

COMMERCE.

IT would be only natural to suppose that the commerce of these countries would increase in an equal ratio with the population. For many years, however, the expansion of trade was far more rapid than the increase of population; and Australasia now shows a larger ratio of trade compared with population than any other country.

It has been found impossible to accurately separate the external trade, that is the trade with countries outside Australasia, from the internal trade during the years prior to 1861. The following table, therefore, refers to the *total* trade since 1825, with the ratio per inhabitant. The external trade for the years over which information extends will be given subsequently :—

Total Trade of Australasia.

	Value.	Value per inhabitant.
	£	£ s. d.
1825	511,998	10 13 11
1841	5,573,000	22 4 0
1852	23,609,585	43 7 7
1861	51,001,071	40 5 5
1871	69,093,778	35 1 5
1881	101,513,485	35 16 4
1889	131,749,505	35 5 11

The influence of the discovery of gold upon the growth of trade can be readily discerned from the figures just quoted. During the period 1852 to 1861 the average value of commerce was about twice as great, when compared with the population, as it was in the previous decade. The fall since 1861 is, to some extent, more apparent than real, for the volume of merchandise has increased though the monetary value in proportion to population has perceptibly declined; the decrease in the trade *per inhabitant* is

Influence of
discovery of
gold upon
Australasian
trade.

attributable to a depreciation in the value of wool, which is now, and has always been, the staple of Australasian products.

External trade. By far the greater part of the external trade of Australasia is with the United Kingdom; and of the remainder the larger proportion is carried on with foreign countries, the trade with British Possessions outside Australasia having greatly declined during recent years. The figures given in the next table show the distribution of the trade since 1861, in the three divisions to which reference has been made:—

External Trade—Imports and Exports.

Trade with—	1861.	1871.	1881.	1889.	
	£	£	£	£	
The United Kingdom.....	Imports	13,467,370	12,006,419	25,662,185	30,040,160
	Exports	12,207,228	18,486,703	24,342,422	29,275,850
	Total ...	25,674,598	30,493,122	50,004,607	59,316,010
British Possessions outside Australasia...	Imports	1,767,391	2,382,148	3,069,206	3,272,876
	Exports	3,656,065	764,652	4,243,173	1,559,942
	Total ...	5,423,456	3,146,800	7,312,379	4,832,818
Foreign Countries.....	Imports	3,216,738	2,245,124	4,576,733	7,168,636
	Exports	746,490	3,843,970	2,585,869	5,066,587
	Total ...	3,963,228	6,089,094	7,162,602	12,235,223
Total, External Trade	Imports	18,451,499	16,633,691	33,308,124	40,481,672
	Exports	16,609,783	23,095,325	31,171,464	35,902,379
	Total ...	35,061,282	39,729,016	64,479,588	76,384,051

The relative proportions of the above trade expressed centesimally are as follows:—

	1861.	1871.	1881.	1889.
United Kingdom.....	73·23	76·75	77·55	77·65
British Possessions outside Australasia	15·47	7·92	11·34	6·33
Foreign Countries	11·30	15·33	11·11	16·02
	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

It appears thus that the United Kingdom has not only preserved its hold upon the trade of the Colonies, but has increased it both in volume and proportion, notwithstanding the keen competition of foreign countries. The trade with British possessions shows a marked decrease, due mainly to the falling off in shipments of coin. In the earlier part of the period under notice there were large shipments of gold regularly made to the East, principally to Singapore and Ceylon ; but the export of gold to those places has greatly diminished, so that in 1889 the total value of trade, though larger in its actual amount than in 1871, was less than in 1881 or even in 1861, and was proportionately smaller than in any of these years.

Trade with United Kingdom.

The value of the trade of the principal foreign countries with Australasia may be gathered from the following statement :—

Trade with foreign countries.

	Imports.				Exports.			
	1861.	1871.	1881.	1889.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1889.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Franco and Possessions	136,124	158,992	342,248	481,553	26,793	101,758	339,826	520,093
United States	1,080,673	616,625	1,592,644	2,847,089	76,154	367,361	1,298,905	1,658,587
Germany	100,172	3,599	222,672	1,300,089	....	....	82,415	767,020
Belgium . . . .	....	....	26,718	205,047	....	....	101,244	1,329,144
China	827,347	874,925	1,431,893	812,850	114,140	29,137	78,599	65,105
Other Countries ..	1,063,422	590,683	960,563	1,431,999	529,394	3,345,714	684,880	726,633
Total	3,216,738	2,245,124	4,576,733	7,168,636	746,490	3,843,970	2,585,869	5,060,587

The import and export trade from the commencement of the period under review exhibits very satisfactory progress, the imports having doubled, while the exports have increased sixfold. This expansion is chiefly due to the development of the continental trade consequent on the diversion of part of the wool trade from the London to the continental market, which was mainly brought about by the display of local resources in the Sydney and Melbourne International Exhibitions, of 1879 and

Import and Export trade.

Trade with the Continent of Europe.

