lighting and for power is undertaken directly 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. In addition, electricity for street and private lighting and power in defined areas is supplied under contract with the councils from works which are privately owned and operated, and are not included in the statistics relating to the municipal and shire undertakings which follow.

The largest undertaking is that of the City of Sydney, where operations were commenced in 1904 to supply electricity within the city, and subsequently the works were extended to supply a large area beyond the city boundaries. In 1931 the undertaking distributed electricity direct to consumers in the city and in thirty-three other municipalities, and supplied it in bulk to the local councils of eight municipalities and four shires which attend to the distribution in their respective localities.

Certain other local government bodies obtain electricity in bulk from the generating stations of the Railway Commissioners of New South Wales, the Victorian State Electricity Commission, or the New South Wales Government power station at Port Kembla. A number of southern localities and the Federal Capital are supplied from the Burrunjuck hydro-electric works.

The St. George County Council purchases from the Railway Commissioners bulk supplies of electricity which are sold for street lighting and to private consumers in its area, and the Clarence River County Council has constructed hydro-electric works on the Nymboida River.

A statement of the expenditure and income of the electricity concerns of the local governing authorities in 1931 is shown below:—

Particulars.	City of Sydney.	Other Municipalities.	Shires.	County Councils.		Total.
				St. George.	Clarence River.	
<i>Expenditure.</i>	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost of electricity ...	2,466,719	837,785	191,342	101,502	26,864	3,624,212
Public lighting, attendance, etc. ...	57,178	51,649	11,860	4,278	1,827	126,792
Total Trading Expenditure £	2,523,897	889,434	203,202	105,780	28,691	3,751,004
<i>Income.</i>						
Sales of electricity ...	2,288,607	880,263	179,034	123,615	31,028	3,502,547
Rent of Meters, installations, etc....	26,464	72,929	16,460	922	4,430	121,205
Total Trading Income ... £	2,315,071	953,192	195,494	124,537	35,458	3,623,752
Loan Rates ...	...	44,181	42,204	...	...	86,385
Interest and Sundries ...	4,507	7,928	2,793	8,974	1,000	25,202
Total Income £	2,319,578	1,005,301	240,491	133,511	36,458	3,735,339
Surplus ...	(-)204,319	115,867	37,289	27,731	7,767	(-) 15,665

* Includes contribution to Sinking Fund, £80,700.

The operations of the electricity undertakings of the local governing bodies resulted in a deficit of £15,665 in 1931, as compared with a surplus of £274,461 in the previous year. The City of Sydney undertaking showed a deficit of £204,319 in 1931, after the payment of interest, £838,747, and contribution to sinking fund, £120,543, and provision for an adjustment in respect of exchange on interest accrued during the previous year, £25,368. Other bodies showed a total surplus of £188,654.

A summary of the liabilities and assets of the electricity works at 31st December, 1931, is shown below:—

Particulars.	City of Sydney.	Other Municipalities.	Shires.	County Councils.		Total.
				St. George.	Clarence River.	
<i>Liabilities.</i>	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loans and deferred payment debts ...	13,915,099	1,446,458	505,990	304,748	216,437	16,388,732
Overdrafts ...	1,109,581	52,977	14,778	...	2,894	1,180,230
Sundry creditors, etc. ...	496,207	81,358	20,554	21,142	3,871	623,133
Total Liabilities £	15,520,887	1,580,793	541,322	325,890	223,202	18,192,094
<i>Assets.</i>						
Land, buildings, plant, etc. ...	15,173,283	2,505,769	702,898	278,345	244,400	18,904,695
Sundry debtors, etc. ...	366,454	261,622	70,299	18,619	12,231	729,255
Bank balance and cash	25	131,612	30,103	32,794	1,625	196,159
Fixed deposits and investments ...	1,096,420	147,702	30,345	183,401	...	1,457,868
Total Assets £	16,636,182	3,046,705	833,645	513,159	258,286	21,287,977
Excess of Assets £	1,115,295	1,465,912	292,323	187,269	35,084	3,095,883

The liabilities of the City of Sydney undertaking, as shown above, are exclusive of depreciation and other reserves; and the assets represent the tangible assets less depreciation reserve in respect thereof—loan discounts and flotation expenses and other intangible assets amounting in all to £678,597 being excluded.

City of Sydney Electricity Undertaking.

The City of Sydney undertaking obtained supplies of electricity from a power station at Pyrmont until the year 1923, when a contract was made for the purchase of additional supplies from the Railway Commissioners. Since January, 1929, supplies have been available from a new power station constructed by the Council at Bunnerong, and the contract with the Railway Commissioners was terminated on 30th September, 1929. The cost to the 31st December, 1931, of the Bunnerong generating station, consisting of an installation capable of meeting a demand of 100,000 kilowatts, was approximately £3,741,000, of which £1,578,800 represented cost of land, buildings and railway siding, £2,122,500 cost of machinery and equipment, and the balance furniture, plant and tools.

The following statement shows the electricity sold during each of the years 1927 to 1931, sales to the City Council for public lighting, etc., being included. The revenue from sales and the cost of the electricity are shown, also the deficit or surplus after the payment of interest and contributions to sinking fund:—

Particulars.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
Units sold (000's) ...	277,744	300,984	347,595	332,950	319,326
Receipts per unit (d.)...	1.76	1.72	1.69	1.73	1.69
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost of electricity* ...	2,117,417	2,239,710	2,313,434	2,402,247	2,466,719
Other expenditure ...	40,401	43,823	44,902	53,801	57,178
Total expenditure	2,157,818	2,283,533	2,358,336	2,456,048	2,523,897
Sales ...	2,078,254	2,200,512	2,494,606	2,435,099	2,288,667
Other income ...	57,526	49,284	55,079	45,646	30,971
Total income ...	2,135,780	2,249,796	2,549,685	2,480,745	2,319,578
Surplus ...	(—) 22,038	(—) 33,737	191,349	24,697	(—)204,319

* Including interest and sinking fund.

It is not practicable to dissect the sales by this undertaking so as to show the purposes for which the current was used because a large proportion is supplied to premises—residential and commercial—where only one meter is provided and the charges are assessed under a system whereby a reduced rate is charged for the quantity in excess of a limit which varies according to certain conditions, e.g., the size of residential premises, or the maximum demand in the case of factories.

Sales of Electricity.

A dissection of the sales in 1930 and 1931 by municipalities (other than the City of Sydney), shires and the county councils is shown below. The figures for 1930 are exclusive of sales by one shire, for which complete data are not available:—

Particulars.	1930.			1931.		
	Units.	Receipts.	Per unit.	Units.	Receipts.	Per unit.
	000	£	d.	000	£	d.
Private lighting ...	31,957	713,503	5.36	30,993	674,549	5.22
Public lighting ...	10,771	128,476	2.86	11,474	130,663	2.73
Power and bulk sales ...	67,442	437,304	1.56	67,196	425,355	1.52
Total ...	110,170	1,279,283	2.79	109,663	1,230,567	2.69

The receipts, as stated above, do not include rentals for meters, motors, etc., nor other sources of revenue accruing to the undertakings. The cost of the 110,169,986 units sold in 1930 was £1,171,405 or 2.55d. per unit, while 109,603,262 units sold in 1931 cost £1,154,000 or 2.53d. per unit.

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, as amended in 1919 and 1927. Its jurisdiction extends over 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, nearly all the area comprised by the suburban municipalities, also Newcastle and suburbs, Broken Hill, and other municipalities, and twenty-five shires in respect of towns contained in them.

The Board consists of a president, appointed by the Governor for a term of five years, and seven 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, three elected by the fire insurance companies, one by the members of volunteer fire brigades, and one by the permanent firemen who are members of the Fire Brigades Association of New South Wales. 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 and permanent fireman 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 of this sum the councils of the municipalities and shires concerned contribute one-fourth, the insurance companies one-half, and the Government one-fourth. Until the year 1927, the contributions were made in equal shares by the councils, 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 £250,000.

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 in 1932 there were 78 fire brigades comprised by 608 permanent firemen whose services are wholly at the Board's disposal and 272 volunteers. In the country there were brigades at 134 localities, the principal stations being at Newcastle and Broken Hill, and there were 65 permanent firemen and 1,245 volunteers.

The following table shows the revenue account of the Board of Fire Commissioners for the year ended 31st December, 1932:—

Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	£		£
Balance from 1931	42,668	Administration	13,283
Subsidy from Government	96,899	Salaries including Payments to	
Subsidy from Municipalities and		Volunteers	233,742
Shires	96,899	Repairs to Buildings, Plant, and	
Subsidy from Fire Insurance Com-		other expenses	109,036
panies and Firms	193,798	Equipment and Property Charges	38,714
Other Sources	7,533	Balance	43,022
Total	£437,797	Total	£437,797

The contributions by the fifty-five municipalities and shires comprising the Sydney fire district in 1932 represented 4s. 3d. per £100 of assessed annual value of the ratable land, as compared with 5s. 7d. in 1919.

Contributions amounting to £192,949 were received from 126 insurance companies and £849 from 41 firms who insured goods with companies not registered in New South Wales. In the Sydney fire district such contributions represented 14.92 per cent. of the premiums less reinsurances, and in the other districts the proportions ranged from 3.6 per cent. to 26.4 per cent.

The estimates of proposed expenditure by the board for the year 1933 amounted to £372,752, viz., £281,548 for the Sydney fire district and £91,204 for other districts.

The balance-sheet of the Board as at 31st December, 1932, is shown in the following statement:—

Liabilities.		Assets.	
	£		£
Fund Account	35,889	Land and Buildings	385,986
Trust Accounts	1,434	Plant and Fire Appliances	281,134
Debentures and Accrued Interest	160,467	Stocks on Hand	35,004
Revenue and Expenditure Account	43,022	Fixed Deposit, Bank Balances	
Property and Equipment Fund ...	496,504	and Cash	38,997
Administration Account	3,805		
Total	£741,121	Total	£741,121

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE SERVICES.

The Metropolitan Water, Sewerage, and Drainage Board administers extensive water supply and sewerage works in Sydney and environs, and the Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage Board exercises similar functions in Newcastle and surrounding districts. These works have been constructed mainly from the loan moneys which form part of the public debt of the State, and interest and sinking fund charges in respect of the capital debts are payable from the revenues of the Boards.

The receipts and expenditure of the metropolitan services until 1st April, 1925, and of the Hunter District services until 1st July, 1928, were included in the Consolidated Revenue Account of the State. On the dates mentioned these accounts were separated from the Consolidated Revenue Account; the Metropolitan Board was entrusted with the management of its own moneys and a separate account was opened in the Treasury in respect of the Hunter district services.

In towns outside the areas administered by the Metropolitan and Hunter District Boards, works have been constructed in accordance with the provisions of the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Act of 1880, which, with amendments, was embodied in the Local Government Act of 1919. 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. As a general rule the works are transferred upon completion 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 30th June, 1932, water supply services constructed wholly or in part from loan funds by the Department of Public Works were in operation in eighty-seven country towns, sewerage works in fourteen towns, and storm-water drainage works in sixteen towns. The total cost of the waterworks was £4,183,923, and of sewers and stormwater channels £1,210,569. The financial transactions in connection with these services are included in the accounts of the municipalities and shires, except the waterworks at Broken Hill and Hillgrove, which are administered by the central Government, and at Junee, where the water is delivered by the Public Works Department into service reservoirs, and the Grafton and South Grafton system which is controlled by a corporate board representing the two municipalities.

The debts due to the central Government on account of waterworks (including the Grafton and South Grafton services) at 30th June, 1932, amounted to £3,580,981, and on account of sewerage and drainage works to £1,189,423; the aggregate of the annual instalments of principal and interest was £195,319 in respect of the debt due on waterworks, and £65,800 for sewerage works. In addition two municipalities and six shires administered water services in respect of which there was no capital debt to the State Government.

A summary of the revenue and expenditure of the various systems is shown below—the particulars of the Metropolitan and Hunter District services being for the year ended 30th June, 1932, and those of the other works for the calendar year, 1931.

Services.	Capital Debt.	Gross Revenue.	Working Expenditure.	Net Revenue.	Interest and Sinking Fund.	Surplus.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Water Supply.</i>						
Metropolitan ...	23,534,241	1,735,808	400,163	1,335,645	1,318,026	17,619
Hunter District ...	2,862,557	220,017	70,213	149,804	171,153†	(-21,349)
Grafton and South Grafton ...	78,182	7,099	2,120	4,979	3,237	1,742
Other Country Towns ...	3,328,931	393,524	191,713	201,811	148,801	53,010
Total Water Supply...	29,803,911	2,356,448	664,209	1,692,239	1,641,217	51,022
<i>Sewerage and Drainage.</i>						
Metropolitan ...	15,295,028	1,060,945	222,037	838,908	855,521	(-16,613)
Hunter District ...	2,233,177	86,607	35,547	51,060	39,171†	11,889
Other Country Towns*	1,030,040	90,546	37,126	53,420	45,093	8,327
Total Sewerage ...	18,558,245	1,238,098	294,710	943,388	939,785	3,603

* Exclusive of drainage works.

† Includes Exchange.

The figures in the table show an aggregate indebtedness in respect of water supply and sewerage services amounting to £48,362,156. The net revenue after providing for working expenses was £2,635,627, interest amounted to £2,175,075, and in respect of the Metropolitan and Hunter District services, exchange on interest transmitted abroad £288,655, and contributions to sinking funds £117,272. The surplus amounted to £54,623.

A brief statement of the liabilities and assets of the Metropolitan and Hunter District services at 30th June, 1932, and of the other works (excluding Broken Hill and Junee) at 31st December, 1931, is shown below:

Particulars.	Water Supply and Sewerage Works.				
	Metropolitan.	Hunter District.	Grafton and South Grafton.	Other Country Towns.	Total.
Liabilities—	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Indebtedness ...	38,829,269	5,080,445	78,132	4,057,066	48,044,962
Other	1,917,796	74,152	415	240,586	2,232,949
Total Liabilities ...	40,747,065	5,154,597	78,597	4,297,652	50,277,911
Assets—					
Works, etc.	38,769,637	5,763,698	98,423	4,505,337	49,137,095
Sundry debtors and outstanding rates	242,851	96,326	1,899	231,284	572,360
Cash, investments, etc. ...	2,030,249	72,876	1,476	134,531	2,239,132
Total Assets	41,042,737	5,932,900	101,798	4,871,152	51,948,587
Excess of Assets	295,672	778,303	23,201	573,500	1,670,676

Drainage Trusts.

In addition to the water and sewerage and drainage works to which the foregoing tables relate, twenty-six trusts for reclamation of swamp and other lands were in operation as at 30th June, 1932. The capital indebtedness in respect of the works was £79,226, and the annual instalments for repayment amounted to £4,529. 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.

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 large district outside the county of Cumberland and embraces a strip of territory extending along the South Coast beyond Wollongong to Lake Illawarra.

The Board, now termed the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage, and Drainage Board, is constituted 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 amount of capital expenditure on the Board's works to 30th June, 1932, was as follows:—

Nature of Expenditure.	Water.	Sewerage.	Drainage.	Total.
Loan Expenditure by—	£	£	£	£
Board to 30th March, 1925 ...	8,841,644	4,503,975	22,398	13,368,017
Board since 1st April, 1925† ...	8,664,439	4,632,521	377,286	13,674,246
Public Works Department ...	6,128,218	5,099,037	271,318	11,498,573
Municipalities (Works taken over)	98,824	301,417	19,169	419,410
Total from Loans ...	23,733,125	14,536,950	690,171	38,960,246
Grant from Unemployment Relief Fund	130,287	282,715	...	413,002
Total Capital Expenditure ...	23,863,412	14,819,665	690,171	39,373,248
Less Payments in Reduction of Capital Indebtedness ...	329,171	206,513	8,295	543,979
Net Capital Indebtedness ...	23,534,241	14,613,152	681,876	38,829,269

† Includes interest on works during construction.

The capital indebtedness of the Board to the Government was declared tentatively by the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage, and Drainage Act of 1924 to be £22,489,478, which was the net amount expended on the services by the Board and the Government as at 30th June, 1924, inclusive of works in course of construction for the Board by the Department of Public Works. This amount was reviewed by a financial committee, who recommended that the capital indebtedness as at 1st April, 1925, be determined at £23,576,702, viz., water supply £14,311,175, sewerage £8,955,206, and drainage £310,321. The determinations of the committee are to be ratified by Parliament before being adopted.

The Board is required to pay to the State Treasury interest on its debt to the State at the rate chargeable to statutory bodies representing the Crown, also from 1st July, 1928, sinking fund contributions at the rate of 5s. per £100, this being the rate payable by the State in respect of its contributions to the National Debt Sinking Fund, established under the financial agreement between the Commonwealth and the States as described in the chapter entitled Public Finance.

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 20 per cent. of the unimproved value of the lands ratable for that service.

Up to 30th June, 1928, no special loans had been floated for the Board, but loan advances amounting to £412,000 in 1924-25, £1,703,000 in 1925-26, £2,000,000 in 1926-27 and £2,380,000 in 1927-28 were made to the Board by the Colonial Treasurer. These advances, amounting to £6,495,000, are being repaid by annual instalments extending over a period of twenty years from 1st January, 1930. Further advances, repayable in 1929-30, were made to the Board during 1928-29, the amount being £450,000.

Particulars of the loans floated by the Board to 30th June, 1932, are shown below:—

Year.	Amount.	Price of Issue.	Rate of Interest.*	Term—Years.	Repayable in—
	£	Par.	Per cent.		
1928	1,000,000		5½	20	Australia.
1929	1,487,400	£99 10 0	5½	15	"
1930	850,000	£99 10 0	6½	20	"
1930	1,512,330	£87 5 0	5½	20	New York.
1931	50,000	£99 10 0	6½	20	Australia.
1931	122,850	£99 10 0	6½	2	"

* Rates on all Australian loans are subject to ½% reduction under the Interest Reduction Act, 1931.

Towards the end of the year 1932, a loan of £1,200,000 at 98 per cent., bearing interest at 4½ per cent., was raised on the open market and over-subscribed.

In April, 1929, the Board commenced to receive money on deposit at short call and on fixed deposit. The interest rates per annum were as follows:—Short call, 4½ per cent.; fixed deposit, six months 4½ per cent., 12 months 5 per cent., and 2 years 5½ per cent. These rates were reduced by 4s. 6d. in the £ as from 1st October, 1931, in terms of the Interest Reduction Act. The minimum deposit is £500.

The amount of deposits and the interest paid during each quarter are shown below:—

Quarter.	Amount of Deposits at end of Quarter.			Interest paid during Quarter.
	Short Call.	Fixed Deposit.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1929—June	*	*	402,858	...
September	*	*	508,557	4,283
December	*	*	443,604	7,944
1930—March	*	*	407,649	5,356
June	342,473	62,960	405,433	4,346
September	320,465	62,960	383,425	4,328
December	328,558	68,960	397,518	5,561
1931—March	225,638	72,097	297,735	3,734
June	66,157	41,797	107,954	4,576
September	53,432	36,297	89,729	1,050
December	42,051	6,137	48,188	1,351
1932—March	33,451	3,000	36,451	607
June	22,758	3,000	25,758	312
September	18,658	3,000	21,658	174
December	18,158	2,500	20,658	182
1933—March	17,484	2,500	19,984	197

* Not available.

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 5,503,000,000 gallons are available by gravitation; Cataract, with a capacity of 20,743,000,000 gallons; Cordeaux, 20,597,000,000 gallons; and Avon, 47,153,000,000 gallons. There is also a small reservoir at Manly, which holds 438,000,000 gallons. At 30th June, 1932, there were 83,172 million gallons of water stored in these reservoirs. No construction work was carried out during 1931-32 on the two incomplete reservoirs, viz., Nepean, to hold 21,800,000,000 gallons, and Woronora, 15,100,000,000 galle

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 forty-eight service reservoirs and tanks below Prospect Dam, five above Prospect, and fourteen connected with the supply for the South Coast townships.

The total length of water mains as at 30th June, 1932, was 4,196 miles.

The first sewerage works in 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.

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. The northern suburbs ocean outfall discharges into the ocean at North Point, in the quarantine area; part of this main is in use and when completed it will serve the suburban areas on the northern side of Sydney Harbour and Parramatta River, extending as far west as Wentworthville.

The Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board maintains 76 miles of channels for stormwater drainage purposes, and is authorised to levy drainage rates within areas notified by gazettal.

The following statement shows the number of houses supplied with water and those connected with the sewerage system administered by the Metropolitan Board in 1911, 1916, and in the last seven years:—

Year ended 30th June.	Water Supply.				Sewerage.		
	Houses Supplied.	Total Supply during Year.	Average Daily.		Houses connected.	Length of Sewers.	Length of Stormwater Drains.
			Per House.	Per head of population supplied.			
	No.	Thousand gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	No.	miles.	miles.
1911	139,237	10,587,434	208	41.7	108,012	825	49
1916	183,598	14,374,000	214	42.9	130,638	1,022	54
1921	221,886	17,701,000	218	43.7	148,923	1,197	64
1926	268,558	24,506,739	250	50.0	176,388	1,416	61
1927	280,157	25,675,530	251	50.2	179,580	1,491	69
1928	290,926	27,321,939	257	51.3	185,058	1,578	71
1929	299,401	30,899,799	283	56.6	191,689	1,709	73
1930	307,945	29,733,497	264	52.9	200,150	1,794	76
1931	308,657	30,803,000	273	54.7	204,177	1,871	76
1932	311,246	32,194,000	283	56.5	206,893	1,883	76

General rates for water and sewerage are levied on the assessed annual value of the premises, the water rate in 1930-31 was 8d. in the £ and the sewerage rate 7½d. In 1931-32 the rates were 9d. and 8d. respectively as compared with 6d. and 9½d. respectively in 1911 and 1916, and 9d. and 12d. in 1921. The rates for 1932-33 have been fixed at 10½d. for water and 10d. for sewerage, and each consumer of water will be granted a rebate of 2d. per 1,000 gallons, if the water used is not less than in 1931-32. Water is supplied by meter for gardens, livestock, and trade purposes at a charge of 1s. 2d. per thousand gallons, and it is supplied without a meter to areas, mostly small gardens, not exceeding 1,000 square feet for a special fee of 8s. per annum. The number of gardens registered on 30th June, 1932, was 59,926.

Stormwater drainage rates are fixed in each area, so as to yield the revenue required to meet expenses, interest and sinking fund charges. They vary from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to $\frac{5}{4}$ d. in the £ of assessed annual value.

The following statement shows particulars of the financial transactions relating to the services controlled by the Metropolitan Board in various years from 1911:—

Year ended 30th June.	Capital Indebtedness.	Gross Revenue.	Working Expenses and Management.	Renewals.	Net Revenue.	Interest on Capital.	Sinking Fund Contribution.	Surplus.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Water Supply.</i>								
1911	5,420,813	299,442	99,355	*	200,087	192,486	...	7,601
1921	10,323,252	855,751	347,298	*	508,453	473,890	...	34,563
1926	16,156,470	1,319,872	422,359	70,274	827,239	795,144	66,350	(-) 34,255
1927	17,680,175	1,399,581	483,005	75,360	841,216	872,006	69,657	(-) 100,447
1928	19,317,808	1,480,748	513,171	106,172	861,405	816,323	74,071	(-) 28,989
1929	20,646,392	1,657,511	510,447	96,272	1,050,792	879,737	40,638	130,417
1930	22,525,679	1,722,140	519,119	139,000	1,064,021	973,083	50,486	40,452
1931	23,381,090	1,672,954	456,474	...	1,216,480	1,156,902†	58,010	1,568
1932	23,534,241	1,735,808	400,163	...	1,335,645	1,257,570‡	60,456	17,619
<i>Sewerage.</i>								
1911	4,496,290	234,208	79,636	*	154,572	159,070	...	(-) 4,498
1921	7,329,632	615,615	229,441	*	386,174	341,675	...	44,499
1926	9,819,586	777,809	289,426	3,818	484,565	501,451	38,917	(-) 55,803
1927	10,589,916	833,384	254,777	4,712	573,895	539,638	41,818	(-) 7,561
1928	11,536,173	941,870	267,383	6,049	668,438	510,310	46,669	111,459
1929	12,794,194	1,007,884	264,404	10,170	733,310	548,298	27,725	157,287
1930	13,855,037	981,775	274,259	20,000	687,516	614,543	35,029	37,944
1931	14,440,475	979,389	247,896	...	731,493	758,519†	39,674	(-) 66,700
1932	14,613,152	1,000,444	211,511	...	788,933	774,980‡	40,906	(-) 26,953
<i>Drainage.</i>								
1926	379,956	33,790	13,602	1,966	18,222	20,189	1,688	(-) 3,655
1927	423,360	33,944	14,309	1,174	18,461	21,895	1,693	(-) 5,127
1928	518,049	45,383	17,262	345	27,776	20,316	2,274	5,186
1929	594,163	50,789	15,806	272	34,711	25,820	1,200	7,691
1930	672,087	49,775	16,878	1,500	31,397	13,140	1,399	16,858
1931	699,450	51,745	11,516	...	40,229	36,504†	1,872	1,853
1932	681,876	60,501	10,526	...	49,975	37,697‡	1,938	10,340

* Charged to Public Works Fund.

† Includes exchange—Water £93,921; Sewerage £63,944; Drainage £2,624.

‡ Includes exchange—Water £151,825; Sewerage £105,642; Drainage £5,026.

Accounts are kept on a revenue basis, and the revenue due and the expenditure incurred in respect of any year are brought into account in that year. The accumulated loan expenditure is inclusive of works in course of construction. Interest on these works is payable by the Board and until 1927-28 it had been the custom to charge to revenue interest on works during construction. In that year, however, it was decided to capitalise such interest in respect of major works, *i.e.*, those having a life estimated at not less than fifty years.

Prior to 1st April, 1925, neither renewals nor sinking fund contribution was a charge on the revenues. The former were met from the Public Works Fund, and the latter was not charged.

The Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage.

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 to a Board under the authority of a special Act.

The Board is 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.

Water is obtained mainly from a dam of 5,000 million gallons capacity on the Chichester River at a point about 60 miles north from Newcastle. This supply can be supplemented if required by pumping water from the Hunter River.

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 parts of the Tarro and Lake Macquarie shires.

Particulars relating to the water supply and sewerage services of the Board at intervals since 1911 are given below:—

Year ended 30th June.	Water Supply.				Sewerage.	
	Properties supplied.	Supply during year.	Average Daily Supply.		Properties Connected.	Length of Sewer.
			Per Property.	Per Head.		
	No.	thousand gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	No.	miles.
1911 ...	17,164	675,214	108	21·5	1,465	30
1921 ...	25,874	1,711,187	181	36·2	12,218	148
1926 ...	33,997	2,668,215	215	43·0	18,071	177
1927 ...	36,600	2,970,781	222	44·5	19,219	183
1928 ...	39,262	2,994,610	208	41·6	20,043	187
1929 ...	40,222	3,387,187	230	45·6	20,637	190
1930 ...	41,674	3,029,342	199	39·8	21,230	199
1931 ...	42,631	2,905,391	187	37·3	21,471	200
1932 ...	42,778	2,863,463	183	36·5	21,526	202

A water rate of 10d. in the £ was charged up to 30th June, 1927, then it was increased to 13d. on properties with an annual value exceeding £14. A charge of 15s. per annum is payable on properties valued at £14 or less, and extra charges are made for water used for other than domestic purposes. The charge by meter is 1s. 6d. to 2s. per 1,000 gallons. The sewerage rate is 12d. in the £ of assessed annual value.

Up to 30th June, 1928, the receipts were paid into Consolidated Revenue Fund of the State and payments in connection with the services were made from that fund. No deduction was made on account of expenditure on renewals, which was met from the Public Works Fund of the State. Interest was charged against revenue only on so much of the loan capital as was revenue-producing, the balance being either capitalised or paid from Consolidated Revenue Fund. On 1st July, 1928, a special deposits account was opened in the State Treasury for the receipts and expenditure, and the capital indebtedness to the State at 30th June, 1928, was determined by agreement between the Government and the Board and declared in the Hunter District Water and Sewerage Act, 1928, to be £3,360,911, viz., water supply £2,514,483, sewerage £661,888, and storm-water drainage £184,540. The Board is required to collect sufficient rates, etc., to cover expenses and to pay interest on its capital indebtedness and sinking fund contributions at the rate of 5s. per £100.

In determining the capital indebtedness a large amount was written off in consideration of the additional cost of the Chichester waterworks owing to delay in construction as a result of the war, concessions in charges for water supplied to industrial concerns and the State railways, and considerable sums paid to the Treasury since 1907 as net surpluses and instalments to sinking fund for renewals.

Particulars relating to revenue, expenses, etc., during various years since 1911 are shown below:—

Year ended 30th June.	Capital Debt.	Gross Revenue.	Working Expenses and Management.	Interest on Loan Capital.	Sinking Fund.	Net Revenue.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Water Supply.</i>						
1911	495,747	45,711	17,774	16,970	...	10,967
1921	1,472,074	116,320	59,895	35,556	...	20,869
1926	3,733,126	163,807	65,528	55,819	...	42,660
1927	4,078,397	170,601	78,397	65,938	...	26,266
1928	2,514,483*	214,669	89,769	76,957	...	47,943
1929	2,716,581	222,905	91,874	134,367	6,824	(—) 10,160
1930	2,830,415	231,698	90,993	142,660	7,260	(—) 9,215
1931	2,847,998	235,325	77,706	160,298†	8,117	(—) 10,796
1932	2,862,557	220,017	70,213	153,048‡	8,105	(—) 21,349
<i>Sewerage and Drainage.</i>						
1911	170,151	8,975	3,177	2,902	...	2,866
1921	590,790	32,164	16,007	25,328	...	(—) 9,171
1926	719,549	68,412	22,625	31,932	...	13,855
1927	781,452	75,175	25,578	32,968	...	16,629
1928	846,428*	79,636	24,206	33,777	...	21,653
1929	1,222,691	84,006	26,980	33,659	2,460	20,907
1930	1,607,443	88,487	35,605	34,820	3,573	14,489
1931	1,868,802	91,158	37,630	44,642†	5,033	3,803
1932	2,233,177	86,607	35,547	33,304‡	5,867	11,889

* Capital debt written down.
drainage £9,756.

† Includes exchange—water £15,578, sewerage and
‡ Includes exchange—water £25,916, sewerage and drainage £246.

The increase in the interest charges in 1928–29 was due to the fact that interest in respect of the Chichester waterworks, previously capitalised, was charged to revenue.

ROADS, BRIDGES, AND FERRIES.

Prior to the enactment of legislation providing for the incorporation of shires, the State was divided into road districts, each 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. Road trusts formed under various Acts 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 was brought into operation, 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.

A brief review of Main Roads administration was published on pages 781 to 786 of the Year Book for 1930–31. A more comprehensive survey will be published in part "Trade, Transport and Communication" of the Year Book for 1932–33.

Statistics as to roads are collected triennially, and in 1930 the length of roads in the State was approximately 118,776 miles, of which 10,858 miles were in the municipalities, 101,737 miles in the shires, and 6,181 miles, chiefly in the unincorporated areas of the Western Division, were under the Control of the Public Works Department. The nature of the roads may be seen in the following statement:—

Divisions.	Blocked, Metalled, Gravelled, Ballasted, etc.	Formed only.	Cleared only.	Natural surface.	Total.
	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.
Municipalities	5,780	1,973	1,812	1,293	10,858
Shires	21,464	17,928	30,616	31,729	101,737
Western Division*	301	662	2,503	2,715	6,181
Total	27,545	20,563	34,931	35,737	118,776

* 30th June, 1932.

The principal roads leading southward from Sydney are the *Prince's Highway* (349 miles), traversing the coastal districts to the Victorian border; and the *Hume Highway* (367 miles), via Goulburn and Gundagai to Albury. The *Federal Highway* (42 miles) runs from the Hume Highway, near Yarra, to the Federal Capital Territory; and the *Monaro Highway* (254 miles) from Tathra, on the coast, via Cooma and Tumut to Wagga.

The western highways are the *Great Western* (129 miles) from Sydney to Bathurst; the *Mid-western* (610 miles approximately) from Bathurst through Cowra, Wyalong, Balranald, and Wentworth to the South Australian border near the southern corner of New South Wales; the *North-western* (425 miles) from Bathurst via Orange, Trangie, Nyngan, and Bourke to Barrington on the Queensland border; and the *Barrier Highway* (about 394 miles) from Nyngan, via Cobar, Wilcannia, and Broken Hill to the South Australian border at Cockburn.

The principal northern roads are the *Pacific Highway* (609 miles), traversing the coastal districts from North Sydney to Newcastle, thence via Hexham and the coastal towns to the Queensland border at Coolangatta; the *New England Highway* (446 miles), from Hexham, thence through Maitland, and along the tablelands through Glen Innes and Tenterfield to the Queensland border near Mount Lindsay. The *Oxley Highway* (377 miles), branching from the Pacific Highway near Wauchope, connects it with the North-western Highway at Trangie; and the *Gwydir Highway* (326 miles) branches from the same road at South Grafton and runs westerly via Glen Innes and Moree to Collarendabri. A road 16 miles in length between Landsdowne and Hornsby connects the Hume and Great Northern Highways.

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 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 reinforced concrete, 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 and those under the control of the Main Roads Board. The most notable bridge-building project is the Sydney Harbour Bridge described below.

A wooden bridge across Middle Harbour at the Spit was built in 1924 by the Sydney Harbour Trust for the Manly Municipal Council. Tolls were levied to defray the cost until expenses had been paid in full, then the bridge was transferred to the Government in 1930. Similar conditions apply to a bridge across George's River, which was constructed by the Sutherland Shire Council, and opened for traffic in May, 1929.

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. The majority of ferries throughout the State are operated free of charge to the public. Tolls are charged on ferries under the control of the Main Roads Board at Wiseman's Ferry and Peat's Ferry, on the Hawkesbury River, at Forster across the entrance to Wallis Lake, and, on Sundays and holidays only, at Taren Point on the George's River, and on several smaller ferries in shires and municipalities.

Sydney Harbour Bridge.

The Sydney Harbour Bridge, crossing between Dawes Point on the southern and Milson's Point on the northern side, is the largest arch bridge in the world. Its total length, with railway and roadway approaches (the railway connecting with the City Railway at Wynyard Station and with the northern suburban line at Waverton Station) is $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

The main bridge consists of a steel arch span of 1,650 feet, with a rise of 350 feet at the centre of the lower chord at crown, and the highest point of the top chord is 440 feet above mean sea level. It is flanked on either side by granite-faced concrete abutment towers and pylons and by five steel approach spans. The clearance for shipping is 170 feet from high-water level. The width of the deck overall is 160 feet; it carries a roadway 57 feet wide in the centre, with a pair of railway tracks on each side, and a footway 10 feet on each extreme outside. The main arch is composed of silicon steel and the deck of carbon steel. The weight of steelwork in the bridge is 50,300 tons, of which 37,000 tons are in the main span.

The actual construction cost is about £6,250,000, and the total cost, including resumptions and interest during construction, nearly £10,000,000. This amount will be reduced ultimately by realisations from the sale of surplus lands. The Government expenditure to 30th June, 1932, amounted to £9,766,124, including £4,584,933 to the contractors in respect of the main bridge and steel approaches, £2,032,240 expended by the Public Works Department on approaches, £1,325,789 on resumptions, and £1,385,851 as interest capitalised. Included in the payment to the contractors is an amount of £511,200 on account of statutory wage variations and reduction in working hours.

It was prescribed by the Sydney Harbour Bridge Act, 1922, that two-thirds of the cost was to be debited to the Government railways, and that one-third was to be paid by means of a special levy first fixed at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. but reduced for 1933 and subsequent years to $\frac{1}{3}$ d. in the £ of unimproved capital value of land in the following municipalities and shires, viz., Sydney, Manly, Mosman, Lane Cove, North Sydney, Willoughby, Ku-ring-gai, Warringah and part of Hornsby. Under amending legislation, however, it was arranged that tolls be charged for traffic other than pedestrian, that the railway and tramway authorities pay a prescribed amount in respect of each paying passenger carried across the bridge, and that the special levy upon the local areas enumerated above be collected up to and including the year 1939.

The charges payable in respect of traffic across the bridge are as follows:—

	s.	d.
Motor cars and motor cycles with side cars each	0	6
Bicycles, tricycles, motor cycles without side cars, light vehicles propelled by hand or horse drawn „	0	3
Vans, lorries, drays, or other vehicles of which the tare weight does not exceed 2 tons „	1	0
Vans, lorries, drays, or other vehicles of which the tare weight exceeds 2 tons but does not exceed 3 tons „	2	0
Vehicles not otherwise specified „	3	0
Persons riding in vehicles (other than the driver)—Adults ..	0	3
„ „ „ „ —Children ..	0	1
Horse and rider „	0	3
Horses or cattle (loose stock)... .. per head	0	2
Sheep or pigs „	0	1

The bridge was opened for traffic on 19th March, 1932. Its administration is vested in the Board of Transport Commissioners, and one pair of railway tracks, not yet required for the railway services, is being used for trams.

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 and the Main Roads Board on works of a local character, such as roads, bridges, punts, ferries, public watering places, etc., in various years from 1906 to 1932:—

Year ended 30th June.	Expenditure from votes of Public Works Department.	Expenditure from Funds of Main Roads Board.	Endowments and Grants, to Councils from votes of Local Government Department.			Total Expenditure.
			Shires.	Municipalities.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1906	497,061	...	...	4,944	4,944	502,005
1916	114,011	...	353,048	62,457	415,505	529,516
1921	212,407	...	316,180	108,353	424,533	636,940
1926	321,785	1,385,888	255,465	9,654	265,119	1,972,792
1927	343,013	2,498,802	181,392	10,157	191,549	3,033,364
1928	361,023	3,090,074	246,790	17,124	263,914	3,715,011
1929	479,662	3,602,789	301,220	30,290	331,510	4,413,961
1930	464,271	4,093,621	312,178	69,129	381,307	4,939,199
1931	435,749	2,432,981	519,395	397,150	916,545	3,785,275
1932	161,903	1,311,698	201,388	21,283	222,671	1,696,272

The moneys expended by the Main Roads Boards have not been provided wholly by the State Government, part of them being grants from the Government of the Commonwealth and contributions, etc., by the councils of the municipalities and shires, as shown on earlier pages of this chapter.

The expenditure in connection with the Sydney Harbour Bridge, amounting to £1,673,003 in 1930-31, and to £1,629,177 in 1931-32, is not included in the figures shown in the table. In addition there has been a considerable amount of expenditure on roads, bridges, etc., by local government bodies and on streets by private individuals in preparing land for subdivisional sales.

AGRICULTURE.

AGRICULTURAL YEAR.

Until 1931 statistics relating to primary production were collected for years ended 30th June; as from 1932 they relate to periods of twelve months ended 31st March. The alteration will lead to more prompt publication of essential statistical data, and will not interfere in any material degree with statistical comparisons. Except in the case of a few minor crops, the production season is as fully embraced within a period of twelve months ending 31st March as in a period of twelve months ending 30th June.

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.

The progress of cultivation since 1891, in quinquennial periods, is shown in the following table:—

Years ended June—	Area under—		Acres per Inhabitant under—	
	Cultivation and Sown Grasses.	Crops.	Cultivation and Sown Grasses.	Crops.
	<i>acres.</i>	<i>acres.</i>		
	<i>Average Area per Annum.</i>			
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
1926-30	7,149,119	5,014,364	2·98	2·09
	<i>Area in each Year.</i>			
1921	6,280,517	4,464,342	3·00	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
1926	6,559,272	4,541,423	2·85	1·98
1927	6,632,602	4,595,711	2·82	1·96
1928	7,175,367	4,994,515	2·99	2·08
1929	7,641,853	5,440,762	3·12	2·22
1930	7,736,500	5,499,408	3·12	2·22
1931	8,959,974	6,809,510	3·58	2·72
1932	7,649,880	5,107,049	3·04	2·03

About 80 per cent. of the area under crop is sown with wheat, and as other individual crops are of relatively small extent, the fluctuations in the area under crops are due mainly to variations in the extent of wheat-growing. The area of land under sown grasses (2,542,831 acres in 1931-32) consists principally of lands in the coastal districts, cleared and sown with grasses for the maintenance of dairy stock.

Particulars obtained in 1931 indicated that there were 23,494,636 acres 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. 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. The area of holdings 1 acre or more in extent used directly or indirectly for agriculture was returned as 9,679,649 acres in 1931, inclusive of both alienated and Crown lands.

The following table shows the divisional distribution of agricultural lands during the season 1930-31. 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.				Area of Alienated Land Occupied in Holdings of 1 acre and over—*		
		Under Occupation in Holdings of 1 acre and over.	Under Crops.	Under Sown Grasses.	Used Directly or Indirectly for Agriculture.	Suitable for Cultivation.	Under Crops, 1930-31.	Proportion of Suitable Area Cultivated.
	000 acres.	000 acres.	000 acres.	000 acres.	000 acres.	000 acres.	000 acres.	per cent.
Coastal—								
North Coast ..	6,965	4,797	107	1,579	53	503	107	21·3
Hunter and Manning..	8,395	5,297	101	362	111	421	101	24·0
Metropolitan..	958	294	31	1	70	127	31	24·4
South Coast ..	5,968	2,398	53	146	47	307	52	16·9
Total ..	22,286	12,786	292	2,028	286	1,358	291	21·4
Tableland -								
Northern ..	8,069	6,623	76	10	71	373	75	20·1
Central ..	10,716	7,683	410	21	526	1,554	405	25·1
Southern ..	7,062	5,625	45	7	23	350	45	12·9
Total ..	25,847	19,934	531	38	620	2,277	525	23·1
Western Slopes—								
North ..	9,219	8,181	485	2	545	1,475	478	32·4
Central ..	7,723	6,836	1,341	12	1,696	3,326	1,325	34·6
South ..	11,222	9,558	1,561	29	2,358	4,818	1,535	31·9
Total ..	28,164	24,575	3,387	43	4,599	10,119	3,338	33·0
Central Plains—								
North ..	9,580	7,399	181	2	191	976	172	17·6
Central ..	14,811	13,558	400	1	633	2,387	390	16·3
Riverina ..	17,021	15,982	1,995	37	3,292	6,244	1,862	29·8
Total ..	41,412	36,939	2,576	40	4,116	9,607	2,424	25·2
Western ..	80,319	77,538	24	1	58	134	10	7·5
All Divisions	108,028	171,772	6,810	2,150	9,679	23,495	6,588	28·0

* Total area of alienated land in holdings of 1 acre and over used for pastoral and farming purposes was 73,626,350 acres, including lands in course of alienation and certain lands under perpetual lease.

In addition to the area of alienated land under crops in 1930-31 (shown above) an area of 175,755 acres of new land was cleared and grubbed for ploughing, 1,181,843 acres were worked under a full year's fallow, 287,554 acres were worked for summer fallow and 2,559,756 acres previously cropped land were not ploughed in that season. Similar particulars in respect of Crown lands are not available, but the areas of such lands under cultivation of any kind are relatively small.

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 such holdings, and the number of crops cultivated on them at intervals since 1900-01 are shown in the following statement.

Kind of Crop.	Number of Holdings upon which Crop was grown.					
	1900-01.	1905-06.	1915-16.	1925-26.	1930-31†.	1931-32.†
Wheat	20,149	19,049	22,453	17,074	18,171	16,875
Maize	17,569	17,475	14,869	15,196	15,435	16,213
Barley	2,246	1,755	2,538	1,916	1,667	1,621
Oats	11,547	10,740	13,723	16,851	18,098	17,197
Rice ... ..	...	...	...	...	270	277
Potatoes	9,521	8,552	4,643	3,679	2,492	2,927
Tobacco	31	98	97	111	86	271
Sugar-cane	1,214	1,113	694	955	917	939
Grapes	1,832	1,530	1,388	1,809	1,592	1,621
Orchards†—Citrus	1,905	2,385	5,787	5,778	4,638	4,603
Other	8,064	6,846	8,760	7,218	5,538	5,482
Market Gardens	2,266	2,842	3,301	2,398	1,603	1,442
Number of Cultivated Holdings*	45,828	46,349	50,728	49,668	49,391†	50,214†

* Holdings on which more than one crop was grown are included once only. † Excluding crops of less than 1 acre, which were included in 1925-26 and earlier years. ‡ Orchards are included in both groups if citrus, as well as other fruits, are grown. The number of orchards of 1 acre or more was 8,037 in 1930-31, and 7,865 in 1931-32.

The number of farms on which wheat is sown is subject to seasonal fluctuations, but, in the past thirty years, it has declined notwithstanding a large increase in the area devoted to this crop. Small areas of maize and oats are cultivated by many farmers for use on their farms. Consequently, the holdings with these crops are nearly as numerous as those on which wheat is produced, though the area under wheat is many times greater than the area under maize or oats. Moreover, 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 total number of holdings of 1 acre and upwards used for agricultural, dairying, or pastoral purposes in 1931-32 was 74,106, and areas of 1 acre or more in extent were cultivated on 50,214 holdings. Only 10,986 holdings were used exclusively for agricultural purposes. In addition 14,825 holdings were used for agricultural and pastoral pursuits combined, 3,406 for agriculture with dairying, 1,614 for all three pursuits combined, and a limited amount of cultivation of a non-commercial character was conducted in connection with other activities. There were, in all, 23,892 holdings on which there was no cultivation or less than 1 acre under crop.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

The area and production of the principal crops of New South Wales are shown below:—

Crop.	1915-16.	1925-26.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Wheat (grain)—					
Area acres	4,188,865	2,925,012	3,974,064	5,134,960	3,682,945
Total yield bush.	66,764,910	33,806,000	34,407,000	65,877,000	54,966,000
Average yield p.a. ... bush.	15·9	11·6	8·7	12·8	14·9
Maize—					
Area acres	154,130	120,955	108,219	105,024	106,047
Total yield bush.	3,773,600	3,278,350	3,035,850	2,766,660	2,669,580
Average yield p.a. ... bush.	24·5	27·1	23·1	26·3	25·2
Oats (grain)—					
Area acres	58,636	101,097	181,354	176,659	151,600
Total yield bush.	1,345,698	1,615,650	2,528,610	3,241,980	2,526,450
Average yield p.a. ... bush.	23·0	16·0	13·9	18·4	16·7
Rice—					
Area acres	...	1,556	19,780	19,825	19,574
Total yield bush.	...	61,098	1,829,173	1,427,413	1,349,653
Average yield p.a. ... bush.	...	39·3	92·5	72·0	69·0
Hay†—					
Area acres	1,108,919	750,605	698,395	896,770	612,150
Total yield tons	1,573,938	866,275	686,962	1,191,696	811,243
Average yield p.a. ... tons	1·42	1·15	0·98	1·33	1·33
Green Crops—					
Area acres	162,945	479,464	356,903	310,341	367,346
Potatoes—					
Area acres	19,589	22,731	12,735	15,304	17,522
Total yield tons	44,445	43,137	23,907	32,283	33,709
Average yield p.a. ... tons	2·27	1·90	1·87	2·11	1·92
Sugar-cane—					
Area cut acres	6,030	8,688	7,967	7,617	8,272
Total yield tons	157,748	297,335	174,110	160,209	179,153
Average yield p.a. ... tons	26·16	34·22	21·85	21·03	21·66
Fruit—					
Area acres	63,823	89,003	93,121	93,539	95,251
Market Gardens—					
Area acres	10,967	8,985	8,380	7,448	6,655
Total yield £	400,860	682,726	621,212	465,977	385,312
Average yield p.a. ... £	36·6	76·0	74·1	62·5	57·9
All other Crops—					
Area acres	26,843	35,445	39,978	43,760	41,192
Total Area* ... acres	5,900,747	4,543,541	5,500,946	6,811,247	5,108,554

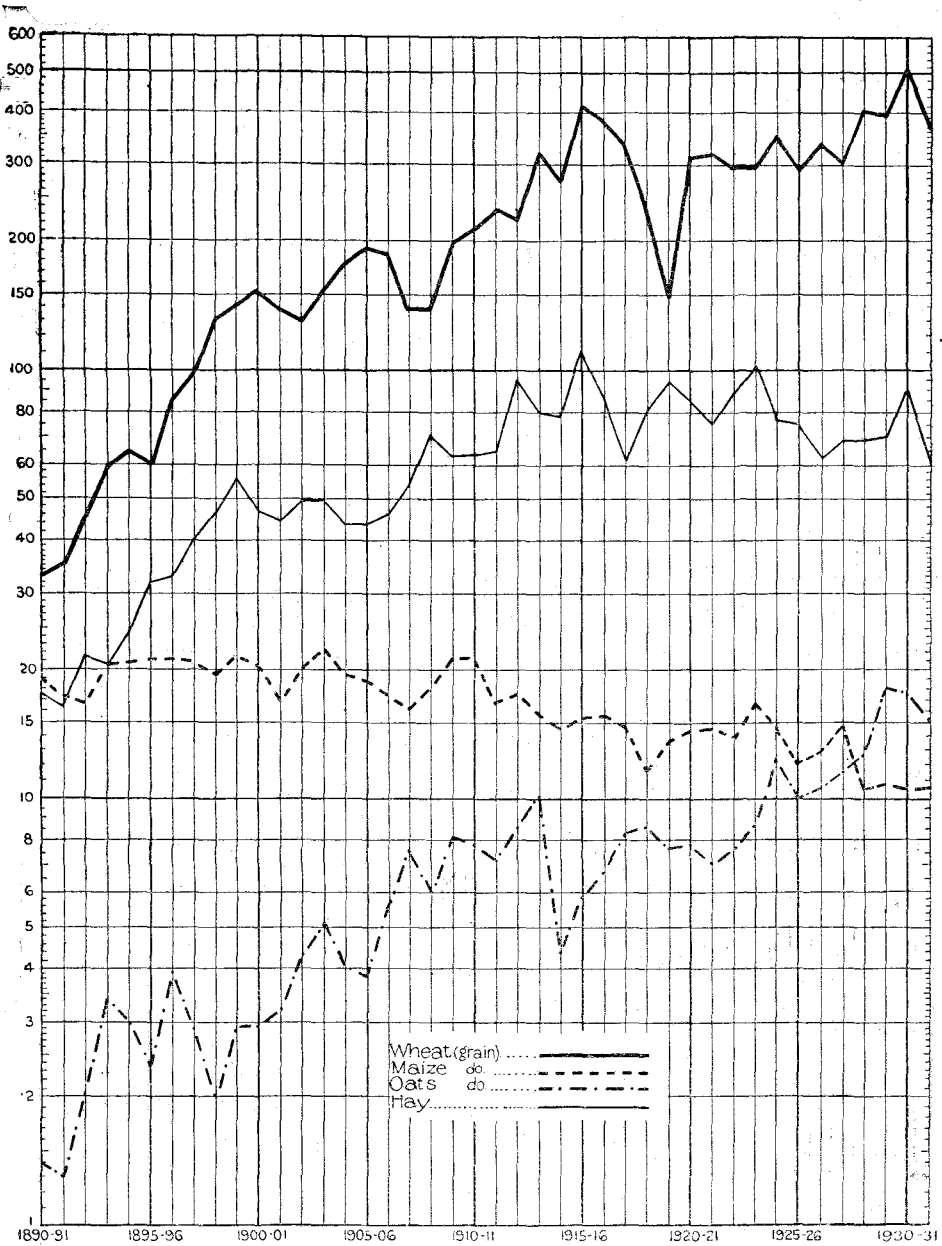
* Including area double-cropped. † Mainly wheaten, oatsen, and lucerne.

It will be observed that wheat is the only crop extensively grown. The relatively large areas sown in 1915-16 and 1930-31 represented a response to special appeals. The larger part of the area cut for hay is sown with wheat, but considerable proportions are used for the production of oatsen and lucerne hay.† Reference to the graphs on the next following pages show that the cultivation of wheat and oatsen over the past 40 years has been generally increasing while maize-growing has decreased. Details of each of these crops are shown on later pages.

‡ See pages 533 and 557.

AREA UNDER PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1890-91 to 1931-32.

Ratio Graph.

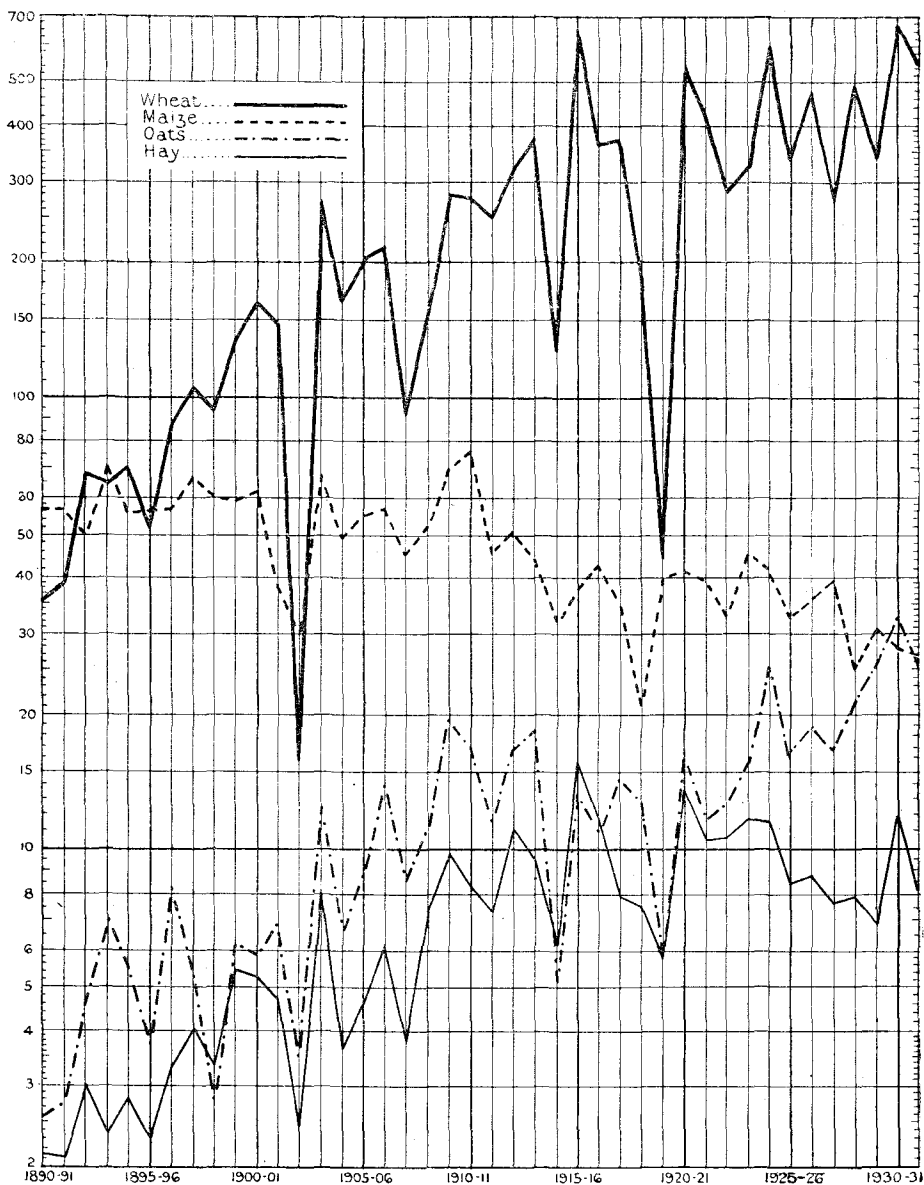


The numbers at the side of the graph represent 10,000 acres.

The diagram is a ratio graph. The vertical scale is logarithmic, and the curves rise and fall according to the percentage of increase or decrease. Actual areas are shown by means of the numbers at the side of the graph.

PRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1890-91 to 1931-32.

Ratio Graph.



The numbers at the side of the graph represent 100,000 bushels of wheat, maize and oat and 100,000 tons of hay.

The diagram is a ratio graph. The vertical scale is logarithmic, and the curves rise and fall according to the percentage of increase or decrease. Actual quantities are shown by means of the numbers at the side of the graph.

Value of Agricultural Production.

The estimated value of the agricultural production of the State 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 or at nearest railway siding:—

Crop	Value at Farm or Railway Siding.					Proportion per cent.				
	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Wheat (grain)	£ 6,197,220	£ 9,851,400	£ 5,447,770	£ 5,215,260	*£ 8,130,390	40·1	50·9	35·7	42·3	55·9
Maize	622,330	543,150	758,960	383,180	417,120	4·0	2·8	5·0	3·1	2·9
Barley	14,350	13,260	21,440	25,970	17,990	0·1	0·1	0·1	0·2	0·1
Oats	324,010	254,860	316,080	182,360	126,320	2·1	1·3	2·1	1·5	0·9
Hay and Straw†	3,821,880	3,571,880	3,097,090	2,366,640	1,491,830	21·5	18·5	20·3	19·2	10·3
Green Food	995,950	811,930	952,190	548,800	977,120	6·5	4·2	6·2	6·9	6·7
Potatoes	182,480	325,950	159,880	169,490	152,110	1·2	1·7	1·0	1·4	1·0
Sugar-cane	333,520	215,590	291,000	279,700	300,050	2·2	1·1	1·9	2·2	2·1
Rice	181,320	201,850	289,620	259,610	263,180	1·2	1·0	1·9	2·1	1·8
Grapes	171,890	320,080	208,550	219,330	253,130	1·1	1·6	1·4	1·8	1·7
Wine, Brandy, etc. ..	141,810	96,830	112,020	58,540	65,460	0·9	0·5	0·7	0·5	0·5
Fruit—Citrus	765,240	913,110	1,173,400	515,160	562,700	4·9	4·7	7·7	4·2	3·9
Other	1,021,520	929,660	1,126,910	855,330	647,990	6·6	4·8	7·4	6·9	4·4
Market-gardens	619,020	689,440	621,210	465,980	385,310	4·0	3·6	4·1	3·8	2·6
Other Crops	550,980	616,840	689,360	482,490	755,920	3·6	3·2	4·5	3·9	5·2
Total†	15,443,520	19,385,890	15,263,510	12,327,840	14,546,650	100	100	100	100	100

* Including bounty of 4½d. per bushel paid by Commonwealth Government. † Values for 1927-28 to 1929-30 have been revised.

The agricultural income of New South Wales depends mainly on the return from wheat crops, the value of wheat, grain and hay, in 1931-32 being £8,731,400, or over 60 per cent. of the total. The returns from other individual crops, except fruit, are comparatively small.

Owing to drought conditions in 1927-28 the wheat harvest was only two-thirds of the average of the previous five years, and there was a marked decline in the return from hay. In addition, prices of agricultural produce showed a general decline. Although the decline in prices continued in 1928-29, the value of production increased in consequence of larger harvests. Low prices and a smaller wheat crop in 1929-30 combined to produce the lowest value of agricultural production recorded in post-war years, and, despite unusually large harvests in 1930-31, the aggregate values were even lower on account of a further heavy fall in prices. The increase in 1931-32 was due to higher prices prevailing for wheat, and to a bounty of 4½d. per bushel paid by the Commonwealth Government for wheat sold.

No deduction has been made from the values shown above for cost of materials used in production. Seed wheat is included in the production of grain and the fodder used for farm stock is included at its market value. Exclusive of materials used in maintenance of buildings, fences, etc., and of depreciation of stock used for draught purposes, the cost of materials in 1931-32 was approximately £2,631,000. The principal items were: Fodder for stock, £621,000; seed, £406,000; depreciation of machinery, £1,053,000; fertilisers, £371,000; sprays, etc., £129,000; and water, £51,000. After deducting these, the net value of production was £11,916,000 to the farmer.

Value of Production per Acre.

The following table, showing the value of agricultural production, 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
1917-21	4,349,814	16,986,250	3 17 8
1922-26	4,680,170	22,328,630	4 15 5
1927	4,595,711	21,816,196*	4 15 0
1928	4,994,515	15,443,520*	3 1 10
1929	5,440,762	19,355,830*	3 11 2
1930	5,499,408	15,268,516*	2 15 6
1931	6,809,510	12,327,840	1 16 2
1932†	5,107,049	14,546,650	2 17 0

* Revised.

† Season ended 31st March.

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; crops produced by intense cultivation were a larger proportion of the total than in recent years. The increased values shown between 1912-16 and 1929 were due mainly to the higher level of prices received for produce concurrently with the general rise in prices, but the influence of this factor is affected by variations in the yield per acre. The pronounced influence of the fall in prices is shown in later years.

The average value per acre of various crops is shown below:—

Crop.	Average Values per Acre.						
	Ten years ended 1913-14.	Ten years ended 1931-32.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wheat for Grain...	1 17 1	2 7 9	2 0 11	2 8 2	1 7 5	1 0 4	2 4 2
Maize for Grain ...	4 6 11	5 8 3	4 3 8	5 1 8	7 0 3	3 13 0	3 18 8
Oats for Grain ...	2 4 9	2 3 10	2 16 4	2 0 3	1 14 10	1 0 8	0 16 8
Hay ...	3 8 9	5 1 7	4 17 3	5 4 1	4 8 4	2 12 8	2 8 8
Potatoes ...	11 2 5	14 8 11	8 9 1	21 19	7 12 10	1 11 1	6 8 13 7
Sugar-cane†	21 9 4	41 6 5	38 19 7	31 15	8 36 10	6 36 14	5 36 5 6
Vineyards†	16 12 4	29 14	6 24 2 9	31 17	7 23 15	0 20 16	5 28 16 4
Orchards†	10 17 9	26 18	10 28 15 1	29 14	2 36 4	8 20 2	8 16 15 9
Market-gardens ...	31 7 5	75 2 10	80 1 10	89 8	8 74 2	7 62 11	3 57 17 11

† Productive area only.

The average value of production per acre measures the effect from year to year of yield obtained and prices realised, therefore it may 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. In 1930-31 and in 1931-32, mainly because of lower prices, the average values per acre of maize, oats, and potatoes were below the pre-war averages.

Gross and Net Values of Agricultural production.

In the absence of actual records of farm sales and purchases there is considerable difficulty in valuing agricultural production, and the best estimates with available data can be regarded only as approximations.

Valuations, however, are shown below on various bases for each of the seven seasons 1925-26 to 1931-32.

Year ended 30th June.	Gross Production valued at Metropolitan Wholesale Prices.	Difference between Metropolitan and Country Prices.	Gross Production valued at Place of Production.	Seed used and Fodder for Farm Stock used in Agricultural Work.	Net Production valued at Farm or nearest rail siding.	Value of Principal Materials used and Depreciation.†	Net Value of Production after deducting Materials and Depreciation.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
(Thousand £.)							
1926‡	24,635	4,980	19,655	2,730	16,925	1,706	15,219
1927‡	26,019	4,203	21,816	3,322	18,494	1,710	16,784
1928‡	18,836	3,392	15,444	2,378	13,066	1,913	11,153
1929‡	23,800	4,444	19,356	2,724	16,632	2,086	14,546
1930‡	18,839	3,570	15,269	2,922	12,347	2,062	10,285
1931	17,196	4,868	12,328	1,579	10,749	2,069	8,680
1932*	18,368	3,821	14,547	1,027	13,520	1,604	11,916

* Year ended 31st March. of machinery.

† Fertilisers, sprays, water (purchased), etc., and depreciation

‡ Revised.

The second column provides a relative measure of the importance of agricultural production to the community by valuing all items on a common basis. It is inclusive of the value of transport, handling and marketing services rendered after the products leave the railway siding nearest the farm and up to the point of sale in metropolitan markets. It has, however, the disadvantage of including values for such services on products which remain on the farms or which are sold to neighbouring landholders. The third column includes what may be called "costs of marketing" (freights, handling charges, commissions, etc.) that would have been paid if all products had been sold in metropolitan markets; the ratio to the totals in the second column varies under the influence of changes in the volume and composition of agricultural production as well as changes in price levels, freights, commissions, etc. The figures in the fourth column are those published in a preceding table and are inclusive of the estimated value of seed and fodder used in the course of production. The value placed on these is shown in the fifth column and the effect of deducting them is shown in the sixth column, which represents, as nearly as may be with existing data, the approximate money return to farmers for agricultural products, though it is inclusive of agricultural products used in other rural industries valued at £1,894,000 in 1930-31. The seventh column represents approximately the value of the principal non-rural materials used in agricultural production, and of depreciation of machinery only, and the eighth is the net value of agricultural production excluding the approximate value of the principal goods and services provided by non-rural industries. It represents approximately the aggregate incomes of farmers and their employees from agricultural production without deductions for interest, depreciation, etc., on farm properties.

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, or, as in the case of wheat, with world markets, and, therefore, show very great fluctuations. In times when export prices fall steeply and remain at low levels for an extended period (as in 1931 and 1932) the prices of all agricultural products are apt to fall on account of the general collapse of values. Wheat and flour, in which alone there is a regular external trade, were closely regulated in price between 1914 and 1922. The prices of flour, bran, and pollard, are generally determined by the Flour Mill Owners' Association of New South Wales. From 30th March, 1931, to 31st December, 1931, a charge of £2 15s. per ton was added on account of a levy under the Flour Acquisition Act, the corresponding charge for 1932 being £1 10s. per ton. 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 partly by external market conditions.

The quotations here given represent the average prices obtained for farm products (local and imported) in the various Sydney markets; for country districts due allowance must be made for cost of transportation, etc. 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, *i.e.*, the mean of the daily quotations, are shown in the "Statistical Register." Except in the case of wheat, the figures are those quoted by the middleman, and not those obtained by the producers:—

Commodity.		1911.	1921.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wheat (f.a.q. bagged) ..	bush.	0 3 6	0 8 8	0 5 1½	0 4 10½	0 3 10½	0 2 5½	0 3 1
Flour	ton	8 9 10	19 6 7	12 7 2	11 19 11	10 1 1	9 11 4½	9 16 11½
Bran	bush.	0 0 11½	0 1 7½	0 1 3½	0 1 5	0 1 3½	0 0 9½	0 1 0
Pollard	"	0 0 11½	0 1 8½	0 1 5½	0 1 6	0 1 7½	0 0 9½	0 1 0½
Oats	"	0 2 7½	0 3 5½	0 4 8½	0 4 8	0 4 2	0 2 7½	0 1 11
Maize	"	0 3 0	0 5 3½	0 3 11½	0 5 9	0 5 4	0 3 7½	0 4 8½
Potatoes (local)	ton	5 11 4	6 0 2	5 13 10	16 13 6	7 11 6	6 10 9	6 0 0
Onions	"	5 15 16*	5 12 1	12 7 0	12 19 6	6 17 4	7 0 7	14 7 9
Hay—								
Oaten	"	4 14 5	7 11 10	7 3 4	7 10 4	7 1 9	5 19 0	6 4 6
Lucerne	"	3 5 0	5 18 5	5 17 0	6 17 0	6 10 0	4 8 1	4 9 4
Chaff—								
Wheaten	"	4 0 11	6 8 8	6 5 8	6 17 2	6 3 5	3 18 3	3 18 9

* Nominal.

† Includes Flour Tax of £2 15s. as from 30th March, 1931.

‡ Includes Flour Tax of £1 10s. from 1st January, 1932.

The combined price variations since 1901 of agricultural produce in Sydney markets, weighted according to the average consumption in New South Wales in the three years 1911-13, 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	1912	1339	1923	1720
1902	1266	1913	1069	1924	1475
1903	1181	1914	1135	1925	1680
1904	789	1915	1648	1926	1892
1905	972	1916	1163	1927	1767
1906	929	1917	1127	1928	1456
1907	1003	1918	1377	1929	1707
1908	1343	1919	1990	1930	1428
1909	1134	1920	2430	1931	1061
1910	1012	1921	1750	1932	1137
1911	1000	1922	1638	1933	1126*

* January to October.

The foregoing index, being weighted on a consumption basis, is to be viewed rather from the standpoint of prices paid by consumers than of prices paid to producers.

From 1921 to 1929 the agricultural price level was relatively stable at a high level despite marked seasonal fluctuations, but in May, 1930, there occurred a collapse in the wheat markets of the world unprecedented in the period of 34 years in which there has been an oversea trade in wheat from New South Wales. The heavy fall was fully reflected in the local price of wheat, which in turn affected the prices of wheat products and of other grains. Seasonal factors and general depression affected the prices of other commodities, and the index of agricultural prices fell rapidly to 997 in March, 1931, and remained in the vicinity of the level of 1911 until the later months of the year. It rose to 1,082 in October, 1931, thence to 1,176 in February, 1932. Falling to 1,100 in March, it remained around this level for three months and then rose gradually to 1,168 in August, from which it fell to 1,100 in December, 1932. Later index numbers are available in the "Statistical Bulletin" of New South Wales, which is issued quarterly.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

For harvesting grain crops the reaper and binder, the wheat header, 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.

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 1931-32:—

Division.	Area under Crop, 1931-32.	Value of Agricultural Machinery and Implements.		Average value per Acre of Machinery used 1931-32.
		1921-22.	1931-32.	
	acres.	£	£	£ s. d.
Coastal	301,132	992,339	1,031,961	3 6 7
Tableland	455,194	941,159	1,031,960	2 5 4
Western Slopes	2,465,257	2,828,609	4,349,393	1 15 3
Central Plains and Riverina.	1,861,148	3,034,229	3,087,553	1 13 2
Western	24,318	58,377	55,520	2 5 8
Total	5,107,049	7,884,713	9,526,396	1 17 4

In the coastal and tableland districts the areas under cultivation are small, including many small holdings highly developed for fruit-growing, dairying and market gardening, while on the tablelands, slopes and plains the implements in use serve large areas under wheat and oats. In the Western

Division are a number of small irrigation settlements, but the area farmed there 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-five years.

Power-driven Machinery on Farms.

Particulars of the power-driven machinery and of the numbers of other machines and implements used on farms in New South Wales as at the 30th June, 1930, were shown on page 196 of the Year Book for 1930-31.

PERSONS ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE.

The following table provides an interesting comparison of the number of persons returned by land-holders as being constantly engaged on rural holdings with agriculture as their principal activity. The particulars include working proprietors, unremunerated members of the family working on the holding, and permanent employees.

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.	£
1912-13	57,642	3,737,269	4,633,809	1922-23	48,154	4,694,088	8,536,164
1913-14	59,813	4,568,841	5,029,938	1923-24	46,823	4,808,046	8,799,353
1914-15	58,020	4,808,627	5,159,959	1924-25	46,278	4,911,148	9,427,730
1915-16	56,904	5,794,835	5,362,027	1925-26	43,365	4,541,423	9,588,318
1916-17	52,758	5,163,930	5,449,657	1926-27	41,650	4,595,711	9,837,193
1917-18	48,386	4,460,701	5,615,995	1927-28	42,293	4,994,515	10,849,513
1918-19	43,823	3,890,844	5,696,916	1928-29	38,275	5,440,762	10,883,551
1919-20	47,392	3,770,155	6,128,753	1929-30	38,049	5,499,408	10,955,923
1920-21	48,896	4,464,342	7,120,381	1930-31	38,224	6,809,510	10,526,391
1921-22	47,268	4,445,848	7,884,713	1931-32	37,260	5,107,049	9,526,396

*Landowners, members of their families and employees engaged principally in cultivating the soil.

The decline in the number of persons engaged in agriculture from 1914 to 1919 was probably due mainly to enlistments for military service, 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. The number increased as a result of the demobilisation of large numbers of the expeditionary forces after the cessation of hostilities, although in 1919-20 there was an almost complete failure of the wheat crops of the State, and agricultural operations were considerably restricted.

Subsequently further decline occurred and the number of persons engaged permanently in agriculture is now about 36 per cent. less than in the years immediately preceding the war although the area under crop is greater. The explanation apparently lies in the more extensive use of tractors and in the improvements in agricultural machinery by which the capacity of the ploughs, harvesters, reapers and binders and other plant has been increased in such a way that less man power is required to cultivate the greater area of land devoted to agriculture. Moreover, the speedier means of transport by reason of the substitution of motor vehicles for the horse-drawn and the extension of railway facilities have enabled the farmers to effect a considerable saving in labour. The decrease between 1928 and 1929 may be partly due to a change in the basis of classification.

Data as to the number of casual and itinerant workers are not obtainable and it is impossible to say to what extent, if at all, the decrease in the number of persons permanently engaged in cultivating the soil is offset by an increase in number of casual employees. Reference to data as to wages paid to casual employees, however, shows that the proportion of rural work performed by casual employees is relatively small and, although there has been a steady increase in the earnings of casual employees in rural industries, it does not indicate any large degree of substitution of casual for permanent labour.

Particulars of the classes and total wages of persons engaged in rural industries are shown in the chapter "Rural Industries" of this Year Book, and in the section "Rural Industries" of the Statistical Register of New South Wales. Reference to the number of persons recorded at the Census of 1921 as being engaged in agriculture was published on page 566 of the Year Book for 1928-29.

FERTILISERS.

In New South Wales superphosphate 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 superphosphate to wheat-lands, as a general rule, are most marked in the southern portion of the wheat-belt, viz., the South-western Slopes 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 in the south fallowing is more common than in the west, and much more common than in the north.

The average quantity of superphosphate used on lands fertilised with this manure only in 1931-32 was 60 lb. per acre. The number of farms on which superphosphate was used in 1931-32 was 14,633 compared with 18,340 in 1930-31.

The following table shows the area of land and the quantity of manure used on crops during the year 1931-32:—

Division.	Area under Crop.	Total Area of Crops Manured.	Manures Used.	
			Natural.	Artificial.
	acres.	acres.	loads.	cwt.
Coastal	301,132	85,351	140,134	267,779
Tableland	455,194	119,563	8,178	75,409
Western Slopes	2,465,257	1,082,225	1,831	533,515
Central Plains	466,065	110,944	657	40,432
Riverina	1,395,083	863,925	2,524	456,348
Western	24,318	4,996	453	8,820
Whole State, 1931-32 ...	5,107,049	2,267,004	153,777	1,382,303

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 18,824 acres, inclusive of the area on which both natural and artificial manures were used.

The quantities of the principal kinds of artificial fertilisers used in 1931-32 were 1,186,076 cwt. of superphosphate and 157,907 cwt. of bone-dust, in manuring 2,217,944 acres and 19,890 acres respectively.

The application of manures to agricultural lands is practised most extensively in the southern districts. In the relatively inextensive agricultural areas in coastal districts a little more than 28 per cent. of the area sown was manured in 1931-32. The proportions in respective divisions range from less than 10 per cent. on the North Coast to over 41 per cent. on the South Coast. A summary in respect of the use of artificial manures in the northern, central, and southern sections of the hinterland (excluding the Western Division) is provided below. These are mainly wheat-growing districts:—

Sections of the Tablelands, Slopes, and Plains.*	Total area under crop.	Area treated with artificial fertiliser.	Artificial fertiliser used.	Proportion of area fertilised to area under crop.	Average amount of fertiliser used per acre.
1930-31—	acres.	acres.	cwt.	per cent.	cwt.
Northern ...	741,764	16,211	5,763	2.19	0.36
Central ...	2,150,526	1,254,873	572,653	58.35	0.46
Southern ...	3,601,089	3,190,061	1,753,351	88.59	0.55
1931-32—					
Northern ...	649,409	4,154	3,267	0.64	0.79
Central ...	1,528,032	432,801	193,832	28.32	0.45
Southern ...	2,604,158	1,736,978	908,605	66.70	0.52

* See map in frontispiece of volume.

The following table shows the total area cultivated, the total area manured, and the nature of the manures employed, in various years:—

Season.	Total Area under Crop.	Total Area of Crops Manured.	Manures Used—	
			Natural.	Artificial.
	acres.	acres.	loads.	cwt.
1907-08	2,570,137	423,678	144,021	267,120
1913-14	4,568,841	2,226,742	166,753	1,010,596
1915-16	5,794,835	2,753,431	177,788	1,132,446
1920-21	4,464,342	1,998,429	160,361	998,191
1921-22	4,445,848	2,104,329	176,327	1,053,710
1922-23	4,694,088	2,404,066	181,656	1,243,129
1923-24	4,808,046	2,313,602	196,697	1,327,771
1924-25	4,911,148	2,627,308	181,007	1,539,712
1925-26	4,541,423	2,635,483	268,930	1,709,557
1926-27	4,595,711	2,863,771	197,898	1,863,088
1927-28	4,994,515	3,398,795	168,912	2,240,337
1928-29	5,440,762	3,761,118	157,686	2,457,937
1929-30	5,499,408	3,896,692	130,009	2,523,469
1930-31	6,809,510	4,550,794	142,416	2,631,441
1931-32	5,107,049	2,267,004	153,777	1,382,303

The quantity of superphosphate used on the areas sown with wheat was 2,260,744 cwt. in 1930-31, and 929,259 cwt. in 1931-32. This decrease is attributable to the low financial returns obtained from the harvest of 1930-31.

The figures in the table do not indicate the exact ratio between the area under crop in any season and the area manured to produce that season's harvests. For some crops the soil is prepared, and the crop is harvested during the period from 1st July to 30th June, which until 1930-31 was taken as the season, in compiling agricultural statistics. But for other products, *e.g.*, wheat the most extensive crop—the land under crop in any season was manured between January and June of the preceding period. Nevertheless the table supplies convincing evidence that the practice of manuring the soil was increasing steadily up to 1930-31. In the following year, however, there was a sharp decline in the acreage manured, due principally to the adverse economic conditions ruling in the industry.

In 1931-32 information was collected regarding the use of manures for pastures, and it was reported that a total area of 26,511 acres was treated on 450 holdings, the quantity of artificial manures used being 25,187 cwt.

The sale of artificial manures is regulated by the Fertilisers Act of 1904, and under its provisions the vendor is required to furnish to the purchaser a statement as to their nature and chemical composition.

SHARE-FARMING.

The system of share-farming is as follows:—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 twelve years:—

Season.	Holdings used for Share Farming.	Share-farmers.	Area Farmed on Shares.		
			Cultivation.	Dairying.	Total.
	No.	No.	acres.	acres.	acres.
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	695,092	234,736	929,828
1925-26	2,493	3,667	645,395	226,362	871,757
1926-27	2,919	4,043	706,025	274,030	980,055
1927-28	3,227	4,457	845,397	303,274	1,148,671
1928-29	3,281	4,402	840,972	343,942	1,184,914
1929-30	3,458	4,672	898,863	356,147	1,255,010
1930-31	3,720	5,033	1,018,591	396,863	1,415,454
1931-32	4,083	5,603	863,083	464,093	1,327,176

Of the 4,083 holdings used wholly or in part for share-farming in 1931-32, share-farming was in operation for agriculture only on 2,765 holdings, dairying only on 191 holdings, and agriculture and dairying combined on 1,127 holdings, including dairy farms on which only fodder crops for the dairy cattle were grown.

