

PART VI.—ACCUMULATION.

Coins and
accounts.

637. The coins in circulation in Victoria are in all respects the same as those used in the United Kingdom. The accounts are kept in sterling money (£ s. d.).

Royal Mint.

638. A branch of the Royal Mint was established in Melbourne in 1872. The premises occupy 2 acres 1 rood and 26 perches of land, valued in October 1880 at £8,500 ; the original cost of the buildings, machinery, fittings, and furniture, was £68,350.*

Gold
received at
Mint.

639. From the time of the opening of the Mint to the end of 1880, 4,144,376 ounces of gold were received thereat, valued at £16,557,148. The following table shows the quantity and value of the gold received in each year :—

GOLD RECEIVED AT THE MELBOURNE MINT, 1872 TO 1880.

Year.			Quantity.	Value.
			Ounces.	£
1872	...	...	190,738	764,917
1873	...	...	221,870	887,127
1874	...	...	335,318	1,349,102
1875	...	...	489,732	1,947,713
1876	...	...	543,199	2,149,481
1877	...	...	378,310	1,491,819
1878	...	...	569,932	2,267,431
1879	...	...	656,556	2,637,738
1880	...	...	758,721	3,061,820
Total	...	...	4,144,376	16,557,148

Gold
received,
1880.

640. It will be observed that much more gold was received in 1880 than in any previous year. The quantity exceeded by 102,165 ounces that in 1879, by 188,789 ounces that in 1878, and by 380,411 ounces that in 1877.

Gold issued
from Mint.

641. Gold is issued from the Mint as coin or as bullion. The former, with the exception of 165,000 half-sovereigns in 1873, and 80,000 in 1877, has consisted entirely of sovereigns. The following is a statement of the gold issued in each year, whether in the shape of coin or bullion :—

* See Amended Return to an order of the Legislative Assembly, Parliamentary Paper C.—No. 4*, Session 1880.

GOLD ISSUED AT MELBOURNE MINT, 1872 TO 1880.

Year.	Coin.		Bullion.		Total Value of Coin and Bullion.
	Sovereigns.	Half-sovereigns.	Quantity.	Value.	
	Number.	Number.	Ounces.	£	
1872	748,000	...	1,205	3,610	751,610
1873	752,000	165,000	3,106	11,035	845,535
1874	1,373,000	...	2,912	10,417	1,383,417
1875	1,888,000	...	3,553	13,857	1,901,857
1876	2,124,000	...	3,625	14,145	2,138,145
1877	1,487,000	80,000	3,326	13,004	1,540,004
1878	2,171,000	...	3,691	14,640	2,185,640
1879	2,740,000	...	1,740	6,830	2,746,830
1880	3,052,800	...	1,861	7,219	3,060,019
Total ...	16,335,800	245,000	25,019	94,757	16,553,057

642. It will be noticed that the coined gold issued in 1880 was more by nearly a third of a million sterling than in any previous year, but the value of bullion issued, although slightly greater than in 1879, was much less than in any other year since 1872. Gold issued, 1880.

643. Over a series of years the amount of gold issued from the Mint very nearly balances with that received thereat, so that the loss attendant upon the Mint operations must be but trifling. By comparing the figures in the total lines of the last two tables, it will be found that the value of the gold issued during the period the Mint has been in existence was less by only £4,091 than the value of the gold received. Difference of gold received and issued.

644. Since the establishment of the Mint in 1872, the value of gold coin exported from Victoria has amounted to £15,674,218, or less by only £784,082 than the total value of such coin issued from the Mint. The destination and value of the gold coin exported in 1880 were as follow :— Exports of gold coin.

EXPORTS OF GOLD COIN, 1880.

	£
United Kingdom	1,283,245
Ceylon	1,092,365*
New South Wales	25,000
New Zealand	58,000
South Australia	290,000
Tasmania	171,000
Total	2,919,610

645. About three-fourths of the gold received at the Mint was raised in Victoria, and nearly a fifth came from New Zealand. The bulk Victorian and other goldminted.

* The coin exported to Ceylon is probably, for the most part, intended for England, as exports by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamers are entered for Ceylon and there transhipped.

of the remainder was contributed by the other Australasian colonies, and a small quantity by Natal. The following were the quantities from these countries respectively prior to and during 1880 :—

VICTORIAN AND OTHER GOLD RECEIVED AT MELBOURNE MINT,
1872 TO 1880.

Colony in which the Gold was raised.	Gold Received.		
	Prior to 1880.	During 1880.	Total.
	Ounces.	Ounces.	Ounces.
Victoria	2,519,308	587,015	3,106,323
New South Wales	2,987	747	3,734
Queensland	1,599	...	1,599
South Australia	68,181	12,638	80,819
Tasmania	75,596	42,309	117,905
New Zealand	698,060	113,207	811,267
Natal	1,363	...	1,363
Unknown	18,561	2,804	21,365
Total	3,385,655	758,720	4,144,375

646. Gold deposited at the Mint is subject to a charge of $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per ounce on the gross weight before melting if the deposit contains 1,000 ounces of standard gold or over ; and of 2d. per ounce if the deposit contains less than 1,000 ounces—the minimum charge on any deposit being four shillings.

