

155. The numbers of live stock imported overland, as recorded by the inspectors of stock, differ slightly from those recorded by the Customs.* The following are the totals of horses, cattle, and sheep, according to the returns of these authorities respectively :—

Imports of live stock overland.

IMPORTS OF LIVE STOCK OVERLAND.

| | | | | According to the Returns of the Stock Inspectors. | | According to the Returns of the Customs. |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|---|-----|--|
| Horses | ... | ... | ... | 7,459 | ... | 5,768 |
| Cattle | ... | ... | ... | 69,881 | ... | 68,541 |
| Sheep | ... | ... | ... | 890,614 | ... | 895,671 |

156. The pigs imported numbered 7,592 according to the Customs returns, but it is not stated how many of these were imported by land and how many by sea. According to the stock inspectors, the pigs imported overland numbered 1,558.

Imports of pigs.

157. The weights and measures used in Victoria are in every respect similar to those in use in the United Kingdom.

Weights and measures.

PART V.—PRODUCTION.

158. The land alienated from the Crown in fee-simple during the year 1875 amounted to 418,562 acres. Of this extent, 83,397 acres, or about a fifth, was disposed of by auction; the remainder, amounting to 335,165 acres, had been, in the first instance, selected under the deferred payment system.† No Crown lands were granted without purchase during the year.

Crown lands sold, 1875.

159. The total area sold up to the end of the year was 10,347,949 acres; the area granted without purchase was 3,245 acres. The total extent alienated in fee-simple was thus 10,351,194 acres.

Crown lands sold, 1836 to 1875.

160. The selected lands, of which the purchase had not been completed up to the end of the year, amounted to 6,498,749 acres. Of this extent it is estimated that 500,000 ‡ acres had been forfeited to the Crown for non-fulfilment of conditions. The remainder, representing the whole area in process of alienation under deferred payments, amounted to 5,998,749 acres.

Crown lands selected.

* All live stock entering the colony should be registered with the nearest Clerk of Petty Sessions under Act 19 Vict. No. 21. It is to be regretted, however, that the provisions of this Statute are ignored to such an extent that the returns obtained are practically worthless. Under these circumstances it would be only misleading to publish them here.

† For an account of the changes which have taken place in the mode of disposing of Crown lands in Victoria, see *Victorian Year-Book*, 1874, paragraphs 366 to 370.

‡ Since this paragraph has been in type I have been informed by the Lands Department that this is an under-estimate, and that the land resumed by the Crown is equal to *considerably more than twice the extent* here named.

Public estate,
1875.

161. The following was the condition of the public estate at the end of 1875 :—

PUBLIC ESTATE OF VICTORIA ON 31ST DECEMBER 1875.

| Condition of Land. | Number of Acres. |
|--|-------------------|
| Land alienated in fee-simple | 10,351,194 |
| Land in process of alienation under deferred payments | 5,998,749* |
| Roads in connection with the above | 842,502 |
| Land included in towns, &c. | 239,207 |
| Reserves in connection with pastoral occupation, about | 350,000 |
| Auriferous lands, about | 1,150,000 |
| State forests, not included in unavailable mountain ranges | 215,100 |
| Timber reserves | 363,015 |
| Mallee scrub, unavailable mountain ranges, lakes, lagoons, &c., about | 23,000,000 |
| Area available for selection at end of 1875 | 13,936,953* |
| Total area of Victoria | 56,446,720 |

Land avail-
able for
selection.

162. It thus appears that the total extent of land suitable for occupation within the limits of Victoria is 33,446,720 acres, and of this area nearly 14,000,000* of acres, or 42 per cent., were still available for selection at the end of 1875.

Amount
realised on
land sales,
1875.

163. The total amount realised for Crown lands sold during the year was £630,054, or at the rate of £1 10s. 1½d. per acre. The land sold by auction fetched £291,231, which was at the rate of £3 9s. 10d. per acre, and the land sold otherwise than at auction realised £338,823, or an average of £1 0s. 2½d. per acre.

Amount
realised,
1836 to
1875.

164. The amount realised for the sale of Crown lands from the first settlement of the colony to the end of the year under review was £17,416,200, or at the rate of £1 13s. 8d. per acre.

Squatting
runs: num-
ber and
area.

165. The squatting runs in 1875 numbered 865, or one more than in 1874. The area embraced in runs amounted in 1875 to 22,967,639 acres, or 1,262,489 acres less than in 1874.

Squatting
runs: aver-
age area.

166. The average size of runs was 28,044 acres in 1874, and 26,552 acres in 1875.

Rent of runs.

167. In 1874 the rent paid for runs amounted to £125,938, or an average of 1·247d. per acre. In 1875 it amounted to £139,304, or an average of 1·456d. per acre.

Purchased
land
attached to
runs.

168. The number of squatting runs with purchased land held in connection therewith has been falling off during the last three years, as also has the area of purchased land so held. To account for this circumstance it should be explained, that as soon as the Crown lands attached to an estate are altogether purchased, it drops out of the list of runs and is considered as a farm. The term "run" is applied to such holdings only as are occupied under pastoral licenses. The following are the figures :—

* These quantities are affected by the under-estimate of lands forfeited to the Crown referred to in footnote to paragraph 160 *ante*.

SQUATTING RUNS WITH PURCHASED LAND ATTACHED, 1873 TO 1875.

| Year. | | | | | Number of Runs with Purchased Land attached. | Number of Acres of Purchased Land attached to Runs. |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|---|
| 1873 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 482 | 1,959,394 |
| 1874 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 455 | 1,740,911 |
| 1875 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 448 | 1,730,113 |

169. The agricultural statistics for the year under notice are brought down to the 31st March 1876.* Tables embodying the general results of these statistics were sent to the *Government Gazette* for publication on the 10th May last. The same tables have been reprinted in the part of the Statistical Register now being commented upon, and others have been added.

Agricultural statistics.

170. The land in occupation, of which a return is given in the agricultural statistics, is always considerably less than the whole area alienated. In the first place the collectors are not required to take account of holdings of a smaller extent than one acre, nor of gardens or grounds attached to residences whereat rural pursuits are not followed, but which are kept merely for ornament and pleasure; nor of any lands which are unoccupied, or which are used for purposes other than agriculture or the keeping of live stock. Returns are obtained without much trouble from the small and medium-sized holdings, but difficulty is often experienced in getting a correct account of the extent of land embraced in large estates. Sometimes an overseer is in charge, who does not know even the gross area, much less the extent of the portions which are let off as farms, and which, being returned in the names of the occupiers or tenants, should be subtracted from the total. Not unfrequently the owner himself is, or professes to be, unable to furnish an accurate statement.

Land in occupation.

171. The occupied land returned on the present occasion, subtracted from the total extent of land alienated, shows a difference of $3\frac{1}{4}$ millions of acres. The following are the figures:—

Difference between alienated and occupied land.

| | acres. |
|---|-------------|
| Total land alienated, less 500,000 acres forfeited to the Crown | 16,349,943 |
| Occupied land returned by collectors of statistics | 13,084,233 |
| Difference | 3,265,710 † |

* A summary of the agricultural statistics of each year since the first settlement of the colony will be found at the commencement of this work (second folding sheet). The mode of collecting agricultural statistics is described in the *Victorian Year-Book*, 1874, paragraphs 381 to 384.

† This amounts to 80 per cent. of the alienated land, and, as far as any figures are obtainable, it appears to approach closer to the total extent alienated than that shown by the agricultural statistics of the adjacent colonies. According to the returns of 1874-5, the "land in occupation" in New South Wales amounts to only 74 per cent., and the "purchased land held by freeholders" in South Australia amounts to no more than 58 per cent., of the land alienated. The land forfeited to the Crown having been under-estimated, as communicated to me just as these pages were going to press (see footnote to paragraph 160 *ante*), the occupied land in Victoria approaches even nearer to the total extent alienated than is here stated.

Land occupied, enclosed, and cultivated.

172. The following is a statement of the number of holdings, and of the extent of land occupied, enclosed, and cultivated, in the year under review, and the previous one. An increase will be observed in all the items :—

HOLDINGS AND LAND* OCCUPIED, ENCLOSED, AND CULTIVATED, 1875 AND 1876.

| Year ended 31st March. | Number of Holdings larger than 1 acre. | Acres Occupied. | Acres Enclosed. | Acres under Tillage. |
|------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1875 ... | 38,468 | 12,264,576 | 11,281,142 | 1,011,776 |
| 1876 ... | 40,852 | 13,084,233 | 12,105,197 | 1,126,831 |
| Increase ... | 2,384 | 819,657 | 824,055 | 115,055 |

Land under principal crops.

173. The next table shows the extent of land under the principal crops in the same two years. It will be noticed that a falling off took place in the land under wheat, but an increase in that under each of the other crops :—

LAND UNDER PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1875 AND 1876.

| Year ended 31st March. | Wheat. | Oats. | Barley. | Potatoes. | Hay. | Green Forage. |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|---------------|
| | acres. | acres. | acres. | acres. | acres. | acres. |
| 1875 ... | 332,936 | 114,921 | 29,505 | 35,183 | 119,031 | 254,329 |
| 1876 ... | 321,401 | 124,100 | 31,568 | 36,901 | 155,274 | 308,405 |
| Increase ... | ... | 9,179 | 2,063 | 1,718 | 36,243 | 54,076 |
| Decrease... | 11,535 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |

Produce of principal crops.

174. Notwithstanding the diminished acreage under wheat, as shown in the last table, the superior productiveness of the season resulted in an increased number of bushels of wheat being raised, as well as an increase in the yield of each of the other principal crops :—

GROSS PRODUCE OF PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1875 AND 1876.

| Year ended 31st March. | Wheat. | Oats. | Barley. | Potatoes. | Hay. |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|---------|
| | bushels. | bushels. | bushels. | tons. | tons. |
| 1875 ... | 4,850,165 | 2,121,612 | 619,896 | 124,310 | 157,261 |
| 1876 ... | 4,978,914 | 2,719,795 | 700,665 | 124,377 | 206,613 |
| Increase ... | 128,749 | 598,183 | 80,769 | 67 | 49,352 |

Green forage.

