

POPULATION.

AT the end of the year 1888, one hundred years from its first settlement, Australasia had a population of 3,672,800 persons, divided amongst the various Colonies as under :—

New South Wales	1,085,740
Victoria	1,090,869
Queensland	387,463
South Australia	313,065
Western Australia.....	42,137
Tasmania.....	146,149
New Zealand	607,380

Population at close of first century.

If to these numbers, which are principally those of the people of European descent, there be added an estimated population of some 200,000 Australian aborigines and about 42,000 Maories, the inhabitants of Australasia will be found to be, in round numbers, 3,915,000 persons.

Compared with that of the other continents, the density of Australasia's population is not great, as it is only 1·27 persons to the square mile. According to Professor Levasseur, whose estimate is the latest available, the respective density of population of the great divisions of the globe is as follows :—

Density of Australasian population compared with other part of the world.

	Area in square Miles.	Population.	No. per square Mile.
Europe.....	3,800,000	347,000,000	88·7
Asia	16,000,000	789,000,000	49·3
Africa	12,000,000	197,000,000	16·4
North America	9,000,000	80,000,000	8·8
South America	7,000,000	32,000,000	4·5
Oceania	4,200,000	38,000,000	9·0
The World	52,000,000	1,483,000,000	28·7

DENSITY OF POPULATION.

Density of population in each Australasian Colony.

Taken by themselves the Australian Colonies stand in the following order, as regards the density of their population, aborigines not included :—

Victoria	12.40	persons per square mile.
New Zealand	5.82	„ „
Tasmania.....	5.54	„ „
New South Wales.....	3.49	„ „
Queensland	0.58	„ „
South Australia.....	0.34	„ „
Western Australia	0.04	„ „

Population of great colonies and foreign countries in process of settlement.

Other great colonies and foreign countries in process of extensive settlement, with which these colonies may be fairly compared, show the following density of population, according to the latest available information :—

	Year.	Population.	Area in square Miles.	No. per square Mile.
Algeria	1887	3,860,000	166,000	23.0
Argentine Republic ...	1887	3,800,000	1,095,000	3.8
Brazil	1886-87	12,000,000	3,220,000	3.8
Canada	1886-87	4,830,000	3,470,000	1.39
Cape Colony and Dependencies	1887	1,380,000	214,000	6.45
United States.....	1888	61,900,000	3,006,000	20.06

Density of population in European countries.

A comparison with the density of population in the older countries of the world is not of much practical use, unless as giving some indication of the future of Australasia, when its population shall have reached the proportions found in the old world. The latest authoritative statements give the following figures as representing the density of population in each of the countries enumerated below :—

United Kingdom	308	persons to the square mile.
France	187	„ „
Germany	227	„ „
Italy	240	„ „
Spain	90	„ „
Russia.....	47	„ „

As illustrating the progress of the population of Australasia it will be of interest to state that Captain Phillip brought with him, in 1788, an establishment of 1,030 persons, all told. Settlement soon spread from New South Wales, first to Tasmania, and afterwards to all parts of the Australian Continent and to New Zealand.

Progress of population in Australasia.

The progress of population in Australasia, and the rate of its increase for each successive period of twenty years, from 1801 to 1881, are shown in the following table :—

Years.	Population of Australasia.	Annual rate of Increase per cent.
1788	1,030	.....
1801	6,508	.....
1821	35,610	8·87
1841	251,000	10·26
1861	1,266,432	8·43
1881	2,822,046	4·09

From 1881, the date of the last general census of Australasia, to the end of 1888, the population had increased to 3,672,803 persons, or at the rate of 3·83 per cent. per annum.

In examining the various ratios of increase for each period abovementioned, the high rates which prevailed up to 1841 are easily accounted for by the smallness of the numbers operated upon; but the rate ruling from 1841 to 1861 is due to the extraordinary impetus given to immigration in the years which followed the discovery of gold in 1851. Since 1861 the increase has been normal, the gold fever having practically died away before that date.

Rates of increase for various periods compared.

