

COMMERCE AND SHIPPING.

IT would be only natural to suppose that the commerce of these countries would increase in an equal ratio with the population. For many years, however, the expansion of trade was far more rapid than the increase of population; and Australasia now shows a larger ratio of trade compared with population than any other country.

It has been found impossible to accurately separate the external Total Trade. trade, that is the trade with countries outside Australasia, from the internal trade during the years prior to 1861. The following table, therefore, refers to the *total* trade since 1825, with the ratio per inhabitant. The external trade for the years over which information extends will be given subsequently :—

Total Trade of Australasia.

	Value.	Value per inhabitant.		
	£	£	s.	d.
1825	511,998	10	13	11
1841	5,573,000	22	4	0
1852	23,609,585	43	7	7
1861	51,001,071	40	5	5
1871	69,093,778	35	1	5
1881	101,513,485	35	16	4
1888	122,862,353	33	9	9

The influence of the discovery of gold upon the growth of trade can be readily discerned from the figures just quoted. During the period 1852 to 1861 the average value of commerce was about twice as great, when compared with the population, as it was in the previous decade. The fall since 1861 is, to some extent, more apparent than real, for the volume of merchandise has increased Influence of discovery of gold upon Australasian trade.

though the monetary value in proportion to population has perceptibly declined; the decrease in the trade *per inhabitant* is attributable to a depreciation in the value of wool, which is now, and has always been, the staple of Australasian products.

External trade.

By far the greater part of the external trade of Australasia is with the United Kingdom; and of the remainder the far larger proportion is carried on with foreign countries, the trade with British Possessions outside Australasia having greatly declined during recent years. The figures given in the next table show the distribution of the trade since 1861, in the three divisions to which reference has been made:—

External Trade—Imports and Exports.

Trade with—	1861.	1871.	1881.	1888.	
The United Kingdom.....	Imports	£ 13,467,370	£ 12,006,419	£ 25,662,185	£ 30,137,584
	Exports	12,207,228	18,486,703	24,342,422	23,723,324
	Total...	25,674,598	30,493,122	50,104,607	58,860,908
British Possessions outside Australasia...	Imports	1,767,391	2,382,148	3,069,206	3,048,252
	Exports	3,656,065	764,652	4,243,173	1,183,213
	Total...	5,423,456	3,146,800	7,312,379	4,231,465
Foreign Countries.....	Imports	3,216,738	2,245,124	4,576,733	6,686,467
	Exports	746,490	3,843,970	2,585,869	4,414,628
	Total...	3,963,228	6,089,094	7,162,602	11,101,095
Total, External Trade	Imports	18,451,499	16,633,691	33,308,124	39,872,303
	Exports	16,609,783	23,095,325	31,171,464	34,321,165
	Total...	35,061,282	39,729,016	64,479,588	74,193,468

External Trade of each Colony.

Dividing the trade amongst the various Colonies, the following table shows the proportion nominally belonging to each. The figures appear to make Victoria and South Australia somewhat more important than they really are, as the trade of a large portion of New South Wales passes through these Colonies before it can

reach the sea, and the value of such trade is not credited to New South Wales. Queensland also suffers in a similar way, as a large export of gold is not represented in its figures, such gold being sent to New South Wales for coinage, and therefore appearing as an export of the latter Colony when shipped therefrom.

External Trade- -Imports and Exports.

	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	24,522,684	24,955,990	21,239,617	19,682,708	23,449,225
Victoria	22,949,357	22,310,946	19,962,746	18,549,325	25,034,321
Queensland	4,672,180	4,831,853	4,456,032	4,743,333	5,630,936
South Australia..	8,661,016	7,210,641	5,376,276	5,795,852	7,390,723
Western Australia	533,049	599,863	898,818	805,040	1,009,669
Tasmania	1,085,895	964,127	920,207	836,187	751,092
New Zealand.....	11,528,269	11,694,794	10,408,594	10,623,808	10,927,502
Australasia	73,952,450	72,568,214	63,262,290	61,036,253	74,193,468

The relative proportions of the trade of Australasia, classified as United Kingdom, other British and Foreign, are shown below : --

