

INTERCHANGE.**COMMERCE.**

Customs and Excise. By the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act (section 51) the power to make laws with respect to trade and commerce with other countries and among the States was conferred on the Federal Parliament, and by the same Act (section 86) the collection and control of duties of Customs and Excise passed to the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on 1st January, 1901. The first Commonwealth Customs Tariff was assented to on 16th September, 1902, and was made retrospective to 8th October, 1901. Uniform rates of duty were imposed in all the States, and all restrictions on trade between the States were removed with the exception of the right of Western Australia, under the Commonwealth Constitution Act, to levy duty on goods from other States during the first five years after the imposition of uniform duties. In 1906 certain amendments of the Tariff took place. In 1908 there was a revision of the Tariff, which was made retrospective to 8th August, 1907. Amendments of some rates of duty in the Tariff of 1908 came into force in 1910, and further amendments came into operation on 1st December, 1911.

Further amendments of some rates of duty in the Customs and Excise Tariffs became operative on 3rd December, 1914, and minor amendments in the Customs Tariff on 12th December, 1914, 9th June and 12th November, 1915, but the Acts providing for the validation of their collection were not assented to until 19th March, 1917.

The Excise Tariff in force on 10th August, 1917, and the rates of duties imposed on articles imported in 1916-17, are shown in part "Interchange" of the *Statistical Register* for that year.

Up to the end of 1902 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 in 1903, and maintained until 1910. On the 13th September of the latter year the Federal Government abandoned the collecting and recording of Inter-State imports and exports, and consequently the trade particulars since available relate exclusively to oversea imports and exports, *i.e.*, direct imports from and exports to countries outside Australia. A further curtailment of particulars in regard to exports took place in 1911, as the distinction that had previously been made between Victorian produce and Australian produce was not then observed, and it has not been made since that year.

In order that uniformity in statistical compilation should be secured, especially in the matter of production and trade statistics, an arrangement was made with the Commonwealth Statistician in September, 1914, to the effect that the annual tabulation of imports and exports be recorded for the year ended 30th June, instead of 31st December, as formerly.

On the 23rd October, 1914, the Commonwealth Parliament passed the *Trading with the Enemy Act* which declares that any person trading with the enemy is guilty of an offence. The *Customs Act* 1914 (No. 19 of 1914) amends the *Customs Act* 1901-10 by giving the Governor-General authority to prohibit the exportation of goods in time of war. By virtue of the latter Act, proclamations prohibiting or controlling exports from the Commonwealth have been issued from time to time—hence the Acts mentioned have materially affected the figures for the years 1914-15 and 1915-16, as shown in the following tables.

Trade Returns.
Alteration of
the Statistical
Year.

Regulation of
Trade during
the War.

The total values and the values per head of population of imports from and exports to oversea countries for the ten years 1907 to 1916-17 are set forth hereunder :—

VALUE OF OVERSEA IMPORTS AND EXPORTS,
1907 TO 1916-17.

Year.	Imports Oversea.		Exports Oversea.	
	Total.	Per Head of Population.	Total.	Per Head of Population.
	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
1907 ...	17,101,022	13 12 10	17,112,298	13 13 0
1908 ...	16,433,382	12 19 6	15,165,031	11 19 6
1909 ...	16,531,981	12 18 1	17,842,876	13 18 6
1910 ...	20,002,606	15 7 11	18,188,236	14 0 0
1911 ...	21,850,963	16 10 9	18,915,716	14 6 4
1912 ...	25,081,074	18 10 5	19,113,121	14 2 3
1913 ...	24,387,073	17 10 10	17,835,395	12 16 7
1914-15 ...	20,997,294	14 13 6	12,335,779	8 12 6
1915-16 ...	26,782,893	18 17 10	14,744,135	10 8 0
1916-17 ...	25,465,464	18 3 10	19,029,502	13 11 11

The figures for 1916-17 compare favorably with the annual average of the last decade, and show a revival of trade since the outbreak of war. During the period 1907 to 1916-17 imports increased by £8,364,442 and exports by £1,917,204.

The values of the combined oversea and inter-state trade, which are not available since 1909, were as follows, in the ten years 1900-1909 :—

VALUE OF TOTAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, 1900 TO 1909.

