

CHAPTER XXX.

STATISTICAL ORGANIZATION AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

§ 1. Statistical Organization in Australia.

1. **Development of Australian Statistics.**—(i) *Crown Colony Blue Books.* Statistical organization in Australia was founded in the "Blue Books" which, in the Crown Colony days, were prepared annually for the information of the Colonial Office. Although primarily intended for administrative purposes, these documents have been important sources of statistical data, even though some important matters are not covered, and others only partially so. These Blue Books form the basis from which later statistical publications were developed. This led to an element of uniformity in statistical compilation within the British Empire.

(ii) *Statistical Registers.* Following the advent of Responsible Government which was granted during the period 1851-1860 to all Australian States except Western Australia—and to that State in 1890—the "Blue Book" was succeeded in all Australian States by "Statistical Registers". These were in many respects the old Blue Books in a new form, and were largely confined to summaries of the "by-product" statistics of Government administrative departments.

The first example of extensive Governmental organization for purely statistical purposes was the taking of periodic population censuses, which were initiated in all States under the Crown Colony régime. The growing need for quantitative data concerning the progress of the several young communities of Australia eventually led to the appointment of official Statisticians commissioned to prepare and publish such data.

(iii) *Statistical Conferences.* To enable the interchange of ideas between States, and to obtain uniform State Statistics which could be aggregated to Australian totals, conferences were held in the several States from as early as 1861. Altogether, six conferences were held prior to the formation of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics in 1906. These were held in 1861, 1875, 1890, 1900, 1902 and 1903. The holding of these conferences was continued subsequently to the formation of the Commonwealth Bureau, and a representative from New Zealand attended up to 1928. The most recent conference of Australian Statisticians was held in November, 1950.

2. **Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics.**—(i) *Origin and Aims.* Under the provisions of section 51 of the Commonwealth Constitution, power is conferred on the Commonwealth Parliament "to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Commonwealth with respect to—" (*inter alia*) "(XI.) Census and statistics". In compliance with this provision, the Census and Statistics Act 1905 was passed, and in 1906 the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics was created. A conference of Statisticians in 1906 defined the relations between the Commonwealth and State Bureaux, and in each case the State Statistician became the representative in his own State of the Commonwealth Statistician for the purpose of administering the Commonwealth Act. In addition, each State has its own "Statistics Act", and although these are not identical in all States, they embody common principles. With the establishment of the Commonwealth Bureau, the movement towards uniformity in information collected and statistical methods employed received a great stimulus. The Commonwealth Bureau did not attempt to duplicate the existing statistical organization, but endeavoured to use the services of the State statistical offices whenever possible, and to undertake the initial collection of statistics only in fields not already occupied by the States, or in which efficiency demanded complete centralization. Frequent statistical conferences (*see above*) have assisted the uniform development of existing statistics, and have facilitated expansion into new fields.

The scope of the Commonwealth Bureau has constantly been widened, more particularly during the 1939-45 War, when the Bureau responded to the urgent demands of administration for immediate and accurate statistical information in various fields. Since the war, requirements in the administrative, industrial, financial and scientific spheres have led to the development of many new statistical collections. All the activities of the Bureau are covered by the Census and Statistics Act, which confers authority to collect information and contains stringent provisions to ensure that the information obtained is treated in strictest secrecy.

(ii) *Organization.* For administrative purposes the Commonwealth Bureau is divided into a number of Divisions. These are :—Census and Mechanical Tabulation, Compiling, Publications, Research and Analysis, and Administrative.

(a) *Census and Mechanical Tabulation Division.* This Division of the Bureau is responsible for the taking of Population Censuses, and for all machine tabulation work required by other Divisions of the Bureau.

(b) *Compiling Division.* The Compiling Division is responsible for the compilation of all statistics other than those relating to the Census of Population. It is divided into the following Branches which deal with specific fields of statistical activity :—

Trade and Transport Branch—Responsible for the original compilation, tabulation and analysis of statistics relating to imports and exports, and for the compilation of statistics relating to road and rail transport, aviation, shipping, posts and telegraphs, telephones and wireless.

Prices Branch—Deals with the collection of retail and wholesale prices and the compilation of retail and wholesale price index-numbers. A staff of trained field officers is maintained in the several States to facilitate the collection of accurate information.

Employment and Labour Branch—Compiles all employment estimates, wage and labour statistics.

Primary Production Branch—Deals with statistics relating to agricultural and pastoral activities, mining, forestry and fishing. Original data are largely supplied by State Statisticians.

Secondary Production Branch—Compiles all factory statistics, both annual and monthly. Collates on a Commonwealth basis original annual data supplied by State Statisticians.

Finance and Taxation Branch—Compiles statistics of private finance (banking, insurance, exchange rates, etc.), public finance (Commonwealth, State and Local and Semi-Governmental authorities), and statistics relating to all aspects of Commonwealth taxation.

Demography Branch—Concerned with statistics of births, deaths, marriages and migration, and is responsible for periodic estimates of population.

Social Statistics Branch—Compiles all statistics relating to education, unemployment and sickness benefits, public health and welfare, and public justice.

Development Branch—This Branch was created in 1947 in order to develop new statistical collections to meet post-war demands for more adequate and up-to-date statistics, and also to examine current collections in the light of such requirements. To date the activities of the Branch have been concerned with three major projects, quarterly building statistics, retail sales statistics and all new monthly production statistics. In addition, research is undertaken into the applicability of sampling methods to statistical collections.

(c) *Publications Division.* This Division is responsible for the scrutiny, editing and graphical illustration of all Bureau publications, and, in collaboration with other Divisions, for the initiation, development and co-ordination of statistical publications. It also maintains a regular flow of statistical series to certain international organizations, and revises statistical material in certain oversea and local publications.

(d) *Research and Analysis Division.* This Division undertakes research into the theoretical and practical problems of statistical collection and interpretation. With the Development Branch, it is responsible for the development of new statistical series. Statistics on Australia's balance of international payments and estimates of national income and expenditure are two important fields of its work. In this Division is the Bureau's own specialized library of official and unofficial publications on statistics and economics.

(e) *Administrative Division.* The Administrative Division is responsible for all aspects of staff recruitment and direction, supplies, payment of accounts, etc. The Reproduction Section of the Division is equipped with multilith and duplicating machines for processing statistical statements for more immediate requirements. In addition, a special section of this Division is responsible for the examination of statistical methods and systems, and the co-ordination of all statistics, in Commonwealth Departments (see par. 3 below).

3. *Relation of the Bureau to other Commonwealth Departments.*—In October, 1950 the Commonwealth Public Service Board issued a circular relative to the compilation of statistics in other Commonwealth Departments, in which it stated that the Commonwealth Statistician should be the co-ordinating authority on all statistics in Commonwealth Departments, and that, as a general principle, where any new statistical field is to be established involving the regular collection of statistics, the Commonwealth Statistician should be consulted to ensure that they are necessary and that they are based on sound statistical methods; furthermore, that the Commonwealth Statistician should make a regular inspection, at least once every twelve months, of all statistical work done by Departments to ensure that their needs are met by the most economical means and without duplication of effort.

This project of co-ordination is being implemented as time and circumstances permit.

§ 2. Statistical Publications of Australia.

1. *General.*—The official statistical publications of Australia may be divided bibliographically into two main divisions, namely:—(1) Commonwealth publications dealing both individually and collectively with the several States of Australia; and (2) State publications dealing with individual States only.

2. *Commonwealth Publications.*—Commonwealth publications may be grouped under two heads, namely:—(i) Publications issued by the Commonwealth Statistician; and (ii) Parliamentary and Departmental Reports and Papers.

(i) *Publications issued by the Commonwealth Statistician.* The following is a list of the principal statistical publications issued from the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics since its inauguration to January, 1953:—

Australian Balance of Payments.—Statements, Nos. 1 and 2, 1928–29 to 1949–50.

Australian Life Tables, 1901–1910. Australian Joint Life Tables, 1901–1910.

Australian Life Tables, 1920–1922.

Australian Life Tables, 1932–1934. Australian Joint Life Tables, 1932–1934.

Australian Life Tables, 1946–1948.

Australian Primary Industries.—Report prepared for the Empire Producers Conference, Sydney, March, 1938.

Census (1911) Results.—Bulletins. Vols. I. (Statistician's Report), II., and III., with Appendix "Mathematical Theory of Population."

