

given. The verdict "natural causes," was returned in 47 per cent. of the cases. In the ten years prior to the year under review, the proportion of verdicts in which death was found to have resulted from natural causes was less than 45 per cent. of the whole. The practice of holding inquests in cases of other than violent deaths is therefore increasing. Of the deaths set down to external causes in the year under review, 576 were found to have occurred from accident, 9 from homicide, 102 from suicide, and 60 from doubtful causes.

325. Fifteen fire inquests were held during the year, as against 10 in the previous year. Inquests are not held upon all the fires which occur, but only upon such as appear to require investigation at the discretion of the coroner in whose district they occur. The practice of holding fire inquests is not so common now as formerly. In the last five years the average has been 23 per annum. In the previous quinquenniad the yearly average was 124. In 7 of the inquests held in 1874, or about half, the verdict was to the effect that the fire had been occasioned purposely.

Fire in-
quests.

PART V.—INTERCHANGE.

326. The weights and measures used in Victoria are in every respect similar to those in use in the United Kingdom.

Weights and
measures.

327. The declared values of Victorian imports and exports in 1874, their sum being the total value of external trade, and their difference being the excess in favor of imports, were as follow :—

Imports and
exports,
1874.

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| Value of imports, 1874 | ... | ... | ... | £16,953,985 |
| „ exports, „ | ... | ... | ... | 15,441,109 |
| Total trade | ... | ... | ... | £32,395,094 |
| Excess of imports over exports | ... | ... | ... | £1,512,876 |

328. The imports exceeded those in the previous year by £420,129, and the exports exceeded those in the previous year by £138,655. The total excess of external trade over that in 1873 was thus £558,784.

Imports and
exports,
1873 and
1874,
compared.

329. A statement of the value of imports and exports during each year will be found in the folding sheet at the commencement of this work. A reference to this statement will show that the imports in 1874 have been exceeded in two years only since the first settlement of the colony, viz., in 1854 by £705,066, and in 1857 by £302,224 ; that the

Imports and
exports,
1874,
compared
with former
years.

exports also have been exceeded in two years only, viz., in 1856 by £48,651, and in 1868 by £152,881.

330. The following table shows the value of imports, exports, and external trade per head of the mean population during each year since Victoria has been an independent colony. It will be observed that only a very slight difference occurs between the values in the year under review and the previous one, and that the sum of the imports and exports in each of those two years was greater than it was in any one of the four years immediately preceding them :—

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS PER HEAD, 1851 TO 1874.

| Year. | Estimated Mean Population. | Value per Head of the Population of— | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----|----|----------|----|----|-------|----|----|
| | | Imports. | | | Exports. | | | Both. | | |
| | | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
| 1851 | 86,825 | 12 | 3 | 4 | 16 | 7 | 9 | 28 | 11 | 1 |
| 1852 | 132,905 | 30 | 12 | 5 | 56 | 1 | 4 | 86 | 13 | 9 |
| 1853 | 195,378 | 81 | 1 | 9 | 56 | 12 | 4 | 137 | 14 | 1 |
| 1854 | 267,371 | 66 | 0 | 11 | 44 | 0 | 10 | 110 | 1 | 9 |
| 1855 | 338,315 | 35 | 9 | 10 | 39 | 17 | 8 | 75 | 7 | 6 |
| 1856 | 380,942 | 39 | 5 | 6 | 40 | 13 | 3 | 79 | 18 | 9 |
| 1857 | 430,347 | 40 | 2 | 0 | 35 | 0 | 10 | 75 | 2 | 10 |
| 1858 | 483,827 | 31 | 4 | 6 | 28 | 18 | 3 | 60 | 2 | 9 |
| 1859 | 517,226 | 30 | 4 | 1 | 26 | 16 | 3 | 57 | 0 | 4 |
| 1860 | 539,337 | 27 | 19 | 8 | 24 | 0 | 8 | 52 | 0 | 4 |
| 1861 | 541,012 | 25 | 0 | 3 | 25 | 11 | 3 | 50 | 11 | 6 |
| 1862 | 548,450 | 24 | 11 | 10 | 23 | 15 | 6 | 48 | 7 | 4 |
| 1863 | 561,322 | 25 | 3 | 0 | 24 | 3 | 4 | 49 | 6 | 4 |
| 1864 | 589,160 | 25 | 8 | 4 | 23 | 11 | 10 | 49 | 0 | 2 |
| 1865 | 616,375 | 21 | 10 | 2 | 21 | 6 | 8 | 42 | 16 | 10 |
| 1866 | 634,077 | 23 | 5 | 11 | 20 | 6 | 7 | 43 | 12 | 6 |
| 1867 | 649,826 | 17 | 19 | 4 | 19 | 11 | 8 | 37 | 11 | 0 |
| 1868 | 671,222 | 19 | 16 | 11 | 23 | 4 | 8 | 43 | 1 | 7 |
| 1869 | 696,942 | 19 | 19 | 2 | 19 | 6 | 5 | 39 | 5 | 7 |
| 1870 | 709,839 | 17 | 10 | 11 | 17 | 11 | 4 | 35 | 2 | 3 |
| 1871 | 738,725 | 16 | 14 | 2 | 19 | 14 | 2 | 36 | 8 | 4 |
| 1872 | 760,991 | 17 | 19 | 10 | 18 | 4 | 7 | 36 | 4 | 5 |
| 1873 | 780,362 | 21 | 3 | 9 | 19 | 12 | 2 | 40 | 15 | 11 |
| 1874 | 798,688 | 21 | 4 | 7 | 19 | 6 | 8 | 40 | 11 | 3 |

NOTE.—The statements of imports and exports on which this table was based will be found in the folding sheet at the commencement of the work.

331. Nearly half, according to value, of the imports are set down as the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom, and more than a third of other British possessions. Upwards of a third of the latter consists of wool from New South Wales which enters the colony at the Murray ports. Nearly three-fourths, according to value of the exports, are the produce or manufacture of Victoria. The following table shows

Imports and exports per head.

