

EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTION.

TO obtain a fair approximation of the number of persons engaged in the various walks of life in Australasia was impossible before the census of 1891 was taken, for although at the Census enumerations of 1881 and previous years the occupations of the people were made a feature of the inquiry, the classification, which followed closely that originally devised by the late Dr. Farr, was unsatisfactory, as it completely failed to distinguish between producers and distributors. To avoid a repetition of this defect the Census Conference, held at Hobart in March, 1890, abandoned the English system and adopted a scheme of classification more in accordance with sound principles. This classification was reviewed at the conference of Statisticians held in Sydney in February, 1900, and was adopted, with very slight modification, for use at the decennial Census of 1901. Under this classification the population is divided into two great sections—bread-winners and dependents; and the bread-winners are arranged in their natural classes of producers and distributors, with their various orders and sub-orders. The census results of several of the states were, unfortunately, not available at the time this volume was printed, and it is, therefore, not possible to give particulars of each class of employment for the year 1901, while a statement based on the results of the previous census would probably be misleading, in consequence of the great changes that have taken place during the past ten years. At the time of the census there were in Australia and New Zealand 1,469,661 male persons between the ages of 15 and 65 years, the period of life usually termed the supporting ages. These were distributed amongst the various states as follows:—

New South Wales	434,325
Victoria.....	358,136
Queensland	173,046
South Australia	111,876
Western Australia	83,510
Tasmania	53,164
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Commonwealth	1,214,057
New Zealand	255,604
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Australasia	1,469,661

The number of bread-winners in a country is usually in excess of the number of males at the so-called supporting ages, due to the employment of boys under 15 years and the continued activity of men over 65 years of age, and Australia is not an exception to the rule. The following table gives for each state the number of bread-winners—male and female—at the close of the first quarter of 1901; for some states the figures are approximations only :—

State.	Number of Bread-winners.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.
New South Wales	453,000	114,000	567,000
Victoria	373,000	126,000	499,000
Queensland	175,000	41,000	216,000
South Australia	120,000	30,000	150,000
Western Australia.....	90,000	12,000	102,000
Tasmania	58,000	16,000	74,000
Commonwealth	1,269,000	339,000	1,608,000
New Zealand	248,000	60,000	308,000
Australasia	1,517,000	399,000	1,916,000

The surprising feature in these figures is the large number of females shown to be employed. Of the 399,000 stated above, about two-fifths are in domestic service, or engaged in connection with board or lodging houses, one-fourth in some form of manufacturing, principally in factories, while dairying and farm work employ about 10 per cent., and professional pursuits a like number.

The number of dependents in each State is set out in the following statement, which must be taken as approximate only, since the actual

figures, as ascertained at the census in March, 1901, have not in all cases been published :—

State.	Number of Dependents.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	260,000	527,800	787,800
Victoria	230,700	471,400	702,100
Queensland	101,200	179,400	280,600
South Australia ..	64,400	148,200	212,600
Western Australia.....	22,900	59,200	82,100
Tasmania.....	31,600	66,900	98,500
Commonwealth	710,800	1,452,900	2,163,700
New Zealand	158,000	306,700	464,700
Australasia	868,800	1,759,600	2,628,400

VALUE OF PRODUCTION FROM ALL INDUSTRIES.

Under the various chapters devoted to the discussion of agriculture, dairying, grazing, mining, &c., particulars regarding the value of the production of the great primary industries have been given at some length ; combining the results there shown with the value of manufactures, the total value of production during the year 1901 was £141,156,000, of which amount the total of each state and the value per inhabitant were as follow :—

State.	Value of Production.	Value per Inhabitant.
	£	£ . s. d.
New South Wales	38,954,000	28 7 9
Victoria	28,926,000	24 0 11
Queensland	16,933,000	33 11 5
South Australia	10,314,000	28 8 2
Western Australia	12,544,000	66 17 11
Tasmania	5,033,000	28 19 10
Commonwealth	112,704,000	29 12 7
New Zealand	28,452,000	36 10 4
Australasia	141,156,000	30 16 0

The distribution of the production of the states under the various branches of primary and other productive industries was as follows :—