Census (1921) Results.—Bulletins, Nos. 1 to 26. Parts I. to XVI., forming Vol. I., and Parts XVII. to XXIX., forming, with the Statistician's Report, Vol. II.

NOTE.—Part XXVII., Life Tables.

- Census (1933) Results.*—Bulletins, Nos. 1 to 25. Parts I. to XIV., forming Vol. I., Parts XV. to XXVIII., forming Vol. II., and Parts XXIX. to XXXVII., forming, with Statistician's Report and Australian Life Tables 1932-1934, Vol. III.
- Census (1947) Results.*—Bulletins, Nos. 1 to 25. Parts I. to XX. Australian Life Tables, 1946-1948. For details regarding Bulletins and Parts see back page of this volume.
- **Census of Retail Establishments (1947-48) Results.*—Bulletins, Nos. 1 to 7.
- **Census of Retail Establishments (1948-49) Results.*—Bulletins, Nos. 1 to 7.
- **Dairying Industry* (formerly Summary of Dairying Industry).—Statistical Bulletin, monthly; first issue, September, 1937.
- **Factories, Principal Statistics, Summary.*—Annually, 1948-49 to 1950-51.
- Finance.*—Bulletins, 1907 to 1916-17 annually; 1917-18 and 1918-19 (one vol.); 1919-20 and 1920-21 (one vol.); 1922-23 to 1950-51 annually.
- **Food Production and the Consumption of Foodstuffs and Nutrients in Australia, Report.* Half-yearly, 1946-47 to 1947-48; annually, 1948-49 to 1950-51.
- **Fruit Growing Industry Summary.*—Annually, 1944-45 to 1950-51.
- Labour and Industrial Statistics.*—Memoranda and Reports, various, to 1913.
- Labour Report.*—Annually, 1913 to 1950.
- **Live-stock Numbers* (formerly Summary of Live-stock Statistics).—Statistical Bulletin, annually, 1943 to 1952.
- Local Government in Australia.*—July, 1919.
- **Manufacturing Industries.*—Bulletins on Individual Industries, annually, 1936-37 to 1939-40, 1940-41 (issue incomplete), and 1944-45 to 1950-51.
- **Monthly Review of Business Statistics.*—First issue, October, 1937.
- **Occupation Survey (1945) Results.*—Detailed tables.
- Official Year Book of the Commonwealth of Australia.*—Annually, 1907 to present issue (No. 39).
- Oversea Trade.*—Bulletins, annually, 1906 to 1950-51.
- **Oversea Trade.*—Preliminary Bulletin, 1951-52.
- **Oversea Trade Statistics: Imports Cleared for Home Consumption classified according to Individual Items of the Customs Tariff,* 1950-51 to 1951-52.
- Pocket Compendium of Australian Statistics* (formerly Statistical Digest).—1913, 1914, 1916, and 1918 to 1952 annually.
- Population and Vital Statistics.*—Bulletins and Reports, various, 1906-1910.
- Demography,* 1911 to 1949 annually.
- Primary Industries.*—Bulletin, 1950-51 first issue in two parts: Part I. Rural Industries; Part II. Non-Rural Industries and Value of Production (not yet published).
- Production.*—Bulletin, annually, 1906 to 1947-48. From 1936-37 to 1949-50 issued in two parts: Part I. Secondary Industries; Part II. Primary Industries (including Total Recorded Production).
- Professional Papers.*—Various. A full list appears in Official Year Book No. 13, p. 3.
- Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics.*—First issue, No. 70, December, 1917, replacing *Monthly Summary of Australian Statistics* (Bulletins Nos. 1 to 69).
- **Report of Proceedings of the Conference of British Commonwealth Statisticians,* 1951.
- **Rural Land Use and Crop Statistics Summary* (formerly Summary of Crop Statistics).—Annually, 1943-44 to 1950-51.
- Social Insurance.*—Report to the Hon. the Minister of Trade and Customs, 1910.
- Social Statistics.*—Bulletins, 1907 to 1915 annually, and 1918.
- Superannuation for the Commonwealth Public Service.*—Report to the Hon. the Minister for Home Affairs, 1910.
- **Survey of Motor Vehicles (1947-48) Results.*—Bulletins Nos. 1 to 7.
- Transport and Communication.*—Bulletins, 1906, 1908 to 1916 annually, 1919 to 1930 annually, and 1932 to 1949-50 annually.

* *Vegetables Grown on Farms for Human Consumption, Summary.*—Annually, 1942-43 to 1950-51.

Wages and Prices.—January, 1932.

Wealth.—The Private Wealth of Australia and its Growth as ascertained by various methods, together with a Report on the War Census in 1915.

* *Wheat Industry* (formerly Summary of the Wheat Situation).—Statistical Bulletin, periodically; first issue, July, 1936.

The foregoing list includes all the printed publications issued from the Bureau, and certain more important mimeographed publications issued for the most part annually. Other mimeographed statements, obtainable on application to the Commonwealth Statistician and dealing with a wide variety of subjects, are issued as follows :—

Annually—Bee Farming; Commonwealth and State Taxation Collections; Companies with Oversea Affiliations; Factory Statistics (Preliminary); Meat Production and Utilization; Milking Machines on Rural Holdings; Oversea Trade between Australia and Eastern Countries; Social Services, Expenditure by States; Tractors on Rural Holdings; University Statistics; Value of Production; Wheat Forecast and Estimate.

Half-yearly—Australian Balance of Payments; Trade of Australia with United Kingdom.

Quarterly—Building; Minerals and Metals; Quarterly Business Survey; Retail Sales of Goods; Retail Price Variations—All Items ("C" Series) Index.

Monthly—Banking; Demographic Review; Employment; Exports of Wool from Australia; Export Prices Index; Gold Mining Industry; Life Assurance; Oversea Trade; Production Statistics; Registrations of New Motor Vehicles; Savings Bank Deposits and Savings Certificates.

(ii) *Commonwealth Parliamentary and Departmental Reports and Papers.* Lists of the principal official reports and other documents containing statistical information issued from the inauguration of the Commonwealth appear in the Official Year Books up to No. 13, but it is not now practicable to undertake the preparation of such lists.

3. *State Publications.*—The chief statistical publications of each State are set out hereunder. As with the Commonwealth Parliamentary and Departmental Reports and Papers, it is not practicable to enumerate the various Departmental Reports, statements of accounts, etc., issued by officials, boards, local and semi-governmental authorities, etc., in each State.

(a) New South Wales—Statistical Register (annual); Official Year Book of New South Wales (annual); Pocket Year Book (annual); Statistical Bulletin (monthly to December, 1919, quarterly to June, 1943, then discontinued to September, 1948); Monthly Summary of Business Statistics.

(b) Victoria—Statistical Register (annual to 1916, then discontinued); Victorian Year-book (annual); Statistical Abstracts (quarterly to 1917, then discontinued to December, 1946).

(c) Queensland—Statistical Register (annual); Official Year Book, 1901; A.B.C. of Queensland Statistics (annual to 1936, then discontinued); the Queensland Year Book (annual 1937 to 1941, then discontinued to 1945); Queensland Pocket Year Book (annual).

(d) South Australia—Statistical Register (annual); Official Year Book, 1912 and 1913; Statesman's Pocket Year Book of South Australia (annual); Quarterly Summary of Statistics.

(e) Western Australia—Statistical Register (annual); Statistical Abstracts (quarterly, previously issued monthly to July, 1917); Pocket Year Book of Western Australia (annual).

(f) Tasmania—Statistical Register (annual); Pocket Year Book of Tasmania (annual); Monthly Review of Business Statistics.

* Obtainable from Commonwealth Statistician—for methods of obtaining other publications still in print see back page of this volume.

§ 3. The Third Conference of British Commonwealth Statisticians, Canberra, 1951.

Conferences of the Government Statisticians of the British Commonwealth were held first in London in 1920 and then in Ottawa in 1935. The Third Conference was held in Canberra from 12th to 23rd November, 1951. Delegates were present from Australia, Canada, Ceylon, India, New Zealand and the United Kingdom (including a representative of the Colonial Office). Ireland, the Commonwealth Economic Committee and the United Nations were represented by observers, and the Australian State Government Statisticians were also present. Unfortunately, urgent internal statistical problems prevented the Governments of Pakistan, South Africa and Southern Rhodesia from being represented.

Matters for discussion were decided in advance by the participating countries, which were also invited to prepare and circulate papers on agenda items before delegates left for Australia. When the Conference opened, extensive documentation was available on many items for discussion, including an historical summary of relevant recommendations by previous Commonwealth and recent International conferences.