Taking the year 1860 as a starting point of comparison between the various provinces, when Queensland, the last offshoot of the

NUMERICAL INCREASE.

mother colony of New South Wales, appears for the first time as an independent member of the group, the progress of the population of each Colony of the Australian family was :—

Year.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.
1860	348,546	537,847	28,056	124,112	15,500	87,775	79,111
1865	409,147	621,095	87,804	156,605	20,100	95,201	190,607
1870	498,659	726,599	115,567	183,797	24,785	100,765	248,400
1875	594,297	791,399	181,288	210,422	26,709	103,663	375,856
1880	741,893	860,067	226,077	267,573	29,019	114,762	484,864
1885	957,914	971,145	315,489	313,423	35,186	133,791	575,226
1888	1,085,740	1,090,869	387,463	313,065	42,137	146,149	607,380

Numerical increase in each of the Australasian Colonies

The total numerical increase in each colony was, therefore :—

New South Wales	737,194 persons.
Victoria	553,022 "
Queensland	359,407 "
South Australia	188,953 "
Western Australia	26,637 "
Tasmania	58,374 "
New Zealand	528,269 "

The numerical increase for the whole of Australasia was 2,451,856, each colony contributing thereto in the following proportion :—

New South Wales	30·07 per cent.
Victoria	22·55 "
Queensland	14·65 "
South Australia	7·71 "
Western Australia.....	1·09 "
Tasmania.....	2·38 "
New Zealand	21·55 "
	100·00 "

The two great factors of this increase were a considerable excess of births over deaths, and an unusually large immigration.

The excess of births over deaths has contributed the following number to the population of each Colony, from 1860 to 1888 :—

Increase due to the excess of Births over Deaths.

New South Wales	414,659 persons.
Victoria	431,342 ,,
Queensland	103,079 ,,
South Australia	149,758 ,,
Western Australia	13,356 ,,
Tasmania	52,733 ,,
New Zealand	262,348 ,,

From this cause alone the population of Australasia has therefore gained 1,427,275 persons, during the years mentioned; a number equivalent to 58·21 per cent. of the total increase.

The difference between the figures just cited and the total increase during the period under examination, viz., 1,024,581 persons, represents the survivors among those immigrants who permanently settled in the Colonies in the years named, less the Australasian-born population which emigrated. These were distributed as follows :—

Increase due to Immigration.

New South Wales	322,535 persons.
Victoria.....	121,680 ,,
Queensland	256,328 ,,
South Australia	39,195 ,,
Western Australia	13,281 ,,
Tasmania	5,641 ,,
New Zealand	265,921 ,,

The information conveyed by the above figures is important, as illustrating not only the movement of population, but also the effect of local influences upon immigration; as, for example, the salubrity of the climate, the fertility of the soil, permanence of employment, liberal wages, land laws, &c. It would appear that during the period which elapsed since 1860, New South Wales has exhibited a greater power of attraction and absorption of the permanent element of immigration than any other member of the

Proportion of increase due to excess of Births and to Immigration compared. group. The two causes of increase have acted in the following proportion on the relative increase of each Colony :—

	Proportion due to	
	Excess of Births. per cent.	Permanent Immigration. per cent.
New South Wales	56·25	43·75
Victoria	78·00	22·00
Queensland	28·68	71·32
South Australia	79·26	20·74
Western Australia	50·14	49·86
Tasmania.....	90·33	9·67
New Zealand	49·66	50·34
Australasia	53·21	41·79

Present rate of increase in the population of Colonies and of Australasia. Calculated upon the basis furnished by the returns for the last five years the rate of increase of the population in each Colony is as follows :—

	per cent.
New South Wales.....	4·83
Victoria	3·43
Queensland.....	6·15
South Australia.....	0·56
Western Australia	5·86
Tasmania	2·97
New Zealand	2·40
Australasia	3·65

Proportion of excess of births, and of immigration to the present rate of increase. The excess of births over deaths, and permanent immigration, have contributed the following proportions of the above increase :—

	Excess of Births. Immigration.	
	per cent.	per cent.
New South Wales.....	2·31	2·52
Victoria	1·67	1·76
Queensland	2·05	4·10
South Australia	0·56	—
Western Australia.....	1·88	3·98
Tasmania.....	1·96	1·01
New Zealand	2·40	—
Australasia	1·90	1·75

Thus, in Australasia, births now provide 52·07 per cent. of the average yearly increase of population, whilst in South Australia

and New Zealand the increase is solely due to that cause, immigration having practically ceased to have any effect on the population. Queensland and Western Australia are still recruiting largely from abroad by means of assisted immigration, whilst in New South Wales and Victoria unassisted immigration still supplies as much as 52·15 and 51·47 per cent. respectively of their yearly increase.