Imports and exports the produce of various countries.

the value of the produce of the United Kingdom and Foreign States imported, and of the same countries and of Victoria exported :—

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS THE PRODUCE OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

| Articles the Produce or Manufacture of— | Imports. | | Exports. | |
|---|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| | Value. | Percentage. | Value. | Percentage. |
| | £ | | £ | |
| Victoria | ... | ... | 11,352,515 | 73·52 |
| The United Kingdom ... | 7,962,642 | 46·97 | 1,258,749 | 8·15 |
| Other British Possessions | 6,006,618 | 35·43 | 2,098,358 | 13·59 |
| Foreign States... .. | 2,984,725 | 17·60 | 731,487 | 4·74 |
| Total... .. | £16,953,985 | 100·00 | 15,441,109 | 100·00 |

332. The value of imports from and exports to various countries is shown in the following table. It will be observed that nearly half the imports are from the United Kingdom, and a third from the adjacent colonies, whilst of the exports, about two-thirds are to the United Kingdom, and a fifth to the adjacent colonies :—

Trade with various countries.

IMPORTS FROM AND EXPORTS TO DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

| Countries. | Imports therefrom. | | Exports thereto. | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| | Value. | Percentage. | Value. | Percentage. |
| | £ | | £ | |
| The United Kingdom ... | 8,369,523 | 49·37 | 9,649,397 | 62·49 |
| Australasian Colonies ... | 5,496,776 | 32·42 | 3,002,924 | 19·45 |
| Other British Possessions ... | 1,380,481 | 8·14 | 2,285,360 | 14·80 |
| The United States | 517,823 | 3·05 | 486,815 | 3·15 |
| Other Foreign States ... | 1,189,382 | 7·02 | 16,613 | ·11 |
| Total | 16,953,985 | 100·00 | 15,441,109 | 100·00 |

333. The value of imports from the other Australasian colonies was, in the year under review, in excess by £2,000,000 of what it was ten years previously ; but the value of exports to those colonies was less by £1,200,000 at the later period than at the earlier. The increase of imports was almost all from New South Wales, and is mainly due to the wool brought across the Murray from Riverina. Exports, however, to New South Wales fell off by upwards of half a million sterling. Exports to South Australia and New Zealand also diminished. The following table shows the value of imports from and exports to each

Trade with the Australasian colonies.

colony in the year under review and in the first year of the two previous quinqueniads :—

IMPORTS FROM AND EXPORTS TO THE OTHER AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES,
1864, 1869, AND 1874.

| Australasian Colonies. | Imports therefrom. | | | Exports thereto. | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|------------------|-----------|------------|
| | 1864. | 1869. | 1874. | 1864. | 1869. | 1874. |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| New South Wales | 1,999,994 | 1,639,350 | 3,952,921* | 1,796,006 | 454,911 | 1,247,991* |
| Queensland ... | 2,982 | 8,635 | 59,540 | 51,184 | 13,787 | 56,389 |
| South Australia... | 906,189 | 301,921 | 197,712 | 608,119 | 266,505 | 210,433 |
| Western Australia | 305 | 1,043 | 4,098 | 27,671 | 31,240 | 63,669 |
| Tasmania ... | 374,333 | 296,146 | 294,511 | 353,991 | 359,967 | 381,580 |
| New Zealand ... | 188,413 | 1,606,996 | 987,994 | 1,376,181 | 1,023,564 | 1,042,862 |
| Total ... | 3,472,216 | 3,854,091 | 5,496,776 | 4,213,152 | 2,149,974 | 3,002,924 |

Trade at
each port.

334. Eighty per cent. of the imports are landed, and 90 per cent. of the exports are shipped, at the port of Melbourne; 12 per cent. of the imports enter at Echuca, that being the chief port on the Murray at which the wool from New South Wales is brought into the colony. Five per cent. of the imports are at two of the other Murray ports, Wahgunyah and Wodonga. In regard to imports all of these ports are before Geelong, which receives little more than 1 per cent. of the whole. Geelong, however, sends away 8 per cent. of the exports, and is the only port except Melbourne at which any export trade of importance exists. The following are the values of goods imported and exported at each port in Victoria during 1874 :—

IMPORTS AT AND EXPORTS FROM EACH PORT.

| Ports. | Imports. | Exports. |
|-----------------|------------|------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Melbourne ... | 13,542,314 | 13,961,355 |
| Geelong ... | 236,038 | 1,274,614 |
| Portland ... | 2,348 | 2,592 |
| Port Fairy ... | 2,298 | 1,643 |
| Port Albert ... | 1,189 | ... |
| Warrnambool ... | 24,664 | 13,889 |
| Cowana ... | 969 | 370 |
| Echuca ... | 2,104,868 | 77,153 |
| Narung ... | 50,451 | 5,059 |
| Swan Hill ... | 113,751 | 3,396 |
| Tocumwall ... | 39,345 | 939 |
| Wahgunyah ... | 411,191 | 22,632 |
| Wodonga ... | 424,559 | 77,467 |
| Total ... | 16,953,985 | 15,441,109 |

* Inclusive of Border traffic since the 1st February 1874.

335. The following were the imports in the year under review and Imports, 1864, 1869, and 1874. in the first year of the two previous quinquenniads, the names of 45 of the principal articles being quoted:—

IMPORTS, 1864, 1869, AND 1874.

