

CHAPTER XXVI.

MISCELLANEOUS.

§ 1. Patents, Trade Marks, and Designs.

1. Patents.—(i) *General.* The granting of patents is regulated by the Commonwealth Patents Act 1903–21, which, in regard to principle and practice, has the same general foundation as the Imperial Statutes, modified to suit Australian conditions. The Act is administered by a Commissioner of Patents. Comparatively small fees, totalling £8, are now sufficient to obtain for an inventor protection throughout Australia, Papua and the Territory of New Guinea, and the only renewal fee (£5) is payable before the expiration of the seventh year of the patent, or within such extended time, not exceeding one year, and upon payment of further fees, as may be allowed.

(ii) *Summary.* The number of separate inventions in respect of which applications were filed during the years 1925 to 1929 is given in the following table, which also shows the number of letters patent sealed in respect of applications made in each year :—

PATENTS, AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY, 1925 TO 1929.

Particulars.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
No. of applications	5,306	5,391	5,683	6,530	6,806
No. of applications accompanied by provisional specifications	3,405	3,515	3,627	3,993	4,021
Letters patent sealed during each year	2,479	2,706	2,633	2,615	2,881

(iii) *Revenue.* The revenue of the Commonwealth Patents Office during the years 1925 to 1929 is shown hereunder :—

PATENTS, AUSTRALIA.—REVENUE, 1925 TO 1929.

Particulars.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£	£	£
Fees collected under Patents Acts 1903–21 ..	29,017	30,967	30,602	32,573	36,686
Receipts from publications	926	733	1,101	1,331	1,405
Total	29,943	31,700	31,703	33,904	38,091

2. Trade Marks and Designs.—(i) *Trade Marks.* Under the Trade Marks Act 1905, the Commissioner of Patents is also Registrar of Trade Marks. This Act has been amended from time to time, the last amendment having been made in 1922. Special provisions for the registration of a "Commonwealth Trade Mark" are contained in the Act of 1905 and are applicable to all goods included in or specified by a resolution passed by both Houses of Parliament that the conditions as to remuneration of labour in connexion with the manufacture of such goods are fair and reasonable.

(ii) *Designs.* The Designs Act 1906, as amended by the Patents, Designs and Trade Marks Act 1910, and the Designs Act 1912, is now cited as the Designs Act 1906-1912. Under this Act a Commonwealth Designs Office has been established, and the Commissioner of Patents appointed "Registrar of Designs."

(iii) *Summary.* The following table shows the applications for trade marks and designs received and registered during the years 1925 to 1929 :—

TRADE MARKS AND DESIGNS, AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY, 1925 TO 1929.

Applications.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
RECEIVED.					
Trade Marks	2,770	2,821	2,960	2,882	2,904
Designs	554	329	580	574	568
REGISTERED.					
Trade Marks	2,029	1,971	2,177	2,175	2,337
Designs	439	537	546	694	547

(iv) *Revenue.* The revenue of the Trade Marks and Designs Office during the years 1925 to 1929 is given hereunder :—

TRADE MARKS AND DESIGNS, AUSTRALIA.—REVENUE, 1925 TO 1929.

Particulars.	1925.			1926.			1927.			1928.			1929.		
	Trade Marks.	Designs.	Publications.	Trade Marks.	Designs.	Publications.	Trade Marks.	Designs.	Publications.	Trade Marks.	Designs.	Publications.	Trade Marks.	Designs.	Publications.
Fees collected under Commonwealth Acts	£ 9,310	£ 629	£ 186	£ 9,246	£ 407	£ 210	£ 9,709	£ 722	£ 198	£ 9,420	£ 795	£ 264	£ 12,702	£ 718	£ 259

No fees in respect of Trade Marks have been collected under State Acts since the year 1922.

§ 2. Copyright.

1. *Legislation.*—Copyright is regulated by the Commonwealth Copyright Act of 1912, details of which will be found in previous issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 8, p. 1066), while, subject to modifications relating to procedure and remedies, the British Copyright Act of 1911 has been adopted and scheduled to the Australian law.