During 1851, the year celebrated for the finding of gold, there commenced one of the most remarkable population movements of modern times. Thousands of men in the prime of life were attracted to the shores of Australia by the hope of speedily acquiring wealth from the rich gold-fields that had been discovered, and by far the greater number of these new arrivals settled in the southern portion of New South Wales, now the Colony of Victoria, but then called the Port Phillip District. This rush, which commenced shortly before the separation of Victoria from New South Wales, continued for some years afterwards, the bulk of the immigrants, as stated, settling in the newly formed Colony. In 1850, just previous to the gold rush, the population of the northern and southern portions of New South Wales was :—

New South Wales	189,341
Port Phillip	76,162

But five years afterwards the positions were reversed, for Port Phillip, then an independent Colony, had a population considerably larger than that of its parent, New South Wales :—

Victoria	364,324
New South Wales	277,579

Victoria enjoyed the advantage in population for over thirty years, but fell behind in 1887, and although obtaining a temporary lead towards the end of 1888, owing to the attraction of the Melbourne International Exhibition, she again lost first

AUSTRALASIAN BIRTH-RATE.

place, the respective populations of the two colonies at the close of 1889 being:—

Present population of New South Wales and Victoria.	New South Wales.....	1,122,200
	Victoria.....	1,118,077

and it is unlikely that the smaller Colony will ever again attain the leading position in point of population.

Effect of the discovery of gold in Queensland and New Zealand.

Queensland and New Zealand, also, owe much of their remarkable progress to the discovery of gold. In New Zealand the gold fever broke out in 1861, when the population numbered only 99,021, and the period of its activity extended to 1881. At the census taken in the last named year the population had reached 500,910 souls, a fourfold increase in twenty years.

In Queensland the attractive force of the gold-fields came into active operation at a later date, and may still be considered a strong factor in stimulating the growth of population in that Colony.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Mean birth-rate of the colonies and of Australasia.

The mean birth-rate of Australasia, calculated over a series of years, averages 35·47 per thousand of the population, being as hereunder for each colony:—

	per thousand.
New South Wales	37·80
Victoria	31·60
Queensland	37·00
South Australia ..	36·88
Western Australia	34·65
Tasmania	33·12
New Zealand	37·23
Australasia	35·47

Mean death-rate of Australasia and of each Colony.

The mean death-rate of Australasia is very low, averaging only 15·01 per thousand, and varying from 11·07 in New Zealand to 17·33 in Queensland. The mean death-rate of each separate

Colony, calculated over the same period of years as for births, is as follows :—

	per thousand.
New South Wales	15·45
Victoria.....	15·07
Queensland	17·33
South Australia	14·12
Western Australia	16·27
Tasmania	15·79
New Zealand	11·07

Compared with European countries the Colonies occupy a very favourable position in respect to both birth and death rates. The Australasian birth-rate is high, and in those countries where it is slightly higher it will be seen on reference to the subjoined table that the death-rate is so considerably in excess that the difference between the two, representing the gain to each country by natural increase, is largely in favour of Australasia. The following are the average rates taken over a series of years :—

	Births per 1,000.	Deaths per 1,000.	Excess of Births per 1,000.
New Zealand.....	37·23	11·07	26·16
South Australia	36·88	14·12	22·76
New South Wales ..	37·80	15·45	22·35
Queensland.....	37·00	17·33	19·67
Western Australia.....	34·65	16·27	18·38
Tasmania.....	33·12	15·79	17·33
Victoria.....	31·60	15·07	16·53
Australasia	35·47	15·01	20·46
Norway	31·06	16·90	14·16
Denmark	32·26	19·00	13·26
United Kingdom.....	32·15	20·30	11·85
Holland	35·04	23·20	11·84
Prussia	37·74	26·00	11·74
Sweden	29·76	18·50	11·26
Germany	37·44	26·30	11·14
Belgium	30·66	21·70	8·96
Italy	37·09	28·90	8·19
Austria.....	38·63	30·60	8·03
Hungary	44·50	37·40	7·10
Switzerland.....	29·35	22·70	6·65
Spain	36·64	30·50	6·14
France ..	24·56	22·50	2·06

Death-rate of colonies compared with other nations.

