

INTERCHANGE.

COMMERCE.

Customs and Excise. By the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act (section 51) the power to make laws with respect to trade and commerce with other countries and among the States was conferred on the Federal Parliament, and by the same Act (section 86) the collection and control of duties of Customs and Excise passed to the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on 1st January, 1901. The first Commonwealth Customs Tariff was assented to on 16th September, 1902, and was made retrospective to 8th October, 1901. Since then various amendments have been made. The present Tariff was assented to on 16th December, 1921, but it has been operative as from 25th March, 1920. It contains three scales of duties—British Preferential, Intermediate, and General. The first relates to goods which are the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom, but its provisions may be applied wholly or in part to any of the British Dominions. The Intermediate Tariff may be applied to any part of the British Dominions, or to any foreign country.

Recorded Value of Imports and Exports. The recorded value of goods imported represents the amount on which duty is payable or would be payable if the duty were charged *ad valorem*. The value of goods is taken to be the fair market value in the principal markets of the country whence the goods were exported, plus 10 per cent. to cover the cost of insurance, freight and other charges. The value of goods exported is the value in the principal markets of the State.

Oversea
Imports and
Exports.

The total values and the values per head of population of imports from and exports to oversea countries for the ten years 1914-15 to 1923-24 are set forth hereunder:—

VALUE OF OVERSEA IMPORTS AND EXPORTS,
1914-15 TO 1923-24.

Year.	Merchandise.	Specie and Bullion.*	Total.	Per Head of Population.
IMPORTS (OVERSEA).				
	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1914-15	20,657,539	392,771	21,050,310	14 15 5
1915-16	26,485,281	276,641	26,761,922	18 15 9
1916-17	25,427,527	47,312	25,474,839	18 2 8
1917-18	20,669,696	443,892	21,113,588	14 18 0
1918-19	35,026,311	..	35,026,311	24 7 4
1919-20	33,785,847	2,440	33,788,287	22 9 6
1920-21	57,607,798	979	57,608,777	37 14 0
1921-22	36,343,061	8,995	36,352,056	23 8 10
1922-23	46,724,379	4,721	46,729,100	29 7 8
1923-24†	49,566,253	26,424	49,592,677	30 10 3
EXPORTS (OVERSEA).				
1914-15	11,883,465	466,197	12,349,662	8 12 1
1915-16	14,418,652	330,078	14,748,730	10 7 1
1916-17	19,024,830	5,316	19,030,146	13 10 11
1917-18	18,715,252	2,001,436	20,716,688	14 12 4
1918-19	27,823,980	271,179	28,095,159	19 10 11
1919-20	42,117,153	1,007,787	43,124,940	28 13 9
1920-21	34,868,871	3,090	34,871,961	22 16 5
1921-22	34,633,478	10,704	34,644,182	22 6 10
1922-23	33,766,820	1,881	33,768,701	21 4 8
1923-24†	29,611,209	776	29,611,985	18 4 5

* Includes gold, silver, and bronze specie, and gold and silver bullion.

† The figures for this year are subject to slight revision.

The aggregate trade of the year 1924 (£79,204,662) represents an increase in imports of £2,863,577, and a decrease in exports of £4,156,716, as compared with the totals of the preceding year.

Percentage
of Common-
wealth Trade.

Victoria's portion of the value of Commonwealth trade for each of the last ten years is shown in the table which follows :—

Year.	Commonwealth Trade—			Victoria's Portion of Commonwealth Trade—		
	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£	%	%	%
1914-15 ..	64,431,837	60,592,576	125,024,413	32·7	20·4	26·7
1915-16 ..	77,744,566	74,778,321	152,522,887	34·4	19·7	27·2
1916-17 ..	76,228,679	97,955,482	174,184,161	33·4	19·4	25·6
1917-18 ..	62,334,449	81,429,221	143,763,670	33·9	25·4	29·1
1918-19 ..	102,335,159	113,963,976	216,299,135	34·2	24·7	29·2
1919-20 ..	98,974,292	149,823,509	248,797,801	34·1	28·8	30·9
1920-21 ..	163,801,826	132,158,912	295,960,738	35·2	26·4	31·2
1921-22 ..	103,066,436	127,846,535	230,912,971	35·3	27·1	30·7
1922-23 ..	131,757,835	117,870,147	249,627,982	35·5	28·6	32·2
1923-24* ..	140,569,853	119,567,407	260,137,260	35·3	24·8	30·4

* The figures for this year are subject to slight revision.

The principal articles imported from overseas countries into Victoria during each of the last four years are shown below in the order in which they appear in the statistical classification. The number of divisions in this classification has been reduced from 23 to 21 since 1st July, 1922.

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES INTO VICTORIA DURING THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1920-21 TO 1923-24.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
CLASS I.—FOODSTUFFS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN, BUT EXCLUDING LIVING ANIMALS.	£	£	£	£
Butter	2,100	16,020	156,217	63,171
Cheese	3,044	3,632	11,243	18,729
Fish—				
Preserved in Tins	191,304	290,308	256,514	317,182
All other	69,114	82,076	80,602	91,046
Meats	94,671	90,957	111,529	114,001
All other Animal Foodstuffs	15,997	9,003	9,014	13,560
Total, Class I.	376,230	491,996	625,119	617,689

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1920-21 TO 1923-24—continued.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
CLASS II.—FOODSTUFFS OF VEGETABLE ORIGIN; NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND SUBSTANCES USED IN MAKING.	£	£	£	£
Caramel, Caramel Paste, &c. ..	58,756	109,101	2,236	3,219
Cocoa and Chocolate	209,590	94,236	218,781	208,773
Coffee and Chicory	34,106	43,863	53,681	52,716
Confectionery	16,527	6,156	17,702	19,150
Fruits, Dried	45,734	36,320	55,157	46,676
Fruits, Fresh	64,581	3,379	2,523	7,054
Fruits &c., Preserved	7,193	7,013	17,509	20,942
Grain and Pulse—				
Rice	81,246	165,037	46,749	110,909
All other	44,759	16,601	75,951	73,473
Hops	85,499	21,671	17,796	6,942
Mustard	38,375	21,106	28,048	45,379
Nuts, Edible	66,120	123,020	126,778	133,008
Pickles and Sauces	14,385	8,853	12,899	12,699
Sago and Tapioca	30,968	30,024	32,431	40,484
Spices	59,843	57,020	59,013	52,632
Sugar (Cane)	2,163,097	9,008	23,565	42
Tea	486,640	643,115	903,814	1,197,546
All other Vegetable Foodstuffs	106,294	59,748	71,683	102,686
Total, Class II.	3,613,713	1,455,271	1,765,716	2,134,330
CLASS III.—SPIRITUOUS AND ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS.				
Ale, Beer, and Porter, &c. ..	39,201	52,859	62,088	70,931
Spirits (Beverages)—				
Brandy	97,646	43,846	42,669	47,332
Gin	44,025	26,521	34,039	36,095
Whisky	219,203	160,390	251,411	246,370
Other	15,501	7,845	12,677	14,070
Wine (Fermented)—				
Sparkling	43,000	7,957	12,843	23,353
Other	13,377	4,458	8,634	11,839
Total, Class III.	471,953	303,876	424,361	449,990
CLASS IV.—TOBACCO AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF.				
Tobacco—				
Manufactured	16,967	79,760	17,604	20,309
Unmanufactured	851,998	672,444	613,146	909,543
Cigars	33,780	19,193	28,739	34,008
Cigarettes	34,442	27,435	46,943	59,930
Snuff	783	316	285	775
Total, Class IV.	937,970	799,148	706,717	1,024,565

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1920-21 TO 1923-24—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£
CLASS V.—LIVE ANIMALS ..	14,975	20,213	28,521	98,256
CLASS VI.—ANIMAL SUBSTANCES (MAINLY UNMANUFACTURED), NOT FOODSTUFFS.				
Gelatine and Glue of all kinds	16,440	14,094	21,422	18,254
Skins—				
Hides (Calf, Cattle, and Horse)	322,541	310,214	330,322	347,471
Other	56,546	85,400	78,519	87,975
Wool .. .. .	..	2,454	36,707	288,476
All other Animal Substances ..	17,103	17,923	49,641	48,236
Total, Class VI. ..	412,630	430,085	516,611	790,412
CLASS VII.—VEGETABLE SUB- STANCES AND FIBRES.				
Bark, Tanning	11,920	9,435	21,104	8,520
Fibres—				
Flax and Hemp	332,004	220,106	147,470	185,450
All other	138,696	146,217	212,167	203,016
Gums and Resins	133,525	77,648	105,011	75,827
Grass or Straw, for hatmaking, furniture, mats, &c. ..	95,033	50,124	81,567	72,760
Pulp for Papermaking ..	39,262	39,310	38,140	24,790
Seeds	120,445	59,031	77,676	130,410
All other Vegetable Substances	38,331	18,516	65,527	71,611
Total, Class VII. ..	909,216	620,387	748,662	772,384
CLASS VIII.—(a) APPAREL; (b) TEXTILES; (c) MANUFACTURED FIBRES.				
(a) <i>Apparel.</i>				
Apparel—				
Blouses, Skirts, Costumes, &c.	62,877	61,206	104,235	129,227
Boots and Shoes	106,277	47,552	136,357	154,278
Corsets	179,419	116,086	178,129	80,921
Furs and other Skins—Dressed	84,915	68,624	128,790	205,422
Gloves	340,440	276,588	357,582	274,831
Hats and Caps	119,401	98,925	177,201	180,839
Hosiery and Knitted Apparel (including Socks and Stock- ings)	1,221,552	598,671	913,258	700,730
Men's and Boys' Outer Garments	49,590	4,694	31,301	58,415
Shirts, Collars, Ties, &c. ..	69,373	33,299	62,783	38,973
Trimnings	602,417	541,629	603,745	479,487
Other	623,021	420,696	467,575	403,550

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1920-21 TO 1923-24—continued.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
CLASS VIII.—(a) APPAREL; (b) TEXTILES; (c) MANUFACTURED FIBRES—continued.	£	£	£	£
(b) <i>Textiles.</i>				
Piece Goods—				
Canvas and Duck	1,199,172	295,190	512,699	367,628
Cotton and Linen	5,587,223	3,538,400	4,705,743	3,845,601
Silk	1,472,941	1,696,906	1,643,684	2,053,096
Woollen	2,538,405	1,355,607	2,033,674	1,554,839
Other	1,542,409	972,949	1,005,886	1,001,465
Floor Coverings—Carpets, Linoleums, Mats, &c.	817,248	689,525	1,100,722	1,142,906
Sewing and Embroidery Silks, &c.	575,423	386,165	554,057	480,031
All other Textiles	322,052	265,235	509,349	493,894
(c) <i>Manufactured Fibres.</i>				
Bags and Sacks—				
Bran, Chaff, and Compressed Fodder	494,716	124,060	250,818	261,581
Corn and Flour	1,634,633	715,129	583,118	569,403
All other	89,282	74,341	120,084	93,969
Cordage and Twines (excluding Metal Cordage)	64,913	41,594	58,378	83,202
Yarns—				
Cotton	199,853	162,231	193,643	273,347
Wool	971,471	583,121	1,002,516	458,946
Other	149,691	78,006	153,299	111,106
Total, Class VIII.	21,118,714	13,246,429	17,588,426	15,497,687
CLASS IX.—OILS, FATS, AND WAXES.				
Oils (in bulk)—				
Kerosene	438,578	195,544	223,840	233,881
Lubricating (Mineral)	485,579	160,488	216,670	238,375
Petroleum Spirit	1,103,800	1,027,802	1,076,118	1,461,014
All other Oils, Fats, and Waxes	524,474	261,418	386,171	524,734
Total, Class IX.	2,552,431	1,645,252	1,902,799	2,458,004
CLASS X.—PAINTS AND VARNISHES	206,954	150,382	227,489	239,872
CLASS XI.—STONES AND MINERALS, INCLUDING ORES AND CONCENTRATES	53,896	38,180	121,863	195,006

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1920-21 TO 1923-24—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£
CLASS XII.—METALS, METAL MANUFACTURES, AND MACHINERY.				
<i>(a) Machines and Machinery.</i>				
Electrical Machinery and Appliances—				
Cable and Wire, Covered..	469,397	344,501	436,983	364,683
N.E.I.	1,384,775	1,403,718	1,574,304	1,242,884
Implements and Machinery (Agricultural, Horticultural, and Viticultural)	376,483	170,574	179,182	235,994
All other Machines and Machinery	2,289,867	1,783,789	2,066,932	2,305,107
<i>(b) Metals and Metal Manufactures, other than Machinery.</i>				
Alloys	32,216	33,154	98,409	118,132
Gas Appliances	29,779	14,462	16,308	24,659
Iron and Steel—				
Bar, Rod, Hoop, Ingots, Blooms, &c.	471,109	389,858	538,936	393,543
Girders, Beams, Channels, Joists, &c.	181,654	84,625	107,333	111,585
Pig and Scrap	14,999	49,853	106,892	70,389
Pipes and Tubes	656,014	192,276	371,931	401,886
Plate and Sheet	2,905,383	855,287	1,473,913	1,665,443
Rails, Fishplates, &c.	1,966	10,691	138,278	87,787
Wire	496,391	222,280	390,535	298,057
Tools of Trade (not being Machines)	408,597	214,867	273,133	391,235
Vehicles—				
Motor Cycles, Tricycles, &c.	60,807	47,254	118,091	243,875
Bodies for Motor Cars, &c.	27,501	26,870	143,912	366,996
Chassis for Motor Cars, &c.	1,198,808	986,408	2,012,257	3,172,567
Other, and Parts.. .. .	493,599	300,685	471,381	684,870
All other Metals and Metal Manufactures other than Machinery	2,382,546	1,602,401	1,937,680	2,188,562
Total, Class XII.	13,881,891	8,733,553	12,456,390	14,368,254

