

INTERCHANGE.

By the Commonwealth Constitution the collection of Customs and Excise duties was transferred to the Federal Government on the 1st January, 1901, and the departments of Posts and Telegraphs and Defence were transferred by proclamation on 1st March following. The Commonwealth Government collects the revenue of these departments, and after deducting the expenditure of the transferred departments incurred in the State, and the State's proportion of new expenditure on a population basis, returns the balance to the State.

Customs
and Excise
transferred
to Com-
monwealth.

A limit to the amount which the Commonwealth may expend is fixed by Section 87 of the Constitution, which provides that not more than one-fourth of the net revenue from Customs and Excise shall be applied to the expenses of the Commonwealth. Ten years after the introduction of uniform duties, the Commonwealth Parliament may repeal or alter this provision. After 8th October, 1906, the Commonwealth Parliament may alter the basis of the distribution of Customs and Excise revenue amongst the States, and may provide for distribution on a population or any other basis. A provisional tariff was introduced by resolution of the House of Representatives on the 8th October, 1901; and the tariff, in its present form, was finally passed on 16th September, 1902, with various modifications of the duties as first proposed.

Up to this year each State published statistical information regarding its trade, showing countries from and to which articles were imported and exported. Under this arrangement there occurred material differences in the classification of the goods, making it practically impossible to institute accurate comparisons. Arrangements were accordingly made by the Federal Government for uniform tabulation of trade returns in each State, and the information so tabulated was issued for the first time by the Government Statistician of New South Wales in 1903.

Imports and
exports.

It is, however, very much to be regretted that this information is incomplete in regard to matters of first importance to each State. The State returns prepared for 1903 were ample for all purposes; but, inasmuch as they were not fully published by the Federal Government this work was carried out by the States. The returns for 1904 relating to exports furnished by the Customs Department to the Federal Government are defective, inasmuch as they do not show the destination of home produce exported, and those being prepared for 1905 will be similarly defective.

There is reason to believe that the Inter-State export trade, so far as Victoria is concerned, has increased very extensively since the establishment of Federation, and as it is desirable to know exactly what has been taking place in this particular direction for all the States, arrangements are now being made for the preparation of the 1906 "Interchange" Statistics, in such manner as will show for each State the destination of its produce.

The total value of Victoria's imports and exports and their value per head of the population for each of the five years, 1900 to 1904, are shown in the following table:—

VALUE OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS: RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Value of—			
	Imports.		Exports.	
	Total.	Per Head of Population.	Total.	Per Head of Population.
	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
1900 ...	18,301,811	15 6 9	17,422,552	14 12 0
1901 ...	18,927,340	15 14 8	18,646,097	15 10 0
1902 ...	18,270,245	15 2 8	18,210,523	15 1 8
1903 ...	17,859,171	14 15 6	19,707,068	16 6 0
1904 ...	20,091,951	16 12 9	24,404,917	20 4 3

The trade of 1904 is considerably greater than that of all previous years. The imports exceeded those of any year since 1891, and the exports those of all other years, the latter being over four and a half millions, or 24 per cent. more than those of 1903, the next year in importance. Compared with 1903, the increase in imports is equivalent to £1 17s. 3d. per head of the population, and in exports to £3 18s. 3d. per head. Imports per head of population exceeded exports in 1900 by 14s. 9d., in 1901 by 4s. 8d., and in 1902 by 1s. only, but in 1903 and 1904 exports exceeded imports by £1 10s. 6d., and £3 11s. 6d. per head respectively.

Imports and exports to principal countries.

Trade with the other Australian States, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, other British possessions, and all foreign countries in each of the last five years was as follows:—

IMPORTS FROM AND EXPORTS TO PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES.

Countries.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904
	Imports.				
From—	£	£	£	£	£
Other Australian States	6,364,167	6,240,460	5,412,520	5,519,556	7,353,067
New Zealand ...	404,356	619,894	1,151,179	1,043,509	873,304
United Kingdom ...	7,055,028	7,221,801	6,935,040	5,977,947	7,266,239
India and Ceylon ...	638,759	687,383	546,839	680,894	605,565
South Africa ...	2,820	2,920	2,459	2,239	2,206
Other British Possessions	293,557	350,039	579,736	423,590	376,880
Belgium ...	193,631	197,275	162,212	150,672	214,908
France ...	207,783	141,107	114,918	108,906	113,863
Germany ...	778,056	822,685	903,189	796,897	952,322
United States of America	1,461,880	1,537,598	1,494,486	1,976,015	1,538,623
Other Foreign Countries	896,774	1,106,178	967,667	1,178,937	794,974
Total ...	18,301,811	18,927,340	18,270,245	17,859,171	20,091,951

IMPORTS FROM AND EXPORTS TO PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES—*continued.*

Countries.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	Exports.				
To—	£	£	£	£	£
Other Australian States	5,257,188	5,570,838	7,841,188	8,522,056	8,232,223
New Zealand ...	437,322	465,704	638,735	524,898	508,227
United Kingdom ...	6,363,685	5,425,772	3,433,310	3,280,134	7,953,077
India and Ceylon	1,256,100	814,046	1,321,633	3,549,910	2,847,755
South Africa ...	1,926,433	3,891,057	2,823,677	1,226,981	993,883
Other British Possessions	121,175	144,364	117,200	133,770	204,289
Belgium ...	203,245	265,281	397,356	431,979	627,674
France ...	730,765	636,277	817,280	967,770	1,301,371
Germany ...	328,763	546,567	464,144	568,985	857,113
United States of America	120,138	249,598	128,896	312,297	454,911
Other Foreign Countries	677,738	636,593	227,104	188,288	424,594
Total ...	17,422,552	18,646,097	18,210,523	19,707,068	24,404,917