Year.	Imports.		Exports.			
	Total.	Per Head of Population.	Gold.	Merchandise.	Total.	Per Head of Population.
	£	£ s. d.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1900 ...	18,301,811	15 6 9	4,132,061	13,290,491	17,422,552	14 12 0
1901 ...	18,927,340	15 14 8	4,298,528	14,347,569	18,646,097	15 10 0
1902 ...	18,270,245	15 2 8	4,305,697	13,904,826	18,210,523	15 1 8
1903 ...	17,859,171	14 15 6	5,420,974	14,286,094	19,707,068	16 6 0
1904 ...	20,096,442	16 12 10	4,444,011	19,960,906	24,404,917	20 4 2
1905 ...	22,337,886	18 8 5	1,999,297	20,759,531	22,758,828	18 15 5
1906 ...	25,234,402	20 11 4	4,910,177	24,007,815	28,917,992	23 11 4
1907 ...	28,198,257	22 12 4	2,660,544	26,074,460	28,735,004	23 0 11
1908 ...	27,197,696	21 10 2	4,363,078	22,833,123	27,196,201	21 10 2
1909 ...	23,150,198	21 18 6	2,846,981	27,049,294	29,896,275	23 5 8

Imports from
and exports to
principal
countries.

The value of Victorian trade with various oversea countries and the surplus of imports or exports in each case during 1916-17 are as follows :—

IMPORTS FROM AND EXPORTS TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES,
1916-17.

Country.	Value of Imports into Victoria from each Country.	Value of Ex- ports from Victoria to each Country.	Victorian excess of Imports (+) Exports (-)
	£	£	£
United Kingdom	13,624,806	12,391,919	+1,232,887
Canada	428,214	55,516	+ 372,698
Ceylon	434,719	31,380	+ 403,339
Egypt	11,188	677,768	- 666,580
Fiji	73,913	46,847	+ 27,066
Hong Kong	93,508	50,981	+ 42,527
Hong Kong	1,373,255	298,210	+1,075,045
India (including Burmah)	2,260	67,382	- 65,122
Malta	582,762	873,145	- 290,383
New Zealand	141,117	12,314	+ 128,803
Ocean Island	113,562	451,589	- 338,027
South African Union	285,828	200,077	+ 85,751
Straits Settlements	41,340	126	+ 41,214
West Indies	23,412	30,764	- 2,352
Other British Possessions	13,157	..	+ 13,157
Alaska	51,132	..	+ 51,132
Brazil .. ..	..	190,468	- 190,468
Canary Islands	58,589	..	+ 58,589
Chili	95,905	30,460	+ 65,445
China	13,973	..	+ 13,973
Denmark	6,438	15,838	- 9,400
East Indies—Borneo (Dutch)	1,476	12,625	- 11,149
Celebes	572,788	363,701	+ 209,087
Java	878	47,821	- 46,943
Sumatra	52,432	1,448,482	-1,396,050
France	21,223	..	+ 21,223
Holland (Netherlands)	80,453	1,124,090	-1,043,637
Italy	1,338,578	48,417	+1,290,161
Japan (including Formosa)	314,269	153,175	+ 161,094
Norway	1,701	46,591	- 44,890
Peru	95,426	48,425	+ 47,001
Philippine Islands	29,304	11,825	+ 17,479
Pleasant Island	290	65,362	- 65,072
Russia	18,826	588	+ 18,238
Samoa .. ..	..	13,963	- 13,963
Siam	23,811	283	+ 23,528
Society Islands	334,831	..	+ 334,831
Sweden	43,840	138	+ 43,702
Switzerland	5,013,064	197,622	+4,815,442
United States of America	48,196	21,610	+ 26,586
Other Foreign Countries ..	..	..	..
Total	25,465,464	19,029,502	+6,435,962

The oversea trade in 1916-17 shows an excess in the value of imports amounting to £6,435,962. The excess in favour of imports from British countries was £2,046,866, there being a balance of imports to the amount of £3,409,330 as regards the United Kingdom, India, Ceylon, Canada, Ocean Island, Straits Settlements, Hong Kong, West Indies, and Fiji; and a balance of exports amounting to £1,362,464 in respect of the remaining British countries. As regards foreign countries, the values of the imports from the United States and Japan were greater by £4,815,442 and £1,290,161 respectively than the values of the exports thereto; while, on the other hand, exports to France and Italy showed surpluses over imports of £1,396,050 and £1,043,637 respectively. The value of all goods received from other foreign countries exceeded that of goods sent thereto by the sum of £723,180.

The value of the trade with the leading countries of the world in each of the last five years was as specified hereunder:—

IMPORTS FROM AND EXPORTS TO PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES,
1912 TO 1916-17.