| Articles. | Value of Imports. | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 1864. | 1869. | 1874. |
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Apparel and slops | 186,860 | 335,642 | 301,430 |
| Bags and sacks (including woolpacks)... | 121,907 | 101,936 | 204,831 |
| Beer and cider | 335,019 | 244,566 | 295,016 |
| Books | 87,443 | 88,886 | 128,726 |
| Boots and shoes | 572,410 | 407,273 | 208,177 |
| Candles | 183,360 | 195,853 | 152,279 |
| Carpeting and druggeting | 3,287 | 63,789 | 65,328 |
| Coals | 174,579 | 176,501 | 244,614 |
| Coffee | 58,345 | 65,920 | 109,682 |
| Cottons | 27,722 | 475,649 | 692,778 |
| Drugs | 128,209 | 83,082 | 80,121 |
| Fish | 97,698 | 87,025 | 121,785 |
| Fruit (including currants and raisins) | 181,897 | 136,566 | 128,028 |
| Glass and glassware | 93,329 | 76,397 | 93,587 |
| Gloves | ... | 61,429 | 57,822 |
| Gold (exclusive of specie) | 193 | 1,415,473 | 881,717 |
| Grain of all kinds (including rice) ... | 954,991 | 864,404 | 566,659 |
| Haberdashery and drapery | 2,418,483 | 316,619 | 369,933 |
| Hardware and ironmongery | 366,133 | 125,118 | 87,652 |
| Hats, caps, and bonnets | 52,876 | 127,066 | 120,003 |
| Hides, skins, and pelts | 4,968 | 21,409 | 85,912 |
| Hops | 52,729 | 88,890 | 55,000 |
| Hosiery | 9,232 | 158,216 | 150,983 |
| Iron and steel | 390,860 | 391,547 | 564,173 |
| Jewellery | 73,440 | 50,585 | 55,692 |
| Leather and leatherware | 18,764 | 47,717 | 119,701 |
| Linen piece goods | 5,192 | 78,498 | 52,133 |
| Live stock | 215,881 | 712,333 | 1,178,583 |
| Machinery | 68,447 | 75,745 | 104,024 |
| Military and Government stores ... | ... | 37,194 | 332,299 |
| Nails and screws | 60,156 | 67,360 | 50,910 |
| Oil of all kinds | 198,974 | 278,845 | 255,654 |
| Opium | 121,994 | 109,843 | 58,453 |
| Paper and stationery | 244,916 | 209,873 | 235,292 |
| Silks | 68,055 | 228,952 | 323,609 |
| Specie | 980,992 | 292,753 | 186,797 |
| Spirits | 484,702 | 347,110 | 517,723 |
| Sugar and molasses | 638,286 | 948,982 | 1,081,048 |
| Tea | 519,287 | 500,140 | 490,998 |
| Timber | 318,122 | 274,497 | 478,403 |
| Tobacco, cigars, and snuff | 728,477 | 223,302 | 278,060 |
| Tools and utensils | 42,268 | 91,145 | 78,483 |
| Wine | 261,642 | 135,223 | 170,779 |
| Wool | 542,730 | 67,126 | 2,026,477 |
| Woollens | 191,551 | 1,110,493 | 1,096,870 |
| All other articles | 2,688,409 | 1,912,018 | 2,015,761 |
| Total Imports | 14,974,815 | 13,908,990 | 16,953,985 |

Exports,
1864, 1869,
and 1874.

336. The exports during the same years were as follow, the names of 33 articles being distinguished:—

EXPORTS, 1864, 1869, AND 1874.

| Articles. | Value of Exports. | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 1864. | 1869. | 1874. |
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Apparel and slops | 83,781 | 75,225 | 174,996 |
| Black sand | 7,360 | 17,566 | 5,300 |
| Bones and bonedust | 3,894 | 14,208 | 10,911 |
| Books | 31,725 | 18,034 | 27,753 |
| Boots and shoes | 97,695 | 43,864 | 77,357 |
| Coffee | 24,395 | 23,922 | 39,840 |
| Drapery | 491,806 | 347,812 | 163,075 |
| Flour and biscuit | 123,152 | 28,336 | 60,213 |
| Gold (exclusive of specie) | 6,206,237 | 6,804,179 | 4,053,288 |
| Grain of all kinds | 70,269 | 52,678 | 70,050 |
| Hardware and ironmongery (including galvanized ironware) | 82,681 | 50,522 | 96,328 |
| Hides | 94,551 | 19,472 | 3,923 |
| Horns and hoofs | 2,477 | 1,575 | 3,783 |
| Leather and leatherware | 55,204 | 110,432 | 194,479 |
| Live stock | 216,687 | 80,540 | 113,151 |
| Machinery | 50,510 | 45,900 | 48,063 |
| Oil | 67,072 | 62,545 | 64,884 |
| Potatoes | 43,568 | 33,711 | 40,891 |
| Provisions, preserved | 5,279 | 80,835 | 176,013 |
| " salted | 49,904 | 13,268 | 6,614 |
| Skins and pelts | 9,074 | 40,989 | 53,070 |
| Soap | 11,009 | 16,022 | 6,685 |
| Specie, gold | 1,029,872 | 684,819 | 1,354,751 |
| " silver | 3,806 | 7,000 | 5,050 |
| Spirits | 96,125 | 237,549 | 148,448 |
| Stationery | 26,883 | 32,338 | 47,283 |
| Sugar | 127,313 | 137,562 | 277,354 |
| Tallow | 60,230 | 237,084 | 199,564 |
| Tea | 209,530 | 167,846 | 238,749 |
| Tobacco, cigars, and snuff | 307,832 | 139,525 | 171,668 |
| Wine | 76,427 | 50,536 | 56,514 |
| Wool | 3,250,128 | 3,363,075 | 6,373,676 |
| Woollens and woollen piece goods | 26,317 | 29,305 | 71,621 |
| All other articles | 855,591 | 396,080 | 1,005,764 |
| Total Exports | 13,898,384 | 13,464,354 | 15,441,109 |

Transship-
ments.

337. The goods laden on vessels arriving in Victoria and transhipped elsewhere without being landed are not included in the accounts of imports and exports. The following are the values of such goods during each of the last five years. The amount in 1874 was much higher than in former years, in consequence of heavy transshipments which took place from and to the mail steamers on the Suez route *viâ* Point de Galle, the terminus of which is Melbourne:—

TRANSHIPMENTS IN VICTORIAN PORTS, 1870 TO 1875.

| | | | | Value of Transhipments. | |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------|------------|
| 1870 | ... | ... | ... | ... | £1,145,882 |
| 1871 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,191,169 |
| 1872 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,292,656 |
| 1873 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,827,842 |
| 1874 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,527,461 |

338. The Customs revenue during 1874 shows a slight falling off ^{Customs receipts.} under the head of Import Duties as compared with that of the previous year, but a considerable increase upon that of 1872. The following are the returns for the three years :—

CUSTOMS RECEIPTS, 1872 TO 1874.

| Head of Receipt. | Year ended 31st December. | | |
|--|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 1872. | 1873. | 1874. |
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Import duties | 1,615,052 | 1,798,040 | 1,779,288 |
| Duties on spirits distilled in Victoria*... .. | 33,172 | 32,161 | 32,833 |
| Ports and harbors | 16,727 | 19,798 | 19,954 |
| Fees | 7,074 | 6,532 | 6,321 |
| Fines and forfeitures | 349 | 437 | 168 |
| Miscellaneous | 5,962 | 7,648 | 9,648 |
| Total | 1,678,336 | 1,864,616 | 1,848,212 |

339. In addition to the Customs revenue, pilotage rates amounted ^{Pilotage.} to £16,886 in 1872, to £20,962 in 1873, and to £21,585 in 1874.