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 small on account of droughts and market difficulties, and share-farming diminished more rapidly than other systems of cultivation. Subsequent experience was largely affected by seasonal conditions, but there was an appreciable increase in share-farming between 1925 and 1931. In 1932 the number of holdings and the number of farmers increased considerably, but the total area farmed was less than that of the previous year on account of excessive rainfall during the sowing period.

Of the areas cultivated in 1931-32 on the share system, 434,360 acres were in the Western Slopes Division and 238,028 acres were in the Riverina.

DATES OF PLANTING AND HARVESTING.

The usual 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 foregoing statement shows 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-eighth 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 1931-32 was £8,731,400, including £8,130,390 from grain and £601,010 from wheaten hay. These figures are inclusive of a bonus paid to growers by the Commonwealth Government at the rate of 4½d. per bushel of the season's wheat sold or delivered for sale prior to 31st October, 1932.

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 seldom earlier than March or later than August. Harvesting generally begins in November and may extend until February.

The Wheat Belt.

A description of the nature and extent of the wheat belt of New South Wales was published on pages 573 and 574 of the Year Book for 1928-29.

The extension of the limits of wheat-growing in New South Wales formed the subject of special reports by the Government Statistician in 1905, 1913, and 1923.

Development of Wheat Growing.

Wheat growing as an industry in New South Wales has progressed steadily since 1890, but at present less than one-sixth of the area estimated to be 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, the first season in which there was a surplus of wheat for export:—

Season.	Area under Wheat.				Yield.		Average yield per acre.		Wheat and Flour exported in each year following harvest.
	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	532
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	·32	865
1900-01	1,530,600	332,143	††	1,862,743	16,174	348	10·6	1·05	4,738
1901-02	1,392,070	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	284,367	††	2,060,322	16,464	207	9·3	·73	5,661
1905-06	1,939,447	313,582	††	2,253,029	20,737	305	10·7	·97	5,338
1906-07	1,886,353	316,945	16,744	2,199,942	21,813	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	490,828	104,202	1,989,086	15,483	427	11·1	·87	4,866
1909-10	1,990,180	380,784	5,825	2,376,789	28,532	566	14·3	1·49	12,111
1910-11	2,128,826	422,972	61,458	2,613,256	27,914	468	13·1	1·11	14,423
1911-12	2,380,710	440,243	89,731	2,901,684	25,088	423	10·5	·96	10,172
1912-13	2,281,514	704,221	31,557	2,967,292	32,487	780	14·6	1·11	17,116
1913-14	3,235,397	534,226	23,393	3,763,016	33,020	583	11·9	1·10	20,038
1914-15	2,758,024	569,431	815,561	4,143,016	12,831	355	4·7	·62	785
1915-16	4,188,866	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	2,409,660	613,544	204,161	3,227,374	13,325	517	7·6	·84	19,694
1919-20	1,474,174	716,770	877,596	3,068,540	4,388	355	3·0	·49	427
1920-21	3,127,377	520,555	15,420	3,663,352	55,625	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	359,968	3,892,009	28,668	649	9·7	1·09	8,904
1923-24	2,945,335	695,622	283,305	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	2,925,012	449,803	286,552	3,661,367	33,806	444	11·6	·99	16,951
1926-27	3,352,736	311,213	36,160	3,700,109	47,541	394	14·2	1·27	18,697
1927-28	3,029,950	309,960	622,385	4,022,295	27,042	343	8·9	·93	15,516
1928-29	4,090,083	375,270	19,605	4,484,958	49,257	390	12·0	1·04	21,063
1929-30	3,974,064	381,071	48,914	4,404,049	34,467	311	8·7	·82	14,621
1930-31	5,134,900	520,993	17,992	5,673,945	65,877	678	12·8	1·30	44,122
1931-32	3,682,945	292,234	20,008	3,995,187	54,966	376	14·9	1·29	38,765
1932-33†	4,779,822	291,875	15,892	5,087,589	78,389	405	16·4	1·39	66,830†

* Flour has been expressed at its equivalent in wheat. †† Information not available.
 † January to October. § Includes area sown for green food. † Preliminary figures.

The average yield in twenty-seven out of the thirty-six years shown, was between 7 and 15 bushels per acre. In each of four years it was below 7, and in five years it was above 15 bushels per acre. The average annual area harvested for hay has decreased heavily during the period from 625,560 acres in the five years ended 1916 to 387,984 acres in the five years ended 1932. In 1928-29, 1929-30 and 1930-31 areas with a fed-off value of less than 15s. per acre were classified as failed, and included with the areas sown for hay or grain. In 1931-32 the value adopted in this connection was 7s. 6d. per acre.

The fluctuations in the development of wheat-growing since 1915 were discussed on pages 575 and 576 of the Year Book for 1928-29. Unfavourable rainfall during the ploughing and sowing periods apparently caused a temporary decline in the area sown in 1925-26 and 1926-27, although the low price of wheat probably influenced the position in the latter year. Very favourable rainfall occurred almost throughout the wheat belt in the months of February, March, and April in both 1928 and 1929 and the farmers increased the areas sown in each of those seasons despite the prevalence of low prices. In 1930 the Federal Government encouraged farmers to grow more wheat and despite the fact that in many districts the early rainfall was deficient, the area sown with wheat exceeded the previous record (1915-16) by over half a million acres. Excessive rainfall from March to June, 1931, prevented many farmers from sowing in 1931-32.

Rainfall Index for Wheat Districts.

The following summary provides a monthly index of rainfall in the wheat districts of the State for each year since 1921. The index is derived from the ratios of the average rainfall of each of eleven individual districts to the normal rainfall for the same districts weighted in accordance with the average area sown with wheat in each district. The normal rainfall for each month is represented by 100, and the index shows, therefore, the percentage of actual to normal rainfall in each month:—

Month.	Rainfall Index—New South Wales Wheat Districts. (Percentage of Normal).												
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
January	83	63	44	72	194	59	111	197	20	44	69	13	143
February	96	59	4	212	130	28	22	411	148	36	37	99	7
March ...	129	9	21	62	58	256	38	162	99	48	270	180	53
April ...	159	115	9	133	16	267	71	137	141	67	204	181	86
May ...	178	49	62	57	205	153	60	54	33	82	312	43	74
June ...	142	51	237	77	128	75	39	76	36	111	227	72	65
July ...	102	147	171	78	89	79	53	119	27	103	90	87	127
August ...	91	58	52	146	80	97	69	27	111	124	50	129	50
September	124	74	111	131	42	101	63	100	95	43	91	141	152
October	95	71	102	89	46	61	153	88	79	234	46	57	102
November	53	7	67	338	129	15	135	32	102	95	123	112	...
December	168	156	133	91	36	136	57	19	118	248	97	59	...
Average yield of wheat per acre (bushels)	13.4	9.7	11.3	16.8	11.6	14.2	8.9	12.0	8.7	12.8	14.9	16.4	...

The significant months as regards the effect of rainfall on wheat yields are from April to October—more especially April, May, and September. The wheat districts extend over practically the whole length of the hinterland, and seasonal conditions vary widely as between districts. These circumstances, together with the incidence of fallowing and fertilising, temperatures and winds, play a large part in modifying the effects of rainfall on yields.

While the foregoing summary is useful for general reference as to the relationship of wheat yields to seasonal conditions, a more discriminating analysis is necessary. In the following table the rainfall index for the northern, central, and southern sections of the wheat belt is shown in comparison with the average yields per acre from fallowed and stubble lands in the seasons 1931-32 and 1932-33:—

Month.	Rainfall Index 1931—Wheat Districts Normal for each month=100.				Rainfall Index 1932—Wheat Districts Normal for each month=100.			
	North- ern.	Central.	South- ern.	Total.	North- ern.	Central.	South- ern.	Total.
January	52	67	73	69	41	11	8	13
February	33	41	36	37	37	66	126	99
March	250	241	286	270	99	191	193	180
April	171	213	207	204	111	132	216	181
May	247	305	329	312	60	36	42	43
June	193	174	256	227	44	51	86	72
July	89	94	88	90	76	76	95	87
August	56	38	54	50	45	96	160	129
September	65	81	100	91	241	183	103	141
October	35	39	51	46	109	69	41	57
November	113	104	134	123	115	139	99	112
December	181	144	60	97	64	66	55	59
Average yield of wheat per acre—	1931-32.				1932-33*.			
Fallowed land bus..	20·1	18·6	16·7	17·1	16·7	19·8	20·6	20·0
Stubble land bus....	16·4	13·5	11·6	13·4	12·9	14·1	15·1	14·3

* Approximate.

Wheat Districts.

The statistical divisions of New South Wales are shown on the map on the frontispiece of this Year Book.

The principal wheat-producing divisions of the State, arranged in order of importance, are the Riverina, the south-western slopes, the central-western slopes, the north-western slopes, the central tableland, the central plain, and the northern plains. The average area harvested for grain and the average yield in each division for the period of ten years 1922-23 to 1931-32 are shown in the following summary:—

District.	Northern.		Central.		Southern.		Total.	
	acres.	bus.	acres.	bus.	acres.	bus.	acres.	bus.
Coastal	*	*	*	*	*	*	1,616	16,299
Tableland	9,447	126,294	177,320	2,364,091	4,201	62,206	190,968	2,552,591
Slopes	300,543	3,877,016	806,430	8,813,365	924,826	12,568,296	2,031,799	25,258,877
Plains	94,922	1,106,057	187,087	1,698,883	1,051,589	12,795,945	1,333,593	15,606,885
Western Division	*	*	*	*	*	*	4,821	21,998
Total	404,912	5,109,367	1,170,837	12,876,539	1,980,616	25,426,447	3,562,802	43,450,650

* Comparable divisions not available.

Although the proportions vary seasonally, on the average approximately 55 per cent. of the area harvested for grain is in the southern districts, 32 per cent. in the central districts, and 13 per cent. in the northern districts. Comparison on this basis 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, and the southern in the winter, while the rainfall of the central districts is non-seasonal in character. Differences of soil, geographical features, cultural methods, and other factors play a considerable part in determining the yields of the various divisions.

The following statement shows that wheat is most extensively and successfully grown in the southern districts.

Divisions.	Area Harvested for Grain.		Yield of Grain.		Yield of Grain per Acre.					
	Average, 1921-22 to 1930-31.	1931-32.	Average, 1921-22 to 1930-31.	1931-32.	Average 1921-22 to 1930-31.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
	acres.	acres.	bus.	bus.	bus.	bus.	bus.	bus.	bus.	bus.
Coastal ...	1,822	1,323	17,880	19,827	9·8	7·1	11·2	15·4	12·1	15·0
†Northern ...	395,435	477,076	4,760,485	7,847,160	12·0	4·2	14·3	15·0	14·7	16·4
†Central ...	1,165,591	1,185,128	12,543,287	17,509,062	10·8	7·0	11·4	5·5	13·3	14·8
†Southern	1,947,504	2,006,136	24,895,688	29,494,608	12·8	10·6	11·9	9·2	12·2	14·7
Western	3,650	13,282	13,415	95,345	3·7	1·5	4·8	1·1	4·0	7·2
Total.....	3,514,002	3,682,945	42,230,750	54,966,000	12·0	8·9	12·0	8·7	12·8	14·9

† 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. In the four seasons ended 1931-32, however, the northern areas yielded a much higher average than any other division because of the occurrence of favourable rains during the growing period in the northern wheat belt and of comparatively dry weather conditions in the southern and central districts.

Average Yield of Wheat.

Viewed over a long period of years, the average yield of wheat in New South Wales is subject to marked fluctuations by reason of the widely divergent nature of the seasons, but reference to the table on page 533 will show that these fluctuations have been much less marked since 1920-21 than formerly. 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 surpassed only in 1920-21, when, after the severe drought of 1918-20, a record average of 17.8 bushels per acre was obtained. The lowest average yield in any season since 1919-20 was 8.7 bushels per acre in 1929-30.

The average annual yield has shown definite improvement since the commencement of wheat-growing for export in 1897. The fact that the average is still considerably below that which was obtained prior to this

expansion is due probably to the fact that only some of the best wheat lands were tilled prior to the increase in the area sown. In decennial periods the average yields of New South Wales have compared as follows:—

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	1922-1931	12·02

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 in some of the large wheat-exporting countries.

Representative averages for the five years 1926-30 are shown below:—

Country.	Average Yield per acre.	Country.	Average Yield per acre.
	bushels.		bushels.
Canada	18·2	Australia	10·9
United States	14·5	New South Wales	11·5
Argentina	12·0	Russia (Soviet)	11·3

Although the yield in New South Wales is largely influenced by the nature of the seasons, it is apparent that, as scientific methods of cultivation are becoming more widely adopted and land is properly fallowed, tilled, and manured, the average yield per acre is increasing. Another favourable factor exists in 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.

Fallowing and the Wheat Yield.

Since 1923-24 statistics have been collected 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 been cultivated by ploughing during the year preceding the sowing, but it is doubtful whether the collection has been 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 1931-32 in each of the divisions described on page 535:—

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.	bush.	bushels.
Coastal	9	817	216	105	12,726	2,919	†	15·6	13·5
Northern*	16,665	18,378	438,104	252,708	369,984	7,180,893	15·2	20·1	16·4
Central*	39,569	277,867	861,037	587,832	5,179,179	11,612,463	14·9	18·6	13·5
Southern*	63,892	1,175,792	753,231	877,458	19,610,091	8,753,004	13·7	16·7	11·6
Western	3,523	824	10,021	19,854	15,633	78,564	5·6	19·0	7·8
Total	123,661	1,473,678	2,062,609	1,737,957	25,187,613	27,627,843	14·7	17·1	13·4

*Includes Tablelands, Slopes, and Central Plains. † Average is not of value on account of smallness of operations. ‡ Including areas which failed.

The average yields on fallowed land were far in excess of those from other land throughout the wheat belt. There are, however, other factors such as rainfall, cultural methods, and soil, which necessarily play an important part in determining the results. The climatic conditions prevailing in the various wheat districts and the methods adopted by farmers differ in a marked degree, consequently the results shown above do not represent fully the benefits which accrue from fallowing. Still, it is apparent that even with present methods of fallow the improvement in the wheat yield has been appreciable.

The average yields per acre from fallowed and unfallowed lands respectively in the northern, central, and southern districts of the State in each year for which records have been obtained are as follows:—

Year.	Northern Districts.*		Central Districts.*		Southern Districts.*		Whole State.	
	Fallowed.	Stubble.	Fallowed.	Stubble.	Fallowed.	Stubble.	Fallowed.	Stubble.
	bushels.	bushels	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
1923-24 ...	8·3	6·8	10·4	8·5	15·3	12·2	14·1	9·6
1924-25 ...	19·4	16·1	19·1	14·7	19·9	13·9	19·7	14·8
1925-26 ...	9·3	7·5	15·3	10·7	13·2	10·1	13·5	10·0
1926-27 ...	16·1	14·3	16·4	12·7	15·2	12·3	16·0	13·0
1927-28 ...	5·8	3·6	9·0	5·7	11·7	7·5	11·2	5·9
1928-29 ...	16·7	14·3	14·5	9·7	13·7	9·2	13·9	10·6
1929-30 ...	19·2	15·0	7·9	4·2	11·7	6·5	10·8	7·3
1930-31 ...	16·3	14·7	15·8	12·8	15·2	9·9	15·4	11·8
1931-32 ...	20·1	16·4	18·6	13·5	16·7	11·6	17·1	13·4
1932-33† ...	16·7	12·9	19·8	14·1	20·6	15·1	20·0	14·3

* Includes Tablelands, Slopes, and Plains.

† Approximate.

The following statement shows the approximate areas of new land, fallowed land, and stubble land, sown with wheat harvested for grain, including that which failed entirely in New South Wales during each of the past eight seasons:—

Season.	New Land.	Fallowed Land.	Remainder, Stubble Land.	Total.*
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
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
1926-27	123,730	1,746,822	1,465,903	3,336,455
1927-28	115,971	1,771,208	1,119,586	3,006,765
1928-29	192,865	2,010,751	1,872,938	4,076,554
1929-30	190,715	1,638,683	2,072,380	3,901,778
1930-31	297,618	1,708,104	3,117,413	5,123,135
1931-32	123,661	1,473,678	2,062,609	3,659,948

* Approximate.

On the average about half the total area cropped for grain is fallowed land, but in response to a "grow more wheat" campaign in 1930 a large proportion of stubble land was cropped again in lieu of being fallowed. This factor, together with the exceptionally heavy rains in 1931, reduced the sowings of 1931-32.

Size of the Wheat Farms.

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 small 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 portion of their 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 only for hay or for green food.	Wheat sown for Grain.		
	Holdings.	Total Area sown with Wheat.	Average Area per Holding devoted to Wheat.		No. of Holdings.	Areas sown for grain.†	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
1925-26	17,074	3,661,367	214	2,797	14,277	2,925,012	205
1926-27	17,135	3,700,109	216	1,204	15,931	3,352,736	210
1927-28	16,817	4,022,295	239	2,710	14,107	3,029,950	215
1928-29	17,134	4,484,958	262	1,128§	16,006	4,080,083	256
1929-30	16,382	4,404,049	269	1,177§	15,205	3,974,064	261
1930-31	18,171	5,673,945	312	1,247§	16,924	5,134,960	303
1931-32	16,875	3,995,187	237	945§	15,930	3,682,945	231

* Not available.

† Excluding area cropped for hay.

§ Areas with fed-off value less than 15s per acre in 1928-1930, and less than 7s. 6d. per acre in 1931 have been classified as failed entirely and included in the second column of the table.

The expansion in area 1928 to 1930 was due mainly to an increase in average areas sown, but also in large measure to an increase in the number of growers in 1930-31.

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.

The following table provides a summary of the areas of holdings on which wheat was grown for grain in the seasons 1930-31 and 1931-32 arranged in groups according to the area cropped for grain:—

Area cropped for Grain.	Holdings.	1930-31.			Holdings.	1931-32.		
		Area cropped for grain.	Production of grain.	Average yield per acre.		Area cropped for grain.	Production of grain.	Average yield per acre.
acres.	No.	acres.	bushels.	bushels.	No.	acres.	bushels.	bushels.
1-49	1,874	42,529	574,464	13.5	1,951	46,109	570,789	12.4
50-299	8,252	1,403,980	20,516,670	14.6	9,575	1,533,257	22,468,281	14.7
300-999	6,358	3,051,568	37,241,163	12.2	4,252	1,886,426	28,628,889	15.2
1,000-1,999	385	479,861	5,666,793	11.8	139	173,661	2,706,432	15.6
2,000-and over.	55	157,022	1,877,910	11.3	13	43,492	591,609	13.6
Total	16,924	5,134,960	65,877,000	12.8	15,930	3,682,945	54,966,000	14.9

In this table wheat-farms are divided somewhat arbitrarily into five classes, graded according to the 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 1931-32 these numbered 1,951, or 12.3 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 9,575, or 6.0 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 4,404, and represented 27.6 per cent. of the total.

In all, areas of less than 30 acres in extent were sown with wheat for grain on 1,166 farms. The total number of areas under 100 acres in extent sown with wheat for grain was 3,997; from 100 to 199 acres, 4,218; from 200 to 299 acres, 3,311; from 300 to 399 acres, 1,986; and from 400 to 49 acres, 1,063; the number in successive groups of 100 diminished rapidly thereafter. In 1931-32 there were 13 wheat crops exceeding 2,000 acres in extent. A number of large crops, however, are farmed on the shares system, and in some cases more than one share-farmer is engaged.

The disparities between the average yields in area series are not very pronounced, and are affected by the chance factors of rainfall and location. The most productive groups of areas in the various years were as follow:—In 1927-28 and in 1925-26, areas over 2,000 acres in extent; in 1931-32 areas from 1,000 to 1,999 acres; in 1926-27, areas from 300 to 999 acres in extent; 1930-31, 1928-29, 1924-25 and 1923-24, areas from 50 to 299 acres; 1922-23 and 1929-30, areas under 50 acres.

A table showing the number, area and production from wheat crops in area series in each division of the State is published in the section "Agriculture" of the Statistical Register of New South Wales. This shows that the 13 crops exceeding 2,000 acres in extent in 1931-32 were distributed divisionally as follows:—In Riverina 6, North-western Slopes 1, Central-western Slopes 5, North Central Plain 1.

Consumption of Wheat in New South Wales.

Estimates of the average annual consumption of wheat in New South Wales in periods from 1892 to 1929 were published on page 552 of the Year Book for 1929-30. These were based upon total recorded production, less net exports, with due adjustment for recorded stocks and for seed wheat.

Additional data have been obtained since the year 1927 which enable estimates to be made of consumption exclusive of seed wheat and of wheat retained for use in the locality in which it is grown. Direct returns are now collected as to the quantity of seed wheat used; these show an average of approximately 1 bushel per acre.

For the purpose of the estimates, the wheat year is considered to extend from 1st December to 30th November at which dates returns of stocks are obtained. As, however, in some years considerable quantities of new season's wheat arrive on the market in the latter half of November and as records of wheat in transit are difficult to obtain it is not possible to estimate closely the consumption of individual years.

On the basis of returns of the total quantity of wheat sent forward by farmers it is estimated that the average annual consumption in New South Wales in the three years ended 30th November, 1932, was 14,000,000 bushels, inclusive of an annual average of 12,000,000 bushels converted into flour for home consumption. In addition, the average annual quantity used for seed was 4,500,000 bushels (inclusive of the large requirement for 1930-31), making a total average annual requirement of 18,500,000 bushels for New South Wales in the three years embraced in the estimate.

Marketing Wheat.

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, on the efficiency of production, the facilities for gaining access to overseas markets, and on the maintenance of such internal conditions that it will pay local farmers to grow wheat. The price of wheat for export is determined by world's parity, which fluctuates with the world supply and 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, and in 1931 and 1932 large quantities of wheat were shipped to China and Japan. The market for local wheat in Europe is affected by the competition of great wheat-producing countries near the market—the United States, Canada, the Argentine, and 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. In recent years tariffs and import quotas imposed by European countries have diminished international trade in wheat.

The movement of wheat and flour oversea and interstate from New South Wales 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.	Export Oversea.		Net Export Interstate.*		Total Net Export.			Recorded Stocks at 30th Nov.
	Wheat.	Flour.	Wheat.	Flour.	Wheat.	Flour.	Grand Total.	Wheat and Flour.
Expressed in thousand bushels of wheat.								
1923 ...	2,020	6,844	2,065	1,170	4,085	8,014	12,099	2,229†
1924 ...	5,433	6,103	3,985	1,246	9,418	7,349	16,767	2,223†
1925 ...	31,824	7,299	3,013	1,286	34,837	8,585	43,422	1,863
1926 ...	9,250	6,370	1,878	1,387	11,128	7,757	18,885	1,676
1927 ...	12,813	7,703	4,957	1,859	17,770	9,562	27,332	4,870
1928 ...	4,306	6,165	1,386	1,257	5,692	7,422	13,114	2,750
1929 ...	17,120	7,879	2,912	1,848	20,032	9,727	29,759	5,158
1930 ...	4,633	7,141	2,128	1,626	6,761	8,767	15,528	5,356
1931 ...	33,836	9,341	1,973	802	35,809	10,143	45,952	5,453
1932 ...	25,920	10,285	3,970	944	29,890	11,229	41,119	2,640

* Partly estimated. † Revised.

Owing to the difficulty of obtaining accurate records of interstate movements of wheat and of stocks of wheat and flour, the above figures are in some degree approximate. It is not possible to use them in conjunction with the recorded crop to estimate annual wheat consumption in New South Wales, because the recorded crop also is necessarily an approximation.

The table shows the expansion in the export flour trade in 1931 and 1932 and the marked fluctuations in the quantity of wheat exported.

Further particulars of the flour trade of New South Wales are shown in the following table relating to financial years which do not, however, correspond very closely to wheat seasons:—

Particulars.	Year ended 30th June.					
	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
Wheat gristed ...	bus. 20,598,188	bus. 19,133,823	bus. 21,478,082	bus. 20,572,332	bus. 21,656,919	bus. 23,744,506
Flour expressed in tons (2,000lb.)						
Flour produced ...	431,532	400,363	449,011	432,472	449,430	490,662
Flour exported—						
Oversea* ...	15,3971	101,646	183,975	131,885	182,706	211,354
Interstate† ...	37,416	40,820	48,364	47,510	31,101	26,090
Flour imported—						
Oversea ...	6	18	42	15	29	24
Interstate† ...	8,782	7,739	8,089	7,342	8,480	6,705

* Including ships' stores.

† Approximate.

The average quantity of flour consumed in New South Wales in the period was approximately 246,000 tons per annum. The estimated consumption per head of population is shown in chapter entitled "Food and Prices," and some further details regarding flour-milling are shown in chapter "Factories" of the Year Book.

Grading of Wheat.

The Wheat Act passed early in 1927 provided for the establishment of grades and standards of wheat in accordance with the recommendations of a Wheat Standards Board, but definite action to establish grades has not yet been taken.

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 determined 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 in proportions based on production and an average struck, which is used as a standard in all wheat export transactions. Distinction is maintained between white and red wheats and no mixtures of white and red varieties are accepted for bulk handling.

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 Wheat. f.a.q.	Year.	Date Fixed.	Weight of Bushel of Wheat. f.a.q.
1923-24	14th Feb., 1924	lb. 80½	1928-29	12th Jan., 1929	lb. 63
1924-25	10th Feb., 1925	60½	1929-30	31st Jan., 1930	61½
1925-26	22nd Jan., 1926	62½	1930-31	2nd Feb., 1931	59½
1926-27	31st Jan., 1927	61½	1931-32	27th Jan., 1932	61½
1927-28	19th Jan., 1928	60½	1932-33	30th Jan., 1933	61½

A "second grade" standard of 58 lb. was fixed on 14th February, 1932, for bagged wheat of the 1931-32 season. In 1930-31 a second grade of a minimum weight of 56 lb. was observed in respect of bulk wheat and 56½ lb. in respect of bagged wheat.

The weights shown above are those used for guidance 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 in New South Wales by weight (bushel of 60 lb.), and not by volume.

Between 60 per cent. and 70 per cent. of the wheat is bagged on the farm and carted to the nearest railway station, whence, if intended for export or metropolitan use, it is carried by rail to Sydney. At some of the stations the Railway Department has erected sheds, and a small charge is made for storage.

The remainder or between 30 per cent. and 40 per cent. is handled in bulk as described below. In 1931-32 approximately one-half of the crop was handled in bulk.

For the shipment of wheat in Sydney Harbour special facilities—wharfage with sheds, elevator and modern mechanical equipment—have been provided so that the grain may be transferred expeditiously from railway truck to ship's hold. Bagged wheat is handled in large quantities at Pyrmont, and both bagged and bulk cargoes are loaded at Glebe Island.

Wheat Arrivals.

As a rule small quantities of new season's wheat become available towards the end of November, the actual time varying under seasonal influences. Usually, most of the crop intended for sale is sent to rail for transport before the end of February. The following comparison shows the quantity of wheat received at country railway stations in bags and in bulk during the seasons 1930-31 and 1931-32.

Four Weeks ended—	Quantity of Wheat Received during Four Weeks.	Total Quantity of Wheat Received to end of Four Weeks.	Four Weeks ended.	Quantity of Wheat Received during Four Weeks.	Total Quantity of Wheat Received to end of Four Weeks.
Season.			Season.		
1930-31.	thousand	bushels.	1931-32.	thousand	bushels.
November ... 29	4,039	4,039	November.. 28	4,560	4,560
December ... 27	18,088	22,127	December... 26	23,703	28,263
January ... 24	20,721	42,848	January ... 23	17,126	45,389
February ... 21	7,456	50,304	February ... 20	2,523	47,912
March ... 21	2,180	52,484	March ... 19	825	48,737
April ... 18	1,005	53,489	April ... 16	410	49,147
May ... 16	1,016	54,505	May ... 14	331	49,478
June ... 13	426	54,931	June ... 11	114	49,592
July ... 11	267	55,198	July ... 9	41	49,633
August ... 8	460	55,658	August ... 6	199	49,742
September.. 5	390	56,048	September.. 3	111	49,853
October ... 3	443	56,491	October ... 1	64	49,917
October ... 31	441	56,932	October ... 29	33	49,950
November.. 28	371	57,303	November.. 26	24	49,974

* Net after deducting withdrawals.

The disposals of 1931-32 wheat were accelerated by the provision that bounty became payable when the wheat was sold or delivered for sale. In this season nearly one million bushels were handled twice by the railways, and this quantity is duplicated above.

Bulk Handling.

The circumstances leading to the erection of bulk handling facilities were described at page 584 of the Year Book for 1928-29.

Grain elevators have been constructed at 105 of the more important wheat receiving stations of New South Wales, with direct access to rail. These country elevators have a storage capacity at one filling of 16,613,000 bushels. A modern concrete and steel shipping elevator has been erected in Sydney, with a storage capacity of 6,750,000 bushels at one filling. It is connected with the railway system of the State by four lines of rail, and has a receiving capacity of 6,000 tons (approximately 224,000 bushels) per day, and a shipping capacity of 12,000 tons (approximately 448,000 bushels) per day of eight hours.

The loan expenditure on the works constructed to 30th June, 1932, was £4,092,722. The system was first put into operation in 1920-21, and has been developed steadily, as shown by the following table:—

Season.	Number of Plants Available in Country Districts.	Storage Capacity of Plants Available in Country Districts.*	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
1926-27	66	14,100,000	12,244,726	515,772	12,760,498	27·0	34·5
1927-28	73	15,180,000	6,177,720	169,459	6,347,179	23·5	32·3
1928-29	84	15,630,000	14,777,954	385,561	15,163,515	30·8	36·7
1929-30	90	15,863,000	8,739,874	146,869	8,886,743	26·2	34·2
1930-31	99	16,373,000	22,948,114	697,295	23,645,409	35·9	41·3
1931-32	105	16,613,000	23,877,542	2,123,344	26,000,886	47·6	52·0

*At one filling.

†Not available.

The quantity of wheat handled in bulk naturally fluctuates under the influence of the marked seasonal variations in the size of the wheat crop.

The quantities of wheat shipped in bulk during recent seasons were:—12,767,589 bushels in 1924-25; 4,313,816 bushels in 1925-26; 5,701,761 bushels in 1926-27; 1,788,966 bushels in 1927-28; 5,988,459 bushels in 1928-29; 1,474,996 bushels in 1929-30; 15,246,970 bushels in 1930-31; and 16,319,495 bushels in 1931-32. To 9th August, 1933, a total of 20,756,803 bushels had been shipped in bulk in respect of 1932-33 season. Approximately 45 per cent. of the quantity of grain exported oversea was shipped in bulk in 1930-31 and 63 per cent. in 1931-32.

Wheat of three kinds was received at the elevators in 1931-32, viz., white (f.a.q. 25,604,713 bushels and second grade 381,675 bushels) and red (14,498 bushels). A fee of 2d. per bushel was charged for receiving, fixing quality, handling, storing and delivering wheat in trucks at country elevators, with an additional $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per bushel for receiving such wheat from trucks at terminal elevator, weighing in and weighing and loading out through shipping or truck spouts. Wheat was received at the terminal elevator from non-silo stations at a charge of 1d. per bushel if in bulk trucks and $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. per bushel if in bags. These charges all included storage to 31st July, 1932, after which date an additional $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per bushel per week was 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. Wheat of second grade was received in 1931-32 subject to its being fit for milling with chondrometer weight of 56 lb. or more per bushel.

The financial operations in connection with the silos in the years ended 30th June, 1931, and 1932, were as follows:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	1931.	1932.		1931.	1932.
	£	£		£	£
Handling fees	244,578	265,153	Maintenance and working expenses	80,573	83,857
Repayments to previous years' Votes	120	227	Rates	2,630	2,167
Sundry receipts... ..	...	...	Wheat adjustments	46	11,925
Sales of damaged grain	1,736	9,174	Refund of handling fees	1,900	1,602
Railway freight repayments	314,708	413,738	Railway freight	273,238	512,964
			Miscellaneous	1,373	2,112
Total	561,142	688,292	Total	359,760	614,627

The amounts shown refer to cash received and expended in the periods covered. Excluding payments for railway freight, for which the silo management is agent only, the receipts in 1930-31 were £246,434, and the expenditure £86,522, leaving a cash balance of £159,912 net earnings available to meet interest charges and depreciation, etc. In 1931-32 the corresponding items were receipts £274,554, expenditure £101,663, and the balance £172,891.

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 waggons. For conveyance from country stations to the terminal, special railway trucks are provided.

The question of bulk handling of wheat in New South Wales, with special reference to the transition from bag handling, was the subject of inquiry by a Select Committee of the Legislative Council in November, 1920. An analysis of the findings of this committee appears in the Year Book for 1920. The system in operation in New South Wales was investigated and reported upon by a Victorian Parliamentary Committee in 1925.

Wheat Freights.

In the conditions governing the marketing of wheat abroad, the shipping space offering and its cost 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	1931 ...	20 0 to	32 6	6¾	to 10½
1913 ..	10 0 to	35 0	3¼	to 11¼	1932 ...	20 0 to	32 6	6¾	to 10½
1914 ...	25 0 to	37 6	8	to 12	1933 ...	20 0 to	30 0	6¾	to 9¾

The average rates of ocean freight from Australia to the United Kingdom in the principal exporting months of successive recent seasons have been as follow:—

Season.	Average Ocean Freight per Bushel of Wheat.							
	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
1926-27 ...	16¾	16½	15	15½	15	12¾	12½	13
1927-28 ...	12	13	11	10	10	11	11¾	11¼
1928-29 ...	13¾	13¾	13	12½	11	9½	8½	8
1929-30 ...	8¾	8½	8½	7½	7¼	8¼	8½	9
1930-31 ...	10	10¼	10¼	10¼	10	9¾	9¾	9¼
1931-32 ...	9¼	9¾	9¼	9¼	9¾	9	8¼	7¼
1932-33 ...	9	9¼	9¼	8¾	8	7¾	7½	7¼

The rates of freight shown represent the mean of the weekly quotes for complete cargoes as shown in the International Crop Report. The rates per ton were converted into rates per bushel and are expressed in sterling. If freight was prepaid in Australia shippers were required to pay an additional charge in respect of exchange in 1931-32 and 1932-33.

Wheat Pools.

An account of the compulsory wheat pools 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. Ballots of wheatgrowers on the question of establishing compulsory wheat pools under the Marketing Act were conducted during September in each of the years 1928, 1929 and 1930, the proportion of affirmative votes in the respective years being 44.69 per cent., 60.53 per cent. and 62.84 per cent. In July, 1931, a new ballot was conducted under an amendment of the Act requiring an absolute majority in lieu of a two-thirds majority to carry the proposal. A total of approximately 17,000 valid votes were cast, and of these 42.64 per cent. favoured the proposal.

Voluntary wheat pools were initiated in 1921-22, and a summary of the results of the various voluntary pools is furnished below.

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	38.2	2,444,329	5 0.59	5.46	4.13	4 5.00	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†	3,667,783
1925-26	740,600	2.2	2.8	230,820	6 2.7†	5.38	4.28	5 5.06†	200,772
1926-27	8,849,851	18.7	23.9	2,454,439	5 6.56†	5.62	4.86	4 8.08†	2,067,838
1927-28	1,042,122	3.8	5.3	293,629	5 7.62†	5.67	4.87	4 9.06	247,763

* Including deductions for inferior wheat. † Average; 1d. more was paid for bagged than for bulk in 1924-25; ½d. in 1925-26; 1½d. in 1926-27. ‡ Approximate.

No pool was conducted since the 1927-28 season in New South Wales. The amount and date of each payment for the various pools is stated on page 558 of the Official Year Book for 1929-30 and on page 660 of the Year Book for 1926-27. In 1931-32 voluntary wheat pooling was carried on through the agency of the Wheatgrowers' Pooling and Marketing Company Limited. The quantity received was 871,581 bushels.

Prices of Wheat.

The following table gives the average prices per bushel ruling in New South Wales 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 market, although marked deficiencies in the local crop (such as occurred in 1920) at times have a determining influence on prices.

Year ended Dec. 31	Price of Wheat, Sydney.†			Estimated Net Return to Farmer. §§	Year ended Dec. 31.	Price of Wheat, Sydney.†			Estimated Net Return to Farmer. §§
	February.	March.	Average Value for Year. ††			February.	March.	Average Value for Year. ††	
	per bushel.	per bushel.	per bushel.	per bushel.		per bushel.	per bushel.	per bushel.	per bush.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1898	4 0	4 0	3 8	...	1916	5 1 ³ / ₄	5 0 ¹ / ₄	4 10	4 0
1899	2 7 ¹ / ₂	2 9	2 9	...	1917	4 9	4 9	4 9	2 10
1900	2 9	2 8	2 8 ¹ / ₂	...	1918	4 9	4 9	4 9	4 1
1901	2 7	2 7	2 8	...	1919	5 0	5 0	5 1 ¹ / ₂	4 5
1902	3 2	3 2 ³ / ₄	4 5	...	1920	8 5*	8 10*	8 7 ¹ / ₄ *	7 6
1903	5 11 ³ / ₈ *	5 9 ¹ / ₂ *	5 1 ³ / ₈ *	...	1921	9 0	9 0	8 8	7 0
1904	3 0 ¹ / ₂	3 0 ³ / ₄	3 2	...	1922	5 2	5 11	5 8	4 8
1905	3 4 ¹ / ₂	3 3 ³ / ₄	3 5	2 11	1923	5 8	5 7	5 3 ¹ / ₂	4 3 ^a
1906	3 1 ¹ / ₂	3 2 ¹ / ₂	3 3 ¹ / ₂	2 10	1924	4 7 ¹ / ₄	4 7	5 5	4 3 ^a
1907	3 0 ⁵ / ₈	3 1 ¹ / ₂	3 10	2 8	1925	6 9 ¹ / ₂	6 3 ³ / ₄	6 2 ¹ / ₂	5 7
1908	4 4	4 5 ¹ / ₂	4 3 ¹ / ₂	4 0	1926	5 11 ³ / ₄	5 8 ³ / ₄	6 2	5 1
1909	4 0 ³ / ₄	4 6 ¹ / ₂	4 9	3 7	1927	5 1 ¹ / ₂	5 0 ³ / ₄	5 5	4 6
1910	4 1 ³ / ₄	4 1	3 10	3 7	1928	5 2	5 5 ¹ / ₂	5 1 ¹ / ₂	4 7
1911	3 5	3 3	3 6	3 1	1929	4 8 ¹ / ₄	4 7 ¹ / ₂	4 10 ¹ / ₂	4 0
1912	3 9 ¹ / ₂	3 8 ¹ / ₂	4 1	3 3	1930	4 8 ¹ / ₂	4 5	3 10 ¹ / ₄	3 2
1913	3 6 ¹ / ₂	3 7	3 7 ¹ / ₄	3 3	1931	2 1 ³ / ₄	2 1 ³ / ₄	2 5 ¹ / ₂	1 7
1914	3 8	3 9 ¹ / ₄	4 1 ¹ / ₂	3 2	1932	3 2	3 1	3 0 ³ / ₄	2 7 ^b
1915	5 6	5 6	5 5	5 1	1933	2 8 ¹ / ₂	2 9 ¹ / ₄	2 11 ¹ / ₈	2 3 ^c

*Imported wheat. ††Unweighted average of daily quotes. †Price officially fixed on trucks Sydney of bagged wheat for flour for home consumption, 1915-1921. As from 1922 Shippers and Millers' prices for bagged on trucks Sydney. ‡ To October. §§ Weighted average price of wheat (harvested in season ending in year shown in first column) delivered at country railway sidings and elevators after deducting net cost of bags. ^a Voluntary pool price. ^b Excluding Commonwealth bonus of 4¹/₂d. per bushel. ^c Approximation, subject to revision, exclusive of bounty.

The Sydney prices quoted are per imperial bushel (60 lb.) of f.a.q. wheat in three-bushel bags. The bag is sold with the wheat and is included in the weight paid for as wheat. The monthly averages represent the mean of daily prices, and the annual average is the mean of the monthly averages. Formerly practically the whole of the wheat marketed was in buyers' hands before the end of March, but in some years the practice of pooling, and more recently the introduction of the wheat elevators and storage by farmers have extended the period of marketing. As adequate data were not available prior to 1927 it was very difficult to determine satisfactorily the estimated net return to farmers, but latterly additional information has been obtained and the averages for 1927 and subsequent years are close approximations applicable to the whole of the harvest on the basis stated in the footnote to the table.

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. 9¹/₂d. per bushel was reached in Sydney market. A steep decline followed to 5s. 10¹/₂d. in April, 1925, and the average monthly price moved between 5s. 9d. and 6s. 2¹/₂d. until after the close of the buying season in 1926. It attained 6s. 10d. in August, 1926, and fell to 5s. 1d. in March, 1927, fluctuating between that level and 5s. 8d. until the middle of 1928. In August, 1928, the price fell, in consequence of an unusually large world harvest, to 4s. 8d. and remained fairly constant near that level until May, 1929, when it declined further. Early in June, 1929, the quotations were as low as 4s. 2d. per bushel. Under the

influence of a diminution of world production and the holding of crops in the United States and Canada, the market recovered and before the end of July, 1929, the price had risen to 5s. 8d. per bushel. Although this price was not maintained, the monthly average price in Sydney exceeded 5s. per bushel until January, 1930, when markets became stagnant in consequence of continued heavy world production, a severe world-wide economic depression, and accumulation of stocks in the principal supplying countries of the world. The price in Sydney proved very weak until May, 1930, when it broke completely and fell rapidly to the level of 2s. 2d. per bushel on the last day of 1930. In January, 1931, exchange rates Australia on London increased to a premium of 30 per cent., which was reduced to 25 per cent. in December, 1931. On 21st September, 1931, sterling currency also departed from Mint par of exchange and exchange fluctuations have latterly played an important part in determining prices of wheat in Australian currency.

Certain data relating to the prices of Australian wheat in local and overseas markets have been brought together in the following table, which provides some interesting particulars of the course of prices in Australia and the United Kingdom. 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. bagged wheat.

Month.	Season 1930-31.					Season 1931-32.				
	Shippers and millers buying quotes Sydney.	Average value declar'd 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 buying quotes Sydney.	Average value declar'd 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.
	*	*	†	†	†	*	*	†	†	†
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
November ...	2 7½	2 10½	3 5½	3 7½	0 10	3 4½	2 11½	3 8½	3 0½	0 9½
December ...	2 5	2 8	3 4	3 7½	0 10½	3 2½	3 4½	3 6½	3 1½	0 9½
January ...	2 2	2 6	2 10½	3 4½	0 10½	3 1½	3 5	3 5	3 4½	0 9½
February ...	2 1½	2 0½	2 8½	3 1½	0 10½	3 2	3 3½	3 6	3 6½	0 9½
March ...	2 1½	2 2½	2 8	2 10	0 10	3 1	3 2½	3 6	3 5½	0 9½
April ...	2 3½	2 2½	2 8½	2 8½	0 9½	3 1½	3 4½	3 4½	3 5½	0 9½
May ...	2 6	2 6½	2 11½	2 9	0 9½	3 2½	3 3½	3 4½	3 5½	0 8½
June ...	2 3½	2 2	2 10	2 10½	0 9½	3 0½	3 2½	3 2	3 4	0 7½
July ...	2 2½	2 0½	2 8	2 10	0 9	3 0	3 5½	3 0½	3 2½	0 7½
August ...	2 2	2 4½	2 5½	2 8½	0 9	3 2½	3 5½	3 5½	3 3½	0 8½
September ...	2 1½	2 1½	2 4½	2 6	0 8½	3 3½	3 8½	3 7	3 3½	0 9
October ...	2 7½	2 3½	3 2½	2 10	0 9½	3 0½	3 4½	3 4½	3 5½	0 9

* Australian currency. † Sterling.

In considering the prices shown above regard should be paid to the following factors:—

(1) The average of shippers' and millers' quotes represents the mean of the daily prices for bagged wheat of fair average quality on trucks Sydney, and they are usually for wheat for prompt delivery.

(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 averages in this column are not closely comparable with the prices in the preceding column.

(3) The average prices c.i.f. Liverpool and London are those quoted for Australian wheat in the monthly Crop Reports of the International Institute of Agriculture. The quotations are generally those at the close of business for early delivery.

(4) The average import values into the United Kingdom also relate to Australian wheat, and represent 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 those shown in the International Crop Reports.

The margins between the local and the 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. Rates of exchange (telegraphic transfers) varied as follow:—£102 Australian for £100 in London as from 28th January, 1930, rising, by steps, to £108 10s. in October, 1930, and to £130 by the end of January, 1931, and falling to £125 at the beginning of December, 1931.

World Production of Wheat.

The world's production of wheat during recent years in comparison with the pre-war average is shown in the following table compiled from the publications of the International Institute of Agriculture:—

Year ended 30th June.	Northern Hemisphere.	Southern Hemisphere.	Total.	Total (excluding Russia).
Thousand Bushels.				
1909-1913 (average) ...	3,407,140	277,943	3,685,083	2,829,750
1923	2,991,238	340,626	3,331,864	3,173,743
1924	3,406,292	429,377	3,835,669	3,505,437
1925	3,033,451	404,089	3,437,540	3,106,953
1926	3,623,804	355,972	3,979,776	3,268,226
1927	3,756,095	433,119	4,189,214	3,381,264
1928	3,888,560	425,760	4,314,320	3,568,435
1929	4,135,208	534,369	4,669,577	3,876,293
1930	3,808,204	359,027	4,167,231	3,465,231
1931*	4,286,891	496,518	4,783,409	3,795,409
1932* ... ..	.....	463,328	.....	3,757,516

The countries included in the above summary are those comprised in the total shown in the next succeeding table. * Including Turkey which is not included in figures for earlier years.

The following statement, also based on data contained in the Reports 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 before the war.

Northern Hemisphere.	Annual Production of Wheat in Thousand Bushels.			Southern Hemisphere.	Annual Production of Wheat in Thousand Bushels.		
	Average, 1909-13. †	1930.	1931.		Average, 1909-10-1913-14.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Europe—							
Russia (Soviet)† ...	\$755,333	988,000	*	South America—			
France ...	316,973	228,104	264,116	Argentina ...	146,752	235,958	219,697
Italy ...	182,951	210,069	244,782	Other Countries ...	32,087	28,559	32,433
Spain ...	129,174	146,699	134,426	Total, S. America	178,839	264,517	252,130
Germany ...	151,868	139,216	155,545				
Roumania ...	87,608	130,769	135,299	Australasia—			
Great Britain and Ireland ...	59,850	43,345	38,566	New South Wales ...	26,717	65,877	54,966
Hungary ...	169,289	84,338	72,550	Victoria ...	27,656	53,814	41,956
Bulgaria ...	42,086	57,317	63,830	South Australia ...	22,843	34,872	48,093
Czechoslovakia ...	...	50,606	41,232	Western Australia ...	5,671	33,504	41,521
Poland ...	...	82,321	83,220	Queensland ...	1,250	5,108	3,864
Belgium ...	14,863	13,236	13,817	Tasmania ...	806	391	183
Austria ...	67,381	12,008	11,009	Fed. Cap. Territory ...	...	28	29
Yugo-Slavia ...	14,715	80,326	98,789	Total, Australia ...	84,943	213,594	190,612
Other Countries ...	41,468	86,739	80,471	New Zealand ...	7,885	7,579	6,583
Total, Europe†	2,033,559	2,353,093	(a) 1,437,652	Total, Australasia	92,828	221,173	197,195
Asia—				South Africa—			
British India ...	351,103	390,843	347,387	Union of South Africa ...	6,264	10,180	13,713
Japan ...	23,586	29,538	30,892	Other ...	12	648	290
Turkey† ...	160,000	§ 91,322	§ 102,426	Total, S. Africa ...	6,276	10,828	14,003
Russia in Asia ...	†	†	†	Total, Southern Hemisphere ...	277,943	496,518	463,328
Other Countries ...	6,988	27,540	22,093	Total, The World, as far as Reported ...	3,845,083	4,783,409	(a) 3,757,516
Total, Asia†	541,677	530,243	502,798				
Northern Africa—				Countries which have not reported since 1914:—			
Egypt ...	34,039	39,753	46,072	China§§ ...	590,000	...	...
Other Countries ...	60,415	64,338	69,423	Other ...	200,000	...	...
Total, N. Africa	94,454	104,091	115,495				
North America—							
United States ...	696,006	858,160	900,219				
Canada ...	130,042	420,672	321,325				
Other Countries ...	71,402	11,632	16,699				
Total, N. America	897,450	1,290,464	1,238,243				
Total, Northern Hemisphere ...	3,567,140	4,286,891	(a) 3,294,188				

* Not available. † The figures for Russia in Europe relate to territory comprised in the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, including territory in Asia. ‡ Old boundaries. § New boundaries. §§ Figures for one year only. (a) Exclusive of Russia.

MAIZE.

Before the development of the wheat-exporting industry of New South Wales maize-growing was the most extensive single agricultural pursuit. It is now the third largest crop grown in the State, but the harvest is small in comparison with that of wheat, and is insufficient 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.

Maize-growing reached its highest development locally in 1910, and since then production has decreased. The following statement shows 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	6,293,600	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
1920-21	144,105	4,176,000	29·0	974,260	6 15 2
1924-25	146,564	4,208,000	28·7	631,230	4 6 2
1925-26	120,955	3,278,000	27·1	805,820	6 13 3
1926-27	128,516	3,599,000	28·1	1,004,710	7 16 4
1927-28	148,801	3,930,570	26·4	622,330	4 3 8
1928-29	106,835	2,506,470	23·5	543,150	5 1 8
1929-30	108,219	3,035,850	28·1	758,960	7 0 3
1930-31	105,024	2,766,660	26·3	383,180	3 13 0
1931-32	106,047	2,669,580	25·2	417,120	3 18 9

The decline in the area sown with maize has been accompanied by a decrease in the average yield per acre. The average value per acre declined precipitately in 1930-31, and remained low in 1931-32, the price of maize being adversely affected by the low price of wheat.

The average farm value of the maize crops of the last five years shown above was only £4 14s. 10d. per acre, which approximates very closely the average of £4 13s. for the quinquennium ending 1912.

The following statement shows the area under maize for grain in New South Wales during the seasons 1930-31 and 1931-32 with the production and average yield in each division:—

Division.	1930-31.			1931-32.		
	Area under Maize for Grain.	Yield.		Area under Maize for Grain.	Yield.	
		Total.	Per Acre.		Total.	Per Acre.
	acres.	bushels.	bushels.	acres.	bushels.	bushels.
Coastal—						
North	43,227	1,233,585	28·5	40,207	1,109,817	27·6
Hunter and Manning	20,126	555,189	27·6	19,363	567,963	29·3
Metropolitan	1,088	32,679	30·0	1,604	78,213	48·8
South	9,120	331,431	36·3	7,429	261,261	35·2
Total	73,561	2,152,884	29·2	68,603	2,017,254	29·4
Tableland—						
Northern	17,122	371,871	21·7	19,591	333,774	17·0
Central	3,648	85,770	23·5	3,949	73,935	18·7
Southern	244	3,651	15·0	263	3,639	13·8
Total	21,014	461,292	22·0	23,803	411,348	17·3
Western Slopes	10,197	149,454	14·7	13,438	239,811	17·8
Central Plains, Riverina, and Western Division.	252	3,030	12·0	203	1,167	5·7
All Divisions	105,024	2,766,660	26·3	106,047	2,669,580	25·2

The principal factors in the local supply of maize in recent seasons are shown in the following table. The particulars relate to calendar years, as the maize crops of the State are harvested between January and August.

Complete records are not available of the interstate imports and exports, but it is considered that the quantity unrecorded is not large.

Year.	Production.	Import.		Export.		Available for Consumption. * †
		Oversea.	Interstate. ‡	Oversea.	Interstate. ‡	
1924 ...	4,623,000	317,000	1,397,000	53,000	62,000	6,222,000
1925 ...	4,208,000	180,000	1,623,000	51,000	93,000	5,867,000
1926 ...	3,278,000	1,434,000	324,000	44,000	23,000	4,669,000
1927 ...	3,599,000	249,000	2,543,000	6,000	106,000	6,279,000
1928 ...	3,931,000	4,000	1,740,000	41,000	56,000	5,578,000
1929 ...	2,506,000	‡	2,269,000	2,000	6,000	4,767,000
1930 ...	3,036,000	60,000	855,000	2,000	10,000	3,939,000
1931 ...	2,767,000	‡	596,000	1,000	7,000	3,355,000
1932 ...	2,670,000	6,000	173,000	2,000	6,000	2,841,000

* Subject to adjustment for carry over. † Records of interstate movement are incomplete
‡ Negligible.

The annual requirement of maize is very variable, depending largely on the nature of the pastoral season and the price and size of available supplies. The large importation in 1927 and 1929 is attributed to the demand for fodder for sheep and other live stock during the acute though short drought. In 1930 supplies of maize in the Commonwealth were relatively small and dear, while wheat was relatively cheap. Pastoral conditions in the latter half of 1930, in 1931 and 1932 were favourable.

The imports interstate are derived almost exclusively from Queensland, while the imports oversea were formerly brought from South Africa. A general duty of approximately 2s. per bushel is imposed on maize imported oversea, except from New Zealand, on which the duty is approximately 1s. 5d. per bushel, together with an *ad valorem* primage duty of 10 per cent.

OATS.

Oats is sown in New South Wales mainly as a hay crop, the areas for respective purposes in 1931-32 being as follow:—Oats for hay, 222,212 acres; oats for grain, 151,600 acres; and oats for green food, 77,061 acres. The aggregate area—450,873 acres—is 73,667 acres less than that of the previous season.

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.

The principal divisions in respect of the cultivation of oats for grain in 1931-32 were the Riverina Division, with 62,355 acres producing 967,788 bushels, an average of 15.5 bushels per acre, the South-western Slopes, where 53,019 acres produced 943,182 bushels of grain, an average of 17.8 bushels per acre; Central-western Slope, 10,547 acres producing 173,571 bushels, an average of 16.5; and the Central Tableland with

8,668 acres producing 135,333 bushels, or an average of 15.6 bushels per acre. These four divisions between them produced nearly 88 per cent. of the oats 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
				£	£ s. d.
1900-01	29,383	593,548	20.2	59,355	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
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	234,530	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
1925-26	101,097	1,615,650	16.0	383,720	3 15 11
1926-27	105,115	1,898,750	18.1	339,880	3 4 8
1927-28	114,988	1,654,560	14.4	324,010	2 16 4
1928-29	126,743	2,183,880	17.2	254,860	2 0 3
1929-30	181,354	2,528,610	13.9	316,050	1 14 10
1930-31	176,659	3,241,980	18.4	182,360	1 0 8
1931-32	151,600	2,526,450	16.7	126,320	0 16 8

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 nine years, is shown in the following table:—

Year.	Production.	Import.		Export, Oversea and Interstate.	Available for Consumption.†
		Oversea.	Interstate.‡		
	bus.	bus.	bus.	bus.	bus.
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
1926 ...	1,615,600	235,900	390,500	19,000	2,223,000
1927 ...	1,898,700	462,700	411,200	49,100	2,723,500
1928 ...	1,654,600	370,500	450,500	50,000	2,425,600
1929 ...	2,183,900	6,800	432,500	21,700	2,601,500
1930 ...	2,528,600	3,100	460,400	17,000	2,975,100
1931 ...	3,242,000	1,000	184,000	300,100	3,126,900
1932 ...	2,526,000	2,300	66,000	300,400	2,293,900

† 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, together with an *ad valorem* primage duty of 10 per cent. In 1924 and 1925 practically the whole local supply was produced in New South Wales and other Australian States, but in the next three years an appreciable part of the supply was obtained from other countries, mainly from New Zealand.

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 is insignificant compared with the world production, which usually amounts to more than 3,500,000,000 bushels per year.

BARLEY.

Barley is produced only on a moderate scale in New South Wales, and supplies for local consumption are 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, the South-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	1925-26	6,614	105,150	15.9
1910-11	7,082	82,005	11.6	1926-27	5,629	100,260	17.8
1915-16	6,369	114,846	18.0	1927-28	5,600	65,850	11.8
1920-21	5,969	123,290	20.7	1928-29	5,024	80,910	16.1
1921-22	5,031	83,950	16.7	1929-30	7,947	113,850	14.3
1922-23	3,899	55,520	14.3	1930-31	11,526	188,610	16.4
1923-24	4,357	71,910	16.5	1931-32	8,349	137,430	16.5
1924-25	6,658	118,300	17.8				

Considerable fluctuation has occurred in the area cultivated, while the grain yield has varied greatly. The average crop during the last ten years has been 15.8 bushels per acre.

Of the area cropped for grain in 1931-32, 4,268 acres yielded 65,250 bushels of malting barley, and 4,081 acres yielded 72,180 bushels of other barley. In addition, 740 acres were cropped for hay and 6,641 acres for green food.

RICE.

Rice-growing trials were made intermittently in New South Wales and other Australian States from 1891 to 1922 with indifferent success, but in the latter year encouraging results were obtained from trials on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area by the use of three varieties imported from

America. Further successful trials were made in the 1923-24 season, and in 1924-25 commercial trials were made on 153 acres which yielded approximately 16,200 bushels or 304½ tons of "paddy" rice—an average yield of 106 bushels per acre. The favourable prices received for this harvest, coupled with the high average yield, encouraged many other growers to experiment with the crop, and in 1925-26 a total area of 1,556 acres was sown on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, but a considerable portion of the crops failed wholly or in part owing to the adverse season and the experimental nature of many of the sowings. The yield was very low, viz., 61,100 bushels, or an average of 39.2 bushels per acre.

The progress in subsequent years was as follows:—

Year.	Number of Growers.	Area Harvested.	Yield (Paddy Rice).	Value of Yield to Farmer.	Average per acre.	
					Yield.	Value.
		acres.	bus.*	£	bus.	£
1926-27 ...	66	3,958	214,740	48,320	54.27	12.2
1927-28 ...	127	9,891	879,113	181,320	88.88	18.3
1928-29 ...	221	14,027	1,307,520	201,850	93.21	14.4
1929-30 ...	258	19,780	1,829,173	289,620	92.48	14.6
1930-31 ...	270	19,825	1,427,413	259,610	72.60	13.1
1931-32 ...	277	19,574	1,349,653	263,180	68.95	13.4

* 42 lb. per bushel.

The price received by growers f.o.r. Leeton was fixed by the rice milling firms at £10 10s. per ton in 1925-26, and £12 per ton in 1926-27, subsequent to the imposition of an import duty of 3s. 4d. per cental on uncleaned rice and 6s. per cental on cleaned rice. In 1927-28 the price was £11 per ton f.o.r. Leeton. The 1928-29 and subsequent harvests were marketed by a rice marketing board appointed under the Marketing of Primary Products Act. The 1928-29 crop, viz., 23,228 tons of marketable rice, was sold for consumption in Australia at £11 per ton f.o.r. Leeton. The marketable quantities of the 1929-30 crop were 29,982 tons of A grade and 2,880 tons of second grade. The marketable crop in 1930-31 amounted to 25,300 tons, of which 4,084 tons were exported overseas. The 1931-32 crop was 23,443 tons. Up to February, 1933, when 800 tons remained unsold, only 732 tons of this had been shipped from Australia. The greater part of the crop was sold for consumption in Australia at a fixed price, £11 per ton f.o.r. Leeton.

Excluding the quantity used for seed, the consumption of rice in New South Wales is about 4½ lb. per head of population. Thus it would appear that the annual requirement is approximately 11,700,000 lb. of commercial rice, equivalent to approximately 450,000 bushels (42 lb.) of "paddy" rice as harvested by the grower. It is possible, however, that if local rice can be produced in regular supply at a price attractive to consumers, the local demand may be increased. The annual quantity of paddy rice required for consumption in Australia was estimated by the Rice Marketing Board at between 20,000 and 22,000 tons.

The volume of oversea trade of New South Wales in rice in each of the past ten years is shown below. Until 1930 the proportion of Australian grown rice exported oversea was negligible:—

Year.	Import oversea.				Export oversea.			
	Cleaned or partly cleaned.		Uncleaned.*		Cleaned.		Uncleaned.*	
	cwt.	£	cwt.	£	cwt.	£	cwt.	£
1923-24 ...	257,364	204,432	131,156	90,725	89,741	94,702	...	...
1924-25 ...	59,837	58,824	116,695	68,655	96,579	100,734	17	19
1925-26 ...	67,752	60,271	116,015	76,873	74,027	76,624	2,034	1,584
1926-27 ...	129,191	103,814	123,899	77,215	59,385	60,564	29	32
1927-28 ...	77,953	66,192	10,450	6,739	44,580	47,131	...	...
1928-29 ...	57,227	51,211	6	6	53,771	54,877	30	35
1929-30 ...	74,222	60,867	3,088	2,126	62,145	62,283	1,214	1,152
1930-31 ...	28,251	18,376	10	10	80,155	58,144	12,243	4,330
1931-32 ...	25,788	14,053	...	...	76,904	49,585	31,822	11,280
1932-33 ...	29,712	12,990	...	...	63,675	46,716	20,489	7,670

* Stated to be after removal of husks, viz., 16 to 20 per cent. of weight of "paddy" rice.

In 1931-32 the quantities of local rice exported oversea were 67,785 cwt. cleaned and 31,822 cwt. uncleaned, the corresponding quantities in 1932-33 being 37,272 cwt. cleaned and 20,489 cwt. uncleaned.

In the evidence submitted to the Tariff Board at an investigation conducted in 1926 it was estimated that there were approximately 53,000 acres of land suitable for rice growing on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, and that ultimately 40,000 acres would be used for the purpose, 20,000 acres being cropped annually with one year's fallow.

HAY.

The production of wheaten and oaten hay varies in accordance with the seasonal factors controlling yield, the prospects for grain crops and the market demand for hay. In favourable years considerable stocks are stacked for use in dry seasons. The production of lucerne hay, though subject to considerable fluctuation, is more constant than that of wheaten and oaten hay. The following table shows the production of hay in each of the last five years (July to June):—

Kind of Hay.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.*
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
Wheaten	342,974	390,255	311,237	677,657	375,632
Oaten	212,535	242,740	223,847	370,158	279,530
Lucerne	197,599	159,158	149,862	141,694	154,394
Other	1,068	1,102	2,016	2,187	1,687
Total	754,176	793,255	686,962	1,191,696	811,243

* Year ended 31st March.

GRAPES.

Between 1920 and 1924 there was rapid expansion in the area devoted to grape-growing in New South Wales, which was largely due to the establishment of the industry on the Murrumbidgee and Curlwaa Irrigation Areas and to the settlement of returned soldiers on agricultural holdings adapted to grape-growing.

The following dissection of the total area cultivated for grapes shows that the greatest increase in area, relatively and absolutely, has been in grapes of drying varieties.

Varieties of grapes.	1920-21.	1925-26.	1928-29.	1929-30	1930-31.	1931-32.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
Table	2,087	2,464	2,644	2,620	2,637	2,718
Drying	699	2,298	3,357	3,860	3,937	3,923
Wine	4,589	6,977	7,077	7,019	6,771	6,735
Total, bearing	7,375	11,739	13,078	13,499	13,345	13,376
Not bearing ... {Wine } {Other }	3,408	2,726	{ 1,000 1,122	1,144 946	1,269 749	1,120 864
Grand Total	10,783	14,465	15,200	15,589	15,363	15,360

The production of the vineyards according to the purposes for which it was used is shown in the following comparison. The quantities do not relate in every case to the acreages as classified in the preceding table, as the produce of some varieties of vines cultivated usually for a particular purpose may be used ultimately in a different way:—

Production.	1919-20.	1925-26.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Table grapes ... cwt.	53,560	76,740	85,560	82,520	73,600	70,840
Dried grapes—						
Sultanas	4,987	19,386	55,330	78,329	43,304	55,924
Currants	2,465	6,132	9,755	10,282	8,506	9,935
Raisins & lexias ..	2,097	3,782	4,757	5,062	3,983	4,934
Grapes used for wine,,	105,360	203,940	250,880	298,680	235,040	252,420
Wine made ... gal.	717,893	1,240,893	1,481,846	1,933,709	1,335,882	1,589,707

The approximate quantities of dried grapes packed in the 1932 season were sultanas 60,800 cwt., currants 10,800 cwt., raisins and lexias 3,600 cwt.

The volume of output shows some variation in accordance with the effect of seasonal conditions on average yields. The most striking feature of the table is the rapid increase in the production of sultanas.

Particulars of the production from vineyards in irrigation areas are shown in the section "Water Conservation and Irrigation" of this Year Book.

The most important viticultural district was formerly in the Hunter and Manning Division, the area cultivated for grapes in that division in 1931-32 being 1,797 acres for wine-making, 230 acres for table use, and 38 acres of young vines. However, the area cultivated for grapes is now largest in the Riverina Division, where 4,026 acres were grown in 1931-32 for wine-making, 637 acres for table use, 2,092 acres for drying, and 1,298 acres of young vines. The greater part of these areas is in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area.

Considerable quantities of grapes for wine and dried fruits are grown on the irrigation areas of the Australian States, mainly in Victoria and South Australia. In recent years the production of dried fruits has largely exceeded the Australian demand, and on account of the low prices prevailing abroad, legislation was passed by the States concerned and by the Commonwealth to make provision for organised marketing. In this way the local and the less profitable export trade is distributed on an equitable basis

amongst the producers in the various States, and the Commonwealth assists in the export and disposal of the dried fruits in the oversea markets. In 1932, packing sheds in New South Wales were required to export oversea 75 per cent. of the sultanas and currants produced and 60 per cent. of the lexias. The corresponding proportions in 1931 were 65 per cent. and 60 per cent. respectively.

The main provisions of the Dried Fruits Act, 1927, passed in New South Wales were submitted to a poll of the growers before they were brought into operation. The Act, which is similar to enactments passed in Victoria and South Australia, provides for the constitution of the New South Wales Dried Fruits Board to control the marketing of dried fruits (*i.e.*, currants, sultanas, and lexias) for consumption in the State, for the registration of growers, dealers, etc., and for the imposition of a levy on the growers to meet expenses of administration. The levy was fixed at the rate of $\frac{1}{16}$ d. per lb. of the dried fruits produced by each grower, but this was reduced to $\frac{1}{32}$ d. per lb. in the seasons 1930 to 1932.

The export trade in these dried fruits is controlled by the Dried Fruits Control Board constituted under Federal legislation. The Board consists of one representative of the Commonwealth Government, four representatives of the growers, and two members with commercial experience appointed by the Commonwealth. A London agency has been established to arrange conditions governing export and to accept control of dried fruits for handling and distributing. For financing the activities of the Board a charge, not exceeding $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb., may be levied on dried fruits exported from the Commonwealth.

The export trade in wine is assisted by a bounty payable by the Commonwealth Government. Under the Wine Export Bounty Act of 1924 the rate of bounty was 4s. per gallon on fortified wine exported from the Commonwealth during the three years ended 31st August, 1927. It was reduced to 1s. 9d. per gallon as from 1st September, 1927, and further reduced to 1s. per gallon, except on wine exported to Canada for consumption there, as from 8th March, 1928. As from 13th March, 1930, the bounty was increased to 1s. 9d. per gallon, and was reduced to 1s. 4.8d. per gallon in July, 1931. During the year ended 30th June, 1926, bounty amounting to £32,609 was paid on 163,043 gallons of wine exported from New South Wales; in 1926-27, £49,572 was paid on 247,858 gallons; in 1927-28, £30,330 on 168,213 gallons; in 1928-29, £1,784 on 31,206 gallons; in 1929-30, £1,795 on 25,295 gallons; in 1930-31, £2,821 on 33,267 gallons; and in 1931-32, £5,474 on 74,284 gallons.

BANANAS.

Banana culture developed rapidly in the Tweed River district of the North Coast division from 1914 to 1922, but subsequently it was almost extinguished by a disease known as "bunchy top." In August, 1923, the Governments of the Commonwealth, New South Wales and Queensland, began a joint investigation. Each contributed £1,500 to defray expenses, and a Bunchy-top Control Board was appointed. As a result of its investigations the Committee determined that bunchy top was a virus disease transmitted mainly by the banana aphid and by the transfer of diseased plants, also that there was no resistant or immune banana stock. The committee submitted recommendations for stringent action in controlling the disease, based mainly on the registration of banana plantations, the prompt destruction of all infected plants, the breeding of clean stock, the prevention of transmission of infected plants, and the destruction of deserted plantations. Measures adopted along the lines of these recommendations have been successful in checking the disease. Strict supervision is enforced through resident inspectors.

The following table shows the area cultivated for and the production of bananas in each year since 1922:—

Year ended 30th June.	Area.			Production.	
	Bearing.	Not bearing.	Total.	Cases.	Farm value.
	acres.	acres.	acres.		£
1922	4,570	898	5,468	433,533	260,120
1923	3,300	507	3,807	233,526	151,740
1924	1,604	250	1,854	94,983	95,410
1925	1,002	502	1,504	60,763	47,090
1926	1,071	658	1,729	68,167	50,550
1927	1,378	468	1,846	64,543	52,730
1928	1,229	763	1,992	74,703	56,030
1929	1,060	852	1,912	81,455	61,090
1930	1,806	1,534	3,340	117,120	107,840
1931	2,621	2,338	4,959	216,756	139,090
1932*	4,733	2,394	7,127	343,427	181,730

* Year ended 31st March.

The quantity of bananas imported oversea into New South Wales in 1932-33 was 23,873 centials valued at £13,238, viz., 6,634 centials from Fiji and 17,239 centials from Norfolk Island, and the imports from Queensland consisted of 74,700 cases. The duty on bananas imported oversea, other than from Norfolk Island, was 1d. per lb. until October, 1932, when, in terms of the Ottawa Agreement, it was provided that not more than 40,000 centials of Fiji bananas may be admitted annually into Sydney and Melbourne at a duty of 2s. 6d. per cental.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GROWING.

In 1931-32 the area of land on which fruit (including grapes, bananas, and pineapples) was grown was 95,251 acres, and the value of production therefrom £1,529,280, compared with an area of 93,539 acres and a value of £1,648,360 in 1930-31.

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.	1930-31.			1931-32.		
	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 ...	6,303	27,161	515,160	5,508	26,758	562,700
Other† ...	7,303	31,562	667,120	7,285	32,124	426,400
Total	13,606	58,723	1,182,280	12,773	58,882	989,100
Vineyards ...	2,018	13,345	277,870*	1,984	13,376	318,590*
Market Gardens ...	...	7,448	465,980	...	6,655	385,310
Separate Root Crops ...	...	17,482	207,670	...	19,153	166,850
Minor Crops of Fruit and Vegetables ...	2,554	18,432	458,240	2,694	21,775	490,280
Grand Total ...	18,178	115,430	2,592,040	17,451	119,841	2,350,130

* Includes value of wine and spirit made from grape juice, pineapples, and berry fruits.

† Excludes passion-fruit, bananas,

The cultivation of many classes 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, citrus fruits, peaches, plums, apples, and passion-fruit are most generally planted. On the tablelands, apples, pears, apricots, and all the fruits from cool and temperate climates thrive well; in the west and in the south-west, citrus, pome and stone fruits, figs, almonds, and raisin-grapes are cultivated; and in the north coastal districts, bananas, pineapples, and other tropical fruits are grown. 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 the demand. In the year ended December, 1932, approximately 2,115,000 cases of fresh fruit were imported into New South Wales from the other States, including 318,000 cases from Victoria, 1,564,000 from Tasmania, 147,000 from Queensland, 78,000 from South Australia, and 8,000 from West Australia. The quantity of fruit used for jam and fruit-canning in factories in New South Wales during 1931-32 was 9,116 tons, valued at £89,926. Fresh fruit (other than citrus) to the value of £61,606 was exported overseas from New South Wales in 1931-32, in addition to preserved fruit and vegetables, pulp and juice of local origin valued at £100,586 and dried fruits of local origin valued at £42,710. Good seasons generally produce a glut of stone fruits, for which apparently there is no system of efficient handling.

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.	1930-31.			1931-32.		
	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	4,905	33,872	38,727	5,277	32,345	38,025
Washington Navel ...	158,380	551,616	746,916	148,882	573,918	831,682
Valencia	234,560	719,441	854,073	208,470	745,905	895,477
All other	34,176	391,251	407,069	27,108	387,038	435,336
Total oranges	432,021	1,696,180	2,046,785	38,737	1,739,206	2,200,520
Lemons	53,350	210,883	320,156	54,632	211,783	303,619
Mandarins	100,184	589,839	532,568	85,161	590,578	512,790
Other Citrus	14,919	27,942	36,219	14,943	27,878	33,518
Apples	323,802	967,164	908,705	318,511	985,226	295,288
Pears—						
Williams	23,240	159,640	172,009	20,363	156,022	108,707
All other	22,374	141,972	141,961	21,274	146,296	52,762
Peaches—						
Dessert and Drying ...	54,166	392,688	214,600	54,553	295,959	140,531
Canning	55,685	171,127	209,998	56,038	169,592	117,440
Nectarines	7,746	32,142	19,403	8,456	31,935	6,718
Plums	37,559	207,631	148,246	33,168	202,101	53,046
Prunes	21,616	272,553	197,998	20,381	267,901	25,058
Cherries	78,331	241,724	79,220	72,759	243,689	36,629
Apricots	16,156	147,789	113,303	13,354	148,203	155,435
Quinces	9,929	15,969	19,989	7,372	25,886	18,713
Persimmons	757	9,149	5,920	1,105	12,235	10,031
Passion Fruit	†73,369	†203,035	57,595	†93,116	†243,454	57,226
‡All other ... ..	...	...	14,285	...	...	13,005

† Vines. ‡ Excluding bananas and pineapples.

The figures shown above include returns from private orchards, which are, however, of comparatively small extent.

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
1920-21	21,990	6,445	28,435	2,009,756	91	477,580	21 14 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
1925-26	23,425	7,860	31,285	2,486,020	106	742,650	31 14 1
1926-27	23,853	7,854	31,707	2,273,529	95	762,360	31 19 2
1927-28	26,056	7,301	33,357	2,604,983	100	765,240	29 7 5
1928-29	26,366	6,889	33,255	3,031,820	115	913,110	34 12 8
1929-30	27,263	6,747	34,010	2,541,681	93	1,176,400	43 3 0
1930-31	27,161	6,303	33,464	2,935,728	108	515,160	18 19 4
1931-32	26,758	5,508	32,266	3,050,447	114	562,700	21 0 7

* At orchards.

The principal divisions for the cultivation of citrus fruits are as follow:—Metropolitan, 8,901 acres; Hunter and Manning, 7,868 acres; Riverina (which includes the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area), 7,342 acres, and Central Tableland, 6,404 acres.

The number of holdings of 1 acre or more in extent in which citrus fruit, to the extent of fifty trees or more, was cultivated during the year 1931-32 was 4,603, and of these the average area was 7 acres.

The production of oranges and lemons has attained such proportions that the growers are obliged to seek oversea markets. During 1931-32 the oversea export of citrus fruit from New South Wales was valued at £113,384, and in 1932-33 at £89,735. Most of this export was to New Zealand. But in December, 1932, the Dominion placed an embargo on importation into New Zealand of all fresh fruits from Australia. This was partially relaxed in respect of the produce of South Australia only, in August, 1933. This embargo coupled with increased local production has disorganised the local markets. Efforts are being made to develop markets in Canada and Great Britain.

A system of packing and marketing inaugurated by the Central Citrus Association was described on page 602 of the Year Book for 1928-29, but this organisation ceased to function in December, 1931, a considerable proportion of the packing sheds having been closed.

Fruits other than Citrus.

The following table shows the area of orchards and fruit gardens, exclusive of citrus orchards, bananas, pineapples, and berry fruits, 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	270,080	10 9 8
1910-11	20,498	6,748	27,246	271,930	13 5 4
1920-21	27,302	14,309	41,611	577,480	21 3 0
1921-22	27,838	14,031	41,869	547,950	19 13 8
1922-23	26,314	14,500	40,814	732,390	27 16 8
1923-24	27,220	13,525	40,745	645,820	23 14 6
1924-25	27,694	12,679	40,373	796,390	28 15 2
1925-26	29,621	11,818	41,439	857,380	28 18 11
1926-27	30,403	10,637	41,040	855,540	28 2 7
1927-28	32,492	9,038	41,530	957,550	29 9 6
1928-29	32,323	8,389	40,712	860,710	26 12 7
1929-30	32,284	7,767	40,051	1,006,640	31 3 7
1930-31	32,140	7,499	39,639	709,360	22 1 5
1931-32	32,124	7,265	39,389	426,400	13 5 6

About one-quarter of the area under fruits other than citrus is situated in the Central Tablelands, where the area occupied in this way is 9,842 acres; 8,616 acres are situated in the south-western slopes, and 7,641 acres in the Riverina, which includes the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area.*

The value of apples exported overseas from New South Wales amounted to £14,863 in 1931-32 and to £139,479 in 1932-33. In the latter year apples to the value of £121,533 were exported to Great Britain.

In recent years headway has been made in organising the marketing of non-citrus fruits. An efficient cool store on co-operative lines has operated at Batlow for ten years, and similar stores have been established at Orange, Young and Kentucky. These provide growers with storage chambers which 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 ensure greater regularity of supplies of fruit, to make valuable trading connections, and to inaugurate sound marketing undertakings. The banana-growers of the North Coast have also organised a strong co-operative marketing association.

Fruit Canning.

The Commonwealth Government paid bounty on certain kinds of fruit canned in 1923-24, and on such fruit exported on or before 28th February, 1925. A sum of £4,594 was paid in 1925-26 on fruit canned in New South Wales, and a further sum of £3,102 in 1927-28, the last year in which a bounty was paid. The export of canned fruit is supervised by the Canned Fruit Control Board constituted under Federal legislation.

* See pages 558 and 569.

The following statement shows the quantity and value of canned fruit produced in factories in New South Wales during each of the past nine years:—

Year.	Fruit Preserved.	
	Quantity.	Value at Cannery.
	lb.	£
1923-24 ...	10,521,701	242,255
1924-25 ...	17,019,569	408,101
1925-26 ...	11,325,850	264,794
1926-27 ...	8,261,091	182,436
1927-28 ...	13,922,386	242,537
1928-29 ...	14,213,747	258,037
1929-30 ...	17,133,226	271,360
1930-31 ...	15,812,219	253,205
1931-32 ...	7,609,691	136,776

Dried Fruits.