647. Any silver in a deposit in excess of 4 per cent. of the weight of the deposit after melting is allowed for at a rate per ounce to be fixed from time to time by the Deputy Master. A reduction of a sixth of the charges is made on deposits containing more than 24 ounces of *unrefinable* gold, or gold containing silver in less proportion than $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and base metal in less proportion than 2 per cent. of the weight of the deposit after melting.

648. By the Victorian Mint Act (31 Vict., No. 307) it is provided that the sum of £20,000 shall be paid annually to the Mint from the Consolidated Revenue, but in the following table, which shows the Mint revenue and expenditure in each of the seven financial years ended with 1879-80, and the excess of the latter over the former, the net results alone are given, the amount of subsidy returned to the Treasury each year being omitted from both sides of the account. During the period to which the table relates the expenditure exceeded the receipts by 66 per cent., and the establishment was worked at an apparent loss to the country of £35,000 :—

Mint charges.

Mint allowances.

Mint receipts and expenditure.

MINT REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1873-4 TO 1879-80.

Year.	Mint Receipts.	Mint Expenditure.	Excess of Expenditure over Receipts.*	
			Amount.	Percentage.
	£	£	£	£
1873-4 ...	4,799	4,972	173	3·60
1874-5 ...	7,504	15,701	8,197	109·24
1875-6 ...	7,659	9,305	1,646	21·49
1876-7 ...	7,512	11,229	3,717	49·48
1877-8 ...	7,247	19,553	12,306	169·81
1878-9 ...	7,906	13,376	5,470	69·19
1879-80 ...	10,158	13,650	3,492	34·38
Total ...	52,785	87,786	35,001	66·31

649. According to the returns of 1880, the expenditure does not exceed the revenue by so large a proportion in the Sydney as in the Melbourne Mint, whilst the proportion of excess in the London Mint was much lower than in either, notwithstanding that its expenditure was swelled by a loss, amounting to £58,696, caused by exchanging new silver coin for that which had become worn and defaced. Had it not been for this, the expenditure would have amounted to only £39,611, or £51,037 less than the revenue of the year.† The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure, and difference between those items, in the three Mints during the past year:—

Mint receipts, &c., Melbourne, Sydney, and London.

MELBOURNE, SYDNEY, AND LONDON MINTS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1880.

Locality of Mint.	Mint Receipts.	Mint Expenditure.	Excess of Expenditure over Receipts.	
			Amount.	Percentage.
	£	£	£	£
Melbourne ...	10,158	13,650	3,492	34·38
Sydney ...	10,213	12,911	2,698	26·42
London ...	90,648	98,307	7,659	8·45

650. The Sydney Branch of the Royal Mint was established in 1855, and from that date to the end of 1880, 12,392,219 ounces of gold were received thereat, of which it is believed that 6,306,960 ounces, or more than half, were raised in the colony of New South Wales. In the same period 43,332,500 sovereigns, 4,227,000 half-sovereigns, and bullion to

Sydney Mint, 1855 to 1880.

* As per Treasurer's Finance Statement. The fluctuations are probably due chiefly to the subsidy being returned at irregular periods.

† The profit made is by coining silver and bronze, which is not done at the Melbourne and Sydney Mints.

the value of £1,961,544, were issued from this branch, the whole being valued at £47,407,544.

Sydney Mint,
1880.

651. The quantity of gold received at the Sydney Mint during 1880 was 406,292 ounces, valued at £1,487,679, more than half of which came from Queensland, over a fourth from New South Wales, and small quantities from New Zealand, South Australia, and Tasmania. The total value of coin and bullion issued in that year amounted to £1,499,649, consisting of 1,459,000 sovereigns, 80,000 half-sovereigns, and gold bullion valued at £649. The value of coin and bullion issued was less by nearly a million and a third sterling in 1879, and by over a million and a half sterling in 1880, than that issued from the Melbourne Mint in those years.

London Mint.

652. Only gold coins are issued from the Melbourne and Sydney Mints, the silver and bronze coinage required by the colonies being obtained from England. Besides gold, silver, and bronze British money, silver and bronze coins of various denominations are struck at the Royal Mint, London, for several of Her Majesty's possessions. The following is the number and value of coins of all descriptions issued from that Mint in 1880 :—

COINS STRUCK AT THE LONDON MINT, 1880.