The proportion of imports coming from Australian States formed 35 per cent. of the total in 1900, 33 in 1901, 30 in 1902, 31 in 1903, and 36½ in 1904, the proportion coming from the United Kingdom being 39 per cent. in 1900, 38 in 1901 and 1902, 33 in 1903, and 36 in 1904. The average contributions for the five years to Victorian imports by other countries were—New Zealand 4 per cent., India and Ceylon 3½, Belgium and France each 1 per cent., Germany 4½, the United States of America 8½, and all others 7½ per cent. Of the total exports the proportion sent to Australian States was 30 per cent. in 1900 and 1901, 43 in 1902 and 1903, and 34 in 1904, the proportion sent to the United Kingdom being 36½ per cent. in 1900, 29 in 1901, 19 in 1902, 17 in 1903, and 33 per cent. in 1904; India and Ceylon took 7 per cent. in 1900, 4½ in 1901, 7 in 1902, 18 in 1903, and 11½ per cent. in 1904; whilst South Africa took 11 per cent. in 1900, 21 in 1901, 15½ in 1902, 6 in 1903, and 4 per cent. in 1904. On the average for the five years New Zealand took about 2½ per cent. of our exports, Belgium, 2, France, 4½, Germany 3, the United States of America 1½, and all other countries 2½ per cent. British countries contributed 81 per cent. of our total imports in 1900, 80 in 1901 and 1902, 76 in 1903, and 81½ per cent. in 1904, and took 88 per cent. of our total exports in 1900, 87½ in 1901, 89 in 1902, 87½ in 1903, and 85 per cent. in 1904.

On the whole, during the five years under review, Victorian trade with the United Kingdom shows an increase from £13,418,713 to £15,219,316; but as compared with our total trade, a decline is shown from 38 to 34 per cent. The proportion of imports declined from 39 to 36 per cent., and of exports, from 36½ to 33 per cent.

Trade with
United
Kingdom.

Trade with
United
States.

Leaving out of consideration other British countries, our largest trade is with the United States, amounting in 1904 to nearly two millions, of which over one and a half millions represent imports. As compared with the year 1900, however, this trade has only increased by £411,516, and its proportion to the total trade has remained the same, at about 4½ per cent.

Trade with
Germany.

Germany next claims attention, with which country the total trade in 1900 was £1,106,819, and in 1904, £1,809,435, or 3 per cent. of the whole in the former, and 4 per cent. of the whole in the latter year. Here the imports and exports for the last year are fairly equal, and the increase which has taken place in the trade is mainly due to an increase of Victorian exports to that country.

Trade with
France.

With France, contrary to our experience with the United States, our principal trade is in exports, which in 1904 amounted to £1,301,371, as against imports £113,863; the increase in the total trade in the five years is £476,686, viz., exports £570,606, less a decline in imports of £93,920. The proportion in 1900 was 2½, and in 1904 slightly over 3 per cent.

Imports and
exports to
Australian
States.

Trade with each of the other States of the Commonwealth in each of the last five years was as follows:—

IMPORTS FROM AND EXPORTS TO OTHER STATES: RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

State.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	Imports.				
From—	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales...	4,136,297	4,597,861	3,669,446	3,297,545	4,352,895
Queensland ...	588,413	517,696	499,595	400,766	875,415
South Australia ...	513,049	492,654	524,952	904,962	693,600
Western Australia	780,291	276,832	291,004	221,989	166,759
Tasmania ...	346,117	355,417	427,523	694,294	1,264,398
Total Inter-State	6,364,167	6,240,460	5,412,520	5,519,556	7,353,067
	Exports.				
To—	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales...	2,953,510	2,992,342	3,747,504	4,430,742	3,973,818
Queensland ...	312,498	366,783	1,024,894	738,498	592,529
South Australia ...	492,966	523,978	703,157	857,498	1,111,964
Western Australia	852,167	988,481	1,122,500	1,243,833	1,250,355
Tasmania ...	676,047	699,254	1,244,133	1,251,485	1,303,557
Total Inter-State	5,257,188	5,570,838	7,841,188	8,522,056	8,232,223

This statement, which includes for 1904, under the head of exports, £2,753,225 worth of goods other than those of Victorian origin, serves to illustrate the growing importance of Melbourne as a distri-

buting and manufacturing centre for the neighbouring States. Further, it shows that after the abolition of Inter-State duties towards the end of 1901 imports from other States declined, and that exports to those States increased considerably notwithstanding that in 1904, as compared with 1903, imports rose to the extent of £1,833,511, and exports declined by £289,833. For the combined years 1900 and 1901, imports exceeded exports by £2,788,306 from New South Wales, by £426,828 from Queensland, and by £18,759 from South Australia; but exports exceeded imports by £783,525 to Western Australia, and by £673,767 to Tasmania. Under Inter-State free-trade, for the combined years 1902, 1903, and 1904, exports exceeded imports by £832,178 to New South Wales, by £580,145 to Queensland, by £548,105 to South Australia, by £2,936,936 to Western Australia, and by £1,412,960 to Tasmania. The total Inter-State trade for 1900 and 1901 shows an excess of imports amounting to £1,776,601, whilst for 1902, 1903, and 1904, it shows an excess of exports amounting to £6,310,324. In 1904, as compared with 1900, imports from New South Wales increased by £216,598, from Queensland by £287,002, from South Australia by £180,551, and from Tasmania by £918,281—the latter being an increase of no less than 265 per cent.; but imports from Western Australia decreased by £613,532, which is accounted for by the decline in imports of gold since the establishment of the Perth mint. Comparing the same years, viz.:—1904 with 1900, exports to New South Wales increased by £1,020,308, or 34 per cent.; to Queensland by £280,031, or 90 per cent.; to South Australia by £648,998, or 140 per cent.; to Western Australia by £398,188, or 47 per cent.; and to Tasmania by £627,510, or 93 per cent.

