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CANBERRA.

OFFICIAL

YEAR BOOK

OF THE

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

No. 45—1959.

Prepared under Instructions from
The Right Honorable the Treasurer.

BY

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BY AUTHORITY:

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PREFACE.

By the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Parliament of the Commonwealth is empowered, subject to the Constitution, "to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Commonwealth, with respect to Census and statistics." In the exercise of the power so conferred, a "Census and Statistics Act" was passed in 1905, and in the year following the "Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics" was created. The first Official Year Book was published early in 1908. The publication here presented is the forty-fifth Official Year Book issued under the authority of the Commonwealth Government.

The Synopsis on pp. xi to xxxi following shows the general arrangement of the work. The special index (preceding the General Index) provided at the end of the volume, together with certain references given in the various chapters, will assist in tracing in previous issues special articles and other more or less important miscellaneous matter which, owing to limitations of space, have been omitted or abbreviated in the present volume. Where, in the General Index, more than one reference to a subject is given, the chief reference (or references) has been specially indicated wherever possible.

Every endeavour has been made to meet the demand occasioned by the current economic and financial conditions for new information, or information expressed in new terms, concerning many branches of statistics, while a Diary of Principal Economic Events of the years 1955 to 1958 is inserted after the last chapter.

It is not proposed to refer to the whole of the new matter or to the new treatment of existing matter incorporated in the present volume, but attention may be drawn to the following:—

- The order of chapters has been revised for this issue, Chapters VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI, XVII, and XVIII of this issue corresponding, respectively, to chapters VII, VIII, IX, XVI, XVII, XVIII, VI, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, and XV of Year Book No. 44.
- Chapter II.—Physiography.—Special article on Droughts (p. 51).
- Chapter V.—The Territories of Australia.—New section dealing with Christmas Island (p. 147).
- Chapter VIII.—Water Conservation and Irrigation.—Special Series of Maps of Water Supply and Irrigation Areas (pp. 257–63).
- Chapter X.—Vital Statistics.—Life Tables published in detail (p. 347).
- Chapter XV.—Education.—New sections relating to the Commonwealth Literary Fund (p. 598) and the Australian Academy of Science (p. 608).
- Chapter XXIV.—Farmyard, Dairy, and Bee Products.—Revision of Section dealing with Dairy Cattle and Dairy Products.
- Appendix.—Basic Wage Inquiry, 1959.—Precis of judgment (p. 1173).

The material in the Year Book has been carefully checked throughout, but I shall be grateful to those who will be kind enough to point out defects or make suggestions.

In a publication of this size, a considerable time must necessarily elapse between the handling, both by author and printer, of the earlier and later parts of the work. In order to offset, to some extent, the consequent delay in presentation, the contents of this issue have already been published in separate Parts as the successive chapters or groups of chapters were printed. Particulars of these Parts, numbering eleven in all, are shown in the Price List of Printed Publications at the end of this volume. In a statistical publication, however, the time element does result in an unevenness in the periods to which the statistics relate. To overcome this difficulty, in part at least, an Appendix is provided in which, so far as space permits, later particulars, where available, of many statistical series appearing in preceding chapters have been inserted. The insertions have been restricted mainly to figures, as the inclusion of current textual matter is not generally practicable.

In a number of chapters the figures in this issue have been brought forward two years from those in the previous issue. The Appendix to this issue contains information for various periods up to 1958–59.

It should be pointed out that for the most recent statistics the reader should refer to other publications issued by this Bureau, notably the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* and the *Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics*. There are also numerous mimeographed statements issued from time to time on a wide range of subjects. Particulars of these are shown in Chapter XXXI.—Statistical Organization and Sources of Information.

My thanks are tendered to the Statisticians in each State, who have collected and compiled the data on which a great part of the information given in the Official Year Book is based. Thanks are also tendered to the responsible officers of the various Commonwealth and State Departments, and to others who have kindly, and often at considerable trouble, supplied information.

I also desire to express my keen appreciation of the valuable work performed by Mr. A. E. Callander, Editor of Publications, Mr. E. H. Harry, B.A., B.Com., and Mr. S. Burton, B.A., Assistant Editors, and the other officers of the Publications Division, and of the services rendered by the officers in charge of the several Branches of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics upon whom has devolved the duty of revising the chapters relative to their respective Branches.

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Commonwealth Statistician.

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS,
Canberra, A.C.T., August, 1959.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER.	SUBJECT.	PAGE.
	LIST OF MAPS AND GRAPHS	ix
	SYNOPSIS	xi
I.	DISCOVERY, COLONIZATION AND FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA ..	1
II.	PHYSIOGRAPHY	25
III.	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	67
IV.	LAND TENURE AND SETTLEMENT	91
V.	THE TERRITORIES OF AUSTRALIA	109
VI.	MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY	149
VII.	ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION	213
VIII.	WATER CONSERVATION AND IRRIGATION	237
IX.	POPULATION	279
X.	VITAL STATISTICS	323
XI.	HOUSING	367
XII.	LABOUR, WAGES AND PRICES	395
XIII.	TRADE	459
XIV.	TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION	503
XV.	EDUCATION	569
XVI.	PUBLIC JUSTICE	611
XVII.	PUBLIC HEALTH AND RELATED INSTITUTIONS	635
XVIII.	WELFARE SERVICES	667
XIX.	LOCAL GOVERNMENT	687
XX.	PRIVATE FINANCE	729
XXI.	PUBLIC FINANCE	783
XXII.	AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION	865
XXIII.	PASTORAL PRODUCTION	929
XXIV.	FARMYARD, DAIRY AND BEE PRODUCTS	959
XXV.	FORESTRY	983
XXVI.	FISHERIES	997
XXVII.	MINERAL INDUSTRY	1011
XXVIII.	DEFENCE	1055
XXIX.	REPATRIATION	1071
XXX.	MISCELLANEOUS	1085
XXXI.	STATISTICAL ORGANIZATION AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION	1115
	DIARY OF PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC EVENTS, 1954 TO 1957	1137
	CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF CHIEF EVENTS SINCE 1788	1148
	STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1891-92 TO 1956-57	1159
	APPENDIX	1163
	LIST OF SPECIAL ARTICLES, ETC., CONTAINED IN PREVIOUS ISSUES	1193
	GENERAL INDEX	1198

LIST OF MAPS AND GRAPHS.

	PAGE.
General Map of Australia	Frontispiece
Normal Daily Maximum Temperature, January (Map)	33
Normal Daily Minimum Temperature, January (Map)	34
Normal Daily Maximum Temperature, July (Map)	35
Normal Daily Minimum Temperature, July (Map)	36
Longest Heat Waves (Map and Graph)	37
Average Frost Free Period (Map)	39
Average Annual Evaporation (Map)	40
Average Annual Rainfall (Map)	41
Monthly Distribution of Rainfall (Map)	42
Wind Roses, 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. (Maps)	43, 44
Snowy Mountains Scheme (Map)	221
Artesian Basins (Map)	255-256
Water Supply and Irrigation Areas and Districts, New South Wales (Maps)	257, 258
Water Supply and Irrigation Systems, Victoria (Map)	259
Irrigation Areas, Queensland (Map)	260
Irrigation Areas, South Australia (Map)	261
Irrigation Districts, Western Australia (Map)	262
Water Resources of Tasmania (Map)	263
Population of Australia	297
Oversea Migration	298
Population Density and Distribution (Map)	299-300
Births, Deaths and Marriages	333
Rates of Births, Deaths and Natural Increase	334
Infant Mortality Rates	335
New Houses and Flats	369
Wholesale and Retail Prices; Nominal and Real Wage Rates—Index Numbers	403
Wage and Salary Earners in Civilian Employment	404
Industrial Disputes	405
Oversea Trade: 1932-33 to 1957-58	471
Oversea Trade according to Monetary Areas	472
Exports of Principal Commodities	473
Export Price Index Numbers	474
Railway Systems (Map)	507
Government Railways: Route-mileage and Traffic	508
Government Railways: Revenue and Working Expenses	509
Motor Vehicle Registrations	510
Air Routes (Map)	543-544
Commonwealth Expenditure on Social and Health Services	673
Bank Deposits and Advances and Notes in Circulation	739

	PAGE.
Life Assurance	740
Commonwealth Consolidated Revenue Fund	805
State Consolidated Revenue Funds	806
Area of Crops	871
Wheat (Grain): Area, Production and Yield per Acre	872
Production of Oats, Barley, Maize, Rice and Hay	873
Livestock	939
Sheep Numbers and Wool Production	940
Mine Production of Principal Metals and Coal	1037, 1038

SYNOPSIS.

CHAPTER I.—DISCOVERY, COLONIZATION AND FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA.

	PAGE		PAGE
§ 1. Early Knowledge and Discovery of Australia—		§ 5. The Establishment of the Commonwealth of Australia—	
1. Introduction	1	1. General	5
2. Terra Australis	1	2. Transfer of the Northern Territory to the Commonwealth .. .	5
3. Discovery of Australia .. .	1	3. Transfer of the Australian Capital Territory to the Commonwealth ..	5
4. Discoveries by the English ..	2	4. Present Composition of the Commonwealth	5
§ 2. The Annexation of Australia—		§ 6. The Constitutions of the States and of the Commonwealth—	
1. Annexation of Eastern Part of Australia, 1770	2	1. General	6
2. Original Extent of New South Wales	3	2. Commonwealth Constitution Act ..	6
3. Extension of New South Wales Westward, 1825	3	§ 7. The External Territories of Australia—	
4. Annexation of Western Australia, 1827	3	1. Transfer of Norfolk Island ..	23
§ 3. The Exploration of Australia	3	2. Transfer of British New Guinea or Papua	23
§ 4. The Creation of the Several Colonies—		3. Territory of New Guinea	23
1. New South Wales	4	4. Nauru	24
2. Tasmania	4	5. Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands	24
3. Western Australia	4	6. Australian Antarctic Territory ..	24
4. South Australia	4	7. Territory of Heard and McDonald Islands	24
5. New Zealand	4	8. Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands ..	24
6. Victoria	4	9. Territory of Christmas Island ..	24
7. Queensland	4		

CHAPTER II.—PHYSIOGRAPHY.