175. No return is made of the yield of the land under green forage. Land laid down permanently with artificial grasses is included with

* The holdings and land referred to are exclusive of Crown lands held under squatting licenses.

this, as also is that under any other crops which are either cut green for use as fodder or are fed off by live stock on the ground. The following is the acreage under each of the crops of which the green forage produced in the year under review consisted:—

LAND UNDER GREEN FORAGE, 1875-6.

| | | | acres. |
|---|-----|-----|----------------|
| Cereal grasses (barley, wheat, oats, &c.) | ... | ... | 1,760 |
| Maize | ... | ... | 2,019 |
| Rye grass, lucerne, clover, vetches, &c. | ... | ... | 11,240 |
| Sorghum | ... | ... | 208 |
| Permanent artificial grasses | ... | ... | 293,178 |
| Total | ... | ... | 308,405 |

176. The average produce of the various crops has been much greater in some years than in others. The most favorable year of the last eleven years for cereals and for hay was 1867, when the acreable yield of wheat was $22\frac{1}{4}$ bushels, that of oats and of barley 30 bushels, and that of hay $1\frac{3}{4}$ tons. The best year for potatoes was 1875, when the yield was on the average 3.53 tons to the acre. The least favorable year for cereals was 1871, when wheat averaged only 10 bushels, oats 15 bushels, and barley $12\frac{1}{4}$ bushels to the acre. The worst year for hay was 1866, when the yield was barely a ton to the acre, and the worst year for potatoes was 1869, when the yield was not more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons to the acre. The following are the averages of those crops during each of the last eleven years:—

AVERAGE PRODUCE OF PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1866 TO 1876.

| Year ended 31st March. | Average Produce per Acre of— | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Wheat. | Oats. | Barley. | Potatoes. | Hay. |
| | bushels. | bushels. | bushels. | tons. | tons. |
| 1866 | 19.70 | 22.17 | 22.29 | 2.65 | .98 |
| 1867 | 22.25 | 30.01 | 30.18 | 2.74 | 1.74 |
| 1868 | 15.72 | 18.61 | 20.32 | 3.29 | 1.30 |
| 1869 | 16.28 | 19.65 | 15.23 | 2.21 | 1.09 |
| 1870 | 19.75 | 25.98 | 24.55 | 3.09 | 1.60 |
| 1871 | 10.10 | 14.98 | 12.26 | 3.27 | 1.13 |
| 1872 | 13.45 | 18.76 | 20.00 | 3.22 | 1.40 |
| 1873 | 16.51 | 19.55 | 20.86 | 3.45 | 1.32 |
| 1874 | 13.58 | 15.69 | 19.84 | 2.86 | 1.27 |
| 1875 | 14.57 | 18.46 | 21.01 | 3.53 | 1.32 |
| 1876 | 15.49 | 21.92 | 22.20 | 3.37 | 1.33 |
| Average of 11 years | 16.13 | 20.53 | 20.79 | 3.06 | 1.32 |

177. The acreable yield of all the cereals in the year under review exceeded that in the preceding year. The yield of wheat, however, was scarcely up to the average of the eleven years, but the yield of both oats and barley was in excess of that average. The yield of potatoes was

not up to the average of the previous year, but was above that of the eleven years. The average yield of hay exceeded by a fraction that of the former year and that of the whole period of eleven years.

178. In the following table, the average yield of wheat, oats, potatoes, and hay in Victoria during the last five years is placed side by side with the average of the same crops in the other Australasian colonies during as many of those years as the information is available for. The only one of the colonies for which the particulars are altogether wanting is Queensland. That colony publishes no return of the produce of any crop except wheat, and that only for certain selected districts, the average of which does not afford reliable data for ascertaining the average produce of wheat over the colony taken as a whole:—

AVERAGE PRODUCE OF PRINCIPAL CROPS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1872 TO 1876.

| Name of Colony. | 1871-2. | 1872-3. | 1873-4. | 1874-5. | 1875-6. | Mean. |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Wheat : Bushels per Acre. | | | | | | |
| Victoria ... | 13·45 | 16·51 | 13·58 | 14·57 | 15·49 | 14·72 |
| New South Wales | 14·48 | 16·32 | 13·43 | 12·87 | 14·66 | 14·35 |
| South Australia | 5·73 | 11·50 | 7·87 | 11·75 | 11·95 | 9·76 |
| Western Australia | ... | 6·02 | 13·44 | 12·00 | 11·00 | 10·62 |
| Tasmania ... | 13·39 | 18·62 | 16·17 | 18·51 | 16·38 | 16·61 |
| New Zealand ... | 22·52 | 24·19 | 25·61 | 28·15 | 31·54 | 26·40 |
| Oats : Bushels per Acre. | | | | | | |
| Victoria ... | 18·76 | 19·55 | 15·69 | 18·46 | 21·92 | 18·88 |
| New South Wales | 20·36 | 19·94 | 18·71 | 16·31 | 18·72 | 18·81 |
| South Australia | 10·85 | 16·39 | 10·61 | 14·61 | 16·69 | 13·83 |
| Western Australia | ... | 13·24 | 19·22 | 16·00 | 15·00 | 15·87 |
| Tasmania ... | 20·03 | 25·85 | 20·98 | 26·82 | 25·40 | 23·82 |
| New Zealand ... | 26·78 | 27·00 | 29·81 | 35·22 | 39·34 | 31·63 |
| Potatoes : Tons per Acre. | | | | | | |
| Victoria ... | 3·22 | 3·45 | 2·86 | 3·53 | 3·37 | 3·29 |
| New South Wales | 3·03 | 2·98 | 2·98 | 2·83 | 2·98 | 2·96 |
| South Australia | 3·48 | 3·28 | 3·41 | 3·72 | 4·52 | 3·68 |
| Western Australia | ... | 2·34 | 2·67 | 3·00 | 3·00 | 2·75 |
| Tasmania ... | 2·77 | 3·92 | 3·16 | 3·75 | 3·54 | 3·43 |
| New Zealand ... | 3·53 | 4·92 | 4·46 | 5·24 | 4·89 | 4·61 |
| Hay : Tons per Acre. | | | | | | |
| Victoria ... | 1·40 | 1·32 | 1·27 | 1·32 | 1·33 | 1·33 |
| New South Wales | 1·50 | 1·61 | 1·54 | 1·37 | 1·15 | 1·43 |
| South Australia | 1·00 | 1·21 | 1·02 | 1·26 | 1·21 | 1·14 |
| Western Australia | ... | 1·51 | 2·00 | 1·50 | 1·00 | 1·50 |
| Tasmania ... | ·98 | 1·39 | 1·08 | 1·35 | 1·42 | 1·24 |
| New Zealand ... | 1·16 | 1·25 | 1·43 | ·84 | 1·46 | 1·23 |

NOTE.—All the calculations in this table were made in the office of the Government Statist, Melbourne. For the land under and total produce of each crop in the respective colonies during the last three years, see Summary of Australasian Statistics (third folding sheet) *ante*.

179. Intimately connected with the quantity of wheat produced are the quantities imported and exported, and with these must also be taken into account the manufactures of wheat, namely, flour, bread, and biscuit, the whole being known to the trade as breadstuffs. Particulars of the imports and exports of breadstuffs during each year since the first settlement of the colony are now published for the first time in a single return, and will be found in the "Statistical Summary" (first folding sheet) at the commencement of this work. The quantities have all been reduced to their equivalent in bushels, on the assumption that one bushel of wheat produces 45 lbs. of flour, bread, or biscuit. An examination of the figures will show that in almost all the years Victoria has had to import breadstuffs largely in order to supply the requirements of her population, and in three years only has there been any residue, and in those but a small one, remaining for export. The three years referred to are 1870, 1873, and 1874. In the first of these the exports of breadstuffs exceeded the imports by 95,654 bushels, in the second by 138,088 bushels, and in the third by 40,714 bushels.

Imports and exports of breadstuffs.

180. In the early part of 1875 very confident expectations were entertained in some quarters of there being again a surplus of breadstuffs available for exportation, and this notwithstanding the agricultural statistics showed that the yield of wheat was not a high one. Indeed, in one official report which was laid before Parliament, the writer estimated that the net quantity available for export would be 20,000 bushels, and as the yield of wheat shown by the agricultural statistics failed to bear out that conclusion, but on the contrary pointed to a deficiency, he went so far as to assert that, "beyond a doubt the produce of wheat shown by the agricultural statistics was much understated," and that probably "many scattered holdings had been missed by the collectors." *

Net imports of breadstuffs, 1875.

181. The result has shown the incorrectness of this writer's conclusions, and has entirely vindicated the accuracy of the agricultural statistics, inasmuch as, instead of there being a surplus of breadstuffs amounting to 20,000 bushels available for export, it was found necessary, as it turned out, to import no less a quantity than 200,369† bushels of breadstuffs during the year over and above the quantity exported. It is difficult to conceive that the agricultural statistics of any country can be quite perfect, but it may fairly be contended for the agricultural statistics of Victoria that from the system under which they are collected, and the checks which exist in the department of the Government

Accuracy of agricultural statistics proved.

* See Mr. H. Byron Moore's report to the Honorable the Minister of Lands, Appendix D to Parliamentary Paper No. 16, Session 1875, pp. 24 and 32.

† The whole quantity imported was 284,605 bushels, but 84,236 bushels having been exported, the net figures are as here stated.

Statist for testing the accuracy of the returns, and especially for proving whether all the holdings have been visited, it is not at all likely that any serious error or omission could at any time take place.

Net imports
of bread-
stuffs, 1837
to 1875.

182. The following table gives the total quantity and the value of breadstuffs imported and exported from the period of the first settlement of the colony to the end of 1875. It will be observed that, after deducting the amount received for breadstuffs sent away, there remains a balance amounting to between 11 and 12 millions sterling paid by the colony for breadstuffs imported, or rather more than the amount expended up to the beginning of the financial year 1874-5 on the construction of the State railways* :—

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF BREADSTUFFS, 1837 TO 1875.

| Wheat, Flour, Bread, and Biscuit. | | Quantity. | Value. |
|-----------------------------------|--------|------------|------------|
| | | bushels. | £ |
| Imported, 1837 to 1875 | | 31,523,559 | 13,567,216 |
| Exported, " " | | 5,403,721 | 1,909,951 |
| Imports in excess of exports ... | | 26,119,838 | 11,657,265 |

Net imports
of agricul-
tural pro-
ducts.