340. The value of dutiable goods exported for drawback has in- ^{Drawbacks.} creased over 60 per cent., and the amount paid as drawback has more than doubled in the last three years. The following are the figures :—

DRAWBACKS, 1872 TO 1874.

| Year. | Value of Goods exported for Drawback. | Amount of Drawback paid. |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| 1872 | 461,559 | 29,083 |
| 1873 | 522,752 | 43,685 |
| 1874 | 753,033 | 62,895 |

341. The number of ships entered and the number cleared were ^{Vessels entered and cleared.} slightly lower in the year under review than in either 1872 or 1873. The tonnage, however, and the numbers comprised in the crews, both increased.

* This line includes, in addition to duties on Victorian spirits collected by the Customs, some such duties which are paid direct to the Treasury.

VESSELS ENTERED AND CLEARED, 1872 TO 1874.

| Year. | Vessels Entered. | | | Vessels Cleared. | | |
|------------|------------------|---------|--------|------------------|---------|--------|
| | Number. | Tons. | Men. | Number. | Tons. | Men. |
| 1872... .. | 2,104 | 666,336 | 33,551 | 2,234 | 694,426 | 35,353 |
| 1873... .. | 2,187 | 756,103 | 36,307 | 2,226 | 762,912 | 36,216 |
| 1874... .. | 2,100 | 777,110 | 36,834 | 2,122 | 792,509 | 36,472 |

Nationality
of vessels.

342. Nearly three-fifths of the tonnage of vessels engaged in the Victorian trade is colonial ; about a third is English ; and rather more than a fifteenth is foreign. The following is a statement of the number, tonnage, and crews of colonial, British, and foreign vessels which entered and cleared at Victorian ports in the year under review :—

NATIONALITY OF VESSELS ENTERED AND CLEARED.

| Nationality. | Vessels Entered. | | | Vessels Cleared. | | |
|--------------|------------------|---------|--------|------------------|---------|--------|
| | Number. | Tons. | Men. | Number. | Tons. | Men. |
| Colonial ... | 1,714 | 449,463 | 23,915 | 1,738 | 455,330 | 23,878 |
| British ... | 289 | 269,489 | 11,488 | 281 | 274,391 | 11,088 |
| Foreign ... | 97 | 58,158 | 1,431 | 103 | 62,788 | 1,506 |
| Total ... | 2,100 | 777,110 | 36,834 | 2,122 | 792,509 | 36,472 |

Foreign
vessels.

343. Of foreign ships entered at and cleared from Victorian ports in 1874 the largest number belonged to the United States, the next largest to France, and the next to Germany. The number belonging to each country was as follows :—

FOREIGN VESSELS.

| Country. | Vessels Entered. | Vessels Cleared. |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| United States | 38 | 41 |
| France... .. | 23 | 26 |
| Germany | 14 | 16 |
| Sweden | 6 | 7 |
| Norway | 6 | 6 |
| Holland | 6 | 5 |
| Denmark | 2 | 2 |
| Hawaii | 1 | ... |
| Peru | 1 | ... |
| Total | 97 | 103 |

Crews, and
proportion
to tonnage.

344. According to the following figures colonial vessels appear to be the best manned in proportion to their tonnage, British vessels next, and

foreign vessels much the worst. With regard to the first-mentioned, it must, however, be borne in mind that, a much larger proportion of them being steamers, they would, of necessity, have larger crews than either of the others :—

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Colonial vessels had 1 man to | 19 tons |
| British " " | 24 " |
| Foreign " " | 41 " |
| | — |
| All " " | 21 " |
| | — |

345. A glance at the "Shipping" columns in the folding sheet at the commencement of this work will show that the tonnage in 1874 was exceeded in one year only since the first settlement of the colony, viz., in 1854, the third year after that in which gold was discovered. Tonnage in 1874 exceeded only in one year.

346. In the year under notice, only about 1 per cent. of the tonnage inwards arrived in ballast, but upwards of 34 per cent. of the tonnage outwards left in ballast. Vessels in ballast.

347. About four-fifths of the vessels, and a much larger proportion of the tonnage are entered and cleared at the port of Melbourne. Next to Melbourne, most shipping is entered and cleared at the ports of Echuca and Swan Hill, on the River Murray; and after these at Geelong. The following are the ports in Victoria, and the amount of shipping entered and cleared at each port in 1874 :— Vessels at each port.

SHIPPING AT EACH PORT, 1874.

| Ports. | Inwards. | | Outwards. | |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| | Vessels. | Tons. | Vessels. | Tons. |
| Melbourne | 1,627 | 699,351 | 1,638 | 703,958 |
| Geelong | 64 | 15,731 | 71 | 25,191 |
| Portland | 4 | 820 | 6 | 1,192 |
| Port Fairy | 13 | 1,388 | 10 | 764 |
| Port Albert | 4 | 321 | 8 | 772 |
| Warrnambool | 30 | 4,725 | 36 | 6,629 |
| Wahgunyah | 3 | 173 | 4 | 380 |
| Echuca | 185 | 26,509 | 179 | 25,531 |
| Swan Hill | 103 | 18,817 | 103 | 18,817 |
| Cowana | 26 | 2,245 | 26 | 2,245 |
| Narung | 41 | 7,030 | 41 | 7,030 |
| Total | 2,100 | 777,110 | 2,122 | 792,509 |

348. More than three-fifths of the tonnage coming to Victoria is that of vessels engaged in the intercolonial trade; about a fifth is that of vessels from the United Kingdom. Vessels in the intercolonial trade represent over five-sevenths, and vessels from the United Kingdom rather more than a ninth of the tonnage outwards. The following Vessels from and to various countries.

table shows the number and tonnage of vessels from and to the United Kingdom, the Australasian Colonies and other British Possessions, the United States and other foreign countries during 1874 :—

VESSELS FROM AND TO VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

| Countries from which Entered and for which Cleared. | Vessels Entered. | | Vessels Cleared. | |
|---|------------------|---------|------------------|---------|
| | Number. | Tons. | Number. | Tons. |
| The United Kingdom ... | 143 | 168,795 | 72 | 90,174 |
| Australasian Colonies ... | 1,722 | 483,061 | 1,893 | 576,206 |
| Other British Possessions | 100 | 52,066 | 80 | 59,648 |
| The United States ... | 39 | 30,744 | 35 | 38,285 |
| Other Foreign States ... | 96 | 42,444 | 42 | 28,196 |
| Total ... | 2,100 | 777,110 | 2,122 | 792,509 |

Vessels built and registered.

