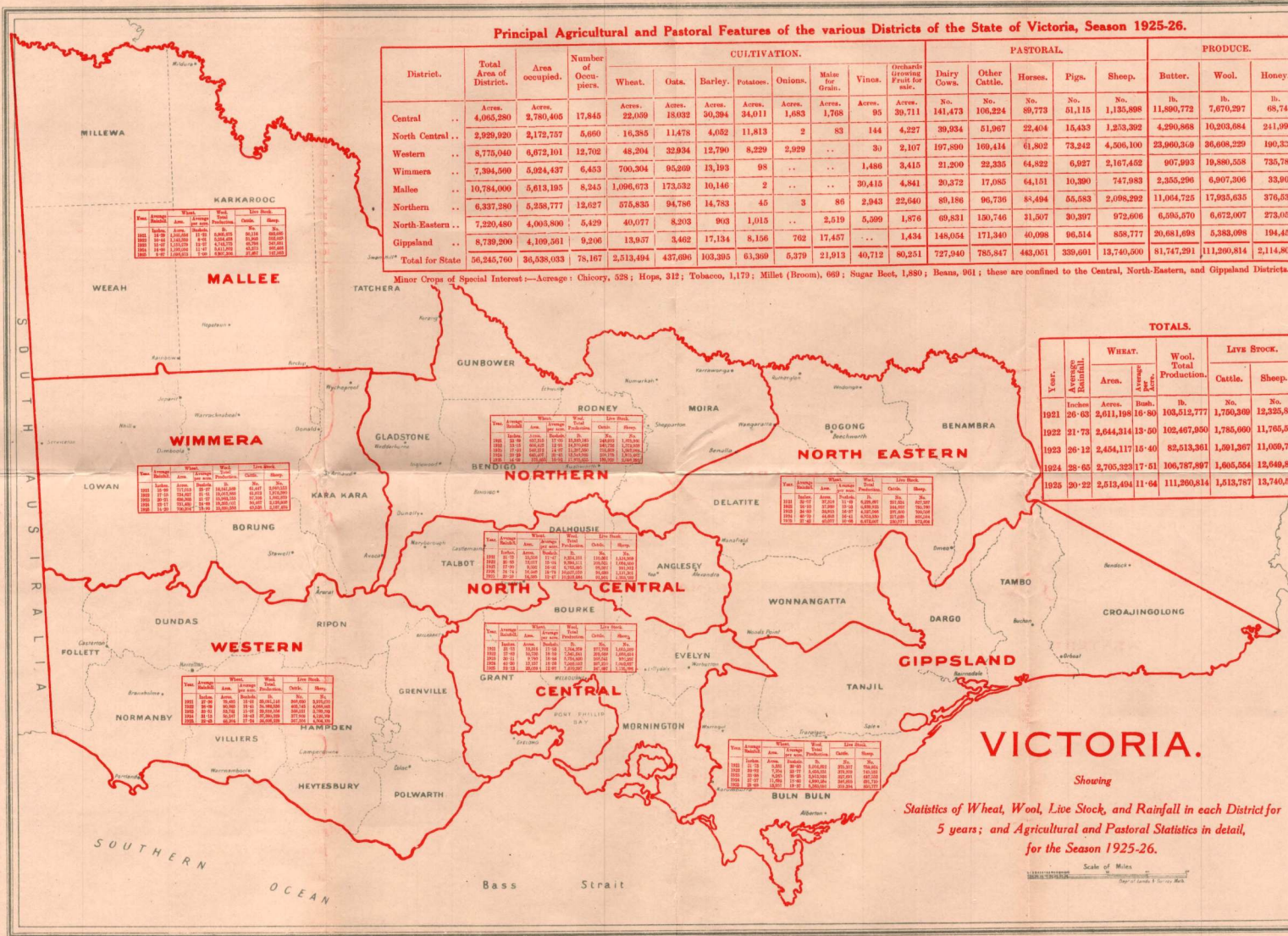


Principal Agricultural and Pastoral Features of the various Districts of the State of Victoria, Season 1925-26.

District.	Total Area of District.	Area occupied.	Number of Occupiers.	CULTIVATION.								PASTORAL.					PRODUCE.			
				Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Onions.	Mais for Grain.	Vines.	Orchards growing Fruit for sale.	Dairy Cows.	Other Cattle.	Horses.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Butter.	Wool.	Honey.	
	Acres.	Acres.		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	lb.	
Central ..	4,065,280	2,780,405	17,845	22,059	18,032	50,284	34,011	1,683	1,768	95	20,711	141,473	106,224	89,773	51,115	1,135,898	11,890,772	7,670,297	68,743	
North Central ..	2,929,920	2,172,757	5,660	16,385	11,478	11,478	4,052	11,813	2	83	144	4,227	39,934	51,967	22,404	15,433	1,253,292	23,960,359	26,008,229	190,322
Western ..	8,775,040	6,672,101	12,702	48,204	32,934	12,790	8,229	2,929	..	30	30	2,107	197,890	169,414	61,802	73,243	4,506,100	23,960,359	26,008,229	190,322
Wimmera ..	7,394,500	5,924,437	6,453	700,304	95,009	13,193	98	..	..	1,486	3,415	21,209	22,335	64,832	6,927	2,167,452	907,993	19,880,508	735,788	
Mallee ..	10,784,000	5,613,195	8,245	1,096,673	173,532	10,146	2	..	..	30,415	4,841	20,372	17,085	64,151	10,390	747,983	2,355,296	6,907,306	33,907	
Northern ..	6,337,380	5,258,777	12,027	678,835	94,786	14,783	45	3	86	2,943	22,640	89,186	96,736	85,494	55,583	2,098,292	11,004,725	17,935,635	376,531	
North-Eastern ..	7,220,480	4,903,800	5,429	40,677	8,203	903	1,015	..	2,519	5,309	1,876	69,831	150,746	31,507	30,397	972,606	6,598,670	6,672,007	273,057	
Gippsland ..	8,739,200	4,109,361	9,206	15,937	3,462	17,134	8,156	762	17,467	..	1,434	145,054	171,340	40,098	96,514	858,777	20,681,693	5,383,098	194,459	
Total for State	56,245,760	36,638,033	78,167	2,513,494	437,686	103,395	63,369	5,379	21,913	40,712	80,251	727,940	785,847	482,061	336,601	13,740,500	81,747,291	111,280,814	2,114,807	

Minor Crops of Special Interest—Acreage: Chicory, 528; Hops, 312; Tobacco, 1,179; Millet (Broom), 669; Sugar Beet, 1,880; Beans, 961; these are confined to the Central, North-Eastern, and Gippsland Districts.



TOTALS.

Year.	Acres. Rainfall.	WHEAT.		Wool Total Production.	LIVE STOCK.	
		Acres.	Average Yield.		Cattle.	Sheep.
1921 20-65	10.68	2,611,186	16-90	103,512,777	1,790,300	12,325,818
1922 21-73	11.24	2,644,314	13-50	102,467,890	1,785,660	11,705,520
1923 20-12	11.24	2,454,117	16-40	82,513,361	1,691,367	11,000,761
1924 20-65	11.24	2,705,329	17-61	106,787,897	1,665,554	12,646,898
1925 20-22	11.24	2,613,494	11-64	111,260,814	1,513,757	13,740,500

VICTORIA.

Showing Statistics of Wheat, Wool, Live Stock, and Rainfall in each District for 5 years; and Agricultural and Pastoral Statistics in detail, for the Season 1925-26.

Scale of Miles  
1:1,000,000

**PRODUCTION.**

**LAND SETTLEMENT, ETC.**

The total area of the State is 56,245,760 acres. This comprises—

	Acres.
Lands alienated in fee simple .. .. .	25,463,719
Lands in process of alienation .. .. .	9,239,991
Crown lands .. .. .	21,542,050
Total .. .. .	56,245,760

The Crown lands comprise—

Permanent forests (under Forests Act) .	3,569,233
Timber reserves (under Forests Act) ..	736,355
State forests and Timber reserves (under Land Act) .. .. .	329,600
Water reserves .. .. .	314,603
Reserves for Agricultural Colleges, &c. ..	85,879
Reserves in the Mallee .. .. .	405,860
Other reserves .. .. .	323,610
Roads .. .. .	1,794,218
Water frontages, beds of rivers, lakes, &c.; } unsold land in cities, towns, and boroughs }	1,777,546
Land in occupation under—	
Perpetual leases .. .. .	111,253
Other leases and licences .. .. .	71,468
Temporary grazing licences .. .. .	6,816,044
Unoccupied .. .. .	5,206,381
Total .. .. .	21,542,050

In the following table are shown the area of Crown lands sold absolutely and conditionally, and the area of lands alienated in fee simple in each year since 1915.

A portion of the area conditionally sold reverts to the Crown each year in consequence of the non-fulfilment of conditions by the selectors. The lands alienated each year include areas selected in previous years.

#### ALIENATION OF CROWN LANDS, 1916 TO 1925.

Year.	Area of Crown Lands Sold.		Crown Lands alienated in Fee Simple.	
	Absolutely, at Auction, &c.	Conditionally to Selectors.*	Area.	Purchase Money.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	£
1916 .. ..	2,061	140,341	89,203	80,238
1917 .. ..	2,075	89,164	82,042	79,992
1918 .. ..	1,760	74,514	76,064	78,235
1919 .. ..	1,166	70,729	102,294	114,654
1920 .. ..	3,125	102,534	187,228	192,861
1921 .. ..	1,800	99,519	110,056	100,890
1922 .. ..	2,658	186,686	106,485	118,698
1923 .. ..	3,015	200,517	142,940	167,669
1924 .. ..	3,093	151,875	126,147	167,322
1925 .. ..	2,920	92,996	185,038	129,187

\* Exclusive of Mallee selectors.

From the period of the first settlement of the State to the end of 1925 the amount realized by the sale of Crown lands was £34,635,722, which represents an average of £0 19s. 11d. per acre for all lands alienated or in process of alienation. Payment of a considerable portion of this amount extended over a series of years without interest, upon very easy terms.

Amount realized by sale of Crown lands.

Lands remaining for disposal.

The next table shows the whole of the unalienated lands of the Crown remaining for disposal:—

CROWN LANDS REMAINING FOR DISPOSAL ON 31st DECEMBER, 1925.

Location.	Classification.						Total.
	Agricultural and Grazing.					Auri-ferous.	
	First.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	Un-classed.		
County.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Buln Buln ..	5,115	30,174	76,868	..	..	..	112,157
Croajingolong ..	2,510	1,756	569,149	..	837,400	13,850	1,424,665
Dargo ..	..	..	102,568	..	431,900	72,000	606,468
Tambo ..	..	..	219,459	..	364,450	900	584,809
Tanjil ..	..	..	109,971	..	361,650	67,000	538,621
Wonnangatta ..	..	89	160,534	..	942,100	..	1,102,673
Bogong ..	1,326	12,846	209,008	..	158,724	104,955	486,859
Benambra ..	..	403	303,432	..	315,994	90,093	709,922
Delatite ..	390	18,082	200,189	..	230,050	61,333	510,044
Moirā ..	546	149	10,193	..	..	..	10,888
Anglesey ..	..	3,823	67,450	..	..	3,210	74,483
Bourke ..	..	162	..	..	..	..	162
Dalhousie ..	..	619	1,327	..	..	5,167	7,113
Evelyn ..	19	12,649	391	..	..	1,315	14,374
Mornington ..	..	994	7,102	..	..	..	8,096
Bendigo ..	80	735	3,026	..	..	4,018	7,859
Rodney ..	..	254	..	..	..	2,193	2,447
Borong ..	..	667	69,098	..	423	5,667	74,855
Gladstone ..	302	1,480	2,128	..	..	13,730	17,640
Lowan ..	..	604	148,499	29,259	10,610	..	188,972
Kara Kara ..	86	156	3,566	..	..	4,476	8,284
Talbot ..	94	646	641	..	..	41,939	43,320
Tatchera ..	..	70	..	..	..	..	70
Heytesbury ..	..	863	166,084	..	..	..	166,947
Polwarth ..	17,067	16,913	28,518	..	..	..	62,498
Grant ..	..	155	25,192	..	..	13,386	38,733
Grenville ..	20	311	..	..	..	10,624	10,955
Ripon ..	..	380	24,133	..	..	3,699	28,212
Normanby ..	..	267	120,806	5,765	8,810	..	137,648
Dundas ..	..	..	44,567	8,571	15,754	..	68,892
Villiers ..	..	..	1,713	..	..	..	1,713
Follett ..	..	1,252	165,788	..	39,809	..	206,849
Karkaroc ..	..	39	..	..	..	..	39
Total ..	27,555	103,488	2,840,400	43,595	3,717,674	519,555	7,255,267
Throughout the State	Swamp or reclaimed lands .. .. .						1,688
" " "	Lands which may be sold by auction .. .. .						7,605
The north-western portion of the State	Mallee lands (such as are suitable to be eventually classed 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th class for selection) .. .. .						4,757,865
Total area remaining for disposal .. .. .							12,022,425

Much of the land included in the above statement is temporarily leased under grazing licences.

**Pastoral occupation of Crown lands.** The particulars of Crown lands for which licences had been issued for pastoral occupation on 31st December, 1925, are as follows:—

Number of Licences .. .. .	5,541
Area (acres) .. .. .	6,816,044
Annual Rental .. .. .	£25,745

**Persons who may select land.** Any person of the age of 18 years or upwards is eligible to apply to select under the Land Acts a prescribed area varying according to the classification of the land—less the area of previous selections.

**Concessions to land seekers.** The Lands Inquiry Branch gives information to intending applicants and issues concession warrants for half fares on Victorian Railways to persons travelling to make inspection or take possession of land.

**Area that may be selected.** An applicant may select in the Mallee, under Selection Purchase Lease, 610 acres of first class, 1,000 acres of second class, 1,280 acres of third class, or 1,600 acres of fourth class land, or 4,000 acres of land classed 4A; and, in addition, may acquire privately an area equivalent to that which he selects from the Crown.

**Grazing licences** Grazing licences are renewable annually, and are only granted for waste lands of the Crown until required under the principal sections of the Act.

**Land Laws.** A conspectus of the provisions of the Victorian Land Acts appears in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17 and previous issues.

**Transfer of Land Act.** The "Torrens System," whereby persons acquiring possession of land may receive a clear title, was introduced into Victoria in 1862. The system has been the means of simplifying procedure in connexion with the transferring of land. It gives a title to the transferee free of any latent defect and reduces the cost of dealing in real estate by reason of the simplicity of the procedure. All land parted with by the Crown since 1862 is under the operation of the Transfer of Land Act, and the Crown grant issues through the Titles Office; but, to bring under the Act land that was parted with prior to that year, application must be made accompanied by strict proofs of the applicant's interest in the property. During 1925 there were submitted 476 applications to have brought under the Act land amounting to 16,190 acres in extent, and to £1,005,185 in value; while the land actually brought under the Act during the year by application was 14,603 acres valued at £877,398. Up to the end of 1925 there had been brought under the Act 3,118,595 acres valued at £65,092,724.

**Assurance  
Fund.**

When application is made to have land brought under the Transfer of Land Act, a contribution to the assurance fund of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the £1 on the value of the land is levied on the applicant to assure and indemnify the Government in granting a clear title against all the world, as some other person may have a latent interest in the property, and it may be necessary for the Government to recompense such person out of the fund for the loss of his interest. Receipts during 1925-26 comprised contributions £3,216, interest on stock £4,465, and interest on £75,073—advanced under *The Protection of Public Buildings Act 1885*—£3,003. During the year £73 was paid out of the fund in settlement of claims, and £5,208 as interest on securities under the *Special Funds Act 1920*, No. 3067. The balance at the credit of the assurance fund on 30th June, 1926, was £163,052. The amount paid up to 30th June, 1926, as compensation and for judgments recovered, including costs, was £8,027.

## CLOSER SETTLEMENT.

**Closer  
Settlement.**

Under the provisions of the Closer Settlement Act the Closer Settlement Board is empowered to expend at the rate of £500,000 per annum in the purchase—either by voluntary or compulsory acquisition—of lands (whether privately owned or held under lease from the Crown) for subdivision into suitable allotments according to the class of the land, and for disposal by the Board to eligible applicants, as stated hereafter. Lands well adapted for settlement are thus made available in those portions of the State in which railways, water supply and markets are provided, and in which roads and other facilities are good. The areas purchased comprise ordinary farming lands in a more or less improved condition, and lands in irrigated districts with plentiful supplies of water for irrigation.

Every application for a Closer Settlement allotment must be accompanied by the registration fee of 5s., a lease fee of £1, and a deposit (equal to at least 3 per cent. of the capital value of the land) which is deducted from the purchase money. The applicant is required to give evidence of suitability and fitness, &c., to occupy the land. If successful, a permit giving immediate possession is issued (followed by a lease as soon as practicable), and no further payment is required for six months. If the application be refused, the amount forwarded as a deposit in respect of the purchase money and the lease fee are returned to the unsuccessful applicant, but the registration fee is retained. Only one allotment of the maximum value can be granted to any one person, and the principle of residence for eight months in each year is a condition of the lease.

In addition to the provisions for the purchase of large estates for subdivision, the Closer Settlement Act provides that any one or more persons, who are eligible to acquire a farm allotment under the Closer Settlement Act, may enter into a provisional agreement with the owner of a block of private land for the purchase thereof, and

acquire it through the Closer Settlement Board—*vide* section 20, Act 2629. The value of the land must not exceed the maximum allowed under the Act. An application on the proper form must be filled in, and the agreement with full details and the application must be lodged with the Board, together with a valuation fee of £4. Where the agreement is submitted on behalf of more than one applicant, an additional fee of £2 must be lodged in respect of each additional applicant. The fee may be returned if, after a preliminary inspection, the Board does not approve of the application. Should the Board decide to acquire the land, the purchaser is required to deposit an amount not exceeding four half-yearly instalments, and is otherwise subject to all the provisions of the Closer Settlement Act with regard to payments, residence, improvements, &c.

Repurchased lands are disposed of as farm allotments, agricultural labourers' allotments, and workmen's home allotments under conditional purchase lease. The principal terms of these leases, as regards farm allotments, are briefly stated herein. They are given in detail in each title as issued.

Conditional purchase leases are granted to successful applicants under the Closer Settlement Act, and are for such a term not exceeding  $36\frac{1}{2}$  years as may be agreed upon between the lessee and the Board. The purchase money is payable by 73 or a less number of half-yearly instalments. In some cases the Board has granted applications for extension of payments under a lease to  $46\frac{1}{2}$  years, the payments being by 93 half-yearly instalments. The deposit lodged with the application is credited as part of the principal, and the balance bears interest at 5 per cent. Each instalment includes interest upon the balance of purchase money remaining unpaid, and is 3 per cent. half-yearly (6 per cent. per annum) of the capital value of the allotment (less the amount of the deposit). Payments in advance may be made at any time, at the option of the lessee, and a proportionate reduction of interest secured thereby.

In special cases, when a lessee is unable to meet the instalments of purchase money as they fall due, the Board has power to suspend such payments up to an amount not exceeding 60 per cent. of the value of the improvements effected by him. Interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum is charged on the amount in arrear or on any instalments which may have been suspended.

The lessee must reside on the allotment for eight months during each year. Personal residence by the lessee's wife, or child over 18 years of age, or parent dependent for support, may, with the approval of the Board, be considered personal residence by the lessee. A farm lessee cannot transfer, assign, mortgage, or sublet the whole or any part of his allotment within the first three years of the lease. The Crown grant may be issued to the lessee at the end of any half-year after the first twelve years have expired, on payment of the balance of purchase money. The residence condition is not carried into the Crown grant.

**Farm allotments.** Lands for farm allotments are subdivided into suitable areas, of which none must exceed in value £2,500 except in the case of blocks mainly consisting of grazing land, when the value may be increased to £3,500; and no lease of any of these areas can be granted to a person who at the date of application is directly or indirectly the owner of any other land in Victoria (township land excepted) the value of which, together with that of the allotment applied for, exceeds the amount stated. The *Closer Settlement Act* 1925, No. 3422, empowers the Closer Settlement Board to increase the maximum value of a farm allotment to any amount not exceeding £3,000 in the case of any conditional purchase lease issued before the commencement of the said Act, where, in the opinion of the Minister after consulting the Board, the lessee has a reasonable chance of success if the area of his allotment is increased. Improvements of a permanent and substantial character must be effected by the lessee of a farm allotment to the value of at least two instalments of the purchase money before the end of the first year from the date of the lease, 10 per cent. of the purchase money before the end of the third year, and a further 10 per cent. before the end of the sixth year. Improvements must thus be made to the value of at least 20 per cent. of the total purchase money payable for the allotment. If an approved deputy is fulfilling the residential condition, the value of the improvements must be at least 30 per cent. of the total purchase money. If they are made in excess of requirements during the first three years, the excess is set off against the expenditure necessary by the end of the sixth year. Where special circumstances warrant action, the Minister, upon the recommendation of the Board, may modify the improvement conditions.

**Advances to settlers.** The Closer Settlement Act provides for advances by the Closer Settlement Board to settlers who are—

- (a) Lessees under the *Closer Settlement Act* 1915.
- (b) Licensees of an agricultural or grazing allotment under the *Land Act* 1915.
- (c) Licensees under section 86 of the *Land Act* 1915 or corresponding sections of any repealed Act.
- (d) Conditional purchase lessees under the *Land Act* 1915; or
- (e) Conditional purchase lessees under the Murray Settlements Act, now Section 245, *Land Act* 1915.
- (f) Selection purchase lessees under Sections 46 and 50, *Land Act* 1915, during the first six years of the term of the leases.
- (g) Perpetual lessees under Section 54, *Land Act* 1915.

Advances of money to assist in effecting improvements may be granted by the Board up to 80 per cent. of the value of the permanent improvements effected, such advances to be repaid by half-yearly instalments extending over twenty years, bearing interest at 5 per cent. Advances to acquire stock and for the purchase of seed, manure, and implements can also be made. The total advances for all purposes must not exceed £625.



Advances not exceeding £250 may be made to persons holding approved share-farming or leasing agreements, for the purchase of stock and implements, and for such other purposes as the Board thinks fit, to enable them to carry out the share-farming or leasing agreement.

The period for repaying the advances on improvements is usually limited to twenty years, and for live stock, seed, manure, and implements, to five years, interest at 5 per cent. per annum being charged on the unpaid balance of the amount advanced.

**Group Settlement in Mountainous Areas.** Land may be acquired by the Board in mountainous areas for disposal to any group of settlers (not being less than five), and provision is made for freedom from payment of instalments for any period not exceeding ten years, subject to certain improvement conditions. Special provision is also made to enable the Board to provide road access to such areas. Interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the free period fixed by the Minister of Lands will be added to the capital value of the allotment, and will be repaid as part of the instalments of purchase money.

The Board may authorize an advance to be made for the purpose of clearing and improving the land, and may make progress payments to the lessee as the work for which the advance is intended progresses.

The Board will also assist in the erection of the dwelling-house and out-buildings required for the allotment. Advances made by the Board for this purpose are repayable on the same terms as those made to assist in effecting improvements which are referred to above.

**Wire netting advances.** Advances of wire netting may be made by the Board to Crown lessees and owners of land generally under the *Closer Settlement Act 1915*, the *Vermin Destruction Act 1915*, and the *Wire Netting Act 1924*.

The wire netting supplied is :—

- (a) Rabbit proof—No. 17 gauge, 1½-in. mesh, 42 inches wide, "A" grade.
- (b) Dog proof—No. 16 gauge, 4-in. mesh, 42 inches wide, "A" grade.

Netting is supplied for cash or on terms, advances being repayable over a period of thirteen years with interest at 4 per cent. per annum, and each advance is limited to a quantity sufficient for 6 miles of vermin-proof fencing. Where the netting is erected on a boundary immediately adjoining unoccupied Crown land, or separated only by a public road therefrom, a rebate of 50 per cent. of the cost thereof is allowed.

By arrangement with the Commonwealth Government, the Board also makes advances of wire netting to necessitous settlers, under the *Advances to Settlers Act 1923*. Such advances are free of interest and are repayable in twenty yearly instalments.

**Estates purchased.**

A complete statement of all estates acquired by the Closer Settlement Board at 31st December, 1925, including those purchased by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission (i.e., estates in irrigable areas), will be found in the report of the Closer Settlement Board for the period from 1st July, 1924, to 31st December, 1925.

A summary of the lands acquired, exclusive of estates purchased for discharged soldiers' settlement (*vide* page 468), is given in the following statement :—

**CLOSER SETTLEMENT LANDS ACQUIRED AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1925.**

	Area.	Purchase Money, including Discount on Stock Debentures	Total Cost to Date.*	Number of Lessees.			Area Unallotted.
				Farm Allotments.†	Workmen's Homes.	Agricultural Labourers' Allotments.	
	acres.	£	£	Number.	Number.	Number.	acres.
<b>Dry Areas.</b>							
Lands purchased (Farms) ..	765,861	5,021,641	5,171,734	2,777	..	146	19,415
Crown lands taken over (Farms) ..	2,782	14,917	16,459	18	..	17	..
Repurchased lands (Workmen's Homes) ..	657	64,428	95,839	..	967	..	29
Crown lands taken over (Workmen's Homes) ..	356	6,371	8,470	..	79	..	13
<b>Total Dry Areas ..</b>	<b>769,656</b>	<b>5,107,357</b>	<b>5,292,502</b>	<b>2,795</b>	<b>1,046</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>19,457</b>
<b>Irrigable Areas.</b>							
Repurchased lands (Farms) ..	156,928	1,946,217	2,061,725	} 1,634	..	} 149	22,555
Crown lands taken over (Farms) ..	887	4,052	4,129				..
<b>Total Irrigable areas</b>	<b>157,815</b>	<b>1,950,269</b>	<b>2,065,854</b>	<b>1,634</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>22,787</b>
<b>Total acquired at 31st Dec. 1925..</b>	<b>927,471</b>	<b>7,057,626</b>	<b>7,358,356</b>	<b>4,429</b>	<b>1,046</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>42,244</b>
<i>Less area disposed of under Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Acts</i>	62,786	626,947	629,392	..	..	..	..
<b>Total (net) ..</b>	<b>864,685</b>	<b>6,430,679</b>	<b>6,728,964</b>	<b>4,429</b>	<b>1,046</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>44,244</b>

\* Includes (a) Purchase money, £7,057,626; expenses prior to disposal, £74,954; public works, £194,349; and interest capitalized, £31,427.

† Not including 615 lessees of farm allotments disposed of under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts.

Up to 31st December, 1925, the Board had acquired 233 properties, with a total area of 927,471 acres, of which 42,244 acres were then unallotted. Of the estates acquired, an area of 33,739 acres had been used at the date mentioned for settlement of migrants from overseas. Portions of estates, amounting in the aggregate to 48,824

acres, have been sold by public competition and for public reserves without any restrictions, and are not under conditional purchase lease.

Up to 31st December, 1925, 615 allotments, containing 62,786 acres, had been sold to discharged soldiers and transferred to the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts.

The extent of the settlement effected by the Board up to 31st December, 1925, is given in the next statement:—

**SUMMARY OF CLOSER SETTLEMENT TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1925.**

Classification of Holdings.	Number.	Average Capital Value.	Average Area.	Total Area.
<b>Dry Areas.</b>				
	No.	£	Acres.	Acres.
Areas settled—				
Farms .. .. .	2,795	1,580	240	671,150
Agricultural Labourers' Allotments ..	163	160	17	2,792
Workmen's Homes Allotments ..	1,046	90	‡	784
Allotments disposed of under Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts ..	184	1,278	182	33,442
Public Competition, Auction, &c. ..	..	..	..	39,915
<b>Total area of land settled</b> .. .. .				<b>748,083</b>
Area of land available for—				
Farm Lands and Agricultural Labourers' Allotments ..				12,199
Workmen's Homes .. .. .				15
Public Competition, Auction, &c. ..				653
Area of land acquired but not yet available ..				7,242
Loss of area on subdivision (roads, channels, reserves, &c.) ..				4,168
<b>Total dry areas acquired</b> .. .. .				<b>772,360</b>
<b>Irrigation Areas.</b>				
	No.	£	Acres.	Acres.
Areas settled—				
Farms .. .. .	1,634	777	55	91,206
Agricultural Labourers' Allotments ..	149	111	6	921
Allotments disposed of under Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts ..	431	909	68	29,344
Public Competition, Auction, &c. ..	..	..	..	8,909
<b>Total area of land settled</b> .. .. .				<b>130,380</b>
Area of land available for—				
Farm Lands and Agricultural Labourers' Allotments ..				4,611
Public Competition, Auction, &c. ..				401
Area of land acquired but not yet available ..				18,677
Loss of area on subdivision (roads, channels, reserves, &c.) ..				1,042
<b>Total irrigation areas acquired</b> .. .. .				<b>155,111</b>
<b>TOTAL AREAS acquired to 31st December, 1925</b> .. .. .				<b>927,471</b>

Financial statement of Closer Settlement.

The liabilities and assets of Closer Settlement at 31st December, 1925, are shown hereunder :—

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF CLOSER SETTLEMENT AT  
31ST DECEMBER, 1925.

Liabilities—	£
For Loans, Advances, and Interest (accrued) .. .. .	6,176,517
Crown Lands taken over .. .. .	10,113
Sundry Creditors .. .. .	953,561
Reserves, &c. .. .. .	269,155
	7,409,346
Assets—	
Balance of purchase money not accrued due by lessees and others	4,658,055
Land on hand .. .. .	452,958
Balance of advances on improvements not accrued due ..	926,628
Government Securities .. .. .	132,121
Cash (including balance at credit of Closer Settlement Fund) ..	150,584
Sundry assets (including Interest accrued but not yet payable) ..	298,216
Arrears on land and advances—	
Principal—	£
Land .. .. .	158,482
Advances .. .. .	112,041
Interest—	
Land .. .. .	450,397
Advances .. .. .	71,748
	792,668
Less Bad Debts written off .. .. .	1,884
	790,784
	7,409,346

At 31st December, 1925, payments by settlers on land and advances amounted to £4,811,465, of which amount £2,466,867 was paid on account of principal and £2,344,598 on account of interest.

Eighty per cent. of the value of the improvements can be accepted as security for arrears.

Arrears secured by improvements .. .. .	£641,538
Arrears secured by principal repaid on land ..	55,383
Arrears secured by stock mortgage, lien on crop, or unsecured .. .. .	95,746
	£792,667
Total .. .. .	

The sum of £5,806,934 had been paid to the Closer Settlement Fund up to 31st December, 1925. Of that amount £2,751,741 had been transferred to revenue to meet interest due to stockholders. £100,000 had been invested to replace amounts written off estates re-valued, £100,000 had been placed in securities under the Discharged Soldier

Settlement Acts, and £2,706,525 had been utilized for redemption and cancellation of stock and for capital and working expenditure, the balance to the credit of the fund on 31st December, 1925, being £148,668. The balance of unredeemed securities is now £5,973,159, on which the interest payable amounts to £270,025 per annum. Up to 31st December, 1925, 9,222 persons had received advances aggregating £1,935,481, to effect improvements, or upon improvements already effected.

**Discharged Soldiers Settlement.** By Acts 2916 of 1917, 2988 of 1918, 3039 of 1919, 3061 of 1920, 3130 of 1921, 3253 of 1922, and 3370 of 1924, provision was made for the settlement of discharged soldiers on the land and for other matters. The operation of these acts is under the control of the Closer Settlement Board, with the limitation that the closer settlement areas under irrigation conditions, and situated within an Irrigation and Water Supply District within the meaning of the *Water Act* 1915, are managed by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission.

Up to 31st December, 1925, the Closer Settlement Board and the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission had acquired for the settlement of discharged soldiers 2,352,515 acres at a cost of £14,343,936, including 62,786 acres of Closer Settlement land taken over and disposed of under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts. Of these lands 123,343 acres were granted to civilians under Closer Settlement Acts.

The following is a summary of the lands acquired :—

**LANDS ACQUIRED FOR DISCHARGED SOLDIERS  
SETTLEMENT TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1925.**

	Area.	Cost.
	acres.	£
Land specially purchased (3,379 properties) .. .. .	1,749,662	13,262,779
Crown Lands taken over .. .. .	540,067	454,210
Closer Settlement Lands taken over .. .. .	62,786	626,947
<b>Total area and cost of purchase .. .. .</b>	<b>2,352,515</b>	<b>14,343,936</b>
Expenses prior to disposal .. .. .	..	100,561
Public Works effected .. .. .	..	635,798
Interest capitalized .. .. .	..	19,942
<b>Total cost to 31st December, 1925 .. .. .</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>15,100,237</b>
Less land granted to civilians under Closer Settlement Acts .. .. .	123,343	1,129,713*
<b>Total net area and cost .. .. .</b>	<b>2,229,172</b>	<b>13,970,524</b>

\* Approximate (2½ per cent. loading has been deducted from the selling price, viz., £1,157,956 to obtain the cost price).

Extent of  
Soldier  
Settlement.

The extent of settlement at 31st December, 1925, is given in the table which follows :—

SUMMARY OF DISCHARGED SOLDIERS SETTLEMENT TO  
31ST DECEMBER, 1925.

	Dry Areas.	Irrigation Areas.
	acres.	acres.
Area of land settled—Soldiers .. .. .	1,970,613	65,254
Area of land settled—Civilians (Closer Settlement Acts) .. .. .	112,580	10,763
Area of land available .. .. .	14,120	2,154
Area of land acquired but not yet available .. .. .	1,173	20,941
Sales by Auction, &c. .. .. .	151,679	3,238
Total land acquired to 31st December, 1925	2,250,165	102,350
Farms, Number of—		
Soldier Settlers .. .. .	6,614	1,078
Civilians .. .. .	405	341
Total! .. .. .	7,019	1,419
Average area—acres .. .. .	297	53
Average capital value .. .. .	£1,728	£854

The number of soldiers settled up to that date was as follows :—

On land specially purchased by the Closer Settlement Board	6,528
On land specially purchased by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission .. .. .	1,428
On Closer Settlement old estates—Dry areas .. .. .	36
On Closer Settlement old estates—Irrigable areas .. .. .	570
On Crown Lands—Ordinary and Mallee Areas .. .. .	1,343
On Crown Lands—Merbein and Nyah Irrigation Areas .. .. .	186
Soldiers receiving assistance from the Closer Settlement Board, on share farming, leasing agreements and freehold land .. .. .	838
Total .. .. .	10,929

In addition to the above there were available or in process of being made available 18 allotments, of which 3 were on land specially purchased by the Closer Settlement Board, and 15 were on Crown land. There were also 971 blocks available under ordinary Closer Settlement conditions, for which returned soldiers could apply.

**Financial  
statement  
of Discharged  
Soldiers  
Settlement.**

The liabilities and assets of Discharged Soldiers Settlement are shown hereunder :—

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF DISCHARGED SOLDIERS  
SETTLEMENT AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1925.**

<b>Liabilities—</b>		£
For Loans, Advances, and Interest	.. .. .	22,052,360
Crown Lands taken over	.. .. .	454,210
Sundry Creditors	.. .. .	106,861
Reserves, &c.	.. .. .	326,004
		<hr/> 22,939,435
<b>Assets—</b>		
Balance of purchase money not accrued due by lessees and others	.. .. .	13,806,077
Land on hand	.. .. .	234,232
Balance of advances on improvements not accrued due	.. .. .	3,553,481
Cash (including balance at credit of Discharged Soldiers Settlement Fund)	.. .. .	472,667
Concession of Interest and Administration expenses (State and Commonwealth)	.. .. .	413,440
Sundry assets (including Interest accrued but not yet payable)	.. .. .	266,954
Arrears on land and advances—		
Principal—		£
Land	.. .. .	298,585
Advances	.. .. .	1,687,949
Interest—		
Land	.. .. .	1,639,420
Advances	.. .. .	601,110
		<hr/> 4,227,064
Less Bad Debts written off	.. .. .	36,48C
		<hr/> 4,190,584
		<hr/> 22,939,435

At 31st December, 1925, payments by soldier settlers on land and advances amounted to £3,752,386, of which amount £2,821,605 was paid on account of principal and £930,781 on account of interest.

Against outstanding advances there was security in the nature of improvements, stock, and machinery owned by settlers. The value of these assets on all allotments in dry and irrigable areas was estimated at £7,570,806.

Concessions granted by the State Government (£1,380,301) and the Commonwealth Government (£1,870,828)—representing interest, administration charges, and losses—have relieved the settlers to the extent of £3,251,129.

Up to 31st December, 1925, the amount of assistance rendered by the Board by way of advances was £7,379,717 to 10,769 soldier settlers.

## WATERWORKS.

All Victorian waterworks are controlled by official bodies, either State or local. The following table, particulars of which were obtained chiefly from the Twenty-first Annual Report of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, summarizes those waterworks on which the Government has expended or advanced moneys, and includes practically all waterworks in the State other than minor works constructed by municipalities out of municipal funds:—

WATERWORKS—CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND ADVANCES  
BY STATE TO 30TH JUNE, 1926.

Controlling Bodies.	Purposes of Supply.	Storage Capacity of Reservoirs. *	Capital Expenditure and Advances by State.
		Acre feet.	£
State Rivers and Water Supply Commission—			
Cohiban System ..	Domestic and Mining	42,870	1,351,413
Broken River Works ..	Stock and Domestic	..	14,853
Goulburn-Waranga (including Goulburn main channels) ..	Irrigation, &c. ..	354,100	2,418,345
Sugarloaf Reservoir (under construction) ..	.. ..	306,000	1,268,980
Kow Swamp Works ..	.. ..	40,860	187,566
Loddon River Works ..	.. ..	14,000	167,636
North-west (Kerang) Lakes	.. ..	92,000	21,653
Long Lake Pumping Works ..	Stock and Domestic	3,820	27,346
Lake Lonsdale Reservoir	.. ..	45,480	49,054
Lower Wimmera Compensation Works ..	.. ..	2,870	8,558
Wimmera Storages ..	.. ..	159,200	326,219
Maffra-Sale Scheme (including Glenmaggie Reservoir and channels)	Irrigation, &c. ..	150,000	758,277
Bacchus Marsh and Werribee Scheme ..	.. ..	31,850	169,722
Red Cliffs Scheme ..	.. ..	..	701,836
Irrigation and Water Supply Districts (distributory works) ..	.. ..	..	2,873,551
Millewa Waterworks Scheme ..	Stock and Domestic	..	257,524
Waterworks Districts (distributory works) ..	.. ..	36,400†	2,503,835
Flood Protection Districts	.. ..	..	345,504
Surveys, &c. ..	.. ..	..	189,839
Other expenditure ..	.. ..	..	136,719
Carried forward ..	.. ..	1,279,450	13,778,430



**WATERWORKS—CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND ADVANCES BY STATE TO  
30TH JUNE, 1926—continued.**

Controlling Bodies.	Purposes of Supply.	Storage Capacity of Reservoirs. *	Capital Expenditure and Advances by State.
Brought forward ..	.. .. .	Acre feet.	£
River Murray Agreement Works (Commission the constructing authority) ..	Irrigation, &c. ..	1,279,450	13,778,430
Total State Rivers and Water Supply Commission First Mildura Irrigation and Water Supply Trust and Mildura Urban Trust ..	Irrigation, &c. ..	1,000,000	1,201,722
Abolished Irrigation and Water Supply Trusts (8)	.. .. .	2,279,450	14,980,152
Waterworks Trusts ..	Irrigation, &c. ..	..	119,782
Municipal Corporations ..	Stock and Domestic	5,730	32,754
Free Grants to Local Authorities ..	" "	11,420	1,671,950
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works ..	.. .. .	..	762,568
Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust ..	Domestic ..	23,730	147,046
	" ..	9,930	7,184,689
	" ..	9,930	711,657
Total ..	.. .. .	2,330,260	25,610,598

\* Total capacity of Storages, when works in hand are completed.

† Includes miscellaneous Storages, the expenditure on which has been debited to the districts concerned.

NOTE.—One acre foot of water equals 43,560 cubic feet, or 272,250 gallons.

Of the expenditure given in the case of the Melbourne waterworks, £3,189,934 represents money borrowed by the State, all of which had been redeemed at 30th June, 1924—£800,000 out of consolidated revenue, and £2,389,934 by payments from the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, to which body the waterworks were transferred in 1891. Further particulars relating to this Board will be found on page 232, Part V., of this volume.

The Geelong Waterworks were sold by the Government to the Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust in 1908 for £265,000. The expenditure shown in the above table includes, in addition to this amount, the outstanding State loan liability on account of the works, viz., £159,358, and the capital expenditure by the Trust since acquiring the works, viz., £287,299.

The next table summarizes the amounts disbursed on State works and those granted and lent to local bodies by the State on account of waterworks. In addition to their receiving free grants large sums have been written off the liabilities of the local bodies.

## STATE EXPENDITURE ON WATERWORKS TO 30TH JUNE, 1926.

	Expenditure by State.	Capital Written Off.	Payments towards Redemption.	Free Head-works and Advances.	Amount standing at Debit, 30th June, 1926.
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>State Rivers and Water Supply Commission—</b>					
Free Headworks .. . . .	1,214,910	..	420	1,214,490	..
Other Main Supply Works (including Coliban) .. . . .	6,514,072	..	1,106	..	6,512,966
Irrigation and Water Supply Districts .. . . .	2,873,551	575,152	30,937	..	2,267,462
Waterworks Districts .. . . .	2,503,835	175,055	46,906	..	2,281,874
Flood Protection Districts .. . . .	345,504	..	..	..	345,504
Surveys, &c. .. . . .	189,839	..	..	..	189,839
Other expenditure .. . . .	136,719	..	..	..	136,719
	13,778,430	750,207	79,369	1,214,490	11,734,364
River Murray Agreement Works .. . . .	1,201,722	..	..	..	1,201,722
<b>Total State Rivers and Water Supply Commission .. . . .</b>	<b>14,980,152</b>	<b>750,207</b>	<b>79,369</b>	<b>1,214,490</b>	<b>12,936,086</b>
First Mildura Irrigation and Water Supply Trust and Mildura Urban Trust .. . . .	119,782	..	8,079	..	111,703
Abolished Irrigation and Water Supply Trusts (8) .. . . .	32,754	32,724	30	..	..
Waterworks Trusts .. . . .	1,671,950*	316,537	239,759	..	1,115,654
Municipal Corporations .. . . .	762,568†	163,760	121,755	..	477,053
Free Grants to Local Authorities .. . . .	147,046	..	..	147,946	..
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works .. . . .	3,189,934	..	3,189,934	..	..
Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust .. . . .	459,593	..	300,235	..	159,358
<b>Total .. . . .</b>	<b>21,363,779</b>	<b>1,263,228</b>	<b>3,939,161</b>	<b>1,361,536</b>	<b>14,799,854</b>

\* Amount includes £6,871 representing Interest Capitalized.