Denomination.	Number of Coins.	Nominal Value.		
		£	s.	d.
Imperial, Gold—Sovereigns	3,650,080	3,650,080	0	0
” ” Half-sovereigns	1,009,049	504,524	10	0
” Silver—Half-crowns	1,346,350	168,293	15	0
” ” Florins	2,167,170	216,717	0	0
” ” Shillings	4,842,786	242,139	6	0
” ” Sixpences	3,892,501	97,312	10	6
” ” Fourpences*	5,199	86	13	0
” ” Threepences	1,614,557	20,181	19	3
” ” Twopences*	6,247	52	1	2
” ” Pence*	11,088	46	4	0
” Bronze—Pence	3,000,831	12,503	9	3
” ” Half-pence	2,423,465	5,048	17	8½
” ” Farthings	1,842,710	1,919	9	9½
Newfoundland, Gold—Two dollars	2,500	1,041	13	4
” Silver—Fifty cents	24,000	2,500	0	0
” ” Twenty cents	30,000	1,250	0	0
” ” Ten cents	10,000	208	6	8
” ” Five cents	40,000	416	13	4
” Bronze—Cents	400,000	833	6	8
Cyprus ” Quarter piastres	72,000	100	0	0
Jamaica, Nickel—Pence	96,000	400	0	0
” ” Half-pence	192,000	400	0	0
” ” Farthings	192,000	200	0	0
Total	26,870,533	4,926,255	15	8

* Maundy money only.

653. As the Mints of Melbourne and Sydney coin no metal but gold, the silver and bronze coinage required for circulation in the Australasian colonies is supplied by the London Mint. That Mint also withdraws silver coin from the colonies after it has become worn or defaced, allowing for the same at its full nominal value. The following are the values of the coin supplied and withdrawn in the last two years :—

Silver and bronze coin supplied and withdrawn.

COIN SUPPLIED TO AND WITHDRAWN FROM THE AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES BY THE LONDON MINT, 1879 AND 1880.

Colony.	Year.	Value of Coin Supplied.			Value of Worn Silver Coin Withdrawn.
		Silver.	Bronze.	Total.	
		£	£	£	£
Victoria ...	1879	125,500	2,080	127,580	24,230
	1880	80,000	...	80,000	58,039
New South Wales ...	1879	85,000	1,000	86,000	890
	1880	25,000	...	25,000	16,574
South Australia ...	1879	30,000	2,240	32,240	...
	1880	57,000	...	57,000	...
Western Australia...	1879	5,000	400	5,400	...
	1880	...	...	...	1,200
New Zealand ...	1879	500	2,500	3,000	...
	1880	...	...	...	...
Total ...	1879	246,000	8,220	254,220	25,120
	1880	162,000	...	162,000	75,813

654. The value of gold coin issued from the Mints of seven European countries, also from those of Japan and the United States, during the latest year for which the information is available, was as follows :—

Gold coin issued in foreign countries.

GOLD COIN ISSUED FROM MINTS OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Country.	Year.	Value.
		£
Austro-Hungary ...	1880	510,240
Belgium ...	1878	2,044,320
France ...	„	7,412,724
Germany ...	1880	1,399,612
Holland ...	„	53,907
Italy ...	1878	253,811
Japan ...	1878-9	92,703
Russia ...	1878	5,475,490
United States ...	1878-9	8,538,958

655. A comparison with a former table* will show that the value of the gold coin issued annually from the Melbourne Mint exceeds that

Gold coined in Victoria and other countries.

* See table following paragraph 641 ante.

issued from the Mints of Austro-Hungary, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Italy, or Japan ; the only countries named which had a higher mintage than Victoria being France, Russia, and the United States.

Number of banks.

656. During 1880 there were 11 banks of issue in Victoria, possessing therein 318 branches or agencies. In 1875 there were 12, and in 1870, 10 banks of issue in the colony.

Rates of exchange.

657. Subjoined are the average rates of exchange for bank bills drawn on the following places in 1880, and in the first year of each of the two previous quinquenniads. Those upon London are drawn at sixty days' sight, and those upon the neighboring colonies at sight :—

RATES OF EXCHANGE, 1870, 1875, AND 1880.

Places on which Bills were drawn.	Average Rates of Exchange.		
	1870.	1875.	1880.
London	par to 2½ per cent. prem.	½ to ¾ per cent. premium	¼ to ¾ per cent. premium
British India ..	2s. 1d. per rupee ..	5 per cent. premium, 2s. per rupee	4 per cent. premium and nominal
New South Wales	½ to ½ per cent. premium	2s. 9d. to ½ per cent. prem.	½ per cent. premium
Queensland ..	1 per cent. premium ..	½ to 1 per cent. premium	½ to 1 per cent. premium
South Australia ..	¼ to ½ per cent. premium	4s. 9d. to ½ per cent. prem.	¼ to ½ per cent. premium
Tasmania ..	¼ to ½ per cent. premium	¼ to ½ per cent. premium	¼ to ½ per cent. premium
New Zealand ..	½ to ¾ per cent. premium	½ to 1 per cent. premium	¼ to ½ per cent. premium

Rates of discount.

658. The average rates of discount on local bills were as follow during the same three years. It will be observed that the rates at the first and last periods were nearly equal, and that those at the middle period were much the highest :—

RATES OF DISCOUNT ON LOCAL BILLS, 1870, 1875, AND 1880.