349. Victoria has, up to the present time, made but slight efforts to become a ship-building country. Five vessels only—viz., 3 steamers, 1 barque, and 1 schooner, measuring in the aggregate no more than 1,083 tons—were built in 1874. In the same year 4 steamers and 40 sailing vessels, of 12,522 tons burden, and carrying 389 men, were registered.

Vessels on the register.

350. The vessels on the register at the end of 1874 numbered 429, viz., 47 steamers and 382 sailing vessels. The total tonnage amounted to 70,696, and the crews to 3,229.

Lighters and boats.

351. The lighters licensed in the year under review numbered 149, and the boats 462. The former were employed in the conveyance of goods. Of the latter, 2 were used in the whale fishery, 6 in oyster fishing, and 454 for ferry, passenger, and other purposes.

Postal returns.

352. A satisfactory increase in the business of the Post Office has taken place during the past year, as will be seen by the following figures. It should be mentioned that the income and expenditure includes that of the Electric Telegraph, which is incorporated with the Post Office, and the expenditure does not include the cost of steam postal communication with the United Kingdom :—

POSTAGE, 1873 AND 1874.

| Year. | Number of Post Offices. | Number Despatched and Received of— | | | Income. | Expenditure. |
|----------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| | | Letters. | Newspapers. | Packets. | | |
| 1873 ... | 764 | 14,475,085 | 6,080,007 | 707,316 | £ 191,357 | £ 260,312 |
| 1874 ... | 802 | 15,738,888 | 6,866,918 | 1,269,822 | 194,339 | 288,574 |
| Increase | 38 | 1,263,803 | 786,911 | 562,506 | 2,982 | 28,262 |

353. Money Order Offices in connection with the Post Office had ^{Money orders.} been established in 216 places within the colony up to the end of 1874. Besides the issue and payment of money orders at these places, such orders are issued in favor of Victoria and Victorian orders are paid at places in Great Britain and Ireland, New South Wales, New Zealand, South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania. The increase of business during the year is shown in the following table :—

MONEY ORDERS, 1873 AND 1874.

| Year. | Number of Money Order Offices. | Money Orders Issued. | | Money Orders Paid. | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| | | Number. | Amount. | Number. | Amount. |
| 1873 ... | 204 | 113,135 | £ 341,962 | 109,048 | £ 348,019 |
| 1874 ... | 216 | 119,542 | £ 347,076 | 116,418 | £ 379,748 |
| Increase ... | 12 | 6,407 | £ 5,114 | 7,370 | £ 31,729 |

354. Telegraphic communication exists in Victoria between nearly ^{Electric telegraphs.} 150 stations within her own borders. Her lines are connected besides with those of the adjacent colonies, with a submarine cable to Tasmania, and with a transcontinental line to Europe. Over five hundred miles of wire were added during the year to the previously established lines, but notwithstanding this a slight falling off took place in the business, as will be seen by the following figures :—

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH, 1873 AND 1874.

| Year. | Number of Stations. | Number of Miles of Wire. | Number of Telegrams. | | | Amount received. |
|----------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------|---------|------------------|
| | | | Paid. | Unpaid. | Total. | |
| 1873 ... | 135 | 3,928 | 593,848 | 124,319 | 718,167 | £ 45,323 |
| 1874 ... | 148 | 4,464 | 579,795 | 121,285 | 701,080 | £ 42,825 |
| Increase | 13 | 536 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Decrease | ... | ... | 14,053 | 3,034 | 17,087 | £ 2,498 |

355. Railways in Victoria have been constructed upon a gauge of ^{Railways.} 5 ft. 3 in.,* and, with the exception of three short lines connecting the metropolis with certain of its suburbs, are all in the hands of the Government. The suburban lines in question are the property of a

* The national gauge of South Australia is the same as that of Victoria, but that of New South Wales is 4 ft. 8½ in.

private company; but this has been found to be objectionable on many grounds, and negotiations have taken place on more than one occasion with a view to their being purchased by the State. The following is the length and cost of all the lines existing in 1874. The returns of the Government railways are brought down to the 30th June only, those of the private railways to the end of the year :—

RAILWAYS.—LENGTH AND COST, 1874.

| Name of Railway. | Length of Line. | | Total Cost (not including Rolling Stock). | Average Cost per Mile of Extent opened. |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---|--|
| | Proposed Total Length. | Extent opened. | | |
| | miles. | miles. | £ | £ |
| <i>Government Lines.*</i> | | | | |
| Melbourne, Sandhurst, and Echuca... | 156 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 156 $\frac{1}{4}$ | } 10,294,420 | 23,370 |
| Melbourne, Geelong, and Ballarat ... | 91 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 91 $\frac{1}{4}$ | | |
| Williamstown Branch ... | 6 | 6 | | |
| Melbourne and North-Eastern ... | 187 | 187 | | |
| Ballarat and Ararat ... | 57 | ... | } 405,951† | ... |
| Castlemaine and Dunolly ... | 47 $\frac{1}{2}$ | ... | | |
| Ballarat and Maryborough ... | 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ | ... | | |
| Others ... | 380 | ... | 10,777† | ... |
| <i>Private Lines.</i> | | | | |
| Melbourne, Sandridge, and St. Kilda | } 17 | 17 | 862,304 | 50,724 |
| Melbourne, Windsor, and Brighton... | | | | |
| Melbourne and Hawthorn ... | | | | |
| Total ... | 984 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 457 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 11,573,452 | 24,386 |

Rolling
stock.

356. The amount of rolling stock and its total cost were as follow in 1874 :—

ROLLING STOCK, 1874.

| — | Number of each kind of Rolling Stock. | | | | | | Total Cost of Rolling Stock. |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| | Loco- motives. | First-class and Composite Carriages. | Second and Third-class Carriages. | Sheep and Cattle Trucks. | Goods Trucks, Waggons, &c. | Guard Vans and other Vehicles. | |
| | | | | | | | £ |
| Government lines | 106 | 91 | 69 | 150 | 1,491 | 131 | 846,336 |
| Private lines ... | 16 | 77 | 15 | ... | 202 | 12 | 137,830 |
| Total ... | 122 | 168 | 84 | 150 | 1,693 | 143 | 984,166 |

* The Government railway statistics are made up to the 30th June of each year. The Secretary for Railways has, however, furnished the following figures respecting the length of Government lines on the 31st December 1874 :—Extent opened, 588 miles; in course of construction, 65 miles; further extent authorized, 316 miles.