† " " £43,979 " " " "

In addition to the capital written off, as shown above, arrears of interest amounting to £579,786 have been written off certain liabilities to the State, viz., £342,773 from the liabilities of what were originally Irrigation and Water Supply Trusts, £85,556 from the liabilities of Waterworks Trusts, and £151,457 from the liabilities of Municipal Corporations. Thus the amount which has actually been written off the liabilities of the Trusts (Irrigation and Waterworks) and Corporations is £1,843,014. Interest outstanding at 30th June, 1926, amounted to £32,788, viz., £11,343 against the First Mildura Trust, £17,788 against Waterworks Trusts, and £3,657 against Municipal Corporations.

### IRRIGATION.

**Progress of Irrigation.** Prior to 1905 the management of irrigation in Victoria was in the hands of various Irrigation Trusts, which were financed by the State. These Trusts drifted into financial difficulties and the State was compelled to assume control. In the year mentioned, by the authority of Parliament, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission was constituted and intrusted with the management of all irrigation works, except those controlled by the First Mildura Trust. This authority is embodied in the *Water Act* 1915—which consolidates the *Water Acts* of 1905 and 1909, of which epitomes have been given in previous issues of this work—and the *Water Acts* 1916 and 1918. The chief difficulties under which the Irrigation Trusts laboured were sparse settlement, and the absence of powers to make compulsory charges on the properties commanded by the irrigation channels. Since the assumption of control by the Commission a policy of closer settlement on the lands served by the irrigation channels has been inaugurated and vigorously pushed on, and a system of compulsory rating enforced, along with which there has been the allotment of water as a right to properties in channelled areas.

An illustration of the influence of closer settlement and the allotment of water rights in extending irrigation is contained in the following table, which shows, for the districts having water rights, most of which

are directly affected by the Commission's Closer Settlement policy, the areas irrigated in 1909-10—the year in which these two factors were first put into operation—and the average areas for the last five years :—

PROGRESS OF IRRIGATION IN CLOSER SETTLEMENT AREAS.

District (having allotted Water Rights).	Area Irrigated.	
	1909-10.	Average for last Five Years.
	Acres.	Acres.
<b>Supplied from the Goulburn—</b>		
Shepparton .. ..	..	14,534
South Shepparton (two years)	..	3,055
Rodney .. ..	32,356	48,755
Stanhope .. ..	2,000	9,962
Tongala .. ..	3,006	13,567
Rochester .. ..	500	27,812
Echuca North (four years) ..	..	2,504
Dingee .. ..	..	3,452
Tragowel Plains .. ..	20,000	34,723
<b>Supplied from the Murray—</b>		
Leitchville (one year) ..	..	4,245
Cohuna .. ..	12,000	17,899
Gannawarra .. ..	7,825	18,712
Koondrook .. ..	5,029	13,390
Swan Hill .. ..	5,410	13,952
Nyah .. ..	569	2,689
Merbein .. ..	202	7,649
Tresco (four years) ..	..	1,420
Mystic Park (four years) ..	..	2,760
<b>Supplied from the Werribee—</b>		
Bacchus Marsh .. ..	31	2,474
Werribee .. ..	..	5,797
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>88,922</b>	<b>249,351</b>

The area under irrigated culture in the whole State, in 1925-26, for all kinds of crop, was 343,685 acres, being a decrease of 31,818 acres compared with the area irrigated in the previous year, the largest yet recorded, but 9,011 acres above the average of the previous four years.

Total area irrigated.

The subjoined table shows the total extent of irrigated land in the State in 1909-10 and each of the last five years, and the purposes for which the land was utilized:—

### IRRIGATED AREAS: HOW UTILIZED.

Crop.	1909-10.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
Cereals .. ..	23,715	25,039	60,304	32,240	45,215	57,987
Lucerne .. ..	24,124	82,226	92,679	94,479	103,200	116,753
Sorghum and other annual fodders ..	8,094	28,112	35,591	33,356	36,683	37,340
Pastures .. ..	50,541	88,195	88,787	91,912	119,563	51,345
Vineyards and orchards	17,524	55,601	61,061	64,647	66,780	69,108
Fallow .. ..	4,988	4,867	8,850	4,523	4,863	5,102
Miscellaneous ..	785	3,867	3,455	3,401	5,199	6,050
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>129,771</b>	<b>287,907</b>	<b>350,727</b>	<b>324,558</b>	<b>375,503</b>	<b>343,685</b>

NOTE.—In 1909-10, 8,000 acres, details of which are not available, were irrigated by private diversions, making a total area for that year of 137,771 acres.

Of the total area irrigated in 1925-26—343,685 acres—the percentages devoted to different purposes were as follows:—Pastures, 15; cereals, 17; lucerne, 34; vineyards, orchards, and gardens, 20; sorghum and other annual fodder crops, 11; fallow, 1; and miscellaneous, 2.

The Commission during 1925-26 provided 187 holdings under ordinary Closer Settlement conditions for 12 discharged soldiers, 119 local civilians, and 56 approved oversea settlers. In addition, extensions to storages and supply channels made available domestic and stock supplies in new districts providing for settlement on 217 holdings. The area of the estates

Closer Settlement in Irrigation Districts.

in the irrigated areas thrown open for settlement during the year totalled 4,764 acres, of which 806 acres were purchased during the year. In the districts supplied by the Goulburn Irrigation System, 2,246 acres were subdivided into 22 allotments. In the new Maffra-Sale District 41 holdings, with a total area of 2,272 acres, were provided. At Hallam, 15 small blocks, totalling 246 acres, were made available.

The Closer Settlement area at Narre Warren and Hallam marks a new development in Closer Settlement in the State. The properties acquired, totalling 3,300 acres of rich land eminently suited for intense culture, are being drained and subdivided into small holdings suitable for market gardening and poultry farming. The district is about 24 miles from Melbourne, and, as the areas adjacent to the metropolis hitherto used for market gardening purposes are being gradually absorbed by extensions of suburban residential areas, the settlement will eventually play an important part in the supply of market garden produce for the city. Of the area subdivided 31 blocks have been taken up, and other blocks are now being made available. Water will be delivered under pressure from a main supply pipe of the Mornington Peninsula System.

The Commission has practically completed the work of repatriating discharged soldiers; the chief responsibility now being to see to the welfare of the men already settled, and, by an adequate system of advances, help towards permanent improvements to their holdings. Since the commencement of the repatriation of Victoria's soldiers, the Commission has placed 2,193 discharged soldiers on irrigable blocks; of this number 343 obtained their farms under section 20 of the Closer Settlement Act.

An important development in irrigated Closer Settlement was the change over to irrigation conditions, at the request of the settlers, of the dry farming area adjacent to the Tragowel Plains Irrigation District.

The Commission has in hand about 30,000 acres of suitable land available for settlement awaiting the extension of the storage and irrigation schemes. Of this area, 11,660 acres are in the Katandra District, which will be served by the East Goulburn Channel (now enlarged and extended); and 3,300 acres are at Calivil, near the River Loddon; 600 acres at Rodney and Kyabram; 10,000 acres of the irrigable portion of Red Cliffs Soldier Settlement; about 1,500 acres at Maffra; and 2,800 acres at Hallam and Narre Warren. These will be made available for settlement as the occasion demands and as soon as the progress of the works permit.

The following statement shows the lands purchased for civilians and discharged soldiers by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission and the extent of settlement on each estate after subdivision. The subdivided portions are already supporting twenty times as many families as were living on them previously. The statement contains

also particulars of settlement effected under section 20 of the *Closer Settlement Act* 1915 outside the large estates subdivided by the Commission:—

Closer Settlement Estates.	Area of Lands purchased by the State in Acres.	Properties Subdivided.						
		Area in Acres.	Number.	Number of Families thereon when Purchased.	Subdivided into—		Number of Closer Settlement Blocks now occupied.	Present Increase in Number of Families.
					Number of Closer Settlement Blocks.	Average Area in Acres.		
Shepparton .. .. .	14,170	14,170	33	29	389	34	376	347
East Goulburn .. .. .	13,400	1,740	2	2	23	72	23	21
Rodney .. .. .	3,230	2,800	6	4	49	56	44	40
Stanhope .. .. .	21,500	21,500	7	13	290	63	256	243
Kyabram .. .. .	4,600	4,420	9	12	69	62	65	53
Tongala .. .. .	18,820	18,820	40	35	314	58	266	261
Koyuga .. .. .	4,200	4,200	..	..	54	73	48	48
Cornelia Creek .. .. .	2,500	2,500	}Pt. 1	..	19	161	17	17
Nanneella .. .. .	9,040	9,040	18	8	125	70	118	110
Echuca .. .. .	3,600	3,600	8	4	30	105	30	26
Bamawm .. .. .	13,400	13,400	23	21	192	65	188	167
Dingee .. .. .	500	500	3	1	20	23	14	13
Calivil .. .. .	3,300	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cohuna .. .. .	12,000	12,000	29	10	142	80	116	106
Koondrook .. .. .	9,060	9,060	14	10	132	63	120	110
Swan Hill .. .. .	12,500	12,500	34	16	329	36	309	293
Nyah .. .. .	3,800	3,800	8	1	237	15	237	236
Merbein (Crown) .. .. .	8,300	8,300	..	..	423	20	420	420
Red Cliffs .. .. .	33,000	13,000	1	3	706	17	686	683
Bacchus Marsh .. .. .	70	70	1	1	2	36	2	2
Werribee .. .. .	10,000	10,000	1	11	233	36	223	218
Hallam .. .. .	3,300	520	3	2	31	17	31	29
Maffra .. .. .	8,070	6,550	13	12	133	45	87	75
	212,360	177,490	259	194	3,942	44	3,712	3,518
Properties purchased under Section 20, <i>Closer Settlement Act</i> 1915, outside above Estates, <i>vide</i> page 462	19,540	..	..	..	..	..	200	..
	231,900							

**Progress of Irrigated Closer Settled Districts.** During the year ended 30th June, 1926, the development of the holdings in irrigated areas has been steadily continued, and a considerable increase in the value of stock, implements, and permanent improvements has been reported.

In the dried fruit areas there was a considerable increase in the yield as compared with the preceding year. As February was very dry a very fine grade of currants was processed, but heavy rains at the end of April delayed the harvesting of the sultanas and lexias crops and considerable quantities of the latter were subsequently distilled. Owing, however, to the vastly improved market for fortified wines the returns from the distilled fruit will probably be equal to the amount received for that placed on the export market. The development which

has taken place in this industry at Mildura may be exemplified by its effect on the railway revenue, which in 1909 was £25,000, while in 1925 it was £125,000.

The Co-operative Fruit Canneries at Shepparton, Kyabram, and Mooroopna had a most successful season, and processed 12,000,000 tins—the largest pack of canned fruit yet produced in Victoria. The bulk of this has already been sold. Extensions have been made to the canneries at Shepparton and Mooroopna in order to cope with the greater quantity of fruit now available for processing.

The suitability of the irrigation districts for dairying has been shown in the results of the State Herd Testing Competition (pure bred cows). In competition with herds all over the State second and third places were secured by herds on irrigated holdings at Tongala and Wyuna, while the two highest yielding cows in Victoria are in the Wyuna herd. With the objective of improving the quality of herds and their milk-producing capabilities, herd-testing associations are active in the Tongala, Nanneella, Cohuna, and Kerang irrigation districts.

The benefits of irrigation were marked on the beet crop on the Boisdale Flats in the Maffra-Sale district, where, despite low germination and low rainfall, a crop well over the average was produced. Market gardening areas are rapidly expanding at Werribee, Bacchus Marsh, and in the Narre Warren district.

The Irrigation Research Committee, comprising representatives of the Department of Agriculture and the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, the formation of which was mentioned in the 1923-24 issue of this publication, has carried out experiments at Swan Hill, Rochester, Stanhope, and Tongala. The results obtained are most gratifying, and indicate that, given the correct manurial treatment, crops yielding as much as 7 tons of lucerne hay per acre could be obtained. An investigation is also being made into the salt question at Tresco.

In addition to waterworks for purposes of irrigation, extensive schemes for the supply of water for domestic and stock purposes are under the control of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission. Altogether, the area within the State so supplied is approximately 22,500 square miles—slightly more than one-quarter of the total area of the State. The major portion so supplied is in the Mallee and Wimmera districts.

The number of towns supplied with water, exclusive of the City of Melbourne and its suburbs, is as follows:—73 towns of a total population of 108,940 supplied by the Commission, 108 towns with a total population of 177,240 supplied by Waterworks Trusts, and 18 towns with a total population of 73,620 supplied by Local Governing Bodies.



## STORAGE AND SUPPLY SCHEMES.

**Total Storages in State.** In 1902 the total capacity of storages in the State was 172,000 acre-feet. The present capacity under the control of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission is about 948,500 acre-feet, and, when the Sugarloaf, Wimmera, and Maffra Storages have been completed, the total capacity will exceed 1,279,450 acre-feet. The Hume Reservoir, which is in course of construction, and is not included in the storages referred to, will contain between 1,100,000 and 2,000,000 acre-feet (*vide* page 485), half of which can, subject to the provisions of the River Murray Agreement, be credited to the State of Victoria. The construction of storage works by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission was continued during the year.

**Goulburn Storages.** At the Sugarloaf Reservoir, on the Upper Goulburn River, work is well advanced with the main retaining wall, which consists of a diaphragm of concrete, a wall of clayey material on the upstream side of the diaphragm, and supporting masses of rock. The concrete diaphragm has been completed to the full height required for the present undertaking (139·75 feet above river bed), the clay filling on the upstream side and the rock fill on both sides almost to full height, and the concrete spillway to a minimum height of 96 feet. A volume of 135,000 acre-feet of water can already be held in store, and this will be increased to 306,000 acre-feet—the full capacity—during the winter of 1927. It has been ascertained by surveys that the site would admit of a storage basin of a total capacity of 918,000 acre-feet. This result could be obtained by progressive stages. The cast iron gates and pipes for an emergency or power outlet have now been installed, and hydraulic lifters will be added during the coming year. In view of the possibility of the outlet being utilized in connexion with the Sugarloaf Hydro-electric Scheme (*vide* page 486), the State Electricity Commission was consulted prior to the final adoption of plans.

At the Waranga Reservoir, which has a storage capacity of 333,400 acre-feet, the construction of the reinforced concrete core wall—4½ miles in length—which was commenced in 1923, has been completed. In addition, a considerable amount of work has been done on the inlet and outlet channels.

**Wimmera Storages.** Progress was made with the works for supplementing the domestic and stock supplies to the districts served by the Wimmera-Mallee system. The great value of the new Taylor's Lake Storage, of 30,000 acre-feet capacity, was fully demonstrated in the recent dry period, during which this reservoir proved equal to the exceptionally heavy demands made upon it. The building of the embankment for the first stage of Pine Lake Reservoir and the construction of the valve tower and outlet structures have been completed. A commencement has now been made with the building

of the second stage of the embankment. This will increase the available capacity from 22,000 acre-feet—the volume now held—to 48,000 acre-feet. The ultimate holding capacity of this storage will be 62,000 acre-feet. The new main channel connecting the Wimmera River with Taylor's Lake and Pine Lake Storage is completed and in operation. Its capacity is 1,000 acre-feet per day.

The storage provision of the Wimmera-Mallee Supply Scheme now reaches 152,690 acre-feet as against 69,000 acre-feet a few years ago. Storage works now in course of construction will carry the capacity to no less than 212,690 acre-feet. The water is distributed throughout a total area of about 11,000 square miles by main and distributary channels aggregating 5,070 miles in length (exclusive of an approximately equal length of farmers' connecting branches). Full supplies are furnished to six urban Waterworks Trusts within the Wimmera-Mallee areas, in addition to the reticulated systems of 29 towns directly controlled by the Commission.

The benefits of this system have now been extended—by means of a new main channel 105 miles in length—to an area of 382 square miles, including the town of Charlton, which hitherto depended on a somewhat scanty supply pumped from the Avoca River. The new Charlton Town Storage of 260,000 cubic yards capacity, and that of 60,000 cubic yards at Marnoo township, built by the Commission, were filled last year by this gravitation connexion with the Wimmera-Mallee storages, and the new supplies, coming at an extremely dry period, were highly appreciated.

**Northern Mallee Water Supply.** In the Walpeup portion of the Northern Mallee, comprising an area of about 1,250,000 acres, which adjoins the Wimmera-Mallee districts, but is generally too high for inclusion in the gravitation channel system, the Commission has met the water supply needs of settlers by sinking bores, and excavating large public tanks. There are now 98 successful public bores in this area with an average depth of 460 feet, and 195 tanks with a total storage capacity of 1,040,000 cubic yards.

The Commission has further assisted settlers in this area by clearing and grubbing 4,565 miles of roads, in addition to which 161 sandhills have been made passable for heavy waggons by rubbing with local limestone.

**Millewa Water Supply.** The extensive domestic and stock supply scheme for the supply of water to an area of about 1,000,000 acres in the extreme north-western portion of the State (opened up by the 55 miles of railway from Red Cliffs that is being constructed for the service of that territory), is so well advanced that a new Waterworks District, known as "Lower Millewa," has been constituted. The scheme will comprise two main lifts, of about 125 feet and 150 feet, the first being from Lake Cullulleraine—a depression on the edge of the river flats about 5 miles from the River Murray. In the first lift

system 50 miles of main channels and 300 miles of distributaries have already been constructed; these will serve 638 agricultural and grazing blocks, with a total area of 640,000 acres, which have been allotted to settlers. The work will be carried out in successive stages to meet the requirements of the gradually extending settlement. Work has been commenced on the second lift system, which will raise the water an additional height of 135 feet, through a 30-in. diameter steel rising main, 1 mile 60 chains in length. This high-lift area is expected to be watered in the next watering season.

**Carwarp Waterworks District.** In the Carwarp Waterworks District, supplied from the Red Cliffs pumping station, the construction of a main channel to supply about 50 square miles of new country at Carwarp and Colignan has been completed, and water has been supplied to the settlers dependent thereon. The works to supply water to the high lands surrounding Carwarp Railway Station, including 12 miles of channels and a pump and rising main, have been effective, and a complete watering supplied to settlers during the year. These lands have been formed into a separate waterworks district called "Carwarp Central."

**Mornington Peninsula Scheme.** The important scheme of reticulated supply to the Naval Base, the inland towns of Berwick, Beaconsfield, Noble Park, Spring Vale, Dandenong, Somerville, Cranbourne, and Bittern, and the bayside towns of Mornington, Frankston, South Frankston, Seaford, Carrum, Chelsea, Edithvale, and Aspendale, is in full working order. Extensions of services in all directions are being applied for. The reservoirs at Beaconsfield, Dandenong (Heywood's Hill), Frankston, South Frankston, Mornington, and Bittern are kept fully supplied.

The main race has now been extended from Toomuc Creek, to tap the Cannibal Creek and River Bunyip, as outlined in the original scheme. The work of extending the main race from Toomuc Creek to tap the Cannibal Creek and River Bunyip, including the construction of 25 miles of open race and 8 miles of 2-foot diameter main, was successfully carried out, and water of excellent quality is now being run into the district storages. This will ensure adequate supplies to meet the increasing demands of reticulations already connected, and to provide for the new urban districts of Hastings and Pakenham, about to be proclaimed, and, when required, the townships of Garfield, Bunyip, Kooweerup, and the bayside towns of Dromana, Rosebud, Rye, Sorrento, and Portsea. A full supply of water is now available for the irrigation, by pressure pipes, of small blocks suitable for market gardening and intensive culture. In this connexion the estates in the Hallam Valley, comprising 3,300 acres, purchased by the Commission for Closer Settlement purposes, are being subdivided and allotted to settlers for intensive culture under irrigation. The first subdivision, comprising 31 blocks, averaging 18 acres each, with houses built by the

Commission, have been taken up. Extensive works for the systematic drainage and reclamation of the balance (2,700 acres) of the above estates have been carried out, and about 1,800 acres, between Berwick and Dandenong, will be ready for settlement in 1927.

**Goulburn Irrigation Areas.** With the completion of the Waranga Reservoir enlargement and improvement works, and the anticipated early completion of Sugarloaf Reservoir, active preparations have been made for enlarging and extending the works for the distribution of the increased supplies of water becoming available, and considerable expansion of the whole system is now taking place. The main Eastern Channel—from the Goulburn Weir to the River Broken—previously supplying Shepparton District only, is being enlarged, and extended north-easterly about 17 miles. The Shepparton District has been extended, and further areas, including 9,000 acres at Katandra purchased by the Commission for Closer Settlement purposes, will be supplied. New lands south of the River Broken, comprising 14,000 acres, are now receiving supplies, and have been constituted the "South Shepparton" Irrigation District. Further extensions are contemplated.

On the west of the River Goulburn, several main channels of the Rodney District have been enlarged and new main channels constructed to cope with the increasing demand for water. Further west, the works, of the Rochester Irrigation District have been extended, and already 35,000 acres have been added to the district. A new main channel—Tandarra-Calivil, from the Waranga-Western main channel, towards the River Loddon, is under construction, and is well advanced. This channel will supplement the supply to the Tragowel Plains Irrigation District, and some large areas of new irrigation lands *en route*. The Waranga-Western main channel has been extended to the River Loddon (98 miles from Waranga Reservoir), and a weir and regulator built on that river, enabling the Commission to augment the supply to the Boort District, hitherto dependent entirely on the uncertain quantities of water obtainable from the River Loddon.

**Loddon-Murray Irrigation Areas.** In the districts administered from the Cohuna and Kerang centres the completion of the Torrumbarry Weir has been responsible for a marked impetus in the development of irrigation, extensive areas now being provided for by gravitation entirely, where previously a combined gravitation and pumping system was necessary.

As well as the improvements in the conditions obtaining in established districts, large areas of dry farming lands are rapidly being brought under irrigation. First among these is an area of 8,000 acres between Gunbower Channel and Cohuna Irrigation District. A complete system of channels has been provided for these lands, which have now been constituted the "Leitchville" Irrigation District.

Another important development was the reticulation of 6,000 acres between the Rivers Murray and Loddon, and the inclusion of these lands within the Koondrook Irrigation District. This extension

includes a number of soldier settlers' holdings, previously supplied, at great cost, by private pumping plants.

The irrigable area benefited by Torrumbarry Weir was still further increased by the construction of main and distributary channels from Pyramid Creek, upstream from Kerang Weir. These works provide a supply for 8,400 acres of lands north-east of Kerang, and now added to the Gannawarra Irrigation District.

The continuous gravitation supplies rendered available by Torrumbarry Weir and distribution works enabled the Kerang North-West Lakes to be maintained at full supply level during the irrigation season, while the Swan Hill Irrigation District of 21,000 acres, which, until recently, was supplied partly by gravitation and partly by pumping, has now been brought wholly under the influence of gravitation, and extended by the inclusion of about 14,600 acres of lands between Lake Boga and Swan Hill.

The important irrigation works, to provide a gravitation supply to the country between Third Lake and Benjeroop, have been completed and are in full operation, and the lands so served—about 13,000 acres—have been constituted the "Third Lake" Irrigation District. An additional area of 5,500 acres, between Lake Tutchewop and the Little Murray River, similarly supplied, has been constituted the "Fish Point" Irrigation District.

**Maffra-Sale  
District  
Irrigation  
Scheme.**

Good progress was made during the year with the construction of the cyclopean concrete dam on the Macallister River, which, when completed, will impound 150,000 acre-feet of water for the irrigation of 80,000 acres of land. The dam is already sufficiently high to store about 50,000 acre-feet of water, and the works are so nearly completed that, if required, the reservoir could be filled to full capacity during 1927. The northern main channel, commanding Newry and Boisdale Flats, and the whole of Maffra and Sale districts, has been completed, and the reticulation of Boisdale Flats, of 3,000 acres, with special concrete-lined channels, enabled water for this rich area to be delivered last season. It is expected that during the ensuing summer water will also be available for Airly, Cobain's, and other estates (totaling 6,000 acres, in the vicinity of Sale) purchased and subdivided by the Commission for Closer Settlement purposes. In the area served by the southern main channel, the distributary channels on the Mewburn Park Closer Settlement Estate have been completed, and a supply is now being given by means of a flume across the river, connected to the channel system on the northern side.

**Red Cliffs  
Irrigation  
District.**

At Red Cliffs, the scheme, which ranks first in importance among the pumping systems of the State, supplies water to an area totalling 18,000 acres, including the township and 700 occupied soldier settlement blocks. The plant is capable of delivering 500 acre-feet of water per day, lifted 105 feet. The total length of channels constructed to date is 124 miles. Channels having a total

length of 107 miles have been lined with concrete, with the result that 665 blocks—92 per cent. of the total in the settlement—are protected from seepage from channels. The area now planted to vines and citrus is 8,600 acres, the whole of which will be in bearing next year. The yield of dried fruit for 1926 was 5,444 tons. Following considerable progress in the township, which has been proclaimed an Urban Water-works District, a concrete standpipe, 70 feet high and 26 feet in diameter, has been erected, and reticulation extended to meet requirements.

**Flood Protection Schemes.** The Commission has under construction a comprehensive scheme of works for the reclamation of the extensive swamps in West Gippsland, known as Kooweerup and Cardinia, and for the protection from periodical flooding of the surrounding low-lying lands, aggregating in all 100,000 acres. These areas have been constituted Flood Protection Districts under the provisions of the Water Acts. The construction of the huge main drains, feeders and subsidiary works has reached the stage that provides the landholders affected with protection from all but abnormal floods, and flood protection charges have been levied accordingly.

Flood protection works have also been constructed at Loch Garry (below Shepparton) for the regulation of Goulburn flood waters. The area benefited—about 40,000 acres—has been constituted the “Loch Garry” Flood Protection District. Further down the Goulburn (at Kanyapella) works have been constructed for the relief from flooding of an area of about 13,500 acres. This area has been constituted the “Kanyapella” Flood Protection District.

**River Murray Waters.** The scheme of works provided in the River Murray Waters Acts passed by the Governments of the Commonwealth and of the States of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia comprises storages on the Upper River Murray and at Lake Victoria, locks and weirs in the course of the River Murray from its mouth to Echuca, and also locks and weirs on the lower part of the River Darling or the River Murrumbidgee, as may be decided by the Government of New South Wales. The Acts provide that for purposes of construction the Minister for Public Works of New South Wales shall be the Constructing Authority for that State; that, for the State of South Australia, the Commissioner of Public Works shall be the Constructing Authority; and that the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission shall be the Constructing Authority for Victoria.

Under the River Murray Agreement of 1914 the estimated total cost of the whole of the works is set down at £4,663,000. It is now clear, from the experience gained in connexion with the works which have been put in hand to date, that the total cost of the works will be fully double that amount. The four contracting Governments have agreed to share equally in the total cost of the works. The total expenditure incurred up to 30th June, 1926, on the portion of the scheme completed and in course of construction was £4,225,000.

The site of the Hume Reservoir is a little below the junction of the rivers Murray and Mitta Mitta. Originally it was designed to provide for a capacity of 1,100,000 acre-feet, but, at a conference of Ministers representing the four interested Governments, held on the 8th and 9th days of August, 1924, the following proposals raised by the Government of Victoria were agreed to :—

- (a) That the work of construction of the Hume dam, of sufficient dimensions to provide for a reservoir of 2,000,000 acre-feet, proceed for a period not exceeding three years, and that the question of the ultimate capacity and completion of the reservoir be then the subject of a further conference. All waters to be used to meet the present allocation obligations and as a reserve for dry years.
- (b) That provision be made for outlet works at the Hume Reservoir suitable for hydro-electric generation purposes, provided, however, that the use of the reservoir for these purposes does not interfere with the volumes of water required for the purposes set out in the River Murray Agreement. The cost of such additional outlet works, estimated at £40,000, shall be borne in equal shares by the States of New South Wales and Victoria, which Governments should have the sole use of any power generated at the reservoir.

The work is being carried out by the Constructing Authorities for the States of New South Wales and Victoria. On the New South Wales section considerable progress has been made, and work is now being proceeded with on the concrete structure. On the Victorian side the construction of the main embankment is being steadily advanced.

The Torrumbarry Weir and Lock (near Echuca) has been in successful operation since December, 1923, and water has been diverted for the various irrigation districts benefited.

Weir and Lock No. 11—situated about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile downstream from Mildura—now nearing completion, will form a lock pool for about 40 miles upstream, providing a local reserve storage of great value and reducing the suction lift at the Mildura and Red Cliffs Pumping Stations. The lock and lock canal have been completed and half of the navigation pass in the river has been constructed. The Constructing Authority for New South Wales is proceeding with work inside the first coffer-dam—recently completed—in connexion with the construction of No. 10 Weir and Lock at Wentworth; while, in the South Australian section, Weir and Lock No. 1 at Blanchetown and No. 3 near Lake Bonney have been completed and brought into operation, No. 9 has been practically completed, Nos. 2 and 5 are approaching completion, and No. 4 has been commenced. Lake Victoria Storage Works have been completed with the exception of the improvement of the inlet and outlet channels.

**Artesian Bores.** The following particulars relating to artesian boring have been supplied by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission :—

**ARTESIAN AND SUB-ARTESIAN BORING (MALLEE).**

Number of Bores Sunk.*		Total Depth of Bores.*	
State.	Private.	State.	Private.
98	269	Feet. 45,560	Feet. 52,400

\* At 31st December, 1925.

**Mildura Irrigation Settlement.** The Mildura Irrigation Settlement, on the River Murray, was established in 1887 under the management of the Chaffey Brothers Limited, and in 1895 the control of the water supply was vested in the First Mildura Irrigation Trust. Water is obtained by pumping from the river. The following particulars are an indication of the prosperity of the settlement :—

**POPULATION OF MILDURA SHIRE, 1891 to 1925.\***

1891	April (Census)	..	2,321	1922	December	..	..	13,760
1901	March (Census)	..	3,325	1923	..	..	..	13,950
1911	April (Census)	..	6,119	1924	..	..	..	14,250
1921	April (Census)	..	13,183	1925	..	..	..	14,450

\* Including the population of the town of Mildura, which up to 1920 was part of the shire.

The capital value of property in the Shire of Mildura in 1913 was £1,294,160. In 1925 in the same area it had risen to £3,890,500. The receipts and payments of the Mildura Irrigation Trust during the year ended 30th June, 1926, were as follows :—

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS OF FIRST MILDURA IRRIGATION TRUST, 1925-26.**

<i>Receipts.</i>		£	<i>Payments.</i>		£
Horticultural Rates	..	41,781	Wages and Salaries	..	18,192
Special Waterings, &c.	..	4,640	Firewood	..	16,545
Miscellaneous	..	4,683	Interest, Sinking Fund and Depreciation	..	4,360
			Miscellaneous	..	5,793
<b>Total</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>51,104</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>44,890</b>

The extent of watering done represented 22,876 water acres in 1917-18, 39,895 acres in 1918-19, 41,808 acres in 1919-20, 35,632 acres in 1920-21, 44,150 acres in 1921-22, 42,807 acres in 1922-23, 42,854 acres in 1923-24, 39,212 acres in 1924-25, and 42,230 acres in 1925-26



## METEOROLOGY.

Particulars in regard to climate and weather conditions have been furnished by the Commonwealth Meteorologist, and are given in the following tables. In the first are shown the rainfall for each of the years 1923, 1924, and 1925, and the average yearly amount of rainfall deduced from all available records to December, 1925, in each of the 26 river basins or districts constituting the State of Victoria:—

## RAINFALL.—YEARLY RECORDS AND AVERAGES.

Basin or District.	Rainfall.			
	During the Year—			Yearly Average to December, 1925.
	1923.	1924.	1925.	
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
Glenelg and Wannon Rivers ..	29.75	28.72	23.04	26.32
Fitzroy, Eumeralla, and Merri Rivers	32.61	26.73	22.64	28.12
Hopkins River and Mt. Emu Creek ..	29.55	31.94	20.14	24.89
Mt. Elephant and Lake Corangamite	27.00	27.99	19.16	25.61
Cape Otway Forest ..	47.12	44.71	32.71	39.23
Moorabool and Barwon Rivers ..	24.47	32.28	17.34	24.35
Werribee and Saltwater Rivers ..	19.88	31.89	17.36	23.61
Yarra River and Dandenong Creek ..	34.19	49.40	26.34	34.06
Koo-wee-rup Swamp ..	37.19	47.57	29.29	36.12
South Gippsland ..	43.48	40.95	35.08	39.09
Latrobe and Thomson Rivers ..	39.12	47.21	34.35	38.42
Macallister and Avon Rivers ..	22.73	25.91	22.03	24.49
Mitchell River ..	24.37	25.85	26.59	26.20
Tambo and Nicholson Rivers ..	23.08	28.61	26.86	27.63
Snowy River ..	28.42	33.66	36.62	34.46
Murray River ..	17.17	23.56	14.14	16.84
Mitta Mitta and Kiewa Rivers ..	38.22	46.10	32.29	33.76
Ovens River ..	34.60	42.14	28.18	33.62
Goulburn River ..	27.36	32.38	21.11	26.48
Campaspe River ..	22.14	28.33	15.25	22.92
Loddon River ..	20.62	24.93	14.33	20.28
Avoca River ..	17.39	22.14	13.11	17.18
Avon and Richardson Rivers ..	17.34	20.08	11.91	15.43
Eastern Wimmera ..	23.70	26.32	16.58	21.40
Western Wimmera ..	23.82	22.05	15.44	19.97
Mallee ..	12.95	14.24	8.97	12.69
Weighted Averages ..	25.34	28.65	20.22	24.31

The wettest portion of the State is the Cape Otway Forest, which is closely followed by the South Gippsland district and the Latrobe and Thomson Basin. The lowest rainfall occurs in the Mallee district, where it averages 12.69 inches per annum, as compared with 24.31 inches for the whole State.

An estimate of the areas of the State, in square miles, subject to different degrees of rainfall was first made in 1910. More comprehensive data has since become available, and in 1925 the Commonwealth Meteorologist issued the following revised figures :—

DISTRIBUTION OF AVERAGE RAINFALL.

Rainfall.						Area.
Inches.						Square Miles.
Under 15 ..	..	..	..	..	..	19,270
15 to 20 ..	..	..	..	..	..	13,492
20 to 25 ..	..	..	..	..	..	14,170
25 to 30 ..	..	..	..	..	..	15,579
30 to 40 ..	..	..	..	..	..	14,450
40 to 50 ..	..	..	..	..	..	7,338
50 to 60 ..	..	..	..	..	..	2,980
Over 60 ..	..	..	..	..	..	605

The rainfall recorded for each quarter of 1925 and the quarterly averages up to 1925 deduced from all available records are as follows :—

RAINFALL—QUARTERLY RECORDS AND AVERAGES.

Basin or District.	First Quarter.		Second Quarter.		Third Quarter.		Fourth Quarter.	
	Amount.	Average.	Amount.	Average.	Amount.	Average.	Amount.	Average.
	points	points	points	points	points	points	points	points
Glenelg and Wannon Rivers ..	238	359	806	787	943	901	317	585
Fitzroy, Eumeralla, and Merri Rivers	255	432	717	823	883	944	409	613
Hopkins River and Mt. Emu Creek	331	422	605	705	727	784	351	578
Mt. Elephant and Lake Corangamite	282	454	567	675	707	821	360	611
Cape Otway Forest ..	444	599	1,044	1,163	1,270	1,324	513	837
Moorabool and Barwon Rivers ..	289	476	493	653	576	706	376	600
Werribee and Saltwater Rivers ..	423	516	485	593	497	648	331	604
Yarra River and Dandenong Creek	827	705	460	860	849	930	498	911
Koo-wee-rup Swamp ..	782	694	557	984	971	1,015	619	919
South Gippsland ..	970	791	1,115	1,084	986	1,138	437	896
Latrobe and Thomson Rivers ..	909	735	806	980	1,117	1,116	603	1,011
Macallister and Avon Rivers ..	726	629	519	553	553	608	405	659
Mitchell River ..	850	665	618	587	788	693	403	675
Tambo and Nicholson Rivers ..	698	704	695	651	868	679	425	729
Snowy River ..	639	809	1,260	887	1,252	910	511	840
Murray River ..	365	314	460	492	418	490	171	388
Mitta Mitta and Kiewa Rivers ..	1,123	607	509	917	1,224	1,055	373	797
Ovens River ..	943	547	580	978	1,098	1,105	197	732
Goulburn River ..	764	468	418	755	723	809	206	616
Campaspe River ..	368	411	435	678	565	723	157	480
Loddon River ..	315	354	476	604	494	626	148	444
Avon and Richardson Rivers ..	394	284	421	522	358	544	138	368
Avoca River ..	301	251	389	460	364	500	137	332
Eastern Wimmera ..	217	299	673	649	594	721	174	471
Western Wimmera ..	172	253	569	616	651	703	152	425
Mallee District ..	174	227	307	360	329	392	87	290
The whole State ..	468	441	581	679	705	744	268	567

The averages of the climatic elements for the seasons in Melbourne deduced from all available official records are given below :—

### AVERAGES OF CLIMATIC ELEMENTS IN MELBOURNE.

Meteorological Elements.	Spring.	Summer.	Autumn.	Winter.
Mean pressure of air in inches .. ..	29·970	29·923	30·079	30·077
Monthly range of pressure of air—Inches	0·893	0·767	0·818	0·980
Mean temperature of air in shade—°Fahr.	57·7	66·6	59·3	50·0
Mean daily range of temperature of air in shade—°Fahr. .. ..	18·6	21·1	17·4	13·9
Mean relative humidity. Saturation=100	63	58	66	73
Mean rainfall in inches .. ..	7·35	5·94	6·55	5·79
Mean number of days of rain .. ..	38	24	33	42
Mean amount of spontaneous evaporation in inches .. ..	10·18	17·22	7·83	3·61
Mean daily amount of cloudiness—Scale 0 to 10 .. ..	6·0	5·2	5·9	6·4
Mean number of days of fog .. ..	1	1	6	11

In the subjoined statement are shown the yearly averages of the climatic elements in Melbourne for 1925 and for the last 70 years, as well as the extremes between which the yearly average values of such elements have oscillated in the latter period.

### YEARLY AVERAGES AND EXTREMES OF CLIMATIC ELEMENTS.

Meteorological Elements.	Yearly Averages and Extremes.			
	Year 1925.	Average for 70 Years.	Extremes between which the Yearly Average Values have oscillated in 70 years.	
			Highest.	Lowest.
Mean atmospheric pressure (inches) ..	30·033	30·012	30·106	29·945
Highest " " " " ..	30·770	30·607	30·770	30·488
Lowest " " " " ..	29·192	29·254	29·495	28·868
Range (inches) .. ..	1·578	1·353	1·719	1·104
Mean temperature of air in shade (°Fahr.) .. ..	58·3	58·3	59·9	57·3
Mean daily maximum .. (°Fahr.)	66·8	67·3	69·0	65·4
Mean daily minimum .. ..	49·7	49·5	51·2	47·2
Absolute maximum .. ..	101·0	105·1	111·2	96·6
Absolute minimum .. ..	30·9	30·8	34·2	27·0
Mean daily range .. ..	17·0	17·8	20·4	15·0
Absolute annual range .. ..	70·1	74·3	82·6	66·0
Solar Radiation (mean maxima) ..	115·3	117·8	127·6	106·0
Terrestrial Radiation (mean minima) .. (°Fahr.)	42·9	43·9	46·8	39·5
Rainfall (in inches) .. ..	17·57	25·65	38·04	15·61
Number of wet days .. ..	144	137	171	102
Year's amount of free evaporation (in inches) .. ..	38·40	44·78	45·66	31·59
Percentage of humidity (saturation =100) .. ..	64	68	76	62
Cloudiness (scale 10 = overcast, 0 = clear) .. ..	5·9	5·9	6·4	4·8
Number of days of fog .. ..	48	19	48	5

## AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.

**Department of  
Agriculture.**

This Department is controlled by a Minister of the Crown, under whom there is a large staff of experts with the Director of Agriculture as permanent head. These officers are actively engaged in supervising all matters relating to the Agricultural, Pastoral, Fruit and Dairying Industries of the State, and in giving instructions to those engaged therein. The Department publishes a monthly journal.

**Government  
Experimental  
Farms.**

The great expansion in our rural industries during recent years has been largely brought about by the general adoption of better methods of farming, and by the introduction of more prolific wheats, and it is claimed that these improvements have been adopted as the result of the experimental and demonstration work of the Department of Agriculture. In 1912 a Central Research Farm was established at Werribee, and it is there that the initiative with regard to practically all experimental and research work is now undertaken. The State farms at Rutherglen and Longerenong are used as district experimental stations for the North-East and the Wimmera respectively. In addition, there are a number of subsidized experimental and demonstration areas located on private farms throughout the State.

**Agricultural  
Colleges.**

An Act for the establishment of Agricultural Colleges was passed in 1884, and 14,458 acres, comprising 5,955 acres at Dookie, 2,386 acres at Longerenong, 2,500 acres at Gunyah Gunyah, 2,800 acres at Olangolah, and 817 acres at Bullarto, were reserved as sites for colleges and experimental farms. The areas at Dookie and Longerenong are being used for the purpose for which they were reserved, but the other three are devoted to other uses.

In addition to the college and farm lands, provision was made by the Act of 1884 to permanently reserve from sale an area of not more than 150,000 acres of Crown lands, and to vest it in trustees to be appointed, who should hold it in trust for the benefit of and by way of an endowment for State agricultural colleges and experimental farms. The land so reserved now amounts to 71,412 acres, and is let for grazing and agricultural purposes.

The fee for students in residence at the agricultural colleges is £35 per annum for maintenance, including stationery and medical and other charges. No charge is made for instruction. Accommodation is provided at Dookie for 100 and at Longerenong for 50 students.

**School of  
Primary  
Agriculture  
and  
Horticulture.**

This institution is situated in the Burnley Gardens, close to the Hawthorn and Heyington railway stations. The classes are open to male and female students above fourteen years of age. The Course for the Certificate in Horticulture occupies two years, and is intended for those who propose to follow orchard or garden work as a profession. Part time classes are also held for those who are unable to devote full time to the subject. Another feature of the work at the school is the holding of regular classes of instruction in Agricultural Science for those desirous of taking the subject either in the Intermediate or the Leaving grade at the Annual Public Examinations conducted by the University. A practical training is obtained in the orchards, gardens, and nursery connected with the school; the course also includes lectures and demonstrations by various expert teachers. Excursions to up-to-date farms, orchards, and nurseries form part of the work of the school. In 1925 the students enrolled numbered 145.