Currency of Bills.	Average Rates of Discount per Annum.		
	1870.	1875.	1880.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Under 65 days	6 to 7	7 to 8	6 to 8
65 to 95 „	6 to 8	8 to 9	6 to 8
95 to 125 „	7 to 9	9 to 10	7 to 9
Over 125 „	8 to 10	9 to 10	7 to 9½

Liabilities, assets, &c., of banks.

659. The position of the banks as regards liabilities, assets, capital, and profits, according to the sworn returns for the last quarter of the same three years, was as follows :—

FINANCIAL POSITION OF BANKS, 1870, 1875, AND 1880.

LIABILITIES.			
	1870.	1875.	1880.
	£	£	£
Notes in circulation	1,212,793	1,382,612	1,236,046
Bills in circulation	112,656	74,262	50,987
Balances due to other banks ...	133,096	291,330	228,776
Deposits not bearing interest ...	3,076,935	4,733,003	5,735,029
Deposits bearing interest ...	7,822,091	9,001,965	12,237,674
Total	12,357,571	15,483,172	19,488,512
ASSETS.			
	£	£	£
Coined gold, silver, and other metals	1,773,958	2,660,087	3,408,961
Gold and silver in bullion and bars	621,079	461,538	445,674
Landed property	616,038	744,866	865,488
Notes and bills of other banks ...	150,244	196,015	120,989
Balances due from other banks	230,178	364,628	404,690
Debts due to the banks* ...	13,474,908	17,852,348	18,039,020
Total	16,866,405	22,279,482	23,284,822
CAPITAL AND PROFITS.			
	£	£	£
Capital stock paid up	8,305,224	8,572,120	9,126,250
Average per annum of rates of last dividend declared by banks	9 $\frac{2}{10}$ per cent.	10 $\frac{5}{8}$ per cent.	9 $\frac{17}{32}$ per cent.
Average rate of interest per annum paid to shareholders	10·054 per cent.	12·115 per cent.	10·391 per cent.
Amount of last dividend declared	417,500	519,250	474,140
Amount of reserved profits after declaring dividend	2,127,770	2,592,808	2,714,730

660. It will be observed that the total liabilities show a large increase at each successive period as compared with the previous one, as also do the total assets between the first and second period, but only a slight one between the second and last. Under the former head the deposits, especially those bearing interest, increased steadily throughout, but the note circulation and the balances due to other banks were lower at the last than at the middle period, and the amount of bills in circulation decreased steadily from period to period. Under the head of "Assets," coin, landed property, balances due from other banks and debts due to the banks have increased at each successive period, but the other items show smaller figures at the last period than at either

Liabilities, assets, &c., compared at three periods.

* Including notes, bills of exchange, and all stock and funded debts of every description, except notes, bills, and balances due to the banks from other banks.

of the former ones. The capital and reserve were greater at the last than at the middle period by £676,000, or 6 per cent., and than at the first period by £1,400,000, or 13 per cent.

Percentage
of items of
liabilities
and assets.

661. The following table shows the proportion of each item of the liabilities to the total liabilities, and of each item of the assets to the total assets, of the banks at the same periods :—

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS OF BANKS.—PERCENTAGE OF ITEMS.

LIABILITIES.			
	1870.	1875.	1880.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Notes in circulation	9·81	8·93	6·34
Bills in circulation	·91	·48	·26
Balances due to other banks ...	1·08	1·88	1·17
Deposits not bearing interest ...	24·90	30·57	29·43
Deposits bearing interest ...	63·30	58·14	62·80
Total	100·00	100·00	100·00

ASSETS.			
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Coined gold, silver, and other metals	10·52	11·94	14·64
Gold and silver in bullion or bars	3·68	2·07	1·91
Landed property	3·65	3·35	3·72
Notes and bills of other banks ...	·90	·88	·52
Balances due from other banks...	1·36	1·63	1·74
Debts due to the banks ...	79·89	80·13	77·47
Total	100·00	100·00	100·00

Analysis of
bank re-
turns.

662. The following results are arrived at by analysing the bank returns at the three periods :—

The liabilities amounted to ...	{	73·27 per cent. of the assets in 1870	
		69·49 " " 1875	
		83·70 " " 1880	
Coin and bullion formed ...	{	14·20 per cent. of the assets in 1870	
		14·01 " " 1875	
		16·55 " " 1880	
The paid-up capital was equal to	{	49·24 per cent. of the assets in 1870	
		38·47 " " 1875	
		39·19 " " 1880	
	{	67·20 per cent. of the liabilities in 1870	
		55·36 " " 1875	
		46·83 " " 1880	
Of the moneys deposited ...	{	71·77 per cent. bore interest in 1870	
		65·54 " " 1875	
		68·09 " " 1880	

663. It will be observed that in 1880 the liabilities bore a larger proportion to the assets, but the latter embraced a slightly larger proportion of coin and bullion, whilst the paid-up capital bore a much smaller proportion to the liabilities than at either of the former periods ; also that at the last period the proportion of the moneys deposited which bore interest was less than at the first, but greater than at the middle period.