In 1900 the total trade of Victoria with the other States was valued at £11,621,355, of which the imports formed 55 per cent., and the exports 45 per cent. In 1904 this trade had increased to £15,585,290, the imports representing 47 per cent., and the exports 53 per cent.

No record of Victorian produce exported to other States during 1904 has been kept by the Customs Department; but information has been supplied by which a reliable estimate can be made. The years 1903 and 1904 show a considerable increase in the value of Victorian produce exported, the increase per head of population over 1902 being 18s. 8d. in 1903, and £2 19s. 2d. in 1904. The proportion to the total exports was 80 per cent. in 1900, 76 per cent. in each of the next three years, and 71 per cent. in 1904. The principal articles of domestic produce exported are wool, wheat, and butter and cheese, all of which in 1904 show a substantial increase in value over any of the four preceding years.

Victorian
produce
exported.

The values of the *principal* articles of export entered at the Customs by exporters as being the produce or manufactures of Victoria during each of the last five years were as follow:—

PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF VICTORIAN PRODUCE EXPORTED: RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

Principal Articles.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	£	£	£	£	£
Animals—Cattle ...	104,597	131,535	66,733	315,399	167,141
Horses ...	250,385	258,310	214,354	182,996	228,209
Sheep ...	100,263	125,025	163,206	704,622	340,199
Butter and Cheese	1,509,333	1,246,739	796,789	1,303,422	1,593,377
Fruit—Dried ...	15,271	20,058	44,249	56,768	70,492
Fresh ...	31,483	65,162	50,621	81,692	54,740
Jams and Jellies ...	49,994	46,178	111,178	82,755	71,941
Grain—Oats ...	257,899	250,308	149,535	45,818	163,121
Wheat ...	700,814	1,064,649	500,436	33,052	2,581,276
Other ...	28,412	23,571	102,768	53,961	49,073
Grain prepared— Flour ...	196,899	199,506	179,293	74,479	364,705
Hay and Chaff ...	516,352	407,433	1,242,186	339,660	65,420
Fodder ...	62,351	85,540	90,142	69,306	121,375
Meat—Bacon and Ham ...	66,406	91,870	129,817	137,971	103,750
Frozen Beef	4,293	6,680	10,135	24,724	25,555
" Mutton " Rabbits " & Hares	107,747	124,849	185,539	191,647	233,154
Skins and Hides ...	145,178	104,959	160,445	167,914	126,432
Wool ...	165,604	252,682	365,659	323,245	590,141
Other Articles ...	3,422,704	2,762,801	1,602,177	1,848,925	3,443,153
Total Merchandise	2,260,460	2,567,555	3,352,980	4,548,497	3,703,568
Gold (Bullion and Specie) ...	9,796,495	9,835,410	9,518,242	10,586,853	13,901,822
Total ...	4,122,061	4,298,618	4,305,697	4,353,171	3,467,787
Per head of Popula- tion ...	£ s. d. 11 13 3	£ s. d. 11 15 0	£ s. d. 11 8 6	£ s. d. 12 7 2	£ s. d. 14 7 8
Percentage of Total Exports ...	79.888	75.801	75.912	75.810	71.173

Distribution
of Victorian
produce.

The following table shows the destination of this produce under four principal heads for the past five years:—

EXPORTS OF VICTORIAN PRODUCE: RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	£	£	£	£	£
Australian States ...	3,433,347	3,649,138	6,120,850	6,093,933	5,478,995
United Kingdom ...	5,559,689	4,124,991	2,137,768	2,298,484	6,178,666
Other British Pos- sessions	3,430,186	4,953,443	4,512,570	5,154,382	3,530,530
Foreign Countries ...	1,495,354	1,406,456	1,052,751	1,393,225	2,181,418
Total ...	13,918,554	14,134,028	13,823,939	14,940,024	17,369,609

Of the Victorian produce exported, $24\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was sent to the sister States in 1900, 26 in 1901, $44\frac{1}{2}$ in 1902, 41 in 1903, and $31\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in 1904. Forty per cent. was sent to the United Kingdom in 1900, 29 in 1901, $15\frac{1}{2}$ in 1902 and 1903, and $35\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in 1904. Twenty-four and a half per cent. was sent to other British possessions in 1900, 35 in 1901, $32\frac{1}{2}$ in 1902, $34\frac{1}{2}$ in 1903, and $20\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in 1904. Eleven per cent. was sent to foreign countries in 1900 10 in 1901, $7\frac{1}{2}$ in 1902, 9 in 1903, and $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in 1904. Compared with 1903, the total value of produce exported in 1904 shows an increase of £2,429,585, or 16 per cent.

Victoria imports a considerable quantity of timber, including large quantities of American oregon and Baltic deal. The following is a statement of the imports and exports during the five years 1899 to 1903:—

VALUE OF TIMBER IMPORTED AND EXPORTED, 1899 TO 1903.

