

SECTION X.

FORESTS, FORESTRY, AND FORESTAL PRODUCTS.

§ 1. The Forests of Australia.

1. Extent of Forests.—Although no definite survey of forest lands has been made on a uniform basis for the different States of Australia, the following table gives the results of careful estimates made for each State :—

FOREST RESERVES AND FOREST AREAS, STATE AND COMMONWEALTH, 1919.

State.	Area of Forest Reserves.		Total Forest Area.	Percentage of State Area.		Percentage of Commonwealth Area.	
	Permanent. (a)	Temporary. (b)		Specially Reserved.	Total Forest.	Specially Reserved.	Total Forest.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	%	%	%	%
c New South Wales	5,085,050	1,746,069	11,000,000	3.45	5.55	0.36	0.57
Victoria ..	4,092,625	125,500(f)	11,800,000	7.49	20.98	0.22	0.62
Queensland ..	1,122,129	2,671,139	40,000,000	0.88	9.32	0.20	2.10
South Australia	161,027	18,700(f)	3,800,000	0.07	1.56	0.01	0.20
Western Australia	10,008	1,612,000(f)	15,900,000(d)	0.26	2.55	0.09	0.84
Tasmania ..	..	1,028,000	10,000,000	6.13	59.60	0.05	0.53
(e) Commonwealth	10,470,839	7,201,408	92,500,000	..	..	0.93	4.86

(a) Reservations in perpetuity. (b) Reservations which may be cancelled at any time.

(c) Inclusive of Federal Area. (d) S.W. Division only. (e) Exclusive of Northern Territory and portion of Western Australia. (f) Figures uncertain.

The actual area of wooded land is probably in all cases much greater than that shewn above. For example, that of Western Australia is estimated at 97,900,000 acres ; Queensland has probably 143,000,000 acres ; and Victoria has a considerable extent of "Mallee" country not included in the above estimate. The basis of estimation for each State in any case cannot be regarded as identical. Considerable areas not included as forest lands possess timber of local value.

The absolute and relative forest areas of Australia and other countries are shewn in the table on the next page.

RELATIVE AREAS OF FOREST LANDS, AUSTRALIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES.(a)

Country.	Total Wooded Area.	Per- centage of Total Area.	Country.	Total Wooded Area.	Per- centage of Total Area.
	Sq. Miles.	%		Sq. Miles.	%
Australia	144,530	4.86	Rumania	10,836	21.36
New Zealand	26,562	25.63	Sweden	90,241	52.20
United Kingdom	4,740	3.82	Norway	26,685	21.50
France	38,620	18.65	Russia in Europe	859,375	39.00
Algeria	10,249	2.98	United States	860,000	24.08
Germany	54,015	25.90	Canada	625,000	17.34
Switzerland	3,290	20.60	Cape of Good Hope	537	0.19
Italy	17,613	15.92	British India	249,867	22.85
Austria	37,700	31.66	Japan	71,890	48.33
Hungary	34,750	29.30			

(a) Areas as before the war.

2. **Distribution of Timber.**—The characteristics of the forest areas are given in some detail for each State in Official Year Book No. 6, pp. 446–9. The more conspicuous timber regions of Australia as a whole are the eastern and southern portions, including Tasmania, and, again, the south-western portion northwards and eastwards from Cape Leeuwin. In regard to distribution, on the eastern side of the continent the largest timber is found on the crests and coastal slopes of the mountain ranges, but in the south-west, in addition to the vegetation between mountains and sea, a large area of forest stretches inland from the coastal ranges. The hills encircling Adelaide and Yorke and Eyre Peninsulas also bear good forest. The Kimberley district is timbered, and in the Northern Territory and round the shores of the Gulf of Carpentaria there are considerable forest areas. In the coastal regions of parts of West and North-West Australia, and along the shores of the Great Australian Bight and Encounter Bay, there is little forest. The areas in the centre of the continent are thinly timbered.

Special articles relating to Australian Eucalyptus timbers will be found in Official Year Book No. 10, pp. 85–98.

§ 2. Forestry.