The Conference reviewed statistical requirements and modern practice on many aspects of the following matters :—

Labour Statistics	Statistical Co-ordination
Production Statistics	National Income
Agricultural Statistics	Indexes of Prices
External Trade Statistics	Family Budget Inquiries
Retail Trade and Census of Distribution	Road Transport Statistics
Application of Sampling Methods	Recent Developments in Census Taking
	Mineral Statistics.

Whereas the earlier conferences prepared reports and passed series of resolutions aiming at improving and co-ordinating statistics throughout the Commonwealth, the report prepared by the Third Conference aimed at reaching as firm an expression of views as was consistent with unanimity, whilst at the same time mentioning different views which were expressed if unanimous conclusions were not possible.

The Report concludes with a General Review in which is expressed the realization by the Conference that complete uniformity in statistical practice could not be expected in a Commonwealth which included countries and territories in all parts of the world, and in which there was a great variety of geographical conditions and differing forms of economic and social organization. While aiming at general agreement on the best methods of achieving particular results, the Conference recognized that on many subjects different practices must perforce be followed in the different countries to meet their special needs. In Government affairs, in business and in all discussions of public policy the use of statistics was much more extensive now than at the time of the Second Conference, and during the intervening period important developments had occurred in the theory and application of statistical methods. Greater need existed for an exchange of views on technical matters between the Statisticians of the Commonwealth countries. In view of the advantages to be gained from meetings of these Statisticians, Conference decided that Commonwealth conferences should be held every five years and a co-ordinating committee was appointed to make plans for the Fourth Conference.

The Conference provided an opportunity for an exchange of views which should lead to statistical improvements in all countries represented, and its report should be of assistance to the Statistical Office of the United Nations and other organizations in their work of improving statistics on an international scale. While the tangible results of the Conference would be evident from the Report, the Statisticians felt that the intangible results of personal contact and discussion outside the sessions would be of inestimable value.

§ 4. Select List of Works about, or published in, Australia.

(Compiled by the Librarian of the Commonwealth National Library.)

Under most headings a list is first given of the principal standard books which are still in print. This is followed by lists of selected books published during the current period and of official publications, excluding annual reports, of the same period. In the present list the period covered is 1st January, 1950 to 31st December, 1951. A few books which, though published earlier, were received after the compilation of the last issue are also included.

Where known, the retail price in the country of publication is given, but this is subject to fluctuation.

A copy of each of the works mentioned is available in the Library.

The Library also publishes the Annual Catalogue of Australian Publications, official papers and books on Australia published overseas, obtainable from the Government Printer at a price of 2s.; Australian Public Affairs Information Service, a monthly subject index to current literature, available gratis from the library; Books Published in Australia, a monthly list of books supplied under copyright, also available gratis from the Library; Monthly list of Australian Government publications.

General and Descriptive.

- AUSTRALIA, The *Herald* YEAR BOOK: a reference work of world-wide range, No. 1 to date. Melb., *Herald* and Weekly Times, 1949 to date. 2rs.
- AUSTRALIAN ENCYCLOPAEDIA, THE: editors, A. W. Jose, H. J. Carter and T. G. Tucker: 3rd ed. 2 v. Syd., Angus & Robertson, 1926-27. 55s. (o.p., but new ed. in preparation).
- GRATTAN, C. H. *Introducing Australia*: 2nd Aust. ed. Syd., Angus & Robertson, 1949. 7s. 6d.
- MADIGAN, C. T. *Central Australia*: 2nd ed. Melb., Oxford University Press, 1944. 15s.
- NOBLE, N. S., ed. *The Australian environment*: 2nd ed. Melb., G.S.I.R.O., 1950.
- OFFICIAL YEAR BOOK OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA: No. 1 to date. Canberra, Government Printer, 1908 to date. 5s. per issue. No. 38 to date, 10s.
- RATCLIFFE, F. N. *Flying fox and drifting sand: the adventures of a biologist in Australia*: introd. by Julian Huxley. Syd., Angus & Robertson, 1951. 21s. First published in Great Britain and U.S.A. in 1938.
- TAYLOR, T. G. *Australia: a study of warm environments and their effect on British settlement*. 6th ed. Lond., Methuen, 1951. 21s.
- WALKABOUT: *Australian geographical magazine*. Melb., Australian Geographical Society, 1934, to date. 24s. per annum.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

- ABBOTT, C. L. A. *Australia's frontier province*. Syd., Angus & Robertson [1950]. 16s.
- AUDAS, J. W. C. *The Australian bushland*. Melb., Hamer, 1950. 84s.
- GOLLINS, D. *Victoria's my home ground*. Melb., Cheshire, [1951]. 19s. 6d.
- DEVANNY, J. *Travels in North Queensland*. Lond., Jarrolds, 1951. 16s.
- FARWELL, G. M. *The outside track*. [Melb.] Melbourne University Press [1951]. 12s. 6d.
- GROOM, A. *I saw a strange land*. Syd., Angus & Robertson [1950]. 15s.
- HILL, E. *The Territory*. Syd., Angus & Robertson, 1951. 25s.
- HILLIER, R. *Portrait of Melbourne: photographed by Rob Hillier: with a profile in words and description by John Hetherington: (introd. by Sam Ure Smith and Mervyn E. R. Horton)* [Syd.] Ure Smith [1951]. 25s.
- HURLEY, J. F. *Queensland: a camera study: by Frank Hurley*. Syd., Angus & Robertson [1950]. 35s.
- HURLEY, P. J. *In search of Australia*: 3rd ed. Syd., Dymock's, 1949.
- SPENCE, G. M., ed. *Portrait of Sydney: a photographic impression with an illuminating article by Kenneth Slessor and Sam Ure Smith*. [Syd.] Ure Smith [1950]. 15s.

Territories Outside Australia.

- AUSTRALIA—*External Affairs, Department of.* Handbook and index to accompany a map of Antarctica produced by the Department of the Interior, 1939: by E. P. Bayliss and J. S. Cumpston. Canberra, Department of External Affairs, 1940. 2s. 6d.
- MAIR, L. P. Australia in New Guinea: introd. by Lord Hailey. Lond., Christophers, 1948. 18s.
- MEAD, M. From the South Seas: studies of adolescence and sex in primitive societies. 3 v. in 1. New York, Morrow, 1939. \$4.
- OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF NEW GUINEA. Canberra, Department of External Affairs, 1937. 7s. 6d.
- SCHOLES, A. Fourteen men: story of the Australian Antarctic expedition to Heard Island. Melb., Cheshire, 1949. 15s.
- WILLIAMS, F. E. Orokaiva magic. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1928. 12s. 6d.
- Orokaiva Society. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1930. 25s.
- Papuan of the Trans-Fly. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1936. 30s.
- See also the annual reports of the Administrators of the various Territories, and reports to the General Assembly of the United Nations on trusteeship territories, the anthropological reports of the Governments of Papua and New Guinea, and material appearing in *Oceania*.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

- BARRETT, C. L. The Pacific: ocean of islands. Melb., Seward [1950]. 105s.
- CLUNE, F. P. Somewhere in New Guinea: a companion to Prowling through Papua. Syd., Angus & Robertson [1951]. 25s.
- GORDON, D. C. The Australian frontier in New Guinea 1870-1885. New York, Columbia University Press, 1951. \$4. 25.
- HOGGIN, H. I. Transformation scene: the changing culture of a New Guinea village. Lond., Routledge, 1951.
- RIESENFELD, A. Megalithic culture of Melanesia. Leiden, Brill, 1950. 35 glds.

History.

- CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE, v. 7, pt. 1: Australia. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1933. 35s.
- CLARK, C. M. H., ed. Select documents in Australian history 1788-1850: selected and edited by C. M. H. Clark with the assistance of L. S. Pryor. Syd., Angus & Robertson [1950]. 30s.
- FITZPATRICK, B. C. British empire in Australia: an economic history 1834-1939: 2nd ed. Melb., Melbourne University Press, 1949. 17s. 6d.
- HISTORICAL RECORDS OF AUSTRALIA: editor, J. F. Watson. Syd., Commonwealth Parliament Library Committee, 1914 to date. 12s. 6d. *per v.* 34 v. have so far appeared. Publication has been suspended since 1925.
- HISTORICAL STUDIES: Australia and New Zealand. Melb., Melbourne University Press, 1940 to date. 16s. *per annum*.
- LA NAUZE, J. A. Political economy in Australia: historical studies. Melb., Melbourne University Press, 1949. 9s. 6d.
- O'BRIEN, E. M. The foundation of Australia (1786-1800): a study in English criminal practice and penal colonization in the eighteenth century: foreword by John M. Ward: [bibliog.]. Syd., Angus & Robertson, 1950. 25s. First published in Great Britain in 1937.
- SHANN, E. O. G. An economic history of Australia. Melb., Georgian House, 1948. 18s. First published in Great Britain in 1930.
- SHAW, A. G. L. Economic development of Australia: rev. ed. Lond., Longmans, 1946. 7s.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

- BARRETT, C. L. Gold in Australia. Melb., Cassell, 1951. 30s.
- VICTORIA—*Premier's Department.* Golden years: 1851-1951: ed. by E. A. Doyle. Melb., Premier's Department, 1951. 37s. 6d.
- The story of the century: 1851-1951: ed. by E. A. Doyle. Melb., Premier's Department, 1951. 37s. 6d.
- WILD, D. The tale of a city: Geelong 1850-1950. Melb., Cheshire, for Geelong City Council, 1950. 15s.

Military and Naval History.

- AUSTRALIA—*Army—Public relations directorate.* The Australian Army at war: an official record of service in two hemispheres, 1939-1945. Melb., The Directorate, 1947.
- BEAN, C. E. W. Anzac to Amiens: a shorter history of the Australian fighting services in the first world war. Canberra, Australian War Memorial, 1946. 25s.
- MACANDIE, G. L. The genesis of the Royal Australian Navy: a compilation. Syd., Government Printer, 1949. 25s.
- MCGUIRE, F. M. The Royal Australian Navy: its origin, development and organization. Melb., Oxford University Press, 1948. 16s.
- OFFICIAL HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA IN THE WAR OF 1914-1918: editor, C. E. W. Bean. 12v. Canberra, Australian War Memorial, 1921-42. 21s. *per v.* V. 8, 10, 11. 18s.
- OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE WAR OF 1914-1918: editor, Col. A. G. Butler. 3v. Canberra, Australian War Memorial, 1930-43. 21s. *per v.*

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

- COOPER, H. M. A naval history of South Australia and other historical notes. Adel., 1950. 15s.
- FEAKES, H. J. White ensign-southern cross: a story of the King's ships of Australia's navy: [foreword by Admiral Lord Mountbatten of Chelsea]. Syd., Ure Smith [1951]. 42s.
- HENRY, R. L. The story of the 2/4th Field Regiment: a history of a Royal Australian Artillery Regiment during the Second World War. Melb., Merion Press, 1951. 22s. 6d.
- JACOBS, J. W., and BRIDGLAND, R. J., eds. Through: the story of Signals 8 Australian Division and Signals A.I.F. Malaya. Syd., 8 Division Signals Association, 1951. 21s.
- LAUGHLIN, A. Boots and all: the inside story of the secret war: [foreword by H. Gordon Bennett]. [Melb.], Colongravure [1951]. 19s. 6d.
- O'BRIEN, J. W. A. Guns and gunners: the story of the 2/5th Australian Field Regiment in World War II. Syd., Angus & Robertson, 1950. 18s. 6d.

Church History.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

- MASSBY, J. T. The Y.M.C.A. in Australia: a history. Melb., Cheshire [1950]. 42s.
 THORPE, O. First Catholic mission to the Australian aborigines. Syd., Pellegrini [1950]. 25s.
 WHITE, C. A. The challenge of the years: a history of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales: by Rev. C. A. White under authority of the General Assembly: [foreword by Hector Harrison: introd. by J. A. Ferguson]. Syd., Angus & Robertson [1951]. 25s.

Biography.

GEOGRAPHICAL HANDBOOK AND RECORD OF ELECTIONS FOR THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH. Canberra, Commonwealth Parliament Library Committee, 1945. 10s. 6d.
 A new issue in preparation.

- PALMER, V. National portraits: 2nd ed. Melb., Melbourne University Press, 1948. 12s. 6d.
 SERLE, P. Dictionary of Australian biography. 2 v. Syd., Angus & Robertson, 1949. 105s.
 WHO'S WHO IN AUSTRALIA: 14th ed. by J. A. Alexander. Melb., Herald Press, 1950. 50s.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

- BAKER, A. D. The life and times of Sir Richard Dry. Hobart, Oldham, Beddome & Meredith, 1951. 10s. 6d.
 CUMPTON, J. H. L. Charles Sturt: his life and journeys of exploration. Melb., Georgian House [1951]. 21s.
 FITZPATRICK, K. E. Sir John Franklin in Tasmania, 1837-1843. Melb., Melbourne University Press, 1949. 25s.
 HICKEY, S. Travelled roads: foreword by Brian James. Melb., Cheshire [1951]. 18s. 6d.
 HUGHES, M. Kent. A biography of John Singleton. Melb., Oxford University Press, 1950. 10s. 6d.
 KIDDLE, M. L. Caroline Chisholm: foreword by Prof. Douglas Copland. Melb., Melbourne University Press [1950]. 21s.
 MACKAY, G. The life of Vice-Admiral William Bligh, R.N., F.R.S.: rev. ed. Syd., Angus & Robertson, 1951. 50s. First published in 1931.
 RUSSELL, A. William James Farrer. Melb., Cheshire, 1949. 15s.
 WATERS, T. D. Much besides music: memoirs. Melb., Georgian House [1951]. 21s.

Constitution and Administration.

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DIARY OF PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC EVENTS, 1948 to 1951.

The principal economic events for the years 1931 to 1938 were shown on pp. 968 to 977 of the Official Year Book No. 33, those for the years 1939 to 1944 on pp. 1129 to 1141 of the Official Year Book No. 36 and those for the years 1945 to 1947 were included in the range of years—1945 to 1949—covered by the two Official Year Books following (Nos. 37 and 38). For reasons of space some of the items originally shown for the years 1948 and 1949 have been omitted from this issue. Previous issues should be consulted for additional information for these years.

1948.

Employment continued to increase during 1948, the total increase (excluding rural and household domestic) being about 88,000 (63,000 males and 25,000 females). The number on unemployment benefit remained negligible during the whole year and labour shortages continued fairly generally. The migration programme was carried on during the year with increasing vigour and permanent arrivals exceeded permanent departures by 48,000.

Although black coal production for the whole of Australia reached 14,800,000 tons, there were at times serious shortages resulting in restrictions in electricity and gas supplies and in transport services. Seasonal conditions continued favourable, the 1948-49 wool clip being slightly larger than in the previous year, and the wheat crop considerably above average although well below the previous year. There were about 48,000 new houses completed during 1948.

Exports rose to more than £500,000,000, an increase of 60 per cent. over 1947, and imports to about £380,000,000, an increase of 40 per cent. over 1947. Export prices increased more than 25 per cent. during the year and import prices by 6 per cent. Retail prices increased about 10 per cent. during the year, wholesale prices about 14 per cent. Average factory earnings in the last quarter were 13 per cent. above the last quarter of 1947.

Partly as a result of increasing prices, national income continued to rise, and gross private investment continued at about 20 per cent. of gross national product.

1st January.—Forty-hour week became effective throughout Australia.

23rd January.—Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. S. G. McFarlane) appointed fourteenth director of the International Monetary Fund and Bank of World Reconstruction and Development. The Commonwealth Statistician (Dr. Roland Wilson) to be alternate director.

2nd February.—Railway dispute on wages awards in Queensland involving about 19,000 railwaymen. (Lasted till 4th April.)

20th February.—Major water conservation works in £25,000,000 plan for "Drought proofing" Victoria, involving, amongst other works, the enlargement of Eildon reservoir, commenced.

29th April.—Minister for Defence announced five-year defence programme of £250,000,000 including £33,500,000 for scientific research.

5th May.—Minister for Housing in New South Wales announced scheme for £8,000,000 housing project to meet industrial expansion, involving 5,000 homes in the Wollongong-Port Kembla district.

29th May.—Constitution Alteration (Rents and Prices) Referendum resulted in majorities in all States against proposal.

3rd June.—Australian Iron and Steel Ltd. plans to spend £20,000,000 in the next ten years on extensions to its Port Kembla works to include a new tinplate mill and blast furnaces on an area of more than two square miles.

22nd June.—Meat and clothes rationing ceased throughout Australia.

3rd July.—Prime Minister left for London to discuss empire trade and other problems.