	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
	£	£	£	£	£
Total Imports	441,277	569,101	600,304	640,392	380,158
Imports from Australian States and New Zealand ...	100,376	136,841	150,539	144,699	114,943
Imports of Australasian Timber	88,946	116,337	147,700	141,214	111,675
Total Exports	21,892	35,392	35,785	42,800	57,441
Exports to Australian States and New Zealand ...	21,332	34,621	35,269	41,712	55,908
Exports of Victorian Timber	9,057	10,230	9,724	14,597	11,632
Victorian Timber exported to Australian States and New Zealand	8,691	10,221	9,583	14,398	11,058

By deducting from the total imports the value of timber which had been imported and then exported, the value of foreign timber (*i.e.*, timber produced outside Victoria) required for use within the State is obtained. Such net imports were valued at £428,442 in 1899, £543,989 in 1900, £574,243 in 1901, £612,189 in 1902, and £334,399 in 1903.

After great development in the import of timber from 1899 to 1902, a decline took place in 1903, in which year the imports were £260,000 less in value than in 1902.

Of the Australasian timber (*i.e.*, timber produced or treated in Australasia) imported into Victoria in 1903, New Zealand contributed £72,486 worth. The Australasian timber imported in that year was valued at £111,675, whilst the Victorian timber exported to Australasia was only worth £11,058. All the export trade in Victorian timber has been done with the adjoining States, very little reaching foreign markets.

Imports and exports of timber.

Net revenue
of Customs
Depart-
ment.

The following are the net amounts of Customs and Excise duty collected in each of the last three years, the principal items being separately distinguished:—

REVENUE OF CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT: RETURN FOR THREE YEARS.

Heads of Revenue.	1901-2.	1902-3.	1903-4.
Import Duty—	£	£	£
Alcoholic Liquors	469,438	489,195	515,584
Narcotics	205,553	204,457	234,026
Sugar	231,129	283,991	269,890
All Other Articles	1,059,604	1,103,822	1,008,312
Total Import Duties ...	1,965,724	2,081,465	2,027,812
Excise Duty—			
Spirits	79,825	75,578	83,019
Beer	183,738	174,618	168,155
Tobacco	92,004	131,003	140,979
Sugar	40,189	10,715	Dr. 2,307
Starch	741	8,036	7,935
Total Excise Duties ...	396,507	399,950	400,781
Miscellaneous	14,294	17,599	14,912
Grand Total ...	2,376,525	2,499,014	2,443,505

The net revenue collected by the Department of Trade and Customs in Victoria from all sources, after deduction of drawbacks and repayments, and making Inter-State adjustments, amounted to £2,443,505 in 1903-4, being £55,509 below the previous year, but £66,980 in excess of 1901-2. The revenue from Customs duties in 1903-4 was £53,653 less than in 1902-3, but £62,088 more than in 1901-2. Excise duties yielded £831 more than in 1902-3, and £4,274 more than in 1901-2.

Drawbacks.

Imported goods, other than stimulants and narcotics, on which duty has been paid are allowed drawback, which is equivalent to a refund of the duty paid, if subsequently exported. Drawback is allowed not only on goods exported in the same condition as when imported, but also upon imported goods which have been subjected to some process of manufacture in Victoria. Drawbacks are included in the general exports. The following are the figures for the last five years:—

EXPORTS FOR DRAWBACK: RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Value of Goods Exported for Drawback.	Amount Paid as Drawback.
1900	£ 568,456	£ 92,404
1901	577,928	115,283
1902 ... ..	...	45,022
1903 ... ..	...	34,096
1904 ... ..	...	18,840

From 1872, when the system of allowing drawbacks was first introduced, to the end of 1904, the total amount of duty repaid as drawback was £2,903,634. The withdrawals were heavy in 1901, but very light in 1904, the difference in the amount paid as drawback being £96,443.

Victorian shipping has grown considerably in volume during the last five years; the number of vessels (excluding those engaged in the Victorian coastal trade) entered and cleared, their gross tonnage, and the number of men forming their crews, were as follow:—

Vessels entered and cleared.

SHIPPING INWARD AND OUTWARD: RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Vessels Entered—					
Number	2,101	2,418	2,278	2,204	2,495
Tons	2,929,389	3,392,226	3,366,485	3,409,288	3,928,849
Men	97,770	107,120	110,134	112,064	120,710
Vessels Cleared—					
Number	2,134	2,347	2,286	2,263	2,503
Tons	2,944,192	3,323,265	3,372,555	3,418,566	3,906,692
Men	97,885	105,798	110,293	113,576	120,331
Total Vessels Entered and Cleared—					
Number	4,235	4,765	4,564	4,467	4,998
Tons	5,873,581	6,715,491	6,739,040	6,857,854	7,835,541

The number of vessels entered and cleared during 1904 shows an increase of 12 per cent. over 1903, and 18 per cent. over 1900, their tonnage an increase of 14 per cent. and 33 per cent., and their crews an increase of 7 per cent. and 23 per cent. over the same years.

The nationality of vessels entered and cleared at Victorian ports in each of the years 1900 to 1904 was as shown hereunder:—

Nationality of vessels.

NATIONALITY OF VESSELS ENTERED AND CLEARED: RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Total.	British.	Australasian.	Foreign.
	Entered.			
1900	2,101	748	1,189	164
1901	2,418	580	1,640	198
1902	2,278	497	1,613	168
1903	2,204	466	1,579	159
1904	2,495	657	1,636*	202
	Cleared.			
1900	2,134	807	1,159	163
1901	2,347	561	1,598	188
1902	2,286	517	1,602	167
1903	2,263	460	1,644	159
1904	2,503	663	1,641*	199

* Australian only.