1. **Objects.**—Economic forestry, aiming at the conservation of forestal wealth by safeguarding forests against inconsiderate destruction, and by the suitable re-afforestation of denuded areas, is essential to the preservation of industries dependent upon an adequate supply of timber, and to the perpetuation of a necessary form of national wealth. Though in Australia large areas of virgin forests still remain, the inroads made by timber getters, by agriculturists, and by pastoralists—who have destroyed large areas by “ring-barking”—are considerable, and it is not unlikely that climatological changes are caused thereby. It is stated that beneficial consequences follow on the planting of trees on denuded lands, or along eroding coasts, and that a forest covering beneficially regulates the effects of rainfall.

Successful planting of exotics in various parts of the Commonwealth has demonstrated that the Australian climate is suitable for the cultivation of a large number of the most valuable and beautiful of the world's timber trees.

2. **Forestry Departments.**—Each State of the Commonwealth has organised a separate forestry department or branch of service specially charged with forestal matters. Forest improvement work is carried on, areas of young forest being cleaned up by the felling and removal of stunted, diseased and suppressed growth, the burning of debris and the making of fire breaks. Provision is made for effective patrols in forest districts to check the ravages caused by fires, often due, it is believed, to carelessness.

3. **Sylvicultural Nurseries and Plantations.**—Recognition of the necessity for systematic silviculture has led to the creation in most of the States of a number of sylvicultural nurseries and plantations. The locality of these establishments, together with a brief statement of the nature of their activities, is given in previous issues of the Year Book. (Reference may be made to Official Year Book No. 6, pp. 451-3.) Details regarding forest nurseries and plantations are as follows:—

FOREST NURSERIES AND PLANTATIONS, 1919.

Particulars.	New South Wales. (a)	Victoria.	Q'land.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Commonwealth.
State Forest Nurseries—							
Number	1(b)	6	5	7	1	..	19(d)
Area .. (acres)	126(b)	52	3	7	17	..	79(d)
Plantations—							
Number	(c)	15	24	..	2	..	41(d)
Area	(c)	11,375	310	..	624	..	12,309(d)
Number of persons employed in Forestry Departments—							
Administrative	37	17	45	1	1	1	102
Professional	7	6	3	1	1	1	19
General	213	142	114	132	56	2	659

(a) Year ended 30th June.

(b) Figures for previous year.

(c) Not available.

(d) Exclusive of New South Wales.

4. **Revenue and Expenditure.**—The revenue and expenditure of the State Forestry Departments from 1915-16 to 1919-20 are given below:—

REVENUE OF STATE FORESTRY DEPARTMENTS, 1915-16 TO 1919-20.

State.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	68,107	67,273	70,969	97,592	147,041
Victoria	59,189	50,615	55,917	57,731	67,298
Queensland	70,691	60,865	68,660	71,985	100,584
South Australia	5,981	10,259	14,279	23,880	22,003
Western Australia	45,726	19,058	23,866	41,015	45,278
Tasmania	3,615	3,860	3,860	3,860	7,340
Commonwealth	253,309	211,930	235,582(a)	296,063	389,544

(a) Including Northern Territory, £31.

EXPENDITURE OF STATE FORESTRY DEPARTMENTS, 1915-16 TO 1919-20.

State.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	50,531	73,762	77,688	121,162	134,997
Victoria	65,142	53,551	68,557	60,193	64,213
Queensland	7,416	9,516	13,930	21,877	35,158
South Australia	24,892	22,571	21,381	21,968	26,404
Western Australia	8,870	9,807	10,363	23,656	15,331
Tasmania	683	682	1,204	1,204	1,433
Commonwealth	157,534	169,889	193,123	250,060	277,536

5. **Instruction in Scientific Forestry.**—Several schools have been established in which, while general scientific instruction is imparted, special attention is paid to forestry. In the classes, theoretical forestry, botany, geology, physics, land surveying, etc., are taught; while in outside work trainees receive practical instruction in the preparation of seed-beds, seed-sowing, propagation, planting out, pruning, the general care and improvement of plantations and natural forests, and the employment of timber to the best advantage. The desire is to give the prospective forester a thorough training in all branches of the work. Courses of lectures are also given at various centres, and, at some of the higher technical schools, members of the forest staffs are afforded opportunities of qualifying in special subjects. Methods of training, etc., are not uniform in the various States, and one of the prime objects of a Conference held in 1916 was the evolution of a system which, while aiming at uniformity, would be sufficiently elastic to provide for special needs in any State.