Former periods and 1880 compared.

664. The rates of interest allowed on moneys deposited with the Victorian banks were not returned for 1870. The rates on deposits left for a period of twelve months ranged from 5 to 6 per cent. in 1875 to between 4 and 6 per cent. in 1880.

Rates of interest on bank deposits.

665. The Government moneys in the hands of the various banks standing to the credit of the public account, and the proportion they bore to the whole amounts on deposit, were as follow at the end of each of the last seven years. It will be observed that the amounts were much greater in 1880 than in any other year shown, except 1876 :—

Government funds with the banks.

GOVERNMENT FUNDS IN THE HANDS OF THE BANKS, 1874 TO 1880.

On the 31st December.	Government Moneys.	
	Total Amount held by the Banks.	Percentage of all Moneys on Deposit.
	£	
1874	1,348,048	10·84
1875	677,445	4·93
1876	1,956,619	13·18
1877	1,148,176	6·96
1878	422,211	2·62
1879	1,120,809	6·82
1880	1,953,241*	10·87

666. The particulars contained in the following table, respecting the assets and liabilities of the banks in each of the Australasian colonies at the end of the first quarter of the present year, have, in the absence of official information, been taken from the *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record*,† 10th June 1881. The care habitually exercised by the proprietors and writers of this publication to procure accurate information, and state it correctly, leaves no reason for doubt as to the substantial reliability of the figures :—

Banks in Australasian colonies, 1881.

* This is the amount as per bank sheets. The Treasurer's cash book shows only £1,937,947.

† See *Insurance and Banking Record* for June 1881, page 213. Melbourne: McCarron, Bird, and Co., 37 Flinders lane west.

BANKS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1881.

(Compiled from the Averages of the Quarter ended 31st March 1881.)

Colony.	Number of Banks.	Liabilities.				
		Notes in Circulation.	Bills in Circulation.	Balances due to other Banks.	Deposits.	Total.
		£	£	£	£	£
Victoria ...	11	1,328,133	83,654	235,965	20,364,981	22,012,733
New South Wales	12	1,304,007	54,607	335,062	18,766,733	20,460,409
Queensland ...	6	334,838	14,387	312,035	3,397,122	4,058,382
South Australia	8	535,588	25,147	69,776	4,536,525	5,167,036
Western Australia	3	22,020	773	15,797	325,994	364,584
Tasmania ...	5	130,441	4,082	13,846	2,248,318	2,396,687
New Zealand ...	6	938,604	74,590	27,456	9,293,497	10,334,147
Total ...	51	4,593,631	257,240	1,009,937	58,933,170	64,793,978

Colony.	Assets.				
	Coin and Bullion.	Landed Property.	Balances due from, and Notes and Bills of, other Banks.	All Debts due to the Banks.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
Victoria ...	3,942,957	869,023	886,218	18,215,706	23,913,904
New South Wales	3,703,823	557,656	3,874,102*	17,219,232	25,354,813
Queensland ...	1,094,393	205,130	196,749	4,041,370	5,537,642
South Australia	986,381	283,188	368,201	5,547,730	7,185,500
Western Australia	116,994	12,275	10,022	417,332	556,623
Tasmania ...	474,832	40,477	173,756	1,596,227	2,285,292
New Zealand ...	2,100,368	349,071	74,304	11,504,862	14,028,605
Total ...	12,419,748	2,316,820	5,583,352	58,542,459	78,862,379

667. It will be noticed that the liabilities of the Victorian banks exceed those of any other colony, as also would the assets, were it not that in New South Wales—the only colony in which the bank assets exceed those of Victoria—they include the large amount of £3,874,102 as due from other banks, which, in addition to sums due from independent institutions, no doubt embraces capital lent to their own branches outside the colony, the latter being an item which is not considered as forming part of the assets of the banks in the other colonies.

668. In Tasmania the liabilities of the banks exceed the assets, but in all the other colonies the latter are in excess of the former. In Victoria, however, the liabilities amount to 92 per cent. of the assets, which is a higher proportion than obtains in any of the other colonies

* This amount probably includes capital lent by the New South Wales banks to their own branches outside the colony.

Liabilities smaller, assets greater, in Victoria than New South Wales.

Proportion of liabilities to assets in Australasian banks.

except Tasmania. The following are the positions of the colonies in respect to the proportion the bank liabilities bear to the bank assets, the colony in which the former are least in proportion to the latter being placed first and the rest in succession, and the figures showing the percentage of liabilities to assets being placed against each colony :—

PROPORTION OF LIABILITIES TO ASSETS OF BANKS OF AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 31ST MARCH 1881.

	Per Cent.		Per Cent.
1. Western Australia	65·50	5. New South Wales ...	80·70
2. South Australia ...	71·91	6. Victoria ...	92·05
3. Queensland ...	73·29	7. Tasmania ...	104·87
4. New Zealand ...	73·67		

669. Coin and bullion bear a higher proportion to the total assets of the banks of Western Australia, and a lower one to those of South Australia, than to those of any of the other colonies. The Victorian banks stand fourth on the list, being next to those of Western Australia, Tasmania, and Queensland. The following is the order of the colonies in this respect :—

Proportion of specie to assets of Australasian banks.