12th July.—Announcement of modified wheat stabilization plan guaranteeing a price of 6s. 3d. per bushel f.o.r. ports for bulk wheat. (Subsequently adopted by majority of growers in four main wheat producing States and ratified by Commonwealth—Wheat Industry Stabilization Act assented to 25th November—and State Governments, the plan will operate for the five years 1948-49 to 1952-53.)

11th August.—Judgment delivered by Full High Court declaring invalid certain vital sections of Banking Act 1947.

16th August.—Control of rents passed from Commonwealth to States.

19th August.—New Zealand currency restored to parity with sterling.

24th August.—Announcement of increase from £360,000,000 to £569,000,000 in national works programme to cushion a possible depression during the next five years, covering 6,245 works projects throughout Australia.

2nd September.—Minister for Commerce and Agriculture announced that, under terms of a seven-year agreement operating from June, 1948, Australia will ship to United Kingdom the total exportable surplus of butter and cheese, less agreed quantities for other markets.

8th September.—Commonwealth Budget for 1948-49 introduced, providing for expenditure of £511,000,000 and revenue of £493,000,000. Estimated expenditure on Defence and Post-war Charges was £199,000,000 (including £10,000,000 United Kingdom Grant, £38,000,000 for re-establishment and repatriation, and £23,000,000 to be set aside for war gratuities), on social services £88,500,000, and on capital works and services £38,000,000. Reductions in Income Tax, Social Services Contribution, Sales Tax and Excise Duty were expected to reduce the yield from taxation by about £29,000,000 a year.

20th September.—Control of prices taken over by individual States from Commonwealth. Thirty thousand items released from price control, but control continued on essential commodities and services, and house and agricultural land sales (about 20,000 items).

30th September.—Bill introduced into House of Representatives providing for acceptance by Australia of the Havana Charter for an International Trade Organization and a General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. (Act assented to 17th December. Actual acceptance, however, conditional on that of United Kingdom and United States of America.)

6th October.—Coal miners' dispute in Southern coal-fields, New South Wales (Kenira Tunnel Dispute), resulting in general stoppage of coal production. (Settled 8th November.)

24th October.—Announced that Joint Coal Board would spend £16,000,000 on mechanizing and modernizing Australian coal mines.

12th November.—Announcement of new agreement under which Britain will buy more than half of Australia's dried fruit production for the next five years.

22nd November.—Legislation approved to establish and constitute an Australian Shipping Board to run a Commonwealth line of ships. (Shipping Bill introduced in Senate 9th December; Act assented to 25th March, 1949.)

29th November.—New Australian made car, the "Holden", displayed publicly for first time.

1949.

A general black-coal strike lasting seven weeks in July and August, together with heavy flooding in the northern coal-fields of New South Wales, seriously disrupted productive activity, large coal consumers such as the steel and cement-producing industries being particularly affected. During this period of industrial dislocation, the numbers of persons unemployed rose sharply to more than 100,000, but otherwise conditions of labour shortage continued throughout the year. Employment (excluding rural and household domestic) increased by about 80,000 (60,000 males and 20,000 females). Most of this increase was due to immigration, which was about three times as great as in 1948. Permanent arrivals exceeded permanent departures by about 150,000.

Following the black-coal strike, secondary industry revived rapidly, and during the last three or four months of 1949, production of basic essentials such as coal, gas, electricity, iron and steel, and cement was well above the level of the previous year. There were about 53,000 new houses completed during 1949.

For the third year in succession seasonal conditions were exceptionally favorable, although heavy rains and floodings did considerable damage in the northern and eastern areas of Australia. Wool production in 1949-50 was about 10 per cent. higher than in the previous year and wheat production was very close to the all-time record established in 1947-48. With increases in wool prices more than balancing falls in wheat and metal prices, exports continued to rise in value. The value of imports rose even faster, the main increases being in motor vehicles and machinery of all kinds.

Retail and wholesale prices increased by about 10 per cent. during the year.

31st January.—National Savings Campaign launched by the Prime Minister on termination of Savings Certificate Scheme.

8th February.—Sydney storemen and packers decided to refuse to deliver wool, skins, tallow and hides from stores unless claim for 30s. a week increase granted within seven days. (Ban came into force on 16th February. Dispute settled 30th March.)

12th February.—Completion of sowing of 30,500 acres of sorghum on the Peak Downs for the Queensland-British Food Corporation.

13th February.—The Commonwealth to build hostels in Newcastle, Port Kembla, Adelaide and Melbourne to accommodate 100,000 European migrants to arrive in the next 18 months.

16th February.—Decision of Commonwealth to admit women to clerical and professional grades of Commonwealth Public Service.

24th February.—Bills introduced to reduce rates of Income Tax and Social Services Contributions payable by individuals—to take effect from 1st July. (Acts assented to 12th March.)

16th March.—Bill authorizing construction of dams and weirs at Menindee, New South Wales at estimated cost of £2,300,000 introduced in New South Wales Lower House. Storage capacity of project is approximately 2,000,000 acre feet of water. Scheme will supply water to more than 1,000,000 acres of pastures. (Act assented to 18th April, 1949. Works commenced 12th October, 1949.)

21st March.—Agreement of wheat importing nations to purchase 450,000,000 bushels of wheat a year, mainly from United States of America, Australia and Canada—Russia and Argentine not partners to agreement. Australia's share 80,000,000 bushels a year. (Bill to approve acceptance of agreement by Australia introduced 19th May. Act assented to 30th June.)

15th April.—Agreement between Australia and New Zealand to give citizens of each country full Social Service benefits when resident in the other.

28th April.—Australian Prime Minister and British Minister of Food announced agreement to arrangements for increasing meat exports from Australia to United Kingdom. (Bill introduced 18th October for grant of financial assistance to Queensland and Western Australia for development of meat production by improving roads and other facilities for movement of live-stock. Act assented to 28th October.)

11th May.—Representatives of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa met in London to discuss promotion of use of wool in all countries, possible co-operation with South American countries, future development in other regions, and scientific research.

16th May.—New South Wales State Cabinet approved restrictions on use of electricity by industry and commercial and domestic users. Industry in County of Cumberland to reduce consumption of electricity by 30 per cent. as from 1st June.

Victorian State Cabinet ratified Murray River Agreement which, *inter alia*, provides for enlargement of Hume Weir and installation of hydro-electric plant. Agreement already ratified by Governments of Commonwealth, New South Wales and South Australia.

17th May.—Rural Finance Corporation Bill introduced in Victorian Legislative Assembly, providing for an institution to afford additional and more effective credit facilities for primary producers and those conducting or desirous of establishing secondary industries in country districts. (Assented to 8th November.)

Governor of Commonwealth Bank announced current advances policy to be observed by banks, designed to limit excessive demand for goods generally, and for capital goods in particular, in relation to supplies available.

20th May.—Bill introduced, providing for establishment of Australian Whaling Commission to carry on whaling activities in or near Australian waters. (Act assented to 12th July.)

26th May.—Federal Cabinet decided to make joint purchase with New Zealand Government of Christmas Island phosphate deposits. Deposits, estimated at 25 to 30 million tons, will cost £2,750,000. (Christmas Island Agreement Bill introduced 26th October; Act assented to 29th October.)

6th June.—Full High Court unanimously declared invalid National Security (Liquid Fuel) Regulations, thus restoring free retailing of petrol.

10th June.—Announced that Victorian State and Municipal authorities plan to spend £46,000,000 in the next eight years in order to expand electricity generation and make it less dependent on supplies of black coal.

17th June.—Following threat of general coal strike over dispute about claims for 35-hour week, 30s. a week wage increase and long-service leave, the Joint Coal Board announced most drastic coal rationing ever imposed in Australia. Floods on northern New South Wales coal-fields stopped delivery of coal.

22nd June.—Construction work on Dumaresq River marked the beginning of the Border River Scheme, designed to harness the waters of the Barwon, Macintyre and Dumaresq Rivers, separating New South Wales and Queensland.

27th June.—All Australian black coal mines idle (*see* 17th). Transport, power, lighting and gas supplies severely restricted in all States; much unemployment caused, especially in New South Wales. (Work resumed 15th August.)

28th June.—Following abolition of Stevedoring Industry Commission, Stevedoring Industry Bill introduced to establish Australian Stevedoring Industry Board. (Assented to 18th July.)

30th June.—Bill introduced to enable Commonwealth Government to require liquid fuel importers to hold stocks at specified places for defence requirements. (Act assented to 12th July.)