6. **Forest Congresses.**—Interstate Conferences on Forestry were held in 1911 and 1912, chiefly with a view of securing uniformity of management. An International Forest Congress was held at Paris in June, 1913, when a Professor of South Kensington Imperial College represented the Commonwealth Government. The papers and reports dealt chiefly with the threatened shortage of timber, and the measures necessary to avert the danger. An Imperial Forestry Conference was held in London in the summer of 1920, at which also Australia was represented. Important Interstate Forestry Conferences were held at Adelaide in May, 1916; at Perth in November, 1917; and at Hobart in April, 1920.

§ 3. Commercial Uses of Principal Australian Timbers.

1. **General.**—The uses of the more important of Australian timbers are many and various, and are indicated in previous issues of this work. (See Official Year Book No. 6, pp. 454-6; and Official Year Book No. 10, Section III., § 7 and 8.)

The Commonwealth Government utilises Australian woods for rifle stocks, telephone switch boards, aeroplane parts, etc. Queensland maple (*Flindersia chatawaiana*) is largely used for rifle stocks, and coachwood is available for the same purpose. Australian timber is also seasoned and stored, depots having been established by the Commonwealth Government at Canberra and Newington in New South Wales, and at Maribyrnong in Victoria; by States Governments at the principal centres; and by private enterprise as required.

2. **Uniformity in Nomenclature.**—Unfortunately the vernacular names applied to the gums, ironbarks, etc., in the various States, and even in different parts of the same State, do not always refer to identical timbers. The resulting confusion has not only been productive of loss, but it has, to some extent, prejudicially affected the timber trade. This subject is referred to at some length in the special article, "Australian Eucalyptus Timbers," in Section III., § 7 and 8, in Official Year Book No. 10. At the 1916 Forestry Conference alluded to above, the matter came up for special consideration, and steps were taken to establish a uniform nomenclature.

§ 4. Forestal Industries and Production.

1. Timber.—Estimates of the quantity and value of local timber sawn and hewn in each State are given hereunder :—

QUANTITIES OF LOCAL TIMBER SAWN OR HEWN IN EACH STATE OF THE COMMONWEALTH, 1914 TO 1920.

State.	1914.	1915.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
	sup. feet.	sup. feet.	sup. feet.	sup. feet.	sup. feet.	sup. feet.
New South Wales	140,940,000	115,201,000	125,243,000	126,745,000	131,617,000	155,114,000
Victoria ..	84,374,000	62,589,000	70,038,000	78,984,000	91,540,000	99,142,000
Queensland ..	168,456,000	144,950,000a	121,851,000a	111,663,000a	118,436,000a	144,389,000a
South Australia ..	2,617,000	2,348,000	3,729,000	3,425,000	5,223,000	6,178,000
Western Australia ..	227,297,000	123,494,000a	100,356,000a	85,218,000a	94,990,000a	131,477,000a
Tasmania ..	52,182,000	47,890,000a	52,019,000a	44,986,000a	49,814,000a	56,809,000a
Commonwealth	675,866,000	496,472,000	473,236,000	451,096,000b	491,620,000	593,109,000

(a) Year ended 31st December.

(b) Including Northern Territory, 75,000 sup. feet.

2. Other Forest Produce.—(i) *General*. No satisfactory estimates of the total value of forest production are available. Large returns are credited to firewood, but these are subject to a wide range of uncertainty.

(ii) *Eucalyptus Oil*. A considerable quantity of eucalyptus oil is produced each year, chiefly in Victoria, the product being used as a drug and also in connexion with ore flotation processes. Complete information regarding local production and consumption is not available. Oversea exports amounted in 1914-15 to £21,000, in 1915-16 to £36,000, in 1916-17 to £60,000, in 1917-18 to £77,000, in 1918-19 to £84,000, and in 1919-20 to £92,000, the bulk of the product being forwarded to the United Kingdom. Large quantities have also been exported to the United States.

(iii) *Tan Barks*. In addition to the wattle bark, mentioned at the close of this section, a valuable tan bark is obtained from the mallet (*E. occidentalis*) of Western Australia. Its exploitation has, however, been so rapid that the available supply is now comparatively small.