The quantity of dried fruit produced in New South Wales in 1931-32 was 81,637 cwt. The bulk of the fruit treated in this way consisted of grapes of which details are shown on page 558. The production of dried prunes increased from 1,890 cwt. in 1926-27 to 31,784 cwt. in 1930-31, but on account of a severe infestation of thrips during the 1931-32 season the quantity produced was only 2,901 cwt.

The total production of dried fruits in each of the last five seasons is shown below:—

Dried Fruit.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
Apricots ...	4,577	9,097	6,473	2,243	6,260
Grapes ...	35,369	69,842	93,673	55,793	70,793
Peaches ...	4,782	3,461	2,866	2,647	1,385
Pears ...	630	355	265	346	257
Prunes ...	12,657	17,633	24,305	31,784	2,901*
Other ...	388	453	410	194	41
Total ...	58,403	100,841	127,992	93,007	81,637

* Failure of crop.

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 reasonably complete particulars of operations conducted on a commercial basis.

A considerable proportion of the vegetables produced on holdings of 1 acre and over are grown in market gardens, and data as to individual crops are not available in respect of these. In 1931-32 market garden produce was grown on 1,442 holdings, in areas of 1 acre or more, the total

area being 6,655 acres; and the value of production was £385,312. The area and production of individual crops, exclusive of areas cultivated in market gardens or on holdings less than 1 acre in extent, were as follow:—

Vegetables.	1929-30.		1930-31.		1931-32.	
	Area of Crop.	Production.	Area of Crop.	Production.	Area of Crop.	Production.
Potatoes—	acres.	tons.	acres.	tons.	acres.	tons.
Early (Summer) ...	3,536	6,988	4,060	8,289	17,522	33,709
Late (Winter) ...	9,249	16,919	11,244	23,994		
Sweet ...	845	4,294	554	2,414	115	354
Onions ...	131	437	79	267	84	231
Turnips ...	1,008	3,260	1,382	7,066	1,286	4,846
Other Root Crops ...	179	717	163	770	146	706
Pumpkins and Melons	2,818	8,898	3,108	8,990	3,069	12,869
Tomatoes ...	2,186	Half-cases. 436,369	1,955	Half-cases. 333,807	2,070	Half-cases. 399,225
Peas ...	7,862	£ 100,144	8,449	£ 84,896	8,891	£ 62,086
Beans ...	930	13,936	781	16,387	1,033	16,909
Cabbages ...	634	10,695	444	9,083	466	9,294
Cauliflowers ...	228	5,177	268	5,452	380	11,557
Other ...	29	837	114	5,329	324	5,915

MISCELLANEOUS CROPS.

Particulars of miscellaneous crops of the State are shown below:—

Crop	Year ended 30th June, 1931.			Year ended 31st March, 1932.		
	Area.	Production.	Yield per acre.	Area.	Production.	Yield per acre.
Hay—	acres.	tons.	tons.	acres.	tons.	tons.
Wheaten ...	520,993	677,657	1.30	292,234	375,632	1.29
Oaten ...	278,865	370,158	1.32	222,212	279,530	1.26
Lucerne ...	95,181	141,694	1.49	96,396	154,394	1.60
Other ...	1,731	2,187	1.26	1,308	1,687	1.29
Green Fodder ...	310,341	£848,803	*	367,346	£977,118	*
Rye (Grain) ...	3,293	58,950	bushels. 17.9	1,848	32,940	bushels. 17.8
Broom Millet—						
Grain ...	2,182	4,830	2.2	1,731	5,280	3.1
Fibre ...		11,750	5.4		9,527	5.5
Root Crops—		tons.	tons.		tons.	tons.
Potatoes ...	15,304	32,283	2.1	17,522	33,709	1.9
Other ...	2,178	10,507	4.8	1,631	6,137	3.8
Miscellaneous Crops—		cwt.	cwt.		cwt.	cwt.
Tobacco (Dried Leaf)	547	2,048	3.7	2,869	23,336	8.1
Sugar Cane—		tons.	tons.		tons.	tons.
Crushed ...	7,617	160,209	21.0	8,272	179,153	21.7
Stand-over ...	8,007	...	...	7,647	...	...

* Comparative averages not available.

Details respecting each of these crops are shown in the "Statistical Register of New South Wales."

The greater part of the area cultivated for hay is sown with wheat, but cultivation for oaten hay is also very extensive. Lucerne is more or less a permanent crop.

The area of land cultivated expressly for green fodder is not known. The area shown above includes wheat areas which failed to mature for grain or hay and were used as green fodder for stock with a fed-off value of 15s. or more per acre in 1930-31 and of 7s. 6d. or more per acre in 1931-32.

SILAGE.

New South Wales is liable at intervals of fairly regular recurrence to long periods of dry weather. Consequently it 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 silage, 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 silage is highly advantageous to the prosecution of dairy-farming in the districts of the coast, where the climatic conditions are unfavorable to the growth of winter fodder.

The following table gives particulars of the silage made in districts for each of the last ten years:—

Year.	Farms on which Made.	Silage Made.	Value of Silage.	Silage made in Districts.				
				Coastal.	Table-lands.	Western Slopes.	Plains.	Western Division.
	No.	tons.	£	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
1922-23	116	12,191	19,338	6,598	1,407	3,877	159	150
1923-24	152	19,292	34,823	13,508	1,113	3,009	1,162	500
1924-25	269	35,145	63,610	13,972	7,215	11,395	2,412	151
1925-26	241	30,457	53,212	11,461	6,387	11,241	1,368	...
1926-27	407	48,718	97,312	14,498	4,782	25,191	3,769	478
1927-28	473	50,464	87,090	25,300	6,700	9,789	8,012	633
1928-29	350	27,177	55,740	10,424	2,208	12,649	1,896	...
1929-30	338	28,155	51,102	19,553	1,813	4,186	2,603	...
1930-31	669	60,172	86,815	26,576	4,646	23,505	5,320	125
1931-32	628	54,885	77,078	27,644	3,723	15,267	7,901	350

Considering the liability of the State to periods of severe drought, the small efforts made to conserve the fodder of abundant seasons are disappointing, but latterly there has been considerable increase. As a means of conserving fodder, the making of the silage is of great potential value. Schemes of fodder conservation as insurance against drought have been considered from time to time, but no organised project has yet been initiated.

PLANT DISEASES ACT, 1924.

A brief description of this Act was published at page 606 of the Year Book for 1928-29.

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.

Details of the Farm Produce Agents Act were published on page 607 of the year Year Book for 1928-29.

WATER CONSERVATION AND IRRIGATION.

A brief outline of the problem of water conservation and irrigation and of the policy adopted in New South Wales was published in the Year Book for 1928-29 at page 608.

The Murrumbidgee, Hay, Curlwaa and Coomealla Irrigation Areas were described on pages 609 to 611 of the Year Book for 1928-29 and details of subsequent developments are contained in the Annual Reports of the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission and in the Report of the Auditor-General.

A summary of the expansion of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Scheme is provided below:—

Year ended 30th June.	Water Distributed.	Area Watered.	Value of Rural Production *	Revenue derived.			
				Water Rates and Charges	Land Lease Rentals	Interest on advances	Other Revenue.
	acre feet	acres.	£	£	£	£	£
1924	66,433	56,076	600,000	30,957	74,276	111,600	2,602
1925	68,785	58,698	720,000	34,778	74,985	125,452	1,821
1926	81,949	57,810	800,000	38,707	73,287	120,086	650
1927	104,158	59,795	884,000	45,976	73,994	118,794	1,667
1928	139,441	64,938	841,000	54,521	72,355	101,382	2,476
1929	214,170	75,254	970,000	69,227	74,670	83,211	806
1930	301,545	92,503	1,002,000	101,194	82,999	77,472	2,367
1931	173,696	76,384	868,000	56,239	83,914	81,248	1,527
1932	178,914	57,665	882,000	53,647	91,210	81,133	1,002

* Excluding value added in factories.

The capital expenditure connected with the irrigation areas was £9,563,176 as at 30th June, 1932, of which £9,363,831 was expended on Loan Account. This sum was reduced by £1,337,047 written off for various reasons, including £1,230,556 on account of Soldier Settlement.

PRODUCTION ON IRRIGATION SETTLEMENTS.

Comparative statistics of the irrigation settlements established and controlled by the State 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.	1920-21.	1930-31.	1931-32.			
				Murrumbidgee.	Hay.	Curlwaa and Coomealla.	Total
Cultivated Holdings... No.	86	1,190	1,598	1,355	12	222	1,589
Area under—							
All Crops ... Acres	862	31,065	114,441	85,249	74	3,101	88,424
Grain "	2	2,860	75,269	32,885	...	...	32,885
Hay & Green Food ... "	399	16,085	16,032	12,201	71	128	12,400
Grape Vines—							
Bearing "	186	1,253	6,301	4,992	...	1,498	6,490
Not yet Bearing ... "	74	1,896	1,452	1,160	...	340	1,500
Orchards—							
Bearing "	58	4,154	10,507	10,126	3	678	10,807
Not yet Bearing ... "	139	4,414	4,079	3,425	...	453	3,878
Live Stock—							
Horses No.	239	5,264	6,131	5,791	144	340	6,275
Cattle—							
Dairy "	484	4,007	*2,416	*2,614	*591	*10	*3,215
Other "	530	5,463	3,163	3,354	323	119	3,796
Sheep "	703	16,927	76,609	76,856	423	216	77,495
Pigs "	134	2,564	1,889	2,416	194	98	2,708
Production—							
Wine gal.	...	64,000	904,402	1,120,457	...	...	1,120,457
Sultanas cwt.	...	2,923	33,250	10,000	...	32,381	42,381
Raisins and Lexias ... "	1,009	967	2,139	289	...	2,871	3,160
Currants "	...	2,188	5,862	1,983	...	5,183	7,166
Oranges—							
Washington Navel bush.	...	49,328	355,629	359,783	125	41,195	401,163
Valencia "	273	21,323	199,990	146,167	...	16,742	162,909
All other "	...	3,455	24,340	18,451	150	1,545	20,146
Lemons "	...	11,062	54,208	54,671	35	3,457	58,163
Peaches—							
Dessert & Drying ... "	...	40,433	45,995	14,849	8	14,744	29,601
Canning "	2,467	172,361	204,848	108,427	...	...	108,427
Nectarines "	...	3,751	4,944	145	...	330	475
Apricots "	2,905	58,136	86,079	123,185	5	9,337	132,527
Prunes "	...	10,829	86,698	14,301	...	530	14,831
Butter lb.	5,100	40,761	374,121	558,186	110,335	160	668,681
Bacon and Ham "	820	11,413	116,500	29,039	...	...	29,039
Grain—Wheat ... bush.	...	24,648	503,664	409,326	...	...	409,326
Rice ... .. "	...	...	1,427,413	1,349,653	...	...	1,349,653
Oats "	...	9,207	68,247	43,950	...	...	43,950
Other "	...	9,171	4,386	9,447	...	...	9,447

*Cows in registered dairies only.

The total area under crop increased considerably between 1921 and 1931 because of the extension of grain crops (mainly rice and wheat).

Oranges, peaches, apricots, apples, and prunes are the principal kinds of fruit produced. The yields of apples, oranges and peaches 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.		1920-21.		1930-31.		1931-32.	
	Pro-ductive.	Not yet Bearing.	Pro-ductive.	Not yet Bearing.	Pro-ductive.	Not yet Bearing.	Pro-ductive.	Not yet Bearing.
Orange—								
Seville			1,150	6,283	1,071	812	408	687
Washington Navel	202	3,606	60,810	70,314	228,445	65,529	233,981	63,331
Valencia			27,425	40,028	121,478	105,874	129,365	101,288
All other			3,134	5,443	14,429	4,476	12,914	3,780
Lemon	119	136	13,766	17,881	27,856	14,066	28,454	14,536
Mandarin			1,888	3,571	15,052	7,092	15,386	6,046
Peach—								
Dessert and Drying			31,022	29,664	32,194	2,691	32,065	2,043
Canning	1,752	4,503	118,811	73,804	160,621	54,153	160,701	54,557
Nectarine			3,739	4,020	4,566	1,079	4,148	1,102
Apricot	2,033	2,969	51,624	37,901	101,087	6,201	100,470	4,915
Prune			14,832	62,353	107,462	4,974	103,451	4,700
Plum	98	282	8,475	6,812	8,696	823	9,216	755
Pear—								
Williams	165	1,096	10,908	15,596	12,932	2,075	15,322	1,723
Other			5,663	3,457	6,925	918	6,680	872
Apple	400	718	3,452	10,240	51,577	69,603	58,650	60,370
Fig	201	38	1,428	2,995	6,359	4,833	6,193	4,042
Almond		140	6,948	8,631	22,785	6,214	24,161	5,481

The growing of oranges is the most extensive activity, and large quantities of peaches are grown, especially for canning, also apricots, prunes, pears, and apples.

Crops are cultivated under irrigation in various localities other than irrigation settlements established by the Government. A summary of all crops which were watered artificially—including those to which the foregoing tables relate—indicates that the total area irrigated in 1931-32 was 114,777 acres. The principal crops were as follows:—Wheat, 19,029 acres; lucerne, 17,528 acres; oats, 19,790 acres; rice, 19,574 acres; other fruit, 16,082 acres; grapes, 9,272 acres; green food, 1,341 acres; market gardens, 5,074 acres.

IRRIGATION PROJECTS.

An account of the irrigation projects connected with the Murray, Lachlan, Macquarie and Namoi rivers and the Warragamba scheme was published on pages 613 to 615 of the Year Book for 1928-29. Later particulars are contained in the annual reports of the River Murray Commission and the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission of New South Wales. In 1932 a construction of a water conservation scheme was commenced at Wakool near Deniliquin.

WATERWORKS.

Provision is made by the Water Act, 1912-1930, 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, 1932, the number of new licenses issued was 137, and 26 were allowed to lapse, so that at 30th June, 1932, there were in force 2,718 licenses for pumps, dams, and other works, small fees being charged in each case. Usually the licenses are issued for a period of five years.

Bore, Irrigation and Water Trusts and Artesian Well Districts.

The Water Act, 1912-1930, empowers the State to construct works to provide supplies of water for irrigation, domestic and stock purposes, flood prevention and drainage. The capital cost of such works, with interest, is repaid by beneficiaries, in instalments over a period of years. The works are administered by trustees partly elected from among the beneficiaries and partly appointed by the State.

For the supply of water under these conditions trusts have been constituted as follows:—

Purpose.	No. of Trusts.	Cost of Works.	Area Benefited.
		£	acres.
Artesian Bore Water Supply.	78	267,654	4,583,940
Improvement of Natural Offtakes of Effluent Streams	9	22,855	1,952,796
Conservation or Diversion of Water by Dams and Weirs.	7	115,220	1,704,980
Impounding by Regulations	1	2,591	32,985
Pumping for Domestic and Stock	5	26,429	607,344
Pumping for Irrigation	7	7,903	16,000
Total	107	442,652*	8,898,045

* Estimates of cost have been used in four cases where the works are not yet complete.

Under the provisions of the Artesian Wells Act, 1897, now incorporated in the Water Act, 1912-1930, twelve artesian wells were sunk and 108 miles of distributing drains constructed at a cost of £22,758. The total area of the districts benefited by these works is 314,123 acres, and charges (which may not exceed 6 per cent. per annum on the cost of the works) are assessed by the local Land Board in each instance and paid by the occupiers.

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, 1932:—

Bores.	Flowing.	Pumping.	Total.	Total Depth.
				feet.
For Public Watering-places, Trust Bores, etc. ...	134	46	180	375,487
For Country Towns Water Supply	3	1	4	6,533
For Improvement Leases	19	7	26	38,621
Total, Government Bores ..	156	54	210	420,641
Private Bores... ..	241	137	381	534,869

The average depth of Government bores is 2,003 feet, and of private bores 1,404 feet, and they range from 89 feet to 4,338 feet.

The deepest wells in New South Wales are in the county of Staphylton, one at Boronga having a depth of 4,338 feet and an outflow at present of 777,117 gallons per day; another at Dolgelly has a depth of 4,086 feet, and a discharge of 424,085 gallons per day. The largest outflow at the present time is at the Angledool No. 2 bore, in the county of Staphylton, which yields 1,205,090 gallons a day, and has a depth of 1,809 feet.

Of the 643 bores that have been sunk 400 are flowing, and give an approximate aggregate discharge of 73,251,968 gallons per day; 191 bores give a pumping supply, the balance of 52 being failures. The total depth bored is 1,018,609 feet.

The flow from 96 bores is utilised for supplying water for stock on holdings served in connection with bore-water trusts and artesian well districts under the Water Act, 1912-1930. The total flow from these bores amounts to 32,780,959 gallons per day, watering districts of an area of 4,628,550 acres by means of 3,075 miles of distributing channels. The average rating by the bore trusts is 1.99d. per acre, including the cost of maintenance and administration.

The majority of 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.

Shallow Boring.

Arrangements were made by the Government in 1912 to assist settlers by sinking shallow bores. The scheme is administered by the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission. The settler selects the site, and the Commission supplies the plant, materials and labour, and the cost is repaid by the settler on terms. Operations were commenced with one plant only, but the number has been increased gradually and 36 are now at work. During the year 1931-32 the Commission received 108 applications for the use of the plant, and 70 bores were completed.

Up to the 30th June, 1932, the number of bores sunk was 3,105, of which 576 were absolute failures, the total charges for sinking being approximately £704,436. The total depth bores was 835,708 feet, the greatest depth of any bore being 1,307 feet. During the year £20,223 were expended from loan moneys on shallow boring operations, and £21,900 were repaid by settlers to the Government. The operations of the year resulted in a trading loss of £1,538.

In 1925 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. Ninety-eight bores have been sunk under this scheme, the total depth being 50,630 feet, ranging from 150 to 1,500 feet, at an average cost of from 15s. 5d. to 49s. 6d. per foot.

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.

Growth of Artesian and Shallow Boring.

The rapid development which has occurred in utilising the underground water resources of the State in recent years is evident from the fact that the number of successful bores of all kinds increased from 458 in 1911 to 3,142 at 30th June, 1932.

PASTORAL INDUSTRY.

In New South Wales the pastoral industry has always been the greatest source of primary production, contributing more than 40 per cent. of the total value during the last ten years. In the year ended 30th June, 1931, the area of holdings in the State used for grazing was approximately 155,900,000 acres.

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 for racing purposes, and there is a small oversea trade in remounts, but, generally speaking, horse-breeding is declining. For many years cattle were produced only to supply local requirements of meat and dairy produce, but later an export trade was established, and considerable expansion took 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 annually thereafter:—

As at 30th June.	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	2,597,348	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*	689,004	3,194,236	48,830,000	371,093
1921	663,178	3,375,267	37,750,000	306,253
1922	669,800	3,546,530	41,070,000	383,669
1923	660,031	3,251,180	38,760,000	340,853
1924	658,372	2,938,522	41,440,000	323,196
1925	647,503	2,876,254	47,100,000	339,669
1926	651,035	2,937,130	53,860,000	382,674
1927	623,392	2,818,653	55,930,000	332,921
1928	598,377	2,848,654	50,510,000	301,819
1929	567,371	2,784,615	50,185,000	311,605
1930	534,945	2,686,132	48,720,000	323,499
1931	524,512	2,840,473	53,366,000	334,331
1932†	524,751	2,993,586	52,986,000	385,846

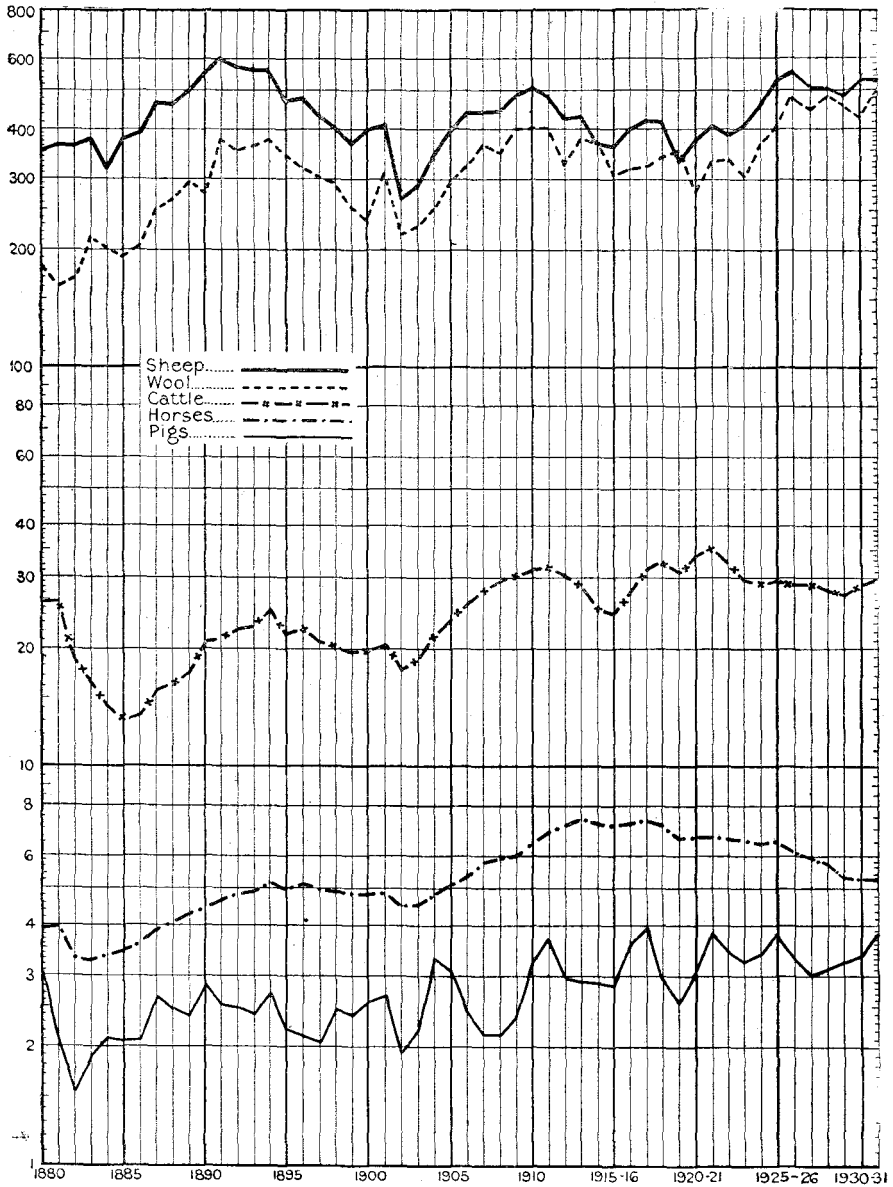
* At 31st December.

† 31st March.

Particulars of other live stock are shown on a later page.

LIVE STOCK AND PRODUCTION OF WOOL, 1880 to 1931-32.

Ratio Graph.



The numbers at the side of the graph represent 1,000,000 lb. of wool (as in grease) produced during year ; and 100,000 sheep, cattle, horses, and pigs at end of year.

The diagram is a ratio graph. The vertical scale is logarithmic, and each curve rises and falls according to the rate of increase or decrease. Actual data are shown by means of the numbers at the side of the graph.

To obtain an 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 ten sheep to each head of large stock, the following comparison is obtained:—

Year.	Equivalent in Sheep of Live Stock grazed.	Year.	Equivalent in Sheep of Live Stock grazed.
1861	30,666,000	1926*	89,740,000
1871	39,469,000	1927*	90,350,000
1881	66,551,000	1928*	84,980,000
1891	87,816,000	1929*	83,700,000
1901	67,199,000	1930*	80,930,000
1911	87,662,000	1931*	87,016,000
1921*	78,134,000	1932†	88,169,000
1925*	82,340,000		

* At 30th June, previous years at 31st December. † At 31st March.

The sustained increase up to 1891 was due to development of idle and partly used lands and was based mainly on sheep grazing. It has been held that in 1891 the State was overstocked having regard to the scanty pastoral improvements on holdings in the hinterland. The influence of seasonal conditions is shown in the fluctuations between 1891 and 1931. The sheep equivalent of live stock grazed reached its lowest point (48,560,000) in 1902 at the culmination of years of the severest drought on record and was 70,640,000 at the culmination of another severe drought in 1920. In the latter year, however, there was a proportionately larger number of cattle grazed (3,084,000) as compared with 1,741,000 in 1902. Fluctuations since 1921 have been influenced by seasonal factors and the level of prices discussed in later pages.

Comparison—Live Stock in the Commonwealth.

A comparison of the number of horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs in New South Wales and in the other States of the Commonwealth is shown in the following table. The figures are as at 31st December, 1931, excepting where otherwise specified:—

State.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
New South Wales (a)	524,751	2,993,586	52,986,000	385,846
Victoria	375,459	1,637,530	16,376,217	286,780
Queensland	469,474	5,550,399	22,324,278	222,686
South Australia	185,222	235,324	6,608,981	109,780
Western Australia	156,489	826,532	10,098,104	120,521
Tasmania	30,659	232,444	2,012,055	41,459
Northern Territory	33,442	749,745	18,867	665
Federal Capital Territory (b) ...	925	5,395	194,391	108
Total, Australia	1,776,421	12,260,955	110,618,893	1,167,845

(a) As at 31st March, 1932.

(b) As at 30th June, 1932.

In New South Wales there are more sheep, horses and pigs than in any other State in the Commonwealth, but Queensland has more cattle.

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.

Division.	Number of Live Stock (000 omitted).						Number per square mile.			
	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.‡	1931.‡	1932.§	1891.	1911.	1921.‡	1931.‡
SHEEP—										
Coastal Belt	1,483	1,097	1,559	1,048	1,159	1,134	42.5	44.9	30.2	33.3
Tableland	7,882	8,859	9,735	7,524	11,304	11,216	195.3	235.2	181.8	280.0
Western Slopes	10,869	11,672	12,167	9,743	17,270	16,507	286.8	275.2	221.0	302.4
C'I Plains & Riverina ...	25,194	14,706	17,433	14,370	16,910	16,899	351.8	269.4	222.1	261.3
Western Division	16,403	5,523	7,936	5,065	6,723	7,230	130.6	63.2	40.4	53.6
Whole State	61,831	41,857	48,830	37,750	53,866	52,986	199.2	157.3	121.6	172.4
CATTLE, DAIRYING—										
Coastal Belt	197	284	653	674	901	919	5.6	18.7	19.3	25.9
Tableland	67	70	107	73	44	54	1.7	2.7	1.8	1.1
Western Slopes	37	40	78	59	51	69	1.0	2.1	1.6	1.1
C'I Plains & Riverina ...	35	20	48	36	9	13	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.1
Western Division	7	4	9	2	1	1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Whole State	343*	418*	895	844	1,006†	1,056†	1.1	2.9	2.7	3.3
CATTLE, OTHER—										
Coastal Belt	640	667	915	1,009	786	731	18.3	26.2	28.6	21.1
Tableland	465	501	550	560	404	423	11.5	13.6	14.4	10.0
Western Slopes	247	306	422	441	397	432	6.5	11.1	11.6	9.0
C'I Plains & Riverina ...	339	115	302	369	234	269	4.7	4.2	5.2	3.6
Western Division	94	41	110	132	63	83	0.7	0.9	1.1	0.5
Whole State	1,785	1,630	2,299	2,531	1,834	1,938	5.8	7.4	8.2	5.9
HORSES—										
Coastal Belt	163	161	207	203	144	141	4.7	5.9	5.8	4.1
Tableland	92	112	127	112	86	86	2.3	3.1	2.8	2.1
Western Slopes	76	111	180	163	159	161	2.0	4.8	4.4	3.6
C'I Plains & Riverina ...	95	78	140	152	112	114	1.3	2.0	2.1	1.7
Western Division	44	25	35	23	23	23	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
Whole State	470	487	689	663	524	525	1.5	2.2	2.1	1.7

* Cows in milk only; dry cows and springing heifers are included in the total of Other Cattle.

† Cows in registered dairies only. ‡ At 30th June. § 31st March.

Sheep are depastured principally in the hinterland of the State, and are relatively most numerous in the Western Slopes Division. Dairying cattle and, in fact, all cattle, are more numerous in the coastal areas. Until 1922, horses were most numerous in the Coastal Division; since that year the Western Slopes Division contained the greatest number.

The divisional totals as stated for 1932 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 between these years was in the Central Plains and Riverina, where the numbers fell from 352 to 222 per square mile, and the greatest relative decline was in the Western Division, where the falling-off was from 131 to 40 per square mile.

SHEEP.

Investigations carried out in 1926 showed that the numbers of sheep in the State as recorded in landholders' returns had been considerably understated, and, after exhaustive inquiries, it was found necessary to revise the recorded totals back to the year 1908. Since 1926 the number of sheep in the State has been ascertained partly from special returns and partly from estimates based on returns of landholders.

The following table shows the number of sheep as recorded in landholders' returns for various years between 1861 and 1906 in comparison with the adjusted totals since 1911. The figures are approximate, but they show 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.
		Per cent.	*		Per cent.	*		Per cent.
1861	5,615,000	...	1891	61,831,000	(+) 9.6	1921	37,750,000	(+) 3.5
1866	11,562,000	(+) 15.5	1896	48,318,000	(-) 4.8	1926	53,860,000	(+) 14.4
1871	16,278,000	(+) 7.1	1901	41,857,000	(-) 2.8	1929†	50,185,000	(-) 0.6
1876	25,269,000	(+) 9.2	1906	44,132,000	(+) 1.1	1930†	48,720,000	(-) 2.9
1881	36,591,000	(+) 7.7	1911	48,830,000	(+) 2.1	1931†	53,366,000	(+) 9.5
1886	39,169,000	(+) 1.4	1916	36,430,000	(-) 1.1	1932†	52,986,000	(-) 0.7

* At 30th June each year since 1916 and at 31st March for the year 1932. (—) Denotes decrease.

† Excluding Federal Capital Territory (approx. 230,000).

At 31st March, 1932, the number of sheep in the State was 52,986,000. The number was greatest in 1891, and thereafter lowest at the end of 1902 by reason of drought. The main cause of the reduction in the number of sheep between 1891 and 1921 seems to have been a remarkable deterioration of seasons, due to diminished rainfall. This may be illustrated briefly by stating that the weighted average annual rainfall of the State was about $3\frac{1}{2}$ 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. The rabbit pest, too, has aggravated the effects of dry weather through destruction of natural herbage, while 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 Western Division, and from 25,200,000 to 14,700,000 in the Central Plains and Riverina Division, and in 1902

these numbers were further reduced by 1,900,000 and 7,600,000 respectively. It is noteworthy that in 1932 there were many more sheep in the Tablelands and Western Slopes Divisions than in 1891, though considerably less in the Plains, Riverina, and Western Divisions (see table on page 576).

Estimates based on returns supplied by landholders show the following approximate distribution of the flocks according to sex, also the number of lambs:—

As at 30th June.	Rams.	Ewes.	Wethers.	Lambs (under 1 year).	Total.
1925	580,000	23,040,000	12,340,000	11,140,000	47,100,000
1926	670,000	25,920,000	15,360,000	11,910,000	53,860,000
1927	740,000	27,770,000	15,330,000	12,090,000	55,930,000
1928	675,000	26,262,000	15,200,000	8,373,000	50,510,000
1929	622,000	25,076,000	13,832,000	10,655,000	50,185,000
1930	651,000	25,349,000	14,597,000	8,123,000	48,720,000
1931	669,000	26,561,000	14,079,000	12,057,000	53,366,000
1932*	643,000	26,608,000	13,243,000	12,492,000	52,986,000

* At 31st March.

The following table, compiled from the best data available, shows as nearly as may be the extent of each of the principal factors in the increase and decrease in the number of sheep since 1919.

Year.	Lambs Marked.	Sheep and Lambs Slaughtered.	Excess of Imports (+) or Exports (-)	Estimated number of Deaths* (Balance).	Net Increase (+) or Decrease (-)	Sheep at 30th June.
Thousands (000) omitted.						
1918-19† ...	8,780	4,280	(-) 1,040	3,810	(-) 350	42,170
1919-20† ...	5,230	5,540	(-) 1,380	7,330	(-) 9,020	33,150
1920-21† ...	8,750	3,850	(+) 1,980	2,280	(+) 4,600	37,750
1921-22† ...	10,860	5,230	(+) 150	2,460	(+) 3,320	41,070
1922-23† ...	8,180	5,670	(-) 2,170	2,650	(-) 2,310	38,760
1923-24† ...	9,080	3,620	(-) 140	2,640	(+) 2,680	41,440
1924-25† ...	12,000	3,390	(-) 870	2,080	(+) 5,660	47,100
1925-26† ...	13,100	4,250	(-) 610	1,480	(+) 6,760	53,860
1926-27† ...	12,630	5,620	(-) 2,640	2,300	(+) 2,070	55,930
1927-28† ...	9,220	5,010	(-) 1,990	7,640	(-) 5,420	50,510
1929† ...	12,560	5,380	(-) 2,410	4,540	(+) 230	†50,740
1929-30† ...	9,887	6,327	(-) 2,075	3,505	(-) 2,020	48,720
1930-31† ...	14,615	6,254	(-) 820	2,895	(+) 4,646	53,366
1931-32§ ...	14,332	6,880	(-) 960	**	(-) 380	52,986

* The figures in this column represent a balance and are only rough approximations. † Year ended 31st December. ‡ Years ended 30th June. § Year ended 31st March. ** Not available.

While the returns as to slaughter and border movement are considered accurate, the numbers of lambs marked and of sheep prior to 1929 are estimates based on landholders' returns and other data. The estimated

number of deaths is a balancing column and its accuracy is affected by the degree of approximation present in the other items in the table. The numbers shown under this heading, however, have in recent years been checked against recorded totals and represent the approximate annual losses from drought, disease, pest, and natural causes generally.

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.

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 modified by the remarks made on a previous page regarding the totals recorded in earlier years.

Interstate Movement of Sheep.

Apart from the seasonal movement of stock to and from agistment in other States, there is a regular export of sheep from New South Wales to Victoria. During the past five years, 12,083,000 sheep have been moved from New South Wales to Victoria, and 2,878,000 from Victoria to New South Wales, leaving an excess of exports to Victoria of 9,205,000. In the same period, 4,175,000 sheep have been imported from Queensland to New South Wales, and 2,401,000 have been exported from New South Wales to Queensland, leaving an excess of imports of 1,774,000 from Queensland to New South Wales. The excess of exports to other destinations during the same period was 942,000, chiefly to South Australia, and the total excess of exports of live sheep from New South Wales for the period 8,373,000, consisting mainly of sheep sent to market in Victoria from the southern districts of New South Wales.

The following table shows the movement of sheep from and to New South Wales, so far as is recorded, in recent seasons (July to June):—

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	(-) 141
1924-25	1,558	203	92	1,858	393	586	7	986	(-) 872
1925-26	1,540	321	83	1,944	561	759	14	1,334	(-) 610
1926-27	2,330	960	300	3,590	314	634	6	954	(-) 2,636
1927-28	2,507	989	122	3,618	938	587	103	1,628	(-) 1,990
1928-29	2,180	723	173	3,076	717	532	33	1,282	(-) 1,794
1929-30	2,744	631	112	3,487	715	661	36	1,412	(-) 2,075
1930-31	1,898	371	136	2,405	640	926	14	1,580	(-) 825
1931-32	2,176	240	315	2,731	520	1,338	6	1,864	(-) 867
1932-33	3,035	436	312	3,833	286	718	17	1,021	(-) 2,812

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. In 1925-26, 19,941,000 ewes were mated and produced 13,100,000 lambs, equal to 65.7 per cent.; in 1926-27, 18,897,000 ewes mated produced 12,630,000 lambs, equal to 66.8 per cent.; and in 1927-28, 15,651,800 ewes were mated, and produced 9,218,793 lambs, equal to 58.9 per cent. The foregoing figures relate to years ended 30th June and each contains part of two seasons' lambing.

The lambing season extends almost continuously from March to November and comparatively few lambs are dropped in the months of December, January and February. Special returns obtained in respect of calendar years showed that in 1929 lambs marked numbered 12,562,000 from 20,033,600 ewes mated, a proportion of 62.7 per cent. The corresponding totals in 1930 were—lambs marked, 10,950,000; ewes mated 19,050,000; and proportion 57.5. For reasons of economy collection of this return was discontinued in 1931. Records for the year ended 31st March, 1932, are shown below in statistical divisions:—

District.	Ewes Mated.	Lambs Marked.	Proportion of Lambs Marked to Ewes Mated.
			per cent.
Coast	234,118	160,921	68.7
Tablelands—North	602,519	394,817	65.5
Central	1,732,467	1,225,416	70.7
South	952,077	651,778	68.7
Total	3,287,063	2,272,011	69.1
Western Slopes—North	1,952,785	1,326,931	68.0
Central	2,036,229	1,363,818	67.0
South	2,359,324	1,667,348	70.7
Total	6,348,338	4,358,097	68.6
Plains—North	1,976,840	1,373,581	69.5
Central	2,632,200	1,837,565	69.8
Riverina	3,105,258	2,223,169	71.6
Total	7,714,298	5,434,315	70.4
Western Division	3,018,403	2,106,533	69.8
Grand Total	20,602,220	14,331,877	69.6

Breeds of Sheep.

The principal breed of sheep in New South Wales is the celebrated short-woolled merino strain. Stud merino flocks are maintained throughout the State and a register is compiled annually giving the history of the flocks, together with the breeding of the rams used. The number of lambs bred and sheep sold and particulars of sheep purchased are also published.

At the 31st December, 1931, there were over 839,000 stud sheep in the 163 registered flocks; comprising rams 87,000, ewes 480,000, and lambs 272,000. During 1931 the number of stud stock bred was rams 135,089, and ewes 150,972. In addition to the registered stud flocks a number of other stud flocks are maintained, some of them of large dimensions.

The number of other pure breeds is 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. British breeds of sheep are represented chiefly by the Lincoln, English Leicester, Romney Marsh, and Border Leicester breeds, while Suffolk, Ryeland, Southdown, and Dorset Horn sheep have been introduced for the raising of early-maturing lambs.

The proportion of crossbred 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 numbers of the principal breeds in the State at 31st March, 1932, were:—44,215,000 merino, 401,000 other pure breeds, 3,546,000 merino comebacks, and 4,824,000 crossbreeds.

Production of Wool.

Wool is produced in New South Wales principally by shearing the live sheep, but also to a considerable extent by fellmongering. Comparatively little is picked from the carcasses of dead sheep on the holding. Many sheep skins 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, the estimates of the quantity of wool produced up to that date are approximate.

The output of wool is stated as in the grease, as data as to its clean scoured yield are not available. 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 holdings.

The following table shows, in quinquennial periods since 1876 and annually during the past eleven seasons, the total quantity of wool produced (as in the grease) in New South Wales, together with the aggregate value at Sydney, and the value to growers since 1921-22:—

Period.	Wool Produced (000 omitted).		Year.	Wool Produced (000 omitted).		
	Quantity as in the Grease.	Value at Sydney.		Quantity as in the Grease.	Value at Sydney.	Value at place of Production.
	lb.	£		lb.	£	£
1876-1880	718,397†	31,298	1921-22	333,856	16,971	15,557
1881-1885	943,814†	40,563	1922-23	336,899	24,566	23,048
1886-1890	1,294,781†	44,773	1923-24	303,032	29,672	28,209
1891-1895	1,813,630†	49,025	1924-25	369,118	35,989	34,073
1896-1900	1,408,240†	42,984	1925-26	402,490	28,216	26,223
1901-1905	1,302,585†	46,719	1926-27	499,320	35,629	33,234
1906-1910	1,846,604†	74,788	1927-28	443,860	36,064	33,874
1911-1915	1,736,281	77,339	1928-29	482,920	33,206	30,879
1916-1920*	1,640,325	92,535	1929-30	459,970	20,123	18,099
1921-1925*	1,618,174	121,361	1930-31	427,220	15,486	13,705
1926-1930*	2,288,560	153,238	1931-32	501,648	17,349	15,233

* 5 years ended 30th June. † Excludes wool exported on skin.

A decline occurred in production between 1911 and 1920 on account of diminution in the number of sheep due to unfavourable seasons. After the breaking of the severe drought in June, 1920, the seasons were favourable up to 1927. The wool production of 1926-27 was more than 23 per cent. greater than in any previous year. Despite relatively unfavourable seasons in 1927-28 and 1929-30 the production of wool remained at a high level. A temporary decrease in 1930-31, after a dry season, was followed by a production in 1931-32 which exceeded 500,000,000 lb. for the first time on record. This was again exceeded in 1932-33, when the preliminary estimate of production was 534,000,000 lb. The value of the output increased under the influence of a marked rise in prices until in the season 1924-25 an average price of 25½d. per pound was realised for greasy wool at the Sydney wool sales. In the four succeeding seasons the prices were about one-third below this level, except for a temporary rise in 1927-28. A marked decline then occurred in consonance with the general fall in world price levels. In 1929-30 the average greasy price was 10½d. per lb., in 1930-31 8½d. per lb., and in 1931-32 only 8¼d. per lb. This is reflected in a heavy fall in the total value of the wool produced.

Particulars of the number of sheep shorn, the average weight of wool per sheep, and the respective amounts of shorn and other wool produced since 1916-17 are given below:—

Year ended 30th June.	Sheep shorn during year.	Average clip per sheep (greasy).	Weight of Wool Produced (as in the grease).				
			Shorn and crutched.	Dead.	Fell-mongered.	Exported on skins.	Total production.
	Thousands.	lb.		Thousand lb.			
1917	35,920	7·8	280,169	998	31,074	6,000	318,241
1918	39,450	7·3	288,013	1,040	28,702	5,100	322,855
1919	40,230	7·4	297,699	2,166	32,378	8,710	340,953
1920	41,280	7·2	297,176	2,528	42,271	10,096	352,071
1921	34,560	6·8	235,041	1,198	30,840	8,190	275,269
1922	37,370	7·8	291,500	413	30,445	11,498	333,856
1923	40,270	7·3	293,997	1,008	27,199	14,695	336,899
1924	38,370	7·1	272,438	1,249	17,749	11,596	303,032
1925	41,320	8·2	340,956	755	11,763	15,644	369,118
1926	45,550	8·1	368,739	761	14,780	18,210	402,490
1927	51,880	8·8	456,872	680	22,330	19,440	499,322
1928	53,730	7·5	404,375	1,705	19,870	17,910	443,860
1929	50,300	8·8	445,228	862	16,770	20,060	482,920
1930	53,260	7·8	416,813	917	18,990	23,250	459,970
1931	48,840	7·9	385,105	585	22,740	18,790	427,220
*1932	52,240	8·7	454,764	404	34,875	11,605	501,648

* Year ended 31st March.

Average Weight of Fleece.

Shearing operations are carried out usually between May and November, and the average weight of the fleece varies very greatly under the influence of the seasonal conditions ruling during the period in which the wool is grown. The proportion of lambs and of merino sheep in the flocks are important factors affecting the average weight of the fleece. The average weight of fleece shorn in successive years is shown below in statistical divisions of New South Wales:—

Division.	1928-29.*		1929-30.*		1930-31.*		1931-32.†	
	Sheep.	Lambs.	Sheep.	Lambs.	Sheep.	Lambs.	Sheep.	Lambs.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Coastal	8·56	2·39	8·35	2·35	7·67	2·82	8·73	2·93
Tablelands—North	8·37	2·68	8·03	2·65	8·09	2·90	8·55	2·70
Central	9·22	2·50	8·24	2·49	8·08	2·54	8·85	2·50
South	9·87	2·18	8·68	1·84	7·93	2·00	9·19	1·97
Total	9·19	2·40	8·31	2·28	8·04	2·41	8·86	2·36
Western Slopes—North	8·39	2·85	8·22	2·79	7·71	2·85	8·59	3·20
Central	9·23	2·60	8·26	2·64	7·92	2·46	9·33	3·06
South	9·64	2·76	8·05	2·53	7·69	2·55	9·39	2·77
Total	9·09	2·73	8·17	2·62	7·75	2·61	9·08	2·96
Plains—North	8·38	2·64	8·78	3·11	8·33	3·67	9·29	3·91
Central	9·32	2·69	8·11	3·04	8·65	3·07	10·26	3·73
Riverina	10·18	2·72	9·26	2·78	8·59	2·39	10·49	3·00
Total	9·40	2·69	8·77	2·92	8·53	2·93	10·05	3·41
Western Division	9·52	2·81	8·76	2·76	9·44	2·81	10·86	4·05
New South Wales	9·25	2·66	8·44	2·70	8·20	2·72	9·52	3·24

* General shearing only.

† Total shearing for year ended 31st March.

The foregoing figures for the years 1929 and 1930 exclude from account sheep and lambs shorn in the autumn, which constitute rather less than 5 per cent. of the total numbers shorn. Wool produced by crutching operations is also excluded. This wool represents a variable proportion ranging up to 3 per cent. of the total wool clip.

World's Sheep and Wool Production.

The number of sheep and the approximate wool production for the latest available year are shown below. Generally, the figures were extracted from the Annual Wool Review of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers (U.S.A.) and relate to the year 1931. The condensed table below includes only those countries which produced more than 20,000,000 lb. of wool.

Country.	Number of Sheep.	Production of Wool in lb.	Country.	Number of Sheep.	Production of Wool in lb.
	'000 omitted.	'000 omitted.		'000 omitted.	'000 omitted.
Australasia—			North America—		
Australia	106,000	861,000	United States	53,900	435,000
New Zealand	29,600	263,000	Canada	3,610	20,400
Other	100	...	Other	90	191
Total	135,700	1,127,000	Total	57,600	455,591
Europe—			Central America—		
Bulgaria	7,530	21,600	...	...	...
France... ..	10,500	43,000	Total	3,655	6,600
Germany	3,500	32,400			
Italy	7,550	28,600	South America—		
Rumania	10,500	44,000	Argentina	44,400	333,000
*Russia... ..	125,000	386,000	Brazil	8,500	24,200
Spain	19,500	108,000	Chile	4,590	26,700
United Kingdom	29,800	156,000	Uruguay	14,400	110,000
Yugoslavia... ..	7,950	26,800	Other	20,719	21,209
Other	28,482	95,252	Total	92,609	515,109
Total	250,312	941,652			
Asia—			Africa—		
British India	35,500	71,000	Algeria	4,670	35,300
China	35,000	70,000	Morocco	8,530	30,900
Irag	10,000	20,000	Union of South		
Persia	15,000	48,800	Africa	44,000	335,000
Turkey in Asia	11,800	60,000	Other	21,789	29,415
Other	5,593	31,051	Total	78,989	430,615
Total	112,893	300,851	World Total	731,758	3,777,418

* Includes Russia in Asia.

According to the totals shown above, Australia's proportion of the world totals are calculated at approximately 14.5 per cent. of the sheep and 22.8 per cent. of the wool.

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 local wool sales began to assume importance. In recent years Sydney has become the largest primary wool market in the world.

Sydney Wool Sales.

The wool sales in Sydney usually commence about September and continue in series on fixed dates over a period of eight or nine months. These sales are attended by representatives of firms from practically every country in which woollen goods are manufactured extensively. From data at present available it is not possible to state what proportion of the wool received in Sydney is sold locally before export.

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 appraisal system under the Imperial Purchase Scheme was in operation:—

Season.	Wool Sold.*		Proportion of Wool of each Description Sold.						Average weight per Bale.	
	Weight.	Value.	Breed.		Growth.		Condition.		Greasy.	Scoured. †
			Merino.	Cross-bred.	Fleece, etc.	Lambs.	Greasy.	Scoured.		
	lb.000	£000	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	lb.	lb.
1913-14	277,112	10 333	89.0	11.0	94.4	5.6	88.7	11.3	334	223
1914-15	190,212	6,739	83.8	16.2	95.4	4.6	92.0	8.0	341	217
1915-16	245,298	10,430	84.5	15.5	95.8	4.2	86.7	13.3	332	223
1920-21	107,584	5,610	89.1	10.9	98.9	1.1	93.2	6.8	340	227
1921-22	313,886	14,755	73.2	26.8	95.7	4.3	90.7	9.3	330	240
1922-23	268,873	18,922	79.0	21.0	94.3	5.7	93.3	6.7	321	234
1923-24	224,719	21,445	83.9	16.1	96.6	3.4	92.6	7.4	318	223
1924-25	212,664	22,624	85.9	14.1	94.7	5.3	95.1	4.9	327	232
1925-26	345,685	23,776	86.6	13.4	93.7	6.3	95.2	4.8	315	227
1926-27	374,925	26,377	87.9	12.1	94.9	5.1	94.1	5.9	322	208
1927-28	338,476	26,885	90.3	9.7	95.3	4.7	93.7	6.3	306	226
1928-29	356,696	25,113	88.6	11.4	96.0	4.0	95.9	4.1	313	236
1929-30	342,084	14,888	90.1	9.9	95.5	4.5	95.7	4.3	305	231
1930-31	331,476	11,743	90.1	9.9	96.5	3.5	94.9	5.1	309	225
1931-32	378,006	12,727	90.0	10.0	94.5	5.5	94.0	6.0	308	230
1932-33	417,443	14,358	90.1	9.9	94.0	6.0	91.8	8.2	311	236

* Scoured being included at its greasy equivalent.

† Including skin wool.

The figures as to quantity and value in this table are not comparable with records of production, because 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, mainly from Queensland, are marketed in Sydney. The wool produced in any season is not always 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 there is usually very little wool remaining unsold in Sydney. The balance remaining unsold in store on 30th June has not been appreciable since 1925, when 171,700 bales remained unsold. At 30th June, 1932, there were approximately 61,161 bales of unsold wool in store at Sydney, and 21,902 bales at 30th June, 1933.

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 earlier 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 sold also at Albury, on the southern border, and (since 1929-30) at Newcastle, 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 variety in the total output, it is a matter of great difficulty to obtain price quotations which will show accurately the fluctuations of values.

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 1912, rising 1912 to 1924, rising 1925 to 1928, falling 1929 to 1933. These periods indicate the general trend only, because in certain years, notably 1900, 1914-15, 1921 and 1922, prices varied irregularly.

The following statement shows the average prices of greasy wool in New South Wales since 1876. Average prices obtained at Sydney auctions have been recorded by the Sydney Wool Selling Brokers' Association since 1899. Between 1876 and that year the table shows the average value of greasy wool as declared in export returns obtained by the New South Wales Customs. All prices are stated in Australian currency:—

Average Export Value of Greasy Wool f.o.b. Sydney.				Average Price realised for Greasy Wool at Sydney auctions.					
Year ended 31 Dec.	Average Price Per lb.	Year ended 31 Dec.	Average Price Per lb.	Season ended 30 June.	Average Price Per lb.	Season ended 30 June.	Average Price Per lb.	Season ended 30 June.	Average Price Per lb.
	d.		d.		d.		d.		d.
1876	11	1888	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	1899	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	1911	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	1923	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
1877	10 $\frac{5}{8}$	1889	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	1900	11 $\frac{3}{8}$	1912	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	1924	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
1878	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1890	8	1901	5 $\frac{3}{8}$	1913	9 $\frac{3}{8}$	1925	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
1879	9 $\frac{7}{8}$	1891	7	1902	6 $\frac{1}{8}$	1914	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	1926	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
1880	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1892	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	1903	8	1915	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	1927	17
1881	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1893	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	1904	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	1916	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1928	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
1882	10 $\frac{3}{8}$	1894	5 $\frac{7}{8}$	1905	8 $\frac{3}{8}$	1917	14 $\frac{3}{8}$ *	1929	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
1883	10 $\frac{2}{8}$	1895	6 $\frac{3}{8}$	1906	9	1918	14 $\frac{3}{8}$ *	1930	10 $\frac{3}{8}$
1884	10 $\frac{1}{8}$	1896	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	1907	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	1919	15*	1931	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
1885	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	1897	7	1908	9	1920	15 $\frac{5}{8}$ *	1932	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
1886	8	1898	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	1909	7 $\frac{7}{8}$	1921	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	1933	8 $\frac{3}{8}$
1887	8			1910	9 $\frac{1}{8}$	1922	12 $\frac{1}{4}$		

* 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 7-13d. per lb. of which 3-6d. accrued to Australian growers.

These figures since 1899 represent the average price of wool sold during the year, and furnish an accurate guide to the average value per pound greasy of the clip produced in individual years, except that allowance for carry over of unsold wool is necessary in three seasons, viz.:—The average price realised for wool produced in 1920-21 was 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., in 1924-25, 23 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., and in 1925-26, 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. The prices shown above are affected over long terms by changes in the proportion of merino to crossbred, and by such variable qualities as length, fineness, and soundness. Over short terms comparison is affected in a small degree by changes in the proportion of natural grease in the wool and by variations in the proportionate quantities of wool of various qualities. The wool sold locally as scoured is of limited range and quantity, and the prices formerly quoted have been discontinued as they are not representative.

Data as to the clean scoured prices of principal types of wool have been obtained for successive sales during the past nine years. These have been combined into monthly averages and converted into an index in terms of pence per lb. greasy comparable with the seasonal averages shown above.

Average Monthly Prices of Greasy Wool.

The averages published below are an index (expressed in terms of pence) of the price of greasy wool per lb. at Sydney auctions. They are based on the actual prices realised for typical grades of wool in Sydney, and the respective monthly averages are comparable very closely with the actual average prices paid for greasy wool in successive seasons.

Month.	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28	1928-29	1929-30	1930-31	1931-32	1932-33
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
July ... ..	...	18·2	(16·8)	(17·6)	(17·8)	(12·9)	(9·7)	(8·3)	(8·0)
August ... ..	...	18·7	(16·9)	(17·9)	17·8	(12·4)	(9·6)	(7·5)	(8·5)
September	27·9	17·3	17·3	18·2	17·8	12·0	9·4	7·5	9·1
October	27·3	18·4	16·4	18·7	16·9	10·7	8·2	9·0	8·5
November	29·3	18·7	16·9	18·7	17·3	12·2	8·4	9·7	8·2
December	28·8	17·9	17·0	19·1	16·9	11·7	7·9	8·5	8·4
January	23·0	17·3	17·3	19·6	17·3	10·7	7·7	8·9	8·6
February	23·9	17·1	17·7	20·0	16·9	9·7	9·0	8·7	8·0
March	21·9	16·7	17·6	20·0	16·0	9·2	10·2	7·9	7·8
April	20·9	(16·5)	17·5	20·0	15·6	9·8	10·3	7·5	7·9
May	(20·0)	16·5	(17·5)	20·0	14·7	10·3	9·7	7·4	8·8
June	(19·0)	(16·7)	17·4	17·8	12·9	9·9	9·0	7·3	10·0
Weighted average price at Sydney auctions...	25·5	16·5	17·0	19·5	16·5	10·5	8·7	8·3	8·5

Averages shown in brackets are nominal, being estimates made on various data in the absence of sales. All prices are stated in Australian currency.

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 for 1924 at page 536, and a summary of payments made to woolgrowers was published on page 630 of this Year Book for 1928-29. A sum of £753,532, or 1s. 4d. per share, was distributed to Australian contributors as a final payment on 15th March, 1932, and £8,196, representing the balance of funds in hand on date of liquidation (15th September, 1932), was paid to the Australian Pastoral Research Trust Limited. The fund accounts showed that the growers' share of profits amounted to £36,109,833, and that of the British Government to £33,659,011 on 2,350,951,199 lb. of wool in each case, or an average of 7.13d. per lb.—3.69d. to growers and 3.44d. to the British Government. The total receipts by growers in respect of wool under the appraisement section were therefore equivalent to 19.19d. per lb.

Destination of Wool Shipped.

The following statement shows the destination of the oversea shipments of wool (excluding wool on skins) from New South Wales. The figures relate to the cargoes actually despatched during the periods specified:—

Destination.	Oversea Exports of Wool (000 omitted).								
	Greasy.			Scoured.			Tops.		
	1913.	1920-21.	1931-32.	1913.	1920-21.	1931-32.	1913.	1920-21.	1931-32.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
United Kingdom ...	50,120	80,322	96,615	10,609	18,164	10,057	40	422	703
Canada ...	...	127	23	...	60	256	...	287	1,109
Austria ...	7,297	734	...	32	293	...	29	...	...
Belgium ...	27,222	12,144	28,530	2,021	3,362	3,861	...	...	80
France ...	76,486	19,203	53,184	12,658	974	2,964	...	...	...
Germany ...	54,266	5,174	40,687	4,579	185	1,430	...	...	126
Italy ...	3,638	6,247	22,176	132	12	2,159	...	...	...
Japan ...	5,661	6,179	91,207	129	70	1,249	9,435	2,406	285
Netherlands ...	...	722	...	...	6	22	...	...	...
Russia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
United States ...	4,286	15,236	5,533	85	3,217	63	...	1,344	11
Other Countries ...	23	3,007	2,059	2	68	189	58	761	302
Total ...	228,999	149,091	340,014	30,248	26,411	22,250	3,562	5,280	2,616

Index of Rainfall in Sheep Districts.

The following table provides a monthly index of rainfall in the sheep districts of New South Wales. The index represents the weighted average ratio of actual to normal rainfall each month, normal in each month being the average over a long period of years and represented by 100:—

Month and Season.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.
<i>Spring</i> —																
Sept. ...	...	28	41	181	127	83	105	143	36	117	59	96	79	46	82	166
Oct. ...	...	48	46	116	102	75	91	103	43	46	133	71	83	207	46	63
Nov. ...	...	29	34	96	80	15	63	311	149	14	152	40	100	83	119	117
<i>Summer</i> —																
Dec. ...	...	25	135	195	177	153	129	83	58	137	85	27	86	166	135	54
Jan. ...	184	33	76	76	68	43	71	168	86	118	140	23	75	55	17	126
Feb. ...	77	101	41	91	76	10	185	102	26	19	362	145	43	37	91	17
<i>Autumn</i> —																
March ...	59	51	50	141	18	32	47	63	247	59	157	72	64	255	152	44
April ...	102	60	43	171	81	27	125	16	216	101	158	151	68	210	157	86
May ...	87	184	42	206	42	46	42	206	160	46	45	23	90	280	57	86
<i>Winter</i> —																
June ...	40	19	201	164	57	201	75	125	78	48	94	40	154	193	59	69
July ...	69	22	206	163	165	137	96	86	74	35	123	29	119	94	85	150
Aug. ...	201	57	140	78	47	45	127	101	78	56	19	102	121	43	101	51
Spring ...	...	35	40	131	103	58	86	186	76	59	115	69	87	112	82	115
Summer ...	...	52	84	121	107	69	128	118	57	91	196	65	68	86	81	66
Autumn ...	83	98	45	173	47	35	71	95	203	69	110	82	74	243	122	72
Winter ...	103	33	182	135	90	128	99	104	77	46	79	57	131	110	82	90
Season ...	...	54	88	140	87	72	96	126	104	66	125	68	90	139	92	86

CATTLE.

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 on account of favourable prices for beef, and the number in 1922 constituted a record for the State.

Subsequently the continuance of unfavourable markets led to a diminution in herds; breeding operations were curtailed, importation of live stock from Queensland was very restricted, and the herds were heavily depleted. Excluding cows in registered dairies the number of cattle in New South Wales decreased from 2,659,308 in 1922 to 1,937,857 in 1932.

The following table shows the total number of cattle in the State, including dairy cattle, at various dates:—

Year.	Cattle.	Year.	Cattle.	Year.	Cattle.
1861	2,271,923	1901	2,047,454	1925*	2,876,254
1866	1,771,809	1906	2,549,944	1926*	2,937,130
1871	2,014,888	1911	3,194,236	1927*	2,818,653
1876	3,131,013	1916	2,405,770	1928*	2,848,654
1881	2,597,348	1921*	3,375,267	1929*	2,784,615
1886	1,367,844	1922*	3,546,530	1930*	2,686,132
1891	2,128,838	1923*	3,251,180	1931*	2,840,473
1896	2,226,163	1924*	2,938,522	1932†	2,993,586

* At 30th June.

† At 31st March.

Particulars of cattle according to sex and age at 31st March, 1932, and in five earlier years for which comparable data are available, are shown below:—

As at 30th June.	Bulls 3 years and over.	Cows and Heifers.			Bullocks and Steers.	Calves under 1 year.	Grand Total.
		In Registered Dairies.	Other.	Total.			
1922	43,381	887,422	771,305	1,658,727	1,230,720	613,702	3,546,530
1923	40,530	878,762	753,652	1,632,414	1,089,129	489,107	3,251,180
1924	38,045	864,455	671,365	1,535,820	991,265	373,392	2,938,522
1930	42,456*	959,494	667,259	1,626,753	558,713	458,210	2,686,132
1931	45,038*	1,006,129	705,372	1,711,501	614,244	469,690	2,840,473
1932†	49,846*	1,055,729	768,144	1,823,873	589,794	530,073	2,993,586

* Bulls over 1 year old. † At 31st March.

This summary shows that the decrease in herds has been mainly due to decreases in the number of bullocks and steers and that breeding stock have increased in the past three years.

Calving.

The following table shows the calving in the State for the past ten seasons. The disparity between the calves dropped and those surviving at the end of the year is due mainly to the fact that in dairying districts about 95 per cent. of bull calves, and 70 per cent. of heifer calves are killed shortly after birth.

As more than one-half of the cows of the State are in registered dairies, and their progeny is generally not available for beef purposes, the beef stock of the State is mainly augmented from the interior divisions, where the calves surviving at the end of the year represent over 90 per cent. of those dropped.

From the table below it will be seen that the number of calves slaughtered for food has increased, and, in recent years, has approximated one-sixth of the total number dropped.

Year ended 30th June.	Calves.			Year ended 30th June.	Calves.		
	Dropped during year.	Surviving at end of year.	Slaughtered.*		Dropped during year.	Surviving at end of year.	Slaughtered*.
1922	995,128	613,702	103,883	1928	855,927	421,654	144,850
1923	961,154	489,107	133,524	1929	936,156	455,529	161,994
1924	804,928	373,392	123,760	1930	934,052	458,210	163,195
1926	881,905	458,939	173,806	1931	947,442	469,690	154,684
1927	870,816	429,405	146,947	1932†	‡	530,073	163,934

* Includes a number of calves dropped during previous year.

† Year ended 31st March.

‡ Not available.

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 subjected 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 last five years. The movement is practically all 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.
1928-29	No. 102,736	No. 12,694	No. 37,006	No. 152,436	No. 32,189	No. 186,227	No. 566	No. 218,982
1929-30	99,803	11,471	11,031	122,305	16,591	155,822	535	172,948
1930-31	100,564	12,614	20,174	133,352	33,732	240,354	302	274,388
1931-32	143,456	14,770	19,658	177,884	40,507	245,344	571	286,422
1932-33	137,970	13,117	12,512	163,599	29,409	154,462	616	184,487

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.

During the five years covered in the table there was an excess of imports from Queensland of about 917,543 cattle, and an excess of exports to Victoria amounting to 432,101. The total net gain to New South Wales from all sources was 387,651.

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 operations in these during recent years is shown in part below:—

Year.	Net Imports of Cattle.	Calves reared (surviving at 30th June).	Cattle and Calves died from Disease, Drought, etc.	Cattle Slaughtered (excluding Calves).	Cattle at end of Year.
1921-22	53,372	613,702	*	527,906	3,546,530
1922-23	5,890	489,107	*	607,333	3,251,180
1923-24	43,231	373,392	*	628,729	2,938,522
1924-25	78,095	422,736	*	658,827	2,876,254
1925-26	131,790	458,939	53,621	652,001	2,937,130
1926-27	51,370	429,405	76,114	665,647	2,818,653
1927-28	249,292	421,654	70,585	549,677	2,848,654
1928-29	66,546	455,529	48,882	617,000	2,784,615
1929-30	50,643	458,210	69,965	517,121	2,686,132
1930-31	141,036	469,690	43,570	440,266	2,840,473
1931-32	108,538	530,073†	58,614	465,481	2,993,586

(—) Denotes excess of exports.

*Not available.

† At 31st March.

The figures shown in the table do not balance from year to year because it is not possible to obtain all necessary data relative to calving and disposal of calves. Nevertheless the table illustrates in a general way the influence of the various factors.

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 lengthy drought which terminated in June, 1920, the numbers declined heavily, and the decline continued especially in the five seasons ended 30th June, 1931, owing to the increased use of motors for transport. In the year ended 31st March, 1932, the numbers remained practically stationary.

The following table shows the number of horses in New South Wales at the end of quinquennial periods from 1861 to 1916, and annually thereafter:—

Year.	Horses.	Year.	Horses.	Year.	Horses.
1861	233,220	1911	689,004	1925*	647,503
1866	274,437	1916*	719,542	1926*	651,035
1871	304,100	1917*	733,791	1927*	623,392
1876	366,703	1918*	742,247	1928*	598,377
1881	398,577	1919*	722,723	1929*	567,371
1886	361,663	1920*	662,264	1930*	534,945
1891	469,647	1921*	663,178	1931*	524,512
1896	510,636	1922*	669,800	1932†	524,751
1901	486,716	1923*	660,031		
1906	537,762	1924*	658,372		

* At 30th June.

† At 31st March.

The number of horses in the State reached its maximum of 746,170 in 1913, but in 1932 it had fallen to 524,751.

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, 1932, was 752, the value being £16,920.

There is comparatively little interstate movement of horses except to and from Queensland, and practically no import by sea. The recorded net import of horses interstate by land in the past five years ended 30th June has been as follows:—1929, 2,206; 1930, 4,628; 1931, 2,845; 1932, 7,877; and 1933, 3,506. The recorded number of horses which died from disease, drought, etc., on rural holdings was 16,665 in 1927-28, 11,449 in 1928-29, 20,284 in 1929-30, 9,411 in 1930-31, and 12,382 in 1931-32.

Horse Breeding.

Horse breeding operations have been decreasing since 1913, when the number of foals reared was 79,620. A sudden decrease occurred as a result of the drought which broke in June, 1920, and except for a temporary recovery in 1925 and 1926 the decrease continued until 1931.

The number of foals reached its lowest recorded level (20,065) in 1921, but had increased to 39,415 in 1925, falling again after a further interval of four years to a new low level (16,716) in 1930, and to a lower level still (16,370) in 1931, which was only 22 per cent. of the average annual number of foals in pre-war years. There was, however, a substantial increase in 1932.

The decrease in foals is much more striking than the decline in the total number of horses, and the foals reared in recent years have been generally below the number required for the replacement of the horses in use.

The following table shows the number of foals recorded at the end of each of the past twenty-three years:—

Year ended 31st December.	Foals reared (Surviving at end of year).	Year ended 30th June—	Foals reared (Surviving at end of year).	Year ended 30th June—	Foals reared (Surviving at end of year).	Year ended 30th June—	Foals reared (Surviving at end of year.)
1909	61,153	1915	60,337	1921	20,065	1927	28,282
1910	71,382	1916	41,818	1922	29,685	1928	22,922
1911	77,294	1917	49,087	1923	28,616	1929	19,991
1912	76,462	1918	46,832	1924	24,307	1930	16,716
1913	79,620	1919	40,015	1925	39,415	1931	16,370
		1920	24,755	1926	36,521	1932*	22,559

* Year ended 31st March.

The increased use of motor power on farms and the consequent depreciated value of the horse have resulted in the disposal of studs formerly engaged in breeding utility horses.

Particulars of power machinery on farms in 1930 were published on page 196 of the official Year Book for 1930-31.

Particulars are shown below of the number, description, and ages of horses in New South Wales as at 30th June, 1930, as collected in conformity with the schedules of the World Agricultural Census:—

Classification.	Stud Stock.	Racing Stock.	Draught Horses.	Light Horses.	Ponies.	Total.
<i>Stallions—</i>						
Under 1 year	280	329	912	474	169	2,164
1 to 3 years	121	182	343	162	82	890
3 years and over	410	265	2,236	1,084	418	4,413
Total Stallions	811	776	3,491	1,720	669	7,467
<i>Geldings—</i>						
Under 1 year ... ..	...	185	4,200	2,454	455	7,294
1 to 3 years ... ..	...	964	13,219	8,410	1,727	24,320
3 years and over ... ..	...	2,461	132,803	84,301	14,197	233,762
Total Geldings ... ..	...	3,610	150,222	95,165	16,379	265,376
<i>Mares—</i>						
Under 1 year	329	324	3,882	2,202	521	7,258
1 to 3 years	436	900	10,502	7,125	1,896	20,859
3 years and over	3,109	2,822	131,311	79,168	17,575	233,985
Total Mares	3,874	4,046	145,695	88,495	19,992	262,102
Grand Totals	4,685	8,432	299,408	185,380	37,040	534,945

OTHER LIVE STOCK.

Particulars of the number of pigs in the State are shown at the beginning of this chapter, and in the section relating to dairying.

The recorded number of goats in New South Wales at 31st March, 1932, was 24,176, including 2,213 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 at 31st March, 1932, was only 356, 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 1932 being 254 of the former and 72 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 suitable for ostrich farming. The number of ostriches at the end of March, 1932, was only 16.

PRICES OF LIVE STOCK.

The following statement shows the average prices of fat stock in the metropolitan saleyards at Flemington during recent years in comparison with 1913. The averages stated are the mean of the monthly prices which are published annually in the Statistical Register:—

Stock.	1913.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
Cattle—	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.
Bullocks and steers—Prime	10 18	11 18	15 13	13 13	15 2	13 18	9 12	9 0
medium	10 18	11 18	15 13	13 13	15 2	13 18	9 12	9 0
Cows and heifers—Prime ...	6 19	9 0	11 17	10 10	11 10	11 3	7 11	6 16
Sheep—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Crossbred wethers—Prime ...	19 3	26 10	24 2	30 5	25 9	18 4	13 3	12 7
Crossbred ewes—Prime ...	15 11	22 0	20 4	26 7	20 4	14 1	10 6	*
Merino wethers—Prime ...	19 6	25 9	24 5	30 9	24 8	16 10	12 11	11 1
Merino ewes—Prime ...	17 4	19 11	19 4	23 9	19 6	14 1	10 6	8 9
Lams and suckers, woolly—								
Prime	15 4	23 0	21 7	26 4	22 0	17 0	12 9	11 1

* No quotation.

Prices of live stock vary from year to year partly under the influence of seasonal conditions and of the price of wool. In periods of dry weather fat stock are hastened to market and prices decline, but with the advent of relief rains stock are withheld from market for fattening or breeding and prices rise.

Monthly variations in the prices of typical grades of live stock are shown below:—

Month.	Bullocks and Steers. Prime medium weight.			Crossbred Sheep. Prime wethers.			Prime Lambs and Suckers. (wooly).		
	1930.	1931.	1932.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1930.	1931.	1932.
January ...	£ s. 15 10	£ s. 11 10	£ s. 8 14	s. d. 19 9	s. d. 10 11	s. d. 12 5	s. d. 18 9	s. d. 12 2	s. d. 11 5
February ...	16 5	10 5	8 13	18 5	10 2	13 5	18 8	11 2	12 3
March ...	14 18	11 14	9 3	18 3	14 0	12 6	18 9	13 5	12 0
April ...	13 0	10 17	9 0	17 7	15 0	16 3	17 6	13 6	13 10
May ...	13 10	10 5	8 11	19 0	16 11	14 7	18 6	13 8	11 7
June ...	15 0	9 7	8 9	25 3	16 7	14 0	20 9	13 9	10 6
July ...	15 2	9 6	8 15	26 3	16 5	13 8	19 6	13 7	10 0
August ...	14 17	8 9	9 4	23 8	13 0	11 2	18 9	13 10	9 6
September ...	14 6	8 1	10 1	17 1	13 0	11 10	16 9	13 1	10 0
October ...	12 10	8 2	9 12	13 2	10 1	11 10	13 9	10 9	9 10
November ...	11 5	8 8	8 14	11 0	10 11	9 3	11 6	11 4	10 7
December ...	10 16	9 2	9 2	10 5	12 2	9 8	11 2	12 5	11 1
Average for year ...	13 18	9 12	9 0	18 4	13 3	12 7	17 0	12 9	11 1

Comparison of the course of prices may be made with the monthly rainfall index and the average of monthly price of wool published on previous pages.

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 number of slaughtering establishments and the total number of stock slaughtered in the State at intervals since 1901. The figures relating to the establishments prior to 1921 are in excess of the actual number, as they include a large number of butchers' shops in country districts.

Year ended 30th June.	Slaughter-houses.	Stock Slaughtered in Establishments and on Farms and Stations.					
	No.	Sheep.	Lambs.	Bullocks. †	Cows.	Calves.	Pigs.
1901*	1,642	4,372,016	147,117	202,795	113,374	19,654	248,311
1906*	1,522	4,229,407	252,648	237,722	94,955	26,200	281,650
1911*	1,287	6,146,739	400,186	306,773	182,178	59,969	316,331
1916	1,071	3,815,477	361,831	187,882	165,134	31,986	219,806
1921	960	3,566,008	345,255	300,941	145,610	79,504	238,259
1926	1,103	3,258,202	994,203	383,005	268,996	173,806	402,479
1927	1,075	4,167,866	1,451,536	365,436	300,211	146,947	461,981
1928	1,057	3,872,984	1,136,527	283,673	266,004	144,850	412,424
1929	1,036	3,573,905	1,099,930	362,253	254,747	161,991	406,187
1930	1,057	4,773,924	1,553,001	293,755	223,366	163,195	405,639
1931	1,117	4,668,355	1,586,081	253,727	186,539	154,684	417,502
1932§	1,079	4,884,486	1,995,746	297,248	168,233	163,934	425,385

* Calendar Year. † Includes a small number of bulls. § Year ended 31st March.

In 1931-32 the stock slaughtered in the county of Cumberland numbered 2,811,908 sheep, 1,563,307 lambs, 162,314 bullocks, 62,541 cows, 103,897 calves, and 193,140 pigs. The numbers slaughtered for food on stations and farms were:—Sheep, 1,076,933; lambs, 47,356; cattle, 14,117; and pigs, 15,142.

The following summary shows the distribution of slaughtering operations in New South Wales in the year ended 31st March, 1932. For purposes of classification in this table the term "abattoirs" relates to establishments in which 100,000 or more sheep were slaughtered:—

District and Establishments.	Sheep.	Lambs.	Cattle.			Pigs.
			Bullocks.	Cows.	Calves.	
State Abattoirs	2,012,245	1,006,122	122,782	52,831	89,156	168,256
Other Abattoirs	761,578	551,759	37,359	8,017	13,644	23,515
Balance of County Cumberland	33,085	5,426	2,173	1,613	1,097	1,369
Total, Cumberland	2,811,908	1,563,307	162,314	62,541	103,897	193,140
Country Abattoirs	227,807	145,739	31,649	16,186	13,792	23,880
Country Slaughter-houses	767,833	239,344	97,214	83,878	43,827	153,223
Stations and Farms	1,076,933	47,356	6,071	5,628	2,418	15,142
Total Country	2,072,573	432,439	134,934	105,692	60,037	232,245
Grand Total	4,884,486	1,995,746	297,248	168,233	163,934	425,385

Country killing for purposes of export or metropolitan consumption is of inconsiderable extent. The Newcastle District Abattoirs are included under the heading "Country Abattoirs." Under the heading "Country Slaughter-houses" are included all licensed slaughter-houses outside county Cumberland (except country abattoirs), while the slaughter for consumption on rural holdings is shown under the heading "stations and farms."

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 those found to be 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 Commission, 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.	Lambs.	Pigs.
1928	225,785	111,693	1,611,191	805,596	179,531
1929	230,153	116,757	1,381,506	690,753	176,053
1930	190,646	118,478	1,851,434	923,623	187,988
1931	157,117	103,252	1,808,259	904,129	184,029
1932*	175,613	89,156	2,012,245	1,006,122	168,256
1933*	182,262	88,916	2,268,750	1,134,375	165,627

* Year ended 31st March.

Certain aspects of the local meat trade, especially the distribution and consumption of meat, are discussed in the chapter "Food and Prices" of this Year Book.

Prices of Meat, Sydney.

The following table shows the average wholesale prices of meat (in pence per lb.) delivered from the Pyrmont depot in Sydney in each month since January, 1930:—

Month.	Beef (Ox) per lb.						Mutton and Lamb per lb.					
	1930.		1931.		1932.		1930.		1931.		1932.	
	F.	H.	F.	H.	F.	H.	M.	L.	M.	L.	M.	L.
January	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
February	6.0	3.3	2.5	5.9	2.3	4.7	3.5	5.8	2.6	4.7	2.5	4.4
February	4.6	7.6	2.2	5.5	2.2	4.3	3.7	5.5	2.2	4.4	2.5	4.3
March	4.4	7.4	2.9	5.3	2.2	4.4	3.6	5.5	2.8	4.8	2.5	4.4
April	3.7	6.7	2.6	5.6	2.3	4.8	3.4	5.6	2.9	4.9	2.4	4.9
May	3.8	6.4	2.4	5.3	2.4	3.9	3.4	5.6	2.8	4.8	2.4	4.4
June	4.3	6.5	2.3	4.8	2.5	3.8	3.8	5.8	2.8	4.9	2.5	4.0
July	5.4	7.0	2.2	5.0	2.4	3.7	4.5	6.4	2.7	4.8	2.2	3.7
August	5.0	7.3	2.2	4.5	2.4	4.0	4.4	6.1	2.6	4.7	1.8	3.3
September	4.1	7.0	2.3	4.8	2.4	4.4	3.5	5.3	2.5	4.3	1.9	3.1
October	3.3	5.8	2.1	3.9	2.5	4.7	2.9	4.8	2.4	3.9	2.1	3.4
November	3.3	6.2	2.4	4.2	2.3	4.1	3.2	5.0	2.7	4.3	2.0	3.4
December	2.9	5.5	2.4	4.4	2.2	4.2	3.2	4.4	2.8	4.7	2.0	3.7
Average	4.5	7.0	2.4	5.0	2.3	4.2	3.6	5.6	2.6	4.6	2.3	3.9

F—Fores; H—Hinds.

M—Mutton; L—Lamb.