§ 1. General Description of Australia—		§ 2. Climate and Meteorology of Australia—	
1. Geographical Position	25	<i>continued.</i>	
2. Area of Australia compared with Areas of other Countries ..	25	4. Evaporation	45
3. Areas of States and Territories, Coastal Configurations and Standard Times	27	5. Rainfall	45
4. Geographical Features of Australia ..	27	6. Remarkable Falls of Rain	49
5. Fauna, Flora, Geology and Seismology of Australia	29	7. Snowfall	50
§ 2. Climate and Meteorology of Australia—		8. Hail	50
1. Introductory	29	9. Droughts	51
2. Temperature	29	10. Barometric Pressures	56
3. Humidity	32	11. Wind	56
		12. Influences affecting Australian Climate	58
		13. Rainfall and Temperatures, Various Cities	58
		14. Climatological Tables	58

CHAPTER III.—GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

§ 1. Scheme of Parliamentary Government—		§ 2. Parliaments and Elections— <i>continued.</i>	
1. General	67	8. The Parliament of Tasmania ..	78
2. The Sovereign	67	9. Superannuation Funds of the Parliaments of the Commonwealth and of the Australian States ..	78
3. Powers and Functions of the Governor-General and of the State Governors	68	§ 3. Administration and Legislation—	
4. The Cabinet and Executive Government	69	1. The Commonwealth Parliaments ..	79
5. Number and Salary of Members of the Legislatures, Australian Parliaments	70	2. Governors-General and Commonwealth Ministries	79
6. Commonwealth Parliamentary Allowances	71	3. Governors and State Ministers ..	82
7. Enactments of the Parliament ..	71	4. Leaders of the Opposition, Commonwealth and State Parliaments ..	84
§ 2. Parliaments and Elections—		5. The Course of Legislation	84
1. Commonwealth	71	6. Legislation during 1957	84
2. State Elections	74	§ 4. Commonwealth Government Departments ..	88
3. The Parliament of New South Wales ..	75	§ 5. Cost of Parliamentary Government ..	88
4. " " " Victoria	75	§ 6. Government Employees	90
5. " " " Queensland	76		
6. " " " South Australia ..	77		
7. " " " Western Australia ..	77		

CHAPTER IV.—LAND TENURE AND SETTLEMENT.

	PAGE		PAGE
§ 1. Introduction	91	§ 7. Closer Settlement—	
§ 2. Free Grants and Reservations—		1. General	98
1-7. States and Northern Territory	91-93	2-7. States	98
8. Summary	93	§ 8. Settlement of Returned Service Personnel:	
§ 3. Unconditional Purchases of Freehold—		1. War Service Land Settlement	98
1-6. States	93-94	Scheme	98
§ 4. Conditional Purchases of Freehold—		2. Loans and Allowances (Agricultural	100
1. General	94	Occupations) Scheme	100
2-7. States	94-95	3. War Service Land Settlement Divi-	100
§ 5. Leases and Licences under Land Acts—		sion—Total Expenditure	100
1. General	95	§ 9. Advances to Settlers—	
2-9. States and Territories	95-96	1. General	101
10. Summary	96	2-8. States and Northern Territory	102-104
§ 6. Leases and Licences under Mining Acts—		9. Summary of Advances	104
1. General	96	§ 10. Alienation and Occupation of Crown Lands—	
2-8. States and Northern Territory	96-97	1. General	105
9. Summary	97	2-9. States and Territories	105-108
		10. Summary	108

CHAPTER V.—THE TERRITORIES OF AUSTRALIA.

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

§ 1. Area and Population—	
1. Area	109
2. Population	109
§ 2. Legislation and Administration	109
§ 3. Physiography—	
1. Tropical Nature of the Country ..	110
2. Contour and Physical Characteristics	110
§ 4. Climate, Fauna and Flora—	
1. The Seasons	110
2. Fauna	110
3. Flora	110
§ 5. Production—	
1. Agriculture	110
2. Pastoral Industry	111
3. Hides and Skins	111
4. Mining	112
5. Pearl and Other Fisheries	112
§ 6. Land Tenure—	
1. General	112
2. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc., Leases ..	113
3. Mining Leases, etc.	113
§ 7. Trade, Transport and Communication—	
1. Trade	114
2. Shipping	114
3. Air Services	114
4. Railways	114
5. Roads	114
6. Posts, Telegraphs, Telephones and	115
Wireless	115
§ 8. Education—	
1. European	115
2. Native	115
3. Theoretical Training of Appren-	116
tices	116

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY—*continued.*

§ 9. Native Welfare	116
§ 10. Finance	116

THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY.

1. Introductory	118
2. Progress of Work	118
3. Forestry	119
4. Lands	120
5. Transport and Communication ..	120
6. Population	121
7. Production	121
8. Education	121
9. Finance	122

NORFOLK ISLAND.

1. Area, Location, etc.	125
2. Settlement and Population	125
3. Administration	125
4. Economic Activity	125
5. Trade, Transport and Communi-	126
cation	126
6. Social Condition	126
7. Finance	127

PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.

§ 1. Administration	127
§ 2. Finance	127
§ 3. Agriculture and Animal Industry—	
1. Soils	128
2. Climate	129
3. Suitable Crops	129
4. Plantation Agriculture	129
5. Native Agriculture	129
6. Animal Industry	130
7. Co-operative Societies	130

CHAPTER V.—THE TERRITORIES OF AUSTRALIA—*continued.*

	PAGE
PAPUA.	
§ 1. General Description—	
1. Early Administration	131
2. Administration by Commonwealth of Australia	131
3. Area, etc.	131
§ 2. Population—	
1. Non-indigenous Population	131
2. Native Population	131
§ 3. Native Labour, Taxation and Health—	
1. Native Labour	131
2. Taxation	132
3. Health	132
§ 4. Land Tenure	132
§ 5. Production—	
1. General	133
2. Forestry	133
3. Mining	133
4. Fisheries	134
5. Water Power	134
§ 6. Trade, Transport and Communication—	
1. Customs Tariff	134
2. Imports and Exports	134
3. Shipping	136
4. Other Forms of Transport and Communication	136
§ 7. Finance	136
TRUST TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA.	
§ 1. General Description	136
§ 2. Government—	
1. Military Occupation (1914–18 War)	136
2. Mandate (1920)	137
3. 1939–45 War	137
4. Trusteeship (1946)	137
5. Administration	137
§ 3. Population—	
1. Non-indigenous Population	137
2. Native Population	137
§ 4. The Natives—	
1. General	137
2. Land Tenure	138
3. Research Work	138
4. Education	138
5. Health of Natives	138
6. Missions	138

CHAPTER VI.—MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

§ 1. General—	
1. Introduction	149
2. Decentralization of Manufacturing Industries	149
3. Commonwealth Division of Industrial Development	150
4. Customs and Excise Tariffs and Bounties on Manufactures	150
5. Scientific Research and Standardization	150
6. Definitions in Factory Statistics	151
7. Classification of Factories	152
8. Factory Development since 1901—Australia	153
§ 2. Number of Factories—	
1. Number of Factories in each State	154
2. Number of Factories in Industrial Classes	154
§ 3. Classification of Factories according to Number of Persons Employed—	
1. General	155
2. States	155
3. Australia	156

	PAGE
TRUST TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA—<i>continued.</i>	
§ 5. Land Tenure	138
§ 6. Production—	
1. General	139
2. Timber	139
3. Fisheries	140
4. Mining	140
§ 7. Trade, Transport and Communication—	
1. Customs Tariff	140
2. Imports and Exports	141
3. Shipping	142
4. Other Forms of Transport and Communication	142
§ 8. Finance	143
TRUST TERRITORY OF NAURU.	
1. General	143
2. History	143
3. Trusteeship Agreement	143
4. Administration	143
5. Population	144
6. Health	144
7. Education	144
8. Judiciary	144
9. Religion	144
10. Phosphate Deposits	144
11. Transport	145
12. Trade	145
13. Revenue and Expenditure	146

TERRITORY OF HEARD AND McDONALD ISLANDS 146**AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC TERRITORY** 146**TERRITORY OF COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS.**

1. General	146
2. History	147
3. Transfer to the Commonwealth of Australia	147
4. Administration	147
5. Population	147
6. Transport	147

TERRITORY OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND.

1. General	147
2. History and Administration	148
3. Industry and Commerce	148
4. Population	148
5. Communications	148

§ 4. **Power Equipment in Factories—**

1. General	157
2. Rated Horsepower of Engines in Factories other than Central Electric Stations	157
3. Rated Horsepower of Engines and Electric Motors Ordinarily in Use	157
4. Capacity of Engines and Generators installed in Central Electric Stations	159

§ 5. **Employment in Factories—**

1. Number Employed	159
2. Rates of Increase	161
3. Persons Employed in Classes of Industry	161
4. Persons Employed According to Occupational Grouping	162
5. Monthly Employment	163
6. Distribution of Employees According to Age	165

CHAPTER VI.—MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY—*continued.*

	PAGE		PAGE
§ 6. Sex Distribution in Factories—		§ 8. Costs of Production and Value of Output—	
1. Average Number of Males and Females Employed ..	166	<i>continued.</i>	
2. Rate of Variation for each Sex ..	166	6. Value of Production ..	175
3. Masculinity of Persons Employed in Factories ..	167	7. Value of Output and Cost of Production ..	177
4. Employment of Females in Particular Industries ..	167	§ 9. Value of Land, Buildings, Plant and Machinery—	
§ 7. Child Labour in Factories—		1. General ..	177
1. Conditions of Child Labour ..	168	2. Value of Land and Buildings ..	177
2. Number of Children Employed ..	168	3. Value of Plant and Machinery ..	179
3. Industries Employing Child Labour ..	169	4. Depreciation of Land and Buildings and Plant and Machinery ..	180
4. Apprenticeship ..	169	5. Land and Buildings, Plant and Machinery—Values, Additions and Replacements, Depreciation ..	181
§ 8. Costs of Production and Value of Output—		§ 10. Principal Factory Products ..	182
1. General ..	169	§ 11. Individual Industries—	
2. Salaries and Wages Paid ..	169	1. General ..	185
3. Power, Fuel and Light Used ..	172	2-40. Industries ..	186-212
4. Value of Materials Used ..	173		
5. Value of Output ..	174		

CHAPTER VII.—ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION.

A. INTRODUCTION.		C. STATES AND TERRITORIES—<i>continued.</i>	
1. Distribution of Population and Location of Power Resources ..	213	§ 4. South Australia—	
2. Electric Power Generation and Distribution ..	213	1. General ..	229
3. Future Developments ..	214	2. The Electricity Trust of South Australia ..	229
B. SNOWY MOUNTAINS HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME.		3. Capacity and Production ..	230
1. Geography of Area ..	214	4. Leigh Creek and other New Capacity ..	230
2. Description of Scheme ..	214	§ 5. Western Australia—	
3. Utilization of Power ..	216	1. General ..	230
C. STATES AND TERRITORIES.		2. Metropolitan Undertaking ..	231
§ 1. New South Wales—		3. Kalgoorlie ..	231
1. General ..	216	4. General Pattern of Electricity Supply ..	231
2. Organization ..	217	5. The State Electricity Commission of Western Australia ..	231
3. Generation and Transmission ..	218	6. South-west Development ..	232
4. Rural Electrification ..	219	§ 6. Tasmania—	
§ 2. Victoria—		1. General ..	232
1. General ..	220	2. The Hydro-Electric Commission ..	232
2. State Electricity Commission of Victoria ..	220	3. Power Usage by Secondary Industry ..	234
3. Local Country Electricity Undertakings ..	225	§ 7. Commonwealth Territories—	
§ 3. Queensland—		1. Internal Territories ..	234
1. General ..	225	2. External Territories—Papua and New Guinea ..	235
2. Royal Commission on Generation and Distribution of Electric Power in Queensland, 1936 ..	226	D. STATISTICAL SUMMARY ..	235
3. The State Electricity Commission of Queensland ..	226		
4. Regional Electricity Boards ..	226		
5. Creation of Southern Electric Authority of Queensland ..	227		
6. Hydro-electricity ..	227		
7. New Capacity ..	228		

CHAPTER VIII.—WATER CONSERVATION AND IRRIGATION.