11th July.—Air transport agreement between Australia and India signed, to prevent uneconomic competition, for collaboration on fares and freights, and for reciprocal traffic rights.

12th July.—Prime Minister stated that Commonwealth Government would increase subsidy paid to certain gold mines. Rate of assistance to be raised from 4 to 6 per cent. of paid-up capital.

19th July.—Commonwealth Finance Minister's Conference in London recommended 25 per cent. cut in dollar imports. (Approved 3rd August by Federal Cabinet sub-committee.)

26th July.—Privy Council dismissed Commonwealth Government's appeal against High Court's invalidation of Commonwealth's bank nationalization legislation (Banking Act 1947).

15th August.—Announced that experiments in air-freighting beef carcasses in north-western Australia had proved successful.

18th August.—Federal Government agreed to waive all duties on essential materials which States find necessary to import, mainly building materials, steel products and locomotives, because they are unobtainable in Australia.

Prime Minister stated that he would recommend to Cabinet a special grant of £8,000,000 to State Governments, to relieve losses incurred in coal strike. (Bill introduced 7th September, assented to 27th October.)

Introduction of Land Settlement (*Development Leases*) Bill to enable South Australian Government to grant development leases to the Australian Mutual Provident Society and other approved persons or associations. (Act assented to 13th October.) The Society plans to transform a large tract of the Ninety Mile Desert, South Australia, into rich agricultural land, by the application of modern scientific methods, for ultimate sub-division for closer settlement.

7th September.—Introduction of 1949-50 Commonwealth Budget, providing for expenditure of £541,300,000 and revenue of £532,600,000 on basis of existing legislation and commitments. Estimated expenditure on War and Repatriation (1939-45) Services was £101,000,000 and on Defence Services £64,000,000—less estimated credits of £11,000,000; on statutory payments to National Welfare Fund £121,000,000; and on Capital Works and Services £53,200,000. Proposals for Income Tax extensions of depreciation allowances and of life assurance and superannuation concessional rebates, Sales Tax reductions and exemptions, a reduction in Entertainments Tax, and remissions in Customs, Excise and Primage Duties will reduce revenue by £9,600,000 a year. Expenditure proposals included a further grant of £10,000,000 to the United Kingdom, additional payments of £9,000,000 to the States and a payment of £6,700,000 from Trust Fund balances to the War Gratuity Reserve. Taking these proposals into account, net revenue for 1949-50 was estimated at £532,000,000 and expenditure at £567,000,000, leaving £35,000,000 to be financed from Loan Fund.

Coal Industry Tribunal granted long-service leave to miners throughout Australia. New award provides for thirteen weeks' leave on full pay after a minimum of ten years' service. No miners to commence long-service leave before June, 1954, owing to present manpower shortage in the coal industry. (In October, 1952, the commencement date was advanced to January, 1953.)

19th September.—Prime Minister announced devaluation of sterling against American dollar, and commensurate devaluation, as from commencement of business to-day, of Australian pound to 2 dollars 24 cents; new gold price announced—£A.15 9s. 10d. per fine ounce.

2nd October.—Prime Minister announced establishment of Immigration Planning Council, to assist in smooth and speedy assimilation of migrants into industry and the community.

17th October.—Official opening by Governor-General of Snowy River project for the generation of hydro-electric power for defence purposes and for consumption in the Australian Capital Territory.

20th October.—Agreement on rail standardization (replacing original agreement—see 2nd August, 1946) signed by Commonwealth and South Australian Governments. (Ratifying Acts assented to later in year.)

Announced that Australian Government had arranged with International Monetary Fund for an initial drawing from fund of \$20,000,000.

15th November.—Re-introduction of petrol rationing in all States except Tasmania (see 6th June).

8th December.—Announcement of new sugar agreement with United Kingdom. In conformity with existing arrangements United Kingdom would buy all of Australia's exportable sugar surplus up to end of 1952; from 1953 to 1957 arrangements to be made to find a market for 500,000 tons of Australian sugar annually in British Commonwealth preferential market—300,000 tons to be absorbed in United Kingdom market at a guaranteed price to be negotiated annually.

12th December.—Coal Industry Tribunal rejected Miners' Federation claim for reduction of working hours from 40 to 35 per week in coal industry in five States

1950.

Favorable economic conditions were maintained throughout the year. Employment rose every month with the exception of October, when a railway dispute started in Victoria, later extending to South Australia. The total increase in employment (other than rural, household domestic, and defence forces) was approximately 100,000 (70,000 males and 30,000 females). Again the bulk of the increase was due to immigration. Permanent arrivals exceeded permanent departures by about 154,000, 4,000 more than in the previous year. Average earnings per head continued to increase and in December quarter were approximately 15 per cent. higher than in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Towards the end of the year the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration gave a judgment which brought about an increase of £1 per week in the male basic wage. This operated from the beginning of December, and so had little effect on conditions in 1950. Retail prices increased by about 12 per cent. and wholesale prices by about 16 per cent. during the year.

Secondary production continued to expand during the year, and increases in production as compared with 1949 (affected by the coal strike) were recorded in such basic materials as coal (17 per cent.), pig-iron (29 per cent.), cement (22 per cent.), electricity (14 per cent.). Home production, however, was inadequate and imports of the first three commodities increased. In the case of electricity, black-outs and other restrictions continued, particularly in New South Wales. House building activity continued to increase, with 76,000 houses started, and 62,000 finished. Substantial orders for prefabricated houses were placed overseas by various governmental authorities.

The run of good seasons continued, although exceptionally heavy rainfall several times caused serious flooding in parts of eastern Australia with damage to farm properties, particularly dairy and vegetable farms in coastal areas. Average export prices of wheat remained above the maximum under the International Wheat Agreement (16s. 1d.), ensuring a high return from the large 1949-50 crop, and the year closed with the harvesting of a crop which was well above average although less than the previous year. The 1949-50 wool selling season closed with firm prices, giving an average for the year of more than 63d. The 1950-51 season opened with prices about 50 per cent. higher than at the end of the previous season, and the year closed with prices still tending to rise. Production for 1950-51 was slightly lower than in 1949-50. Meat production in 1950, also, was about 5 per cent. lower, but the production of milk and butter was well maintained.

2nd January.—Uranium production to commence in South Australia. Mining operations already in progress at Radium Hill.

8th February.—Petrol rationing abolished for second time since the end of war. (See 6th June and 15th November, 1949.)

Committee of experts appointed to review Commonwealth taxation legislation, particularly in relation to income tax.

4th March.—Loan of £625,000 granted by Commonwealth Government to Burma.

7th March.—Bill introduced in New South Wales Legislative Assembly to create a Transport and Highways Commission to control all State transport services. (Act assented to 27th April.)

15th March.—Social Services Consolidation Bill introduced into Senate, providing for the endowment of the first or only child in each family under 16 years of age, at the rate of 5s. per week. (Act assented to 28th June.)

16th March.—Commonwealth Bank Bill introduced in House of Representatives to amend Banking Act 1945, to repeal Banking Act 1947, and to re-establish Commonwealth Bank Board. (Houses failed to agree on measure—see 4th October.)

22nd March.—Severest floodings for twenty-five years in south-east corner of New South Wales.

An Australian oversea housing mission, including the Commonwealth Director of Housing and representatives of New South Wales and Victoria, left for Europe to investigate possibility of importing pre-fabricated houses.

30th March.—Electricity Commission Bill, to acquire major electricity organizations in State, introduced in New South Wales Legislative Assembly. (Act assented to 12th July.)

31st March.—Decision at London Wool Conference to continue Joint Wool Organization scheme on present basis for time being. Principle of reserve price plan to replace Joint Organization accepted.

12th April.—Announcement of trade agreement with Argentine.

13th April.—Coal Industry Tribunal, after three months' hearing, granted permission to colliery proprietors in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland to remove pillar coal by mechanical means.

22nd April.—Commonwealth Government to admit, duty free, all types of pre-fabricated houses and accessories imported during 1950, irrespective of country of origin.

15th-19th May.—British Consultative Committee meeting in Sydney to consider ways of assisting development of south and south-east Asia in co-operation with other interested countries.

22nd May.—Announcement of British Government's approval of plan to recruit 4,500 British migrants, including 1,600 tradesmen, to serve six years in Australian Regular Army, and then settle in Australia.

13th June.—Bills introduced into House of Representatives providing for a scheme of reserve prices for wool to replace present Joint Organization system—to be financed by a levy on wool. (Act assented to 1st July. Validity challenged in High Court on 24th August, but hearing postponed pending result of referendum of wool-growers on wool levy. See 23rd August, 1951.)