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1920-21 TO 1923-24—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£
CLASS XIII.—RUBBER AND LEATHER AND MANUFACTURES THEREOF AND SUBSTITUTES THEREFOR.				
<i>(a) Rubber and Rubber Manufactures.</i>				
Rubber, Crude, Powdered or Reclaimed	412,409	130,931	127,365	275,307
Rubber Manufactures	523,033	298,772	509,851	700,607
<i>(b) Leather and Manufactures of Leather and Substitutes therefor.</i>				
Patent and Enamelled	255,526	53,217	129,498	87,605
All other	190,523	164,836	186,487	117,424
Total, Class XIII.	1,381,491	647,756	953,201	1,180,943
CLASS XIV.—WOOD AND WICKER, RAW AND MANUFACTURED.				
Timber—				
Dressed	930,399	278,046	890,897	917,646
Undressed	1,132,098	590,227	1,056,153	1,511,625
Wood and Wicker Manufactures, including Furniture	307,409	132,040	184,638	229,252
Total, Class XIV.	2,369,906	1,000,313	2,131,688	2,658,523
CLASS XV. — EARTHENWARE, CEMENTS, CHINA, GLASS, AND STONEWARE.				
Cement (Portland)	132,273	62,669	42,770	11,533
Earthenware, China, &c.	295,693	252,048	224,714	275,206
Glass and Glassware	592,421	256,698	365,208	384,640
All other Earthenware, Cements, China, Glass, and Stoneware.	40,905	35,689	69,780	97,422
Total, Class XV.	1,061,292	607,104	702,472	768,801

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1920-21 TO 1923-24—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
CLASS XVI.—PAPER AND STATIONERY.	£*	£	£	£
(a) Paper—				
Cardboard and other Paper				
Boards	113,665	57,349	71,883	72,068
Printing	1,378,634	763,703	794,612	916,165
Wrapping of all Colours ..	298,407	101,563	144,934	137,804
Writing and Typewriting ..	389,851	131,196	270,497	176,875
All other	493,807	246,209	176,648	215,513
(b) Stationery and Paper Manufactures—				
Books (Printed), Directories, &c.	357,269	297,465	337,080	342,391
All other	263,998	195,881	384,870	435,334
Total, Class XVI. ..	3,295,631	1,793,366	2,180,524	2,296,150
CLASS XVII.—JEWELLERY, TIME-PIECES, AND FANCY GOODS.				
Fancy Goods	336,428	261,855	437,431	407,027
Jewellery, including Cameos, &c.	323,106	176,001	274,294	274,354
Watches, Clocks, Chronometers, &c.	158,890	110,590	138,473	225,507
Total, Class XVII.	818,424	548,446	850,198	906,888
CLASS XVIII.—OPTICAL, SURGICAL, AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS.				
Surgical and Dental Instruments, &c.	102,923	75,121	101,449	99,998
Talking Machines—Phonographs, &c.	29,605	24,423	48,106	95,239
All other Optical and Scientific Instruments	123,392	83,775	124,312	141,501
Total, Class XVIII. ..	255,920	183,319	273,867	336,738
CLASS XIX.—DRUGS, CHEMICALS, AND FERTILIZERS.				
Cream of Tartar	142,448	78,742	84,219	55,809
Dyes	345,274	144,771	132,923	110,493
Fertilizers	397,233	214,986	288,600	339,858
Oils, Essential (Non-spirituous) ..	43,421	25,957	31,597	28,604

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1920-21 TO 1923-24—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
CLASS XIX.—DRUGS, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS— <i>continued.</i>	• £	£	£	£
Perfumery and Toilet Preparations	100,408	78,375	78,975	78,785
Proprietary Medicines	48,329	29,448	37,922	59,613
Sodium Salts	216,844	122,327	179,646	130,224
Sulphur (Brimstone)	157,110	60,643	74,325	116,806
All other Drugs and Chemicals ..	627,329	480,879	465,978	467,987
Total, Class XIX.	2,078,396	1,236,128	1,374,185	1,388,179
CLASS XX.—MISCELLANEOUS.				
Arms, ammunition, and explosives	496,686	146,471	270,285	239,443
Brushware	99,270	58,975	99,574	113,296
Matches and Vestas	98,200	22,339	71,024	82,138
Musical Instruments, &c.—				
Pianos and Parts	195,071	70,509	168,159	389,324
Other and Parts	98,431	71,631	62,582	76,230
Soap	28,600	14,656	24,513	20,617
All other Articles	779,907	2,007,276	449,433	462,534
Total, Class XX.	1,796,165	2,391,857	1,145,570	1,383,582
CLASS XXI.—GOLD AND SILVER; AND BRONZE SPECIE.				
Gold	389	312	393	4,999
Silver	590	8,660	3,442	21,397
Bronze—Specie .. ..	..	23	886	28
Total, Class XXI.	979	8,995	4,721	26,424
Grand Total	57,608,777	36,352,056	46,729,100	49,592,677

The articles imported were mainly manufactured goods. Apparel, textiles, manufactured fibres, machinery, and manufactures of metal amounted to 60 per cent. of the total value of imports in the last five years. Compared with the previous year the imports for 1924 showed an increase of £2,863,577. The items showing the largest increases were as follows:—Vehicles, £1,722,667; oils, fats, and waxes, £555,205; timber, £482,221; rubber and rubber manufactures, £338,698; tobacco, £299,102; tea, £293,732; and wool, £251,769. The chief decreases were in the following:—Textiles, £1,126,154; yarns, £506,059; and apparel, £454,283.

The principal articles exported to oversea countries from Victoria during each of the last four years are shown hereunder in 21 divisions, in accordance with the statistical classification :—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES FROM VICTORIA DURING THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1920-21 TO 1923-24.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
CLASS I.—FOODSTUFFS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN, BUT EXCLUDING LIVING ANIMALS.	£	£	£	£
Butter	4,027,256	3,026,447	3,190,805	2,751,312
Cheese	48,251	39,900	22,955	31,071
Meats—				
Bacon and Hams	63,846	36,068	23,491	22,352
Preserved by Cold Process—				
Beef	42,803	33,046	41,890	22,944
Lamb	483,359	751,077	1,493,156	656,438
Mutton	362,296	306,199	880,472	13,757
Rabbits and Hares	131,130	35,385	10,176	8,477
Preserved in Tins	50,789	16,331	48,750	9,409
Other	113,405	129,042	125,022	28,267
Milk and Cream	1,123,352	1,530,172	1,198,708	1,040,183
All other Animal Foodstuffs	14,110	19,963	6,315	3,323
Total, Class I.	6,460,597	5,923,630	7,041,740	4,587,533
CLASS II.—FOODSTUFFS OF VEGETABLE ORIGIN; NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND SUBSTANCES USED IN MAKING.				
Biscuits	110,609	62,243	52,036	59,413
Fruits, Dried	472,304	564,065	810,103	826,028
Fruits, Fresh	81,240	164,452	182,414	131,323
Fruits and Vegetables—Preserved	110,235	602,623	80,988	254,469
Grain and Pulse—				
Unprepared—				
Wheat	10,086,400	9,182,731	2,498,066	3,922,823
Other	282,155	198,956	93,607	84,127
Prepared—				
Flour (Wheaten)	1,900,888	2,157,754	2,024,921	2,175,854
Other	97,274	38,479	32,144	43,245
Jams and Fruit Jellies	202,654	72,531	26,968	24,467
Tea	6,634	37,223	58,365	47,328
All other Vegetable Foodstuffs	298,448	355,234	95,490	198,873
Total, Class II.	13,648,841	13,436,291	5,955,102	7,767,950

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES
FROM VICTORIA, 1920-21 TO 1923-24—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
CLASS III.—SPIRITUOUS AND ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS.. ..	£ 222,422	£ 48,039	£ 39,726	£ 48,862
CLASS IV.—TOBACCO AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF.. ..	273,319	346,697	528,616	286,581
CLASS V.—LIVE ANIMALS ..	134,186	20,316	38,351	22,244
CLASS VI.—ANIMAL SUBSTANCES (MAINLY UNMANUFACTURED), NOT FOODSTUFFS.				
Skins—				
Hides (Calf, Cattle, Horse) ..	8,521	31,530	46,781	78,915
Rabbit and Hare	326,681	201,921	237,853	282,266
Sheep	382,711	517,934	1,241,533	1,214,069
Other	66,508	16,625	36,405	129,607
Wool—				
Greasy	6,906,633	9,640,670	12,231,285	11,578,094
Scoured and Washed ..	1,567,455	1,154,290	3,469,056	1,255,769
Tops	434,916	390,866	415,630	233,838
All other Animal Substances ..	30,639	14,624	19,253	20,786
Total, Class VI. ..	9,724,064	11,968,460	17,697,796	14,793,344
CLASS VII.—VEGETABLE SUBSTANCES AND FIBRES ..	55,592	32,269	47,511	45,079
CLASS VIII.—(a) APPAREL; (b) TEXTILES; AND (c) MANUFACTURED FIBRES.				
Boots and Shoes	377,320	67,781	6,656	3,662
All other Apparel	178,681	250,921	75,257	36,053
All other Textiles, including Bags, Cordage, Yarns, &c. ..	224,275	220,956	173,285	91,042
Total, Class VIII. ..	780,276	539,658	255,198	130,757
CLASS IX.—OILS, FATS, AND WAXES.				
Tallow—Unrefined	282,306	336,869	451,405	188,767
All other Oils, Fats, and Waxes	93,256	110,862	40,264	77,687
Total, Class IX. ..	375,562	447,731	491,669	266,454

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES
FROM VICTORIA, 1920-21 TO 1923-24—continued.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
CLASS X.—PAINTS AND VARNISHES	£ 10,124	£ 6,763	£ 6,550	£ 4,999
CLASS XI.—STONES AND MINERALS, INCLUDING ORES AND CONCENTRATES	70,172	67,616	77,300	24,374
CLASS XII.—METALS, METAL MANUFACTURES, AND MACHINERY. (a) <i>Machines and Machinery</i> — Machines and Machinery	264,468	276,719	148,574	239,580
(b) <i>Metal and Metal Manufactures other than Machinery</i> — Iron and Steel—Bar, Rod, Hoop, Ingots, &c.	57,837	14,588	16,613	9,624
Lead—Pig and in Matte	3,298	380	1,295	450
Tin Ingots	219,767	121,651	137,531	68,944
Zinc—Bars, Blocks, &c.	25,643	400	50,689	51,965
All other Metals and Manufactures thereof	319,153	168,601	95,970	122,644
Total, Class XII.	890,166	582,339	450,672	493,207
CLASS XIII.—RUBBER AND LEATHER, AND MANUFACTURES THEREOF, AND SUBSTITUTES THEREFOR. Indiarubber and Manufactures	508,341	156,427	120,673	123,476
Leather and Manufactures	410,050	320,701	305,744	295,350
Total, Class XIII.	918,391	477,128	426,417	418,826
CLASS XIV.—WOOD AND WICKER, RAW AND MANUFACTURED	56,401	37,816	29,867	19,236
CLASS XV. — EARTHENWARE, CEMENTS, CHINA, GLASS, AND STONWARE	59,416	24,168	14,356	14,705
CLASS XVI.—PAPER AND STATIONERY. Paper	18,275	13,154	11,389	20,224
Stationery	85,398	77,613	67,368	113,450
Total, Class XVI.	103,673	90,767	78,757	133,674

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES
FROM VICTORIA, 1920-21 TO 1923-24—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
CLASS XVII.—JEWELLERY, TIME-PIECES, AND FANCY GOODS.	£	£	£	£
Precious Stones, Unset; Pearls, Cameos, &c.	37,966	10,600	6,029	4,401
All other Jewellery, Timepieces, and Fancy Goods ..	68,502	34,088	17,161	15,298
Total, Class XVII. ..	156,468	44,688	23,190	19,699
CLASS XVIII.—OPTICAL, SURGICAL, AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS..	53,057	38,591	36,218	49,987
CLASS XIX.—DRUGS, CHEMICALS, AND FERTILIZERS.				
Fertilizers—				
Ammonium Sulphate	51,310	35,373	28,395	4,971
Superphosphates	29,645	250	..	..
Other	6,436	6,726	9,434	6,160
Oil—Eucalyptus	54,589	19,348	26,083	53,836
All other Drugs and Chemicals ..	155,715	113,563	155,722	108,228
Total, Class XIX. ..	297,695	175,260	219,634	173,195
CLASS XX.—MISCELLANEOUS.				
Soap	170,848	181,623	208,957	189,866
Vessels transferred abroad	215,042	..	..	..
All other Articles	192,559	143,628	99,193	120,637
Total, Class XX. ..	578,449	325,251	308,150	310,503
CLASS XXI.—GOLD AND SILVER; AND BRONZE SPECIE.				
Gold	624	7,882	805	276
Silver	1,966	2,822	1,076	500
Bronze Specie	500	..	..	..
Total, Class XXI. ..	3,090	10,704	1,881	776
Grand Total	34,871,961	34,644,182	33,768,701	29,611,985

The export trade consists largely of agricultural and pastoral products. The value of wool, wheat, flour, and butter exported during the last five years amounted to about 69 per cent. of the total exports for that period. There was a decrease of £4,156,716 in the exports of 1924, as compared with the previous year. The following articles accounted for the largest decreases:—Wool, £3,048,270; meats, £1,861,313; butter, £439,493; tallow, £262,638; and tobacco, etc., £242,035. The items showing the greatest increases were as follows:—Wheat, £1,424,757; flour, £150,933; hides and skins, £142,285; and fruits (all kinds), £138,315.

Imports from
and exports to
principal
countries.

The value of Victorian trade with various oversea countries and the surplus of imports or exports in each case, during the year ended 30th June, 1924, are given below. In the tables which follow the imports have been assigned to the country of origin owing to the Customs Department having discontinued recording the country of shipment.

IMPORTS FROM AND EXPORTS TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES,
1923-24.