1880. The imports from Germany have increased about twelve-fold; those from France have quadrupled, while those from the United States have doubled. The import trade with Belgium, although as yet only in the initial stage, has increased eightfold in the course of the last eight years. In like manner the exports to the continent have increased, though in a much greater degree, more especially those to Belgium and Germany. The port of Antwerp is simply a distributing centre for the greater part of the wool destined for the continent; large quantities of the wool landed there ultimately find their way to Germany, France, and other countries. The French, in 1884, were the first to establish direct commercial relations, the steamers of the *Messageries Maritimes*, a subsidised line, making their appearance for the first time in Australian waters in the year named. In 1887 the vessels of the *Nord Deutscher Lloyd* Company, of Bremen, commenced trading with Australasia, and in the latter part of 1888 a line of German cargo boats opened up further communication between the great wool exporting cities of Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide, and the ports of Antwerp and Bremen.

Direct wool
trade with
Europe.

The effect of these efforts to establish commercial relations is evident from the increase of trade which the foregoing table discloses, and in the diversion, now rapidly being effected, in the channel by which the wool required for Europe reaches the market. The example of the South American Republics, the bulk of whose produce now finds a market at the ports of Antwerp, Bremen, Havre, and Dunkirk, without passing through London, was not lost on continental buyers. It was manifest that direct shipments of wool to Europe could as readily be made from Sydney or Melbourne, as from Buenos Ayres or Monte-Video, hence the presence, in increasing numbers in the local markets, of representative buyers from the principal continental firms.

Wool trade with
the Continent.

The rapid growth of the continental wool trade during the period from 1881 to 1889 is illustrated by the following table, which shows the quantities exported to the principal countries, and the proportion of the total amount taken by each :—

Value of direct Export Trade of Wool to principal Countries.

Country.	1881.	1889.	1881.	1889.
	Numerically.		Centesimally.	
	£	£		
United Kingdom	15,777,327	18,840,984	97·78	88·29
France	26,965	172,723	·17	·81
Germany	53,809	714,602	·33	3·35
Belgium	96,557	1,407,568	·60	6·60
United States	132,699	173,916	·82	·81
Other Countries.....	48,725	29,028	·30	·14
Total	16,136,082	21,338,821	100·00	100·00

The quantity of wool shipped from Australasia has thus increased by the value of five millions sterling, or more than 32 per cent., in the nine years. It will be observed that while the wool exported to Great Britain has increased in value by the amount of more than three millions, the proportionate share of such exports to the total wool exports has declined from 98 to 88 per cent. The exports of wool to France, Germany, and Belgium have increased both absolutely and relatively, while the wool exported to the United States has increased in quantity only, its ratio to the whole export remaining the same.

Value of Australasian wool.

The following shows the total and proportionate (nominal) value of the wool shipped by each Colony :—

Value of direct Export Trade of Wool from each Colony :—

Colony.	1881.	1889.	1881.	1889.
	Numerically.		Centesimally.	
	£	£		
New South Wales.....	4,485,295	7,042,881	27·80	33·01
Victoria	5,327,934	5,886,149	33·02	27·58
Queensland	996,047	1,944,933	6·17	9·11
South Australia.....	1,747,696	1,890,929	10·83	8·86
Western Australia	256,689	387,730	1·59	1·82
Tasmania	416,572	232,944	2·58	1·09
New Zealand	2,905,849	3,953,255	18·01	18·53
Australasia	16,136,082	21,338,821	100·00	100·00

Wool exports
from the various
Colonies.

It will be seen by the table just given that Victoria was credited in 1881 with exporting wool to a considerable value in excess of that of New South Wales. In 1889, however, the positions were reversed, notwithstanding the fact that large quantities of wool from New South Wales are still sent to Melbourne for shipment, and are shipped as Victorian wool. In 1881 the wool produced in New South Wales, but credited to Victoria, was valued at £2,750,285; in 1889 the value was £3,241,954; the wool imported into and shipped from New South Wales, the produce of other Colonies, for the two years in question was £46,051 and £19,958 respectively. South Australia also receives a large quantity of New South Wales wool for shipment, though not to nearly so great an extent as Victoria.

Trade with the
United States.

Australasia has for many years maintained important commercial relations with the United States of America, and in 1889 America's share of the total trade of Australasia with foreign countries was 36·8 per cent. The bulk of the exports, however, are comprised under the heading of coal and specie.

Australasian
trade with
China.

The imports from China largely increased during the twenty years previous to 1881, but from that date the amount has varied very little, showing, if anything, a tendency to decline, caused probably by the increasing preference for Indian over China teas. The Australasian exports to China are but small compared with the imports, and evince a considerable falling off since 1861. The figures given as showing the imports and exports between Australasia and China do not, however, represent the whole amount of the trade, as a considerable portion, especially of the exports, to Hong Kong are in reality intended for the Chinese Empire—Hong Kong, although a British possession, being to a large extent a distributing centre for the Empire.

Trade with
other countries.

Of the remainder of the Australasian external trade the bulk is done with the Netherlands, Java, and Scandinavia, and consists mainly of imports from the last two mentioned countries.