183. The following are the values of the net imports, *i.e.*, the values of imports after the values of the exports have been deducted, of different articles of farm and garden produce during 1875. All these articles are capable of being produced, and all, or nearly all, are to a certain extent now produced in the colony :—

NET IMPORTS† OF CERTAIN ARTICLES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE, 1875.

| | Balance of Imports over Exports. |
|--|----------------------------------|
| | £ |
| Wheat | 65,913 † |
| Oats ... | 170,957 |
| Oatmeal | 511 |
| Barley | 24,569 |
| Pearl barley | 4,623 |
| Malt ... | 93,009 |
| Maize ... | 114,609 |
| Maizena | 1,624 |
| Beans, peas, and split peas | 5,528 |
| Fruit—green, bottled, dried, currants and rasins | 104,916 |
| Jams and jellies | 4,799 |
| Nuts, almonds, walnuts ... | 6,255 |
| Hops ... | 42,960 |
| Chicory | 2,413 |
| Pickles | 9,160 |
| Tobacco, cigars, and snuff | 36,485 |
| Total | £688,331 |

* This amount was £11,557,484.

† The total imports and total exports of these articles will be found in the table of imports and exports following paragraph 99 *ante*, chiefly under Order 22.

‡ The value of the exports of flour, bread, and biscuit exceeded the value of the imports of those articles by £30,852. If this amount be taken from that representing the value of the net imports of wheat (£65,913), the remainder (£35,061) will represent the value of the net imports of breadstuffs.

184. The following are the proportions which the land under each of the principal crops has borne to the total land under cultivation in the last two years. It will be observed that, in proportion to the total cultivation, hay and green forage covered a larger area and each of the other crops a smaller area in the latter year than in the former :—

Proportion of land under each crop.

PROPORTION OF LAND UNDER EACH CROP, 1875 AND 1876.

| Name of Crop. | | | | | 1874-5. | 1875-6. |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|-----------|
| | | | | | per cent. | per cent. |
| Wheat | ... | ... | ... | ... | 32·90 | 28·52 |
| Oats | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11·36 | 11·01 |
| Barley | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2·92 | 2·80 |
| Potatoes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3·48 | 3·27 |
| Hay | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11·76 | 13·78 |
| Green forage | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25·14 | 27·37 |
| Other tillage | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12·44 | 13·25 |
| Total land under crop | | | | | 100·00 | 100·00 |

185. Other crops less important than those already named are grown to a certain extent in Victoria. Some of these are raised in gardens and on lots smaller than those which the collectors are called upon to visit, and therefore the full extent to which they are cultivated does not appear. The following is a statement of the acreage under minor crops and of their produce according to the returns of the last two years :—

Minor crops.

MINOR CROPS,* 1875 AND 1876.

| Nature of Crop. | | | | | 1874-5. | 1875-6. |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|---------|---------|
| Beet, carrots, parsnips, and cabbage | ... | ... | ... | { acres | 721 | 807 |
| | | | | { tons | 3,887 | 4,268 |
| Broom millet... | ... | ... | ... | { acres | 56 | 96 |
| | | | | { fibre, cwt. | 264 | 338 |
| | | | | { seed, bush. | 1,000 | 2,095 |
| Buckwheat | ... | ... | ... | { acres | 5 | 2 |
| | | | | { bushels | 20 | 40 |
| Canary | ... | ... | ... | { acres | ... | 50 |
| | | | | { bushels | ... | 300 |
| Chicory | ... | ... | ... | { acres | 109 | 174 |
| | | | | { tons | 531 | 652 |
| „ for seed | ... | ... | ... | { acres | ... | 3 |
| | | | | { lbs. | ... | 168 |
| Clover for seed | ... | ... | ... | { acres | ... | 45 |
| | | | | { bushels | ... | 614 |
| Cocksfoot for seed | ... | ... | ... | { acres | 5 | 1 |
| | | | | { bushels | 140 | 15 |
| Cow-grass for seed | ... | ... | ... | { acres | 20 | 13 |
| | | | | { bushels | 37 | 15 |

* Exclusive of the quantities grown in gardens, &c.

MINOR CROPS, 1875 AND 1876—continued.

| Nature of Crop. | | | | | 1874-5. | 1875-6. |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------------|---------|---------|
| Flax | ... | ... | ... | acres | 7 | 17 |
| | | | | fibre, cwt. | 48 | 93 |
| | | | | linseed, bush. | 63 | 80 |
| Hops | ... | ... | ... | acres | 126 | 145 |
| | | | | lbs. | 99,624 | 113,344 |
| Kohl rabi | ... | ... | ... | acres | ... | 1 |
| | | | | cwt. | ... | 300 |
| Lucerne for seed | ... | ... | ... | acres | ... | 6 |
| | | | | bushels | ... | 42 |
| Maize | ... | ... | ... | acres | 1,523 | 2,346 |
| | | | | bushels | 24,263 | 37,177 |
| Mangel-wurzel | ... | ... | ... | acres | 1,281 | 1,223 |
| | | | | tons | 17,899 | 16,795 |
| Melons | ... | ... | ... | acres | 10 | 16 |
| | | | | tons | 17 | 18 |
| Mustard (white) | ... | ... | ... | acres | 31 | 40 |
| | | | | cwt. | 100 | 166 |
| Onions | ... | ... | ... | acres | 347 | 552 |
| | | | | tons | 2,794 | 4,780 |
| Opium poppies | ... | ... | ... | acres | 10 | 4 |
| | | | | lbs. | 168 | 100 |
| Ôsiers | ... | ... | ... | acres | 4 | 3 |
| Peas and beans | ... | ... | ... | acres | 16,170 | 18,854 |
| | | | | bushels | 317,382 | 450,948 |
| Prairie grass for seed | ... | ... | ... | acres | 21 | 45 |
| | | | | bushels | 619 | 948 |
| Pumpkins | ... | ... | ... | acres | 36 | 39 |
| | | | | tons | 233 | 49 |
| Rape for seed | ... | ... | ... | acres | 7 | 34 |
| | | | | bushels | 30 | ... |
| Raspberries | ... | ... | ... | acres | ... | 3 |
| | | | | cwt. | ... | 60 |
| Rye and bere | ... | ... | ... | acres | 1,096 | 1,292 |
| | | | | bushels | 15,620 | 19,356 |
| Rye-grass for seed | ... | ... | ... | acres | 3,036 | 2,130 |
| | | | | bushels | 35,202 | 32,602 |
| Strawberries | ... | ... | ... | acres | 21 | 24 |
| | | | | cwt. | 210 | 215 |
| Teazles | ... | ... | ... | acres | 1 | 11 |
| | | | | cwt. | 20 | 178 |
| Tobacco | ... | ... | ... | acres | 733 | 782 |
| | | | | cwt. | 6,839 | 501* |
| Turnips | ... | ... | ... | acres | 241 | 284 |
| | | | | tons | 1,901 | 2,668 |
| Vetches and tares for seed | ... | ... | ... | acres | 3 | 26 |
| | | | | bushels | 28 | 492 |
| Vines | ... | ... | ... | acres | 4,937 | 5,081 |
| | | | | wine, galls. | 577,493 | 755,000 |
| | | | | brandy, galls. | 148 | 256 |

* The tobacco crop 1875-6 failed in most of the districts.

186. In addition to the area under these crops, the following land was returned as being comprised in gardens and orchards in the same two years. The quantities of vegetables and fruit produced are not given:—

LAND UNDER GARDENS AND ORCHARDS, 1875 AND 1876.

| Year ended 31st March. | | | | Gardens. | Orchards. | Total. |
|------------------------|----------|-----|-----|----------|-----------|--------|
| | | | | acres. | acres. | acres. |
| 1875 | ... | ... | ... | 11,083 | 6,317 | 17,400 |
| 1876 | ... | ... | ... | 11,816 | 5,945 | 17,761 |
| | Increase | ... | ... | 733 | ... | 361 |
| | Decrease | ... | ... | ... | 372 | ... |

Gardens and orchards.

187. Ten acres under olives and 23 acres under mulberry trees were also returned in the year under review. The mulberry trees numbered 30,650, and are grown for the purpose of feeding and rearing silkworms, this being an industry which, so far as it has gone, has been attended with great success in Victoria.* No particulars respecting the olive crop are given. Mulberry and olive trees are frequently grown in gardens; and there is no doubt that both are much more extensively cultivated than the agricultural statistics indicate. This is also the case with raspberries; only 3 acres of which appear in the returns. Osiers, for basket-making, are often grown in swamps and on the banks of streams. They are usually planted in small patches, which do not come under the notice of the collectors of statistics. This is probably the reason that an amount of 3 acres only under osiers appears in the last table.

Mulberry and olive grounds, &c.

188. Land in fallow is included in the land under tillage.† The quantity of this in the year under notice amounted to 97,133 acres, as against 77,912 acres in the previous year.

Land in fallow.

189. The following table shows the number of holdings of various sizes, and the extent of occupied and cultivated land embraced therein, according to the returns of the year under notice. It must be borne in mind that this table, in common with all others based upon the agricultural statistics, contains no account of holdings which are not over an acre in extent, or of any land which does not appear to be in the *bonâ fide* occupation of some one living on or near the ground, or of any which is occupied for other purposes than agriculture or the keeping of live stock, or of any Crown lands held under pastoral

Classification of holdings as to size.

* One company established near Castlemaine has planted 25,000 trees, which were brought from China, France, and Italy. They exported over 100 oz. of silkworm grain to the North of Italy in 1875, where it is said that, on account of its healthy appearance, it created quite a *furore* amongst the buyers. Some cocoons were also sent, which were highly approved of by competent judges.