A. RESOURCES, UTILIZATION AND NATIONAL AND INTERSTATE ASPECTS.		§ 3. National and Interstate Aspects—	
§ 1. Introduction ..	237	1. General ..	242
§ 2. Water Resources and their Utilization—		2. Murray River Scheme ..	242
1. Surface Supplies ..	237	3. New South Wales—Queensland Border Rivers Agreement ..	244
2. Major Dams and Reservoirs ..	237	4. Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme ..	245
3. Irrigation ..	239		
4. Preservation of Catchments ..	240		
5. Sub-surface Supplies ..	240		

CHAPTER VIII.—WATER CONSERVATION AND IRRIGATION—*continued.*

PAGE	PAGE
B. STATES AND TERRITORIES.	
§ 1. Australian Local Pattern of Water Conservation and Use	246
§ 2. New South Wales—	
1. General	246
2. Schemes Summarized	247
3. Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas	249
4. Other Irrigation Areas	249
5. Irrigation Districts	250
6. Water Trust Districts, Irrigation Trusts and Flood Control and Irrigation Districts	250
7. River and Lake, and Farm Water Supplies	251
8. Underground Water	251
9. Future Programme	251
10. Hydro-electricity	252
§ 3. Victoria—	
1. General	252
2. Works Summarized	252
3. Storages	252
4. Extent of Systems and Nature of Irrigated Culture	253
5. Irrigation Systems	253
6. Town Water Supplies and Sewerage	254
7. Drainage, Flood Protection and River Improvement	254
8. Finance	254
9. Underground Resources	265
10. Future Programme	265
11. Hydro-electricity	265
§ 4. Queensland—	
1. General	265
2. Great Artesian Basin	266
3. Other Basins	267
4. Stock Route Watering	267
§ 4. Queensland— <i>continued.</i>	
5. Irrigation	267
6. Bureau of Investigation	270
7. Channel Country	270
8. Hydro-electricity	270
§ 5. South Australia—	
1. General	270
2. Irrigation	271
3. Water Supply Schemes	272
4. Underground Water	273
5. Farm Water Schemes	273
6. South-Eastern Drainage	273
§ 6. Western Australia—	
1. General	273
2. Irrigation	274
3. Water Supply Schemes	275
4. Underground Water	275
§ 7. Tasmania—	
1. General	276
2. Hydro-electricity	276
3. Industrial	276
4. Irrigation	277
§ 8. Northern Territory—	
1. Climate and Topography	277
2. Administration	277
3. Underground Water	277
4. Irrigation	278
§ 9. Papua and New Guinea—	
1. Rainfall	278
2. General	278

CHAPTER IX.—POPULATION.

§ 1. Population Statistics	279
§ 2. The Census—	
1. Census-taking	280
2. Population recorded at Censuses	280
3. Increase since 1881 Census	280
§ 3. Growth and Distribution of Population—	
1. Growth of Population	281
2. Present Numbers	282
3. Proportion of Area and Population, Density and Masculinity	282
4. Urban and Rural Distribution	283
5. Capital Cities: Australia and Other Countries	285
6. Principal Urban Areas	286
7. Urban Areas Outside Metropolitan Areas	287
8. Principal Cities in the World	288
§ 4. Mean Population—	
1. General	288
2. Method of Calculation	288
3. Results	289
§ 5. Elements of Increase—	
1. Natural Increase	289
2. Recorded Net Interstate and Oversea Migration	292
3. Total Increase	293
4. Rate of Population Growth	294
§ 6. Density—	
1. General	295
2. Main Countries of the World	296
§ 7. General Characteristics—	
1. Sex Distribution	301
2. Age Distribution	302
3. Conjugal Condition	303
4. Birthplace	304
5. Period of Residence in Australia	305
6. Nationality	305
7. Religion	306
8. Industry	307
9. Occupational Status	309
10. Race	309
11. Other General Characteristics	310
§ 8. Oversea Migration—	
1. Oversea Migration during the Present Century	311
2. Classification of Arrivals and Departures	312
3. Extent of Journey	313
4. Nationality	313
5. Age Distribution and Conjugal Condition	314
6. Occupation	314
§ 9. Assisted Migration into Australia—	
1. Joint Commonwealth and States Scheme	314
2. United Kingdom Free and Assisted Passage Agreements, March, 1946	314
3. Child Migration from the United Kingdom	315
4. Assisted Passage Scheme, Eire	316
5. Maltese Migration	316
6. Empire and Allied Ex-Servicemen's Scheme	316

CHAPTER IX.—POPULATION—*continued.*

PAGE	PAGE
§ 9. Assisted Migration into Australia— <i>continued.</i>	§ 10. The Regulation of Immigration into Australia—
7. Displaced Persons Scheme 316	1. Powers and Legislation of the Commonwealth 319
8. Netherlands Migration 317	2. Conditions of Immigration into Australia 320
9. Italian Migration 317	3. Nationality of Persons Arriving 320
10. Migration from Trieste 317	§ 11. Passports 320
11. German Migration 317	§ 12. Citizenship and Naturalization—
12. Austrian Migration 318	1. Commonwealth Legislation 321
13. Greek Migration 318	2. Certificates Granted 321
14. Hungarian Migration 318	§ 13. Population of External Territories .. 322
15. General Assisted Passage Scheme .. 318	§ 14. The Aboriginal Population of Australia 322
16. Summary of Arrivals of Assisted Migrants 318	

CHAPTER X.—VITAL STATISTICS.

§ 1. Provisions for Registration and Compilation of Statistics. 323	§ 4. Fertility and Reproduction— <i>continued.</i>
§ 2. Marriages—	10. Masculinity of Live Births. 337
1. Number of Marriages 324	11. Ex-nuptial Live Births. 337
2. Crude Marriage Rates. 324	12. Legitimations 338
3. Marriage Rates based on Marriageable Population 324	13. Multiple Births 338
4. Crude Marriage Rates of Various Countries 325	14. Ages of Parents 339
5. Age and Conjugal Condition at Marriage 325	15. Birthplaces of Parents 339
6. Previous Conjugal Condition 326	16. Occupation of Fathers 339
7. Birthplaces of Persons Marrying .. 327	17. Age, Duration of Marriage and Issue of Mothers 339
8. Occupation of Bridegrooms 327	18. Nuptial First Births. 341
9. Celebration of Marriages 327	19. Stillbirths 342
§ 3. Divorce 328	§ 5. Mortality—
§ 4. Fertility and Reproduction—	1. Number of Deaths 343
1. Introductory 328	2. Crude Death Rates 344
2. Number of Live Births and Confinements 328	3. Standardized Death Rates 345
3. Crude Birth Rates 329	4. True Death Rates 345
4. Crude Birth Rates, Various Countries 330	5. Crude Death Rates of Various Countries 346
5. Fertility Rates 330	6. True Death Rates of Various Countries 346
6. Age-specific Fertility Rates for Females 331	7. Australian Life Tables 347
7. Gross and Net Reproduction Rates for Females 331	8. Infant Deaths and Death Rates .. 350
8. Gross and Net Reproduction Rates, Various Countries 332	9. Age Distribution 354
9. Fertility of Marriages 337	10. Causes of Death 356
	11. Deaths from Principal Causes .. 360
	12. Age at Death and Average Issue of Deceased Married Males and Females 364
	13. Age at Marriage of Deceased Males and Females, and Issue .. 365
	§ 6. Vital Statistics of External Territories .. 365

CHAPTER XI.—HOUSING.

§ 1. Introduction—	§ 3. Statistical Summary—New Building—
1. General 367	1. General 376
2. Number of Dwellings, Censuses 1911 to 1954 367	2. New Houses 377
§ 2. Government Assistance to Housing Since 1945—	3. New Flats 379
1. Agreements between the Commonwealth and State Governments .. 367	4. Value of New Buildings 380
2. Imported Houses 372	5. Persons engaged in New Building .. 381
3. Housing Schemes in Commonwealth Territories 372	§ 4. Census Dwellings—
4. Other Housing Schemes in the States 373	1. Number of Dwellings 382
5. War Service Homes 375	2. Class of Dwelling 383
6. Other Forms of Government Assistance 376	3. Population According to Class of Dwelling, etc. 384
	4. Occupied Private Dwellings 385

CHAPTER XII.—LABOUR, WAGES AND PRICES.

PAGE	PAGE
A. RETAIL PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES.	D. WAGES.
§ 1. General 395	§ 1. Arbitration and Wages Boards Acts and Associated Legislation—
§ 2. Previous Retail Price Indexes—	1. General 412
1. General 395	2. Commonwealth 412
2. The "Court" Index 395	3. States 414
§ 3. The Interim Retail Price Index (1952-53 Base Year)—	§ 2. Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour—
1. Origin of the Interim Retail Price Index 396	1. General 414
2. Definition of the Interim Retail Price Index 397	2. Weekly Wage Rates 414
3. Differences between the Structure of the Interim Retail Price Index and the "C" Series Retail Price Index 397	3. Hourly Wage Rates 417
4. Comparison of Trends, etc. 398	4. Weekly Hours of Labour 419
5. Compilation of Indexes including and excluding Price Movement of Potatoes and Onions 399	5. Nominal and "Real" Wage Rates 419
§ 4. Tabular Statements of Retail Price Index Numbers—	§ 3. Average Weekly Wage Earnings—
1. General 399	1. Average Weekly Total Wages Paid, and Average Earnings 421
2. The "C" Series Retail Price Index 399	2. Average Weekly Wage Earnings Index Numbers 421
3. The Interim Retail Price Index .. 399	§ 4. Basic Wages in Australia—
§ 5. The "C" Series Retail Price Index: 1914-1958—	1. General 422
1. Construction 402	2. The Commonwealth Basic Wage .. 423
2. Significant Dates 402	3. Australian Territories 434
3. "C" Series Retail Price Index, Six Capital Cities, 1914 to 1958 .. 407	4. Basic Wage Rates for Females .. 434
§ 6. International Comparisons 408	5. State Basic Wages 434
B. WHOLESALE PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES.	§ 5. Wage Margins 439
§ 1. General 408	E. EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.
§ 2. Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index—	§ 1. Employment—
1. Price Quotations 409	1. Total Occupied Persons 440
2. Commodities and Grouping 409	2. Wage and Salary Earners in Civilian Employment 443
3. Method of Construction 409	3. Government Employees 445
4. Index Numbers 409	§ 2. Unemployment 446
§ 3. Melbourne Wholesale Price Index—	§ 3. Commonwealth Employment Service .. 447
1. General 410	§ 4. Industrial Disputes—
2. Index Numbers 411	1. General 449
C. CONTROL OF PRICES DURING AND SINCE THE 1939-45 WAR.	2. Industrial Groups 449
1. General 411	3. States and Territories 450
2. Transfer of Price Control to the States 411	4. Duration 450
3. Price Stabilization 411	5. Causes 451
	6. Results 452
	7. Methods of Settlement 453
	F. WORKERS' COMPENSATION LEGISLATION 453
	G. LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS.
	§ 1. Labour Organizations in Australia—
	1. Registration 454
	2. Particulars regarding Trade Unions 454
	3. Central Labour Organizations .. 456
	§ 2. International Labour Organization .. 457
	H. COMPARATIVE INDEX NUMBERS 458

CHAPTER XIII.—TRADE.