The intercolonial trade of Australasia is increasing in a slightly higher ratio than does the population. The following figures represent the total value of this important branch of the general trade, as well as the value per inhabitant :—

Year.	Total.	Value per Inhabitant.
	£	£ s. d.
1861	15,939,789	12 11 9
1871	29,364,762	15 5 1
1881	37,033,897	13 10 1
1889	55,365,454	14 16 8

The amount for 1889 represents 42 per cent. of the total trade of Australasia, which in that year reached £131,749,505 ; but these figures not only include the value of the produce of one Colony exchanged for that of another, but also of goods passing through for foreign countries, and goods imported from abroad and re-exported, and must, therefore, not be taken as affording definite information as to the extent of the trade which the Colonies transact amongst themselves.

In the preceding tables the periods reviewed commenced with 1861 and ended with 1889 ; in the succeeding calculations, the decennial term from 1879 to 1889 will be adopted, and the progress made by Australasia during this period will be compared with that of other places, especially young countries in process of extensive development.

Dividing the trade amongst the various Colonies, the following table shows the proportion nominally belonging to each, and the value per head of population. The expression "nominally" is used, because the figures appear to make Victoria and South Australia somewhat more important than they really are, as the trade of a large portion of New South Wales passes through these Colonies before it can reach the sea, and the value of such trade

Intercolonial trade.

Australasian progress during the last decade.

External Trade of each Colony.

EXTERNAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

is not credited to New South Wales. Queensland also suffers in a similar way, as a large export of gold is not represented in its figures, such gold being sent to New South Wales for coinage, and therefore appearing as an export of the latter Colony when shipped therefrom.

External Import Trade :—

Colony.	Total Value.		Value per Inhabitant.	
	1879.	1889.	1879.	1889.
	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales	8,869,018	12,215,745	12 16 10	11 1 3
Victoria	8,904,548	15,862,906	10 13 6	14 7 3
Queensland	974,901	3,334,891	4 13 7	8 7 11
South Australia	3,384,869	2,821,050	13 6 5	8 15 6
Western Australia	213,923	483,158	7 10 6	11 5 1
Tasmania	424,306	573,957	3 16 3	3 17 2
New Zealand	6,177,133	5,189,965	13 15 9	8 9 1
Australasia	28,948,698	40,481,672	11. 4 11	10 16 11

External Export Trade :—

Colony.	Total Value.		Value per Inhabitant.	
	1879.	1889.	1879.	1889.
	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales	6,011,091	12,553,889	8 14 1	11 7 6
Victoria	8,270,056	8,712,680	9 18 4	7 17 9
Queensland	1,012,385	2,568,519	4 17 3	6 9 4
South Australia	3,296,544	4,008,011	12 19 5	12 9 5
Western Australia	300,060	613,835	10 11 2	14 6 1
Tasmania	601,171	251,851	5 8 2	1 13 10
New Zealand	4,353,626	7,193,594	9 14 3	11 14 4
Australasia	23,844,933	35,902,379	9 5 2	9 12 5

Combining the two previous tables, the total external trade of Australasia, and the proportion thereof per head of the population of each Colony, as well as the group, are as follows :—

Total External Trade.

Colony.	Total Value.		Value per Inhabitant.	
	1879.	1889.	1879.	1889.
	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales.....	14,880,109	24,769,634	21 10 11	22 8 9
Victoria	17,174,604	24,575,586	20 11 10	22 5 0
Queensland.....	1,987,286	5,903,410	9 10 10	14 17 3
South Australia	6,681,413	6,829,061	26 5 10	21 4 11
Western Australia	513,983	1,096,993	18 1 8	25 11 2
Tasmania	1,025,477	825,808	9 4 5	5 11 0
New Zealand	10,530,759	12,383,559	23 10 0	20 3 6
Australasia	52,793,631	76,384,051	20 10 1	20 9 4

The foregoing tables evidence the increasing powers of production of Australasia, inasmuch as the exports have increased in a greater ratio than the imports during the decennial period, almost in the proportion of five to four. The imports of Victoria increased from £8,900,000 to £15,860,000 in the ten years, while the imports of New South Wales, which in 1879 were but a trifle less than those of Victoria, only increased to £12,200,000. The imports of New Zealand show a decline of nearly a million in the ten years. The exports, however, tell a different tale. Those of New South Wales have more than doubled during the ten years, having increased from a little over six million to more than twelve and a half millions, while the exports of Victoria only exceed those of 1879 by about half a million. New Zealand also has increased her exports during the same period from less than four and a half millions, to upwards of seven millions sterling. Taking the imports and exports together New South Wales heads the list in 1889 with twenty-four and three quarter millions, while the trade of Victoria only amounts to twenty-four and a half millions, which again is nearly double the trade of New Zealand, at the same period. Taking all the Colonies together the external imports and exports combined equal a trade of £20 9s. 4d. per head of the entire population of Australasia.

Production of
Australasia in-
creasing.

Trade with the
United Kingdom
and other British
Possessions.

The value of the direct trade between Australasia and the United Kingdom, other British Possessions, and Foreign Countries is shown in the following tables :—

External Imports.