	1861.	1871.	1881.	1888.
United Kingdom.....	73·23	76·75	77·55	79·34
British Possessions outside Australasia	15·47	7·92	11·34	5·70
Foreign Countries	11·30	15·33	11·11	14·96
	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

It appears thus that the United Kingdom has not only pre-
 served its hold upon the trade of the Colonies, but has increased
 it both in volume and proportion, notwithstanding the keen com-
 petition of foreign countries. The trade with British possessions
 shows a marked decrease, due mainly to the falling off in shipments

Trade with
 United
 Kingdom.

of coin. In the earlier part of the period under notice there were large shipments of gold regularly made to the East, principally to Singapore and Ceylon; but the export of gold to those places has greatly diminished, so that in 1888 the total value of trade, though larger in its actual amount than in 1871, was less than in 1881 or even in 1861, and was proportionately smaller than in any of these years.

Trade with
foreign
countries.

The value of the trade of the principal foreign countries with Australasia may be gathered from the following statement:—

	Imports.				Exports.			
	1861.	1871.	1881.	1888.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1888.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
France and Possessions	136,124	158,992	342,248	479,785	26,703	101,758	339,826	585,715
United States	1,080,673	616,025	1,592,044	2,680,531	76,154	307,361	1,298,905	1,791,185
Germany	109,172	3,899	222,672	1,013,230	....	....	82,415	268,691
Belgium . . . .	....	....	26,713	183,239	....	....	101,244	1,203,974
China	827,347	874,925	1,431,893	1,129,241	114,149	29,137	73,599	30,397
Other Countries ..	1,063,422	500,683	960,563	1,101,441	529,304	3,345,714	684,880	534,666
Total	3,216,738	2,245,124	4,576,733	6,086,467	746,490	3,843,070	2,585,869	4,414,623

Australasia has for many years maintained important commercial relations with the United States of America, and in 1888 America's share of the total trade of Australasia with foreign countries was 40·4 per cent. The bulk of the exports, however, are comprised under the heading of coal and specie.

Trade with the
Continent of
Europe.

The increase of the trade carried on with the continent of Europe has been very remarkable. Intercourse with European countries was, until recent years, carried on through London, but one of the principal results of the Sydney and Melbourne International Exhibitions of 1879 and 1880 was the opening up of

regular direct communication. The French, in 1884, were the first to establish direct commercial relations, the steamers of the *Messageries Maritimes*, a subsidised line, making their appearance for the first time in Australian waters in the year named. In 1887 the vessels of the *Nord Deutscher Lloyd* Company, of Bremen, commenced trading with Australasia, and in the latter part of 1888 a line of German cargo boats opened up further communication between the great wool exporting cities of Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide, and the ports of Antwerp and Bremen.

The effect of these efforts to establish commercial relations is evident from the increase of trade which the foregoing table discloses, and in the diversion, now rapidly being effected, in the channel by which the wool required for Europe reaches the market. The example of the South American Republics, the bulk of whose produce now finds a market at the ports of Antwerp, Havre, and Dunkirk, without passing through London, was not lost on continental buyers. It was manifest that direct shipments of wool to Europe could as readily be made from Sydney or Melbourne, as from Buenos Ayres or Monte-Video, hence the presence in increasing numbers in the local markets of representative buyers from the principal continental firms. The extent of the diversion which has already taken place, and the probabilities of further expansion, may be gauged from the following figures representing the value of wool exported in 1881 and 1888 from Australasia direct to European ports :—

Direct wool trade with Europe.

	Victoria.		South Australia.		New South Wales.	
	1881.	1888.	1881.	1888.	1881.	1888.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
To France	21,965	75,145	Nil.	27,192	Nil.	71,865
To Germany	39,356	91,839	13,465	11,765	988	115,553
To Belgium	92,624	389,391	.....	54,686	3,933	719,108
	153,945	556,375	13,465	93,643	4,921	906,526

The total value of wool directly exported to continental ports has increased from £172,331 in 1881, to £1,556,544 in 1888.

Imports from
Foreign States.