Australasian vessels formed 55 per cent. of the total shipping inward and outward in 1900, 68 in 1901, 71 in 1902, and 72 in 1903; and 66 per cent. in 1904. British vessels constituted 37 per cent. in 1900, 24 in 1901, 22 in 1902, 21 in 1903, and 26 per cent. in 1904. Foreign vessels made up 8 per cent. of the total in 1900 and 1901, 7 in 1902 and 1903, and 8 per cent. in 1904.

Vessels on
Victorian
register.

The vessels on the Victorian register were as follow on the 31st December, 1904, the ports of their registration and their net tonnage being distinguished:—

VESSELS ON THE REGISTER, 1904.

Port.	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
	Number.	Tons.	Number	Tons.	Number.	Tons.
Melbourne	162	130,099	212	33,836	374	163,935
Geelong ... ..	...	...	4	358	4	358
Total	162	130,099	216	34,194	378	164,293

Vessels on
Austral-
asian
registers.

The following is a statement, compiled from figures supplied by the Marine Underwriters' Association of Victoria, of the number and net tonnage of vessels on the registers of all the Australian States and New Zealand on the 30th June, 1904. It will be seen that the tonnage on the Victorian and on the New South Wales registers exceeded 100,000 tons:—

VESSELS OWNED IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1904.

State.	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.	Number	Tons.
Victoria	151	78,178	223	36,234	374	114,412
New South Wales	522	71,125	573	55,102	1,095	126,227
Queensland	98	14,729	199	9,109	297	23,838
South Australia	108	38,187	252	18,427	360	56,614
Western Australia	34	12,711	320	9,708	354	22,419
Tasmania	56	10,004	155	9,341	211	19,345
Total Australia	969	224,934	1,722	137,921	2,691	362,855
New Zealand	227	64,748	355	44,270	582	109,018
Total	1,196	289,682	2,077	182,191	3,273	471,873

LIGHTS AND LIGHTHOUSES, 1904.

Where situated.	Description.	Nature.	Power in Lighthouse. (Units of 1,000 Candles.)			Colour.	Distance Visible.	No. of Hands.	Ordinary	Capital
			White.	Red.	Green.				Expenditure during the Financial Year 1903-4.	Cost.
						Miles.		£	£	
Cape Nelson	Dioptric	Fixed	4½	3½		19	} 3	491	16,178	
Auxiliary	"	"	..	..		3		312	2,573
Portland	Dioptric	Fixed and Flashing	..	{ 1½ f. }		12		304	3,857	
Port Fairy	"	"	..	..		9	..	..	..
Warnambool (upper light)	"	Fixed	½	..		14	} 2	310	7,917	
(lower light)	"	"		5	
Cape Otway	"	Triple Flashing	24	..		24	} 3	494	10,367	
Auxiliary	"	Fixed		4 to 8	
Split Point	Dioptric	"	7½	5½		18	} 3	513	11,838	
Auxiliary	"	"		3	
Port Phillip—	"	"	..	..		..	..	..	..
Point Lonsdale	Dioptric	Occulting	22	13		17	} 3	498	4,113	
Queenscliff (high)	Catadioptric	Fixed	2½	..		17	
(low)	Dioptric	"	2	1		11	} 8	1,263	19,071	
West Channel Pile Light	"	"	2½	2½		13	
South Channel (Eastern Light)	"	"	2½	..		10	} 4	599	9,456	
(pile)	"	"	½	1½		10	
Schnapper Point	"	"	..	..		10	} 2	14	5,005
Gellibrand's Point (lightship)	"	"		10	
Geelong (Hopetoun Channel N.S.)	"	"	..	..		6	} 2	458	..
(Hopetoun Channel S.S.)	"	"		4	
Cape Schanck	Catadioptric	Fixed and Flashing	{ 4½ f. }	..		23	} 3	515	19,278	
Auxiliary	"	Fixed	{ 48½ f. }	..		3	
Wilson's Promontory	Catoptric	"	2½	..		24	} 3	718	24,433	
Cliff Island	Dioptric	Flashing	4½	..		15	
Cape Everard	Holophotal	Double Flashing	30	12		21	} 3	539	21,785	
Auxiliary	"	Fixed		2	
Gabo Island	Catadioptric	"	4½	..		20	} 3	878	22,631	
Auxiliary	"	"		3	
Total								8,423	191,727	

* Red sectors between the limits of white light and shore at either side.
 † White sectors between the limits of red light and shore at either side.

The following return contains particulars of the lights and light-houses on the Victorian coast:—

Interchange.

Dredges.

In 1904 the Melbourne Harbor Trust possessed five dredges, having an aggregate maximum lifting capacity of 3,859 tons per hour, but varying according to the character of the material dredged, whether silt, sand, clay, rotten rock, &c. Of the above dredges, two are end-cutting, two are central-ladder, and one is side-cutting ladder.

Silt raised.

The total quantity of dredgings by the Harbor Trust actually raised in 1904 amounted to 1,009,275 cubic yards, viz., 413,825 cubic yards from Hobson's Bay, and 595,450 cubic yards from the River Yarra and Victoria Dock. Since the establishment of the Trust, the river dredgings have amounted to 20,839,121 cubic yards, and the bay dredgings to 12,333,685 cubic yards, making a total of 33,172,806 cubic yards. Of the dredgings, 23,444,738 cubic yards were deposited at sea, and 9,728,068 cubic yards were landed for roads and reclamation work. The average cost of dredging in 1904 was 2.86d. per cubic yard.

Postal returns.

The following table shows the number of post-offices and the letters, &c., handled each year since 1899:—

POSTAL RETURNS FOR FIVE YEARS.