Country.	1879.	1889.
	£	£
United Kingdom	22,163,226	30,040,160
India	505,770	801,017
Canadian Dominion	121,067	174,193
Cape Colony	256	11,752
Fiji	74,367	322,217
Mauritius	1,438,043	709,412
Hong Kong	412,864	1,017,946
Singapore	85,017	123,989
Other Possessions	431,840	112,350
Total United Kingdom and other Possessions.	25,232,450	33,313,036
Foreign States—		
France and Possessions	311,900	481,553
Germany	52,186	1,390,089
Belgium		205,047
United States	1,634,693	2,847,089
Holland and Java	309,804	593,188
China.....	927,372	812,859
Other Countries	480,293	838,811
Total Foreign States	3,716,248	7,168,636
Total	28,948,698	40,481,726

External Exports.

Country.	1879.	1889.
	£	£
United Kingdom	19,769,018	29,275,850
India	128,193	630,489
Canadian Dominion	798	.....
Cape Colony.....	251,547	37,924
Fiji	123,162	145,833
Mauritius	111,531	98,856
Hong Kong	243,980	431,884
Singapore	27,683	92,749
Other Possessions	2,124,902	122,207
Total United Kingdom and other Possessions.	22,780,814	30,835,792
Foreign States—		
France and Possessions	217,612	520,098
Germany	18,807	767,020
Belgium .....	.....	1,329,144
United States	441,160	1,658,587
Holland and Java	48,339	97,464
China.....	71,423	65,105
Other Countries	266,778	629,169
Total Foreign States	1,064,119	5,066,587
Total	23,844,933	35,902,379

VALUE OF TOTAL EXTERNAL TRADE.

Total External Trade.		
Country.	1870.	1880.
	£	£
United Kingdom	41,932,244	59,316,010
India	633,963	1,431,506
Canadian Dominion	121,865	174,193
Cape Colony	251,803	49,676
Fiji	197,529	468,050
Mauritius	1,549,574	808,268
Hong Kong	656,844	1,449,830
Singapore	112,700	216,738
Other Possessions	2,556,742	234,557
 Total United Kingdom and other Possessions	 48,013,264	 64,148,828
Foreign States—		
France and Possessions	529,512	1,001,651
Germany	70,993	2,157,109
Belgium		1,534,191
United States	2,075,853	4,505,676
Holland and Java	358,143	690,652
China	998,795	877,964
Other Countries	747,071	1,467,980
 Total Foreign States	 4,780,367	 12,235,223
 Total	 52,793,631	 76,384,051

These figures show a steady and satisfactory advance. The trade of Australasia with Great Britain has increased at the rate of over 40 per cent. in the ten years, while that with India has more than doubled. It is a very remarkable circumstance that whereas the Australasian trade with Great Britain and British Possessions altogether has increased at the rate of over 33 per cent., the trade with foreign countries has developed to the extent of 156 per cent. in the decennial period.

The importance to the United Kingdom of its trade with the Australasian Colonies is increasing year by year. The following figures illustrate the position occupied by the imports from these Colonies into Great Britain, as compared with the sum of the imports from all her other possessions :—

Imports from British Possessions into the United Kingdom.

Year.	Total Imports from British Possessions.	Imports from Australasia.	Percentage of Imports from Australasia to total from British Possessions.
1879	£ 78,942,638	£ 19,769,018	25·04
1889	97,136,483	29,275,850	30·14

A comparison of the total trade done by the United Kingdom with some of her principal possessions discloses some peculiar facts. Although it is very little more than a century since the commencement of Australasian settlement, the trade of these Colonies with the United Kingdom is only exceeded by that of India, while it is largely above that of Canada, the Cape of Good Hope, or any other of the British Possessions. In the following table the trade of 1879 is compared with that of 1888, as the figures for 1889 for some of the possessions are not available :—

TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Trade of the United Kingdom with some of its Possessions.

Country.	1879.	1888.
	£	£
Canadian Dominion	16,564,556	17,960,255
India	47,412,895	64,593,950
Cape Colony and Natal	10,980,255	12,049,178
Straits Settlements.....	4,747,998	8,094,107
Australasia	41,932,244	58,860,908

Trade of United Kingdom with Europe and America.

The trade of the United Kingdom with Australasia occupies a very favourable position even as compared with that between the former country and the European and American States, as the following table will show. The United States stand first upon the list, with a trade of nearly £121,000,000, more than double that of Australasia. France comes next with about £63,000,000, the Australasian Colonies being third with £59,000,000, and Germany stands fourth, with £54,000,000. In this table also the figures are for 1888, as the European statistics for 1889 are not all to hand :—

Trade of the United Kingdom with principal Foreign Countries.

Country.	1870.	1888.
	£	£
France	65,017,429	62,984,825
Germany	51,228,666	54,040,891
Belgium	22,613,181	28,600,593
Spain	12,157,493	15,212,444
Italy	9,273,372	9,996,937
United States	117,337,084	120,974,231
Argentine Republic.....	2,965,902	10,488,178
Chila	4,787,096	5,511,228
Brazil.....	10,735,824	11,772,560
Uruguay	1,339,793	2,308,953
Australasia	41,932,244	58,860,908

In the foregoing tables the external trade only has been considered, but the intercolonial trade, or trade of the several Colonies among themselves, is far from inconsiderable. This is evidenced by the following table, in which the Port Darwin trade is included with that of the Colony of South Australia :—

Intercolonial trade.

Total Intercolonial Trade and Percentage of Trade of each Colony to Total Trade.