Country.	Value of Imports into Victoria of the Produce of the Country mentioned.	Value of Exports from Victoria to the Country mentioned.	Victorian excess of Imports (-) Exports (+).
BRITISH.			
	£	£	£
United Kingdom	22,925,761	12,834,890	- 10,090,871
Canada	1,543,862	74,558	- 1,469,304
Ceylon	414,921	121,456	- 293,465
Egypt	9,746	778,492	+ 768,746
Hong Kong	464	204,803	+ 204,339
India	1,593,912	190,878	- 1,403,034
Malaya (British)	240,870	817,368	+ 576,498
Mauritius .. .. .	..	94,799	+ 94,799
New Zealand	1,202,576	1,405,594	+ 203,018
Pacific Islands	318,625	84,600	- 234,025
South African Union	192,659	621,908	+ 429,249
West Indies	53,189	382	- 52,807
Other British Possessions	108,672	45,295	- 63,377
FOREIGN.			
Africa, Portuguese East .. .. .	..	52,231	+ 52,231
Belgium	331,092	692,233	+ 361,141
Brazil	58,154	..	- 58,154
Chile	37,357	..	- 37,357
China	293,412	362,174	+ 68,762
Czecho-Slovakia	125,930	..	- 125,930
Finland	47,309	28,082	- 19,227
France	1,860,469	2,801,079	+ 940,610
Germany	582,651	652,787	+ 70,136
Italy	543,930	1,357,588	+ 813,658
Japan	1,145,486	2,821,205	+ 1,675,719
Netherlands	205,451	248,018	+ 42,567
Netherlands East Indies	1,581,618	914,318	- 667,300
Norway	682,207	31,321	- 650,886
Persia	60,939	354	- 60,585
Philippine Islands	75,631	53,146	- 22,485
Spain	55,393	67,973	+ 12,580
Sweden	793,847	72,936	- 720,911
Switzerland	1,035,756	3,348	- 1,032,408
United States of America	11,218,231	2,086,626	- 9,131,605
West Indies	56,879	..	- 56,879
Other Foreign Countries	195,678	91,543	- 104,135
Total	49,592,677	29,611,935	-19,980,692

The value of the trade with the leading countries of the world in each of the last five years was as specified hereunder :—

IMPORTS (CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN)
FROM PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES, AND EXPORTS DIRECT
THERE TO, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Country.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Imports of Products or Manufactures of—					
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	13,498,551	27,118,215	18,835,097	21,657,303	22,925,761
Canada	874,045	1,642,315	1,219,609	1,741,814	1,543,862
Egypt	18,008	12,140	12,188	10,251	9,746
India and Ceylon	2,278,564	3,105,404	1,782,350	1,814,912	2,008,833
Malaya (British)	172,683	155,112	412,976	124,171	240,870
New Zealand	655,628	961,338	837,731	1,005,708	1,202,576
South African Union	242,998	143,286	161,169	213,987	192,659
Other British Possessions	514,943	636,843	399,534	411,771	480,950
Belgium	133,998	688,201	393,146	324,480	331,092
China	363,746	397,396	320,121	313,178	293,412
France	1,141,152	1,545,833	1,140,223	1,366,191	1,860,469
Germany	646	46,107	66,296	295,126	582,651
Italy	281,117	354,277	423,742	516,158	543,930
Japan	1,310,027	1,737,111	1,061,238	1,203,346	1,145,486
Netherlands	62,819	261,774	205,662	220,132	205,451
Netherlands East Indies	3,549,604	3,544,622	927,041	1,427,087	1,581,618
Norway	335,691	1,144,328	336,566	850,698	682,207
Philippine Islands	91,784	97,756	72,696	66,796	75,631
Sweden	303,589	868,232	372,347	625,236	793,847
Switzerland	408,772	890,516	808,288	946,232	1,035,756
United States of America	7,037,365	11,552,483	6,135,555	8,006,961	11,218,231
Other Foreign Countries	462,557	705,488	378,431	557,481	637,639
Total	33,788,287	57,608,777	36,352,056	46,729,100	49,592,677
Exports to—					
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	24,354,013	17,825,150	16,308,899	19,163,057	12,834,890
Canada	113,975	27,721	93,341	94,286	74,558
Egypt	1,629,315	2,300,653	1,361,936	514,029	778,492
India and Ceylon	1,132,242	408,222	1,535,548	253,172	312,334
Malaya (British)	771,051	453,949	842,251	627,207	817,368
New Zealand	3,073,267	2,610,367	1,673,784	1,497,238	1,405,594
South African Union	1,666,807	1,285,913	680,118	647,742	621,908
Other British Possessions	833,192	443,921	327,372	343,261	429,879
Belgium	804,577	1,819,434	590,352	358,102	692,233
China	97,318	85,254	125,984	48,643	362,174
France	1,439,209	1,446,353	1,965,004	2,374,421	2,801,079
Germany	591,926	399,635	295,279	652,787	552,787
Italy	686,213	637,647	1,673,832	1,221,882	1,357,588
Japan	1,723,080	623,648	2,499,434	2,153,961	2,821,205
Netherlands	549,228	91,150	11,500	14,863	248,018
Netherlands East Indies	1,561,990	975,885	1,117,009	1,127,099	914,318
Norway	246,753	136,428	295,644	42,773	31,321
Philippine Islands	278,112	65,323	96,413	80,239	53,146
Sweden	225,273	37,759	8,351	49,836	72,936
Switzerland	4,862	7,587	4,815	1,691	3,348
United States of America	1,556,304	1,981,499	2,342,628	2,678,354	2,086,626
Other Foreign Countries	927,387	553,089	610,642	181,586	240,183
Total	43,124,940	34,871,961	34,644,182	33,768,701	29,611,985

Forty-three per cent. of the total value of the exports in 1924 were sent to the United Kingdom, whilst 46 per cent. of the imports were the products or manufactures of the United Kingdom. The chief articles of United Kingdom origin imported in the last five years, and the principal articles exported direct to that country in the same period were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of United Kingdom origin).</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Whisky	135,121	210,840	159,782	251,372	245,891
Apparel and Attire	328,025	1,041,681	710,294	1,179,643	895,478
Trimmings and Ornaments	72,703	145,638	121,822	151,093	144,185
Piece Goods—					
Cotton and Linen	2,419,268	4,932,213	2,528,758	4,261,605	3,451,274
Woolen	1,453,306	2,412,813	1,316,445	1,983,368	1,423,628
Silk	87,595	200,228	267,785	213,897	237,915
Canvas and Duck	522,655	885,135	256,418	425,078	328,021
Velvets, and Lace for Attire	296,775	331,915	232,130	209,025	250,168
Other	220,573	600,829	399,445	383,200	335,273
Floor Coverings	259,255	743,528	656,745	1,042,462	1,078,911
Sewing and Embroidery Silks, &c.	240,545	508,895	334,250	479,620	407,719
Yarns	533,640	1,254,114	796,881	1,300,772	788,226
Machines and Machinery	986,278	2,490,293	1,984,705	2,436,253	2,164,259
Metals and Metal Manufactures—					
Iron and Steel	1,715,995	3,300,413	1,366,898	2,703,326	2,723,455
Vehicles and Parts	376,779	672,360	374,056	538,581	839,172
Other	908,597	1,770,791	1,202,051	1,683,200	1,773,682
Rubber and Rubber Goods	87,657	196,856	121,266	187,205	160,164
Paper	116,041	822,188	428,767	690,860	1,001,360
Books	215,103	294,215	260,678	301,330	308,337
Dyes	89,458	224,087	118,514	109,460	99,404
Vessels (Ships) .. .. .	..	207,000	1,516,000	24,136	340
All other Articles	2,433,182	3,872,183	3,771,407	4,101,767	4,268,899
Total	13,498,551	27,118,215	18,835,097	24,657,303	22,925,761
<i>Exported from Victoria to United Kingdom.</i>					
Butter	1,255,184	3,547,396	2,439,098	2,586,722	2,055,754
Meats—					
Beef, Mutton and Lamb	3,748,720	798,043	1,088,846	2,403,593	679,607
Rabbits and Hares	224,377	130,999	35,210	9,689	8,049
Preserved in tins	827,218	40,364	11,603	26,934	2,979
Milk and Cream	173,113	209,577	420,229	50,025	8,870
Fruits—all Kinds	379,598	433,516	1,146,743	882,536	1,038,037
Wheat and Flour	3,907,258	4,582,943	3,692,630	1,172,682	1,725,689
Jams and Jellies	197,828	74,246	43,863	13	358
Hides and Skins	1,068,577	602,481	443,224	738,385	1,031,611
Wool	10,717,454	6,064,096	6,078,549	10,087,573	5,297,501
Tallow, unrefined	356,771	151,263	130,010	227,968	35,390
Tin Ingots	172,892	216,426	118,621	135,688	63,286
Leather, &c.	471,292	183,591	113,063	140,480	113,422
All other Articles	853,731	790,209	547,210	700,769	774,427
Total	24,354,013	17,825,150	16,308,899	19,163,057	12,834,890

The value of the trade with India and Ceylon was £2,321,167 in 1924, and was greater than in the previous year by £253,083. There was an increase in imports of £193,921, and in exports of £59,162. The principal articles interchanged during the last five years were as follows :—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH INDIA AND CEYLON, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
<i>Imported into Victoria</i>					
<i>(of Indian and Cingalese origin).</i>					
	£	£	£	£	£
Cocoa Beans	16,200	26,133	8,993	8,228	11,608
Coffee	27,892	17,679	19,942	22,400	15,953
Rice	176,456	55,833	129,853	34,714	97,972
Nuts	62,228	14,659	42,667	27,816	38,427
Tea	835,221	352,755	355,716	384,958	522,342
Hides and Skins.. .. .	90,117	23,807	49,786	35,680	17,958
Fibres	67,506	29,750	25,135	32,475	38,590
Gums and Resins	24,663	27,125	28,873	43,163	21,123
Seeds	78	16,438	9,147	2,802	25,193
Hessians	121,416	121,821	98,325	146,736	139,461
Floor Coverings	5,302	12,527	8,631	23,882	14,102
Bags and Sacks	678,106	2,218,121	911,099	952,611	924,498
Oils in Bulk	21,227	7,963	4,394	6,386	6,978
Waxes	57,447	35,371	5,896	2,769	1,816
Rubber, &c.	2,150	30,716	2,216	2,524	12,854
All other Articles	92,555	114,706	81,677	88,202	120,258
Total	2,278,564	3,105,404	1,782,350	1,814,912	2,008,833
<i>Exported from Victoria to India and</i>					
<i>Ceylon.</i>					
Butter	20,883	24,254	7,107	15,215	17,562
Meats	17,838	12,275	8,137	20,492	5,239
Milk and Cream	29,829	8,685	67,690	45,727	25,488
Biscuits	10,051	7,964	4,594	4,914	4,475
Hay and Chaff	10,434	8,946	4,175	4,248	2,472
Fruits (preserved in liquid)	2,903	13,371	8,425	9,107	1,452
Wheat, Flour, and Oatmeal	270,691	12,633	1,282,040	52,800	81,952
Jams and Jellies.. .. .	12,578	79,156	7,180	3,755	3,656
Horses	19,917	28,569	7,430	19,739	5,606
Wool .. .. .	..	38,737	42,559	11,485	111,817
Tallow	117,883	53,157	23,191	25,966	14,272
Leather, &c.	6,664	9,600	3,610	2,758	2,469
Soap	6,315	4,203	2,740	5,234	5,477
Specie and Bullion	504,619	..	..	453	..
All other Articles	101,637	106,672	66,670	31,279	30,397
Total	1,132,242	408,222	1,535,548	253,172	312,334

The value of the trade with New Zealand for the year ended 30th June, 1924, was £2,608,170. The exports thereto amounted to £1,405,594, and represented 4·7 per cent. of the total oversea exports. The principal articles of trade during the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF CHIEF IMPORTS OF NEW ZEALAND ORIGIN
AND OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED DIRECT TO
THAT COUNTRY, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Imported into Victoria (of New Zealand origin).</i>					
Butter	6	7	16,020	153,184	61,807
Fish	20,332	27,598	88,940	33,800	33,894
Milk and Cream	31,249	2,377	..	1,782	..
Meats	4,112	6,660	5,961	7,081	24,727
Hops	4,937	1,808	7,430	10,316	4,927
Animals (horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs)	2,360	8,454	7,447	11,006	45,882
Hides and Skins	186,823	290,336	262,158	319,660	351,750
Wool .. .. .	..	..	2,454	36,700	284,009
Flax and Hemp	128,497	182,155	106,843	47,459	70,380
Oakum and Tow	21,641	21,301	18,736	22,820	18,523
Seeds	50,382	44,004	29,380	31,558	35,161
Timber	181,337	320,108	278,737	251,715	180,865
All other Articles	53,952	56,431	63,625	78,618	90,561
Total	685,628	961,338	837,731	1,005,708	1,202,576
<i>Exported from Victoria to New Zealand.</i>					
Milk and Cream	37,687	16,509	2,118	907	634
Fruits, all kinds	237,391	88,367	142,687	130,071	119,499
Grain and Pulse—					
Wheat	681,227	165,370	2	..	142,611
Barley	39,425	26,146	..	920	4,091
Oats	16,258	10,878	3,142	1,995	32,592
Rice and Rice Meal	5,956	9,784	19,147	9,213	17,826
Tea	77,555	6,225	36,681	57,111	45,869
Spirituous and Alcoholic Liquors	20,773	23,968	15,752	17,760	14,667
Tobacco manufactured	177,960	265,452	344,850	525,954	281,799
Apparel	499,487	411,376	254,407	47,008	19,611
Piece Goods	107,707	87,614	91,943	97,971	30,771
Oils	22,241	27,755	24,789	11,839	49,707
Machines and Machinery	60,180	69,518	45,721	41,912	42,643
Metal manufactures	64,548	94,567	43,196	57,723	62,179
Rubber manufactures	173,647	464,669	133,614	101,007	121,550
Leather, etc.	109,880	60,195	54,139	40,392	37,840
Books	34,590	38,597	33,137	22,755	23,213
Drugs and Chemicals	76,953	76,057	65,882	69,856	45,667
Fertilizers	42,600	34,828	5,037	8,029	172
All other Articles	537,112	632,492	357,540	254,815	313,193
Total	3,073,267	2,610,367	1,673,784	1,497,238	1,405,594

