from 3 to 4 feet in thickness. The Triassic or Trias-Jura deposits in the Clarence and Richmond districts contain numerous seams, but the coal is largely intersected by bands, while its large percentage of ash renders it unfit for use as fuel for industrial purposes. These beds extend under the great western plains, but the presence of artesian water precludes the possibility of their being worked. The Clarence basin extends into Queensland, and at Ipswich thick and valuable seams of coal are worked. The Hawkesbury sandstone and Wiannamatta shale, which cover a large area of the Permo-Carboniferous coal basin, also contain numerous small coal seams, but none is of sufficient extent to pay for working. It is in the Permo-Carboniferous division that the great productive coal seams of the State are found, the area which they cover being estimated at about 16,550 square miles. The deepest part of the basin is somewhere in the vicinity of Sydney, where the "Sydney Harbour Colliery" is working the top seam at a depth of 2884 feet. Towards the north, south and west the seams rise towards the surface, and outcrop in the neighbourhood of Newcastle, Bulli and Lithgow. The coal from the various districts embraced in this division differs considerably in quality—that from the Newcastle district being especially suitable for gas-making and household purposes, while the product of the Southern (Illawarra) and Western (Lithgow) is an excellent steaming coal. At the present time the Greta coal seams are being extensively worked between West Maitland and Cessnock, and this stretch of country, covering a distance of fifteen miles, is now the most important coal mining district in Australasia. The Permo-Carboniferous measures have in various places been disturbed by intrusions of volcanic rocks, which in some instances have completely cindered the seams in close proximity to the intrusive masses, while in other instances the coal has been turned into a natural coke, some of which has realised good prices as fuel.

COAL RAISED IN NEW SOUTH WALES, 1881 to 1911.

District.	1881.		1901.		1905.		1911.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
Northern ...	1,352,472	437,270	3,999,252	1,669,519	4,645,742	1,473,995	5,793,646	2,320,673
Southern ...	253,283	115,505	1,544,454	407,196	1,556,678	421,768	2,066,621	636,163
Western ...	163,842	50,473	424,720	102,214	429,718	107,698	831,337	210,329
Total ...	1,769,597	603,248	5,968,426	2,178,929	6,632,138	2,003,461	8,691,604	3,167,165

Sydney Harbour Colliery. So far back as 1847 the Rev. W. B. Clarke expressed the belief that workable coal would be found in the strata below Sydney, a belief that was also held by subsequent geologists, who based their contentions on stratigraphical and palæontological evidence. The later geologists urged that the Illawarra coal measures of the South Coast district were identical with the Newcastle measures of the Northern district, although it was agreed that the deposits in the neighbourhood of Sydney would probably be found at a considerable depth. Borings were made in several localities close to Sydney, and in 1891 a drill put down at Cremorne Point in Sydney Harbour passed through a seam of coal seven feet four inches thick at a depth of 2801 feet. Unfortunately the site of the bore happened to be in the vicinity of a volcanic dyke, which had cindered the coal near the locality of its intrusion. A second bore was commenced in July, 1892, and in November, 1893, a seam of excellent coal, ten feet three inches thick, was reached at 2917 feet. The results attained led to the formation of a company which acquired land at Balmain, and expended a considerable sum of money in the purchase of plant suitable for working coal at such a great depth. Sinking operations were commenced in June, 1897, and coal was struck at a depth of about 2900 feet on the 21st November, 1901. Various causes tended to retard production on any considerable scale. In the first place it was found that when the coal was reached the seam was split by a band of shale and would not pay for working, and more capital was necessary before a drive could be put in to reach the payable deposit. In 1910, however, the colliery passed into other hands

and with improved financial conditions developmental work was pushed along more rapidly. A great advantage possessed by this colliery is that the largest ocean-going steamers can load their coal supplies from its wharf in the harbour. The colliery possesses considerable interest from the circumstance that its workings are amongst the deepest in the world.

(ii.) *Victoria.* The deposits of black coal in Victoria occur in the Jurassic system, the workable seams, of a thickness ranging from two feet three inches to six feet, being all in the Southern Gippsland district. The coal is of excellent quality for steaming and household purposes. The full exploitation of the Victorian coal deposits has, however, been rather severely hindered by various obstacles. In the Report of the Royal Commission on the Coal Industry, 1906, these have been summarised as follows:—(*a*) Labour troubles. (*b*) Difficulties of working arising from faults, displacements, and thin seams. (*c*) Increased cost of production as the workings extend. (*d*) The low price ruling for coal.

As pointed out in a preceding page, however, the production in 1911 was considerably in advance of that recorded in any preceding year.

Deposits of brown coal and lignite of immense extent occur in gravels, sands, and clays of the Cainozoic period throughout Gippsland, Mornington Peninsula, Werribee Plains, Gellibrand, and Barwon and Moorabool basins. In the Latrobe Valley the beds reach a thickness of over 800 feet. When dried, the material makes good fuel, but owing to its excessive combustibility and friability requires to be consumed in specially constructed grates. Attempts have been made to manufacture briquettes from the brown coal, but so far without any great measure of success. At the Melbourne and Altona Colliery Company's mine at Altona, 5914 tons of brown coal, valued at £2235, were raised in 1911.

The output of coal from the chief Victorian collieries during the last ten years was as follows:—

PRODUCTION OF COAL IN VICTORIA, 1902 to 1911.

Year.	State Coal Mine.	Outtrim Howitt Company	Jumbunna Coal Company	Coal Creek Proprietary.	Silkstone Co-operative Company	Austral Coal.	Other Companies.	Total Production.	Value.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	£
1902	...	114,686	67,876	39,257	2,257	...	1,088	225,164	155,850
1903	...	20,602	18,517	20,727	4,354	...	5,661	69,861	43,645
1904	...	57,328	39,364	22,547	2,014	...	489	121,742	70,208
1905	...	71,989	49,009	27,710	1,624	...	4,804	155,136	79,060
1906	...	74,812	64,222	13,214	3,977	...	4,406	160,631	80,283
1907	...	64,083	61,755	3,762	7,565	...	1,470	138,635	79,706
1908	...	47,633	58,552	...	6,967	...	810	113,962	64,778
1909	2,946	44,156	65,945	3,265	...	10,631	1,730	128,673	76,945
1910	201,053	46,832	61,954	10,968	...	36,052	13,050	369,709	189,254
1911	506,059	28,359	57,397	4,589	...	34,607	28,987	659,998	301,141

Included in the total "for other companies" is an amount of 20,400 tons raised by the Powlett North Woolamai Collieries. The figures also include about 6000 tons of brown coal, the bulk of which was raised at Altona.

(iii.) *South Australia.* The coal from Leigh's Creek in South Australia is subject to similar disabilities to the Victorian brown coal, and until some means are devised of overcoming these, production will probably languish.

(iv.) *Queensland.* In Queensland the coal-bearing strata are of vast extent and wide distribution, being noted under the greater portion of the south-eastern districts, within 200 miles of the sea, as far north as Cooktown, and under portions of the far western interior. The Ipswich beds are estimated to occupy about 12,000 square miles of country, while the Burrum fields occupy a considerably larger area. At Callide, fifty miles west of Gladstone, a seam of coal free from bands has been struck in a shaft only sixty feet deep, and borings have proved the deposit to be of considerable magnitude.