Reciprocal protection of unpublished works was extended in 1918 to citizens of Australia and of the United States under which copyright may be secured in the latter country by registration at the Library of Congress, Washington. The Commonwealth Government promulgated a further Order in Council which came into operation on the 1st February, 1923, and extended the provisions of the Copyright Act to the foreign countries of the Copyright Union, subject to the observance of the conditions therein contained.

2. Applications and Registrations.—The following table shows under the various headings the number of applications for copyright received and registered, and the total revenue obtained for the years 1925 to 1929 :—

COPYRIGHT, AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY, 1925 TO 1929.

Particulars.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Applications received—					
Literary No.	1,269	1,166	1,256	1,241	1,142
Artistic No.	134	115	176	160	141
International No.	15	23	13	4	17
Applications registered—					
Literary No.	1,257	1,105	1,180	1,176	1,101
Artistic No.	117	105	171	152	127
International No.	4	19	10	3	5
Revenue £	360	340	376	366	356

§ 3. Local Option, and Reduction of Licences.

Local option concerning the sale of fermented and spirituous liquors is in force in all the States, the States being divided into areas generally coterminous with electoral districts, and a poll of the electors taken from time to time in each district regarding the continuance of the existing number of licensed premises, the reduction in number, or the closing of all such premises. Provision is made for giving effect to the results of the poll in each district in which the vote is in favour of a change.

In previous issues of the Year Book (see No. 22, p.p. 1005-1008), details, by States, of polls taken and the operations of Licences Reduction Boards were published, but, owing to considerations of space, cannot be inserted in this issue.

§ 4. Lord Howe Island.

1. Area, Location, etc.—Between Norfolk Island and the Australian coast is Lord Howe Island, in latitude 31° 30' south, longitude 159° 5' east. It was discovered in 1788. The total area is 3,220 acres, the island being 7 miles in length and from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles in width. It is distant 436 miles from Sydney, and in communication therewith by monthly steam service. The flora is varied and the vegetation luxuriant, with shady forests, principally of palms and banyans. The highest point is Mount Gower, 2,840 feet. The climate is mild and the rainfall abundant, but on account of the rocky formation only about a tenth of the surface is suitable for cultivation.

2. Settlement.—The first settlement was by a small Maori party in 1853; afterwards a colony was settled from Sydney. Constitutionally, it is a dependency of New South Wales, and it is included in the electorate of Sydney. A Board of Control manages the affairs of the island and supervises the palm seed industry referred to hereunder.

3. Population.—The population at the Census of 3rd April, 1921, was 65 males, 46 females—total 111.

4. Production, Trade, etc.—The principal product is the seed of the native or *Kentia* palm. The lands belong to the Crown. The occupants pay no rent, and are tenants on sufferance.

§ 5. Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

1. **General.**—By the Science and Industry Research Act 1926, the previously existing Commonwealth Institute of Science and Industry was reorganized under the title of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. An account of the organization and work of the former Institute was given in previous issues of the Official Year Book. (See No. 18, p. 1062.)

2. **Science and Industry Research Act 1926.**—This Act provides for a Council, consisting of—

- (a) Three members nominated by the Commonwealth Government.
- (b) The Chairman of each State Committee constituted under the Act.
- (c) Such other members as the Council, with the consent of the Minister, co-opts by reason of their scientific knowledge.

The three Commonwealth nominees form an Executive Committee which may exercise, between meetings of the Council, all the powers and functions of the Council, of which the principal are as follow:—(a) The initiation and carrying out of scientific researches in connexion with primary or secondary industries in the Commonwealth; (b) the training of research workers and the establishing of industrial research studentships and fellowships; (c) the making of grants in aid of pure scientific research; (d) the establishment of industrial research associations in any industries; (e) the testing and standardization of scientific apparatus and instruments; (f) the establishment of a Bureau of information; and (g) the function of acting as a means of liaison between the Commonwealth and other countries in matters of scientific research.