Countries.	1912.	1913.	Year ended 30th June.		
			1915.	1916.	1917.
Imports (Oversea).					
From—	£	£	£	£	£
New Zealand ...	999,958	772,194	786,601	952,157	582,762
United Kingdom ...	14,631,958	14,096,121	12,395,553	14,204,562	13,624,806
Canada ...	283,929	289,586	286,959	379,322	428,214
India, Burmah and Ceylon	1,124,888	1,459,058	1,372,249	1,828,469	1,807,974
South African Union	60,148	43,631	71,071	156,389	113,562
Straits Settlements (including Federated Malay States)	68,203	132,642	206,435	248,104	265,828
Other British Possessions	397,756	596,883	401,451	380,018	391,738
Belgium ...	613,955	683,083	154,708	397	5,964
France ...	226,343	215,475	84,348	110,376	52,432
Germany ...	1,878,043	1,738,678	*474,410	+6,365	+16,955
Italy ...	126,000	128,951	126,718	181,282	80,453
Japan (including Formosa)	303,835	328,127	540,316	1,242,383	1,338,578
United States of America	2,913,341	2,580,362	2,668,565	4,808,234	5,013,064
Other Foreign Countries	1,452,717	1,322,282	1,427,910	2,284,835	1,723,134
Total ...	25,081,074	24,387,073	20,997,294	26,782,893	25,465,464

* Approximately one month's trade.

† On account of interned vessels.

IMPORTS FROM AND EXPORTS TO PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES, 1912 TO
1916-17—*continued.*

Countries.	1912.	1913.	Year ended 30th June.		
			1915.	1916.	1917.
Exports (Oversea).					
To—	£	£	£	£	£
New Zealand ...	781,723	834,354	912,471	1,121,227	873,145
United Kingdom ...	9,023,343	9,095,329	8,346,832	7,176,338	12,391,919
Canada ...	7,334	5,383	17,707	28,793	55,516
India, Burmah and Ceylon	2,476,143	330,570	298,039	286,219	329,590
South African Union	434,723	606,945	399,416	675,436	451,539
Straits Settlements (including Federated Malay States)	155,134	133,814	114,729	111,196	200,077
Other British Possessions	245,718	249,090	199,345	158,244	886,182
Belgium ...	812,674	767,749	*14,911	...	...
France ...	2,136,898	2,563,201	248,640	565,865	1,448,482
Germany ...	1,287,540	1,029,433	*36,552	...	...
Italy ...	182,278	211,308	106,329	784,008	1,124,090
Japan (including Formosa)	40,172	176,638	83,557	126,125	48,417
United States of America	331,259	632,996	1,162,825	2,099,476	197,622
Other Foreign Countries	1,198,177	1,198,585	394,426	1,613,208	1,022,873
Total ...	19,113,121	17,835,395	12,335,779	14,744,135	19,029,502

* Approximately one month's trade.

In 1909, the last year for which such information is available, Victoria's trade with the other Australian States represented 41 per cent. of the total imports and 40 per cent. of the total exports, and the exports to such States exceeded the imports therefrom by £435,182. In each of the last five years exports were of greater value than imports in the trade with South Africa, France, and Italy (with the exception of the year 1914-15); but, in trade with the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, and the United States of America, the value of imports was greater than that of exports. There was an excess of exports in trade with New Zealand in each of the last four years, with India, Burmah, and Ceylon in 1912, and with Straits Settlements in 1912 and 1913; but in other years there was an excess of imports from those countries. Prior to the war trade with Germany showed an excess of imports, and that with Belgium an excess of exports.

The principal articles imported from oversea countries into Victoria during the year 1916-17 are shown in the sub-joined statement:—

VALUES OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED OVERSEA INTO VICTORIA, 1916-17.