The trade with Belgium was suspended in 1918 and 1919, and has not yet recovered its pre-war proportion, which was 3 per cent. of the total oversea trade of Victoria. In the year 1923-24 the proportion was 1·3 per cent. The principal articles of trade with Belgium in the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH BELGIUM, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of Belgian Origin).</i>					
Piece Goods	£ 9,129	£ 56,750	£ 23,281	£ 24,275	£ 25,552
Copper .. ..	..	1,843	8,556	6,554	6,110
Iron and Steel .. ..	..	119,441	153,361	3,817	13,735
Vehicles	1,160	8,544	9,695	14,432	38,274
Glass and Glassware	68,200	302,820	64,030	115,840	125,575
Paper	124	54,791	29,735	33,153	33,969
Cameos and Precious Stones	38,998	63,788	21,136	41,133	17,044
All other Articles	16,387	80,224	82,752	85,246	70,833
Total	133,998	688,201	393,146	324,480	331,092
<i>Exported from Victoria to Belgium.</i>					
Milk and Cream	31,654	395,336	..	..	..
Wheat .. ..	..	948,175	81,905	..	22,177
Hides and Skins	7,411	4,034	42,673	53,683	102,276
Wool	580,671	333,684	316,178	248,366	501,125
Ores	5,500	22,094	11,674	140	525
Tallow	83,028	5,125	10,657	18,536	4,990
Leather, &c.	10,440	164	6,848	5,330	..
Cameos and Precious Stones .. ..	..	8,458	114	463	957
All other Articles	85,873	102,364	120,303	31,584	60,183
Total	804,577	1,819,434	590,352	358,102	692,233

The Netherlands East Indies accounted for about 3 per cent. of Victoria's oversea trade in 1924. The chief articles interchanged during the last five years were as follows :—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH,
NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of Netherlands East Indies origin).</i>					
	£	£	£	£	£
Coffee and Chicory	35,725	10,326	13,073	16,500	21,083
Sago and Tapioca	19,709	11,404	11,856	3,878	18,057
Spices	29,069	10,058	7,025	5,692	8,665
Sugar	2,216,242	2,163,733	8,969	23,391	22
Tea	468,456	118,894	263,771	487,542	608,300
Tobacco—unmanufactured	22,922	71,172	36,454	50,395	50,330
Hides and Skins	58,897	16,837	5,892	3,959	1,037
Fibres	83,187	60,208	96,481	144,426	126,270
Seeds	31,538	9,039	3,276	16,569	8,038
Oils	509,985	914,545	427,692	614,414	678,669
Waxes	15,098	3,919	1,069	2,455	3,957
Rubber, crude	9,667	104,751	20,159	21,403	18,178
Drugs and Chemicals	13,711	4,258	3,329	1,555	1,196
All other Articles	35,398	45,478	27,995	34,908	37,816
Total	3,549,604	3,544,622	927,041	1,427,087	1,581,618
<i>Exported from Victoria to the Netherlands East Indies.</i>					
Butter	531,511	335,361	411,388	459,032	413,620
Meats	21,039	30,653	19,348	16,185	18,803
Milk and Cream	143,365	68,785	155,206	137,666	90,624
Biscuits	63,968	43,621	27,180	26,626	29,806
Fruits, all kinds	14,083	10,438	9,214	25,234	25,114
Grain and Pulse	370,949	211,266	335,458	343,103	248,496
Machines and Machinery	23,271	10,716	8,551	2,004	15,561
Leather, etc.	108,367	60,843	50,977	46,139	48,631
Ammonium Sulphate	46,331	49,416	7,178	..	..
All other Articles	234,056	154,776	92,509	71,109	23,663
Total	1,561,990	975,885	1,117,003	1,127,099	914,318

Trade with
France.

In 1924 the value of the trade with France was £4,661,548 or 5·9 per cent. of the oversea total. Details of the

exports to France and of the goods of French origin received in the past five years are given in the appended table:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH FRANCE, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of French origin.)</i>					
	£	£	£	£	£
Brandy	49,773	79,007	41,515	42,287	47,169
Wine	49,382	44,369	9,071	15,375	27,753
Apparel—					
Trimmings and Ornaments ..	133,691	197,187	136,059	192,548	161,899
Gloves	14,631	13,520	25,554	23,152	27,525
Other	47,905	71,480	79,448	100,942	152,771
Piece Goods	506,051	576,397	462,112	466,907	781,405
Oils	17,066	33,028	6,933	9,739	14,181
Motor Cars and Parts	4,834	64,936	92,529	130,906	136,912
Rubber Manufactures	28,852	46,149	41,118	56,814	57,114
Pipes (smoking)	38,589	41,683	17,136	24,935	23,418
Cream of Tartar	70,557	90,312	39,851	39,816	24,029
Perfumery and Toilet Preparations ..	29,331	28,331	16,492	13,429	19,626
All other Articles	145,490	254,454	171,805	269,341	336,667
Total	1,141,152	1,545,833	1,140,223	1,396,191	1,860,469
<i>Exported from Victoria to France.</i>					
Butter			59,961	16,863	26,172
Wheat and Flour	933,247	1,162,663	433,992		108,473
Hides and Skins		32,581	186,783	372,034	408,672
Wool	479,810	230,398	1,252,317	1,809,489	2,148,671
Zinc Bars, &c.				36,600	21,300
Tallow (unrefined)	953		8,027	3,188	999
Leather, &c.	17,120	32		5	
All other Articles	8,079	20,679	23,924	136,182	86,792
Total	1,439,209	1,446,353	1,965,004	2,374,421	2,801,079

Trade with Germany.

The trade with Germany, which amounted to 8·4 per cent. of the total with oversea countries in 1913, was discontinued early in the year 1914-15 owing to the outbreak of war and the passing of the *Trading with the Enemy Act* 1914. The provisions of this Act automatically ceased to operate on the ratification of peace, but the Commonwealth authorities issued a proclamation on 14th January, 1920, under the Customs Act, prohibiting exports to and imports from Germany without the written consent of the Minister of State for Trade and Customs. On 2nd December, 1920, the embargo against exports was removed. The exportation of goods to Germany was thereafter allowed upon the same conditions as apply to all other countries, which means that it is only necessary to obtain permission from the Government when it is desired to export to Germany goods which are specifically prohibited from exportation, e.g., metals.

The proclamation of 14th January, 1920, which prohibited the importation of goods from Germany, was revoked as from 1st August, 1922, by special proclamation dated 12th January, 1922. There are, therefore, no restrictions on the importation of goods from that

country, except as regards those specified in the *Customs Tariff (Industries Preservation) Act 1921-22*. The principal sections of this Act, in so far as German goods are concerned, are Nos. 8 and 9. Section 8 is designed to protect Australian industries from the competition of goods imported from countries having a depreciated currency, whilst section 9 protects British manufacturers from competition with goods manufactured in other countries having a depreciated currency in comparison with the currency of the United Kingdom.

Victorian imports of German origin were valued at £46,107 in 1920-21, £66,296 in 1921-22, £295,126 in 1922-23, and £582,651 in 1923-24, whilst the exports to Germany in the same years amounted in value to £591,926, £399,635, £295,279, and £652,787 respectively.

The value of Japanese goods received has steadily declined since the termination of the war, and represented only 2·3 per cent. of the total oversea imports in 1923-24, as compared with 8·8 per cent. in 1918-19. The exports to Japan during 1923-24 were the highest ever recorded, owing chiefly to the large shipments of wool, wheat, and milk and cream. The principal articles interchanged during the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH JAPAN, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Imported into Victoria (of Japanese origin).</i>					
Grass Straw, &c.	48,652	26,223	310	15,765	15,497
Hosiery and Knitted Articles	7,828	28,928	25,976	27,021	19,629
Shirts, Collars, Pyjamas, &c.	3,959	4,883	943	1,818	2,039
Socks and Stockings	28,637	37,917	4,574	5,194	12,235
Buttons, Buckles, &c.	27,937	33,345	12,665	21,048	12,761
Cosies, Cushions, &c.	10,280	2,499	1,100	1,331	1,557
Piece Goods	651,196	887,606	690,178	788,842	843,546
Oils	12,534	21,637	13,685	14,344	4,168
Electrical Machinery and Appliances	28,124	45,736	3,847	6,951	6,798
Timber	13,288	21,816	7,409	18,653	13,162
Chinaware	49,725	55,605	26,433	26,701	20,622
Glass and Glassware	41,334	87,486	28,733	26,949	21,895
Fancy Goods	37,281	41,022	20,879	46,328	29,668
Sulphur—Brimstone	17,078	6,078	1,833	..	..
All other Articles	332,374	436,330	222,673	202,396	142,509
Total	1,310,027	1,737,111	1,061,238	1,203,346	1,145,486
<i>Exported from Victoria to Japan.</i>					
Butter	22,549	4,357	4,734	2,197	3,644
Milk and Cream	13,520	60	72,443	481,161	328,343
Grain and Pulse	1,110,379	26,251	1,522,437	519,919	958,554
Wool	229,993	443,940	636,404	1,050,369	1,416,989
Tallow (unrefined)	145,165	30,500	56,015	40,525	55,933
Fertilizers	44,838	2,314	20,034	26,495	5,412
All other Articles	156,636	121,226	187,367	33,295	52,390
Total	1,728,080	628,648	2,499,434	2,153,961	2,821,205

Trade with United States of America The value of the trade with the United States in 1924 was £13,304,857, or 16·8 per cent. of the value of the Victorian oversea trade. As compared with the year 1923 the value of this trade had increased by £2,619,542, there having been an increase in imports of United States origin of £3,211,270 and a decrease in exports of £591,728. The principal articles included in the trade with the United States in the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH THE UNITED STATES, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of United States origin).</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Sausage Casings	39,458	67,269	59,794	76,851	49,150
Tobacco, &c.	612,987	716,674	672,857	555,589	834,916
Gums and Resins	65,646	63,095	15,202	12,296	13,662
Apparel—					
Socks and Stockings	247,751	464,181	146,950	171,004	131,411
Gloves	85,332	142,998	61,559	65,336	48,754
Other	244,393	329,040	155,736	267,147	240,032
Textiles—					
Piece Goods	431,894	736,013	231,426	307,954	244,158
Other	82,992	111,751	56,559	82,667	88,811
Manufactured Fibres and Yarns	12,992	38,483	11,333	28,324	61,869
Oils	592,669	1,389,584	790,096	1,025,939	1,435,465
Machines and Machinery	691,871	1,344,129	1,186,239	1,338,136	1,525,766
Metals and metal manufactures—					
Vehicles and parts	649,043	843,173	474,371	1,095,199	2,550,731
Iron and Steel	511,376	1,062,952	188,598	266,554	177,819
Tools of Trade	114,717	193,041	96,095	127,021	213,312
Other	370,107	565,870	346,444	354,493	520,553
Rubber, &c.	114,018	219,821	70,584	158,889	344,156
Leather, &c.	308,826	285,989	121,825	222,271	118,581
Timber	197,422	672,815	264,011	698,791	1,169,650
Paper	354,054	319,198	108,081	95,971	99,826
Machinery	111,075	137,107	65,556	111,315	126,360
Jewellery, Timepieces, and Fancy Goods	81,369	98,043	75,553	87,610	117,102
Optical, Surgical, and Scientific Instruments	125,839	136,465	85,186	133,469	142,570
Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives	102,940	82,079	12,328	28,441	33,010
Instruments—Musical	97,265	219,517	95,441	116,850	256,625
All other Articles	811,329	1,313,696	743,641	578,844	673,952
Total	7,057,365	11,552,483	6,135,555	8,006,961	11,218,231
<i>Exported from Victoria to the United States.</i>					
Sausage Casings	160,952	61,770	95,105	78,672	16,537
Fruits, dried	5,474	87,093	4,984	6	106
Wheat	24,554				
Hides and Skins	787,914	117,285	76,485	351,732	90,259
Wool	310,376	1,422,716	1,969,796	2,154,892	1,906,917
Platinum—Bars, Blocks, &c.	24,419	51,678	21,639	374	4,911
All other Articles	242,615	240,957	174,619	92,678	67,896
Total	1,556,304	1,981,499	2,342,628	2,678,354	2,086,626

Wool, wheat and flour, butter, hides and skins, fruits (all kinds), and milk and cream were the six principal articles exported from Victoria in 1924—their value being equal to about 87 per cent. of the total exports. The countries which received these products are shown in the following statement:—

DESTINATION OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED
IN 1923-24.