State Committees have been constituted in accordance with regulations that have been prescribed, and their main function is to advise the Council as to matters that may affect their respective States. A sum of £250,000 was appropriated under the terms of the Act for the purpose of scientific and industrial investigations. Subsequently an additional sum of £250,000 was appropriated for a similar purpose.

3. **Science and Industry Endowment Act 1926.**—Under this Act the Government has established a fund of £100,000, the income from which is to be used to provide assistance (a) to persons engaged in scientific research, and (b) in the training of students in scientific research. Provision is made for gifts or bequests to be made to the fund, which is controlled by a trust consisting of the three Commonwealth nominees on the Council. In accordance with the Act arrangements have been made to send a number of qualified graduates abroad for training in special fields of work.

4. **Work of the Council.**—The full Council held its first meeting in June, 1926, since which time it has held meetings at about half-yearly intervals. It has adopted a policy of placing each of its major fields of related researches under the direction of an officer having a standing at least as high as, if not higher than, that of a University Professor.

The main branches of work of the Council are (i) plant problems; (ii) soil problems; (iii) entomological problems; (iv) animal nutrition; (v) animal diseases; and (vi) forests products. More detailed information concerning the work of the Council may be found in Year Book No. 22, pp. 1009 and 1010, but considerations of space preclude its insertion herein.

§ 6. The Commonwealth Solar Observatory.

1. **Reasons for Foundation.**—The Commonwealth Solar Observatory was established for the study of solar phenomena, for allied stellar and spectroscopic research, and for the investigation of associated terrestrial phenomena. Its situation is such that it will fill a gap in the chain of existing astrophysical observatories; with its completion there will be stations separated by 90 degrees of longitude round the globe. In addition to

advancing the knowledge of the universe and the mode of its development, it is hoped that the eventual discovery of the true relation between solar and terrestrial phenomena may lead to results which will prove of direct value to the country.

2. **History of Inauguration.**—A short account of the steps leading up to the establishment of the Observatory will be found in Official Year Book No. 19, p. 979. Limits of space preclude its repetition in this issue.

3. **Site of the Observatory.**—The site selected for the Observatory is on Mount Stromlo, a ridge of hills about 7 miles west of Canberra. The highest point is 2,560 feet above sea level, or about 700 feet above the general level of the Federal Capital City.

4. **Equipment.**—The bulk of the telescopic equipment is due to the generosity of supporters of the movement in England and Australia. The gifts include a 6-in. Grubb refracting telescope, presented by the late W. E. Wilson, F.R.S., and Sir Howard Grubb F.R.S., trustees of the late Lord Farnham; a 9-in. Grubb refractor with a 6-in. Dallmeyer lens, both presented by the late Mr. James Oddie, of Ballarat; while Mr. J. H. Reynolds of Birmingham, presented a large reflecting telescope with a mirror 30 inches in diameter. The equipment also includes spectroscopes for the examination of spectra in the infra-red, violet and ultra-violet regions. Donations amounting to over £2,500 have been received, and form the nucleus of a Foundation and Endowment Fund.

5. **Observational Work.**—The observational work embraces the following:—(a) solar research, (b) stellar research, (c) spectroscopic researches, (d) atmospheric electricity, (e) ozone content of the atmosphere, (f) luminosity of the night sky, and (g) meteorological observations. A more detailed account of the observational work cannot, owing to limits of space, be published in this issue, but may be found in previous issues (see No. 22, p. 1011).

§ 7. Department of Chemistry, South Australia.

This Department, formed in 1915, is principally engaged in general routine chemical examinations and analyses in pursuance of various Acts of Parliament and for Government Departments, but the chemical investigation of local products and industries forms an important branch of its work. The Department administers the Gas Act 1924, the Inflammable Oils Acts, and the provisions of the Marine Board and Navigation Act relating to explosives. Researches have been carried out for the Wheat Weevil Committee, and investigations have been made into the lignites at Moorlands, the conditions of safe storage of petrol in tanks, the utilization of grapes and surplus lemons, cold-water paints, calorific values of South Australian firewoods, charcoal and coke, kernel oil from peaches and apricots, and a survey of the tannin resources of South Australia.