The value of the imports from Foreign States has doubled since 1861. The most remarkable progress in the development of Australasian trade has been made by Germany, whose exports to these Colonies have increased tenfold since the year named; the trade with France has increased fourfold, while that with the United States has doubled.

Trade with
China.

Fair progress has been made in commerce with China since 1861. In the following figures is included the trade with Hongkong, which, though a British possession, is really a distributing centre for a portion of the Australasian exchanges with the Chinese Empire :—

Imports.

From	1861.	1871.	1881.	1888.
	£	£	£	£
Chinese Empire	827,347	874,925	1,431,893	1,129,241
Hongkong	360,600	270,593	607,926	817,227
Total	1,187,947	1,145,518	2,039,819	1,946,468

Exports.

To	1861.	1871.	1881.	1888.
	£	£	£	£
Chinese Empire	114,149	29,137	78,599	30,397
Hongkong	343,398	138,414	320,582	365,202
Total	457,547	167,551	399,181	395,599

It will be observed that the exports have decreased in value since 1861, and that they are small compared to the imports. The difference between the imports and exports was :—

1861.	1871.	1881.	1888.
£ 730,400	£ 977,967	£ 1,640,638	£ 1,550,869

The intercolonial trade of Australasia is increasing in a slightly higher ratio than does the population. The following figures represent the total value of this important branch of the general trade, as well as the value per inhabitant :—

Year.	Total.	Value per Inhabitant.
	£	£ s. d.
1861	15,939,789	12 11 9
1871	29,364,762	15 5 1
1881	37,033,897	13 10 1
1888	48,668,885	13 5 0

The amount for 1888 represents 40 per cent. of the total trade of Australasia, which in that year reached £122,862,353 ; but these figures not only include the value of the produce of one Colony exchanged for that of another, but also of goods passing through for foreign countries, and goods imported from abroad and re-exported, and must, therefore, not be taken as affording definite information as to the extent of legitimate internal trade.

The following table illustrates the total trade of each Colony for the quinquennial period, 1884–1888. It will be observed that 1886 was the worst year of the series for the whole of the colonies, but there has been a gradual improvement since, until the total trade of 1888 showed a fair advance upon that of 1884. The figures are given to the nearest thousand pounds.

Total Foreign and Intercolonial Trade.

		1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.
		£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	Imports	23,161,000	23,738,000	20,974,000	18,806,000	20,885,000
	Exports	18,577,000	16,750,000	15,556,000	18,497,000	20,860,000
	Total	41,738,000	40,488,000	36,530,000	37,303,000	41,745,000
Victoria	Imports	19,202,000	18,044,000	18,531,000	19,022,000	23,972,000
	Exports	16,050,000	15,552,000	11,795,000	11,351,000	13,854,000
	Total	35,252,000	33,596,000	30,326,000	30,373,000	37,826,000
Queensland	Imports	6,382,000	6,423,000	6,103,000	5,822,000	6,647,000
	Exports	4,674,000	5,243,000	4,934,000	6,454,000	6,126,000
	Total	11,056,000	11,666,000	11,037,000	12,276,000	12,773,000
South Australia	Imports	5,749,000	5,548,000	4,853,000	5,096,000	5,414,000
	Exports	6,624,000	5,636,000	4,489,000	5,331,000	6,984,000
	Total	12,373,000	11,184,000	9,342,000	10,427,000	12,398,000
Western Australia	Imports	521,000	650,000	758,000	832,000	786,000
	Exports	406,000	447,000	630,000	605,000	650,000
	Total	927,000	1,097,000	1,388,000	1,437,000	1,466,000
Tasmania	Imports	1,656,000	1,757,000	1,756,000	1,597,000	1,611,000
	Exports	1,476,000	1,314,000	1,332,000	1,449,000	1,334,000
	Total	3,132,000	3,071,000	3,088,000	3,046,000	2,945,000
New Zealand	Imports	7,664,000	7,480,000	6,759,000	6,246,000	5,942,000
	Exports	7,091,000	6,520,000	6,673,000	6,866,000	7,767,000
	Total	14,755,000	14,000,000	13,432,000	13,112,000	13,709,000
Australasia	Imports	64,335,000	63,640,000	59,734,000	57,421,000	65,257,000
	Exports	54,898,000	51,762,000	45,409,000	50,553,000	57,605,000
	Total	119,233,000	115,402,000	105,143,000	107,974,000	122,862,000

TOTAL TRADE.