§ 1. Introductory—	§ 3. Imperial Preference in the United Kingdom—
Constitutional Powers 459	1. Preferential Tariff of the United Kingdom 464
§ 2. Commonwealth Legislation affecting Oversea Trade—	2. The Australia-United Kingdom Trade Agreement 465
1. General 459	3. Recent Developments affecting the Operation of the Trade Agreement 466
2. The Customs Tariff 459	§ 4. Trade Commissioner Service 466
3. Primage Duties 460	
4. Tariff Board 460	
5. Industries Preservation 461	
6. Trade Descriptions 461	
7. Import Controls 461	
8. Export Control 462	
9. Trade Agreements 463	

CHAPTER XIII.—TRADE—*continued.*

	PAGE		PAGE
§ 5. Method of Recording Imports and Exports—		§ 12. Ships' and Aircraft Stores	486
1. Source of Statistics	467	§ 13. Movement of Bullion and Specie—	
2. Customs Area	467	1. Imports and Exports	486
3. The Trade System	467	2. Imports and Exports by Countries ..	487
4. Statistical Classification of Imports and Exports	468	§ 14. Exports according to Industries—	
5. The Trade Year	468	1. Classification	487
6. Valuation	468	2. Relative Importance of Industrial Groups	488
7. Inclusions and Exclusions	469	§ 15. Australian Index of Export Prices—	
8. Countries to which Trade is Credited ..	469	1. General	489
9. Pre-Federation Records	469	2. Historical	489
§ 6. Total Oversea Trade—		3. Present Indexes	489
1. Including Gold	469	4. Monthly Index (Fixed Weights) ..	489
2. Excluding Gold	470	5. " " (Changing Weights) ..	492
§ 7. Direction of Oversea Trade—		§ 16. External Trade of Australia and other Countries—	
1. According to Countries	475	1. Essentials of Comparison	494
2. According to Monetary Areas	476	2. "Special Trade" of Various Countries	494
§ 8. Trade with the United Kingdom—		§ 17. Oversea Trade in Calendar Years ..	494
1. Statistical Classes	477	§ 18. Excise	495
2. Imports of Principal Articles	478	§ 19. Interstate Trade	495
3. Exports of Principal Articles of Australian Produce	479	§ 20. The Australian Balance of Payments—	
4. Imports from the United Kingdom and Competing Countries	479	1. Introduction	496
§ 9. Trade with Eastern Countries—		2. Current Account	497
1. Merchandise Trade according to Countries	480	3. Capital Account	498
2. Exports of Principal Articles	481	4. Regional Balance of Payments ..	499
§ 10. Oversea Trade at Principal Ports ..	482	5. Balance of Payments on Current Account—Monetary Areas	500
§ 11. Classified Summary of Australian Oversea Trade—		6. Balance of Payments with the Dollar Area	501
1. Statistical Classes	482	7. Conclusion	501
2. Imports of Principal Articles	483		
3. Exports of Principal Articles of Australian Produce	484		
4. Imports of Merchandise and Bullion and Specie	485		
5. Exports of Merchandise and Bullion and Specie	485		
6. Imports and Net Customs Revenue ..	485		

CHAPTER XIV.—TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION.

PART I.—TRANSPORT.

A. SHIPPING.

§ 1. Control of Shipping—	
1. War-time Control	503
2. Post-war Control and Developments ..	503
§ 2. System of Record	504
§ 3. Oversea Shipping—	
1. Total Movement	504
2. Total Oversea Shipping, States ..	504
3. Shipping Communication with Various Countries	505
4. Nationality of Oversea Shipping ..	505
§ 4. Interstate Shipping—	
1. System of Record	506
2. Interstate Movement	511
3. Shipping Engaged Solely in Interstate Trade	512
4. Interstate and Coastal Shipping Services	513
§ 5. Shipping at Principal Ports—	
1. Total Shipping, Australia	513
2. Total Shipping—Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom ..	514
§ 6. Shipping Cargo—	
1. Oversea and Interstate Cargo	514
2. Oversea Cargo according to Nationality of Vessels	516

A. SHIPPING—*continued.*

§ 7. Vessels Built and Registered—	
1. Vessels Built	516
2. Vessels Registered	517
3. World Shipping Tonnage	517
§ 8. Miscellaneous—	
1. Lighthouses	517
2. Distances by Sea	517
3. Shipping Freight Rates	517
4. Depth of Water at Main Ports ..	518
5. Shipping Losses and Casualties ..	518
6. Commonwealth Navigation and Shipping Legislation	518
7. Ports and Harbours	518

B. GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

1. General	518
2. Railway Communication in Australia	519
3. Distances between Capital Cities ..	519
4. Government Railways Development ..	519
5. Standardization of Railway Gauges ..	519
6. Grafton-South Brisbane Uniform Gauge Line	520
7. Mileage Open for Traffic, all Lines ..	520
8. Classification of Lines according to Gauge	521
9. Summary of Operations	521

CHAPTER XIV.—TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION—*continued.*

	PAGE	PAGE
B. GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS—<i>continued.</i>		PART II.—COMMUNICATION.
10. Summary, States	521	A. POSTS; TELEGRAPHS; TELEPHONES; CABLE AND RADIO COMMUNICATION.
11. Gross Revenue	522	§ 1. General—
12. Working Expenses	523	1. The Postmaster-General's Depart- ment
13. Net Revenue	524	2. Postal Facilities
14. Exchange	525	3. Gross Revenue, Branches—Post- master-General's Department
15. Traffic	525	4. Expenditure, Postmaster-General's Department
16. Rolling Stock	530	5. Profit or Loss, Postmaster-General's Department
17. Accidents	530	6. Fixed Assets
18. Consumption of Coal, Oil and Petrol	530	
19. Staff Employed and Salaries and Wages Paid	530	§ 2. Posts—
		1. Postal Matter Dealt With
C. TRAMWAY AND TROLLEY-BUS SERVICES.		2. Cash on Delivery Parcels Post
1. Systems in Operation	531	3. Total Cost of Carriage of Mails
2. Summary of Operations, Australia	532	4. Transactions of the Dead Letter Offices
3. Traffic and Accidents	532	5. Money Orders and Postal Notes
4. State Details	532	
		§ 3. Telegraphs—
D. MOTOR OMNIBUS SERVICES.		1. General
1. General	533	2. Telegraph and Telephone Mileage
2. Government and Municipal Services	534	3. Telegraph Offices
3. Private Services	534	4. Telegrams Dispatched within Aus- tralia
		§ 4. Telephones—
E. FERRY (PASSENGER) SERVICES.		1. General
1. General	535	2. Summary
2. Summary of Operations	535	3. Daily Local Calling Rates
		4. Effective Paid Local Calls
F. MOTOR VEHICLES.		5. Trunk Line Calls and Revenue
1. Motor Industry	536	6. Oversea Telephone Services
2. Registration	536	7. Revenue from Telephones
3. Taxi-cabs and other Hire Vehicles ..	536	8. World Telephone Statistics
4. Motor Omnibuses	536	
5. Motor Vehicles on the Register, etc.	536	§ 5. Cable and Radio Communication—
6. New Vehicles Registered	537	1. General
7. World Motor Vehicle Statistics	538	2. Oversea Cable and Radio Traffic
8. Census of Motor Vehicles	538	3. Coast Stations
		4. Radio - communication . Stations Authorized
G. ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.		B. BROADCASTING AND TELEVISION.
1. General	538	§ 1. Introductory—
2. Accidents Involving Casualties	539	1. General
3. Road Traffic Accidents Involving Casualties and Persons Killed or Injured	541	2. The Australian Broadcasting Con- trol Board
		3. The Australian Broadcasting Com- mission
H. AVIATION.		§ 2. Broadcasting—
1. Historical	541	1. Broadcasting Stations
2. Foundation and Administration of Civil Aviation	541	2. The National Broadcasting Service
3. International Activity	542	3. The Commercial Broadcasting Ser- vice
4. Regular Air Services within Aus- tralia	542	4. Overseas Broadcasting Service
5. Air Ambulance Services	542	
6. Training of Air Pilots	545	§ 3. Television—
7. Gliding Clubs	545	1. General
8. Airways Engineering	545	2. The National Television Service
9. Air Traffic Control	545	3. The Commercial Television Service
10. Meteorological Services	546	4. Extension of Television Services
11. Search and Rescue	546	§ 4. Licences, etc.—
12. Aircraft Parts and Materials	547	1. Broadcast Listeners' and Television Viewers' Licences
13. Aircraft Overhaul and Repair	547	2. Radio-inductive Interference
14. Test and Examination of Aircraft Parts and Materials	547	3. Prosecutions under the Broadcasting and Television Act
15. Statistical Summaries	547	
16. Territory of Papua and New Guinea	549	

CHAPTER XV.—EDUCATION.

	PAGE		PAGE
§ 1. Introduction	569	§ 8. Universities—	
§ 2. Government Schools—		1. General	586
1. Administration	569	2. Expansion within the Universities ..	587
2. The School System	569	3. Courses	587
3. The Educational Ladder	570	4. Research	587
4. Examinations and Accrediting	571	5. Services	588
5. Health Services to Schools	571	6. The Commonwealth and the Universities ..	588
6. Guidance	571	7. Teaching and Research Staff	591
7. Research	572	8. Students	591
8. Atypical Children	572	9. University Income for General Activities ..	593
9. Education of Native Children in Australia	572	10. Principal University Benefactions ..	593
10. Provision for Rural Areas	572	11. University Expenditure for General Activities ..	594
11. School Broadcasting in Australia ..	573	12. Funds for Special Purposes	594
12. Teacher Training and Recruitment ..	573	13. Degrees Conferred, etc.	595
13. School Buildings and Grounds	575	§ 9. Further Education—	
14. Equipment	575	1. General	596
15. Parent and Citizen Organizations ..	576	2. Adult Education	596
16. School Banking	576	3. The New Education Fellowship	598
17. Statistics of Government Schools ..	576	4. Migrant Education	598
§ 3. Non-Government Schools—		§ 10. The Commonwealth Literary Fund ..	598
1. Public Authority and the Non-Government Schools	579	§ 11. Libraries—	
2. Non-Government Schools Finance ..	580	1. General	599
3. Numbers of Non-Government Schools, Teachers and Enrolments ..	580	2. Commonwealth	599
4. Growth of Non-Government Schools ..	581	3. States	600
5. The Organization of Roman Catholic Education	581	4. University Libraries	603
6. The Organization of Other Non-Government Education	581	5. Children's Libraries and School Libraries	605
§ 4. Pre-school Education—		6. Special Libraries	606
1. Types of Pre-school Centres	582	7. Microfilms	606
2. The Training of Teachers	582	§ 12. Public Museums	606
3. Kindergarten of the Air	582	§ 13. Public Art Galleries	607
4. Kindergarten Unions	582	§ 14. Scientific Societies—	
§ 5. Technical Education—		1. Royal Societies	608
1. General	583	2. The Australian Academy of Science ..	608
2. Correspondence Training	583	3. The Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science ..	609
3. Teacher Training	584	4. Other Scientific Bodies	609
4. Colleges, Teachers and Students ..	584	§ 15. State Government Expenditure on Education, Science and Art ..	610
5. Expenditure	585		
§ 6. Commonwealth Activities	585		
§ 7. Australia and International Relations in Education	586		

CHAPTER XVI.—PUBLIC JUSTICE.