The average annual wholesale prices of meat in Sydney and of frozen Australian meat in London in pre-war years as compared with the period 1922-1932, are shown in the following table:—

Year.	Sydney (Pyrmont Depot).				London.	
	Beef (Ox).		Mutton.	Lamb.	Beef Hinds (Frozen).	Mutton (Frozen).
	Fores.	Hinds.				
	per lb. d.	per lb. d.	per lb. d.	per lb. d.	per lb. d.	per lb. d.
1911	1·7	2·7	2·0	2·7	3·5	3·2
1912	2·1	3·5	2·9	3·7	3·6	3·3
1913	2·4	3·4	3·0	3·9	4·0	4·0
1922	1·4	4·0	3·9	5·8	4·5	6·1
1923	2·4	5·3	5·6	7·4	4·7	6·4
1924	2·1	4·5	5·9	8·3	4·7	7·2
1925	2·2	4·6	5·9	8·5	5·5	6·7
1926	2·3	5·1	4·0	6·2	4·9	4·6
1927	2·8	5·8	3·9	6·2	5·0	4·4
1928	2·8	5·3	4·5	6·7	5·4	5·1
1929	4·3	6·9	4·4	6·4	4·7	5·5
1930	4·5	7·0	3·6	5·6	5·5	4·2
1931	2·4	5·0	2·6	4·6	3·5	3·5
1932	2·3	4·2	2·3	3·9	3·5	3·0

MEAT TRADE.

Meat Export Trade.

The meat export trade commenced to assume importance in New South Wales toward the end of the nineteenth century, when the export of frozen and chilled meat became possible through the provision of refrigerated space in ocean steamers.

The oversea export trade has, for both frozen and canned meats, grown considerably, although its progress has been subject to vicissitudes. 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 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 movement of the London prices for Australian frozen meat during the last five years in comparison with 1913 is shown below. The monthly quotations represent the averages of weekly top prices and the annual averages are the means of the monthly averages. All prices are in sterling.

Month.	Frozen Beef (Hinds) per lb.						Frozen Mutton per lb.					
	1913.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1913.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
January ...	d. 3½	d. 5	d. 5½	d. 6½	d. 4½	d. 3½	d. 4½	d. 5½	d. 4½	d. 5½	d. 3½	d. 2½
February ...	3½	4½	4½	6½	3½	3½	4	5½	4½	5½	2½	3½
March ...	3½	5	4½	6½	3½	3½	3½	5½	5	6½	3½	3½
April ...	3½	4½	5½	6	3½	3½	4	*	5½	4½	3	3½
May ...	3½	5½	5½	5½	3½	*	*	*	6½	3½	3½	3½
June ...	3½	6	5½	5½	3½	4½	4	*	5½	3½	4	2½
July ...	4	6½	5½	5	3½	3½	4	*	5½	3½	4	2½
August ...	4	6	4½	5½	3½	3½	4	*	5½	3½	4	2½
September ...	4	5½	4½	5½	4	3½	4	*	5½	4	4	2½
October ...	4½	5	4½	5½	4	5½	4	5½	5½	4½	3½	2½
November ...	4½	5	4½	5½	3½	3½	4	4½	6	4½	3	3½
December ...	4½	4½	4½	4½	3½	3½	4½	4½	6½	4½	3	3½
Annual Average	4	5½	4½	5½	3½	3½	4	5½	5½	4½	3½	3

* No quotation.

In 1928 there was a substantial drop in shipments of chilled beef from South America, due partly to dry weather and partly to restrictions in an endeavour to cope with foot-and-mouth disease. With a decline in the production of home-grown beef prices rose temporarily to a higher level.

The demand for mutton was well sustained until towards the end of 1925, but the average price of 1926 was only 15 per cent. above the pre-war average. The decline in price in 1927 was partly due to poorer quality of mutton being sent forward, and with improved quality in 1928 the average price increased by ½d. per lb. There was a further increase of ¾d. per lb. in 1929, but since 1930 the effects of increased world supplies and lower world demand has affected the prices adversely.

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.	
1891	cwt. *	cwt. *	cwt.	£	lb.	£	£
1896	26,529	559,507	105,013	101,828	6,509,928	85,629	201,421
1901	115,050	351,516	466,566	541,525	14,325,300	187,957	562,389
1906	32,640	455,165	487,805	579,294	10,086,940	209,697	914,573
1911	65,097	535,259	600,356	753,155	3,121,933	62,307	724,048
1915-16	7,000	236,099	243,099	753,155	20,783,779	401,384	1,291,404
1920-21	110,727	166,039	276,766	562,262	4,087,618	159,711	771,502
1925-26	44,172	258,444	302,616	937,040	4,479,460	235,801	1,225,354
1926-27	90,143	410,588	500,731	999,243	3,786,003	126,884	1,177,712
1927-28	31,464	157,775	189,239	1,013,959	6,002,937	211,210	1,304,650
1928-29	63,149	202,173	265,322	474,933	2,621,283	93,308	631,711
1929-30	46,681	308,427	355,108	702,449	2,534,832	82,928	857,535
1930-31	19,019	327,757	346,776	894,408	2,867,259	117,637	1,051,057
1931-32	116,375	665,738	782,113	663,690	2,494,380	85,669	785,827
1932-33	67,822	533,118	600,940	1,433,036	4,004,221	105,190	1,569,240
				931,138	5,932,097	150,370	1,112,203

Not available.

† Total of foregoing with addition of Bacon and Ham, Pick, and Fresh and Smoked Meat.

The oversea trade in frozen meat has undergone an appreciable change in the past twenty years, frozen lamb having largely replaced frozen mutton. In the year 1911 the oversea export comprised 1,149,121 carcasses of frozen mutton and 292,258 carcasses of frozen lamb. In 1931-32 the corresponding numbers were respectively 562,221 and 1,345,281.

The following comparison of the imports of meat to the United Kingdom 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.
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
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*
1926	571	57	35	663	92	134	38	267*
1927	617	32	22	671	106	137	31	276*
1928	532	51	26	609	113	140	27	281*
1929	518	46	19	583	96	137	30	282*
1930	506	40	33	579	94	165	41	319*
1931	509	57	33	599	92	173	77	355*
1932	482	48	38	568	77	196	58	348*

* Including other.

The average wholesale prices per pound obtained in each of the past ten years for Scottish and frozen mutton sold in London were:—

Year.	Best Scottish.	New Zealand.	Australian.	Argentine.	Year.	Best Scottish.	New Zealand.	Australian.	Argentine.
	d.	d.	d.	d.		d.	d.	d.	d.
1923	15	8 $\frac{7}{8}$	6 $\frac{1}{8}$	7	1928	12 $\frac{3}{8}$	7 $\frac{3}{8}$	5 $\frac{1}{8}$	6 $\frac{1}{8}$
1924	14 $\frac{1}{8}$	8	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	1929	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 $\frac{3}{8}$	5 $\frac{1}{8}$
1925	13 $\frac{5}{8}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	1930	12 $\frac{3}{8}$	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{5}{8}$
1926	11 $\frac{7}{8}$	6 $\frac{5}{8}$	4 $\frac{5}{8}$	5 $\frac{3}{8}$	1931	10 $\frac{7}{8}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4
1927	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 $\frac{3}{8}$	5 $\frac{3}{8}$	1932	*	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	3 $\frac{1}{4}$

* Not available.

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 seven years are shown below:—

Year.	Carcasses etc. Treated.				Output of Meat Preserving Works.		
	Refrigerating Works.		Meat Preserving.		Tinned Meat.		By-Products, etc.
	Cattle.	Sheep.	Sheep.	Meat and Sundries.	Weight.	Value.	Value.
	No.	No.	No.	lb. (000).	lb. (000).	£	£
1925-26	50,882	804,857	1,423	11,758	4,988	186,815	74,586
1926-27	30,247	1,225,182	60,507	18,496	6,673	217,238	138,653
1927-28	30,202	641,082	1,642	9,182	3,920	167,815	42,619
1928-29	51,410	718,571	55	10,681	4,251	172,627	70,524
1929-30	48,421	1,132,552	1,416	10,979	4,185	162,408	70,238
1930-31	30,261	1,327,692	3,232	10,472	4,158	149,387	31,459
1931-32	42,227	2,127,645	1,046	13,985	5,814	169,581	78,522

Included in the meat and sundries treated in meat preserving works in 1931-32 were 10,154,212 lb. of beef, 2,621,667 lb. of mutton and 1,109,164 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 factories, and the following table contains particulars of the oversea exports of these products at intervals since 1901:—

Products.	Oversea Exports.					
	1901.	1911.	1915-16.	1930-31.	1921-32.	1932-33.
Skins and Hides—						
Cattle No.	91,084	263,306	431,731	520,917	120,249	207,753
Horse No.	472	1,392	706	3,618	2,165	...
Rabbit and Hare ... lb.	*	5,795,839	4,352,640	4,679,429	5,177,364	5,447,487
Sheep No.	*	2,410,543	3,447,212	3,302,037	1,826,546	1,879,802
Other £	184,522	296,672	272,622	179,819	300,841	148,629
Bonedust cwt.	66,473	116,733	71,795	6	1,140	5,470
Bones cwt.	3,207	6,807	6,963	5,646	4,240	3,768
Furs (not on the skin) ... £	767	117	...	...	...	...
Glue-pieces and Sinews ... cwt.	12,862	20,580	13,276	3,106	249	531
Glycerine and Lanoline ... lb.	*	138,347	218,673	96,628	252,053	328,410
Hair (other than human) ... lb.	165,562	255,819	336,765	86,206	66,218	56,735
Hoofs cwt.	2,215	3,733	4,518	2,885	3,968	3,437
Horns £	12,532	13,475	3,455	4,325	3,550	3,739
Lard and Refined Animal Fats lb.	13,633	227,000	73,461	136,991	304,830	220,850
Leather £	374,541	334,996	531,026	258,178	250,232	242,460
Sausage-casings £	2,567	52,562	31,595	128,861	64,192	57,706
Tallow (unrefined) cwt.	305,227	612,911	123,290	227,933	328,102	324,054
Total Value of above-mentioned minor Pastoral Products exported £	1,223,728	2,486,402	2,176,838	2,149,714	1,676,092	1,539,559

* 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.

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.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.
	£	£	£	£	£
Wool	27,377,890	16,235,892	14,126,871	13,896,532	16,072,319
Meat	857,535	1,051,057	785,827	1,569,240	1,112,203
Live stock... ..	102,156	131,780	73,508	54,609	56,755
Other*	5,392,207	3,855,818	2,149,714	1,676,092	1,539,559
Total	33,729,788	21,274,547	17,135,920	17,196,473	18,780,836
Proportion of total exports oversea	per cent. 68·3	per cent. 67·5	per cent. 57·0	per cent. 53·5	per cent. 56·9

* Items listed in previous table.

† Excluding specie.

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 farm value of pastoral production from the different kinds of stock during various years since 1901 are shown in the following table:—

Year.	Estimated Annual Value of Pastoral Production (000 omitted).							Per head of Population ¹		
	Wool.	Sheep.		Cattle.		Horses (cast).	Total.			
		Slaught- ered.	Exported.	Slaught- ered.	Exported.					
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	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	14,085	2,811	...	1,689	...	2,001	20,586	12	7	3
1915-16	13,298	4,295	...	3,729	...	2,172	23,494	12	8	1
1920-21	13,023	2,313	...	2,973	...	2,027	20,336	9	14	7
1921-22	15,557	4,144	...	3,278	...	2,041	25,020	11	15	2
1922-23	23,048	6,766	...	4,912	...	2,057	36,783	16	18	6
1923-24	28,209	5,446	...	4,117	...	2,003	39,775	18	0	1
1924-25	34,073	4,752	...	5,365	...	1,838	46,028	20	8	9
1925-26†	26,223	2,297	609	4,678	(-)1,314	448	32,941	14	6	9
1926-27†	33,234	2,591	2,159	4,934	(-) 239	440	43,119	18	7	4
1927-28†	33,874	2,640	1,941	4,888	(-)1,980	468	41,831	17	8	5
1928-29†	30,879	2,801	1,576	5,814	(-) 583	452	40,939	16	14	6
1929-30†	18,099	2,732	1,243	4,508	(-) 334	311	26,559	10	14	4
1930-31†	13,705	1,795	64	2,767	(-) 899	255	17,987	7	3	11
1931-32	15,233	1,543	373	2,632	(-) 565	266	19,482	7	14	7

(-) Denotes excess of imports. † Revised.

In accordance with a decision of the Conference of Statisticians, values for 1925-26 and subsequent years have been revised by excluding valuations of natural increase of sheep and cattle which had been included in those years and not in previous years. At the same time, the value of skin wools was deducted from the value of sheep slaughtered in order to eliminate duplication. In view of the diminution of horse-breeding the method of calculating the value of the cast was revised in 1925-26, and this led to the substantial reduction in the totals shown. It is essential that the value of the principal materials used in the pastoral industry was £307,000 in 1931-32, and the depreciation on machinery, £234,000.

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, 1931, a sum of £5,744 was collected as rates under this Act, and £4,524 was expended;

for 1932 the corresponding figures were £4,545 and £5,045 respectively. The pest has been so far checked that it was possible to re-stock with sheep holdings which for some time had been used for cattle only. The rate imposed under the Act was reduced from $\frac{1}{10}$ d. per acre to $\frac{1}{20}$ d. per acre in 1932, and the surplus funds accumulated at the higher rate are being expended to supplement the annual receipts. The credit balance on 31st December, 1932, was £6,536.

Rabbits.

A brief account of the measures taken to combat the pest was published on page 794 of the Year Book for 1921, and further reference to rabbits was published on page 643 of the Year Book for 1928-29.

The total length of rabbit-proof fencing erected by the State to 30th June, 1933, was approximately 1,332 miles, and the cost £69,888. It is estimated that pastures protection boards erected 1,043 miles and private owners 142,879 miles, the respective costs being £62,543 and £9,577,186.

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.	
1901	pairs. *	£ 6,158	lb. *	£ 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
1920-21	2,830,315	301,615	3,387,480	609,570	911,185
1925-26	3,510,311	340,171	11,004,446	2,231,637	2,571,808
1926-27	2,831,701	257,641	11,860,570	2,437,010	2,694,651
1927-28	2,884,026	262,759	9,316,863	1,886,523	2,149,282
1928-29	1,956,508	193,525	8,225,868	1,950,027	2,143,552
1929-30	2,371,506	214,203	5,817,993	1,042,068	1,256,271
1930-31	3,526,033	252,074	4,679,429	415,245	667,319
1931-32	5,064,189	313,029	5,177,334	345,152	658,181
1932-33	6,486,025	323,398	5,447,487	313,111	636,509

* 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.

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 not limited, and the rate of interest on advances is fixed at 4 per cent.

Figures as to operations during the year 1930-31 with those for 1931-32 shown in brackets were as follow:—The quantities of material supplied to landholders were 417 (244) miles of wire-netting, 57 (30) tons of fencing wire 27 (17) tons barbed wire, in addition to sundry materials, the total value being £17,970 (£10,691). Repayments during the year amounted to £31,457 (£33,074). A sum of £520,000 has been voted by Parliament since 1905 for the purpose of making wire-netting advances. By utilising this sum and re-advancing moneys repaid, the Department of Lands has made advances amounting to £1,078,387 at 30th June, 1931, and £1,089,782 at 30th June, 1932.

The amount outstanding in respect of advances made by the State was £374,278 at 30th June, 1931, and £372,254 at 30th June, 1932.

In terms of the Advances to Settlers Act, 1923, a trust fund was established by the Commonwealth, from which advances for the purchase of wire-netting may be made to the States. The wire-netting is then supplied to the settlers at such price and upon such terms as are prescribed by regulation. The total advances to New South Wales under this Act to 30th June, 1932, amounted to £54,318, and the repayments amounted to £21,252.

PASTURES PROTECTION BOARDS.

For the purpose of administering the Pastures Protection Act which relates to destruction of rabbits and noxious animals, travelling stock, sheep brands and marks, and certain other matters, the State is divided into 63 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 are also stock inspectors and rabbit inspectors, who are paid from the funds of the Pastures Protection Boards to which they are attached.

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 may be made to occupiers of holdings enclosed with wire-netting fences which in the opinion of the board are rabbit proof. The funds so raised may be applied by the boards to defraying expenses incurred in administering the Act, and for any other purpose approved by the Minister. 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 under the boards' control.

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

noxious animals, and to enforce the provisions for the compulsory destruction of rabbits.

A bill to amend the powers of Pastures Protection Boards was introduced into Parliament in September, 1933.

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 30th June, 1932, additional applications to the approximate number of 28,061 had been registered, making the total number at that date 71,290. Excluding transfers and cancellations, etc., the number of individual brands was approximately 66,000. Brands for large stock may be used on either cattle or horses. A registered brand may not be used by any person other than the proprietor.

Sheep brands, of which the registrations are approximately 41,000, are issued for Pastures Protection Districts and may not be duplicated in any one district; the same brand may, however, be issued in several Pastures Protection Districts.

ANIMAL HEALTH.

Although, as in all stock-raising countries, diseases of various kinds exist amongst the stock of the State, yet, in common with the rest of Australia, it is free from many of the more serious epizootic and parasitic diseases which cause heavy loss in other pastoral countries. It is, for instance, virtually free from rinderpest, foot and mouth disease, rabies, glanders, swine fever, sheep scab, and trypanosomiasis. Since the passage of the Stock Diseases Act, in 1923, considerable advance has been made in the control of disease generally. Under this Act certain diseases are made notifiable, and necessary powers are provided for the inspection of stock and for the detention, seizure, treatment, quarantine and destruction of diseased stock.

Recently the whole of the work connected with the inspection of stock for disease has been concentrated under the Department of Agriculture, which maintains a staff of veterinary officers and inspectors of stock stationed throughout the country, with headquarters at Sydney. Control has been decentralised by the appointment of District Veterinary Officers, each with a group of inspectors under his supervision. This arrangement has enabled such diseases as anthrax and pleuro-pneumonia to be dealt with more expeditiously and the work of each group of inspectors to be co-ordinated by their senior officers. Careful attention is given by this staff to the inspection of cattle on dairies, particularly those supplying milk for human consumption.

Within recent years a scheme for the creation of accredited tubercle-free herds has been put in operation, and this has lately been extended to cover certain areas, chiefly municipalities, in various parts of the State.

Research work has been developed during the last few years. A well-equipped station has been created, at Glenfield under the immediate control of the Director of Veterinary Research, with a staff of eight veterinary officers carrying out both diagnostic and research work. The operations at this station are closely co-ordinated with those of the field staff.

Movements of livestock interstate are controlled in accordance with the provisions of the Stock Act, 1901, and a staff of Inspectors is maintained where required along the borders. This work is of particular importance in connection with the Queensland border owing to the presence of cattle tick in that State. Power is provided by the Act to enable the enforcement of dipping before cattle or horses are allowed to enter New South Wales.

Cattle Tick Eradication.

The most difficult problem confronting the veterinary authorities is the question of cattle tick eradication. The cattle tick first gained access to New South Wales in the early years of the century and continuous struggle has been maintained to prevent its introduction into clean parts of the State. Although the spread of the tick could not be entirely prevented, restrictive efforts have been successful in preventing large areas of the State from becoming affected, and in preventing the introduction of tick fever. In 1932, however, owing to movements of cattle from one property, a large additional area had to be quarantined, as three small infestations were discovered. During the past year energetic action has been taken in these areas and it has been found possible to delimit the extent of the infestation, with the result that extensive areas of country are about to be released from a quarantine. This work, however, is costly, involving an expenditure of as much as £150,000 per annum. Under an arrangement between the Commonwealth Government and the States of New South Wales and Queensland, the Commonwealth authorities have agreed to contribute a share of the cost, the amount for the year 1931-32 being £44,450 for the work. The creation of the Cattle Tick Control Commission in 1926 has brought about increased co-ordination between the authorities of the States concerned. The methods of control and eradication are based on similar lines to those which have been successful in the United States of America and include control of stock movements and the regular dipping of stock within areas selected for eradication. Dips are provided by the Government, and private dips constructed in accordance with the plans and specifications of the Department are subsidised.

Swine Fever.

Following an outbreak of swine fever which occurred in 1928, the Swine Compensation Act was passed to provide for the payment of compensation for pigs condemned on account of the presence of certain diseases and for carcases condemned in slaughter-houses as unfit for human consumption because of the presence of disease. The funds required for payment of compensation are collected by the sale of swine duty stamps, which are affixed to a register kept at each slaughtering establishment to indicate the number of pigs slaughtered. In this way information is obtained as to the herds likely to be affected with tuberculosis, and the legislation has done much to create confidence in the pig-raising industry.

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 of Veterinary Surgeons has been established to administer the Act, which specifies the qualifications for registration and prohibits practice by unregistered persons.

As at 31st December, 1932, there were registered 225 veterinary surgeons.

AUSTRALIAN PASTORAL RESEARCH TRUST LIMITED.

Following upon a resolution passed on 25th June, 1927, at a joint conference of the Australian Woolgrowers' Council and the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers of Australia, a fund has been established to promote pastoral research. A voluntary contribution of 2s. per bale of the 1928-29 clip was invited and to June, 1929, the total receipts amounted to £40,284. The Australian Pastoral Research Trust Limited was registered as a company with an initial capital of £43,000. Its objects are to promote the growth, development, and best interests of the pastoral and grazing industry by any means, especially through scientific and economic research relating in particular to stock diseases, animal pests, harmful plant life, and edible plants. The work of the Trust is co-ordinated with that of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and is described fully in the annual reports of both organisations.

DAIRYING, POULTRY, Etc.

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 13,841 holdings were used exclusively for dairying in 1931-32, and 3,209 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 agriculture and grazing—there being only 1,295 holdings used solely for dairying and 3,291 for dairying in combination with other rural pursuits.

The total area devoted to dairying in the year 1930-31 approximated 5,483,000 acres, of which 4,783,000 acres were in the Coastal Division; of this latter area 2,214,000 acres were in the North Coast and 1,677,000 acres in the Hunter and Manning divisions.

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 the quantity made in each year is not large and varies considerably. The area of land devoted to sown grasses in March, 1932, amounted to 2,542,831 acres, of which 2,101,071 acres were in the coastal district. The produce of this land is used mainly as food for dairy cattle. The practice of manuring pastures has been adopted in dairying districts during recent years, and an extension in this direction is anticipated.

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.

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. Since 31st January, 1930, the supply and distribution of milk for consumption in the metropolitan area and certain neighbouring municipalities has been supervised by a Milk Board, the constitution and functions of which are described in Part "Food and Prices" of this Year Book.

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 contents, 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 eleven 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 may order 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 returns of factories showed that 96.7 per cent. of the butter made in factories during the year ended 30th June, 1933, was of choicest grade, 0.9 per cent. was first grade and 2.4 per cent. 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 as well as the ordinary trade-marks in use. During the year ended June, 1932, Federal officers examined 792,738 boxes of New South Wales butter for oversea export. Of these 650,750 boxes were classed as choicest, 117,256 as first grade, 18,698 as second grade, and 5,241 as pastry butter; 793 boxes were prohibited from export.

Australian Dairy Produce Export Control Board.

A description of the constitution and functions of the Board was published on page 650 of the Official Year Book of 1928-29. The activities of the Board extend over many phases of the marketing of Australian butter in the United Kingdom, including ocean transport and guidance of manufacturers in Australia.

The expenses of the Board are defrayed from a fund created by a levy which may not exceed $\frac{1}{8}$ d. per lb. on butter and $\frac{1}{16}$ d. per lb. on cheese exported from the Commonwealth. A levy was imposed on all exports 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; these rates have been reduced to $\frac{1}{30}$ d. and $\frac{1}{60}$ d. respectively.

During its existence the Board has obtained substantial reductions in the rates for marine insurance and freight, in respect of butter and cheese, and rebates of freight during the last six seasons amounted to £76,513.

Under agreement with the shipping companies the rate of freight to Europe was fixed, as from 17th August, 1933, at 4s. per box of butter (56 lb.) less $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., plus 18 per cent. exchange. Under an earlier agreement which was terminated in June, 1933, the rate was 4s. per box, less $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., plus 18 per cent. exchange.

The Board acts in conjunction with other organisations in advertising Australian products throughout the United Kingdom. Its revenue during 1932-33 was £18,321, and the expenditure £32,341, of which £20,216 was for propaganda and advertising.

Dairying Organisations.

Most of the dairy factories of the State are conducted on co-operative principles, and a similar condition exists throughout Australia. This has resulted in the formation of a 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.

A 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 “Paterson” 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 was originally fixed at 1½d. per lb. and the bonus at 3d. per lb.; but a bonus of 4d. per lb. was paid on butter exported between 12th and 31st December, 1927, 3d. between 1st January and 31st August, 1928, and 4d. from 1st September to 31st December, 1928. In January, 1929, the levy was increased to 1½d. per lb., and the bonus on exports to 4½d. per lb. The bonus was reduced to 3½d. per lb. as from 1st January, 1931, to 2½d. per lb. as from 12th April, 1931, and increased to 3d. per lb. as from 3rd April, 1932. In 1933 a proposal was put forward for price equalisation throughout the Commonwealth.

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 and Glen Innes, 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 1931-32 there were four schools and 88 students.

HERD-TESTING.

The practice of herd-testing enables the farmers to ascertain the productivity of individual cows, to cull unprofitable animals, and to retain the progeny of those of higher grade.

Three herd-testing units functioned temporarily between 1909 and 1912, and the present herd-testing movement was established under the control of the Department of Agriculture, whose officers conduct the tests.

In 1913-14, 35,000 cows were tested, but the scheme was interrupted by the war and droughts and was not re-established on a durable basis until 1924-25, when 23,000 cows were under test. The number did not increase appreciably until 1927-28, when the number tested was 43,000, with subsequent increases to 70,000 in 1928-29 and 100,000 in 1929-30. The number decreased to 93,635 in 1930-31 and to 65,000 in 1931-32.

Prior to 1932 the farmers who participated in the herd-testing scheme paid an annual fee, and the cost, about 6s. per cow per annum submitted, was shared equally by the farmer, the State, and the Commonwealth Government.

In 1932 herd-testing was carried out without the financial aid of the Commonwealth Government, and, to meet the costs, the charge to the farmers was raised from 2s. to 3s. per cow tested. The Commonwealth Bank made a grant of £3,000, and the remainder of the cost was contributed by the State Government.

Testing of Pure-bred Stock.

The testing of pure-bred stock for production is carried out under an Australian recording scheme, which is conducted on uniform lines in each State of the Commonwealth by its Department of Agriculture. In New South Wales as from 1st January, 1929, the charge was 4s. per cow for each record, which covers a period of 273 days lactation, with an extension to 365 days if desired.

As from 1st October, 1929, records of the tests of pure-bred cows have been compiled in two sections:—(a) The official record of tests conducted under the rules of the Australian scheme, which prescribe that each cow must be milked dry before the monthly test is made; (b) a semi-official or uncertified record of tests when the other conditions of the official scheme have been observed but the cows have not been milked dry under supervision.

These records are limited to cows registered in one of the several Herd Societies of the various breeds.

Unregistered pure-bred cows are grouped with the grade or the ordinary cows, which comprise the majority of the milking herds on registered dairy farms.

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 number of cows used for milking in the State in each year since 1922 is shown below:—

As at 30th June.	In Registered Dairies.				Cows not in Registered Dairies being Milked.	Average Daily Number of all Cows in Milk during Year.
	Being Milked.	Dry.	Heifers.			
			Springing.	Other, over one Year.		
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	
1922	414,557	314,771	68,222	89,872	86,665	580,933
1923	404,611	313,264	63,100	97,787	79,525	579,516
1924	418,505	282,014	71,515	92,421	84,680	561,908
1925	457,217	280,186	68,206	79,674	88,567	614,841
1926	472,273	278,967	59,194	83,731	90,336	632,331
1927	462,335	286,592	51,422	106,366	85,674	616,805
1928	465,773	290,914	53,022	108,397	84,731	615,700
1929	482,568	293,754	49,655	115,413	81,797	627,815
1930	487,919	289,896	55,285	126,394	80,455	623,196
1931	532,604	231,227	62,851	129,447	88,057	655,073
1932*	614,217	229,623	51,959	129,930	95,148	693,412

* As at 31st March

By reason of winter conditions prevailing at 30th June the number of cows in milk is usually smaller and the number of dry cows and springing heifers is usually greater than in the summer months. For those reasons the numbers shown in the foregoing table are not typical of the distribution of cows under the various headings throughout the year. The difference between the number of cows being milked at 30th June, 1931, and 31st March, 1932, is due partly to this seasonal factor and partly to growth in the industry.

Dairy Farms.

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. Some persons so registered, however, conduct operations on a very limited scale.

The following statement shows a comparison for the past ten years of the number of holdings of 1 acre and upwards used for dairying operations on a commercial scale:—

Year ended 30th June.	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.
1923	9,222	5,266	2,227	1,642	18,357
1924	9,191	5,561	1,969	1,756	18,477
1925	9,499	5,919	1,766	1,990	19,174
1926	9,766	5,624	1,794	1,734	18,918
1927	10,075	5,529	1,350	1,892	18,846
1928	10,118	5,375	1,516	1,755	18,764
1929	12,985†	2,942‡	1,722‡	1,189‡	18,838
1930	13,294‡	3,170‡	1,607‡	1,034‡	19,105
1931	14,484‡	3,371‡	1,148‡	1,146‡	20,149
1932‡	15,136‡	3,406‡	1,480‡	1,614‡	21,636

† Year ended 31st March.

‡ Basis of Classification amended in 1929.

As stated, the figures quoted above indicate the principal purposes for which the holdings were used. It is apparent that the great bulk of the dairy farmers specialise in dairying operations. When the quantity of maize or other grain grown is clearly in excess of the amount required for consumption on the farm and the surplus is intended for sale the holding is classed as "agricultural and dairying," although the principal source of income from these and other dual-purpose dairy farms is the dairy. In 1929 the basis of classification was improved so that holdings on which dairying was clearly the predominant activity were placed in the classification "dairying only."

Dairy Factories.

Although there is some seasonal variation, approximately 86 per cent. of the milk production of the State is treated in factories either as cream or whole milk, the balance being sold as fresh milk direct from dairy or used on the farms. 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 68 of this Year Book.

DAIRY PRODUCTION.

The following statement shows the estimated yield of milk in each division of the State during the year ended the 31st March, 1932, also the production of butter, cheese and bacon—the figures for these three items being factory production during the year ended 30th June, 1932, and the farm production during the year ended three months earlier:—

Division.	Estimated Yield of Milk.	Butter Made.	Cheese Made	Bacon and Ham Made.
	gallons.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Coastal—				
North Coast	148,592,391	*63,566,750	729,204	8,258,062
Hunter and Manning	70,864,513	23,253,136	1,478,966	1,204,470
Metropolitan	14,516,652	448,864	25,734	9,219,818
South Coast	40,609,174	11,311,218	3,930,933	500,160
Total	274,582,730	104,579,968	6,164,837	19,182,510
Tableland—				
Northern	6,791,719	2,492,206	170	510,810
Central	9,493,261	3,035,064	...	96,029
Southern	2,647,941	563,534	...	37,540
Total	18,932,921	6,090,804	170	644,379
Western Slopes—				
North	8,952,389	3,024,614	...	52,838
Central	3,899,064	1,450,315	...	85,590
South	15,586,501	†6,881,722	425,350	242,156
Total	28,437,954	11,356,651	425,350	380,584
Plains—				
North Central	1,297,357	165,158	...	15,975
Central	1,526,090	207,199	...	22,719
Riverina	6,541,773	1,398,813	...	219,407
Total	9,365,220	1,771,080	...	258,101
Western Division	974,015	48,695	...	2,685
Total, 1931-32	‡332,292,840	*†123,847,198	6,590,357	20,468,259
„ 1930-31	298,111,082	114,201,709	6,516,065	21,901,194

* Including 369,320 lb. made from Queensland cream, and † 225,160 lb. from Victorian cream.

‡ Includes 3,218,164 gallons sent to interstate factories as cream.

This statement illustrates the importance of dairying activities in the Coastal Division as compared with the remainder of the State. In this area about 90 per cent. of the cows in registered dairies are depastured, and approximately 83 per cent. of the total output of milk, 85 per cent. of the butter, and 94 per cent. of the cheese are produced. Fifty-one per cent. of the butter of the State was 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. 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 Coast division. The curing of bacon and ham is confined almost entirely to the Coastal division, where more than 95 per cent. of the output is produced.

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. 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. Under the Milk Act, 1931, a Board regulates and controls the supply of milk and cream within the metropolitan milk area. Its functions include the improvement of methods of collecting and distributing milk and fixation of prices of milk. Further particulars are shown in Chapter, "Food and Prices" of this Year Book.

The total yield of milk can be estimated only approximately. Few dairy farmers actually measure the quantity of milk obtained from their cows throughout the year. The majority are concerned principally in producing cream for manufacture into butter. In recent years, however, it has been found possible to make checks against the milk supplied to factories, and results show that the farmers' estimates are approximately correct. In this connection also, the testing of dairy herds has been developed so far as to give a fair indication of the butter-fat contents of the milk.

Average Yield per Cow.

While sufficient information is not available to show conclusively the average annual production of milk per cow in New South Wales an approximate estimate of the productivity per cow in registered dairies in terms of commercial butter is published below. For the purposes of this estimate it is assumed that the mean of the number 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, and an estimate is made (on the basis of butter fat content) of the quantity of commercial butter produceable from milk used for purposes other than butter-making.

The following table, which has been revised slightly since the previous issue of this Year Book, relates to all cows in registered dairies and covers a period of ten years:—

Year ended 30th June.	Cows Dry and in Milk in Registered Dairies at end of Year.	Estimated Number of Cows Dry and in Milk in Registered Dairies during Year.	Butter Produced.		Estimate of Commercial Butter Produceable from Milk of Cows in Registered Dairies used for other Purposes.	Total Commercial Butter Produced or Produceable from Milk of Cows in Registered Dairies.	Estimated Production of Commercial Butter per Cow.
			In Factories from Milk produced in New South Wales.	On Registered Dairy Farms.			
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	
					Thousand lb.		lb.
1923	717,875	723,601	69,255	1,122	21,386	91,763	126·8
1924	700,519	709,197	68,030	1,054	21,632	90,716	127·9
1925	737,403	718,961	112,505	1,095	23,525	137,125	190·7
1926	751,240	744,321	101,698	1,216	22,994	125,908	169·1
1927	749,957	750,598	91,029	1,202	23,122	115,353	153·7
1928	756,687	753,322	96,246	1,276	24,945	122,467	162·6
1929	776,322	766,504	91,424	1,091	24,328	116,843	152·4
1930	777,815	777,069	100,603	1,025	23,783	125,411	161·4
1931	813,831	795,823	109,133	1,113	23,777	134,023	168·4
1932*	873,840	843,836	119,372	1,437	22,930	143,739	170·3

* Year ended 31st March.

The estimated number of cows dry and in milk in registered dairies during the year shown in the column B above represents the mean of the total numbers at the beginning and end of the year concerned as shown in column A. The estimated production per cow shown in column G is obtained by dividing the average number of cows in column B into the total commercial butter for respective years shown in column F. It represents therefore an average covering all cows kept for milking in registered dairies irrespective of periods of lactation, and includes heifers with first calf, aged cows, and cows disabled from any cause.

The averages shown in the table should be considered in conjunction with the index of rainfall in dairying districts published below. It is evident that productivity per cow has been maintained and even slightly increased in the recent years despite the unevenness of the rainfall. For instance, in 1931-32, the average rainfall was 24 per cent. below normal. In the two years ended 1932 there was an increase of 12 per cent. in the number of dairy cows, and it is doubtful whether the productive capacity of these was equal to the average of the remainder of the herds.

RAINFALL INDEX—DAIRYING DISTRICTS.

The following table provides a monthly index of rainfall in the coastal dairying districts of New South Wales. The index represents the ratio of actual to normal rainfall in each month, normal being the average over a long period of years and represented by 100 in all cases.

Month.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.
July ...	260	229	81	161	28	88	15	101	61	61	76	77
August ...	52	103	131	68	164	51	16	52	92	93	54	55
September ...	137	235	73	68	21	64	113	102	90	30	50	230
October ...	104	68	52	90	54	36	124	64	240	113	51	93
November ...	63	26	43	161	210	9	255	34	82	41	131	110
December ...	208	63	111	111	118	170	111	57	49	89	181	42
January ...	80	52	87	126	77	226	130	96	103	48	28	148
February ...	221	40	83	66	16	75	205	347	68	181	59	31
March ...	25	43	61	169	127	97	86	119	148	123	43	52
April ...	23	243	83	70	117	207	142	146	132	215	94	164
May ...	83	7	57	263	86	30	73	76	174	74	93	56
June ...	70	70	152	158	124	67	175	150	351	47	47	178
Average for Season ...	110	98	84	126	95	93	120	112	132	93	76	103
Commercial butter per cow*	†	126.8	127.9	190.7	169.1	153.7	162.6	152.4	161.4	168.4	170.3	...

* See previous table. † Not available.

The average for the season is the mean of the monthly averages. The seasonal distribution of rainfall is an important factor in relation to production. See table on page 618.

Use of Milk.

The following statement shows the estimated amount of milk used for various purposes during each of the last three years:—

	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.
Used for butter—			
On farms	12,481,000	14,482,000	15,799,000
In factories in New South Wales	206,048,000	218,856,000	249,591,000
In other States	1,310,000	1,645,000	3,218,000
	<u>219,839,000</u>	<u>234,983,000</u>	<u>268,608,000</u>
Used for cheese—			
On farms	184,000	93,000	117,000
In factories... ..	6,648,000	6,947,000	6,939,000
	<u>6,832,000</u>	<u>7,040,000</u>	<u>7,056,000</u>
Used for sweet cream, ice cream, condensing, etc.	6,842,000	4,859,000	4,492,000
Pasteurised for metropolitan and Newcastle markets	21,658,000	20,698,000	21,541,000
Balance sold and used otherwise	28,776,000	30,531,000	30,596,000
	<u>283,947,000</u>	<u>298,111,000</u>	<u>332,293,000</u>

The milk used for making butter represents 80.8 per cent. of the estimated total production; 2.1 per cent. is used for cheese; 1.4 per cent. for condensed milk, cream, ice-cream, etc.; and the balance—15.7 per cent.—is consumed as fresh milk or used otherwise.

An estimate of the quantity of fresh milk used for human consumption is shown in the chapter relating to "Food and Prices."

A census of individual holdings showed that the number of farms with power separators in 1930-31 was approximately 6,151. This number is comparable with 4,680 in 1928-29, and 5,654 in 1929-30, but comparison with earlier years is not possible. The number of power-driven milking machines in use on dairy farms was 2,546 in 1930-31 as compared with 2,105 in 1928-29, and 2,683 in 1929-30.

BUTTER.

The following statement shows the quantity of butter made annually at intervals since 1901. The figures include the butter made in factories from cream produced in other States, viz., 698,356 lb. in 1926-27, 800,520 lb., 906,990 lb., 847,044 lb., 964,414 lb., and 594,476 lb. in the successive years.

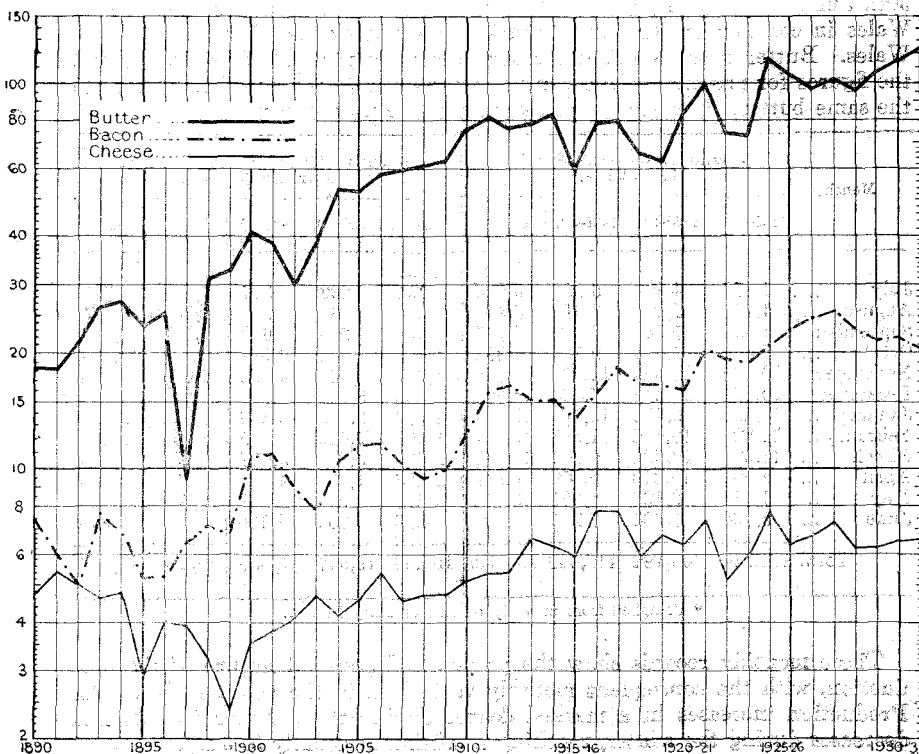
Year ended 30th June.	On Farms.	In Factories.	Total.	Year ended 30th June.	On Farms.	In Factories.	Total.
Thousand lb. (000 omitted.)							
1901*	4,775	34,282	39,057	1926	5,270	101,698	106,968
1906*	4,637	54,304	58,941	1927	4,825	91,727	96,552
1911*	4,632	78,573	83,205	1928	4,888	96,707	101,595
1916	4,258	55,374	59,632	1929	4,511	91,733	96,244
1921	4,388	79,880	84,268	1930	4,208	100,814	105,022
1922	4,978	95,695	100,673	1931	4,910	109,292	114,202
1923	4,469	69,255	73,724	1932	5,399†	118,448	123,847
1924	4,654	68,030	72,684	1933	...	123,625	...
1925	4,706	112,505	117,211				

* Calendar year.

† Year ended 31st March.

DAIRY PRODUCTION, 1890 to 1931-32.

Ratio graph



The numbers at the side of the graph represent 1,000,000 lb.

The diagram is a ratio graph. The vertical scale is logarithmic, and the curves rise or fall according to the rate of increase or decrease. Actual values 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 four seasons are summarised in the following statement:—

Particulars.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.
Imports:—	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Interstate	3,748,276	2,114,084	1,127,952	1,006,348
From New Zealand	434	116	5	75
Total Imports	3,748,710	2,114,200	1,127,957	1,006,423
Exports:—				
Interstate	5,087,208	1,971,368	1,986,348	2,613,324
Oversea—Australian produce ...	19,916,913	31,388,919	39,463,306	42,487,143
Ships' Stores—Australian produce...	411,240	404,123	359,768	414,020
Total Exports	25,415,361	33,764,410	41,809,422	45,514,487
Excess of Exports	21,666,651	31,650,210	40,681,465	44,508,064

In 1928 the duty on New Zealand butter imported into Australia was increased from 2d. to 6d. per lb., while the general tariff on butter was increased from 3d. to 7d. per lb. Interstate imports in 1932-33 were larger than in the two preceding years, though 49 per cent. lower than in 1929-30.

Production and Exports of Butter Monthly.

The following table shows for each month during the four seasons ended 30th June, 1933, the quantity of butter produced in factories in New South Wales in comparison with the quantity exported oversea from New South Wales. 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. The export figures relate to Australian produce.

Month.	Quantity of Butter Produced in Factories.*				Quantity of Butter Exported Oversea (Australian Produce).				
	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.
	Thousand lb.								
July ...	4,476	4,981	6,590	6,013	224	229	317	1,245	787
August ...	4,178	5,308	6,771	6,494	313	92	379	1,296	1,037
September ...	5,655	7,245	7,829	7,737	697	309	638	2,117	1,463
October ...	8,620	9,914	9,743	12,394	1,583	910	2,114	2,971	3,700
November ...	10,967	10,824	11,495	13,706	1,644	3,208	4,293	3,669	6,804
December ...	10,170	10,416	14,560	14,301	833	3,913	3,599	6,072	6,669
January ...	11,257	9,913	13,880	12,271	1,078	3,135	2,883	7,901	5,343
February ...	11,227	10,662	11,581	13,464	3,070	4,075	3,855	5,092	6,192
March ...	11,622	12,384	9,804	12,357	2,763	2,383	5,437	3,936	7,126
April ...	9,604	10,813	9,999	9,869	2,468	1,027	4,343	1,708	2,284
May ...	7,514	9,128	8,191	8,715	447	382	2,411	2,550	828
June ...	5,524	7,704	7,205	6,304	336	254	1,120	906	254
Total	100,814	109,292	118,448	123,625	15,456	19,917	31,389	39,463	42,487

* Compiled from monthly returns of Dairy Branch.

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.

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 principal sources from which butter was imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland during each of the last seven 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.
1927	30,216	56,534	97,795	26,498	77,596	283,639
1928	33,582	67,343	100,349	17,921	84,552	303,747
1929	43,116	64,636	105,162	17,034	87,527	317,475
1930	41,158	65,496	111,925	15,706	89,377	323,662
1931	62,357	87,491	118,149	21,358	70,905	360,260
1932	80,981	103,427	125,696	19,553	83,206	412,863
1933	99,092	116,932	131,748	13,543	81,749	443,064

Prices of Butter.

The average monthly wholesale prices of butter in Sydney and London markets during each of the past five seasons are shown below:—

Month.	Average Price in Sydney of Choicest Butter per cwt. (Local Sales). (Australian currency).					Average Top Price in London of Australian Butter per cwt. (Sterling).				
	1928-29	1929-30	1930-31	1931-32	1932-33	1928-29	1929-30	1930-31	1931-32	1932-33
	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.
July ...	191	205	182	154	147	173	167	135	110	102
August ...	196	205	182	154	149	173	168	133	110	102
September	196	205	166	148	149	173	175	126	108	106
October ...	195	205	153	154	139	172	178	117	115	100
November	188	194	142	149	127	173	173	108	109	90
December	202	190	135	134	121	182	161	109	104	85
January ...	210	187	150	131	121	184	153	113	99	81
February ...	208	184	166	134	115	181	146	119	104	75
March ...	197	177	168	140	107	168	135	118	106	73
April ...	196	177	152	148	107	160	125	109	105	67
May ...	200	179	149	156	118	161	129	108	97	77
June ...	205	182	154	139	133	165	130	108	98	79

The prices quoted in the table for Sydney and London respectively may not 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. The London prices are the mean of the top prices quoted weekly for Australian butter. Reference to the table of monthly exports on a previous page show the variation in monthly shipments to London.

Prices received by Butter Producers.

The average price per lb. of commercial butter paid to suppliers of cream to local factories in recent years is shown below. These payments include amounts deferred from the previous year, and they do not relate exactly to the financial year:—

Year.	Average Price to Suppliers.	Year.	Average Price to Suppliers.	Year.	Average Price to Suppliers.
	d.		d.		d.
1921-22	13-9	1925-26	15-8	1929-30	15-8
1922-23	18-9	1926-27	16-2	1930-31	12-6
1923-24	16-6	1927-28	16-0	1931-32	11-2
1924-25	13-0	1928-29	17-1	1932-33	9-3*

* Subject to revision.

The average price per pound of commercial butter paid monthly to suppliers of cream to the principal factories in the North Coast district has been as follows:—

Month.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.
Pence per lb.								
July ...	16½	16½	17¼	16½	17½	15	12	11½
August ...	16½	16½	18¼	16¾	17½	14¾	12	12
September ...	14½	15½	19½	16¾	17½	13	12	12
October ...	12	13½	18	16½	17½	11½	12½	10½
November ...	13½	13½	14	16	15	10½	11¼	9
December ...	12½	16	13¼	17½	15	10¼	10	8¾
January ...	12½	13½	12¾	17¾	15	12	9¾	8½
February ...	13	12½	12½	17	13½	13¼	10¼	7½
March ...	15	12½	13½	16½	13	12½	10¾	7½
April ...	16	14	14	16¼	13	11½	11¼	7½
May ...	16	15¼	14½	17	14	11½	10½	9
June ...	15½	16¾	14¾	17½	14¾	12	10¾	10½

In addition, deferred payments usually ranging from ½d. to 1d. per lb. were paid to suppliers.

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. From a previous table showing the cheese made in the various divisions of the State, it will be seen that nearly two-thirds of the total production is made in the South Coast division.

The following table shows the production of cheese in factories and on farms and the import and export of cheese from New South Wales at intervals since 1901:—

Year ended 30th June.	Production.			Import.		Export.
	In Factories.	On Farms.	Total.	Oversea.	Interstate.	Oversea. §
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
1901*	2,428,599	1,410,236	3,838,835	1,862,000	399,000	191,000
1906*	3,459,641	1,999,004	5,458,645	115,000	359,000	133,600
1911*	4,617,387	843,265	5,460,652	129,000	†	141,400
1916	4,969,374	1,010,262	5,979,636	479,000	†	301,200
1921	5,965,715	441,494	6,407,209	31,000	†	806,700
1926	6,321,111	141,424	6,462,535	736,000	1,288,000 ‡	284,000
1927	6,628,000	107,960	6,735,960	560,000	1,313,000 ‡	180,300
1928	7,081,000	203,630	7,284,630	506,000	3,500,000	223,900
1929	6,203,409	135,643	6,339,052	256,000	2,924,000	229,300
1930	6,163,295	182,490	6,345,785	216,000	4,097,000	219,400
1931	6,425,093	90,972	6,516,065	18,000	3,086,000	188,900
1932	6,476,737	113,620	6,590,357	7,200	3,254,000	191,000

*Calendar year. † Not available. ‡ Excluding imports by rail. § Including Ships' Stores.

The annual output of cheese has shown no permanent expansion in the past fifteen years. The maximum production was in 1916-17, when the total reached 7,830,239 lb. Almost all the cheese produced for sale is made in factories. Cheese-making on farms was formerly extensive, but has declined appreciably since 1916.

PIGS.

The following table shows the number of pigs in New South Wales at intervals since 1891:—

At 30th June.	Pigs.	At 30th June.	Pigs.
	No.		No.
1891*	253,189	1923	340,853
1896*	214,581	1924	323,196
1901*	265,730	1925	339,669
1906*	243,370	1926	382,674
1911*	371,093	1927	332,921
1916	281,158	1928	301,819
1919	294,648	1929	311,605
1920	253,910	1930	323,499
1921	306,253	1931	334,331
1922	383,669	1932†	385,846

* At 31st December.

† At 31st March.

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 1926, but the number diminished in 1927 and 1928, owing largely to an outbreak of swine fever. With the expansion of dairying activities, the number of pigs has increased substantially since 1929. The extent of pig breeding, however, is not accurately reflected in variations in the number of pigs at the end of the year, but rather in the extent of slaughtering in conjunction with increase or decrease in numbers. Comparison of two periods of four years are shown below:—

Year ended 30th June.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—).	Number Slaughtered.	Year ended 30th June.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—).	Number Slaughtered.
1923	(—) 42,816	339,658	1929	(+) 9,786	406,187
1924	(—) 17,657	302,733	1930	(+) 11,894	405,639
1925	(+) 16,473	361,065	1931	(+) 10,832	417,502
1926	(+) 43,005	402,479	1932*... ..	(+) 51,515	425,385
Totals	(—) 995	1,405,935	Totals	(+) 84,027	1,654,713

* Year ended 31st March.

At 31st March, 1932, the pigs less than one year old numbered 284,023, and the pigs aged one year and over 101,823; the latter are mainly breeding stock.

The following statement shows the number of pigs in various divisions of the State, and the production of bacon and ham in 1931-32 as compared with the years 1911 and 1920-21:—

Division.	1911.		1920-21.		1931-32.	
	Pigs.	Bacon and Ham cured.	Pigs.	Bacon and Ham cured.	Pigs.	Bacon and Ham cured.
	No.	lb.	No.	lb.	No.	lb.
Coastal	255,361	13,845,520	208,903	14,781,091	272,303	19,182,510
Tableland	45,578	1,124,091	29,700	597,872	27,091	644,379
Western Slopes	42,258	666,173	39,599	422,712	55,402	380,584
Other	27,896	467,043	28,051	455,564	31,050	260,786
Whole State	371,093	16,102,827	306,253	16,257,242	385,846	20,468,259

This table shows that the production of bacon has increased since 1911 in the dairying districts of the Coastal Division, and 94 per cent. of the total production of bacon in 1931-32 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. Until 1927-28 there was usually a net export of pigs from New South Wales to Queensland, but in that year the net import into New South Wales was 2,240. This number increased in 1928-29 to 7,192, and in 1929-30 to 19,268, falling to 6,021 in 1930-31 and to 2,804 in 1931-32. In the same five years there was a net export of 2,431, 4,396, 3,430, 2,203, and 2,812 pigs from New South Wales to Victoria.

Bacon and Hams.

The output of bacon and hams from factories and farms in New South Wales and the net interstate imports at intervals since 1901 is shown hereunder:—

Year ended 30th June.	Production of Bacon and Ham.			Net Import of Bacon and Ham Interstate.
	Factory.	Farm.	Total Production.	
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
1901*	7,392,100	3,688,800	11,080,900	1,216,700
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	6,700,000
1925	19,764,983	1,311,813	21,076,796	8,800,000
1926	21,548,888	1,409,483	22,958,371	9,500,000
1927	23,275,890	1,327,175	24,603,065	8,000,000
1928	24,523,873	955,335	25,479,208	8,000,000
1929	22,340,106	747,165	23,087,271	8,300,000
1930	20,984,249	632,223	21,616,472	9,900,000
1931	20,984,266	916,928	21,901,194	8,400,000
1932‡	19,442,931	1,025,328	20,468,259	7,400,000

* Calendar year. † Not available. ‡ Year ended 31st March.

During the first decade of the period under review the production of bacon showed a substantial increase. The production in 1920-21 was only slightly higher than in 1911, but the output increased substantially between 1924 and 1928. Disease caused production to diminish in 1929, and subsequently consumers' demand declined with the advent of depression.

Lard.

Statistics showing the total production of lard are not available. During the year ended 30th June, 1932, the quantity extracted in factories amounted to 537,085 lb., valued at £11,756, 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, 1932, the overseas exports of lard and refined animal fats amounted to 304,830 lb., value at £7,023, as compared with imports from overseas countries amounting to 11,790 lb., valued at £300.

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 an earlier page.

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	191	4,359	196	2,525	96	3,007
1906*	23,362	978,725	134	3,268	258	4,906	141	4,996
1911*	33,044	1,518,993	141	3,723	1,127	17,471	618	17,561
1916	4,306	259,834	301	9,767	947	22,052	224	11,279
1921	28,429	3,458,280	807	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	1,035,186	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	29,514	647	26,999	766	52,724
1926	27,008	1,943,586	284	12,321	656	26,513	790	61,681
1927	18,485	1,292,737	180	11,714	558	22,172	1,143	86,008
1928	21,348	1,429,716	224	10,764	816	28,917	830	68,161
1929	15,880	1,192,141	229	11,838	477	19,446	612	48,883
1930	20,328	1,443,851	219	11,624	452	18,222	520	39,585
1931	31,793	1,698,835	189	8,969	497	18,006	552	28,646
1932	39,823	2,010,246	191	8,756	650	22,957	530	28,126
1933	42,901	1,832,362	464	18,021	852	32,340	539	28,936

* Calendar year.

The values of other dairy and farmyard products exported overseas in 1932-33 were as follows:—Frozen pork, £6,002; frozen poultry, £28,233; eggs, £372,254; live pigs and poultry, £736; making a grand total of £2,318,884, including the items listed in the foregoing table.

POULTRY-FARMING.

Poultry-farming was conducted formerly in conjunction with dairying; but the interests involved have become important commercially, and a distinct industry has been developed. Returns collected as at 31st March, 1932, showed that there were 1,494 holdings of one acre or more in extent devoted mainly to poultry-farming, besides twenty-five to poultry, bees, and pigs combined. In addition, many holdings less than 1 acre in extent, and therefore not included in these returns, are used for raising poultry as a commercial pursuit, while many farms, utilised mainly for agriculture, dairying or grazing, carry large numbers of poultry. The returns showed that at 31st March, 1932, there were 2,323 holdings carrying poultry for commercial purposes to the extent of 150 head or more. Of these, 1,590 were in the county of Cumberland and 439 in other coastal districts.

Accurate statistics of poultry production are not available, but a general estimate based on recorded production indicates that the value of production during 1931-32 was approximately £2,595,000. The returns showed that approximately 1,832,000 poultry were marketed or used for food during the year 1931-32.

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 among poultry-farmers. The most successful laying strains have proved to be the black orpington, the white leghorn and the langshan. An annual report in bulletin form, giving particulars and tabulated results of these competitions, is issued by the Department of Agriculture.

The numbers of poultry enumerated in returns supplied annually under the Census Act are as follow:—

As at 30th June.	Fowls, Chickens, etc.	Ducks, etc.	Geese, etc.	Turkeys, etc.	Guinea Fowl, and other.
1922	3,630,000	159,000	22,000	154,000	3,800
1923	3,600,000	142,000	20,000	136,000	3,800
1924	3,670,000	139,000	17,000	148,000	4,300
1925	4,000,000	159,000	19,000	162,000	4,600
1926	4,020,000	156,000	21,000	159,000	6,300
1927	4,002,000	131,000	20,000	148,000	5,100
1928	3,968,000	123,000	17,000	147,000	6,900
1929	3,919,000	120,000	16,000	130,000	5,700
1930	3,798,000	100,000	15,000	127,000	3,700
1931	4,238,000	140,000	18,000	165,000	4,800
*1932	4,499,000	174,000	25,000	242,000	7,000

* As at 31st March.

The numbers shown above include poultry recorded on holdings with less than 150 stock, viz., 2,704,000 in 1928, 2,518,000 in 1929, 2,370,000 in 1930, 2,681,000 in 1931, and 2,893,000 in 1932. The figures include also the number of poultry, as estimated by local collectors, on holdings other than those used for agricultural and pastoral purposes.

The numbers as stated afford some guidance as to the growth of the industry in recent years; but in view of the great difficulty of obtaining accurate records, they are probably considerably less than the numbers of poultry in the State.

Statistics shown below are compiled from returns collected under the Census Act from farms with at least 150 head of poultry, from which products were marketed:—

Year ended 30th June.	Number of Farms.	Stock at 30th June.		Eggs Produced. Thousand dozen.	Chickens Hatched.	
		Chickens under six months old.	Other Fowls.		For Farm Stock.	For Sale as Day-Olds.
1928	1,952	247,349	1,016,082	9,418	802,963	535,351
1929	2,124	300,547	1,099,558	10,637	990,638	658,263
1930	2,033	301,753	1,126,957	10,884	1,256,451	775,860
1931	2,106	349,849	1,207,068	11,583	1,279,084	1,104,048
*1932	2,323	204,069	1,401,957	12,822	1,384,003	1,190,451

* Year ended 31st March.

Assuming that the mean of the number of stock over six months old at the beginning and end of the year represents approximately the number of laying stock in respective years (with some deduction for male stock), it would appear that the average egg production is in the vicinity of ten dozen per hen per year.

The number of poultry recorded as disposed of for table purposes from holdings not classed as commercial poultry farms was 1,073,000 in 1931-32, making a total for the whole State (so far as recorded) of 1,832,000 head in 1931-32, as compared with 1,543,000 in 1930-31, 1,360,000 in 1929-30, 1,412,000 in 1928-29, and 1,439,000 in 1927-28.

Price of Eggs.

The average monthly wholesale prices of new-laid hen eggs per dozen in Sydney since 1927 are shown in the following table, together with the annual average weighted in accordance with the seasonal expectation of laying:—

Month.	Weight.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
January ...	13	1 9-0	1 8-5	1 7	1 7-2	1 2-8	1 0-8	1 1-8
February ...	11	2 0-7	1 11-9	2 0	1 8-9	1 4-9	1 2	1 4
March ...	7	2 2-7	2 7-2	2 1	2 0-5	1 3-4	1 4-6	1 4-2
April ...	6	2 8-2	2 8	2 6	2 5-4	1 10-2	1 8	1 10-1
May ...	4	2 9-0	2 9	2 9	2 6	2 0	1 10-4	1 8-1
June ...	6	2 9-0	2 8-4	2 5	2 3-2	1 10-6	1 7	1 6-2
July ...	10	1 11-2	2 0-1	1 10	1 7-3	1 4	1 3-2	1 3-9
August ...	16	1 7-2	1 5-6	1 6	1 2-6	1 0-5	1 1	1 0-8
September ...	19	1 6	1 5-1	1 4	1 2	1 0	1 0	0 10-7
October ...	19	1 6	1 6	1 4	1 1-1	1 0	1 0	0 8-3
November ...	17	1 7-6	1 6	1 4	1 1-6	1 0	1 0	...
December ...	16	1 10	1 6	1 6	1 4-9	1 2-4	1 0-9	...
Estimated weighted average price for year ...	144	1 10	1 10-6	1 7-8	1 5-7	1 2-6	1 3-2	...

The monthly averages are unweighted and represent the mean of the daily quotes. The amount received by poultry farmers after payment of cartage freight, pool levy, and selling commission in the year 1930-31 was approximately 2½d. below the foregoing prices. Prices are quoted also for medium and pullet eggs, but these are not included above.

The Director of Marketing has estimated that, including provision for cost of feeding fowls, interest, depreciation, local government rates, and the basic wage for the farmer, the average cost of producing eggs on a five-acre farm with 800 laying hens, producing on the average 12 dozen eggs per year, was 1s. 2.675d. per dozen in the year ended 30th April, 1931. The Poultry and Egg Committee of the Producers and Consumers' Conference in May, 1931, endorsed the basis of this estimate, but adopted an average production of 11 dozen eggs per hen, whence an average cost of 1s. 4d. per dozen was derived. The cost of feedstuffs included in the estimate was abnormally low on account of the extreme cheapness of wheat and mill offals.

Oversea and Interstate Trade.

The following table shows the recent trend of the oversea export trade in poultry and eggs:—

Year ended 30th June.	Eggs in Shell.		Frozen Poultry.		Total Value.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
	doz.	£	pairs.	£	£
1923	1,049,117	86,122	31,748	41,157	127,279
1924	574,212	47,835	7,493	9,323	57,158
1925	627,473	49,059	7,705	12,182	61,241
1926	802,421	63,833	10,928	23,300	87,133
1927	1,839,046	137,808	18,892	29,681	167,489
1928	447,996	34,660	6,453	7,600	42,260
1929	858,795	66,893	8,050	11,971	78,864
1930	1,627,367	123,443	11,445	15,545	138,988
1931	2,388,126	139,782	5,312	5,022	144,804
1932	3,627,853	191,140	23,676	25,986	217,126
1933	6,297,211	372,254	36,813	28,233	400,487

Eggs are exported mainly between the months of September and November.

Particulars as to the interstate import of eggs by rail and sea into Sydney market are collected by the Director of Marketing and a summary of these is provided below in respect of the years ended 30th June, 1931, and 1932:—

State Whence Imported.	1930-31.		1931-32.			
	Eggs in Shell.	Eggs (Pulp).	Eggs in Shell.			Eggs (Pulp).
			By Rail.	By Sea.	Total.	By Sea.
	doz.	cub. tons.	doz.	doz.	doz.	cub. tons.
Victoria	653,290	73	17,280	457,981	475,261	115
Queensland	644,990	10	350,520	1,080	351,600	30
South Australia	666,510	583	...	735,772	735,772	370
Western Australia	240	...	...	...	...	...
Tasmania	27,480	...	...	15,421	15,421	...
Total	1,992,510	666	367,800	1,210,254	1,578,054	515

Accurate information as to the numerical equivalent of egg pulp imported is not available, but it is apparently about 1,250 dozen per cubic ton. Corresponding totals for interstate imports in 1929-30 were 2,071,370 dozen eggs in shell, and 1,462 cubic tons of egg pulp.

Egg Marketing Board.

On 21st September, 1928, a poll of poultry farmers approved the constitution of an Egg Marketing Board for a defined area embracing the counties of Cumberland and Northumberland and the shires of Nattai and Wollondilly. The Board consists of three members elected by producers and two nominated by the Government. Active operations commenced on 27th May, 1929.

Unless exempted by the Board, all persons having more than twenty head of poultry of laying age in the defined area were required in 1929-30 to market their eggs through authorised agents, of whom there were 14 operating during the year. Exemptions were granted to approximately 4,540 poultry farmers who were allowed to supply the whole or part of their eggs for local trade and private contracts. In the case of exemptions, monthly declarations were required that eggs had not been sold at prices below those fixed by the Board. As from 1st July, 1930, the system of authorised agents was discontinued and all eggs (except those exempt) were required to be consigned to the Egg Board's floor and exempt producers were licensed as "producer agents."

The Board's operations in 1929-30 were financed by a levy on eggs distributed, the charge being 1d. per dozen, of which approximately one-tenth was absorbed in administration and nine-tenths for equalisation purposes. This charge was continued in 1930-31 and 1931-32, and as from the date that eggs were handled on the central floor by the Egg Board a commission of 7 per cent. of selling price was charged to cover cost of distribution and selling. This commission was reduced to 6 per cent. as from 23rd November, 1931.

Particulars of the operations of the Board during 1930-31 and 1931-32 are as follow:—

Heading.	Year ended 30th June.	
	1931.	1932.
Eggs under Board's Administration doz.	14,477,559	15,686,522
Comprising—		
Handled on Board's Floor or by authorised agents doz.	8,804,605	9,478,312
Sold by exempt producers or producer's agents doz.	5,672,954	6,208,210
Pool deductions received at 1d. per doz.... .. £	60,323	65,301
Gross amount realised for sale of eggs handled on Board's floor or by authorised agents ... { Total £	504,502	493,726
{ Average per doz.	1s. 3-06d.	1s. 1-609d.
Eggs exported oversea... .. dozen	2,430,390	3,789,906
Net price (Sydney basis) per doz.	1s. 0-13d.*	1s. 1-56d.*
Costs (Sydney-London) per doz.	6-61d.	6-69d.

*Including exchange premiums.

The operations of the Board, as pointed out above, do not cover the whole of the eggs of New South Wales. In 1933 owing to legal decisions the Board ceased to exercise mandatory powers and began to function as a voluntary agency of producers who entered into contract with it.

BEE-KEEPING.

The bee-keeping industry is at the present time of small importance, and is generally conducted as an adjunct to other rural occupations. Good table honey is obtained from the flora of native eucalypts of many varieties.

Details of special legislation regarding apiculture were published at page 655 in the Year Book of 1918. Frame hives are in general use, box hives being specifically prohibited.

Statistics collected under the Census Act which are published below represent, in the main, the extent of bee-keeping on holdings of 1 acre and upwards, but hives are maintained on smaller areas, from many of which no information is collected. The records do not, therefore, show complete particulars of the industry.

In 1931-32 returns were obtained from 1,489 holdings on which bee hives were kept. Comparative totals of recorded production are as follow:—

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	7,360	41,498	2,939,074	87.6	23,385
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
1925-26	36,901	4,527	41,428	2,235,095	60.6	38,271
1926-27	31,310	7,732	39,042	1,522,540	48.6	22,636
1927-28	26,009	11,096	37,105	1,154,201	44.4	17,139
1928-29	32,444	8,711	41,155	2,354,845	72.6	30,064
1929-30	32,420	10,860	43,280	2,101,619	64.8	35,493
1930-31	36,800	8,585	45,385	2,643,871	71.8	36,460
1931-32	38,099	11,251	49,350	2,123,233	55.7	27,933

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.

In 1931-32 the estimated value of the recorded production from bees was £33,000, the quantity of production in each division being as follows:—

Division.	Honey.	Beeswax.
	lb.	lb.
Coastal	340,198	7,066
Tableland	1,321,454	14,343
Western Slopes	381,167	5,282
Central Plains, Riverina, and Western Division.	80,414	1,242
Total	2,123,233	27,933

Marketing of Honey.

Under the Marketing of Primary Products Act, 1927, a poll of apiarists was taken on 11th February, 1929, as to the advisability of establishing a board to control the marketing of honey. A roll of apiarists was prepared, and at a ballot 92.5 per cent. of these recorded their votes, 70 per cent. favouring the proposal. In accordance with the provisions of the Act a further poll was held on 24th August, 1932, on the question of continuance of the Board. There were 859 producers entitled to vote; 97.5 per cent. of them cast valid votes, and 78.2 per cent. voted in favour of discontinuance of the Board.

Consequently the Board, which had commenced on 1st November, 1929, ceased operations on 31st August, 1932. During this period the wholesale price of honey was fixed, authorised selling agents were appointed, and all producers were registered. A levy of 5 per cent. was imposed on sales in order to provide finance for the Board. During the year ended 30th June, 1932, the quantity of honey sold through authorised agents in Sydney was approximately 3,269,000 lb., including carryover from the previous season. In addition, a quantity of honey was sold direct by beekeepers. The prices fixed by the Board in 1931-32 ranged from 3½d. to 5d. per lb.

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 1931-32 amounted to £11,525,000, or £4 11s. 9d. per

head of population. The dairying industry yielded £8,166,000; pigs, £730,000; poultry, £2,595,000; and bees, £34,000. The value of production in each year since 1911 was as follows:—

Year.	Milk for Butter.	Milk for Cheese.	Milk (not used for Butter or Cheese).	Milch Cows.	Pigs.	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	163	750	406	539	1,401	33	7,192
1913	3,450	170	950	335	590	1,578	30	7,063
1914-15	4,038	170	962	523	533	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	2,553	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
1925-26	7,045	233	2,386	419	1,177	3,277	37	14,574
1926-27	6,478	227	2,446	463	1,323	3,617	27	14,581
1927-28	6,722	248	2,714	459	1,237	3,728	24	15,132
1928-29	6,779	228	2,701	571	1,237	2,999	44	14,559
1929-30	6,842	234	2,650	524	1,105	3,140	44	14,539
1930-31	5,931	176	2,007	456	839	2,584	46	12,039
1931-32	5,751	182	1,957	276	730	2,595	34	11,525

PRICES OF FARMYARD PRODUCTS.

The average wholesale prices obtained in the Sydney markets for the principal kinds of dairy and poultry farm produce in 1914 and during the last six years 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.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Milk ... gal.	0 11 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 10	1 10	1 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 5 $\frac{4}{8}$
Butter ... lb.	0 11 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 10	1 7 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 2 $\frac{8}{8}$
Cheese ... "	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 8 $\frac{6}{8}$
Bacon (sides) ... "	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 11	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9 $\frac{0}{8}$
Eggs (new laid) doz.	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 8	1 11 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 7 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 3 $\frac{2}{8}$
Poultry—							
Fowls—							
(Roosters) ...pr.	5 5	10 5	8 11	8 11	8 2	6 2	6 0
Ducks—							
(English) ... "	4 5	11 3	8 8	8 4	7 2	4 7	*
Geese ... "	6 8	11 2	11 9	11 2	11 1	8 6	6 10
Turkeys (cocks) ..	11 2	39 6	30 10	30 6	23 7	21 11	21 5
Bee produce—							
Honey ... lb.	0 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 5	0 5	0 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 5	0 4	0 4 $\frac{4}{8}$
Wax ... "	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 9	1 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 9	1 7	1 3	1 1 $\frac{5}{8}$

* No quotations.

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	1917	1,440	1925	1,612
1906	953	1918	1,487	1926	1,760
1911	1,000	1919	1,718	1927	1,831
1912	1,133	1920	2,236	1928	1,763
1913	1,033	1921	2,020	1929	1,842
1914	1,128	1922	1,735	1930	1,571
1915	1,349	1923	1,939	1931	1,386
1916	1,380	1924	1,671	1932	1,295

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 non-rural products, the index for which on the above basis was 1,774 in the year 1932. 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.

FUR FARMING RABBITS.

At the beginning of the year 1928 the Minister of Agriculture appointed a committee to investigate the possibilities of farming with fur-bearing rabbits within the State of New South Wales.

After consideration of this committee's report, sanction was given to the keeping of fur-bearing rabbits in captivity within the counties of Cumberland and Camden under properly safeguarded conditions in terms of the Pastures Protection Act.

Annual licenses are issued after the rabbit-proof enclosure has been passed as satisfactory and a prescribed fee paid. The safekeeping of the rabbits and licensing of the owner of the premises is under the control of the Secretary, Stock and Brands Branch, Department of Agriculture.

The classes of rabbits concerned are Angora, Chinchilla, and similar types of pelt rabbits. The Angora, a long-woolled white rabbit, is clipped and the wool made into various classes of clothing in a process somewhat similar to the treatment of sheep's wool. Rabbits of the Chinchilla type are usually grown for their pelts.

The first license was issued on 1st September, 1929, and the subsequent growth of the industry is shown in the following summary of commercial licenses current as at the dates shown:—

Size of Rabbit Flock for which License was issued.	31st Dec., 1929.	31st Dec., 1930.	12th June, 1931.	31st Dec., 1932.
Up to				
25	29	69	85	114
100	17	50	73	42
200	1	2	10	9
300	...	...	5	1
400	2	3	...	1
500 and over	1	1	3	2
Total licenses	50	125	176	169
Total number of Rabbits for which Licenses were issued	5,175	9,975	20,310	10,550

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 6½ million acres of the State lands are 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 commercial 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.

An account of the system of forestry administration in New South Wales was published on pages 669 and 670 of the Year Book for 1928-29.

State Forests.

As at 31st December, 1932, a total area of 5,131,046 acres of Crown lands had been dedicated permanently as State forests, and 1,484,867 acres had been set apart tentatively as timber reserves. Included in the State forests are a number of State forest plantations of an aggregate area of 32,018 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 December.	State Forests.		State Plantations.	Timber Reserves.	
	Number.	Area.	Area.	Number.	Area.
		acres.	acres.		acres.
1928	726	5,315,426	16,698	587	1,541,346
1929	721	5,255,635	19,780	590	1,564,858
1930	727	5,258,290	23,367	588	1,543,235
1931	724	5,152,462	27,300	592	1,523,715
1932	719	5,131,046	32,018	583	1,484,867

The timber reserves and State forests 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 or dedication of unsuitable areas is revoked to make them available for other uses.

Location of Forest Lands and Main Forest Types.

A description of the timber zones of New South Wales and of the principal types of timber to be found in them was published on pages 671 and 672 of the Year Book for 1928-29.

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 on the North Coast, Mila and Mannus on the Southern Tableland, Gurnang, near Oberon on the Central Tableland, and Mount Mitchell, near Glen Innes, on the Northern Tableland, pine plantations are worked by prison labour.

To supplement the supply of softwood in the State, afforestation should be conducted on a more extensive scale than at present. The plantation schemes already inaugurated by the Forestry Commission embrace an area which will probably yield less than 200,000 acres of plantable land. This area, when planted is expected to provide a considerable proportion of the future needs, but forestry authorities recognise that this provision is inadequate to meet the ultimate requirements of New South Wales. Apart from financial considerations there is the difficulty of securing suitable areas for afforestation.

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. Where extraction under license is permitted, orderly and systematic exploitation is insisted upon.

Production and Consumption of Timber.

The following summary shows the number of timber mills in operation, the number of employees working therein (exclusive of carters etc.), and the output of sawn timber in each of the past five years:—

Year ended 30th June.	Mills Operated.	Average Number of Persons Employed whole year.	Output of Sawn Timber.					
			Native.		Imported.		Total.	Value.
			Soft- wood.	Hard- wood.	Soft- wood.	Hard- wood.		
			Thousand super feet.					£000
1928	468	4,178	48,716	97,859	1,764	1,123	149,462	1,877
1929	477	3,982	41,637	94,414	3,197	282	139,530	1,750
1930	433	3,250	37,464	81,556	5,941	...	124,961	1,522
1931	372	1,738	15,119	41,413	2,042	...	58,574	670
1932	349	1,486	17,851	34,251	3,993	...	56,095	577

The activity in the industry was severely affected by the general depression, but there had been a steady diminution in output for several years.

The following table shows the annual gross consumption of native and imported timbers as estimated by the Forestry Commission for successive years since 1923:—

Year ended 30th June.	Estimated Gross Consumption of Timber.					
	Native.				Imported.†	Grand Total.
	Softwood.	Hardwood.	Fuel.	Total Native.		
	(000 omitted.)					
	cubic feet.	cubic feet.	cubic eet.	cubic feet.	cubic feet.	cubic feet.
1923	5,911	16,765	7,800	30,476	11,923	42,399
1924	6,615	19,255	6,685	32,555	14,898	47,453
1925	6,526	20,231	18,055	44,812	14,553	59,365
1926	7,136	19,234	12,421	38,791	18,549	57,340
1927	7,584	21,372	11,000	39,956	17,127	57,083
1928*	6,874	21,259	10,938	39,071	15,217	54,288
1929*	7,479	19,866	12,700	40,045	19,753	59,798
1930*	3,735	14,755	11,226	29,716	7,880	37,596
1931*	2,320	9,798	10,624	22,742	3,495	26,237
1932*	4,172	12,636	12,185	28,993	5,938	34,931

* Year ended 31st December.

† Oversea.

Most of the imported timber consists of softwoods. Until towards the end of 1929 there was remarkable activity in the building trade, and the consumption of timber increased rapidly. The years 1930-32 were affected by the general depression, which caused severe curtailment in all structural activities.

Value of Production from Forestry.

The following table shows the value of forestry production as at the place of production in New South Wales at intervals since the year 1901:—

Year ended 30th June.	Value.	Year ended 30th June.	Value.
	£		£
1901*	554,000	1927	1,871,000
1906*	1,008,000	1928	1,733,000
1911*	998,000	1929	1,610,000
1916	1,045,000	1930	1,503,000
1921	1,656,000	1931	1,131,600
1926	1,885,000	1932	1,158,000

* 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. Steps are being taken, however, to plant extensive areas in New South Wales with high-class American and other softwoods in order to render the State less dependent upon 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 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	29,322	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
1925-26	194,393	1,964,596	463,610	2,428,206	23,486	390,439	6,689	397,128
1926-27	173,261	1,904,040	393,983	2,298,023	18,282	301,671	5,349	307,020
1927-28	229,977	2,207,103	438,234	2,645,337	16,577	283,053	11,163	294,216
1928-29	187,009	1,919,846	301,343	2,221,189	13,989	241,504	7,408	248,912
1929-30	177,635	1,718,015	179,639	1,897,654	15,893	270,019	8,440	278,459
1930-31	47,825	294,029	14,428	308,457	16,384	228,561	13,431	241,992
1931-32	54,489	300,642	17,399	318,041	11,371	129,897	1,689	131,586

In addition there is a considerable interstate movement of timber by sea, of which complete records are not available. The quantity of rough and

sawn timber recorded by the Sydney Harbour Trust as being imported at Sydney from other Australian States was 10,116,961 super feet in 1928-29, 9,716,533 super. feet in 1929-30, 3,245,000 super. feet in 1930-31, and 3,406,821 super. feet in 1931-32.