Destination.	Wool.	Wheat and Flour.	Butter.	Hides and Skins.	Fruits (all kinds).	Milk and Cream.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ..	5,297,501	1,725,689	2,055,754	1,031,611	1,038,037	8,870
Canada	63,687	..	90	5,552	995	..
Egypt .. ..	..	1,000,130	18,853	279	2,198	1,232
Hong Kong .. ..	..	117,771	4,420	120	1,905	35,251
India and Ceylon ..	111,817	81,896	17,562	..	6,301	25,488
Malaya (British) ..	..	81,427	58,094	..	2,234	485,760
Mauritius .. ..	..	79,998	9,900	86	102	..
New Zealand	7,747	143,106	..	1,693	119,499	694
South African Union ..	1,454	401,335	103,827	..	5,528	34,983
Other British Countries	..	39,662	784	..	1,714	278
Africa, Portuguese East	..	30,927	..	..	172	17,390
Belgium	501,125	22,177	..	102,276	..	..
Canary Islands .. ..	..	108,077	..	..	..	..
Cape Verde Islands ..	..	66,914	..	..	..	..
China	243	266,725	31,719	588	2,873	10,211
Finland	28,082	..	..	..	..	..
France	2,148,671	108,473	26,172	408,672	..	..
French Indo-China ..	..	11,498	277	..	..	..
Germany	544,020	10,930	17	39,569	3,662	4
Greece .. ..	..	26,784	119	..	..	..
Italy	787,977	465,892	..	16,674	..	..
Japan	1,416,989	951,479	3,644	285	548	328,343
Netherlands	216,466	19,696	..	5,185	..	13
Netherlands East Indies	..	245,628	413,620	..	25,114	90,624
Norway	4,656	24,387	..	..	..	..
Pacific Islands .. ..	..	3,846	..	..	..	..
Philippine Islands ..	3,152	14,226	1,696	..	166	557
Sweden	26,804	44,324	..	..	..	..
United States of America	1,906,917	..	..	90,259	106	480
Other Foreign Countries	393	5,680	4,764	2,008	636	5
Total	13,067,701	6,098,677	2,751,312	1,704,857	1,211,820	1,040,183

SHIPPING.

Victorian shipping as dealt with in the succeeding tables refers to vessels trading with other States and oversea countries; the tonnage quoted is net. Vessels trading on the Victorian coast and on the River Murray have not been taken into consideration, except in the particulars of the shipping at Victorian ports (page 420) and at the port of Melbourne (page 422) where coastal shipping is included.

The number of vessels entered and cleared, their total tonnage, and the number of men forming their crews in each of the last five years were as follows:—

OVERSEA AND INTERSTATE SHIPPING, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

	Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Vessels Entered—					
Number	1,792	2,246	2,442	2,634	2,666
Tons	3,987,262	4,663,126	5,506,127	6,611,352	6,782,495
Average tonnage ..	2,225	2,076	2,255	2,510	2,544
Crews	116,873	134,671	148,879	*	*
Vessels Cleared—					
Number	1,809	2,248	2,436	2,634	2,676
Tons	4,021,188	4,651,818	5,518,393	6,618,968	6,749,873
Average tonnage ..	2,223	2,069	2,265	2,513	2,522
Crews	117,352	132,728	148,644	*	*

* Not available.

The figures in the above table for the year 1924 show an increase in the tonnage of vessels as compared with each of the preceding four years. For the twelve months ended 30th June, 1924, steamers numbered 2,614 of the vessels entered, and 2,607 of the vessels cleared, their tonnage aggregating 6,739,560 and 6,699,521 respectively.

The inward shipping of 1924 included 36 vessels in ballast, of an aggregate tonnage of 98,168, whilst the outward shipping included 408 vessels in ballast, having an aggregate tonnage of 796,769.

Shipping in ballast.

The more important of the countries having shipping communication with Victoria in 1923-24 are set out in the following statement:—

SHIPPING WITH PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES, 1923-24.

Countries.	Entered.				Cleared.			
	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	Num-ber.	Net Tonnage.	Num-ber.	Ton-nage.	Num-ber.	Net Tonnage.	Num-ber.	Ton-nage.
Australian States	1,889	3,721,519	31	2,754	2,113	4,562,322	57	26,196
United Kingdom	216	1,351,032	..	..	196	1,236,297	5	12,227
New Zealand	58	114,653	1	166	42	90,507	..	..
India	19	69,566	..	..	2	6,599	..	..
Straits Settlements	44	131,892	..	..	35	102,090	..	..
Other British	96	260,867	4	9,827	65	157,008	1	1,513
Total British Countries	2,322	5,649,529	36	12,747	2,453	6,154,823	63	39,936
Japan	46	149,049	..	..	67	215,759	..	..
Dutch East Indies	11	35,767	..	..	7	24,870	..	..
United States	156	599,600	4	7,462	23	87,371	2	3,197
Other Foreign	79	305,615	12	22,726	57	216,698	4	7,219
Total Foreign Countries	292	1,090,031	16	30,188	154	544,698	6	10,416
Total	2,614	6,739,560	52	42,935	2,607	6,699,521	69	50,352

The nationality of vessels entered and cleared at Victorian ports for the year 1923-24 was as shown hereunder:—

NATIONALITY OF SHIPPING, 1923-24.

Nationality.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
British—				
Australian	1,731	2,581,670	1,741	2,574,296
United Kingdom	597	3,113,564	594	3,082,013
Canadian	26	91,551	27	94,931
New Zealand	36	65,589	35	62,401
South African	8	12,819	9	15,402
Other British	20	37,754	19	35,281
Total British	2,418	5,902,947	2,425	5,864,324
Foreign—				
Dutch	31	123,750	30	120,605
French	13	57,791	13	57,791
German	20	71,125	20	71,125
Italian	28	112,618	28	112,468
Japanese	40	138,509	42	144,778
Norwegian	37	113,613	37	110,943
Swedish	29	86,067	29	83,836
United States	39	141,604	41	149,532
Other Foreign	11	34,471	11	34,471
Total Foreign	248	879,548	251	885,549
Total	2,666	6,782,495	2,676	6,749,873

Shipping
entered at
Victorian
Ports

Particulars of shipping—oversea, interstate, and coast-wise—which entered at each port of Victoria are given in the following statement for the year ended 30th June, 1924 :—

VESSELS ENTERED AT EACH OF THE VICTORIAN PORTS, 1923-24.

Direction.	Melbourne.		Cunning- hame (Lakes Entrance).		Geelong.		Portland.		Warrnam- bool.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
Oversea—										
Steam ..	703	2,945,771	..	..	18	58,656	4	13,614	..	..
Sailing ..	21	40,181	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Inter-State—										
Steam ..	1,752	3,475,547	..	..	124	235,438	1	475	12	10,059
Sailing ..	31	2,754	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oversea <i>via</i> Ports—										
Steam ..	15	54,841	..	..	5	17,103	1	4,250	..	..
Inter-State <i>via</i> Ports—										
Steam ..	38	83,770	..	..	5	12,017	2	4,646	1	1,261
Local (within the State)—										
Steam ..	1,345	310,089	41	8,070	579	272,612	92	65,236	146	44,182
Sailing ..	150	5,148	2	152	4	6,992	..	..	..	..
Total—										
Steam ..	3,853	6,870,018	41	8,070	731	595,826	100	88,221	159	55,502
Sailing ..	202	45,083	2	152	4	6,992	..	..	..	..
Grand Total	4,055	6,918,101	43	8,222	735	602,818	100	88,221	159	55,502

NOTE.—“Ports” mean Victorian ports.

Vessels on
Victorian
register.

The number of vessels on the Victorian register on 31st December, 1923, their net tonnage, and the ports of registration are given in the statement which follows.

VESSELS ON THE VICTORIAN REGISTER, 1923.

Port of Registration.	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
	Number.	Net Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Net Tonnage.
Melbourne	208	140,501	132	30,970	340	171,471
Geelong	2	419	1	16	3	435
Port Fairy	3	621	..	..	3	621
Total	213	141,541	133	30,986	346	172,527

During 1923 there were added to the register 7 steamers with net tonnage of 6,771, and 1 sailing vessel with a tonnage of 1,318; whilst 9 steamers having net tonnage of 8,306, and 3 sailing vessels having a tonnage of 2,406, were taken off the register.

PORT OF MELBOURNE.

Port of Melbourne. The port of Melbourne is under the control of the Melbourne Harbor Trust, which has 10·8 miles of wharfs, piers, and jetties in the River Yarra, Victoria Dock, and Hobson's Bay. The area of these wharfs is 68 acres, of which 26 acres are under sheds. The constitution of the Trust and the revenue and expenditure are shown in part "Municipal Statistics." The *Year-Book* for 1919-20 contains, on page 430, a statement of works recently undertaken by the Trust in the river and Victoria Dock, and information relating to that dock and the Coode Canal.

Port Improvement. A new railway pier at Port Melbourne (called Prince's Pier) was completed in 1915, its length being 1,902 feet, and its width 186 feet. The total cost of the pier and superstructures was £214,666. Dredging has been completed to 37 feet, to provide for four berths for vessels drawing 35 feet. Two shelter sheds are provided, which are connected with vessels by movable gangways bridging the railway lines. Passengers are thus enabled to board and disembark from vessels clear of the railway traffic.

Another modern pier is being constructed on the site of the old railway pier at Port Melbourne, to be called "Station Pier." This new structure will be similar in design to the Prince's Pier, and will have a length of 2,110 feet, and a width of 191 feet which will allow of the installation of electric travelling cranes on both sides of the pier when required. The pier will ultimately provide four berths for oversea steamers with a depth of 37 feet below low water, at an estimated cost (including dredging) of £492,800. The construction of two inner berths, as a provision for bay excursion steamers, has been completed.

The channel leading to the piers at Port Melbourne and Williamstown is 600 feet wide, and dredging is in progress to provide a depth of 37 feet at low water. The first stage of providing a depth of 34 feet has been completed, and a channel with this depth is now open for the full width of 600 feet.

The construction of the new Central Pier at the Victoria Dock was completed in 1916. A bed for the centre roadway on this pier was formed by the insertion of reinforced concrete plates on which wood blocks have been laid. The expenditure on the pier to 31st December, 1923, including the erection of six cargo sheds, was £201,202.

The widening of the swinging basin on the south side of the river, and the erection of a timber wharf around the basin, have been completed. This work makes the width of the river at the basin 700 feet for a length of 1,000 feet. The river below the swinging basin as far as the Coode Canal, viz., for 4,480 feet, is being widened by 100 feet; 1,930 feet has been completed, leaving 2,550 feet still to be put in hand. The works being carried out in this connexion are:—Construction of reinforced concrete sheet piling, erection of wharf in front of sheet piling, demolition of the old wharf and sheet piling, and dredging to a depth of 27 feet. The swinging basin has been dredged to 27 feet O.L.W. The cost of these works to 31st December, 1923, was £222,580; the estimated total cost is £341,158.

The material dredged and disposed of during 1923

Dredging. amounted to 3,796,205 cubic yards, viz., 2,508,800 cubic yards from the Bay within the Harbor Trust boundary, and 1,287,405 cubic yards from the River Yarra and Victoria Dock. Since the establishment of the Trust the river dredgings have amounted to 40,488,427, and the Bay dredgings to 37,306,926 cubic yards, making a total of 77,795,353 cubic yards. Of the dredgings 61,436,078 cubic yards were deposited in deep water and 16,359,275 cubic yards were landed and deposited for reclamation work. The average cost of dredging, towing, and depositing in 1923 was 10·03d. per cubic yard.

There is a berthing space of 50,065 feet, the whole of which has a good depth of water—8,050 feet at Williamstown, 6,250 feet at Port Melbourne, 24,605 feet in the River Yarra, and 11,160 feet in the Victoria Dock.

Berthing Accommodation.

In the year 1923 vessels to the number of 4,472, comprising 3,854 steamers, 7 ships, 15 barques, 1 barquentine, 192 ketches, 113 schooners, and 290 lighters, with registered gross tonnage aggregating 11,815,615, berthed within the port. The tonnage of imports in 1923 was 3,382,323, and that of exports, 1,254,067. These figures include New Zealand and Inter-State tonnage, which amounted to 1,865,944 in the case of imports, and 698,257 in the case of exports. Coal forms a great part of the Inter-State imports. Exclusive of transshipments, 1,101,231 tons of coal were imported in 1923.

Trade of the Port.

POSTS, TELEGRAPHS, AND TELEPHONES.

Rates of postage.

The following are the principal postal charges within the Commonwealth, as from 1st October, 1923:—

Letters .. .. .	..	1½d. per ounce
Letter-cards .. .. .	..	Single, 1½d. each
Post-cards .. .. .	..	Single, 1d. each
Printed papers (other than newspapers)	..	1d. per 4 ounces
Books printed in Australia .. .. .	..	1d. per 8 ounces
Books printed outside Australia .. .. .	..	1d. per 4 ounces
Magazines printed and published in Australia ..	each	1d. per 8 ounces
Magazines printed and published outside Australia	each	1d. per 4 ounces
Commercial papers, patterns, samples, and merchandise as prescribed .. .. .	..	1d. per 2 ounces
Newspapers printed and published in Australia	each	1d. per 10 ounces
Newspapers printed and published outside Australia	each	1d. per 4 ounces

The rate of postage on letters to all places within the British Empire is the same as applies to places within the Commonwealth, viz., 1½d. per ounce. To the United States of America and all foreign countries the rate of postage is 3d. for the first ounce and 1½d. for each additional ounce.

Cable rates. The ordinary rate for cabling to the United Kingdom is 2s. 6d. per word, and the deferred rate is 1s. 3d. per word. Deferred cablegrams are transmitted only after the despatch of non-urgent private cablegrams and press cablegrams. In January, 1913, the Pacific Cable Board instituted a tariff for week-end cable letters which is available between Australia and the United Kingdom. The rate is now 7½d. per word, with a minimum charge of 12s. 6d. Week-end messages may be lodged up to midnight on Saturday, and are deliverable on Tuesday morning, or if practicable on Monday. These messages are also available to Canada at a charge of 5½d. per word, with a minimum charge of 9s. 7d. per message. A new service *via* either "Pacific" or "Eastern" has been instituted, and is known as "Daily Letter Telegram." The rate to the United Kingdom is 9d. per word, with a minimum charge of 15s. per message. Messages by this service are accepted any day except Sunday, and are subject to a normal delay of 48 hours.

Postal Returns. The following table shows the destination of letters, newspapers, packets, and parcels posted in Victoria, whether for delivery inside the Commonwealth or to oversea countries.

The recording of the numbers of letters, &c., received from other States

has been discontinued, only those received in Victoria from outside the Commonwealth being given:—

POSTAL RETURNS: 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Service.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
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LETTERS AND POSTCARDS.