No better testimony to the salubrity of the climate of Australia could be obtained than is afforded by these figures. There are, of course, various circumstances other than climatic which would tend to make the mortality lighter in these than older-settled countries, but when all possible allowances are made for such circumstances, a comparison between these Colonies and the countries of Europe is still significantly favourable to Australasia.

MARRIAGES.

Marriage rates of Colonies and of Australasia.

The marriage-rate of the Colonies per 1,000 of the population is as follows :—

	Per 1,000.
New South Wales.....	8·03
Victoria	7·01
Queensland	8·06
South Australia.....	8·00
Western Australia.....	7·18
Tasmania	7·55
New Zealand	6·92
Australasia	7·53

Marriage-rates of Colonies compared with other Nations.

Comparisons of the marriage-rate of Australasia with that of other countries, where the social conditions are essentially different, are not of much value, but as the marriage-rate is to some slight extent an index to the relative prosperity of the people, the rates which rule in the following countries will show that the Australasian Colonies rank in this respect on a par with the leading nations of the world :—

	Per 1,000
England and Wales	7·36
Scotland	6·61
Ireland	4·31
France	7·42
Spain.....	6·46
Italy	7·94
Germany	7·76
Austria	7·87

BIRTH PLACES OF THE POPULATION.

At the last general census of Australasia (1881) the racial composition of the population was as follows:—

Racial composition of population of Colonies at census of 1881.

Nationalities.	No. of each Nation.	Per cent.
Australasia.....	1,667,376	60·80
England and Wales	499,922	18·23
Ireland	261,996	9·55
Scotland	151,027	5·51
Germany and Austria	43,714	1·59
China	43,430	1·58
Other British Possessions	14,060	0·51
Scandinavia.....	13,899	0·51
United States	6,274	0·23
France.....	4,401	0·16
Other Foreign Countries, not specified..	36,451	1·33
Total	2,742,550	100·00

Thus the Australasian-born element prevailed in the proportion of 60·80 per cent. throughout Australasia, and constituted the following percentage of the population of each Colony:—

Percentage of natives to total population.

New South Wales	62·18 per cent.
Victoria	57·89 „
Queensland	40·39 „
South Australia	59·83 „
Western Australia.....	59·83 „
Tasmania.....	69·13 „
New Zealand	45·60 „

The great bulk of the Australasian-born population is of British descent, and the major portion of the immigrant population is also of these races, the respective proportion for each Colony being:—

	English. per cent.	Irish. per cent.	Scotch. per cent.
New South Wales	14·72	9·21	3·34
Victoria	17·11	10·06	5·58
Queensland	17·51	13·25	4·65
South Australia	21·14	6·52	3·80
Western Australia	22·76	10·01	2·46
Tasmania	14·96	6·21	3·24
New Zealand.....	24·72	10·08	10·77
Australasia	18·23	9·55	5·51

The foreign
element.

Among other European nationalities the Germans and Scandinavians contributed the largest numbers to the foreigners established in Australasia, being particularly numerous in Queensland and South Australia, where together they formed respectively 6·75 and 3·58 per cent. of the total population. Their total number in all the colonies was 57,613, and of these 14,399 were located in Queensland, and 10,010 in South Australia. Excluding Asiatics, the United States of America furnished the larger proportion of other foreigners represented in Australia, and the French ranked next in order. The Americans numbered 6,274 and the French 4,401, or 0·23 and 0·16 per cent. of the total population.

The percentage of foreigners, other than Asiatics in each Colony, at the census of 1881 was :—

	Germans and Austrians.	Scandi- navians.	Americans (United States.)	French.
New South Wales	1·04	0·37	0·34	0·20
Victoria	1·03	0·28	0·27	0·15
Queensland	5·52	1·23	0·19	0·16
South Australia	3·21	0·37	.....	0·10
Western Australia	0·28	0·17	0·29	0·10
Tasmania	0·69	0·19	0·12	0·05
New Zealand	1·08	0·97	0·17	0·17

Chinese in the
Colonies.