§ 1. The Australian Legal System—		B. HIGHER (JUDGES') COURTS.	
1. General	611	1. Persons Convicted at Higher Courts ..	620
2. State Courts	611	2. Persons Convicted at Higher Courts 1953 to 1957	621
3. Federal Courts	611	3. Habitual Offenders	621
4. Appeal to the Privy Council	612	4. Capital Punishment	622
§ 2. Criminal Courts—		§ 3. Civil Courts—	
A. LOWER (MAGISTRATES') COURTS.		A. LOWER COURTS	623
1. Powers of the Magistrates	612	B. HIGHER COURTS.	
2. Cases Tried	613	1. General	623
3. Convictions at Magistrates' Courts ..	613	2. Divorce	623
4. Convictions for Serious Crime at Magistrates' Courts	614	3. Bankruptcies	628
5. Committals to Higher Courts	615	4. High Court of Australia	630
6. Drunkenness	616	5. Commonwealth Industrial Court ..	631
7. First Offenders	618	§ 4. Police Prisons and Prisoners—	
8. Children's Courts	618	1. Police	631
		2. Prisons and Prison Accommodation ..	632
		3. Convicted Prisoners	632
		§ 5. Cost of Administration of Law and Order—	
		1. Expenditure by the States	633
		2. Commonwealth Expenditure	633

CHAPTER XVII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

PAGE	PAGE
A. STATE GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES.	
§ 1. Public Health Legislation and Administration—	
1-8. States and Territories ..	635-638
§ 2. Supervision and Care of Infant Life—	
1. General	638
2. Nursing Activities	639
§ 3. Medical Inspection of School Children—	
1. General	639
2-9. States and Territories ..	639-642
§ 4. Inspection of Food and Drugs for Sale ..	642
§ 5. Supervision of Dairies, Milk Supply, etc...	642
§ 6. Disposal of the Dead by Cremation ..	642
B. COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES.	
§ 1. General	643
§ 2. National Health Benefits—	
1. Pharmaceutical Benefits	643
2. Hospital Benefits	643
3. Mental Hospitals	644
4. Medical Benefits	645
5. Pensioner Medical Service	646
6. Anti-Tuberculosis Campaign	646
7. Anti-Poliomyelitis Campaign	648
8. Free Milk for School Children Scheme	649
§ 3. Commonwealth Laboratories and Research Institutions—	
1. National Health and Medical Research Council	649
2. Commonwealth Serum Laboratories	650
3. The Commonwealth Health Laboratories	651
4. Commonwealth Acoustic Laboratories	651
5. Commonwealth X-ray and Radium Laboratory	651
6. The School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine	653
7. Commonwealth Bureau of Dental Standards	653
8. The Australian Institute of Anatomy	653
B. COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES—continued.	
§ 4. Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases—	
1. General	654
2. Quarantine	654
3. Notifiable Diseases	657
§ 5. Commonwealth Grants to Organizations Associated with Public Health—	
1. General	658
2. National Fitness	658
3. Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia	659
4. The Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service	659
5. Lady Gowrie Child Centres	660
C. INSTITUTIONS.	
§ 1. General	660
§ 2. Public Hospitals (other than Mental Hospitals)—	
1. General	660
2. Number, Staff and Accommodation	661
3. In-Patients Treated	661
4. Revenue and Expenditure	662
5. Summary	662
§ 3. Leper Hospitals	663
§ 4. Mental Hospitals—	
1. General	663
2. Hospitals, Staff, and Accommodation	663
3. Patients	664
4. Revenue and Expenditure	665
5. Summary for Australia	665
6. Number of Mental Patients	666

CHAPTER XVIII.—WELFARE SERVICES.

A. COMMONWEALTH SOCIAL SERVICES.		B. OTHER SERVICES.	
§ 1. Introduction	667	§ 1. Benevolent Homes—	
§ 2. Commonwealth Expenditure on Social and Health Services—		1. General	682
1. National Welfare Fund	667	2. Principal Institutions	683
2. Capital Expenditure	668	3. Revenue and Expenditure	683
3. Administrative Expenditure	669	4. The Aged Persons Homes Act	683
§ 3. Age and Invalid Pensions	669	§ 2. Orphanages, Industrial Schools, etc.—	
§ 4. Child Endowment	672	1. General	684
§ 5. Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service	676	2. Principal Institutions	684
§ 6. Funeral Benefits	676	3. Children under Government Authority	684
§ 7. Maternity Allowances	677	§ 3. Protection of Aboriginals	685
§ 8. Unemployment, Sickness and Special Benefits	678	§ 4. Lifesaving	685
§ 9. Widows' Pensions	681	§ 5. Royal Humane Society	685
§ 10. Reciprocal Agreements with Other Countries—		§ 6. The Order of St. John	685
1. New Zealand	682	§ 7. Other Charitable Institutions	686
2. United Kingdom	682		

CHAPTER XIX.—LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

	PAGE		PAGE
§ 1. Introduction—		§ 4. Roads and Bridges—	
1. Local Government Authorities ..	687	1. Commonwealth Government Grants ..	696
2. Semi-Governmental Authorities ..	687	2-7. States	697-705
3. Roads, Bridges, etc.	687	8. Summary of Roads used for General Traffic	706
4. Water Supply and Sewerage	688	9. Summary of Expenditure on Roads and Bridges	707
5. Harbours	688		
6. Fire Brigades	688	§ 5. Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage—	
7. Other Local or Semi-Governmental Activity	688	1-6. States	708-721
§ 2. Local Government Authorities—		§ 6. Harbour Boards and Trusts—	
1-6. States	688	1-6. States	721-726
7. Area, Population, Dwellings and Value of Ratable Property	689	§ 7. Fire Brigades—	
8. Finances	689	1-6. States	726-728
§ 3. Local and Semi-Governmental Authorities' Debt—			
1. General	694		
2. Local and Semi-Governmental Authorities' Debt	694		

CHAPTER XX.—PRIVATE FINANCE.

A. CURRENCY.		C. REGISTERED BUILDING AND CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.	
§ 1. General	729	§ 1. Registered Building Societies	
§ 2. Coinage—		1. Summary	761
1. Coins in Circulation	729	2. Liabilities and Assets	762
2. Issues of Australian Coins	729	3. Co-operative Housing Societies, Victoria	762
3. Profits on Coinage of Silver and Bronze	730	§ 2. Co-operative Societies	763
4. Australian Mints	730		
5. Price of Gold	731	D. INSURANCE.	
§ 3. Notes—		§ 1. Introductory—	
1. General	731	1. Legislation	763
2. The Australian Note Issue	731	2. Insurance Act 1932-1937	764
		3. Life Insurance Act 1945-1953	764
		4. Deposits under Insurance Acts	764
		§ 2. Life Assurance—	
		1. General	764
		2. Offices Transacting Business	765
		3. Australian Business—Policies in Existence	765
		4. New Policies Issued in Australia	766
		5. Policies Matured or Otherwise Discontinued in Australia	767
		6. Premiums and Claims, Australia	769
		7. Total Revenue and Expenditure	771
		8. Liabilities and Assets	772
		9. Loans	773
		§ 3. Fire, Marine and General Insurance—	
		1. General	774
		2. States	774
		3. Classes of Insurance	775
		E. RETAIL HIRE PURCHASE OPERATIONS OF FINANCE BUSINESSES.	
		1. General	776
		2. New Retail Agreements	776
		3. Balances Outstanding on Retail Agreements	776
		F. CAPITAL RAISINGS BY AUSTRALIAN COMPANIES.	
		1. General	777
		2. Listed Companies	777
		3. Unlisted Companies	778
		4. Listed and Unlisted Companies	778
		G. FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.	
		1. General	778
		2. Societies, Members and Revenue	778
		H. PROBATES AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION	779
		I. LOTTERIES AND BETTING.	
		§ 1. Lotteries	779
		§ 2. Betting	780
		J. GOVERNMENT, SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL AND PARLIAMENTARY PENSION AND SUPERANNUATION SCHEMES.	
		§ 1. Government and Semi-Governmental Pension and Superannuation Schemes	781
		§ 2. Parliamentary Pension and Superannuation Schemes	782

A. CURRENCY.

§ 1. General	729
§ 2. Coinage—	
1. Coins in Circulation	729
2. Issues of Australian Coins	729
3. Profits on Coinage of Silver and Bronze	730
4. Australian Mints	730
5. Price of Gold	731
§ 3. Notes—	
1. General	731
2. The Australian Note Issue	731

B. BANKING.

§ 1. Cheque-paying Banks—	
1. Banking Legislation	732
2. Royal Commission on Monetary and Banking Systems	733
3. Presentation of Banking Statistics	733
4. Banks Transacting Business in Australia	734
5. Commonwealth Bank of Australia	735
6. Commonwealth Trading Bank of Australia	742
7. Private Trading Banks	743
8. Other Cheque-Paying Banks	745
9. All Cheque-Paying Banks	745
10. Commonwealth and Private Trading Banks	746
11. Classification of Advances within Australia—Commonwealth Trading Bank of Australia and Private Trading Banks	747
12. Interest on Deposits: Rates—Cheque-Paying Banks	750
13. Clearing House Returns—Average Weekly Clearings	750
14. Debits to Customers' Accounts—Cheque-Paying Banks	750
15. Rates of Exchange	750
§ 2. Savings Banks—	
1. General	752
2. Branches and Agencies	752
3. Number of Operative Accounts	753
4. Business Transacted	753
5. Depositors' Balances	754
6. Cheque Accounts	755
7. School Banking	755
8. Assets	755
9. War Savings and Savings Certificates	755
10. Commonwealth Savings Bank of Australia	756
11. State Savings Banks	756
12. Trustee Savings Banks, Hobart and Launceston	757
13. Private Savings Banks	758
14. Classification of Depositors' Balances	760
15. Rates of Interest on Deposits	760

C. REGISTERED BUILDING AND CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

§ 1. Registered Building Societies	
1. Summary	761
2. Liabilities and Assets	762
3. Co-operative Housing Societies, Victoria	762
§ 2. Co-operative Societies	763

D. INSURANCE.

§ 1. Introductory—	
1. Legislation	763
2. Insurance Act 1932-1937	764
3. Life Insurance Act 1945-1953	764
4. Deposits under Insurance Acts	764
§ 2. Life Assurance—	
1. General	764
2. Offices Transacting Business	765
3. Australian Business—Policies in Existence	765
4. New Policies Issued in Australia	766
5. Policies Matured or Otherwise Discontinued in Australia	767
6. Premiums and Claims, Australia	769
7. Total Revenue and Expenditure	771
8. Liabilities and Assets	772
9. Loans	773
§ 3. Fire, Marine and General Insurance—	
1. General	774
2. States	774
3. Classes of Insurance	775

E. RETAIL HIRE PURCHASE OPERATIONS OF FINANCE BUSINESSES.

1. General	776
2. New Retail Agreements	776
3. Balances Outstanding on Retail Agreements	776

F. CAPITAL RAISINGS BY AUSTRALIAN COMPANIES.

1. General	777
2. Listed Companies	777
3. Unlisted Companies	778
4. Listed and Unlisted Companies	778

G. FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

1. General	778
2. Societies, Members and Revenue	778

H. PROBATES AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

I. LOTTERIES AND BETTING.	
§ 1. Lotteries	779
§ 2. Betting	780

J. GOVERNMENT, SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL AND PARLIAMENTARY PENSION AND SUPERANNUATION SCHEMES.