**Experimental  
Farms and  
Agricultural  
Colleges.**

Various particulars relating to the State Experimental Farms and Agricultural Colleges are embodied in the next statement.

### GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENTAL FARMS AND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES, 1925.

Particulars.	Central Research Farm, Werribee.	Ruther- glen Farm, &c.	Dookie Agri- cultural College.	Longer- enong Agri- cultural College.	School of Primary Agriculture, &c.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Professional Staff .. .. .	1	2	12	8	3
Hands employed .. .. .	49	26	50	16	8
Students .. .. .	8	8	85	50	145
	£	£	£	£	£
Value of plant and machinery .. .. .	3,165	2,817	7,750	5,348	150
Value of produce for year .. .. .	7,874	3,901	12,000	9,249	1,200
Receipts—					
Government Grant .. .. .	12,920	6,534	11,746*	3,308*	2,313*
Fees .. .. .	..	..	3,283	1,850	67
Sale of produce, &c. .. .. .	8,231	2,705	11,183	7,468	1,082
Other .. .. .	294	8	..	..	2
Total receipts .. .. .	21,445	9,247	26,212	12,626	3,464
Expenditure—					
Salaries—					
Professional Staff .. .. .	372	765	5,228	2,635	1,949
General Staff .. .. .	7,577	4,239	6,884	2,305	1,144
Buildings and maintenance .. .. .	1,944	1,441	14,100	7,686	432
Other .. .. .	3,047	1,533	..	..	539
Total expenditure .. .. .	12,940	7,978	26,212	12,626	3,464

\* Including grant received from the Council of Agricultural Education.

GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENTAL FARMS AND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES, 1925—continued.

Particulars.	Central Research Farm, Werribee.	Rutherglen Farm, &c.	Dookie Agricultural College.	Longerenong Agricultural College.	School of Primary Agriculture, &c.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
Area under—					
Cereals for Grain .. .. .	522	156	400	545	..
Hay .. .. .	330	162	300	131	1
Fruit trees, &c. .. .. .	..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	12	20	14
Vines .. .. .	..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	15	5	..
Green fodder .. .. .	118	5	25	74	..
Other crops .. .. .	..	59	..	16	..
Total area under crop .. .. .	970	484 $\frac{1}{2}$	752	791	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Area of land in fallow .. .. .	750	232 $\frac{1}{2}$	400	476	..
Area under artificially sown grasses .. .. .	360	112	20	32	9
Area resting .. .. .	..	279 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,128	470	..
New ground broken up .. .. .	80	..	..	100	..
Total area of arable land .. .. .	2,160	1,108 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,300	1,869	24 $\frac{1}{2}$
Balance of area .. .. .	49	204 $\frac{1}{2}$	3,655	517	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total area of farm .. .. .	2,209	1,313	5,955	2,386	33
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Live Stock—					
Horses .. .. .	145	49	100	46	1
Dairy cows .. .. .	80	17	50	29	7
All other cattle .. .. .	91	15	130	40	9
Sheep .. .. .	1,600	580	2,800	915	..
Pigs .. .. .	..	25	200	61	..

The orchards, nurseries, and gardens of the State are systematically inspected by the officers of the Horticultural Nurseries, &c. Division of the Department of Agriculture. Nurseries are inspected periodically, and action is taken in accordance with the condition of the plants in relation to disease or freedom therefrom. Old, worn-out, and infected orchards are destroyed.

The Department has purchased fumigating outfits for the purpose of fumigating citrus trees for the control of scale insects, and is performing the work for citrus growers at cost price. Much satisfaction has been expressed by growers at this being done.

Special attention is being paid to the grading and packing of fruit; packing classes have been established and are successfully conducted by departmental officers in a number of fruit districts throughout the State. In addition to this, individual growers receive personal instruction.

Lectures and demonstrations are given on the various other phases of horticulture; experiments are carried out in the treatment of diseases; and sites are selected on the farms of intending fruit-growers, to whom advice is given as to the most suitable varieties to be planted and their subsequent treatment.

The fear of introducing the fruit-flies *Tephritis tryoni* and *Halterophora capitata* and diseases arising from other causes has necessitated a thorough examination of fruit from Queensland, New South Wales, and elsewhere. The fruit-fly question is a very grave one, and, should either of the above-named insects obtain a footing in Victoria, a great portion of the large and important fruit industry of our State will be practically ruined.

Plants and cuttings coming from foreign parts are fumigated if a certificate that they have been treated at the port of shipment does not accompany the consignment. Even when they have been thus certified the Senior Fruit Inspector has the right of examination, and, if necessary, of ordering a second fumigation.

**Forestry.** The State forests are controlled by a Commission of three, which was appointed in 1919. The State has a wooded area of about 8,000,000 acres, of which about 4,330,450 acres are set aside as permanent State forests and timber reserves. The wooded area consists of—

1. Three million acres of merchantable forest, mainly situated along the Dividing Range with its spurs and foothills and also including the red gum forests of the northern river basins and of the River Glenelg in the south-western district.

2. Three million acres of forest in the more rugged portions of the mountain region. These forests are not at present accessible for practical working, owing to difficulties of transport; their protection, however, is essential for the maintenance of streams and springs.

3. Two million acres in the north-west of the State, known as Mallee, bearing at intervals a thick growth of stunted eucalypts and interspersed with belts of cypress pine and belar.

The forests of Victoria may be divided into four main classes which are referred to hereunder:—

- (a) The coastal region, extending from the shore line some fifty miles northward, carries chiefly messmate and three species of stringybark. In Cape Otway district, however, bluegum, mountain ash, and spotted gum predominate; whilst, in the extreme south-east of the State, silvertop, small-fruited bluegum, bastard mahogany, bloodwood, and Gippsland grey box are found.
- (b) The mountain region. In the western half of the State the predominant species in the hill forests are messmate, bluegum, manna gum, brown and red stringybarks, and yellow box. In the eastern half of the State the prevailing species are mountain ash, spotted gum, messmate, peppermint, red ash or woollybutt, and bluegum, with stunted snow gums on the steep granitic slopes near the mountain summits.

- (c) The foothills, stretching from the Dividing Range northward down to the plains, bear three valuable species, red iron-bark, white ironbark or yellow gum, and grey box.
- (d) The river basins of the Murray and the streams flowing over the northern plain, and of the River Glenelg in the south-western district, bear broad belts of river redgum.

The timbers of commercial value in Victoria number about twenty, all species of the eucalyptus family. In addition, there are a number of woods of fine grain, many of them, however, being small trees confined to limited areas.

With careful conservation and management Victoria's forests are capable of yielding considerable amounts of timber for all time, despite the ravages made upon them in the past by bush fires, settlement, and mining.

The State is notably deficient in softwoods or conifers, though over extensive areas the conditions are suitable for their growth once they are introduced. To encourage their growth, both in State and in private plantations, three large nurseries have been established, at Creswick, Macedon and Broadford, and a number of plantations have been formed, the principal ones being situated at Creswick, Mount Macedon, Frankston, Anglesea, Port Campbell, Bright, Castlemaine, Harcourt, Scarsdale, Mount Disappointment, and Mt. Difficult. In addition to providing trees for the plantations, the nurseries supply considerable numbers of plants at low rates to State schools, public bodies and private applicants. This has proved of great benefit to the community by fostering an interest in tree planting generally, and especially by encouraging farmers to plant in order to afford protection to their homesteads and to provide shade and shelter for their flocks and herds.

A Forest School for training cadets is maintained at Creswick. The Commission also controls a State sawmill in the Warburton district, and Timber Seasoning Works at Newport, from which seasoned weatherboards, cabinet stock, floorings and linings are supplied, largely for use in the building of State schools and for other public works.

The Forestry Fund was established in 1918 by Act No. 2976, and made applicable only to expenditure on the improvements and reforestation of State forests and the development of forestry. In each year the Treasurer makes a grant of £40,000 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the Fund, and also half of the amount in excess of £80,000 received from royalties, leases, licences, and permits.

During the financial year 1924-25, authority was given by Act No. 3386 to raise the sum of £500,000 over a period of six years from 1st January, 1925, for the development of State forests.

The revenue derived from forest sources during the financial year 1925-26 was £161,608, and the expenditure was £274,699—£95,555 of which was paid out of the Consolidated Revenue, £87,527 under the Forests Loan Act No. 3386, and the balance—£91,617—from the Forestry Fund. The balance at the credit of the Fund at 30th June, 1926, was £33,723.



It is estimated that the quantity of timber produced in the rough in 1925-26 was 116,307,400 super feet. In addition, 793,055 tons measurement of fuel timber was produced.

**Agriculture—  
expenditure  
and revenue  
connected  
with.** The State has rendered substantial assistance to the various branches of the agricultural and pastoral industries during past years. The appended table summarizes for the last five years the items of State expenditure from consolidated revenue in this direction, and shows the amount of revenue received by the Department of Agriculture, which consists chiefly of payments by exporters for packing produce for export, and from State Forests and Nurseries, consisting chiefly of Royalties:—

**EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE CONNECTED WITH  
AGRICULTURE, ETC., 1921-22 to 1925-26.**

—	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
<i>Expenditure.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Department of Agriculture ..	34,610	35,063	41,549	30,652	35,271
Horticultural Branch ..	..	..	..	27,938*	30,168*
Grants to Agricultural and Horticultural Societies, &c. ..	675	675	775	875	675
Development of Export Trade ..	61,151	60,316	53,372	50,679	48,362
Viticultural Education and Inspection of Vineyards ..	6,881	6,334	4,454	2,092	881
Maffra Beet Sugar Factory ..	59,791	75,291	74,497	105,680	85,825
Advances to Settlers for losses by bush fires, floods, &c. ..	91	7,300	659	1,190	18,587
Technical Agricultural Education, &c. ..	26,136	26,123	31,824	28,478	30,580
Publishing Agricultural Reports	227	329	250	213	234
Rabbit and Vermin Extermination ..	40,766	47,410	85,489	84,368	88,874
Stock and Dairy Branch	42,442	43,887	48,627	53,527	69,210
Labour Colonies ..	..	..	..	..	..
State Forests and Nurseries ..	154,023	157,347	168,880	179,278	95,555†
Miscellaneous ..	2,428	3,104	6,006	6,239	5,369
Total ..	429,221	463,179	516,382	571,209	509,591
<i>Revenue.</i>					
Department of Agriculture ..	72,505	78,017	73,282	81,687	77,547
Maffra Beet Sugar Factory ..	52,624	74,678	92,231	129,732	137,997
State Forests and Nurseries ..	154,611	163,038	166,446	162,786	161,608
Total ..	279,740	315,733	331,959	374,205	377,152

\* Previously included in Department of Agriculture.

† *Vide* expenditure out of Forestry Fund and State Forests Loan Act.

Included in the expenditure on State Forests and Nurseries are net payments into the Forestry Fund; these amounts are as follows:—£17,020 in 1921-22, £16,205 in 1922-23, and £5,919 in 1923-24.

In 1924-25 and 1925-26, owing to increased expenditure, £21,968 and £91,619 respectively—not included in the above statement—were paid out of the Fund and, in 1925-26, an amount of £87,527 was expended out of the State Forests Loan Act 1924, No. 3386.

In addition to the expenditure shown, various sums have been advanced from loans and votes for the purpose of aiding closer settlement, for the resumption of mallee lands, for relief to farmers on account of bush fires and flood losses, and for purchase of seed wheat and fodder. These advances are gradually being repaid.

The expenditure from Loan Funds in 1925-26 was £1,408,123—£1,157,067 having been expended on discharged soldiers' land settlement, £150,753 on closer settlement, £42,628 on wire netting, £55,224 on Maffra Beet Sugar Factory, and £2,451 on Agricultural Colleges.

### AGRICULTURE.

**Progress of cultivation.**

All divisions of the State are suitable for cultivation, but the Wimmera, Mallee, and Northern are the principal wheat-growing districts and furnish about 94 per cent. of the total area under this crop. In recent years the chief extensions of the wheat-growing areas have been in the Mallee. In this district, which has a rainfall at one time thought wholly inadequate, wheat growing was rendered practicable by the introduction of machinery specially suited to the conditions, the extension of railway lines, and storage of water for domestic and stock supplies; and, with more of these facilities being made available each year, further areas are gradually being brought under cultivation. An indication of the growing importance of the Mallee is afforded by recent figures, which show that, of the wheat produced in the State in the last five seasons, the proportion obtained from the Mallee was over 29 per cent., as against slightly less than 5 per cent. in 1891-92. The area under cultivation in the Mallee last season for all purposes was 2,446,585 acres.

The area cultivated in the State in 1925-26 was 6,890,628 acres, as against an annual average of 6,802,212 acres for the previous five seasons, 5,032,359 acres for the seasons 1905-15, and 3,547,111 acres for the seasons 1895-1905. Notwithstanding the great increase in the area cultivated, the dairying and pastoral industries show a considerable expansion. This is evidenced by a comparison of the exports of the principal products to oversea countries in the year 1900 with the annual average in the last five seasons. The values have risen as follows:—Butter and cheese from £1,252,277 to £3,147,257; milk and cream from £5,455 to £1,364,611; and meats from £502,285 to £1,535,340.

The increase in cultivation has been associated with new and improved farming methods. The chief of these are the practice of fallowing, the use of fertilizers, the selection of suitable seeds, and the

increasing attention given to crop rotation. The more general adoption of improved methods in recent years has contributed greatly to the production of the State. The following table shows the progress of cultivation from period to period during the last 71 years :—

### ACREAGE CULTIVATED ANNUALLY, 1855 to 1926.

Period or Year (ending in March).	Annual Average.		
	Crop.	Fallow.	Total Cultivation.
	acres.	acres.	acres.
1855-65 .. .. .	325,676	12,146	337,822
1865-75 .. .. .	624,377	57,274	681,651
1875-85 .. .. .	1,306,920	137,536	1,444,456
1885-95 .. .. .	2,109,326	364,282	2,473,608
1895-1905 .. .. .	3,022,914	524,197	3,547,111
1905-15 .. .. .	3,756,211	1,276,148	5,032,359
1915-20 .. .. .	4,523,308	1,567,258	6,090,565
1920-21 .. .. .	4,489,503	1,935,747	6,425,250
1921-22 .. .. .	4,530,312	2,052,964	6,583,276
1922-23 .. .. .	4,862,548	2,186,881	7,049,429
1923-24 .. .. .	4,682,144	2,294,297	6,976,441
1924-25 .. .. .	4,761,394	2,215,270	6,976,664
1925-26 .. .. .	4,433,492	2,457,136	6,890,628

Areas under  
Principal  
Crops.

The principal crops grown in the State are wheat, oats, barley, potatoes and hay. The average annual acreage of these for periods from 1855 to 1920 and the acreage for each of the last six seasons are given in the next table :—

### ANNUAL ACREAGE OF FIVE PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1855 to 1926.

Period or Year (ending in March).	Average Annual Area of—				
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
1855-65 .. .. .	119,001	83,296	4,843	24,123	80,117
1865-75 .. .. .	278,077	129,384	19,262	36,744	117,393
1875-85 .. .. .	776,031	147,343	41,188	39,089	226,775
1885-95 .. .. .	1,236,501	210,901	64,310	48,009	437,087
1895-1905 .. .. .	1,898,280	340,957	52,829	45,243	540,472
1905-15 .. .. .	2,190,336	390,642	60,378	56,272	848,587
1915-20 .. .. .	2,725,728	398,232	84,973	60,606	1,015,585
1920-21 .. .. .	2,295,865	443,636	93,954	62,687	1,333,397
1921-22 .. .. .	2,611,198	318,681	100,127	63,895	1,159,135
1922-23 .. .. .	2,644,314	492,356	102,773	61,741	1,261,408
1923-24 .. .. .	2,454,117	520,654	56,564	59,306	1,277,606
1924-25 .. .. .	2,705,323	517,229	63,764	61,295	1,120,312
1925-26 .. .. .	2,513,494	437,696	103,395	63,369	1,013,613

**Production of Principal Crops.** The average annual production of the five principal crops for periods, from 1855 to 1920, and the production for each of the last six seasons were as follows:—

**ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1855 to 1926.**

Period or Year (ending in March).	Average Annual Production of—				
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	tons.	tons.
1855-65 ..	2,198,874	2,068,648	103,575	62,723	111,806
1865-75 ..	4,385,814	2,636,747	390,337	111,800	153,852
1875-85 ..	8,593,308	3,297,468	799,938	135,614	276,771
1885-95 ..	12,268,905	4,649,393	1,187,007	170,905	547,092
1895-1905 ..	14,032,145	6,649,453	947,580	134,357	672,982
1905-15 ..	22,906,743	7,342,468	1,243,442	158,445	1,084,726
1915-20 ..	37,503,989	7,127,504	1,812,447	165,486	1,376,142
1920-21 ..	39,468,625	10,907,191	2,495,762	171,628	1,984,854
1921-22 ..	43,867,596	6,082,258	2,336,246	173,660	1,548,453
1922-23 ..	35,697,220	8,093,459	2,442,041	148,354	1,665,089
1923-24 ..	37,795,704	9,366,205	1,455,435	238,520	1,541,287
1924-25 ..	47,364,495	9,572,003	1,444,823	139,043	1,492,588
1925-26 ..	29,255,534	4,998,165	1,774,963	160,729	929,068

**Principal crops in Districts.** The percentage in each district of the total area under each principal crop during last season was as given below:—

**PERCENTAGE IN EACH DISTRICT OF TOTAL AREA UNDER EACH PRINCIPAL CROP, 1925-26.**

Districts.	Percentage in each District of Area under—					
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.	Other Crops.
Central .. ..	0·88	4·12	29·40	53·67	15·64	31·79
North-Central .. ..	0·65	2·62	3·92	18·64	5·28	2·67
Western .. ..	1·93	7·52	12·37	12·99	12·16	5·79
Wimmera .. ..	27·86	21·76	12·76	0·15	17·26	1·81
Mallee .. ..	43·63	39·65	9·81	0·00	22·76	13·53
Northern .. ..	22·91	21·66	14·30	0·07	17·58	16·87
North-Eastern .. ..	1·59	1·88	0·87	1·60	4·32	6·83
Gippsland .. ..	0·55	0·79	16·57	12·88	5·00	20·71

NOTE.—For counties contained in each District, see table on page 503.

The area under the principal crops in proportion to the total area under crop in each district during last season was as follows:—

**RELATIVE AREAS DEVOTED TO DIFFERENT CROPS IN EACH DISTRICT, 1925-26.**

Districts.	Percentage of Area under all Crops devoted to—					
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.	Other Crops.
Central .. .. .	6·14	5·02	8·47	9·47	44·16	26·74
North-Central .. .. .	15·55	10·90	3·85	11·21	50·84	7·65
Western .. .. .	19·85	13·56	5·27	3·39	50·74	7·19
Wimmera .. .. .	70·79	9·63	1·33	0·01	17·69	0·55
Mallee .. .. .	70·67	11·18	0·65	0·00	14·87	2·63
Northern .. .. .	62·96	10·36	1·62	0·61	19·48	5·57
North-Eastern .. .. .	34·97	7·16	0·79	0·89	38·19	18·06
Gippsland .. .. .	8·95	2·22	10·99	5·23	32·52	40·09
Total for Victoria .. .. .	56·69	9·87	2·33	1·43	22·87	6·81

NOTE.—For counties contained in each District, see table on page 503.

The area and produce of the principal crops per head compared with of population are given in the next table for each of the population. last five years:—

**AREA AND PRODUCTION OF FIVE PRINCIPAL CROPS PER HEAD OF POPULATION, 1921-22 to 1925-26.**

Year ended March—	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	Area per Head of Population.				
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
1922 .. .. .	1·70	·21	·07	·04	·75
1923 .. .. .	1·67	·31	·07	·04	·80
1924 .. .. .	1·51	·32	·03	·04	·79
1925 .. .. .	1·63	·31	·04	·04	·68
1926 .. .. .	1·49	·26	·06	·04	·60
Produce per Head of Population.					
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	tons.	tons.
1922 .. .. .	23·54	3·96	1·52	·11	1·01
1923 .. .. .	22·61	5·13	1·55	·09	1·05
1924 .. .. .	23·25	5·76	·89	·15	·95
1925 .. .. .	28·58	5·77	·87	·08	·90
1926 .. .. .	17·37	2·97	1·05	·10	·55

Except in the three seasons 1895-6, 1902-3, and 1914-15, the wheat produced during each year since 1870 has been more than sufficient to supply home consumption.

The following table gives the annual value of each of the five principal crops, based upon prices realized upon farms, also the value of each crop per acre for each of the last five years :—

## VALUES OF FIVE PRINCIPAL CROPS.

Year ended March.	Annual Value of—				
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	£	£	£	£	£
1921-22 .. ..	10,509,945	931,346	401,600	555,111	4,413,091
1922-23 .. ..	8,031,875	1,416,355	436,235	1,040,662	6,327,338
1923-24 .. ..	8,189,069	1,455,331	262,210	701,229	5,229,162
1924-25 .. ..	11,993,546	934,538	354,006	682,878	3,639,496
1925-26 .. ..	6,665,150	684,320	290,166	1,309,470	3,497,253
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Value per acre 1921-22	4 0 6	2 18 5	4 0 3	8 13 9	3 16 2
„ „ 1922-23	3 0 9	2 17 6	4 4 11	16 17 1	5 0 4
„ „ 1923-24	3 6 9	2 15 11	4 12 9	11 16 6	4 1 10
„ „ 1924-25	4 8 8	1 16 2	5 11 0	11 2 10	3 5 0
„ „ 1925-26	2 13 0	1 11 3	2 16 1	20 13 3	3 9 0

The value of the five principal crops was £12,446,359 in 1925-26, as against £17,604,464 in 1924-25, £15,837,001 in 1923-24, £17,252,465 in 1922-23, and £16,811,093 in 1921-22.

**Wheat production.**

On the experience of the last five seasons the area under wheat for grain represented 55 per cent. of the total under all crops. The acreage, the total production, and the yield

per acre are given in the next table for decennial periods from 1860 to 1920, and for each of the last six seasons :—

### WHEAT PRODUCTION, 1860 TO 1926.

Period or Season (ending in March).	Annual Average.		
	Area under Crop.	Production.	Yield per Acre.
	acres.	bushels.	bushels.
1860-70 .. .. .	194,714	3,480,765	17·87
1870-80 .. .. .	431,444	5,510,125	12·77
1880-90 .. .. .	1,077,575	10,793,936	10·02
1890-1900 .. .. .	1,563,403	12,610,595	8·07
1900-10 .. .. .	1,983,874	19,242,402	9·70
1910-20 .. .. .	2,570,540	30,632,514	11·92
1921 .. .. .	2,295,865	39,468,625	17·19
1922 .. .. .	2,611,198	43,867,596	16·80
1923 .. .. .	2,644,314	35,697,220	13·50
1924 .. .. .	2,454,117	37,795,704	15·40
1925 .. .. .	2,705,323	47,364,495	17·51
1926 .. .. .	2,513,494	29,255,534	11·64

Although a large area in districts of limited rainfall has been brought under cultivation for wheat growing during late years, the yield per acre for the State on the average of the last ten seasons was 14·41 bushels, which is better than the corresponding averages for decennial periods of earlier date back to 1870. This satisfactory result is largely due to the use of more prolific varieties of seed and to the more general practice of fallowing and fertilizing. In addition to the area shown for grain, 230,364 acres of wheat were cut for hay last season, so that the total area under wheat in 1925-26 was 2,743,858 acres.

The production of wheat in the other Australian States in 1925-26 was as follows :—New South Wales, 33,815,000 bushels; South Australia, 28,354,728 bushels; Western Australia, 20,468,805 bushels; Queensland, 1,159,237 bushels; and Tasmania, 390,000 bushels. The total production for the Commonwealth was 113,443,304 bushels.

Wheat growing in counties.

The principal wheat growing areas are the Wimmera, Mallee, and Northern districts. Although other districts provide only small proportions of the total area they are not to be regarded as unsuitable for wheat growing, as their average yield per acre is usually greater than in the areas mentioned. The production of wheat for grain in different counties for each of the last three seasons is shown in the following table :—

WHEAT YIELDS IN COUNTIES FOR THE LAST THREE SEASONS.

Districts and Counties.	Year ended March.								
	Area.			Produce.			Average per Acre.		
	1924.	1925.	1926.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1924.	1925.	1926.
acres.	acres.	acres.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bush.	bush.	bush.	
<b>Central—</b>									
Bourke ..	3,438	4,633	8,424	66,877	92,337	89,704	19.45	19.93	10.65
Grant ..	5,812	8,106	12,248	107,589	145,297	171,072	18.51	17.92	13.97
Mornington ..	433	319	1,032	7,828	5,302	22,041	18.08	16.62	20.37
Evelyn ..	107	99	305	2,155	1,699	3,293	20.14	17.16	10.80
<b>North-Central—</b>									
Anglesey ..	1,152	1,198	1,097	23,952	20,143	13,259	20.79	16.81	12.09
Dalhousie ..	2,051	2,622	2,168	32,917	45,135	32,026	16.05	17.21	14.77
Talbot ..	6,389	12,820	13,120	99,560	263,480	159,047	15.58	20.55	12.12
<b>Western—</b>									
Grenville ..	3,889	4,562	5,943	53,507	72,130	88,315	13.76	15.81	14.86
Polwarth ..	18	49	85	371	532	1,166	20.61	10.86	13.72
Hcytesbury ..	..	4	1	..	49	37	..	12.26	37.00
Hampden ..	9,037	9,821	11,027	133,450	173,857	205,562	14.77	17.70	18.64
Ripon ..	37,736	31,852	27,227	578,469	616,983	467,825	15.33	19.37	17.18
Villiers ..	397	861	926	6,278	15,449	18,923	15.81	17.94	20.44
Normanby ..	642	752	961	11,610	11,965	17,714	18.08	15.91	18.43
Dundas ..	1,965	2,302	1,849	22,353	33,726	29,722	11.38	14.65	16.07
Follett ..	77	44	185	976	809	1,787	12.68	18.16	9.66
<b>Wimmera—</b>									
Lowan ..	136,167	173,652	163,996	2,380,800	3,972,195	2,904,283	17.48	22.87	17.71
Borong ..	379,007	408,387	403,638	8,062,260	10,713,127	8,347,435	23.65	26.23	20.68
Kara Kara ..	121,129	149,441	132,670	2,191,925	3,377,400	2,046,978	18.10	22.60	15.43
<b>Mallee—</b>									
Millicawa ..	1,491	6,378	18,399	16,735	11,826	68,672	11.22	18.54	3.73
Weeah ..	138,137	175,260	168,166	1,973,614	1,968,002	1,311,433	10.43	11.23	7.80
Karkaroo ..	589,959	628,200	568,041	7,293,987	6,984,439	3,930,625	12.36	11.12	6.92
Tatehera ..	371,662	382,258	342,067	4,836,528	4,712,863	2,364,893	13.01	12.33	6.91
<b>Northern—</b>									
Gunbower ..	30,425	37,240	35,798	382,809	622,473	379,415	12.58	16.72	10.60
Gladstone ..	85,075	120,587	108,644	1,111,661	2,614,400	1,063,114	13.07	21.68	9.79
Bendigo ..	94,627	125,790	116,543	1,307,436	2,359,618	1,137,194	13.82	18.76	9.76
Rodney ..	70,261	85,052	76,810	1,031,530	1,725,647	867,143	14.65	20.29	11.92
Moir ..	267,824	276,738	238,040	4,320,837	5,854,344	2,838,578	16.13	21.15	11.92
<b>North-Eastern—</b>									
Delatite ..	6,726	8,005	8,138	124,759	119,831	105,772	18.55	14.97	13.00
Bogong ..	23,857	36,305	31,706	471,051	606,390	294,455	15.78	16.72	9.29
Benambra ..	332	293	233	8,290	5,022	3,703	25.00	17.14	15.89
Wonnangatta ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Gippsland—</b>									
Croajlongong ..	39	..	21	754	..	257	19.33	..	12.24
Tambo ..	37	53	60	806	1,186	370	21.78	22.38	6.17
Dargo ..	238	332	380	7,515	5,794	8,565	31.58	17.45	22.54
Tanjil ..	7,279	10,523	12,463	212,718	196,734	244,617	29.22	18.70	19.63
Bula Bula ..	672	785	1,033	11,707	13,771	16,539	17.42	17.54	16.01
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>2,454,117</b>	<b>2,705,323</b>	<b>2,513,494</b>	<b>37,795,704</b>	<b>47,364,495</b>	<b>29,255,534</b>	<b>15.40</b>	<b>17.51</b>	<b>11.64</b>



The table which follows gives the average yield of wheat per acre in the principal wheat growing counties for each of the last ten years :—

**AVERAGE YIELD OF WHEAT PER ACRE IN WHEAT GROWING COUNTIES, 1916-17 to 1925-26.**

Districts and Counties.	Average Yield of Wheat per Acre (in Bushels) during Year ended March—									
	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
<b>Western District—</b>										
Ripon .. ..	13·33	13·27	10·06	16·26	21·74	19·63	19·62	15·33	19·37	17·18
<b>Wimmera District—</b>										
Lowan .. ..	17·93	16·52	15·78	13·47	20·94	21·53	21·17	17·48	22·87	17·71
Borong .. ..	22·49	22·62	20·01	15·76	23·79	28·05	22·72	23·65	26·23	20·68
Kara Kara ..	19·66	17·68	14·39	14·10	21·25	22·05	19·12	18·10	22·60	15·43
<b>Mallee District—</b>										
Weeah .. ..	14·56	10·21	6·38	3·43	14·28	8·89	8·75	10·49	11·23	7·80
Karkaroc ..	14·78	10·94	7·15	3·29	13·42	10·88	8·14	12·36	11·12	6·92
Tatchera ..	15·80	12·30	9·44	4·60	13·65	13·13	7·41	13·01	12·33	6·91
<b>Northern District—</b>										
Gunbower ..	15·89	14·23	8·74	8·96	15·27	15·76	10·71	12·58	16·72	10·60
Gladstone ..	19·10	14·17	11·52	12·08	18·72	18·65	14·66	13·07	21·68	9·79
Bendigo .. ..	17·11	13·85	11·33	9·30	14·56	17·25	12·59	13·82	18·76	9·76
Rodney .. ..	14·69	12·67	10·80	6·85	15·79	15·77	13·65	14·68	20·29	11·29
Moirs .. ..	14·44	11·38	10·70	4·79	17·46	16·83	12·34	16·13	21·15	11·92
Total State ..	16·37	14·03	11·40	7·75	17·19	16·80	13·50	15·40	17·51	11·64

**Varieties of Wheat.** Australian wheat is noted for its hard, white, and dry qualities, and, on account of the whiteness of the flour made therefrom, it is much sought after by oversea millers for the purpose of mixing with other wheats.

Enquiries in regard to the area sown under each variety of wheat for the 1926-27 season were made with the view of ascertaining the varieties most in favour among Victorian growers, and of enabling the Agricultural Department to advise growers as to the most suitable varieties to grow in a particular district.

An analysis of the replies of the growers who supplied the information is given in the appended table :—

VARIETIES OF WHEAT SOWN IN THE STATE, 1926-27.

Varieties.	Percentage (according to acreage) of total area in the State.	Varieties.	Percentage (according to acreage) of total area in the State.
	per cent.		per cent.
Federation ..	44·76	Ranee .. ..	1·39
Currawa ..	9·89	Gallipoli (Free) ..	1·33
Major .. ..	6·49	Wannon .. ..	1·18
Penny .. ..	5·42	Minister .. ..	0·87
Bald Early ..	3·51	Dollar .. ..	0·87
Gluyas .. ..	3·16	Dart's Imperial ..	0·63
Rajah .. ..	3·06	Yanward .. ..	0·51
Yandilla King ..	2·76	Warden .. ..	0·48
Mac's White ..	2·57	Graham .. ..	0·45
Huf's Imperial ..	2·45	Other varieties ..	4·15
Joffre .. ..	2·37		
Turvey .. ..	1·70	Total .. ..	100·00

The percentage of the estimated area under wheat in each district to that of the total for the State was as follows:—Central, 1·53 per cent.; North-Central, 0·93 per cent.; Western, 2·07 per cent.; Wimmera, 26·33 per cent.; Mallee, 43·15 per cent.; Northern, 23·73 per cent.; North-Eastern, 1·63 per cent.; and Gippsland, 0·63 per cent.

In all, over 140 varieties of wheat were sown. The number of these which were tried in the Mallee greatly exceeded the number experimented with in any other district. A more detailed list showing the ten principal varieties grown in each district can be obtained on application to the Government Statist.

The weight of an imperial bushel of wheat is 60 lbs., but the actual weight of a bushel of Victorian wheat of the fair average quality standard annually fixed by the Chamber of Commerce was 61.15 lbs. on the average of the last ten years. The following statement shows the variation in the f.a.q. standard weight of a bushel of Victorian wheat for each season since 1915-16 :—

## F.A.Q. WHEAT STANDARD, 1917 TO 1926.

Season ended March—		Weight of Bushel (f.a.q.).	Season ended March—		Weight of Bushel (f.a.q.).
		lbs.			lbs.
1917	.. ..	60½	1922	.. ..	60
1918	.. ..	60	1923	.. ..	61½
1919	.. ..	62½	1924	.. ..	61
1920	.. ..	62	1925	.. ..	62½
1921	.. ..	60½	1926	.. ..	61½

It is estimated that about 11,000,000 bushels of wheat are required locally for food and seed. The stocks of wheat and flour in the State on 31st October, 1925 and 1926, and on 30th June, 1922, and at the same date in each of the previous eight years, were as follows :—

## WHEAT AND FLOUR ON HAND, 1914 TO 1926.

Year.	Quantity in Bushels.		
	Wheat.	Flour (equivalent in Wheat).	Total.
1914	8,002,311	940,138	8,942,449
1915	582,448	510,300	1,092,748
1916	42,578,379	519,162	43,097,541
1917	63,852,078	1,078,875	64,930,953
1918	70,031,000	1,658,000	71,689,000
1919	53,023,000	3,284,000	56,307,000
1920	11,780,159	4,861,000	16,641,159
1921	14,883,400	800,000	15,683,400
1922	5,065,600	883,150	5,948,750
1923 } Not collected ..	..	..	..
1924 } ..	..	..	..
1925	1,446,240	2,955,640	4,401,880
1926	1,629,124	472,750	2,101,874

**Oats.** In 1925-26 the area harvested for oats in Victoria was 437,696 acres, from which a yield of 4,998,165 bushels was obtained, giving an average of 11.42 bushels to the acre. The appended statement shows the harvest results for this crop for each of the last six seasons, and for periods prior thereto back to 1865:—

## OATS GROWN, 1865 TO 1926.

Period or Year (ending in March).	Annual Average.		
	Area under Crop.	Produce.	Average per Acre.
	acres.	bushels.	bushels.
1865-75 .. .. .	129,384	2,636,747	20.38
1875-85 .. .. .	147,343	3,297,468	22.38
1885-95 .. .. .	210,901	4,649,393	22.05
1895-1905 .. .. .	340,957	6,649,453	19.50
1905-15 .. .. .	390,643	7,342,468	18.79
1915-20 .. .. .	398,232	7,127,504	17.90
1921 .. .. .	443,636	10,907,191	24.59
1922 .. .. .	318,681	6,082,258	19.09
1923 .. .. .	492,356	8,093,459	16.44
1924 .. .. .	520,654	9,366,205	17.99
1925 .. .. .	517,229	9,572,003	18.51
1926 .. .. .	437,696	4,998,165	11.42

In addition to the area for grain shown for last season there were 759,209 acres of oats cut for hay, so that the total area sown with oats in 1925-26 was 1,196,905 acres. During 1925-26 there were exported from Victoria to oversea countries 50,170 bushels of oats and 10,584 lbs. of oatmeal.

**Varieties of Oats.** Enquiries in regard to the different kinds of oats sown for the 1926-27 season showed that, of those growers who supplied the information, 93 per cent. planted principally Algerian, and 5 per cent. Mortgage Lifter oats.

**Barley.** The area under barley in 1925-26 was 103,395 acres, of which 72,244 were under malting, and 31,151 under other barley. The figures in the subjoined table show the acreage, production, and yield per acre, for each of the last five years :—

## CULTIVATION OF BARLEY, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Year ended March—	Area under Crop.		Produce.		Average per Acre.		
	Malting.	Other.	Malting.	Other.	Malting.	Other.	Total.
	acres.	acres.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
1922 ..	47,686	52,441	1,103,039	1,233,207	23·13	23·52	23·33
1923 ..	64,648	38,125	1,525,744	916,297	23·60	24·03	23·76
1924 ..	39,588	16,976	1,037,144	418,291	26·20	24·64	25·73
1925 ..	42,217	21,547	971,532	473,291	23·01	21·97	22·66
1926 ..	72,244	31,151	1,189,081	585,882	16·46	18·81	17·17

During 1925-26, 1,679,966 bushels of barley were used locally in the production of 1,653,889 bushels of malt.

**Potatoes.** The area planted with potatoes in 1925-26 was 63,369 acres, and the production was 160,729 tons, which represented a yield of 2·54 tons per acre, as compared with 2·27 tons in the previous season and 4·02 tons in 1923-24. The following table shows the potato returns for the last thirty-six years :—

## POTATO PRODUCTION, 1890 TO 1926.

Period or Year (ending in June).	Annual Average.		
	Area under Crop.	Produce.	Average per Acre.
	acres.	tons.	tons.
1890-1900 .. .. .	47,738	155,432	3·26
1900-10 .. .. .	48,857	142,307	2·91
1910-20 .. .. .	60,127	166,677	2·77
1921 .. .. .	62,687	171,628	2·74
1922 .. .. .	63,895	173,660	2·72
1923 .. .. .	61,741	148,354	2·40
1924 .. .. .	59,306	238,520	4·02
1925 .. .. .	61,295	139,043	2·27
1926 .. .. .	63,369	160,729	2·54

The estimated value of the potatoes produced last season was £1,309,470 as against £682,878 in 1924-25, £701,229 in 1923-24, £1,040,662 in 1922-23, and £555,111 in 1921-22.

**Hay.** In 1926 the production of hay amounted to 929,068 tons, as against 1,492,588 tons in 1925, 1,541,287 tons in 1924, 1,665,089 tons in 1923, and 1,548,453 tons in 1922. The quantity of straw returned for the season 1925-26 was 31,994 tons as against 44,614 tons for the previous year. The hay returns for decennial

periods from 1890 to 1920, and each of the last six seasons, are shown in the table which follows :—

HAY PRODUCTION, 1890 TO 1926.

Period or Year (ending in March).	Annual Average.		
	Area cut for Hay.	Produce.	Average per Acre.
	acres.	tons.	tons.
1890-1900 .. ..	467,668	576,618	1·23
1900-10 .. ..	664,387	894,108	1·35
1910-20 .. ..	984,797	1,269,767	1·29
1921 .. ..	1,333,397	1,984,854	1·49
1922 .. ..	1,159,135	1,548,453	1·34
1923 .. ..	1,261,408	1,665,089	1·32
1924 .. ..	1,277,606	1,541,287	1·21
1925 .. ..	1,120,312	1,492,588	1·33
1926 .. ..	1,013,613	929,068	0·92

The estimated value of the hay crop was £3,497,253 for 1926, as compared with £3,639,496 for 1925, £5,229,162 for 1924, £6,327,338 for 1923, and £4,413,091 for 1922. Of the total hay produced in 1926, 679,053 tons were oats, 212,035 tons were wheat, and 37,980 tons were made from lucerne and other crops; the yields per acre of these varieties of hay were 0·89, 0·92, and 1·58 tons respectively.

Information is obtained direct from growers, in February or March of each year, in regard to the prices of the leading agricultural products other than the main crop of potatoes, the price of which is ascertained in June or July. The following table gives the average price of each product for each of the last ten years :—

PRICES OF PRODUCE, 1917 TO 1926.

Year.	Average Price in February and March.						
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.		Hay.	Potatoes.	
			Malting.	Other.		Early Crop.	Main Crop (after March).
s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
1917 ..	4 0	2 0	3 11½	2 10	33 0	114 0	53 0
1918 ..	4 0	3 1½	4 2½	3 4½	59 0	79 0	55 0
1919 ..	4 9	4 5½	5 0½	3 11½	83 0	210 0	149 0
1920 ..	7 8½	5 7¼	6 7¾	5 8	134 0	219 0	178 0
1921 ..	7 3	2 4½	4 0½	3 1	53 0	101 0	64 0
1922 ..	4 9½	3 0½	4 0¼	2 11	57 0	94 0	60 0
1923 ..	4 6	3 6	3 11	3 0	76 0	170 0	136 0
1924 ..	4 3	3 1½	3 9¼	3 2¼	72 0	111 0	53 0
1925 ..	5 0¾	1 11½	5 3¾	4 0½	48 9	121 0	94 0
1926 ..	4 6¾	2 9	3 4¾	3 0	75 3	194 0	158 0

NOTE.—Prior to 1925, only freight and handling charges were deducted; but, for 1925 and 1926, the cost for bags and seed were also deducted from the F.O.B. charges.

**Other Crops.** The area under other than principal crops and th production since March, 1923, are shown in the subjoined table:—

## OTHER THAN PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1923-24 to 1925-26.

Crop.	1923-24.		1924-25.		1925-26.	
	Area.	Production.	Area.	Production.	Area.	Production.
	acres.	bushels.	acres.	bushels.	acres.	bushels.
Maize .. ..	29,104	1,464,731	23,126	891,987	21,913	768,761
Rye .. ..	899	11,151	1,029	13,000	978	10,788
Peas .. ..	11,216	233,047	11,759	256,160	14,094	166,543
Mangel-wurzel ..	854	13,569	736	10,022	1,046	10,333
Beet, Carrots, Parsnips and Turnips	538	4,222	238	1,847	624	2,758
Onions .. ..	4,714	31,683	4,504	26,555	5,379	21,728
Green Forage ..	107,371	..	99,531	..	107,873	..
Grass and Clover Seeds ..	1,306	bushels. 6,466	1,424	bushels. 8,597	1,290	bushels. 7,330
Hops .. ..	224	cwt. 2,481	269	cwt. 4,240	312	cwt. 3,934
Tobacco .. ..	1,047	1,165	1,228	3,199	1,179	†
Vines—Grapes	42,599	2,707,729	42,467	2,142,349	40,712	2,253,884
Flax .. ..	Nil	..	130	800 seed. 17 fibre 3 tow 2,600 straw	154	1,200 seed 660 fibre 80 tow ..
Gardens and Orchards ..	85,570	..	85,358	..	82,665	..
Minor Crops ..	12,237*	..	7,052*	..	7,097*	..
Land in Fallow	2,294,297	..	2,215,270	..	2,457,136	..
Artificial Grasses	938,547	..	843,095	..	820,337	..