—	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Number of Post Offices	1,615	1,637	1,645	1,646	1,652
Posted and Received— Letters and Post Cards ...	74,291,204	83,973,499	98,342,507	105,922,527	110,445,804
Newspapers ...	25,466,342	27,125,251	33,638,532	41,101,050	} 58,995,233
Packets ...	11,904,221	13,172,858	16,966,644	13,653,569	
Parcels ...	298,52	309,118	365,898	429,084	
Total ...	111,960,119	124,580,726	149,313,581	161,106,230	169,865,544

The volume of business done by the Post Office has grown considerably in the five years under review, that for 1904 being 52 per cent. more than that for 1900. The number of letters and post-cards for 1904 is 49 per cent. higher than the number for 1900.

Money orders and postal notes.

Money order offices are established at 479 places in connexion with the Post Office, and orders are issued for payment throughout the Commonwealth and all the principal British and foreign countries. Orders for payment within the Commonwealth are limited to a maximum of £20, and for the majority of other British and foreign countries the maximum is £10. The charges range from 1 1-5d. in the £1 on orders issued for payment within Victoria to 6d. in the £1 for orders payable beyond Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji. Postal notes, ranging from 1s. to £1 in value, are issued and paid throughout the Commonwealth, the commission ranging

from 1st d. to 3^d. The following is a comparative statement of the business done since 1899:—

MONEY ORDERS AND POSTAL NOTES: RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904
Money Orders Issued—					
Number	223,566	228,931	217,634	215,694	221,578
Amount	£675,982	£700,618	£706,791	£721,017	£747,875
Money Orders Paid—					
Number	287,219	298,860	306,510	318,766	319,886
Amount	£961,270	£1,004,725	£1,053,313	£1,121,807	£1,125,557
Postal Notes—					
Victorian—Paid in Victoria	£474,947	£504,039	£498,174	£514,464	£559,324
Victorian—Paid in Other States	£18,270	£19,171	£30,207	£44,512	£58,061
Of Other States— Paid in Victoria ...	£27,583	£28,205	£46,805	£77,341	£96,532

The value of money orders issued and paid has increased year by year during the five years; those issued in 1904 amounting to £71,893 more than in 1900, and those paid to £164,287 more.

The business in postal notes has increased considerably, the amount of Victorian notes paid within the State being £84,417 more in 1904 than in 1900. The business with the other States shows great improvement during the three latter years, attributable to the removal of Inter-State charges existing prior to the federation of the States.

Telegraphic communication exists between 881 stations within the State. Victorian lines are connected with those of New South Wales, and by means of them with Queensland and the submarine cable to New Zealand, also with the lines in South Australia, and through them with those of Western Australia, the Eastern Archipelago, Asia, Europe, Africa, and America; also with the submarine cable to Tasmania; the length of lines and wire open, and the number of telegrams sent from Victorian stations in the last five years were as follow:—

TELEGRAPHS AND TELEGRAMS: RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Number of Stations ...	824	843	875	878	881
Miles open—					
Line (poles)	6,445	6,468	6,589	6,596	6,494
Wire	15,198	15,356	15,611	15,883	16,240
Number of Telegrams sent—					
Paid—Inland	1,522,642	1,513,217	1,524,236	1,706,497	1,644,522
Inter-State	360,789	410,970	434,807	476,881	501,088
International	23,075	22,725	41,822	50,320	55,750
Unpaid—O.H.M.S. ...	86,503	110,768	93,892	...	...
Total	1,993,009	2,057,680	2,094,757	2,233,698	2,201,310

Telegraphs
and tele-
grams.

In 1904 there were 57 telegraph stations, and 1,042 miles of telegraph wire more than in 1900. Compared with 1903 the total telegrams despatched in 1904 shows a decrease of 32,388, inland telegrams having fallen off to the extent of 61,975, whilst Inter-State and international increased by 24,157 and 5,430 respectively. Compared with 1900 the telegrams of 1904 show an increase of 208,301. Unpaid telegrams O.H.M.S. were discontinued in 1902. New Zealand telegrams for 1900 and 1901 are included with Inter-State, but for the three latter years with international.

Telephones.

The telephone exchanges were worked by a private company until September, 1887, in which month the business, buildings, and plant were purchased by the Government. The annual rental for business telephones in Melbourne and suburbs is £9, in country towns, £7. For private residence telephones in Melbourne, suburbs, and country the rental is £5. The following statement shows for the past five years the length of lines and wire open, the number of exchanges, subscribers, bureaux, and private lines:—

TELEPHONES: RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Miles Open—					
Lines (Poles and under-ground					
Cables)	1,109	1,224	1,275	1,310	1,370
Wire	16,748	17,763	21,308	22,995	25,501
Exchanges—					
Number	17	20	20	20	22
Subscribers	5,136	6,049	6,847	7,610	8,429
Bureaux	64	70	74	90	126
Private Lines	311	383	388	392	395

The length of wire has increased 52 per cent., and the number of subscribers 64 per cent. since 1900.

Railways,
length and
cost.

The whole of the railways in Victoria are the property of the State. During the year 1903-4 the mileage of all railways and tracks was re-measured by the Railway Department, and is now correctly given. The gauge is 5ft. 3in. for all double lines, and for 3,034.72 miles of the single lines, the balance—78.37 miles of single lines being 2ft. 6in. gauge. The following table shows the length of

double and single lines, the cost of construction, and average cost per mile for the last five years :—

RAILWAYS, LENGTH AND COST OF CONSTRUCTION : RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Length of Lines on 30th June—					
Double Lines (miles)	294	294	297	297	315·46
Single Lines (miles)	2,924	2,944	3,006	3,104	3,113·09
Total ...	3,218	3,238	3,303	3,401	3,428·55
Cost of Construction	£ 31,044,239	£ 31,232,023	£ 31,716,408	£ 32,052,954	£ 32,156,868
Average Cost per mile	9,645	9,645	9,602	9,425	9,379

During the year 1903-4, 32.27 miles were opened for traffic, and on the 30th June, 1904, one line was in progress of construction, viz., that from Moe to Walhalla.