§ 8. State Advisory Council of Science and Industry of South Australia.

The Advisory Council of Science and Industry of South Australia is the result of the fusion of the members of the Committee of Scientific Research and the Committee on post-war problems. The members of the Council, who all act in an honorary capacity, are the nominees of the different public bodies in the State, such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Manufactures, Associated Banks, United Trades and Labour Council, Employers' Federation, etc., and include a number of Government technical officials and University professors.

For the purposes of investigation, the Council is divided into Committees, under the headings Agriculture, Pastoral, Mineral, Manufacture, Trade, Commerce, and Transport. These Committees consider and take evidence on subjects proper to their provinces, and report to the Government.

The office of the Council is attached to the Department of Chemistry, where research work is carried out at the instance of the Council, the Director of Chemistry being Vice-Chairman of the Council. Eleven reports have been issued during the years 1919 to 1929, which contain a summary of the work done, together with reports of investigations, including the "Wheat Pests Problem;" "Utilization of Surplus Lemons;" "Cold Water Paint;" "Calorific Values of Different Firewoods;" "Peach and Apricot Kernel Oil;" "Tannin Resources of South Australia;" "Brown Coal Experiments;" "A Gauge for Petrol Tanks;" "The Safe Storage of Petrol in Bulk;" "A Process for Preventing Infestation of Insect Pests in Dried Fruits;" and "The Use of Aluminium Vessels for Cooking Foods," etc. The Council also distributes information forwarded by the Commonwealth Department of Markets.

§ 9. Standards Association of Australia.

This Association was established under the aegis of the Commonwealth and State Governments for the promotion of standardization and simplified practice.

In addition to the Council and Standing and Organization Committees, the following Sectional Committees have been appointed to formulate Australian standard specifications:—(1) Electrical; (2) Structural Steel; (3) Tramway Rails and Fishplates; (4) Pipes and Pipe Fittings; (5) Paints and Varnishes; (6) Co-ordination of Methods of Physical Testing, Sampling, and Chemical Analysis; (7) Locomotive; (8) Cement; (9) Railways Rails and Fishplates; (10) Machine Parts; (11) Leather and Composition Belting; (12) Road Materials; (13) Plumbing and Sanitary Fittings; (14) Colliery Equipment; (15) Lubricants; (16) Artesian Bore Casing; (17) Building Materials; (18) Reinforced Concrete Regulations; (19) Regulations for Boilers and Unfired Pressure Vessels; (20) Cranes; (21) Coal—Purchase, Sampling, and Analysis; (22) Non-Ferrous Metals and Alloys; (23) Lift Installations; (24) Pump Test; (25) Containers for Hazardous Goods; (26) Calcium Carbide; (27) Regulations for Steel Frame Buildings; (28) Electrical Wiring Rules; (29) Timber; (30) Conditions of Contract; (31) Typography; (32) Welding; (33) Firebricks.

A Power Survey Committee to deal with the development and co-ordination of power schemes has also been appointed.

The objects of the Association include the following:—To prepare and promote the general adoption of standards in connexion with structures, materials, etc.; to co-ordinate the efforts of producers and users for the improvement of materials, processes, and methods; and to procure the recognition of the Association in any foreign country.

The sole executive authority of the Association is vested in the Council, which undertakes the whole of the organization of the movement, the raising of the necessary funds, the controlling of the expenditure, the arranging of the subjects to be dealt with by the various sectional and sub-committees, and the authority of the issue of all the reports and specifications.

The Association was established in July, 1929, by amalgamation of the Australian Commonwealth Engineering Standards Association and the Australian Commonwealth Association of Simplified Practice.