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 forest land. The fees for licenses and permits are small, but considerable revenue is gained from royalties on timber, and rents for occupation permits, etc.

The revenue collected by the State from timber licenses, rents, and from royalty on timber during various years since 1911 is shown in the following table:—

Year ended 31st Dec.	Sales, Rents, Fees, etc.	Royalty on Timber.	Total.	Year ended 31st Dec.	Sales, Rents, Fees, etc.	Royalty on Timber.	Total.
£	£	£	£		£	£	£
1911	11,153	79,165	90,318	1929	69,754	140,989	210,743
1916*	8,701	59,406	68,107	1930	45,370	83,426	128,796
1921*	76,141	114,601	190,742	1931	35,742	52,806	88,548
1926*	42,984	181,223	224,207	1932	32,832	71,842	104,674

* Year ended 30th June.

Included in the total for 1932 are sales of converted and confiscated material, £6,268, and rents for occupation permits, forest leases, etc., £21,464.

The experience of Europe and America has shown that well-directed expenditure by the Government in afforestation and re-afforestation is directly reproductive, 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 Commission during the last five years are shown in the following table:—

Head of Expenditure.	Year ended 31st December.				
	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
	£	£	£	£	£
Demarcation	5,787	4,178	3,736	2,643	1,926
Forest Roads and Fire-breaks	14,086	22,765	39,540	8,069	9,396
Sylvicultural Works	40,116	39,561	37,876	28,269	30,755
Permanent Improvements	13,528	12,902	17,600	4,175	8,186
Conversion Work	29,872	19,993	7,428	5,522	2,138
Administrative, Research and Other	109,469	94,670	77,540	74,331	53,968
Total... ..	212,858	194,069	*183,720	*121,009	*106,369

* Excluding £19,822 disbursed as Unemployment Relief in 1930, £3,253 in 1931 and £7,782 in 1932.

Persons Employed in Timber Industry.

It has been estimated by the Forestry Commission that 7,412 persons were employed in the timber industry during the year 1932, viz., 2,037 in felling and cutting; 1,193 in hauling timber to the mills; 2,269 in milling; and 1,913 in other occupations. These figures include persons partially employed, viz., 1,251 in felling and cutting and 545 in hauling timber.

FISHERIES.

A BRIEF statement of the nature of the fisheries of New South Wales was published on page 676 of the Year Book for 1928-29.

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 1932 was 3,140, and licenses were issued in respect of 1,609 fishing boats.

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 1932 applications for leases numbered 291, representing 64,095 yards of foreshore and 224 acres of off-shore leases. At the end of the year the existing leases numbered 4,674. The length of foreshores held was 1,011,805 yards, and there were deep-water leases to the extent of 2,811 acres.

PRODUCTION FROM FISHERIES.

The principal items of fisheries production (as revised) since 1924 are shown in the following table:—

Year Ended 31st December.	Fish.			Oysters.	Prawns.
	Trawled.	Captured Otherwise.	Total.		
	lb.	lb.	lb.	bags.*	lb.
1924	6,059,430	13,265,170	19,324,600	28,380	596,241
1925	8,794,008	12,645,598	21,439,606	28,546	1,002,926
1926	7,635,715	12,996,318	20,632,033	31,876	1,042,774
1927	11,830,330	12,755,942	24,586,272	30,303	1,083,324
1928	13,406,820	13,855,165	27,261,985	29,180	1,571,186
1929	17,125,760	13,519,308	30,645,068	31,965	1,119,044
1930	18,311,620	9,957,611	28,269,231	25,472	1,393,106
1931	13,067,922	10,711,630	23,779,552	22,066	1,537,420
1932	11,740,708	11,296,307	23,037,015	27,643	1,534,100

* 3 bushels.

Until 1923 fish were trawled by a State enterprise, and when it closed down operations were commenced by private individuals. Activities were steadily expanded and the production of trawled fish was almost trebled between 1924 and 1929. Production by inshore fishermen at first declined slightly, then recovered, and the annual production of fish increased by over 13,000,000 lb., or 74 per cent., in the six years 1923 to 1929. General industrial depression caused a reduced demand for fish since 1930. The average consumption of fresh fish per head of population is about 10 lb. This is exclusive of fish caught other than commercially. Most of the fish referred to above is consumed in the Metropolitan and Newcastle Districts.

During 1929 the number of deep-sea trawlers was increased from 11 to 18, but, as the existing market was not able to absorb the resultant catch in 1930 and prices declined, the Steam Trawlers' Association reduced the number of vessels operating from 18 in January, when the total trawl was 17,181 baskets, to 14 in August, 1930, the total trawl for which month was 13,521 baskets. During the year ended 30th June, 1932, fifteen trawlers were operated.

The most important kinds of fish marketed are flathead, snapper, bream, blackfish, whiting, mullet, jewfish, garfish, and Murray cod—a freshwater fish; tailer, trevally, leather-jacket, and gurnard are readily saleable in the local markets.

Fish.—The bulk of the inshore supplies is obtained in the estuaries and lakes on the northern part of the coast-line. The approximate quantities of fresh fish marketed from each of the principal fishing grounds of the State are indicated below:—

		1932.			1932.
		lb.			lb.
Clarence River	... ..	1,973,821	Botany Bay	... ..	189,335
Wallis Lake	... ..	1,387,619	Richmond River	... ..	76,365
Port Stephens	... ..	671,185	Hawkesbury River	... ..	386,546
Lake Illawarra	... ..	223,008	Port Jackson	... ..	42,351
Tuggerah Lakes	... ..	704,700	Hastings River	... ..	202,584
Lake Macquarie	... ..	361,393	Macleay River	... ..	99,897
Camden Haven	... ..	301,450	St. George's Basin	... ..	148,937
Manning River	... ..	358,813	Wollongong	... ..	97,776
Tweed River	... ..	104,362	Shoalhaven River	... ..	193,960
Jervis Bay	... ..	208,381	Byron Bay	... ..	139,379
Coffs Harbour	... ..	179,799	Bermagui and south thereof	...	465,990

Crayfish.—The number of marine crayfish (*Palinurus*) obtained during 1932 was 104,775. 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 this district over 57,000 were sent to market.

Prawns.—A quantity of approximately 1,543,100 lb. of marine prawns (*Penaeus*) was obtained during 1932, and about 10,215 lb. were condemned.

Crabs.—About 3,420 dozens of crabs were obtained in 1932. The catch included several species of swimming crabs, notably the Blue (*Lupa*) and the Mangrove (*Scylla*).

Oysters.—During the year 1932 the oyster production of the State amounted to 27,643 bags, each of 3 bushel capacity, valued at £48,530. These consisted of Rock oyster (*Ostrea cucullata*). This output was principally the result of artificial cultivation.

Oversea Trade in Fish.

A 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, 1932, being £285,441, including 6,662,920 lb. of tinned fish, valued at £204,767. The value of fish exported oversea was £14,067, including tinned fish to the value of £12,410.

Value of Fisheries Production.

The value of the production from fisheries of New South Wales, as recorded during the year ended 30th June, 1932, was approximately £591,000, including fresh fish, £482,000, oysters, crayfish, prawns, etc., £109,000.

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 1918-19:—

Year ended 30th June.	Value. (000 omitted.)	Year ended 30th June.	Value. (000 omitted.)
	£		£
1919	335	1926	553
1920	470	1927	612
1921	491	1928	683
1922	538	1929	775
1923	491	1930	788
1924	520	1931	635
1925	540	1932	591

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 trout has met with remarkable success in the State—trout up to 8 and 10 lb. are not uncommonly captured. Every suitable stream, viz., practically all above an altitude of 2,500 feet, is stocked with trout.

During the last few years liberations of trout have increased enormously; the total number released prior to 1914 was 66,500. In 1930 the number was 1,361,322. In 1932, owing to financial stringency, hatching operations were carried out at only one State Hatchery, 225,700 trout being liberated.

RURAL SETTLEMENT.

A BRIEF resume of the spread of settlement in New South Wales and of the development of the problem of rural settlement was published at page 679 of the Year Book for 1928-29.

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 31st March, 1932, the number of agricultural and pastoral holdings of 1 acre or more in extent was 74,106, including 938 unoccupied or not used for agricultural or pastoral purposes at that date, and 729 used only incidentally for such purposes. These holdings embraced a total area of 172,306,791 acres.

The area of land neither alienated nor leased from the Crown 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.

Use of terms "Alienated Land" and "Holding."

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 and certain perpetual irrigation tenures embraced within rural holdings 1 acre or more in extent. These tenures include practically the whole of the land alienated and virtually alienated. 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.

The term "holding" as used in this section and the sections dealing with rural industries signifies, in general and unless the context otherwise requires, an area of land worked as an individual unit. In some cases, two or more such "holdings" are in the same ownership, but usually where contiguous or closely neighbouring "holdings" are within the same ownership and are worked virtually as one they are classified as one holding.

Purposes for which Holdings are Used.

The problem of rural development in New South Wales relates largely to the task of placing additional permanent settlers 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.	1925-26.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
Agriculture only	7,244	6,814	11,435	10,153	10,188	10,806	10,986
Dairying only	3,575	3,157	9,766	12,985	13,294	14,484	15,136
Grazing only	21,874	22,011	25,428	26,044	25,925	24,154	23,244
Agriculture and Dairying	8,377	8,258	5,624	2,942	3,170	3,371	3,406
Agriculture and Grazing	18,733	21,969	18,084	17,353	16,206	15,969	14,825
Dairying and Grazing	1,818	2,099	1,794	1,722	1,607	1,148	1,480
Agriculture, Dairying, and Grazing	3,312	4,362	1,734	1,189	1,034	1,146	1,614
Poultry, Pig, or Bee Farming	529	879	1,526	1,484	1,539	1,630	1,748
Total Holdings of 1 acre and upwards used mainly for Agricultural and Pastoral purposes	65,462	69,549	75,391	73,872	72,963	72,708	72,439

NOTE.—The basis of classification was amended in 1928-29 and subsequent years.

In addition to the above, 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. 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 decrease in the total number of holdings in the last two years was due largely to the abandonment of small unprofitable orchards. The decrease in the number of holdings used for agriculture and grazing combined in 1931-32 was due mainly to diminution in the number of farms on which wheat was grown.

In 1928-29 the basis of classification was amended so that holdings, on which agricultural operations were entirely or almost entirely confined to the raising of produce to feed sheep, cattle or pigs on the holding, were classified under the headings "grazing only" or "dairying only", in order that the grouping might reflect more accurately the commercial purpose of the landholder. Since 1921-22 the purpose "dairying" alone or with agriculture or grazing or both has been attributed to all holdings which are registered dairies. The increase in the number of holdings used for dairying reflects the discouragement of agricultural pursuits attendant upon extremely low prices for agricultural products and the relatively better returns accruing to the dairying industry. The growth in the number of holdings utilised for poultry, pig, and bee farming is attributed to the fact that persons whose ordinary means of livelihood failed during the depression entered into small farming. Many holdings besides those classified as devoted mainly to poultry, pig, and bee farming are used for these activities as a subsidiary pursuit. In 1930-31 there were 2,106 holdings 1 acre or more in extent which carried 150 or more poultry for commercial purposes, and this figure was increased to 2,323 in 1931-32.

The areas of land utilised for the principal forms of rural industry during the year 1930-31, the latest year of collection, were as shown below:—

Divisions.	Agriculture.	Dairying.	Grazing.	Other Purposes.	Total.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
Coastal	286,494	4,783,201	7,407,892	308,729	12,786,316
Tablelands	620,284	354,150	18,788,406	171,282	19,934,122
Western Slopes	4,599,421	261,069	19,618,956	95,787	24,575,233
Plains	4,115,622	76,654	32,620,800	125,602	36,938,678
Western Division	57,828	7,634	77,462,510	10,008	77,537,980
Total, 1930-31	9,679,649	5,482,708	155,898,564	711,408	171,772,329
„ 1929-30	8,958,264	4,808,352	157,832,437	936,629	172,535,682

Meteorological circumstances play a considerable part in determining the uses to which land is put in the various districts, whilst apart from natural limitations due to the quality of the soil and configuration of the land, proximity to rail, seaport, or factory qualify the manner in which land may be utilised. The distribution of rainfall in relation to the geographical distribution of rural industries in New South Wales was shown in a map facing page 728 of the Year Book for 1924.

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.

A table showing the number and size of holdings classified according to the total area of alienated and Crown lands combined as at 30th June, 1927, was published on page 683 of the Year Book for 1928-29. These tabulations are available in greater detail in the Statistical Register of New South Wales.

The following tabulation shows particulars of alienated holdings in New South Wales classified in area series as at 30th June, 1930:—

Area of Alienated Land in Holding.	Number of Alienated Holdings.	Aggregate Area of Alienated Land.	Unimproved Capital Value of Alienated Land.	Improved Capital Value of Alienated Land.
acres.		acres.	£	£
1— 30... ..	8,720	117,889	2,663,890	7,883,000
31— 320... ..	27,214	3,949,300	17,991,990	51,933,850
321— 640... ..	11,309	5,424,505	12,171,480	36,080,920
641— 1,280... ..	10,728	9,966,089	17,494,840	53,499,740
1,281— 2,000... ..	4,950	7,920,484	12,199,350	36,860,880
2,001— 3,000... ..	3,076	7,551,238	10,741,030	32,361,050
3,001— 4,000... ..	1,388	4,809,014	6,724,710	19,556,940
4,001— 5,000... ..	827	3,703,352	5,036,830	14,463,000
5,001— 7,500... ..	1,090	6,537,673	9,058,630	25,069,930
7,501— 10,000... ..	426	3,686,300	5,025,120	13,884,190
10,001— 15,000... ..	391	4,733,911	6,828,120	17,838,340
15,001— 20,000... ..	184	3,152,876	4,253,000	11,141,710
20,001— 30,000... ..	152	3,652,936	4,821,990	12,545,250
30,001— 40,000... ..	56	1,929,960	2,299,140	5,425,490
40,001— 50,000... ..	27	1,188,455	1,520,170	3,399,940
50,001— 100,000... ..	40	2,784,987	2,929,130	6,633,350
100,001 and over... ..	17	2,122,403	2,444,460	5,131,280
Total	70,595	73,231,375	124,203,880	353,708,860

(a) See explanation on page 641.

Similar data for each of the statistical divisions of New South Wales were published on pages 726 and 727 of the Statistical Register of New South Wales for 1929-30.

Number of Holdings and Average Area.

Statistics as to the number and average area of alienated holdings and of the number of large holdings were published on pages 684 and 685 of the Year Book for 1928-29.

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 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, 95.6 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, 1931, the latest year in which information was compiled under these headings. 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 prior to that year.

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	8,675,885	1,154,206	9,830,091	2,956,225	12,786,316
Tableland... ..	13,793,728	606,067	14,399,795	5,534,327	19,934,122
Western Slopes	20,381,334	612,376	20,993,710	3,581,523	24,575,233
Central Plains and Riverina	26,038,268	819,329	26,857,597	10,081,081	36,938,678
Western	1,517,281	27,876	1,545,157	75,992,823	77,537,980
New South Wales	70,406,496	3,219,854	73,626,350	98,145,979	171,772,329

* See explanation, page 641.

Of the total area occupied, 43 per cent. was classed as freehold, although a considerable proportion of the total was in course of purchase from the Crown, and 57 per cent. was leased from the Crown. Over 77 per cent. of the Crown lands so leased were in the Western Division, and utilised almost exclusively for depasturing stock.

Slightly more than one-third of the privately rented alienated land is situated in the Coastal Division, where it amounts to over 9 per cent. of the total area occupied in holdings. These farms are used chiefly for dairying.

The proportions of the total area of the respective divisions occupied in holdings of various classes in 1930-31 are shown in the following table:—

Division.	Area of Alienated* Holdings.			Crown Lands occupied as separate holdings or attached to alienated holdings.	Proportion of Total Area under Occupation.
	Occupied by Owner.	Private Rented.	Total.		
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Coastal	38.93	5.18	44.11	13.26	57.37
Tableland... ..	53.37	2.34	55.71	21.41	77.12
Western Slopes	72.37	2.17	74.54	12.71	87.25
Central Plains and Riverina	62.88	1.98	64.86	24.34	89.20
Western	1.89	0.03	1.92	94.61	96.53
New South Wales	35.55	1.62	37.17	49.56	86.73

* See explanation, page 641.

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, 74 per cent. of the area of the division, has taken place in the Western Slopes, and the lowest, 1.9 per cent., in the Western Division. But taking the total area of holdings, the Western Division shows the largest proportion of its area—97 per cent.—under occupation. The proportions are high also in the Central Plains and Riverina, 89.2 per cent., and in the Western Slopes, 87.2 per cent.

If reference be made to the table on page 683 of the Year Book for 1928-29 it will be seen that the proportion of lands used for agricultural and pastoral purposes in each division decreases as the intensity of settlement increases. 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 40 per cent. of the total area being occupied by rural holdings, as compared with 70 per cent. in the North Coast Division and 64 per cent. in the Hunter and Manning.

VALUE OF ALIENATED RURAL LANDS.

Information as to the improved and unimproved capital values of lands was first collected for statistical purposes in 1920-21. The particulars 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.

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 are not available from owners, collectors are instructed to obtain them from the records of Shire Councils, so that the unimproved values quoted may be taken as representing local government assessments, 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. In the table which follows, then, the unimproved capital value represents in most cases the shire valuation, but the improved values are obtained from the owner's assessment of the value of the land and its improvements. It is not possible to deduce the value of the improvements from the figures.

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, 1931:—

Divis. n.	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.
	000.	000.		000.		000.
<i>Coastal—</i>						
North Coast ...	3,462	12,583	3·6	33,811	9·8	1,334
Hunter and Manning ...	4,207	9,469	2·3	28,234	6·7	1,090
Metropolitan ...	294	3,142	10·7	6,946	23·6	1
South Coast ...	1,867	4,564	2·4	12,453	6·7	531
Total ...	9,830	29,753	3·0	81,444	8·3	2,956
<i>Tablelands—</i>						
Northern ...	4,096	5,471	1·3	14,285	3·0	2,527
Central ...	6,119	9,316	1·5	29,898	4·9	1,564
Southern ...	4,185	5,188	1·2	16,011	3·8	1,443
Total ...	14,400	19,975	1·3	60,194	4·2	5,534
<i>Western Slopes—</i>						
North ...	6,166	10,561	1·7	24,607	4·0	2,015
Central ...	6,168	9,751	1·6	31,625	5·1	668
South ...	8,660	15,993	1·8	52,805	6·1	899
Total ...	20,994	36,305	1·7	109,037	5·2	3,582
<i>Plains—</i>						
North-central ...	4,925	6,238	1·3	13,896	2·8	2,474
Central ...	8,312	8,660	1·0	20,247	2·4	5,246
Riverina ...	13,620	21,127	1·6	56,234	4·1	2,361
Total ...	23,857	36,025	1·3	90,377	3·4	10,081
<i>Western Division ...</i>	1,545	878	0·6	2,566	1·7	75,993
<i>Whole State ...</i>	73,626	122,941	1·7	343,618	4·7	98,146

* See explanation, page 641.

Particulars of the rainfall, productivity, and population of each of these divisions are shown on page 647. 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.

The unimproved value of the alienated portions of rural holdings in series as at 30th June, 1930 (the latest date of compilation) is shown in the following table:—

Unimproved Value of Individual Alienated Holdings.	Number of Alienated Holdings.	Aggregate Area of Alienated Holdings.	Unimproved Value of Alienated Holdings.	Average Unimproved Value per Acre.
£		acres.	£	£ s.
Under 500 ...	25,716	3,913,997	5,554,470	1 8
500— 999 ...	13,854	6,068,268	9,877,610	1 13
1,000— 1,999 ...	15,685	11,840,078	21,732,080	1 17
2,000— 2,999 ...	6,463	8,169,585	15,361,720	1 18
3,000— 4,999 ...	4,577	9,518,284	17,041,490	1 16
5,000— 9,999 ...	2,703	10,698,331	18,051,280	1 14
10,000—14,999 ...	672	4,809,826	8,057,540	1 14
15,000—19,999 ...	346	3,514,826	5,880,050	1 13
20,000 and over ...	579	14,698,180	22,647,640	1 11
Total ...	70,595	73,231,375	124,203,880	1 14

A table containing corresponding particulars for each of the sixteen statistical divisions of the State was published on page 728 of the "Statistical Register of New South Wales" for 1929-30. Owing to the wide differences between the productive uses of lands in the various divisions it is necessary to refer to this more detailed table.

CHARACTER OF SETTLEMENT.

A brief description of the character of rural settlement in New South Wales was published on page 689 of the Year Book for 1928-29 and a map showing the distribution of the rainfall, population and rural industries of the State was published opposite page 728 of the Year Book for 1924.

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.	Popu-lation at Census, 1933. †	Total Area.	Production (1931-32).				
				Wool.	Wheat.	Butter.	Minerals.	Manu- factures.*
	inches.	000.	acres.	lb. 000.	bushe- ls. 000.	lb. 000.	£ 000.	£ 000.
<i>Coastal—</i>								
North Coast ...	35-76	146	6,965	134	...	63,567	6	964
Hunter and Manning ...	22-60	303	8,395	6,181	19	29,253	2,894	3,743
Metropolitan ...	29-50	1,363	958	155	...	449	} 728	} 37,722
South Coast ...	27-61	106	5,968	3,327	1	11,311			1,030
Total ...	...	1,918	22,286	9,797	20	104,580	3,628	43,459
<i>Tablelands—</i>								
Northern ...	30-38	54	8,069	29,236	140	2,492	76	162
Central ...	23-55	141	10,716	45,271	2,234	3,035	820	835
Southern ...	19-65	50	7,062	31,004	38	564	2	302
Total ...	...	245	25,847	105,511	2,412	6,091	898	1,299
<i>Western Slopes—</i>								
North ...	24-33	63	9,219	53,398	5,695	3,024	51	233
Central ...	17-28	64	7,723	41,128	11,227	1,450	7	267
South ...	16-40	116	11,222	59,271	13,645	6,882	13	477
Total ...	...	243	28,164	153,797	30,567	11,356	71	917
<i>Central Plains—</i>								
Northern ...	18-28	30	9,580	44,450	2,012	165	2	80
Central ...	15-19	28	14,811	54,939	4,048	207	1	63
Riverina ...	12-22	84	17,021	62,225	15,812	1,399	12	257
Total ...	...	142	41,412	161,614	21,872	1,771	15	400
<i>Western Division ...</i>	8-19	52	80,319	70,929	95	49	1,094	578
Whole State ...	...	2,600	198,028†	501,648	54,966	123,847	5,706	46,653

* Value added in process of manufacture. † Excluding area of harbours not included in local government areas. ‡ Preliminary. ** Calendar year, 1931.

Manufactories are not extensive outside the metropolitan and Newcastle districts, except for dairy factories in the coastal districts. Smelting and metal works of considerable importance are established on the coal-fields of the South Coast, at Newcastle and on the silver-lead fields at Broken Hill in the Western Division. A number of cement-works are also operating in the Central Tableland Division and woollen mills at several of the more important country towns.

The five principal topographical divisions are strips of territory running from the northern to the southern boundary in a south-westerly direction, embracing, respectively, the coastal belt, tablelands, western slopes, central western plains and Western Division or far western plains. Except for the western plains, each is divided into three portions—northern, central, and southern—which, with the inclusion of a special metropolitan district, makes fourteen subdivisions, 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.

Rainfall exerts a decisive effect on the nature of the pursuits and the extent of settlement in the various rural districts of the State, and largely explains 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.

The nature of the industries and the settlement of each of the principal divisions of the State were discussed in the Official Year Book, 1922, at page 681 *et seq.*

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, 1931 (the latest date for which the information is available):—

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. ^f
			Alienated. [†]			Crown Lands.	Total.	
			Freehold.	Private Rented.	Total.			
acres.	No.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	
North ...	6,965	11,399	2,949	513	3,462	1,334	4,796	503
Hunter-Manning ...	8,395	9,545	3,863	344	4,207	1,090	5,297	421
Metropolitan ...	958	4,299	258	36	294	1	295	127
South ...	5,968	4,699	1,606	261	1,867	531	2,398	307
Total ...	22,286	29,942	8,676	1,154	9,830	2,956	12,786	1,358

† See explanation, page 641.

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, 421 acres; Hunter and Manning, 555 acres; and South Coast, 510 acres. The proportions of the total area of each division occupied in holdings is 69 per cent. in the North Coast Division, 63 per cent. in that of Hunter and Manning, but only 40 per cent. on the South Coast. Of the total land in occupation about 68 per cent. is used by its owners, 23 per cent. is leased from the Crown, and 9 per cent. is rented privately.

Included in the coastal districts are 1,136 holdings, on which 1,494 share-farmers occupied 20,864 acres of cultivation and 367,784 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 1931-32.

The following analysis shows the main purposes for which the holdings in the coastal districts were used in 1931-32:—

Principal Purpose for which Holdings were Used.*	Number of Holdings in Division.				
	North Coast.	Hunter and Manning.	Cumberland.	South Coast.	Total.
Agriculture only ...	972	1,599	1,958	378	4,907
Dairying only* ...	7,048	4,154	640	1,999	13,841
Grazing only* ...	1,441	2,031	228	1,288	4,988
Agriculture and dairying* ...	1,432	682	56	281	2,451
Agriculture and grazing* ...	160	167	21	121	469
Dairying and grazing* ...	260	257	5	100	622
Agriculture, dairying, and grazing* ...	53	51	3	29	136
Poultry ...	2	162	1,205	51	1,420
Poultry, Bees, Pigs, etc. ...	17	41	70	37	165
Unoccupied, or used mainly for other purposes ...	215	159	77	281	732
Total ...	11,600	9,303	4,263	4,565	29,731

* See comments on page 642.

The coastal district contains 91 per cent. of the holdings used for dairying in New South Wales, and the North Coast district contains 51 per cent. of the number in the coastal division. Dairying separately or in conjunction with other farming pursuits is the predominant industry, but a considerable proportion of the farms is used for cattle-raising. A pronounced reduction has occurred in the number of holdings devoted to grazing, accompanied by an increase in the number of holdings applied to dairying only. This change is doubtless consequent upon the continued low prices realised for beef which tended to divert activity into dairying where returns were relatively higher.

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 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, 1931 (the latest year for which the information is available):—

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 Cultivation.*
			Alienated.*			Crown Lands.	Total.	
			Freehold.	Private Rented.	Total.			
	acres. 000	No.	acres. 000	acres. 000	acres. 000	acres. 000	acres. 000	acres. 000
Northern ...	8,069	3,783	3,933	163	4,096	2,527	6,623	373
Central ...	10,716	7,726	5,870	249	6,119	1,564	7,683	1,554
Southern ...	7,062	3,133	3,991	194	4,185	1,443	5,628	350
Total ...	25,847	14,647	13,794	606	14,400	5,534	19,934	2,277

* See explanation, page 641.

While the proportion of land occupied in each division varies from 82 per cent. in the northern and 80 per cent. in the southern, to 72 per cent. in the central tablelands, rural settlement is densest in the central districts, which were the first to be occupied. More than one-half of the total area of the Tableland Division is alienated, and more than one-quarter of the area occupied is owned by the Crown. The system of private renting is much less extensive than in the coastal districts, only 4.2 per cent. of the area alienated, or 3.0 per cent. of the total area occupied, being held in this way. In addition, there were 336 share-farmers on 246 holdings, comprising 54,191 acres of cultivation and 6,918 acres of dairy farms. As in the Coastal Division the proportion of alienated land suitable for cultivation is very small, only 16 per cent. of such land being cultivated in 1930-31.

The main purposes for which holdings were used in each division of the tablelands during 1931-32 are shown in the following table:—

*Principal Purpose for which Holdings were used.	Number of Holdings.			
	Northern Tableland.	Central Tableland.	Southern Tableland.	Total.
Agriculture only	206	1,387	61	1,654
Dairying only*	243	299	86	628
Grazing only*	2,250	3,409	2,624	8,283
Agriculture and Dairying*	94	272	8	374
Agriculture and Grazing*	603	1,500	201	2,304
Dairying and Grazing*	185	169	54	438
Agriculture, Dairying, and Grazing*	110	243	24	377
Poultry, Bees, Pigs, etc.	8	52	10	70
Unoccupied or used for other purposes	66	245	31	342
Total	3,765	7,576	3,129	14,470

* See comments on page 642.

Grazing pursuits predominate throughout, but a considerable proportion of the holdings are used for agricultural purposes.

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 with the Riverina 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, 1931 (the latest year for which the information is available) 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 ...	9,219	4,371	6,027	139	6,166	2,015	8,181	1,475
Central-Western...	7,723	4,317	5,976	192	6,168	668	6,836	3,826
South-Western ...	11,222	8,082	8,378	282	8,660	898	9,558	4,818
Total ...	28,164	16,770	20,381	613	20,994	3,581	24,575	10,119

* See explanation, page 641.

In these divisions 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 in the whole division is 14.6 per cent. of the total. The area of land rented from private owners represents only 2.9 per cent. of the total area alienated and 2.5 per cent. of the area occupied. The area of alienated land suitable for cultivation is considerable, constituting over 43 per cent. of the total area of such land in the State. Nearly 50 per cent. of the alienated lands of the division are suitable for cultivation, and the proportion is as great as 63 per cent. in the Central-Western Slope. Only 33 per cent. of the suitable land in alienated holdings in the Slopes Division was under crop in 1930-31.

The following statement shows the principal purposes for which rural holdings were used in the Western Slopes Division in 1931-32:—

*Principal Purpose for which Holdings were used.	Number of Holdings in Division.			
	North-Western Slope.	Central-Western Slope.	South-Western Slope.	Total.
Agriculture only	338	359	1,156	1,853
Dairying only*	127	46	357	530
Grazing only*... ..	1,795	851	2,092	4,738
Agriculture and Dairying*	212	54	176	442
Agriculture and Grazing*	1,568	2,654	3,321	7,543
Dairying and Grazing*	62	35	261	358
Agriculture, Dairying, and Grazing*	127	182	462	771
Poultry, Bees, Pigs, etc.	41	13	14	68
Unoccupied or used for Other Purposes	86	113	119	318
Total	4,356	4,307	7,958	16,621

* See comments on page 642.

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.

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, 1931, the latest year for which the information is available:—

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. 000	No.	acres. 000	acres. 000	acres. 000	acres. 000	acres. 000	acres. 000
North	9,580	1,888	4,856	69	4,925	2,474	7,399	976
Central... ..	14,811	2,462	7,921	390	8,311	5,246	13,557	2,387
Riverina	17,021	7,248	13,261	360	13,621	2,361	15,982	6,244
Total	41,412	11,598	26,038	819	26,857	10,081	36,938	9,607

* See explanation, page 641.

The existence of a closely-settled but comparatively small area of irrigated lands in the Riverina partly accounts for the density of settlement in that division. There were 1,408 holdings in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area embracing 261,334 acres inclusive of certain attached lands outside the Irrigation Area. Seventy-two per cent. of the area occupied in the Central Plains Division has been alienated, but while the proportion alienated is 67 per cent. of the total area in the northern districts, it is 85 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 3 per cent. of the total area alienated. The area of Crown lands occupied is considerable in all divisions, and in the central districts it exceeded the area of occupied alienated lands until 1926-27.

Share-farming is not extensive in the north, but in the Riverina 644 holdings are occupied by 957 share-farmers, who had 308,970 acres in cultivation in 1930-31. Only 20 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 29 and 46 per cent. respectively.

The following table shows the main purposes for which the holdings in the Central Plains Division were used in 1931-32:—

Principal Purpose for which Holdings were used.*	Number of Holdings in Plains of Central Division.			
	North.	Central.	Riverina.	Total.
Agriculture only	38	200	2,021	2,259
Dairying only*	14	12	93	119
Grazing only*	1,174	1,582	1,178	3,934
Agriculture and Dairying*	1	1	136	138
Agriculture and Grazing*	600	610	3,264	4,474
Dairying and Grazing*	5	6	43	54
Agriculture, Dairying, and Grazing*	7	14	309	330
Poultry, Bees, Pigs, etc.	1	1	10	12
Unoccupied or used for other purposes	24	58	155	237
Total	1,864	2,484	7,209	11,557

* See comments on page 642.

While grazing, with 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.

Western Division.

The plains of the Western Division will probably never be developed into a productive region maintaining a population commensurate with their 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 merino sheep. 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 settlement in the more attractive easterly regions has made very great advance. 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 about 27,000 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 1,500, four exceeding 500, and about twenty smaller townships.

The following table shows the number and extent of holdings (as distinct from landholders) in the Western Division as at 30th June, 1927, the last year for which this information is available:—

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	392	103,851	142	85,735
3,001- 10,000	79	510,637	65	465,547
10,001- 20,000	164	2,380,575	115	1,523,670
20,001- 50,000	242	7,495,068	169	5,329,802
50,001-100,000	77	5,096,619	92	6,323,365
Over 100,000	92	18,800,169	103	29,981,139
Total	1,046	34,386,919	686	43,709,258

Although the area west of the Darling constitutes more than one-half of the total area occupied, the number of holdings in all but the two largest groups was less than in the eastern sector. Over 62 per cent. of the total area was occupied by 195 holdings averaging 250,000 acres each.

The total area of alienated land in the rural holdings in the Western Division as at 30th June, 1931, was only 1,545,157 acres, and of this 27,876 acres were privately rented. The total area of Crown lands in rural holdings was 75,992,823 acres. Of the total area of land occupied only 24,176 acres were under crop in 1930-31, although 134,334 acres of the alienated land were considered by the occupiers to be suitable for cultivation. The unimproved value of the alienated land was returned as £877,620, and the improved value as £2,566,480.

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
1905-06	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
1920-21	7,120,380	910,260	3,141,030	11,171,670
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
1925-26	9,588,320	1,162,850	4,329,910	15,081,080
1926-27	9,837,190	1,232,290	4,928,300	15,997,780
1927-28	10,849,510	1,229,430	4,975,180	17,054,120
1928-29	10,883,550	1,214,670	5,067,940	17,166,160
1929-30	10,955,920	1,193,000	4,812,060	16,960,980
1930-31	10,526,390	1,171,000	4,676,920	16,374,310
1931-32	9,526,396	1,149,387	4,125,417	14,801,200

* Includes in many cases farming implements used on pastoral holdings.

In 1931-32 the value of machinery used in holdings devoted to poultry, pigs, and bees was collected for the first time; it amounted to £148,274.

The foregoing figures are exclusive of the value of travelling machinery, e.g., harvesters, chaffcutters, etc., for which the records show a value of £29,704 in 1930-31, and £29,327 in 1931-32. The figures indicate substantial progress in the mechanisation of the rural industries, and notably, of agricultural operations. The decline in total value in evidence since 1929-30 is apparently due to depreciation and non-replacement of existing machinery during the period of depression which affected agriculture with particular severity.

The following table indicates the approximate value of rural holdings, and of machinery and live stock thereon, in each of the past ten years:—

At 30th June.	Value of Alienated Land and Improvements thereto.	Value of Farm Machinery and Implements.	Value of Livestock on Farms.*	Total.	Average Value of Alienated land per acre (as returned).	
					Unimproved.	Improved.
	£000.	£000.	£000.	£000.	£ s.	£ s.
1921	272,000	11,200	51,300	334,500	1 14	4 9
1922	271,900	12,300	51,400	335,600	1 13	4 8
1923	278,100	13,500	63,000	354,600	1 13	4 8
1924	282,700	13,700	74,500	370,900	1 13	4 8
1925	291,300	14,700	69,000	375,000	1 13	4 9
1926	306,900	15,100	74,800	396,800	1 13	4 12
1927	319,500	16,000	56,100	391,600	1 14	4 13
1928	341,500	17,000	71,000	429,500	1 14	4 16
1929	353,100	17,200	62,000	432,300	1 14	4 18
1930	353,700	17,000	44,800	415,500	1 14	4 17
1931	343,600	16,400	45,500	405,500	1 13	4 13
1932†	332,200	14,800	45,600	392,600	1 13	4 12

* Number as at 30th June at prevailing market values.

† 31st March.

In addition the unimproved value of Crown lands leased to landholders was estimated in 1930 to be in the vicinity of £60,000,000.

AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL LABOUR.

Particulars of persons above the age of 14 years permanently engaged in farm work on rural holdings one acre or more in extent 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 have been obtained since 1922-23 concerning wages paid to temporary hands employed by landholders during harvesting and shearing operations and for other casual work.

Particulars in respect of persons engaged in farm work on rural holdings during the year ended 31st March, 1932, are shown below:—

Capacity.	Males.	Females.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.
Owners, Lessees, and Share-farmers	67,922	918	68,840
Permanent employees receiving wages... ..	26,874	463	27,337
Relatives not receiving wages	22,133	7,141	29,274
Total (permanently engaged)	116,929	8,522	125,451
Wages paid (including value of board and lodging):—	£	£	£
Permanent employees	4,145,077	40,096	4,185,173
Casual employees	2,101,574	9,964	2,111,538

Of the relatives not receiving wages in 1931-32, 10,649 males and 6,514 females above the age of 14 years were employed in the coastal districts, where dairying is the principal farming activity.

The total amount of wages paid to permanent employees during the year 1931-32 was £3,064,587, in addition to board and lodging, etc., valued at £1,120,586, or a total of £4,185,173, the average remuneration, on the basis of these figures, being £154 per annum to males and £87 per annum to females. An examination of the individual returns, however, shows that the amount stated as the value of the board and lodging is not carefully estimated. The wages paid to casual employees amounted to £1,850,019 in addition to "keep," valued at £261,519.

The following table provides a comparison of the number of males permanently occupied on rural holdings, and the amount of wages paid by landholders to permanent and casual employees:—

Year ended 30th June.	Owners and Lessees.	Share farmers.	Unpaid relatives assisting owners or share farmers (males).	Permanent Male Employees working for Wages or Salary on Rural Holdings.		Salaries and Wages paid to Employees during year. (b).		
				Number.	Average amount paid per employee. (a).	Permanent. (a).	Casual. (a).	Total. (a).
1921 ... ..	...	2,761	16,319	37,472	(c)	6,743	(c)	(c)
1922 ... ..	...	3,449	16,930	37,152	172	6,581	(c)	(c)
1923	63,690	3,970	18,277	34,962	175	6,297	2,246	8,543
1924	64,582	3,636	17,979	34,155	178	6,179	2,472	8,651
1925	64,991	3,828	17,673	36,733	177	6,630	2,999	9,629
1926	64,576	3,667	16,946	35,805	184	6,692	3,216	9,908
1927	63,617	4,043	17,111	35,149	192	6,867	3,440	10,307
1928	63,228	4,457	17,513	35,482	190	6,820	3,274	10,094
1929	61,732	4,402	17,495	34,234	189	6,550	3,050	9,600
1930	60,628	4,672	19,736	31,387	182	5,794	2,800	8,594
1931	61,264	5,033	20,743	27,949	164	4,596	2,194	6,790
1932*	62,319	5,603	22,133	26,874	154	4,185	2,112	6,297

(a) Including value of keep. (b) Including a small amount paid to females. (c) Not available.

* Year ended 31st March.

It would appear that in some cases the wages paid to contractors engaged in work on rural holdings are included in the amounts paid to casual workers.

A feature of the table is the marked tendency to a decline in permanent and casual rural employment. The partial replacement of paid employees by unpaid relatives assisting owners and by share-farmers is indicated by the growth in numbers of these classes, and to some extent may have resulted from the absence of other suitable vocations into which the sons of farmers might have been absorbed. Then, again, the increased use of machinery in rural industries has, doubtless, contributed to a reduction in the total number of persons engaged in rural pursuits though it is possible that there has been an increase in contract labour that is not reflected in the records.

There has been an extension of the practice of share-farming over a number of years, and the growth in the number of share-farmers has been very marked since 1930. The inability of farmers consequent upon diminished incomes to avail themselves of paid services, has apparently resulted in the transference of men from the employee to the share-farmer group.

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 having proved 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 1839 alienation has been almost exclusively by this method of conditional purchase which is a method of selling Crown lands on terms. Beyond this 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 impeding 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. Particulars of the number and amount of advances are shown on page 661.

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. A summary of the operations under the various schemes is shown on pages 693 to 697 of this chapter.

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). The first farms were made available in 1912, and at 30th June, 1932, the number held was 1890. Here settlers have been assisted by advances and by the provision of factories to handle their products.

The Government also undertakes to finance the construction of shallow bores, sunk either by its own or privately-owned plants, allowing the settlers extended terms of repayment of from five to ten years. Further, works for water supply for stock and domestic purposes and in certain cases for irrigation are provided, and bore trusts and water trusts are constituted, under which the cost of the works is repaid over a period of years (in most cases twenty-eight years) by the landholders benefiting. Further particulars of the finance provided in connection with irrigation projects are shown on pages 567 and 698 of this Year Book.

In the Commonwealth Bank of Australia a rural credit 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 departments are shown in the chapter "Private Finance" of this Year Book.

The Governments of the State and of the Commonwealth have provided 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."

Advances by Rural Industries Board.

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 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 to necessitous farmers.

In 1923 the Board was dissolved and its functions were continued by the Rural Industries Branch of the Department of Agriculture.

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 debit balances amounting to about £177,000 were taken over by the Board at the aforementioned date. As from 30th March, 1931, a charge of £2 15s. per ton (reduced to £1 10s. per ton as from 1st January, 1932) was levied on flour for local consumption and the proceeds (less administrative expenses incidental to collection) were paid to the credit of the funds operated by the Branch for advances to settlers. To 30th June, 1932, the sum of £567,244 had been received from the flour tax, and in 1932-33 part of the proceeds were made available as

grants to wheat-growers in terms of the Wheat-growers' Relief Act. A summary of the operations of the Rural Industries Branch is set out in the following table:—

Year ending 30th June.	Advances.	Interest charged on Ad- vances.	Repayments.		Bad Debts written off.	Balances due (ap- prox.).	No. of Debtors.
			Principal.	Interest.			
1 Dec., 1910, to 30 June, 1922	£ 2,152,390*	£ 105,666	£ 1,817,792	£ 92,848	£ †	£ 347,416	†
1923	159,443	24,639	80,517	12,239	4,812	433,930	†
1924	237,414	32,015	118,673	16,859	1,634	566,193	†
1925	121,120	28,444	192,134	38,166	4,392	481,065	3,478
1926	151,788	22,222	242,020	18,565	14,533	379,957	3,465
1927	85,959	14,662	165,869	17,975	2,285	294,449	2,579
1928	428,350	9,251	41,027	7,117	10,758	673,148	4,300
1929	396,493	29,595	401,416	31,157	850	665,813	3,687
1930	600,594	36,421	213,102	21,265	29,018	1,039,448	5,500
1931	664,202	57,783	395,531	51,419	4,992	1,309,486	5,200
1932	242,095	66,934	352,857	68,493	560	1,196,602	5,000
Total...	5,239,828	427,632	4,020,938	376,106	73,834	...	...

* Including balances taken over from other Departments (£177,000) and Cash Sales from stocks to persons other than necessitous farmers (£277,000).
† Not available.

Originally operations were restricted to assisting wheat-growers, but, in 1920, assistance was afforded also to dairy-farmers and small graziers. More recently the scope of operations has been extended to include farmers of considerable variety whose circumstances prevented them from obtaining assistance through usual commercial channels; thus on a relatively small scale assistance has been granted to orchardists, tobacco growers, rice growers, farmers suffering loss from floods, fire and grasshopper pests, pig farmers who sustained the loss of their herds as the result of an outbreak of swine fever, etc.

Most of the advances, however, are made to wheat-farmers, and the assistance granted usually takes the form of orders issued upon suppliers of the commodities required, *i.e.*, fodder, seed wheat, fertiliser, tractor fuel, household supplies, and so on. Payment is made direct to suppliers, who render their accounts to the Branch accompanied by the farmer's acknowledgment of receipt of the goods. Cash advances are made only in exceptional circumstances.

Until recent years advances were made in cash at the rate of 5s. per acre on newly fallowed land. The object of this form of advance was to encourage better farming methods, and consequently operations were not confined to necessitous farmers only. The advantages of fallowing are now fully recognised throughout the State, and the desired results having been achieved, fallowing assistance is granted only to necessitous farmers on the lines of general assistance.

Interest on advances was formerly at the rate of 6 per cent., with an additional 1 per cent. on overdue accounts until 30th June, 1925. It was reduced to 5½ per cent. from 1st February, 1932, and to 4 per cent. as from 1st January, 1933.

Security taken for the advances consists mainly of crop liens and promissory notes, as in the majority of cases farmers receiving assistance lack the means of furnishing more tangible security which would enable them to obtain accommodation from ordinary financial institutions. Having regard to the somewhat hazardous nature of security taken, the number of bad debts incurred has been relatively small.

Government Guarantee Board.

Under the Advances to Settlers (Government Guarantee) Act, passed towards the end of December, 1929, a Government Guarantee Board was constituted with power to guarantee to the banks repayment of advances made to settlers. The Board consists of the Minister for Agriculture (as Chairman), the Colonial Treasurer, and the Officer-in-Charge of the Rural Industries Branch. The amount which may be guaranteed in respect of any one settler must not exceed £3,000, and in the case of a co-operative society registered under the provisions of the Co-operation Act it must not exceed £25,000. The total amount which may be guaranteed by the Board in any one year may not exceed £2,500,000. New guarantees were given by the Board only during the period of two years commencing on 23rd December, 1929, but guarantees given during that period may be continued for such time as may be approved by the Board.

The total amount of effective guarantees made by the Board up to 30th June, 1932, was £380,513, inclusive of £15,495, which had been discharged up to that date.

Advances by the Rural Bank.

The Rural Bank was established in 1921 as a department of the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales by the Government Savings Bank (Rural Bank) Act, 1920, under the control of three Commissioners who were empowered to continue on an extended basis the operations transacted previously by the Advance Department of the bank.

The primary object of the bank was to afford greater financial assistance to primary producers than is usually obtainable from other institutions, and thus to promote rural settlement and development.

Funds were obtained from deposits at current account, fixed deposits at current bank rates of interest and the issue of debentures and inscribed stock.

Loans were made only to persons engaged in primary production or in closely allied pursuits, and were either amortization loans or overdrafts on current accounts. The basis of lending generally adopted was two-thirds of the value of freehold land or certificated tenures under the Crown Lands Acts, or three-fourths of the value of improvements on uncertificated Crown tenures. Security was also taken over stock, plant, crops, wool, etc. The advances were made to repay existing encumbrances, to purchase land, to effect improvements or to utilise resources. By this means material assistance was afforded to both prospective and established settlers.

As from 1st October, 1931, the rate of interest on loans was reduced in terms of the Interest Reduction Act, 1931, and in December, 1932, the Commissioners voluntarily reduced the rate to a maximum of 5 per cent.

By the Commonwealth and State Banks Agreements Ratification Act, 1931, the Savings Bank business of the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales and the current account and fixed deposit business of the Rural Bank Department were transferred to the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. The loan business of the Rural Bank Department was continued as a State activity under the control of the Commissioners.

By Act No. 63 of 1932, the name of the institution was changed to that of the Rural Bank of New South Wales and placed under a new Board of Commissioners.

The following tables show the transactions in long term and overdraft loans by the Advance Department of the Government Savings Bank or the Rural Bank in various years since 1911.

Long Term Loans.

Year ended 30th June.	Advances made.			Balances repayable.		
	Number.	Total Amount.	Average.	Number.	Total Amount.	Average.
		£	£		£	£
1911	838	331,693	395	3,754	1,074,359	286
1913	1,386	771,272	556	5,094	2,051,132	403
1915	860	387,715	451	5,860	2,514,078	429
1921	1,365	813,525	596	7,242	3,423,871	473
1924	1,081	888,479	822	9,766	5,526,744	566
1925	603	587,508	974	9,749	5,721,684	587
1926	265	444,065	1,676	9,252	5,661,368	612
1927	332	598,879	1,804	8,933	5,783,776	648
1928	305	437,195	1,430	8,676	5,759,410	664
1929	685	807,550	1,179	8,609	5,951,428	691
1930	581	703,425	1,211	8,743	6,272,685	718
1931	78	84,675	1,086	8,686	6,166,523	710
1932	27	24,860	920	8,488	5,966,586	703
1933	47	21,565	458	8,306	5,763,295	693

Overdrafts.

Year ended 30th June.	Advances made during year.			Advances current at end of year.	
	Number.		Amount.	Number.	Amount.
	New.	Additional.			
			£		£
1922	1,383	...	980,375	1,364	728,584
1923	1,565	356	794,499	2,743	1,381,113
1924	1,827	521	1,081,335	4,205	2,144,333
1925	1,710	511	1,196,280	5,291	2,830,915
1926	1,746	675	1,342,692	6,277	3,618,597
1927	2,115	994	1,996,925	7,402	4,746,220
1928	3,465	1,273	2,231,790	8,527	6,098,405
1929	2,225	1,462	2,012,505	9,424	6,938,041
1930	1,970	1,895	1,992,785	10,691	7,988,275
1931	811	534	486,505	10,650	8,254,745
1932	144	99	112,332	9,566	7,857,288
1933	196	785	170,908	9,349	7,704,117

Other Advances to Settlers.

Particulars of the number and amount of registered loans made on the security of livestock, wool, and growing crops are published in the Chapter "Private Finance" of this Year Book.

Advances to Farmers from Unemployment Relief Funds.

With the dual purpose of promoting increased employment in rural areas and stimulating rural production, advances of unemployment relief moneys are made by the Unemployment Relief Council through the Rural Industries Branch. From this fund an amount of £61,992 was advanced to settlers for permanent improvements during the year ended 30th June, 1931, and a further amount of £4,833 was made available for a like purpose during 1931-32.

Greater financial assistance was afforded to farmers and graziers from these moneys during the year, 1932-33, the advances to settlers being administered by an "Advances to Settlers Co-ordination Board" and a "Dairy Promotion Board" set up by the Unemployment Relief Council. Advances for permanent improvements and the extermination of rabbits are dealt with by the first-named Board. During the year ended 30th June, 1933, 2,723 applications were approved, involving the advance of an aggregate sum of £544,319, the average amount of loan being approximately £200. Under this scheme advances are limited to £500, and are repayable over periods up to fifteen years. Interest is at the rate of 3 per cent., and during the first two years no repayment of capital is required.

The Dairy Promotion Board was constituted with the object of providing funds for the relief of unemployment by the extension of dairying activities. Originally money was provided in respect of improvements, stock, and plant up to a total cost of £600, of which one-third was required to be provided by the applicant. The Council later amended the personal provision to one-fifth, retaining the limit of advance at £400. In the case of stock, plant, and sundries, the money is repayable over ten years; advances for improvements are to be liquidated in periods up to fifteen years, and in both cases interest is charged at the rate of 3 per cent., no repayments of principal being required during the first two years. During the six months of its operations to 30th June, 1933, the Dairy Promotion Board approved of 215 applications totalling £36,365, an average of £169 per loan.

The aggregate amount of rural developmental loans made from the unemployment relief moneys during the year 1932-33 was £580,684 in respect of 2,938 advances—an average of £197 per loan.

THE FARMERS' RELIEF ACT, 1932.

The Farmers' Relief Act (assented to on 29th November, 1932) came into operation on 17th February, 1933. The objects of the Act are to provide assistance and relief for necessitous farmers, to prevent the possible failure of the farmer, and to afford him, by conservation of his assets, an opportunity of recovering his financial position.

The Act is administered by a Farmers' Relief Board of three members, viz., the Director (a full-time administrator), who is the chairman of the Board, one member representing farmers and one representing creditors of farmers. The term "farmer" includes all classes of primary producers.

Stay Orders.

The principal method of affording relief is by means of a "stay order." A stay order, which is granted at the discretion of the Director, operates to suspend during its currency any action, execution, proceedings whether judicial or extra-judicial on default, or for or upon breach of covenant under mortgage or any agreement for sale or purchase of land, or other process or proceedings against the farmer. The provisions of the Moratorium Act, 1930-31, do not apply in respect of a farmer (or his estate or effects) to whom a stay order has been issued.

Farmers desiring to receive the benefits of the Act must make application within twelve months of the commencement thereof, and a stay order may endure up to twelve months after expiration of the Act—that is, until 31st March, 1936, or such time thereafter as the Governor notifies by proclamation that all stay orders granted under the Act have been removed.

The Board may remove any stay order at any time in its discretion after giving twenty-one days' notice of its intention to do so by notification in the *Gazette* and by advertisement, the farmer's creditors also being advised in writing of the contemplated action. Circumstances occasioning the removal of a stay order may be the recovery of the farmer's financial position; completion by him of an independent arrangement with all his creditors; desertion of his property or failure to work it; or such evidence of inefficiency and lack of industry on the part of a farmer as to render the continuance of a stay order unwarranted.

Existing Liabilities.

During the last few years, the low prices of rural products have greatly diminished farmers' incomes, and created difficulty in meeting financial commitments. To promote the farmer's recovery the Board, as soon as possible after the granting of a stay order, will assess the value of the farmer's lands, plant, etc., ascertain the amount of his debts and liabilities, and notify all creditors of the assessment. The accounts of the farmer are thereupon classified and his excess liabilities, whether secured or unsecured, are suspended. The principal object of this suspension is to ensure that the farmer, during the currency of the stay order, will pay interest only on that portion of his secured liabilities as is represented by tangible assets at present-day valuation.

The liabilities included in the "suspended liabilities account," comprised by (a) secured liabilities not represented by assets and (b) unsecured debts, are then "conditioned." Any surplus from the secured assets, together with those assets that are unencumbered, are apportioned between the suspended secured liabilities and all unsecured debts. The farmer's liabilities then consist of (a) that part of the secured liabilities not placed in the suspense account, the maximum interest payable on which is fixed by the Act at 5 per cent.; (b) conditioned liabilities, and (c) unsecured liabilities upon which, during the continuance of the stay order, no interest accrues.

Supervisors.

When a stay order is granted, a supervisor of the estate of the farmer is appointed by the Director. A supervisor is required to furnish approved securities in the penal sum of £2,000, and is bound to observe secrecy in regard to the farmer's affairs. He is the local agent of the administration and has no power to interfere with the working and management of the farm or the marketing of the produce unless, for some special reason, the Board directs him to do so. A supervisor may be appointed to supervise a number of estates, and, ordinarily, his duties will be confined to the financial and business administration of the farmer's estate. He becomes the agent of the farmer, and all matters of business and finance in relation to the farm must be conducted with him. His remuneration, paid out of the estate of the farmer, is fixed by the Director, and may be any amount from a minimum of £5 5s. to 3 per cent. of the gross proceeds of the marketed produce of the farm, exclusive of sales of livestock made by way of capital realisation. The supervisor will receive all debts and moneys payable to the farmer, proceeds of all produce marketed by him, and make disbursements from the moneys of the farmer in accordance with the Act. Moneys of each farmer must be deposited by the supervisor in a special account in a bank approved by the Director.

Disbursement of Farmer's Funds.

The Act specifies in some detail the method of distributing the farmer's funds. A distinction is made between funds available prior to 1st July, 1933, and those available subsequently. In each season, out of the moneys received by him, the supervisor shall make disbursements:—

Firstly, for the expenses of harvesting, shearing, etc., insurance premiums, and certain advances that may have been made by the Board;

Secondly, to the farmer for his own personal expenses an amount equal to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the gross proceeds of marketed produce up to a limit of £75;

Thirdly, in payment of liens on crops, wool or stock mortgages granted with consent of the Board, and also such moneys as were advanced by lienees to enable the farmer to carry on during the season;

Fourthly, in payment of liabilities incurred by the Board or the supervisor for cash advances, guarantees, or stores issued for the purpose of carrying on the farm, cropping, pest eradication, etc. (This will include money advanced for the maintenance of the farmer and his family);

Fifthly, in payment of instalments on plant under hire purchase agreements and liabilities for one year for rent of the farm if leased, interest on any first mortgage, charge or lien, rates and taxes, and payments due to the Crown upon the farm; and

Sixthly, in payment of one year's interest on subsequent mortgages, liens or charges.

If a surplus remains after making these payments, a sum sufficient to carry the farmer over the next season is to be retained, and the residue, if any, may then be distributed in or towards the satisfaction of the conditioned liabilities, or, in the absence of such, of the unsecured liabilities of the farmer. In the last-mentioned cases payments are to be made *pari passu* to all such creditors.

For the distribution of funds accruing prior to 1st July, 1933, the procedure is substantially the same, but amounts to be paid in discharge of existing liens are limited to moneys advanced by the lienee after 1st October, 1931; the payments fourthly indicated will not have then become liabilities, whilst one year's interest will be calculated on the full amount of secured creditors' claims because the process of conditioning liabilities may not have been completed before 1st July, 1933. In consequence, any surplus moneys will be distributed proportionately to unsecured creditors.

Out of moneys provided by Parliament the Board may make such advances as it thinks fit for the maintenance of the farmer and his family and the carrying on of his business. The Board is also empowered to guarantee to any vendor the payment of the price of any fertilisers, cornsacks, bales, stores, seed-wheat, etc., purchased by the farmer with the consent of the Board. Any advances afforded to the farmer are to be made through the supervisor's bank account, the supervisor making the necessary payment to the suppliers.

In order that farmers afforded relief under the New South Wales Farmers' Relief Act may be protected from bankruptcy proceedings under the Federal Bankruptcy Act, a bill for the amendment of this Act has been introduced in the Commonwealth Parliament.

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 was vested in the Western Land Board, consisting of three commissioners, in 1901.

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 twelve local Land Boards. There are also special Land Board Districts for the Yanco, Mirrool, and Coomealla Irrigation areas. The 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, 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

* Further particulars of Local Land Boards, and of the Land and Valuation Court, are published on page 357 of this Year Book.

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. 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.

The following table provides a brief summary of the manner in which the lands of the State were held as at 30th June, 1932, distinguishing lands in the Western Division from the remainder of the State:—

Manner of Disposal.	Area.		
	Eastern and Central Divisions.	Western Division.	Whole State.
(1) Absolutely alienated, dedicated†, &c. (less area resumed for resettlement)	65,611,031‡	2,031,282‡	44,362,013§ 23,539,862
(2) In course of alienation			
(3) Virtually alienated (i.e., held under perpetual, conditional, and conditional purchase leases)	17,683,381	98,465	17,781,846
(4) Under Crown and settlement leases alienable wholly or in part	8,630,616	...	8,630,616
(5) Under improvement, scrub, inferior lands and prickly-pea leases with limited rights of alienation...	680,898	...	680,898
Total area under foregoing tenures	92,605,920‡	2,129,747‡	94,995,235§
(6) Under other long leases with no right of alienation unless with approval of Minister|| ... ..	1,205,835	76,042,143*	77,247,978*
(7) Under short lease and temporary tenures (annual lease, permissive occupancy and occupation license)	4,183,891	1,028,479	5,212,370
8) Under forestry leases, etc., wholly within dedicated State forests	1,870,821	...	1,870,821
(9) Under mining leases and permits	228,553	4,985	233,538
(10) Reserves, dedicated State forests not under pastoral occupation and other lands neither alienated nor leased	17,622,766§	1,113,354§	18,476,558‡
Total Area... ..	117,717,792	80,318,708	198,036,500

* Leases under the Western Lands Acts were made convertible in part into perpetual leases in 1932.

† Exclusive of 5,064,570 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., 259,562 acres in the whole State, the divisions of which cannot be stated.

§ Inclusive of foregoing lands dedicated for public and religious purposes.

|| Comprising special, section 18, snow lands, residential, irrigation leases at Hay and Curlwaa 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.

The total area of land embraced within freeholds, dedications, purchases by deferred payments, and leases alienable wholly or in part at 30th June, 1932, was 94,995,235 acres and, of this area, over 92,600,000 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 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 92,000,000 acres and probably it is appreciably more. Of the remaining area of about 25,700,000 acres in the Eastern and Central Divisions, part is held under long leases, with no rights of conversion, approximately 6,054,000 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 2,031,000 acres, but about 76,000,000 acres out of a total area of 80,000,000 acres are held under long-lease tenures, practically all of which expire in 1943, but a considerable part of which are available for conversion to leases in perpetuity. The area under short lease and temporary tenures is approximately 1,028,000 acres, and there remain approximately 183,000 acres of unoccupied lands of low grade and about 872,000 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:—

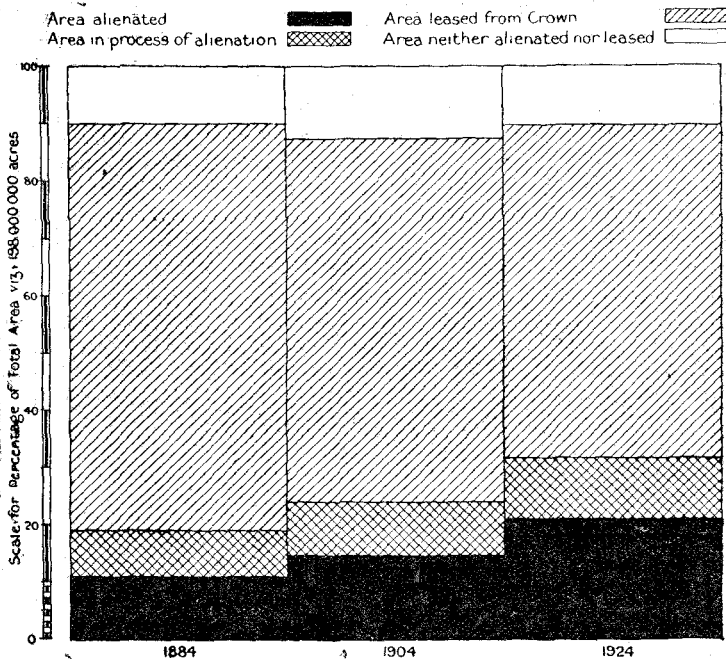
	Acres.
1. By grants, and sales by private tender to close of 1831	3,906,327
2. By grants in virtue of promises of early Governors made prior to 1831, from 1832-40 inclusive	171,071
3. By sales at auction, at 5s., 7s. 6d., and 10s. per acre, from 1832-38 inclusive	1,450,508
4. By sales at auction, at 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.

The following graph shows the progress of alienation at 20-yearly intervals since 1884.

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

A brief account of the spread of settlement appears on page 679 of the Year Book for 1928-29. 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 1861:—

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	1911	605,641	36,234,256	1929	2,524,197	43,491,964
1871*	...	8,630,604	1921	1,857,216	39,679,986	1930	2,579,086	43,750,361
1881*	...	19,615,299	1926	2,502,668	42,323,857	1931	2,579,486	44,074,823
1891*	...	23,682,516	1927	2,506,533	42,779,522	1932	2,580,349	44,362,013
1901*	...	26,407,376	1928	2,508,126	43,184,213			

* 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.

The following table shows the areas of land alienated in New South Wales by each of the principal methods up to 30th June, 1932, and the area required for purposes of irrigation and closer settlement:—

Area.	Acres. At 30th June, 1932.
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	11,592,537
Sold by Improvement and Special Purchases	2,859,204
Sold by Conditional Purchase since 1862 (deeds issued)	24,347,664
Granted under Volunteer Land Regulations of 1867 ..	172,198
Dedicated for public and religious purposes since 1862	259,562
Sold under Closer Settlement Acts (acquired and Crown Lands)	26,660
Suburban Holding Purchase	6,618
Soldiers' Group Purchase	1,519
Returned Soldiers' Special Purchases (deeds issued) ..	835
Week-end Lease Purchases (deeds issued)	463
Town Lands Lease Purchases (deeds issued)	30
Irrigation Farm Purchases	69
Sold by all other forms of sale	528,424
Total	46,942,362*
Less—	Acres.
Freehold land purchased for Closer Settlement	2,193,798
Freehold land purchased for Irrigation Settlements	213,100
Lands alienated in Federal Capital Territory prior to its transfer to the Commonwealth	173,451
	2,580,349
Land absolutely alienated as at 30th June, 1932 ..	44,362,013

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, 1932:—

Area in course of Alienation.	Acres. At 30th June, 1932.
By Conditional Purchase	20,336,336
Under Closer Settlement Acts	2,756,048
As Group Settlement Purchases	422,668
As Suburban Holdings approved for purchase	11,510
As Returned Soldiers' Special Holdings approved for purchase	9,878
As Week-end Leases approved for purchase	139
Irrigation Lands Purchases	3,280
As Town Lands Leases approved for purchase	3
Total area in course of alienation at 30th June, 1932 ..	23,539,862

* 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, which 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 led to a considerable expansion of closer settlement operations.

Area Leased at 30th June, 1932.

The total area of Crown lands leased in New South Wales as at 30th June, 1932, was 111,330,175 acres, inclusive of 32,164,757 acres under the Crown Lands Acts, 77,061,059 acres under the Western Lands Acts, 1,870,821 acres under the Forestry Act, and 233,538 acres under the Mining Act. The area under each tenure is shown below:—

Lease.	Area.*	Lease.	Area.*
Perpetual Leases†—	Acres.	Other Long Term Leases—	Acres.
Homestead Farm	4,210,279	Special Leases	766,623
Homestead Selections and Grants*	1,501,548	18th Section Lease	134,659
Suburban Holdings	49,099	Snow Lands Lease	291,103
Returned Soldiers' Special Holdings	16,311	Residential Lease	8,070
Week-end Leases	198	Church and School Land Lease	11
Town Lands Leases	72	Western Lands Leases§—	
Irrigation Farms (Murrumbidgee)	205,165	New	26,177,906
Town Blocks (Murrumbidgee)	197	Formerly under Crown Lands Act	50,445,829
Total	5,982,869	Irrigation Lands*†	80,065
		Total	77,904,266
Other Alienable Leases—		Short Term Leases—	
Conditional Lease*	11,631,939	Annual Lease*	917,100
Conditional Purchase Lease	167,038	Occupation License*	1,320,211
Crown Lease	5,852,505	Preferential Occupation License	456,670
Total	17,651,482	Permissive Occupancy*	1,482,600
		Irrigation Lands*†	51,609
Leases with limited right of alienation—		Total	4,228,190
Settlement Lease	2,778,111	Leased by Forestry Commission—	
Improvement Lease	412,825	Forest Leases and Occupation Permits	1,870,821
Scrub Lease	144,574	Leased by Mines Department—	
Inferior Lands Lease	52,009	Mining Lease and Permit*	233,538
Prickly-pear Lease	71,490	Grand Total	111,330,175
Total	3,459,009		

* The following tenures in Western Division are included: 1,119 acres of homestead selections and grant, 97,346 acres of conditional lease, 11,654 acres of irrigation lands, 34,950 acres of annual lease, 32,581 acres of occupation license, 437,324 acres of permissive occupancies, and 4,985 acres of mining leases, besides the whole of the areas shown as Western Lands leases.

† Temporary tenure in irrigation areas pending development. ‡ Alienable. § Leases under the Western Lands Acts were made convertible in part into perpetual leases in 1932.

Certain of the perpetual leases, such as homestead farm, homestead selection and grant and irrigation farms, carry statutory rights of purchase, while most Crown leases and practically the whole of the conditional leases and conditional purchase leases are convertible in this way. Settlement leases also may 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. The area of unconvertible conditional leases so created is included in the total shown in the table. The Crown Lands Amendment Act, which came into operation on 31st March, 1930, made Crown leases not within reserves from sale, homestead selections and homestead farms convertible in their entirety without restriction.

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 large areas, and the holder is given the right to apply for the conversion of sufficient to convert 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 substantial areas are transferred to persons eligible to convert. As a consequence, considerable areas of improvement and scrub leases do not revert to the disposal of the State.

Special leases may be purchased by their holders with the approval of the Minister, and so may the residential lease. All the leases under the Western Lands Act are situated in the Western Division, and the tenure may be extended subject to certain conditions of withdrawal for settlement and periodical re-appraisal of rentals. In 1932 these leases were made convertible as to home-maintenance areas into perpetual leases under conditions stated on page 691.

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 forest leases and occupation permits include principally grazing leases which are wholly within State forests, and administered by the Forestry Commission.

RESERVES.

The total area of reserved lands in the State as at 30th June, 1932, was 16,795,961 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:—

	Acres.
Travelling Stock	5,249,818
Water	633,656
Mining	1,138,813
Forest	2,180,729
Temporary Commons	357,494
Railway	41,725
Recreation and Parks	314,089
Pending Classification and Survey	3,421,857
From Conditional Purchase, within Goldfields	557,418
From Sale or Lease other than Improvement Lease	85,587
From Sale or Lease other than 18th Section Lease	75,020
Camping	359,987
Other	2,379,768
Total	16,795,961

The statement printed above is intended to give only 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 large areas are reserved for more than one purpose. For instance, the area principally reserved for forests is stated at only 2,180,729 acres, while the actual area of dedicated forest lands at 30th June, 1932, was 5,115,720 acres, and in addition 1,519,860 acres were under timber reserve, making a total of 6,635,580 acres. Of the area dedicated, 1,870,821 acres of leases, situated entirely within State forests, were let to graziers and others by the Forestry Commission, 39,263 acres of State Forests under tenures of the Crown Lands Act were administered by the Forestry Commission, and 63,128 acres, consisting of portions of leases not wholly within State forests, were administered by the Department of Lands.

Of the total area of reserves 11,606,353 acres, or 69 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, 1932:—

	Area. Acres.
Under Crown Lands Acts—	
Occupation license (including 32,581 acres in Western Division)	1,820,211
Preferential occupation license	456,670
Annual lease (including 34,950 acres in Western Division)	917,100
Permissive occupancy (including 437,324 acres in Western Division)	1,482,600
Under Western Lands Act—	
Occupation licenses	523,193
Preferential occupation license	67,858
Total	4,767,632

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.

The following areas were available for the classes of holdings specified at 30th June, 1932:—

Original Holdings for—	Acres.
Crown Lease	789,575
Homestead Farm	10,848
Conditional Purchase (original)	3,575,517
Suburban Holding	2,387
Settlement Purchases	16,535
Other Forms of Lease	56,264
Additional Holdings (all classes)	522,434
Total	4,973,560

The area of 3,575,517 acres, shown above as available for original conditional purchase, consists mostly of unclassified Crown lands of an inferior nature. A considerable proportion of the lands comprising this area has been available for years, but has remained unselected. During 1931-32 the lands classified and made available for settlement totalled 344,526 acres, of which 6,900 acres was available exclusively for returned soldier settlement.

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. After-auction purchase. Special non competitive sales. Conditional purchase (40 to 320 acres). Exchange.	Conditional purchase. Settlement purchase. Returned soldiers' special holding.‡ Improvement purchase on goldfields. Soldiers' Group Purchase.
Leases Alienable wholly or in Part.	
Improvement lease. Scrub lease. Inferior lands lease. Special lease.§ Special conditional purchase lease (up to 1920 acres). Annual lease. Town lands lease.‡ Week-end lease.‡ Prickly-pear 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).
Leases not Alienable.	
Occupation license. Permissive occupancy. Occupation permit (forest lands). Forest lease. Snow lease. Mineral and auriferous lease. Church and school lands lease.§	Pastoral lease.* Lease to outgoing pastoral lessees (section 18).

* No holdings. † Holdings in Western Division only. ‡ Perpetual. § With consent of Minister.

The rights of alienation attached 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 and is not within a reserve from sale. Conditional purchase leases, conditional leases, and (since 1930) Crown leases, homestead farms, homestead selections and grants, are almost entirely alienable, while 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.

Crown Lands (Amendment) Act, 1932.

The Crown Lands (Amendment) Act, No. 69 of 1932, became law on 30th December, 1932.

Certain provisions of the Act are of general application to lands held under the Wentworth Irrigation Act, the Hay Irrigation Act, 1902, the Crown Lands Consolidation Act, 1913, the Closer Settlement Acts, the Returned Soldiers' Settlement Act, 1916, the Prickly Pear Destruction Act, 1901, or the Prickly Pear Acts, 1924-30.

In respect of interest on the purchase of land or of Crown improvements before 1st January, 1933, and of the annual rental or fee under any lease, occupation license, or permit under those Acts (subject to certain exceptions), a reduction of twenty-two and one-half per centum ($22\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.) of the amount payable is made effective for three years.

Settlers adversely affected by flood, fire, drought, storm or tempest may apply for relief under this Act; relief may be afforded on the recommendation of the Local Land Board, in the form of (a) postponement of payments of instalments payable in respect of purchase of land or Crown improvements, or (b) postponement, waiver or remission of interest on such debts, or of the annual rent of any lease from the Crown under those Acts. The Minister may also have revalued any improvements in the course of purchase which owing to such causes have become depreciated in value.

The Minister is empowered to fund arrears in respect of debts due to the Crown under the Crown Lands, Closer and Returned Soldiers' Settlement or Prickly Pear Acts, payments being distributed over a period up to twenty years with interest thereon at the rate of two and one-half per centum ($2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.) per annum.

Certain amendments to the law enable local land boards to remedy technical deficiencies in applications and afford the boards a wider discretion in dealing with the merits of conflicting applications for additional areas, thus removing some anomalies hitherto existing.

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 all the principal leasehold tenures may be converted, under certain conditions, 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. 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 permitted also 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.

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 2½ 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 existing at date of purchase may be made in fifteen equal annual instalments, including interest at the rate of 4 per cent. Under the Crown Lands (Amendment) Act, 1932, the Minister is empowered to permit of interest only being paid in lieu of instalments for such periods and under such conditions as he shall determine, while payment for improvements the value of which exceeds £300 may be spread over a period up to twenty-five years. Until October, 1931, the value of the land was subject to appraisal upon application from time to time, but it was then provided that the price might be appraised only upon application within five years of confirmation or within two years from 2nd October, 1931.

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 6s. per acre (but not exceeding 30 per cent. of the price of the land or £384) effected within three years, and to the value of 10s. per acre (but not exceeding 50 per cent. of the price of the land or £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 the price of the same land if taken up as a residential purchase. 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 original 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 in conjunction with a conditional purchase, subject to the various conditions set out above in respect of conditional purchases.—(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, 1932, were as follow:—

Year ended 30th June.	Completed Conditional Purchases—Deeds issued during year.		Uncompleted Conditional Purchases in existence.		Conditional Leases. Gazetted or Confirmed during year.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
		acres.		acres.		acres.
1862-1925	161,888	21,823,491	69,470	18,156,194	22,527	13,939,063
1926	2,816	460,217	69,866	19,263,629	93	46,817
1927	2,887	449,117	69,046	19,635,068	68	47,267
1928	2,645	394,306	68,278	20,057,640	89	58,181
1929	3,710	315,358	66,170	20,619,758	79	52,606
1930	2,024	299,485	66,243	20,475,734	84	26,440
1931	2,109	320,832	65,093	20,511,043	76	26,078
1932	1,833	284,858	63,667	20,336,336	50	43,308
Total (as at 30th June, 1932)	179,912	24,347,664	63,667	20,336,336	18,134*	11,631,939*

* Leases in existence.

The particulars of applications for conditional purchases shown above are exclusive of applications to convert other 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, 1932, was 44,684,000 acres, and, in addition, there were 11,631,939 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 has been deducted from the totals shown above.

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 incorporated with other holdings after deeds have been issued.

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. By the Act of 1932 purchasers of two or more blocks unable to continue payment of instalments on the whole of the blocks may, with Ministerial approval, be allowed to proceed with the purchase of one or more of the blocks, the remainder being declared lapsed. The whole or part of the moneys paid on the lapsed blocks may thereupon be transferred to the holder's credit in respect of the block or blocks the purchase of which is being proceeded with.

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 43,917 acres in the last fifteen 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 brought 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 214 acres were sold by auction during 1931-32 in 91 lots, realising £3,336. Eighty-three acres were sold as after-auction purchases in 107 lots, realising £1,831.

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 1931-32 there were 11 lots sold embracing an area of 4 acres, yielding the amount of £150.

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 1931-32 was £11,983 in respect of 4,362 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:—

Year ended 30th June.	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	2,700	241	9,743	33,220
1920-24 ...	9,340	2,963	143	10,792	23,238
1925-29 ...	7,431	1,792	138	11,126	20,487
1930 ...	372	157	24	4,179	4,732
1931 ...	398	79	30	2,647	3,154
1932 ...	214	83	4	4,362	4,663

* Calendar years.

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 for 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.

During 1931-32 22 applications, involving an area of 13,409 acres, were granted under this heading.

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 lease, homestead selection and homestead grant, annual lease, special lease, scrub lease,

inferior lands lease, conditional purchase lease, irrigation farm lease, non-irrigable 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. Under the Amending Act of 1932 application may be made (without abrogating existing rights of acquiring freehold titles) for the conversion of conditional leases to leases in perpetuity. All conditional leases taking effect on or after 30th December, 1932, will be leases in perpetuity, saving such parts thereof as are within certain reserves and are required in the public interest.

The rent is determined by the Land Board, and is payable yearly in advance. In 1931 it was provided that the rent may be appraised only upon application within five years of confirmation or two years of 2nd October, 1931. 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, and an Act passed in 1927 enabled conditional leases to be transferred and held separately from the original holding with which they were granted.

Applications for 101 leases were lodged during 1931-32, and 50, representing 43,308 acres, were confirmed.

Conditional leases, to the number of 155, embracing 48,195 acres, were converted into conditional purchases during 1931-32, and conditional leases containing an area of 12,759 acres were created by conversion. Gazetted conditional leases in existence at 30th June, 1932, numbered 18,134, embracing 11,631,939 acres, at an annual rental of £182,244.

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; but, as in the case of conditional leases, may be extended to lease in perpetuity under provisions of the Act of 1932, whilst all future Crown leases will issue as leases in perpetuity. The annual rent is $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the capital value, as determined within five years of confirmation of approval or within two years from 2nd October, 1931. 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 1,487,162 acres of Crown lease have been converted into conditional purchase and conditional purchase lease. By a further Act passed in 1930 Crown leases not within reserves from sale were made convertible in their entirety without restriction. The lease may be protected against sale for debt in certain circumstances.

Leases granted and current in recent years are shown below:—

Year ended 30th June.	Applications Confirmed.		Leases current at 30th June.		
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	Rent.
		acres.		acres.	£
1912-1927 ...	5,852	7,155,297	3,923	5,260,371	45,384
1928 ...	237	345,610	3,991	5,387,358	46,113
1929 ...	247	479,987	3,944	5,460,250	46,061
1930 ...	228	282,154	3,979	5,531,875	46,209
1931 ...	243	344,192	4,085	5,673,533	46,306
1932 ...	164	208,751	4,135	5,852,505	47,323

The figures shown above include a number of Crown leases made available specially for returned soldiers. Particulars of these are shown on a later 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 twenty years the tenure has been in existence was 8,815,991 acres, which has been reduced by forfeitures, conversions, etc., so that the area remaining under Crown lease at 30th June, 1932, was 5,852,505 acres.