PROPORTION OF COIN AND BULLION TO ASSETS OF BANKS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 31ST MARCH 1881.

	Per Cent.		Per Cent.
1. Western Australia...	21·02	5. New Zealand ...	14·97
2. Tasmania ...	20·78	6. New South Wales ...	14·61
3. Queensland ...	19·76	7. South Australia ...	13·73
4. Victoria ...	16·49		

670. The deposits given in the last table may be divided into those bearing and those not bearing interest, except in the case of Tasmania, respecting which colony the necessary information is not given. The following is the division referred to :—

Australasian banks deposits not bearing and bearing interest.

DEPOSITS IN BANKS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES * NOT BEARING AND BEARING INTEREST.

(Average during the Quarter ended 31st March 1881.)

Colony.	Amount of Deposits.		Proportion of Deposits.	
	Not Bearing Interest.	Bearing Interest.	Not Bearing Interest.	Bearing Interest.
	£	£	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Victoria ...	6,534,015	13,830,965	32·08	67·92
New South Wales ...	7,024,911	11,741,822	37·43	62·57
Queensland ...	1,259,643	2,137,479	37·08	62·92
South Australia ...	1,917,179	2,619,346	42·26	57·74
Western Australia ...	139,093	186,901	42·67	57·33
New Zealand ...	3,887,958	5,405,539	41·84	58·16

* Exclusive of Tasmania.

Proportion of interest-bearing deposits in Australasian banks.

671. It will be seen that a larger proportion of the bank deposits are interest-bearing in Victoria than in any of the other colonies, and that Queensland comes next to Victoria in this respect, whilst the proportions are lowest in South and Western Australia.

Savings Banks.

672. Two kinds of Savings Banks exist in Victoria, the ordinary Savings Banks, which were first established in 1842, and the Post Office Savings Banks, which were established in 1865. The following figures show the number of institutions, the number of depositors having accounts at the last dates of balancing in 1880, and the total and average amount of depositors' balances at such dates * :—

SAVINGS BANKS, 1880.

Description of Institution.	Number of Savings Banks.	Number of Depositors.	Depositors' Balances.	
			Total Amount.	Average per Depositor.
			£	£ s. d.
Post Office Savings Banks ...	190	53,833	756,047	13 17 2
Ordinary Savings Banks ...	12	38,281	905,362	23 13 0
Total	202	92,114	1,661,409	18 0 9

Depositors in Savings Banks.

673. The number of depositors in Savings Banks has been increasing from year to year. There was a larger amount remaining on deposit in 1880 than in any other year. The following are the figures during the last nine years :—

			Number of Depositors.		Amount remaining on Deposit.
1872	...	...	52,749	...	£1,405,738
1873	...	...	58,547	...	1,498,618
1874	...	...	64,014	...	1,617,301
1875	...	...	65,837	...	1,469,849
1876	...	...	69,027	...	1,507,235
1877	...	...	73,245	...	1,575,305
1878	...	...	76,697	...	1,510,273
1879	...	...	82,941	...	1,520,296
1880	...	...	92,114	...	1,661,409

Rate of interest in Savings Banks.

674. The highest rate of interest Savings Banks are permitted to give on moneys left on deposit is 4 per cent. This rate was allowed in all the years.

Price of debentures in London.

675. According to *Westgarth's Circular*, the following are the prices at four periods of 1880 and similar periods of 1881 of debentures payable in London :—

* The financial year of the Post Office Savings Banks terminates on the 31st December, that of the ordinary Savings Banks on the 30th June.

PRICE OF VICTORIAN DEBENTURES IN LONDON, 1880-81.

Interest.		Amount of Outstanding Debentures, 1880.	Price per £100 Bond.			
Rate per annum.	When Payable.		1880.			
			January.	March.	June.	September.
6	April and October	7,000,000	105-108	106-110	104-108	107-110
5	January and July	2,107,000	105½-6½xd.	106½-107½	107½-108½	108-110
6	" "	850,000	112-114xd.	112-114	112-114	115-117
4	" "	4,500,000	94½-95xd.	96-97	99-99½	98¼-98½
4½	" "	3,000,000	101½-2xd.	103-104	106¼-106¾	103¾-103⅝

Interest.		Amount of Outstanding Debentures, 1881.	Price per £100 Bond.			
Rate per annum.	When Payable.		1881.			
			January.	March.	June.	August.
6	April and October	7,000,000	106-109	106-109	105-109	104-108
5	January and July	2,107,000	109-111	109-111	112-114	110-112
6	" "	850,000	115-118	116-118	116-118	115-117
4	" "	4,500,000	99½-100½	100½-101	104-105	100½-101½
4½	" "	5,000,000	104½-105½	106½-107	109¾-110¼	105¼-105¾

676. The following, according to the *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record*, were the prices in Melbourne of Victorian debentures payable thereat, and of Victorian stock, at the dates named :—

Price of debentures and stock, Melbourne.