Posted for Delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth..	153,562,848	139,011,219	149,921,631	157,552,117	169,736,677
Outside the Commonwealth	5,911,404	5,308,217	4,743,414	5,246,566	7,253,801
Total	159,474,252	144,319,436	154,665,045	162,798,683	176,990,478
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	15,323,262	14,064,345	13,946,384	14,102,942	16,263,751

REGISTERED LETTERS AND ARTICLES.

Posted for Delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth..	1,444,537	1,527,973	1,529,748	1,566,130	1,683,094
Outside the Commonwealth	68,775	77,330	77,182	81,966	91,757
Total	1,513,312	1,605,303	1,606,930	1,648,096	1,780,851
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	118,383	126,591	119,567	132,574	131,560

NEWSPAPERS.

Posted for Delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth..	26,543,271	26,554,335	27,631,937	33,120,157	35,042,439
Outside the Commonwealth	1,334,776	1,336,918	1,264,932	1,368,343	1,413,324
Total	27,878,047	27,891,253	28,896,869	34,488,500	36,455,763
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	1,446,886	1,550,950	2,396,421	2,775,606	3,785,421

PACKETS.

Posted for Delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth..	8,219,981	8,507,077	10,386,880	11,947,310	12,831,486
Outside the Commonwealth	364,029	364,962	344,987	310,219	333,661
Total	8,584,010	8,872,039	10,731,867	12,257,529	13,165,087
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	414,335	433,090	642,793	588,805	796,493

PARCELS.

Posted for delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth..	1,102,601	1,454,853	1,909,355	2,072,153	2,007,259
Outside the Commonwealth	47,586	56,610	48,211	53,504	69,783
Total	1,150,187	1,511,463	1,957,566	2,125,657	2,077,042
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	92,865	97,956	90,154	122,929	122,566

The number of letters and other postal articles dealt with by the Dead Letter Office in Victoria during each of the last two years was as follows :—

DEAD LETTERS, ETC., 1922-23 AND 1923-24.

How dealt with.	1922-23.		1923-24.	
	Letters and Post Cards.	Packets and Newspapers.	Letters and Post Cards.	Packets and Newspapers.
<i>Inland.</i>				
Returned to writers or delivered	311,866	157,958	324,965	152,886
Destroyed in accordance with Act	40,538	200,685	45,479	204,999
<i>Inter-State.</i>				
Originally addressed to other States—				
Returned to writers ..	26,412	63,542	32,047	48,737
Destroyed in accordance with Act	7,803	102,790	9,268	101,988
Returned to other States as unclaimed	36,516	8,481	39,510	16,207
<i>International.</i>				
Originally addressed to other Countries—				
Returned to writers ..	14,529	13,866	16,991	11,914
Destroyed in accordance with Act	2,965	142,163	3,971	159,530
Returned to other Countries as unclaimed	24,516	14,779	28,356	38,091
Total	465,145	704,264	500,587	734,352

The above return includes for 1923-24 letters containing money to the amount of £49,739 ; letters containing other articles of value to the number of 399 ; and letters, &c., irregularly posted, 36,499. In the figures for that year are also included 15,912 registered letters, viz. :—13,714 inland, 902 interstate, and 1,296 international.

Money Orders
and Postal
Notes.

The following table shows the total number and value of money orders and postal notes issued and paid in Victoria in each of the last five years :—

MONEY ORDERS AND POSTAL NOTES, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

—	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Number of Money Order Offices open	536	554	573	582	616
Money Orders issued—					
Inland ..	{ Number .. 323,175 Amount £ 2,021,270	{ Number .. 350,958 Amount £ 2,211,109	{ Number .. 389,926 Amount £ 2,103,788	{ Number .. 422,505 Amount £ 2,119,437	{ Number .. 426,716 Amount £ 2,238,532
Inter-State ..	{ Number .. 58,120 Amount £ 322,610	{ Number .. 64,520 Amount £ 363,681	{ Number .. 65,461 Amount £ 370,498	{ Number .. 74,021 Amount £ 429,524	{ Number .. 78,676 Amount £ 464,133
International ..	{ Number .. 48,428 Amount £ 192,146	{ Number .. 57,776 Amount £ 258,158	{ Number .. 59,046 Amount £ 210,161	{ Number .. 65,560 Amount £ 222,570	{ Number .. 73,537 Amount £ 260,011
Total ..	{ Number .. 429,723 Amount £ 2,536,026	{ Number .. 473,254 Amount £ 2,832,948	{ Number .. 514,433 Amount £ 2,684,447	{ Number .. 562,086 Amount £ 2,771,531	{ Number .. 578,929 Amount £ 2,962,676
Money Orders Paid—					
Inland ..	{ Number .. 319,808 Amount £ 1,996,139	{ Number .. 356,891 Amount £ 2,212,045	{ Number .. 388,795 Amount £ 2,110,891	{ Number .. 400,109 Amount £ 2,118,513	{ Number .. 417,165 Amount £ 2,236,254
Inter-State ..	{ Number .. 116,361 Amount £ 611,509	{ Number .. 122,188 Amount £ 676,755	{ Number .. 124,343 Amount £ 663,754	{ Number .. 125,960 Amount £ 666,065	{ Number .. 132,281 Amount £ 673,527
International ..	{ Number .. 34,653 Amount £ 147,375	{ Number .. 34,567 Amount £ 146,004	{ Number .. 32,465 Amount £ 123,089	{ Number .. 32,322 Amount £ 124,938	{ Number .. 35,660 Amount £ 144,850
Total ..	{ Number .. 470,822 Amount £ 2,755,023	{ Number .. 513,646 Amount £ 3,034,804	{ Number .. 545,603 Amount £ 2,897,734	{ Number .. 558,421 Amount £ 2,909,516	{ Number .. 585,106 Amount £ 3,054,631
Postal Notes—					
Sold ..	{ Number .. 2,992,955 Amount £ 923,269	{ Number .. 3,275,352 Amount £ 1,044,786	{ Number .. 3,774,184 Amount £ 1,180,819	{ Number .. 4,013,977 Amount £ 1,240,935	{ Number .. 4,448,002 Amount £ 1,388,015
Inland, Issued and Paid ..	{ Number .. 2,138,623 Amount £ 737,698	{ Number .. 2,198,170 Amount £ 777,706	{ Number .. 2,340,742 Amount £ 834,474	{ Number .. 2,456,462 Amount £ 879,054	{ Number .. 2,618,976 Amount £ 930,079
Victorian—Paid in ..	{ Number .. 844,108 Amount £ 215,206	{ Number .. 1,075,914 Amount £ 268,329	{ Number .. 1,433,442 Amount £ 346,345	{ Number .. 1,531,548 Amount £ 357,147	{ Number .. 1,804,695 Amount £ 420,519
Of other States— ..	{ Number .. 322,697 Amount £ 117,859	{ Number .. 330,274 Amount £ 125,800	{ Number .. 338,118 Amount £ 129,707	{ Number .. 353,203 Amount £ 134,432	{ Number .. 363,350 Amount £ 135,889

Of the orders issued in 1923-24, 6,635 for £30,678 were payable in New Zealand, and 54,945 for £165,585 were payable in the United Kingdom. The orders paid included 19,623 for £73,710 issued in New Zealand, and 10,875 for £51,134 issued in the United Kingdom.

Telegraphs
and
telegrams.

There are 2,040 telegraph offices in the State, 132 of which are attached to the railway service. The number of telegrams sent from Victorian offices, and the number

received from outside the State, in each of the last five years, were as follows:—

TELEGRAMS DESPATCHED AND RECEIVED, 1919-20
TO 1923-24.

—	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Telegrams despatched—					
Inland ..	2,977,725	2,703,781	2,593,954	2,687,030	2,813,300
Inter-State ..	1,359,122	1,240,840	1,177,108	1,227,522	1,297,652
International ..	153,809	152,222	169,105	180,311	197,290
Total ..	4,490,656	4,096,843	3,940,167	4,094,863	4,308,242
Telegrams received—					
Inter-State ..	1,405,875	1,277,836	1,215,826	1,228,851	1,302,006
International ..	154,858	150,207	161,345	175,429	205,568
Total ..	1,560,733	1,428,043	1,377,171	1,404,280	1,507,574

Telephones. There were 1,062 telephone exchanges in Victoria on 30th June, 1924. Formerly, the connexion of one subscriber to a telephone office constituted an exchange, but the rule now followed is that at least two subscribers must be connected before an office becomes an exchange. The actual number of subscribers' lines on the date mentioned was 71,138, with 98,128 telephones connected which represented 5·98 to every 100 persons in the State. Telephone bureaux for the use of the public are placed in prominent positions in or near public buildings, post-offices, railway stations, &c. The number of these on 30th June, 1924, was 1,670.

RAILWAYS.

Victorian Railways, length and cost. All railways in Victoria available for general traffic are, with the two exceptions referred to on pages 436 and 437, the property of the State, and are under the management of three Commissioners appointed by the Government.

The succeeding tables relate to the State railways, and the St. Kilda-Brighton and Sandringham-Black Rock Electric Tramways—all of which are under the control of the Railways Commissioners. The operations of the tramways mentioned are also shown separately on page 434. The usual motive power is steam, but electric traction is used on the suburban lines (with the exception of a portion of the Outer Circle line), and on the 7½ miles of tramways referred to above. The gauge of the lines is 5 ft. 3 in., with the exception of 121·8 miles of single lines, of which the gauge is 2 ft. 6 in., and 2·41 miles (2·21

miles double and 20 mile single) of electric street tramway, of which the gauge is 4 ft. 8½ in. The following table shows the length of double and single lines, the cost of construction, and the average cost per mile at the close of each of the last five years :—

RAILWAYS, LENGTH AND COST OF CONSTRUCTION,
1919-20 TO 1923-24.

	Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Length of Lines opened to 30th June—					
Double Lines (miles)	330·41	330·41	332·04	336·25	338·35
Single Lines (miles)	3,939·12	3,991·70	4,040·35	4,052·46	4,151·69
Total	4,269·53	4,322·11	4,372·39	4,388·71	4,490·04
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost of Construction	39,148,873	39,681,760	40,408,014	40,743,821	41,409,905
Average Cost per mile	9,169	9,181	9,242	9,284	9,223

In addition to the lines embraced in this table the following were in course of construction on 30th June, 1924 :—

	Miles.
5 ft. 3 in. Gauge.	
Hopetoun to Patchewollock	28
Werrimul to the Hut	15
Moama to Balranald	120
Merbein to Abbotsford	6
Kerang to Gonn Crossing	17
Total	186

and the following lines had been authorized, but their construction had not been commenced :—

4 ft. 8½ in. Gauge.	Miles.
Black Rock to Beaumaris (electric street tramway) ..	2·20
5 ft. 3 in. Gauge.	
Gonn Crossing to Stony Crossing	38·00
Euston Extension	30·00
Mildura to Murray River	2·00
Gol Gol Extension	20·00
Goroke to Morea	9·00
Kanagulk to Edenhope	37·75
Kooloonong to West Narrung	7·00
Bowser to Peechelba	11·00
Marnoo to Wallaloo	6·50
Total	163·45

**Electrification
of suburban
lines.**

Parliament sanctioned the electrification of the Melbourne Suburban Railways in the year 1912, and the whole suburban system is now conducted under electric traction with the exception of a small section of the Outer Circle line (between Ashburton and Deepdene). Since electric traction was commenced in May, 1919, there has been a large development in the suburban passenger traffic—the number of passenger journeys having increased from 97,000,000 in 1917-18 to 158,000,000 in 1923-24, an increase of 63 per cent.

The high speed of the electric trains, together with the greater frequency of the service as compared with steam traction, has, in effect, brought the outlying districts closer to the city. It has thus given a considerable impetus to their development, while also benefiting the inner suburbs.

The original project of establishing an electrification scheme has developed in another highly important direction, viz., the supply of power for industrial purposes. The revenue from this source in 1923-24 was £225,452.

The total expenditure debited to the Electrification Capital Account to 30th June, 1924, was £6,495,033.

**Cost of
railways and
equipment.**

The capital cost of lines opened, works, rolling-stock and equipment at 30th June in each of the last five years was as follows:—

**CAPITAL COST OF RAILWAYS AND EQUIPMENT,
1920 TO 1924.**

30th June—	£
1920	58,496,357
1921	60,012,250
1922	63,186,759
1923	64,938,085
1924	66,212,984

The cost given is the actual cost of construction, exclusive of expenses of floating loans, &c. Of the capital expended to 30th June, 1924, £3,999,733 was derived from the general revenue, and the balance (£62,213,251) from loans. The latter liability is represented by debentures and stock outstanding to the nominal amount of £64,370,000, on which the annual interest payable is £2,915,500, or at the average rate of 4·529 per cent. The nominal amount of loans, however, was reduced by £2,156,749—the cost of flotation, together with the discount at time of flotation. It has been computed that, whilst the nominal rate of interest on loans outstanding on 30th June, 1924, was 4·529 per cent., the real interest on the net proceeds available for railway construction was 4·686 per cent.

The capital expenditure incurred to 30th June, 1924, in respect of lines now closed for traffic was approximately £383,407, and, for surveys of lines not constructed, £399,662. Both of these items are included in the totals shown above.

**Railway
traffic.**

The mileage and the traffic of the railways since 30th June, 1919, are given in the following table :—

RAILWAYS—MILEAGE AND TRAFFIC, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

	Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Miles Constructed ..	4,269·53	4,322·11	4,372·39	4,388·71	4,490·04
„ Dismantled ..	36·13	36·13	36·13	36·14	36·14
„ Closed to Traffic	11·83	11·83	11·83	11·62	11·62
„ Open for Traffic	4,221·57	4,274·15	4,324·43	4,340·95	4,442·28
Train Mileage ..	15,687,177	16,583,638	16,522,658	17,023,611	17,729,597
Passenger Journeys..	143,251,216	140,850,933	149,223,529	163,120,037	175,030,787
Goods and Live Stock Carried (Tons) ..	7,770,694	7,572,993	7,491,031	7,517,216	8,309,543

The mileage given in preceding tables relates to lines of railway, irrespective of the number of tracks, the actual length of which open for traffic on 30th June, 1924, was 4,809·30 miles of main tracks, and 943·64 miles of sidings.