Articles.	Value.	Articles.	Value.
	£		£
Acids	51,687	Grain—	
Ale, Beer, and Porter	29,998	Rice	64,241
Alkalies	122,351	Other—Prepared and Un-	
Animals—Horses	14,151	prepared	10,033
Apparel and Attire	1,222,945	Grass, Straw, &c.—Straw Platf	48,125
Arms, Ammunition, and Ex-		Gums, dry	62,263
plosives	173,000	Hats, Caps, and Bonnets	115,233
Bags and Sacks	756,624	Hessians, &c.	150,171
Bags, Purses, N.E.I., Wallets,		Hops	11,609
Baskets, Boxes, Trunks, &c.	68,979	Inks	11,028
Bark (Tanning)	28,880	Insecticides and Disinfectants,	
Belting—Composition, Leather,		&c.	29,115
and Rubber	18,994	Instruments—Musical, and parts	
Blankets and Blanketing	41,151	thereof—	
Books, printed	221,132	Pianos	112,011
Boots, Shoes, and Goloshes, &c.	115,716	Other	8,680
Brass—Pipes and tubes, sheet,		Instruments—	
plate, &c.	22,527	Surgical and Dental	34,680
Brushware	51,114	Talking Machines, &c.	13,193
Butter	21,696	Other	12,872
Buttons, Buckles, &c.	93,241	Iron and Steel—	
Calcium, Carbide of	13,769	Bar, Rod, Angle, and Tee	367,314
Canvas and Duck	304,980	Girders, Beams, Joists, &c.	80,776
Caramel, Caramel Paste, &c. .. .	69,473	Hoop	31,505
Carpets and Carpeting, Floor		Pig	56,282
Coverings, Rugs, and Mats .. .	186,618	Plate and Sheet	262,539
China, Parian and Porcelain		Other	2,649
Ware	48,096	Jewellery and Imitation Jewel-	
Clocks	16,472	lery, &c.	112,336
Cocoa, Cocoa Beans, and Choco-		Kapok	27,288
late	212,927	Lamps and Lampware	65,704
Coffee, and Coffee and Chicory ..	44,143	Leaf and Foil of any Metal .. .	14,438
Confectionery	38,892	Leather	365,825
Copper—Pipes and tubes, sheet,		Leather Manufactures, N.E.I.	14,463
plate, wire, &c.	107,484	Machines and Machinery—	
Copra	16,463	Agricultural	215,012
Cordage and Twines—		Electrical and Gas	386,849
Sewing Silks, Twists, Cot-		Engines	15,153
tons, &c.	255,672	Machine Tools	64,419
Other	67,050	Mining	34,105
Counterpanes, Quilts, Table		Motive Power	71,684
Covers, &c.	46,700	Printing	11,339
Cosies, Cushions, D'Oyleys, &c.	93,750	Sewing	83,787
Cotton—Raw, Waste, &c.	40,009	Typewriters	21,314
Curtains and Blinds	24,297	Other	248,386
Cutlery	80,509	Manures	193,038
Drugs and Chemicals	252,181	Matches and Vestas	54,146
Dyes	83,923	Meats	22,938
Earthenware, Brownware, &c.	81,730	Medicines	75,732
Electrical Articles and Materials	197,586	Metals	48,475
Fancy Goods	98,441	Metals, Manufactures of—	
Feathers, Dressed and Undressed		Bolts and Nuts	48,524
Fibre—Flax, Hemp, &c.	20,283	Nails	45,919
Films for Kinematographs	278,979	Pipes and Tubes	133,213
Fish—Fresh and Preserved, &c.	13,261	Wire	153,105
Floorcloths and Linoleums	237,665	Other	528,135
Fruits—Dried and Preserved .. .	96,425	Milk and Cream	19,771
Fresh	26,928	Mustard	12,782
Furniture	62,966	Nuts, Edible	48,412
Furs and other Skins	15,145	Oakum and Tow	20,115
Gelatine and Glue	38,198	Oilmen's Stores	49,782
Ginger	34,423	Oils, Bottled and in bulk—	
Glass and Glassware	13,194	Benzine	237,373
Gloves	169,643	Benzoline, Gasoline, &c. .. .	143,902
	136,199	Essential, N.E.I.	26,294

VALUES OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED OVERSEA INTO VICTORIA,
1916-17—continued.