§ 5. Oversea Trade.

1. Imports.—The quantity and value of timber imports during the four years 1916-17 to 1919-20 inclusive are shewn according to countries of origin in the following tables. The figures in the first table are exclusive of a few items such as veneers, etc. :—

IMPORTS OF DRESSED TIMBER, COMMONWEALTH, 1916-17 TO 1919-20.

Country of Origin.	Quantity.				Value.			
	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
	sup. ft.	sup. ft.	sup. ft.	sup. ft.	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ..	1,109	100	20	105,970	51	18	3	584
New Zealand ..	70,317	163,979	9,135	..	1,070	2,064	206	..
Other British Coun- tries ..	22,230	40,975	31,564	94,725	252	461	358	1,208
Norway ..	3,245,724	400	..	9,433,921	32,711	2	..	201,593
Sweden ..	..	..	532,845	4,251,220	..	..	9,900	87,757
United States ..	481,603	107,323	73,459	66,863	8,023	2,658	2,621	2,793
Other Foreign Countries ..	20,727	10,838	13,294	2,329	398	207	641	109
Total ..	3,841,710	323,615	660,317	13,955,028	42,505	5,410	13,729	294,044

The bulk of the imports of dressed timbers normally comes from Norway, Sweden, and the United States. War conditions caused some dislocation of trade during the period covered by the table. Practically the whole of this timber consists of softwoods—deal and pine—used for lining, weatherboards, flooring, shelving, doors, box-making, etc.

IMPORTS OF UNDRESSED TIMBER, INCLUDING LOGS, COMMONWEALTH,
1916-17 TO 1919-20.

Country of Origin.	Quantity.				Value.			
	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
	sup. ft.	sup. ft.	sup. ft.	sup. ft.	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	56,459	6,144	800	33,861	438	116	3	1,803
Canada ..	752,571	11,737,562	2,204,774	5,766,398	4,479	74,959	22,250	90,882
India ..	223,601	109,486	89,436	129,395	6,613	5,113	3,687	8,022
New Zealand	77,557,033	69,305,936	9,027,859	56,470,627	536,608	571,599	632,613	673,922
Straits Settlements	282,300	254,325	201,325	817,675	1,586	2,211	1,376	8,147
Other British Countries ..	766,230	275,623	186,607	802,860	4,135	1,339	1,382	8,504
Japan ..	7,178,349	1,988,267	2,927,688	6,362,400	115,930	40,843	68,377	188,622
Java ..	4,683	7,495	13,399	578,538	136	84	173	6,436
Norway ..	69,695	..	10,140	44,600	570	..	90	836
Sweden ..	36,500	..	..	165,934	604	..	..	2,609
United States	109,620,926	85,877,463	79,013,943	70,976,919	680,077	637,960	1,023,391	1,069,341
Other Foreign Countries ..	51,382	94,774	106,666	1,059,665	955	1,331	3,397	19,781
Total ..	196,604,729	169,657,076	143,782,637	143,208,872	1,352,136	1,335,555	1,756,739	2,078,906

By far the larger proportion of the undressed timber imports also consists of softwoods such as yellow pine, redwood, and oregon from the United States and Canada; kauri, rimu, and white pine from New Zealand; pine from Japan, and (prior to the war) red deals from Russia, Norway, and Sweden. Amongst the hardwoods imported the principal are oak from the United States and Japan, and teak from India.

2. Exports.—The quantity and value of undressed (sawn) timber exported from 1915-16 to 1919-20 are given below, the countries of destination being also shewn :—

EXPORTS OF UNDRESSED TIMBER (SAWN), COMMONWEALTH,
1915-16 TO 1919-20.