At the census of 1881 there were 43,430 Chinese distributed as follows throughout the various Colonies :—

	Numbers.	Percentage to total Population.	Percentage to foreign Population.
New South Wales	10,205	1·36	32·87
Victoria	11,799	1·37	31·56
Queensland	11,253	5·27	30·40
South Australia	4,151	1·48	23·84
Western Australia	145	0·49	18·75
Tasmania	844	0·73	32·31
New Zealand	5,033	1·03	22·94
Australasia	43,430	1·58	29·31

Since 1880 it has been deemed expedient by the Governments of the various Colonies to enact prohibitive laws against the immigration of Chinese, and their migration from one Colony to another. For several years a poll-tax of £10 was imposed, but now, in accordance with the most recent legislation on the subject, masters of vessels are forbidden under a heavy penalty to bring more than one Chinese to every 300 tons, and a poll-tax of £100 is charged on landing. These stringent regulations have had the effect of bringing about the almost entire cessation of this class of immigration.

In 1888 the Chinese were estimated to number 50,600 in the whole group of Colonies distributed as follows:—

New South Wales	16,800
Victoria	12,560
Queensland	8,250
South Australia	6,900
New Zealand.....	4,690
Tasmania	1,000
Western Australia	400
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Australasia	50,600

Chinese in the Colonies in 1888.

CITIES AND TOWNS.

The progress of the chief cities of Australasia has been no less remarkable than that of the colonies themselves, and has no parallel among the cities of the old world. Even in America the rise of great cities has been accompanied by a corresponding increase in the rural population. In these colonies, perhaps for the first time in history, is presented the spectacle of magnificent cities growing with marvellous rapidity, and embracing within their limits one-third of the population on which they depend.

The increase in the population of the chief cities of Australasia and the estimated numbers of their inhabitants at the earliest and latest obtainable dates, as well as at various census periods,

Population of capital cities of colonies at various dates.

URBAN POPULATION.

are given in the following table, which illustrates the remarkable progress referred to:—

	Earliest obtainable date.		1861.	1871.	1881.	Latest date.	
	Year.	Popula- tion.				Year.	Popula- tion.
Melbourne...	1841	4,479	139,916	206,780	282,947	1889	458,470
Sydney.....	1828	10,815	93,686	134,736	224,211	"	381,730
Adelaide...	1844	6,107	18,303	.....	103,864	"	121,735
Brisbane.....	1846	829	6,051	15,029	31,109	"	87,000
Hobart.....	1810	1,500	19,449	19,092	21,118	"	34,916
Wellington..	...	.....	.....	.....	20,563	"	33,050
Perth.....	...	.....	.....	5,244	5,822	"	9,000

Population of principal towns in colonies at latest available date.

Among other cities and towns of importance in Australasia the following may be cited in the order of their estimated population at the latest available date. In all cases the population of suburbs is included:—

City or Town.	Colony.	Year.	Population.
Auckland.....	New Zealand ..	1888	61,700
Dunedin.....	"	1886	45,518
Christchurch.....	"	1886	44,688
Ballarat.....	Victoria ..	1887	39,830
Sandhurst.....	"	1887	36,050
Newcastle.....	New South Wales.....	1888	27,750
Geelong.....	Victoria.....	1887	20,740
Launceston.....	Tasmania.....	1889	21,497
Broken Hill.....	New South Wales.....	1888	12,600
Parramatta.....	"	1888	12,000
Goulburn.....	"	1888	12,000
Rockhampton.....	Queensland.....	1886	10,793
Bathurst.....	New South Wales.....	1888	10,000
Maitland.....	"	1888	9,000
Castlemaine.....	Victoria.....	1887	8,900
Invercargill.....	New Zealand.....	1886	8,939
Townsville.....	Queensland.....	1886	7,860
Ipswich.....	"	1886	7,576
Toowoomba.....	"	1886	6,270
Albury.....	New South Wales.....	1888	6,000
Orange.....	"	1888	6,000