Articles.	Value.	Articles.	Value.
	£		£
Oils, Bottled and in Bulk— <i>continued.</i>		Specie—	
Kerosene	187,679	Bronze	29,006
Linseed	19,081	Silver	18,058
Lubricating	133,341	Spices	39,444
Other	81,708	Spirits—	
Ores, Clays, and Mineral Earths	11,019	Brandy	56,298
		Gin and Schnapps	37,023
Packings	11,078	Whisky	253,625
Paints and Colours	204,496	Other	39,109
Paper—		Stationery, manufactured, &c. . .	89,746
Printing	622,412	Stone, Marble, and Slate, &c. . .	15,778
Wrapping	122,807	Sugar (produce of Cane)	473,406
Writing and Typewriting. . .	243,575	Sulphur, Brimstone	125,778
Other, including Millboard, Strawboard, Paperhang- ings, and Manufactures of	290,175	Tea	617,485
Perfumery, &c.	39,998	Timber	360,487
Personal and Household Effects	10,544	Tinned Plates and Sheets (plain)	606,613
Photographic Goods and Access- ories	37,036	Tobacco, Cigars, &c., and Snuff	433,511
Pickles and Sauces	13,004	Tools of Trade (not being ma- chines)	137,977
Piece Goods—		Trimmings and Ornaments	224,749
Cottons and Linens	2,272,070	Turpentine	41,473
Flannels	14,469	Varnishes	23,079
Silks	696,776	Vehicles and parts thereof—	
Velvets and Velvetens	479,210	Motor Bodies and Chassis	313,308
Woollens	1,233,799	Other	270,510
Other	238,429	Vessels (ships)	431,500
Pipes, Smoking	37,418	Washes—Sheep, Cattle, and Horse	11,398
Rubber and Rubber Manufac- tures	441,781	Watches and Chronometers	71,637
Rugs, N.E.I., including Buggy Rugs	15,106	Waxes	69,138
		Wines	13,650
Sago and Tapioca	24,381	Wood, Articles made of	67,837
Sausage Casings	25,213	Wood Pulp	13,701
Seeds	75,137	Yarns	663,422
Skins and Hides	201,938	All other Articles	384,160
Soap	17,859	Total	25,465,464

The principal articles exported to oversea countries from
Victoria during the year 1916-17 were as shown here-
under:—

VALUES OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED OVERSEA
FROM VICTORIA, 1916-17.

Articles.	Value.	Articles.	Value.
	£		£
Ale, Beer, and Porter	12,288	Drugs and Chemicals	27,572
Ammonia, Sulphate	37,753	Fruits and Vegetables—Fresh, Dried, and Preserved	265,373
Animals—		Gelatine, Glue, and Cements, N.E.I.	20,193
Horses	62,943	Glassware	10,341
Sheep	21,261	Glycerine, Lanoline, &c. . .	12,223
Apparel and Attire	12,723	Grain, &c.—	
Biscuits	79,129	Barley	49,296
Books (Printed), &c.	28,074	Oats	55,259
Books, Shoes, and Slippers	14,938	Wheat	4,177,726
Butter	2,189,025	Flour	1,213,751
Cheese	91,675	Other, Prepared and Un- prepared	25,105
Concentrates—Zinc	35,515		
Confectionery	17,345		
Cordage and Twines	38,685		

VALUES OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED OVERSEA FROM VICTORIA,
1916-17—continued.

Articles.	Value.	Articles.	Value.
	£		£
Hay and Chaff	14,270	Onions	28,620
Iron and Steel	26,461	Ores other than Gold and Silver	
Jams and Jellies	371,753	Ores	74,856
Jewellery—Cameos and Pre- cious Stones	14,769	Piece Goods	26,990
Lard and Refined Animal Fats	26,374	Potatoes	15,720
Lead	501,775	Rags	11,261
Leather	439,706	Rubber and Rubber Manufac- tures	95,394
Machines and Machinery—		Skins and Hides	548,736
Agricultural	18,335	Soap	47,525
Mining	29,209	Stearine	19,499
Other	23,857	Tallow—Unrefined	246,091
Manures	56,623	Tea	40,797
Meats—		Tin Ingots	114,635
Beef (Frozen)	121,329	Tobacco, Cigars, and Cigarettes	95,073
Mutton and Lamb (Frozen)	394,044	Vehicles and Parts	10,566
Rabbits and Hares (Frozen)	111,632	Vessels (Ships)	25,000
Preserved in Tins, &c. .. .	61,976	Wines	25,410
Other	8,869	Wool	6,149,212
Metals	11,645	Zinc (Spelter)	22,574
Metals, Manufactures of	41,443	All other Articles	263,098
Milk and Cream	311,213		
Oilmen's Stores	13,671	Total	19,029,502
Oils—Bottled and in bulk .. .	71,260		

Principal
articles of
trade.

A list of the principal articles of trade between Victoria and oversea countries during the last five years is as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM AND
EXPORTED TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES, 1912 TO 1916-17.