† See table following paragraph 172 *ante*.

licenses. It should, moreover, be remarked that each distinct occupation is considered to constitute a holding, without reference to its proprietorship; also that each of several holdings in different localities occupied or owned by one person is necessarily reckoned as a distinct holding* :—

CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS AS TO SIZE, 1875-6.

| Size of Holdings. | | Number of Holdings. | Extent of Sold or Selected Land in Occupation. | Extent of Land under Tillage. |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| | | | acres. | acres. |
| 1 acre to 4 acres | ... | 1,511 | 4,413 | 2,488 |
| 5 acres | 14 " | 3,419 | 30,101 | 13,492 |
| 15 " | 29 " | 3,825 | 78,986 | 24,747 |
| 30 " | 49 " | 3,279 | 125,921 | 34,608 |
| 50 " | 99 " | 5,981 | 431,090 | 96,445 |
| 100 " | 199 " | 7,774 | 1,095,653 | 204,276 |
| 200 " | 320 " | 10,437 | 2,955,535 | 340,467 |
| 321 " | 400 " | 1,165 | 412,402 | 64,192 |
| 401 " | 500 " | 860 | 387,895 | 57,889 |
| 501 " | 600 " | 527 | 291,184 | 39,624 |
| 601 " | 700 " | 441 | 284,586 | 27,860 |
| 701 " | 800 " | 225 | 169,166 | 18,734 |
| 801 " | 900 " | 163 | 139,377 | 13,962 |
| 901 " | 1,000 " | 154 | 147,065 | 16,808 |
| 1,001 " | 1,500 " | 328 | 397,611 | 27,738 |
| 1,500 " | 2,000 " | 156 | 271,726 | 17,026 |
| 2,001 " | 3,000 " | 155 | 384,489 | 23,922 |
| 3,001 " | 4,000 " | 79 | 278,190 | 7,497 |
| 4,001 " | 5,000 " | 54 | 246,543 | 7,514 |
| 5,000 " | 7,500 " | 73 | 442,039 | 20,964 |
| 7,500 " | 10,000 " | 49 | 428,524 | 9,526 |
| 10,001 " | 15,000 " | 79 | 992,145 | 15,995 |
| 15,000 " | 20,000 " | 42 | 741,454 | 6,322 |
| 20,001 " | 30,000 " | 48 | 1,193,006 | 27,734 |
| 30,001 " | 40,000 " | 18 | 608,042 | 5,533 |
| 40,001 " | and upwards | 10 | 547,090 | 1,468 |
| Total | | 40,852 | 13,084,233 | 1,126,831 |

Average size of holdings.

190. The average size of holdings was 319 acres in 1874-5, and 320 acres in 1875-6. In 1869-70 the average size of holdings was 293 acres, and since then there has been a gradual increase from year to year.

Area occupied per head.

191. The average area in occupation to each person in the colony in 1869-70 was 12.4 acres. Since then there has been an increase each year; the average to each person in 1875-6 being 15.9 acres.

Area cultivated per holding.

192. The average area cultivated by each occupier was 27.6 acres in 1875-6, as against 26.3 acres in 1874-5.

* See paragraphs 170 and 171 *ante*; also footnote to the latter paragraph.

193. The area cultivated to each person in the colony was 1·37 acre in the year under review, and 1·25 acre in the previous year. Area cultivated per head.

194. In 1874-5, 8¼ per cent., and in 1875-6, 8⅔ per cent. of the occupied land was in cultivation. Occupied land cultivated.

195. A statement is furnished by the collectors of statistics of the average duration of leases of farms let by private individuals, and the average rental per acre in each district. According to this, the term of a lease generally ranges from 3 to 7 years; the extreme figures being 1 year and 10 years. The average rental of agricultural land per acre was said to be from 7s. to 15s.; the extreme figures being 5s. and 40s. The average rental of pastoral land per acre was stated to be 3s. to 5s.; the extremes being 1s. and 10s. Leases and rental of farms.

196. Each collector also furnishes a statement of the price of the principal articles of agricultural produce in his district at the time he makes his rounds. The following is an average deduced from the returns of all the districts during each of the last nine years:— Prices of agricultural produce.

PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE,* 1868 TO 1875.

| During February and March. | | | Wheat. | | Oats. | | Barley. | | Potatoes. | | Hay. | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-------------|----|-------------|-----|-------------|----|-----------|----|----------|----|
| | | | per bushel. | | per bushel. | | per bushel. | | per ton. | | per ton. | |
| | | | s. | d. | s. | d. | s. | d. | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| 1868 | ... | ... | 7 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 4 | 4 | 82 | 0 | 72 | 6 |
| 1869 | ... | ... | 5 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 11 | 124 | 10 | 113 | 4 |
| 1870 | ... | ... | 4 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 75 | 0 | 77 | 0 |
| 1871 | ... | ... | 5 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 11 | 70 | 0 | 76 | 0 |
| 1872 | ... | ... | 4 | 8 | 2 | 11½ | 3 | 6¼ | 65 | 6 | 64 | 0 |
| 1873 | ... | ... | 4 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 67 | 4 | 81 | 0 |
| 1874 | ... | ... | 5 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 118 | 3 | 88 | 0 |
| 1875 | ... | ... | 4 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 89 | 0 | 89 | 0 |
| 1876 | ... | ... | 4 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 87 | 0 | 82 | 0 |

197. The standard weight of crops in Victoria is reckoned to be 60 lbs. to the bushel for wheat and maize, 40 lbs. for oats, and 50 lbs. for barley. The actual weight, however, differs in different districts. Thus wheat, during the past year, ranged from 56 lbs. to 64 lbs.; oats, from 35 lbs. to 44 lbs.; barley, from 46 lbs. to 54 lbs.; and maize, from 50 lbs. to 58 lbs. The average weight per bushel of these crops in all the districts during the past two years was as follows:— Weight of crops.

SPECIFIC WEIGHT OF CROPS, 1875 AND 1876.

| Average Weight per Bushel of— | | | | 1874-5. | 1875-6. |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------|---------|
| | | | | lbs. | lbs. |
| Wheat | ... | ... | ... | 61 | 61 |
| Oats | ... | ... | ... | 40 | 40 |
| Barley | ... | ... | ... | 51 | 50 |
| Maize | ... | ... | ... | 55 | 55 |

* See also table following paragraph 153 ante.

Hands employed.

198. An increase, according to the returns, took place in the number of persons employed in agricultural and pastoral pursuits in 1875-6 as compared with 1874-5. The following are the figures of the two years. The proprietor or manager of the farm or station is included amongst the hands employed :—

HANDS EMPLOYED ON FARMS AND STATIONS,* 1875 AND 1876.

| Year ended 31st March. | | | | Hands employed on Farms. | | |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------------------|----------|--------|
| | | | | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| 1875 | ... | ... | ... | 56,520 | 25,231 | 81,751 |
| 1876 | ... | ... | ... | 61,273 | 27,446 | 88,719 |
| Increase ... | | | | 4,753 | 2,215 | 6,968 |

| Year ended 31st March. | | | | Hands employed on Stations. | | |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------------|----------|--------|
| | | | | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| 1875 | ... | ... | ... | 4,638 | 1,275 | 5,913 |
| 1876 | ... | ... | ... | 4,669 | 1,339 | 6,008 |
| Increase ... | | | | 31 | 64 | 95 |

Rates of labor on farms.

199. A return of the rates paid for labor on farms is made by the collector of each district. The next table contains the average of all these returns during the last two years. An increase will be observed in the wages of all those descriptions of labor which do not compete with machinery ; but otherwise a slight decrease. Rations are given in every case in addition to wages :—

RATES OF LABOR ON FARMS,† 1875 AND 1876.

| Description of Labor. | 1874-5. | | 1875-6. | |
|-----------------------|---------|----|---------|----|
| | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| Ploughmen, per week | 20 | 3 | 21 | 4 |
| Farm laborers, " | 16 | 9 | 17 | 7 |
| Married couples, " | 23 | 1 | 24 | 6 |
| Females, " | 10 | 6 | 10 | 7 |
| Mowers, " | 30 | 5 | 28 | 11 |
| " per acre | 5 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| Reapers, per week | 32 | 3 | 31 | 11 |
| " per acre | 13 | 9 | 14 | 1 |
| Threshers, per bushel | 0 | 7 | 0 | 7 |

* The word "farm," as used in connection with the agricultural statistics, implies a holding of which no portion is subject to a squatting license. The word "station" implies a holding of which portion is subject to a squatting license. "Farms" consist of alienated land only. "Stations" consist either of Crown lands only, or of Crown and alienated lands occupied in the same holdings.

† See also table following paragraph 152 ante. For definition of the term "farm," see last footnote.

200. Subjoined are the averages of the rates returned as being paid for pastoral labor. These are in addition to rations, which are in every case supplied. It will be observed that, in several cases, the rates in the latter year are higher than those in the former :—

Rates of
labor on
stations.

RATES OF LABOR ON STATIONS,* 1875 AND 1876.

| Description of Labor. | 1874-5. | | | 1875-6. | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|----|----|---------|----|----|
| | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
| Stockmen, per annum | 46 | 13 | 0 | 45 | 12 | 0 |
| Boundary riders, per annum | 39 | 6 | 0 | 41 | 12 | 0 |
| Shepherds, " | 35 | 17 | 0 | 35 | 3 | 0 |
| Hutkeepers, " | 29 | 6 | 0 | 30 | 8 | 0 |
| Married couples, " | 56 | 15 | 0 | 60 | 2 | 0 |
| Females, " | 28 | 11 | 0 | 29 | 0 | 0 |
| Station laborers, per week | 0 | 17 | 3 | 0 | 17 | 2 |
| Sheepwashers, " | 0 | 19 | 6 | 0 | 19 | 10 |
| Shearers, per 100 sheep shorn | 0 | 14 | 4 | 0 | 13 | 0 |

201. The following is an estimate of the live stock on farms and land not attached to squatting stations, and the live stock on squatting stations, during the last two years. A large increase will be observed upon the total numbers of each description of stock, and also upon the number of those kept on land not attached to stations, but a slight falling off of those upon stations. The live stock on farms is returned by the collectors of agricultural statistics, who are instructed to supplement the information they obtain at the holdings they visit with estimates of the stock running on commons, of that kept by persons having allotments of less than an acre in extent, of that stalled and stabled in towns and villages, and of that belonging to road carters traversing their districts. For some of the larger towns the collectors have been unable to furnish estimates, and for these the census figures have been taken. The return of stock on stations has been compiled, as far as possible, from estimates furnished by the squatters in reply to enquiries made by the Government Statist. In a considerable number of instances, however, these enquiries have not been responded to, and in such cases it has been necessary to supply the particulars from the returns of former years. Every endeavor is made to give as true a statement as possible of the numbers of all the stock in the colony ; but it is necessary to point out that portion of the information is derived from estimates which can only be verified at a general census :—

Live stock.