† Cost of portion constructed up to 30th June 1874.

357. The passenger rates on Government lines vary from 1d. to 2d. per mile, the average being about $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. On private lines the passenger rates range from 1d. to $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per mile. Passenger rates on railways.

358. A considerable increase took place in the distance travelled on Government and on private lines in 1874 as compared with that in 1873, as will be seen by the following figures :— Distance travelled on railways.

DISTANCE TRAVELLED ON RAILWAYS, 1873 AND 1874.

| Year. | | | Government Lines. | Private Lines. | Total. |
|----------|-----|-----|-------------------|----------------|-----------|
| | | | miles. | miles. | miles. |
| 1873 | ... | ... | 1,354,131 | 412,586 | 1,766,717 |
| 1874 | ... | ... | 1,667,124 | 442,103 | 2,109,227 |
| Increase | ... | ... | 312,993 | 29,517 | 342,510 |

359. The passenger and goods traffic in the same two years is compared as follows. An increase will be observed in all the items except the weight of goods carried on private lines, which shows a slight falling off :— Traffic on railways.

TRAFFIC ON RAILWAYS, 1873 AND 1874.

NUMBER OF PASSENGERS CARRIED.

| Year. | | | Government Lines. | Private Lines. | Total. |
|----------|-----|-----|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1873 | ... | ... | 1,720,814 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 3,003,233 | 4,724,047 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1874 | ... | ... | 2,039,029 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 3,335,812 | 5,374,841 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Increase | ... | ... | 318,215 | 332,579 | 650,794 |

WEIGHT OF GOODS CARRIED.

| | | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|---------|---------|---------|
| | | | tons. | tons. | tons. |
| 1873 | ... | ... | 569,869 | 233,064 | 802,933 |
| 1874 | ... | ... | 681,710 | 222,960 | 904,670 |
| Increase | ... | ... | 111,841 | ... | 101,737 |
| Decrease | ... | ... | ... | 10,104 | ... |

360. The receipts on Government lines in 1874 were 21 per cent. above the receipts in 1873 ; those on private lines were nearly 8 per cent. Railway receipts and working expenses.

higher. The working expenses on Government lines were 17 per cent. higher, and those on private lines were 6 per cent. higher in 1873 than in 1874. The working expenses on Government lines amounted in 1873 to 45 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. of the receipts, and in 1874 to 44 per cent. On private lines the working expenses in 1873 amounted to 56 per cent. of the receipts, and in 1874 to 55 per cent. The following table shows the total receipts and working expenses on Government and private lines in the two years :—

RAILWAY RECEIPTS AND WORKING EXPENSES, 1873 AND 1874.

RECEIPTS.

| Year. | | | Government Lines. | Private Lines. | Total. |
|----------|-----|-----|-------------------|----------------|-----------|
| | | | £ | £ | £ |
| 1873 | ... | ... | 703,728 | 154,017 | 857,745 |
| 1874 | ... | ... | 851,042 | 165,884 | 1,016,926 |
| Increase | | | 147,314 | 11,867 | 159,181 |

WORKING EXPENSES.

| | | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|---------|--------|---------|
| 1873 | ... | ... | 321,290 | 86,524 | 407,814 |
| 1874 | ... | ... | 374,715 | 91,801 | 466,516 |
| Increase | | | 53,425 | 5,277 | 58,702 |

Wages.

361. The following table contains a statement of the average rates of wages paid in Melbourne in the year under review, and in the first year of each of the two previous quinquennial periods. It will be observed that wages were upon the whole higher at the middle period than at the first, and higher at the last period than at either of the others. The rates of wages in country districts are generally somewhat higher than those prevailing in the metropolis. Throughout Victoria the recognized working day for artizans and laborers is limited to eight hours :—

WAGES IN MELBOURNE, 1864, 1869, AND 1874.

| Description of Labor. | | 1864. | 1869. | 1874. |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <i>Agricultural Labor.*</i> | | | | |
| Farm laborers | per week, with rations | 12s. to 17s. 6d. | 12s. to 20s. | 15s. to 20s. |
| Ploughmen | ... " " | 14s. to 20s. | 15s. to 20s. | 15s. to 20s. |
| Reapers | ... per acre, " | 10s. to 12s. | 6s. to 10s. | 12s. to 15s. |
| Mowers | ... " " | 3s. to 4s. | 4s. to 8s. | 3s. to 5s. |
| Threshers | ... per bushel, " | 4d. to 5d. | 3d. to 6d. | 5d. to 7d. |

* See also paragraph 414 post.

WAGES IN MELBOURNE, 1864, 1869, AND 1874—continued.

| Description of Labor. | 1864. | 1869. | 1874. |
|--|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| <i>Pastoral Labor.*</i> | | | |
| Shepherds ... per annum, with rations | £30 to £40 | £35 to £40 | £25 to £50 |
| Stockkeepers " " | £40 to £65 | £40 to £50 | £30 to £50 |
| Hutkeepers ... " " | £25 to £30 | £25 to £30 | £25 to £30 |
| Generally-useful men on stations per week, with rations | 14s. to 18s. | 15s. to 20s. | 15s. to 20s. |
| Sheepwashers " " | 14s. | 15s. to 20s. | 15s. to 25s. |
| Shearers per 100 sheep sheared, " | 13s. to 15s. | 10s. to 13s. | 12s. to 15s. |
| <i>Artizan Labor.</i> | | | |
| Masons ... per day, without rations | 8s. to 10s. | 8s. to 10s. | 11s. |
| Plasterers ... " " | 8s. to 10s. | 8s. to 10s. | 10s. |
| Bricklayers ... " " | 8s. to 10s. | 8s. to 10s. | 10s. |
| Carpenters ... " " | 7s. to 9s. | 7s. to 10s. | 10s. to 11s. |
| Blacksmiths " " | 8s. to 10s. | 7s. to 9s. | 10s. to 11s. |
| <i>¶ Servants—Males and Married Couples.</i> | | | |
| Married couples, without family per annum, with board and lodging | £50 to £60 | £40 to £70 | £70 to £90 |
| Married couples, with family per annum, with board and lodging | £40 to £50 | £35 to £60 | £40 to £50 |
| Men cooks, on farms and stations per week, with board and lodging | 15s. to 20s. | 15s. to 25s. | 18s. to 25s. |
| Grooms—per annum " " | £40 to £50 | £30 to £50 | £40 to £50 |
| Gardeners " " | £40 to £50 | £50 to £70 | £50 to £65 |
| <i>Servants—Female.</i> | | | |
| Cooks—per annum, with board and lodging | £30 to £40 | £35 to £40 | £40 to £60 |
| Laundresses " " | £30 to £35 | £30 to £40 | £30 to £40 |
| General servants " " | £18 to £30 | £30 to £35 | £30 to £35 |
| Housemaids " " | £18 to £30 | £30 to £35 | £30 to £36 |
| Nursemaids " " | £12 to £18 | £20 to £25 | £30 to £35 |
| <i>Miscellaneous Labor.</i> | | | |
| General laborers per day, without rations | 5s. to 7s. | 6s. to 7s. | 6s. to 7s. |
| Stonebreakers per cubic yard, without rations | 3s. to 4s. 6d. | 1s. 10d. to 2s. | 2s. to 3s. 6d. |
| Seamen ... per month, with rations | £4 to £5 | £4 to £5 | £5 to £6 |