Articles.	Value in Year—				
	1912.	1913.	Ended 30th June.		
			1915.	1916.	1917.
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Imported into Victoria from Oversea Countries.</i>					
Piece Goods	3,525,788	3,238,855	3,162,086	4,507,526	4,984,753
Paper, Paperhangings, &c .. .	686,113	666,250	642,444	704,541	1,278,969
Apparel and Attire	1,049,221	993,922	823,574	1,071,678	1,222,945
Machines and Machinery .. .	1,449,019	1,339,688	1,206,394	1,245,480	1,152,048
Metal Manufactures	1,398,562	1,119,405	1,016,106	1,064,508	908,296
Oils	602,593	486,356	537,921	751,535	879,378
Iron and Steel	529,912	1,380,030	1,037,485	1,115,866	801,065
Tea	527,618	519,046	596,737	744,077	617,485
Vehicles and parts	842,840	791,006	579,778	761,291	583,818
Rubber and Rubber Manufac- tures	543,125	616,654	384,940	601,239	441,781
Tobacco, Cigars, and Cigarettes	424,172	398,751	303,734	253,165	433,090
Timber	979,354	951,295	700,719	647,024	360,487
Gold—Bullion	338,796	238,749	131,176	54,638	248
All Other Articles	11,418,961	11,647,066	9,874,200	13,260,325	11,851,101
Total	25,081,074	24,387,073	20,997,294	26,782,893	25,465,464
<i>Exported from Victoria to Oversea Countries.</i>					
Wool	6,990,918	6,282,291	5,251,177	6,203,565	6,149,212
Wheat and Flour	2,436,654	2,763,870	351,856	3,420,589	5,301,477
Butter	1,545,771	1,681,987	800,385	719,653	2,189,025
Meat	935,293	1,634,806	2,037,001	159,415	697,850
Skins and Hides	1,329,400	1,683,409	885,075	534,440	548,736
Leather	253,914	227,497	495,801	492,751	439,706
Tallow	324,497	371,316	192,400	45,214	246,091
Tin Ingots	346,118	282,817	109,337	224,598	114,635
Gold—Specie	3,155,987	611,025	400,120	217,871	643
All Other Articles	1,794,569	2,291,377	1,812,627	2,720,039	3,252,127
Total	19,113,121	17,835,395	12,335,779	14,744,135	19,029,502

It is worthy of notice that the larger portion of the oversea trade consisted of imports, also that these were composed mainly of manufactured goods, and contained a greater variety of articles than in the case of exports. The latter were accounted for almost entirely by a small number of agricultural, pastoral, and mineral products. During the last five years the value of wool, wheat, and flour exported exceeded that of the five principal items included in the imports, while the value of wool, meat, butter, wheat, flour, and skins and hides exported almost equalled that of the thirteen leading articles imported. The varied nature of the imports is shown by the fact that the thirteen principal articles represented only 53 per cent. of the total value; in the case of the exports, on the other hand, 86 per cent. of the value came under nine headings.

In trade between Victoria and the United Kingdom the value of imports exceeded that of exports, by £7,028,224 in 1915-16, but by only £1,232,887 in 1916-17. The principal articles imported from and exported to the United Kingdom in the last six years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM AND EXPORTED TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1911 TO 1916-17.

Articles.	Value in Year—					
	1911.	1912.	1913.	Ended 30th June.		
				1915.	1916.	1917.
<i>Imported into Victoria from United Kingdom.</i>						
Piece Goods—						
Cotton and Linen ..	1,511,023	1,517,049	1,478,876	1,480,357	1,862,562	2,050,112
Woolen	791,258	826,701	715,566	620,488	1,114,057	1,219,272
Velvets, &c. .. .	352,376	427,864	346,383	259,365	340,170	453,886
Silk	323,193	299,954	292,338	370,653	389,952	371,764
Apparel and Attire ..	651,798	880,066	827,118	685,392	761,306	743,407
Machines, Tools, and Im- plements	688,147	912,090	751,667	746,547	667,285	504,232
Paper, Paperhangings, &c.	339,937	354,795	396,333	359,246	351,165	501,690
Vessels (Ships) .. .	10,000	245,210	705,000	182,000	211,143	420,000
Iron and Steel .. .	800,117	885,441	925,224	790,151	738,741	297,090
Books	251,904	267,200	229,853	197,098	195,874	192,567
Vehicles and Parts ..	306,493	460,073	457,529	323,723	230,318	159,119
All other Articles ..	6,475,988	7,555,515	6,970,234	6,380,533	7,341,929	6,703,167
Total	12,502,234	14,631,958	14,090,121	12,395,553	14,204,562	13,624,800
<i>Exported from Victoria to United Kingdom.</i>						
Wool	3,261,235	3,573,697	2,701,688	3,901,335	3,469,079	5,722,261
Butter	2,178,650	1,360,978	1,620,499	645,728	522,568	1,938,206
Wheat and Flour .. .	2,137,643	1,220,403	1,291,836	35,768	855,352	1,558,777
Meat, Frozen—						
Beef, Mutton and Lamb	815,147	781,126	1,387,961	1,618,931	47,348	515,373
Rabbits and Hares ..	65,351	55,626	104,723	127,506	90,588	111,632
Hides and Skins .. .	442,005	574,036	622,890	575,345	377,783	405,419
Leather	84,782	169,138	157,068	422,970	374,278	258,617
Tallow	318,730	190,428	172,547	163,594	29,327	206,950
Fin Ingots	294,363	286,154	186,478	92,482	189,717	94,454
Copper	48,290	160	..	63,000	2,040	5,880
Gold (Bullion and Specie)	313,372	342,011	58,000	1,029	1,395	643
All other Articles ..	547,448	460,886	891,630	699,144	1,210,863	1,573,707
Total	10,307,025	9,023,343	9,695,329	8,346,832	7,176,338	12,391,919