PRICE OF VICTORIAN DEBENTURES AND STOCK IN MELBOURNE, 1880-81.

Interest.		Amount of Outstanding Debt.	Closing Price.			
Rate per annum.	When Payable.		1880.			
			January.	March.	June.	September.
6	April and October	236,600	102½	102-103	103	105-106
6	" "	580,620	103-104	103½-104½	105-106	107-108
6	" "	130,000	...	...	...	...
6	" "	276,100	...	...	...	...
5	January and July	312,900	100	100	101½	103½
4	April and October	642,881*	...	92-95	...	96-99

Interest.		Amount of Outstanding Debt.	Closing Price.			
Rate per annum.	When Payable.		1881.			
			January.	March.	June.	September.
6	April and October	236,600	105½-106½	106	104-105	103-105
6	" "	580,620	108-109	108	109-110	109-110
6	" "	130,000	110	110	...	...
6	" "	276,100	111	...	...	112½
5	January and July	312,900	105	...	...	110
4	April and October	642,881*	97-100	102-103	102½-104	102½-104

677. The following table contains a statement of the number and amount of mortgages on land and live stock, and of preferable liens on

Mortgages, liens, and releases.

* Government stock. The others are debentures.

wool and growing crops, effected during 1880, also the number and amount of releases registered in that year:—

MORTGAGES AND LIENS AND RELEASES, 1880.

Security.	Mortgages and Liens.		Releases.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
Land	7,648	4,825,985	4,247	2,933,618
Live stock	741	226,844	46	97,398
Wool	418	321,064	1	1,805
Crops	1,915	241,508	6	298
Total	10,722	5,615,401	4,300	3,033,119

Mortgages
and liens,
1870 to 1880.

678. The following figures show the number of registered mortgages and liens of all descriptions, and the amounts advanced in respect thereof, during each of the eleven years ended with 1880. It will be observed that a sudden increase took place in 1878, and a still further increase in 1879. In 1880, however, the transactions were 1,341 less than in 1879, and although they exceeded by 1,067 those in 1878, this difference is more than accounted for by the liens on growing crops, which were first legalized in November 1878,* and first appear in the returns for 1879. The amount advanced in 1880 was less by a million and three-quarters sterling than that in 1879, and by six hundred thousand pounds than that in 1878:—

MORTGAGES AND LIENS, 1870 TO 1880.

Number of Transactions.				Amount.	Number of Transactions.				Amount.
1870	...	4,410	...	4,203,743	1876	...	6,417	...	£5,081,387
1871	...	4,849	...	4,278,197	1877	...	6,510	...	4,706,138
1872	...	5,151	...	4,076,229	1878	...	9,655	...	6,233,752
1873	...	5,155	...	5,248,365	1879	...	12,063	...	7,358,952
1874	...	5,929	...	6,019,904	1880	...	10,722	...	5,615,401
1875	...	6,035	...	4,542,569					

Proportion
of releases
of mort-
gages.

679. The number of releases of mortgages on land and the amounts paid off were equal to about 55 and 61 per cent. respectively of the number of mortgages effected and the amounts lent thereon. The number of releases of live stock and crops is small as compared with the number of mortgages and liens, and of wool only one release was registered; the reason being, in regard to these descriptions of property, that, although the mortgage or lien may be paid off, the mortgagor seldom takes the trouble to protect himself by a registered release.

Live stock
and wool
mortgaged.

680. The live stock mortgaged in 1880 consisted of 500,566 sheep, 34,619 head of cattle, 2,743 horses, and 93 pigs. The fleeces on which preferable liens were granted numbered 1,617,440.

* Under Act 42 Vict., No. 618.

681. During the twenty years ended with 1880, the sums advanced on mortgage of landed property amounted in the aggregate to £65,598,480, and the sums paid off have amounted in all to £31,647,658. The balance is £33,950,822, or rather more than half the amount originally advanced. Part of this balance represents the amount of mortgages still outstanding, and part the amount in default of payment of which properties have passed from the mortgagor either by foreclosure or sale. Difference between mortgages and releases, 1861 to 1880.

682. The number of bills of sale filed, and the amount secured, also the number of those satisfied, and the amount paid off in the last seven years were as follow :— Bills of sale.

BILLS OF SALE, 1874 TO 1880.

Year.	Bills of Sale Filed.		Bills of Sale Satisfied.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
1874	3,207	727,370	251	98,492
1875	3,182	788,339	189	85,477
1876	3,330	747,717	194	56,318
1877	1,063	288,015	131	79,746
1878	1,117	348,319	76	28,710
1879	849	239,793	59	42,459
1880	752	593,857	47	25,628

683. The decrease in the number and amount of bills of sale filed since 1876 is chiefly owing to the law relating to such securities having been made more stringent under Act 40 Vict. No. 557, which came into force during 1877, as it is now necessary to give 15 days' notice to the Registrar-General previous to any bill of sale being filed, during which period any creditor can lodge a caveat against its registration. Decrease in bills of sale.