§ 1. Government and Semi-Governmental Pension and Superannuation Schemes	781
§ 2. Parliamentary Pension and Superannuation Schemes	782

CHAPTER XXI.—PUBLIC FINANCE.

	PAGE		PAGE
A. COMMONWEALTH FINANCE.		D. COMMONWEALTH AND STATE PUBLIC DEBT.	
§ 1. General—		§ 1. General	831
1. Financial Provisions of the Constitution	783	§ 2. The Financial Agreement between the Commonwealth and the States—	
2. Accounts of the Commonwealth Government	783	1. General	831
§ 2. Commonwealth Consolidated Revenue Fund—		2. Australian Loan Council	831
I.—NATURE OF FUND.		3. Loan Raisings for the Commonwealth and States	831
1. Provisions of the Constitution	783	4. Taking over of State Public Debts	831
2. Annual Results of Transactions	783	5. Transferred Properties	832
II.—REVENUE.		6. Payment of Interest	832
1. General	784	7. Sinking Fund	832
2. Taxation	785	8. Borrowing by Semi-Governmental Authorities	833
3. Business Undertakings	792	§ 3. Commonwealth and State Public Debt Outstanding—	
4. Other Sources of Revenue	793	1. Public Debt, Annual Interest Payable and Average Rate of Interest	833
III.—EXPENDITURE.		2. Public Debt and Annual Interest Payable	837
1. Details of Expenditure from Consolidated Revenue	793	3. State Public Debt and Annual Interest Payable	837
2. Defence Services	794	4. State Public Debt	839
3. War and Repatriation Services	795	5. Public Debt and Interest Payable in Australian Currency	840
4. Subsidies and Bounties	796	6. Public Debt at each Rate of Interest	842
5. Total Cost of Departments	797	7. Dates of Maturity	843
6. National Welfare Fund	800	8. Short-term Debt	845
7. Debt Redemption Reserve Trust Account	801	9. State and Municipal and Semi-Governmental Authority Public Debt	846
8. Loan Consolidation and Investment Reserve Trust Account	801	§ 4. Commonwealth Loan Raisings—	
9. Business Undertakings	801	1. General	847
10. Territories	802	2. New Loans Raised	847
11. Capital Works and Services	803	3. Conversion and Redemption Loans	849
12. Payments to or for the States	803	4. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development Loans	850
13. Other Expenditure	811	5. Swiss Loan	851
§ 3. Commonwealth Trust Funds—		6. Canadian Loan	851
1. Receipts, Expenditure and Balances	812	7. Summary of Loan Transactions	851
2. Summary	812	§ 5. National Debt Sinking Fund—	
§ 4. Commonwealth Loan Fund	812	1. Commonwealth Public Debt	852
		2. State Public Debt	853
B. STATE FINANCE.		E. TAXES ON INCOME.	
§ 1. General—		1. General	854
1. Functions of State Governments	813	2. Present Taxes	854
2. Accounts of State Governments	813	3. Assessable Income	854
3. Inter-relation of Commonwealth and State Finances	814	4. Concessional Deductions	855
§ 2. State Consolidated Revenue Funds—		5. Effective Exemptions from Tax	856
I.—REVENUE.		6. Rates of Income Tax and Social Services Contribution on Individuals	856
1. General	814	7. The Income Tax (International Agreements) Act, 1953	857
2. Revenue Received	814	8. Taxes on Specified Incomes	857
3. Sources of Revenue	815	9. Pay-as-you-earn	859
II.—EXPENDITURE.		10. Lodgment of Returns and Assessment of Tax	859
1. General	822	11. Company Income Taxes	859
2. Total Expenditure	822	12. Yield of Income Taxes	861
3. Details of Expenditure	823		
III.—SURPLUS REVENUE.	825		
§ 3. State Trust Funds	826		
§ 4. State Loan Funds—			
1. General	826		
2. Gross Loan Expenditure	826		
3. Total Loan Expenditure	828		
C. COMMONWEALTH AND STATE FINANCE.			
1. Revenue and Expenditure	829		
2. Taxation	830		

CHAPTER XXII.—AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

	PAGE		PAGE
§ 1. Introductory	865	§ 8. Rice	896
§ 2. Progress of Agriculture—		§ 9. Sorghum for Grain	897
1. Early Records	865	§ 10. Potatoes—	
2. Progress of Cultivation	865	1. Area, Production and Yield per Acre ..	898
3. Area under Sown Pastures	866	2. Gross Value of Potato Crop	899
4. Australian Agricultural Council	866	3. Consumption	899
§ 3. Distribution, Production and Value of Crops—		4. Marketing	899
1. Area of Crops in States and Territories	867	5. Exports	899
2. Relative Areas of Crops in States and Territories	868	§ 11. Onions—	
3. Area of Principal Crops in Australia ..	868	1. Area, Production and Yield per Acre ..	899
4. Size Classification of Principal Crops	869	2. Gross Value of Onion Crop	900
5. Weights and Measures	869	3. Consumption	900
6. Production of Crops in States and Territories	869	4. Exports	901
7. Production of Principal Crops in Australia	869	§ 12. Hay—	
8. Yield per Acre of Principal Crops in Australia	870	1. General	901
9. Gross Value of Principal Crops in Australia	870	2. Value of Hay Crop	902
10. Value of Production and Indexes of Price and Quantum of Production	875	3. Farm Stocks of Hay	902
§ 4. Wheat—		4. Exports	902
1. Royal Commission on the Wheat Industry	876	§ 13. Green Fodder—	
2. Wheat Costs of Production Committee	877	1. Nature and Extent	902
3. Licensing of Areas Sown to Wheat, and Acreages Sown	877	2. Value of Green Fodder Crops	903
4. Legislation Relating to Wheat Industry	877	§ 14. Sugar-cane—	
5. Marketing of Wheat	878	1. Area	903
6. International Wheat Agreements	879	2. Productive and Unproductive Cane ..	903
7. Wheat Farms	880	3. Production of Cane and Sugar	904
8. Area, Production and Yield per Acre ..	881	4. Average Production of Cane Sugar ..	904
9. Varieties of Wheat Sown	882	5. Quality of Cane	905
10. F.A.O. Standard of Wheat	883	6. Production and Utilization	905
11. Price of Wheat	883	7. Consumption in Factories	905
12. Value of the Wheat Crop	883	8. Control of Cane Production in Queensland	905
13. Production and Disposal of Wheat in Australia	884	9. Sugar Agreement in Australia— Embargo on Imports, etc.	906
14. Imports of Wheat	884	10. International Sugar Agreement	906
15. Exports of Wheat and Flour	884	11. Net Return for Sugar Crop	906
16. Stocks of Wheat and Flour	886	12. Exports of Sugar	906
17. Bulk handling and Storage of Wheat in Australia	886	13. Sugar By-Products	907
18. World Area and Production of Wheat	887	14. Sugar Prices	907
19. Exports—Principal Countries	888	15. Marketing Arrangements	907
20. Imports—Principal Countries	889	16. Fruit Industry Sugar Concession Committee and Sugar Rebates	908
§ 5. Oats—		17. Bulk Handling of Sugar	908
1. Area, Production and Yield per Acre ..	890	§ 15. Vineyards—	
2. Price of Oats	890	1. Progress of Cultivation	908
3. Value of Oat Crop	891	2. Imports and Exports of Wine	909
4. Exports	891	3. Oversea Marketing of Wine	910
5. Oatmeal, etc.	891	4. Other Viticultural Products	910
6. World Production	891	5. Production and Disposal of Dried Vine Fruit	910
§ 6. Maize—		6. Post war Contracts	911
1. States Growing Maize	891	7. Oversea Marketing of Dried Fruits ..	911
2. Area, Production and Yield per Acre ..	891	§ 16. Orchards and Fruit-Gardens—	
3. Price of Maize	892	1. Area	911
4. Value of Crop	892	2. Varieties of Crops	912
5. Exports of Maize and Maize Products	892	3. Principal Fruit Crops	912
6. World Production	893	4. Production of Jams and Jellies and Preserved Fruit	913
§ 7. Barley—		5. Consumption of Fruit and Fruit Products	913
1. Area, Production and Yield per Acre ..	893	6. Imports and Exports of Fruit	913
2. Australian Barley Board	894	7. Marketing of Apples and Pears	914
3. Prices	895	8. Oversea Marketing of Canned Fruit ..	914
4. Value of Barley Crop	895	§ 17. Vegetables for Human Consumption—	
5. Exports	895	1. Area and Production of Fresh Vegetables	915
6. Malt	896	2. Production of Canned and Dehydrated Vegetables	915
7. World Production	896	3. Imports and Exports of Vegetables ..	915
		4. Consumption of Vegetables	915

CHAPTER XXII.—AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION—*continued.*

	PAGE		PAGE
§ 18. Tobacco—		§ 25. Aerial Agriculture	922
1. States, Area and Production ..	915		
2. The Tobacco Industry	916	§ 26. Ensilage—	
3. Oversea Trade	917	1. Government Assistance	923
§ 19. Hops	917	2. Quantity Made and Stocks held on Farms	923
§ 20. Flax—		§ 27. Agricultural Colleges and Experimental Farms	924
1. Flax for Fibre	918		
2. Flax for Linseed	918	§ 28. Tractors on Rural Holdings	924
§ 21. Peanuts	919		
§ 22. Cotton—		§ 29. Number and Area of Rural Holdings and Employment thereon—	
1. General	919	1. Number and Area	925
2. Area and Production	920	2. Special Tabulation Relating to Rural Holdings	926
3. Consumption of Raw Cotton	920	3. Employment on Rural Holdings	926
§ 23. Financial Assistance to Primary Producers	920	4. Salaries and Wages Paid to Employees on Rural Holdings	927
§ 24. Fertilizers—		5. Persons (of all Ages) Residing Permanently on Holding	928
1. General	921		
2. Imports and Exports	921		
3. Quantities Used Locally	922		
4. Local Production	922		

CHAPTER XXIII.—PASTORAL PRODUCTION.