Imports from the United Kingdom are chiefly made up of manufactures, while exports thereto from Victoria consist almost entirely of agricultural, pastoral, and mineral products. It will be observed from the figures for 1916-17 that, of the imports, piece goods and apparel and attire represent 35½ per cent. of the total, also that, of the exports, wool is responsible for 46 per cent., and, if to its value be added that of butter, frozen meat, wheat and flour, hides and skins, leather, and tallow, 86 per cent. of the total is accounted for. The great increase in the export figures for 1916-17 is due to large purchases of wool and wheat by the Imperial Government.

The trade with New Zealand for the year ended 30th. June, 1917, amounted to £1,455,907. Compared with the previous year there was a falling off in the total trade of £617,477, of which £369,395 was due to imports, and £248,082 to exports. The decrease in the exports is not remarkable when it is considered that no gold was exported during the year. The principal articles imported and exported during the last six years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM AND EXPORTED TO NEW ZEALAND, 1911 TO 1916-17.

Articles.	Value in Year—					
	1911.	1912.	1913.	Ended 30th June.		
				1915.	1916.	1917.
<i>Imported into Victoria from New Zealand.</i>						
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Timber	173,828	202,922	160,720	134,515	190,779	166,219
Flax and Hemp	17,965	32,116	62,531	28,218	124,790	123,618
Skins and Hides	68,248	48,515	76,485	78,190	212,743	122,475
Gold—Bullion	541,132	338,500	238,013	130,951	54,314	
Fish	21,679	23,159	17,254	21,204	29,039	19,713
Seeds	9,254	20,526	12,582	26,506	8,724	9,591
Meat, preserved in tins	1,577	7,421	1,251	2,217	6,683	6,956
Animals (horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs)	71,190	30,908	30,567	7,640	19,984	6,622
Machines, Tools, and Implements	6,220	10,722	4,236	5,478	3,118	6,265
Books	5,390	2,951	3,545	4,597	1,894	2,155
All other Articles	62,194	282,218	164,410	347,082	800,689	119,148
Total	978,677	999,958	772,194	786,601	952,157	582,762
<i>Exported from Victoria to New Zealand.</i>						
Gold—Specie	100,000	150,000	250,000	275,000	202,000	
Tobacco, manufactured	65,425	75,291	66,652	66,357	104,424	87,504
Rubber manufactures	91,181	61,386	71,846	77,362	100,745	85,495
Manures	27,798	30,881	42,265	48,265	80,619	56,548
Fruits—Dried	5,321	17,059	7,775	20,295	57,207	40,141
Tea	42,850	38,532	27,289	42,623	43,085	36,446
Leather	24,375	19,475	15,058	13,716	26,324	24,063
Machinery	31,575	35,728	27,527	26,614	26,725	23,896
Books	36,964	44,267	33,711	23,325	36,714	22,959
Rice and Rice Meal	19,565	17,876	18,673	25,869	18,943	10,122
All other Articles	359,975	291,228	278,568	288,135	424,431	436,061
Total	805,029	781,723	834,354	912,471	1,121,227	873,145

In 1916-17 the imports from New Zealand were less than the exports thereto by 33 per cent. It will be observed that in the same year the items specified accounted for 44 per cent. of the total in the case of exports.