\* For details see page 519.

† Not available.

**Maize.** The area under maize for grain in 1925-26 was 21,913 acres, and the production was 768,761 bushels, which represented a yield of 35·08 bushels per acre, as compared with 38·57 bushels in 1924-25, 50·33 bushels in 1923-24, 34·04 bushels in 1922-23, and 40·99 bushels in 1921-22. Of the total production for last season 92 per cent. was obtained from the Gippsland district. The area, total production, and produce per acre are given in the next

table for each of the last six seasons and for periods prior thereto back to 1890 :—

MAIZE PRODUCTION, 1890 TO 1926.

Period or Year (ending in June).	Annual Average.		
	Area under Maize for Grain.	Production.	Produce per Acre.
1890-1900 .. .. .	acres. 8,688	bushels. 452,907	bushels. 52·13
1900-10 .. .. .	12,082	716,158	59·27
1910-20 .. .. .	20,811	922,461	44·33
1921 .. .. .	24,149	1,065,880	44·14
1922 .. .. .	23,227	951,960	40·99
1923 .. .. .	25,846	879,915	34·04
1924 .. .. .	29,104	1,464,731	50·33
1925 .. .. .	23,126	891,987	38·57
1926 .. .. .	21,913	768,761	35·08

On the average of the last five seasons the yield per acre was 40·2 bushels, as against 45·0 in 1910-15, and 65·4 in 1900-05. The relatively light yield per acre for the latest five-year period was probably due to the cultivation of new areas, which are less fertile than the rich river flats upon which this cereal was grown exclusively in earlier periods.

**Rye.** The area under rye in 1925-26 was 978 acres, from which 10,788 bushels of grain were obtained. The production was 13,000 bushels in 1924-25, 11,151 bushels in 1923-24, 15,718 bushels in 1922-23, and 14,442 bushels in 1921-22. Rye was grown principally in the counties of Dalhousie, Delatite, Hampden, and Talbot last season. The area under this crop in the four counties mentioned was about 59 per cent. of the total for the whole State.

**Peas.** The area under peas in 1925-26 was 14,094 acres, and the return, 166,543 bushels, as compared with 11,759 acres and 256,160 bushels for the previous year. Last season peas were grown to some extent in all districts with the exception of the Mallee. The counties from which the largest returns were obtained and the yields of these counties were as follows:—Grant, 45,756 bushels; Buln Buln, 28,901 bushels; Mornington, 14,591 bushels; Bourke, 14,433 bushels; and Tanjil, 14,367 bushels. The production of peas in the five counties mentioned was equal to 71 per cent. of the total for the whole State.

**Mangel-wurzel.** In 1925-26 there were 1,046 acres under mangel-wurzel, as against 736 in 1924-25, 854 in 1923-24, 684 in 1922-23, and 560 in 1921-22. The production last year was 10,333 tons, as compared with an annual average of 9,244 tons for the preceding five-year period. Mangolds are grown principally in the Gippsland, Western, and Central districts.

**Beet, carrots, parsnips, and turnips.** The cultivation of beet, carrots, parsnips, and turnips, exclusive of those grown in market gardens, showed a considerable increase in area as compared with the previous season. In 1925-26 the extent of land sown was 624



acres, as against 238 in 1924-25, 538 in 1923-24, 433 in 1922-23, and 401 in 1921-22. The produce for last year was 2,758 tons, as compared with 1,847 in 1924-25, 4,222 in 1923-24, 1,878 in 1922-23, and 2,134 in 1921-22.

**Onions.** Onions are grown in nearly every county south of the Dividing Range. The returns for last season show that in Grenville the yield was 5,158 tons from 1,255 acres; in Villiers, 4,300 tons from 945 acres; in Bourke, 4,002 tons from 676 acres; in Polwarth, 2,964 tons from 643 acres; in Buln Buln, 2,094 tons from 756 acres; in Grant, 1,863 tons from 675 acres; and in Mornington, 868 tons from 330 acres. The following statement shows the area and yield for each of the last five years:—

#### ONION CULTIVATION, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Year ended March—				Area.	Produce.
1921-22	..	..	..	acres. 6,158	tons. 31,586
1922-23	..	..	..	6,954	44,409
1923-24	..	..	..	4,714	31,683
1924-25	..	..	..	4,504	26,555
1925-26	..	..	..	5,379	21,728

The value of onions grown was £267,793 in 1925-26, as compared with £209,803 in 1924-25, £215,444 in 1923-24, £139,888 in 1922-23, and £150,033 in 1921-22.

**Green forage.** The area devoted to green forage in 1925-26 was 107,873 acres, 99,531 in 1924-25, 107,371 in 1923-24, 102,451 in 1922-23, and 89,410 in 1921-22.

**Ensilage.** The practice of preserving forage in a green state has existed in Victoria for many years, but only a small number of farmers have adopted it. The returns for the last five seasons are given in the next table:—

#### ENSILAGE RETURNS, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Year ended March—				Number of Farms on which made.	Number of Silos (Pits and Stacks).	Materials used.
1922	..	..	..	107	141	tons. 5,873
1923	..	..	..	103	138	5,674
1924	..	..	..	61	88	3,649
1925	..	..	..	106	149	6,667
1926	..	..	..	113	150	6,092

**Grass and clover seed.** The area harvested for grass and clover seed last season was 1,290 acres, as compared with 1,424 in 1924-25, 1,306 in 1923-24, 1,468 in 1922-23, and 1,800 in 1921-22. The production in 1925-26 was 7,330 bushels, as against 8,597 in 1924-25, 6,466 in 1923-24, 7,859 in 1922-23, and 12,226 in 1921-22.

**Hops.** The hop-growing industry attained its maximum development in 1883-84, when 1,758 acres yielded 15,717 cwt. In 1925-26 the return from 312 acres was 3,943 cwt. Delatite, Bogong, Bourke, Polwarth, Dargo, and Buln Buln were the only counties in which hops were grown last season.

**Flax.** No flax was sown during the year 1923-24, but the Commonwealth Flax Committee, now wound up, supplied to Drysdale farmers seed for sowing in the 1924-25 season. An area of 130 acres was then sown, followed by an area of 154 acres in 1925-26. The harvests are treated by a private company. Particulars of the crop for each of the last five years are given in the following statement:—

FLAX, 1921 to 1925.

Year ended December—	Area under Crop.	Seed Produced.	Fibre Produced.	Tow Produced.	Straw awaiting Treatment.
	acres.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	tons.
1921 .. ..	1,640	4,187	440	20	960
1922 .. ..	590	1,725	435	25	..
1923 .. ..	Nil	..	..	..	..
1924 .. ..	130	800	17	3	130
1925 .. ..	154	1,200	660	80	..

NOTE.—For particulars of New Zealand flax, not included in above statement, *vide* page 519.

In 1925-26 imports into Victoria from countries outside Australia included linseed to the value of £69,002, linseed oil worth £61,177, and fibre worth £225,784.

**Tobacco.** Tobacco production reached its maximum in 1880-81, when 17,333 cwt. of dry leaf was produced. Subsequent years were marked by great variations in area and produce, but since 1920-21 increasing areas have been devoted to the industry. The area devoted to this product last year was 1,179 acres, of which 484 were in Delatite, and 547 in Bogong. Particulars relating to the cultivation of tobacco for each of the last five years are as follows:—

CULTIVATION OF TOBACCO, 1921-22 to 1925-26.

Year ended June—	Area.	Produce.
	acres.	cwt. (dry).
1921-22 .. ..	604	3,735
1922-23 .. ..	890	4,151
1923-24 .. ..	1,047	1,165
1924-25 .. ..	1,228	3,199
1925-26 .. ..	1,179	*

\* Not available.

**Vine Production.** During the period 1904-15 the area under vines decreased by 6,712 acres, or by nearly 24 per cent., and the number of growers decreased by 521, or by 23 per cent. Since 1915 there has been a fairly large increase in the area and the number of growers. Vineyards are distributed fairly well over the State, and there are certain districts where the principal industries are connected with vine-growing. The Shire of Mildura produced last season 1,747,302 cwt. of grapes; Swan Hill, 321,356 cwt.; Rutherglen, 71,227 cwt.; Rodney, 18,195 cwt.; and Stawell, 13,937 cwt. At Mildura the crop is principally dried for raisins and currants. The results of five years' operations are given below :—

## VINE PRODUCTION. 1922 TO 1926.

Year ended June—	Number of Growers.	Area.	Produce.				
			Grapes gathered.	Wine made.	Raisins made.		Currants made.
					Lexias.	Sultanas.	
		acres.	cwt.	gallons.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
1922 ..	2,422	33,175	1,314,839	1,335,066	49,080	141,371	75,042
1923 ..	2,775	38,892	1,879,964	1,717,490	67,850	217,670	98,081
1924 ..	3,047	42,599	2,707,729	2,177,127	71,993	366,834	150,867
1925 ..	2,999	42,467	2,142,349	1,368,765	70,695	296,304	104,948
1926 ..	2,876	40,712	2,253,884	1,637,274	54,021	297,485	123,733

Of the total quantity of grapes gathered in 1926, it is estimated that 280,626 cwt. were used for making wine and spirits, 1,900,947 cwt. for raisins and currants, and 72,311 cwt. for table consumption and export. Of the 297,485 cwt. of sultanas made, 246,387 cwt. were from Mildura, and 49,292 cwt. from Swan Hill.

Raisins are produced in Victoria upon a scale far in excess of the State's requirements. It is estimated that a year's consumption of raisins is about 88,000 cwt.; consequently, about 263,000 cwt. of the production in 1926 were available for interstate or oversea export. A year's consumption of currants is about 30,000 cwt., which would enable approximately 94,000 cwt. of last season's production to be exported to other States or oversea.

**Orchards.** The total number of persons in the State growing fruit for sale was 7,673 in 1925-26, as against 7,414 in 1924-25, 7,387 in 1923-24, 7,758 in 1922-23, and 8,286 in 1921-22. The area under orchards in each of those years was 80,251, 83,369, 83,469, 83,880, and 86,959 acres respectively. The orchards are distributed over the whole State. The counties having the largest areas last season were as follows :—Morrington, 13,598 acres; Bourke, 12,286 acres; Evelyn, 12,110 acres; Rodney, 10,107 acres; Moira, 7,517 acres; Talbot, 3,954 acres; and Bendigo, 3,517 acres.

The following is a statement of the number of bearing and not-bearing fruit trees and plants for the seasons 1922-23 and 1925-26 :—

RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER OF FRUIT TREES, PLANTS, ETC., IN ORCHARDS AND GARDENS WHERE FRUIT WAS GROWN FOR SALE, 1922-23 AND 1925-26.

Fruit.	Number of Trees, Plants, &c.					
	1922-23.			1925-26.		
	Bearing.	Not Bearing.	Total.	Bearing.	Not Bearing.	Total.
Apples ..	2,302,089	854,643	3,156,732	2,281,817	751,046	3,032,863
Pears ..	729,775	360,403	1,090,178	803,344	247,341	1,050,685
Quinces ..	72,316	33,041	105,357	77,950	15,733	93,683
Plums ..	368,355	153,020	521,375	305,348	64,826	370,174
Prunes ..	*	*	*	74,118	46,019	120,137
Cherries ..	182,093	33,802	215,895	112,324	29,228	141,552
Peaches ..	778,650	341,485	1,120,135	876,635	222,333	1,098,968
Apricots ..	349,242	130,114	479,356	397,402	67,532	464,934
Nectarines ..	15,295	1,645	16,940	13,539	3,570	17,109
Oranges ..	279,146	224,117	503,263	338,290	259,710	598,000
Lemons ..	100,544	96,207	196,751	130,634	64,881	195,515
Limes ..	..	..	†	360	58	418
Grapefruit ..	..	..	†	1,597	5,959	7,556
Pomelo - Shaddock	..	..	†	350	114	464
Loquats ..	3,337	1,138	4,475	3,346	1,092	4,438
Medlars ..	55	27	82	71	15	86
Figs ..	29,149	7,069	36,218	31,967	6,050	38,017
Guavas ..	182	92	274	68	67	135
Pomegranates ..	107	243	350	69	59	128
Persimmons ..	384	427	811	535	205	740
<b>Total Large Fruits ..</b>	<b>5,210,719</b>	<b>2,237,473</b>	<b>7,448,192</b>	<b>5,449,764</b>	<b>1,785,838</b>	<b>7,235,602</b>
Raspberries ..	308,647	..	308,647	..	351,201	351,201
Loganberries ..	139,084	..	139,084	..	147,901	147,901
Strawberries ..	2,432,038	..	2,432,038	..	3,662,153	3,662,153
Gooseberries ..	185,922	29,418	215,340	196,494	20,114	216,608
Mulberries ..	901	355	1,256	858	259	1,117
Olives ..	1,577	208	1,785	1,576	300	1,876
Currants (Red, White, and Black) ..	29,779	6,939	36,718	36,369	7,444	43,813
Passion-fruit ..	41,148	27,133	68,281	54,245	35,019	89,264
Almonds ..	21,987	9,792	31,779	23,272	16,287	39,559
Walnuts ..	5,223	7,019	12,242	7,382	4,481	11,863
Filberts ..	628	246	874	259	502	761
Chestnuts ..	692	262	954	462	254	716
<b>Total Nuts ..</b>	<b>28,530</b>	<b>17,319</b>	<b>45,849</b>	<b>31,375</b>	<b>21,524</b>	<b>52,899</b>

\* Included in Plums.

† Not collected.

In 1926, a special census was taken to ascertain the number of trees of each variety of each kind of fruit planted in Victoria, in order to facilitate consideration of the problems of marketing. The Department of Agriculture, Victoria, is

Census of Fruit Trees.

publishing a detailed statement of each variety in each county in the State, and copies may be had on application thereto.

The results are briefly summarized in the following table:—

### CENSUS OF FRUIT TREES, 1926.

Kind and Variety.	Trees of Bearing Age.	Young Trees not Bearing.	Kind and Variety.	Trees of Bearing Age.	Young Trees not Bearing.
	No.	No.		No.	No.
<b>Apples—</b>			<b>Apricots—</b>		
Jonathan .. ..	910,146	247,572	Moorpark .. ..	195,679	29,486
Rome Beauty .. .	253,012	98,555	Oullin's Early ..	46,412	4,979
London Pippin (Five Crown) .. ..	183,438	36,636	Mansfield .. ..	41,338	6,136
Yates .. ..	135,140	57,251	Others .. ..	113,973	26,931
Delicious .. ..	46,112	75,146	All Varieties ..	397,402	67,532
Dunn's (Munro's Favorite) .. ..	91,761	18,893	<b>Cherries—</b>		
Stewart's .. ..	56,303	35,452	Bedford Prolific ..	21,695	6,804
Gravenstein .. .	58,011	18,569	Early Purple Guigne	15,355	2,647
Cleopatra (N.Y. Pippin) .. ..	46,290	12,412	Burgsdorf's Seedling	11,216	3,568
Granny Smith .. .	21,936	29,672	Biggareau Twyford	13,623	1,089
Reinette de Canada	42,801	6,935	Others .. ..	50,435	15,120
Statesman .. ..	35,240	12,748	All Varieties ..	112,324	29,228
Rokewood .. ..	38,668	6,348	<b>Nectarines—</b>		
King David .. ..	35,648	6,304	Goldmine .. ..	9,436	1,580
Others .. ..	327,311	88,553	Others .. ..	4,103	1,990
All Varieties ..	2,281,817	751,046	All Varieties ..	13,539	3,570
<b>Pears—</b>			<b>Peaches—</b>		
Williams (Bartlett)	376,609	85,222	Pullar's Cling ..	237,914	31,081
Beurre Bosc .. ..	80,168	32,500	Elberta .. ..	65,595	2,771
Packham's Triumph	55,112	46,608	Brigg's Red May ..	55,778	11,587
Kieffer .. ..	51,324	9,104	Hales' Early .. .	56,856	10,188
Josephine de Malines	38,891	17,740	Nicholls' Orange	61,246	2,402
Others .. ..	201,240	56,167	Cling .. ..	44,955	12,590
All Varieties ..	803,344	247,341	Goodman's Choice..	354,291	151,714
<b>Oranges—</b>			Others .. ..	876,635	222,333
Washington Navel ..	198,363	130,728	<b>Plums and Prunes—</b>		
Valencia Late .. .	67,902	70,995	Grand Duke .. ..	45,431	13,824
Others .. ..	54,243	36,120	Diamond .. ..	40,985	6,820
All Varieties ..	320,508	237,843	Prune d'Agen .. .	23,019	23,071
<b>Mandarins—</b>			Angelina Burdett ..	28,823	7,261
Emperor .. ..	12,029	13,534	Others .. ..	175,441	42,996
Others .. ..	5,753	8,333	All Varieties ..	313,699	93,972
All Varieties ..	17,782	21,867	<b>Plums (Japanese)—</b>		
<b>Lemons—</b>			Burbank .. ..	22,886	4,153
Lisbon .. ..	89,629	37,775	Santa Rosa .. ..	11,503	2,918
Eureka .. ..	34,153	24,781	Satsuma (Blood) ..	10,865	3,177
Others .. ..	6,852	2,325	Others .. ..	20,513	6,825
All Varieties ..	130,634	64,881	All Varieties ..	65,767	16,873
<b>Grape Fruit—</b>			<b>Figs—</b>		
Marsh's Seedless ..	1,017	5,306	White Genoa .. ..	15,750	1,458
Triumph .. ..	239	415	White Adriatic .. .	5,610	585
Others .. ..	341	238	Brown Turkey .. .	3,641	1,657
All Varieties ..	1,597	5,959	Others .. ..	6,966	2,350
			All Varieties ..	31,967	6,050

The area of orchards growing fruit for sale in 1925-26—80,251 acres—showed a reduction of 3,118 acres as compared with the area for the previous year. Details of the produce from such orchards in the last five years are given in the subjoined statement :—

ORCHARDS GROWING FRUIT FOR SALE, 1921-22  
TO 1925-26.

Year ended March—	Number of Fruit-growers.	Area of Gardens and Orchards.	LARGE FRUITS GATHERED.					
			Apples.	Pears.	Quinces.	Plums.	Prunes.	Cherries.
		acres.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
1922	8,286	86,959	1,768,800	681,024	76,946	207,432	*	66,969
1923	7,758	83,880	2,089,017	666,631	63,837	258,117	*	92,407
1924	7,387	83,469	1,663,308	858,611	76,167	241,818	*	63,662
1925	7,414	83,369	2,233,230	910,915	81,160	308,638	*	51,299
1926	7,673	80,251	2,063,214	840,113	81,365	203,334	50,408	69,639

Large Fruits Gathered—continued.								
	Peaches.	Apricots.	Oranges.	Lemons.	Figs.	Nectarines.	Passion.	Other.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
1922	905,477	208,215	237,949	103,127	22,359	20,047	16,759	7,091
1923	966,952	290,876	259,330	109,347	15,313	14,749	16,066	1,431
1924	938,908	352,604	210,595	95,443	27,772	14,649	15,986	3,942
1925	990,683	350,778	310,890	128,889	25,658	16,545	30,866	1,211
1926	1,221,582	247,600	†	†	22,568	15,289	10,495	860

	SMALL FRUITS GATHERED.					NUTS GATHERED.			
	Raspberries.	Strawberries.	Gooseberries.	Currants, Black, Red, & White.	Other.	Almonds.	Walnuts.	Filberts.	Chestnuts.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1922	3,112	2,784	5,543	378	4,940	72,006	33,452	1,504	13,104
1923	2,682	3,321	5,243	401	5,236	74,588	43,064	1,031	10,713
1924	2,160	3,831	3,657	283	3,046	76,905	29,665	964	6,190
1925	3,665	5,856	4,281	355	6,980	70,217	23,199	615	14,469
1926	3,548	4,022	4,675	329	5,881 †	71,480	61,845	201	16,793

\* Included in Plums. † As the season for citrus fruits ends later than that for other fruits details are not yet available. ‡ Including 3,653 cwt. of loganberries, and 2,056 cwt. of blackberries.

In addition to the fruits shown, large quantities of melons, rhubarb, and tomatoes were produced in the orchards, the following being the

quantities returned for 1925-26 :—Melons, 3,622 cwt. ; rhubarb, 11,091 dozen bundles ; and tomatoes, 260,402 bushels. There were also 2,414 acres laid down in gardens growing fruit for private use ; the value of the produce from these was estimated at about £12,000.

According to prices received by growers the value of fruit which reaches market was estimated to be £1,184,100 in 1921-22, £1,172,300 in 1922-23, £1,193,689 in 1923-24, £1,091,508 in 1924-25, and £1,247,700 in 1925-26. This, of course, does not represent the actual value of all the fruit grown, as large quantities are privately consumed in various ways. No very reliable estimate of the value of such fruit can be prepared, but it may be set down at about £40,000.

The area under market gardens in the year 1925-26 was 16,609 acres. As these gardens are generally situated near large centres of population, the producers are able to dispose of the bulk of their goods with a minimum loss from waste, &c. An average return of £50 per acre is regarded as a fair estimate of their value, and on this basis the total value of the produce may be given as £830,000. This does not include crops of one acre and over of potatoes, onions, mangel-wurzel, beet, carrots, parsnips, and turnips grown in market gardens, such crops being tabulated under their respective heads in the returns relating to agriculture.

The quantity of dried fruit (weight after drying) was first collected in 1895-96, when 179,460 lbs. were returned. During 1925-26 the quantity produced was 884,369 lbs., which was 30 per cent. less than the quantity for the previous year. The production of the various kinds of dried fruit, with the exception of raisins and currants, the particulars of which appear on page 514, is shown in the following statement for each of the last five seasons :—

#### DRIED FRUIT, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Year ended June—	Apples.	Prunes.	Peaches.	Apricots.	Figs.	Pears.	Nectarines.	Total.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1922 ..	10,689	298,068	232,003	221,297	32,578	149,600	4,414	948,649
1923 ..	5,354	376,491	454,899	518,196	29,632	36,915	14,041	1,435,528
1924 ..	3,104	395,090	168,948	217,624	6,226	132,217	2,953	926,162
1925 ..	8,037	638,302	153,235	328,643	16,945	102,792	10,354	1,258,358
1926 ..	4,569	307,377	232,170	213,764	29,301	89,025	8,163	884,369

A striking feature of the returns for the last nine seasons is the regularity with which seasons of comparatively small production alternate with much more bountiful ones.

The following is a return of the minor crops for the last two seasons. The items do not in all cases represent the whole of the respective crops grown, but refer only to such as were taken cognisance of by the collectors. The return, therefore, indicates the nature of the crops rather than the full extent of their cultivation:—

MINOR CROPS, 1924-25 AND 1925-26.

Crop.	1924-25.		1925-26.	
	Area.	Produce.	Area.	Produce.
	acres.		acres.	
Beans .. ..	1,028	18,231 bushels	961	19,008 bushels
Chicory .. ..	309	314 tons (dry)	528	430 tons (dry)
Flowers .. ..	439	..	327	..
Garlic .. ..	12	29 tons	30	35 tons
Herbs .. ..	9	..	..	..
Flax—New Zealand ..	90	*	90	†58 tons fibre
Millet—Broom .. ..	531	{ 2,999 cwt. fibre 2,046 cwt. seed }	669	{ 1,797 cwt. fibre 1,151 cwt. seed }
„ Japanese .. ..	220	1,130 „ „	95	550 „ „
Nurseries .. ..	742	..	721	..
Pumpkins .. ..	1,691	7,100 tons	1,179	5,472 tons
Seeds—Agricultural and Garden .. ..	34	..	14	..
Sugar Beet .. ..	1,897	{ 24,468 tons clean beet, producing 3,017 tons market- able sugar }	1,880	{ 21,194 tons clean beet, producing 2,315 tons market- able sugar }
Sunflowers .. ..	46	478 cwt.	63	400 cwt.
Others .. ..	4	..	..	..
Total .. ..	7,052	..	7,097	..

\* Only cut every third year. † Partial failure.

**Land in fallow.** The practice of fallowing has become very popular in recent years. This is no doubt due to the more enlightened methods adopted, especially in wheat farming, where results have justified the introduction of extensive fallowing in conjunction with heavy manuring. The acreage in fallow in the years 1901, 1906, 1911, 1916, and each of the last six years was as follows:—

LAND IN FALLOW.

Year ended March—	Acres.	Year ended March—	Acres.
1901 .. ..	602,870	1922 .. ..	2,052,964
1906 .. ..	1,049,915	1923 .. ..	2,186,881
1911 .. ..	1,434,177	1924 .. ..	2,294,297
1916 .. ..	1,358,343	1925 .. ..	2,215,270
1921 .. ..	1,935,747	1926 .. ..	2,457,136



Nearly all of the fallowed area is devoted to wheat production. Of the 2,457,136 acres in fallow last season, 742,789 were in the Wimmera, 894,731 in the Mallee, and 602,449 in the Northern District. The total for these three districts represented, therefore, 90 per cent. of the land fallowed in the State.

The increase in the proportion of farmers using manure indicates the popularity and the value of this method of treating the soil. Last year the number of farmers who used manure was 40,460, as compared with 26,159 in 1911, 11,439 in 1901, and 7,318 in 1898. The following table shows the number of farmers using manure, and the quantity used, in 1901, 1906, 1911, and 1916, and each of the last five years:—

#### MANURE USED FOR FERTILIZATION, 1901 TO 1925.

Year ended March—	Farmers using.	Area used on.	Manure used—	
			Natural.	Artificial.
		acres.	tons.	tons.
1901 .. ..	11,439	556,777	153,611	23,535
1906 .. ..	23,072	1,985,148	205,906	60,871
1911 .. ..	26,159	2,676,408	205,739	82,581
1916 .. ..	33,165	3,870,742	181,268	117,812
1921 .. ..	37,835	3,848,184	161,683	150,012
1922 .. ..	40,037	4,148,780	173,343	172,897
1923 .. ..	39,749	4,113,640	163,843	178,621
1924 .. ..	39,393	4,301,558	151,611	184,140
1925 .. ..	40,460	4,244,191	144,537	195,542

The area on which manure was used represented only 7 per cent. of that under crop in 1898, but since then the proportion manured has rapidly increased. In 1901, it was 19 per cent.; in 1903, 36 per cent.; in 1905, 56 per cent.; in 1909, 66 per cent.; in 1913, 77 per cent.; and in 1925, 96 per cent. During 1925-26 the quantity of fertilizers imported into Victoria from oversea countries was 132,336 tons valued at £344,550. This included 125,053 tons of rock phosphates valued at £269,342, most of which came from the Pacific Islands.

Characteristics  
of Victorian  
soils.

This subject is fully dealt with in the *Year-Book* for 1915-16, page 740.

Persons employed on Farming, Dairying, and Pastoral Holdings.

Information is obtained by the collectors of agricultural statistics each year as to the number of persons ordinarily employed upon the land occupied. For the last five years the numbers were as follows :—

NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED UPON FARMING, DAIRYING, AND PASTORAL HOLDINGS, 1921 to 1925.

Year ended March—		Males.	Females.	Total.
1921	.. ..	106,369	53,059	159,428
1922	.. ..	107,872	48,978	156,850
1923	.. ..	105,933	46,218	152,151
1924	.. ..	103,013	33,954	136,967
1925	.. ..	98,059	19,124	117,183

Persons absent from their farms for the greater portion of the year following other occupations, as well as temporary hands engaged in harvesting, &c., are not included in the above tabulation, neither are domestic servants nor cooks. Prior to 1925, females who were only partly engaged in work on the holdings were included in the figures given, whereas, in that year, only those wholly employed in outdoor duties are included. It is estimated that the temporary labour employed on farms and pastoral holdings is equivalent to about 30,000 men employed continuously throughout the year.

Wages—agricultural and pastoral.

In the next return will be found particulars of the rates of wages paid (with rations) upon farms and pastoral holdings during 1925-26. The information has been furnished by the occupiers of holdings.

WAGES, AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL, 1925-26. .

Occupations.	Range.	Prevailing Rate.
Ploughmen .. ..	25s. to 80s. per week ..	45s. per week
Farm labourers .. ..	20s. to 80s. per week ..	42s. per week
Threshing machine hands ..	12d. to 18d. per hour ..	15d. per hour
Harvest hands .. ..	10s. to 15s. per day ..	12s. per day
Milkers .. ..	22s. 6d. to 60s. per week	36s. per week
Maize pickers (without rations)	6d. to 12d. per bag ..	8d. per bag
Married couples .. ..	50s. to 90s. per week ..	60s. per week
Female servants .. ..	12s. 6d. to 40s. per week	25s. per week
Shearers, hand (without rations)	35s. to 45s. per 100 sheep	40s. per 100 sheep
"    machine (without rations) .. ..	35s. to 50s. per 100 sheep	40s. per 100 sheep
Gardeners, market .. ..	30s. to 60s. per week ..	40s. per week
"    orchard .. ..	25s. to 70s. per week ..	42s. per week
Vineyard hands .. ..	25s. to 70s. per week ..	40s. per week

## PASTORAL AND DAIRYING INDUSTRIES.

**Live Stock.** The pastoral and dairying industries have always been important sources of wealth to the State, and their increasing value in recent years, despite the larger areas devoted to cultivation, indicates that both pastures and stock are, on the whole, steadily improving. The progress of stock breeding is shown in the next table, which gives the numbers of horses, dairy cows, other cattle, sheep and pigs, and their numbers per head of population and per square mile, in each of the last seven census years, also in the year 1926.

## LIVE STOCK IN VICTORIA, 1861 to 1926.

Year ended March—	Horses (including Foals).	Cattle—		Sheep.	Pigs.
		Dairy Cows.	Other.		
	number.	number.	number.	number.	number.
1861 .. ..	76,536	197,332	525,000	5,780,896	61,259
1871 .. ..	209,025	212,193	564,534	10,477,976	180,109
1881 .. ..	275,516	329,198	957,069	10,360,285	241,936
1891 .. ..	436,469	395,192	1,387,689	12,692,843	282,457
1901 .. ..	392,237	521,612	1,080,772	10,841,790	350,370
1911 .. ..	472,080	668,777	878,792	12,882,665	333,281
1921 .. ..	487,503	620,005	955,154	12,171,084	175,275
1926 .. ..	463,051	727,940	785,847	13,740,500	339,601
<i>Per Head of Population.</i>					
1861 .. ..	·14	·37	·97	10·70	·11
1871 .. ..	·29	·29	·77	14·32	·25
1881 .. ..	·32	·38	1·11	12·01	·28
1891 .. ..	·38	·35	1·22	11·13	·25
1901 .. ..	·33	·43	·90	9·03	·29
1911 .. ..	·36	·51	·67	9·79	·25
1921 .. ..	·32	·41	·63	7·99	·12
1926 .. ..	·27	·43	·47	8·16	·20
<i>Per Square Mile.</i>					
1861 .. ..	·87	2·25	5·97	65·78	·70
1871 .. ..	2·38	2·41	6·42	119·22	2·05
1881 .. ..	3·14	3·75	10·89	117·88	2·75
1891 .. ..	4·97	4·50	15·79	144·43	3·21
1901 .. ..	4·46	5·94	12·30	123·36	4·00
1911 .. ..	5·37	7·61	10·00	146·59	3·79
1921 .. ..	5·55	7·05	10·87	138·49	1·99
1926 .. ..	5·27	8·28	8·94	156·35	3·86

By reducing horses and cattle to an equivalent in sheep on the assumption that one of the former will eat as much as ten, and one of the latter as much as six sheep, interesting comparisons of the stock carried on the land at different periods may be instituted. Calculations made on this basis show that each square mile carried an equivalent of 312 sheep in 1926, as compared with 302 in 1921, 306 in 1911, and 237 in 1881.

Size of holdings, showing areas cultivated and grazed.

Information relating to land occupied and cultivation and live stock thereon was collected in March, 1925. The land privately owned was summarized according to different sized holdings, and in the instances where Crown lands were held in conjunction therewith, these were, regardless of size, scheduled with the holdings to which they were attached. The details, as well as the particulars of the total holdings in which only Crown land was held, are given in the two succeeding tables:—

**SIZE OF HOLDINGS SHOWING AREAS UNDER CULTIVATION AND PASTURE, MARCH, 1925.**

Privately-owned Land.			Crown Land held in conjunction with that privately owned.	Total Area Occupied.	Area under—		
Size of Holdings. (In Acres.)	Number of Holdings.	Area Occupied.			Cultivation.	Pasture, &c.	
		acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	
1 and under	5	3,407	8,859	22,667	31,526	1,525	30,001
5 "	15	6,604	59,434	13,990	73,424	17,944	55,480
15 "	30	6,989	142,216	21,301	163,517	53,443	110,074
30 "	50	5,083	195,146	121,019	316,165	56,820	259,345
50 "	100	9,206	658,278	191,047	849,325	161,488	687,837
100 "	200	12,058	1,712,358	307,996	2,020,354	339,035	1,681,319
200 "	300	6,653	1,612,231	294,178	1,906,409	347,823	1,558,586
300 "	321	3,007	943,427	96,038	1,039,465	245,672	793,793
321 "	400	3,232	1,165,355	132,311	1,297,666	271,169	1,026,497
400 "	500	3,482	1,544,119	323,060	1,867,179	409,689	1,457,490
500 "	600	2,805	1,526,266	154,728	1,680,994	429,172	1,251,822
600 "	641	2,828	1,778,202	261,906	2,040,108	732,768	1,307,340
641 "	700	1,427	953,551	68,086	1,021,637	341,350	680,287
700 "	800	2,445	1,823,713	205,736	2,029,449	555,956	1,473,493
800 "	900	1,607	1,349,410	154,845	1,504,255	363,031	1,141,224
900 "	1,000	1,422	1,343,790	187,944	1,531,734	383,689	1,148,045
1,000 "	1,500	3,578	4,322,043	657,909	4,979,952	1,162,223	3,817,729
1,500 "	2,000	1,299	2,214,679	378,548	2,593,227	463,142	2,130,085
2,000 "	2,500	644	1,421,844	309,124	1,730,968	211,563	1,519,405
2,500 "	3,000	336	907,618	431,378	1,338,996	120,061	1,218,935
3,000 "	4,000	412	1,399,073	184,274	1,583,347	122,132	1,461,215
4,000 "	5,000	151	668,062	125,642	793,704	42,302	751,402
5,000 "	7,500	187	1,124,538	183,574	1,308,112	64,538	1,243,574
7,500 "	10,000	86	744,170	15,395	759,565	25,736	733,829
10,000 "	15,000	66	803,944	28,887	832,831	12,697	820,134
15,000 "	20,000	25	436,207	4,565	440,772	3,913	436,859
20,000 "	30,000	12	290,933	1,417	292,350	1,031	291,319
30,000 "	40,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
40,000 "	50,000	1	45,858	..	45,858	2	45,856
Total Privately-owned Land ..	79,102	31,195,324	4,877,565	36,072,889	6,939,914	29,132,975	
Crown Land not held in conjunction with that privately owned ..	935	..	733,335	733,335	36,800	696,535	
Grand Total ..	80,037	31,195,324	5,610,900	36,806,224	6,976,714	29,829,510	

Size of holdings and live stock thereon.

The last table shows the areas devoted to cultivation and grazing on different-sized holdings in March, 1925, whilst the next table gives the numbers of horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs on these holdings, and the total numbers on Crown lands that are not held conjointly with privately-owned land, at the same date.

## SIZE OF HOLDINGS AND LIVE STOCK THEREON, MARCH, 1925.

Size of Holdings. (In Acres).			Live Stock on Land Occupied.				
			Horses.	Cattle.		Sheep.	Pigs.
				Dairy Cows.	Other Cattle.		
1 and under	5	..	3,034	4,333	2,413	690	1,474
5	15	..	8,507	12,606	6,834	3,067	5,267
15	30	..	11,629	16,988	9,658	9,498	5,889
30	50	..	11,359	25,131	14,527	20,166	9,790
50	100	..	27,238	85,676	44,804	83,340	37,172
100	200	..	47,200	169,969	103,312	257,526	71,757
200	300	..	34,323	101,276	76,959	374,404	38,515
300	321	..	18,075	38,226	33,612	225,976	15,231
321	400	..	21,317	45,664	44,647	352,775	17,002
400	500	..	25,800	44,802	51,043	506,082	16,060
500	600	..	22,463	32,919	41,356	510,358	11,593
600	641	..	26,103	19,115	27,529	430,832	7,332
641	700	..	12,896	10,900	15,204	256,479	4,037
700	800	..	21,344	19,526	28,080	522,848	6,630
800	900	..	15,375	15,238	24,634	451,078	6,497
900	1,000	..	15,063	12,317	23,460	511,869	3,523
1,000	1,500	..	44,641	33,773	79,512	1,806,788	10,647
1,500	2,000	..	18,074	14,572	39,010	1,100,332	3,792
2,000	2,500	..	9,434	7,442	28,225	763,924	2,475
2,500	3,000	..	5,063	4,394	13,551	535,664	928
3,000	4,000	..	6,539	4,997	28,056	901,377	1,073
4,000	5,000	..	2,755	1,855	13,529	446,130	572
5,000	7,500	..	4,636	2,385	23,334	737,711	508
7,500	10,000	..	2,257	1,103	13,491	580,040	99
10,000	15,000	..	2,520	1,075	17,635	628,316	76
15,000	20,000	..	824	519	5,171	295,932	82
20,000	30,000	..	689	301	4,345	226,412	19
30,000	40,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
40,000	50,000	..	126	30	433	32,000	30
Total on Privately-owned land ..			419,284	727,132	814,364	12,571,614	278,070
On Crown Land not held in conjunction with privately-owned land ..			2,762	3,783	5,508	51,401	2,031
In towns and travelling ..			..	..	..	26,833	..
Grand Total ..			422,046	730,915	819,872	12,649,898	280,101

The position disclosed was that 72,305 persons holding up to 1,000 acres each of private land occupied in the aggregate 16,816,355 acres of such land, as well as 2,556,852 acres of Crown land—a total of 19,373,207 acres, or 54 per cent. of the total area in occupation. Of the privately-owned land and Crown land held in conjunction therewith, these occupiers controlled 68 per cent. of the total cultivation and 50 per cent. of the pasture, and possessed 77 per cent. of the horses, 90 per cent. of the dairy cows, 67 per cent. of the other cattle, 93 per cent. of the pigs, and 36 per cent. of the sheep.

Size of holdings in 1913, 1919, and 1925.

Particulars of the size of holdings and cultivation thereon, together with the particulars of the total holdings in which only Crown land was held, are given in the following table for the years 1913, 1919, and 1925 :—

SIZE OF HOLDINGS AND CULTIVATION THEREON, 1913, 1919, AND 1925.

Privately-owned Land.				Crown Land held in conjunction with that privately owned.	Total Area Occupied.	Area under—		
Size of Holdings. (In acres.)	Year.	Number of Holdings.	Area Occupied.			Cultivation.	Pasture, &c.	
			acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	
1 and under 100	1913	26,113	915,493	374,511	1,290,004	245,498	1,044,506	
		1919	28,902	942,775	347,377	1,290,152	241,794	1,048,358
		1925	31,289	1,063,933	370,024	1,433,957	291,220	1,142,737
100 „ 321	1913	18,483	3,819,680	1,216,829	5,036,509	875,525	4,160,984	
		1919	19,930	3,967,377	840,116	4,807,493	807,434	4,000,059
		1925	21,718	4,268,016	698,212	4,966,228	932,530	4,033,698
321 „ 641	1913	11,212	5,475,942	1,191,890	6,667,832	1,424,020	5,243,812	
		1919	11,831	5,790,225	1,480,407	7,270,632	1,490,476	5,780,156
		1925	12,397	6,013,942	872,005	6,885,947	1,842,798	5,043,149
641 „ 1,000	1913	5,221	4,187,010	1,241,667	5,428,677	1,075,000	4,353,677	
		1919	5,709	4,523,331	1,071,162	5,594,493	1,105,867	4,488,626
		1925	6,901	5,470,464	616,611	6,087,075	1,644,026	4,443,049
1,000 „ 2,500	1913	4,544	6,748,985	1,852,529	8,601,514	1,546,611	7,054,903	
		1919	5,010	7,291,675	2,300,465	9,592,140	1,379,247	8,212,893
		1925	5,521	7,958,566	1,345,581	9,304,147	1,836,923	7,467,219
2,500 „ 5,000	1913	820	2,303,419	1,085,769	3,389,188	352,258	3,536,930	
		1919	855	2,825,855	716,245	3,542,100	270,426	3,271,674
		1925	899	2,974,753	741,294	3,716,047	284,495	3,431,552
5,000 „ 10,000	1913	267	1,825,862	342,848	2,168,710	111,910	2,056,800	
		1919	290	1,996,606	378,877	2,375,483	83,014	2,292,469
		1925	273	1,868,708	198,969	2,067,677	90,274	1,977,403
10,000 and upwards	1913	151	2,652,966	404,710	3,057,676	39,606	3,018,070	
		1919	152	2,638,307	124,045	2,762,352	35,979	2,726,373
		1925	104	1,576,942	34,869	1,611,811	17,643	1,594,168
Total of privately-owned land	1913	66,811	28,429,357	7,710,753	36,140,110	5,670,428	30,469,682	
		1919	72,679	29,976,151	7,258,694	37,234,845	5,414,237	31,820,608
		1925	79,102	31,195,324	4,877,565	36,072,889	6,939,914	29,132,975
Crown Land not held in conjunction with that privately owned	1913	1,892	..	1,078,688	1,078,688	36,151	1,042,537	
		1919	1,651	..	899,289	899,289	76,783	822,506
		1925	935	..	733,335	733,335	36,800	696,535
Grand Total	1913	68,703	28,429,357	8,789,441	37,218,798	5,706,579	31,512,219	
		1919	74,330	29,976,151	8,157,983	38,134,134	5,491,020	32,643,114
		1925	80,037	31,195,324	5,610,900	36,806,224	6,976,714	29,829,510

The number of holdings of privately-owned land of over 10,000 acres was 104 in 1925, as compared with 152 in 1919, 151 in 1913, 175 in 1910, and 195 in 1906, and the aggregate areas comprised therein in the corresponding years were 1,576,942 acres, 2,638,307 acres, 2,652,966 acres, 3,298,227 acres and 4,134,067 acres. The reduction in the period of nineteen years between March, 1906, and March, 1925, was equivalent to 47 per cent. in the number and 62 per cent. in the acreage of such estates. Subdivision of estates of over 10,000 acres was practically at a stand-still during the period between March, 1913, and March, 1919, but, since the latter date, such estates have declined by 32 per cent. in the number and 40 per cent. in the acreage. In all

other holdings of the sizes mentioned in the above table, excepting those between 5,000 and 10,000 acres, which declined in both numbers and acreage, between March, 1919, and March, 1925, there were increases in both numbers and acreage in the nineteen years referred to.