State.	Agriculture.	Pastoral Industries.	Dairying, Poultry, and Bee Farming	Mining Industries.	Forestry and Fisheries.	Manu- factories.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales....	6,657,000	12,552,000	3,046,000	5,854,000	733,000	10,032,000
Victoria	8,625,000	5,347,000	3,395,000	3,312,000	275,000	7,472,000
Queensland	2,457,000	5,618,000	1,052,000	3,115,000	706,000	3,935,000
South Australia	3,712,000	2,086,000	850,000	614,000	70,000	2,932,000
Western Australia	861,000	924,000	420,000	7,446,000	871,000	2,022,000
Tasmania	1,493,000	623,000	477,000	1,675,000	117,000	648,000
Commonwealth..	23,835,000	27,150,000	9,740,000	22,016,000	2,772,000	27,191,000
New Zealand	7,515,000	6,962,000	3,008,000	*2,956,000	1,081,000	6,930,000
Australasia.....	31,350,000	34,112,000	12,748,000	24,972,000	3,853,000	34,121,000

* Kauri gum production included hereunder.

The timber industry has not been specially dealt with in this volume. The interests involved, however, are somewhat large, especially in New Zealand and in the states of Western Australia, Queensland, and New South Wales. The total annual value of the timber industry of the Commonwealth is £2,100,000, and of New Zealand £971,000. This represents the value of the rough timber as it leaves the forest saw-mills, the value added by further treatment in the saw-mills and joinery yards is included in the manufacturing industries. Amongst the states of the Commonwealth, Western Australia stands first as regards timber production. In the year 1901 the value was £751,000, for New South Wales the return was £563,000 during the same period, and for Queensland £536,000. The other states show much smaller amounts, viz., Victoria, £125,000; Tasmania, £95,000; and South Australia about £30,000.

The fisheries of Australia comprise the ordinary coast and river fisheries, and the pearl-fishing industry of Queensland and Western and Northern Australia; while there is a small export of whale oil from Tasmania. The pearlshell fisheries of Queensland show an export of £107,000 per annum, and of *bêche-de-mer* the value exported is, in round figures, £10,000. From Western Australia the export of pearl-shell is about £87,000, and of pearls £20,000. Reckoning the home fisheries of all the states and New Zealand, as well as the pearl fisheries, the total production of the industry may be set down at £782,000.

Compared with the older countries of the world, the amounts stated in the table just given are by no means insignificant, and in production per head Australasia exceeds any other country for which records are available. Although the data on which an exact statement can be founded are incomplete, there is sufficient information to warrant the assertion that from primary industries alone Australasia produces more per inhabitant than is produced from the combined industries of any other country, and

a consideration of this fact will, perhaps, explain the ease with which these states bear their apparently great indebtedness, and the general prosperity they enjoyed until the disturbances incident to the banking crisis unsettled general business. The following figures, giving the value of production from primary industries in the principal countries of the world, are, with the exception of those for the Australasian states, taken from Mulhall's *Dictionary of Statistics* :—

Country.	Total Production in Primary Industries.	Per head of Population.		
		£	s.	d.
United Kingdom	317,000,000	7	18	6
France	451,000,000	11	11	6
Germany	465,000,000	8	13	4
Russia	594,000,000	4	19	8
Austria.....	347,000,000	8	7	11
Italy	212,000,000	6	17	1
Spain.....	143,000,000	8	4	3
Portugal	28,000,000	5	10	2
Sweden.....	50,000,000	10	1	11
Norway	15,000,000	7	6	2
Denmark	36,000,000	10	4	0
Holland	37,000,000	7	17	5
Belgium	55,000,000	8	16	6
Switzerland.....	21,000,000	7	2	1
United States	1,037,000,000	14	14	0
Canada	83,000,000	16	5	6
Australasia (1901)	118,035,000	25	15	1
New South Wales	28,872,000	21	0	10
Victoria	21,454,000	17	16	8
Queensland	12,948,000	25	13	5
South Australia	7,332,000	20	3	11
Western Australia	10,522,000	56	2	3
Tasmania	4,385,000	25	5	2
New Zealand	21,522,000	27	12	5

Judged by the aggregate production, New South Wales stands above the other states, a position which it owes to the largeness of its interests in pastoral pursuits. The value of the return from this industry was £12,552,000, a sum almost equal to the total production from this industry in all the other Commonwealth States. In value of primary production per inhabitant, Western Australia stands easily first with the very high production of £56 2s. 3d. per head. New Zealand comes next, followed by Queensland. The high position occupied by Western Australia is due to its great production of gold, and to its large timber industries.