The number of passengers carried in 1923-24 constituted a record, and exceeded the best total previously recorded by 9 per cent. Of the passenger journeys in 1923-24, 165,138,590 were made by metropolitan-suburban, and 9,892,197 by country passengers, the former being an increase of 12,065,611, and the latter a decrease of 154,861, as compared with the corresponding journeys for the previous year. The tonnage of goods and live stock carried was 792,327 more than in 1922-23. The items of goods carried in 1923-24 showing greatest tonnage were stone, gravel, and sand, 1,457,574 tons; wheat, 1,077,858 tons; and firewood, 740,159 tons. Live stock carried in the same year had an aggregate weight of 489,012 tons, and comprised 45,310 horses, 501,399 cattle, 5,733,780 sheep, and 379,887 pigs.

**Flinders-street
Station
Traffic.**

A barrier tally of passengers leaving and entering the three metropolitan stations was taken under normal conditions early in December, 1924. The average daily number of passengers who travelled to and from Flinders-street and Prince's-bridge—which are connected and may be considered as one station—was 282,851, while the highest daily figure recorded for both stations combined was 299,019. In the following table is given an approximation to the average number of passengers who travelled daily to and

from the three metropolitan stations in certain specified years from 1909 to 1924 :—

Year.	Average Number of Passengers per Week-day at Stations—				
	Flinders-street.	Prince's-bridge.	Total for Flinders-street and Prince's-bridge.	Spencer-street.	Total for Three Stations.
1909 ..	129,449	20,099	149,548	14,546	164,094
1911 ..	145,257	20,740	165,997	20,670	186,667
1914 ..	182,870	27,403	210,273	21,636	231,909
1918 ..	161,363	26,033	187,396	21,836	209,232
1922 ..	209,181	31,958	241,139	44,469	285,608
1924 ..	238,303	44,548	282,851	42,564	325,415

The figures for Flinders-street and Prince's-bridge include both suburban and country travellers, but only suburban passengers are included in the numbers for Spencer-street.

The number of trains handled on an ordinary week-day at Flinders-street is approximately 2,800, and at Prince's-bridge 400.

The receipts and working expenses of the Railway Department during the last five financial years were as follows :—

RAILWAY RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

	Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Receipts—	£	£	£	£	£
Passenger, &c., Business—					
Passenger Fares	3,841,844	4,453,408	4,880,595	5,160,256	5,396,088
Parcels, &c. ..	343,186	415,675	458,914	473,007	486,397
Other ..	56,512	83,459	102,886	97,136	97,548
Goods, &c., Business—					
Goods ..	2,930,598	3,789,080	4,164,645	4,178,192	4,534,931
Live Stock ..	600,217	492,096	528,836	653,229	523,406
Minerals ..	190,307	130,100	121,575	121,771	146,189
Miscellaneous—					
Dining Car and Refreshment Services ..	131,090	284,124	294,046	308,116	345,161
Sale of Electrical Power ..	..	..	92,540	179,033	225,452
Rentals ..	85,643	85,736	103,744	117,673	119,300
Other ..	107,666	118,230	110,072	125,369	151,515
Total ..	8,287,063	9,851,908	10,857,853	11,413,782	12,025,987

RAILWAY RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1919-20
TO 1923-24—continued.

	Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Working Expenses—	£	£	£	£	£
Way and Works ..	1,296,418	1,599,761	1,718,955	1,770,997	1,873,563
Rolling-stock ..	2,721,091	3,418,674	3,183,084	3,093,780	3,231,168
Transportation ..	1,839,998	2,508,790	2,664,486	2,685,068	2,880,700
Electrical Engineer- ing Branch ..	85,963	146,698	264,825	406,870	538,547
Pensions and Gratuities ..	152,932	182,036	194,581	203,470	206,366
Other ..	169,352	237,910	261,215	282,029	252,536
Total ..	6,265,754	8,093,869	8,287,146	8,442,214	8,982,880
Net Receipts ..	2,021,309	1,758,039	2,570,707	2,971,568	3,043,107
Percentage of Ex- penses to Receipts.	75·61	82·16	76·32	73·97	74·70

The railway receipts of 1923-24 were the highest recorded for any year, and exceeded those of 1922-23, which were the best previously recorded, by 5.4 per cent. In every item except one there was an increase, the chief increases being—passenger fares £235,832, and goods receipts £356,739. Live stock showed a decrease of £129,823, which was due to the much smaller number of sheep carried.

The amount of interest on current loans allocated to railways, together with the expenditure incurred by the Treasury in connexion with the payment of such interest, is compared with the net revenue of the Department for the last five years in the following statement :—

RAILWAY INTEREST CHARGES AND EXPENSES AND NET
REVENUE, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Year.	Interest, &c.	Net Revenue.	Surplus (+) or Deficit(—)
	£	£	£
1919-20	2,234,202	2,021,309	— 212,893
1920-21	2,409,674	1,758,039	— 651,635
1921-22	2,589,816	2,570,707	— 19,109
1922-23	2,951,385	2,971,568	+ 20,183
1923-24	3,015,455	3,043,107	+ 27,652*

* This is subject to a deduction of £136,417, which has been written off. After making this deduction there is a deficit of £108,765. The former amount (£136,417) represents the losses on non-paying lines for which credit was taken in revenue accounts of previous years, but which was not paid by the Government to the Railways Commissioners.

Railway earnings and expenses per mile.

The earnings, expenses, and net profits per average mile of railway worked for each of the last five years were as follows:—

RAILWAY RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE PER AVERAGE MILE WORKED, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Average Number of Miles Open for Traffic	4,202	4,244	4,287	4,304	4,377
	£	£	£	£	£
Gross Earnings per Mile	1,972	2,321	2,533	2,652	2,747
Expenses per Mile	1,491	1,907	1,933	1,961	2,052
Net Profits per Mile	481	414	600	691	695

This table does not take account of the interest payable on railway loans and expenses of paying the same, which are given in the preceding table.

Railway Rolling-stock.

Particulars of the rolling-stock at 30th June, 1924, are shown in the next statement:—

RAILWAY ROLLING-STOCK AT 30TH JUNE, 1924.

Vehicles.	Broad-Gauge.	Narrow-Gauge.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.
Locomotives—			
Steam	728	17	745
Electric	2	..	2
Steam Cranes	15	..	15
Rail Motors	14	..	14
Steam Coaching Stock	1,839	55	1,894
Electric Coaching Stock	766	..	766
Electric Tramway Stock	36	..	36
Goods Waggon's	18,993	242	19,235
Service Stock	728	1	729

The capital cost of the broad-gauge stock was £12,107,155, of the narrow-gauge stock £109,520, and of the electric street tramway stock £91,216.

Railway staff. The number of officers and employees in the railway service and the amount of salaries and wages (excluding

travelling and incidental expenses) paid in each of the last five financial years were as set forth below :—

RAILWAY STAFF—NUMBERS, SALARIES, ETC.

Year.	Number of Employees at end of Year.			Amount of Salaries and Wages Paid during Year.
	Permanent.	Supernumerary.	Total.	
1919-20 ..	12,580	12,117	24,697	£ 4,683,707
1920-21 ..	12,094	15,139	27,233	5,895,347
1921-22 ..	19,273	7,688	26,961	6,388,508
1922-23 ..	19,450	7,295	26,745	6,293,720
1923-24 ..	19,057	8,562	27,619	6,651,251

The results of operating the St. Kilda-Brighton and Sandringham-Black Rock Electric Tramways for 1923-24 are detailed in the following statement. As these tramways are controlled by the Railways Commissioners, particulars relating to them have been included in all the preceding railway tables.

ELECTRIC STREET TRAMWAYS, 1923-24.

	St. Kilda-Brighton Electric Tramway.	Sandringham- Black Rock Electric Tramway
Average Mileage of Tramway Worked	5· 18	2· 41
Car Mileage	523,950	126,436
Number of Passengers Carried	5,709,684	1,459,239
	£	£
Gross Revenue	54,381	12,971
Working Expenses	45,497	12,623
Interest Charges	8,937	5,148
Net Result	Loss 53	Loss 4,800
Capital Expenditure at 30th June, 1924—		
Construction of Line	120,912	72,763
Rolling-stock	69,589	21,627

PERSONS KILLED OR INJURED ON VICTORIAN RAILWAYS AND AMOUNTS PAID IN
COMPENSATION, DAMAGES, ETC., 1914-15 TO 1923-24.

Railway
accidents.

Year ended 30th June.	Passengers.				Employees whilst in the execution of their duty.				Employees proceeding to or from duty; Persons at Crossings; Trespassers, and Others.		Total.		Amount paid on account of Compensation, Damages, &c.
	Due to Causes beyond their own Control.		Due wholly or partly to their own Action or Negligence.		Due to Causes beyond their own Control.		Due wholly or partly to their own Action or Negligence.		Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.					
1915	40	6	185	2	36	8	253	32	44	48	558	£ 14,359
1916	29	11	198	2	28	10	242	31	37	54	534	20,766
1917	46	5	133	1	35	4	225	22	26	32	465	15,556
1918	33	4	197	2	46	9	246	29	39	44	561	18,221
1919	41	6	174	1	31	7	222	38	42	52	510	18,303
1920	32	8	174	..	33	8	164	22	48	38	451	18,161
1921	18	3	187	2	46	7	282	29	64	41	597	14,803
1922	10	10	135	1	35	13	191	34	37	58	408	17,848
1923	5	6	140	1	33	9	150	35	44	51	372	14,887
1924	3	8	116	..	29	10	182	33	32	51	362	17,063
Yearly Average	25·7	6·7	163·9	1·2	35·2	8·5	215·7	30·5	41·3	46·9	481·8	16,997

With regard to the payments referred to in the above table, it should be pointed out that they not only cover cases of passengers where the accidents causing death or injury were "due to causes beyond their own control"; but they also include compensation paid on account of injuries sustained by employees whilst on duty, such payments having been £7,008 in 1914-15, £17,143 in 1915-16, £12,925 in 1916-17, £11,480 in 1917-18, £13,035 in 1918-19, £10,815 in 1919-20, £10,468 in 1920-21, £13,387 in 1921-22, £10,739 in 1922-23, and £11,469 in 1923-24.

The following table shows the number of persons killed or injured in each of the last ten years in railway accidents, the amounts paid in compensation, damages, &c., and the yearly averages for the period:—

Interchange.

Freights on
Victorian
railways.

A statement of freights, operative on 1st October, 1924, in respect of commodities affecting rural producers, has been supplied by the General Passenger and Freight Agent of the Victorian Railways, and is appended hereto.

VICTORIAN RAILWAY GOODS RATES.

Commodities.	50	100	150	200	250	300	350
	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Rate per Ton.							
Agricultural Produce, in trucks loaded to full carrying capacity, less 5 per cent.*	6 4	9 9	11 7	12 11	13 11	14 10	15 11
Dairy Produce, consisting of Butter, Milk, Cream, Cheese (boxed), and Eggs†	12 2	22 8	30 4	38 1	43 6	48 9	54 2
Hams and Bacon (minimum, 1 ton)	13 6	25 2	33 8	42 4	48 4	54 2	60 2
Milk, in 4-ton lots	10 8	19 2	25 2	31 1	35 5	39 11	44 3
Fresh Fruit†	8 1	14 5	18 11	23 5	26 7	30 0	33 4
Fresh Meat, in 5-ton lots; Fencing Wire, in trucks loaded to full carrying capacity, less 5 per cent.; Woolpacks and Cornsacks, in truck loads of 8 or 12 tons	11 10	21 4	28 0	34 6	39 4	44 4	49 2
Poultry (living)†	16 11	30 4	42 0	52 11	60 5	67 10	75 4
Wool (greasy)†	24 8	47 9	61 6	70 3	79 6	88 3	97 3
Agricultural Machinery and Implements, Binder Twine†	26 3	51 0	76 3	94 9	113 6	126 0	138 9
Fencing Wire, in truck loads of 6 and 8 tons	16 9	32 0	46 9	57 9	69 0	74 3	79 9
Wire Netting, in trucks loaded to full carrying capacity, less 5 per cent.	6 2	10 10	15 0	17 6	20 6	22 8	24 10
Manures, in trucks loaded to full carrying capacity, less 5 per cent.	3 6	5 4	6 8	7 10	9 2	10 6	11 0
Rate per Truck.							
Live Stock (other than pigs)	57 6	111 0	130 0	171 0	213 0	254 0	296 0
Pigs	51 11	100 1	117 2	154 1	191 11	228 10	266 7

* Agricultural Produce includes Wheat, Oats, Barley, Maize, Beet, Onions, Hay, Straw, Chaff, Compressed Fodder, Flour, Bran, Pollard, Peas, Potatoes, Sharps, Pig Feed, and Malt; also Wine and Fruit, if produced in the Commonwealth and consigned direct for export. The minimum loadings for Chaff, Hay and Straw, and Pig Feed are as follows:—

	Per 10 or 12-ton Truck.	Per 15-ton Truck.
	Tons.	Tons.
Hay and Straw	6	8
Chaff	7	10
Pig Feed	8	12

† These commodities are subject to the Tariff for "Smalls," and, when consigned in lots up to 3 cwt., the charges are slightly higher than *pro rata* of the tonnage rates.

• A railway between Kerang and Koondrook, owned and worked by the municipality of the Shire of Kerang, is open for general traffic. This railway, which has a 5 ft. 3 in. gauge, is 13 miles 75 chains in length, and, up to the end of 1923, cost £37,144 for construction and equipment. For the year 1923 the gross receipts were £9,554, and the working expenses, £7,865. The train mileage for the same year was 10,066, the number of passengers was 18,539, and the tonnage of goods and live stock carried was 31,752.

Municipal
railway.