Country to which Exported.	Quantity. (a)					Value.				
	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
	sup. ft.	sup. ft.	sup. ft.	sup. ft.	sup. ft.	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	45,286	10,118	428	4,458	4,612
Canada ..	5,741	1,478	27	536	374	321	3,796	6,504	2,364	1,405
Union of S. Africa	23,100	11,944	6,154	10,925	32,426	162,788	82,598	43,012	75,314	234,589
Ceylon ..	30	5,444	..	..	1,567	203	36,041	..	..	10,448
Egypt ..	413	..	..	..	2,171	3,638	..	..	..	14,472
Fiji ..	780	839	916	418	739	5,830	8,415	12,614	4,338	11,178
India ..	..	..	..	100	467	..	..	..	650	3,500
Mauritius ..	855	..	277	..	458	4,368	..	2,310	..	3,342
New Zealand	15,912	12,666	5,993	5,374	12,263	140,507	109,323	63,802	80,498	168,329
Ocean Island ..	197	..	..	..	140	1,873	..	..	..	..
Papua ..	205	277	132	98	140	2,412	5,278	1,720	1,861	3,155
Straits Settlements	10	2	59	20	..	100	34	899	135	..
Other British Countries ..	599	510	310	459	936	4,987	6,211	3,920	6,354	16,597
Belgium ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	27
China ..	..	..	..	..	760	..	..	..	..	5,996
Japan ..	1	70	704	105	355	15	702	11,827	2,276	6,921
Marshall Islands	5	2	4	15	..	59	22	53	250	2
Bismarck Archipelago ..	41	188	99	41	226	580	2,024	1,378	868	4,209
New Caledonia ..	33	25	298	92	155	417	300	3,710	1,502	3,081
Portuguese E. Africa	606	..	..	..	..	4,039	..	..	..	..
U.S. of America ..	469	1,433	4,050	2,189	275	6,826	21,354	75,674	41,867	6,588
Other Foreign Countries ..	124	194	170	275	85	1,401	2,522	2,222	4,495	1,697
Total ..	48,940	35,332	19,509	20,750	53,457	385,650	289,738	230,073	227,230	500,148

(a) Exclusive of timber not measured in super. feet.

As the table shews, the bulk of the exports of undressed timber was consigned to South Africa, New Zealand, and (except for latest years) the United Kingdom, and consisted of Australian hardwoods, which have earned an excellent reputation for such purposes as railway sleepers, harbour works, wood paving, etc. There was a notable increase in the quantity supplied to the United States in the later war years.

The quantities of timber imported and exported during the last five years are given in the next table :—

**QUANTITIES OF TIMBER IMPORTED INTO AND EXPORTED FROM THE
COMMONWEALTH, 1915-16 TO 1919-20.**

Description.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
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IMPORTS.

Veneers .. sup. feet	430,060	499,514	459,307	509,855	592,434
Dressed .. "	28,653,427	8,014,939	536,124	1,139,401	14,211,023
Undressed .. "	223,278,433	195,830,413	169,378,755	143,754,858	140,516,943
Logs .. "	8,335,446	774,316	278,320	27,779	2,691,929
Palings .. No.	..	..	..	..	..
Pickets .. "	808,342	611,399	688,822	261,886	915,582
Shingles .. "	2,677,620	2,083,408	2,391,326	567,200	606,186
Staves—					
Dressed, etc. .. "	67,380	12,764	8,964	2,752	1,035
Undressed .. "	591,750	152,283	575,300	666,036	1,527,357
Laths for blinds .. "	(a)	(a)	(a)	..	..
" other .. "	17,629,168	11,419,145	17,568,419	6,610,148	8,950,913
Spokes, rims, felloes .. "	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Doors .. "	1,925	300	666	78	371
Architraves, mouldings, etc. .. lin. feet	6,202	..	..	..	2,150
Other .. "	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)

EXPORTS.

Veneers .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Dressed .. sup. feet	498,074	322,058	297,341	251,041	720,635
Undressed .. "	48,939,938	35,332,403	19,807,434	20,750,023	53,456,799
Logs .. "	226,400	197,721	298,460	184,398	190,685
Palings .. No.	232,240	603,569	121,506	60,365	120,560
Pickets .. "	800	..	..	..	..
Shingles .. "	..	..	100,000	7,090	152,675
Staves—					
Dressed, etc. .. "	..	..	1,230	..	..
Undressed .. "	..	..	..	..	..
Laths for blinds .. "	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
" other .. "	111,600	63,000	92,160	2,111	280,420
Spokes, rims, felloes .. "	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Doors .. "	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Architraves, mouldings, etc. .. lin. feet	41,673	40,768	48,265	80,186	149,465
Other

(a) Quantity not available.