To illustrate the uses to which the land was applied in 1913, 1919, and 1925, various percentages relating to holdings of different sizes, of privately-owned land and Crown land held in conjunction therewith, are given for those years in the succeeding table, which also shows the live stock carried by the holdings, reduced to their equivalent in sheep:—

### SIZE OF HOLDINGS AND HOW UTILIZED, 1913, 1919, AND 1925.

Size of Holdings of Privately-owned Land. (In Acres.)	Year.	Percentage in each Division to Total of—					Live Stock Grazed reduced to equivalent in Sheep.		
		Holdings.	Area Occupied.	Area under Cultivation.	Area used for Pasture, &c.	Equivalent in Sheep Grazed.	Total.	Per 100 Acres used for Grazing, &c.	
1 and under	100 ..	1913	39·08	3·57	4·33	3·43	7·08	1,766,873	169
		1919	39·77	3·46	4·47	3·29	6·50	1,909,552	182
		1925	39·56	3·97	4·20	3·92	7·97	2,072,251	181
100 ..	321 ..	1913	27·66	13·94	15·44	13·66	17·67	4,410,283	106
		1919	27·42	12·91	14·91	12·57	17·40	5,107,256	128
		1925	27·46	13·77	13·44	13·85	19·20	4,994,010	124
321 ..	641 ..	1913	16·78	18·45	25·12	17·21	17·14	4,278,079	82
		1919	16·28	19·53	27·53	18·17	17·48	5,132,920	89
		1925	15·67	19·09	26·55	17·31	17·68	4,599,327	91
641 ..	1,000 ..	1913	7·82	15·02	18·95	14·29	12·15	3,031,015	70
		1919	7·85	15·03	20·43	14·11	12·37	3,630,165	81
		1925	8·72	16·88	23·69	15·25	12·63	3,285,208	74
1,000 ..	2,500 ..	1913	6·80	23·80	27·27	23·15	20·34	5,076,868	72
		1919	6·89	25·76	25·47	25·81	22·23	6,539,378	80
		1925	6·98	25·79	26·47	25·63	21·55	5,607,738	75
2,500 ..	5,000 ..	1913	1·23	10·76	6·22	11·61	9·22	2,300,276	65
		1919	1·18	9·51	5·00	10·28	8·84	2,594,808	79
		1925	1·14	10·30	4·10	11·78	9·32	2,425,033	71
5,000 ..	10,000 ..	1913	·40	6·00	1·98	6·75	6·95	1,735,240	84
		1919	·40	6·38	1·53	7·20	6·85	2,011,066	88
		1925	·34	5·73	1·30	6·79	6·26	1,628,559	82
10,000 and upwards	..	1913	·23	8·46	·69	9·90	9·45	2,358,478	78
		1919	·21	7·42	·66	8·57	8·28	2,431,720	89
		1925	·13	4·47	·25	5·47	5·39	1,401,304	88
Total ..	..	1913	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	24,957,112	82
		1919	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	29,356,865	92
		1925	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	26,013,430	89

In the above table horses and cattle have been reduced to an equivalent in sheep on the assumption that one head of the former will eat as much as ten, and one of the latter as much as six sheep. On this basis every 100 acres under pasture was carrying the equivalent of 89 sheep in 1925, as compared with 92 in 1919, 82 in 1913, and 78 in 1910. Dairying is carried on principally on the small holdings, and pigs are most numerous where dairying prevails. In 1925, 69





It will be seen from these tables that the largest areas under cultivation and the largest proportions of cultivation to land occupied are found in the Northern, Wimmera, and Mallee districts. Of the occupied land, 29 per cent. in the Northern, 44 per cent. in the Mallee, and 29 per cent. in the Wimmera district are devoted to agriculture, and these divisions supply nearly 83 per cent. of the cultivation in Victoria. In the North-Central, Western, and North-Eastern districts the land occupied is largely devoted to grazing; in Gippsland considerable attention is given to the cultivation of grasses, 44 per cent. of all the sown grasses in the State being found in that district.

**Areas occupied and stock thereon, in districts.** The next table contains particulars of the distribution of horses, cattle, and sheep on agricultural and pastoral lands in March, 1926:—

#### AREA OCCUPIED AND STOCK THEREON, 1926.

Districts.	Area Occupied for—		Number of—		
	Agriculture.	Pasture.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.
	acres.	acres.			
Central .. ..	439,431	2,110,232	89,773	247,697	1,135,898
North-Central .. ..	124,551	2,004,836	22,404	91,901	1,253,392
Western .. ..	315,692	6,006,262	61,802	367,304	4,506,100
Wimmera .. ..	1,732,057	3,965,644	64,822	43,535	2,167,452
Mallee .. ..	2,446,585	2,534,818	64,151	37,457	747,983
Northern .. ..	1,517,006	3,695,342	88,494	185,922	2,098,292
North-Eastern .. ..	150,246	3,496,302	31,507	220,577	972,606
Gippsland .. ..	165,060	3,054,500	40,098	319,394	858,777
Total .. ..	6,890,628	26,867,936	463,051	1,513,787	13,740,500

The area occupied does not include 2,779,469 acres which are mostly in an unproductive state. Compared with 1925, sheep increased by 8·6 per cent., while horses decreased by 2·2 per cent., and cattle by 5·7 per cent.

The following return shows the live stock in Victoria in each of the last five years. Tables showing the stock classified in conjunction with holdings and sheep classified in different-sized flocks in March, 1925, are given on pages 536-538 of this volume:—

#### LIVE STOCK IN VICTORIA, 1922 TO 1926.

Live Stock.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Horses (including foals) .. ..	496,124	494,947	486,075	473,236	463,051
Cattle—					
Dairy Cows .. ..	719,473	794,898	738,149	760,207	727,940
Other (including calves) .. ..	1,030,896	990,762	853,218	845,347	785,847
Sheep .. ..	12,325,818	11,765,520	11,059,761	12,649,898	13,740,500
Pigs .. ..	230,770	294,962	259,795	288,509	339,601

In the subjoined table will be found a statement of the average and the range of prices ruling in Melbourne during the years 1924-25 and 1925-26 for live stock. The information has been extracted from the Melbourne *Stock and Station Journal* :—

PRICES IN MELBOURNE OF LIVE STOCK, 1924-25 AND 1925-26.

Stock.	Prices in 1924-25.			Prices in 1925-26.		
	Average.	Range.		Average.	Range.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
<i>Horses.</i>						
Extra heavy draught	38 19 0	37 0 0 to 40 0 0	0 0	39 2 6	38 0 0 to 40 10 0	0 0
Medium draught ..	27 1 0	26 0 0 to 28 10 0	0 0	28 2 6	27 10 0 to 29 0 0	0 0
Delivery cart ..	14 8 0	13 0 0 to 16 0 0	0 0	13 15 0	13 0 0 to 14 10 0	0 0
Indian Remounts ..	22 8 0	22 0 0 to 23 10 0	0 0	22 8 0	22 0 0 to 23 0 0	0 0
Saddle and harness	4 8 0	4 0 0 to 5 0 0	0 0	4 0 0	3 15 0 to 4 15 0	0 0
Ponies ..	7 3 0	6 10 0 to 7 15 0	0 0	7 0 0	6 10 0 to 7 10 0	0 0
Order cart ..	8 5 0	8 0 0 to 9 0 0	0 0	8 0 0	7 10 0 to 8 10 0	0 0
<i>Fat Cattle.</i>						
<i>Bullocks—</i>						
Extra prime ..	15 16 0	14 12 0 to 17 8 0	0 0	21 5 0	17 10 0 to 25 2 0	0 0
Prime ..	14 2 0	13 2 6 to 15 8 0	0 0	19 3 0	16 1 0 to 23 0 0	0 0
Good ..	12 5 0	11 7 0 to 13 12 0	0 0	17 2 0	14 18 0 to 20 10 0	0 0
Good light and handy weights	10 13 0	9 4 0 to 11 17 6	0 0	14 19 0	12 19 0 to 17 19 0	0 0
<i>Cows—</i>						
Best ..	10 0 0	9 1 0 to 11 3 9	0 0	12 2 0	9 19 0 to 14 9 6	0 0
Others ..	7 16 0	6 15 0 to 8 16 0	0 0	9 4 0	7 3 0 to 10 18 0	0 0
<i>Dairy Cattle.</i>						
Best milkers ..	13 18 0	11 7 0 to 16 1 0	0 0	15 16 0	12 17 0 to 18 9 0	0 0
Springers, best ..	10 2 0	8 13 0 to 12 15 0	0 0	9 14 0	7 4 0 to 11 15 0	0 0
<i>Fat Sheep.</i>						
<i>Wethers (cross)—</i>						
Extra prime ..	2 3 4	1 16 0 to 2 13 2	0 0	1 14 0	1 8 3 to 2 5 0	0 0
Prime ..	2 0 5	1 13 8 to 2 10 0	0 0	1 11 4	1 5 5 to 2 1 11	0 0
Good ..	1 16 7	1 9 5 to 2 5 6	0 0	1 8 0	1 2 5 to 1 18 1	0 0
<i>Ewes (cross)—</i>						
Extra prime ..	1 18 1	1 12 7 to 2 6 0	0 0	1 8 8	1 0 3 to 2 1 5	0 0
Prime ..	1 15 4	1 9 10 to 2 2 9	0 0	1 6 0	0 18 0 to 1 19 0	0 0
Good ..	1 12 5	1 6 7 to 1 18 4	0 0	1 3 1	0 15 5 to 1 16 3	0 0
<i>Wethers (merino)—</i>						
Extra prime ..	2 3 1	1 15 4 to 2 11 9	0 0	1 13 5	1 6 5 to 2 6 3	0 0
Prime ..	2 0 1	1 13 0 to 2 8 9	0 0	1 10 8	1 4 5 to 2 3 3	0 0
Good ..	1 16 5	1 9 1 to 2 5 8	0 0	1 7 3	1 1 2 to 1 18 8	0 0
Ewes (merino) best	1 13 6	1 7 11 to 2 1 9	0 0	1 5 11	0 18 10 to 1 18 10	0 0
<i>Fat Lambs.</i>						
Extra prime ..	1 14 11	1 13 2 to 1 17 7	0 0	1 9 10	1 2 9 to 1 18 3	0 0
Prime ..	1 12 2	1 9 5 to 1 14 5	0 0	1 7 3	1 0 4 to 1 15 6	0 0
Good ..	1 8 7	1 5 6 to 1 10 11	0 0	1 4 2	0 17 4 to 1 13 6	0 0
<i>Pigs.</i>						
<i>Back Fatters—</i>						
Extra heavy prime	11 5 0	8 16 0 to 14 2 0	0 0	10 17 6	8 12 0 to 12 15 0	0 0
Extra prime and weighty ..	7 14 0	5 13 0 to 9 13 0	0 0	7 8 0	5 12 6 to 8 13 0	0 0
<i>Baconers—</i>						
Extra prime ..	5 8 0	4 15 0 to 6 0 0	0 0	5 11 0	5 0 0 to 6 11 0	0 0
Prime ..	4 13 0	4 2 0 to 5 7 0	0 0	4 10 0	3 19 0 to 5 5 0	0 0
Porkers ..	2 16 0	2 10 0 to 3 4 6	0 0	2 7 0	2 0 0 to 2 19 0	0 0

The following is a statement of the stock slaughtered on farms and stations, as well as in municipal abattoirs, during each of the last five years :—

### STOCK SLAUGHTERED, 1921 TO 1925.

Year ended March—	Number Slaughtered.		
	Sheep and Lambs.	Cattle.	Pigs.
1921 .. ..	4,005,587	331,707	239,638
1922 .. ..	5,863,195	424,199	308,172
1923 .. ..	4,078,273	461,958	373,609
1924 .. ..	3,591,219	499,840	368,918
1925 .. ..	4,194,572	523,920	391,129

The purposes for which the slaughtered animals were used were as follows :—

### PURPOSES FOR WHICH STOCK WERE SLAUGHTERED, 1921 TO 1925.

Year ended March—	For Butcher and Private Use.*			For Export.		
	Sheep.	Cattle.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Pigs.
1921 .. ..	2,794,790	310,428	55,521	1,186,704	16,694	7,335
1922 .. ..	3,184,411	413,650	107,022	2,657,515	4,251	..
1923 .. ..	3,372,722	449,101	139,405	691,630	4,011	..
1924 .. ..	2,548,327	484,244	139,808	1,035,799	7,391	..
1925 .. ..	2,697,822	486,739	158,187	1,480,824	25,608	..

Year ended March—	For Preserving and Salting.			For Boiling Down.		
	Sheep.	Cattle.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Pigs.
1921 .. ..	20,622	2,740	176,451	3,471	1,845	331
1922 .. ..	9,763	2,955	200,901	11,506	3,343	249
1923 .. ..	2,632	2,519	232,914	11,289	6,327	290
1924 .. ..	4,452	4,323	228,869	2,641	3,882	241
1925 .. ..	9,725	7,218	232,755	6,201	4,355	187

\* Including carcasses held in Cool Stores at end of year.

Of the 4,194,572 sheep and lambs slaughtered in Victoria in 1925, 1,480,824, or 35 per cent., were frozen, as compared with 1,035,799, or 29 per cent., in 1924, 691,630, or 17 per cent., in 1923, and 2,657,515, or 45 per cent., in 1922. In 1925-26 the oversea exports included 51,161,794 lbs. of mutton and lamb, valued at £1,408,772.

**Mutton and  
Lamb frozen  
for Export.**

The soil and climate of Victoria are well suited to the economical production of both mutton and lamb, and, as there is practically no limit to the demand for these products in Europe, the possibilities for those engaged in raising sheep for export are very great, especially as the number of sheep in the world is not keeping pace with the increase in population. The importance of this export trade to Victorian sheep owners is evidenced by the figures in the appended statement showing the numbers of carcasses exported in each of the last twelve years. In the four years 1915-16 to 1918-19 the quantity exported was small in comparison with earlier years. The chief reasons for this were, in 1915-16, a drought in the preceding year, and, in the three following years, the lack of shipping space. In the year 1919-20 the exports were much greater than in any previous year, due mainly to the accumulations of the previous three years. The quantities exported in 1920-21 were below the average, owing to the dry condition which had prevailed in the previous year. After a world-wide fall in values, the season 1922-23 was marked by exceptionally heavy exports of both mutton and lamb at improved prices. In the 1923-24 season the export of mutton practically ceased, while the number of lambs exported was only about 40 per cent. of that for the previous year. The abnormal activity in 1922-23 was, to some extent, responsible for the great reduction in exports in 1923-24. Other reasons were a tendency among owners to retain their flocks in expectation of high prices for wool, and the demand for breeding ewes from New South Wales, where a drought had depleted the flocks. Compared with 1923-24 the slight improvement manifested in 1924-25 was maintained in 1925-26.

**FROZEN MUTTON AND LAMB EXPORTED.**

Year (ended June).	Number of Carcasses Exported.		
	Mutton.	Lamb.	Total.
1914-15 .. ..	653,329	1,056,823	1,710,152
1915-16 .. ..	..	47,546	47,546
1916-17 .. ..	52,724	365,694	418,418
1917-18 .. ..	48,743	147,524	196,267
1918-19 .. ..	649,082	19,889	668,971
1919-20 .. ..	2,468,091	1,533,411	4,001,502
1920-21 .. ..	372,916	413,170	786,086
1921-22 .. ..	314,564	872,140	1,186,704
1922-23 .. ..	989,456	1,668,059	2,657,515
1923-24 .. ..	12,945	678,685	691,630
1924-25 .. ..	87,767	948,032	1,035,799
1925-26 .. ..	171,803	1,309,021	1,480,824

**Dairying.**

The dairying industry is one of the principal sources of the wealth of the community. The value of dairy produce in 1926 was £10,364,790, as compared with £10,381,175 in 1925, £10,561,940 in 1924, £10,381,310 in 1923, and £9,512,980 in 1922.

The following table shows the numbers of cowkeepers and cows at the end of, and the total production of butter and cheese, in each of the last five years :—

## DAIRYING, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Year ended March—			Number of Cow-keepers.	Number of Dairy Cows.	Butter made.*	Cheese made.*
					lbs.	lbs.
1922	..	..	60,882	719,473	82,981,570	5,675,909
1923	..	..	62,424	794,898	84,355,939	3,754,958
1924	..	..	61,685	738,149	86,888,723	7,216,938
1925	..	..	61,549	760,207	100,849,382	6,193,135
1926	..	..	58,933	727,940	81,747,291	5,279,009

\* Year ended 30th June.

Butter and cheese made on farms.

The next table shows the quantities of butter and cheese made on farms in the last five years :—

## BUTTER AND CHEESE MADE ON FARMS, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Year ended June—				Butter.	Cheese.
				lbs.	lbs.
1922	..	..	..	5,480,421	316,249
1923	..	..	..	5,582,469	418,873
1924	..	..	..	5,597,128	420,552
1925	..	..	..	5,395,087	228,779
1926	..	..	..	4,734,669	389,893

Butter and cheese made in factories.

The quantities of butter, cheese, and concentrated, condensed, powdered milk, casein, and milk sugar made, and of cream sold, in factories during the last five years were as follows :—

## BUTTER, CHEESE, ETC., MADE IN FACTORIES, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Year ended June—	Butter made.	Cream sold.	Cheese made.	Concentrated, Condensed, and Powdered Milk made	Casein made.	Milk Sugar made.
	lbs.	gallons.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1922	77,501,149	160,490	5,359,660	48,354,210	2,022,192	276,786
1923	78,773,470	213,170	3,336,085	38,314,261	2,639,240	410,155
1924	81,291,595	373,236	6,796,386	49,099,632	2,946,346	445,430
1925	95,454,295	495,458	5,964,356	45,693,120	2,716,042	415,753
1926	77,012,622	388,235	4,889,116	43,646,852	1,503,369	152,783

The quantities of milk, in gallons, received at factories and creameries were 193,507,110 in 1921-22, 196,171,380 in 1922-23, 206,915,177 in 1923-24, 294,764,870 in 1924-25, and 251,962,730 in 1925-26.

**Exports of butter and cheese.**

In 1925-26 there were exported from Victoria to countries outside Australia 32,874,047 lbs. of butter, valued at £2,542,626, all of which was Australian produce. The quantity sent to the United Kingdom was 25,756,477 lbs., valued at £1,934,801. The quantity of cheese exported to oversea countries was 292,987 lbs., and the value thereof, £14,406.

**Wool production.**

Information relating to the wool clip is obtained direct from the growers, and an allowance is made for the wool on Victorian skins, both stripped and exported. On this basis the production of wool in 1925-26 and earlier seasons was as follows:—

**VICTORIAN WOOL CLIP AND ESTIMATED TOTAL PRODUCTION.**

Districts.	Wool Clip, 1925-26.			
	Sheep.	Lambs.	Total.	
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	
Central .. ..	5,788,108	458,818	6,246,926	
North-Central .. ..	7,670,392	639,800	8,310,192	
Western .. ..	27,798,504	2,016,302	29,814,806	
Wimmera .. ..	15,122,342	1,069,041	16,191,383	
Mallee .. ..	5,314,867	310,703	5,625,570	
Northern .. ..	13,350,489	1,256,878	14,607,367	
North-Eastern .. ..	4,979,189	454,646	5,433,835	
Gippsland .. ..	4,077,479	306,741	4,384,220	
Total Clip	1925-26	84,101,370	6,512,929	90,614,299
	1924-25	83,932,699	6,819,164	90,751,863
	1923-24	63,803,820	3,519,735	67,326,555
	1922-23	71,088,919	5,105,031	76,193,950
	1921-22	72,829,509	5,365,837	78,195,346
	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Wool clip .. ..	76,193,950	67,326,555	90,751,863	90,614,299
Wool stripped from Victorian skins and on Victorian skins exported (estimated) ..	26,274,000	15,186,806	16,036,034	20,646,515
Total production ..	102,467,950	82,513,361	106,787,897	111,260,814
Total value ..	£6,380,600	£7,695,000	£11,444,240	£7,082,820

In 1925-26 there were 10,990,842 sheep and 2,899,787 lambs shorn, as compared with 9,803,371 sheep and 2,790,054 lambs in 1924-25, 9,463,675 sheep and 1,614,147 lambs in 1923-24, 9,920,239 sheep and 2,278,303 lambs in 1922-23. and 10,072,358 sheep and 2,471,431 lambs in 1921-22.

Weight of  
a fleece.

The next table shows the production of wool per sheep and per lamb shorn in each of the last five years :—

WEIGHT OF A FLEECE, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Year.	Weight of a Fleece.		
	Sheep.	Lambs.	Sheep and Lambs combined.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1921-22 .. . . .	7·23	2·17	6·23
1922-23 .. . . .	7·17	2·25	6·25
1923-24 .. . . .	6·74	2·18	6·08
1924-25 .. . . .	8·56	2·44	7·21
1925-26 .. . . .	7·65	2·25	6·52

The production of wool in Victoria, the quantity and value of that used locally for manufacturing purposes, and the balance available for export, in each of the last five years, were as follows :—

WOOL PRODUCTION : HOME CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTABLE BALANCE, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Year.	Production.		Used in Manufactures.		Available for Export.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£
1921-22	103,512,777	4,662,750	13,293,010	553,875	90,219,767	4,108,875
1922-23	102,467,950	6,380,600	15,926,225	995,389	86,541,725	5,385,211
1923-24	82,513,361	7,695,000	13,068,648	1,218,500	69,444,713	6,476,500
1924-25	106,787,897	11,444,240	14,420,497	1,644,500	92,367,400	9,799,740
1925-26	111,260,814	7,082,820	17,642,326	1,212,910	93,618,488	5,869,910

Prices of wool.

The following information as to the average prices of wool per lb. which have prevailed during the last three seasons has been obtained from Melbourne wool brokers :—

PRICES OF WOOL, 1923-24 TO 1925-26.

Class of Wool.	Average Price per lb. in—		
	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
<b>GREASY MERINO.</b>			
Extra Super (Western District)	43d. to 44d.	38d. to 41d.	35d. to 39d.
Super .. .. .	34d. to 38d.	31d. to 34d.	28d. to 30d.
Good .. .. .	27d. to 28d.	25d. to 27d.	23d. to 25d.
Average .. .. .	24d. to 26d.	22d. to 24d.	19d. to 21d.
Wasty and Inferior .. .. .	19d. to 21d.	16d. to 18d.	15d. to 17d.
Extra Super Lambs .. .. .	32d. to 34d.	28d. to 30d.	32d. to 34d.
Super Lambs .. .. .	24d. to 27d.	21d. to 23d.	24d. to 27d.
Good Lambs .. .. .	18d. to 20d.	16d. to 18d.	18d. to 20d.
Average Lambs .. .. .	15d. to 18d.	13d. to 15d.	14d. to 17d.
Inferior Lambs .. .. .	10d. to 12d.	7d. to 10d.	8d. to 11d.
<b>GREASY CROSSBRED.</b>			
Extra Super Comebacks .. .. .	37d. to 40d.	32d. to 34d.	30d. to 32d.
Super Comebacks .. .. .	30d. to 34d.	27d. to 30d.	26d. to 29d.
Fine Crossbred .. .. .	24d. to 26d.	21d. to 23d.	20d. to 22d.
Medium Crossbred .. .. .	18d. to 19d.	17d. to 18d.	16d. to 18d.
Coarse Crossbred and Lincoln	11d. to 13d.	12d. to 14d.	11d. to 12d.
Super Fine Crossbred Lambs .. .. .	22d. to 24d.	20d. to 22d.	22d. to 24d.
Good Crossbred Lambs .. .. .	16d. to 18d.	15d. to 17d.	18d. to 19d.
Coarse and Lincoln Lambs .. .. .	10d. to 12d.	11d. to 13d.	13d. to 15d.
<b>SCOURED.</b>			
Extra Super Fleece .. .. .	58d. to 62d.	50d. to 54d.	45d. to 48d.
Super Fleece .. .. .	54d. to 56d.	45d. to 47d.	33d. to 42d.
Good Fleece .. .. .	46d. to 50d.	38d. to 40d.	34d. to 36d.
Average Fleece .. .. .	36d. to 44d.	29d. to 34d.	25d. to 27d.
<b>RECORD PRICES FOR THE SEASON.</b>			
Greasy Merino Fleece .. .. .	46½d.	53½d.	42½d.
„ Comeback Fleece .. .. .	42½d.	50½d.	34½d.
„ Merino Lambs .. .. .	43½d.	48½d.	33½d.
„ Comeback Lambs .. .. .	37d.	41½d.	26½d.
Scoured Fleece .. .. .	64d.	61d.	48½d.



Flocks of  
sheep in  
districts.

Returns which were collected in March, 1925, give full information in regard to the flocks of sheep in Victoria. The numbers of flocks and of sheep at that time in the different districts were as follows :—

### NUMBERS OF FLOCKS AND OF SHEEP IN DISTRICTS, 1925.

District.	Number of—		Average Number of Sheep to a Flock.	Percentage of—	
	Flocks.	Sheep.		Flocks.	Sheep.
Central .. .. .	2,291	990,194	432	9·66	7·84
North-Central .. ..	2,098	1,190,606	567	8·84	9·43
Western .. .. .	5,003	4,122,779	824	21·08	32·66
Wimmera .. .. .	4,220	2,125,327	504	17·78	16·84
Mallee .. .. .	1,849	665,674	360	7·79	5·27
Northern .. .. .	4,647	1,971,660	424	19·58	15·62
North-Eastern .. ..	2,073	865,435	417	8·74	6·86
Gippsland .. .. .	1,550	691,340	446	6·53	5·48
Total .. .. .	23,731	12,623,015	532	100·00	100·00

The figures do not include 26,883 sheep which were travelling on roads or were located in cities and towns. Flocks were fewer in number in all districts, except the Mallee, in 1925 than in 1919. In the six years referred to the number of flocks decreased by 93 in the Central, 336 in the North-Central, 1,077 in the Western, 62 in the Wimmera, 639 in the Northern, 376 in the North-Eastern, and 1,359 in the Gippsland district, and increased by 335 in the Mallee, the total decrease for the State being 4,607, or 16 per cent. The average number of sheep to a flock showed a very marked decrease in the Mallee, and decreases less pronounced in the Wimmera, Northern, North-Eastern, and Gippsland districts, while in the Central, North-Central, and Western districts there were slight increases. The average number of sheep in a flock was 532 in 1925, as compared with 555 in 1919, 477 in 1917,

478 in 1913, 531 in 1910, 642 in 1903, and 706 in 1906. The number of sheep in the State decreased from 15,773,902 in 1919 to 12,649,898 in 1925. All divisions of the State showed substantial decreases during the six years under review.

Sizes of  
flocks.

Excluding sheep travelling and those in cities and towns, the following table contains a classification for the whole State of sheep according to sizes of flocks :—

### SHEEP ACCORDING TO SIZES OF FLOCKS, 1925.

Size of Flocks.	Number of—		Percentage of—	
	Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.
Under 500 .. ..	17,187	2,939,575	72·42	23·29
500 and under 1,000 ..	3,692	2,519,857	15·56	19·96
1,000 .. 2,000 ..	1,725	2,317,968	7·27	18·36
2,000 .. 5,000 ..	851	2,428,522	3·59	19·24
5,000 .. 10,000 ..	207	1,399,428	·87	11·09
10,000 .. 20,000 ..	62	824,643	·26	6·53
20,000 and upwards ..	7	193,022	·03	1·53
Total .. ..	23,731	12,623,015	100·00	100·00

A comparison of the above figures with those for 1919 shows that flocks of less than 500 sheep had decreased by 3,243, those of 500 to 1,000 by 647, 1,000 to 2,000 by 508, 2,000 to 5,000 by 104, 5,000 to 10,000 by 40, 10,000 to 20,000 by 49, and those of over 20,000 by 16. The decrease in the number of sheep in the whole State in the same period was 20 per cent. Six of the 7 largest, 42 of the 62 second largest flocks, and 130 of the 207 flocks of between 5,000 to 10,000 sheep in 1925 were in the Western District.

Areas of holdings and numbers and sizes of flocks of sheep.

The numbers and sizes of flocks of sheep on holdings of various areas, including those on Crown land not held conjointly with that privately owned, in March, 1925, are given in the next table. Although only 6,969 flocks, or 29 per cent. of the total number, were depastured on holdings of 900 acres and over, these accounted for 8,607,471 sheep, or 68 per cent. of the total.

AREAS OF HOLDINGS AND NUMBERS AND SIZES OF FLOCKS THEREON, 1925.

Area of Holdings. (Acres).	Number and Size of Flocks.																
	Under 500.		500 and under 1,000.		1,000 and under 2,000.		2,000 and under 5,000.		5,000 and under 10,000.		10,000 and under 20,000.		20,000 and upwards.		Total.		
	Number of Flocks.	Number of Sheep.	Number of Flocks.	Number of Sheep.	Number of Flocks.	Number of Sheep.	Number of Flocks.	Number of Sheep.	Number of Flocks.	Number of Sheep.	Number of Flocks.	Number of Sheep.	Number of Flocks.	Number of Sheep.	Number of Flocks.	Number of Sheep.	
1 and under 200	3,663	298,499	69	43,539	14	17,657	3	7,781	1	7,800	..	..	..	..	3,750	375,276	
200 " 321	3,162	457,305	161	101,294	25	30,769	5	13,022	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,353	602,390	
321 " 500	3,111	574,331	326	209,522	38	45,313	4	9,820	1	7,160	1	13,102	..	..	3,481	859,248	
500 " 641	2,526	496,909	507	330,298	70	86,091	12	32,507	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,115	945,805	
641 " 900	2,108	466,885	787	530,157	152	188,145	14	36,168	19	11,470	..	..	..	..	3,063	1,232,825	
900 " 1,500	2,049	494,290	1,242	867,638	578	746,369	82	201,935	3	18,061	..	..	..	..	3,954	2,328,293	
1,500 " 2,500	479	125,962	487	356,025	584	809,394	214	547,658	6	38,791	..	..	..	..	1,770	1,877,830	
2,500 " 5,000	79	22,459	106	76,677	236	352,652	405	1,204,758	33	192,386	1	10,063	1	29,000	861	1,887,995	
5,000 " 10,000	10	2,935	6	4,207	26	39,508	106	354,864	120	802,244	11	125,435	..	..	..	279	1,329,193
10,000 and upwards	..	..	1	500	2	2,070	6	20,009	41	321,516	49	676,043	6	164,022	105	1,184,160	
Total ..	17,187	2,939,575	3,692	2,519,857	1,725	2,317,968	851	2,428,522	207	1,309,428	62	824,643	7	193,022	23,731	12,623,015	

NOTE.—Where Crown land is held in conjunction with privately-owned land, the holding is classified according to the area privately owned.

Live Stock  
in Australia  
and  
New Zealand.

In the following statement are given the numbers of horses, cattle, sheep and pigs in the various Australian States and New Zealand, according to the latest available figures:—

LIVE STOCK IN AUSTRALASIA.

State, &c.	Horses.	Cattle.		Sheep.	Pigs.
		Dairy Cows.	Other.		
Victoria .. ..	463,051	727,940	785,847	13,740,500	339,601
New South Wales ..	649,534	840,930	2,090,888	53,687,749	382,331
Federal Capital Territory .. ..	1,501	646	4,666	172,251	343
Queensland .. ..	637,436	611,426	5,825,219	20,663,323	199,598
South Australia ..	244,111	136,273	237,324	6,810,495	90,794
Northern Territory ..	46,380	970,342		8,030	382
Western Australia ..	170,563	63,008	772,903	6,861,795	74,316
Tasmania .. ..	37,785	70,382	141,991	1,619,075	41,009
New Zealand .. ..	314,867	1,303,856	2,148,630	24,904,993	472,534

The returns for 1925-26 show that there were in that year 3,799 bee-keepers, who owned 58,251 frame and 7,941 box hives, producing 2,037,355 lbs. and 77,452 lbs. of honey respectively, and 28,812 lbs. of beeswax. The number of bee-keepers owning 20 hives and upwards was 690, as compared with 785 in the previous season. In 1925-26, the quantity of honey produced in the Wimmera district was 735,788 lbs., in the North-Eastern district, 273,057 lbs., and in the Northern district, 376,531 lbs. The more important particulars of the industry for the last five years are given below:—

BEE-KEEPING, 1921-22 to 1925-26.

Season ended May—	Number of Bee-keepers.	Number of Hives.	Honey produced.	Beeswax produced.
			lbs.	lbs.
1922 .. ..	4,046	50,147	2,712,675	32,737
1923 .. ..	3,756	52,060	2,285,000	27,182
1924 .. ..	3,535	60,760	2,110,713	25,371
1925 .. ..	3,483	71,918	4,054,975	47,117
1926 .. ..	3,799	66,192	2,114,807	28,812

State  
expenditure  
on rabbit  
destruction.

Active operations for the destruction of rabbits, &c., on Crown lands were first undertaken by the Government in 1880, and from that date to 30th June, 1926, sums amounting to £1,225,081 had been expended in connexion therewith, including subsidies to Shire Councils for the destruction

of wild animals. The following are the amounts spent since 1879 :—

### EXPENDITURE ON DESTRUCTION OF RABBITS, ETC.

	£		£
1879-80 to 1888-9	.. 142,963	1921-22 .. ..	40,766
1889-90 to 1898-9	.. 208,638	1922-23 .. ..	47,410
1899-1900 to 1908-9	.. 170,050	1923-24 .. ..	85,489
1909-10 to 1918-19	.. 283,693	1924-25 .. ..	84,368
1919-20 .. ..	.. 36,672	1925-26 ... ..	88,874
1920-21 .. ..	.. 36,158		

In addition to the expenditure of £1,225,081 referred to above, sums have frequently been advanced from Loan Funds for the purchase of wire netting for supply to municipalities and land owners. The amounts of these advances in the last five years were as follows :—£15,447 in 1921-22, £23,731 in 1922-23, £26,275 in 1923-24, £32,399 in 1924-25, and £42,628 in 1925-26. A complete system, administered by an officer called the Chief Inspector under the Vermin Destruction Act, exists for effectually keeping the rabbits under control.

The quantity of rabbits, hares, and wild-fowl sold at the Melbourne Fish Market in each of the last five years was as shown in the following statement :—

### RABBITS, HARES, AND WILD-FOWL SOLD AT THE MELBOURNE FISH MARKET, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Year ended June.	Rabbits.	Hares.	Wild-fowl.
	pairs.	brace.	brace.
1921-22 .. ..	429,372	8	21,708
1922-23 .. ..	431,196	21	16,428
1923-24 .. ..	448,656	42	8,148
1924-25 .. ..	937,704	74	11,640
1925-26 .. ..	1,916,460	783	14,784

Large quantities of frozen rabbits and hares and of rabbit and hare skins have been exported to overseas countries, the numbers and values for each of the last five years being as follows :—

### RABBITS AND HARES AND RABBIT AND HARE SKINS EXPORTED OVERSEA, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Year ended June.	Frozen Rabbits and Hares.		Rabbit and Hare Skins.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	pairs.	£	lbs.	£
1921-22 .. ..	454,052	35,385	2,623,228	201,021
1922-23 .. ..	141,312	10,176	2,140,915	237,853
1923-24 .. ..	80,499	8,477	2,073,613	282,266
1924-25 .. ..	54,174	5,196	2,020,070	349,956
1925-26 .. ..	456,849	53,423	3,513,046	579,000

## FISHERIES.

The numbers of men and boats engaged in the fishing industry at the different fishing stations throughout the State are given in the following table for the year 1925-26 :—

Numbers of men and boats engaged in fishing.

VICTORIAN FISHERIES—MEN AND BOATS EMPLOYED,  
1925-26.

Fishing Stations.	Number of Men.	Boats.		Value of Nets and other Plant.
		Number.	Value.	
Anderson's Inlet .. .. .	10	7	£ 450	£ 186
Anglesea River .. .. .	1	1	20	15
Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove .. .. .	7	4	650	65
Brighton .. .. .	8	7	175	76
Corner Inlet, Welshpool, Toora, and Port Franklin .. .. .	87	71	9,057	3,779
Dromana .. .. .	31	25	1,597	263
Frankston .. .. .	8	4	152	160
Geelong .. .. .	52	29	2,818	865
Gippsland Lakes .. .. .	213	153	11,737	5,896
Kerang .. .. .	6	5	43	77
Lake Boga .. .. .	2	2	27	23
Lorne .. .. .	3	2	70	20
Lindsay R. .. .. .	7	6	59	163
Mallacoota .. .. .	12	8	1,508	162
Mentone .. .. .	17	12	314	226
Mordialloc, Chelsea, and Carrum .. .. .	57	37	2,593	535
Mornington .. .. .	33	21	1,974	587
Portarlington and St. Leonards .. .. .	60	34	2,184	831
Portland .. .. .	46	31	4,959	615
Port Albert .. .. .	69	40	3,520	1,323
Port Campbell .. .. .	2	2	120	17
Port Fairy .. .. .	44	34	5,650	342
Port Melbourne .. .. .	40	28	1,943	638
Queenscliff .. .. .	133	72	13,470	979
Rainbow .. .. .	7	5	92	34
Sandringham .. .. .	47	31	3,139	482
Sorrento, Portsea, and Rye .. .. .	71	41	3,830	806
St. Kilda .. .. .	26	15	1,173	343
Torquay .. .. .	4	2	35	50
Warrnambool .. .. .	11	11	620	90
Werribee .. .. .	8	4	437	63
Waranga Basin .. .. .	10	9	105	68
Western Port (Cowes, Hastings, Grantville, Flinders, San Remo, and Tooradin) .. .. .	128	97	10,678	1,388
Williamstown .. .. .	50	32	2,736	718
Wonthaggi .. .. .	11	9	531	194
Total .. .. .	1,321	891	88,466	22,079

**Melbourne Fish Market.** The quantities and values of fish sold in the Melbourne Fish Market during each of the years 1924-25 and 1925-26 were as shown in the next table:—

**FISH SOLD IN THE MELBOURNE FISH MARKET,  
1924-25 AND 1925-26.**

		1924-25.		1925-26.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Fresh Fish (Victorian)	lbs.	9,326,775	£ 133,295	8,720,225	£ 148,970
Crayfish .. ..	doz.	46,414	41,773	41,745	45,920
Imported Fish (fresh or frozen) *	.. lbs.	3,080,818	77,020	3,662,898	91,572
Oysters .. ..	.. bags	12,022	43,886	13,084	50,745
<b>Total .. ..</b>			<b>295,974</b>		<b>337,207</b>

In addition to the above, 10,104 cwt. of smoked fish, and 1,572 baskets of prawns were sold in this market in 1925-26.

**Victorian fish sold.** The quantity and value of fish caught in Victorian waters and sold in the Melbourne and Ballarat markets and elsewhere in 1925-26 were as follows:—

**VICTORIAN FISH SOLD IN 1925-26.**

Markets.	Quantity.		Value.	
	Fish.	Crayfish.	Fish.	Crayfish.
	lbs.	doz.	£	£
Melbourne .. ..	8,720,225	21,465	148,970	23,611
Ballarat .. ..	500,177	651	8,853	515
Other .. ..	279,988	629	4,703	690
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>9,500,390</b>	<b>22,745</b>	<b>162,606</b>	<b>24,816</b>

**Fish imported.** In connexion with this subject, the quantities and values of the different classes of fish imported are of interest. Particulars of imports from oversea countries in each of the last two years are given in the following statement:—

**FISH IMPORTED, 1924-25 AND 1925-26.**

		1924-25.		1925-26.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Fish—			£		£
Fresh or Frozen .. ..	.. lbs.	2,619,729	74,091	2,867,725	71,243
Smoked .. ..	.. ..	32,000	2,873	18,783	2,360
Fresh Oysters .. ..	.. cwt.	1,646	1,222	2,823	2,165
Potted or Concentrated, &c. ..	.. ..	..	17,914	..	21,869
Preserved in tins, &c. ..	.. lbs.	7,614,873	332,298	7,648,551	335,419
N.E.I. .. ..	.. cwt.	3,043	9,043	2,815	8,695
<b>Total .. ..</b>			<b>437,441</b>		<b>441,751</b>

The most important item in this table is fish preserved in tins and other air-tight vessels, of which 3,969,107 lbs. came from Canada, 835,156 lbs. from Norway, 1,322,120 lbs. from the United Kingdom, and 1,217,398 lbs. from the United States of America, in 1925-26.

The figures relating to agriculture and live stock in Victoria and Great Britain in 1925 are, for comparative purposes, placed side by side in the table which follows :—

AGRICULTURE AND LIVE STOCK IN VICTORIA AND GREAT BRITAIN, 1925.

	Victoria.	Great Britain.
Area .. .. . acres	56,245,760	56,208,959
Wheat .. .. . bushels	29,255,534	52,789,000
Oats .. .. . "	4,998,165	117,320,000
Barley .. .. . "	1,774,963	51,654,400
Peas .. .. . "	166,543	2,389,000
Potatoes .. .. . tons	160,729	4,209,000
Turnips and swedes .. .. . "	2,758*	16,013,000
Mangolds .. .. . "	10,333	7,150,900
Hay .. .. . "	929,068	7,992,000
Horses .. .. . No.	463,051	1,130,962
Cattle .. .. . "	1,513,787	7,368,121
Sheep .. .. . "	13,740,500	23,093,614
Pigs .. .. . "	339,601	2,798,576

\* Includes beet, carrots, and parsnips.

MINING.

The supervision of mining and the inspection of mines are regulated by Act of Parliament. Authority for all mining operations, whether on Crown or private lands, must be obtained in the prescribed manner, and mining leases giving the right to enter on private land for mining purposes may be issued to another than the owner.