A comparison of the production of the states from primary industries per head of population, however, is liable to give an undue importance to those which have large territories and scanty population; for it is

but a natural expectation that where the population of a country is dense a large proportion of the inhabitants will be engaged in other than primary industries. If the value of primary production, therefore, be compared with the extent of territory enjoyed by each state, it will be found that the positions of several of the provinces are reversed. Thus, Victoria occupies first position with an average primary production of £244 2s. 4d. per square mile, while Western Australia has the second lowest return with £10 15s. 8d. The following, as well as the preceding table, bears testimony to the great natural resources of New Zealand, which has an average production per head of £27 12s. 5d., and per square mile of £206 0s. 2d. :—

State.	Production of Primary Industries per square mile.		
	£	s.	d.
New South Wales	92	18	6
Victoria	244	2	4
Queensland.....	19	7	5
South Australia.....	8	2	3
Western Australia	10	15	8
Tasmania	167	5	5
Commonwealth.....	28	15	3
New Zealand.....	206	0	2
Australasia.....	34	15	8

If the value of production in all the industries be related to the area of territory possessed by each state, which is a favourite comparison with some statisticians, the following results are obtained. There is, however, no necessary connection between the production of the manufacturing industries of a country and the area of its territory, the development of manufactures depending upon entirely different considerations :—

State.	Total production per square mile.		
	£	s.	d.
New South Wales	125	7	6
Victoria	329	2	9
Queensland	25	8	3
South Australia	11	8	3
Western Australia	12	17	1
Tasmania	191	19	9
Commonwealth	37	18	2
New Zealand ..	272	6	11
Australasia	45	17	5

A comparison of the value of production in 1901 with that of previous years brings out the fact that in spite of many adverse conditions these states are holding their own. In 1901 the value per head was £30 16s., which was greater than in 1891 or than in 1871, and only a few shillings below the average of 1881. This is an excellent result considering the continuous fall in prices from 1871 to 1894. If the prices of 1870-4, shown on page 376, had been maintained, the following would have been the value of production in the years indicated; for purposes of comparison the actual results are also quoted:—

Year.	Average value of Production per Inhabitant.	Average value of Production if 1871 prices had been obtained in each year.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1871	29 3 8	29 3 8
1881	31 9 10	37 15 9
1891	30 13 5	44 13 10
1901	30 16 0	44 14 4

During the interval of ten years between 1891 and 1901 the sheep depastured in Australasia declined in number from 125 millions to 92 millions, while there was also a large decrease in other classes of stock, and the satisfactory results shown in this and the succeeding table were achieved in spite of the shrinkage in the return from the leading industry. The total value of production for each of the years named was as follows:—

State.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.
	£	£	£	£
New South Wales...	15,379,000	25,180,000	36,739,760	38,954,000
Victoria	19,260,000	22,750,000	30,319,610	28,926,000
Queensland	3,995,000	10,200,000	14,273,660	16,933,000
South Australia...	5,228,000	8,457,000	9,025,675	10,314,000
Western Australia..	707,000	943,000	1,806,340	12,544,000
Tasmania	2,131,000	3,586,000	3,920,940	5,033,000
Commonwealth	46,700,000	71,116,000	96,085,985	112,704,000
New Zealand	9,739,000	16,490,000	21,518,915	28,452,000
Australasia.....	56,439,000	87,606,000	117,604,900	141,156,000

The results per inhabitant for the same years were as follow :—

State.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales...	30 5 3	32 18 3	32 3 5	28 7 9
Victoria	26 2 8	26 3 0	26 9 3	24 0 11
Queensland	33 3 10	45 0 7	35 19 11	33 11 5
South Australia.....	28 7 7	29 19 11	28 1 1	28 8 2
Western Australia..	28 0 9	31 19 0	36 5 8	66 17 11
Tasmania	21 0 10	30 16 0	26 8 9	28 19 10
Commonwealth	27 17 2	31 1 3	29 19 9	29 12 7
New Zealand	37 15 10	33 9 8	34 3 1	36 10 4
Australasia.....	29 3 8	31 9 10	30 13 5	30 16 0

These figures show that since 1871 the value of production per head of population has increased in every state of the Commonwealth with the exception of Victoria, and as it is extremely probable that the returns from the manufacturing industry in that state are undervalued it may be said that the increase has been general throughout the Commonwealth, although proportionately larger in some states than in others. Taking the last period of ten years only, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand show increases, but the average for Australasia also increased slightly, and this must be regarded as satisfactory when it is considered that the year could not be regarded as a favourable one for the pastoral and agricultural industries.