16th June.—Abolition of butter rationing.

25th June.—Disastrous floods on north coast of New South Wales.

Attacks by North Korean forces on forces of Republic of Korea.

30th June.—Australian forces in vicinity of Korea placed at disposal of United Nations in Korean conflict.

3rd July.—Tea rationing abolished—end of retail rationing in Australia. Retail price of tea increased by 7d. to 3s. 4d. per pound.

6th July.—Queensland Government to proceed with plans to build Burdekin Dam (to cost £30,000,000) and the Tully Falls Hydro-electric Scheme (£7,000,000).

9th July-23rd August.—Prime Minister visited Malaya, Egypt, Italy, Britain, United States of America, Canada, Japan and New Zealand. In Britain he had informal talks on defence, finance, and foreign policy and Commonwealth co-operation in these fields.

In America he negotiated a \$100,000,000 loan for Australia with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Loan will be used to finance capital goods and equipment to enable expansion of specific development projects.

2nd August.—Operations of Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme for first year have cost £2,500,000. Staff numbered 1,400 and progress up to expectations.

22nd August.—Contract with American company to construct Eildon Dam on Goulburn River, Victoria, at a cost of £11,400,000.

29th August.—Bill introduced in Victorian Legislative Assembly to constitute a Gas and Fuel Corporation to establish, purchase, acquire and operate gas undertakings and to co-ordinate gas production and distribution in Victoria. (Act assented to 6th December.)

7th September.—Loan programme approved by Loan Council for 1950-51 comprised Government loans, £175,400,000, and Local and Semi-Governmental loans, £70,700,000.

Trade agreement with Indonesia announced.

28th September.—Commonwealth Government to pay subsidy of £300 on each pre-fabricated house imported by State Governments. Orders have been placed by Commonwealth and States for 10,440 houses, the United Kingdom to supply 45 per cent., and, in addition, 4,000 other types of buildings.

4th October.—Commonwealth Bank Bill 1950 (No. 2) introduced in House of Representatives. (Referred by Senate to Select Committee on 14th March, 1951. Double dissolution of Parliament granted 17th March on grounds that Senate had failed to pass Bill. See 16th March, 1950.)

12th October.—Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration ruled that male basic wage should be increased by £1 and female basic wage from 54 per cent. to 75 per cent. of male rate. Applications must be made to Court for new awards or alterations to existing awards.

Introduction of 1950-51 Budget, providing for expenditure of £691,000,000 and revenue of £631,000,000 on basis of existing legislation, commitments and rates of taxation. Estimated expenditure on Defence Services was £83,000,000, on War and Repatriation (1939-45) Services, £106,000,000 (including £30,600,000 for War Gratuity) and on Capital Works and Services (excluding Defence), £69,000,000. Loan Fund is to provide £25,000,000 for War Service Homes. The Budget included proposals for increased payments to the States, increases in War Pensions, the establishment of a Strategic Stores and Equipment Reserve Trust Account (£50,000,000), a subsidy of £20,000,000 for woollen goods produced in Australia for local use, increases in certain social services benefits, the merging of Income Tax and Social Services Contribution into a single levy, simplification of the method of expression of the rates of Income Tax, concessions to Income Tax payers, etc. Proposals for increased revenue included a scheme for deductions from the proceeds of wool sales to be applied in payment of Income Tax payable (£103,000,000), increases in postal charges and in the rates of sales tax on certain goods. Taking all these proposals into account, revenue for 1950-51 was estimated at £738,700,000, and expenditure at £738,300,000. Loan Fund expenditure for 1950-51 was estimated at £55,100,000.

Death of J. B. Brigden, M.A., distinguished Australian economist.

16th October.—Railway services in Victoria ceased following breakdown in discussions on abolition of passive time and payment of overtime on a daily basis. (Dispute extended to South Australia 23rd October; services resumed in South Australia 20th November; and in Victoria 9th December, after A.C.T.U. Disputes Committee had called off the stoppage.)

26th October.—Completion of trade agreement between Australia and Brazil.

27th October.—Agreement announced for Britain to buy all surplus meat produced in Australia for next fifteen years.

13th November.—Agreement between Australia and Netherlands to bring 25,000 Dutch migrants to Australia in 1951 and larger numbers in future years.

28th November.—Melbourne conference to consider scheme for pre-emption of 100,000,000 lb. of wool for a military reserve for the United States of America decided that scheme was not at present practicable.

29th November.—Australia allocated trade with Japan to value of £46,000,000 in 1950-51 under trade agreement with a number of sterling area countries and Japan.

Governor of Commonwealth Bank announced that Banks will be required to adopt a more selective advance policy in order to limit the inflationary effect of expenditure financed from bank advances.

6th December.—Defence (Transitional Provisions) Bill to extend for one year a number of national security regulations and orders introduced in Senate (Act assented to 16th December).

8th December.—Announcement of functions and personnel of National Security Resources Board, to advise Government on best use of Australia's resources in interests of national security.

20th December.—Commonwealth Government to contribute £31,250,000 to Colombo Plan for Co-operative Economic Development in South and South-East Asia, and £3,500,000 to technical assistance programme.

22nd December.—Five-year migration agreement with Italy under which not more than 15,000 Italians will enter Australia in initial period of operation.

1951.

The year opened with exceedingly favorable economic conditions, with wool prices rising to an all-time record of about 17s. per lb. in March. Towards the end of the season, prices fell sharply from this extreme but the average for the season was 12s. per lb. Prices were still lower at the beginning of the 1951-52 selling season, but even so maintained the high average of 7s. per lb. over the first half of the season. Export prices for wheat remained steady at the high level of more than 16s. throughout the year. Weather conditions generally were favorable, except in Queensland and northern New South Wales, where droughts and, towards the end of the year, fires caused damage to pastures and losses of stock. The average wheat yield (1951-52) was estimated at about 15.5 bushels per acre, but the total crop was considerably lower than in the previous year, owing to the reduced acreages sown. Milk production in 1951 declined by about 10 per cent. Beef production increased slightly, but there was a further sharp reduction in mutton and lamb production, which was below the pre-war level. Total meat production fell very slightly.

These trends in primary production and the general inflationary conditions were reflected in the balance of payments. The trade year 1950-51 ended with an excess of exports of about £240,000,000 (imports, £740,000,000, exports, £980,000,000), but the succeeding trade year opened with the usual excess of imports of the early months continuing, until by December the trend in the balance of payments showed imports running at more than £1,000,000,000 per year and exports at only about £700,000,000. Oversea reserves had been reduced by about £300,000,000 during the last six months.

To help counter inflation, a rigid control of new capital issues was re-imposed in February. A slight increase in bond rate was brought about in May by the issue of a loan at a discount of 1 per cent.; and in August a further increase was made to 3½ per cent. The Commonwealth Budget was designed to counter inflation and provided for increases in direct and indirect taxes and a surplus of £115,000,000, although at the same time the Commonwealth undertook to provide money out of this surplus to finance State works if sufficient loan money was not forthcoming. Despite the instructions issued late in 1950 about a more restrictive advance policy (see 29th November, 1950) bank advances increased by about 25 per cent. during the year.

The increase in employment slowed down during the first half of the year and practically ceased in the second half, despite continued net permanent migration of about 110,000 for the whole year. Prices and earnings, however, continued to increase.

Wholesale and retail prices both increased by about 25 per cent. and cost of living adjustments added 38s. to the basic wage in addition to the increase of £1 at the end of 1950. Average earnings per head rose 30 per cent.

A series of one-day stoppages in the coal mines early in the year caused some temporary falling off in production in industries heavily dependent on coal, such as iron and steel and cement, but over the year production of these commodities was higher than, or up to, the level of the previous year, and black coal production was an all-time record of 17,600,000 tons. Eighty-four thousand houses were started, and 72,000 completed, 10 per cent. and 16 per cent., respectively, higher than in the previous year. About 9,000 imported pre-fabricated houses were delivered out of total orders for 21,000 placed by governmental authorities.

8th January.—Commonwealth Government decision to close down shale oil plant at Glen Davis, New South Wales; production to continue temporarily. (Tenders were called on 14th February, 1952 for the purchase of assets, in whole or part.)

2nd February.—Control of capital issues re-introduced in an effort to reduce inflationary pressure. (See 28th May and 2nd August.)