684. The contracts for sale and amount secured thereby, also the contracts for letting, and extremes within which the rent named therein generally ranged, filed with the Registrar-General under Act 40 Vict. No. 557, during the last four years, were as follow :— Contracts for sale and letting.

CONTRACTS FOR SALE AND LETTING, 1877 TO 1880.

Year.	Contracts for Sale Filed.		Contracts for Letting Filed.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Rents.
		£		Per Week.
1877	605	47,720	668	2/6 to £5
1878	1,074	83,608	1,074	2/6 to £5
1879	1,803	142,809	1,802	2/6 to £5
1880	1,828	137,959	1,829	2/6 to £5

Increase in contracts for sale and letting.

685. It would seem that contracts for sale and letting are found to be more convenient for the security of the creditor without injuring the credit of the person giving the security than bills of sale, as the former have increased three-fold during the last three years, as compared with the first year in which the Act legalizing their registration has been in operation, whilst the bills of sale have largely decreased.

Building societies.

686. Forty-seven building societies sent in returns of their operations during 1880, as against 56 in 1879, 62 in 1878, 61 in 1877, and 58 in 1876. The following are the principal items furnished for the five years. It should be observed that the returns of some of the societies were not perfect:—

BUILDING SOCIETIES, 1876 TO 1880.

—	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
Number of societies ...	58	61	62	56	47
Number of members ...	21,750	21,824	21,404	19,053	18,052
Amount advanced during the year	£870,203	£815,860	£703,932	£489,312	£564,411
Income during the year	£1,011,397	£1,182,718	£1,097,475	£1,068,116	£1,040,926
Working expenses during the year	£28,571	£31,193	£32,229	£31,321	£31,166
Assets at date of balancing	£2,750,660	£2,878,167	£2,970,101	£2,914,077	£2,804,295
Liabilities at date of balancing	£2,352,282	£2,492,890	£2,594,786	£2,345,995	£2,352,808
Moneys on deposit at date of balancing	£611,598	£748,253	£703,463	£742,542	£829,941

Advances by and income of building societies.

687. In 1880, the business done by building societies, as measured by the advances made, was rather more than in 1879, but less than in any of the previous years. The aggregate income of building societies in which the deposits received are not included, has varied but little during the quinquenniad. In 1880 it was slightly lower than in the previous three years, but not quite so low as in the first year of the period.

Working expenses of building societies.

688. The working expenses of building societies usually amount to something less than 3 per cent. of their income. The exact proportion was 2·82 per cent. in 1876; 2·64 per cent. in 1877; 2·94 per cent. in 1878; 2·93 per cent. in 1879; and 2·99 per cent. in 1880; or an average of 2·86 per cent. in all the years.

Rates of interest in building societies.

689. The rates of interest allowed by building societies on moneys left with them for a period of twelve months generally ranged in the first two years from $5\frac{1}{4}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., in the next two years from 6 to 8 per cent., and in the last year from 5 to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

690. The sums deposited with building societies at the end of 1880 amounted in the aggregate to £830,000. They exceeded by 12 per cent. the amounts on deposit at the end of 1879. Deposits with building societies.

691. The following is a statement of the total amount of moneys on deposit at or about the end of each of the four last years, with banks of issue, savings banks, and building societies. Other institutions, such as deposit banks, and some of the insurance companies, also receive deposits, but of these no returns are furnished:— Total moneys on deposit.

MONEYS ON DEPOSIT AT END OF YEARS 1876 TO 1880.

Amount deposited with—	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
	£	£	£	£	£
Banks	14,850,148	16,503,528	16,106,581	16,326,165	17,972,703
Savings banks ...	1,507,235	1,575,305	1,510,273	1,520,296	1,661,409
Building societies	611,598	748,253	703,463	742,542	829,941
Total	16,968,981	18,827,086	18,320,317	18,589,003	20,464,053

692. It will be observed that the moneys known to be on deposit about the close of the last year amounted in the aggregate to nearly twenty and a half millions sterling. Moneys on deposit, 1880.

PART VII.—LAW, CRIME, ETC.

693. The system whereby persons acquiring possession of land, either by transfer, inheritance, or other means, may receive a title thereto direct from the Crown, was first introduced into Victoria in the year 1862, and continues in force to the present period. Transfer of Land Statute.

694. All lands alienated from the Crown since the introduction of the system have come at once under its provisions; and lands alienated prior to its inauguration can be brought under them, provided a clear title be produced, or a title containing only a slight imperfection. In the latter case the title is given subject to such imperfection, which is noted on the deed. Lands under the Statute.

695. The assurance and indemnity fund established under the Transfer of Land Statute to secure the Government against possible losses is formed chiefly by the payment of an amount equal to one halfpenny in the pound of the value of all lands which become subject to its operation. The balance to the credit of this fund on the 30th June 1881 was £66,503, of which £50,000 had been invested in Government Assurance fund.