Private railway.

Another railway in Victoria, not belonging to the State system, is one of 3-ft. gauge and 12 miles in length between Yarra Junction and Powelltown. It was constructed principally for private use, but, in addition to serving its immediate purpose, it is engaged in the general business of transportation of passengers and goods. Up to 30th June, 1924, the cost of construction was £62,727, and for the year ended on the same date the receipts and working expenses (exclusive of depreciation and interest on capital) were £15,040 and £9,808 respectively. The above construction cost includes the cost of about 8 miles of steel tramway continuation beyond Powelltown. This tramway is used for haulage of the logs of the company to which the line belongs and of sawn timber of other sawmillers, but not for passenger traffic. The freights on the extension line are included in the above receipts. The train mileage for the year between Powelltown and Yarra Junction was 23,500, and the passengers carried numbered 39,000.

Fares on Victorian railways.

A summary of passenger fares, operative on 1st October, 1924, has been obtained from the Railway Department, and is given below.

VICTORIAN RAILWAY PASSENGER FARES.

Distance.	Single.		Return.*	
	1st Class.	2nd Class.	1st Class Holiday Excursion.	2nd Class Holiday Excursion.
Miles.	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
50	9 9	6 6	16 3	10 10
100	18 11	12 7	31 7	21 1
150	28 0	18 8	46 11	31 3
200	37 9	25 2	63 2	42 1
250	47 2	31 6	78 9	52 6
300	52 9	35 2	88 3	58 9
350	58 5	38 11	97 4	64 11

* Tickets issued only at week-ends and on dates specially advertised.

Cheap excursion tickets, at the rate of 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per mile for first class return and 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per mile for second class return, are issued to and from Melbourne and the various country stations as may be advertised from time to time.

From the 15th October to the 30th April each year return tourist tickets are issued to various holiday resorts from all stations throughout Victoria at holiday excursion fares, and are available for two months from date of issue.

TRAMWAYS.

The various tramway systems in the State comprise 45·576 miles of cable lines, double track, and 101·283 miles of electric lines, of which 59·784 miles are double, and 41·499 miles single track.

The electric street tramways, St. Kilda to Brighton and Sandringham to Black Rock, under the management of the Victorian Railways Commissioners, are not referred to in this connexion, being included under the heading "Railways," page 434.

The subjoined table contains particulars relating to all tramways in Victoria (with the above exceptions) for each of the last five years:—

VICTORIAN TRAMWAYS, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

(Exclusive of St. Kilda-Brighton and Sandringham-Black Rock Electric Street Tramways).

Financial Year.	Miles of Track Open.		Tram Mileage.	Number of Passengers carried.	Traffic Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Number of Rolling-stock.	Number of Persons employed.
	Double.	Single.						
1919-20	100·46	40·188	20,368,507	204,807,815	£ 1,572,176	£ 1,099,272	1,392	4,193
1920-21	99·46	40·188	21,494,747	221,908,333	1,730,521	1,305,727	1,426	4,417
1921-22	100·016	44·148	22,369,483	226,738,318	1,943,805	1,472,296	1,470	4,586
1922-23	105·791	41·340	22,775,563	234,588,628	1,999,633	1,492,031	1,465	5,070
1923-24	105·360	41·499	22,948,267	229,771,075	1,956,904	1,641,339	1,502	5,887

On 7th January, 1919, the Royal Assent was given to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act, which is administered by a Board consisting of seven members appointed by the Governor in Council. The Chairman holds office for a period of five years and the remaining members for a period of three years. The Board assumed control of the Melbourne Cable Tramways and the Royal Park Horse Tramway on 1st November, 1919. Information in regard to the control of these tramways prior to that date is given in the *Year-Book* for 1918-19, page 569.

On 2nd February, 1920, the Electric Tramway systems of the following Trusts were vested in the Board:—Prahran and Malvern Tramways; Hawthorn Tramways; Melbourne, Brunswick and Coburg Tramways; Fitzroy, Northcote and Preston Tramways; and Footscray Tramways; also the Cable Tramway of the Northcote Council. The Essendon Electric Tramways were taken over on 1st August, 1922.

The Board is empowered to borrow up to £3,000,000 by the issue of stock or debentures secured upon its revenues and undertakings, this being in addition to the transferred liabilities attaching to the tramways vested in it. Power is given to have an overdraft not exceeding £200,000. The Board has exercised its power to borrow to the extent of £500,000.

The Board has prepared a general scheme for the future development of tramways in the metropolis, which has been approved by the Railways Standing Committee. The scheme includes provision for the construction of about 100 single track miles of electric tramway, but, before the Board can actually construct any of such tramways, a "Special construction scheme" dealing with the proposed route must be approved by the Railways Standing Committee and authorized by Parliament. Authority has, however, been given to the Board to construct certain tramways already approved by the Governor in Council or Parliament, without further formality.

The Act provides that the Board shall pay to the Consolidated Revenue each year a sum equivalent to the Government's contributions to the Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital, the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, and certain specified municipalities pursuant to the *Licensing Act* 1916. (The payments under this obligation for the year ended 30th June, 1924, amounted to about £93,000.) The surplus on the operations of any year, after transferring not less than 4 per cent. nor more than 6 per cent. of the capital cost of the undertaking to Reserve Funds and carrying to the credit of the succeeding year such sum, not exceeding £10,000, as the Board thinks fit, is to be distributed amongst 28 constituent Metropolitan Councils in accordance with a scheme of distribution to be adopted by the Board. Any sum received by a municipality in pursuance of this arrangement is to be applied only to such purposes as the Governor in Council shall approve. No distribution to the Municipalities has been made since 30th June, 1920.

Pursuant to the *Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act* 1923, municipal councils may require the Board to submit a special construction scheme to the Railways Standing Committee dealing with any route included in the general scheme. In the event of such route being approved by the Committee, and its construction being authorized by Parliament, the Board shall construct the line under a guarantee against loss on operation from the council or councils concerned for a period of five years. The council or councils shall pay each year from the Municipal fund any losses in respect of which a guarantee has been given, and a council may, if not forbidden by the ratepayers, recoup itself by the levy of a "tramway betterment rate" over the whole or a portion of the district served.

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN TRAMWAYS, 1923-24.

Tramway.	Miles of Track Open—		Tram Mileage.	Number of Passengers Carried.	Traffic Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Number of Rolling Stock.	Number of Persons Employed.
	Double.	Single.						
Cable—					£	£		
Melbourne	43·353	..	14,313,362	142,584,879	1,146,449	956,907	1,159	3,200
Northcote	2·223	..	400,491	5,165,407	37,351	33,289	30	92
Horse (now closed) ..	..	..	3,066	50,220	• 209	373	..	..
Total Cable and Horse ..	45·576	..	14,716,919	147,800,506	1,184,009	990,569	1,189	3,292
Electric—								
Prahran and Malvern ..	34·361	1·397	4,029,338	45,345,880	407,423	325,642	132	1,054
Hawthorn	6·826	4·351	1,085,212	10,591,100	115,330	87,707	44	304
Coburg	5·744	1·770	884,721	7,333,615	67,955	59,795	26	228
Preston	1·947	3·925	413,151	2,830,421	26,320	27,924	10	85
Footscray	1·590	2·877	278,930	3,042,407	24,832	24,334	9	142
Essendon	3·921	3·481	576,614	4,948,141	44,419	51,025	23	279
Total Electric	54·389	17·801	7,267,966	74,091,564	686,279	576,427	244	2,092
Grand Total	99·965	17·801	21,984,885	221,892,070	1,870,288	1,566,996	1,433	5,673*

* Including 289 persons employed at Head Office, Holden-street, &c.

Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways.
The following table contains detailed particulars of the operations of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board for the year 1923-24.—

In addition to traffic receipts (£1,870,288), there was revenue from advertising, rents, &c., of £6,826 from cable tramways and £5,941 from electric tramways, making a gross revenue for the year of £1,883,055.

The gross surplus on the year's operations was £316,058. Out of this had to be paid interest on loans, rates, &c., leaving available for appropriation an amount of £158,709. As this sum was insufficient to meet the statutory payments to Consolidated Revenue and Tramway Reserves required by Acts of Parliament, the sum of £125,464 had to be transferred from the General Reserve Account to meet the deficit. After this had been done the following appropriations were made:—Consolidated Revenue, £92,998; General Reserve Account, £158,000; Fire Insurance Reserve Account, £4,000; Public Risk Insurance Reserve Account, £5,000; and Loans Redemption and Sinking Fund Accounts, £24,175.

Up to 30th June, 1924, the capital cost of the tramways vested in the Tramways Board, including stores on hand, amounted to £5,102,982, of which £2,393,655 was expended on cable and £2,709,327 on electric tramways.

In the next statement interesting comparisons are made between the cable and electric systems, the receipts per mile, the cost of working, &c., being shown for the year 1923-24:—

System.	Average Traffic Receipts.			Percentage of Working Expenses to Total Revenue.	Working Expenses per Tram Mile including Power Cost.	Average Distance per Penny.
	Per Tram Mile.	Per Mile of Single Track.	Per Passenger.			
	d.	£	d.		d.	Miles.
Cable ..	19·309	12,989	1·923	83·18	16·154	1·44
Electric ..	22·662	5,422	2·22	83·27	19·034	1·136

**Metropolitan
Tramways
Traffic, last
five years.**

Particulars in relation to the traffic of the metropolitan tramways for each of the last five years are given in the following statement :—

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN TRAMWAYS, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Financial Year.	Miles of Track Open.		Tram Mileage.	Number of Passengers carried.	Traffic Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Number of Rolling- stock.	Number of Persons employed.
	Double.	Single.						
1919-20	95·475	17·31	19,253,929	197,708,685	£ 1,501,381	£ 1,050,707	1,815	3,997
1920-21	95·475	17·31	20,333,033	213,872,064	1,648,058	1,246,973	1,358	4,228
1921-22	96·021	21·26	21,208,879	218,450,712	1,857,469	1,406,127	1,402	4,399
1922-23	100·396	17·642	21,584,652	226,631,546	1,911,278	1,427,955	1,397	4,875
1923-24	99·965	17·801	21,984,885	221,892,070	1,870,288	1,566,996	1,433	5,673

* Including employees at Head Office, Holden-street, &c.

**Country
Tramways.** The towns, other than the metropolis, having tramway systems are :—Ballarat, with 13·85 miles of electric lines (1·425 double and 12·425 single track); Bendigo, with 8·113 miles of electric lines (1·8 double and 6·313 single track); and Geelong, with 7·13 miles of electric lines (2·17 double and 4·96 single track).

The traffic particulars of these lines for each of the last five years are summarized below :—

COUNTRY TRAMWAYS, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Financial Year.	Miles of Track.		Tram Mileage.	Number of Passengers carried.	Traffic Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Number of Rolling- stock.	Number of Persons employed.
	Double.	Single.						
1919-20	4·985	22·878	1,114,578	7,099,130	£ 70,795	£ 48,565	77	196
1920-21	3·985	22·878	1,161,714	8,036,269	82,463	58,754	68	189
1921-22	3·995	22·888	1,160,604	8,287,606	86,336	66,169	68	187
1922-23	5·395	23·698	1,190,911	7,957,082	88,355	64,076	68	195
1923-24	5·395	23·698	963,382	7,879,005	86,616	74,343	69	214

LICENSED VEHICLES.

Licensed vehicles in Melbourne. The licensing of vehicles plying, kept, or let out for hire within the city of Melbourne or for a distance of 8 miles beyond the city boundaries is controlled by the Melbourne City Council. The appended statement contains details of vehicles and drivers licensed annually during the last five years:—

LICENSED VEHICLES IN MELBOURNE, 1919 TO 1923.

	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
<i>For Passenger Traffic.</i>					
Cabs, Drags (4 wheel)	464	472	470	423	391
„ (Hansoms)	166	165	157	135	114
Tram Cars	458	—	—	—	—
„ Dummies	447	—	—	—	—
Motor Cars	337	401	480	483	644
„ Omnibuses .. ..	..	..	..	3	19
„ Chars-a-bancs	24	23	37	60	109
Total	1,896	1,061	1,144	1,104	1,277
<i>For Conveyance of Goods.</i>					
Drivers licensed	2,911	3,151	3,253	3,322	3,257

NOTE.—Tram cars and dummies under the control of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board have not since 1919 been included in the vehicles which require to be licensed.

Motor vehicles licensed. The Melbourne City Council issues only one kind of licence for all motor vehicles plying for hire. In the above table motor cars embrace all motor vehicles registered with a seating capacity of under 12 seats. The particulars of all motor vehicles licensed for hire for the period 1st January to 31st July, 1924, are as follows:—943 motor vehicles with a seating capacity of 8,478 seats, of which 195 vehicles had a seating capacity of 12 seats and over, and 748 of under 12 seats. Information regarding passenger traffic of motor vehicles is not readily available. It is expected, however, that legislation which has recently been passed (Act No. 3378, assented to on 30th December, 1924) will have the effect of considerably increasing the facilities for obtaining this information.

Motor vehicle Registrations. The use of motor cars and motor cycles in Victoria is regulated by Act No. 2702, under the provisions of which every motor car and motor cycle must be registered with the Chief Commissioner of Police, and the registration renewed annually. On

31st December, 1923, the number of motor cars registered was 44,462, on which fees were payable at the following annual rates:—336 at six guineas each, 3,732 at five guineas each, 30,015 at four guineas each, 7,709 at three guineas each, 2,506 at two guineas each, and 164 at one guinea each. On the same date, 15,504 motor cycles, which are subject to an annual fee of 5s. each, and 291 traction engines were registered. No person may drive a motor car or motor cycle upon any public highway without having been licensed for that purpose. On 31st December, 1923, the number of drivers of motor cars and motor cycles licensed by the Chief Commissioner was 65,518. There were also 116 dealers registered. The revenue received during 1923 from motor vehicle registrations, &c., was £184,730, and from drivers' and riders' licences, £8,190.