10. Valuation of Australian Production.

1. Value of Production.—The want of uniformity in methods of compilation and presentation of Australian statistics renders it an extremely difficult task to make anything like a satisfactory valuation of the various elements of production. At present there is so little accurate statistical knowledge regarding such industries as forestry, fisheries,

poultry, and bee-farming, that any valuation of the production therefrom can only be regarded as the roughest approximation. As a matter of fact, complete information as to value of production in all States is available in regard to the mining industry alone, and even in this case adjustments have to be made before the returns are strictly comparable. Careful estimates have been made in connexion with the value of production from the agricultural and pastoral industries, which, it is believed, in the main give fairly accurate results. The returns given in the following table for 1916 and subsequent years may be taken as substantially correct. The table hereunder shows the approximate value of the production from all industries during the years specified :—

ESTIMATED VALUE OF PRODUCTION.—AUSTRALIA, 1916 TO 1928-29.

Year.	Agriculture.	Pastoral.	Dairy, Poultry, and Bee-farming.	Forestry and Fisheries.	Mining.	Manufacturing.(a)	Total.
	£1,000.	£1,000.	£1,000.	£1,000.	£1,000.	£1,000.	£1,000.
1916 ..	61,255	83,003	27,931	6,062	23,192	60,502	261,945
1917 ..	59,641	91,917	31,326	6,147	24,998	65,327	279,356
1918 ..	59,036	96,573	33,738	6,890	25,462	70,087	291,786
1919-20 ...	72,202	111,594	38,830	9,670	18,982	92,330	343,608
1920-21 ..	112,801	90,573	52,613	11,136	21,613	101,778	390,514
1921-22 ..	81,890	74,982	44,417	10,519	19,977	112,517	344,302
1922-23 ..	84,183	97,029	43,542	11,124	20,316	123,188	379,382
1923-24 ..	81,166	110,075	42,112	11,866	22,232	132,732	400,183
1924-25 ..	107,163	126,773	45,190	12,357	24,646	137,977	454,106
1925-26 ..	89,267	113,327	48,278	12,784	24,592	143,256	431,504
1926-27 ..	98,295	111,716	46,980	12,790	24,007	153,634	447,422
1927-28 ..	84,328	124,554	50,261	12,181	22,983	158,562	452,869
1928-29 ..	89,440	116,733	50,717	11,617	19,597	159,759	447,863

(a) These amounts differ from those given in Chapter XXII., Manufacturing Industry, which include certain products included under Dairy Farming and Forestry in this table.

2. **Relative Productive Activity.**—The relative output or production per head of population measured quantitatively cannot be gauged from a mere statement of the total value of production from year to year. If measured by mere value, increase of price might have the effect of making an equal production to that of a time when prices were lower, and show an increase which would, of course, be misleading. For example, the annual figures relating to the estimated value of production from Australian industries do not directly show whether there has been any increase in the *quantity* produced, since the price-level at the time is itself a factor in the determination of the values. Before therefore, any estimate of the relative increase or decrease in production (that is, in the relative quantity of output) can be formed, the variations due to the price element must be eliminated. This is done in the following table, in which Column I. shows the estimated value of production (i) in the aggregate and (ii) per head of mean population. In Column II. the estimated value of production per head of population is shown in the form of index-numbers with the year 1911 as base; that is to say, the production per head in 1911 is made equal to 1,000, and the values for the other years computed accordingly. In Column III. production price index-numbers are given; it is assumed that these index-numbers reflect, with substantial accuracy, variations in production prices in Australia as a whole. The figures in Column IV. are obtained by dividing the figures for each year in Column II. by the corresponding figures in Column III. They show the estimated relative productive activity per head of population, taking the year 1911 as the basic or standard year, the fluctuations due to variations in prices having been eliminated :—

RELATIVE PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITY.—AUSTRALIA, 1871 TO 1928-29.