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QUANTITIES OF TIMBER IMPORTED AND EXPORTED, ETC.—*continued.*

Description.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
EXCESS OF IMPORTS OVER EXPORTS.					
Veneers .. sup. feet	430,060	499,514	459,307	509,855	592,434
Dressed .. "	28,155,353	7,692,881	238,783	888,360	13,490,388
Undressed .. "	174,338,495	160,498,010	149,571,321	123,004,835	87,060,144
Logs .. "	8,109,046	576,595	- 20,140	- 156,619	2,501,244
Palings .. No.	- 232,240	- 603,569	- 121,506	- 60,365	- 120,560
Pickets .. "	807,542	611,399	688,822	261,886	915,582
Shingles .. "	2,677,620	2,083,408	2,291,326	560,110	453,511
Staves—					
Dressed, etc. .. "	67,380	12,764	7,734	2,752	1,035
Undressed .. "	591,750	152,283	575,300	666,036	1,527,357
Laths for blinds .. "	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
" other .. "	17,517,568	11,356,145	17,476,259	6,608,037	8,670,493
Spokes, rims, felloes .. "	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Doors .. "	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Architraves, mouldings, etc. .. lin. feet	- 35,471	- 40,768	- 48,265	- 80,186	- 147,315
Other .. "	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)

(a) Quantity not available. NOTE —The minus sign (—) signifies excess of exports over imports.

The values of the timber imports and exports during the last quinquennium are shewn hereunder :—

VALUE OF TIMBER IMPORTED INTO AND EXPORTED FROM THE COMMONWEALTH, 1915-16 TO 1919-20.

Description.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
IMPORTS.					
Veneers	£ 20,610	£ 25,670	£ 21,613	£ 33,540	£ 39,314
Dressed	243,155	74,477	6,672	21,309	296,480
Undressed	1,383,140	1,346,497	1,333,382	1,754,592	2,027,551
Logs	29,326	5,639	2,173	2,147	51,355
Palings .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Pickets	4,030	2,174	4,040	3,037	10,626
Shingles	3,487	3,132	4,569	1,476	2,933
Staves—					
Dressed, etc. ..	1,907	337	260	53	21
Undressed, ..	11,164	3,538	3,516	6,836	19,296
Laths for blinds ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	2
" other	14,809	9,230	20,729	10,119	18,142
Spokes, rims, felloes ..	11,239	6,001	6,125	4,234	9,004
Doors	910	103	201	256	101
Architraves, mouldings, etc.	22	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	6
Other	90	2,030	1,246	938	1,880
Total value ..	1,723,889	1,478,828	1,404,526	1,838,537	2,476,711

VALUE OF TIMBER IMPORTED AND EXPORTED, ETC.—*continued.*

Description.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
EXPORTS.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Veneers .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Dressed	7,190	4,804	5,314	6,659	19,234
Undressed	385,650	289,738	230,073	227,230	500,148
Logs	1,716	1,648	2,345	1,159	2,733
Palings	1,225	4,176	889	717	1,071
Pickets	7	..	..	..	..
Shingles .. ..	..	..	139	41	265
Staves—					
Dressed, etc. .. ..	..	..	127	..	..
Undressed .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Laths for blinds	152	29	..	92	241
" other	245	147	308	12	817
Spokes, rims, felloes ..	6,570	4,333	5,259	3,562	6,189
Doors	554	354	..	307	1,358
Architraves, mouldings, etc.	152	164	257	608	1,962
Other .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Total value	403,461	305,393	244,711	240,387	534,018

EXCESS OF IMPORTS OVER EXPORTS.

Veneers	20,610	25,670	21,613	33,540	39,314
Dressed	235,965	69,673	1,358	14,650	277,246
Undressed	997,490	1,056,759	1,103,309	1,527,362	1,527,403
Logs	27,610	3,991	- 172	988	48,622
Palings	- 1,225	- 4,176	- 889	- 717	- 1,071
Pickets	4,023	2,174	4,040	3,037	10,626
Shingles	3,487	3,132	4,430	1,435	2,668
Staves—					
Dressed, etc.	1,907	337	133	53	21
Undressed	11,164	3,538	3,516	6,836	19,296
Laths for blinds	- 152	- 29	..	- 92	- 239
" other	14,564	9,083	20,421	10,107	17,325
Spokes, rims, felloes ..	4,669	1,668	866	672	2,815
Doors	356	- 251	201	- 51	- 1,257
Architraves, mouldings, etc.	- 130	- 164	- 257	- 608	- 1,956
Other	90	2,030	1,246	938	1,880
Total value	1,320,428	1,173,435	1,159,815	1,598,150	1,942,693

NOTE.—The minus sign (—) signifies excess of exports over imports.