* See also table following paragraph 152 *ante*. For definition of the term "station," see footnote to table following paragraph 198 *ante*.

LIVE STOCK ON FARMS, ETC., AND ON STATIONS,* 1874-5 AND 1875-6.

| Year ended 31st March. | Horses. | Cattle. | | | Sheep. | Pigs. |
|------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| | | Milch Cows. | Exclusive of Milch Cows. | Total. | | |

ON FARMS AND LAND UNCONNECTED WITH STATIONS.

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|
| 1875 | ... | ... | 161,398 | 228,593 | 571,526 | 800,119 | 5,694,391 | 133,747 |
| 1876 | ... | ... | 177,679 | 242,694 | 653,926 | 896,620 | 6,426,698 | 136,844 |
| Increase | ... | ... | 16,281 | 14,101 | 82,400 | 96,501 | 732,307 | 3,097 |

ON STATIONS.

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|--------|--------|---------|---------|-----------|-------|
| 1875 | ... | ... | 18,856 | 12,544 | 145,995 | 158,539 | 5,526,645 | 4,194 |
| 1876 | ... | ... | 18,505 | 12,443 | 145,535 | 157,978 | 5,322,834 | 3,921 |
| Decrease | ... | ... | 351 | 101 | 460 | 561 | 203,811 | 273 |

TOTAL LIVE STOCK.

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|---------|---------|---------|-----------|------------|---------|
| 1875 | ... | ... | 180,254 | 241,137 | 717,521 | 958,658 | 11,221,036 | 137,941 |
| 1876 | ... | ... | 196,184 | 255,137 | 799,461 | 1,054,598 | 11,749,532 | 140,765 |
| Increase | ... | ... | 15,930 | 14,000 | 81,940 | 95,940 | 528,496 | 2,824 |

Live stock slaughtered.

202. The numbers of live stock slaughtered during the year were returned as follow by the local bodies. This being the first occasion on which the information was asked for, it was to a certain extent incomplete. It is therefore probable that more animals were slaughtered than the figures show:—

LIVE STOCK SLAUGHTERED, 1875.

| Description of Live Stock. | Numbers Slaughtered for— | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| | The Butcher and Private Use. | Preserving or Salting. | Boiling Down for Tallow. | Total. |
| Sheep and lambs | 1,558,733 | 200,664 | 103,199 | 1,862,596 |
| Cattle and calves | 148,148 | 1,042 | ... | 149,190 |
| Pigs | 40,511 | 21,005 | ... | 61,516 |
| Total | 1,747,392 | 222,711 | 103,199 | 2,073,302 |

* A definition of the terms "farm" and "station," as used in connection with these returns, has already been given in the footnote to the table following paragraph 198 *ante*. It may, however, be necessary still further to explain that these designations refer not to the size of the holding, but simply to the tenure under which it is held. All holdings are set down as farms except those subject to a pastoral license. Holdings of which any portion is subject to a pastoral license are set down as stations. When the last portion of a run has been purchased or selected by the occupier or others, and the pastoral license is consequently thereafter no longer in existence, the holding which previously had been a "station" thenceforth becomes a "farm," and this notwithstanding that the area of the holding may not at all or only very slightly have been reduced. In the more settled districts a gradual process of removal of holdings from the list of stations to that of farms has, for some time since, been going on.

203. The extent to which steam machinery is used in agricultural and pastoral pursuits has varied but slightly in the last two years, as will be seen by the following figures:—

Steam engines on farms and stations.

STEAM ENGINES ON FARMS AND STATIONS,* 1875 AND 1876.

| Year ended 31st March. | Steam Engines. | | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------|-------------|
| | On Farms. | | On Stations. | | Total. | |
| | Number. | Horsepower. | Number. | Horsepower. | Number. | Horsepower. |
| 1875 | 262 | 2,051 | 22 | 216 | 284 | 2,267 |
| 1876 | 253 | 2,081 | 23 | 201 | 276 | 2,282 |
| Increase | ... | 30 | 1 | ... | ... | 15 |
| Decrease | 9 | ... | ... | 15 | 8 | ... |

204. A slight falling off appears in the value of agricultural implements and machines on stations, but an increase in the value of those on farms. The following are the figures:—

Agricultural implements, &c.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, ETC., ON FARMS AND STATIONS,* 1875 AND 1876.

| Year ended 31st March. | Value of Implements and Machinery. | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| | On Farms. | On Stations. | Total. |
| | £ | £ | £ |
| 1875 | 1,486,558 | 80,751 | 1,567,309 |
| 1876 | 1,623,697 | 80,467 | 1,704,164 |
| Increase | 137,139 | ... | 136,855 |
| Decrease... .. | ... | 284 | ... |

205. The improvements on farms and stations, of which a statement of the value is given in the following table, include buildings of all descriptions, fencing, dips, wells, dams, &c., but not the cost of clearing or cropping land. As in most of the other returns an increase appears in the figures relating to farms, and a falling off in those relating to stations:—

Improvements on farms and stations.

IMPROVEMENTS ON FARMS AND STATIONS,* 1875 AND 1876.

| Year ended 31st March. | Value of Improvements. | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|------------|
| | On Farms. | On Stations. | Total. |
| | £ | £ | £ |
| 1875 | 10,410,609 | 1,920,516 | 12,331,125 |
| 1876 | 11,987,818 | 1,889,866 | 13,877,684 |
| Increase | 1,577,209 | ... | 1,546,559 |
| Decrease... .. | ... | 30,650 | ... |

* For definition of the terms "farm" and "station," see footnotes to tables following paragraphs 198 and 201 ante.

Machine
labor.

206. The following figures, which have been obtained by means of averages struck from the returns of the collectors in all the districts, show a falling off in the rates paid for machine labor:—

MACHINE LABOR, 1875 AND 1876.

| Average Rates Paid for— | 1874-5. | | | 1875-6. | | |
|---|---------|----|----|---------|----|----|
| | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
| Machine reaping, per acre | 0 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 9 |
| Machine mowing, " | 0 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 5 |
| Machine threshing, per 100 bushels | 1 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 3 |

Flour mills.

207. The flour mills in operation during 1875-6 were fewer by 4 than in the previous year; a slight falling off also took place in the quantity of wheat ground, and consequently of flour made. The portion of the returns showing the quantity of grain other than wheat operated upon, and the quantity of meal manufactured, presents an apparent anomaly, inasmuch as, although an increase occurred in the former, a considerable falling off is observed in the latter. This is possibly to be accounted for by the circumstance that in the year under notice more than in the previous one such grain may have consisted of maize sent to the mill to be cracked, rather than of that or some other grain sent to be turned into meal. The following are the returns of the two years:—

FLOUR MILLS, 1875 AND 1876.

| Year ended 31st March. | Number of Mills. | Mills employing— | | Amount of Horsepower. | Number of Pairs of Stones. | Number of Hands employed. |
|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | Steampower. | Waterpower. | | | |
| 1875 ... | 161 | 149 | 12 | 2,835 | 485 | 749 |
| 1876 ... | 157 | 145 | 12 | 2,848 | 476 | 704 |
| Increase | ... | ... | ... | 13 | ... | ... |
| Decrease | 4 | 4 | ... | ... | 9 | 45 |

| Year ended 31st March. | Bushels of Grain operated upon. | | Tons of Flour made. | Tons of Meal made. | Approximate Total Value of— | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|------------|
| | Wheat. | Other. | | | Machinery and Plant. | Lands.* | Buildings. |
| 1875 ... | 5,371,866 | 233,150 | 114,929 | 2,664 | £ 224,650 | £ 58,388 | £ 206,625 |
| 1876 ... | 5,287,596 | 271,682 | 114,727 | 596 | 217,335 | 55,400 | 201,520 |
| Increase | ... | 38,532 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Decrease | 84,270 | ... | 202 | 2,068 | 7,315 | 2,988 | 5,105 |

* Six mills in 1874-5, and 4 in 1875-6, were upon Crown lands. In these cases no estimate of the value of the land is given.

208. A falling off of 4 in the number of breweries, and of nearly a million gallons in the quantity of beer made, is shown by the returns of 1876 as compared with those of 1875. A decrease also appears in the other items, except that of sugar, which seems to have been somewhat more extensively used in the manufacture of beer in the year under review than in the previous one:—

BREWERIES, 1875 AND 1876.

| Year ended 31st March. | Number of Breweries. | Materials used. | | | Number of Hands employed. | Number of Horses employed. |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | Sugar. | Malt. | Hops. | | |
| 1875 | 107 | lbs. 8,816,864 | bushels. 670,928 | lbs. 988,863 | 925 | 663 |
| 1876 | 103 | 9,356,144 | 600,035 | 871,051 | 882 | 617 |
| Increase | ... | 539,280 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Decrease | 4 | ... | 70,893 | 117,812 | 43 | 46 |

| Year ended 31st March. | Number of Drays and Waggon employed. | Gallons of Beer made. | Approximate Total Value of— | | |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | | | Machinery and Plant. | Lands.* | Buildings. |
| 1875 | 364 | 13,653,531 | £ 159,313 | £ 65,846 | £ 211,784 |
| 1876 | 332 | 12,666,265 | 139,950 | 61,892 | 196,872 |
| Decrease | 32 | 987,266 | 19,363 | 3,954 | 14,912 |

209. That less building was going on in 1875-6 than in 1874-5 is evidenced by a decrease of 55 in the number of brick-yards and potteries, and of 9,500,000 in the number of bricks made. That machinery was more extensively used is shown by the fact that 10 additional machines for making bricks and pottery and 1 additional steam engine were brought into operation during the year under review:—

BRICK-YARDS AND POTTERIES, 1875 AND 1876.

| Year ended 31st March. | Number of Brick- yards and Potteries. | Number of Machines in use. | | Brick-yards, &c., employing— | | | Amount of Horse- power employed. | Number of Hands employed. |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| | | For tempering or crushing Clay. | For making Bricks or Pottery. | Steam- power. | Horse- power. | Manual Labor. | | |
| 1875 | 296 | 184 | 77 | 12 | 121 | 163 | 342 | 1,271 |
| 1876 | 241 | 169 | 87 | 13 | 101 | 127 | 336 | 1,083 |
| Increase | ... | ... | 10 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Decrease | 55 | 15 | ... | ... | 20 | 36 | 6 | 188 |

* Three of the breweries in 1874-5, and 6 in 1875-6, were upon Crown lands. In these cases no estimate of the value of the land is given.