As already explained, the figures include intercolonial and re-export trade; and, though misleading, if used for purposes of comparison as regards the total Australasian trade and that of other countries, they are not without use in estimating the relative commercial transactions of the colonies. From the foregoing table it will be readily seen that an excess in the value of imports over exports is a prominent feature of the trade of Australasia taken as a whole, although in some colonies the reverse is the case. The surplus of imports is due to two causes: (1) the importation, by the Governments of the various colonies, of money to cover the cost of construction of public works; and (2) the excess of private capital sent to Australia for investment. In most of the colonies (New Zealand and South Australia being the exceptions), the money so imported exceeds the payments for interest on public and private loans and the sum drawn from Australia by absentees. Hereunder is shown the balance of trade of each colony and of Australasia for the five years, 1884-1888, and the amount of loan money expended during the same period. There was an excess of imports over exports in all cases except those marked.

Balance of Trade and Loan Expenditure, 1884-8.

	Excess of Imports.	Expenditure from Loans.
	£	£
New South Wales	17,323,476	15,307,247
Victoria	30,168,645	8,963,036
Queensland	3,944,497	8,720,261
South Australia	*2,403,408	5,940,602
Western Australia	780,256	709,088
Tasmania	1,473,320	2,125,796
New Zealand	*1,127,654	7,648,679
Total Australasia	50,159,138	49,414,709

* Excess of exports.

Exports of
various
countries.

The information furnished by the following tables will enable a comparison, based upon export trade, to be instituted between the Australasian Colonies and the principal countries of Europe. The value of exports is given in round numbers :—

Country.	Year.	Exports.	
		Total Value.	Value per Inhabitant.
		£	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	1888	256,000,000	6 16 10
France	1888	128,400,000	3 12 5
Germany	1887	156,000,000	3 5 10
Austria-Hungary	1886	50,000,000	1 5 7
Italy	1887	44,500,000	1 10 1
Russia	1888	69,100,000	0 14 2
Spain	1888	28,900,000	1 12 10
United States.....	1888	150,000,000	2 8 5
Canada	1886-7	18,390,000	3 16 2
Cape Colony	1887	7,920,000	5 15 0
Algeria	1887	7,440,000	1 18 5
Brazil	1886-7	26,350,000	2 3 7
Argentine Republic	1887	16,700,000	4 4 0
Uruguay	1887	3,730,000	7 4 0
Australasia	1888	34,321,000	9 10 2

The proportions of the direct foreign export trade due to each Colony, with the value per inhabitant for the year 1888, were :—

	Foreign Exports.	Value per Inhabitant.
	£	£ s. d.
New South Wales	11,305,515	10 12 5
Victoria	9,546,740	8 19 6
Queensland	2,056,569	5 9 0
South Australia	4,411,704	14 2 1
Western Australia	574,324	13 11 5
Tasmania	222,112	1 10 9
New Zealand	6,204,195	10 4 11
Australasia	34,321,165	9 10 2

In the foregoing pages the values of the trade of Australasia and of its various provinces have been given irrespective of the locality where the trade was produced. This information is supplied in the following table, which, nevertheless, must be taken as approximate, since the value of the home produce of some of the colonies is overstated. This is notably the case with Victoria and New South Wales—the first named colony taking credit for large quantities of New South Wales wool shipped from Melbourne as domestic produce, while in New South Wales gold coined at the Sydney Mint, refined copper and tin, no matter where produced, are, when exported, shipped as local produce. It has not been found practicable to ascertain certainly the extent of these over-statements, but an approximation has been made, and in the following table are given the values of home produce as returned to the Customs and the estimated figures after deductions have been made for the over-statements adverted to:—