362. Prices in Melbourne in the same three years were quoted as Prices. follow. In country districts the cost of groceries, tobacco, wine, coal, &c., is naturally higher, and that of farm and grazing produce, fire-wood, &c., naturally lower than in Melbourne :—

* See also paragraph 415 post.

PRICES IN MELBOURNE, 1864, 1869, AND 1874.

| Articles. | 1864. | 1869. | 1874. |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Agricultural Produce.*</i> | | | |
| Wheat per bushel | 7s. 6d. to 12s. 6d. | 4s. 9d. to 8s. | 4s. 9d. to 7s. 3d. |
| Barley " | 4s. 3d. to 6s. | 4s. to 6s. | 3s. to 7s. |
| Oats " | 4s. to 5s. 3d. | 3s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. | 2s. 9d. to 5s. 6d. |
| Maize " | 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. | 3s. 4d. to 5s. 1d. | 3s. 4d. to 5s. 9d. |
| Bran " | 1s. 5d. to 1s. 8d. | 1s. 4d. to 2s. | 1s. to 1s. 4½d. |
| Hay per ton | £4 10s. to £7 15s. | £4 to £8 10s. | £4 to £6 5s. |
| Flour, first quality " | £18 10s. to £28 | £11 to £18 | £12 2s. 6d. to £15 |
| Bread per 4lb. loaf | 9d. to 1s. | 6d. to 9d. | 6d. to 8d. |
| <i>Grazing Produce.</i> | | | |
| Horses, draught each | £25 to £50 | £10 to £50 | £12 to £36 |
| " saddle and harness " | £10 to £20 | £9 to £20 | £5 to £40 |
| Cattle, fat " | £2 to £10 10s. | £3 to £14 5s. | £5 10s. to £12 10s. |
| " milch cows " | £3 to £8 | £5 to £10 | £5 10s. to £10 10s. |
| Sheep, fat " | 9s. to 22s. | 2s. 6d. to 12s. 6d. | 5s. to 20s. |
| Lambs, fat " | 5s. 6d. to 14s. | 2s. to 10s. | 4s. 6d. to 11s. |
| Butchers' meat— | | | |
| Beef, retail per lb. | 4d. to 6½d. | 3d. to 7d. | 4d. to 9d. |
| Mutton " " | 3½d. to 5d. | 1½d. to 5d. | 2½d. to 6¼d. |
| Veal " " | 7d. to 8d. | 6d. | 5d. to 6d. |
| Pork " " | 8d. to 1s. | 8d. | 7d. to 10d. |
| Lamb " per quarter | 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. | 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. | 2s. to 3s. |
| <i>Dairy Produce.</i> | | | |
| Butter, colonial, retail per lb. | 9d. to 1s. 3d. | 11d. to 2s. 2d. | 1s. to 1s. 8d. |
| " imported, salt, wholesale " | 7d. to 10½d. | 8d. to 1s. 6d. | 4½d. to 5d. |
| Cheese, colonial, retail " | 6d. to 1s. | 6d. to 1s. 4d. | 9d. to 1s. 6d. |
| " imported, wholesale " | 7d. to 1s. | 1s. to 1s. 3d. | 1s. to 1s. 3d. |
| Milk per quart | 6d. to 7d. | 6d. | 6d. |
| <i>Farm Yard Produce.</i> | | | |
| Geese per couple | 7s. to 13s. | 7s. to 14s. | 7s. to 12s. |
| Ducks " | 5s. to 7s. 6d. | 4s. to 7s. | 5s. to 7s. |
| Fowls " | 4s. to 6s. | 4s. to 6s. | 4s. 6d. to 6s. 6d. |
| Rabbits " | 1s. 6d. to 5s. | 1s. 6d. to 4s. | 2s. to 4s. |
| Pigeons " | 2s. to 2s. 6d. | 2s. to 3s. | 2s. to 3s. |
| Turkeys each | 6s. to 15s. | 6s. to 12s. 6d. | 7s. to 14s. |
| Sucking pigs " | 6s. to 12s. | 4s. to 16s. | 10s. to 12s. |
| Bacon per lb. | 10d. to 1s. 4d. | 10d. to 1s. 2d. | 1s. to 1s. 2d. |
| Ham " | 10d. to 1s. 2½d. | 1s. to 1s. 4d. | 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d. |
| Eggs per doz. | 11d. to 2s. 6d. | 1s. to 2s. 2d. | 1s. to 2s. 2d. |
| <i>Garden Produce.</i> | | | |
| Potatoes, wholesale per ton | £3 10s. to £5 | £3 to £7 | £4 to £4 10s. |
| " retail per lb. | ½d. to 1d. | ... | ¾d. to 1d. |
| Onions, dried per cwt. | 5s. 6d. to 18s. | 4s. 6d. to 16s. | 9s. to 20s. |
| Carrots per doz. bunches | 6d. to 1s. 3d. | 6d. to 1s. 6d. | 6d. to 1s. |
| Turnips " | 8d. to 1s. 6d. | 9d. to 2s. 6d. | 6d. to 2s. |

* See also paragraph 409 post.