Colony.	1879.	1889.	1879.	1889.
	£	£	per cent.	per cent.
New South Wales.....	12,755,648	21,388,357	35·27	38·63
Victoria	10,315,104	12,561,908	28·52	22·69
Queensland.....	4,527,637	7,885,461	12·52	14·24
South Australia.....	3,095,464	7,549,315	8·56	13·64
Western Australia	341,300	482,526	0·94	0·87
Tasmania	1,543,095	2,245,084	4·27	4·06
New Zealand	3,586,952	3,252,803	9·92	5·87
Australasia.....	36,165,200	55,365,454	100·00	100·00

Taking together the External and the Intercolonial trade of each Colony, for the respective years 1879 and 1889, the following results are arrived at. The imports were :—

Total trade of Australasia

Value of External and Intercolonial Imports.

Colony.	Total Value.		Value per Inhabitant	
	1879.	1889.	1879.	1889.
	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales	14,503,826	22,863,057	21 0 0	20 14 2
Victoria	15,035,538	24,402,760	18 0 6	22 1 10
Queensland.....	3,080,889	6,052,562	14 15 11	15 4 10
South Australia.....	5,014,150	6,998,795	19 14 7	21 15 6
Western Australia	407,299	818,127	14 6 8	19 1 3
Tasmania	1,267,475	1,611,035	11 7 11	10 16 6
New Zealand	8,374,585	6,297,097	18 13 9	10 5 2
Australasia.....	47,683,762	69,043,433	18 10 4	18 9 11

TOTAL AUSTRALASIAN TRADE.

The exports were :—

Value of External and Intercolonial Exports.

Colony.	Total Value.		Value per Inhabitant.	
	1879.	1889.	1879.	1889.
	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales.....	13,131,931	23,294,934	19 0 3	21 2 0
Victoria	12,454,170	12,734,734	14 18 8	11 10 7
Queensland.....	3,434,034	7,736,309	16 9 9	19 2 8
South Australia.....	4,762,727	7,379,581	18 14 10	22 19 3
Western Australia	447,984	761,392	15 15 2	17 14 10
Tasmania	1,301,097	1,459,857	11 14 0	9 16 2
New Zealand	5,743,126	9,339,265	12 16 3	15 4 3
Australasia.....	41,275,069	62,706,072	16 0 7	16 16 0

The total trade, or imports and exports combined, was as follows :—

Total External and Intercolonial Trade.

Colony.	1879.	1889.	Per head of Population.	
			1879.	1889.
	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales ...	27,635,757	46,157,991	40 0 3	41 16 2
Victoria.....	27,489,708	37,137,494	32 19 2	33 12 5
Queensland	6,514,923	13,788,871	31 5 8	34 14 6
South Australia	9,776,877	14,378,376	38 9 5	44 14 9
Western Australia ...	855,283	1,579,519	30 1 10	36 16 1
Tasmania	2,568,572	3,070,892	23 1 11	20 12 8
New Zealand	14,117,711	15,636,362	31 10 0	25 9 5
Australasia.....	88,958,831	131,749,505	34 10 11	35 5 11

The trade of Australasia has therefore increased in a greater ratio than that of the increase of the population during the decade, the gain being at the rate of 15s. per head, taking the whole group together. Each of the Colonies exhibits a proportionate increase with the exception of Tasmania and New Zealand, both of which did less trade per head of the population in 1889 than they did in 1879. Of the other Colonies Victoria had a gain of 13s. 3d. per head; New South Wales, £1 15s. 11d.; Queensland, £3 8s. 10d.;

South Australia, £6 5s. 4d. ; and Western Australia, £6 14s. 2d. per head. The greatest actual increase is that of New South Wales, from 27½ millions in 1879 to over 46 millions in 1889. Victoria in 1879 had a total trade very little less than that of New South Wales, but had only increased to a little more than 37 millions in 1889.

It will be interesting to compare the measure of Australasian trade afforded by the foregoing figures with the latest returns respecting the trade of other large Colonies and countries, which will be found in the following table :—

Australasian trade compared with that of other countries.

Country.	Year.	Total Trade.	Per Head.
		£	£ s. d.
Australasia	1889	131,749,505	35 5 11
Cape Colony	1888	16,978,300	11 17 8
Canada	1889	40,867,800	8 1 0
Algeria	1887	17,150,000	4 8 10
Brazil	1888	54,412,800	3 17 8
Argentine Republic.....	1887	43,497,800	11 3 4
Chili	1885	19,702,000	7 15 9
United Kingdom	1889	740,242,600	19 11 7
France	1886	374,500,000	9 16 0
Germany	1885	429,390,000	9 3 3
Italy	1888	86,911,000	2 16 10
Spain	1888	58,884,000	3 7 1
United States	1889	331,512,000	5 0 5
Belgium	1888	235,491,000	39 1 0

The distribution of the import, export, and total trade of the seven Colonies, expressed centesimally, is given in the following table :—

Centesimal distribution of Australasian Trade.

Proportion of Imports, Exports, and Total Trade to various Countries.