	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales, as per Customs returns	14,505,736	12,957,881	12,884,200	15,472,361	17,289,487
New South Wales, as corrected ..	13,021,920	11,685,154	10,941,321	13,328,144	15,588,667
Victoria, as per Customs returns	13,155,484	12,452,245	9,054,687	8,502,979	10,356,633
Victoria, as corrected	11,458,841	11,039,013	7,654,583	6,437,954	9,196,657
Queensland	4,059,797	4,440,554	4,813,092	6,338,205	5,113,289
South Australia	5,292,222	4,385,599	2,822,138	3,348,561	4,070,773
Western Australia	405,692	446,601	626,524	601,186	673,521
Tasmania	1,448,714	1,290,011	1,312,416	1,425,457	1,303,908
New Zealand	6,942,486	6,591,911	6,386,682	6,551,081	7,255,128
Australasia	42,629,672	39,893,933	34,556,756	38,030,588	43,801,943

The relative producing power of the various colonies is fairly indicated by the foregoing figures, especially if read in connection

with the statement of the exports of home produce per inhabitant during the same period, which is given below :—

Exports of Domestic Produce per inhabitant.

	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales	14 15 7	12 11 0	11 3 2	13 0 7	14 13 0
Victoria	12 5 4	11 10 2	7 15 0	6 6 2	8 13 0
Queensland	13 15 4	14 8 0	14 12 7	17 17 2	13 11 0
South Australia ..	17 3 0	14 0 2	9 0 2	10 14 2	14 18 7
Western Australia	12 11 0	13 2 2	16 15 2	14 13 0	15 18 4
Tasmania	11 5 7	9 16 7	9 13 7	10 3 9	9 0 7
New Zealand	12 12 9	11 12 9	10 19 4	10 19 7	11 19 7
Australasia.....	13 12 7	12 6 0	10 5 4	10 18 2	12 2 7

Domestic Pro-
duce exported

The average value of the produce of Australasia exported during the five years comprised above was £39,782,600 per annum, equal to £11 17s. per inhabitant, which latter sum is far in excess of the export of any other producing country. The average of each colony for 1884–8 was—

	Domestic Produce exported.	Per inhabitant.
	£	£ s. d.
New South Wales	12,913,040	13 4 8
Victoria	9,157,400	9 6 0
Queensland	4,954,180	14 17 0
South Australia	4,103,860	13 3 3
Western Australia	550,720	14 12 0
Tasmania	1,357,900	10 0 0
New Zealand	6,745,460	11 13 0
Australasia	39,782,560	11 17 0

Export per
inhabitant.

As stated above, the export of domestic produce compared with population is much larger from Australasia than from any other country, and for the year 1888 the gross value of such exports was greater than that from any European country, with the exception of the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Russia, and

Belgium. The following was the value per inhabitant for some of the principal countries of the world, and refers in most instances to the year 1887 :—

Domestic Exports of various Countries.

Export of Domestic Produce per inhabitant.

	£
United Kingdom	6·24
France.....	3·36
Germany.....	3·42
Russia	0·63
Italy.....	1·25
Norway	3·10
Sweden	2·80
Belgium	8·30
Spain	1·70
United States.....	2·85
Australasia.....	11·85

The main article of Australasian export is wool. During 1888 the weight of this commodity exported was 553,075,285 lbs., estimated as if all the wool were unwashed, and the value thereof £19,330,868.

Since the discovery of gold in 1851 there have been every year exported large quantities of both coin and bullion. In the subjoined table the net export of gold is shown in five-year periods from 1851. The colonies of Victoria, Queensland, and New Zealand are the largest exporters, being the chief producers of the metal. The other colonies have produced little more than the quantity needed to meet the local requirements.

Export of Gold.

Period.	Value of Exports over Imports.	Average per Annum.
	£	£
1851-55	39,949,688	7,989,938
1856-60	57,522,478	11,504,496
1861-65	51,365,054	10,273,011
1866-70	46,527,832	9,305,566
1871-75	39,306,752	7,861,350
1876-80	25,868,541	5,173,708
1881-85	23,664,776	4,732,955
1886-88	9,517,319	3,172,440
1851-88	293,722,440	7,729,538

SHIPPING.