PRICES IN MELBOURNE, 1864, 1869, AND 1874—continued.

| Articles. | 1864. | 1869. | 1874. |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Garden Produce—continued.</i> | | | |
| Radishes ... per doz. bunches | 4d. to 6d. | 4d. to 8d. | 4d. to 6d. |
| Cabbages ... per doz. | 4d. to 4s. | 6d. to 10s. | 9d. to 10s. |
| Cauliflowers ... „ | 2s. 6d. to 8s. | 9d. to 4s. | 2s. 6d. to 8s. |
| Lettuces ... „ | 6d. to 1s. | 3d. to 1s. 6d. | 2d. to 2s. |
| Green peas ... per lb. | 1d. to 3d. | 1½d. to 3d. | 1½d. to 4d. |
| <i>Miscellaneous Articles.</i> | | | |
| Tea (duty paid) ... per chest | £5 to £12 | £1 10s. to £13 | 7d. to 3s. per lb. |
| Coffee (in bond) ... per lb. | 10d. to 1s. 0½d. | 6d. to 10d. | 7¾d. to 1s. 6½d. |
| Sugar (duty paid) ... per ton | £28 to £52 | £25 to £53 | £25 to £52 |
| Rice ... per lb. | 4d. to 5d. | { £18 to £23 per ton | { £16 10s. to £25 per ton |
| Tobacco (in bond) ... „ | 1s. 2d. to 5s. 9d. | 6d. to 1s. 7d. | 8d. to 1s. 7½d. |
| Soap, imported ... per ton | £20 to £21 | £20 to £28 | ... |
| „ colonial ... per cwt. | 29s. to 32s. | 29s. | 21s. to 29s. |
| Candles, tallow ... per lb. | 6d. to 8d. | 4½d. | 4¼d. to 4½d. |
| „ sperm ... „ | 9d. to 11d. | 9d. to 1s. 0½d. | 10d. to 10¾d. |
| Salt ... per ton | £2 10s. to £4 10s. | £4 to £5 10s. | £4 10s. to £6 10s. |
| Coals ... „ | 28s. to 32s. | 21s. to 21s. 6d. | 35s. to 37s. 6d. |
| Firewood ... „ | 10s. to 12s. 6d. | 8s. to 12s. | 12s. 6d. to 14s. |
| <i>Wines, Spirits, &c.</i> | | | |
| Ale (duty paid) ... per hhd. | £3 5s. to £8 5s. | £4 15s. to £8 10s. | £7 to £9 5s. |
| „ „ ... per doz. | 8s. 6d. to 10s. 3d. | 7s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. | 8s. to 12s. 6d. |
| Porter „ ... per hhd. | £5 to £7 | £3 10s. to £6 17s. | £5 5s. to £7 10s. |
| „ „ ... per doz. | 7s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. | 7s. to 10s. | 8s. 6d. to 13s. 3d. |
| Brandy (in bond) ... per gall. | 4s. to 10s. | 5s. 6d. to 8s. | 5s. to 10s. 6d. |
| Rum „ ... „ | 2s. 9d. to 3s. 9d. | 3s. 4½d. to 4s. 6d. | 3s. 9d. to 4s. 3d. |
| Whiskey „ ... „ | 3s. to 4s. 3d. | 4s. to 6s. 6d. | 5s. to 6s. 6d. |
| Hollands „ ... „ | 2s. to 2s. 8d. | 3s. to 4s. 9d. | 3s. 1d. to 4s. |
| Port wine „ ... per pipe | £30 to £85 | £20 to £100 | £20 to £100 |
| „ (duty paid) per doz. | 24s. to 50s. | 24s. to 50s. | 24s. to 50s. |
| Sherry (in bond) ... per butt | £36 to £110 | £20 to £120 | £20 to £120 |
| „ (duty paid) ... per doz. | 40s. to 56s. | 20s. to 80s. | 20s. to 85s. |
| Claret ... „ | 15s. to 70s. | 11s. 6d. to 100s. | 11s. 6d. to 100s. |
| Champagne ... „ | 30s. to 84s. | 30s. to 75s. | 30s. to 95s. |

363. The weekly rent of a dwelling suitable for a mechanic and his family ranges, in the suburbs of Melbourne, from 8s. to 15s. In other towns it is lower, and in country districts the erection, on Crown lands, of a cottage of sawn or split timber, with a shingle or bark roof, which can be accomplished at a trifling cost, often enables the man of small means to save rent altogether. In all the large towns, owing to the facilities offered by building societies and other financial institutions for obtaining advances of money on easy terms, numbers of laboring men possess freeholds of their own.

Dwellings
for artizans
and labor-
ers.

364. The price of gold is regulated by its purity and other circumstances, which differ in different districts. The price in the year under

Price of gold.

review was lowest in the Gippsland district, where gold realized from £3 to £4 per ounce, and highest in the Ballarat district, where it fetched from £3 17s. to £4 3s. per ounce. The mean of the highest and lowest prices in all the districts was £3 15s. 5d. per ounce.

Imports of
live stock.

365. The imports of live stock overland, as recorded by the inspectors of stock, are always much higher than the returns obtained through the Custom-house ; and there is no doubt that the stock inspectors have better opportunities of securing accurate information respecting stock entering the colony by land than the officers of the Customs. The following are the numbers noted by the inspectors in the year under notice :—

| STOCK IMPORTED OVERLAND. | | | | | | | Number. |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Horses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9,576 |
| Cattle | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 86,329 |
| Sheep | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 771,479 |
| Pigs | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,247 |

PART VI.—PRODUCTION.

Sales of
Crown land
by auction.

366. The mode of disposing of Crown lands in Victoria has undergone numerous changes.* At first it was necessary that all land should be offered at auction before passing into the hands of private individuals, an upset price, according to its value, being placed upon it by the Government. Until 1840 the minimum upset price was 12s. per acre ; it was then raised to 20s. Land which had passed the auctioneer's hammer without being bid for was open to be bought by any one at the upset price. Large blocks of land called special surveys, and a block of a square mile in extent upon each squatting run, were, under certain Orders in Council, exempted from auction, and were permitted to be purchased at £1 per acre.

Special sur-
veys.

Land Act 1860
(24 Vict. No.
117).

367. In 1860 the system was changed, and a law was passed permitting surveyed country lands to be selected at a uniform upset price of £1 per acre, the only exception being where two or more selectors applied simultaneously for one block, in which case a limited auction, confined only to such applicants, was to take place. The successful selector had the option of either paying for the whole of his block in cash or only for half ; in the latter case, renting the other half at 1s. per acre per annum, with the right to purchase at the same rate per acre as

* For much of the information in this and the next four paragraphs I am indebted to the Report of the Honorable the Minister of Lands for the year 1873.