The mileage and the traffic of the railways from 1900 to 1904 are given in the following table. Railway traffic.

RAILWAYS—MILEAGE AND TRAFFIC : RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

	Year ended 30th June.				
	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Miles Constructed ...	3,218	3,238	3,303	3,401	3,428·55
,, Dismantled ...	16	16	16	16	16·08
,, Closed to Traffic	9	9	9	9	31·77
,, Open for Traffic	3,193	3,213	3,278	3,376	3,380·70
Train Mileage ...	10,107,549	11,066,016	11,284,944	10,286,272	9,172,644
Passengers carried ...	49,332,899	54,704,062	57,465,077	54,798,073	54,282,003
Goods and Live Stock Carried (Tons) ...	2,998,303	3,381,860	3,433,627	3,093,997	3,439,203

During the past two years the number of train miles run has been reduced to the extent of 2,112,300 miles, the passenger traffic falling off by 3,183,074 passengers, although the goods traffic shows a slight improvement. Comparing 1903-4 with 1899-1900 the train mileage has decreased 9 per cent., but the number of passengers carried has increased by 10 per cent., and the tonnage of goods and live stock by 15 per cent.

Railway receipts and expenditure.

The receipts and working expenses of the railways during the financial years 1899-1900 to 1903-4 were as follow:—

RAILWAY RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE: RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

	Year ended June.				
	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Receipts -	£	£	£	£	£
Passenger Fares ...	1,214,348	1,368,311	1,378,746	1,325,565	1,360,484
Freight on Goods and Live Stock	1,555,252	1,711,894	1,719,462	1,454,770	1,792,978
Sundries ...	255,562	257,592	269,635	266,523	284,679
Total ...	3,025,162	3,337,797	3,367,843	3,046,858	3,438,141
Working Expenses—					
Maintenance ...	498,459	518,488	501,938	528,253	545,013
Rolling-stock ...	679,979	793,345	855,464	774,933	743,032
Traffic Charges ...	564,908	609,000	640,442	582,167	577,799
Compensation ...	6,862	7,945	31,145	10,729	8,216
General Charges...	152,332	146,461	137,129	136,005	148,343
Total ...	1,902,540	2,075,239	2,166,118	2,032,087	2,022,403
Net Receipts ...	1,122,622	1,262,558	1,201,725	1,014,771	1,415,738
Percentage of Ex- penses to Receipts	62·89	62·17	64·32	66·69	58·82

The receipts for 1903-4 are the best for the five years tabulated, being £391,283 in excess of the receipts for 1902-3, and £412,979 in excess of those for 1899-1900—passengers fares are nearly 3 per cent., freights 23 per cent., and other receipts 7 per cent. above those of 1902-3. Working expenses, which include, under the head of general charges, pensions and gratuities, have been reduced during the past two years, being somewhat less than the expenses of 1902-3, and 7 per cent. below 1901-2, but 6 per cent. above the expenses of 1899-1900. The net receipts of 1903-4 are £400,967 in excess of the previous year, and the highest for the five years. The proportion of expenses to receipts for 1903-4 is considerably lower than for the other years, being nearly 12 per cent. less than for 1902-3.

The earnings, expenses, and net profits per mile of railway open for the years ended 30th June, 1900, to 1904, were as follow:—

Railway earnings and expenses per mile.

RAILWAY RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE PER TRAIN MILE: RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Average Number of Miles Open ...	3,187½	3,229½	3,266½	3,328	3,371
Gross Earnings per Mile ...	£ 949	£ 1,033	£ 1,031	£ 916	£ 1,020
Expenses per Mile ..	597	642	663	611	600
Net Profits per Mile	352	391	368	305	420

The receipts per mile of open railway for 1903-4 are £104 per mile better than for the preceding year, which, however, were very low, but £13 less than the receipts for the best of the five years, viz., 1900-1. The expenses per mile were only £3 above those for 1899-1900 the lowest year, and £11 under 1902-3. Net profits per mile were £29 above those of the next best year, and £115 above 1902-3.

This table excludes all consideration of interest payable on railway loans and expenses of paying the same, which amounted to £1,515,755 in 1903-4—equal to a charge of £450 per mile of railway open for traffic.

Victorian coal has been largely used by the Railway Department for steaming purposes. In 1900, 76,233 tons were consumed; in 1901, 95,273 tons; in 1902, 120,854 tons; in 1903, 23,694 tons; and in 1904 51,572 tons. The quantity carried for use by the general public was 140,740 tons in 1900, 109,801 tons in 1901, 98,781 tons in 1902, 46,599 tons in 1903; and 70,341 tons in 1904; the rate of the carriage being ¾d. per ton per mile, of which ¼d. per ton per mile was paid by the Government.

Victorian coal used

MELBOURNE TRAMWAYS TRUST.