§ 1. Initiation and Growth of Pastoral Industry—		§ 5. Wool—	
1. Livestock Numbers	929	1. General	944
2. Minor Classes of Livestock	929	2. Greasy and Scoured Wool	944
3. Carrying Capacity of Pastoral Holdings	929	3. Production	944
4. Value of Pastoral Production	930	4. Care Needed in Comparing Clips	945
5. Indexes of Quantum and Price of Pastoral Production 1953-54 to 1957-58	931	5. Average Weights of Fleeces Shorn	945
6. Consumption of Meats	932	6. Wool Classified according to Quality	946
7. Marketing of Meat	932	7. World Sheep Population and Wool Production	946
§ 2. Horses—		8. War-time Contracts	947
1. Distribution throughout Australia	933	9. Australian Wool Realization Commission	947
2. Oversea Trade in Horses	934	10. Australian Wool Bureau	948
§ 3. Cattle—		11. Marketing of Wool	949
1. Purposes for which Raised	934	12. Wool Publicity and Research	949
2. Distribution throughout Australia	934	13. Consumption of Wool	950
3. Classification of Cattle According to Purpose	934	14. Exports of Wool	951
4. Size Classifications of Cattle Herds	935	15. Local Sales of Wool	953
5. Comparison with other Countries	935	16. Stocks of Wool	953
6. Imports and Exports of Cattle	935	17. Price	953
7. Cattle Slaughtered	936	18. Value	954
8. Production of Beef and Veal	936	19. United Kingdom Importation of Wool	954
9. Consumption of Beef and Veal	936	20. Principal Importing Countries and Sources of Supply	954
10. Exports of Frozen Beef and Veal	937	§ 6. Trade in Hides and Skins—	
§ 4. Sheep—		1. Extent of Trade	955
1. Introduction of Sheep	938	2. Sheepskins with Wool	955
2. Movement in Sheep Numbers in Australia	938	3. Sheepskins without Wool	955
3. Distribution throughout Australia	938	4. Hides	956
4. Classification of Sheep According to Age, Sex and Breed	941	5. Furred Skins	956
5. Numbers of Sheep on Rural Holdings	941	6. Marketing of Hides and Skins	956
6. Comparison with other Countries	941	§ 7. Tallow and Lard—	
7. Oversea Imports and Exports of Sheep	942	1. Consumption of Tallow in Factories	957
8. Sheep Slaughtered	942	2. Exports of Tallow and Lard	957
9. Production of Mutton and Lamb	942	3. Marketing of Tallow	957
10. Consumption of Mutton and Lamb	943	§ 8. Exports of Principal Pastoral Products	958
11. Exports of Frozen Mutton and Lamb	943		

CHAPTER XXIV.—FARMYARD, DAIRY AND BEE PRODUCTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
§ 1. Introductory—		§ 4. Pigs and Pig Products—	
1. General	959	1. Pigs	974
2. Mixed Farming	959	2. Size of Pig Herds	974
3. Employment	959	3. Pigs Slaughtered	974
4. Growth of the Dairying Industry	959	4. Pork	974
5. Official Supervision of Dairying Industry	960	5. Bacon and Ham	975
6. Australian Agricultural Council	960	6. United Kingdom Contracts	976
7. Oversea Trade in Pigs and Pig Products	976		
§ 2. Value of Farmyard, Dairy and Bee Production and Indexes of Price and Quantum of Production—		§ 5. Poultry-Farming—	
1. Gross Value of Farmyard, Dairy and Bee Production	960	1. General	976
2. Gross and Net Values	961	2. Numbers of Poultry	976
3. Net Value of Production	961	3. Recorded Production and Disposal of Eggs	976
4. Indexes of Quantum and Price of Farmyard, Dairy and Bee Production	962	4. Production and Consumption of Eggs	977
5. Marketing of Eggs	978	6. Oversea Trade in Poultry Products	978
§ 3. Dairy Cattle and Dairy Products—		§ 6. Bee-Farming—	
1. Dairy Herds	962	1. Production of Honey and Bees-wax	979
2. Size of Dairy Herds	963	2. Oversea Trade in Bee Products	980
3. Total Dairy Production	963		
4. Whole Milk	964	§ 7. Exports of Australian Farmyard, Dairy and Bee Products	980
5. Factory System	965		
6. Butter Production	965	§ 8. Imports of Dairy and Farmyard Products into United Kingdom—	
7. Cheese Production	966	1. Summary, Principal Products	980
8. Condensed, Concentrated and Powdered etc., Milk Production	967	2. Butter	981
9. Local Consumption of Butter and Cheese	968	3. Cheese	981
10. Butter and cheese, Equalization Schemes	969	4. Bacon	981
11. Casein Equalization Scheme	969	5. Pork	981
12. Wholesale Prices of Butter and Cheese in Australia	969	6. Eggs	982
13. Marketing of Dairy Products	970	7. Milk Products	982
14. Commonwealth Subsidies and Stabilization Plans	971	8. Other Products	982
15. Average Returns from Butter and Cheese Sold and Assessed Farm Production Costs	972		
16. Dairy Industry Extension Grant	972		
17. Dairy Industry Research and Sales Promotion	972		
18. Oversea Trade in Butter, Cheese and Milk	973		

CHAPTER XXV.—FORESTRY.

§ 1. General—		§ 4. State Forestry Departments—	
1. Objects of Forestry	983	1. Functions	989
2. General Account of Forests and Timbers	983	2. Forest Reservations	989
3. Extent of Forests	984	3. Employment	990
4. Forest Reservations	985		
5. Plantations	986	§ 5. Forestry Production—	
6. Fire Protection	986	1. Timber	990
		2. Wood Pulp and Paper	991
		3. Other Forest Products	992
		4. Value of Production	993
		5. Employment	994
§ 2. Forestry Activities of the Commonwealth—		§ 6. Imports and Exports of Timber and Tanning Substances—	
1. Prior to 1925	987	1. Imports of Timber, Veneers and Plywood	995
2. Forestry and Timber Bureau	987	2. Exports of Timber, Railway Sleepers, Veneers and Plywood	995
3. Commercial Forests	988	3. Classification of Imports and Exports	996
4. Forest Products Research	989		
§ 3. Forestry Conferences	989		

CHAPTER XXVI.—FISHERIES.

	PAGE		PAGE
1. General—		§ 4. Inquiries and Research— <i>continued.</i>	
1. Fish Resources	997	3. Commonwealth Fisheries Office ..	1003
2. Fishing Areas	997	4. Fisheries Development Trust Ac- count	1004
3. Fishing Boats and Equipment ..	998	5. North Australia Development Committee	1004
4. Administration	998	6. Whaling	1004
§ 2. Development and Present Condition of the Fishery—		§ 5. The Fishing and Whaling Industry— Statistics—	
1. Fisheries Proper	998	1. Fisheries	1005
2. Crustaceans and Molluscs	1001	2. Whaling	1007
3. Pearl-shell and Trochus-shell ..	1002	3. Value of Production	1007
§ 3. Marketing and Distribution—		4. Fish Preserving	1009
1. Marketing	1002	5. State Revenue from Fisheries ..	1009
2. Consumption of Fish	1003	§ 6. Oversea Trade in Fishery Products—	
3. Processing, including Canning ..	1003	1. Imports of Fish	1010
4. By-products	1003	2. Exports of Fish	1010
§ 4. Inquiries and Research—		3. Exports of Pearl and other Shell ..	1010
1. General	1003		
2. Commonwealth Scientific and In- dustrial Research Organization, Division of Fisheries and Oceanog- raphy	1003		

CHAPTER XXVII.—MINERAL INDUSTRY.

§ 1. The Mineral Wealth of Australia—		§ 6. Iron—	
1. Place of Mining in Australian De- velopment	1011	1. General	1030
2. Extent of Mineral Wealth	1011	2. Mine Production	1030
3. Presentation of Mineral Statistics ..	1011	3. Imports	1031
4. Quantity of Minerals Produced in 1957	1011	4. Sources of Production	1031
5. Mine Production of Principal Metals and Production of Coal and Sulphur	1013	5. Production in Principal Countries 1032	
6. Value of Output of Minerals Pro- duced 1953-57	1014	§ 7. Other Metallic Minerals—	
7. Value of Output and Value of Pro- duction for Mining and Quarrying	1014	1. Tungsten	1033
8. Industrial Census of the Mining and Quarrying Industry 1957	1016	2. Mineral Sands	1033
§ 2. Gold—		3. Cadmium and Cobalt	1034
1. Discovery in Various States	1017	4. Manganese	1034
2. Mine Production	1017	5. Other	1035
3. Sources of Production	1018	§ 8. Coal—	
4. Refinery Production	1019	1. Mine Production	1035
5. Changes in Stocks of Gold held in Australia	1019	2. Sources of Production	1039
6. Production in Principal Countries ..	1020	3. Production in Principal Countries ..	1041
7. Price of Gold	1020	4. Exports	1041
8. Employment in Gold Mining	1021	5. Consumption in Australia	1041
9. Assistance to Gold Mining Industry	1021	6. Value at the Mine in New South Wales	1042
§ 3. Silver, Lead and Zinc—		7. Values in New South Wales, United Kingdom and the United States of America	1042
1. Mine Production	1022	8. Employment in Coal-mines	1043
2. Sources of Production	1023	9. Production of Black Coal per Man- shift	1043
3. Production and Sales of Refined Silver, Lead and Zinc	1024	10. Joint Coal Board	1044
4. Production in Principal Countries and World Total	1024	§ 9. Coke and Other By-products from Coal—	
5. Prices of Silver, Lead, Zinc	1025	1. Coke	1044
6. Employment in Silver, Lead and Zinc Mining	1025	2. Other By-products from Coal	1044
§ 4. Copper—		§ 10. Mineral Oils	1045
1. Mine Production	1026	§ 11. Sulphur	1045
2. Sources of Production	1026	§ 12. Non-metallic Minerals—	
3. Smelter and Refinery Production ..	1027	1. Asbestos	1046
4. Production in Principal Countries and World Total	1027	2. Clays	1046
5. Prices	1028	3. Gypsum	1047
6. Employment in Copper-mining ..	1028	4. Limestone	1047
7. Assistance to the Copper Mining Industry	1028	5. Magnesite	1047
§ 5. Tin—		6. Mica	1048
1. Mine Production	1028	7. Salt	1048
2. Sources of Production	1029	8. Other Non-metallic Minerals	1048
3. Production of Refined Tin	1029	§ 13. Persons Engaged, Wages Paid and Acci- dents in Mining—	
4. Production in Principal Countries and World Total	1029	1. Total Employment	1049
5. Prices	1029	2. Salaries and Wages Paid	1050
6. Employment in Tin Mining	1030	3. Accidents	1050
		§ 14. Oversea Trade in Minerals and Metals ..	1051
		§ 15. Government Aid to Mining, and Mineral Control—	
		1. Aid to Mining	1052
		2. Control of Minerals	1054

CHAPTER XXVII.—DEFENCE.

	PAGE		PAGE
§ 1. Department of Defence—		§ 3. Military Defence—	
1. Introduction	1055	1. State Systems	1061
2. Functions and Organization	1055	2. Commonwealth Systems	1061
3. Basis of Current Defence Policy	1056	3. Strength of Australian Military Forces	1064
4. The Defence Programme	1056	4. Design and Inspection Branch	1064
5. Australian Forces Serving in Malaya 1057			
6. National Service Training	1088	§ 4. Air Defence—	
		1. General	1064
§ 2. Naval Defence—		2. Administration and Organization	1065
1. Administration	1058	3. Aircraft	1065
2. Historical	1058	4. Establishment	1065
3. Link with Royal Navy	1059	5. Strength of Royal Australian Air Force	1065
4. Strength of the Fleet	1059	6. Women's Royal Australian Air Force	1065
5. Personnel	1059	7. Operations in Korea and Malaya	1066
6. Women's Royal Australian Naval Service	1059	§ 5. War Gratuities	1066
7. Reserve Training	1059		
8. Fleet Air Arm	1059	§ 6. Department of Supply—	
9. Ship Construction and Repair	1059	1. General	1066
10. Naval College	1059	2. Functions of the Department	1066
11. Training Establishments	1059	3. Act Administered	1066
12. The Australia Naval Station	1059	4. Research and Development Branch	1066
13. Ships Service outside Australian Waters	1060	5. Production	1067
14. Papua and New Guinea Division of the Royal Australian Navy	1060	6. Contract Board	1069
15. Ships of the Royal Australian Navy 1060		7. Defence Supply Planning	1069
		8. Stores and Transport Branch	1070
		9. Finance Branch	1070

CHAPTER XXIX.—REPATRIATION.