Settlement Leases.

This tenure was created in 1895. Until 1912 it was used extensively 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, but an Act of 1930 provided that settlement leases not substantially in excess of a home maintenance area might be extended to sixty years. Under the Amending Act of 1932 application may now be made to convert so much of a settlement lease as does not substantially exceed a home maintenance area to a lease in perpetuity at existing rental without affecting existing rights of conversion into conditional purchase. 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 appraisalment only within five years after confirmation or within two years of 2nd October, 1931.

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 lease, 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, 1932, a total area of 5,634,602 acres of settlement leases were converted under these conditions into other tenures, and 63,856 acres, chiefly of homestead farms and special leases, had been converted into settlement leases. Since 1913 only 119,237 acres of new settlement leases have been confirmed, while large areas have reverted to the Crown by forfeiture, etc. At 30th June, 1932, there remained under this tenure 1,072 leases, comprising 2,778,111 acres, at an annual rental of £41,501.

For the year 1931-32 one original and seven additional settlement lease applications were made. There were six confirmations in respect of a total area of 8,521 acres.

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 much smaller. After that year the areas taken up annually showed a considerable falling off, and up to 30th June, 1932, the total area of improvement leases which had been let was 11,579,604 acres, of which only 412,825 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 forest leases.

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 certain 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. This provision has become operative since 1919, and a total area of 996,388 acres has 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, 1932, a total area of 412,079 acres had been withdrawn in this way, £159,497 being paid as compensation to lessees.

During 1931-32 two improvement leases with a total area of 2,770 acres were granted at an annual rental of £10. Twenty-eight improvement leases, with a total area of 100,240 acres, were converted into homestead selections. At 30th June, 1932, there remained current 138 improvement leases and leases under improvement conditions, with an area of 412,825 acres, and rental £2,480.

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 appraisal only within five years of confirmation of approval or within two years of 2nd October, 1931.

Crown lands available for conditional purchase (unless otherwise notified in the *Gazette*) are available also 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 the home-maintenance areas.

A condition of five years' residence is attached to every homestead farm, but in special cases residence, anywhere within reasonable working distance, may be allowed. A perpetual lease grant is issued after the expiration of five years from confirmation of the application, if the holder has complied with all the conditions.

Particulars relating to applications for homestead farms and conversions from other tenures during the last five years are shown below:—

Year ended 30th June.	Applications Confirmed.		Created by Conversion from other tenures.		Reversal of forfeiture and increased area.		Less— Forfeited, decrease in area, and conversions into other tenures.		Homestead Farms in existence at end of year.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
		acres.		acres.		acres.		acres.		acres.
1928	147	190,262	15	41,617	35	47,251	147	183,668	3,762	4,103,016
1929	120	130,364	3	10,078	4	4,918	151	252,755	3,760	3,995,621
1930	125	122,233	3	11,106	...	13,438	94	113,196	3,794	4,086,663
1931	97	135,389	4	6,206	4	2,421	46	48,943	3,858	4,181,736
1932	106	54,767	11	19,428	4	4,343	44	49,995	3,936	4,210,279

The total area of homestead farms confirmed to 30th June, 1932, was 5,381,068 acres, and after adjustments of area by reason of conversion, forfeiture, etc., there remained in existence 4,210,279 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, 1932, was 247,051 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, or since February, 1927, into a Crown lease. An Act of 1930 made homestead farms convertible in their entirety without restriction; 757,453 acres of homestead farms had been converted into other tenures prior to 30th June, 1932. A homestead farm, which is a conversion of a settlement purchase under provision now repealed, may be reconverted into a settlement purchase.

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 1¼ per cent. per annum for the first five years or until the issue of the homestead grant, when it is raised to 2½ per cent. or to 3½ per cent. of the appraised value if residence is performed by deputy. The value is subject to appraisal only within five years of confirmation or two years of 2nd October, 1931. 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 selections, or as additional areas, principally the latter. The following statement shows the applications and confirmations in regard to homestead selections and homestead grants issued up to 30th June, 1932.

Year ended 30th June.	Homestead Selections. Confirmed.		Homestead Grants issued.		Homestead Selections and Grants in existence.	
	No.	acres.	No.	acres.	No.	acres.
1895 to 1927	8,100	2,871,404	6,129	2,338,693	2,131	1,009,674
1928	10	23,272	27	30,798	2,156	1,179,511
1929	26	52,721	10	13,400	2,061	1,198,737
1930	5	5,128	16	25,204	2,010	1,190,090
1931	14	35,008	26	57,233	2,044	1,389,796
1932	6	13,376	16	22,953	2,080	1,501,548

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, and a further amendment in 1930 made these holdings convertible in their entirety without restriction. Extensive advantage has been taken of this provision, and to 30th June, 1932, an area of 2,193,071 acres of homestead selections and grants had been so converted. This accounts for the difference between the area of homestead selections confirmed (3,000,909) and the area remaining in existence (1,501,548) the difference having been reduced latterly by the extensive conversions of improvement leases into homestead selections. 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 thirty-two cases of conversion of this kind, covering 142,717 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. The duration of individual leases is fixed on gazettal, the maximum being 21 years for a scrub lease and 20 years for an inferior lands lease subject to extension to 28 years in each case or to forty years if infested with prickly pear.

The area of inferior lands leases have never been extensive, and the area under scrub leases reached its maximum of 2,273,123 acres in 1912, then diminished steadily.

At 30th June, 1932, there were in existence 50 scrub leases, with an area of 144,574 acres, and rental of £657, and 16 inferior lands leases, embracing 52,009 acres, at a rental of £216.

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 do not convey security of tenure, the land being alienable by conditional purchase, auction sale, etc. 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 diminishing steadily. It amounted to 8,687,837 acres in 1903 and 2,953,296 in 1920. The number of annual leases current at 30th June, 1932, was 2,501, embracing 917,100 acres, with an annual rent of £7,090, inclusive of 39 annual leases comprising 34,950 acres in the Western Division.

Special Leases.

Special leases not exceeding an area of 1,920 acres are issued to meet cases where land is required for some industrial or business purpose. A special lease may be obtained for a period not exceeding twenty-eight years on conditions 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 1,294,899 acres of special leases have been converted into various new tenures.

The number of special leases granted during 1931-32 was 739, with a total area of 108,252 acres, and 204 leases, representing 48,045 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, 7,782 leases, with an area of 766,623 acres and rental of £47,414, were current at 30th June, 1932.

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, and since then it has decreased steadily.

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 fixed upon notification subject to review only within five years of confirmation of the lease or two years of 2nd October, 1931. Under the Amending Act of 1932 conditional purchase leases may now be converted to leases in perpetuity, provided they are not included in certain reserves and required for public purposes, without affecting other conversion rights hitherto obtaining. 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 is permitted, the total area so converted being 514,994 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.

The annual operations under this tenure are now very small. The leases holding good at 30th June, 1932, numbered 236, with an area of 167,038 acres; the annual rent amounting to £4,955.

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 twenty-one years, subject to prescribed conditions as to improvements, rent, etc. At 30th June, 1932, the number of prickly pear leases was 46, and the area so leased was 71,490 acres, at a total annual rental of £247. Under certain conditions a prickly pear lease may be converted to a homestead selection, and five leases of 1,746 acres have been so converted. In 1930 Acts were passed which made these leases convertible into homestead farm, Crown lease or conditional purchase and conditional lease and the Commissioner was given power to extend leases and reduce rentals and purchase prices as compensation for the clearing of prickly pear lands. No conversions under these provisions have yet taken place.

Homestead Leases.

The last leases under this tenure in the Eastern and Central Land Divisions terminated during 1923-24.

Suburban Holdings.

The tenure of suburban holding was introduced in 1912. It is a lease in perpetuity with fixed 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 $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the capital value, which is fixed upon notification and may be appraised within five years of confirmation or two years of 2nd October, 1931. 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 $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum on the balance being paid by annual instalments extending over a period of ten years. By the Act of 1932 application may be made for redetermination of the capital value of a suburban holding purchase by the Local Land Board.

The number of confirmations and purchases of suburban holdings since the introduction of the tenure were as under:—

Year ended 30th June.	Confirmations.		Suburban Holdings in existence at the end of year.*			Suburban Holdings—Purchases approved to the end of the year.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	Annual Rent.	No.	Area.
		acres.		acres.	£		acres.
1912-1927	3,904	80,097	2,252	54,865	5,387	792	11,933
1928	95	1,281	2,260	54,253	5,045	852	13,227
1929	53	515	2,272	53,422	5,610	891	14,409
1930	63	824	2,211	51,779	5,506	983	16,457
1931	90	1,377	2,241	47,154	5,430	1,012	17,162
1932	107	1,330	2,304	49,099	5,506	1,027	17,357

* Exclusive of purchases approved.

To 30th June, 1932, deeds of purchase had been issued in respect of 482 suburban holdings, embracing 6,618 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 the holding of a miner's right and 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 584 leases, embracing 8,070 acres at a rental of £1,183, current at 30th June, 1932.

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 per holding. Any adult (except a married woman not judicially separated from her husband) may apply, but persons who already hold land within the area 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, 1932, no week-end leases were confirmed. At 30th June, 1932, the leases current numbered 75, of an area of 198 acres, and annual rental £81. In addition 73 leases of 450 acres had been made freehold, and approval to purchase had been granted in the case of 18 leases of 139 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 $2\frac{1}{2}$ 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 it.

In the year 1931-32 no after-auction tenders were accepted. Up to 30th June, 1932, deeds of purchase had been issued for 91 lots, embracing 32 acres. On 30th June, 1932, there were 194 leases, containing 72 acres, the annual rental being £136.

INALIENABLE LEASES.

The term "inalienable leases" is here used to signify that the statutory conditions attached to the leases so classified do not give the leaseholder the right 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, 1932, these leases, also known as "Leases to Outgoing Pastoral Lessees," numbered 48, with an area of 134,659 acres, and rental of £1,420. Upon the recommendation of the Closer Settlement Advisory Board the Minister may resume for closer settlement any 18th Section lease.

Forest Leases and Occupation Permits.

Unoccupied areas 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.

Forest 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 several years, have been granted for grazing, bee-farming, forest saw-mills, and other purposes approved by the Commission. The utilisation of small patches of brush lands, carrying little timber of value, for the purpose of banana-growing under occupation permit has been a recent development, and during 1932, 67 permits, generally for a term of ten years, embracing about 755 acres, were issued, the rentals generally applying to such permits being fixed to yield £1 per acre in the third and subsequent years, when the crops should be in full bearing. For grazing purposes the rent is usually fixed in relation to the carrying capacity of the land.

The area of forest leases and occupation permits wholly within State forests, at 30th June, 1932, was 1,870,821 acres under the Forestry Acts, besides 39,263 acres under the Crown Lands Act administered by the Forestry Commission. In addition, an area of 63,128 acres, consisting of portions of other leases not wholly within State forests, were administered by the Department of Lands.

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 fourteen years. Provision for redetermination of annual rent on application to the local Land Board has been made by the Act of 1932.

At 30th June, 1932, there were 69 leases current, embracing 291,103 acres; and rent, £7,004. This tenure was introduced in 1889.

Mineral and Auriferous Leases.

Under the Mining Act, the Minister for Mines is empowered to grant certain rights for the operations of mines 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 generally increased since 1914, when it was 199,060 acres. At 30th June, 1932, there were 233,538 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 area covered by other land tenures. Authorities to mine under roads and reserves covered an area of 860 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, 1932, in the Eastern Division, was 11 acres, at a rental of £335 per annum.

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, 1932, by 322 ordinary licenses for 1,320,211 acres, rental £3,676; and 200 preferential licenses, representing 456,670 acres, and rent £3,815. 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, 1932, was 7,439, comprising 1,045,276 acres, with a rental of £22,022.

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 or a lease in perpetuity. 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, and settlement leases and Crown leases are also convertible to leases in perpetuity. 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 or to a lease in perpetuity. 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. Since February, 1927, it has been possible in certain circumstances to convert a homestead farm into a Crown lease.

In the case of a homestead farm, homestead selection, Crown lease or settlement lease the area that may be converted into freehold, 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 Crown Lands Amendment Act of 1930 authorised the conversion of homestead selections, homestead farms and Crown leases in their entirety without restriction and made non-convertible conditional leases convertible in certain circumstances. Prickly pear leases were made convertible into homestead farms, Crown leases or conditional purchases and conditional leases.

The following statement shows the number and area of holdings in respect of which conversions were confirmed during the year 1931-32:—

Tenure of Holding Converted.	New Tenure Confirmed.													
	Conditional Purchase.		Con- ditional Purchase * and Associated Con- ditional Lease.		Con- ditional and Con- ditional Purchase Leases.		Home- stead Selection.		* Settlement Lease and Crown Lease.		Home- stead Farm.		Total Confirma- tions.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
	...	acres.	...	acres.	...	acres.	...	acres.	...	acres.	...	a cres.	...	acres.
Conditional Purchase	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	5,211	2	5,211
Conditional Leases ...	155	48,195	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	155	48,195
Conditional Purchase Leases ...	3	1,940	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1,940
Non-residential Con- ditional Purchases.	1	1,734	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1,734
Homestead Selections or Grants ...	2	1,080	1	609	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	7,250	4	8,939
Settlement Leases ...	1	1,120	2	6,101	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	7,221
Prickly Pear Leases...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Special Leases ...	178	28,007	...	...	12	10,822	5	2,121	1	128	8	6,967	204	48,045
Scrub Leases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3,830	...	...	...	...	3	3,830
Improvement Leases	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	100,240	...	...	...	...	28	100,240
Crown Leases ...	18	5,533	13	15,501	3	1,937	...	...	...	...	...	...	34	22,971
Homestead Farms ...	2	466	1	466	...	...	...	...	2	10,993	...	...	5	11,905
Total ...	360	88,075	17	22,657	15	12,759	36	106,191	3	11,121	11	19,423	442	260,231

* 1 Settlement Lease of 128 acres and 2 Crown Leases of 10,993 acres.

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.†		Con- ditional and Con- ditional Purchase Lease.		Home- stead Selection.		Settlement Lease.		Home- stead Farm.		Total Confirmations.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
	...	acres.	...	acres.	...	acres.	...	acres.	...	acres.	...	acres.	...	acres.
1923	1,201	398,649	43	115,421	24	8,339	27	46,973	15	4,298	12	10,609	1,323	758,092
1924	1,260	438,722	68	169,383	38	10,787	22	55,733	4	5,928	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	878,855
1926	1,359	562,934	70	193,852	30	13,419	60	219,808	4	1,171	10	25,209	1,533	1,016,385
1927	1,526	734,045	95	209,832	26	12,798	41	131,312	2	253	11	32,357	1,701	1,120,447
1928	1,432	679,685	164	372,857	34	26,237	57	214,444	5	18,014	15	41,617	1,707	1,352,854
1929	1,522	833,463	199	565,110	30	14,970	21	63,274	...	...	3	10,078	1,775	1,486,895
1930	1,409	660,110	140	361,972	37	18,968	25	86,570	1	5,686	3	11,106	1,615	1,144,412
1931	833	296,254	54	141,962	28	13,457	44	181,982	6	12,833	4	6,206	969	651,799
1932	360	88,075	17	22,657	15	12,759	36	106,191	3	11,121	11	19,423	442	260,231

* 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. ‡ Crown Lease.

|| 1 Settlement Lease of 128 acres and 2 Crown Leases of 10,993 acres.

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. In cases where application has not been made, such lease or license is treated as if the Acts had not been passed.

Crown lands within this division are not available for lease until so notified in the *Gazette*, but leases for special purposes may be granted upon certain conditions, and holders of areas which are considered too small to maintain a home or to make a livelihood may obtain an additional area under certain conditions as a lease. Lands are gazetted as open for lease at a stated rental under specified conditions with respect to residence, transfer, mortgage, and sub-letting.

All leases issued or brought under the provisions of the Western Lands Acts except special leases, will expire on 30th June, 1943, but under the provisions of the Western Lands (Amendment) Act, 1932, application may be made for conversion of so much of a lease or leases as does not substantially exceed an home-maintenance area to a lease in perpetuity. Rental of leases so extended will be subject to redetermination by the Western Land Board after 1949, whilst additional conditions may be inserted in the lease when its extension is approved. Conditional leases, which number 75 and embrace 102,472 acres, however, may be converted into conditional purchase before expiry. In cases where a withdrawal is made for the purpose of sale by auction or to provide small holdings, the lease of the remainder may, as compensation, be extended for a term not exceeding six years. Up to one-eighth of the area leased may be withdrawn for settlement under the Act of 1932, but no part of leases extended to leases in perpetuity may be so dealt with.

The rent on all new leases brought under the provisions of the Western Land Act is determined by the Commissioners for the unexpired portion. The minimum rent or license fee is 2s. 6d. per square mile or part thereof; the maximum is 7d. per sheep on the carrying capacity determined by the Commissioners.

Holdings under the Western Lands Acts as at 30th June, 1932, were classified as follow:—

Class of Holding.	Leases issued.	Area.	Annual Rental.
	No.	acres.	£
ew Leases issued under Western Lands Act:—			
Special Leases	391	802,518	2,274
Section 32, Western Lands Act Leases (additional)	292	2,804,951	2,876
Part VII, " "	760	21,208,301	20,349
Part VII, new Leases being issued	17	585,598	537
Preferential Occupation Licenses	13	67,858	53
Leases under Crown Lands Act brought under Western Lands Act:—			
Pastoral Leases	259	28,777,031	46,770
Subdivisional Leases	209	8,997,946	13,564
Homestead Leases	1,111	10,299,466	27,816
Improvement Leases	112	1,898,784	1,214
Scrub Leases... ..	3	17,431	31
Inferior Lands Leases	2	159,439	35
Settlement Leases	7	37,247	142
Artesian Well Leases	31	307,866	495
Special Leases (Conversion)	30	8,869	165
Occupation Licenses	59	523,193	303
Homestead Selections and Homestead Grants ...	34	24,765	156
Conditional Leases	75	102,472	503
Permissive Occupancies	69	437,324	4,022
Total... ..	3,474	77,061,059	121,305

In addition there were 2,031,282 acres of land alienated, or in course of alienation; 183,143 acres of unoccupied land of low grade; 872,228 acres of unalienated town lands, beds of rivers, commonages, etc., and 170,996 acres of land still under the Crown Lands Act, yielding annual rentals amounting to £1,045.

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 for eradicating it where possible. This Act (as subsequently amended) related to all lands infested with 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 are 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 has delimited 77 prickly pear zones and classified or partially classified 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. The Commissioner has power to require landholders to clear their lands and to afford them assistance by way of loans or by performing the work at actual cost. In addition, the Commissioner purchases poisons and appliances in bulk so that they may be supplied to landholders at the cheapest possible rates. The Commission estimated that by June, 1932, 1,150,000 acres of infested land had received its first treatment, and the opinion was expressed that during the year 1932 a considerable setback in the check to the spread of the pest occurred, due to the failure of cactoblastis to control scattered pear. It is estimated that about 1,000,000 acres of scattered pear developed during the year. Nevertheless entomological measures for combating the infestation are responsible for very substantial progress in its control and eradication. 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. The Commission has taken action to clear Crown lands of the pest, and to this end co-operates with local bodies.

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 established a Prickly Pear Destruction Fund by providing for five years from 1st January, 1925, an annual appropriation of £30,000 from Consolidated Revenue, and as from 1st January, 1930, an annual sum not exceeding £30,000. 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.

During the year ended 30th June, 1932, the total expenditure was £16,226, including £4,800 for poisons. At the end of the year there was a credit balance of £5,271. An area of 43,400 acres of Crown lands, had been cleared up to 30th June, 1932.

CLOSER SETTLEMENT.

The circumstances leading to the adoption of what is known as the "Closer Settlement Policy" are described on page 680 of the Year Book for 1928-29. Further reference to the subject may be found in previous Year Books.

The Closer Settlement Acts provide that the Minister for Lands, with the sanction of the Governor and the approval of Parliament, may 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 be resumed or purchased under agreement for closer settlement upon the recommendation of the Closer Settlement Advisory Board. To 30th

June, 1932, an area of 806,217 acres comprised in 70 long-term leases had been re-acquired in this way at a cost of £200,802, and had been disposed of in 772 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, 1932, was 478,471 acres, embraced in 20 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 to 30th June, 1932, under the ordinary provisions of the Closer Settlement Acts, was 1,274,298 acres, at an aggregate purchase price of £5,087,608. This area, originally consisting of sixty-nine estates, was divided into 3,042 farms. No estates were acquired under these provisions during the two years ended 30th June, 1932. Operations under the ordinary provisions of the Closer Settlement Acts have, for some years past, been 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 had to pay a deposit of 6½ 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. Until 31st December, 1932, the regulations provided for repayment at the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum of the capital value of the farm, where the purchase money was paid in cash; this included interest at the rate of 5½ per cent. on the outstanding balance, the whole indebtedness being discharged in thirty-two years, where the initial deposit was paid. If the land was paid for by debentures, the deposit and annual instalments to be paid by applicants was 1½ 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 was ½ per cent. in advance of the rate of interest paid by the Crown as aforesaid. The rate of interest on all settlement purchases and group purchases has, under provisions of the Crown Lands (Amendment) Act, 1932, been brought to a uniform rate of 4 per centum per annum as from 1st January, 1933. Instalments of purchase money on such holdings are fixed at 5 per centum per annum of the capital value for, and as from the year 1933. Deposits payable in respect of settlement purchases are, by the same Act, reduced to 5 per centum of the capital value of the land. That Act also makes it competent for the holder of a settlement or group purchase to apply for additional land under homestead farm tenure out of available Crown lands.

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.

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 Banks and from the Closer Settlement Fund as at 30th June, 1932, were 3,987 farms, representing 1,835,156 acres in respect of which a sum of £8,550,906 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. Fresh activities in this connection by the Government Savings Bank have been suspended since November, 1929, and operations by the Government have been necessarily restricted by the limited funds made available by Parliament.

Revised figures now available show that (exclusive of irrigation projects) 1,848 estates and leases had been acquired by the Government for purposes of closer settlement of civilians and returned soldiers. These estates embraced 4,040,517 acres, for which the purchase price was £14,639,366, and there were added 204,766 acres of adjacent Crown lands. The total number of farms made available was 8,725.

Summary of Closer Settlement Operations.

The following table provides a summary of the various closer settlement operations to 30th June, 1932, 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 Department of Lands, including long-term leases acquired under Closer Settlement Act, 1912, and disposed of under the Crown Lands Act.

Mode of Acquisition.	Estates Acquired	Area.		Price paid for Acquired Land.	Farm blocks made available.		
		Acquired.	Adjacent Crown Lands.		No.	Area.	Value.
Direct Purchase	No. 30	Acres. 90,164	Acres. 44,478	£ 506,855	559	Acres. 308,426	£ 1,305,137
Crown Lands Act (s. 197)†	23	34,682		293,195	365		
Closer Settlement Act—							
Promotion Provisions...	1,656	1,835,156	12,800	8,550,906	3,987	1,846,877	8,412,389
Ordinary Provisions ...	69	1,274,298	113,167	5,087,608	3,042	1,441,501	5,520,009
Resumption of Long Leases*	70	806,217	34,321	200,802	772	539,715	765,844
Total	1,848	4,040,517	204,766	14,639,366	8,725	4,136,519	16,003,379

* Including 19,646 acres of improvement lease, and 160,023 of scrub lease acquired at nominal value.
 † Including one estate of 21,309 acres, surrendered at nominal value for returned soldiers.

The number of estates acquired under the promotion provisions of the Closer Settlement Act is comparatively large, because 953 individual holdings, besides holdings containing only a few farms, were acquired mainly for soldier settlers. In some cases two or more farm blocks have been amalgamated and made available as one farm.

Following on completion of an audit it has been ascertained that the lands covered by the above table were disposed of as follows at 30th June, 1932:—

Manner of Disposal.	No. of Blocks.	Area.	Capital Value.
		acres.	£
Holdings alienated or in course of alienation by settlement purchase, group purchase, auction, tender, &c.	8,825	4,037,511	15,407,291
Holdings which have reverted to the Crown and await disposal	194	75,974	326,437
Unallotted farms (including provisionally allotted, under cultural system, or never allotted)	184	15,587	142,056
Areas retained for roads ... ..	...	33,900	116,871
Areas appropriated for railway purposes... ..	...	1,737	6,893
Areas retained for reserves ... ..	...	37,489	88,195
Vacant village lands, remnant areas, &c. ... ..	...	28,119	137,463
Totals	9,203	4,230,317	16,225,206

Included in the blocks shown above are a number of small blocks made available as town lots, &c., and not as farms.

The total amount paid in respect of interest and principal on the above lands to 30th June, 1932, was £7,805,588, and instalments totalling £662,242 had been postponed to the end of the terms of purchase. Amounts overdue at the end of the year in respect of both principal and interest totalled £1,737,438. These arrears were due in respect of 5,175 farms out of a total of 6,721.

Other Closer Settlement Operations.

Between April, 1923, and November, 1929, the Rural Bank operated 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.

Under this scheme the Bank, after inspection, issued certificates as to the amount it was willing to advance to purchasers of land under subdivisional plans approved by the Land Settlement Board and the Bank. Interest was charged at the rate of $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and the maximum advance was £3,000, or two-thirds of the Bank's valuation of the property, whichever was the less. In the case of properties not fully improved the advance might 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, 1930, Rural Bank certificates had been issued in connection with the proposed subdivision of 175 estates into 755 farms, containing 608,443 acres, valued at £2,464,951. The amount of loans covered by the certificates was £1,800,345. Altogether 754 farms, covering 608,251 acres, had been selected under the scheme. Applications for advances of £1,799,150 on 754 farms have been made and payments amounting to £1,722,760 have been completed for 726 farms.

SETTLEMENT OF RETURNED SOLDIERS.

To 30th June, 1932, farms had been allotted to 9,492 returned soldiers, and there remained 5,511 returned soldier settlers on an area of 7,915,269 acres, approximately half of which was in the Western Division. These totals exclude 703 soldier settlers on private lands to whom advances only were made. The total expenditure is shown below:—

	£
Resumption of holdings for settlement ..	8,113,956
Advances to settlers	7,500,264

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 or lease in perpetuity.
3. Returned Soldiers' Special Holding.—Purchase or lease or lease in perpetuity.
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. Operations have been restricted in recent years by the limited funds made available by Parliament, and activities were suspended altogether in 1931.

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, 1932, was £3,186,662, and of this sum £1,484,330 had been repaid, while interest amounting to £555,935 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, &c.—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 3½ per cent. for the first year and 4 per cent. for the second year, and it increases progressively by not more than ½ per cent. for each subsequent year, the maximum rate at present being 5½ per cent.

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 Curlwaa 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 1931-32 was £56,423, making a total of £4,519,090 to 30th June, 1931. Repayments and collections to the same date amounted to £155,873.

The following table affords a summary of the number, area, and cost of private estates acquired for soldiers' settlement to 30th June, 1932:—

Class of Acquisition.	Estates	Area.	Purchase Money.	Farms made available.
	No.	acres.	£	No.
Promotion Provisions Closer Settlement Acts* ...	1,457	1,198,502	5,578,946	2,282
Group Settlement—Closer Settlement Acts ...	25	396,061	1,809,729	837
Section 197, Crown Lands Act† ...	22	30,491	274,334	352
Direct Purchase under authority of Executive Council ...	27	85,218	450,947	538
Total ...	1,531	1,710,272	8,113,956	4,009

*Includes 953 single farms. † Includes one estate surrendered at nominal value, practically as a gift.

There were no further transactions during the period 1928-29 to 1931-32.

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. Approximately three-quarters of the total area is occupied under various tenures and used for farming purposes. The Coomealla Irrigation Area, near Wentworth, comprises 35,450 acres, but the area subdivided as at 30th June, 1932, embraced 3,100 acres. There are also small irrigation settlements at Hay and Curlwaa.

The disposal of Crown lands within the Murrumbidgee and Coomealla Irrigation Areas is regulated by the Crown Lands Consolidation Act, 1913, and the Irrigation Act, 1912-1931. There are separate special Acts dealing with the Hay and Curlwaa Areas. All four areas are administered by the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission.

Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas.

The permanent tenures of land on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas are as follows:—

Irrigation Farm Purchases: The area occupied under this tenure, as at 30th June, 1932, was 1,130 acres. These are lands in course of alienation by instalment purchases.

Irrigation Farm Leases: The area occupied under this tenure, as at 30th June, 1932, was 193,795 acres. These are leases in perpetuity with statutory rights of conversion by their occupiers to irrigation farm purchases upon compliance with certain conditions.

Non-irrigable Purchases: Lands used mainly for industrial purposes are held under this tenure. The area held, as at 30th June, 1932, was 79 acres.

Non-irrigable Lease: Lands are held under this tenure for industrial purposes, and also by holders of irrigation farms for agriculture or grazing in conjunction with their irrigable holdings, and the area occupied as at 30th June, 1932, was 11,272 acres. The tenure is mainly perpetual lease with right of conversion to non-irrigable purchase.

Town Land Purchase: Under this tenure 64 allotments were occupied as at 30th June, 1932.

Town Land Lease: 847 allotments were occupied under this tenure as at 30th June, 1932. These are leases in perpetuity with statutory rights of conversion to town land purchases by their occupiers upon compliance with certain conditions.

The total area of land occupied on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas under permanent tenure (excluding town land holdings) as at 30th June, 1932, was 206,276 acres.

Temporary Tenures: In addition to this, temporary tenures of various kinds have been granted over considerable areas of land within the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, but not yet developed as irrigation farms. These include—

- (a) 44,485 acres of leases under the Irrigation Act for periods ranging from a few months to several years over lands not under irrigation and irrigation lands awaiting disposal;
- (b) 30,595 acres held under permissive occupancy by 93 settlers in anticipation of land being granted to them as original holdings; and
- (c) 9,503 acres held under permissive occupancy prior to being added to existing holdings.

Coomealla.

The permanent tenures of land on the Coomealla Irrigation Area are as follow:—

Irrigation Farm Purchase: The area occupied under this tenure as at 30th June, 1932, was 2,096 acres.

Irrigation Farm Lease: The area occupied under this tenure as at 30th June, 1932, was 98 acres.

Non-irrigable Purchase: One block was held under this tenure with an area of nearly two (2) acres, and was used for industrial purposes,

Town Land Purchase and Town Land Lease: Two (2) allotments were held as town land purchases and three (3) as town land leases as at 30th June, 1932.

The total area of land occupied under permanent tenure as at 30th June, 1932, was 2,195 acres.

Temporary Tenures: In addition to this, temporary tenures of various kinds are held, which include 32,107 acres of leases under the Irrigation Act, 1912-31, for periods ranging from a few months to several years, and 104 acres held under permissive occupancy by settlers.

Hay and Curlwaa.

The Hay and Curlwaa Irrigation Settlements are administered mainly under the Hay Irrigation Act and the Wentworth Irrigation Act.

The Hay Irrigation Area comprises 6,456 acres, and at 30th June, 1932, 1,017 acres were held by sixty-five (65) settlers in 106 irrigation holdings, ranging from three (3) up to thirty-three (33) acres, all (with the exception of one (1) holding, which is freehold), with a leasehold tenure of thirty (30) years, while 4,362 acres were leased as sixty-eight (68) non-irrigated holdings for short terms up to ten (10) years.

The Curlwaa Area comprises 10,550 acres, and at 30th June, 1932, an area of 2,465 acres was under occupation as irrigated holdings. In addition, 6,994 acres were leased as non-irrigated holdings. Holders of leases on these areas have the right to purchase them on terms extending over 36½ years at a price agreed upon between the holder and the Irrigation Commission, or as determined by the Land and Valuation Court.

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 five years to 1932:—

Year ended 30th June.	Murrumbidgee.				Hay.		Curlwaa.		Coomealla.	
	Farms.		Town Blocks.		Farms.		Farms.		Farms.	
	No.	Acres.	No.	Acres.	No.	Acres.†	No.	Acres †	No.	Acres.
1929 ...	1,814	120,860	932	245	62	3,913	124	9,172	109	1,859
1930 ...	1,793	166,062	938	247	63	3,951	130	9,255	118	2,051
1931 ...	1,784	182,569	923	...	63	3,944	129	9,398	124	2,199
1932 ...	1,887	225,520	911	243	65	5,379	132	9,459	133	2,216

† 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.

Irrigation Amendment Act, 1931.

This Act, which was assented to on 14th September, 1931, amended the law in respect of the determination of capital and rental values of lands in the Murrumbidgee and Coomealla Irrigation Areas, and made further provision for the reduction of the indebtedness of settlers in the irrigation areas.

Settlers occupying living areas were given the right to apply at any time before 31st December, 1932, for re-appraisal of rent or purchase price of their holdings upon a capital valuation based upon the productivity of the land. The re-appraisal may be made by agreement between the settler concerned and the Irrigation Commission or by a special committee of three, subject to appeal to the Land and Valuation Court,

The right of the Crown to re-appraise land held as irrigation farm leases after the period of the first twenty-five years, and the obligation to re-appraise the value of such land upon transfer within the first fifteen years of the lease were abolished so far as irrigation farming lands are concerned.

The Minister was empowered under the Act to remit indebtedness other than overdue rent and water rates and, provided funds are voted by Parliament for the purpose, settlers may be relieved of part of their indebtedness to the Rural Bank.

The provisions of the Crown Lands (Amendment) Act, 1932, relating to reduction of rate of interest on debts due to the Crown, and of annual rent or fee under any lease, occupation license or permit, apply to tenures under the Wentworth Irrigation Act and the Hay Irrigation Act, 1902.

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.
1927	8,122	0	24	805	1	15	6	3	32	8,934	1	31
1928	2,286	3	13	617	2	11	29	1	37	2,933	3	21
1929	3,939	3	36	1,216	2	4	10	0	34	5,166	2	34
1930	5,703	1	5	745	1	16	17	2	32	6,466	1	13
1931	1,603	0	29	335	0	39	19	3	31	1,958	1	19
1932	458	2	24	107	0	1	3	1	39	569	0	24

The purposes of resumptions, appropriations, and purchases during 1931-32 were:—

	Area.				Area.		
	a.	r.	p.		a.	r.	p.
Drainage	3	1	3	Sydney Harbour Bridge ...	4	3	14
Defence	0	1	33	Shire and Municipal—			
Hydro-Electric Transmission				Drainage	0	0	11
Line	14	0	7	Parks and Reserves ...	3	2	36
Main Roads	11	2	4	Quarries and Gravel Pits	11	3	27
Police Station	0	2	5	Roads	7	1	2
Public School Sites ...	57	0	18	Saleyards	8	2	24
Public School Reserves ...	23	1	6	Sanitary Depot... ..	5	0	0
Pumping Station	0	0	8	Sub-station	0	0	24
Railway Workshops... ..	56	2	36	Teacher's Residence... ..	0	2	2
Railway Electric Transmission				Water and Storage Dams ...	46	0	3
Line	195	1	29	Water Supply	22	2	18
Sewerage	93	0	9				
Stormwater Channels ...	2	3	25	Total	569	0	24

Land resumptions, purchases, and gifts in quinquennial groups from the year 1905 inclusive, were as follow:—

Year.	Resumptions, Appropriations, and Purchases.		Gifts.		Total.	
	a.	r. p.	a.	r. p.	a.	r. p.
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
1925-29	25,857	2 35	63	0 26	25,920	3 21
1930-31	1,938	1 28	19	3 31	1,958	1 19
1931-32	565	2 25	3	1 39	569	0 24

The total area of land dealt with in this way between 1890 and June, 1932, was approximately 593,000 acres, including about 291,800 acres for water conservation and irrigation projects, 53,000 acres for defence, 59,400 acres for railways and tramways, 33,000 acres for town water supplies, and 89,000 acres for closer settlement.

REVENUE FROM PUBLIC LANDS.

The revenue received from public lands during recent years is shown in part Public Finance of this Year Book.

FOOD AND PRICES.

FOOD SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION.

New South Wales produces ample supplies of the food commodities which enter most largely into daily consumption, such as meat, bread, milk and butter. Local production of some other foods is augmented by importation from neighbouring States, and the only items which are imported in large quantities from oversea countries are tinned fish and tropical products, *e.g.*, tea, coffee, spices, etc.

Supervision of the Distribution of Foodstuffs, etc.

Legislation gives the governing authorities power to supervise the conditions under which food is produced and distributed and to ensure a reasonable standard of quality.

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. 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 is designed for the protection of 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.

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.

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.

The supply of gas and electricity for cooking, heating and lighting is subject to regulation in terms of the Gas and Electricity Act, 1932. Standards are prescribed in respect of power, purity and pressure of gas, also standard prices for gas and electricity supplied to private consumers by meter. Standard rates are fixed for dividends payable by the gas and electricity companies, viz., 6 per cent. on ordinary share capital and 5½ per cent. on preference shares. The standard rates of dividend payable by a company may be increased subject to a corresponding reduction in the price charged for gas or electricity, and the standard prices may be varied after inquiry as to whether they are sufficient or more than sufficient to enable the standard dividends to be paid.

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 Municipal Council of Sydney has established large markets in the city for vegetables, farm produce, fish, and poultry, also cold storage works. The business conducted at the markets consists for the most part of sales by producers or their agents to retail traders. The area and cost of the markets are as follows:—

Market.	Floor Space.	Cost of Market.	Market.	Floor Space.	Cost of Market.
	sq. ft.	£		sq. ft.	£
Vegetable ...	95,560	129,100	Fish	47,517	35,275
Produce	45,300	74,353	Poultry	12,200	32,919
Fruit	146,300	154,761			

The cold storage works have been constructed with chilling and freezing rooms for the storage of fruit, dairy and farm produce, mutton and rabbits, and their cost was £103,382. The total storage capacity is 252,687 cubic feet.

Outside the city area the local governing bodies have made little use of their powers in relation to the establishment of markets.

Persons acting as agents in selling on commission farm produce, such as vegetables, fruit, eggs, and poultry, are required to be licensed in terms of the Farm Produce Agents Act, 1926-1932, and to furnish to the Registrar appointed under the Act a substantial bond from an approved insurance company.

The Marketing of Primary Products Act, 1927-1931, authorises the formation of marketing boards in respect of primary products upon the request of the producers. A marketing board for any product may not be formed unless a poll be taken of the producers thereof, and votes are given by at least three-fifths of the producers entitled to vote, and more than half of the votes are in favour of its constitution.

At the end of September, 1933, boards had been appointed for marketing rice, eggs, honey, and wine grapes, and polls in respect of butter, wheat, certain varieties of canning fruit, and broom millet had proved unfavourable to this system of marketing. The Honey Board, however, is being wound up; and, as a result of a decision of the High Court of Australia regarding the jurisdiction of a similar organization in Queensland, the Egg Marketing Board is conducting operations on a voluntary basis.

A State Marketing Bureau was established under the supervision of the Director of Marketing who administers the Marketing of Primary Products Act. The Bureau provides assistance to producers in regard to the marketing of their products, and collects and publishes information relating to market conditions, etc.

CONSUMPTION OF FOOD.

It is difficult to determine accurately the quantity of commodities consumed within the State since 13th September, 1910, when the system of keeping records of interstate trade ceased. In view, however, of the special interest attached to the question of food consumption, particularly in relation to the cost of living, data has been obtained from other sources for the following estimates of the consumption of the more important articles of diet.

In order to show the changes of regimen, the information is shown as at intervals since 1911. 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, 1907-1909. The quotations for 1921, 1931, and 1932 relate to the twelve months ended 30th June :—

Commodity.	Unit.	Consumption per head per annum.				Commodity.	Unit.	Consumption per head per annum.					
		1911.	1921.	1931.	1932.			1911.	1921.	1931.	1932.		
Meat—													
Beef	lb.	150·9	94·0	90·2	92·1	Flour	lb.	228·4	211·2	202·5*	203·9		
Mutton	lb.	101·3	66·1	83·0	85·7	Bread	2-lb. loaf.	102·0	99·0	100·0	100·0		
Pork	lb.	5·0	2·3	3·7	4·5	Rice	lb.	6·6	4·4	4·8	4·6		
Bacon, Ham ..	lb.	10·7	8·4	11·6	10·9	Sago, Tapioca ..	lb.	2·0	1·8	1·4	1·4		
Total Meat..	lb.	267·9	170·8	188·5	193·2	Oatmeal	lb.	7·6	4·9	4·9	4·7		
Fish—						Sugar	lb.	103·8	102·2	105·1	102·8		
Fresh, Smoked	lb.	6·4	10·9	10·7*	9·8	Jam	lb.	15·7	11·4	10·3	10·6		
Preserved ..	lb.	4·3	2·8	4·0	3·2	Butter	lb.	26·1	27·8	33·5	33·0		
Total Fish..	lb.	10·7	13·7	14·7	13·0	Cheese	lb.	3·5	3·4	3·8	3·9		
Potatoes	lb.	181·0	104·9	106·4	105·8	Milk—							
						Fresh	gal.	17·4	19·6	20·0	20·0		
						Preserved ..	lb.	4·4	5·9	6·2	5·8		
						Tea	lb.	7·3	8·1	7·4	7·0		
						Coffee and Chicory	oz.	11·0	10·9	9·8	9·5		

* Amended since last issue.

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. 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 and rice used for seed are not included. 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.

In regard to the principal food commodities the average consumption of meat, flour, and potatoes appears to have been much greater in 1911 than in recent years, while the consumption of butter, milk, and fish has increased.

Meat.

The quantity of meat consumed is large, though it has declined. There is little doubt that its cheapness in the earlier years caused a wasteful consumption; also that a shrinkage in supplies due to drought in 1914-15 and a phenomenal rise in prices led to economy in its use and a consequent diminution in the average consumption per head. Approximately one-third of the meat sold for consumption is bone and waste. Therefore, the actual decline in consumption has been less than is indicated by the figures in the following statement, which show 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
1920-21	94·0	66·1	2·3	8·4	170·8
1925-26	125·4	64·1	3·8	12·9	206·2
1926-27	123·1	71·6	5·4	12·6	212·7
1927-28	111·4	77·5	3·8	13·0	205·7
1928-29	116·9	74·1	5·2	11·8	208·0
1929-30	99·6	78·3	4·6	12·3	194·8
1930-31	90·2	83·0	3·7	11·6	188·5
1931-32	92·1	85·7	4·5	10·9	193·2

Between 1911 and 1920-21 the consumption per head decreased by 97 lb. or 36 per cent., then an increase of 42½ lb. occurred in 1921-22. During the six years ended June, 1931, the average annual consumption was about 202½ lb. per head, and in 1931-32 it was nearly 5 per cent. below that average, though it was somewhat above the average of the year 1930-31.

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	1926-27	204	89
1906	101	102	1927-28	228	86
1911	101	112	1928-29	229	87
1915-16	223	75	1929-30	234	82
1920-21	248	72	1930-31	206	79
1925-26	215	86	1931-32	175	81

It is noticeable in regard to the consumption of meat in New South Wales that there is a preference for beef, though it is usually dearer than mutton.

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
1920-21	9.9	8.3	18.3	22.6
1925-26	7.8	8.3	14.0	18.0
1926-27	7.7	7.4	13.9	17.7
1927-28	9.2	8.1	14.7	17.6
1928-29	9.1	8.2	14.7	17.7
1929-30	9.9	8.0	14.8	17.3
1930-31	9.2	6.8	12.4	14.3
1931-32	7.8	5.6	10.8	12.9
1932-33	7.5	5.2	10.3	12.5

In 1920-21 when the average price of beef was 9.9d. per lb., and of mutton 8.3d., the average consumption of beef was 94 lb. per head, and of mutton 66 lb. During later years beef was cheaper or only slightly dearer than mutton, and the average consumption was about twice the consumption of mutton. Following an increase of 1½d. per lb. in the price of beef in 1927-28, the consumption declined and that of mutton increased.

Average prices in the twelve months ended June, 1929, were practically the same as in the preceding year, then beef became dearer and mutton cheaper. In 1930-31 a decline of 35 per cent. in the average price of mutton brought it below the level of any year since 1922-23 and the consumption increased. Beef also was cheaper, but the reduction was not so marked and there was a decline of 9 per cent. in consumption. The downward trend in prices of meat continued during the year 1931-32, and there was a slight increase in consumption of both beef and mutton.

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 Commissioner, appointed by the Governor.

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 Commissioner are situated at Homebush Bay in proximity to the stock saleyards. The carcase 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 pending distribution to the retail butchers. The retailers may obtain supplies at the abattoirs or at a distributing depot in the city. The depot is situated on the Darling Harbour railway line, and it has a capacity to accommodate 6,000 carcasses of mutton and 600 carcasses of beef.

The cost of slaughtering cattle, sheep and lambs at the abattoirs at Homebush Bay and of delivering the meat to retail shops as estimated by the Metropolitan Meat Industry Commissioner is shown below; no amounts are included in respect of offal.

Particulars.	Cattle per carcase.	Sheep and Lambs per carcase.
Abattoir Costs—	s. d.	s. d.
Labour, etc.	3 6	0 7
Abattoir fee	5 3	0 3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Delivery to Retail Shop	5 0	0 5
Total (if delivered direct to shop)	13 9	1 3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Additional Charges (if delivered through depot)—		
Freight	2 0	0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Handling, etc.	3 0	0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Depot fee	0 6	0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total (if delivered through depot)	19 3	1 8 $\frac{1}{4}$

For frozen meat there is, in addition to abattoir costs, a charge for freezing, wrapping, storage up to twenty-eight days, and delivery to ship's side, viz., beef $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.; mutton $\frac{7}{16}$ d. per lb. with a minimum of 1s. 6d. per carcase; lamb $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb., minimum 1s. 2d. per carcase. For storage over twenty-eight days the charge is $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. per week.

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
1920-21	404,400	78,300	3,483,500	247,600
1925-26	575,000	168,800	3,320,600	485,800
1926-27	606,800	143,900	4,068,700	518,700
1927-28	531,400	140,800	4,275,300	469,100
1928-29	563,600	157,100	4,162,500	493,400
1929-30	476,100	154,500	5,025,000	505,500
1930-31	409,100	147,800	4,790,300	485,700
1931-32	413,400	153,600	4,630,800	492,400

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 1932 represented only 13 lb. per head, viz., fresh and smoked 9.8 lb. and preserved 3.2 lb. The estimated consumption of fish during each of the last seven years is

shown below. The estimates have been amended since they were published in earlier issues of the Year Book, because the figures relating to trawled fish were found to have been understated.

Year.	Estimated consumption per head.		Year.	Estimated consumption per head.	
	Fresh, Smoked, etc.	Preserved.		Fresh, Smoked, etc.	Preserved.
	lb.	lb.		lb.	lb.
1925-26 ...	9.9	4.2	1929-30 ...	13.2	4.7
1926-27 ...	10.6	4.2	1930-31 ...	10.7	4.0
1927-28 ...	11.8	4.3	1931-32 ...	9.8	3.2
1928-29 ...	12.9	4.6			

Owing to the climatic conditions it is difficult to distribute fresh fish to householders, 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. The greater part of the supply has been obtained in the river estuaries and coastal lakes and inlets, and the balance by deep-sea trawling. The quantity of trawled fish was 13,054,000 lb. in 1931 and 11,741,000 lb. in 1932. Preserved fish is supplied almost entirely by importation.

The Sydney Corporation (Fish Markets) Act, 1922, prescribes 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 is to centralise the marketing of fish in Sydney in the Municipal Market, where the sales are conducted by licensed agents.

Regulations under the Fisheries Act require that all fish sold in the fish markets 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 is estimated at about 100 loaves (2 lb.) per head. In March, 1926, 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, *i.e.*, a day preceding one or two holidays.

The majority of the bakers are members of the Master Bakers' Association and the prices of bread in Sydney have been declared periodically by this organisation with relation to the price of flour, which is fixed by an association of millers.

The variations in the price of bread in Sydney as declared by the Master Bakers' Association since December, 1920, 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 1911 are given also for the purpose of comparison. The prices stated are for delivery and weekly payments. In April, 1931, the price was $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per loaf less for cash over the counter. As a

general rule the prices declared by the Association used to be regarded as fairly representative of the actual prices as the declarations were observed by members and by bakers who were not associated. Since the latter months of the year 1930, however, bread has been sold in many suburban districts at much cheaper prices.

Date.	Price of 2-lb. Loaf.	Cost of Flour per ton.	Date.	Price of 2-lb. Loaf.	Cost of Flour per ton.
1901... ..	d.	£ s. d.	1927—January ...	d.	£ s. d.
1911... ..	2½	6 15 0	September ...	6	12 10 0
1920—December ...	3½	8 15 0	1928—February ...	6½	13 15 0
1921—September ...	6½	19 12 6	1929—February ...	6	12 10 0
December ...	6¾	20 17 6	1930—July ...	5¾	11 0 0
1924—July ...	5	11 15 0	September ...	5½	10 5 0
October ...	5¼	13 0 0	October ...	5¾	9 10 0
1925—January ...	5½	15 5 0	1931—April ...	5	9 0 0
1926—May ...	6	15 15 0		5½	10 0 0
July ...	6½	15 15 0			
December ...	6¾	13 10 0			

A levy of £2 15s. per ton was imposed on flour as from 31st March, 1931, and the price of bread was increased from 5d. to 5½d. per loaf. The declared price was not altered during 1932—the flour tax being £1 10s. per ton. The levy on flour was imposed under State legislation, and the proceeds are used for the relief of necessitous farmers.

The consumption of flour is estimated at slightly less than 200 lb. per head, including 189,000 tons, or 150 lb. per head, used for bread. In factories where biscuits are made for local consumption and for export, 9,865 tons of flour, or 7.8 lb. per head, were used during 1931-32, 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 declined between 1911 and 1921, probably on account of an increased consumption of other breakfast foods. In recent years the average has been somewhat less than 5 lb. per head. The consumption of sago and tapioca is small, and the average fairly constant.

The average consumption of rice is between 4 and 5 lb. per head. Until 1925 the supply of rice was imported mainly from China and India, and dressed locally by a mechanical process. During recent years it has been grown on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area in sufficient quantities to supply the whole of Australia.

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 manufacture of butter, etc., in factories is supervised by State inspectors in terms of the Dairy Industry Act, which is described in the chapter relating to dairying. Regulations under the Act prescribe that butter must contain not less than 80 per cent. of milk fat, not more than 16 per cent. of water, nor more than 3 per cent. of salt. It must not be mixed with any foreign fat or oil nor contain any foreign substance except salt.

The consumption of cheese is small, the average being less than 4 lb. per head per annum.

The quantity of fresh milk consumed is about 20 gallons per head per annum, or less than half-a-pint per day.

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 and under the Pure Food Act of 1908, the Dairy Industry Act of 1915, and the Milk Act, 1931.

There has been a marked improvement in the condition of dairies since they were brought under supervision and this has been an important factor in effecting a reduction in the death-rates from preventable diseases. All dairymen and milk vendors must be registered, and dairy premises are open to inspection at all times. The duties of registration and of inspection are vested in the local authorities, and in respect of the metropolitan milk supply in the Milk Board.

The standard for milk is fixed by regulation under the Pure Food Act, which prescribes that it must be clean and fresh, and taken from a healthy cow, properly fed and kept. It must contain not less than 8.5 per cent. of milk solids not fat, and 3.2 per cent. of milk fat.

Metropolitan Milk Supply.

About a quarter 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 within a few hours of milking. The milk from the country is handled for the most part by distributing companies. They take delivery from the producers on the farms in the districts near the metropolis if it is to be transported by motor vehicle or at country railway stations if it is to be carried by rail. The time occupied by the journey from the most distant stations is about ten hours, the average time between milking and arrival by rail in Sydney being between sixteen and twenty-four hours. About 20,400,000 gallons of country milk were distributed in the metropolitan district in 1931-32, as compared with 19,500,000 gallons in 1930-31.

The Metropolitan Milk Act was passed in 1929 for the regulation and control of the supply and distribution of milk within the metropolitan area. It was administered by a board of nine members, of whom five, including the chairman, were appointed by the Governor and four were elected by the producers.

The Board was charged with the duty of devising improved methods of distribution, establishing grades of milk, and fixing minimum prices to be paid to producers by milk vendors and the prices to be charged by vendors. Its powers under the Act proved to be ineffective, especially in relation to the control of prices, and the Act was repealed in December, 1931, by the Milk Act. The Metropolitan Milk Board was dissolved and the Milk Board of three members was appointed to control the supply and distribution of milk in producing and distributing districts established under the new Act.

The metropolitan producing and distributing districts are defined by schedule of the Milk Act, and other districts may be proclaimed subject to approval by Parliament. The metropolitan distributing district embraces the City of Sydney and fifty-three other municipalities, the Shires of Sutherland and Warringah, parts of Baulkham Hills and Hornsby Shires, and the Port of Sydney.

The functions and powers of the Milk Board include the fixation of prices, regulation of methods and conditions of supply and treatment of milk in producing districts, and of distribution in distributing districts. By proclamation, milk supplied for consumption or use in a distributing district or part thereof (except milk produced and retailed directly by a dairyman on his own behalf) may be vested in the Board for distribution, thereupon its supply, except to the Board, will be prohibited, and the Board may determine the quantity of milk to be supplied to the district by the various producing areas and may sell the milk to milk vendors or other persons. The Board is authorised to raise loans, with the Governor's approval, up to a limit of £500,000, and to acquire the business of persons engaged in the milk trade, paying the current market value for land and replacement value, plus 10 per cent. for plant, etc.

In March, 1932, the Milk Board fixed the minimum prices to be paid to dairymen for milk delivered at certain country factories at rates ranging from 10d. to 11½d. per gallon, the price being lowest where the cost of freight to Sydney, etc., is the highest. The minimum price for milk delivered at two factories in Sydney is 12½d. per gallon, and for milk delivered elsewhere 12¾d. per gallon. These prices were fixed so that the cost, including treatment, handling at country factory and freight would be about 13d. per gallon on rail Sydney. The maximum wholesale price to vendors was fixed at 1s. 5d. per gallon, and the maximum retail prices at 2s. 8d. per gallon or 8d. per quart for milk produced in metropolitan dairies and retailed by the producer, and 2s. 4d. per gallon or 7d. per quart for other milk.

The Board assumed control of the milk supplied for consumption in the metropolitan distributing district (except milk produced and retailed by suburban dairymen) and became responsible for payments to the producers. Existing distributing companies organised for handling milk on a large scale act as agents for the Board in the matter of distribution.

At the end of September, 1932, the Milk Board extended its operations to Newcastle in an area consisting of Newcastle and suburbs and parts of the shires of Tarro and Lake Macquarie.

The following statement shows the wholesale price paid in various years since 1901 by the metropolitan distributing companies to the farmer for milk delivered on trucks at country railway stations or factories, and the retail price charged in Sydney to the householder for country milk, and for fresh milk from the metropolitan dairies:—

Year.	Wholesale price to producers.	Retail.		Year.	Wholesale price to producers.	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	1928	16½d.	9	9-9½
1911	6 ,, 9	4-5	5	1929	13 to 16	8½-9	8½-9½
1916	8 ,, 12	5-5½	6	1930	12½ ,, 13	7½-8½†	8½-9†
1921	13 ,, 17	7½-8½	8½-10	1931	9½d.*	7-8½†	8-8½†
1926	12 ,, 16	7½-9	8½-9½	1932	9d.*	7-8†	8†
1927	14 ,, 16½	8½-9	9-9½				

* Annual average year ended June.

† Prices charged by regular vendors

The quotations of retail prices during the last three years are those charged for country milk supplied by regular morning and evening delivery to householders in Sydney and suburbs. Milk was sold at lower prices in some suburban areas.

Sugar and Jam.

The quantity of sugar consumed was about 102.8 lb. per head in 1931-32. This estimate 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 1931-32 show that 4,962 tons of sugar (4.4 lb. per head) were used for jam and canned fruit; 2,402 tons (2.1 lb. per head) for biscuits; 3,054 tons (2.7 lb. per head) in breweries; 2,066 tons (1.84 lb. per head) in aerated water factories; 6,921 tons (6.2 lb. per head) in making confectionery; 2,099 tons (1.9 lb. per head) by pastrycooks, and 1,811 tons (1.6 lb. per head), in making condiments, pickles and sauces, and 1,023 tons (1 lb. per head) in making condensed milk and ice cream.

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.

Sugar is produced in New South Wales and Queensland in sufficient quantity to supply Australian requirements. The retail price of sugar in the metropolitan shops is from 4d. to 4½d. per lb. having been reduced by ½d. per lb. as from 1st January, 1933.

Jams and preserved fruit are manufactured in Australia in larger quantities than the local demand can absorb.

Tea and Coffee.

Tea enters largely into consumption among all classes, the average annual consumption being 7 lb. per head. Of coffee, on the other hand, the average is less than 10 oz. per head.

The tea consumed in New South Wales is imported mainly from Netherlands East Indies and Ceylon. During the three years ended June, 1932, the Netherlands East Indies supplied 50 per cent. of the total importations: 41 per cent. was imported from Ceylon, 6 per cent. from India and nearly 3 per cent. from China.

The great bulk of the coffee is imported from the Netherlands East Indies and India.

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. In 1911 the average retail price of potatoes in Sydney was 12½d. per 14 lb., and the consumption per head was 181 lb. Potatoes were very dear in 1929, but the price fell rapidly at the close of the year and again in the latter part of 1930. The average price in the twelve months ended June, 1930, was 2s. 9d. per 14 lb., and it is estimated that the average consumption was only 104 lb. In the year 1931-32 the price was 1s. 5d. per 14 lb., and the consumption was 105.8 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. Prior to the war bananas were imported in large quantities from Fiji, but the Tweed River district of New South Wales and the State of Queensland are now the chief sources of

supply. The industry in Australia was protected by a duty of 1d. per lb. on all imports until the duty was modified under the Ottawa trade agreement so that 40,000 centals may be admitted annually from Fiji under a customs duty of 2s. 6d. per cental, provided they are entered at the ports of Sydney and Melbourne.

WHOLESALE PRICES.

Information relating to wholesale prices in Sydney is published in detail in the "New South Wales Statistical Register." The average prices of the various commodities in each year from 1901 to 1920 are published in the issue for 1919-20, and those for the decennial period 1921 to 1930 in the issue for 1929-30. The monthly averages from January, 1919, are shown in the annual issues from 1919-20.

Index numbers of the wholesale prices in Sydney have been compiled from the prices of 100 commodities, which include the majority of items of importance in the economic life of the State. 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. The index numbers indicate approximately the general trend of the movement in wholesale prices, but it is not claimed that they give an exact measure of the variations which have occurred. Those for recent years especially should be used with caution in view of the fact that the list of commodities and the weights applied to the various items are based on the customs and usages of a period which ended more than nineteen years ago. Steps are being taken for the revision of the index numbers.

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. It is to be noted, however, that an important amendment was introduced in January, 1930, when local prices of wool and cotton were substituted for the English prices used up to that month.

The index numbers of each group and of all groups combined in various years since 1901 are as follows. The numbers for each year from 1901 to 1921 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 indexes are not comparable between groups, except to illustrate the relative change in one group with the corresponding ratio in another.

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
1913	1069	1033	1043	1039	1107	1379	1093	1003	1092
1916	1163	1245	1367	1725	1241	2896	1380	1617	1489
1920	2430	1914	3079	2602	2415	3113	2236	2301	2503
1921	1750	1941	1471	2511	2259	1921	2020	1863	1956
1926	1892	1683	1652	2161	1893	1802	1760	1447	1834
1927	1767	1682	1633	2197	1937	1971	1331	1483	1840
1928	1456	1674	1798	2176	1937	1985	1763	1492	1785
1929	1707	1661	1656	2164	1953	2391	1842	1457	1863
1930	1428	1664	1384	2046	1941	2230	1571	1472	1705
1931	1061	1758	1326	2038	1959	1538	1386	1633	1551
1932	1137	1752	1235	2034	1943	1371	1295	1636	1525

* Weighted average.

During the three years 1925 to 1927 there was little change in the index numbers of all commodities, though some groups showed material alteration. In 1928 there was a decline of 3 per cent., followed by an increase of 4.4 per cent. in 1929. Then prices began to fall rapidly, the decline being 8 per cent. in 1930, 9 per cent. in 1931, and 3 per cent. in 1932, so that the general level of wholesale prices in the last-mentioned year was 18 per cent. lower than in 1929. The decline since 1929 affected nearly all the groups of commodities, being greatest in respect of rural products. Thus the fall in the prices of meat was 43 per cent., agricultural products 33 per cent., dairy produce 30 per cent., wool, cotton, etc., 25 per cent. The mineral group showed a decline of 6 per cent., and there was a slight fall in respect of building materials. Groceries and chemicals were dearer by 5½ per cent. and 12 per cent. respectively.

The movement month by month since January, 1931, may be gauged from the following table, the base being the year 1911 as in the preceding table. Particulars for the last three months of the year 1929 are shown also, to indicate the level from which prices have fallen in recent years:—

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.
1929.									
October ...	1968	1674	1590	2149	1972	2677	1795	1456	1936
November ...	1870	1670	1533	2149	1972	2573	1731	1441	1890
December ...	1675	1673	1492	2149	1997	2671	1723	1441	1852
1931.									
January ...	1096	1728	1219	1980	1920	1687	1357	1486	1535
February ...	1037	1742	1320	1950	1931	1516	1473	1599	1536
March ...	997	1746	1402	2004	1933	1753	1465	1615	1566
April ...	1050	1751	1423	2009	1934	1699	1457	1530	1576
May ...	1054	1749	1392	2009	1934	1607	1446	1633	1563
June ...	1060	1749	1354	2008	1936	1531	1457	1603	1552
July ...	1025	1767	1326	2059	2010	1535	1380	1664	1553
August ...	1011	1775	1279	2107	2018	1410	1345	1682	1537
September ...	1046	1772	1278	2076	2013	1481	1308	1683	1542
October ...	1082	1775	1305	2076	1960	1312	1333	1683	1534
November ...	1133	1773	1341	2076	1961	1433	1324	1653	1561
December ...	1145	1773	1279	2076	1961	1495	1284	1717	1537
1932.									
January ...	1134	1785	1283	2031	1946	1465	1241	1717	1542
February ...	1176	1782	1271	2023	1946	1398	1272	1643	1544
March ...	1100	1779	1237	2018	1946	1414	1325	1643	1528
April ...	1113	1783	1200	2049	1947	1543	1404	1643	1550
May ...	1100	1758	1186	2042	1971	1367	1374	1643	1523
June ...	1141	1752	1179	2042	1971	1352	1321	1630	1524
July ...	1145	1746	1216	2059	1971	1291	1313	1650	1544
August ...	1163	1740	1247	2059	1967	1261	1325	1630	1531
September ...	1162	1738	1280	2034	1933	1341	1319	1670	1533
October ...	1147	1720	1250	2018	1901	1426	1267	1547	1519
November ...	1155	1718	1229	2018	1906	1286	1199	1542	1497
December ...	1100	1718	1238	2014	1907	1305	1177	1541	1486
1933.									
January ...	1131	1660	1237	2010	1887	1356	1170	1622	1485
February ...	1071	1660	1209	2010	1886	1299	1158	1622	1461
March ...	1046	1656	1200	2006	1884	1262	1111	1622	1444
April ...	1077	1649	1188	2008	1873	1330	1180	1622	1460
May ...	1114	1649	1236	2006	1873	1307	1209	1617	1476
June ...	1139	1658	1314	2003	1873	1435	1256	1617	1510
July ...	1175	1666	1379	1995	1873	1612	1254	1606	1545
August ...	1266	1665	1334	1986	1859	1815	1219	1561	1565
September ...	1166	1666	1450	1981	1859	1732	1215	1540	1557
October ...	1071	1664	1436	1980	1834	1707	1153	1546	1522

There was a fairly steady fall in the index numbers from October, 1929, to January, 1931. During the ensuing twelve months the general level did not vary greatly, and the index numbers of textiles, dairy produce and meat were much nearer to the base level than those relating to metals, building materials, groceries, etc. The index number of agricultural produce fell below that level in March, 1931. In 1932 the movement in some groups was somewhat irregular, but there was no sustained increase. The general tendency towards lower levels became more pronounced during the last quarter of the year, and it continued until March, 1933. There has since been an improvement in the prices of some rural products.

In the following statement the movement for the price levels of Australian products is compared with the change in respect of imported goods. The list of commodities and the weights and prices are the same as those used for the index numbers shown above, therefore the index numbers of imported goods are not suitable for measuring the price levels of all imports into the State for which it would be necessary to include a wider range of commodities with a different system of weighting. It would be necessary also to use actual import values instead of wholesale prices which cover costs of preparation for market and wholesale distribution, also customs duties and (since August, 1930) sales tax.

Year.	Wholesale Price Index Numbers.			Year.	Wholesale Price Index Numbers.		
	Australian Products.	Imported Goods.	All Commodities.		Australian Products.	Imported Goods.	All Commodities.
1911	1000	1000	1000	1926	1870	1747	1834
1920	2330	2919	2503	1927	1880	1742	1810
1921	1891	2111	1956	1928	1800	1750	1785
1922	1754	1911	1800	1929	1916	1726	1863
1923	1890	2007	1925	1930	1703	1709	1705
1924	1815	2016	1874	1931	1477*	1807*	1551
1925	1848	1867	1854	1932	1444	1803	1525

* Amended since last issue of Year Book.

The increase in the prices of imported goods between 1911 and 1920 was more pronounced, and the subsequent decline was greater, than the movement in prices of local products. The prices of both classes of commodities reached the maximum in 1920, and between that year and 1926 the price level of imported goods fell by 40 per cent., while the index number of Australian goods declined by 20 per cent. During the years 1926 to 1928 the index of imported goods was fairly steady, then it declined slightly. A number of imported commodities became dearer in 1930 when higher duties were imposed, but this was offset by a fall in respect of such items as cotton and jute goods. In 1931 the index number of imported goods rose by about 5½ per cent., as a result of higher duties, including primage duty and sales tax. There was little change in 1932. It has been estimated that the index number would be lower by about 10 per cent. if increases in customs duties and the primage and sales taxes were deducted from the prices.

The index number of Australian products was higher in 1929 than in any year since 1920; then it fell by 11 per cent. in 1930, by 13½ per cent. in 1931, and 2 per cent. in 1932. In comparison with the prices in 1929 the index number of Australian goods in 1932 shows a decline of nearly 25 per cent., and imported goods a rise of 4½ per cent.

The principal constituents of the wholesale price index numbers of Australian commodities are the products of the rural industries, such as wheat, wool and butter. It is interesting to trace the changes in the wholesale prices of these products in recent years, as well as in those of the non-rural items included in the index:—

Year.	Wheat.	Wool.	Butter.	Non-rural Commodities.	All Commodities.
1911	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
1926	1762	1976	1868	1823	1834
1927	1545	2106	2061	1851	1840
1928	1460	2176	1868	1866	1785
1929	1395	1624	2041	1836	1863
1930	1100	1094	1725	1778	1705
1931	700	1047	1543	1804	1551
1932	876	965	1400	1774	1525
1933—Jan. to Oct.	835	1176	1257	1721	1503

The price of wool to which the index numbers relate is the average at auction sales in Sydney where the great bulk of the wool is sold for export oversea. Therefore the price depends upon conditions of world markets except in so far as it is affected by premium on exchange. Oversea conditions influence the price of wheat also. The prices of both these products declined by 50 per cent. between 1926 and 1932. The price of wheat was even lower in 1931, and subsidies were paid to the wheat farmers by the Government in 1932 and 1933—these payments are not included in the price. The index numbers for butter refer to the supply for local consumption, which is dearer than butter for export; it declined by 25 per cent. between 1926 and 1932. The fall in the index number for non-rural commodities was only 3 per cent.; this index number is based on the prices of the 74 non-rural commodities included in the general index number, no highly manufactured commodities being taken into consideration.

The average wholesale prices of thirty-one commodities, which are representative of the various groups covered by the index numbers, are shown in the following statement. The quotations represent the mean of the monthly prices in Sydney, except where stated.

Commodity.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1926.	1929.	1931.	1932.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Wheat, milling bush.	2 8	3 6	8 7·9	6 2	4 10·6	2 5·4	3 0·9
Flour ton	126 5	169 9	336 7	297 5	230 11	191 3	197 0
Chaff, wheaten "	65 0	81 0	123 9	156 3	137 2	78 2	78 9
Hay, oaten "	75 0	94 5	151 11	166 4	150 4	119 0	124 6
Potatoes "	101 10	111 5	119 0	258 3	332 6	130 7	116 7
Sugar "	442 5	437 6	980 0	746 8	746 8	746 8	746 8
Tobacco, dark plug lb.	4 0	5 0	8 2	8 2	8 4	10 9	11 0
Tea "	1 1·5	1 1·5	2 1	2 2	2 2	2 4	2 1
Soap "	14 6	18 4	28 9	27 0	24 0	22 11	22 0
Jam 40 lb.	8 6	6 2	13 0	11 6	11 6	10 10	11 7
Kerosene 8½ gal.	6 3	7 3	20 7·8	12 6	13 4	13 0	13 2
Leather, sole lb.	0 9·9	1 1·7	1 11·2	1 11	1 9	1 6·8	1 7·5
Woolpacks each	1 11·6	2 4	3 8·6	5 1·4	3 10	4 1·2	3 8·1
Iron—Pig, local ton	84 7	73 4	182 6	120 10	120 0	115 0	96 8
Plate, girder "	269 2	233 4	666 8	382 6	390 0	410 3	434 7
Corrugated, gal. "	360 10	346 8	979 2	605 10	517 6	609 7	571 7
Copper, sheet lb.	1 2	0 10·5	2 1·5	1 6·6	1 9	1 9·6	1 10·2
Coal ton	11 9	13 10	30 5	32 2	*	27 9	27 6
Hardwood, local (3 x 2) 100 lin. ft.	6 0	8 6	18 0	14 3	16 4	16 0	15 1
Pine—Local (4 x 1) 100 sup. ft.	17 0	25 5	62 0	62 0	61 0	61 8	58 3
N.Z. (4 x 1) "	20 3	22 2	62 0	45 0	41 0	42 8	43 6
Oregon (2 x 2) "	12 6	15 7	47 1	26 0	29 4	36 1	37 8
Bricks 1,000	33 6	42 0	68 0	70 4	71 7	57 0	57 0
Beef—Fores lb.	0 2·4	0 1·7	0 2·2	0 2·3	0 4·3	0 2·4	0 2·4
Hinds "	0 3·4	0 2·7	0 5·6	0 5·1	0 6·9	0 5·0	0 4·3
Mutton "	0 2·2	0 2	0 4·2	0 4	0 4·4	0 2·7	0 2·3
Butter "	0 10·6	0 10·6	1 9·6	1 7·8	1 10	1 4·4	1 2·8
Eggs, new laid doz.	1 3·4	1 4	2 3·8	1 10·9	1 10	1 4·1	1 3·2
Cream of tartar lb.	0 10·6	0 11·2	2 0	1 4·4	1 4	2 0	1 9·6
Cotton, raw† "	0 4·7	0 7	0 10·4	0 10	0 10·7	0 5·5	0 5·5
Wool, greasy "	0 5·6†	8 5†	1 0 5†	1 4·9	1 1·7	0 8·9	0 8·2

* Not available. † Weighted average (season ended June). ‡ Prices in Liverpool (England.)

In comparison with the previous year, all the items of agricultural produce which are represented in the wholesale price index were, on the average, slightly dearer in 1932, except potatoes and oats; meat was cheaper, also butter, eggs, condensed milk and lard; the average for bacon was the same in both years; ham, cheese and honey were dearer. In the textile-group the price of cotton was about the same in both years; wool, wool-packs and corn-sacks and bag leather were cheaper; bran-bags, harness and sole leather were dearer. The movement in prices of iron was variable—some items, i.e., pig-iron, corrugated galvanised iron and fencing wire, were appreciably cheaper, but rod and bar, galvanised hoop and black sheet iron were dearer. The other industrial metals were quoted at higher rates, and coal was slightly cheaper. In building materials, local flooring-boards and shelving, hardwood and linseed oil were cheaper, imported flooring-timber and oregon, cement, glass, tiles, slates and plaster of paris were dearer.

The variations in the average prices of groceries were generally small, though tea was much cheaper, and jam, raisins, tinned herrings, salt and matches were dearer. Among the chemicals, cream of tartar and sheep dip were cheaper; soda—caustic and carbonate—and sulphur were dearer.

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:—

Year.	New South Wales. (Sydney). [Bureau of Statistics.]	Victoria. (Melbourne). [Common- wealth 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	180	238	150	550
1913	100	100	100	100	100	100
1920	229	228	207	243	307	221
1921	179	175	192	172	197	140
1926	168	168	153	156	148	143
1927	169	167	146	153	142	137
1928	163	165	147	151	140	139
1929	171	166	147	149	136	137
1930	157	147	143	135	120	124
1931	142	131	133	113	104	105
1932	140	130	128	104	102	93

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.

In the United Kingdom, the index number was below pre-war level in August and September, 1931, also in the months July and August, 1932, and February to May, 1933. In the United States the pre-war level was reached in December, 1931, and there was a further decline in 1932. Since February, 1933, there has been an increase in prices, but the index number did not regain the level of the year 1913 until August, 1933.

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.	1916.	1921.	1926.	1930.	1931.	1932.
		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 4 0	0 6 2	0 5 9	0 5 5	0 5 4	0 5 3
Flour	25lb.	1 11 0	2 9 0	3 6 1	6 1 6	5 2 3	4 1 5	3 7 7	3 9 2
Tea	lb.	1 3 0	1 3 5	1 6 1	1 10 7	2 3 2	2 1 2	2 3 7	2 2 4
Coffee and Chicory	"	1 5 0	1 5 0	1 6 0	1 11 6	2 2 4	2 1 8	1 11 5	1 11 4
Sugar	"	0 2 3	0 2 7	0 3 5	0 5 7	0 4 6	0 4 6	0 4 6	0 4 5
Rice	"	0 2 5	0 2 7	0 3 2	0 4 9	0 3 4	0 3 6	0 3 5	0 3 5
Sago	"	0 2 5	0 2 7	0 3 2	0 3 6	0 3 6	0 3 3	0 3 3	0 3 2
Jam (Australian)	"	0 4 0	0 4 4	0 6 0	0 10 0	0 8 1	0 6 7	0 6 5	0 7 5
Oatmeal	5lb.	0 11 3	1 0 5	1 2 6	1 8 0	1 8 6	1 7 8	1 3 6	1 3 5
Currants	lb.	0 6 9	0 7 0	0 9 1	0 11 1	0 8 7	0 8 8	0 8 3	0 8 3
Candles	"	0 5 5	0 6 5	0 8 0	1 1 0	0 11 7	0 10 5	0 10 7	0 11 4
Soap	"	0 2 5	0 3 0	0 3 4	0 5 0	0 5 4	0 5 5	0 5 3	0 5 0
Potatoes	14lb.	0 11 3	1 0 2	1 6 5	1 4 5	3 1 4	1 10 1	1 6 7	1 6 8
Onions	lb.	0 1 4	0 0 7	0 1 1	0 1 5	0 4 1	0 2 2	0 1 7	0 3 3
Kerosene	gal.	0 10 1	0 11 1	1 6 7	2 10 9	1 11 5	1 10 5	1 9 4	1 9 3
Milk	quart	0 4 0	0 4 4	0 5 8	0 8 1	0 8 6	0 8 4	0 7 1	0 7 2
Butter	lb.	1 0 2	1 1 7	1 5 3	2 0 7	2 0 1	1 9 4	1 7 0	1 5 4
Cheese	"	0 7 5	0 8 7	1 0 1	1 3 9	1 4 1	1 2 5	0 11 9	1 0 2
Eggs, Fresh	doz.	1 3 0	1 3 5	1 6 4	2 6 5	2 2 1	1 11 7	1 7 3	1 5 8
Bacon, Middle Cut	lb.	0 9 0	0 10 5	1 4 5	1 10 9	1 7 6	1 6 2	1 2 2	1 1 4*
Ham	"	0 11 0	1 1 0	1 5 5	2 0 9	2 0 0	1 9 7	1 5 7	1 4 9
Beef, Sirloin	"	0 4 5	0 4 5	0 11 1	0 9 1	0 9 3	0 11 3	0 9 3	0 8 7
Ribs	"	0 3 8	0 3 8	0 9 5	0 6 7	0 6 8	0 8 6	0 7 2	0 6 5
Steak, Rump	"	0 7 0	0 7 0	1 1 8	1 2 0	1 1 8	1 4 3	1 1 9	1 1 0
Beef, Corned Round	"	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 9 6	0 8 1	0 7 1	0 9 0	0 7 8	0 7 3
Mutton, Leg	"	0 3 2	0 3 0	0 7 8	0 6 9	0 7 6	0 7 6	0 6 2	0 5 7
Shoulder	"	0 2 8	0 2 5	0 6 7	0 5 2	0 6 0	0 5 8	0 4 7	0 4 2
Loin	"	0 3 8	0 3 8	0 7 9	0 7 6	0 8 9	0 9 0	0 7 6	0 6 6
Chops, Loin	"	0 4 2	0 4 0	0 9 0	0 8 6	0 9 9	0 10 3	0 7 9	0 7 1
Leg	"	0 3 8	0 3 8	0 8 6	0 8 1	0 9 2	0 9 2	0 7 4	0 6 6
Pork, Leg	"	0 6 2	0 7 8	1 0 1	1 3 4	1 1 1	1 2 1	0 11 1	0 10 7
Chops	"	0 6 8	0 8 5	1 0 1	1 5 8	1 2 2	1 2 3	0 11 2	0 10 6

* Rashers.

In 1932 there was very little variation in the average prices of groceries, though jam and dried fruits were dearer. Butter, eggs, bacon and fresh meat were cheaper. Onions were unusually dear.

HOUSE RENTS.