The taking out of a "miner's right" entitles the holder to prospect for gold on Crown lands. The right may be had on payment of a sum of 2s. 6d. per annum and remains in force for any number of years not exceeding fifteen. The holder is entitled to take possession for mining purposes of a defined parcel of Crown lands, which is called a "claim." The revenue in 1925-26 from miners' rights was £1,999.

Leases for the purpose of mining for gold are granted for a term not exceeding fifteen years at a yearly rental of 2s. 6d. per acre. For mining leases of land to be worked by means of dredging or hydraulic sluicing the yearly rent is 5s. per acre. Other mineral and coal mining leases are also issued at varying rates. The revenue from these sources in 1925-26 was £3,676.



The area of Crown and private lands under occupation for mining purposes on 31st December, 1925, was 41,762 acres. The subjoined table shows the area being worked for different minerals :—

AREA UNDER OCCUPATION FOR MINING PURPOSES,  
31ST DECEMBER, 1925 (CROWN LAND AND PRIVATE  
LAND).

Nature of Mineral, &c.	Area.
	acres.
Gold .. .. .	26,795
Coal (ordinary) .. .. .	5,042
Coal (brown) .. .. .	589
Aluminium .. .. .	6
Bauxite .. .. .	92
Bluestone .. .. .	42
Clay .. .. .	65
Clay and Chalk .. .. .	6
Clay and Slum .. .. .	30
Copper .. .. .	100
Copper and Silver .. .. .	100
Dolomite and Clay .. .. .	1
Decomposed Slates and Sandstone .. .. .	2
Granite .. .. .	20
Gypsum .. .. .	1,035
Hematite and Iron Ores .. .. .	.8
Infusorial Earth .. .. .	9
Iron .. .. .	315
Kaolin .. .. .	43
Lead .. .. .	80
Limestone .. .. .	183
Limestone and Clay .. .. .	27
Magnesite .. .. .	126
Manganese .. .. .	2,056
Manganese and Cobalt .. .. .	19
Marble .. .. .	6
Molybdenite .. .. .	336
Molybdenite and Gold .. .. .	40
Molybdenite, Copper, and Silver .. .. .	29
Oil .. .. .	916
Pigments .. .. .	69
Pigments and Clay .. .. .	9
Quicksilver .. .. .	55
Sand .. .. .	19
Sand and Gravel .. .. .	5
Silicate of Alumina .. .. .	51
Silver and Gold .. .. .	79
Silver and Lead .. .. .	196
Slate .. .. .	117
Sulphates and Oil .. .. .	223
Tin .. .. .	1,810
Wolfram and Tin .. .. .	454
Water-right Licences .. .. .	557
Total .. .. .	41,762

The mining industry has been well fostered by the Government, not only in the way of financial assistance but also by means of geological surveys and boring. Apart from the annual expenditure of the Mines Department from consolidated revenue, of which a statement is appended, loan moneys amounting to £520,421 (including £249,399 expended on the State Coal Mine), and portions of surplus revenues of past years amounting to £85,000, had been expended or advanced for developmental purposes from 1st July, 1899, to 30th June, 1926.

STATE EXPENDITURE ON MINING, 1921-22 to 1925-26.

Item.	Expenditure from Consolidated Revenue.				
	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
	£	£	£	£	£
Mines Department .. ..	26,785	27,085	26,176	24,567	23,569
State Coal Mine .. ..	499,076	436,753	519,536	458,380	471,530
Brown Coal Mine .. ..	44,426	48,886	45,830	*	*
Coal Mines Regulation—Sinking Fund and Depreciation Fund	82,786	22,342	39,628	37,002	41,807
Diamond drills for prospecting ..	9,809	9,411	10,597	12,476	12,242
Testing plants .. ..	3,212	3,148	3,499	3,571	3,120
Geological and underground surveys of mines .. ..	2,506	3,071	3,436	3,591	3,595
Mining Development—					
Advances to companies, &c., boring for gold, coal, &c. ..	8,161	6,963	6,711	8,739	12,368
Miscellaneous .. ..	2,024	1,806	2,107	2,431	2,143
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>678,785</b>	<b>559,465</b>	<b>657,520</b>	<b>550,757</b>	<b>570,374</b>

\* The control of the Brown Coal Mine was transferred to the Electricity Commissioners on 1st April, 1924.

Yearly grants are also made to Schools of Mines, particulars of which will be found on page 337 of this work. Since 1st July, 1899, £520,421 has been apportioned from loan receipts and expended on mining development; details of this expenditure appear in the next statement:—

LOAN MONEY EXPENDED ON MINING DEVELOPMENT.

	£
Advances to companies—Development of mining ..	62,740
"    "    "    Boring for gold and coal, &c. ..	62,532
Construction of roads and tracks for mining purposes ..	57,579
Plant for testing metalliferous material .. ..	12,357
Construction of races and dams .. ..	8,260
Advances to miners for prospecting .. ..	27,839
Purchase of cyanide process patent rights .. ..	20,000
Equipping Schools of Mines with mining appliances ..	9,975
State Coal Mine .. ..	249,399
Miscellaneous .. ..	9,740
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>520,421</b>

The advances from loan moneys and revenue to mining companies to 30th June, 1926, for the development of mining, totalled £270,046, of which sum £40,630 had up to that date been repaid, £51,383 realized, and £151,065 written off, leaving £26,968 outstanding. Interest received during 1925-26 amounted to £233, and interest outstanding on 30th June, 1926, to £2,839.

The mineral production of the State (excluding salt) is summarized in the subjoined statement, which contains particulars of the recorded production of all metals and minerals up to the end of the year 1925:—

**TOTAL MINERAL PRODUCTION TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1925.**

Metals and Minerals.	Recorded prior to 1925.		Recorded during 1925.		Total Recorded to end of 1925.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Fine ozs.	£	Fine ozs.	£	Fine ozs.	£
Gold .. .. .	71,129,701	302,138,996	47,296	200,958	71,176,997	302,339,954
Silver .. .. .	1,459,353	221,994	2,082	291	1,461,435*	222,285
Platinum .. .. .	30,577	7,880	..	..	30,577	7,880
	311	1,671	..	..	311	1,671
Coal, black .. .. .	10,725,057	7,374,153	534,246	596,117	11,259,303	7,970,270
"  brown .. .. .	878,321	297,288	876,468	166,404	1,754,789	463,692
Ore—copper .. .. .	18,730	218,590	..	..	18,730	218,590
"  tin .. .. .	16,826	932,021	69	11,592	16,895	949,613
"  antimony .. .. .	105,581	606,655	269	5,380	105,850	612,035
"  silver-lead .. .. .	793	5,760	..	..	793	5,760
"  iron .. .. .	5,434	12,540	..	..	5,434	12,540
"  manganese .. .. .	407	1,949	..	..	407	1,949
Wolfram .. .. .	118	11,785	..	..	118	11,785
Diamonds .. .. .	..	128	..	..	..	128
Sapphires, &c. .. .. .	..	630	..	..	..	630
Gypsum .. .. .	76,738	57,751	14,518	11,291	91,256	69,042
Magnesite .. .. .	1,632	4,944	91	273	1,723	5,217
Kaolin .. .. .	26,606	34,300	1,594	2,262	28,200	36,562
Diatomaceous earth .. .. .	8,057	33,137	..	..	8,057	33,137
Pigment clays .. .. .	1,846	3,208	307	650	2,153	3,858
Phosphate rock .. .. .	15,661	16,644	..	..	15,661	16,644
Molybdenite .. .. .	792	18,016	34½	5,545	826½†	23,561
Fluorspar .. .. .	623	1,888	..	..	623	1,888
Bluestone, freestone, granite, &c. † .. .. .	..	7,966,481	..	587,910	..	8,554,391
Limestone, &c. § .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>319,971,409</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>1,588,673</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>321,557,082</b>

\* Extracted from gold at the Melbourne Mint. † Concentrates. ‡ From 1866 only.  
§ Record from 1900.

NOTE.—The value of gold as shown above is based on the average value of Victorian gold received at the Melbourne Mint.

Gold was first found in Victoria in 1849 in the Pyrenees Ranges, but it was not until 1851 that the first discovery of any importance took place. In the latter part of that year the Clunes, Anderson's Creek, Ballarat, and Bendigo fields were successively discovered, and over 200,000 ounces of gold were produced. Next year the gold rush took place, and it is estimated that, in 1852, 40,000 men were camped at Ballarat, 25,000 at Castlemaine, and 40,000 at

Bendigo. The production of gold in 1852 amounted to 2,286,535 ounces, and in the ten years 1852-1861 it totalled over 25,000,000 ounces. The largest quantity produced in any one year was 3,053,744 ounces in 1856. The annual value of the output for the ten years 1852-1861 averaged over £10,000,000 sterling. The estimated value of the gold produced from 1851 to 1925 was £302,339,954, as shown in the preceding statement.

The quantities of gold raised in Victoria in different periods are shown in the next table:—

**GOLD RAISED IN VICTORIA, 1851 TO 1925.**

Period.	Quantity (Fine ozs.).	Period.	Quantity (Fine ozs.).
1851-60 .. ..	23,334,263*	1916-20 .. ..	905,561
1861-70 .. ..	16,276,566*	1921 .. ..	104,512
1871-80 .. ..	10,156,297*	1922 .. ..	106,872
1881-90 .. ..	7,103,448*	1923 .. ..	95,403
1891-1900 .. ..	7,476,038*	1924 .. ..	67,167
1901-10 .. ..	7,095,061	1925 .. ..	47,296
1911-15 .. ..	2,161,349		

\* Gross ozs.

The yield has been on the down grade since 1906, the return for the State for 1925 having been the lowest since 1851. The quantities raised in the other principal gold-producing States in 1925 were 441,252 ounces in Western Australia, 46,406 ounces in Queensland, and 19,422 ounces in New South Wales. The total production of gold in the world in 1924, as shown in the United States Mint Report, was 18,826,086 ounces.

The yield of gold for the last two years in each mining district of the State, as estimated by the mining registrars, is shown in the following table. The quantities represented by the aggregate figures, which are given in gross ounces, exceed the total output of 1924 by 480 ounces, and are 141 ounces less than that of 1925:—

**DISTRICT YIELDS OF GOLD, ALLUVIAL AND QUARTZ,  
1924 AND 1925.**

Mining District.	1924.			1925.		
	Alluvial.	Quartz.	Total.	Alluvial.	Quartz.	Total.
	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.
Ararat and Stawell ..	2,839	32	2,871	3,703	60	3,763
Ballarat .. ..	1,216	904	2,120	910	1,068	1,978
Beechworth .. ..	4,762	20,716	25,478	6,631	10,844	17,475
Bendigo .. ..	440	28,097	28,537	337	17,347	17,684
Castlemaine .. ..	1,544	12,007	13,551	1,529	7,194	8,723
Gippsland .. ..	654	724	1,378	145	121	266
Maryborough .. ..	351	832	1,183	193	1,634	1,827
Total .. ..	11,806	63,312	75,118	13,448	38,268	51,716

**Gold-mining dividends.** The amount of the dividends declared in each of the last five years by gold-mining companies operating in each mining district of the State was as follows:—

**DIVIDENDS PAID BY GOLD MINING COMPANIES IN EACH MINING DISTRICT, 1921 TO 1925.**

Mining District.	Amount Distributed.				
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
	£	£	£	£	£
Ararat and Stawell .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..
Ballarat .. .. .	13	..	1,635	475	..
Beechworth .. .. .	13,455	18,450	9,000	..	..
Bendigo .. .. .	6,750	20,250	37,872	13,500	6,000
Castlemaine .. .. .	5,830	17,883	12,459	..	..
Gippsland .. .. .	1,096	..	..	..	..
Maryborough .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..
Total .. .. .	27,144	56,583	60,966	13,975	6,000

**Gold miners.** The average number of men employed in gold mining is estimated annually by the Mines Department. The figures for the last five years are given below:—

**NUMBER OF MEN EMPLOYED IN GOLD MINING, 1921 to 1925.**

Year.	Alluvial Miners.	Quartz Miners.	Total.
1921 .. .. .	1,073	1,977	3,050
1922 .. .. .	1,048	2,262	3,310
1923 .. .. .	770	2,212	2,982
1924 .. .. .	816	1,835	2,651
1925 .. .. .	725	1,628	2,353

The number of men employed in each mining district in 1925 was as follows:—Ararat and Stawell, 158; Ballarat, 62; Bendigo, 910; Beechworth, 580; Castlemaine, 353; Gippsland, 140; and Maryborough, 145.

**Value of machinery on gold-fields.** The value of the mining plants employed in alluvial and quartz mining during each of the last five years was as shown hereunder:—

**VALUE OF MACHINERY ON GOLD-FIELDS, 1921 TO 1925.**

Year.	Approximate Value of Machinery Employed in—		
	Alluvial Mining.	Quartz Mining.	Total.
	£	£	£
1921 .. .. .	156,642	508,643	665,285
1922 .. .. .	135,295	508,630	643,925
1923 .. .. .	133,200	486,300	619,500
1924 .. .. .	95,777	381,050	476,827
1925 .. .. .	99,179	331,550	430,729

**Dredging and sluicing.** A feature of alluvial mining in Victoria for the last twenty-four years has been the treatment in bulk of low-grade auriferous alluvial deposits and their overburden by bucket dredges and pump hydraulic sluicing plants on barges. In 1925, the number of pump hydraulic sluices at work was 4, in addition to which 12 jet elevators, 2 gravitation plants, and 1 bucket dredge were operating. Particulars relating to these dredging and sluicing plants for the last five years are as follows:—

## DREDGING AND SLUICING, 1921 to 1925.

Year.			Number of Plants.	Area Worked.	Quantity of Material Treated.	Gold Obtained.	Tin Obtained.
				acres.	cub. yds.	ozs.	tons.
1921	..	..	42	99	3,554,674	15,734	78
1922	..	..	32	41	1,736,735	11,939	115
1923	..	..	24	27	1,294,300	9,017	77
1924	..	..	17	13	1,193,900	5,260	38
1925	..	..	19	22	1,332,600	7,184	69

These plants employed 153 men in 1925. The yield of gold in that year per cubic yard of material was 2·6 grains. Since the inception of dredge mining 1,887,541 ounces of gold and 1,648 tons of tin have been won by this system.

**Cyanidation.** The quantity of tailings treated at old lode and alluvial mines by the cyanide process and the yield of gold therefrom are shown in the subjoined table for the last five years:—

## CYANIDATION, 1921 to 1925.

Year.				Number of Plants.	Quantity of Tailings Treated.	Yield of Gold.	Value of Yield.
					tons.	ozs.	£
1921	..	..	..	20	39,937	5,326	17,212
1922	..	..	..	12	41,163	5,847	22,654
1923	..	..	..	14	18,644	3,415	13,445
1924	..	..	..	14	12,108	2,052	7,637
1925	..	..	..	14	8,344	971	3,281

Records show that the total amount of tailings which have been treated by the cyanide and other processes is 16,002,883 tons, and that the gold which has been won thereby amounts to 1,281,729 ounces, which is equal to an average yield of 1 dwt. 14 grs. per ton.

A Sludge Abatement Board, appointed by the Government, is entrusted with the duty of regulating the disposal of mining sludge, and preventing the silting of streams and injury to lands by battery sand and infertile debris.

**Government batteries.** Batteries for testing small quantities of ore for prospectors have been erected by the Government in various mining districts. The number of these plants and their operations in the last five years were as follows:—

#### GOVERNMENT BATTERIES, 1921 TO 1925.

Year.					Number of Batteries.	Quantity of Ore Treated.	Yield of Gold.
1921	..	..	..	..	34	tons. 1,748	ozs. 1,367
1922	..	..	..	..	34	1,286	1,424
1923	..	..	..	..	34	1,000	649
1924	..	..	..	..	33	1,006	668
1925	..	..	..	..	31	895	776

Since 1897, the year in which the first battery was erected, 75,091 tons of ore have been crushed for 52,243 ounces of gold.

**Coal mining.** Bituminous coal is found in three main areas in the southern portion of the State, viz., the Wannon, the Otway, and South Gippsland. The Wannon area is comparatively unprospected, owing to almost the whole of the land having been sold. In the Otway area bores have been sunk without disclosing seams of payable thickness. The South Gippsland area occupies about 2,000 square miles, and coal mining is being carried on at Wonthaggi, Kilcunda, Outtrim, Jumbunna, and Korumburra.

**Brown coal.** The brown coal beds of Victoria have an approximate area of 1,200 square miles, and are reputed to be the thickest known. At Morwell, 780 feet of coal were passed through in a bore 1,010 feet deep. It is estimated that the average thickness of the coal in the deposits at Morwell, Alberton, and Altona is 50 feet, and that the total deposits in the State amount to 11,000,000,000 tons. These deposits are practically untouched, as the total output of brown coal for all years has been only 1,754,789 tons (valued at £463,692), of which 876,468 tons were obtained in 1925. Of the total output for that year 168,201 tons valued at £58,870 were obtained from the State Brown Coal Mine at Morwell, and 701,761 tons valued at £105,264 from the State Mine at Yallourn.

A comprehensive statement of the activities controlled by the State Electricity Commission of Victoria will be found on page 578.

The State coal-field.

The State coal mine at Wonthaggi, on the Powlett River, was opened in November, 1909. In June, 1911, the control of the mine was transferred to the Railways Commissioners. The area reserved for mining is about 17 square miles. Boring has proved that about 28,000,000 tons of coal existed in the central area of 5 square miles. The output of coal for the year ended 31st December, 1925, was 468,146 tons, valued at £514,961. The total output up to the end of 1925 was 6,919,581 tons, valued at £5,210,922. The average number of men employed at the mine throughout the year ended 31st December, 1925, was 1,688.

Victorian coal production and value.

The quantity of coal, exclusive of brown coal, raised in Victoria up to the end of 1925 was 11,259,303 tons, valued at £7,970,270. The total quantity raised prior to 1892, the average annual production for different periods from 1892 to 1920, and the production for each of the years 1921 to 1925, together with the value per ton at the pit's mouth, are given in the following table :—

COAL PRODUCTION AND VALUE PER TON.

Period.		Average Annual Production.	Average Annual Value per ton at pit's mouth.
		tons.	s. d.
Prior to 1892	.. ..	*77,914	18 8
1892-1900	.. ..	184,517	9 11
1901-10	.. ..	163,548	11 8
1911-15	.. ..	608,512	9 2
1916-20	.. ..	437,833	15 11
1921	.. ..	514,859	23 5
1922	.. ..	559,284	23 9
1923	.. ..	476,823	22 0
1924	.. ..	518,315	22 0
1925	.. ..	534,246	22 4

\* Total production up to date mentioned.

The quantities of coal produced in the other States in 1925 were as follows :—New South Wales, 11,396,199 tons; Queensland, 1,177,173 tons; Western Australia, 437,461 tons; and Tasmania, 81,698 tons.



## Mining accidents.

The numbers of fatal and non-fatal accidents in gold and coal mines during the last five years are shown below. Only those non-fatal accidents have been recorded which rendered the injured unfit for work for a period of at least fourteen days.

## MINING ACCIDENTS, 1921 TO 1925.

Year.	Gold Mines.			Coal Mines.		
	Miners Employed.	Persons Killed.	Persons Injured.	Miners Employed.	Persons Killed.	Persons Injured.
1921 .. ..	3,050	5	2	1,994	5	11
1922 .. ..	3,310	..	4	1,953	..	11
1923 .. ..	2,982	1	6	2,131	1	11
1924 .. ..	2,651	..	2	2,289	3	17
1925 .. ..	2,353*	1	6	2,593	5	20

As a result of gold mining accidents during the last five years 7 persons were killed and 20 were injured and rendered unfit for work for a period of at least fourteen days. These numbers were equivalent to annual rates of 0·49 and 1·39 respectively per 1,000 employed. Coal mining accidents during the same period accounted for 14 deaths and 70 injuries resulting in disablement for at least fourteen days, these being equal to yearly rates of 1·28 and 6·39 respectively per 1,000 employees.

## Boring for gold and coal.

The record of boring operations conducted by the Mines Department during the last five years is as follows:—

## GOVERNMENT BORING OPERATIONS, 1921 TO 1925.

Year.	Drills worked by—		Bores put down for—			Total Depth Bored.
	Steam.	Other Power.	Gold.	Coal.	Total.	
1921 .. ..	1	14	20	400	420	feet. 40,000
1922 .. ..	1	14	6	182	188	25,200
1923 .. ..	..	12	4	67	71	19,270
1924 .. ..	1	12	16	74	90	34,000
1925 .. ..	..	11	10	38	48	27,000

**Antimony.** Up to the end of 1925 the quantity of antimony ore produced in Victoria was 105,850 tons valued at £612,035. The whole of it was obtained at Costerfield. The production for 1925 yielded 120½ tons of concentrates valued at £5,380. For the previous year the yield was 276 tons of concentrates valued at £14,522.

**Tin.** The production of tin ore in the State up to the end of 1925 was 16,895 tons, valued at £943,613. In the year 1925 the quantity produced was 69 tons, as against 38 tons in 1924, 78 tons in 1923, and 115 tons in 1922. Of the tin won during the last five years nearly the whole was obtained in the Beechworth district.

**Gypsum.** The quantity of gypsum produced in the State in 1925 was 14,518 tons, most of which was obtained at Waitchie, Lake Boga, Bolton, Boort, and Chillingollah. The output for the previous year was 13,268 tons. Up to the end of 1925 the quantity raised in Victoria was 91,256 tons, valued at £69,042.

**Kaolin.** The quantity of kaolin produced in 1925 was 1,594 tons, and in the previous year, 1,741 tons. Up to the end of 1925 the total output was 28,200 tons, valued at £36,562.

**Molybdenite.** The total value of molybdenite produced in the State up to the end of 1925 was £23,561. In the year 1925 the output was valued at £5,545, as against £4,850 in 1924. The whole of the output was obtained at Everton, near Beechworth.

**Quarries.** The quantity and value of stone raised from Victorian quarries during the last five years were as set forth in the following table:—

QUARRIES, 1921-22 to 1925-26.

Year ended June—	Number of Quarries.	Quantity of Stone Operated on—				Approximate Value of Stone Raised.
		Bluestone.	Free-stone.	Granite.	Limestone.	
		c. yds.	c. yds.	c. yds.	c. yds.	£
1922 ..	112	1,212,637	4,437	1,515	*	369,030
1923 ..	106	1,244,262	10,776	1,775	*	384,510
1924 ..	105	1,429,719	2,536	2,242	*	436,175
1925 ..	117	1,504,093	1,926	2,387	221,171	497,270
1926 ..	127	1,650,461	6,000	2,444	300,708	587,910

\* Information not available.

In 1925-26 the number of persons employed in quarries was 2,469, and the wages paid amounted to £572,465. These figures include the employees and wages connected with stone-breaking and tar-paving works, most of which are carried on in conjunction with quarries and cannot be separated therefrom.

## MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

**Industrial progress.**

The earliest year for which there are statistical records of the factories of the State is 1850, at which date the number of manufacturing establishments is shown to have been 68. Subsequently fair and regular progress was made in the industry until in 1900, the year before Federation, there were 3,097 factories working. The years immediately following Federation were marked by increased industrial activity, which was well maintained in later years. During the last ten years nearly all existing lines of manufacture have shown a notable expansion, and many industries new to the State have been firmly established. Since 1916-17 the number of factories has increased by 37 per cent., the number of persons employed by 31 per cent., the amount of salaries and wages paid by 148 per cent., the value of output by 100 per cent., the value of machinery and plant and premises by 154 per cent., and the engine power of factories by 168 per cent. The difference between the cost of materials used and the value of the output was equivalent to an added value of £345 6s. 8d. per person employed in 1925-26, as compared with £196 3s. 0d. in 1916-17. This favorable economic result coincides with a larger proportion of establishments using mechanical power in 1925-26, when 85 per cent. were so equipped, as against 78 per cent. in 1916-17, and with the increased aggregate engine power of factories previously referred to. The increase in the added value relatively to employees, the larger proportion of factories using power, and the higher aggregate power of establishments as a whole are indications of increasing industrial efficiency. The proportion of children employed in factories to total employees was 4·81 per cent. in 1916-17 and 5·13 per cent. in 1925-26.

Since 1916-17 the number of factories employing over 100 hands has increased by 29·3 per cent., and the number of hands employed by such factories has increased by 28·2 per cent. While factories of this size formed only 3·3 per cent. of the total number in the State in 1925-26, they employed 42·5 per cent. of the total number of hands.

The steady improvement noted up to 1924-25 was apparently not maintained in 1925-26, the number of persons employed and the value of plant, machinery, and buildings being slightly less, and the wages paid and the value of the output showing very little increase on that of the previous year. This is largely accounted for by a change in the method of compilation. Prior to 1925-26, all electric supply undertakings and gas companies included figures relating to distribution as well as manufacture. Now only those relating to the latter are given, with the result that the number of persons employed in these two industries is approximately 2,400 less than in the previous year.

The appended table summarizes the position of the industries at various stages since 1871, but, except for the period 1911 to 1925-26,

the information for different years is not strictly comparable, for the reason that it has not been compiled upon the same basis throughout.

## GROWTH IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

Year.	Number of Factories.	Number of Persons employed.	Amount of Salaries and Wages paid.	Value of Plant, Machinery, Land, and Buildings.	Value of Output.
1871 ..	1,740	19,468	£ *	£ 4,725,125	£ *
1881 ..	2,488	43,209	*	8,044,296	†13,370,836
1891 ..	3,141	52,225	*	16,472,859	‡22,390,251
1901 ..	3,249	66,529	*	12,298,500	\$19,478,780
1911 ..	5,126	111,948	8,911,019	18,257,889	41,747,863
1912 ..	5,263	116,108	10,102,244	19,457,795	45,410,773
1913 ..	5,613	118,744	10,714,336	20,775,738	47,936,647
1914 ..	5,650	118,399	11,099,940	21,975,646	49,439,985
1915 ..	5,413	113,834	11,036,345	22,529,072	51,466,093
1916-17 ..	5,445	116,970	11,833,517	23,784,289	60,047,284
1917-18 ..	5,627	118,241	12,502,601	25,460,282	67,066,715
1918-19 ..	5,720	122,349	14,080,403	27,318,735	80,195,677
1919-20 ..	6,038	136,522	17,702,173	30,804,520	101,475,363
1920-21 ..	6,532	140,743	21,377,216	35,492,735	106,008,294
1921-22 ..	6,753	144,876	23,846,495	40,992,280	106,243,181
1922-23 ..	7,096	152,625	25,547,192	46,423,240	111,286,343
1923-24 ..	7,289	156,162	27,472,084	53,196,475	113,921,927
1924-25 ..	7,425	154,158	29,057,052	61,031,975	118,177,398
1925-26 ..	7,461	152,959	29,329,400	60,396,500	119,986,439

\* Particulars not available. † 1880. ‡ 1890. § 1900.

NOTE.—Up to the year 1915 inclusive the statistics relate to the calendar year; for subsequent years they relate to the year ending 30th June.

The first Factories Act in Victoria was passed in 1873, and since that year many other Acts dealing with the subject have been placed upon the statute-book. The *Factories and Shops Act 1915* (No. 2650) consolidated all Acts passed prior to that date. The general provisions of factory legislation, including "Wages Boards," are fully dealt with in Part "Social Condition" of this work.

In the year 1902 the classification of industries for statistical purposes, as shown in the next table, was adopted by the Statisticians of Australia. A factory was defined as an establishment employing on the average four persons or more, or an establishment employing less than four persons where machinery is worked by other than manual power, whether the business carried on is that of making or repairing for the trade (wholesale or retail) or for export. The table shows for the year 1925-26 the number of factories in each industry, the power used, the number of persons employed, the wages paid, the values of materials and fuel and light used, and the value of articles produced or work done:—

Factories and  
Wages Board  
Legislation.

Production of  
different  
industries,  
1925-26.

FACTORIES—POWER, WORKERS, WAGES, ETC., AND PRODUCTION, 1925-26.

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Nature of Industry.	Number of Factories.	Actual Horse-power of Engines used.	Average Number of Persons Employed.				Value of—			
			Males.		Females.		Wages paid.	Fuel and Light used.	Materials used, including Containers.	Articles Produced or Work Done.
			Working Proprietors.	Employees.	Working Proprietors.	Employees.				
<i>Class I.—Treating Raw Material the product of Pastoral Pursuits, or Vegetable Products, not otherwise classed.</i>							£	£	£	£
Boiling down .. .. .	10	231	9	168	..	..	48,379	11,616	227,472	306,605
Bone milling .. .. .	15	777	13	108	..	3	31,580	16,994	60,176	125,797
Tanning .. .. .	46	4,591	67	2,348	..	20	573,928	48,496	1,842,507	2,786,278
Fellmongering .. .. .	30	1,384	29	472	..	2	113,547	27,646	1,440,505	1,704,799
Chaffcutting and grain crushing ..	158	2,355	143	601	..	10	84,936	12,913	845,688	1,053,096
Other .. .. .	8	63	5	210	..	1	59,705	824	162,836	273,599
Total .. .. .	267	9,401	266	3,907	..	36	912,075	118,489	4,579,184	6,250,174
<i>Class II.—Oils and Fats, Animal and Vegetable.</i>										
Oil, grease, glue .. .. .	13	285	11	170	..	10	49,730	13,143	252,233	372,223
Soap and candle .. .. .	17	761	14	519	..	167	147,161	37,423	717,526	1,185,722
Total .. .. .	30	1,046	25	689	..	177	196,891	50,566	969,759	1,557,945

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*Class III.—Processes relating to Stone, Clay, Glass, &c.*

Brick, pottery, &c.	98	7,880	73	2,695	1	133	621,631	226,788	70,197	1,300,732
Cement, including cement pipes	30	2,932	8	898	..	3	224,509	108,389	263,395	871,215
Glass, including bottles	4	1,560	8	609	..	9	164,280	57,191	85,560	482,929
Glass bevelling	28	118	25	251	..	4	61,777	1,511	90,050	189,779
Marble and stone dressing	45	578	61	357	..	9	109,275	3,791	70,555	217,465
Modelling	41	623	51	511	1	13	133,806	6,190	165,361	389,671
Other	18	398	10	243	..	2	55,713	26,650	21,063	125,665
<b>Total</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>14,089</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>5,564</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>1,370,991</b>	<b>430,510</b>	<b>766,181</b>	<b>3,577,456</b>

*Class IV.—Working in Wood.*

Cooperage	9	356	5	296	..	1	92,618	2,586	54,323	177,041
Saw-milling (forest)	215	4,509	283	2,661	..	11	579,795	8,677	16,137	1,019,260
Saw-milling, moulding, &c.	433	13,550	390	5,321	2	113	1,339,628	47,572	2,190,085	4,095,099
Mantelpiece	9	93	9	160	..	3	36,095	551	34,354	79,949
Wood carving, turning	19	409	27	230	1	6	62,646	2,537	59,564	154,507
Other	9	167	9	123	..	34	32,717	1,090	55,061	113,107
<b>Total</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>19,084</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>8,791</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>2,143,499</b>	<b>63,013</b>	<b>2,409,524</b>	<b>5,638,963</b>

*Class V.—Metal Works, Machinery, &c.*

Agricultural implement	60	3,312	63	3,030	..	117	746,135	44,300	716,630	1,770,362
Engineering, iron foundry, &c.	539	13,044	603	10,462	3	227	2,605,161	188,761	2,645,309	6,638,381
Railway workshop	18	5,179	..	6,163	..	7	1,483,407	57,195	1,720,982	3,768,500
Nail	8	368	3	175	..	3	38,279	2,260	172,925	231,713
Sheet-iron, tin, &c.	117	1,194	109	1,832	..	251	406,884	17,172	679,710	1,316,811
Brass, copper smithing	103	905	119	1,098	..	55	279,762	15,739	246,038	673,687
Wireworking	24	595	29	348	..	15	91,444	3,187	212,295	389,114
Metallurgical, &c., cyanide	8	65	8	53	..	..	16,193	2,349	124,697	157,168
Oven, range	21	127	23	177	..	..	51,536	1,278	34,552	111,338
Other	52	1,107	49	627	1	13	155,638	14,205	223,508	511,966
<b>Total</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>25,896</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>23,965</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>5,874,459</b>	<b>346,446</b>	<b>6,776,646</b>	<b>15,569,040</b>

Production.

FACTORIES—POWER, WORKERS, WAGES, ETC., AND PRODUCTION, 1925-26—*continued.*

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Nature of Industry.	Number of Factories.	Actual Horse-power of Engines used.	Average Number of Persons Employed.				Value of—				
			Males.		Females.		Wages paid.	Fuel and Light used.	Materials used, including Containers.	Articles Produced or Work Done.	
			Working Proprietors.	Employees.	Working Proprietors.	Employees.					
						£	£	£	£		
<i>Class VI.—Connected with Food and Drink, &amp;c.</i>											
Bacon curing .. .. .	21	1,546	26	500	..	20	142,515	21,498	1,209,777	1,520,272	
Butter, cheese, butterine .. .. .	189	6,198	30	1,982	..	1	542,211	147,608	6,483,970	7,815,969	
Meat freezing, preserving .. .. .	14	5,468	2	1,024	..	32	238,074	43,367	2,170,503	2,711,454	
Biscuit .. .. .	9	534	4	716	..	576	207,732	23,433	713,417	1,189,677	
Flourmilling .. .. .	45	5,752	32	981	..	26	258,112	54,424	5,174,663	5,995,735	
Jam, sauce, &c. .. .. .	57	1,651	27	1,525	..	3	1,073	446,765	31,199	1,292,172	2,177,677
Oatmeal, starch, &c. .. .. .	39	3,125	25	380	..	365	133,888	21,556	868,321	1,242,770	
Sugar, confectionery, &c. .. .. .	117	9,780	99	2,241	..	1,853	774,861	138,458	4,821,610	6,653,832	
Aerated water, cordial, &c. .. .. .	109	558	115	699	..	10	99	188,866	9,171	345,134	709,713
Malt .. .. .	20	503	10	254	..	1	4	74,612	17,301	509,182	717,608
Brewing .. .. .	11	5,118	4	1,108	..	1	342,651	81,108	1,122,288	2,594,835	
Distilling .. .. .	10	406	2	150	..	4	35,182	8,201	105,419	212,816	
Condiments, coffee, cocoa, &c. .. .. .	13	817	3	216	..	89	64,910	7,638	401,713	550,027	
Tobacco, &c. .. .. .	14	733	20	1,121	..	621	349,674	6,681	1,228,604	2,045,188	
Other .. .. .	48	4,104	44	386	..	33	107,335	41,569	71,035	327,188	
Total .. .. .	716	46,293	443	13,283	..	37	5,050	3,907,388	653,212	26,517,808	36,464,761

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*Class VII.—Clothing and Textile  
Fabrics, and Fibrous Material.*

Woollen mill .. ..	27	12,078	21	2,270	..	2,992	795,292	127,846	2,243,014	3,976,224
Clothing, tailoring, &c. ..	536	560	501	1,601	46	7,348	1,311,141	23,754	2,148,607	4,063,913
Dressmaking and millinery ..	490	546	146	274	324	7,612	950,885	13,462	1,805,663	3,267,544
Underclothing, shirt .. ..	165	924	91	391	78	5,138	674,126	13,998	1,541,620	2,569,130
Hat, cap .. ..	52	720	43	625	2	989	261,642	11,527	433,500	872,670
Hosiery .. ..	174	1,806	103	689	85	3,961	621,200	23,472	1,508,012	2,675,509
Oilskin, waterproof clothing ..	9	48	7	72	1	233	50,841	900	102,253	191,011
Boot, shoe .. ..	431	3,520	490	6,462	14	5,296	2,088,244	44,200	2,995,490	6,045,226
Fur .. ..	43	110	38	124	11	279	76,761	1,411	241,886	383,976
Rope, twine, &c. .. ..	7	1,558	10	495	..	375	138,174	13,237	337,031	619,446
Sail, tent, &c. .. ..	19	38	19	103	..	97	40,317	590	166,176	250,053
Other .. ..	40	329	38	232	6	456	109,648	6,740	212,151	397,967
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>1,993</b>	<b>22,237</b>	<b>1,507</b>	<b>13,338</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>34,776</b>	<b>7,118,271</b>	<b>281,137</b>	<b>13,735,403</b>	<b>25,312,669</b>

*Class VIII.—Books, Paper, Printing,  
Engraving, &c.*

Printing .. ..	433	5,922	510	5,629	14	1,535	1,773,308	49,980	1,672,746	4,451,427
Account-book, stationery, &c. ..	35	621	33	649	1	593	218,612	5,828	270,722	629,122
Fancy box .. ..	39	911	29	318	6	898	177,106	4,322	331,416	635,865
Die sinking, engraving, &c. ..	21	118	27	207	..	6	50,805	1,296	23,934	102,959
Other .. ..	36	2,484	41	720	3	155	204,066	63,077	285,838	775,879
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>10,056</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>7,523</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3,187</b>	<b>2,423,897</b>	<b>124,503</b>	<b>2,584,656</b>	<b>6,595,252</b>

*Class IX.—Musical Instruments*

..	19	569	7	491	..	31	110,619	2,640	129,161	300,636
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*Class X.—Arms and Explosives*

..	8	693	2	295	..	174	97,573	16,474	203,968	407,441
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FACTORIES—POWER, WORKERS, WAGES, ETC., AND PRODUCTION, 1925-26—continued.

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Nature of Industry.	Number of Factories.	Actual Horse-power of Engines used.	Average Number of Persons Employed.				Value of—			
			Males.		Females.		Wages paid.	Fuel and Light used.	Materials used, including Containers.	Articles Produced or Work Done.
			Working Proprietors.	Employees.	Working Proprietors.	Employees.				
						£	£	£	£	
<i>Class XI.—Vehicles and Fittings, Saddlery, Harness, &amp;c.</i>										
Coachbuilding .. ..	261	1,332	309	1,888	..	22	432,540	14,954	408,934	1,028,009
Motor, Cycle, &c. .. ..	565	2,453	428	4,186	..	82	906,080	31,225	454,090	1,647,138
Saddle, harness .. ..	28	24	29	186	..	40	50,859	359	60,406	132,670
Other .. ..	18	73	27	178	..	11	41,259	873	52,641	116,904
Total .. ..	872	3,882	793	6,438	..	155	1,430,738	47,411	976,071	2,924,721
<i>Class XII.—Shipbuilding, Fitting, &amp;c.</i>										
	11	1,375	9	377	..	2	95,360	4,306	42,104	165,352
<i>Class XIII.—Furniture, Bedding, &amp;c.</i>										
Upholstery, bedding, &c. ..	73	928	47	590	5	367	186,229	6,294	479,552	770,204
Cabinet, including billiard table ..	330	3,118	417	2,725	1	97	647,379	19,774	683,689	1,626,250
Picture frame .. ..	17	43	18	64	..	6	17,447	419	21,711	49,016
Other .. ..	9	132	4	159	1	26	37,409	2,315	68,636	131,004
Total .. ..	429	4,221	486	3,538	7	496	888,464	28,802	1,253,588	2,576,474

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*Class XIV.—Drugs, Chemicals, and By-products.*

Blacking, blue, &c. .. ..	20	159	17	126	..	142	51,412	2,191	205,558	327,533
Chemicals, drugs, &c. .. ..	51	1,952	22	644	1	630	238,873	22,649	462,420	959,262
Fertilizers .. ..	7	1,698	..	877	..	9	227,852	37,383	827,592	1,441,632
Other .. ..	39	468	30	191	1	23	44,222	3,069	121,931	215,541
Total .. ..	117	4,277	69	1,838	2	804	562,359	65,292	1,617,501	2,943,968

*Class XV.—Surgical and Scientific Appliances*

.. ..	39	112	32	185	1	12	44,488	1,590	35,121	105,978
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*Class XVI.—Timepieces, Jewellery, and Plated-ware*

.. ..	114	587	123	843	2	129	224,241	7,902	236,498	575,368
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*Class XVII.—Heat, Light, and Energy.*

Electric apparatus .. ..	89	605	74	1,040	..	54	232,676	6,974	186,364	553,241
Electric light .. ..	83	188,342	2	1,143	..	4	338,807	650,222	..	1,648,113
Gas, coke .. ..	35	2,811	..	930	..	3	258,764	105,421	832,913	1,433,090
Other .. ..	9	3,527	3	500	..	433	187,450	28,638	688,823	1,136,186
Total .. ..	216	195,285	79	3,613	..	494	1,017,697	791,255	1,708,100	4,770,630

*Class XVIII.—Leatherware (except Saddlery and Harness)*

.. ..	58	281	61	444	1	413	145,032	3,265	277,447	508,926
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*Production.*

FACTORIES—POWER, WORKERS, WAGES, ETC., AND PRODUCTION, 1925-26—*continued.*

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Nature of Industry.	Number of Factories.	Actual Horse-power of Engines used.	Average Number of Persons Employed.				Value of—			
			Males.		Females.		Wages paid.	Fuel and Light used.	Materials used, including Containers.	Articles Produced or Work Done.
			Working Proprietors.	Employees.	Working Proprietors.	Employees.				
<i>Class XIX.—Wares, not elsewhere included.</i>							£	£	£	£
Umbrella .. .. .	5	11	4	61	..	158	28,828	284	70,585	124,332
Rubber goods .. .. .	51	7,713	45	2,304	..	605	640,605	117,408	2,150,964	3,336,350
Brush, broom .. .. .	16	164	16	203	1	67	55,326	1,377	87,673	185,572
Basket, wickerware .. .. .	28	46	31	219	..	1	40,599	500	36,503	94,431
Total .. .. .	100	7,934	96	2,787	1	831	765,358	119,569	2,345,725	3,740,685
Grand Total .. .. .	7,461	367,318	6,603	97,909	651	47,796	29,329,400	3,156,382	67,164,445	119,986,439

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Increase in value of output of certain industries, 1920-21 and 1925-26.

Most of the more important manufacturing industries in the State have shown a substantial increase in the value of output in the last five years. The output for the years 1920-21 and 1925-26 of a number of leading industries is shown in the following table, the industries being arranged in order of increase in value:—

OUTPUT OF INDUSTRIES, 1920-21 AND 1925-26.