Starting from the year 1822, as being the earliest date for which reliable information under this heading is available, the expansion of the maritime trade of Australasia may be summarised as under :—

Vessels Entered and Cleared at Australasian Ports.

Year.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.
		Tons.
1822	268	147,869
1841	2,576	552,347
1851	5,340	1,088,108
1861	10,766	2,892,503
1871	13,733	4,395,172
1881	16,699	9,504,130
1888	18,611	14,689,766

Tonnage entered
and cleared.

An exact distribution of the tonnage amongst the various colonies can only be made since 1861. In the year 1822 all the colonies on the mainland were comprised in the designation of New South Wales, and in 1851 Queensland still formed part of the mother colony. In the following table a distribution has been made as far as practicable. The Queensland figures for 1881 are, however, greatly overstated. It was the practice formerly, in that colony, to reckon shipping at every port of call, instead of only at the terminal port. The custom has been discontinued of late years, so that the figures for 1888 give the exact state of the Queensland shipping trade.

Total Tonnage Entered and Cleared.

C	1822.		1841.		1851.		1861.		1871.		1881.		1888.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
New South Wales.....	..	.....	..	.....	1,056	292,022	2,718	745,606	4,014	1,560,479	4,357	2,780,560	5,927	4,765,410
Victoria .....	...	.....	1,404	355,896	1,370	240,431	3,598	1,090,002	4,394	1,355,025	4,248	2,411,002	5,354	4,307,883
Queensland	131	113,717	..	.....	included in N.S.W.		485	108,664	966	282,675	2,663	1,533,808	1,864	906,220
South Australia.....	..	.....	197	37,036	538	155,002	788	109,331	1,238	373,624	2,153	1,269,491	1,988	1,973,651
Western Australia ..	...	.....	No information.		247	49,352	455	115,256	400	126,948	368	285,046	520	812,393
Tasmania.....	137	34,152	975	159,415	1,569	239,152	1,580	230,218	1,283	210,160	1,383	383,762	1,565	776,278
New Zealand .....	..	.....	..	.....	560	112,149	1,142	403,336	1,438	540,261	1,527	833,621	1,384	1,057,913
Australasia.....	268	147,869	2,576	552,347	5,340	1,088,108	10,766	2,892,503	13,733	4,395,172	16,690	9,504,130	18,611	14,680,766

ENTRANCES AND CLEARANCES.

Recent increase
of tonnage.

Owing in a great measure to the utilization of steam as a motive power the average carrying capacity of vessels has increased considerably, especially during recent years. In considering the average tonnage, the year 1822 cannot be used for the purpose of comparison, as a large proportion of that year's tonnage was made up of vessels of the Royal Navy conveying men and stores to penal establishments :—

Year.	Average Tonnage.
1841	214
1851	204
1861	269
1871	320
1881	570
1888	789

It is hardly necessary to emphasise the remarkable change effected within the period 1871 to 1888; the former year inaugurated a marked expansion in the Australasian shipping trade, which has been sustained and further developed, in no small degree, by the great lines of steamships now running between Australasian and European ports.

Daily movement
of tonnage.

The following figures represent the daily movement of tonnage (entered and cleared) in Australasian ports :—

In 1822... ..	58 tons per diem.
1841.....	1,486 ,,
1851.....	2,981 ,,
1861.....	7,928 ,,
1871.....	12,041 ,,
1881.....	26,038 ,,
1888.....	40,081 ,,

that is to say, five vessels of 406 tons in the aggregate, entered or cleared every week during the year 1822, whilst in 1888 the weekly shipping movement was 357 vessels, aggregating 280,567 tons.

The subjoined figures are given for the purpose of comparing the growth of population with the expansion of shipping, though the exclusion of the year 1822 would, for the reason given in a preceding paragraph, render the comparison clearer :—

Expansion of the shipping trade.