BRICK-YARDS AND POTTERIES, 1875 AND 1876—continued.

| Year ended 31st March. | Number of Bricks made. | Approximate Total Value of— | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|---------|------------|
| | | Bricks made. | Pottery made. | Machinery and Plant. | Lands.* | Buildings. |
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 1875 | 83,337,000 | 164,266 | 24,802 | 45,785 | 52,251 | 53,858 |
| 1876 | 73,853,000 | 148,188 | 21,905 | 42,016 | 49,782 | 50,210 |
| Decrease ... | 9,484,000 | 16,078 | 2,897 | 3,769 | 2,469 | 3,648 |

Tanneries.

210. Four more tanneries were returned in 1876 than in 1875, and 2 steam engines were added. Higher figures were also given for the value of machinery and lands, but slightly lower ones for buildings. The following are the figures for the two years:—

TANNERIES, 1875 AND 1876.

| Year ended 31st March. | Number of Tanneries. | Tanneries employing— | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------|
| | | Steampower. | Horsepower. | Manual Labor. |
| 1875 | 87 | 27 | 43 | 17 |
| 1876 | 91 | 29 | 46 | 12 |
| Increase ... | 4 | 2 | 3 | ... |
| Decrease ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |

| Year ended 31st March. | Amount of Horse-power employed. | Number of Hands employed (all males). | Approximate Total Value of— | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|---------|------------|
| | | | Machinery and Plant. | Lands.† | Buildings. |
| | | | £ | £ | £ |
| 1875 | 318 | 983 | 44,974 | 18,918 | 76,222 |
| 1876 | 398 | 965 | 64,842 | 28,853 | 73,150 |
| Increase ... | 80 | ... | 19,868 | 9,935 | ... |
| Decrease ... | ... | 18 | ... | ... | 3,072 |

Tanneries,
1875-6.

211. In addition to the above, the following particulars respecting tanneries were returned for the year under notice:—

TANNERIES, 1875-6.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Number of pits | ... | ... | ... | 3,058 |
| Number of hides tanned | ... | ... | ... | 316,394 |
| Number of skins tanned | ... | ... | ... | 514,832 |
| Approximate value of leather made | ... | ... | ... | £617,873 |

Woollen
mills.

212. Six woollen mills were returned both in 1875 and in 1876, but the statistics of their operations, as recorded in the following table, show that an increase under all the headings took place in the latter year:—

* Eighty-seven of the brick-yards in 1874-5, and 55 in 1875-6, were upon Crown lands. In these cases no estimate of the value of the land has been given.

† Four of the tanneries in 1875-6, and probably a certain number in 1874-5, were upon Crown lands. In these cases no estimate of the value of the land is given.

WOOLLEN MILLS, 1875 AND 1876.

| Year ended 31st March. | Number of Woollen Mills. | Steam Engines used. | | Number of Hands employed. | | Approximate Total Value of— | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|---------|------------|
| | | Number. | Horse- power. | Males. | Females. | Machinery and Plant. | Lands. | Buildings. |
| 1875 ... | 6 | 6 | 280 | 350 | 162 | £ 97,000 | £ 5,350 | £ 47,500 |
| 1876 ... | 6 | 6 | 368 | 357 | 254 | 104,059 | 5,976 | 51,565 |
| Increase ... | ... | ... | 88 | 7 | 92 | 7,059 | 626 | 4,065 |

213. The following additional particulars of woollen mills during the year under review were obtained by the collectors:—

Woollen
mills,
1875-6.

WOOLLEN MILLS, 1875-6.

| | | |
|---|-----|----------|
| Yards of tweed, cloth, flannel, &c., made ... | ... | 644,714 |
| Number of blankets made ... | ... | 2,973 |
| Number of shawls made ... | ... | 1,776 |
| Value of all goods manufactured ... | ... | £140,939 |

214. Besides the manufactories and works for which special tables have been given, returns of other manufacturing establishments were as follow in the last two years. Most of these manufactories are of an extensive character, and nearly half, both in 1875 and 1876, used steam-power. Mere shops, at which some manufacturing business is carried on, are not included:—

Manufac-
tories,
works, &c.

MANUFACTORIES, WORKS, ETC., 1875 AND 1876.

(Exclusive of Flour Mills, Breweries, Brick-yards, Potteries, Tanneries, and Woollen Mills.)

| Year ended 31st March. | Number of Manufactories, Works, &c. | Manufactories, &c., employing— | | | | | Amount of Horse-power employed. |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|------------------|--|
| | | Steam. | Water. | Wind. | Horse. | Manual Labor. | |
| 1875 ... | 1,452 | 650 | 15 | 4 | 96 | 687 | 8,168 |
| 1876 ... | 1,648 | 708 | 16 | 1 | 104 | 819 | 8,627 |
| Increase ... | 196 | 58 | 1 | ... | 8 | 132 | 459 |
| Decrease ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... |

| Year ended 31st March. | Number of Hands employed. | | Approximate Total Value of— | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| | Males. | Females. | Machinery and Plant. | Lands.* | Buildings. |
| 1875 ... | 19,145 | 4,451 | £ 3,188,389 | £ 774,327 | £ 1,467,640 |
| 1876 ... | 21,128 | 4,519 | 3,559,263 | 889,534 | 1,553,242 |
| Increase ... | 1,983 | 68 | 370,874 | 115,207 | 85,602 |

* These figures apply to purchased lands only. One hundred and ninety-five of the manufactories in 1874-5, and 199 in 1875-6, were upon Crown lands.

Manufac-
tories, list
of, 1866,
1871, and
1876.

215. The manufactories and works of all descriptions, including flour mills, breweries, brick-yards, potteries, tanneries, and woollen mills, as well as those of which mention is made in the foregoing table, are classified as follow for the year under notice, and for the first year of each of the two previous quinquenniads. The establishments noted are almost all of an extensive character. Every bootmaker's, tailor's, dress-maker's, carpenter's, cooper's, blacksmith's, baker's, or confectioner's shop may, in a certain sense, be called a manufactory, but no attempt has been made to enumerate such places* :—

MANUFACTORIES, WORKS, ETC., 1866, 1871, AND 1876.

| Description of Manufactory, Work, &c. | Number of Establishments. | | |
|--|---------------------------|---------|---------|
| | 1865-6. | 1870-1. | 1875-6. |
| <i>Books and Stationery.</i> | | | |
| Account-book manufactories, manufacturing stationers | ... | 10 | 16 |
| Printing establishments | 9 | 17 | 34 |
| <i>Musical Instruments.</i> | | | |
| Organ-building establishments | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Pianoforte manufactories | 4 | 4 | 9 |
| <i>Prints, Pictures, &c.</i> | | | |
| Picture-frame makers | ... | ... | 6 |
| <i>Carving, Figures, &c.</i> | | | |
| Carving and gilding establishments | ... | ... | 2 |
| Indiarubber stamp manufactories | ... | ... | 3 |
| Modelling (architectural and figure), &c.—works | ... | ... | 2 |
| Statuary works | ... | ... | 1 |
| Turnery works | ... | ... | 7 |
| Wood-carving and ornamental works | ... | ... | 1 |
| Wooden pipe manufactories | ... | 1 | 2 |
| <i>Designs, Medals, and Dies.</i> | | | |
| Diesinkers, engravers, medalists, trade-mark makers | ... | ... | 4 |
| <i>Philosophical Instruments, &c.</i> | | | |
| Philosophical instrument manufactories | ... | ... | 3 |
| Spectacles manufactories | ... | ... | 1 |
| <i>Surgical Instruments.</i> | | | |
| Surgical instrument, truss—manufactories | ... | ... | 4 |
| <i>Arms, Ammunition, &c.</i> | | | |
| Blasting powder, dynamite, &c.—manufactories | ... | ... | 6 |
| Fuze manufactories | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Gunmakers | ... | ... | 3 |

* In pursuance of the principle which has always been followed in this colony, of publishing statements respecting extensive establishments only, except in cases where the existence of industries of an uncommon or interesting character might appear to call for notice, a certain number of returns sent in by the collectors are rejected each year. The following, relating to 1875-6, were omitted as not fulfilling the required conditions:—9 printing establishments; 1 architectural modeller; 2 picture-frame makers; 12 turners and carvers; 1 medical galvanic apparatus maker; 2 machinists; 14 coachbuilders; 34 saddlers, harness makers; 2 wheel factories; 11 upholstery, furniture makers; 6 mattress, palliasso makers; 1 blindmaker; 1 "patent remedies" maker; 17 boot manufactories; 6 clothing manufactories; 16 hat, cap manufactories. These establishments used no machine power, and rarely employed more than one or two hands.