Industry.	Value of Output.		Increase in Five Years.	
	1920-21.	1925-26.	Value.	Per cent.
	£	£	£	
Woollen mills .. ..	2,397,610	3,976,224	1,578,614	65·8
Meat freezing .. ..	1,236,410	2,711,454	1,475,044	119·3
Rubber goods .. ..	2,075,264	3,336,350	1,261,086	60·8
Sugar, confectionery, &c. ..	5,446,643	6,653,832	1,207,189	22·2
Railway workshops .. ..	2,566,571	3,768,500	1,201,929	46·8
Boot, shoe, &c. .. ..	4,964,462	6,045,226	1,080,764	21·8
Motor, cycle, &c. .. ..	974,505	1,647,138	672,633	69·0
Hosiery .. .. ..	2,088,282	2,675,509	587,227	28·1
Sawmills, moulding, &c. ..	3,519,498	4,095,099	575,601	16·4
Electric light and power ..	1,131,331	1,648,113	516,782	45·7
Cement and cement goods ..	371,470	871,215	499,745	134·5
Breweries .. .. .	2,098,720	2,594,835	496,115	23·6
Fellmongeries .. .. .	1,256,904	1,704,799	447,895	35·6
Engineering, iron foundries, &c.	6,206,289	6,638,381	432,092	7·0
Dressmaking and millinery ..	2,900,217	3,267,544	367,327	12·7
Cabinet, including billiard table	1,296,548	1,626,250	329,702	25·4
Bedding, upholstery, &c. ..	443,596	770,204	326,608	73·6
Oatmeal, starch, &c. .. ..	960,184	1,242,770	282,586	29·4
Brick, pottery, &c. .. ..	1,025,105	1,300,732	275,627	26·9
Modelling in plaster, cement, &c.	119,161	389,671	270,510	227·0
Electric apparatus .. ..	285,655	553,241	267,586	93·7
Flour mills .. .. .	5,745,507	5,995,735	250,228	4·4
Agricultural implements ..	1,550,704	1,770,362	219,658	14·2
Fertilizers .. .. .	1,246,539	1,441,632	195,073	15·6
Fur .. .. .	190,230	383,976	193,746	101·8
Bacon curing .. .. .	1,335,186	1,520,272	185,086	13·9
Wireworking .. .. .	218,276	389,114	170,838	78·3
Boiling down .. .. .	142,373	306,605	164,232	115·4
Sausage skins, &c. .. ..	102,706	261,848	159,142	154·9
Paper .. .. .	386,198	536,020	149,822	38·8
Jam, pickles, sauces .. ..	2,031,226	2,177,677	146,451	7·2
Musical instruments .. ..	155,070	300,636	145,566	93·9
Fancy boxes, &c. .. ..	491,729	635,865	144,136	29·3
Ice, refrigerating .. ..	80,021	189,058	109,037	136·3
Drugs, chemicals .. ..	851,950	959,262	107,312	12·6
Clothing .. .. .	3,960,514	4,063,913	103,399	2·6

## INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIES.

The salient features in connexion with the chief industries are set forth in the succeeding pages.

The development of the tanning and fellmongering industry during the past ten years is shown by the particulars contained in the next two tables :—

## TANNERIES, ETC., 1916-17 to 1925-26.

Year.	Number of Establishments.	Horse-power of Engines.	Value of Machinery and Plant in Use.	Persons Employed.	Number of Working Proprietors	Amount of Wages Paid.
			£			£
1916-17 .. ..	74	3,187	214,896	2,362	82	300,796
1917-18 .. ..	76	3,476	271,120	2,485	69	347,753
1918-19 .. ..	81	4,085	370,765	2,984	74	455,548
1919-20 .. ..	83	4,631	400,110	3,384	85	631,920
1920-21 .. ..	80	4,707	436,395	2,851	87	575,132
1921-22 .. ..	78	5,341	564,315	2,995	93	625,443
1922-23 .. ..	79	5,530	518,815	3,052	105	658,026
1923-24 .. ..	80	5,850	557,930	2,929	108	646,015
1924-25 .. ..	76	5,920	567,315	2,815	99	*661,635
1925-26 .. ..	76	5,975	579,445	2,938	96	*687,475

\* Including amounts drawn by working proprietors.

The quantity of bark used in connexion with tanning operations in 1925-26 was 11,772 tons. The output of tanneries for each of the last ten years was as follows :—

## OUTPUT OF TANNERIES, ETC., 1916-17 to 1925-26.

Year.	Number Tanned—			Sheep Skins Stripped.	Wool Washed (weight after washing).	Value of Articles produced or Work done.
	Hides.	Calf Skins.	Sheep and other Skins.			
				number	lbs.	£
1916-17 .. ..	722,649	230,380	1,027,847	1,538,178	13,843,439	3,962,202
1917-18 .. ..	601,950	217,605	1,418,595	1,641,000	24,560,590	5,061,236
1918-19 .. ..	670,956	234,543	1,742,388	2,354,467	34,483,316	6,918,270
1919-20 .. ..	738,907	251,973	2,780,017	5,010,438	33,191,912	8,896,091
1920-21 .. ..	694,322	308,542	1,406,472	2,604,413	14,619,943	4,200,077
1921-22 .. ..	792,974	512,515	2,042,817	2,214,980	17,453,847	3,953,049
1922-23 .. ..	780,221	663,813	2,403,940	2,407,830	19,939,785	4,577,664
1923-24 .. ..	788,942	526,818	2,387,235	971,559	12,885,685	4,675,911
1924-25 .. ..	783,115	557,354	1,849,575	1,225,616	13,469,200	4,694,042
1925-26 .. ..	775,972	546,166	1,896,652	1,523,506	15,875,925	4,491,077

The value of the leather, &c., imported into Victoria from oversea countries during the year ended 30th June, 1926, was £142,517.

Particulars in regard to the soap and candle works in the State for the past ten years are given below :—

## SOAP AND CANDLE WORKS, 1916-17 to 1925-26.

Year.	Number of Establishments.	Value of Machinery and Plant in Use.	Persons Employed.	Amount of Wages Paid.	Products.		Value of Output.
					Soap.*	Candles.	
		£		£	cwt.	cwt.	£
1916-17	18	128,100	685	84,036	214,526	38,746	802,179
1917-18	17	130,795	769	91,604	228,310	37,290	951,114
1918-19	15	140,600	681	92,663	206,429	39,680	957,295
1919-20	16	143,310	738	103,333	243,156	40,908	1,321,112
1920-21	16	164,110	696	115,749	225,748	32,662	1,134,820
1921-22	17	174,460	742	139,519	267,858	31,613	1,096,955
1922-23	19	196,355	769	142,685	296,888	39,519	1,152,270
1923-24	17	210,270	741	147,124	289,364	34,424	937,148
1924-25	17	201,400	714	143,779†	295,672	29,415	1,176,919
1925-26	17	214,125	700	147,161†	295,930	28,048	1,185,722

\* Not including soap made in small soap works not classified as factories, viz., 927 cwt. in 1916-17, 1,134 cwt. in 1917-18, 1,054 cwt. in 1918-19, 907 cwt. in 1919-20, 946 cwt. in 1920-21, 859 cwt. in 1921-22, 1,346 cwt. in 1922-23, 1,258 cwt. in 1923-24, 736 cwt. in 1924-25, and 920 cwt. in 1925-26.

† Including amounts drawn by working proprietors.

The quantity of tallow used in 1925-26 in the manufacture of soap and candles was 185,584 cwt. in factories, and 509 cwt. in minor works.

The imports from oversea countries in 1925-26 included 359,142 lbs. of soap valued at £28,195, and 41,554 lbs. of candles valued at £2,878.

Particulars relating to brickyards and potteries for the ten years 1916-17 to 1925-26 are shown in the following statement. The value of the land, plant, buildings, &c., used in connexion with such works in 1925-26 was £1,027,870 :—

## BRICKS, POTTERY, PIPES, AND TILES, 1916-17 TO 1925-26.

Year.	Number of Establishments.	Persons Employed.	Amount of Wages Paid	Number of Bricks Made.*	Value of—	
					Pipes and Tiles.	Pottery.
			£		£	£
1916-17 ..	79	1,693	200,781	108,444,000	147,840	57,266
1917-18 ..	78	1,907	231,090	107,139,000	171,836	73,398
1918-19 ..	84	2,361	314,452	133,176,000	246,763	121,286
1919-20 ..	93	2,569	336,295	119,142,000	255,562	97,844
1920-21 ..	92	2,794	481,352	203,425,000	362,495	177,410
1921-22 ..	93	2,655	495,288	169,715,000	355,784	185,293
1922-23 ..	92	3,201	631,454	227,183,000	439,159	203,828
1923-24 ..	104	3,540	735,719	247,598,000	541,796	241,821
1924-25 ..	102	3,069	655,034†	201,440,000	427,522	296,551
1925-26 ..	98	2,902	621,631†	190,505,000	423,113	205,874

\* In addition, there are bricks made in small brickyards not tabulated as factories.

† Including amounts drawn by working proprietors.

The estimated value of bricks made in 1925-26 was £671,745, being an increase of £58,193 on the value of those made in the preceding year.

Detailed information in regard to the forest saw-mills of the State for the ten years 1916-17 to 1925-26 is given in the table which follows :—

Forest Saw-mills.

## FOREST SAW-MILLS, 1916-17 TO 1925-26.

Year.	Number of Mills.	Value of Machinery and Plant in Use.	Persons Employed.	Amount of Wages Paid.	Victorian Timber Sawn.	
					Quantity.	Value.
		£		£	super ft.	£
1916-17 ..	151	235,140	1,851	206,709	70,038,000	297,663
1917-18 ..	162	260,280	2,106	248,940	78,984,000	355,430
1918-19 ..	187	315,670	2,506	319,547	91,540,000	503,470
1919-20 ..	203	366,355	2,884	405,335	99,142,000	693,995
1920-21 ..	246	473,275	3,509	563,627	113,215,000	905,720
1921-22 ..	239	517,725	3,356	627,432	112,008,000	896,070
1922-23 ..	227	516,800	3,230	616,680	118,366,000	946,930
1923-24 ..	241	624,590	3,587	686,419	134,639,000	942,476
1924-25 ..	234	559,450	3,318	667,684*	114,705,000	745,582
1925-26 ..	215	642,140	2,955	579,795*	109,534,000	711,971

\* Including amounts drawn by working proprietors.

In addition to the forest saw-mills there were 479 other factories working in wood. Particulars relating to these for the year 1925-26 are given on page 557.

**Firewood, &c.** It is estimated that the approximate value of the production of firewood for consumption in the year 1925-26 was £1,071,000. In addition, there were supplies of railway sleepers, piles, posts and rails, shingles, and timber for mines obtained from the forests, but it has been found impossible to procure reliable information as to their value.

**Engineering, iron foundry, &c.** During the past decade there has been a very marked expansion in engineering works and iron foundries. Since 1916-17 the number of factories has increased by 48 per cent., the number of persons employed therein by 46 per cent., the amount of wages paid by 158 per cent., the value of machinery and plant by 107 per cent., the value of materials used by 94 per cent., and the value of the output by 126 per cent. The chief particulars of the industry for the years 1916-17 to 1925-26 are given in the next table:—

## ENGINEERING, IRON FOUNDRY, ETC., 1916-17 TO 1925-26.

Year.	Number of Factories.	Horse-power of Engines.	Value of Machinery and Plant.	Persons Employed.	Amount of Wages Paid.	Value of—		
						Materials Used.	Fuel and Light Used.	Output.
			£		£	£	£	£
1916-17	364	7,964	809,940	7,726	1,008,627	1,365,280	104,334	2,936,342
1917-18	388	8,045	844,350	7,351	1,011,930	1,414,060	110,900	3,096,090
1918-19	402	8,694	903,110	7,537	1,077,720	1,578,990	134,440	3,359,580
1919-20	441	10,795	1,023,395	9,042	1,395,379	1,917,877	128,435	4,220,094
1920-21	510	11,567	1,207,630	10,869	1,984,834	2,882,847	206,806	6,206,289
1921-22	517	11,872	1,325,500	10,234	2,067,009	2,511,800	196,239	5,897,158
1922-23	531	12,934	1,389,075	10,342	2,055,596	2,482,822	179,372	5,809,039
1923-24	516	12,917	1,445,840	10,902	2,288,499	2,501,025	183,953	6,087,049
1924-25	530	12,335	1,584,565	10,594	2,389,329*	2,393,110	164,768	6,051,309
1925-26	539	13,044	1,675,315	11,295	2,605,161*	2,645,309	188,761	6,638,381

\* Including amounts drawn by working proprietors.

The above figures are exclusive of railway workshops, which in 1925-26 numbered 18, and gave employment to 6,170 hands who were paid £1,483,407; the value of the materials dealt with by such workshops in that year was £1,720,982, and the value of the output was £3,768,500, of which 71 per cent. was from the Newport Workshops.



**Agricultural  
implement  
works.**

The subjoined statement contains the leading particulars relating to agricultural implement works for the last ten years:—

**AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKS, 1916-17 TO 1925-26.**

Year.	No. of Factories.	Persons Employed.	Wages Paid.	Value of—		
				Fuel, &c., Used.	Materials Used.	Output.
			£	£	£	£
1916-17 ..	63	1,900	250,450	18,666	359,342	743,196
1917-18 ..	62	1,967	261,045	20,911	435,665	830,876
1918-19 ..	60	1,689	249,360	18,100	337,730	702,870
1919-20 ..	61	1,771	272,262	20,001	349,555	757,062
1920-21 ..	60	2,711	512,363	42,193	756,204	1,750,704
1921-22 ..	58	2,916	643,874	43,794	806,066	1,567,843
1922-23 ..	61	2,654	555,394	36,935	626,561	1,511,724
1923-24 ..	61	3,211	688,229	44,171	713,637	1,690,645
1924-25 ..	61	3,160	730,219*	46,501	785,247	1,822,006
1925-26 ..	60	3,210	746,135*	44,300	716,630	1,770,362

\* Including amounts drawn by working proprietors.

The wages averaged £136 14s. 2d. for each employee in 1916-17, and £233 11s. 7d. in 1925-26. The stripper-harvester, which is a Victorian invention, is one of the principal implements manufactured.

In the following table particulars of bacon and ham curing establishments are given for the ten years 1916-17 to 1925-26. The value of the machinery, plant, land and buildings in connexion with these establishments was £154,215 in 1916-17 and £275,840 in 1925-26.

**BACON CURING, 1916-17 TO 1925-26.**

Year.	Number of Establishments.	Persons Employed.	Amount of Wages Paid.	Pigs Slaughtered for Curing.	Weight of Bacon and Hams Cured.	Value of Output.
			£	number	lbs.	£
1916-17 ..	23	433	58,191	167,003	15,376,600	972,477
1917-18 ..	21	455	65,870	197,880	17,908,100	1,084,440
1918-19 ..	21	593	76,308	201,770	18,343,400	1,107,910
1919-20 ..	21	549	99,736	182,320	16,675,090	1,384,351
1920-21 ..	22	442	90,394	139,881	13,369,107	1,335,186
1921-22 ..	22	477	103,783	163,917	15,583,960	1,366,832
1922-23 ..	24	494	104,841	186,524	17,293,395	1,289,267
1923-24 ..	24	534	118,751	217,847	20,458,243	1,602,615
1924-25 ..	21	531	129,474*	218,158	20,431,914	1,571,357
1925-26 ..	21	546	142,515*	222,487	19,739,326	1,520,272

\* Including amounts drawn by working proprietors.

This table does not include particulars relating to pigs slaughtered for curing, or to bacon and hams cured in small curing works; the pigs so slaughtered numbered 379 in 1916-17, 140 in 1917-18, 130 in 1918-19, 145 in 1919-20, 150 in 1920-21, 164 in 1921-22, 116 in 1922-23, 95 in 1923-24, and none in 1924-25 and 1925-26; the quantity (in pounds) of bacon and hams cured in these works was 31,300 in 1916-17, 12,970 in 1917-18, 9,790 in 1918-19, 11,500 in 1919-20, 14,000 in 1920-21, 12,010 in 1921-22, 9,690 in 1922-23, and 9,025 in 1923-24.

In addition, the following quantities of bacon and hams were returned as having been cured on farms:—2,738,428 lbs. in 1916-17, 3,403,776 lbs. in 1917-18, 3,859,205 lbs. in 1918-19, 2,698,919 lbs. in 1919-20, 1,755,993 lbs. in 1920-21, 1,812,838 lbs. in 1921-22, 1,975,729 lbs. in 1922-23, 2,082,731 lbs. in 1923-24, 1,561,955 lbs. in 1924-25, and 1,474,599 lbs. in 1925-26. The total quantity of bacon and hams cured in 1925-26 was thus 21,213,925 lbs.—a decrease of 779,944 lbs. as compared with 1924-25.

The number of butter, cheese, and kindred factories in 1925-26 was 183. Of these 152 were making butter, 27 cheese, 5 concentrated milk, 7 condensed milk, 16 powdered milk, 6 casein, and 1 milk sugar. There were also 27 creameries attached to the factories. The number of factories and the value of machinery, plant, land and buildings, the number of employees and the amount of their wages, and the total value of the output for the ten years 1916-17 to 1925-26 were as follows:—

#### BUTTER AND CHEESE FACTORIES, 1916-17 TO 1925-26.

Year.	Number of Factories.	Value of Machinery, Plant, Land, and Buildings.	Persons Employed.	Amount of Wages Paid.	Value of Output.
		£		£	£
1916-17 .. ..	182	647,128	1,445	185,024	4,815,833
1917-18 .. ..	181	683,140	1,677	226,050	5,086,238
1918-19 .. ..	180	786,275	1,918	273,335	6,056,342
1919-20 .. ..	181	1,025,325	2,054	338,507	6,365,927
1920-21 .. ..	184	1,238,745	2,127	414,420	9,194,654
1921-22 .. ..	188	1,395,425	2,351	492,446	7,115,642
1922-23 .. ..	182	1,509,545	2,278	497,816	7,899,377
1923-24 .. ..	184	1,685,530	2,280	511,001	7,974,676
1924-25 .. ..	186	1,812,525	2,427	565,422*	8,212,788
1925-26 .. ..	183	1,889,475	2,213	528,310*	7,631,400

\* Including amounts drawn by working proprietors.

Further particulars relating to butter and cheese factories will be found under the heading of Dairying on page 532.

Meat freezing and preserving works numbered fourteen in 1925-26, and gave employment to 1,056 hands and 2 working proprietors, the wages amounting to £238,074.

The approximate value of machinery, plant, land and buildings in that year was £1,371,575. The output for each of the last ten years is given in the following table:—

MEAT FREEZING AND PRESERVING, 1916-17 TO 1925-26.

Year.			Frozen.			
			Cattle.	Sheep.	Rabbits and Hares.	Poultry.
			qrs.	number.	number.	number.
1916-17	..	..	28,492	418,418	2,853,776	4,900
1917-18	..	..	3,832	196,267	7,403,324	4,620
1918-19	..	..	8,640	668,971	2,352,212	2,706
1919-20	..	..	177,230	4,001,510	5,451,384	2,736
1920-21	..	..	49,372	786,086	2,189,378	9,468
1921-22	..	..	55,355	1,186,704	908,104	8,856
1922-23	..	..	17,006	2,657,515	282,624	5,284
1923-24	..	..	16,044	691,630	160,998	6,776
1924-25	..	..	25,690	1,035,799	108,338	6,386
1925-26	..	..	102,432	1,480,824	913,698	6,906

Year.			Preserved.			
			Beef.	Mutton.	Rabbits and Hares.	Other Meats, &c.
			cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
1916-17	..	..	15,591	4,484	5,245	2,693.
1917-18	..	..	17,810	28,530	9,530	15,110
1918-19	..	..	75,790	118,520	9,625	9,850
1919-20	..	..	104,725	60,850	7,580	1,860
1920-21	..	..	3,641	443	1	764
1921-22	..	..	8,808	4,419	29	30
1922-23	..	..	9,500	2,092	16	3,925
1923-24	..	..	8,098	664	32	1,411
1924-25	..	..	13,895	954	4	1,467
1925-26	..	..	23,202	2,084	..	4,327

NOTE.—In addition to the above, there were treated at freezing works 1,120 calves, 156 pigs, and 6,872 hares in 1916-17; 166 calves, 971 pigs, and 9,180 hares in 1917-18; 1,360 calves, 615 pigs, and 16,220 hares in 1918-19; 130 calves, 1,000 pigs, and 65,530 hares in 1919-20; 2,569 calves and 5,465 pigs in 1920-21; 2,855 calves and 7,335 pigs in 1921-22; 98 calves and 121 pigs in 1923-24; 969 calves and 272 pigs in 1924-25; and 2,722 calves and 180 pigs in 1925-26.

Imports and exports of meats.

The following statement shows the imports from and exports to oversea countries of frozen and preserved meats, other than bacon and ham, during the year ended 30th

June, 1926 :—

MEATS IMPORTED AND EXPORTED OVERSEA, 1925-26.

Meats.	Imports.		Exports..	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Frozen—				
Mutton .. ..	..	..	8,144,383 lbs.	145,261
Lamb .. ..	..	..	43,032,612 „	1,263,511
Beef .. ..	..	..	4,278,842 „	59,465
Pork .. ..	14,983 lbs.	738	14,455 „	550
Rabbits and Hares .. ..	..	..	456,849 prs.	53,423
Poultry .. ..	290 lbs.	24	3,453 „	1,942
Game .. ..	4,341 lbs.	280	9,754 lbs.	140
Potted and Concentrated .. ..	..	42,054	..	5,803
Preserved in tins .. ..	202,199 lbs.	12,595	2,054,035 lbs.	65,639
Sausage Casings.. ..	5,556 cwt.	116,558	7,365 cwt.	186,213
Not elsewhere included .. ..	..	101	..	4,672
Total value .. ..	..	172,350	..	1,786,619

The value of the machinery, plant, land and buildings used in connexion with flour mills was estimated at £498,470 in 1916-17 and at £874,510 in 1925-26. Particulars of the industry for the ten years 1916-17 to 1925-26 are as follows :—

FLOUR MILLS, 1916-17 to 1925-26.

Year.	Number of Mills.	Persons Employed.	Amount of Wages Paid.	Wheat Ground into Flour.	Flour Made.	Value of Total Output.
			£	hushels.	tons.	£
1916-17 ..	54	897	126,280	12,483,990	263,095	3,458,633
1917-18 ..	55	1,021	155,330	15,034,990	311,450	3,989,510
1918-19 ..	53	1,063	169,233	16,621,290	347,840	4,656,403
1919-20 ..	51	1,064	189,224	16,920,890	353,683	6,082,741
1920-21 ..	51	947	191,688	12,387,960	260,032	5,745,507
1921-22 ..	45	997	228,195	14,697,290	308,532	5,759,281
1922-23 ..	47	1,089	244,436	16,601,530	352,002	5,415,067
1923-24 ..	47	1,114	266,540	18,552,540	382,204	5,495,110
1924-25 ..	46	1,064	267,034*	17,165,253	359,597	6,218,248
1925-26 ..	45	1,039	258,112*	15,909,787	336,704	5,995,735

\* Including amounts drawn by working proprietors.

In addition to the flour made, the wheat ground in 1925-26 produced 7,047,013 bushels of bran and 6,807,435 bushels of pollard. Other grain operated on amounted to 44,150 bushels in 1916-17, 31,960 bushels in 1917-18, 40,113 bushels in 1918-19, 39,235 bushels in 1919-20, 40,094 bushels in 1920-21, 65,788 bushels in 1921-22, 44,363 bushels in 1922-23, 34,283 bushels in 1923-24, 59,825 bushels in 1924-25, and 47,659 bushels in 1925-26.

**Exports of bread stuffs.** During the year 1925-26, 3,376,934 lbs. of biscuits valued at £100,761, and 162,081 tons of flour valued at £2,177,935, were exported from Victoria to countries beyond Australia.

**Jam, pickle, and sauce works.** In 1925-26 there were 57 establishments in which the manufacture of jams, pickles, and sauces was carried on, and the number of persons employed therein was 2,628, of whom 30 were working proprietors. The wages paid amounted to £446,765, and the value of machinery, plant, land and buildings was £676,250. The quantities of fruit and sugar used and the output for each of the last ten years were as shown below:—

#### JAM, PICKLE, AND SAUCE WORKS, 1916-17 to 1925-26.

Year.	Fruit Used.	Sugar Used.	Jams and Jellies Made.	Fruit Preserved.	Fruit Pulped.	Sauce Made.	Pickles Made.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	pints.	pints.
1916-17..	372,424	257,481	347,152	60,419	132,182	6,433,032	1,803,408
1917-18..	497,650	286,860	398,500	115,589	94,810	7,964,520	1,972,320
1918-19..	496,690	314,645	495,575	133,230	91,550	4,913,050	2,137,730
1919-20..	628,721	262,585	323,452	181,562	225,522	6,546,610	1,874,240
1920-21..	465,349	171,706	231,297	61,542	178,786	6,601,330	1,239,250
1921-22..	384,214	148,886	157,712	239,656	100,317	6,600,530	1,056,430
1922-23..	450,199	177,334	206,966	221,157	114,615	8,439,440	2,106,950
1923-24..	552,262	191,216	197,850	239,077	208,688	10,696,190	2,361,250
1924-25..	537,246	190,675	220,174	282,360	151,416	7,893,760	2,057,480
1925-26..	674,793	209,648	236,345	350,363	168,906	9,305,590	2,686,500

Some of these establishments also candied fruit peel, the quantities being 3,360 cwt. in 1916-17, 9,330 cwt. in 1917-18, 8,449 cwt. in 1918-19, 10,466 cwt. in 1919-20, 13,306 cwt. in 1920-21, 10,743 cwt. in 1921-22, 6,831 cwt. in 1922-23, 3,820 cwt. in 1923-24, 7,263 cwt. in 1924-25, and 4,973 cwt. in 1925-26. The value of the output in 1925-26 of the whole of the establishments whose produce is shown in the above table was £2,177,677.

**Beet Sugar industry.** In 1896 Parliament made available £62,000 to assist in the establishment of the beet sugar industry at Maffra, in Gippsland. On receiving a guarantee that 1,500 acres of beet would be sown by local land-holders, a company erected a

large building and plant, and operated for two seasons. Although a good quality of sugar was produced, various climatic, financial, and other difficulties compelled the company to close down the works, and the Government, as chief creditor, took control.

In 1910 a definite campaign to revive the industry was commenced, and the mill was re-opened; since that time it has operated from year to year. Estates were purchased by the Government at Boisdale and Kilmany, and land was allotted to settlers, subject to the proviso that each would grow a certain quantity of beet. The compulsory system of securing acreage was not found satisfactory, and all crops are now grown voluntarily. Recently the financial results have been sufficiently favorable to more than compensate for all losses; the by-products have been found to be of great value to the dairying industry, and the sugar has become a most important item of Gippsland's food supply.

The State Rivers and Water Supply Commission have advanced their irrigation scheme on the Macalister River, which will provide water for part of the district this season and subsequently for the whole district. Under irrigation it is anticipated that the beet supply will double itself, and that the industry will expand on more favorable lines than in the past.

The following particulars summarize the results of the industry for the last ten seasons:—

Season.				Area Harvested.	Sugar Beet Harvested.	Sugar Produced.
				acres.	tons.	tons.
1916-17	..	..	..	1,320	15,159	1,948
1917-18	..	..	..	1,200	14,487	1,650
1918-19	..	..	..	1,009	12,289	1,263
1919-20	..	..	..	1,080	13,084	1,551
1920-21	..	..	..	1,180	7,147	833
1921-22	..	..	..	1,602	16,578	1,872
1922-23	..	..	..	2,045	20,444	2,784
1923-24	..	..	..	1,937	29,512	3,499
1924-25	..	..	..	1,897	24,468	3,017
1925-26	..	..	..	1,880	21,194	2,315

The last season was only fair as regards sugar production. Growers were paid 40s. a ton for their beets, and a net profit of £3,529 was realized.

Particulars regarding breweries for the ten years 1916-17 to 1925-26 are set forth in the next table. Machinery and plant were valued at £452,988 in 1916-17 and at £755,105 in 1925-26, whilst land and buildings were valued at £471,170 and £591,690

**Breweries.**

respectively in those years. The wages paid in 1925-26 amounted to £342,651.

### BREWERIES, 1916-17 to 1925-26.

Year.	Number of Breweries.	Persons Employed.	Materials Used—			Beer Made.	Value of Output.
			Sugar.	Malt.	Hops.		
			cwt.	bushels.	lbs.	gallons.	£
1916-17	19	866	105,238	616,630	710,470	20,112,000	1,118,288
1917-18	18	875	109,640	650,500	748,840	21,021,000	1,334,344
1918-19	17	940	112,080	625,770	722,590	20,963,000	1,476,335
1919-20	17	1,016	110,020	720,515	769,765	22,610,000	1,830,548
1920-21	16	1,054	104,140	753,260	736,580	22,257,000	2,098,720
1921-22	15	1,053	107,160	688,090	717,950	22,388,000	2,200,882
1922-23	14	1,091	110,051	723,511	768,870	23,212,000	2,322,814
1923-24	14	1,186	112,840	743,131	796,769	23,907,000	2,412,387
1924-25	14	1,263	113,729	744,048	784,080	23,286,000	2,479,619
1925-26	11	1,113	118,310	777,041	811,063	24,347,000	2,594,835

**Distilleries.** The number of distilleries working in 1925-26 was 10, and the persons employed numbered 156, of whom two were working proprietors. The estimated value of the machinery, plant, land and buildings was £279,745. The quantities of materials used in manufacture and of spirits distilled in each of the last ten years were as follows:—

### DISTILLERIES, 1916-17 to 1925-26.

Year.	Materials Used.				Spirits Distilled.
	Wine.	Malt.	Other Grain.	Molasses.	
	gallons.	bushels.	bushels.	lbs.	proof gal.
1916-17	1,452,048	176,472	170	1,093,120	658,357
1917-18	1,137,640	376,830	..	3,962,560	1,150,091
1918-19	1,206,530	385,690	397	5,604,480	1,185,629
1919-20	1,524,860	180,306	..	3,230,080	702,586
1920-21	1,041,890	125,414	1,422	2,682,960	572,671
1921-22	671,162	58,848	..	1,167,600	390,840
1922-23	1,100,568	77,717	..	85,120	473,152
1923-24	1,114,590	121,691	..	2,350,880	730,158
1924-25	1,117,370	92,124	..	2,727,650	561,153
1925-26	1,849,920	94,784	..	2,994,880	785,595

Spirits made by vine-growers for fortifying wine are not included in the foregoing table. The following quantities were distilled in vineyards for that purpose during the last ten years:—9,937 gallons in 1916-17, 5,134 gallons in 1917-18, 2,232 gallons in 1918-19, 5,141 gallons in 1919-20, 15,486 gallons in 1920-21, 23,020 gallons in 1921-22, 14,930 gallons in 1922-23, 13,792 gallons in 1923-24, 19,245 gallons in 1924-25, and 14,850 gallons in 1925-26.

The number of tobacco, cigar, and cigarette factories licensed in 1924-25 was twenty-six, of which twelve were too small to be classified as ordinary factories and were consequently not included in the statistical tabulation on page 558. In the year mentioned the remaining fourteen gave employment to 1,762 persons who were paid £349,674 in wages, and used machinery, plant, land and buildings valued at £433,995. The subjoined table shows the quantity of tobacco leaf used by and the output of the full number of licensed establishments for the last ten years:—

TOBACCO FACTORIES, 1916-17 to 1925-26.

Year.	Unmanufactured Leaf Operated on.		Quantity Manufactured.			
	Australian.	Imported.	Tobacco.	Snuff.	Cigars.	Cigarettes.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	number.	number.
1916-17 ..	656,320	5,254,110	6,089,929	446	26,268,733	123,480,200
1917-18 ..	558,278	4,598,364	5,479,191	313	27,920,180	126,883,970
1918-19 ..	405,625	5,096,176	5,842,142	1,049	27,973,908	125,372,900
1919-20 ..	573,932	5,189,098	6,164,126	426	35,232,399	143,374,400
1920-21 ..	751,137	5,290,854	6,443,480	228	35,549,722	100,686,950
1921-22 ..	535,590	5,250,641	6,345,508	232	33,893,695	152,908,600
1922-23 ..	540,322	5,628,555	6,709,060	231	32,699,019	99,771,650
1923-24 ..	471,862	4,993,680	5,833,903	99	29,244,981	87,896,350
1924-25 ..	427,152	5,222,496	5,998,437	50	30,794,864	77,840,200
1925-26 ..	449,575	5,055,260	5,879,683	100	29,595,805	70,135,500

There were twenty-seven woollen mills working in 1925-26, and the number of persons employed therein was 5,283, of whom twenty-one were working proprietors. The wages paid amounted to £795,292, and the approximate value of the machinery, plant, land and buildings was £3,090,905. The value of the raw materials used during the year was £2,243,014, and that of the goods manufactured in the same period, £3,976,224. The quantities of wool and cotton used and of goods manufactured in each of the last ten years were as follows:—

WOOLLEN MILLS, 1916-17 to 1925-26.

Year.	Quantity of Scoured Wool Used.	Quantity of Cotton Used.	Goods Manufactured—				Value of Output.
			Tweed and Cloth.	Flannel.	Blankets.	Shawls and Rugs.	
	lbs.	lbs.	yards.	yards.	pairs.	number	£
1916-17	5,114,320	599,288	1,238,363	5,250,093	259,080	3,661	1,006,635
1917-18	4,332,420	832,400	1,429,050	5,411,990	214,410	8,560	1,036,081
1918-19	4,614,585	513,800	1,429,200	5,047,490	191,130	19,430	1,126,119
1919-20	7,285,570	578,542	2,212,202	3,667,816	165,794	51,637	1,976,428
1920-21	7,702,055	553,282	2,509,198	4,035,298	224,745	47,179	2,397,610
1921-22	8,015,650	586,836	1,872,512	5,759,987	297,700	51,598	2,482,761
1922-23	9,640,760	621,490	1,714,460	6,622,350	314,803	71,073	3,264,025
1923-24	7,936,456	848,812	1,927,298	6,095,442	377,354	115,443	3,561,480
1924-25	8,782,203	544,364	1,898,647	3,594,427	319,026	130,094	3,433,231
1925-26	10,679,901	285,482	3,438,142	3,618,260	250,943	93,766	3,976,224



During the period 1916-17 to 1925-26 the value of the output of woollen mills increased by 295 per cent. The articles manufactured showed an increase in quantity in the case of tweed and cloth and shawls and rugs, and a decrease in flannel and blankets in the ten-year period.

The development which has taken place in the boot industry in recent years is exhibited in the following tables:—

### BOOT FACTORIES, 1916-17 TO 1925-26.

Year.	Number of Factories.	Persons Employed.	Value of Machinery, Plant, Land, and Buildings.	Wages Paid.
			£	£
1916-17 .. ..	201	8,494	529,950	843,772
1917-18 .. ..	231	8,565	577,125	858,874
1918-19 .. ..	238	8,961	627,770	987,203
1919-20 .. ..	264	10,357	716,305	1,252,004
1920-21 .. ..	304	9,212	927,310	1,208,760
1921-22 .. ..	334	11,714	1,130,425	1,760,589
1922-23 .. ..	371	12,434	1,338,555	1,922,345
1923-24 .. ..	400	12,434	1,529,615	1,941,075
1924-25 .. ..	430	12,099	1,748,815	2,054,563*
1925-26 .. ..	431	12,262	1,764,685	2,088,244*

\* Including amounts drawn by working proprietors.

### OUTPUT OF BOOT FACTORIES, 1916-17 TO 1925-26.

Year.	Goods Manufactured—		Value of Materials Used.	Value of Output.
	Boots and Shoes.	Slippers.*		
	pairs.	pairs.	£	£
1916-17 .. ..	6,210,866	212,582	2,171,812	3,460,404
1917-18 .. ..	6,049,510	205,614	2,093,803	3,442,302
1918-19 .. ..	6,073,117	243,383	2,563,423	4,040,550
1919-20 .. ..	6,774,267	552,652	3,909,570	5,996,639
1920-21 .. ..	5,447,504	559,213	2,911,852	4,964,462
1921-22 .. ..	7,571,231	903,992	3,109,863	6,043,172
1922-23 .. ..	7,591,946	851,289	3,059,769	6,157,132
1923-24 .. ..	7,063,385	1,107,257	2,879,194	5,888,699
1924-25 .. ..	7,496,004	1,167,581	2,913,105	5,832,625
1925-26 .. ..	7,660,638	1,724,418	2,995,490	6,045,226

\* Includes canvas shoes and house-boots.

The value of the output of establishments connected with the manufacture of dress, i.e., clothing, tailoring, dressmaking, millinery, underclothing, hats and caps, &c., but exclusive of boots and shoes, was £14,199,570 in 1925-26, as compared with £6,765,326 in 1916-17. During the period 1916-17 to 1925-26 the persons employed increased by 6 per cent., the wages paid by 130 per cent., the value of materials used by 100 per cent., and the value of the output by 110 per cent. Particulars of the industry for each of the last ten years are as follows :—

## DRESS (EXCLUSIVE OF BOOT) FACTORIES, 1916-17 to 1925-26.

Year.	Number of Factories.	Number of Persons Employed.			Amount of Wages Paid.	Value of Materials Used.	Value of Output.
		Males.	Females.	Total.			
					£	£	£
1916-17	1,196	3,744	25,739	29,483	1,747,478	3,919,333	6,765,326
1917-18	1,209	3,730	24,630	28,360	1,788,136	4,512,648	7,674,705
1918-19	1,210	3,776	23,505	27,281	1,915,096	5,205,460	8,599,603
1919-20	1,252	4,123	25,490	29,613	2,490,549	6,628,276	11,407,324
1920-21	1,346	4,383	25,980	30,363	2,872,171	7,804,264	12,994,011
1921-22	1,424	4,674	27,370	32,044	3,328,326	7,689,101	13,429,230
1922-23	1,526	4,951	28,595	33,546	3,554,303	7,456,539	13,354,238
1923-24	1,501	4,751	26,772	31,523	3,574,059	7,181,020	13,118,477
1924-25	1,500	4,823	26,295	31,118	3,837,919*	7,388,950	13,584,190
1925-26	1,491	4,862	26,458	31,320	4,022,168*	7,833,863	14,199,570

\* Including amounts drawn by working proprietors.

Particulars relating to the electric light and power works of the State are given in the next table :—

## ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER WORKS, 1916-17 to 1925-26.

Year.	Number of Stations.	Horse-power of Machinery.	Value of Machinery and Plant.	Persons Employed.	Wages Paid.	Electricity Supplied.	Value of Output.
			£		£	British units.	£
1916-17	74	42,144	1,787,477	1,144	178,430	71,622,000	673,769
1917-18	75	48,526	1,889,550	1,167	183,948	79,486,000	760,117
1918-19	77	48,777	2,135,310	1,149	190,280	83,778,000	835,190
1919-20	78	49,241	2,632,665	1,215	217,995	100,838,000	953,039
1920-21	79	54,189	2,660,945	1,242	283,309	115,105,000	1,131,331
1921-22	84	57,481	3,166,750	1,350	334,805	136,021,000	1,407,268
1922-23	88	72,106	4,042,910	1,451	377,048	157,728,000	1,614,139
1923-24	90	154,622	5,864,065	1,752	462,172	405,108,000	2,176,551
1924-25	84	205,777	7,900,455	2,011	549,849	413,556,000	2,382,582
1925-26	83	188,342	5,035,460	1,149	338,807	460,710,000	1,648,113

The decrease in the number of persons and the value of machinery and plant and output in electric supply undertakings is due to a change in the method of compilation. In previous years, the figures related to both generation and distribution, but for the year 1925-26 only those relating to the former are given.

The electricity supplied in 1925-26 represented an increase of 543 per cent. on that supplied in 1916-17.

The particulars relating to the power houses at Newport under the control of the Victorian Railways Commissioners and the State Electricity Commission are included for the last three years in the figures which appear in the above table. This largely accounts for the seeming discrepancy between the quantity and value of the output for the years mentioned. The quantity of electricity generated in these power houses in 1925-26 was 272,697,000 units; the value of this has been estimated at bulk rates by the respective departments.

#### STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION ACTS 1918 AND 1920.

When it was first appointed in 1919, the operations of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria were carried on under the provisions of the *Electricity Commissioners' Act* 1918, which provided for the appointment by the Governor in Council of three Commissioners to administer the Act. By an amending Act of the 24th December, 1920, the name of the Act was changed to the *State Electricity Commission Act* 1918, and provision was made, *inter alia*, for the appointment of four Commissioners for a period of seven years, one of whom would devote the whole of his time to the Commission's works as permanent chairman. In addition to the Acts mentioned above, the Commission administers the *Electric Light and Power Act* 1915, the provisions of which give it control over all electrical undertakings in the State.

The duties of the Commission include the following:—

- (1) To inquire into and report to the Government as to the steps which should be taken to co-ordinate and concentrate all electrical undertakings in Victoria, and to secure the efficient inter-connexion of such undertakings by the adoption of the necessary standards of plant, pressure, &c.
- (2) To encourage and promote the use of electricity for industrial and manufacturing purposes, and to report to the Government on the prospects of establishing new industries in Victoria requiring large quantities of electrical energy.
- (3) To carry out investigations of coal deposits or of water power in connexion with the generation of electricity.

The Commission is vested with the following powers in relation to electrical undertakings:—

- (1) To erect and operate electrical undertakings.
- (2) To supply electricity in bulk to any corporation.

- (3) To supply electricity to any person outside any area in which there is an existing undertaking.
- (4) To carry on any business associated with an electric undertaking.
- (5) To make regulations as to precautions to be adopted in the use of electricity, and to arrange for the licensing of electric wiremen.

Authority is also given to the Commission to establish and operate State Coal Mines.

The Commission has complete control over all officers and employees required for the carrying out of the provisions of the Act.

In accordance with the instructions contained in the Act, the Commission has constructed a coal winning plant and an electric generating station in the neighbourhood of Morwell, for the purpose of utilizing the practically unlimited supplies of brown coal in that area. The scheme provides for the winning of coal on the open cut system by means of mechanical appliances, for the erection of a power station close to the site of the open cut, having an initial capacity of 50,000 kilowatts, with provision for triplication, and for the erection at Yarraville of a receiving station with the necessary switch and transforming gear. Both stations are now complete and in operation, as is also the initial installation of briquetting plant at Yallourn, which produces, approximately, 100,000 tons of brown coal briquettes annually.

The Commission has also installed at Newport a station with an initial capacity of 14,000 kilowatts. This station, which was built mainly to meet the urgent need for electricity pending the completion of the Yallourn plant, is now regarded as a peak load station.