IMPORTS.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Intercolonial.	Other British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.
1879	46·48	39·29	6·44	7·79
1889	43·61	41·39	4·59	10·41

INCREASE OF AUSTRALASIAN TRADE.

EXPORTS.				
Year.	United Kingdom.	Intercolonial.	Other British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.
1879	47·90	42·22	7·30	2·58
1889	46·77	42·71	2·44	8·08

TOTAL TRADE.				
Year.	United Kingdom.	Intercolonial.	Other British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.
1879	47·14	40·65	6·84	5·37
1889 ...	45·12	42·02	3·56	9·30

Increase of
Australasian
Trade.

The figures already given show that the total Australasian trade—that is, external and intercolonial trade taken together—had increased from £88,958,831 in 1879 to £131,749,505 in 1889. The last table shows that the proportionate distribution of the trade has changed somewhat in the period specified. Thus, the trade between Australasia and the United Kingdom in 1879 was £41,932,244, or 47·14 of the total trade of Australasia with the world for that year; while in 1889, although this particular branch of the trade had grown to £59,316,010, its percentage of the grand total trade for that year was but 45·12, or a proportionate decline of 2·02 per cent. With regard to the trade between Australasia and foreign countries, however, there was not only an absolute increase during the decade from £4,780,367 to £12,235,223, but a proportionate increase from 5·37 to 9·30 per cent. of the whole, or an increase of 3·93 per cent. The trade with other British possessions, on the other hand, fell from £6,081,020 in 1879 to £4,832,818 in 1889, the proportion being 6·84 per cent. in the former year as against 3·56 in the latter, showing a proportionate decline of 3·28 per cent. The intercolonial trade had increased both proportionately and absolutely

during the period in question, having risen from £36,165,200 in 1879 to £55,365,454 in 1889, or from 40·65 to 42·02 per cent., an increase of 1·37 per cent.

From the foregoing tables it will be readily seen that an excess in the value of imports over exports is a prominent feature of the trade of Australasia taken as a whole, although in some Colonies the reverse is the case. The surplus of imports is due to two causes: (1) the importation, by the Governments of the various Colonies, of money to cover the cost of construction of public works; and (2) the excess of private capital sent to Australia for investment. In most of the Colonies (New Zealand and South Australia being the exceptions), the money so imported exceeds the payments for interest on public and private loans, and the sum drawn from Australia by absentees. Hereunder is shown the balance of trade of each Colony and of Australasia for the five years, 1885-1889, and the amount of loan money expended during the same period. There was an excess of imports over exports in all cases except those marked.

Balance of Trade and Loan Expenditure, 1885-9.

Colony.	Excess of Imports.	Expenditure from Loans.
	£	£
New South Wales	13,109,381	13,083,727
Victoria	38,685,503	10,977,774
Queensland	552,638	8,808,861
South Australia	*1,317,817	6,156,958
Western Australia	721,578	681,435
Tasmania	1,444,243	2,108,798
New Zealand	*4,742,043	5,457,541
Total Australasia	48,453,483	47,275,094

* Excess of exports.

Domestic
produce.

The values of the exports of Australasia, and of its various provinces, have been given without respect to the locality where the articles were produced. It will be interesting to see to what extent the exports have been the produce of the Colony whence they were shipped. The following table shows the value of the exports of domestic produce from each Colony for the years 1879 and 1889, and the value thereof per head of population :—

Value of Domestic Produce Exported.

Colony.	Total Value.		Value per Head of Mean Population.	
	1879.	1889.	1889.	1889.
	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
*New South Wales	9,966,820	17,130,263	13 19 11	15 10 4
*Victoria	7,280,197	6,916,252	8 14 5	6 5 3
Queensland	3,039,901	7,511,744	14 11 11	18 18 4
*South Australia	3,810,567	3,173,336	14 19 10	9 17 6
Western Australia	447,984	748,899	15 5 3	17 9 0
Tasmania	1,289,395	1,442,605	11 14 6	9 13 10
New Zealand	5,563,455	9,042,008	12 8 3	14 14 7
Australasia.....	31,398,319	45,965,107	12 3 10	12 6 4

* As corrected.

Australasian
trade in
domestic
produce.

The foregoing figures show the total external and intercolonial exports of domestic produce for the seven Colonies, but must be regarded as merely an approximation, since it is difficult to ascertain exactly the home produce of some of the Colonies. This is especially the case with Victoria, South Australia, and New South Wales, as the two former take credit for large quantities of New South Wales wool shipped from Melbourne and Adelaide as domestic produce, while in the mother Colony, refined copper and tin, no matter where produced, are shipped as local produce. Although it was not found possible to estimate the amount of these over-statements with exactness, an approximation has been made in the table just given which will be found very near the truth, and fairly indicative of the producing power of each Colony.

Comparing the exports of domestic production of Australasia with those of other British possessions and foreign countries, the relative positions were :—

Exports of Domestic Produce.