The average rent of various types of houses in Sydney and suburbs in 1901 and later years is shown below. The figures have been compiled by the Commonwealth Statistician to represent the average predominant rent per week for each class of houses up to the year 1925, inclusive, and actual averages in later years:—

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
1921	14 2	18 5	21 7	25 2	29 7	35 9	23 0
1926	15 4	21 0	25 6	33 6	36 9	47 6	28 4
1927	15 3	20 9	25 3	32 7	37 4	49 5	28 3
1928	15 3	21 2	26 9	32 2	36 5	53 6	29 0
1929	15 10	21 4	26 11	32 8	37 0	52 10	29 3
1950	15 10	21 11	28 0	31 7	36 9	46 6	28 9
1931	15 3	19 5	23 6	27 10	33 7	43 8	25 7
1932	13 7	17 1	20 2	25 8	30 11	42 10	23 3
1933 Mar. qr.	13 3	16 8	19 8	25 1	30 11	42 10	22 10
June ,,	13 3	16 9	19 6	24 8	30 11	42 9	22 8
Sept. ,,	13 3	16 5	19 10	24 8	30 11	43 4	22 9

Note.—Kitchen is included as a room.

During the post-war period there was an active demand for houses, and the supply being inadequate, the average rental in Sydney increased steadily. In 1921 it was 4s. 1d. higher than in 1916, and the average for 1925 showed a further addition of 4s. per week. The rentals shown for 1926 and later periods, being actual averages, are not strictly comparable with those for earlier years, which are the average predominant rents.

The general level of rents did not vary greatly from 1926 until the latter part of the year 1930. The weighted average in the two quarters January to June of that year was about 29s. 6d. Then it commenced to fall and in June quarter, 1931, it was 26s. 1d. or 3s. 5d. lower. A further decline to 23s. 8d. in December quarter, 1931, was due to some extent to the operation of the Rents Reduction Act described on page 722. The decline has continued, but it has been slow. The average in June quarter, 1933, being 1s. lower than in December quarter, 1931.

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. It was administered by the Fair Rents Courts, each consisting of a stipendiary or police magistrate, and the rentals were reviewed upon application by the lessor or the lessee.

The Act was amended in 1920, 1926 and 1928. It expired on the 1st July, 1933.

A description of its main provisions was published in the 1930-31 issue of the Year Book, also a brief review of the decisions of the Metropolitan Fair Rents Court, where most of the applications were dealt with.

The scope of the Act was restricted by the amending legislation passed in 1928. Then adverse economic conditions developed and in many cases owners had to reduce rents below the "fair rent" as defined by the Act, owing to the financial incapacity of their tenants. In October, 1931, a general reduction of rents was prescribed under the Reduction of Rents Act, described below. In view of these circumstances very few applications were made to the Fair Rents Court, the number lodged in the Metropolitan Court between 1st April, 1931 and 30th June, 1933, being only 15, of which 11 were withdrawn. The rent in one of these cases was fixed as at date of application, and in the other three cases it was reduced.

During the period the Act was in operation, viz., from 13th March, 1916, to 30th June, 1933, the applications in the Metropolitan district numbered 12,065. In 4,909 cases the applications were withdrawn or struck out, and in 7,156 the Court fixed a fair rental, by increase in 2,129 cases and reduction in 4,089 cases, and in 938 cases it was fixed as at date of application. The average rental of the 7,156 premises was 26s. 6d. per week, and the net result of the Court's decisions was an average reduction in the weekly rent amounting to 2s. 7d. per house. The number of cases in country districts was only 567. Of these, 276 were withdrawn or dismissed; in 51 cases the rent was fixed as at date of application, in 126 cases the rent was reduced, and in 114 it was increased.

Legislation for Reduction of Rents, etc.

At a conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers in August, 1931, a resolution was passed that, as part of a plan for the restoration of prosperity in Australia, legislative action should be taken by all the States to enable leaseholders to obtain a certain measure of relief. As an outcome of this decision the Reduction of Rents Act was passed in New South Wales in October, 1931, to prescribe a general reduction of 22½ per cent. in rents (except those payable to the Crown) except where the lessor obtained an order of a court of petty sessions permitting rent to be charged at a higher rate. If the rent of a dwelling had been reduced by the lessor or by a Fair Rents Court after 30th June, 1930, the amount of such reduction was taken into account in calculating the reduction to be effected, but a lessor was not permitted to charge a higher rent than was charged at the commencement of the Act. The law did not apply to premises which were not leased on 30th June, 1930, unless a lease was entered into prior to 9th July, 1931, *i.e.*, three months before the Act commenced. The Act expired by effluxion of time on 31st December, 1932, and the general reduction of 22½ per cent. in respect of leases existing at 30th June, 1930, was continued until 31st December, 1935, by the Landlord and Tenant (Amendment) Act, 1932. Provision was made, however, that, upon application within three months of the commencement of this Act, a competent court might increase the rent in certain cases up to the amount stated in the lease (as maximum) or might order a further reduction.

In addition to measures for the regulation of rents, amendments have been made in the tenancy laws for the purpose of mitigating hardship in cases where tenants are unable to pay rent on account of unemployment. Thus distraint for rent, as provided by the Landlords and Tenants Act, 1899, was abolished as from 10th December, 1930, and in August, 1931, the right to eject tenants from dwellings leased at rents not exceeding £3 a week became subject to orders of a competent court. The court may postpone eviction if the occupiers are in impoverished circumstances owing to inability to obtain employment, and postponement may be made subject to a condition that the occupier pay to the owner such sum in such instalments and at such times as the court orders. An order for postponement may not be granted if it would cause the owner to suffer undue hardship, nor if the occupier or other person residing in the dwelling has been guilty of acts of waste depreciating its value. By the Landlord and Tenant (Amendment) Act, 1932, the period of postponement has been limited to four months.

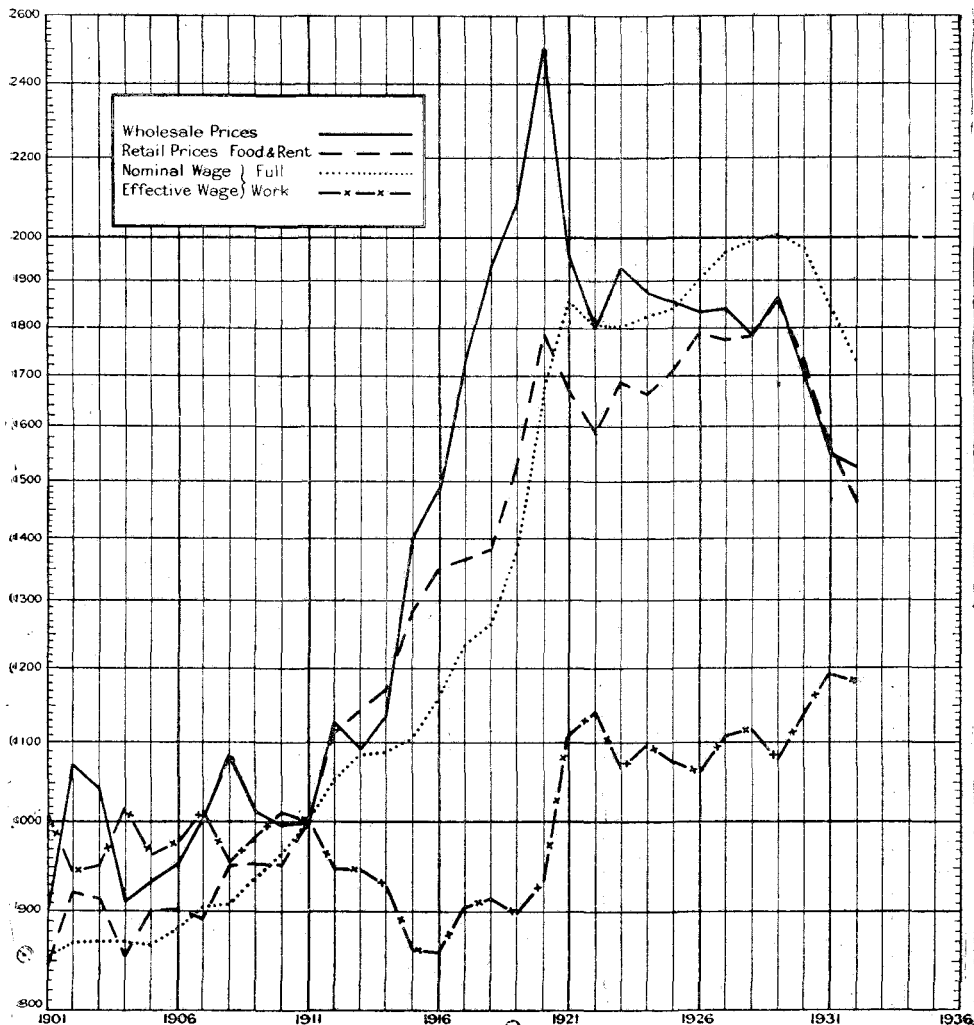
GRAPH OF INDEX NUMBERS—PRICES AND WAGES.

The graph shown below illustrates the course of wholesale and retail prices and nominal and effective wages in Sydney since 1901. The curves

relating to wages refer to those paid for full time, and no allowance is made for unemployment.

INDEX NUMBERS—PRICES AND WAGES—SYDNEY—1901 TO 1932.
YEAR 1911 = 1000.

Ratio Graph.



The numbers at the side of the graph are the index numbers with the year 1911 as base = 1,000.

The diagram is a ratio graph. The vertical scale is logarithmic, and each curve rises and falls according to the percentage of increase or decrease.

RETAIL PRICE INDEX NUMBERS—FOOD AND DRINK.

The retail price index numbers for Sydney which are discussed in this chapter are uniform with similar index numbers published by the Commonwealth Statistician, except in so far as they are stated in relation to prices in Sydney during the base period, whereas the Commonwealth Statistician's index numbers are related to the average cost in the six capital cities of Australia.

The retail price index numbers of food and groceries for 1931 and earlier years are based upon the retail prices of over forty commodities in everyday use, the prices being weighted according to the average annual consumption in the years 1906-10. A new regimen was introduced in July, 1932. A few items were added, and the weighting was changed to represent the annual average consumption per head for household purposes in Australia during the three years, 1927 to 1929. The commodities now included are as follows:—Bread, flour (ordinary and self-raising), tea, sugar, rice, sago, jam, golden syrup, oatmeal, raisins, currants, dried apricots, canned peaches and canned pears, salmon (in tins), potatoes, onions, soap, candles, kerosene, milk (fresh and condensed), butter, cheese, eggs, bacon, ham and various cuts of beef, mutton and pork.

The index numbers of rent refer to the weighted average rental of all houses, as shown on page 720.

These index numbers should not be used as a complete measure of variations in the cost of living. 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. Moreover, they are only approximations indicating the general movement and not an exact scale of price levels.

The retail price index numbers of food and rent in Sydney in each year from 1864 to 1911 were 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, and in each quarter of the last two years.

Year.	Retail Prices Index Numbers (1911=1000). "All Houses"			Amount required in each period to purchase the same quantities of Food and Housing as would have cost, on the average, 20s. in 1911.
	Food and Groceries.	Rent. (All houses.)	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	1116	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	1886	1664	1790	35 10
1927	1865	1659	1776	35 6
1928	1845	1703	1783	35 8
1929	1969	1715	1859	37 2
1930	1777	1687	1738	34 9
1931	1583	1501	1548	30 11
1932	1539	1363	1462	29 3
1932—March quarter...	1571	1380	1488	29 9
June " ...	1555	1370	1475	29 6
Sept. " ...	1534	1356	1456	29 1
Dec. " ...	1496	1346	1429	28 7
1933—March quarter...	1437	1340	1392	27 10
June " ...	1443	1333	1392	27 10
Sept. " ...	1459	1336	1403	28 1

The great bulk of the food commodities is produced in the Commonwealth and prices are affected largely by seasonal conditions. The index number of Sydney prices of food was higher in 1929 than in any year since 1920. During the years 1930 to 1932 it declined by nearly 22 per cent., the average for 1932 being the lowest since 1916.

Rents increased slowly after 1920, and reached the highest level in March quarter, 1930. It is probable, however, that an increase of 5 per cent. recorded in 1926 was a result of a change in the method of collecting data as to rents which was made by the Commonwealth Statistician at the beginning of that year. 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. The index number declined by 11 per cent. in 1931, and by 9 per cent. in 1932.

From 1922 to 1929 the general trend of the index number of food and rent combined was upward. In 1926 the combined index number was practically the same as in 1920, 79 per cent. higher than in 1911, and 53 per cent. higher than in 1914. In 1927 and 1928 it did not vary greatly. In 1929 there was an increase of 4 per cent., and in the last quarter the index number was almost as high as in September, 1920. In the next three years the index numbers were lower by 6½ per cent., 17 per cent., and 22 per cent. respectively, than in 1929.

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, 1928.	July, 1929.	July, 1930.	July, 1931.	July, 1932.	July, 1933.
New South Wales	58	66	54	34	32	25
Victoria	51	62	50	24	23	15
Queensland	57	58	43	28	24	18
South Australia	44	54	34	9	10	4
Western Australia	46	45	32	9	7	1
Tasmania	42	50	42	16	16	12
Australia	53	61	48	25	23	16
New Zealand	46	46	43	18	8	4
South Africa	16	16	9	4	6*	2*
United States	50	55	41	17	1	5
Canada	47	50	49	10	8*	5*
United Kingdom	65	49	41	30	25	18
Germany ... ..	...	56	46	30	14	11
Denmark	53	49	37	19	15	17
Sweden	57	51	40	30	28	22
Norway	73	57	51	40	34	32
Italy (Milan)	416	458	407	342	318	302†
France (Paris) ... ..	...	522	503	517	443	407

*Percentage decrease.

†Approximate.

The price level of food commodities in New South Wales in recent years has been higher in comparison with July, 1914, than in the other Australian States. The index numbers shown above may not be used for exact comparisons between the various countries owing to differences in the scope of the data, and in methods of compilation.

Cost of Food—Changing Regimen.

The index numbers on page 724 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 estimating the cost, the average consumption per member of the family in 1932 is assumed to have been equivalent to the general average per head of population as shown on page 705, and corresponding figures have been used for the year 1914. An exception has been made in regard to flour and sugar, and allowance has been made 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.

Article.	Unit of Quantity.	Estimates—Year 1914.			Estimates—Year 1932.		
		Weekly Consumption.	Average Price.	Weekly Cost.	Weekly Consumption.	Average Price.	Weekly Cost.
Beef	lb.	12·8	5·3	5 7·8	8·9	7·7	5 8·6
Mutton	lb.	8·1	4·8	3 2·9	8·2	5·4	3 8·3
Pork	lb.	·3	10·3	3·1	·4	10·6	4·2
Bacon and Ham	lb.	·9	11·0	9·9	1·1	12·8	1 2·1
Fish—Fresh, etc.	lb.	·8	9·5	7·6	·9	11·0	9·9
„ Preserved	lb.	·4	10·5	4·2	·3	21·0	6·3
Potatoes	lb.	14·4	·9	1 1·0	10·2	1·3	1 1·3
Flour	lb.	4·0	1·4	5·6	4·0	1·9	7·6
Bread	2lb. loaf	10·0	3·5	2 11·0	9·6	5·3	4 2·9
Rice	lb.	·6	3·0	1 8	·4	3·5	1·4
Sago and Tapioca	lb.	·2	2·7	·5	·1	3·2	·3
Oatmeal... ..	lb.	·5	2·6	1·3	·5	3·1	1·6
Sugar	lb.	6·0	2·7	1 4·2	6·0	4·5	2 3·0
Jam	lb.	1·6	5·0	8·0	1·0	7·5	7·5
Butter	lb.	2·9	14·2	3 5·2	3·2	17·4	4 7·7
Cheese	lb.	·3	10·6	3·2	·4	12·2	4·9
Milk—Fresh	qt.	7·7	5·3	3 4·8	7·7	7·2	4 7·5
Tea	lb.	·7	15·8	11·1	·7	26·4	1 6·5
Coffee	oz.	1·3	1·1	1·4	·9	1·5	1·4
Total—All items enumerated above		...	...	25 10·6	...	...	32 9·0

On the basis of the foregoing estimates the relative weekly cost of the commodities enumerated was 25s. 10½d. in 1914 and 32s. 9d. or 26·5 per cent. greater in 1932. The weekly bill for meat was 9s. 11½d. in 1914 and 10s. 11½d. for a smaller quantity in 1932. The average expenditure on milk and butter was estimated at 6s. 10d. and 9s. 3d. in the respective years, the increase being due to an increase in quantity as well as in prices.

Taking rent also, the weighted average (all houses) being 20s. in 1914 and 23s. 3d. in 1932—the weekly expenditure on food and housing, as estimated, would have been approximately 46s. in 1914, as compared with 56s. in 1932, and the increase per week during the period 10s., or nearly 22 per cent.

An interesting comparison may be made between the increase in the household expenditure on food estimated 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 724. 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 1914, though the general level of food prices was 86 per cent. higher. In 1932 the average expenditure on food, as estimated, was 26.5 per cent. over that of 1914, and the retail price index number for food and groceries was 31.7 per cent. higher than in 1914.

COST OF LIVING.

The matter of cost of living is considered mainly in relation to wages and the standard of living of persons of moderate means. In such cases the greater part of the family income is expended upon food, groceries and housing, and it is frequently assumed that the measurement of these groups alone indicates with a reasonable degree of accuracy the extent of changes in the cost of living—other items, such as clothing and miscellaneous expenses being excluded from consideration owing to the difficulty of obtaining satisfactory data as to cost over a period of years.

A Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, appointed by the Federal Government in 1919, conducted an investigation into the cost of living for a family consisting of man, wife and three children under 14 years of age, and having determined a standard of living, ascertained the cost in the capital cities of Australia in November of each year from 1914 to 1920. After the Commission had completed the inquiry, the Commonwealth Statistician extended the scope of his investigations regarding retail prices to cover all the main groups of household expenditure on the basis of a regimen similar to that adopted by the Royal Commission in order to compile a scale of "All Items" index numbers. In the chapter of this Year Book which relates to wages, it is noted that these "All Items" index numbers have been brought into use, in combination with those based on food, groceries and rent, for the cost of living adjustments of wages in Federal awards and agreements.

The "All Items" retail price index numbers for Sydney are shown below on the same basis as the tables published by the Commonwealth Statistician. Separate particulars are stated for the various groups of expenditure. The base of each group is the weighted average for that group in the six capital cities of Australia during the quinquennium 1923-1927 taken as 1,000.

Period.	Retail Price Index Numbers—"All Items."					
	Food and Groceries.	Housing (4 and 5 Rooms).	Food, Groceries and Housing Combined.	Clothing.	Miscellaneous.	Total Household Expenditure.
Nov., 1914 ...	638	758	680	755	766	712
" 1921 ...	964	1,000	977	1,255	1,009	1,046
Years 1923-27...	1,012	1,111	1,047	950	1,021	1,020
Year 1928 ...	1,021	1,143	1,064	978	1,048	1,042
" 1929 ...	1,090	1,162	1,115	983	1,046	1,073
" 1930 ...	984	1,197	1,059	931	1,040	1,026
" 1931 ...	876	1,026	929	835	1,013	922
" 1932 ...	852	894	867	769	996	867
March qtr. 1933 ...	796	873	822	745	987	833
June qtr. 1933 ...	799	863	821	745	990	833

The index numbers for food and groceries, as shown in this table, differ from those on page 724, solely because the base for one is the cost in Sydney in the year 1911, and for the other the weighted average cost in the six capital cities of Australia in the five years 1923 to 1927. In housing there is also a difference in regimen, viz., all houses in one case and houses of 4 and 5 rooms in the other. In regard to clothing and miscellaneous items, the regimen of the Basic Wage Commission was adopted with the exception, in the latter group, of certain groceries already included with food. The index numbers of these two groups are affected unavoidably by changes in standards, and "are not such true measures of prices as the index numbers for food and groceries."

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 Census taken in June, 1933, are not yet available, and the latest records refer to the previous census of April, 1921. At that date, out of a total population of 2,100,371, the breadwinners numbered 884,104, of whom 713,169, or 81 per cent., were males. Particulars regarding their occupations were published in the 1928-29 issue of the "Year Book."

Returns relating to 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. Occupiers and managers are included in the returns, also 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 workers are distributed amongst the several branches of rural industry according to the work on which they were engaged at the time. On the other hand, the annual records show the average number employed during the period, and those engaged on each of the numerous holdings where more than one class of rural production is undertaken are distributed according to the main purpose for which the holding was used.

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 dependants. 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.

The following statement shows the number of persons engaged in the various branches of rural industry in various years since 1911:—

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
1920-21	50,162	1,509	26,648	13,176	43,766	1,022	120,576	15,707	136,283
1925-26	44,991	841	30,351	15,027	45,652	420	120,994	16,288	137,282
1926-27	43,268	866	29,106	12,525	47,546	854	119,920	14,245	134,165
1927-28	43,953	713	29,845	12,378	46,882	453	120,680	13,544	134,224
1928-29	40,058	606	30,997	9,765	46,808	306	117,863	10,677	128,540
1929-30	39,860	472	32,494	9,105	44,069	271	116,423	9,848	126,271
1930-31	40,163	518	33,977	8,735	40,849	290	114,989	9,543	124,532
1931-32	39,382	390	36,601	7,923	40,946	209	116,929	8,522	125,451

The number of workers engaged in cultivating, etc., has declined since 1911, though the area under cultivation has increased, the greater use of machinery and the substitution of motor for horse drawn vehicles 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 agriculture.

The number of male dairy workers has increased appreciably since 1911. In the pastoral industry the number of permanent employees 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 on rural holdings in 1931-32 was 9 per cent. less than the average of the three years prior to the war.

The figures in the table indicate that there has been a marked decrease in the number of women engaged in rural work, and this may be attributed mainly to the exclusion from the returns in recent years of women whose chief occupation is domestic rather than rural. The majority of the women are relatives not receiving wages, and the number so classified in the returns decreased from 13,841 in 1925-26 to 7,141 in 1931-32, while the number of women classified as working proprietors or paid employees was reduced from 2,447 to 1,381.

The total number of rural workers in 1931-32 included 67,922 men and 918 women, who were classed as working proprietors, *i.e.*, owners, lessees, or share-farmers working on the holdings; 22,133 men and 7,141 women were classed as relatives employed constantly, but not receiving wages. There were 26,874 men and 463 women, including managers and relatives, in receipt of wages. The amount of wages paid to these employees in 1931-32 was £3,042,098 to men and £22,489 to women, excluding the value of board, etc., assessed at £1,102,979 for men and £17,607 for women. In addition, wages amounting to £1,850,019 were paid to casual workers, excluding £261,519 the value of board, etc. Particulars regarding rural labour and wages in the preceding decennium are shown on page 656 of this Year Book.

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 1920-21 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 establishments with fewer than four persons have not been included unless machinery was used in the factory, and the figures shown in the table represent the average number employed in the factories during each year:—

Year.	Rural Industries.	Forests, Fisheries, and Frapping.	Mining.	Manufacturing.*			Total.*		
	Total.			Males.	Males.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1911	142,378	6,000	33,367	79,005	25,546	104,551	247,546	38,750	286,296
1920-21	136,283	6,700	25,612	107,700	31,511	139,211	260,588	47,218	307,806
1925-26	137,282	7,900	29,186	128,846	40,928	169,774	286,926	57,216	344,142
1926-27	134,165	8,500	29,373	135,305	44,073	179,378	293,098	58,318	351,416
1927-28	134,224	8,000	25,551	134,341	43,357	177,698	288,572	56,901	345,473
1928-29	128,540	7,700	26,562	135,773	44,983	180,756	287,898	55,660	343,558
1929-30	126,271	6,300	25,010	122,005	40,908	162,913	269,738	50,756	320,494
1930-31	124,532	5,600	18,370	93,881	33,724	127,605	232,840	43,267	276,107
1931-32	125,451	6,000	17,721	90,667	35,688	126,355	231,317	44,210	275,527

* Particulars relating to "manufacturing" revised since last issue—see page 56 of this Year Book.

Employees engaged in treating minerals at the place of production are included in the returns of the manufacturing industries, and not with the mining employees, 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 1920-21 and later years, is exclusive of fossickers, who numbered 10,111 in 1931, and 9,643 in 1932. In view of the small output which they obtained, it is probable they were not employed in fossicking throughout the whole year.

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. Between 1921 and 1927 there was a steady increase in the number of coal-miners, 24,483 being employed in 1927. In the following year the number dropped to 21,743. Subsequent returns show an increase to 22,470 in 1929, and a decline to 21,343 in 1930, but these figures are over-stated on account of duplication in respect of miners who moved from the northern to the southern and western coal-fields when the northern mines were closed during a protracted industrial dislocation. The number was 15,531 in 1931 and 14,126 in 1932.

In other mines employees increased from 4,639 in 1921 to 5,061 in 1926, and have since declined to 3,595.

The number of factory workers did not vary greatly between 1926-27 and 1928-29, then there was a decrease of 10 per cent. in 1929-30, and a further decline of nearly 22 per cent. in the following year. The fall seems to have been arrested in 1931-32 when the average number was about 99 per cent. of the corresponding figure for the previous year. The majority of female factory workers are engaged in the clothing trades, and fluctuations in the number of female employees reflect generally the condition of that group of industries.

Government Employees.

In New South Wales a large number of persons are employed by the State and Commonwealth Governments. In addition to services such as education, police, justice, health, lands administration, and the construction of public works, etc., the State owns railways, tramways, and wharves, and engages in various industrial enterprises, *e.g.*, abattoirs, dock-yards, quarries, brick and pipe works. The Commonwealth services include posts, telegraphs and telephones, customs, taxation, and defence.

The following statement shows the number of Government employees, as at 30th June, 1921, 1926, and later years. The figures include persons engaged in the various State and Federal departments and those under the jurisdiction of statutory bodies which administer the railway and tramway services, harbour works, water supply and sewerage systems, etc., and the staffs of the State Savings Bank and of the Commonwealth Bank in New South Wales. Data regarding certain employees attached to various

State departments, but not under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Board, were collected for the first time in 1928, and have been included since that date.

Services.	1921.	1926.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.		
							Males.	Females.	Total.
<i>State.</i>									
Public Service Board—									
Teachers (including Inspectors) ...	8,150	9,682	10,430	10,807	11,180	11,471	5,071	6,084	11,155
Hospitals, etc.—General Staffs ...	1,854	2,237	2,485	2,514	2,576	2,586	1,140	1,457	2,597
Other ...	9,325	8,403	9,183	9,284	9,168	9,311	7,197	2,084	9,261
Total, Public Service Board.	19,329	20,322	22,098	22,605	22,924	23,368	13,408	9,605	23,013
Railways ...	49,929	57,474	58,181	58,011	52,737	51,174	48,542	1,268	49,810
Tramways ...	1,326	1,422	1,272	1,232	999	727	597	22	619
Sydney Harbour Trust ...	2,688	4,688	5,103	6,257	4,242	2,164	2,053	84	2,137
Metropolitan and Hunter District Water and Sewerage Boards ...	1,712	1,134	1,239	1,548	1,142	1,058	997	53	1,050
Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission ...	...	1,300†	3,658	3,665	2,208	1,343	1,302	56	1,358
Main Roads Board ...	1,000	983	2,096	1,561	730	490	523	...	523
Government Dockyard ...	548	648	718	674	654	704	652	24	676
Metropolitan Meat Industry Board ...	2,788	2,978	3,313	3,569	3,750	3,717	3,644	12	3,656
Police ...	458	528	787	828	847	833	792	29	821
Fire Commissioners ...	860	1,367	1,563	1,704	1,734	1,690	205	132	337
Government Savings Bank ...	*	*	2,306	2,707	2,679	2,570	1,662	849	2,511
Other—Departmental not under Public Service Board ...	5,269	5,037	5,723	5,766	5,272	4,776	3,626	371	3,997
Miscellaneous ...									
Total, State ...	85,907*	97,881*	108,057	110,157	99,918	94,614	78,003	12,505	90,508
<i>Commonwealth.</i>									
Public Service Commission ...	10,934	13,627	13,344	14,824	13,041	11,557	10,293	1,551	11,844
Defence, Repatriation and War Service Homes ...	2,329	2,060	2,017	1,902	1,966	1,512	1,531	181	1,712
Other ...	589‡	1,703	1,934	1,159	1,339	1,422	2,416	606	3,022
Total Commonwealth in N.S.W.	13,852‡	17,390	17,295	17,885	17,246	14,491	14,240	2,338	16,578
Total, Government Employees in N.S.W. ...	99,759**	115,271*	125,352	128,042	117,164	109,105	92,243	14,843	107,086

* Excluding Departmental employees not under jurisdiction of Public Service Board. † July, approximate. ‡ Commonwealth Bank Staff not included. ** See notes * and †.

The total number of persons employed by the Government of New South Wales as at 30th June, 1932, was about 90,500. The railway and tramway employees represented 55 per cent., teachers 12 per cent., general staffs of State hospitals, etc., the police and firemen nearly 8 per cent., employees under jurisdiction of the Public Service Board (other than teachers and hospital staffs) 10 per cent.

Excluding 2,511 departmental employees not under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Board, of whom returns were not collected in the earlier years, the figures in the foregoing table show an increase of 2,090 in the number of State Government employees during the period of twelve years 1921-1932. The largest increases were in the following groups, viz., teachers and hospital staffs 3,748, police 868, and the Main Roads Board, which was not in existence in 1921, gave employment to 1,358 persons in 1932. On the other hand, there were decreases amounting to 2,397 in the numbers employed by statutory bodies administering the water conservation, irrigation, sewerage, and drainage works, the Sydney Harbour Trust, and the dockyard.

The number of State Government employees was reduced by 19,649 between June, 1929, and June, 1932, the largest decreases being as follows:— Railways and tramways 8,201, Metropolitan and Hunter District water and sewerage staffs 4,120, main roads 2,337, and savings bank (by transfer to the Commonwealth Bank) 1,369, dockyard 1,038.

The number of persons in the service of the Commonwealth in New South Wales at 30th June, 1932, was nearly 16,600. An increase of 2,087 during the year 1931-32 was due chiefly to the transfer of the staff of the State Savings Bank.

At 30th June, 1933, the number of Government employees was 103,517. The State Government employees numbered 88,464, viz., 75,884 males and 12,580 females; and the Commonwealth employees numbered 15,053, viz., 12,711 males and 2,342 females.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

Particulars relating to unemployment are collected at the census. The latest records available relate to the census taken in April, 1921, when persons were returned as unemployed who had been out of work for more than a week at the date of collection. At that time, unemployment, which arose during the post-war disorganisation, was probably at a maximum, and the number of persons unemployed was 61,640, or 9.5 per cent. of the group embracing salary and wage earners and the unemployed combined. The males numbered 54,028, or 10.6 per cent., and the females 7,612, or 5.5 per cent.

Until the information collected at the recent census in June, 1933, becomes available it is not practicable to arrive at a satisfactory estimate of the extent of unemployment during recent years. Information regarding the condition of employment amongst certain classes of trade unionists is collected by the Commonwealth Statistician from the union secretaries and is published at quarterly intervals. It has been stated that the figures give a good index of unemployment in normal times and even in the present abnormal times probably give a fair measure of the trend of unemployment. The returns, however, do not cover unions of persons in employment which is usually regarded as permanent such as railway and tramway employees, nor those whose employment is casual such as wharf-labourers. The data are deficient also in regard to groups of unions included in the survey because many secretaries are not able to supply accurate information owing to lack of records, and others do not send their returns regularly.

The following statement shows, in respect of trade unions for which returns were supplied to the Commonwealth Statistician, the proportion of their members who were unemployed in each quarter of 1921, 1926, and of the last five years.

Period.	Proportion of Unemployed Members in Trade Unions for which Returns are available.						
	1921.	1926.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
March quarter ...	13.7	8.4	9.7	16.3	29.2	31.8	30.2
June quarter ...	13.5	7.5	10.0	21.0	30.7	33.2	29.6
September quarter ...	12.3	7.4	12.4	23.3	31.6	33.0	28.8
December quarter ...	11.9	6.2	13.8	26.3	31.5	31.9	...

The returns as to unemployment on which the foregoing percentages were based, covered a membership of 189,569 in 1930, 186,789 in 1931, and 186,072 in 1932. These represented probably less than one-fourth of the people who would be classified at a census as salary and wage earners.

Intermittency of Employment.

A considerable loss of working-time occurs in many industries even in normal periods on account of intermittency arising from various causes and, under adverse conditions which have been affecting business activity, the practice of "rationing" the available work amongst employees has led to intermittency in many occupations not usually affected by it.

Information regarding the extent of intermittency in respect of the principal coal mines is collected by the Department of Labour and Industry. Particulars obtained from these records show that during the period of eighteen years—1915-32—the average number of work-days was 272 per annum, after making allowances for Sundays, pay Saturdays, and regular public holidays. The days on which operations were suspended numbered, on an average, 87 per annum, or 32 per cent. of the total work-days; 26 days, or 10 per cent., were lost through industrial disputes, and 61 days, or 22 per cent., through other causes.

The total loss of working time involved by the interruptions to work in coal mines during the five years 1928-32 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.					1928-1932.	
	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	Average	Per
						per	cent.
						per	of
						Annium.	Total.
Industrial disputes..	369,778	2,476,536	1,363,360	56,987	82,568	869,846	30.4
Truck shortage ...	33,652	20,552	106,393	154,803	47,506	72,581	2.5
Slackness of trade...	1,918,075	477,734	1,535,046	2,106,330	1,830,054	1,573,448	54.9
Mine disabilities, etc.	120,017	88,054	135,829	107,137	100,182	110,244	3.9
Deaths of employees	12,240	5,762	3,956	4,493	4,914	6,273	.2
Meetings, extra holidays ...	5,655	15,579	5,822	2,936	220	6,042	.2
Other causes ...	48,126	20,080	43,114	3,287	13,495	25,620	.9
Not stated ...	199,735	124,104	159,482	269,182	245,827	199,666	7.0
Total ...	2,707,278	3,228,401	3,353,002	2,705,155	2,324,766	2,863,720	100.0

The average number of days lost on account of dislocations in this industry during the period of five years was 2,863,720 days per annum. Nearly 55 per cent. of the loss was attributed to lack of trade or of shipping and 30 per cent. to industrial disputes.

The loss through industrial disputes, 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. It is calculated according to the method stated on page 753, and is a gross figure based on the assumption that the employees concerned would have been working full time if the disputes had not occurred. Further details relating to the disputes are shown on a later page.

Relief of Unemployment.

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.

Measures for the relief of unemployment undertaken by the State have been directed generally 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, but during the last three years special relief measures have been taken as indicated on page 736.

State Labour Exchanges.

The State labour exchanges are situated in the main industrial centres, Sydney, Newcastle, and Broken Hill, and there are agencies in the principal country towns, the number of such agencies at 30th June, 1933, being 388. 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 normal 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.

The operations of the State labour exchanges during 1920-21 and later 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.
1921	39,450	31,757	29,104	6,438	10,324	7,073
1926	50,694	33,690	32,204	4,534	9,310	6,204
	48,777	28,257	27,548	5,148	9,371	6,424
	66,706	31,451	30,658	5,637	9,090	7,180
1929	71,236	33,208	32,262	5,471	8,727	6,533
1930	106,561	52,159	52,108	7,967	6,821	5,801
1931	304,086	107,350	125,062	20,454	5,792	4,771
1932	194,903	56,636	58,580	16,221	3,812	3,476
1933	157,512	37,319	96,283	32,184	4,666	13,183

Applicants for food relief provided for the unemployed during the last three years have been required, as a general rule, to register at the State labour exchanges.

Private Employment Agencies.

Private employment agencies are subject to supervision by the State authorities in terms of the Industrial Arbitration Act. 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, 1933, there were 13 private agencies on the register, viz., 3 in Sydney and 10 in the suburbs. Owing to the dearth of employment, a large number of private agencies have ceased operations since May, 1930, when 94 licenses were in force.

Special Measures for Relief of Unemployment, 1930-1933.

Substantial grants were made from the State revenues during the year 1929 for relief works and for sustenance in many cases of unemployment, and as the volume of unemployment expanded it became necessary to devise further means for relief. For this purpose the Prevention and Relief of Unemployment Act was passed in June, 1930, establishing a council to formulate schemes to absorb unemployed persons in public works and private enterprises, to investigate schemes for their relief and for the training of persons for whom work cannot be found in their former occupations, and to make recommendations regarding the expenditure of moneys available for the purposes of relief.

In order to provide the requisite funds, a special levy—the Unemployment Relief Tax—was imposed on incomes. The tax was brought into operation in respect of salaries, wages and other income from employment as from 1st July, 1930, and it has been levied on income from other services derived during the year ended 30th June, 1930, and subsequent years.

The tax on salaries, wages, etc., has been payable, as a general rule, by means of stamps which employers are required to affix to records of payments made to employees. Since 1st December, 1933, however, employers of ten or more taxable employees must remit the tax to the Commissioner of Taxation every regular pay day.

Exemption was provided in respect of income from employment during the six months from 1st July, 1930, to 31st December, 1930, where the rate of pay was less than 30s. per week, or the equivalent daily or hourly rate, the tax being payable on the full amount where the rate exceeded 30s. per week. As from 1st January, 1931, exemption was extended to wages, etc., at rates under 40s. per week, and on 1st October, 1932, to wages, etc., in respect of certain public works for the relief of unemployment. For the purposes of the tax the value of board and residence, where supplied by employers, is regarded as income from employment.

The changes in the Unemployment Relief Tax on income from employment since it was first levied are shown below. The name of the tax was changed to Wages Tax as from 1st December, 1933.

Rate of Wages, Salaries, etc., per week.	Unemployment Relief Tax payable on income from employment.			Wages Tax.
	1st July, 1930, to 31st Dec., 1930.	1st Jan., 1931, to 30th Sept., 1932.	1st Oct., 1932, to 30th Nov., 1933.	As from 1st Dec., 1933.
Over 30s. up to and including 40s.	} 3d. on each full £.	} Nil. 1s. on each full £.	Nil.	Nil.
" 40s. " " 50s.			1s.	9d.
" 50s. " " 60s.			1s. 6d.	1s. 3d.
" 60s. " " 70s.			2s.	1s. 9d.
Over 70s.			1s. on each full £.	1s. on first £2; plus 1d. on each 2s. 6d. of next £2; plus 1d. on each 2s. of the balance.

In the case of income from sources other than employment, annual assessments for the purposes of the Unemployment Relief Tax (now known as Special Income Tax) are issued by the Commissioner of Taxation. Persons residing in Australia, whose income from all sources does not exceed £100 per annum, are not required to pay the tax. On income from sources other than employment derived during the year 1929-30, the rate of tax is 7½d. in the £—which is equal to the average rate on wages, etc., over the period of twelve months ended 30th June, 1931. The rate on such income derived in 1930-31 and 1931-32 is 12d. in the £. The rate as to five-twelfths of such income derived in 1932-33 is 12d. in the £; and as to seven-twelfths 6d. in the £ on the first £60, 8d. in the £ on second £60, and 10d. in the £ on the balance. Where the income is derived partly from wages and partly from other sources the rate is calculated in regard to total income.

Unemployment Relief Tax—Receipts and Expenditure.

The receipts and expenditure of unemployment relief moneys formed a separate account at the Treasury from 1st July, 1930, when the Unemployment Relief Tax was first imposed, to 30th June, 1932. During this period the proceeds of the tax were paid into the Unemployment Relief Fund, and the expenditures were subject to the approval of the Unemployment Relief Council. As from 1st July, 1932, the Unemployment Relief Fund was merged into the Consolidated Revenue Fund, and the moneys became subject to Parliamentary appropriation.

The receipts and expenditure during each of the last three years are shown below:—

Receipts.

Year.	Tax collected.			Repayment of Advances (Principal and Interest).	Other.	Total Receipts.
	Sale of stamps and deductions from earnings.	Assessments on incomes.	Total collections.			
1930-31	£ 2,720,887	£ 1,654,916	£ 4,375,803	£ ...	£ 502,032*	£ 4,877,835
1931-32	4,014,399	1,785,120	5,799,519	234,735	8,002	6,042,256
1932-33	3,718,960	2,983,479	6,702,439	17,917	16,567	6,736,923

Expenditure.

Year.	Food Relief.	Cash Payments.	Grants.	Loans.	Adminis- trative Expenses.	Total Expenditure.
1930-31	£ 1,837,886	£ 101,858	£ 1,763,307	£ 609,723	£ 44,310	£ 4,357,064
1931-32	5,070,732	130,943	419,333	347,280	137,164	6,105,452
1932-33	3,510,194	63,296	276,139†		145,733	3,995,362

* Includes advances by Treasury £500,000.

† In addition to loan moneys—see below.

In addition to the expenditure of £3,995,362 from revenue during 1932-33, an amount of £2,358,848 was expended from loan moneys on works, etc., for the relief of unemployment.

Unemployment Relief Works.

The public works undertaken for the relief of unemployment by the State Government and governmental bodies are usually the construction and repair of public buildings, such as hospitals and schools; water conservation, sewerage and drainage works, and roads. The councils of the local government areas also provide work for the unemployed with financial assistance by way of grants and loans from the Unemployment Relief moneys. Advances and loans are made to prospectors seeking gold, to settlers for improvements on rural holdings which tend to promote greater production, and to owners of property for house repairs.

When works are proclaimed by notification in the Government Gazette to be works for the relief of unemployment, the labour engaged thereon is exempt from the provisions of industrial awards and agreements. Wages may then be paid on an hourly basis at the rate of the current living wage fixed by the Industrial Commission, the rate in October, 1933, being 66s. 6d. per week of forty-four hours. An additional rate up to 3d. per hour is paid for certain skilled or semi-skilled labour, and latterly a bonus of $\frac{6}{11}$ d. per hour has been added to all wages to offset a recent reduction of 2s. per week in the living wage. The labour is engaged through the State labour exchanges.

In May, 1933, a supplementary scheme of relief works—known as “emergency relief works”—was introduced with the object of providing work instead of food for persons eligible for the latter form of relief. Under this scheme the councils of municipalities and shires undertake works of a nature which would not ordinarily be carried out from their revenues, and arrangements are made that each man engaged for the jobs is given employment for a period which varies according to his family responsibilities, in the same manner as food relief. Where the family income exceeds a prescribed limit, as specified below, neither food relief nor emergency relief work is granted. The wages are paid from relief moneys and the councils provide materials and tools, and pay incidental expenses. In some cases relief moneys are allocated to assist the councils to pay their share of the cost.

In the following statement the scales of emergency relief work and of payments therefor are compared with the scale of food relief for which emergency work is substituted:—

Family Unit.	Food Relief.		Emergency Relief Work.		
	Limit of Income per Fortnight	Value of Food Relief per Week.	Limit of Income per Fortnight	Hours per Week.	Amount of Wages per Week.
	s.	s. d.	s.		s. d.
Single man	20	5 6	25	6	9 5
Married couple	40	9 0	40	10	15 7
“ “ 1 child	40	14 0	50	13	20 3
“ “ 2 children	50	16 6	60	14	21 10
“ “ 3 “	50	19 0	65	16	24 11
“ “ 4 “	60	21 6	70	18	28 1
“ “ 5 “	70	24 0	75	20	31 2
“ “ 6 “	80	26 6	85	22	34 3
“ “ 7 “	90	29 0	95	24	37 5

The practical effect of the emergency relief works is that unemployed persons may work for a limited period each week and receive for that period a cash payment of wages (calculated on the basis of the minimum living wage) which exceeds by several shillings the value of the gratuitous order for food for which they would have been eligible if not engaged on the relief work.

Particulars of the system under which food relief is administered are shown in the chapter entitled "Social Condition," of this Year Book, page 260.

Trade Unions.

The Trade Union Act of 1881 provides 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 organisation of employees in trade unions increased with the development of industrial arbitration, as unions formed for the purposes of arbitration must be registered under the Trade Union Act, as well as the Industrial Arbitration Act. Moreover, a wider recognition of the principle of preference to unionists led to an increase in membership.

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
1926	170	286,245	33,354	319,599	494,341	494,979	322,912
1927	170	306,380	38,689	345,069	487,723	454,190	357,588
1928	165	302,282	38,661	340,943	504,640	498,020	362,118
1929	172	287,573	40,025	327,598	633,918	631,517	372,728
1930	167	265,487	36,831	302,318	488,348	527,847	329,262
1931	175	240,605	39,223	279,828	346,840	351,548	318,856
1932	170	241,127	39,718	280,845	330,167	316,931	336,574

. At the end of the year 1931 there were 175 registered trade unions of employees. The membership, especially amongst women, increased rapidly between 1911 and 1921 as a result of organisation for the purposes of industrial arbitration and conciliation. The expansion continued until 1927, then the total membership commenced to decline owing to a diminution in employment.

The average membership per union, excluding the labour council and eight-hour committees, was approximately 1,750; but the majority of the unions are small. In 1931 there were 25 with less than 100 members; 76 with 100 to 1,000 members; 46 with 1,000 to 5,000 members; 16 with 5,000 to 10,000; and only 2 unions had more than 10,000 members.

The receipts during 1931 amounted to £346,840, including contributions, £313,651. Of the total expenditure, payments in respect of benefits amounted to £105,935, and management and other expenses, including legal charges in connection with industrial awards, etc., to £245,613. 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 assets such as shares in Trades Halls and newspapers.

The following statement shows the receipts, expenditure, accumulated funds, and membership of trade unions of employees, according to industrial classification, in the year 1931:—

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	35,306	96	35,402	64,345	71,352	44,366	25 1
Food, Drink, and Narcotics	21,685	8,408	30,093	25,604	25,286	14,196	9 5
Clothing	5,390	12,784	18,174	5,993	6,465	13,471	14 10
Printing, Bookbinding, etc....	6,179	1,097	7,276	32,508	36,647	22,225	61 1
Manufacturing, n.e.i.	16,346	1,638	17,984	17,446	16,334	24,741	27 6
Building	20,500	1	20,501	8,274	9,168	15,744	15 4
Mining and Smelting	14,280	...	14,280	51,180	47,868	44,046	61 8
Railways and Tramways	36,158	360	36,518	35,998	37,558	15,786	8 8
Other Land Transport	4,911	1	4,912	5,218	4,937	5,138	20 11
Shipping and Sea Transport	10,992	25	11,017	16,410	15,655	9,649	17 6
Pastoral, etc.	11,581	288	11,869	15,526	16,057	11,192	18 10
Governmental, n.e.i.	26,043	6,568	32,611	33,956	30,470	56,152	34 5
Miscellaneous Industries	31,234	7,957	39,191	31,995	31,592	34,417	17 7
Labour Council and Eight-hour Committees ... ..	...	...	...	2,357	2,159	7,733	...
Total Unions of Employees...	240,605	39,223	279,828	346,840	351,548	318,856	22 9

A comparison of the membership of the various groups of unions in 1931 with corresponding information for the year 1927—when membership was at a maximum—indicates that the decline was greatest in the group classified as “pastoral, etc.,” in which the number of members decreased from 36,800 to 11,869. This group included, in addition to rural workers, men employed in connection with the construction of railways, water conservation works, and other public projects, and the shrinkage in membership was due to a large extent to cessation of public expenditure on works of this nature.

There was an almost general decline in membership in the mining and engineering groups, with 20,177 and 43,798 members respectively in 1927. In the building group members numbered 31,427 in 1927, but this figure included 7,400 members in a union for which a return was not supplied in 1931. The membership of unions concerned with the manufacture and distribution of food, etc., consisted of 24,360 men and 12,462 women in the earlier year, and the subsequent decrease occurred in members of unions relating to the liquor trades and catering.

There has been a marked increase in the membership of unions of clothing and textile workers, in which a large proportion of the women unionists are organised. In the boot trades, membership has declined.

In the printing industry there was an increase in male membership and a decline in the number of women. In the miscellaneous manufacturing group there was an appreciable increase in rubber workers.

In the transport unions membership has declined. In the shipping group the decline was greater in respect of waterside workers than in unions of seafaring employees.

In unions of governmental employees there was a falling off in regard to local government and water and sewerage boards employees, and increases in teachers and the police. In the miscellaneous groups a greater degree of organisation is apparent in professional and clerical occupations and hospital employment, but a decline in respect of workers in shops and stores and unskilled workers such as general labourers, cleaners, etc.

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 1931 numbered 24. The membership at the end of the year was 12,821, and the funds amounted to £40,394. The receipts during 1931 amounted to £37,824, and the expenditure to £43,848. The members included 9,050 in the pastoral industry and 1,162 in the food group.

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.

A brief account of the development of the State system was published in the Year Book for 1925-26. The federal system of industrial arbitration was inaugurated in 1904. Provision is made under both State and federal systems for collective bargaining and the registration and enforcement of industrial agreements.

The industrial conditions of employment in the public service of the Commonwealth are determined by an arbitrator appointed in terms of the Arbitration (Public Service) Act, 1920-1929.

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. Nevertheless fundamental differences in legislation and in the extent of their constitutional authority have prevented 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 have arisen in regard to wage determinations, disturbing the distinctions in grade, as expressed by wages, which had been recognised for many years amongst skilled workers, and the overlapping of jurisdiction has caused confusion, especially where members of a number of craft unions work in the same industry under different awards or agreements.

It is prescribed in the Commonwealth law that a federal tribunal may order a State industrial authority to cease dealing with any matter covered by a federal award, or the subject of proceedings before a federal tribunal, and State laws, awards, etc., are declared to be invalid insofar as they are inconsistent with, or deal with any matter dealt with in, a federal award, etc. Judges of the Commonwealth Court may confer with State industrial authorities in relation to any industrial matter with a view to securing co-ordination between awards and orders of the federal and State authorities.

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, but employees in rural industries were removed from the operation of the State industrial system in December, 1929.

Registration as a union of employers may be granted to persons or groups of persons who have employed, on a monthly average, not less than fifty employees during the period of six months next preceding the date of application for registration. Prior registration under the Trade Union Act is not prescribed as in the case of unions of employees.

The Industrial Commission may cancel registration at its discretion, or upon the request of the union (unless an award or agreement relating to its members is in force), or if the union is accessory to an illegal lockout or strike.

At 30th April, 1933, there were 169 unions of employers and 153 unions of employees on the register.

State Industrial Tribunals.

The principal tribunal is the Industrial Commission, first constituted in 1926 in terms of the Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act, 1926, to replace the Court of Industrial Arbitration. Subsidiary tribunals are the Conciliation Commissioner and conciliation committees. There were also industrial boards consisting of nominees of the employers and employees and a chairman, constituted by the Minister for Labour and Industry upon the recommendation of the Industrial Commissioner. The boards ceased to function in 1916 as a result of an amendment of the law, but they were still appointed up to December, 1932, because the constitution of a board was a condition precedent to the review of an industry by the tribunals.

The Industrial Commission is constituted as a superior court of record, by a president and two other members, all having the same status as puisne judges of the Supreme Court. It may delegate its powers in any particular matter to one member, his decision being subject to appeal to the full Commission.

The office of Deputy-Commissioner, exercising the powers of the Commission in matters which it referred to him, was abolished at the end of the year 1932, and provision was made for the temporary appointment of an additional member of the Commission if required to expedite its work.

The Industrial Commission is authorised to determine industrial matters referred by the Minister, or arising from the operations of the conciliation committees; to determine a standard of living and to declare living wages for men and women on the basis of such standard; to hear appeals; and to summon conferences with a view to the settlement of industrial matters. The standard of living may not be determined more frequently than once in six months, and the Commission is required to adjust the living wages for men and women in the months of April and October in each year, according to variations in the cost of maintaining the standard. The Commission may exempt awards or agreements from the declared wages to such extent and subject to such conditions as it may direct. The duty of fixing standard hours for industries within its jurisdiction has become a function of the Industrial Commission in terms of the Industrial Arbitration Amendment Act of 1932.

Each conciliation committee consists of an equal number of representatives of employers and employees, and a chairman. A committee may be appointed for any industry or calling. Up to December, 1932, the Minister for Labour and Industry was authorised to establish a committee for any industry for which an industrial board has been constituted, and to determine the number of members to be nominated for each committee. The normal term of membership was three years, but the Minister had power to dissolve a committee at any time. He also appointed a number of persons to act as chairmen and the Industrial Commission allotted one of these

chairmen to each committee, those for allied industries being grouped under the same chairman. The chairman did not vote at meetings of a committee except where the other members were equally divided in opinion as to any question, and they agreed to accept his decision.

When the Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act, 1932, was brought into operation the offices of the chairmen were abolished and a conciliation commissioner was appointed by the governor for a term of seven years to exercise their powers and duties as well as those formerly exercised by the Deputy Commissioner. At the same time Ministerial power in respect of the establishment and dissolution of the committees and the determination of the number of members and their appointment was curtailed, and these matters became subject to recommendation by the Industrial Commission.

At 31st December, 1932, there were 263 Conciliation Committees.

The industrial tribunals may make awards fixing minimum rates of wages and salaries up to a maximum of £15 per week or £750 per annum, minimum prices for piece-work, overtime rates, number of apprentices, and hours and times to be worked to entitle employees to the wages fixed. Awards may prescribe that preference of employment be given to unionists, under conditions described on page 750.

An Apprenticeship Commissioner appointed in terms of the Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act, 1932, and the members of the conciliation committee for an industry constitute the apprenticeship council for the industry, with power to regulate wages, hours, and other conditions of apprenticeship.

The Industrial Registrar—a public servant appointed by the Governor—conducts inquiries at the direction of the Industrial Commission regarding cases before the Act, registers the industrial unions, grants permits to aged, infirm or slow workers to work for less than the minimum wages prescribed by award or agreement, adjusts the rates of wages in current awards or agreements when the living wages are varied by the Commission, and discharges other duties as prescribed by the Act or regulations.

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 unions and trade unions are empowered to make with employers written agreements, which when filed in the prescribed manner become binding between the parties and on all the members of the union concerned.

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, and upon any variation of the living wages the rates of pay in an agreement may be adjusted accordingly by the Industrial Registrar upon application by any party to the agreement.

Number of Industrial Awards and Agreements.

The number of awards and agreements made by the State industrial tribunals during each of the last five years is shown below:—

Year.	Awards Published.		Agreements Filed.		In Force at end of Year.	
	Principal.	Subsidiary.	Principal.	Variations.	Awards.	Agreements.
1928	95	231	36	3	447	166
1929	55	127	28	2	457	113
1930	31	510	16	3	469	117
1931	46	304	40	4	477	134
1932	38	695	25	3	490	140

The subsidiary awards in 1930 and 1932 include a large number made by the Industrial Registrar in consequence of variations in the living wages in December, 1929, and August, 1932.

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.

THE COMMONWEALTH SYSTEM OF INDUSTRIAL ARBITRATION.

The chief tribunal is the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, consisting of a Chief Judge and other judges appointed by the Governor-General, with life tenure. Each judge is charged with the duty of endeavouring to reconcile the parties in industrial disputes, and for the purpose he may convene compulsory conferences. There are also conciliation commissioners, not more than three in number, appointed by the Governor-General for a term of five years, with authority to intervene in industrial disputes and to summon conferences.

In the Commonwealth system of industrial arbitration provision is made for both conciliation and arbitration. Registration is a necessary qualification to entitle unions to submit disputes to the Court, or to be represented in proceedings relating to disputes, and industrial organisations of employers and of employees, representing at least 100 employees, may be registered on compliance with prescribed conditions.

The Court or the conciliation commissioners endeavour to induce the settlement of disputes by amicable agreement, or, failing an agreement, may determine the disputes by award. Industrial agreements, when certified by a judge of the Court or a conciliation commissioner and filed in the office of the Registrar, 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 or conciliation commissioner orders otherwise. Agreements continue unless rescinded, or terminated by notice.

The powers conferred upon the Court include the power to determine rates of wages, hours, and other conditions of employment, and to grant preference to members of organisations. Similar authority may be exercised by a conciliation commissioner in so far as it may be exercised by a single judge.

Awards or interpretations or variations thereof which would result in the alteration of standard hours or of the basic wage or the principles on which it is computed are determined by the Chief Judge and not less than two other judges. In such cases 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.

An amending Act in 1930 made provision for the appointment of conciliation committees consisting of members representing in equal numbers the employers and organisations of employees and a chairman. These provisions were rendered practically inoperative by a decision of the High Court in regard to the validity of certain sections of the amending Act.

The large enterprises subject to federal awards and agreements include coal-mining, shipping, pastoral industries, shipbuilding, timber trades, clothing factories, breweries, glass works, and rubber works, and large sections of the metal and printing trades and of the railway and tramway employees.

At 31st December, 1931, there were 98 awards of the Commonwealth Court in force in New South Wales, also 37 agreements filed under the provisions of the Commonwealth Act.

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.

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 service. 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, and they may be disallowed by a resolution of either House.

It has been decided by the High Court of Australia that in certain cases the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration may make awards in respect of State employees, and it has been the practice of the Court to make an award in such cases unless the rates paid and the conditions of work conform with the usual rates and conditions laid down by the Court.

Since 1930 the salaries of Crown employees in the State and Federal services have been subject to special reductions prescribed by the Legislature for purposes of economy, as well as to reductions resulting from decreases in the living or basic wages. A general reduction at the rate of 8½ per cent. was made in respect of salaries in the State service during the year ended June, 1931. The reduction at this rate has been continued in respect of salaries not exceeding the living wage, and since 1st July, 1931, the reductions in respect of the higher salaries have been graded according to a scale in which the rates range from 15 per cent. on the part of the salary which exceeds £200 per annum to 32½ per cent. on the part over £1,500. Arrangements are being made for the restoration of the whole or part of the special deductions in the State service in case of married male officers whose salary does not exceed £325.

In the service of the Commonwealth Government the basic wage for adult male officers at 1st July, 1930, was £216 per annum. It was reduced to £182 and to £174 in July, 1932. The special reductions ranged from 3 per cent. to 24 per cent., according to salary. In terms of an Act passed in October, 1933, provision has been made to restore part of these deductions, viz., (a) a sum of £8 (or such lesser amount as was deducted in 1932) to adult male officers, with proportionate amounts to females and juniors; and (b) a further 2½ per cent. calculated on the salaries payable at 1st July, 1930.

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. Thus the Factories and Shops Act has prohibited 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 operation of 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.

With the development of the arbitration system the actual working hours in organised trades and callings became subject to awards and agreements, and special legislation has been enacted for the direction of the industrial tribunals in making awards and agreements under the State jurisdiction. Thus the Eight Hours Act of 1916 prescribed a standard working week of 48 hours. In 1920 the Act was amended and a special court was constituted in February, 1921, to consider applications for a reduction of working hours. At the preliminary sitting the judge announced that the 44-hours week would be adopted as the standard unless the necessity of working longer hours were proved, and as a result of its recommendations the 44-hours week was proclaimed in many industries. c

In September, 1922, the amending Act of 1920 was repealed and the Court of Industrial Arbitration restored the 48-hour week in most of the cases in which the working time had been reduced.

The 44-hours week became the standard again (except in the rural industries) as from 4th January, 1926, in terms of the Forty-four Hours Week Act, 1925, and it remained in operation until 16th June, 1930.

On the last-mentioned date the law was amended to extend the standard hours to 48 per week, and authority was given for agreements between employers and employees for a week of forty-four hours at eleven-twelfths of the rates of wages fixed by award or agreement.

The 44-hours week was restored six months later, in terms of the Industrial Arbitration (Eight Hours) Further Amendment Act, 1930, which was proclaimed on 5th January, 1931.

At the end of the following year the Industrial Commission was charged with the duty of determining, after public inquiry, the standard hours for industries within its jurisdiction. The Commission announced, after its

first inquiry in June, 1933, that it had decided to declare 44 hours per week as the standard applicable to industry generally, and to apply the standard with a degree of elasticity—as under former statutes—in order to meet the varying needs of different industries. Provisional lists were announced to indicate that certain industries and classes of employees would probably be excluded from the general declaration on the ground of public interest or the health of the workers, or of the custom to work less hours than 44 per week if established in the industry prior to 4th January, 1926.

The standard of hours determined by the Industrial Commission is in conformity with the provisions of the Industrial Arbitration (Eight Hours) Further Amendment Act of 1930 (mentioned above), though it is expressly provided that in the event of any inconsistency with that Act the Commission's declarations prevail. The Act of 1930 prescribes that the ordinary hours in industries—with the exception of coal-mining and ocean shipping, 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. Allowance is made, however, for the practice of completing the full week's work in five days, and it is provided that the time worked in a day may exceed eight, if a short day, or less working days than six per week are adopted by award or agreement. The Industrial Commission has announced an intention to make provision for the continuance of this practice.

It is a general provision of the law that rates of wages prescribed by award or agreement are to be adjusted when standard hours are varied so that an employee working full time will receive the same amount of wages as for working full time prior to the variation. Nevertheless, after a declaration has been made and the rates of wages adjusted, the Industrial Commission may reduce the working hours in any industry and provide for a proportionate reduction in wages.

Overtime may be permitted under certain conditions or it may be prohibited or restricted for the purpose of relieving unemployment by distributing the work available.

Provision for work to be shared or rationed amongst employees was made by an Act passed in June, 1930, but it was repealed in December following. Under current legislation specific authority for rationing is conferred in respect of Crown employees only, so that the application of the system in other employment is liable to be restricted in terms of awards, agreements, etc.

The hours of work in the coal-mines are eight hours bank to bank, inclusive of one half-hour for meal time, on Monday to Friday, and six 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 power of the Commonwealth Court of Arbitration and Conciliation 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. Until February, 1927, the general practice had been to adhere to the standard hours of 48 per week, and shorter hours were 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.

A claim by the Amalgamated Engineering Union for a 44-hours week was approved by the Full Court in February, 1927, and subsequently hours were reduced in some other industries—*e.g.*, the printing trades, and certain occupations in gas works. Nevertheless, the 44-hours week has not been generally adopted in the Commonwealth jurisdiction.

Public Holidays.

Certain days are observed as public holidays, on which work is suspended as far as practicable. In continuous processes and in transport and other services where the employees work on holidays they receive recreation leave in lieu thereof, and in some cases extra wages.

The days which are observed generally throughout the State as public holidays 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 laws relating to industrial arbitration confer upon both State and Federal industrial tribunals the authority to embody the principle of preference to unionists in their awards, etc., but this may not operate to prevent the employment of returned soldiers or sailors.

The State industrial tribunals may prescribe by award that 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. By the Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act of 1926 the tribunals were authorised to award "absolute preference," and many awards contained provisions which practically precluded non-unionists from engagement or made it a condition that when such persons were engaged they must apply for admission to an appropriate union. An Amending Act in 1927 nullified such provisions of current awards, and limited the authority of the tribunals so that preference may be prescribed only as between unionists and other persons offering or desiring service or employment at the same time, other things being equal.

The Commonwealth Court is authorised to grant preference to members of registered organisations, but in the exercise of the authority the Court adheres to the general principle that only in case of strong necessity should there be any interference with the employer's discretion in choosing his employees. Consequently it has been the usual practice to refuse to order preference if the respondents undertake not to discriminate against unionists. In 1932, however, preference was awarded in respect of women and girls in clothing factories with the object of preventing the exploitation of labour of this class.

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 of New South Wales 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. Under an amending law which commenced in December, 1932, an Apprenticeship Commissioner was appointed and he constitutes, with the members of the conciliation committee for each industry, the Apprenticeship Council for the industry. The Commissioner is chairman and the other members sit as assessors only and without a vote. The councils may determine matters in dispute in regard to apprenticeship in the respective industries and the decisions operate as awards. Appeal from the councils' decisions lies to the Industrial Commissioner, with whom the members of the council concerned, other than the Apprenticeship Commissioner, sit as assessors.

Contracts of apprenticeship must be registered. The normal period of apprenticeship is usually five years in the case of boys entering the trade before reaching the age 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, apprentices may be transferred from one master to another, and 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 determined by the Apprenticeship Councils relating to the industry.

The number of indentures of apprenticeship registered during the year 1929 was 1,448. In the following year the number was 1,005 and it dwindled to 543 in 1931 and 404 in 1932. This rapid falling off was due to the unwillingness of employers to bind themselves for a period of five years under adverse economic conditions, and in September, 1933, the Apprenticeship Commissioner decided to introduce a new system of apprenticeship without indentures, as supplementary to the existing system. Under the new arrangements employers may apply to the Apprenticeship Councils for exemption from awards or regulations in so far as they prescribe a contract

of apprenticeship. Employers who obtain exemption will be required to observe other conditions enjoined by the awards and agreements such as those relating to the proportion of apprentices to journeymen and to compulsory technical training, and they must pay the trainees at rates 15 per cent. above the rates for indentured apprentices.

At 31st December, 1928, there were subsisting 7,332 indentures of apprenticeship which had been lodged with the Industrial Registrar in accordance with regulations of the Board of Trade or awards under the Arbitration Act. The number at 31st December, 1932, was 3,280. The following statement shows the distribution of the indentured apprenticeships amongst the various trades at the end of the years 1928, 1931 and 1932:—

Trades.	Dec., 1928.	Dec., 1931.	Dec., 1932.	Trades.	Dec., 1928.	Dec., 1931.	Dec., 1932.
Baking	118	219	217	Hairdressing... ..	169	124	85
Boilermaking... ..	293	170	104	Jewellery, Electro- plating, etc. ...	24	36	31
Bootmaking	141	183	155	Metal Moulding ...	174	72	43
Building	1,791	1,227	807	Pastrycooks	66	106	90
Butchering	29	23	23	Printing	688	293	233
Coachmaking (Rail) ...	37	12	5	Sheet Metal-working and Tinsmithing ...	38	22	17
" " (Road) ...	325	108	65	Ship and Boat build- ing	43	22	15
Electrical	952	749	566	Other... ..	71	98	81
Engineering	1,398	576	351				
Farriery	50	41	32	Total	7,332	4,573	3,280
Furniture	875	430	308				
Gas meter making ...	25	25	21				
Glass-working	25	37	31				

The foregoing figures do not include indentures of apprenticeship which are not required by award or regulation to be filed with the Industrial Registrar.

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 that a secret ballot be taken in order to ascertain whether the majority of the unionists concerned is or is not in favour of the strike.

The Industrial Commission may cancel the registration of a union and any award or agreement relating thereto if the union is inciting or aiding any other union or its members in a lock-out or an illegal strike.

The maximum penalty for an illegal strike is £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.

A penalty up to £1,000 may be imposed if any person or union of employees takes part in a lockout, unless the employees in the industry concerned are taking part in an illegal strike.

Provisions of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act by which lockouts and strikes were prohibited under severe penalty were repealed in August, 1930. Lockouts and strikes may be prohibited, however, by the terms of an award and the insertion of a clause to this effect renders the parties liable to penalty for breach of the award if they take part in a lockout or strike. The maximum penalty is £100 in the case of an organisation, and £10 in the case of an individual.

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. In the compilation of statistical tables relating thereto, it is the rule of the Department 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 duration, 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. Consequently the figures are inflated, particularly in the mining industry, where there is considerable intermittency due to causes other than disputes.

The following statement shows, so far as can be ascertained, the number of workers involved, and, subject to the remarks above with respect to intermittency, the time lost by industrial dislocations contingent upon disputes in each year since 1921. Particulars are shown separately regarding dislocations which originated during the year specified, and those which commenced at an earlier date:—

Year.	Dislocations.			Workers Involved.			Duration—Working Days.		
	An- terior.	New.	Total.	Anterior.	New.	Total.	Anterior.	New.	Total.
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	893,668	923,104
1926	13	379	392	2,368	211,366	213,734	127,275	1,304,246	1,431,521
1927	3	457	460	650	178,920	179,570	58,250	841,702	899,952
1928	6	276	282	904	100,937	101,841	29,236	470,546	499,782
1929	2	330	332	567	100,676	101,243	4,303	3,209,761	3,214,064
1930	6	185	191	11,136	52,045	63,181	1,210,266	339,783	1,550,049
1931*	3	99	102	680	26,772	27,452	52,480	103,661	156,141
1932*	...	122	122	...	45,183	45,183	...	92,743	92,74

* Exclusive of two anterior disputes not concluded. See context below.

The loss in working days during 1932 was the smallest in any year of the period—1914 to 1932—for which complete records are available. The figures for this year and 1931 are exclusive of the particulars of two anterior disputes in metalliferous mines which have not been brought to a conclusion. Work was suspended in one mine in 1929 and in the other in 1930, and in view of low prices of metals the mining has not been resumed.

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 any other. Moreover, the time lost in coal-mining, as a general rule, exceeds the aggregate loss in other industries. In calculating the duration of the dislocations, however, allowance is not made for intermittency, and it is probable that the over-statement arising from this factor is far greater in coal-mining than in other occupations, especially in recent years, when the demand for coal has been below normal. For instance, in 1928 the loss of working time in coal-mines attributed to industrial disputes was 369,778 days, and the loss arising from slackness of trade and other causes was 2,337,500 days. In 1929 the principal collieries in the northern district were closed in March owing to a dispute, and were still idle at the end of the year. As a result the loss of working days attributed to industrial strife in coal-mining in 1929 increased to 2,476,536 days, while the loss due to other causes (which are inoperative during a dispute dislocation) declined to 751,865 days.

In analysing statistics of industrial disputes, especially if they are being compared with those of other countries, careful consideration should be given to the method of computation and the definition of terms, as shown on the preceding page, because the practices vary greatly in the different countries in which such data are published.

The following statement shows the particulars of the dislocations in mining and in other industries which commenced in each of the last twelve years. The working days during each dislocation 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 working days classified according to the year specified.

Year.	Dislocations.			Workers Involved.			Duration—Working Days.		
	Mining.	Non-mining.	Total.	Mining.	Non-mining.	Total.	Mining.	Non-mining.	Total.
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	173,190	12,078	185,268	537,040	103,531	640,571
1925	555	89	644	218,034	21,286	239,320	741,825	280,968	1,022,793
1926	315	64	379	148,210	63,156	211,366	1,010,052	350,594	1,360,646
1927	366	91	457	153,095	25,825	178,920	710,731	160,207	870,938
1928	231	45	276	93,438	7,499	100,937	346,123	128,726	474,849
1929	300	30	330	94,692	5,984	100,676	3,673,541*	746,486	4,420,027
1930	158	27	185	44,453	7,592	52,045	315,466*	76,797	392,263
1931	81	18	99	25,116	1,656	26,772	95,932	7,729	103,661
1932	97	25	122	41,172	4,011	45,183	84,064	8,979	93,043

* Exclusive of loss after 31st December, 1930, in two mining disputes not concluded. See context below preceding table.

The loss in the mining industry attributed to disputes which commenced in 1929 included 3,463,922 working days—2,300,772 in 1929 and 1,163,150 in 1930—on account of the closing of the northern collieries from 1st March, 1929, to 3rd June, 1930.

The days lost in non-mining industries in 1925 included 172,000 days attributed to a dispute regarding wages between the owners and the crews of British oversea vessels engaged under articles signed in ports outside Australia. A serious dispute occurred in the timber industry in January, 1929, following an extension of hours by award of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. The dislocation continued until October.

It is difficult to obtain reliable information regarding the cost of industrial dislocations. An estimate of the losses in wages in each of the twelve years is shown below, the method adopted being as follows:—The working days lost were classified into the fourteen industrial groups, for which 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 rate 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.	Duration—Working Days.			Estimated Loss of Wages.		
	Mining.	Non-mining.	All Industries.	Mining.	Non-mining.	All Industries.
	Days	Days.	Days.	£	£	£
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	741,825	280,968	1,022,793	663,000	232,000	895,000
1926	1,010,052	350,594	1,360,646	928,000	295,800	1,223,800
1927	710,731	160,207	870,938	660,400	136,900	797,300
1928	346,123	128,726	474,849	323,000	109,700	432,700
1929*	3,673,541	746,486	4,420,027	3,436,200	668,500	4,104,700
1930*	315,466	76,797	392,263	291,100	63,600	354,700
1931	95,932	7,729	103,661	86,100	6,000	92,100
1932	84,064	8,979	93,043	80,100	6,700	86,800

* See Note to preceding table.

Apart from the matter of intermittency which is discussed on the previous page, these 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 may have been compensated by higher rates of pay after resumption of work.

Information is given in the following table regarding the duration of the dislocations which originated during the year 1932:—

Duration in Working Days.	Dislocations.	Workers Involved.	Duration—Work Days.
Under 1 day	9	2,578	993
One day	58	28,185	28,185
Over 1 and not exceeding 7 ...	40	11,643	31,158
" 7	14	2,389	23,068
" 14	1	40	610
" 21	1	36	648
" 28	2	312	8,381
Total	122	45,183	93,043

A very large proportion of the dislocations are of brief duration. The number of workers affected by dislocations lasting one day or less during 1932 was 30,763, and the loss of working days 29,178.

The causes of the disputes which led to dislocations in the mining industries and in the non-mining group during 1932 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.		
	Disloca- tions.	Workers in- volved.	Dura- tion— Working days.	Disloca- tions.	Workers in- volved.	Dura- tion— Working days.	Disloca- tions.	Workers in- volved.	Dura- tion— Working days.
Wages	23	6 292	19,813	11	2,369	2,866	34	8,661	23,679
Hours	4	1,048	1,048	1	100	25	5	1,148	1,073
Working conditions ..	17	3,480	6,280	1	9	27	18	3,489	6,307
Employment of persons or classes of persons ..	27	6,537	20,421	11	1,413	5,701	38	7,950	26,122
Trade unionism	3	484	6,564	..	..	..	3	484	6,564
Sympathy	1	360	360	..	..	..	1	360	360
Miscellaneous	14	21,639	28,246	1	120	360	15	21,759	28,606
Not state	8	1,332	1,332	..	..	..	8	1,332	1,332
Total	97	41,172	84,064	25	4,011	8,970	122	45,183	93,043

In the mining industries disagreements about wages and about the employment of persons or classes of persons involved nearly half the loss of working time during 1932, and in the non-mining group the greater part of the loss was due to disputes about the employment of persons.

By extending the analysis of the causes of disputes over a period of five years from 1928 to 1932 it is found that in the mining industries 84 per cent. of the time lost was due to disagreements regarding wages and 7 per cent. to those relating to employment of persons or classes of persons. Disputes in reference to the working conditions were the cause of 4 per cent. of the loss, and those relating to hours, 1 per cent.

In non-mining industries disputes relating to hours showed a proportion of 76 per cent., and wages 6 per cent., the employment of persons 9 per cent., and working conditions 8 per cent. during the quinquennium.

Taking all classes of industries together, the experience of the quinquennium showed that the loss of working time incurred in disputes about wages was about 71 per cent., in disputes relating to hours 14 per cent., working conditions 5 per cent., and employment of persons or classes of persons 7 per cent.

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 show 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, 1912, and its amendments, impose 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 annually, 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.

Under the Rural Workers Accommodation Act, 1926, employers are required to provide proper accommodation for rural workers who reside on the premises. The Act applies in proclaimed districts in respect of workers employed for a period exceeding twenty-four hours in agricultural, dairying, or pastoral occupations.

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 Navigation Acts—State and federal—prescribe conditions to be observed for safeguarding the health of seamen.

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 accidents causing loss of life; accidents due to machinery or to hot liquid or other hot substance, or to explosion, escape of gas or steam, or to electricity, if an employee is disabled as to prevent him from returning to his work in the factory within forty-eight hours; and other accidents if an employee is disabled for seven days or more.

In the year 1932 there were 11 fatal accidents in factories and 4,439 non-fatal, including 91 which caused permanent injury. There were also 6 fatal and 41 non-fatal accidents in connection with lifts, scaffolding, cranes, and

boilers in 1932. Particulars of accidents in mines and of railway and tramway and traffic 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 principal enactment is the Workers' Compensation Act, 1926-29, which commenced on 1st July, 1926.

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 certain cases of disablement by pneumoconiosis, tuberculosis, and lead poisoning in the Broken Hill mines under the Workmen's Compensation (Broken Hill) Act, 1920-1929, 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 section of this Year Book relating to the police. The amount of compensation is determined by the Governor.

The laws 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.

Under the Workers' Compensation Act, 1926-29, compensation is payable to workers whose remuneration does not exceed £550 per annum.

A worker and, in the case of his death, his dependents are entitled to compensation if he receives personal injury or contracts a disease, arising out of and in the course of his employment, 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 unless it disables a worker for at least seven days.

The Act provided for compensation in respect of injuries on the periodic journey between the place of abode and the place of employment until November, 1929, when this provision was repealed.

Where death results from an injury persons wholly dependent on the worker's 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 is to be deducted from the amount payable, but may not reduce it below £200. In addition a sum of £25 is payable in respect of each child and step-child under 16 years who was wholly dependent on the worker's earnings.

Where there are no persons totally dependent, compensation, as determined by agreement or by the Workers' Compensation Commission, may be paid to persons partially dependent. Where there are no dependants reasonable burial expenses up to £30 are payable.

In cases of total or partial incapacity the compensation payable includes: (a) weekly payments, and (b) the cost of medical and hospital treatment and ambulance service.

The maximum weekly payment in respect of the worker is two-thirds of the average weekly earnings up to £3 a week. Where the weekly earnings of an adult worker are less than £3 he may be paid 100 per cent. up to £2 per week and a minor earning less than 45s. a week may receive as compensation 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 and step 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 female dependant, who is an adult and is caring for a child of the worker under 14 years, or is a member of his family over 14 years. Where no compensation is payable in respect of children, a worker may receive 8s. 6d. a week in respect of each dependent brother and sister under 14 years.

The total weekly payments to the worker and his dependants may not exceed his average weekly earnings, or £5 whichever is the smaller amount, and the total liability of the employer in respect of weekly payments may not exceed £1,000.

The employer's liability for ambulance service rendered to a worker is limited to two guineas unless the Commission allows a further sum on account of distance travelled. For medical treatment the maximum is £25 in respect of the same injury. For hospital treatment the maximum is £25, treatment as an out-patient being calculated at a rate of 3s. per treatment up to one guinea per week, and as an in-patient at a rate not exceeding three guineas per week.

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 Act prescribes that every employer must insure with a licensed insurer against his liability to pay compensation, 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.

The Workers' Compensation Commission consists of a chairman, who must be a barrister-at-law of five years' standing and who has the same status as a District Court judge, and two other members appointed by the Governor. An additional member may be appointed as deputy-chairman. 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.

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.

Facilities to enable employers to insure have been provided by the State Insurance Office as well as by private insurers.

Returns supplied to the workers' compensation by insurers indicate that over 50,000 claims for compensation under the Workers' Compensation Act of 1926 were admitted during the year ended 30th June, 1927, and that the approximate number of workers entitled to compensation in the subsequent years was 61,000, 60,130, 49,842, 37,765, and 27,064 respectively. Some groups of employees are paid full wages in certain cases of illness or accident, and, as a general rule, claims for compensation are not made in respect thereof unless they result in death or serious disability.