Year.	Population.	Tonnage.	Tonnage per inhabitant.
1822	38,440	147,869	3·85
1841	251,000	552,347	2·20
1852	545,116	1,767,305	3·24
1861	1,266,000	2,892,503	2·28
1871	1,970,066	4,395,172	2·23
1881	2,822,046	9,504,130	3·37
1888	3,672,803	14,689,766	4·00

The following table shows that the shipping has increased at a much greater rate than the population :—

Compared with increase of population.

Ratio of Increase per Annum.

	Population per cent.	Commerce per cent.
1841 to 1861.....	8·43	8·63
1861 to 1881.....	4·09	6·13
1881 to 1888.....	3·84	6·42

Comparing the quantities of shipping per inhabitant of the countries for which data is available, it will be found that Australasia stands first. The following figures refer to 1887 :—

	Tons per inhabitant.
United Kingdom	1·76
Russia in Europe	0·16
Norway	2·47
Sweden	1·86
Germany	0·37
France.....	0·72
Holland	2·13
Italy	0·46
United States.....	0·54
Australasia	4·00

TONNAGE OF EACH COLONY.

Shipping trade
between
Australasia and
the United
Kingdom.

In estimating the number and tonnage of vessels engaged in the trade between Australasian ports and the United Kingdom and foreign countries, as distinguished from intercolonial trade, figures as regards the years 1884 to 1888 can only be considered, as there is no information of a sufficiently accurate character for the classification of the maritime trade prior to that period :—

Year.	Vessels.	Tons.
1884	4,457	4,881,858
1885	4,291	4,905,479
1886	4,064	4,859,183
1887	3,880	4,853,324
1888	4,358	5,913,291

Distribution of
British trade.

The tonnage was distributed amongst the various colonies in the following proportion :—

	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.
New South Wales	1,764,126	1,753,795	1,697,436	1,658,725	2,028,740
Victoria	1,057,752	1,041,006	1,172,883	1,140,819	1,322,565
Queensland	279,720	317,046	333,776	242,677	347,632
South Australia ...	829,673	822,715	693,324	770,138	918,782
Western Australia	368,035	389,831	400,171	417,449	727,944
Tasmania	103,265	102,328	93,776	125,458	103,817
New Zealand	479,287	478,758	467,817	498,058	463,811

Although it affords an estimate of the shipping between the colonies and the outside world, the foregoing table must not be considered as absolutely correct in its details, as the tonnage credited to Western Australia and South Australia includes vessels touching at Albany and Adelaide, the destination being Sydney or Melbourne. The figures appertaining to Victoria are likewise swollen by the inclusion of tonnage on its way to Sydney.

The distribution of the shipping trade is shown by the subjoined table, specifying the tonnage entered or cleared at the principal Australasian ports :—

Sydney	3,116,697
Melbourne	4,023,570
Newcastle	1,448,635
Brisbane	809,268
Rockhampton	446,275
Townsville.....	408,757
Auckland	307,195
Wellington	216,009
Hobart	405,781
Launceston	197,303
Port Adelaide	1,526,710
Glencg	64,578

Shipping at principal ports.

To test the position in the world of commerce of the principal ports of Australasia, a comparison between them and other great ports is made in the following table, compiled from the latest available data, it being well to remember that Melbourne is in a much more prominent place than it would otherwise occupy if the tonnage of vessels calling at that place, but bound for Sydney, were deducted from the figures quoted :—

Sydney and Melbourne compared with other ports.

Port.	Year.	Tonnage.	Port.	Year.	Tonnage.
London	1888	12,941,861	Melbourne	1888	4,023,570
New York	1886	10,947,273	Le Havre	1888	3,618,424
Liverpool	1888	10,309,752	Hull	1888	3,401,692
Cardiff	1888	8,076,333	Sydney	1888	3,116,679
Hamburg	1887	7,748,710	Genoa	1887	2,953,194
Antwerp.....	1886	6,802,706	Glasgow	1888	2,548,882
Marseilles	1888	6,715,337	Boston	1888	2,203,029
Hongkong	1888	6,650,000	Stettin	1887	2,185,059
Newcastle (Eng.)	1888	5,220,892	Bordeaux	1888	2,107,693
Buenos Ayres.....	1888	4,096,020	Philadelphia	1886	2,050,552