Country.	Year.	Domestic Trade.	Per Head.
		£	£ s. d.
Cape Colony	1888	8,732,600	6 2 3
Canada	1889	16,496,600	3 5 0
Algeria	1887	7,837,443	2 0 7
Argentine Republic	1887	16,884,000	4 6 8
Chili	1885	10,679,000	4 4 6
United Kingdom	1889	248,091,959	6 11 2
France	1886	129,952,000	3 8 0
Germany	1885	143,015,000	3 1 0
Austria-Hungary	1888	60,733,000	1 10 0
Belgium	1888	49,748,000	8 5 0
Italy	1888	35,677,000	1 3 5
United States	1889	150,079,000	2 5 6
Australasia	1889	45,965,107	12 6 4

The extent to which the geographical position of a Colony enables it to benefit by the production of its neighbours, is illustrated by the proportion which the non-domestic bear to the total exports. The following table indicates this proportion for each Colony; and it would appear that South Australia and Victoria benefit most largely by their position, and New South Wales in a less degree. The re-export trade of the other Colonies is insignificant.

Re-export trade of each Colony.

Percentage of Non-domestic Produce Exported to Total Exports.

Colony.	Year.	
	1879.	1889.
New South Wales	24·10	26·46
Victoria	41·54	45·69
Queensland	11·48	0·20
South Australia	20·00	58·62
Western Australia	0·00	1·64
Tasmania	0·90	0·80
New Zealand	2·99	3·18
Australasia	23·93	26·70

Re-exports of
other countries.

The proportion of exports of non-domestic produce to the total exports of some of the principal countries of the world was:—

Proportion of Non-domestic Produce Exported to Total Exports.

Country.	Year.	Percentage.
Cape Colony	1888	2·81
Canada	1889	10·00
Argentine Republic	1888	1·82
Chili	1885	2·65
United Kingdom.....	1889	20·78
France	1886	23·59
Germany	1885	32·91
Belgium	1888	55·58
Italy	1888	5·68
United States	1889	12·96

Average value of
domestic exports

The average value of the produce of Australasia exported during the ten years, 1879 to 1889, was £42,939,381 per annum, equal to £13 9s. 3d. per inhabitant—an amount far in excess of the export of any other producing country. The details are as follow:—

Domestic Produce Exported—Average for last ten years.

Colony.	Average for ten years, 1879-1889.	Average per head of mean population 1879-1889.
	£	£ s. d.
New South Wales	13,731,915	15 3 0
Victoria	11,286,231	11 15 5
Queensland	4,982,186	16 10 1
South Australia	4,116,600	13 10 9
Western Australia	553,304	15 4 9
Tasmania	1,453,841	11 2 11
New Zealand	6,765,254	12 5 2
Total, Australasia	42,939,381	13 9 3

Exports of
Pastoral
Produce.

Of the £43,000,000 sterling, which represents the total value of domestic produce exported, more than £30,000,000 worth was derived directly from the pastoral industry. The figures in the table next given show the value of the wool produced by each Colony for export, as distinguished from the

remainder of its pastoral produce. There is also shown the proportion of the domestic pastoral exports of each Colony to its gross export of domestic produce. For the purposes of this table, however, the correction for over-stated exports, which was applied with regard to the figures on page 52, has not been used, but the returns given by the Custom House of each Colony have been taken :—

Domestic Pastoral Produce Exported, 1889.

Colony.	Wool.	Other Pastoral Produce.	Total.	Percentage of Exports of Pastoral Produce to Total Export of Domestic Products.
New South Wales...	10,620,636	1,995,482	12,616,118	72·41
Victoria	5,928,847	937,297	6,866,144	70·23
Queensland.....	2,680,134	1,121,715	3,801,849	50·61
South Australia.....	2,194,701	318,931	2,513,632	66·21
Western Australia..	395,904	7,811	403,715	53·91
Tasmania	283,237	108,340	391,577	27·14
New Zealand.....	3,976,375	1,434,446	5,410,821	59·84
Australasia.....	26,079,834	5,924,022	32,003,856	64·34

Since the discovery of gold in the year 1851 large quantities of that metal—in the form of coin as well as bullion—have been exported from the Australasian Colonies every year. The returns for Western Australia have not been officially kept, and therefore are not available, but the amount of gold imported and exported from each of the other Colonies, calculated for five-year periods from the year 1851 to the end of 1889, is given herewith. The tables also show the amount by which the exports have exceeded the imports in the various Colonies, or *vice versa*, as the case may be, and the average amount of such excess per annum.

The largest exporters of gold, it will be found, are the largest producers, as Victoria, New Zealand, and Queensland. The other Colonies now produce very little more than suffices to meet their local requirements. The returns of the gold imports and exports for New South Wales, it must be remembered, are swollen by large quantities of Queensland gold, which is simply sent to Sydney to be minted, and then exported in the shape of coin.

Import and export of Gold.

Producers the largest exporters.

IMPORT AND EXPORT OF GOLD.

Excess of Exports over Imports of Gold (Bullion and Specie).

Year.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1851-55	3,713,016	33,378,823	.....	2,000,482	818,228	39,139
1856-60	4,624,051	52,963,311	.....	*99,527	24,801	9,842
1861-65	8,533,232	34,817,803	98,383	*331,204	*9,680	8,256,520
1866-70	5,123,418	27,791,239	1,670,192	*64,429	*30,890	12,038,302
1871-75	4,457,264	22,330,671	4,425,195	*505,355	*1,381	8,600,358
1876-80	791,730	14,891,961	5,004,942	*594,954	160,077	5,614,785
1881-85	1,126,554	14,719,540	3,629,355	*543,306	554,633	4,178,000
1886-89	*519,535	6,247,331	5,946,317	*106,680	305,516	2,789,190
Total, excess of exports	27,849,730	207,140,679	20,774,384	*244,973	1,821,304	41,526,136

* Excess of imports.