5th February.—Coal miners in eastern States began one day per week stoppages in protest against provisions of the Coal Industry Tribunal's award (20th December, 1950) for payments over and above the ordinary wage rate to employees who worked the full ten days of a pay-period. (Stoppages were discontinued in mid-March, see 3rd May.)

Meeting of Governors of central banks of Australia, Ceylon, Ireland, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa and the United Kingdom to discuss general banking problems and the international economic situation.

2nd March.—Death of Professor L. F. Giblin, D.S.O., M.C., noted Australian economist.

3rd March.—Commonwealth War Gratuities amounting to £52,800,000 paid to ex-service personnel of the 1939-45 War.

8th March.—Abandonment of Shell (Queensland) Development Pty. Ltd., search for oil in Queensland, which had extended over ten years.

15th March.—Commonwealth Government to grant to States special financial assistance of £15,000,000 for 1950-51.

4th April.—Victorian Government acquired land in Gippsland as the site for the Lurgi Brown Coal Gasification Plant to supply Melbourne with gas.

9th April.—Appreciable drop in wool prices at Sydney after post-war rise to record levels.

30th April.—Electricity zoning commenced in New South Wales, a complete ban on the use of electricity for commerce and industry to apply between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. on one day each week in five zones. (Subsequently modified, in general, to blackouts within previously specified zones.)

3rd May.—The Coal Industry Tribunal, in a review of certain portions of its decisions on a log of claims covering members of the Australian Coal and Shale Employees' Federation, rejected a claim for a wage increase, and directed that the "attendance allowance" was to stand. (See 5th February.)

15th May.—Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Bill 1951 introduced into New South Wales Legislative Assembly providing for the inclusion in New South Wales industrial awards of three months' long-service leave on full pay after 20 years' continuous service. (Act assented to 12th September.)

17th May.—First wool from Hallstrom Livestock Experimental Station in New Guinea auctioned at Sydney wool sales.

28th May.—Capital Issues Control Regulations (see 2nd February) challenged in High Court. (On 12th September, 1952 the High Court declared the Regulations valid.)

17th June.—Announcement of signing of a trade agreement with Western Germany.

21st June.—Commonwealth Bank Bill 1951 providing for the restoration of the Commonwealth Bank Board, introduced into the House of Representatives. (Act assented to 16th July; operated from 21st August.)

29th June.—Conciliation and Arbitration Bill 1951, providing for secret union ballots in elections and on strike issues, greater control by the Arbitration Court, etc., introduced into House of Representatives. (Act assented to 19th July.)

5th July.—Defence Preparations Bill, providing authority until 31st December, 1953 for the Government to make regulations necessary for defence preparations and to adjust the economy to meet the threat of war, introduced into House of Representatives. (Act assented to 19th July.)

17th July.—Large upward cost of living adjustments in the basic wage announced by Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration—increase of 13s. in the average weekly wage for the six capital cities.

19th July.—All states except Queensland fixed prices of controlled goods and services at levels ruling on 18th July. (The order was extended in New South Wales on 24th July to cover a wide variety of goods and services, but was relaxed on 20th August and removed on 9th October.)

20th July.—Final liquidation of the stock of the United Kingdom Dominion Wool Disposals Ltd. (Joint Organization) at London Wool Sales.

24th July.—Announcement of letting to a Norwegian firm of the first contract for the design and construction of a dam in the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme. (The project, at Guthega, is to cost £5,500,000 and is to be completed by June, 1954.)

28th July.—Commonwealth Government to sell its holdings of 863,596 ordinary shares in Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Ltd., comprising 51 per cent. of the issued capital, for 45s. per share.

30th July.—Conference of representatives of Commonwealth and State Governments, employers and trade unions, and other sections of the community, called by the Prime Minister, met in Sydney to discuss means of combating inflation.

First youths to receive call-up notices under National Service Act 1951 commenced training.

2nd August.—New Capital Issues Control Regulations gazetted under the Defence Preparations Act 1951 to replace those operating under the Defence (Transitional Provisions) Act. (See 2nd February and 28th May.)

9th August.—The Prime Minister called a conference in Canberra of the Governor of the Commonwealth Bank, the heads of commercial banks, and the Secretary to the Treasury, to discuss bank credit policy.

10th August.—Conference in Canberra between the Government and representatives of insurance companies to consider general financial and investment policy.

14th August.—Announcement by Vacuum Oil Co. Pty. Ltd. that it will build a new oil refinery at Altona, near Melbourne, to be completed in about three years at a cost of £7,500,000.

15th August.—A new company to be formed to develop deposits of pyrites at Nairne, South Australia, for the production of sulphur.

16th–17th August.—The Loan Council approved a rise in the long-term bond rate from 3½ per cent. to 3¾ per cent., to apply to the Thirteenth Security Loan for £40,000,000 to be opened on 22nd August. The loan programme for 1951–52, after State works programmes had been reduced by approximately 25 per cent., was decided as follows:—Commonwealth, £23,000,000; States, £202,000,000; Local Authorities, £96,000,000.

21st August.—The Commonwealth Government issued instructions for the reduction of the staff of Commonwealth Departments by 10,000 (5 per cent.).

The Victorian State Electricity Commission's loan, calling for £6,000,000 at 3½ per cent. interest, was closed, under-subscribed by £3,350,000.

23rd August.—Wool-growers rejected by referendum the proposal for a reserve price plan for wool. (See 13th June, 1950.)

27th–30th August.—New season's wool auctions in Sydney realize prices about 25 per cent. below those of June.

1st September.—Major hire purchase finance companies in New South Wales and South Australia announced new conditions for hire purchase agreements, increasing deposit rates and reducing repayment periods. (See also 8th November.)

3rd September.—Arrival at Port Kembla of first shipment of iron ore from Yampi Sound, Western Australia.

11th September.—Interest rates on loans to local and semi-governmental authorities raised from $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to $4\frac{1}{8}$ per cent.

26th September.—Commonwealth Budget for 1951–52 introduced into the House of Representatives, providing for estimated expenditure in 1951–52 of £927,000,000 and revenue of £1,041,500,000, allowing an estimated surplus of £114,500,000 to be paid to the National Debt Sinking Fund. Estimated expenditure from Consolidated Revenue Fund included:—Defence Services, £182,000,000 (including £32,500,000 to be transferred to Strategic Stores and Equipment Reserve); War and Repatriation Services, £107,000,000; Capital Works and Services (excluding Defence), £102,000,000 (including £25,000,000 for War Service Homes). In addition, £4,000,000 from Loan Fund was provided for Capital Works and Services. The Budget included proposals for payments to the States of £161,000,000; discontinuance of the bounty on woollen goods; a total estimated expenditure on subsidies of £33,000,000; and increases in pensions and repatriation benefits. Proposals for increased revenue included a special levy on individual taxpayers equal to 10 per cent. of income tax assessed (expected to yield an extra £25,000,000); modifications to the averaging system of taxing primary producers (£47,000,000); increases in Company Taxation (£28,000,000), Sales Tax (£35,000,000) and Customs and Excise Duties (£24,000,000); discontinuation of the special depreciation allowance on plant to income tax payers.

—October.—Extensive bush fires in Queensland, Northern Territory and northern New South Wales damaged wide areas of country.

7th October.—Announced that Australia is to spend about £700,000,000 on defence during next three years.

12th October.—Details announced of a fifteen-year meat agreement with the United Kingdom to commence on 18th July, 1952.

18th October.—The Victorian Industrial Appeals Court ruled that dairy farm employees would work a 48-hour week instead of the 40-hour week granted in August by the Dairy Farm Workers' Wages Board. The Court increased the basic rates of pay by 10s. to £10 19s. per week, and increased the annual leave granted by the Board from two to three weeks.

Australia signed the Torquay Protocol to the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs.

Further large upward adjustments in the basic wage announced by the Arbitration Court—average weekly wage for the six capitals increased by 11s. (See 17th July.)

8th November.—The Commonwealth Bank ceased to make credit available for the purchase of cars other than new cars for commerce. Private hire purchase firms also restricted credit and shortened repayment periods. (See also 1st September.)

12th–23rd November.—The Third Conference of Government Statisticians of the British Commonwealth held in Canberra.

20th November.—Announcement that current Australian gold output may be sold on "premium markets overseas", providing that it is sold for dollars.

—December.—Serious bush fires in the Blue Mountains area of New South Wales.

21st December.—British Commonwealth Sugar Agreement signed in London; Australian export quota fixed at 600,000 tons of raw sugar per annum. The agreement is to operate until 31st December, 1959, prices to be negotiated annually.