Supply of electricity from the Commission's generating station at Yallourn is already being given to the following towns in the Gippsland district (in addition to the Commission's township of Yallourn):—Morwell, Traralgon, Moe, Trafalgar, Yarragon, Maffra, Sale, Tyers, Heyfield, Mirboo North, Drouin, Korumburra, Leongatha, Cowwarr, Boolarra, and Darnum. Ultimately, supply will be given to other towns throughout Gippsland and on the route of the main transmission line, an extension to Bairnsdale having been commenced.

A transmission line has been built from Geelong, stretching through the south-western district of Victoria to the town of Warrnambool (a distance of 117 miles), giving supply to the latter town and to the following towns *en route*:—Colac, Camperdown, Terang, Mortlake, Warrion, Beeac, Cobden, Ncorat, Alvie, Allansford, Winchelsea Cororooke, Pomborneit, Kolora, and Birregurra. This transmission line (operating at 44,000 volts) is believed to be among the longest in the British Empire.

Supply has also been given to the towns of Point Lonsdale, Queenscliff, Portarlington, Drysdale, Ocean Grove, and Barwon Heads, by another transmission line from Geelong.

The energy is generated at the Melbourne Electric Supply Company's Power House at Geelong under an agreement between that

body and the Electricity Commission until such time as energy is available from the Commission's main power station at Yallourn.

The Commission is supplying energy in bulk to the Melbourne City Council, the Melbourne Electric Supply Company, the Melbourne Harbor Trust, the municipalities of Box Hill, Brunswick, Coburg, Williamstown, Footscray, Northcote, Port Melbourne, Preston, Braybrook, and Lilydale, and has built a subsidiary line, operating at 22,000 volts, from Brunswick sub-station, which encircles the eastern half of the outer metropolitan area, passing through and giving service to Ringwood, Dandenong, Frankston, and the Mornington Peninsula. It has also taken over the supply and retail distribution of energy to Dandenong, Werribee, Altona, Sunbury, Glenroy, Pascoe Vale, and Essendon—Flemington. At the 30th June, 1926, the Commission was supplying, either in retail or in bulk, 97 towns or centres throughout Victoria.

The Commission is empowered to develop hydro-electric resources, and with this object to maintain survey parties constantly in the field for the purpose of obtaining data relative to stream flow, volume, &c.

Operations have begun on the building of hydro-power stations at Royston, Rubicon, Rubicon Lower, Snobbs Creek and Sugarloaf—all to feed into a common sub-station about eight miles from Sugarloaf. The total capacity of hydraulic turbines to be installed in these stations is 25,800 brake horse-power. The construction of the transmission line from Sugarloaf to Thomastown, and from Sugarloaf to Albury and Corowa (New South Wales), via Benalla and Wangaratta, is complete, and, pending completion of the hydro-electric plant, supply is given to the north-eastern portions of the State over the transmission line from Yallourn, via Yarraville and Thomastown terminal stations. This line also serves Echuca, Shepparton, Wahgunyah, Yarrawonga, Springhurst, Mooropna, Tatura, Merrigum, and Kyabram.

Particulars in regard to gasworks are given below for each of the last ten years, but the figures for the year 1925-26 are not comparable with those of preceding years owing to the exclusion in that year of all particulars relating to distribution. Prior to that year the published figures included both manufacture and distribution.

#### GASWORKS, 1916-17 to 1925-26.

Year.	Number of Works.*	Persons Employed.	Wages Paid.	Coal Used.	Gas Made.	Coke Produced.	Value of Output.
			£	tons.	cubic feet.	tons.	£
1916-17 ..	47	2,093	365,777	317,450	4,449,230,000	200,673	1,181,096
1917-18 ..	47	2,089	375,181	318,560	4,505,847,000	200,660	1,263,030
1918-19 ..	46	2,270	420,597	353,584	4,904,351,000	220,287	1,373,603
19 9-20 ..	45	2,267	472,855	351,149	4,592,305,000	203,245	1,395,320
1920-21 ..	45	2,213	576,515	339,250	4,499,088,000	216,771	1,608,999
1921-22 ..	45	2,309	609,600	383,092	5,151,380,000	239,755	1,953,936
1922-23 ..	45	2,444	639,954	402,537	5,443,993,000	230,526	1,941,808
1923-24 ..	45	2,561	699,173	410,517	5,407,962,000	259,080	2,098,571
1924-25 ..	45	2,464	668,006	408,868	5,608,313,000	226,436	2,087,358
1925-26 ..	35	933	258,764	422,783	5,801,335,000	273,773	1,433,090

\* Including one establishment manufacturing coke only, which has not worked since 1919-20.

Oil was used as well as coal in the manufacture of gas, the number of gallons consumed each year being 345,272 in 1916-17, 396,717 in 1917-18, 355,933 in 1918-19, 343,764 in 1919-20, 360,876 in 1920-21, 300,188 in 1921-22, 248,481 in 1922-23, 223,986 in 1923-24, 175,127 in 1924-25, and 114,947 in 1925-26.

The facilities afforded in the metropolitan area have had the effect of bringing within that area the more important of the manufacturing industries. The distribution of factories by classes between the metropolis and the remainder of the State, for 1916-17 and each of the last three years, is exhibited in the following statement:—

NUMBER AND LOCATION OF FACTORIES.

Class of Industry.	Number of Factories.							
	Metropolis.				Remainder of State.			
	1916-17	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1916-17	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
Treating raw material, product of pastoral pursuits, &c. . . .	81	84	83	80	223	204	191	187
Treating oils and fats, animal, vegetable, &c. . . .	16	19	18	20	11	9	9	10
Processes in stone, clay, glass, &c. . . .	89	149	151	152	81	103	110	112
Working in wood . . .	194	336	356	364	230	355	349	330
Metal works, machinery, &c. . . .	497	696	707	721	203	212	216	229
Connected with food and drink, &c. . . .	217	277	267	268	418	443	454	448
Clothing and textile fabrics, &c. . . .	1,139	1,594	1,627	1,629	302	373	373	364
Books, paper, printing, &c. . . .	290	367	380	393	155	170	176	171
Musical instruments, &c. . . .	9	19	19	19	..	1	1	..
Arms and explosives	8	9	8	7	4	1	1	1
Vehicles, saddlery, harness, &c. . . .	251	413	427	449	282	417	419	423
Ship and boat building and repairing . . .	10	11	10	10	1	1	1	1
Furniture, upholstery and bedding . . . .	239	370	387	390	29	36	38	39
Drugs, chemicals, and by-products . . . .	61	90	93	89	33	31	38	28
Surgical and other scientific appliances	27	34	35	36	1	2	2	3
Jewellery, time-pieces and plated-ware . . .	87	104	106	109	4	7	5	5
Heat, light, and power . . . .	52	95	102	109	106	124	120	107
Leatherware, n.e.i. . . .	38	59	56	56	..	3	3	2
Minor wares, n.e.i. . . .	55	62	75	84	2	9	12	16
Total . . . .	3,360	4,788	4,907	4,985	2,085	2,501	2,518	2,476

Since 1916-17 the number of factories in the State has increased by 2,016, the greatest numerical increase in the classes being that

of the clothing and textile factories, of which there were 552 more in 1925-26 than in 1916-17.

The employment afforded in each class of industry is set forth in the next statement:—

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN  
FACTORIES.**

Class of Industry.	1916-17.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
Treating raw materials, product of pastoral pursuits, &c. . .	3,535	4,488	4,276	4,077	4,209
Treating oils and fats, animal, vegetable, &c. . .	796	915	920	950	891
Processes in stone, clay, glass, &c. . .	3,519	6,059	6,661	6,181	5,975
Working in wood . . .	6,336	9,939	10,825	10,198	9,685
Metal works, machinery, &c. . .	17,180	23,406	24,978	24,464	25,663
Connected with food and drink, &c. . .	15,334	19,037	19,199	19,344	18,813
Clothing and textile fabrics, &c. . .	41,233	51,898	50,248	49,633	50,188
Books, paper, printing, &c. . .	8,830	11,307	12,098	11,703	11,374
Musical instruments, &c. . .	198	444	498	467	529
Arms and explosives . . .	1,597	406	423	428	471
Vehicles, saddlery, harness, &c. . .	4,575	6,407	7,028	6,984	7,386
Ship and boat building and repairing . . .	464	618	392	432	388
Furniture, bedding, and upholstery . . .	2,766	4,392	4,629	4,782	4,527
Drugs, chemicals, and by-products . . .	2,086	2,511	2,699	2,774	2,713
Surgical and other scientific appliances . . .	135	203	195	236	230
Jewellery, time-pieces, and plated ware . . .	948	1,151	1,110	1,069	1,097
Heat, light, and power . . .	4,164	5,364	5,879	6,311	4,186
Leatherware, n.e.i. . .	711	1,123	1,071	940	919
Minor wares, n.e.i. . .	2,563	2,957	3,033	3,185	3,715
<b>Total . . .</b>	<b>116,970</b>	<b>152,625</b>	<b>156,162</b>	<b>154,158</b>	<b>152,959</b>

The total increase in the number of hands employed during the period covered by the above table was 35,989, which represented an advance of about 31 per cent. The greatest development had taken place in clothing factories, industries connected with food, drink, &c., and metal works, which showed increases of 8,955, 3,479, and 8,483 respectively in the number of persons employed in 1925-26 as compared with the number in 1916-17.

An examination of the figures relating to the number of factories in 1916-17 and in 1925-26 shows that percentage increases were more pronounced in the smallest sized factories and in those employing from 21 to 50 hands and 4 hands. In the case of persons employed, the largest percentage increases were in the groups under 4 hands, 21 to 50 hands, and 4 hands respectively. Particulars of factories of different sizes in 1916-17 and 1925-26 are given in the next two tables:—

**FACTORIES ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF HANDS EMPLOYED.**

Size of Factory.	Number of Factories.			Average Number of Persons Employed.		
	1916-17.	1925-26.	Increase.	1916-17.	1925-26.	Increase.
			%			%
Under 4 hands..	1,165	1,879	61·29	2,632	4,011	52·39
4 " ..	595	797	33·95	2,380	3,188	33·95
5 to 10 " ..	1,744	2,210	26·72	12,033	15,304	27·18
11 to 20 " ..	867	1,142	31·72	12,616	16,615	31·70
21 to 50 " ..	647	883	36·48	20,427	28,066	37·40
51 to 100 " ..	236	303	28·39	16,219	20,838	28·48
Over 100 " ..	191	247	29·32	50,663	64,937	28·17
Total ..	5,445	7,461	37·02	116,970	152,959	30·77

**PROPORTION OF FACTORIES OF DIFFERENT SIZES.**

Size of Factory.	Percentage to Total.			
	Factories.		Persons Employed.	
	1916-17.	1925-26.	1916-17.	1925-26.
Under 4 hands .. ..	21·40	25·18	2·25	2·62
4 " .. ..	10·93	10·68	2·03	2·08
5 to 10 " .. ..	32·03	29·62	10·29	10·01
11 to 20 " .. ..	15·92	15·31	10·79	10·86
21 to 50 " .. ..	11·88	11·84	17·46	18·35
51 to 100 " .. ..	4·33	4·06	13·87	13·63
Over 100 " .. ..	3·51	3·31	43·31	42·45
Total .. ..	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00



**Occupations  
in factories.**

In the following table the persons employed in factories are grouped according to their occupational status:—

**OCCUPATIONS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN FACTORIES.**

Occupations.	1916-17.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25	1925-26.
Working proprietors ..	5,201	6,904	7,296	7,500	7,255	7,254
Managers, overseers ..	3,619	4,454	4,673	4,929	5,043	5,213
Accountants, clerks ..	4,345	6,307	6,582	6,966	6,827	6,034
Engine-drivers, firemen	1,758	2,156	2,106	2,197	2,142	2,065
Workers in factory or works .. ..	96,706	119,598	126,791	129,617	128,706	128,948
Outworkers .. ..	1,814	1,476	1,228	870	728	736
Carters, messengers ..	2,725	3,115	3,316	3,378	2,766	2,394
Others .. ..	802	866	633	705	691	315
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>116,970</b>	<b>144,876</b>	<b>152,625</b>	<b>156,162</b>	<b>154,158</b>	<b>152,959</b>

**Outworkers.** The term "outworker" used in the above table relates to factory workers working in their own homes, but does not include individuals working for themselves. The employment of outworkers is regulated by a special provision of the Factories and Shops Act. They are required to register their names and addresses with the Chief Inspector of Factories, and factory proprietors are forbidden to give work to those who are not registered.

**sex distribu-  
tion in  
factories.** The average numbers of males and females employed in factories and their proportions to the male and female populations, for the years 1916-17 to 1925-26, were as follows:—

**EMPLOYMENT OF MALES AND FEMALES IN FACTORIES.**

Year.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Number.	Average per 10,000 of Male Population.	Number.	Average per 10,000 of Female Population.	Number.	Average per 10,000 of Total Population.
1916-17 ..	74,924	1,123	42,046	574	116,970	836
1917-18 ..	76,654	1,142	41,587	562	118,241	838
1918-19 ..	81,357	1,188	40,992	550	122,349	855
1919-20 ..	92,101	1,243	44,421	588	136,522	913
1920-21 ..	96,379	1,277	44,364	580	140,743	926
1921-22 ..	97,789	1,279	47,087	599	144,876	934
1922-23 ..	103,092	1,307	49,533	618	152,625	960
1923-24 ..	107,578	1,334	48,584	593	156,162	961
1924-25 ..	105,984	1,286	48,174	578	154,158	930
1925-26 ..	104,512	1,246	48,447	573	152,959	908

Males formed 64·1 per cent. in 1916-17 and 68·3 per cent. in 1925-26 of the total persons employed. The increase during the period 1916-17 to 1925-26 in the number of males employed was 29,588, or 39·5 per cent., and in the number of females employed, 6,401, or 15·2 per cent.

Of the total females in factories 72·9 per cent. are engaged in the textile and clothing industries, and 10·5 per cent. in the preparation of food and drink. The extent of female employment in certain industries is shown in the next table :—

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES, 1925-26.

Industry.	Number Employed.		Females per 100 Males.
	Males.	Females.	
Oatmeal, &c. .. .. .	405	365	90·1
Biscuit .. .. .	720	576	80·0
Jam, pickle, and sauce .. .. .	1,552	1,076	69·3
Confectionery .. .. .	1,831	1,819	99·3
Tobacco, &c. .. .. .	1,141	621	54·4
Woollen mills .. .. .	2,291	2,992	130·6
Clothing, tailoring, &c. .. .. .	2,102	7,394	351·8
Dressmaking, millinery .. .. .	420	7,936	1,889·5
Underclothing .. .. .	482	5,216	1,082·2
Hats, caps, &c. .. .. .	668	991	148·3
Hosiery .. .. .	792	4,046	510·9
Waterproof clothing .. .. .	79	234	296·2
Fur .. .. .	162	290	179·0
Boots and shoes .. .. .	6,952	5,310	76·4
Printing, &c. .. .. .	6,139	1,549	25·2
Bookbinding, stationery, &c. .. .. .	682	594	87·1
Fancybox, &c. .. .. .	347	904	260·5
Rope, twine .. .. .	505	375	74·3
Sail, tent .. .. .	122	97	79·5
Chemicals .. .. .	666	631	94·7
Ammunition .. .. .	83	74	89·2
Match .. .. .	185	432	233·5
Fancy leather .. .. .	409	398	97·3
Rubber goods .. .. .	2,349	605	25·8
All other factories .. .. .	73,428	3,922	5·3
Total .. .. .	104,512	48,447	46·4

A favorable feature of factory statistics has been the small proportion of children engaged in factories. Of the male and female employees, boys and girls under 16 constituted 4·05 and 7·30 per cent. respectively in 1925-26, as against 4·37 and 5·55 per cent. in 1916-17. The number of children

employed in factories and their proportions to the total employees are given in the subjoined table for the years 1916-17 to 1925-26 :—

### CHILDREN EMPLOYED IN FACTORIES.

Year.	Boys under 16.	Girls under 16.	Total Children.	Proportion per cent. of—		
				Boys to Male Employees.	Girls to Female Employees.	Children to Total Employees.
1916-17 ..	3,072	2,301	5,373	4·37	5·55	4·81
1917-18 ..	3,195	2,447	5,642	4·45	5·97	5·00
1918-19 ..	3,137	2,389	5,526	4·15	5·90	4·73
1919-20 ..	3,721	2,872	6,593	4·04	6·47	4·83
1920-21 ..	3,715	2,798	6,513	4·11	6·39	4·86
1921-22 ..	3,780	3,120	6,900	4·13	6·71	5·00
1922-23 ..	4,031	3,163	7,194	4·18	6·48	4·95
1923-24 ..	4,057	3,422	7,479	4·03	7·15	5·03
1924-25 ..	4,027	3,223	7,250	4·05	6·78	4·94
1925-26 ..	3,980	3,489	7,469	4·06	7·30	5·13

In the following table are shown the number of factories **Machinery in factories.** using mechanical power, the total horse-power of the engines used, and the value of the machinery and plant for the ten years 1916-17 to 1925-26 :—

### MACHINERY IN FACTORIES.

Year.	Number of Factories equipped with Machinery.	Value of Machinery and Plant.	Horse-power of Engines.
		£	
1916-17 .. ..	4,226	11,732,062	136,985
1917-18 .. ..	4,371	12,612,797	149,095
1918-19 .. ..	4,470	13,645,220	153,408
1919-20 .. ..	4,737	15,846,935	166,803
1920-21 .. ..	5,161	18,179,385	182,143
1921-22 .. ..	5,473	21,182,110	191,881
1922-23 .. ..	5,762	23,994,715	216,427
1923-24 .. ..	6,030	28,223,915	314,561
1924-25 .. ..	6,168	32,563,815	374,064
1925-26 .. ..	6,321	30,549,130	367,318

The nature of the power used and the capacity of the machinery in the factories of the State are set out in the next table. Establishments using more than one kind of mechanical power are included once only in the first portion, usually under the power which is principally used. The second portion shows the total horse-power of engines used.

## POWER USED IN FACTORIES, 1916-17 to 1925-26.

Year.	Number of Factories using—					
	Steam.	Gas.	Electricity.	Oil.	Water, Wind, or Horses.	Manual Labour.
1916-17 ..	931	800	2,142	311	42	1,219
1917-18 ..	896	784	2,365	285	41	1,256
1918-19 ..	875	782	2,481	297	35	1,250
1919-20 ..	910	761	2,712	315	39	1,301
1920-21 ..	941	705	3,128	360	27	1,371
1921-22 ..	935	666	3,474	364	34	1,280
1922-23 ..	910	655	3,795	372	30	1,334
1923-24 ..	885	540	4,174	402	29	1,259
1924-25 ..	812	476	4,448	403	29	1,257
1925-26 ..	736	413	4,709	432	31	1,140

Year.	Actual Horse-power of Engines.				
	Steam.	Gas.	Electricity.	Oil.	Total.
1916-17 .. ..	81,611	18,651	34,348	2,375	136,985
1917-18 .. ..	89,561	19,045	38,246	2,243	149,095
1918-19 .. ..	91,245	18,929	40,791	2,443	153,408
1919-20 .. ..	95,747	19,183	48,814	3,059	166,803
1920-21 .. ..	103,048	19,331	56,602	3,162	182,143
1921-22 .. ..	106,882	19,327	62,663	3,009	191,881
1922-23 .. ..	112,547	18,968	81,679	3,233	216,427
1923-24 .. ..	195,744	18,394	95,340	5,083	314,561
1924-25 .. ..	233,290	17,869	117,525	5,380	374,064
1925-26 .. ..	235,872	15,422	107,812	8,212	367,318

Although steam is the principal motive power, and was used to supply 64 per cent. of the total mechanical power employed in factories in 1925-26, a remarkable development is shown in the use of electricity, which in 1916-17 was used by 2,142, and in 1925-26 by 4,709 factories, the actual horse-power increasing from 34,348 to 107,812 in the same period.

Wages in  
Factories.

The total amount and the average amount of salaries and wages paid to persons employed in factories are given in the following table for each of the last ten years:—

## SALARIES AND WAGES PAID IN FACTORIES.

Year.	Drawings by Working Proprietors (excluding Profits).		Salaries paid to Managers and Clerks.		Wages paid to Factory Workers.		Total Salaries and Wages paid.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1916-17	..	..	1,364,269	171,675	8,226,582	2,070,991	11,833,517
1917-18	..	..	1,462,220	190,707	8,679,530	2,170,144	12,502,601
1918-19	..	..	1,625,584	208,524	9,906,082	2,340,213	14,080,403
1919-20	..	..	1,967,959	270,875	12,515,207	2,948,132	17,702,173
1920-21	..	..	2,384,372	310,024	15,284,545	3,398,275	21,377,216
1921-22	..	..	2,563,467	357,691	16,933,984	3,991,353	23,846,495
1922-23	..	..	2,761,045	394,366	18,038,101	4,353,680	25,547,192
1923-24	..	..	3,003,855	436,425	19,577,822	4,453,982	27,472,084
1924-25	1,538,868	74,043	3,055,257	443,676	19,460,304	4,484,904	29,057,052
1925-26	1,590,771	80,876	2,996,929	448,387	19,547,974	4,664,463	29,329,400
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1916-17	..	..	220 3 0	97 3 1	128 7 8	52 2 7	105 17 6
1917-18	..	..	231 4 4	99 15 11	132 8 6	55 10 1	110 15 4
1918-19	..	..	244 5 4	101 7 5	141 19 8	60 19 0	120 9 5
1919-20	..	..	264 8 1	118 6 9	157 16 8	70 17 5	135 10 5
1920-21	..	..	298 19 7	124 15 2	185 12 4	82 5 11	159 8 4
1921-22	..	..	316 18 11	133 16 4	202 19 11	91 2 11	172 16 9
1922-23	..	..	331 10 9	134 14 8	204 12 2	94 16 5	175 15 9
1923-24	..	..	339 19 1	142 13 5	212 19 0	99 7 1	184 15 11
1924-25	233 8 11	111 13 7	347 18 0	143 13 7	214 15 5	100 19 4	186 16 4*
1925-26	240 18 4	124 4 8	363 7 11	149 9 3	218 0 4	104 2 6	189 16 5*

\* These figures are based on numbers of and wages, etc., paid to all persons employed, excluding working proprietors.

The particulars appearing in the above table reveal continued increases from year to year in the average earnings of all groups. In the average wage of all employees, the largest increase was from the year 1919-20 to 1920-21. During the last three years the rate of increase has declined, the average wage for 1925-26 having been only £5 Os. 6d. more than that for 1923-24.

The above average wage for 1925-26 (£189 16s. 5d.) was probably below the average according to the determinations of Wages Boards. This is mainly accounted for by the fact that the former sum is based on the actual payments to workers, while the latter represents the average of the sums to which they would have been entitled if they had worked throughout the whole year. There is, of necessity, a difference between the two averages, as all hands are not continuously employed, nor are all factories working throughout the whole year.

The cost of production and the value of the output in each class of manufacturing industry during the year 1925-26 are given in the subjoined statement:—

FACTORY COSTS AND OUTPUT, 1925-26.

Class of Industry.	Cost of—			Value of Output.
	Raw Materials Used.	Fuel, Light, and Power Used.	Salaries and Wages Paid.	
	£	£	£	£
Treating raw material, product of pastoral pursuits, &c. ..	4,579,184	118,489	912,075	6,250,174
Treating oils and fats, animal, vegetable, &c. ..	969,759	50,566	196,891	1,557,945
Processes in stone, clay, glass, &c. ..	766,181	430,510	1,370,991	3,577,456
Working in wood ..	2,409,524	63,013	2,143,499	5,638,963
Metal works, machinery, &c. Connected with food and drink, &c. ..	6,776,646	346,446	5,874,459	15,569,040
26,517,808	653,212	3,907,388	36,464,761	
Clothing and textile fabrics, &c. ..	13,735,403	281,137	7,118,271	25,312,669
Books, paper, printing, &c. ..	2,584,656	124,503	2,423,897	6,595,252
Musical instruments, &c. ..	123,161	2,640	110,619	300,636
Arms and explosives ..	203,968	16,474	97,573	407,441
Vehicles, saddlery, harness, &c. ..	976,071	47,411	1,430,738	2,924,721
Ship and boat building and repairing ..	42,104	4,306	95,360	165,352
Furniture, upholstery, and bedding ..	1,253,588	28,802	888,464	2,576,474
Drugs, chemicals, and by-products ..	1,617,501	65,292	562,359	2,943,968
Surgical and other scientific instruments ..	35,121	1,590	44,488	105,978
Jewellery, time-pieces, and plated-ware ..	236,498	7,902	224,241	575,368
Heat, light, and power ..	1,708,100	791,255	1,017,697	4,770,630
Leatherware, n.e.i. ..	277,447	3,265	145,032	508,926
Minor wares, n.e.i. ..	2,345,725	119,569	765,358	3,740,685
Total ..	67,164,445	3,156,382	29,329,400	119,986,439

The difference between the sum of the first three columns and the last column represents the amount available for miscellaneous expenses, interest, and profit. The proportions which this margin and the chief items of the cost of production bear to the total value

of production in each class of industry are shown in the following table :—

PROPORTIONATE VALUE OF COSTS, ETC., TO PRODUCTION  
IN FACTORIES, 1925-26.

Class of Industry.	Percentage of Costs, &c., to Total Value of Production.			
	Materials.	Fuel, Light, &c.	Wages.	All other Expenditure, Interest, and Profit.
	%	%	%	%
Treating raw material, product of pastoral pursuits, &c. .. ..	73·3	1·9	14·6	10·2
Treating oils and fats, animal, vegetable, &c. .. ..	62·3	3·2	12·6	21·9
Processes in stone, clay, glass, &c. ..	21·5	12·0	38·3	28·2
Working in wood .. ..	42·8	1·1	38·0	18·1
Metal works, machinery, &c. .. ..	43·5	2·2	37·8	16·5
Connected with food and drink, &c. ..	72·7	1·8	10·7	14·8
Clothing and textile fabrics, &c. .. ..	54·3	1·1	28·1	16·5
Books, paper, printing, &c. .. ..	39·2	1·9	36·7	22·2
Musical instruments, &c. .. ..	43·0	0·9	36·8	19·3
Arms and explosives .. ..	50·1	4·0	23·9	22·0
Vehicles, saddlery, harness, &c. .. ..	33·4	1·6	48·9	16·1
Ship and boat building and repairing	25·5	2·6	57·7	14·2
Furniture, upholstery, and bedding ..	48·7	1·1	34·5	15·7
Drugs, chemicals, and by-products ..	54·9	2·2	19·1	23·8
Surgical and other scientific instruments .. ..	33·1	1·5	42·0	23·4
Jewellery, time-pieces, and plated-ware .. ..	41·1	1·4	39·0	18·5
Heat, light, and power .. ..	35·8	16·6	21·3	26·3
Leatherware, n.e.i. .. ..	54·5	0·6	28·5	16·4
Minor wares, n.e.i. .. ..	62·7	3·2	20·5	13·6
Total .. ..	56·0	2·6	24·4	17·0

There are considerable variations in the proportions which the cost of materials and the expenditure on wages bear to the value of the output in the different classes of industries. These are, of course, due to the difference in the treatment required to present the raw material in its manufactured form. Thus in brickworks, &c., the sum paid in wages represents 38 per cent. and the cost of raw materials 21 per cent. of the value of the finished article, whilst in the industries connected with food and drink the expenditure on wages amounts to 11 per cent. and that on raw materials to 73 per cent. of the value of the output.

Cost of  
production,  
1916-17 to  
1925-26.

In the next table the cost of production, the value of the output of factories, and the balance available for profit and miscellaneous expenses are compared for the years 1916-17 to 1925-26 :—

**COST OF PRODUCTION AND VALUE OF OUTPUT OF  
FACTORIES, 1916-17 TO 1925-26.**

Year.	Cost of Production.				Total Value of Output.
	Materials.	Fuel, Light, and Power.	Salaries and Wages.	All other Expenditure, Interest, and Profit.	
	£	£	£	£	£
1916-17 ..	37,103,750	1,024,156	11,833,517	10,085,861	60,047,284
1917-18 ..	42,133,636	1,248,186	12,502,601	11,182,292	67,066,715
1918-19 ..	52,098,737	1,457,124	14,080,403	12,559,413	80,195,677
1919-20 ..	65,563,104	1,723,220	17,702,173	16,486,866	101,475,363
1920-21 ..	65,401,425	2,184,096	21,377,216	17,045,557	106,008,294
1921-22 ..	60,352,561	2,329,760	23,846,495	19,714,365	106,243,181
1922-23 ..	62,658,163	2,443,681	25,547,192	20,637,307	111,286,343
1923-24 ..	62,217,874	2,803,239	27,472,084	21,428,730	113,921,927
1924-25 ..	65,205,233	2,964,635	29,057,052	20,950,478	118,177,398
1925-26 ..	67,164,445	3,156,382	29,329,400	20,336,212	119,986,439

These figures are reduced in the appended statement to their proportionate value of the total output.

**PROPORTION OF OUTLAY TO OUTPUT OF FACTORIES,  
1916-17 TO 1925-26.**

Year.	Proportion of Outlay to Output.				Total.
	Materials.	Fuel, Light, and Power.	Salaries and Wages.	Other Expenditure, Interest, and Profit.	
	%	%	%	%	%
1916-17 ..	61·8	1·7	19·7	16·8	100·0
1917-18 ..	62·8	1·9	18·6	16·7	100·0
1918-19 ..	65·0	1·8	17·5	15·7	100·0
1919-20 ..	64·6	1·7	17·4	16·3	100·0
1920-21 ..	61·7	2·0	20·2	16·1	100·0
1921-22 ..	56·8	2·2	22·4	18·6	100·0
1922-23 ..	56·3	2·2	23·0	18·5	100·0
1923-24 ..	54·6	2·5	24·1	18·8	100·0
1924-25 ..	55·2	2·5	24·6	17·7	100·0
1925-26 ..	56·0	2·6	24·4	17·0	100·0

The apparent decrease for 1924-25 and 1925-26 in the balance available for profit and miscellaneous expenses, as shown in the two preceding tables, is due to the fact that the amount of salaries and wages includes for those years the sums drawn regularly by working



proprietors amounting to £1,612,911 in the former and £1,671,647 in the latter year.

The ratio of salaries and wages to the value of the output of factories was 23·7 per cent. on the average of the last five years, as against 18·7 per cent. in the period 1916-17 to 1920-21. The cost of materials was 55·8 per cent. of the value of output in the period 1921-22 to 1925-26, as compared with 63·2 per cent. in the years 1916-17 to 1920-21. The proportionate outlay on fuel, light, and power was 1·8 per cent. in the former and 2·4 in the latter period. The balance available for miscellaneous expenses, rent, interest, and manufacturers' profit was £18 ls. 11d. in every £100 of the total output value in the period 1921-22 to 1925-26, as compared with £16 4s. 9d. in the preceding five-year period.

Capital  
invested in  
manufacturing  
plant and  
premises.

In the following statement the amount of capital invested in machinery and plant and land and buildings used in connexion with the various classes of manufacturing industries is shown for the year 1925-26 :—

#### MACHINERY, PLANT, LAND AND BUILDINGS USED IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, 1925-26.

Class of Industry.	Value of Machinery and Plant.	Value of Land and Buildings.
	£	£
Treating raw material, product of pastoral pursuits, &c. . . . .	743,165	881,170
Treating oils and fats, animal, vegetable, &c. . . . .	290,920	229,495
Processes in stone, clay, glass, &c. . . . .	1,283,765	1,192,440
Working in wood . . . . .	1,303,175	1,124,845
Metal works, machinery, &c. . . . .	3,398,185	3,647,635
Connected with food and drink, &c. . . . .	5,774,800	5,567,770
Clothing and textile fabrics, &c. . . . .	3,996,050	6,450,635
Books, paper, printing, &c. . . . .	2,771,865	2,527,990
Musical instruments, &c. . . . .	50,550	166,065
Arms and explosives . . . . .	283,780	413,515
Vehicles, saddlery, harness, &c. . . . .	588,815	2,031,990
Ship and boat building and repairing . . . . .	101,090	266,240
Furniture, upholstery, and bedding . . . . .	246,905	967,105
Drugs, chemicals, and by-products . . . . .	781,735	670,265
Surgical and other scientific instruments . . . . .	16,845	67,675
Jewellery, time-pieces, and plated-ware . . . . .	75,700	275,285
Heat, light, and power . . . . .	7,938,050	2,725,335
Leatherware, n.e.i. . . . .	40,245	161,925
Minor wares, n.e.i. . . . .	863,490	479,990
Total . . . . .	30,549,130	29,847,370

The capital invested in plant, buildings, &c., used in connexion with three classes of industries—food and drink; clothing and textile fabrics; and heat, light and power—amounted, in the year under review, to £32,452,640, or more than one-half of the total for all manufacturing industries.

The values of machinery and plant and of land and buildings used in connexion with manufacturing industries are shown in the next table for the years 1916-17 to 1925-26 :—

MACHINERY, PLANT, LAND AND BUILDINGS USED IN  
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, 1916-17 to 1925-26.

Year.						Value of Machinery and Plant.	Value of Land and Buildings.
						£	£
1916-17	..	..	..	..	..	11,732,062	12,052,227
1917-18	..	..	..	..	..	12,612,797	12,847,485
1918-19	..	..	..	..	..	13,645,220	13,673,515
1919-20	..	..	..	..	..	15,846,935	14,957,585
1920-21	..	..	..	..	..	18,179,385	17,313,350
1921-22	..	..	..	..	..	21,182,110	19,810,170
1922-23	..	..	..	..	..	23,994,715	22,428,525
1923-24	..	..	..	..	..	28,223,915	24,972,560
1924-25	..	..	..	..	..	32,563,815	28,468,160
1925-26	..	..	..	..	..	30,549,130	29,847,370

It will be seen from these figures that the values of machinery and plant and land and buildings increased by 154 per cent. between 1916-17 and 1925-26.

In the appended table the number of accidents in factories is given for the last ten years. The particulars in the table relate to establishments which came within the scope of the Factories Acts in force in the years specified, and not to those classified for statistical purposes in the preceding tables.

The large increase shown in the number of accidents since 1919 is mainly attributable to an amendment of the law, which made compulsory the reporting of accidents. Previously, only those of a serious nature were reported.

ACCIDENTS IN FACTORIES, 1916 to 1925.

Year.			Number of Employees.	Number of Accidents.	Percentage of Accidents to Number of Employees.
1916	..	..	92,320	503	·544
1917	..	..	97,561	442	·453
1918	..	..	104,242	459	·440
1919	..	..	116,369	362	·311
1920	..	..	116,846	862	·737
1921	..	..	117,633	830	·705
1922	..	..	126,630	787	·621
1923	..	..	128,915	1,034	·802
1924	..	..	129,147	1,052	·814
1925	..	..	128,013	996	·778

**Manufactures—  
Penal  
Department  
and Blind  
Institute.**

The foregoing tables do not include particulars relating to work of various kinds done by the Penal Department at Pentridge and the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind. At the former establishment the manufacture of wire netting, clothing, brushware, boots, mats, blankets, flannel, underclothing, bread, and printing are carried on. The estimated value of the output for 1925-26 was £56,162, and of the materials used, £43,530. The articles produced are used principally by Government Departments. The work carried on by the latter is the manufacture of brooms, brushware, wickerware, and coir mats and matting, and gives employment to 138 persons (118 males and 20 females). The value of the work turned out for the period under review was £28,522.

**Value of  
Victorian  
production.**

The value of all articles produced or manufactured in Victoria has been compiled from actual returns or estimates in the office of the Government Statist, and the results are set forth in the following table:—

VALUE OF VICTORIAN PRODUCTION, 1921-22 to 1925-26.

Produce.	Value in—				
	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
<i>Cultivation.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Wheat .. ..	10,509,945	8,031,875	8,189,069	11,993,546	6,665,150
Oats .. ..	931,346	1,416,355	1,455,231	934,538	684,320
Barley, malting ..	221,757	298,792	195,545	253,263	202,206
" other .. ..	179,843	137,445	66,665	95,743	87,060
Maize .. ..	194,358	205,314	263,276	137,948	172,825
Other Cereals ..	66,537	75,553	71,173	53,227	58,525
Grass and Clover Seed .. ..	6,113	3,537	3,880	3,886	2,749
Potatoes .. ..	555,111	1,040,662	701,229	682,873	1,309,470
Onions .. ..	157,930	139,888	215,444	209,803	267,793
Other Root Crops ..	11,259	11,800	15,032	12,340	18,297
Hay .. ..	4,413,091	6,327,338	5,229,162	3,639,496	3,497,253
Straw .. ..	66,164	76,644	66,677	66,920	63,688
Green Forage* ..	447,050	512,255	536,855	497,653	539,365
Tobacco .. ..	24,160	35,600	41,880	49,120	47,160
Grapes, not made into wine, raisins, &c. .. ..	39,978	71,793	45,589	45,372	77,333
Raisins, ordinary ..	125,154	132,308	27,420	57,867	73,432
" sultanas .. ..	445,319	555,059	122,775	733,919	676,965
Currants .. ..	187,605	171,642	57,027	110,099	93,972
Wine .. ..	166,883	171,749	217,713	153,986	177,371
Hops .. ..	22,650	23,195	29,772	53,000	54,193
Other Crops .. ..	68,536	81,447	104,066	78,848	125,788
Fruit grown for sale in orchards and gardens .. ..	1,184,069	1,172,325	1,193,689	1,091,508	1,247,723
Fruit in private orchards and gar- dens .. ..	12,660	10,670	10,505	9,945	12,070
Market Gardens ..	500,640	493,780	810,600	731,000	830,450
Less Deductions ..	..	..	..	-3,535,135	-3,283,560
Total .. ..	20,538,158	21,197,026	19,660,374	18,165,772	13,702,818

\* Exclusive of area under sown grasses.

## VALUE OF VICTORIAN PRODUCTION, 1921-22 TO 1925-26—continued.

Produce.	Value in—				
	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Dairying and Pastoral.</i>					
Milk consumed in natural state ..	2,027,040	1,995,280	2,130,345	1,784,590	2,333,000
Butter made ..	5,127,570	6,660,600	6,491,310	6,618,240	6,182,120
Cheese made ..	203,620	163,180	253,795	204,890	227,660
Cream made (not for butter) ..	80,130	127,530	177,090	190,540	184,350
Condensed, Concentrated, and Powdered Milk ..	2,074,620	1,434,720	1,509,400	1,582,915	1,437,660
Horses ..	71,800	..	..	..	..
Cattle ..	3,099,300	3,384,270	1,413,310	3,538,240	3,707,000
Pigs ..	1,277,730	1,280,040	1,507,600	1,588,620	1,720,740
Sheep (without wool) ..	1,991,600	3,752,260	2,600,450	4,390,880	3,316,660
Wool ..	4,662,750	6,380,600	7,695,000	11,440,240	7,082,820
Less Deductions ..	..	..	..	-1,723,178	-1,771,800
Total ..	20,616,160	25,178,480	23,778,300	29,615,977	24,420,210
<i>Mining.</i>					
Gold ..	443,938	453,962	405,245	285,316	200,958
Coal ..	634,397	695,430	563,289	610,671	762,521
Stone from Quarries (including limestone) ..	434,520	468,468	518,064	530,820	666,765
Other Metals and Minerals ..	30,299	48,021	45,829	41,848	37,284
Total ..	1,543,154	1,665,881	1,532,427	1,468,655	1,667,528
<i>Forest Produce.</i>					
Timber (Forest Saw-mills only) ..	896,070	946,930	942,480	745,580	711,970
Firewood (estimated) ..	918,550	927,860	1,033,700	1,053,870	1,071,000
Bark for Tanning ..	138,520	136,830	130,660	132,935	129,490
Total ..	1,953,140	2,011,620	2,106,840	1,932,385	1,912,460
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>					
Honey and Beeswax ..	48,075	40,122	45,559	78,981	41,694
Poultry production (estimated) ..	4,408,750	4,315,810	4,587,560	4,443,200	4,515,400
Rabbits and Hares ..	238,632	266,478	310,930	403,680	697,665
Fish ..	149,400	160,151	161,905	164,296	187,851
Total ..	4,842,857	4,782,561	5,105,954	5,090,157	5,442,610
Total Value of Primary Products ..	49,493,469	54,835,568	52,183,895	56,272,946	47,145,626
Manufacturing— Added Value* ..	43,592,856	46,355,804	49,141,526	45,271,348	46,006,461
Grand Total ..	93,086,325	101,191,372	101,325,421	101,544,294	93,152,087

\* Exclusive of value of output of butter and cheese factories, and forest saw-mills (as regards Victorian timber), which is included above under the headings "Dairying and Pastoral" and "Forest Produce," respectively.

The figures for the last two years in the above table under the headings "Cultivation" and "Dairying and Pastoral" are not strictly comparable with those of previous years owing to certain deductions

(in addition to freight and handling charges) having been made consisting chiefly of cost of bags, cases, seed, manure, spraying material, and produce used in the production of crops in the former, and of hay, bran and pollard, green fodder, and root crops used as fodder in the case of the latter.

Similarly the value added to material during the process of manufacture has been estimated on a somewhat different basis to that adopted in previous years, the cost of fuel and light, tools replaced, and repairs to plant, &c., having been taken into account for the last two years only. This explains the apparent decrease in value under that head.

The values of different kinds of production per head of the total population in each of the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRODUCTION PER HEAD OF POPULATION,  
1921-22 to 1925-26.

Produce.	Value of Produce per head in—				
	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cultivation ..	13 4 10	13 6 7	12 1 11	10 19 3	8 2 9
Dairying and Pastoral	13 5 10	15 16 8	14 12 7	17 17 5	14 10 0
Mining .. ..	0 19 11	1 0 11	0 18 10	0 17 9	0 19 10
Forest .. ..	1 5 2	1 5 4	1 5 11	1 3 4	1 2 8
Miscellaneous ..	3 2 5	3 0 2	3 2 10	3 1 5	3 4 8
<b>Total Primary Production</b>	<b>31 18 2</b>	<b>34 9 8</b>	<b>32 2 1</b>	<b>33 19 2</b>	<b>27 19 11</b>
<b>Manufactures ..</b>	<b>28 2 2</b>	<b>29 3 0</b>	<b>30 4 8</b>	<b>27 6 5</b>	<b>27 6 5</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>60 0 4</b>	<b>63 12 8</b>	<b>62 6 9</b>	<b>61 5 7</b>	<b>55 6 4</b>