From particulars recorded by the Commission the following summary has been prepared, some cases being omitted in each year owing to incomplete data:—

Year.	Accidents.			Industrial Diseases.			Total Cases Reported.	Compensation Paid during Year.
	Fatal.	Non-Fatal.	Total.	Fatal.	Non-Fatal.	Total.		
<i>Males.</i>								
1926-27	86	27,244	27,330	1	188	189	27,519	£ 439,980
1927-28	136	42,114	42,250	5	296	301	42,551	721,288
1928-29	138	41,630	41,768	6	241	247	42,015	796,931
1929-30	138	39,457	39,595	10	271	281	39,876	945,846
1930-31	86	27,094	27,180	8	157	165	27,345	718,333
1931-32	74	22,304	22,378	7	138	145	22,523	492,101
<i>Females.</i>								
1926-27	...	911	911	...	65	65	976	6,557
1927-28	2	1,675	1,677	...	76	76	1,753	12,678
1928-29	1	2,003	2,004	...	179	179	2,183	19,381
1929-30	...	2,094	2,094	...	121	121	2,215	24,378
1930-31	...	1,516	1,516	...	77	77	1,593	22,587
1931-32	1	1,374	1,375	...	81	81	1,456	18,759

The compensation paid in each year after 1926-27 includes payments in respect of cases continued from earlier years.

The decline in the number of claims for compensation since 1928-29 was due mainly to a diminution in the volume of employment, and in a smaller degree to a reduction in benefits under an amending law which came into force in November, 1929.

Of the compensation paid in 1931-32 in respect of male workers, £59,683 were paid for medical treatment and £68,137 in weekly payments to dependants. The corresponding figures for 1930-31 were £75,150 and £109,395. Compensation in respect of female workers included £4,751 for medical and dependants £424 in 1930-31. The payments for medical treatment, as stated above, relate only to cases compensated by weekly payments.

It has been estimated by the Workers' Compensation Commission that the cost of workers' compensation insurance under the Workers' Compensation Act, 1926-29, was £1,269,928 during the year 1930-31, or 1.15 per cent. of the wages in respect of which insurance premium was payable, and £985,225 or .95 per cent. in 1931-32.

The Workmen's Compensation (Lead Poisoning—Broken Hill) Acts, 1922 and 1924, provide for the payment of compensation in respect of lead poisoning amongst men who had been employed by Broken Hill mine owners prior to 31st May, 1919, when mining operations were interrupted as a result of an industrial dispute. 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) Acts, 1920 to 1929, which will remain in force until Parliament otherwise provides, compensation is payable in respect of persons who contracted pneumoconiosis or tuberculosis by reason of employment in the Broken Hill mines. Compensation in respect of those who were employed in the mines after the commencement of the Act of 1920 is paid by the mine-owners, and at 30th June, 1932, payments were being made in respect of 51 cases, including 46 employees who were living.

Payments to other persons eligible under Workmen's Compensation (Broken Hill) Acts are made from a fund which is maintained by contributions—one-half by the Government of New South Wales and one-half by the mine-owners. At 30th June, 1932, compensation was payable from the fund in respect of 663 workers, viz., 401 who were living and the dependants of 262 who had died. The amount paid as compensation during 1931-32 was £123,312, funeral and medical expenses amounted to £471, and fees and administrative expenses to £5,147. The total disbursements from the fund from 1st January, 1921, to 30th June, 1932, amounted to £1,022,744.

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.

A scheme of compensation for stonemasons, quarrymen, rock-choppers, and sewer miners employed in the county of Cumberland, entitled the Workmen's Compensation (Silicosis) Scheme No. 1, 1927, was gazetted in September, 1927, and amendments in June, 1929, and March, 1930.

The maximum amount of compensation payable in cases of death is £500; and in the cases of incapacity a weekly payment up to 66⅔ per cent. of the workman's average weekly earnings during the twelve months preceding the date of his injury, but not exceeding £3; the maximum liability in each case being £750. The compensation fund into which the employers pay contributions at the rate of 3 per cent. on wages is administered by a joint committee appointed by the Minister for Labour and Industry. Up to 30th June, 1932, compensation had been awarded in respect of 122 workmen, and at that date compensation was being paid in respect of 109 workmen, viz., 96 who were incapacitated and 13 deceased whose dependants were beneficiaries. The amount of compensation paid in 1931-32 amounted to £12,842.

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 earlier issues 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 are fixed by an industrial tribunal, after public inquiry regarding the average cost of living, the declarations having statutory force as the basis of industrial awards and agreements relating to wages.

For the purpose of the declarations which were made prior to December, 1926, the living wage for adult males 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.

In 1927, as a result of a recommendation by the Industrial Commission, a system of family allowances was introduced in terms of the Family Endowment Act, which is described on page 287 of this Year Book. The allowances, at a maximum rate of 5s. per week for each dependent child, were supplementary to the living wage fixed by the Industrial Commission, and the Industrial Arbitration Act was amended to provide that the living wage for men be based on the requirements of a man and his wife without children.

Notwithstanding this amendment, the first declaration made by the Commission after it became law fixed the living wage for men in June, 1927, at £4 5s. per week—which represents the rate fixed by its previous declaration in December, 1926, with an addition to cover an increase in prices during the interval. Apparently the Commission regarded as a vested right, which "ought not to be disturbed without some irresistible necessity" the standard of living which had been available for a number of years to the married couple without dependent children where the man had been receiving the living wage.

Before the living wage again became a matter for determination, the Court had been reconstituted; and in October, 1929, the new tribunal, consisting of the President and two judges, decided by a majority verdict that a substantial reduction—from 85s. to 72s. 6d.—would ensue upon the practical application of the amended law, which excluded children from the family unit on which the wage for adult males was based. The Commission postponed the actual declaration for a period of fourteen days to enable Parliament, then in session, to consider the situation, and legislation was passed directing that the wage be fixed by adding to the amount 72s. 6d. per week, the extra cost of maintaining one child under 14 years, and that subsequent declarations be based on the requirements of a man, his wife, and one dependent child. At the same time the endowment payable to each family was reduced by excluding one of the children who would have been eligible but for the amending law. In a subsequent declaration in December, 1929, the Commission fixed the rate at 82s. 6d. per week, and it was reduced to 70s. per week in August, 1932. By an amendment of the law passed in the following year the Commission is required to adjust the living wages at six-monthly intervals, viz., in the months of April and October. By an adjustment in April, 1933, the living wage for men was declared at 68s. 6d. per week, and in October, 1933, it was reduced to 66s. 6d.

A living wage for women was fixed for the first time under the State industrial arbitration system in 1918, when the Board of Trade conducted an inquiry into the matter. 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. The rate declared in December, 1929, was fixed as a percentage of the living wage for men, in terms of the Industrial Arbitration (Living Wage) Amendment Act, 1929, and this method was followed in subsequent declarations.

The variations in the living wages, as determined by the industrial authority constituted under State legislation, are shown below. The determinations were made by the Court of Industrial Arbitration in the years 1914 to 1916, by the Board of Trade from 1918 to 1925, and later by the Industrial Commission:—

Year.	Men.		Number of Children included in family unit.	Women.	
	Date of Declaration.	Living Wage.		Date of Declaration.	Living Wage.
1914	16th February ...	£ s. d. 2 8 0	Two	...	£ s. d. ...
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
1927	27th June	4 5 0	None	27th June	2 6 0
1929	20th December ...	4 2 6	One	20th December...	2 4 6
1932	26th August	3 10 0	..	26th August.....	1 18 0
1933	11th April	3 8 6	..	11th April	1 17 0
1933	20th October	3 6 6	..	20th October ...	1 16 0

As explained above, the family unit covered by the living wage for men consisted of a man, wife, and two children from 1914 to 1925, inclusive; a man and wife only in 1927, with family allowances for dependent children;

and a man, wife and one child in 1929, one child being excluded from family endowment. From 1st July to 31st December, 1930, unemployment relief tax (3d. in the £) was levied on wages where the rate was 30s. per week or over. On 1st January, 1931, the tax was increased to 1s. in the £ and the exemption was raised to 40s. per week. The tax on wages not exceeding 70s. per week was reduced as from 1st October, 1932, and wages on works for the relief of unemployment were exempted from the tax. Further reductions occurred in December 1933, as shown on page 737.

The living wages shown in the foregoing table did not apply to employees in rural industries, for whom a declaration fixing the living wage of £3 6s. per week was in force for twelve months from October, 1921, and at the rate of £4 4s. per week from June, 1927, to December, 1929. At the last-mentioned date the power of the State industrial tribunals to fix wages for rural workers was rescinded.

Living Wage in Federal Awards.

Under federal jurisdiction, the Commonwealth Court assesses a basic wage **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, and this rate is adjusted by the use of retail price index numbers compiled by the Commonwealth Statistician to cover variations in the cost of living with a view to ensuring to the lowest paid worker the same standard of comfort as that rate gave in 1907. As a general rule the rates of wages in federal awards are adjusted periodically during currency. The adjustments are made at quarterly intervals in the majority of industries. In a few, *e.g.*, clothing and printing, the interval is six months, and in the pastoral awards the rates are adjusted once a year.

The periodical adjustment of wages, which subsequently became a general practice under federal jurisdiction, was adopted by the President of the Court (Mr. Justice Powers) at the end of the year 1921, and at the same time an important change was introduced in regard to the assessment of basic rates.

At that time it was the custom of the Court in making awards as to wages to assess the basic rate by adjusting the Harvester wage according to the retail price index numbers for the last period of four quarters preceding the date of the award, and the prescribed rates of wages remained constant during the currency of the award unless varied by the Court. Under the new method the Harvester equivalent was ascertained by the use of the retail price index numbers for the quarter preceding the award, and the sum of 3s. per week (known as the "Powers 3s.") was added to the result. This 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. For the periodical adjustments during the currency of the awards the Harvester equivalent was calculated according to the retail price index of each succeeding quarter, and if this increased or decreased the rates of wages in the awards were increased or decreased by the same amount—the "Powers 3s." and margins above the basic rate remaining constant.

During the year 1930 employers in various industries subject to Federal awards applied to the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for a variation in the method of adjusting the Harvester wage. The Full Court dealt with the applications, as required by law, and decided not

to vary the basic wage, nor the method of adjusting it, without further investigation, but in view of the prevailing economic conditions it directed that wage rates in awards covered by the applications should be reduced by 10 per cent. for a period of one year from 1st February, 1931, and thereafter until further order. An exception was made in respect of certain awards such as the pastoral industry award, in which rates had been reduced by more than 10 per cent. in 1930.

In 1933 application was made to the Court for the restoration of the 10 per cent. by which wages had been reduced. The Court refused to make a general remission of the deduction, but having regard to the fact that the cumulative effect of the 10 per cent. deduction and a persistent decline in the Harvester equivalent had caused a reduction beyond the Court's original intention, a change was made in the method of computing the periodical adjustments.

Hitherto the adjustments for changes in the cost of living had been effected by the use of the Commonwealth Statistician's retail price index numbers of the cost of food, groceries and rent—known as the "All Houses" index numbers, because the rent constituent is the weighted average rent of all houses (see page 724). The Commonwealth Statistician publishes another set of retail price index numbers—known as the "All Items" table—in which clothing and miscellaneous household expenses are taken into account as well as food and groceries and the rent of houses with four and five rooms (see page 727). Since the onset of the period of economic stress, which became apparent early in 1930, the fall in the "All Items" index numbers had not been so great as the decline in the "All Houses" index numbers, and the Court ordered the adjustments (as from 1st May, 1933) to be made on a basis by which variations between 1907 and 1929 are measured according to the "All Houses" scale and the movement from 1929 to date by the "All Items" table. The order applied to awards for which an adjustment was due in May, 1933, in respect of wages subject to the full 10 per cent. reduction in 1931. Details of the method of adjustment introduced as a consequence of the Court's order are as follows:—First, the Harvester equivalent is calculated for the last quarter of 1929 by the use of the All Houses index numbers, as formerly; secondly, this equivalent and the "Powers 3s." are adjusted by the "All Items" index numbers for the year 1929 and the latest quarter for which the index numbers are available; then the 10 per cent. reduction is applied to the result.

In respect of the living or basic wages, the Federal tribunals are not bound to uniformity in the same way as the State industrial tribunals in New South Wales are bound by the declarations of the Industrial Commission and in making awards, while normally following the general principles outlined above, the Federal Court may take into consideration any special circumstances affecting a particular industry, and the cost of living in various localities to which an award relates. For this reason the basic rates in different Federal awards sometimes differ in a substantial degree. In some cases, for instance, the "Powers 3s." is not awarded, and in some the 10 per cent. deduction was not ordered, or, if ordered, has been remitted wholly or in part.

The following statement shows the different series of basic rates generally used in awards of the Federal industrial tribunals in respect of each capital city since 1st February, 1930, when the Harvester equivalent for Sydney was at the peak. Three series are shown, viz. :—

- (a) The Harvester wage adjusted by the Commonwealth Statistician's "All Houses" index numbers, plus the "Powers 3s."

- (b) The Harvester wage adjusted as in series (a), plus the Powers 3s., with the deduction of 10 per cent. ordered by the Full Court to be applied to the wages prescribed by the majority of Federal awards as from 1st February, 1931.
- (c) The Harvester wage adjusted according to the revised method adopted by the Full Court in May, 1933, in respect of awards subject to the 10 per cent. deduction, the change from 1907 to 1929 being measured by the "All Houses" index numbers, and the subsequent change by the "All Items" index numbers; plus the Powers 3s. adjusted as from 1929; less a deduction of 10 per cent.

Date.	Sydney.†	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Average Six Capital Cities.
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(a) Harvester Equivalent (All Houses Index Numbers) plus Powers 3s.

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1930.							
1 February ...	95 6	90 0	81 0	87 0	83 6	86 6	90 6
1 May ...	92 0	86 0	77 6	84 0	82 6	84 0	87 0
1 August ...	91 0	85 6	73 0	82 6	82 0	84 0	86 0
1 November ...	88 0	83 0	70 6	78 0	79 0	82 0	83 0
1931.							
1 February ...	85 0	78 0	67 6	73 6	73 6	78 0	79 0
1 May ...	82 6	76 0	67 6	71 6	74 0	76 6	77 0
1 August ...	81 0	73 0	67 0	69 0	73 0	74 6	75 0
1 November ...	78 6	70 6	65 0	64 6	69 0	71 6	72 6
1932.							
1 February ...	76 6	70 6	65 0	64 6	67 6	72 0	71 6
1 May ...	76 6	71 0	65 0	65 6	68 6	72 6	72 0
1 August ...	76 0	70 0	64 0	65 0	68 6	73 0	71 0
1 November ...	75 0	68 6	63 0	63 6	66 6	71 6	70 0
1933.							
1 February ...	74 0	67 0	62 0	61 6	64 6	70 6	68 6
1 May ...	72 0	65 0	60 6	61 0	63 0	68 6	67 0
1 August ...	72 0	65 6	61 6	62 0	65 0	69 6	67 6
1 November ...	72 6	67 0	61 6	63 0	64 0	70 6	68 0

(b) Rates shown above—less 10 per cent.

1931.							
1 February ...	76 6	70 2	60 9	66 2	66 2	70 2	71 1
1 May ...	74 3	68 5	60 9	64 4	66 7	68 10	69 4
1 August ...	72 11	65 8	60 4	62 1	65 8	67 1	67 6
1 November ...	70 8	63 5	58 6	58 1	62 1	64 4	65 3
1932.							
1 February ...	68 10	63 5	58 6	58 1	60 9	64 10	64 4
1 May ...	68 10	63 11	58 6	58 11	61 8	65 3	64 10
1 August ...	68 5	63 0	57 7	58 6	61 8	65 8	63 11
1 November ...	67 6	61 8	56 8	57 2	59 5	64 4	63 0
1933.							
1 February ...	66 7	60 4	55 10	55 4	58 1	63 5	61 8
1 May ...	64 10	58 6	54 5	54 11	56 8	61 8	60 4
1 August ...	64 10	58 11	55 4	55 10	58 6	62 7	60 9
1 November ...	65 3	60 4	55 4	56 8	57 7	63 5	61 2

(c) Harvester Equivalent and Powers 3s.—adjusted by revised method* (10% deducted)

1933.							
1 May ...	67 10	63 4	59 4	59 2	59 9	64 10	64 2
1 August ...	66 11	62 5	58 10	59 2	58 10	63 10	63 4
1 November ...	66 11	62 10	59 4	59 7	60 3	63 11	63 9

* See page 766.

† Plus family endowment, see page 287.

The majority of women working under Federal awards are employed in two industries, viz., clothing and printing, and the basic rates are about 54 per cent. of the corresponding rates for men. In periodical adjustments this ratio is preserved.

Living Wage Determinations in the Various States.

In Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia a standard living wage is fixed by industrial tribunals established under State jurisdiction. 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. In Victoria it has become the usual practice to assess a basic rate according to the method used by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. In Tasmania the standard of the Commonwealth Court is observed to some extent.

In Western Australia the State Arbitration Court determines a basic wage in June of each year. The rate so determined in the years 1926 to 1929 operated for a period of twelve months. In December, 1930, the law was amended to provide that the Court may review the wage during its currency, if data supplied at quarterly intervals by the State Government Statistician indicate that a change of one shilling or more per week has occurred in the cost of living. The Financial Emergency Act, 1931, further empowered the Court in Western Australia to reduce the rate of wages under any award to 71s. 4d. per week (*i.e.*, 82 per cent. of the basic wage for the year 1929-30). This power may be exercised, upon application by an employer, if the Court is satisfied that the present national emergency justifies it in ordering a reduction.

The family unit upon which the basic wage is determined by the State tribunal in Queensland consists of a man, wife, and three children. In South Australia and Western Australia the unit is not defined by legislation, but the respective tribunals have adopted a family unit which includes three children in South Australia and two children in Western Australia. In New South Wales the unit is a man, his wife and one child and the wage may be supplemented by family allowances at the maximum rate of 5s. per week for each additional child.

The following statement shows the basic wage determinations of the State industrial tribunals which were current in each year from 1921:—

Basic Wage Declared by State Industrial Tribunals.

Year.	Sydney.		Brisbane.		Adelaide.		Perth.	
	Date of Declaration.	Rate.	Date of Declaration.	Rate.	Date of Declaration.	Rate.	Date of Declaration.	Rate.
1921 ...	Oct. ...	s. d. 82 0	Mar. ...	s. d. 85 0	July ...	s. d. 79 6	...	...
1922 ...	May ...	78 0	Feb. ...	80 0	Apr. ...	77 6	...	...
1923 ...	{ Apr. ... Sept. ...	{ 79 0 82 0 }	...	80 0	Oct. ...	78 6	...	...
1924 ...	...	82 0	...	80 0	Apr. ...	82 0	...	...
1925 ...	Aug. ...	84 0	Sept. ...	85 0	July ...	85 6	...	...
1926 ...	...	84 0	...	85 0	...	85 6	June ...	85 0
1927 ...	June ...	85 0*	...	85 0	...	85 6	...	85 0
1928 ...	...	85 0*	...	85 0	...	85 6	...	85 0
1929 ...	Dec. ...	82 6†	...	85 0	...	85 6	June ...	87 0
1930 ...	...	82 6†	{ Aug. ... Dec. ...	{ 80 0 77 0 }	Oct. ...	75 0	June ...	86 0
1931 ...	...	82 6†	May ...	74 0	Aug.	63 0	{ Mar. ... Nov. ...	{ 78 0 73 6
1932 ...	Aug. ...	70 0†	...	74 0	...	63 0	{ Mar. ... Nov. ...	{ 72 0 70 6
1933 ...	{ Apr. ... Nov. ...	{ 68 6† 66 6†	...	74 0	...	63 0	{ Mar. ... June ... Aug. ...	{ 69 0 68 0 69 3

* Plus Family Endowment. † Plus Family Endowment—one child excluded.

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 in New South Wales, 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. The 10 per cent. reduction ordered by the Court as from 1st February, 1931, is applied to the secondary as well as the basic wages.

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 from 1914 to 1922:—

Occupation.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
Manufacturing—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Cabinetmaker	52 0	56 0	101 9	111 0	108 6	108 6	98 0	96 0
Boilermaker	60 0	66 0	107 6	119 6	123 6	112 0	92 3	91 10
Coppersmith	60 0	68 0	109 6	114 6	118 6	113 0	93 2	90 0
Fitter	60 0	64 0	107 6	114 6	118 6	112 0	92 3	91 10
.. electrical	60 0	66 0	108 6	121 0	118 6	118 6	118 6	106 0
Baker	52 6	56 0	100 6	128 6	128 6	128 6	128 6	113 6
Bootlicker	45 0	54 0	98 6	100 6	102 6	98 6	88 0	84 9
Tailor (ready-made) ..	50 0	55 0	102 6	107 0	108 0	108 0	87 4	81 0
Compositor (jobbing) ..	52 0	60 0	105 0	113 0	116 0	112 0	90 11	86 5
Building—								
Bricklayer	60 0	69 0	108 0	126 6	126 6	126 6	126 6	101 0
Carpenter	60 0	63 0	110 0	127 6	125 0	125 0	125 0	112 6
Painter	54 0	60 0	104 0	118 6	116 0	116 0	116 0	103 6
Plumber	60 0	66 0	110 0	129 6	127 0	127 0	127 0	114 6
Mining—								
Coalminer, per ton (best coal)	4 2	4 2	6 11½	6 11½	6 11½	6 1	6 1	6 1
Coalwheeler	42 0	42 0	103 6	109 6	109 6	106 6	106 6	95 0
Silverminer	54 0	66 0	106 6	112 6	112 6	109 6	109 6	109 6
Transport—								
Railway loco-driver ..	66 0	66 0	106 0	111 0	114 0	109 0	106 6	94 0
Wharf-labourer per hour	1 0	1 3	2 9	2 11	2 11	2 9½	2 2	2 3½
Rural industries—								
Shearer .. per 100 sheep	20 0	24 0	40 0	41 0†	41 0†	32 6§	32 6(a)	29 3(b)
Staction-hand, with keep ..	20 0	25 0	48 0	45 0	54 8	56 8	42 6	38 2(c)
Farm-labourer, with keep	15 0	20 0	42 0	55 0	55 0	35 0	25 0	25 0
Miscellaneous—								
Pick and shovel man ..	42 0	48 0	94 6	97 6	95 0	95 0	95 0	81 0
Standard minimum wage ..	*	48 0	82 0	85 0†	82 6†	82 6†	82 6†	70 0†

* Standard not fixed. † Plus family endowment. ‡ Less 2s. 3d. per week. § Plus 3s. 4d. per week.
 (a) Less 7s. 6d. per week. (b) 27s. 3d. per 100 as from 1st January, 1933.
 (c) 36s. as from 1st January, 1933.

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 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 had been fixed by awards of a special tribunal under federal legislation between 1920 and 1929. A dispute occurred in some of the northern mines in March, 1929, and these mines were closed. They remained idle till June, 1930, when an agreement was made and registered under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, the contract rates being reduced by 12½ per cent. and the daily rates by 6d. per day.

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. 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, rates for shearers and other pastoral employees are fixed by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. The contract rate for shearing ordinary flock sheep was raised from 35s. per 100 to 38s. in September, 1923, to 40s. in June, 1926, to 41s. in September, 1927, and reduced to 32s. 6d. in July, 1930. In an award dating from September, 1927, provision was made for the adjustment of the wages as from 1st March in each year according to the rise or fall of the index numbers of the cost of food, groceries, and housing as determined by the Commonwealth Statistician. Under this arrangement the adjustments shown below were made in respect of shearers' earnings under contract rates. In July, 1932, an interim award was made pending final determination of application for a new award. In this and in a new award which came into operation as from 1st January, 1933, a contract rate was prescribed and an adjustment is not to be made until March, 1934.

Period.	Rate per 100 Sheep (Flock).	Cost of Living Adjustment (per week).
	s. d.	s. d.
September, 1927, to March, 1928	41 0	.....
March, 1928, to March, 1930	41 0	Deduct ... 2 3
March, 1930, to July, 1930	41 0	Add ... 3 4
July, 1930, to March, 1931	32 6	Add ... 3 4
March, 1931, to March, 1932	32 6	Deduct ... 7 6
March, 1932, to July, 1932	32 6	Deduct ... 21 0
July, 1932, to December, 1932	29 3	.....
January, 1933, to March, 1934	27 3	.....

A State award for pastoral employees prescribing a shearing rate of 45s. per 100 flock sheep and a weekly rate of 56s. and keep for station hands was in operation from August, 1926, to December, 1929, when it was rescinded by Act of Parliament. Persons not bound by the federal award were bound to observe the conditions of the State award.

Wages of farm labourers were not fixed by award or agreement until October, 1921, when a living wage for rural workers was declared at the rate of 66s. per week without board or residence, or 42s. per week for those who were provided with board and lodging. The declaration lapsed after a period of twelve months. In October, 1926, an award covering agricultural workers was issued by the Conciliation Committee relating to the

industry, and in July, 1927, the living wage for rural employees at the rate of 84s. per week was declared by the Industrial Commission. In December, 1929, rural workers were excluded from the jurisdiction of the State industrial arbitration system, and State awards and agreements applying to such employees were rescinded.

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 1921 and later years are those determined for New South Wales by the Commonwealth Statistician.

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.	1911.	1921.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
1. Wood, Furniture, Sawmill, Timber Works, etc. ...	s. d. 48 4	s. d. 55 6	s. d. 101 0	s. d. 107 9	s. d. 104 9	s. d. 91 6	s. d. 88 5
2. Engineering, Shipbuilding, Smelting, Metal Works, etc. ...	49 4	55 4	98 7	103 10	101 7	95 11	85 5
3. Food, Drink, and Tobacco Manufacture and Distribution ...	44 11	51 4	95 2	101 2	99 9	95 8	86 5
4. Clothing, Hats, Boots, Textiles, Rope, Cordage, etc. ...	44 5	51 7	91 10	96 10	96 8	85 5	76 7
5. Books, Printing, Bookbinding, etc. ...	53 1	64 4	106 3	123 6	121 10	107 8	101 8
6. Other Manufacturing ...	44 10	51 7	97 7	103 7	100 7	91 9	84 3
7. Building ...	56 2	63 4	104 7	114 7	114 3	109 4	100 7
8. Mining, Quarries, etc. ...	52 3	60 0	105 4	112 9	109 1	106 7	103 1
9. Railway and Tramway Services ...	52 2	55 2	95 5	107 8	103 11	97 2	83 9
10. Other Land Transport ...	41 8	44 4	92 0	97 1	97 1	96 10	84 4
11. Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc. ...	38 4	44 6	100 5	106 2	99 10	82 11	89 2
12. Pastoral, Agricultural, Rural, Horticultural, etc. ...	32 5	43 5	92 0	100 9	89 5	84 0	75 11
13. Domestic, Hotels, etc. ...	37 11	44 3	89 0	92 7	92 7	92 1	79 7
14. Miscellaneous ...	43 5	49 0	91 5	96 5	95 2	91 4	81 4
All Industries ...	43 11	51 5	95 10	102 11	99 1	93 5	84 11

At the end of 1921 the average rate of wages for all industries was 86.4 per cent. above the average of 1911. In the following years the average rose and fell alternately, and in 1925 it was at a point slightly above the average in 1921. There was an increase in each succeeding year until June, 1929, when the average, 103s. 6d. per week, was double the average of the year 1911. At the end of the year 1929 the living wage declared by the Industrial Commission of New South Wales was reduced by an amount equal to 2s. 6d. per week, and State rural awards were rescinded. During 1930 the "Harvester" wage for Sydney as adjusted for variations in the retail price index numbers declined by 7s. per week, and the wages of coal-miners and of pastoral workers under federal jurisdiction were reduced. Consequently the average wage in December, 1930, was lower by 3s. 10d. than at the end of the previous year.

During 1931 the living wage in State jurisdiction remained constant at 82s. 6d., while there was a reduction of 9s. 6d. per week in the Harvester-adjusted rate for Sydney, and the majority of rates determined under federal jurisdiction were reduced by 10 per cent. by order of the court. Under these influences the average nominal wage declined from 99s. 1d. in December, 1930, to 93s. 5d. twelve months later. During 1932 the basic rates under State and federal jurisdiction were lowered by 12s. 6d. and 3s. 6d. respectively and the average nominal wage by 8s. 6d.

The highest rates in December, 1932, were in the mining, printing, and building industries, which are strongly organised, and include a large proportion of skilled artisans. The next in order were the woodworking trades. The lowest average was in the rural group. Between 1929 and 1932 there were reductions in all the groups, ranging from 26s. to 9s. 8d. per week. The classes with largest reductions were shipping 26s., rural 24s. 10d., railway and tramway services, 23s. 11d., printing 21s. 10d. and clothing 20s. 3d.

After the Industrial Arbitration Act of New South Wales was amended in 1926, wages for certain rural occupations were fixed for the first time by awards, the prescribed rates being considerably higher than the average or predominant rates which had been paid hitherto. This caused a marked increase in the average rate for the rural group in that year. Rural workers were removed from the jurisdiction of the State tribunals in December, 1929, and federal award rates for pastoral workers were reduced in 1930 and 1932, and the average nominal rate in this group declined from 101s. 2d. at the beginning of 1930 to 75s. 11d. in December, 1932.

Index Numbers—Nominal and Effective Wages.

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 records as to variations in the purchasing power of money are available as early as 1901 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 1916 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 are not available for 1901 and 1911 and the average nominal rate at the end of the year has been used; it is not likely, however, that this would have an appreciable effect on the comparison as wages were fairly stable in these years.

Year.	Average Nominal Wage for a Full Week's Work.		Index Number of Food and Rent (All Houses) Combined.	Index Number of Effective Wage. (Full Work.)
	Amount.	Index Number.		
1901	s. d. 43 11*	854	848	1007
1911	51 5*	1000	1000	1000
1916	59 7	1160	1351	859
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
1926	97 9	1901	1790	1062
1927	101 2	1968	1776	1108
1928	102 7	1995	1783	1119
1929	103 1	2005	1859	1079
1930	101 8	1977	1738	1138
1931	94 10	1844	1548	1191
1932	88 10	1728	1462	1182

* At end of year.

In 1901 the effective wage was slightly higher than in 1911. It declined steadily after 1911 as living became dearer, until in 1916 it was 14 per cent. lower than in 1911. Subsequently wages increased at a faster rate than the cost of food and rent, and when prices declined in 1922 the effective wage index number rose to a point 14 per cent. above the level of 1911. In later years this index number fluctuated at lower levels, and in 1929 it was about 8 per cent. higher than in 1911. Since 1929 the decline in prices has been greater than the fall in nominal rates of wages so that the effective wage for full time work has risen and in 1932 it was 18 per cent. above the 1911 rate.

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, and there has been an exceptional degree of unemployment since 1930, as well as part-time employment in many industries. Moreover, employers have been required since 1st July, 1930, to deduct from the earnings of their employees unemployment relief tax, of which the rate was 3d. in the £ until 1st January, 1931, when it was increased to 1s. in the £. Thus the employee with a nominal weekly wage of 88s. 10d. in 1932 would have received 84s. 10d. for a full week's work, corresponding to an effective wage index-number 13 per cent. higher than in 1911.

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 rural industries (except the net values in the table on page 779) 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.

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 1921 and subsequent 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 raised 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. The values do not include the production from quarries except in 1925-26 and earlier years when the output from quarries held under mining title was included.

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 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 variations in 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.								Total, Primary and Manufacturing Industries.
	Rural Industries.				Forests, Fisheries, and Trapping.	Mining.	Total, Primary Industries.	Manufacturing Industries	
	Pastoral.	Agricultural.	Dairying and Pannyard.	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	10,011	39,373
1911	20,586	9,749	6,534	36,869	2,213	7,392	46,474	19,432	65,906
1912	19,431	11,817	7,192	38,440	2,347	8,177	48,964	22,681	71,645
1913	21,555	12,378	7,063	40,996	2,644	8,712	52,352	23,764	76,116
1915-16	23,494	20,362	7,649	51,505	2,603	7,478	61,586	25,235	86,821
1920-21	20,336	32,373	16,447	69,156	4,089	10,192	83,437	43,128	126,565
1921-22	25,020	20,261	12,914	58,195	3,628	9,666	71,489	46,746	118,235
1922-23	36,783	21,301	13,445	71,529	4,810	10,449	86,788	51,596	138,354
1923-24	39,775	20,556	12,327	72,658	4,204	11,845	88,707	53,661	144,368
1924-25	46,028	28,785	14,336	89,149	5,039	11,785	105,973	59,044	165,017
1925-26*	32,941	19,655	14,574	67,170	5,461	12,346	84,977	64,838	149,815
1926-27*	43,119	21,816	14,581	79,516	5,999	12,352	97,867	69,849	167,716
1927-28*	41,831	15,444	15,132	72,407	5,318	10,436	87,961	71,805	159,766
1928-29*	40,939	19,356	14,559	74,854	5,046	8,833	88,733	73,627	162,360
1929-30*	26,559	15,269	14,539	56,367	4,081	7,499	67,947	66,848	134,795
1930-31*	17,987	12,328	12,039	42,354	2,563	5,706	50,623	49,524	100,147
1931-32	19,482	14,547†	11,525	45,554	2,578	5,664	53,796	46,653	100,449

* The values of primary production (except mining) during the years 1925-26 to 1930-31 have been revised since last issue.

† Including Commonwealth wheat bounty—4½d. per bushel.

The values of the various classes of primary production (except mining) for the six years 1925-26 to 1930-31, as published in earlier issues of the Year Book, have been revised. The principal alteration was the elimination from pastoral production of the item natural increase in livestock. This had been included in each of these six years but not in any earlier year, therefore the figures as revised form a better basis for the comparison with the annual values of earlier years than those published formerly. A reduction has been made in the value of agricultural production to correct an over-valuation of hay. In dairying, forestry, etc., the alterations were comparatively small.

The total value of production increased in each decade between 1871 and 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 increase during the decade 1911 to 1921 was due mainly to enhanced prices. In 1926-27 the value, £167,716,000, was the highest yet recorded, and the value in the two following years was about 5 per cent. lower owing to a decline in respect of primary production. In 1929-30 there was a further decline of 17 per cent., dairying being the only important industry which did not show a marked diminution. In 1930-31 the total value decreased by 26 per cent. In 1931-32 there was an improvement in regard to primary production, but this was almost offset by a further decline in the manufacturing industries.

Apart from seasonal influences, fluctuations in the value of pastoral production are mainly the result of variations in the prices of wool. In the year ended June, 1925, its value, £34,073,000, was higher than in any earlier year. In 1925-26 the clip was very heavy, but a fall in prices caused a decline of £7,850,000 in the value to the growers. In 1926-27 the quantity of wool was the largest recorded up to that time, and with an upward movement in prices the total value to the grower recovered to the extent of £7,000,000. The return from wool increased slightly in 1927-28. In 1928-29 the value declined by £3,000,000 on account of a fall in the price of wool. In the following season the average price for greasy wool was 36 per cent. below the reduced level of 1928-29, and as the clip was somewhat smaller its value was only £18,099,000, and the value of pastoral production was the lowest since 1904-05. In 1930-31 there was a further decline of £4,400,000 in the value of wool, the clip being lighter and prices lower. With a larger volume of production in 1931-32 the value of wool increased by £1,500,000 notwithstanding another fall in prices.

In agriculture wheat is the outstanding product, and seasonal conditions which affect the extent of cultivation and the size of the harvests are the cause of frequent fluctuations in the annual values of production, apart from the variations in the price of this cereal which depends upon the state of oversea markets, rather than upon local supply and demand. When the influence of both factors—season and price bears in the same direction, up or down—the fluctuations are considerable. The highest value of agricultural production was recorded in 1920-21, when the wheat harvest was bountiful and the price unusually high, the value of the grain being £20,000,000. Another large wheat harvest was reaped in 1924-25, and its value was £16,700,000. The smallest crop in recent years was in 1927-28, its value was only £6,200,000, and the total value of agricultural production was £15,500,000. In 1928-29 the harvests were generally larger and the total value increased though prices were declining. In the following season yields were smaller and prices fell to a lower level. The more recent seasons have been favourable. In 1930-31 the wheat crop was nearly equal in value to that of the previous year, notwithstanding a drop of 50 per cent in price. Prices were somewhat higher in 1931-32 and the Government of the Commonwealth paid a bonus of 4½d. per bushel of wheat sold, which resulted in addition of nearly £1,000,000 to its value to the farmer.

The annual value of dairying and farmyard production was remarkably constant from 1924-25 to 1929-30. The value declined by 17 per cent. in 1930-31, and a further decline of about 4 per cent. occurred in 1931-32 when the volume of production was greater than in any earlier year.

In the mining industry coal is the principal product, and the value of the output of the collieries decreased from £9,600,000 in 1927 to £4,100,000 in 1932. The condition of the oversea market usually exerts the most powerful influence on the production of metals, which fluctuates accordingly. The output from metalliferous mines declined from £3,000,000 in 1926 to £2,000,000 in 1930, then fell below £1,300,000 in 1931. The value in 1932 was about £300,000 above this low level. The value of mining production as quoted does not include the output from quarries estimated at £634,400 in 1931, and at £563,400 in 1932.

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, until 1928-29, when the value was £73,627,000. In the next three years there were successive decreases of 9 per cent., 26 per cent., and 6 per cent., the value in 1931-32 being lower by £27,000,000 than in 1928-29.

In the following table the estimated value of production, as at place of production, is shown in relation to the population in each year. The per capita amounts for 1921-22 and later years will be revised when the results of the Census taken in June, 1933, are available:—

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.	£ 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	30 5 3
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	32 18 3
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	31 11 7
1901	9 2 1	5 3 4	2 6 8	16 12 1	0 14 5	4 3 1	21 9 7	7 6 6	23 16 1
1911	12 7 3	5 17 1	3 18 6	22 2 10	1 6 7	4 8 9	27 18 2	11 13 5	39 11 7
1912	11 2 10	6 15 6	4 2 6	22 0 10	1 6 11	4 13 9	28 1 6	13 0 2	41 1 8
1913	11 16 11	6 16 0	3 17 7	22 10 6	1 1 1	4 15 8	28 15 3	13 1 2	41 16 5
1915-16	12 8 1	10 14 11	4 0 9	27 3 9	1 6 6	3 18 11	32 10 2	13 6 5	45 16 7
1920-21	9 14 7	15 9 8	7 17 4	33 1 7	1 19 2	4 17 6	39 18 3	20 12 8	60 10 11
1921-22	11 15 2	9 10 5	6 1 4	27 6 11	1 14 2	4 10 10	33 11 11	21 19 4	55 11 3
1922-23	16 18 6	9 16 0	6 3 9	32 18 3	2 4 3	4 15 11	39 18 5	23 14 10	63 13 3
1923-24	18 0 1	9 6 0	5 11 6	32 17 7	1 18 1	5 7 2	40 2 10	25 3 8	65 6 6
1924-25	20 8 9	12 15 6	6 7 3	39 11 6	2 4 7	5 4 7	47 0 8	26 4 1	73 4 9
1925-26*	14 6 9	8 11 1	6 6 10	29 4 8	2 7 7	5 7 5	36 19 8	28 4 4	65 4 0
1926-27*	18 7 4	9 5 10	6 4 2	33 17 4	2 11 1	5 5 3	41 13 8	29 15 0	71 8 8
1927-28*	17 8 5	6 8 8	6 6 1	30 3 2	2 2 8	4 6 11	36 12 9	29 18 2	66 10 11
1928-29*	16 14 6	7 18 2	5 13 11	30 11 7	2 1 3	3 12 2	36 5 0	30 1 7	66 6 7
1929-30*	10 14 4	6 3 3	5 17 4	22 14 11	1 13 0	3 0 6	27 8 5	26 19 7	54 8 0
1930-31*	7 3 11	4 18 7	4 16 3	16 18 9	1 0 6	2 5 8	20 4 11	19 16 2	40 1 1
1931-32	7 14 7	5 15 5	4 11 6	18 1 6	1 0 5	2 4 11	21 6 10	18 10 2	39 17 0

*The values of primary production (except mining) have been revised since last issue.

The value of production per head from the pastoral industry was considerably greater in 1871 and 1881—when sheep-raising was the staple industry of the colony and pastoral output represented nearly half the total value of production—than in subsequent years when the population had entered into other activities and the export trade in wheat, butter, etc., was developed.

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, factories; 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.

ESTIMATED NET VALUE OF PRODUCTION—RURAL INDUSTRIES.

The foregoing estimates of the value of rural production represent gross values (at the place of production), including such costs as fodder consumed by farm stock, seed, fertilisers, spraying, power and water used in irrigating, etc. By deducting the estimated cost of these items, as well as

depreciation of machinery, from the gross values, the net values of rural production have been estimated for the years 1925-26 to 1931-32 as follows:—

Year.	Pastoral.	Agricultural.	Dairying and Farmyard.	Total Rural Industries.
	£000	£000	£000	£000
1925-26	32,385	15,219	12,351	59,955
1926-27	42,693	16,784	11,945	71,422
1927-28	41,087	11,153	12,782	65,022
1928-29	40,367	14,546	12,031	66,944
1929-30	25,903	10,285	11,658	47,846
1930-31	17,503	8,680	10,306	36,489
1931-32	18,941	11,916	9,565	40,422

Details regarding the deductions from the gross values are published in the chapters of this Year Book relating to the rural industries.

PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS.

The following statement shows, in regard to the principal commodities, the average annual production, absolute and per head of population, during four periods of three years each, viz., (1) the pre-war years 1911 to 1913, which were years of high production, (2 and 3) the years at the beginning and end of the period of post-war expansion, and (4) the three years ended June, 1932:—

Product.	Average Annual Production (000 omitted).				Average Production Per Head of Population.			
	1911-13.	1921-23.	1927-29.	1930-32.	1911-13.	1921-23.	1927-29.	1930-32.
Wool (as in the grease) ... lb.	370,221	315,941	475,367	462,946	212.4	184.0	198.2	185.2
Meat, Frozen (Exported)—								
Beef lb.	11,120	10,271	6,895	6,797	6.4	4.8	2.9	2.7
Mutton "	63,828	41,525	28,767	48,680	36.6	19.5	12.0	19.5
Butter "	79,198	86,222	98,130	114,357	45.4	40.5	40.9	45.8
Cheese "	5,845	6,234	6,787	6,484	3.4	3.0	2.8	2.6
Bacon and Ham "	15,940	18,642	24,390	21,328	9.1	8.8	10.2	8.5
Wheat bush.	31,865	42,353	41,280	51,750	18.3	19.9	17.2	20.7
Maize "	4,691	3,813	3,345	2,824	2.7	1.8	1.4	1.1
Potatoes cwt.	1,824	1,046	847	599	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.2
Hay "	18,612	23,100	16,168	17,933	10.7	10.8	6.7	7.2
Coal ton	9,664	10,485	9,397	6,770	5.5	4.9	3.9	2.7
Coke "	461	813	1,035	690	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3
Gold oz.	200	32	13	20	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Silver* "	14,183	8,741	9,009	7,145	8.1	4.1	3.8	2.9
Lead* cwt.	4,204	2,244	3,454	3,017	2.4	1.1	1.4	1.2
Zinc* "	3,553	2,447	2,798	2,152	2.0	1.2	1.2	0.9
Timber, Sawn ... sup. ft.	69,078	157,899	152,542	79,877	97.0	74.1	63.6	32.0
Fish, Fresh lb.	15,499	20,588	27,494	25,028	8.9	9.7	11.4	10.0
Rabbit Skins (Exported)... "	5,305	6,747	9,800	5,222	3.0	3.2	4.1	2.1
Iron, Pig cwt.	771	5,373	9,056	4,875	0.4	2.5	3.8	2.0
Steel "	...	2,887	7,100	4,161	...	1.4	3.0	1.7
Portland Cement "	...	2,374	3,778	8,418	1.4	1.7	3.5	2.0
Beer and Stout gal.	22,253	24,845	28,308	21,077	12.8	11.7	11.8	8.4
Tobacco lb.	6,370	12,211	14,914	13,249	3.7	5.7	6.2	5.3
Biscuits "	24,175	39,244	43,744	34,476	13.9	18.4	18.2	13.8
Boots and Shoes pairs	3,752	4,174	5,007	4,405	2.2	2.0	2.1	1.8
Bricks No.	366,985	339,721	435,631	130,759	210.5	159.4	181.6	52.3
Candles lb.	5,511	4,596	3,240	1,747	3.2	2.2	1.4	0.7
Electricity units	165,249	386,742	892,365	1,043,884	94.8	181.5	372.0	417.6
Gas 1,000 cub. ft.	4,878	8,465	10,555	10,033	2.8	4.0	4.4	4.1
Jam and Preserved Fruit ... lb.	27,767	36,396	31,498	30,165	15.9	14.3	12.1	12.1
Soap "	31,670	37,085	52,341	43,850	18.2	17.4	21.8	17.5
Sugar, Refined cwt.	1,834	2,373	3,038	2,663	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.1
Meat, Preserved lb.	25,501	4,320	4,948	4,719	14.6	2.0	2.1	1.9

* Estimated content of ore raised.

The statement shows that the annual production of most of the commodities in the list has increased considerably since 1911-13, the principal exceptions being frozen and preserved meats, coal, metals, maize, hay, potatoes, and timber. In some cases, however, the increase has not been proportionate to the growth of population, *e.g.*, wool, cheese, bacon, boots and shoes, jam and preserved fruits.

The annual production of wheat, butter, and some other rural products was greater, absolutely and relatively to the population, during the three years ended June, 1932, than in the corresponding period ended June, 1929. On the other hand there were marked decreases in the production of manufactured and partly manufactured products, especially those used in building and construction, such as bricks, timber, cement, iron and steel.

Annual variations in the quantity and value of the chief rural products—wool, wheat, and butter—are shown below. A comparison of average values per unit is shown also, *viz.*, the average price per lb. of greasy wool at Sydney auctions where the bulk of the clip is sold; the average price per bushel paid to the farmers for wheat delivered at country railway stations—less the cost of bags; and, in regard to milk used for butter, the average price paid at the butter factories to suppliers of milk and cream, stated as per lb. of butter made therefrom:—

Year.	Wool.			Wheat—(grain).			Butter.*		
	Quantity (as in grease).	Value to Grower.	Average Price per lb. (greasy) Sydney Sales.	Quantity.	Value to farmer.	Average price per bush. at Country Railway (less cost of bags).	Quantity.	Value of milk used.	
	000 lb.	£000	d.	000 bush.	£000	s. d.	000 lb.	£000	d.
1911	404,655	14,085	8½	25,088	4,113	3 3	83,205	3,631	10½
1912	326,557	12,488	8¼	32,487	5,239	3 3	76,610	3,895	12¼
1913	379,450	14,437	9½	38,020	5,988	3 2	77,779	3,450	10½
1920-21	275,269	13,023	12½	55,625	20,164	7 3	84,268	8,411	24
1921-22	333,856	15,557	12½	42,767	9,978	4 8	100,673	5,800	13½
1922-23	336,899	23,048	17½	28,668	6,689	4 8	73,724	5,805	19
1923-24	303,032	28,209	23½	33,176	7,603	4 7	72,684	5,027	16½
1924-25	369,118	34,073	25½	59,767	16,685	5 7	117,211	6,342	13
1925-26	402,490	26,223	16½	33,806	8,590	5 1	106,968	7,045	15½
1926-27	499,322	33,234	17	47,541	10,697	4 6	95,853*	6,478	16½
1927-28	443,860	33,874	19½	27,042	6,197	4 7	100,795*	6,722	16
1928-29	482,920	30,879	16½	49,257	9,851	4 0	95,337*	6,779	17
1929-30	459,970	18,099	10½	34,407	5,448	3 2	104,175*	6,842	15½
1930-31	427,220	13,705	8½	65,877	5,215	1 7	113,237*	5,931	12½
1931-32	501,648	15,233	8½	54,966	8,130	2 7½	123,253*	5,750	11½
1932-33†	534,000	17,000	8½	78,389	9,800§	2 3	129,000	5,000	9½

* Made in New South Wales from cream produced in the State, butter made from cream imported or exported interstate being excluded. † Preliminary—Subject to revision.

‡ Excluding Commonwealth Government bonus 4½d per bushel. § Includes subsidy from Government on acreage basis, and rebate of freight.

The average price of greasy wool during the three years 1911 to 1913 was 8½d, per lb. and it reached an extraordinary level, 25½d., in 1924-25. Increased production offset to a large extent the fall in prices in later seasons until 1929-30 when the average price declined to 10½d. per lb. Then a further decline occurred, the average for greasy wool being 8.7d. per lb. in 1930-31, and 8.3d. per lb. in 1931-32. The average price of the wool produced in 1932-33 was slightly higher, and towards the close of the sales there was a definite rise in prices, giving promise of higher realisations in 1933-34.

The quotations for the various commodities, as illustrated in the graph, are as follows:—

Wheat.—The average of shippers' and millers' quotations for bagged wheat ex trucks, Sydney.

Wool.—Average prices for greasy wool based on the actual prices realised at Sydney auctions during each month for typical grades of merino wool.

Butter.—The average wholesale price of choicest quality in Sydney as fixed by the Butter Stabilisation Committee.

The index numbers of non-rural products relate only to seventy-four items included in the general index of wholesale prices (see page 714), and no highly manufactured commodities have been taken into consideration.

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." A resumé of developments from 1921 to 1926 appears in the Year Book of 1928-29 and is here continued in outline for later years to the middle of 1933.

1926-27.

The course of industrial history in this year may be considered in two parts, the first terminating and the second commencing with the advent of a period of dry weather early in 1927. With this change of weather conditions was associated a deterioration of business conditions, partly as a consequence, but partly of independent origin, and the year did not close quite so propitiously as it opened.

In the latter half of 1926 activity on the Stock Exchange increased, and the steady rise in quotations that had set in early in 1925 was strongly maintained. All classes of stocks except Government bonds advanced in price, and the contrast served to illustrate the great buoyancy of shares in financial and other business enterprises. This development was accompanied by a continued rise in the rates of net profit earned and of dividends declared by public companies, but the movement in prices was such that the yield to investors from many classes of stock diminished. This rise on the Stock Exchange was due to the weight of money seeking investment, and further evidence of the accumulation of loanable funds was present in the rapid growth of fixed deposits at credit of private customers in trading banks.

Although adverse seasonal factors had appeared in October and November, 1926, all parts of the State except the southern and far western districts received bountiful rains in December. As the growing periods of the season's wool and wheat had practically finished before the dry conditions set in, the effects were felt only in a small diminution in butter production and in the yield of wheat. However, dry conditions again appeared in the summer and autumn of 1927 over a considerable part of the hinterland and over the whole State from April until the end of September, 1927, becoming severe in July. The effect of this marked change in the seasonal factors made itself felt in the outlook for production in 1927-28 and prevented the moulding of financial and business policies on the assumption of continued expansion. The autumn and winter lambing proved small, a reduced clip of wool was anticipated for 1927-28, and the sowing and germination of wheat was retarded.

As the financial position was sustained by the proceeds of realisation of the record wool-clip and of the large wheat harvest of 1926-27, the reaction was at first only slight. Until after the middle of 1927 the growth of bank deposits and of advances was maintained with no abnormal movement, and there was only a slight fall in the high prices that had ruled on the Stock Exchange. However, as money was diverted to meet the exigencies of the pastoral season, the expansion in the volume of business became less regular. These developments, however, were probably not unconnected with a slight decline in the net earnings of companies which declared their profits in the first half of 1927, though it is probable that the reduction was mainly due to factors external to New South Wales, such as the severe drought in Queensland.

But, in general, the proceeds of the year's activities were eminently satisfactory, and despite some shrinkage in the various sources of prosperity, conditions were outwardly very prosperous.

The national income, which had increased rapidly since 1920-21, continued to expand, the increase for the year 1926-27 being approximately 4 per cent., making a total of 30 per cent. in the aggregate and 20 per cent. in the average amount per head in six years. The volume of primary production far exceeded that of any previous year and provided abundant employment. This, coupled with the favourable prices realised, made it inevitable that business activity should intensify. Bank clearings, which had reflected an increase of over 30 per cent. in interbank cheque transactions from 1921 to 1926 showed a further growth of 5 per cent. in 1926-27. The value of merchandise exported rose by nearly £2,000,000, and the value of imports increased by over £5,000,000, one-fourth of this latter increase being on account of machinery and implements. In addition, building activity continued to increase, a healthy feature being a marked expansion in the country districts.

Returns of unemployment, so far as available, showed considerable diminution, and stoppages to industrial processes through industrial disputes also decreased. Although the State basic wage was not varied between August, 1925, and June, 1927, and then only slightly, there was a considerable increase in the minimum rate used in Federal awards, and the average rate of wages paid to male adults increased steadily until, at the close of 1926, it exceeded £5 per week for the first time on record. Concurrently, there was a marked increase in the number of savings bank accounts and in the amount of deposits. Though the cost of living had risen in 1926, there was an appreciable reduction in 1927, contributed to by a slight fall in rents. This latter development was due to the improved supply of houses consequent on the steady expansion of building operations and was doubtless partly due to the fact that favourable conditions had placed an increasing proportion of home-seekers in possession of the amount of deposit necessary for the acquisition of a home by instalment purchase. This development in turn exercised an important effect in increasing the number of small property owners and stimulated the saving of capital in small amounts from many incomes which otherwise would have provided little or no permanent accumulation.

The principle of the 44-hour working week was extended to a number of industries operating under Federal awards, and a further important social and economic development was the introduction in 1927 of a form of child endowment in conjunction with the State basic wage. The rate which formerly had been intended to provide the needs of life on a minimum scale for man, wife and two children—and as such was the minimum rate payable to adult males employed under State awards—was declared at £4 5s. in June, 1927, without any children in the family unit, and was supplemented by the provision of endowment where required to raise the family income to a maximum of the basic wage plus 5s. per child per week. This provision applied to wage-earners and non-wage-earners alike.

While action was continued by the Federal Government in promoting the marketing of primary products abroad, more especially of dried fruits and wine, the State, as a result of opinions expressed at the producers' conference in 1926, enacted a law to provide for the more effective marketing of any primary product, except wool, in respect of which producers desired the benefit of the new law. This action, together with the growing spirit of co-operative endeavour, is gradually increasing the economic organisation of the primary industries of the State.

The maintenance of favourable business conditions throughout the year was facilitated by the stability of the general level of prices and by the effectiveness of the steps taken to maintain foreign exchanges in a steady and satisfactory position.

The continuance of bountiful seasons had, not unnaturally, been accompanied by "boom" tendencies in certain directions, and the effect of these, though never very apparent, became more noticeable in 1926-27. There had been a pronounced increase of building activity in the city since 1923-24, but notwithstanding the stimulus given by extensive demolitions for city improvements, the demand for new premises did not always keep pace with the supply. Again, city land values rose at a rapid rate, the average increase over all land in the city proper being approximately 40 per cent. in the three years ended 1927. There was, in addition, a very large and increasing volume of sales of individual properties at greatly enhanced prices, accompanied by considerable speculation. On the Stock Exchange values had risen to high levels, which it was apparent could be maintained only if a large amount of funds continued to be available for this class of investment, and if earnings and dividends of companies were maintained at the abnormally high rates that had been reached.

A measure of artificial stimulus was given by a large increase in the annual loan expenditure on account of the various Governments. Furthermore, a system of instalment purchase (based largely on cash orders) introduced from abroad and applied to the acquisition of both necessities and luxuries had been extensively used, and the volume of business had thereby received temporary stimulus, placing a measure of encumbrance on future income and causing a feeling of uneasiness as to the possible outcome of the system should a dry season or a depression of trade occur. In one or two instances the financial methods adopted were comparable with those of the speculative land companies which grew up before the financial crisis of 1893, the system being to offer high rates of interest for fixed deposits and to utilise these deposits in extending credit at very remunerative rates of interest through instalment purchase of goods.

Though the year had been a period of great prosperity and progress, signs of retardation were apparent at its close.

1927-28.

Into a situation, already fraught with a small element of danger, there were intruded the effects of a severe though short period of dry weather over nearly the whole of the State from April to September, 1927. When the seasonal position became acute in July and the ratio of advances to deposits was decreased, there was a noticeable reaction on the Stock Exchange, business conditions generally became less buoyant, and unemployment increased.

But the financial situation, though depressed, did not become strained, and though, doubtless, the drought was the proximate cause of the unemployment and the short business depression which followed, it was evident that factors other than these were operating to produce the phenomenon of extensive unemployment at the culmination of a period of marked industrial activity.

For, although the advent of widespread rains during October and November brought an assurance of favourable seasonal conditions, the money market continued tight, and a measure of business depression set in accompanied by a growth of acute unemployment.

Except for the temporary modification produced by the opening of relief works over the Christmas period, this unemployment increased steadily until towards the middle of 1928, when it assumed larger proportions than at any time since 1921. On the other hand, there were favourable trends in several important respects, and the year 1927-28 was one of peculiar contrasts.

Despite the continued strong growth of deposits in trading banks, the margin of deposits over advances was maintained at a much higher level

during 1927-28 than for three years previously, and as the capital of the banks had been heavily increased by large issues of shares in the first half of 1927, it was apparent that the banking situation was relatively strong, and that the financial stringency of 1927-28 was due rather to the imposition of restrictions on unhealthy activities and the husbanding of reserves against possible contingencies than to depletion of resources. It is possible also that the banks, having underwritten the issue of a large Federal conversion loan maturing in December, 1927, found it necessary to conserve their funds to meet requirements.

Though general business activity, as reflected in the inter-bank clearings, failed to increase in the high ratio that had been maintained in the five preceding years, there was nevertheless a slight increase in 1928 over the records that had been reached in 1927. Company profits taken on the whole showed some diminution, but, towards the middle of 1928, share prices and the volume of business on the Stock Exchange improved. In point of fact, after the middle of 1928 shares of banks and of well-established trading and manufacturing companies rose to a higher level than had been attained prior to the decline of 1927. The yield from investments declined mainly because of the rise in prices of securities, and rates of interest tended to fall. For instance, the price of Government 5½ per cent. stocks sold over the Treasury counter was raised from £98 10s. to £100, and current reports from the Stock Exchange indicated that there was a large volume of money available for investment.

The growth in trading bank deposits continued unabated, although there was an appreciable slackening in the rate of addition to savings bank balances. Company flotations and building activity also continued on the large scale of previous years.

The production of wool, though 10 per cent. less than in the preceding year, was still 10 per cent. greater than had been attained in any other previous year; the production of wheat was 20 per cent. below the average by reason of the drought, but slaughtering activities and the output of butter remained at high levels.

Generally speaking, while there was no noteworthy expansion of business or industrial activity during the year, neither was there any marked degree of recession from the high standard attained in preceding bountiful years, except in the mining industry.

A close survey of material conditions does not reveal any factor likely to be sufficiently potent in its operation to cause the increase of unemployment and the depression which occurred. There seems little doubt, however, but that the adverse seasonal factor in 1927 operated to cause a degree of uncertainty in the outlook—even apprehension of a protracted drought—and that this uncertainty (though removed by the early advent of abundant rains) produced some pessimism, which reacted adversely on business enterprise and strengthened the influence of latent factors which, otherwise, might have had less effect than they really had. Although the value of production and the total of wages paid in the manufacturing industry showed continued expansion in 1927-28, there was not the same degree of robust growth as in the three preceding years and, in point of fact, there was a decline in the total number of employees engaged in the industry.

It seems certain that (as had happened at an earlier date in other parts of the world) the end had come to the artificial stimulus given to business by the rapid extension of instalment purchase through such devices as the "cash order," and there had ensued a period of some slackness due to the temporarily diminished purchasing power of the community. Simultaneously the accumulation of loanable funds indicated that business confidence had waned probably in consequence of the continued decline of world prices coupled with uncertain seasonal and industrial conditions.

In addition, the anticipation of increases in the tariff, which had been under consideration for nearly a year, had led to a large increase in the volume of imports of certain goods—notably iron, steel, and knitted goods—and certain industries temporarily suspended part of their operations. This gave rise to some further uncertainty of outlook, which was again increased by the difficulties experienced by certain companies in the motor trades and by a suspicion—justified by later events—that certain companies were over-trading in luxury goods on insecure credit.

All these occurrences had an undoubted influence on the events which followed. There had been also a succession of changes in the conditions of employment during 1926 and 1927, the last, introduced in July, 1927, being a modification of the principle of the basic wage through the introduction of family endowment financed by a tax on wages.

The growth of unemployment set in definitely in August or September, 1927, and rose to a peak about the middle of 1928, but declined in the next six months. Except as regards the mining industry—which was affected as to both coal and metals by world-wide causes—there does not appear to have been sufficient decline in industrial production nor depression in business to account for any appreciable part of the pronounced growth in unemployment. The causes of this increase seem to have been psychological rather than material, and the downward trend seems to be explainable rather by the intrusion of factors unrelated to the volume of business and industrial activity than to any inherent weakness in the general economic condition of the State, except, of course, the mining industry.

The immediate causes of the unemployment appear to have been a possible measure of shortening of staff in face of the uncertain seasonal outlook in the latter part of 1927, dislocation in certain industries consequent on the sudden increase in volume of imports, and the rapid decline of the coal-mining industry. These occurrences alone could scarcely have been sufficient to produce the depression, but their effects were apparently intensified by the continued operation of causes which had tended to reduce the volume of employment in relation to production. These factors were the long-continued decrease in the volume of rural employment notwithstanding the expansion of output—a trend related to a general movement, viz., the continued changes in the processes of trade and industry due to the rapidly increasing use of machinery, particularly in rural industries, the rapid substitution of the more efficient motor for horse transport, and changes in industrial processes such as the partial substitution of concrete for bricks in building.

Added to these were the facts that conditions governing employment were rapidly changing, and that immigration from overseas had increased. It would appear that, at the same time, there had been a considerable accession of unemployed from neighbouring States which had been visited by depression during the period that employment in New South Wales had remained plentiful.

Once started to operate, the influence of these forces could not be suddenly arrested, and their adverse effects were increased by the steady extension of the depression in the coal trade, which alone produced unemployment or intermittent employment for a large proportion of the employees in the industry. Related in some measure to this was the continued depression in the iron and steel industry, which was affected during the year by competition from accumulated imports.

It was evident from the facts that up to this time the causes of the business depression in New South Wales were mainly adventitious. Production had been maintained at a high level and, given continuance of average seasonal conditions and normal stability in oversea markets, there was little likelihood that a severe crisis would develop or that recovery would be long delayed.

1928-29.

The prospects of a quick recovery in industrial conditions in 1928-29 were diminished by a number of internal factors and were finally extinguished towards the close of the year by the course of price movements overseas.

There was early anxiety regarding the wheat crops and pastures, occasioned by the absence of rain in August and September and the prevalence of warm, drying winds in pastoral districts during the latter month. Timely falls over the wheat belt in October, however, assured a large harvest, and as the wool production was the second highest on record, the high value of production from rural industries helped materially to sustain the position. In the closing months of 1928 and at the beginning of 1929 signs of some improvement were evident, notably in the slight diminution in unemployment. But, unfortunately, the continuance of dry weather until February, 1929, and again from May to August, retarded ploughing and sowing and seriously discounted agricultural and pastoral prospects for the ensuing season throughout the southern half of the hinterland.

The supply of money upon the loan markets of the world became depleted and the development of adverse conditions both at home and abroad rendered Australia unable either to borrow new money or to fund her existing floating debts. In January, 1929, the completion of a number of Government works threw a considerable number of men out of employment, and in the same month, following an award which increased their working week from forty-four to forty-eight hours, about 4,000 timber employees ceased work, and the dispute continued until October, 1929, when work was resumed in terms of the award. Although the industry was carried on meanwhile by voluntary labour, its operations were necessarily restricted, with consequential effects on the building industry, activity in which was also reduced by the general economic decline.

The depression in the coal industry continued and, recognising its increasingly ill effect on industry, the Government put forward a scheme designed to regain lost trade overseas, to retain interstate trade, and stimulate Australian consumption by a reduction in the price of coal. The scheme was rejected by the employees as involving a reduction of wages, and on 1st March, 1929, all except two of the associated northern mines were closed by the proprietors and remained closed for fifteen months. This action left 12,000 men without employment and was the final factor in raising the number of unemployed beyond the level of any previous year of which records are available.

It was not surprising in the circumstances that trading operations, as indicated by banks' exchange settlements, were only equal in volume to those of the previous year, showing no expansion. Business of all kinds suffered from the uncertainty of the seasonal outlook in the spring of 1928, by the dislocation in the coal-mining and timber industries and the resultant increase in unemployment in 1929, and finally by the sudden and severe break in the wool market in June, 1929, coupled with an intensification of the depression that was settling on the rest of the world. This produced a sudden transformation in the Australian outlook.

The banking position remained strong during the year. Deposits in private accounts in private banks increased by £4,200,000, and though advances were expanded by £12,400,000 in order to meet the depression, there still remained a reserve of loanable funds.

The prices of stock were maintained generally, and during the greater part of the year money was readily available for investment, with a decided preference in the final quarter for Government stocks and gilt-edged securities.

1929-30.

The general economic situation in New South Wales became increasingly merged into that of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Australian situation into that of the world under the influence of an acute world-wide depression which developed with increasing severity through the latter part of 1929 and the whole of 1930. The steady decline which had been in evidence in world prices since 1925 began to accelerate rapidly about the middle of 1929, and during 1930 prices reached disastrously low levels. Practically every staple commodity and every country in the world was affected by this movement and nearly the whole of the goods exported from Australia for sale overseas suffered under the decline in prices, which was especially severe in respect of our staple exports—wheat and wool. There resulted a fall of approximately £13,000,000 in the value of merchandise exported overseas from New South Wales in 1929-30 as compared with the preceding year. This amount was equivalent to nearly 35 per cent. of the income normally earned by the exporting industries, and its loss caused a disturbance of the balance of distribution of real income. This disturbance was increased by the cessation of the flow of loan moneys from abroad as from January, 1929, resulting in curtailment of industries and enterprises which had for many years been dependent on the regular introduction of new capital into the State.

An acute industrial depression ensued, which was reflected in a diminished volume of business, widespread unemployment coupled with "rationing" of employment, falling prices, lower profits, a severe decline in the values of real property and of most securities and investments, and a heavy diminution in deposits in trading and savings banks, accompanied by a large increase in the ratio of advances. The activities of the manufacturing industries (which had expanded almost continuously over a long period of years) showed an average diminution of nearly 10 per cent., and building operations declined rapidly to only 20 per cent. of the volume of preceding years. The principal rural industries (except wheat-growing, which was affected in some degree by an adverse season) maintained the large volume of output of previous years, but were affected by the heavy fall in values. The coal and metalliferous mining industries suffered heavy declines. At the same time, the earnings of governmental enterprises, such as railways and tramways, diminished and the yield of taxation decreased. There resulted in this, as in practically every State of Australia, adverse budget balances. Bank advances were heavily increased and exceeded deposits for the first time in many years.

In the early part of 1930 the Government of New South Wales passed legislation re-introducing the 48-hour week, reducing the salaries of members of Parliament and of Government employees, and imposing a tax on all incomes in order to raise funds for the relief of unemployment. The Federal Government took action to correct the adverse trade balance by restricting the volume of imports by prohibition, rationing and the imposition of increased import duties. Rates of federal income tax were increased, and a sales tax was imposed.

In February, 1930, the first of a series of Premiers' Conferences was called to devise means of meeting the position.

1930-31.

The economic depression intensified throughout the world during 1930-31, and there was a continued diminution in business and industrial activity in New South Wales.

During the year the volume of activity in secondary industries (as shown by factory returns) and in general business (as measured by bank clearings) continued to contract sharply to a point between 30 per cent. and 40 per cent. below the level existing immediately before the access of depression.

The decline was in consonance with the decline in value of rural production, which had fallen from £74,900,000 in 1928-29 to £56,400,000 in 1929-30 and £42,400,000 in 1930-31.

In particular, the index of bank clearings, which in June, 1930, was 90 per cent. of pre-depression level, was in the vicinity of 65 per cent. in June, 1931. Factory employment, which had fallen by 10 per cent. in 1929-30, declined by a further 20 per cent. in 1930-31, and the general volume of employment fell to about 63 per cent.

During January, 1931, the exchange premium on transmission of funds to London rose from 8 per cent. to 30 per cent., where it remained until reduced to 25 per cent. in December, 1931.

Since the discontinuance of Government loan flotations both locally and abroad in 1929, construction of capital works on Government account had been progressively reduced and the unfavourable business outlook caused a suspension of practically all new investments on private account. Thus the value of new building permits in 1931 was less than one-tenth of the pre-depression total, and new company registrations in 1930 and 1931 were only a fraction of the totals for previous years. Sales of real estate decreased from £54,600,000 in 1929 to £26,100,000 in 1930 and to £13,700,000 in 1931. The value of shares on the Stock Exchange fell by approximately 50 per cent. between July, 1929, and August, 1931.

In certain other directions, however, the depression was not so marked. Deposits in trading banks declined by about 10 per cent., and, though during 1930 advances exceeded deposits, a more healthy relationship was established in 1931. Records of wholesale trade which became available in the latter half of 1930 indicated a fairly stable volume of turnover from that time to the close of 1931.

Fortunately, the output of primary production continued to approach record levels in 1930-31 and, though world values continued to decline, the large volume of exports, coupled with the exchange premium, prevented a further decrease in rural producers' returns from the export trade.

In June, 1931, a conference of Premiers in Canberra resolved to adopt the following measures for rehabilitation:—

- (a) A reduction of 20 per cent. in all adjustable Government expenditure, as compared with the year ending 30th June, 1930, including all emoluments, wages, salaries and pensions paid by the Governments, whether fixed by statute or otherwise, such reduction to be equitably effected.
- (b) Conversion of the internal debts of the Governments on the basis of a 22½ per cent. reduction of interest.
- (c) The securing of additional revenue by taxation, both Commonwealth and State.
- (d) A reduction of bank and Savings Bank rates of interest on deposits and advances.
- (e) Relief in respect of private mortgages.

Further measures taken to cope with the depression included (in the State sphere) a Moratorium Act, a Landlord and Tenant (Distress Abolition) Act, an increase in the scale of taxation for unemployment relief, and an Ejectments Postponement Act. As from 1st January, 1931, the forty-four-hour week was re-established as the standard working week within State jurisdiction. In the federal sphere there was an increase in rates of sales tax and primage duties, and a wheat bounty was provided. As from 1st February, 1931, the Federal Arbitration Court reduced the basic wage applicable under most federal awards by 10 per cent. over and above the cost of living adjustments. During the year the living wage under State jurisdiction remained at £4 2s. 6d. per week, while the federal basic rate (Sydney) fell from £4 12s. to £4 2s. 6d. per week, the latter being subject to 10 per cent. reduction in most federal awards.

1931-32.

Two events of outstanding importance affected the trends of the year. By reason of the suspension of the gold standard by Great Britain in September, 1931, Australian exchanges depreciated further in terms of gold, and the continued fall in gold values of exports was nullified. Following upon the adoption of the Premier's Plan in June, 1931, reductions were made in rates of public expenditure, all internal Government loans were converted into Commonwealth Consolidated Stock at a reduction of 22½ per cent. in interest rates, an Act was passed reducing rates of interest on private loans (other than overdrafts) and rents by 22½ per cent. Rates of interest allowed on savings bank deposits, fixed deposits in trading banks, and on bank overdrafts, were progressively reduced by the authorities concerned.

Export prices and export income (Australian currency) continued at the low levels (about 40 per cent. below the average for 1925-29) to which they had fallen in 1930-31, and commercial and industrial activity remained stagnant, despite the existence of favourable seasonal conditions and a record volume of primary production. During the year the volume of unemployment and the number of recipients of food relief further increased to a maximum, but, though the average number of factory employees for the full year remained practically constant, monthly returns of employment in a representative group of the principal factories showed substantial increases between September, 1931, and March, 1932, especially in the iron and steel trades and textiles.

The general volume of business (as measured by bank clearings) continued to decline steadily, and investment (as measured by building operations, property sales, and loans on mortgage) was lifeless. In the nine months following the suspension of the gold standard by Great Britain in September, 1931, the value of shares on the Stock Exchange rose on the average by about 35 per cent.

The financial position of the State became extremely difficult. Revenue from all sources declined despite increased taxation, while heavy additional expenditure was required to sustain the unemployed. Although substantial reductions were made in certain adjustable expenditure, an increasing deficiency developed in the public accounts. The issue of Treasury Bills as a means of supplementing cash resources was regulated by decisions of the Australian Loan Council, and the cash deficiency constantly tended to exceed the allotment.

Eventually the position became so acute that external interest charges due by the State were not met. The amounts were, however, paid by the Commonwealth Government and made recoverable by Commonwealth legislation, the enforcement of which was resisted by the State Government and ultimately led the Governor to change his advisers in May, 1932. Expenditure of the Commonwealth and State Governments both on revenue and loan accounts to amounts approved by the Australian Loan Council were financed by the issue of Treasury Bills, which were taken up by the Commonwealth Bank and the trading banks. The accommodation so provided for the State increased by £14,809,000 during the year ended 30th June, 1932.

During the year the basic rate for adjustment of Federal award wages in Sydney fell from £4 2s. 6d. per week to £3 16s. 6d. (less 10 per cent. in both cases), but the State living wage remained at £4 2s. 6d. The average rate of wages for adult males fell from £4 15s. 1d. to £4 12s. 6d.

In the State sphere there were amendments extending the scope of the moratorium, while several far-reaching bills passed by the Legislative Assembly failed to pass the Legislative Council.

The rate of overseas exchange remained on the basis of £130 Australian for £100 sterling between January and December, 1931, when a tendency to weakness developed, and the Commonwealth Bank, in exercise of its functions as a central bank, took control of the overseas exchanges by publicly announcing its willingness to buy sterling exchange at a premium of 25 per cent. This rate was maintained through the remainder of the year.

1932-33.

The average level of export prices improved only slightly during 1932-33, but there was an increase in the volume of exports, resulting in a total increase of 7 per cent., in value of exports of merchandise. As the export season progressed this stimulated some improvement in the economic position. Concurrently, reductions were made in some Governmental charges, in rates of interest on overdrafts, and certain other debts. The basic wage rate used in varying federal awards showed little variation, and the living wage determined as a basis of State awards was reduced to £3 10s. in August, in accordance with the fall in "cost of living," and thereafter they were at approximately the same level. The cumulative effect of these adjustments was to accelerate the fall in internal price levels. All factors combined to diminish in some degree the disparity between export prices and internal costs, the sudden advent of which had been the chief characteristic in the decline which had begun in the latter half of 1929 and continued with increasing severity until 1932. To this fact may be attributed a considerable part of the renewed confidence which manifested itself in some measure of business revival during the year, though certain other local factors and some improvement in the world position contributed.

The most general indicator of business activity—the index of bank clearings—increased from 62 per cent. of the 1926-1930 average in the early part of 1932 to 67 per cent. in June, 1933. As this index is based on money turnover, and it may be presumed that the average level of prices fell, the volume of business increased in rather greater degree. Industrial recovery also occurred, though unevenly—coal haulings increased by about 8 per cent., the number of factory employees (98 large factories) by 10 per cent., while the value of permits issued for the erection of new buildings doubled, representing an increase from about 12½ per cent. to about 25 per cent. of the pre-depression values and rather higher proportions of volume of building activity in both cases.

Trade expanded during the year, though again unevenly. The value of imports rose from £(stg.)18,800,000 in 1931-32 to £(stg.)23,800,000 in 1932-33, while the amount of sales from a sample of large factories increased by about 5 per cent. The total value of goods sold at wholesale during the year increased by £8,400,000, or 7 per cent. On the other hand, the turnover of the principal city retail shops showed little or no increase, though it is probable that, allowing for a fall in prices, the volume of trade increased slightly. The number of employees in such shops increased by an average of 5 per cent. on the basis of the periods April to June in each year.

Railway passenger traffic increased during the year by 3 per cent. and goods traffic by 10 per cent. (largely on account of the increased volume of primary production). There was some recovery in motor transport: the total number of motor cars registered for use increased from 144,000 in June, 1932, to 147,600 in June, 1933 (as compared with 169,500 in June, 1930), and the number of motor lorries and vans registered for use from 38,600 to 42,300 over the same period (as compared with 45,300 in June, 1930). The average weekly number of new cars put into use increased from 53 in June, 1932, to 94 in June, 1933.

Savings bank deposits rose during the year by £660,000, substantially less than the amount of interest added to depositors' accounts. Private deposits in private trading banks increased by £3,570,000, while advances remained practically unchanged. In consequence the ratio of private advances to private deposits decreased from the abnormal ratio of 101 per cent. in June quarter 1932, to 97 per cent. in June quarter, 1933.

Building activity revived, and the value of new building permits recorded increased from £1,782,000 in 1931-32 to £3,565,000 in 1932-33, the latter figure being about 25 per cent. of the pre-depression average. The value of real estate transferred increased from £12,300,000 in 1931-32 to £14,100,000 in 1932-33, but the amount of mortgages registered decreased from £11,300,000 in 1931-32 to £8,400,000 in 1932-33. The average prices of shares on the Stock Exchange increased by approximately 25 per cent., and the average redemption yield of interest on Government stocks decreased from £4 16s. per cent. to £3 15s. per cent. between June, 1932, and June, 1933. The rate of interest chargeable on Treasury Bills was reduced from 4 per cent. to 2½ per cent., and interest on fixed deposits in banks by ½ per cent., so that rates ruling for three months' deposits became 2 per cent. and on deposits for two years 3 per cent., as from February, 1933.

The volume of primary production, which had expanded with the onset of low prices, attained record dimensions during 1932-33, the output of the principal rural products, wool, wheat, and butter each exceeding by far the output of any previous year. Though seasonal conditions were favourable, this result was due in very large part to efforts of primary producers to regain by increased production part of the income which they had lost through decreased prices. The price of wool, however, remained at about the same level as during the two preceding seasons (8.5d. per lb., or approximately pre-war parity), while the prices of wheat and butter were both lower than in 1931-32. At the close of the export season, prices of all three commodities had fallen almost to the lowest points recorded in the depression, but a marked improvement occurred in prices of wool in the middle of 1933. Some recovery in prices of wheat occurred a little later, but there was only a temporary recovery in butter markets.

On the whole, the year was one in which the many adjustments commenced in the preceding year were carried on and made more general. While there was little actual improvement in the external position, there was an appreciable measure of internal recovery due to adjustments. Due to the rise in export prices in the middle of 1933, the financial year closed with more favourable indications for further recovery in 1933-34.



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