A fair amount of sandalwood is exported each year, principally from Western Australia, and to a smaller extent from Queensland. The largest proportion of this product is consigned to Hong Kong, China, and the Straits Settlements.

EXPORTS OF SANDALWOOD, 1915-16 TO 1919-20.

Country to which Exported.	Quantity.					Value.				
	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	£	£	£	£	£
Hong Kong	96,949	130,314	102,325	124,500	187,260	51,087	71,460	76,093	92,518	174,659
Straits Settlements ..	10,620	10,308	19,576	33,980	81,620	6,410	6,504	12,236	22,063	71,522
Other British Possessions ..	8,576	7,100	2,000	2,440	2,360	4,602	4,429	1,275	1,588	2,245
China	18,850	9,660	14,785	29,480	26,000	9,316	5,554	9,857	18,767	18,307
Other Foreign Countries ..	120	120	1,842	5,420	700	78	102	4,481	4,009	626
Total	135,115	157,502	140,523	195,820	297,940	71,493	88,049	103,942	138,945	267,359

Tanning bark figures both as an export and import in the Commonwealth trade returns, as the following tables shew :—

EXPORTS OF TANNING BARK, 1915-16 TO 1919-20.

Country to which Exported.	Quantity.					Value.				
	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
United Kingdom	cwt. 3,018	cwt. 6,797	cwt. ..	cwt. 1,220	cwt. 3,700	£ 1,434	£ 3,103	£ ..	£ 860	£ 2,561
New Zealand ..	51,138	41,098	95,192	27,320	60,900	23,574	20,703	45,007	13,801	37,616
Other British Possessions ..	714	205	208	..	107	371	107	72	..	..
Foreign Countries	39,598	11,199	1,745	60	7,780	16,354	5,001	611	14	4,050
Total ..	94,468	59,299	97,145	28,600	72,380	41,733	28,914	45,690	14,675	44,227

Prior to the war there was a fairly considerable export of tan bark to Germany and also to Belgium. The exports westward have naturally dwindled away, and at the present time New Zealand receives the largest share of the available export, while there is also some trade with Japan, China, and Java. During recent years the largest proportion of the exports consisted of wattle bark from Tasmania, Victoria and New South Wales.

A comparison of the imports and exports of tanning bark during the last five years is given in the next table :—

TANNING BARK IMPORTED INTO AND EXPORTED FROM THE COMMONWEALTH, 1915-16 TO 1919-20.

Particulars.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
QUANTITIES—	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
Imports	122,188	148,206	71,133	102,480	78,800
Exports	94,468	59,299	97,145	28,600	72,380
Excess of exports over imports	- 27,720	- 88,907	26,012	- 73,880	- 6,420
VALUES—	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	47,698	51,461	24,711	43,319	33,733
Exports	41,733	28,914	45,690	14,675	44,227
Excess of exports over imports	- 5,965	- 22,547	20,979	- 28,644	10,494

NOTE.—The minus sign (—) denotes excess of imports.

The imports consist almost exclusively of wattle bark from the plantations in South Africa. One variety of Australian wattle is found to flourish in the sandy belts near the coast, but it is the *Acacia decurrens*, var. *mollis*, which is chiefly relied upon for the production of wattle bark in the South African plantations. Seed has been tried from New South Wales, Tasmania, and Victoria, but it is stated that most of the seed is obtained from the best wattle bark areas in eastern Tasmania and western Victoria.

Two reasons are given to account for the success of the industry in South Africa. (i) It is found that the treeless, grassy highlands of Natal are specially suitable for wattle culture, and the trees can therefore be grown in rows and economically attended to, while the necessary bark sheds and other appurtenances can be placed in the most advantageous positions. (ii) There is an abundance of cheap and efficient Hindoo labour available for employment on the plantations.