MANUFACTORIES, WORKS, ETC.—*continued.*

| Description of Manufactory, Work, &c. | Number of Establishments. | | |
|--|---------------------------|---------|---------|
| | 1865-6. | 1870-1. | 1875-6. |
| <i>Machines, Tools, and Implements.</i> | | | |
| Agricultural implement manufactories ... | 16 | 42 | 47 |
| Bellows manufactories ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Cutlery, machine-tool—manufactories ... | ... | 1 | 9 |
| Engine, machine—manufactories ... | 14 | 18 | 52 |
| <i>Carriages and Harness.</i> | | | |
| Coach, waggon, &c.—manufactories ... | 1 | 2 | 105* |
| Perambulator manufactories ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Saddle, harness—manufactories ... | ... | ... | 19 |
| Saddle-tree, &c.—manufactories ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Saddlers' ironmongery and coach-spring manufactories ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Whip manufactories ... | ... | 3 | 5 |
| <i>Ships and Boats.</i> | | | |
| Ship, boat—builders ... | 14 | 15 | 17 |
| Ships' wheels, blocks, &c.—manufactories ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Floating-docks ... | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| Graving-docks ... | | | 3 |
| Patent slips ... | | | 5 |
| <i>Houses, Buildings, &c.</i> | | | |
| Lime works ... | 29 | 36 | 28 |
| Patent ceiling ventilator manufactories ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Roof-covering composition manufactories ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| <i>Furniture.</i> | | | |
| Bedding and upholstery manufactories ... | ... | 7 | 6 |
| Cabinet works, including billiard-table makers ... | 2 | 2 | 20* |
| Earth-closet manufactories ... | ... | 3 | 3 |
| Iron safe manufactories ... | ... | 2 | 2 |
| Looking-glass manufactories ... | ... | 2 | 3 |
| <i>Chemicals.</i> | | | |
| Chemical works ... | 6 | 3 | 5 |
| Dye works ... | 6 | 10 | 17 |
| Essential oil manufactories ... | ... | 2 | 4 |
| Ink, blacking, blue, washing-powder, &c.—manufactories ... | 2 | 3 | 8 |
| Japanners ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Match (vesta) manufactories ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Paint, varnish—manufactories ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Photographic apparatus manufactories ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Salt works ... | 1 | 4 | 7 |
| Tar-distilling, asphalte—works ... | ... | 1 | 2 |
| <i>Textile Fabrics.</i> | | | |
| Woollen mills ... | ... | 2 | 6 |
| <i>Dress.</i> | | | |
| Boot manufactories ... | ... | 17 | 46 |
| Clothing factories ... | 13 | 35 | 47 |
| Fur manufactories ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Hat, cap—manufactories ... | 4 | 10 | 15 |
| Oilskin, waterproof-clothing—manufactories ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Umbrella and parasol manufactories ... | ... | ... | 7 |

* Including all extensive manufactories, whether employing steam or not. For 1866 and 1871 those only which used steam were returned.

MANUFACTORIES, WORKS, ETC.—*continued.*

| Description of Manufactory, Work, &c. | Number of Establishments. | | |
|--|---------------------------|---------|---------|
| | 1865-6. | 1870-1. | 1875-6. |
| <i>Fibrous Materials.</i> | | | |
| Bag and sack manufactories | 3 | ... | ... |
| Jute factories | ... | ... | 1 |
| Rope, twine—works | 3 | 12 | 10 |
| <i>Animal Food.</i> | | | |
| Cheese factories | ... | ... | 17 |
| Meat-curing establishments | 1 | 14 | 17 |
| Oyster culture | 1 | ... | ... |
| <i>Vegetable Food.</i> | | | |
| Biscuit manufactories | 8 | 8 | 7 |
| Confectionery works | ... | 4 | 8 |
| Flour mills | 118 | 147 | 157 |
| Jam manufactories | ... | 2 | 7 |
| Macaroni works | ... | ... | 1 |
| Maizena, oatmeal, starch—manufactories | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Rice mills | ... | 2 | 1 |
| <i>Drinks and Stimulants.</i> | | | |
| Aërated waters, gingerbeer, liqueur, &c.—works | 63 | 112 | 124 |
| Breweries | 80 | 116 | 103 |
| Coffee, chocolate, spice—works | 5 | 10 | 11 |
| Chicory mills | ... | ... | 2 |
| Distilleries | 2 | 5 | 5 |
| Malthouses | 8 | 16 | 16 |
| Sauce, pickle—manufactories | ... | ... | 3 |
| Sugar refineries | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Tobacco, cigars, snuff—manufactories | 9 | 9 | 12 |
| Vinegar works | ... | ... | 6 |
| <i>Animal Matters.</i> | | | |
| Boiling-down establishments | 3 | 24 | 22 |
| Bone-cutting mills | ... | ... | 1 |
| Bone manure manufactories | 14 | 17 | 16 |
| Brush manufactories | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Catgut manufactories | ... | ... | 1 |
| Curled hair manufactories | 1 | ... | 2 |
| Fancy-dyed-wool mat and rug factories | ... | ... | 1 |
| Fellmongeries, wool-washing—establishments | 22 | 36 | 52 |
| Flock manufactories | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Glue, oil—manufactories | ... | 5 | 10 |
| Manure (poudrette) manufactories | ... | ... | 1 |
| Morocco, fancy leather—manufactories | ... | ... | 1 |
| Parchment and skin manufactories | ... | 1 | ... |
| Portmanteau, trunk—manufactories | ... | ... | 8 |
| Soap, candle, tallow—works | 21 | 29 | 43 |
| Tanneries | 43 | 56 | 91 |
| <i>Vegetable Matters.</i> | | | |
| Bark mills | ... | ... | 4 |
| Basket-making works | 1 | ... | 6 |
| Blind (window) manufactories | ... | ... | 9 |
| Broom manufactories | ... | 1 | 2 |
| Chaff-cutting, corn-crushing—works* | 68 | 157 | 185 |
| Cooperage works | 3 | 4 | 15 |
| Fancy-box manufactories | ... | 1 | 3 |
| Firewood sawing mills | ... | ... | 2 |
| Hat-box manufactories | ... | ... | 1 |

* All these establishments used machinery, worked by steam, wind, or horsepower. They must not be confounded with chaff-cutting and corn-crushing machines in use on farms and stations, which numbered 10,333 in 1875-6.

MANUFACTORIES, WORKS, ETC.—continued.

| Description of Manufactory, Work, &c. | Number of Establishments. | | |
|---|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 1865-6. | 1870-1. | 1875-6. |
| <i>Vegetable Matters—continued.</i> | | | |
| Ladders and steps joineries ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Moulding, framing, turning, and saw mills ... | 86 | 127 | 165 |
| Packing-case manufactories ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| Paper manufactories ... | ... | 1 | 2 |
| Paper-bag manufactories ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| <i>Coal.</i> | | | |
| Gasworks ... | 7 | 11 | 15 |
| <i>Stone, Clay, Earthenware, and Glass.</i> | | | |
| Artificial stone manufactories ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Brick-yards and potteries ... | 151 | 301 | 241 |
| Filter manufactories ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Glass manufactories, works ... | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Marble and monumental works ... | ... | 1 | 19 |
| Stone-breaking works ... | 2 | } 2 { | 4 |
| Stone-sawing, polishing works ... | ... | | 7 |
| <i>Water.</i> | | | |
| Ice manufactories ... | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Water works ... | 3 | 6 | 5 |
| <i>Gold, Silver, and Precious Stones.</i> | | | |
| Assaying works ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Electro-plating and gilding works ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Goldsmiths and jewellers (manufacturing) ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| Lapidaries ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| <i>Metals other than Gold and Silver.</i> | | | |
| Antimony-smelting works ... | ... | 1 | 5 |
| Bell foundries ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Iron and tin works ... | ... | 11 | 45 |
| Iron, brass, and copper foundries ... | 40 | 58 | 76 |
| Lead works ... | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Tin-smelting works ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Type foundries ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Wire-working establishments ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Total ... | 903 | 1,584 | 2,246 |

216. Further particulars of these manufactories are given in the following summary for the same three periods. A large increase will be observed at each period in all the items:—

Manufactories: general summary, 1866, 1871, and 1876.

SUMMARY OF MANUFACTORIES, WORKS, ETC., 1866, 1871, AND 1876.

| Year ended 31st March. | Total Number of Establishments.* | Number of Establishments using Steam. | Horsepower of Steam Engines.† | Number of Hands employed. | Approximate Value of Lands, Buildings, Machinery, and Plant. |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1866 | 903 | 364 | 5,346 | 10,059 | £ 2,269,696 |
| 1871 | 1,584 | 647 | 8,921 | 17,758 | 4,522,695 |
| 1876 | 2,246 | 901 | 12,326 | 29,892 | 7,345,461 |

* Although it is certain that a large addition to the number of manufactories actually took place by the starting of fresh works, it is possible that some portion of the increase shown at the successive periods may have resulted from the greater vigilance of the collectors.

† It is possible that the numbers in this column may include the power of a few water and wind machines used in manufacturing, in addition to the power of the steam engines.

Stone quarries.

217. The small extent to which building operations were pursued in the year under review as compared with the previous one, which has already been referred to under the head of "Brick-yards" (paragraph 209 *ante*), is also apparent in the returns of stone quarries, in which a falling off under nearly all the headings will be noticed:—

STONE QUARRIES, 1875 AND 1876.

| Year ended 31st March. | Number of Quarries. | Cubic Yards of Stone raised. | | | | Steam Engines in use. | |
|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|------------|----------|-----------------------|--------------|
| | | Bluestone. | Slate and Flagging. | Sandstone. | Granite. | Number. | Horse-power. |
| 1875 | 172 | 344,617 | 1,290 | 12,660 | 3,900 | 5 | 56 |
| 1876 | 160 | 332,593 | 894 | 11,203 | 2,645 | 6 | 44 |
| Increase | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Decrease | 12 | 12,024 | 396 | 1,457 | 1,255 | ... | 12 |

| Year ended 31st March. | Number of Hands employed. | Approximate Total Value of— | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------|------------|
| | | Stone raised. | Machinery and Plant. | Lands.* | Buildings. |
| 1875 | 1,009 | £ 81,338 | £ 16,704 | £ 14,588 | £ 3,302 |
| 1876 | 587 | 57,276 | 13,343 | 16,318 | 1,659 |
| Increase | ... | ... | ... | 1,730 | ... |
| Decrease | 422 | 24,062 | 3,361 | ... | 1,643 |

Gold raised, 1875.