§ 1. General	1071	§ 4. Medical Treatment of Ex-Servicemen Suffering from War Service Disabilities	1079
§ 2. War Pensions—		§ 5. General Benefits and Miscellaneous—	
1. General	1071	1. Other Departmental Activities	1079
2. Appeals Tribunals	1073	2. Expenditure by the Repatriation Commission	1081
3. Summary 1956-57	1073	3. Settlement of Returned Service Personnel on the Land	1081
4. Classes of War Pensions, Australia 1074		4. The Services Canteens Trust Fund 1081	
5. Number of War Pensioners and Annual Liability, States, etc.	1074	§ 6. Seamen's War Pensions and Allowances	1083
6. Summary of War Pensions	1076		
§ 3. Service Pensions—			
1. General	1077		
2. Rate of Pension	1077		
3. Operations	1078		
4. Number of Service Pensioners and Amount Paid	1078		

CHAPTER XXX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

§ 1. Valuation of Australian Production—		§ 5. Copyright—	
1. General	1085	1. Legislation	1097
2. Value of Production, Australia	1086	2. Applications and Registrations	1097
3. Net Value of Production, States	1086		
4. Net Value of Production, Australia 1088		§ 6. Australian Shipbuilding Board—	
§ 2. Indexes of Production—		1. Constitution	1097
1. Farm Production Price Indexes	1089	2. Functions	1098
2. Indexes of Quantum of Farm Production	1090	3. Construction Programme	1098
3. Farm Products for Food Use: Indexes of Quantum of Production, Exports and Consumption	1090	§ 7. Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization—	
§ 3. Consumption of Foodstuffs and Beverages—		1. General	1098
1. Quantities Consumed	1091	2. Science and Industry Research Act 1949	1098
2. Level of Nutrient Intake	1095	3. Science and Industry Endowment Act 1926-1949	1099
§ 4. Patents, Trade Marks and Designs—		4. Work of the Organization	1099
1. Patents	1096		
2. Trade Marks and Designs	1096		
3. Revenue	1097		

CHAPTER XXX.—MISCELLANEOUS—*continued.*

	PAGE		PAGE
§ 8. Mount Stromlo Observatory—		§ 13. Australian Road Safety Council—	
1. General ..	..1100	1. Origin and Organization ..	..1105
2. Foundation of Observatory ..	..1101	2. Mode of Operation ..	..1106
3. Site of Observatory ..	..1101	§ 14. Australian Atomic Energy Commission ..	1107
4. Equipment ..	..1101	§ 15. The United Nations—	
5. Functions of Observatory ..	..1101	1. General ..	..1108
6. International Co-operation ..	..1101	2. General Assembly ..	..1109
§ 9. Standards Association of Australia ..	1101	3. The Security Council ..	..1109
§ 10. Film Censorship Board—		4. The Economic and Social Council ..	..1109
1. Legislation ..	..1102	5. The Trusteeship Council ..	..1109
2. Import of Films ..	..1102	6. The International Court of Justice ..	..1110
3. Export of Films ..	..1103	7. The Secretariat ..	..1110
§ 11. Australian National Film Board and the Film Division—		8. Specialized Agencies ..	..1110
1. The Australian National Film Board 1104		§ 16. Australian Representation Abroad: Oversea Representation in Australia—	
2. The Film Division of the News and Information Bureau ..	..1104	1. General ..	..1110
§ 12. National Safety Council of Australia ..	1105	2. Australian Representation Overseas ..	1110
		3. Oversea Representation in Australia ..	1112
		§ 17. Retail Trade—	
		1. General ..	..1113
		2. Value of Retail Sales in Each Com- modity Group, Australia ..	..1114
		3. Retail Census, Australia 1952-53 ..	1114

CHAPTER XXXI.—STATISTICAL ORGANIZATION AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

§ 1. Statistical Organization in Australia—		§ 2. Statistical Publications of Australia—	
1. Early Development of Australian Statistics ..	..1115	1. General ..	..1118
2. Creation of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics ..	..1115	2. Commonwealth Publications ..	..1118
3. Integration of Statistical Services ..	..1115	3. State Publications ..	..1120
4. Scope of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics ..	..1116	§ 3. The Third Conference of British Common- wealth Statisticians, Canberra, 1951 ..	1120
5. Relation of the Bureau to other Commonwealth Departments ..	..1117	§ 4. Select List of Works about, or published in, Australia ..	..1120

DIARY OF PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC EVENTS, 1955 TO 1958 (p. 1137).

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF CHIEF EVENTS, 1788 TO 1958 (p. 1148).

STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1891-92 TO 1957-58 (p. 1159).

APPENDIX.

Chapter II.—Physiography—		Chapter VI.—Manufacturing Industry—	
§ 2. Climate and Meteorology of Australia— Rainfall: Australian Capital Cities ..	1163	Summary ..	..1165
Chapter III.—General Government—		Value of Production in Classes of Industry ..	..1165
§ 1. Scheme of Parliamentary Government— Salaries of Members ..	..1163	Chapter IX.—Population—	
§ 2. Parliaments and Elections— State Elections ..	..1163	§ 3. Growth and Distribution of Population— Principal Urban Areas ..	..1166
§ 3. Administration and Legislation— Governors and State Ministers ..	..1164	Chapter X.—Vital Statistics—	
Leaders of the Opposition, Common- wealth and State Parliaments ..	..1164	§ 2. Marriages—	
§ 5. Cost of Parliamentary Government ..	1165	Age and Conjugal Condition at Marriage ..	..1166
		Celebration of Marriages ..	..1167

APPENDIX—continued.

	PAGE		PAGE
Chapter X.—Vital Statistics—continued.		Chapter XIII.—Trade—continued.	
§ 4. Fertility and Reproduction—		§ 20. The Australian Balance of Payments—	
Number of Live Births and Confinements	1167	Current Account	1179
Ex-nuptial Live Births	1168	Capital Account	1180
§ 5. Mortality—		Balance of Payments on Current Account—Monetary Areas	1181
Age Distribution	1168	Balance of Payments with the Dollar Area	1182
Causes of Death	1169		
Chapter XI.—Housing—		Chapter XIV.—Transport and Communication—	
§ 3. Statistical Summary—New Building—		PART I.—TRANSPORT.	
New Houses	1170	F. MOTOR VEHICLES—	
New Flats	1170	Motor Vehicle Registrations	1183
Value of New Buildings	1170	PART II.—COMMUNICATION.	
Persons Engaged in New Building	1171	A. POSTS; TELEGRAPHS; TELEPHONES; CABLE AND RADIO COMMUNICATION—	
Chapter XII.—Labour, Wages and Prices—		§ 5. Cable and Radio Communication—	
A. RETAIL PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES—		Radio-communication Stations Authorized	1183
§ 4. Tabular Statements of Retail Price Index Numbers—		B. BROADCASTING AND TELEVISION—	
The Interim Retail Price Index	1171	§ 2. Broadcasting—	
§ 5. The "C" Series Retail Price Index—		Broadcasting Stations	1183
"C" Series Retail Price Index, Six Capital Cities	1172	§ 4. Licences, etc.—	
B. WHOLESALE PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES—		Broadcast Listeners' and Television Viewers' Licences	1184
§ 2. Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index—		Chapter XVIII.—Welfare Services—	
Index Numbers	1172	A. COMMONWEALTH SOCIAL SERVICE BENEFITS—	
D. WAGES—		§ 2. Commonwealth Expenditure on Social and Health Services—	
§ 2. Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour—		States	1184
Weekly Rates of Wage	1172	§ 3. Age and Invalid Pensions, § 4. Child Endowment, § 7. Maternity Allowances, § 8. Unemployment, Sickness and Special Benefits, § 9. Widows' Pensions—	
§ 4. Basic Wages in Australia—		General	1185
Basic Wage Inquiry, 1959	1173		
State Basic Wage Rates	1175	Chapter XX.—Private Finance—	
E. EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT—		A. CURRENCY—	
§ 1. Employment—		§ 2. Coinage—	
Wage and Salary Earners in Civilian Employment	1175	Issues of Australian Coins	1186
Government Employees	1175	§ 3. Notes—	
Chapter XIII.—Trade—		The Australian Note Issue	1186
§ 6. Total Oversea Trade—		B. BANKING—	
Summary of Movements	1176	§ 1. Cheque-paying Banks—	
§ 7. Direction of Oversea Trade—		Commonwealth Bank	1186
According to Countries	1176	Commonwealth Trading Bank	1186
According to Monetary Areas	1176	Private Trading Banks	1186
§ 11. Classified Summary of Australian Oversea Trade—		Classification of Advances within Australia—Commonwealth Trading Bank and Private Trading Banks	1187
Imports and Exports in Statistical Classes	1177	Clearing House Returns	1187
Exports of Principal Articles of Australian Produce	1177	Debits to Customers' Accounts—All Cheque-paying Banks	1187
§ 15. Australian Index of Export Prices—		§ 2. Savings Banks—	
Monthly Index (Fixed Weights)	1178	All Savings Banks	1187

APPENDIX—*continued.*

PAGE	PAGE
Chapter XX.—Private Finance— <i>continued.</i>	§ 4. Commonwealth Loan Raisings—
D. INSURANCE—	Loans Raised .. .. .1190
§ 2. Life Assurance—	Chapter XXIII.—Pastoral Production—
Life Assurance .. .. .1187	Livestock Numbers .. .1191
Chapter XXI.—Public Finance—	Production of Beef and Veal,
A. COMMONWEALTH FINANCE—	Mutton and Lamb, and Total
Consolidated Revenue Fund ..1188	Meat .. .. .1191
C. COMMONWEALTH AND STATE	Chapter XXIV.—Farmyard, Dairy and Bee
FINANCE—	Products—
Revenue and Expenditure ..1189	Production of Milk, Butter, Cheese,
D. COMMONWEALTH AND STATE	Pork, Bacon and Ham .. .1191
PUBLIC DEBT—	Chapter XXVI.—Mineral Industry—
§ 3. Commonwealth and State Public Debt	§ 1. The Mineral Wealth of Australia—
Outstanding—	Quantity and Value of Production ..1192
Public Debt and Annual Interest	§ 2. Gold, § 3. Silver, Lead, Zinc, § 4. Copper,
Payable .. .. .1189	§ 5. Tin .. .. .1192

LIST OF SPECIAL ARTICLES AND MISCELLANEOUS MATTER CONTAINED IN PREVIOUS ISSUES (p. 1193).

GENERAL INDEX (p. 1198).