By the "Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company's Act 1883" (47 Vict. No. 765), passed on the 12th October, 1883, the company was authorized to construct tramways in the streets of Melbourne and suburbs, unless the twelve municipalities interested, viz., the cities of Melbourne, Prahran, Richmond, Fitzroy, Collingwood, South Melbourne, Hawthorn, and St. Kilda; the towns of North Melbourne, Brunswick, and Port Melbourne; and the borough of Kew; who had the prior right, elected to do so. All the municipalities, however, decided to exercise the powers conferred upon them, and, the necessary notice to the company having been given, a Tramways Trust was formed, as provided by the Act. This body, which consists of seven delegates from the Melbourne City Council, and one from

Tramways.

each of the other eleven municipalities, received full power to construct tramways, and to borrow money for that purpose, secured on the municipal properties and revenues and on the tramways themselves. The Trust was required by the above-mentioned Act, as modified by the amending Acts (51 Vict. No. 952 and 56 Vict. No. 1278), to complete the tramways by the 31st December, 1893, and to grant a 32 years' lease of the tramways to the company, dating from the 1st July, 1884 (when the liability for interest commenced), and expiring on the 1st July, 1916. The company, on its part, is required to find all the rolling-stock, to keep the tramways and adjoining road, a total width of 17 feet, in complete repair; to hand back the lines in good working condition to the Trust at the expiration of the lease, and to pay to the Trust the annual interest on the moneys borrowed; also to contribute annually a certain varying percentage on the sums borrowed, so as to form a sinking fund towards the ultimate extinction of the loans. The expenses of the Trust to the 31st December, 1893, were defrayed out of the loan; after that period by the company to an amount not exceeding £1,000 per annum, and the remainder by the municipalities; and the liability on account of loans is by Act 48 Vict. No. 788 made a joint and several charge on the properties and revenues of the several municipalities. The total amount the Trust is empowered to borrow is £1,650,000, which has been raised in London by means of debentures bearing interest at 4½ per cent. The premiums received amounted to £55,794, making a total of £1,705,794. The whole of this was expended by the 31st December, 1893, when all outlay from loan moneys ceased in accordance with Act No. 1278. The sinking fund on the 2nd January, 1905, amounted to £768,400. The following particulars have been furnished by the secretary to the Tramways Trust:—

“The total length of tramways authorized and constructed amounts to 47 miles 4 furlongs, of which 43 miles 6 furlongs are worked by cables and stationary steam-engines, and the remaining 3 miles 6 furlongs by horses.

The cable lines form one of the largest systems of this description of tramway in the world, and the method of construction adopted combined all the best features and latest improvements of lines constructed both in America and Europe.

A uniform fare of 3d. is authorized to be charged on the tramway lines, except on the section between the Spencer-street and Prince's-bridge Railway Stations, *via* Flinders-street, on which the fare is 1d. But the company is required to run, upon all lines open for traffic, every morning between the hours of 6 and 7, and every evening between the hours of 5.30 and 6.30 (Sundays and public holidays excepted), two or more carriages for workmen at a fare of 1½d. per journey. All fares will be, by Act No. 765, section 26, subject to revision by Parliament after the lapse of ten years from the date of the first 20 miles of tramway being opened for traffic, *viz.*, on the 31st December, 1897.

The lengths of the several lines and the dates on which they were opened for traffic were given in previous issues of this work."

The succeeding table has been compiled from information furnished by the secretary of the Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company:— Melbourne tramways.

MELBOURNE TRAMWAYS: RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

Year ended 30th June.	Length of Lines Open.	Tram Mileage.	Passengers Carried.	Traffic Receipts.
				£
1900	48	8,411,159	41,661,580	415,023
1901	48	8,964,734	47,195,647	465,427
1902	48	9,226,883	47,261,572	454,683
1903	48	9,044,282	46,832,910	432,505
1904	48	8,968,928	49,183,742	444,495

The traffic of the Melbourne tramways for 1903-4 is the heaviest recorded, exceeding that of 1890-1 (the next in volume) by 1,138,916 passengers, although the number of tram miles run was 200,984 less than in the earlier year. The passengers carried in 1903-4 exceeded those of the previous year by 2,350,832, whilst the tram mileage was 75,354 less and compared with 1899-1900 the passengers of 1903-4 show an increase of 7,522,162, and the tram miles run an increase of 557,769.

Besides the lines of the Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company, there is a cable tramway, $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles in length, between Clifton Hill and Preston; a horse tramway, 7 miles in length, between Sandringham and Cheltenham (Beaumaris); and a horse tramway, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, between Brunswick and Coburg. There are also tramways at Ballarat and Bendigo. The cost of the Beaumaris tramway to 30th June, 1901, was £21,813. The following were the traffic receipts, &c., on this line during the last five years:—

Other sub-urban and country tramways.

BEAUMARIS TRAMWAY: RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Miles run.	Receipts.	Working Expenses.
		£	£
1899-00	37,327	1,241	1,339
1900-01	38,723	1,323	1,281
1901-02	39,500	1,528	1,622
1902-03	39,150	1,410	1,644
1903-04	39,700	1,489	1,312

The number of vehicles licensed for the conveyance of passengers in Melbourne, and for a distance of 8 miles beyond the corporate limits in 1904 was 861, of which 607 were cabs; whilst the number

Licensed vehicles in Melbourne.

of drivers licensed for the conveyance of goods was 1,138. The following are the particulars for the last five years:—

LICENSED VEHICLES IN MELBOURNE: RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

	Number in—				
	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
<i>For Passenger Traffic.</i>					
Cabs (4 wheels)	663	657	637	613	607
Hansoms	208	199	210	200	210
Omnibuses	19	22	57	37	29
Tram Cars	376	372	372	11	10
" dummies	340	359	344	5	5
Total	1,606	1,609	1,620	866	861
<i>For Conveyance of Goods.</i>					
Drivers licensed	1,388	1,265	1,339	1,299	1,138

The reason for the small number of tram cars and dummies licensed in 1903 and 1904 is that their liability to be licensed was under dispute. The matter has now been settled—the decision being that trams must be licensed.