218. The quantity of exported gold entered as being the produce of Victoria added to the quantity of Victorian gold received at the Melbourne Mint has usually been considered as expressing fairly the whole quantity of gold raised in Victoria in any year.† These quantities for the year 1875 were as follow:—

GOLD RAISED, 1875.

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------------|---------|-------|
| Gold exported entered as Victorian | ... | ... | oz. 709,934 | dwt. 18 | gr. 6 |
| Victorian gold received at the Mint | ... | ... | 385,852 | 3 | 10 |
| Total | ... | ... | 1,095,787 | 1 | 16 |

Gold raised, 1874 and 1875.

219. This quantity of gold, and its value at £4 per oz., are compared with the quantity and value of gold raised in the previous year as follow:—

* Forty-nine of the stone quarries in 1874-5, and 51 in 1875-6, were upon Crown lands. In these cases no valuation of the land was made.

† There are several other ways of estimating the amount of gold raised, all of which result in a somewhat smaller total for the year under review than that arrived at by this means. One method is to add the gross quantity received at the Mint to the gross exports, and to subtract therefrom the gross imports. This gives a total of 1,067,230 oz.; another is to adopt estimates made by the mining registrars, which give a total of 1,068,418 oz.; and another is to consider the quantity purchased by banks and others, amounting to 1,077,276 oz., to be equal to the total quantity raised.

QUANTITY AND VALUE OF GOLD RAISED, 1874 AND 1875.

| Year. | Gold raised in Victoria. | |
|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Estimated Quantity. | Estimated Value at £4 per oz. |
| | oz. | £ |
| 1874 | 1,155,972 | 4,623,888 |
| 1875 | 1,095,787 | 4,383,148 |
| Decrease ... | 60,185 | 240,740 |

220. From the period of the first discovery of gold in Victoria to the end of the year under review it is estimated that 45,509,964 $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. of gold were raised, representing, at £4 per oz., a value of £182,039,857. Gold raised from first discovery.

221. According to estimates made in the Mining Department, the miners have been falling off in numbers for years past. This will be seen by the following figures, which show the numbers at work on the 31st December of each of the last five years:— Miners, 1871 to 1875.

NUMBER OF MINERS, 1871 TO 1875.

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|--------|--|----------|--------|--|----------|--------|
| 1871 ... | 58,279 | | 1873 ... | 50,595 | | 1875 ... | 41,717 |
| 1872 ... | 52,965 | | 1874 ... | 45,151 | | | |

222. It is stated that in 1875 about 65 per cent. of the miners were engaged in alluvial mining, and 35 per cent. in quartz mining. Alluvial and quartz miners.

223. The Secretary for Mines estimates that a considerable increase has taken place in the last two years in the quantity of gold raised in proportion to the number of hands employed in getting it. The following are his figures for those and the three previous years:— Value of gold per miner.

VALUE OF GOLD PER MINER,* 1871 TO 1875.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|------|--|----------|----|----|------|---|----------|-----|---|------|
| | £ | s. | d. | | £ | s. | d. | | £ | s. | d. | | |
| 1871 ... | 93 | 6 | 0.62 | | 1873 ... | 93 | 16 | 2.62 | | 1875 ... | 104 | 4 | 4.02 |
| 1872 ... | 93 | 17 | 1.47 | | 1874 ... | 99 | 8 | 3.07 | | | | | |

224. From information supplied to the mining surveyors and registrars by the banks and gold-mining companies, and judging also by their own knowledge of the workings in their districts, these officers estimated that, both in 1874 and 1875, 60 per cent. of the gold was obtained from quartz reefs, and 40 per cent. from alluvial deposits. Gold derived from alluvial and quartz workings.

225. The number of steam engines employed in gold mining fell from 1,141 in 1874 to 1,101 in 1875. Sixty-nine per cent. of the engines were used in the furtherance of quartz mining in the former, and 70 per cent. in the latter year. The remainder were employed in alluvial mining. Steam engines used in mining.

226. According to returns furnished by the Mining Department, the number of mining machines of all descriptions fell from 5,220 in Mining machinery.

* These amounts are sometimes incorrectly spoken of as the "average earnings" of the miners. As a very large proportion of the miners are working on wages, the gold they raise no more represents their individual earnings than do the products of a manufactory represent the earnings of its operatives.

1874 to 5,098 in 1875, and the value of such machines fell from £2,078,936 in 1874 to £2,033,629 in 1875.

Auriferous reefs.

227. The number of quartz reefs proved to be auriferous was returned by the mining surveyors and registrars as 3,398 in 1874, and 3,479 in 1875. It has been pointed out, however, that these cannot in every case be distinct reefs, as parts of the same reef in some localities are held to be independent veins, and named accordingly ; and, moreover, as the lines of reef are further explored, it is frequently found that what were supposed to be separate reefs are in reality not distinct.

Extent of auriferous ground.

228. The approximate area of auriferous ground worked upon was 1,063 square miles in 1874, and 1,094 square miles in 1875. The figures are derived from estimates, not from actual surveys, and they vary from year to year. As the shallow alluviums of the older gold-fields are abandoned by the miners they are often occupied by agriculturists and gardeners, and ground which one year is included in the area embraced in gold-workings is properly excluded in another.

Average yield of quartz.

229. Owing to the fact that many of the owners of machines for crushing quartz are unable to give, or are precluded from giving, information respecting their operations, it is impossible to obtain an exact statement of the yield of auriferous quartz in any year. The officers of the Mining Department, however, succeeded in obtaining particulars respecting the crushing of 967,069 tons in 1874, and 949,469 tons in 1875. The average yield per ton of these crushings was 11 dwt. 20·51 gr. in the former, and 11 dwt. 21·92 gr. in the latter year. From similar estimates, extending over a series of years, an average is furnished of 11 dwt. 7·67 gr. of gold to the ton of quartz crushed.

Gold-mining leases.

230. The gold-mining leases issued in the year under review numbered 349, and the extent of land included therein amounted to 5,203 acres. At the end of the year the gold-mining leases in force numbered 1,558, and the included area amounted to 20,686 acres.

Leases for other minerals.

231. Leases of Crown lands conferring the privilege of working for minerals and metals other than gold numbered 76 at the end of 1874, and 50 at the end of 1875. The area embraced in such leases was 15,027 acres at the former, and 12,530 acres at the latter period. The following were in force at the end of the year under review :—

LEASES FOR MINERALS AND METALS OTHER THAN GOLD, 1875.

| | No. of Leases. | | No. of Leases. | | No. of Leases. |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Antimony ... | 13 | Lignite ... | 1 | Slate and freestone ... | 1 |
| Argentiferous galena | 1 | Silver ... | 3 | Ironstone ... | 1 |
| Coal ... | 15 | Silver and lead ... | 1 | Iron ore and lime ... | 1 |
| Coal shale and lignite | 1 | Silver, lead, and copper | 1 | Red ochre clay ... | 1 |
| Copper ... | 1 | Slate ... | 1 | Tin and the ores of tin | 5 |
| Flagging ... | 1 | Slate and flagging ... | 2 | Total | 50 |

232. According to the estimate of the Mining Department, the following are the values of metals and minerals other than gold raised in Victoria from 1851 to the end of 1875. Of these productions, the values in 1875 amounted to £35,452 :—

Minerals
other than
gold raised.

METALS AND MINERALS OTHER THAN GOLD, 1851 TO 1875.

| £ | | | £ | | |
|-----------------|-----|---------|------------------|-----|----------|
| Silver | ... | 14,617 | Kaolin | ... | 7,444 |
| Tin | ... | 333,870 | Flagging | ... | 37,961 |
| Copper | ... | 8,331 | Slates | ... | 940 |
| Antimony | ... | 104,865 | Magnesite | ... | 12 |
| Lead | ... | 4,700 | Diamonds | ... | 107 |
| Iron | ... | 2,101 | Sapphires | ... | 575 |
| Coal | ... | 8,233 | | | |
| Lignite | ... | 2,172 | Total | ... | £525,928 |

233. The following are quoted by the Mining Department as the weekly rates of wages paid for different descriptions of mining labor in the year 1875* :—

Wages of
miners, &c.

RATES OF MINING LABOR, 1875.

| Per Week, without Rations. | | Per Week, without Rations. | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| General manager ... | £3 to £12 | Carpenter | £2 2s. to £3 12s. |
| Legal manager ... | 20s. to £6 | Foreman of shift ... | £2 2s. to £3 10s. |
| Mining manager ... | £2 10s. to £5 | Miner | £2 to £3 |
| Engineer | £2 5s. to £5 | Surface man (laborer) | £1 10s. to £3 |
| Engine driver ... | £2 2s. to £3 10s. | Boy | 10s. to £2 |
| Pitman | £2 to £2 15s. | Chinese | 12s. 6d. to £2 |
| Blacksmith .. | £2 2s. to £3 10s. | | |

234. The patents for inventions applied for in Victoria during 1875 numbered 154, as against 147 in the previous year. Since 1854 the total number of patents applied for has been 2,181.

Patents.

235. The Victorian Copyright Act (33 Vict. No. 350) came into force in December 1869. Since then the number of objects in respect to which copyrights have been registered have been 1,687, classified as follows :—

Copyrights.

COPYRIGHTS, 1870 TO 1875.

| | | |
|--|-----|-------|
| Part I.—Designs | ... | 157 |
| Part II.—Literary, dramatic, and musical productions ... | ... | 578 |
| Part III.—Paintings, drawings, sculpture, engravings, and photographs | ... | 952 |
| Total | ... | 1,687 |

236. The waterworks in Victoria, part of which are completed and part in progress, are estimated to cost, in the aggregate, £2,583,665. It is calculated that the storage capacity for water of the reservoirs connected with these works will amount in all to 12,052,819,225 gallons.†

Waterworks.

* See also table following paragraph 152 ante.

† For a list of the waterworks in Victoria, with the position, storage capacity, and actual or estimated cost of each work, see *Victorian Year-Book*, 1874, paragraph 447, and following table.