Year.	I.		II.	III.	IV.
	Estimated Value of Production.		Relative Value of Production per Head (Year 1911 = 1,000).	Production Price Index-Numbers (Year 1911 = 1,000. (a))	Estimated Relative Productive Activity Index-Numbers (Year 1911 = 1,000). (a)
	(i) Total (000 omitted)	(ii) Per Head of Population.			
	£	£			
1871	46,700	27.46	667	1,229	543
1881	71,116	30.83	749	1,121	668
1891	96,087	29.65	720	945	762
1896	92,605	26.06	633	922	686
1901	114,585	29.96	728	974	747
1906	147,043	35.94	873	948	921
1911	188,359	41.18	1,000	1,000	1,000
1916	261,945	53.26	1,293	1,412	916
1921-22	344,302	62.50	1,518	1,629	932
1924-25	454,106	77.31	1,877	1,930	873
1925-26	431,504	72.01	1,748	1,880	930
1926-27	447,422	73.22	1,778	1,835	969
1927-28	452,869	72.64	1,764	1,953	903
1928-29	447,863	70.68	1,716	1,831	937

(a) Production Price Index-numbers are not available prior to 1908, and Wholesale Price Index numbers are substituted therefor.

It should be noted, however, that the index-numbers from the year 1911 onwards in columns III. and IV., are not comparable with those appearing in the same table shown in Year Books issued prior to No. 22, 1929. This is due to an alteration in the method of computing the index-number for production in column III. and consequently the index-number in column IV. has been adjusted accordingly. Fuller particulars of the change in method may be found in Production Bulletin No. 22.

The index of productive activity given above is based on total population and is that most usually employed for such a purpose. As a measure of the efficiency of the whole community to provide with its existing organization the commodities produced in the industries concerned the index is correct, but it does not necessarily indicate the variation in efficiency of the workers engaged in those industries, since these workers may not represent a constant proportion of the total population. As a fact this proportion is diminishing, and if the index were based on persons engaged in the industries rather than on total population it would be increased from 1 to 7 per cent. in the later years of the period, and the index for 1928-29 instead of falling short of the 1911 standard would exceed it by approximately 7 per cent. This aspect of the question is at present the subject of further investigation.

In Year Book No. 5 (page 1217) will be found the value of production in each State at decennial intervals since 1871, and for the year 1909. Details for individual States are not available for subsequent years owing to discontinuance by the Customs Department of the collection of statistics of interstate trade.

§ 11. Film Censorship.

1. **Legislation.** The censorship of imported films derives its authority from section 52 (g) of the Customs Act, which is the section giving authority to prohibit the importation of goods. Under this section proclamations have been issued prohibiting the importation of films and relative advertising matter except under certain conditions and with the consent of the Minister. The conditions governing importation are contained in regulations issued under the Customs Act and provide, *inter alia*, that no film shall be registered which in the opinion of the censor is (a) blasphemous, indecent or obscene; (b) likely to be injurious to morality, or to encourage or incite to crime; (c) likely to be offensive to the people of any friendly nation; (d) likely to be offensive to the people of the British Empire; or (e) depicts any matter the exhibition of which is undesirable in the public interests.

The regulations governing the exportation of Australian-made films are similar, with the addition that no film may be exported which in the opinion of the Censor is likely to prove detrimental or prejudicial to the Commonwealth of Australia.

The Censorship consists of a Censorship Board of three persons and an Appeal Board of the same number, the headquarters of both Boards being in Sydney. Importers have the right of appeal to the Minister.

2. **Imports of Films.** Imported films dealt with by the Censorship for the year 1929 were as follows:—2,261 films of 4,502,377 feet passed without eliminations, 571 films of 2,866,298 feet passed after eliminations, and 100 films of 548,775 feet rejected in first instance, making a total of 2,932 films of 7,917,450 feet (one copy). The countries of origin were as follows:—United States of America, 2,322 films of 6,501,563 feet; United Kingdom, 343 films of 736,496 feet; and 267 films of 679,391 feet from other countries.

3. **Export of Films.** The regulations governing the export of films came into force on the 16th September, 1926. The number of films exported for the year 1929 was 718 of 666,103 feet (one copy).

§ 12. Marketing of Australian Commodities.

Particulars in respect of the various Commonwealth Acts and Regulations, together with the operations of the Boards or Councils appointed to assist or control the marketing of Australian commodities were published in previous issues of the Year Book, but, owing to considerations of space, cannot be inserted herein.