Excess of Exports over Imports of Gold (Australasia).

Year.	Amount.	Average per annum.
	£	£
1851-55	39,949,688	7,989,938
1856-60	57,522,478	11,504,496
1861-65	51,365,054	10,273,011
1866-70	46,527,832	9,305,566
1871-75	39,306,752	7,861,350
1876-80	25,868,541	5,173,708
1881-85	23,664,776	4,732,955
1886-89	14,662,139	3,665,535
1851-89	298,867,260	7,663,263

Import and Excise Duties.

The amounts collected by the various Colonies under the head of "Import and Excise Duties" are given in the next table, which includes also a column showing the percentage borne by the import duties collected to the total value of the imports; or in other words the average "ad valorem" duty actually in force. The highest proportion of duties was collected by New Zealand, to the extent of 23·30 per cent. of the value of the imports. South Australia makes the lowest charge, being 8·14 per cent., while New South Wales closely follows with the import of 8·34 per

cent. of the value of the articles imported. All the Colonies impose very heavy duties on spirits, and to this circumstance is due the apparently high percentage which the duties bear to the value of the goods imported.

Amount of Import and Excise Duties, 1889.

Colony.	Duties.			Percentage of Import Duties to total value of Imports.
	External Revenue (Import Duties.)	Internal Revenue(excise)	Total Import and Excise Duties.	
	£	£	£	
New South Wales.....	1,905,883	261,371	2,167,254	8·34
Victoria	2,890,719	147,730	3,038,449	11·84
Queensland.....	1,346,768	35,149	1,381,917	22·25
South Australia.....	569,469	3,712	573,181	8·14
Western Australia ...	171,990	.....	171,990	21·02
Tasmania	307,352	15,672	323,024	19·08
New Zealand	1,467,316	56,608	1,523,924	23·30
Total, Australasia...	8,659,497	520,242	9,179,739	12·54

The following table shows the amount of import duty collected in various countries, and the relation existing between it, and the total value of articles imported :—

Import duties in other countries.

Import Duties and Percentage of same to Total Value of Imports of various Countries, 1888.

Country.	Amount of Import Duties.	Percentage of Import Duties to Total Value of Imports.
	£	
United Kingdom.....	19,995,000	5·16
France	15,252,000	7·35
Germany	13,518,000	5·56
Belgium.....	1,240,000	1·00
Italy	7,541,000	15·36
United States	45,009,000	29·84
Argentine Republic	7,290,000	27·21
Chili	2,673,000	19·55
India	3,215,000	4·03
Canadian Dominion	4,542,000	19·93
Cape Colony.....	1,045,000	14·90
Australasia	8,659,497	12·54

Development of
Australasian
Trade.

The figures given in this chapter illustrate the remarkably rapid development of the trade of Australasia. Since the year 1825 the population has increased at the average rate of 7·06 per cent. per annum, but the trade, during the same period, has grown at the still greater average rate of 8·91 per cent. per annum. This improvement is noticed in all branches of Australasian trade.

Trade with the
United Kingdom.

The importance to the United Kingdom of its commerce with the Colonies can hardly be over-estimated, but there are not wanting signs that part of this trade will be diverted to Belgium, France, and Germany. Already there is a large export trade to these countries, and the return trade is sure to follow, which in all likelihood will be at the expense of the United Kingdom. Inter-
course with the United States also shows a probability of increased development, in spite of the present artificial restrictions, as proved by the fact that steamers have commenced running direct from the Atlantic States to Australasia, and further lines are projected, in addition to the Pacific Line between Sydney and San Francisco.

Trade with the
United States.

Trade with the
East.

Trade with the east also gives good promise for the future, especially with India, China, Japan, and the East Indian Archipelago, where markets for Australasian wool will possibly in time be opened up—little or nothing in that direction having been accomplished up to the present. A large amount of business is already transacted with the island of Ceylon, which bids fair to increase, particularly in regard to tea, which is rapidly supplanting the Chinese leaf in public estimation. The value of the direct import trade in this article alone, in the year 1889, was £180,000, or about one-fifth of the imports from China for the same year. Trade with the South Pacific Islands is valuable, and increasing; consisting mostly of raw articles imported from them, in exchange for Australasian manufactures. The bulk of this trade is done with Fiji and New Caledonia, and the latter deals principally with New South Wales, Sydney being the terminal port for the French mail steamers of the Messageries line. The

The Island trade.

trade with New Guinea is at present but small, though when the resources of that prolific island come to be developed a large amount of trade may be expected. Every year steamers of greater tonnage and higher speed are visiting the Colonies from the United Kingdom, Europe, and America. A considerable expansion of commerce must of necessity spring up, owing to the new outlets for trade being constantly opened through this increased communication, and to the striking advance in shipping facilities, which will be found fully described in the succeeding chapter.

Improvement of
steamers.