Trade with India (including Burmah) and Ceylon, which amounted to about 5 per cent. of the Victorian oversea trade in 1916-17, was greater by £206,655 than in 1911, the value of the imports being more by £679,320, but that of the exports less by £472,665. The principal articles interchanged during the last six years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM AND EXPORTED TO INDIA AND CEYLON, 1911 TO 1916-17.

Articles.	Value in Year—					
	1911.	1912.	1913.	Ended 30th June.		
				1915.	1916.	1917.
Imported into Victoria from India and Ceylon.						
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bags and Sacks ..	405,166	264,596	588,270	410,679	682,514	750,879
Tea	400,641	443,239	451,389	486,645	627,494	503,545
Hessian	50,847	63,476	87,520	100,932	98,027	137,790
Skins	10,628	20,543	7,506	10,966	12,721	58,570
Fig Iron	20,229	20,264	24,155	47,368	39,731	50,756
Rice	67,854	118,629	89,245	86,159	75,178	50,481
Rubber and Rubber Manufactures ..	10,618	43,539	66,904	72,093	115,325	48,075
Coffee	22,087	27,227	22,904	17,485	22,956	26,912
Nuts	11,301	12,412	14,509	12,127	17,172	20,521
Cotton (raw) ..	14,563	11,680	9,813	3,043	1,360	2,205
All other Articles ..	114,720	99,283	96,843	124,752	135,991	160,240
Total	1,128,654	1,124,888	1,459,058	1,372,249	1,828,469	1,807,974
Exported from Victoria to India and Ceylon.						
Gold (Bullion and Specie)	611,792	2,299,703	144,087	45,314	100,712	..
Wool	20,797	16,463	23,886	28,127	32,442	87,860
Horses	67,764	57,681	37,769	97,449	16,578	55,694
Biscuits	6,179	6,084	7,904	8,098	28,239	24,758
Fruits (preserved in liquid)	2,732	3,938	3,651	2,609	4,378	22,979
Jams and Jellies ..	1,864	2,589	2,113	4,930	7,792	19,180
Hay and Chaff ..	10,606	15,003	14,333	36,818	15,008	12,704
Soap	8,969	8,815	11,709	7,933	14,219	7,277
Butter	6,531	7,169	6,834	4,227	6,009	3,921
Oats	5,952	1,309	6,396	2,446	3,901	1,365
Wheat and Flour ..	11,683	20,234	19,693	17,433	2,058	666
Tallow	8,200	2,459	3,553	1,260	36	385
All other Articles ..	44,186	34,696	48,637	41,395	54,797	92,801
Total	802,255	2,476,143	330,570	298,039	286,219	329,590

The import trade from India and Ceylon is largely made up of jute goods, tea, rubber, and rice, whose value in 1916-17 formed 82 per cent. of the total. In return, wool, horses, biscuits, fruits, and jams and jellies were in that year the leading items of exchange, all other exports being responsible for only 36 per cent. of the total.

Imports from Belgium increased by 102 per cent. between 1909 and 1913, but exports thereto increased by only 3 per cent. in the same period. That country accounted for about 3 per cent. of Victoria's oversea trade in the years immediately preceding 1914-15. The trade during the last two years consisted of imports only, and amounted to £397 in 1915-16 and £5,964 in 1916-17. The principal articles of trade with Belgium in each of the five years ended 30th June, 1915, were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM AND EXPORTED TO BELGIUM, 1910 TO 1914-15.

Articles.	Value in Year—				
	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	Ended 30th June. 1915.
	£	£	£	£	£
Imported into Victoria from Belgium.					
Iron and Steel	121,098	168,073	127,968	205,932	39,960
Glass and Glassware	39,871	52,672	52,521	54,718	11,232
Confectionery	968	5,359	22,951	22,122	6,719
Vehicles, and parts	16,771	30,205	63,854	25,910	6,597
Cameos and Precious Stones ..	34,858	59,419	31,596	26,947	5,800
Paper, Paperhangings, &c. ..	20,748	24,722	25,290	25,052	5,354
Piece Goods	16,506	19,552	20,794	20,700	4,823
Wire and Wire Netting	20,868	23,023	24,342	24,272	4,350
Copper	9,748	3,802	21,361	28,872	3,741
Wine	7,554	20,656	17,178	15,779	1,238
All other Articles	129,929	201,403	206,100	232,779	65,089
Total	418,719	608,891	613,955	682,083	154,708
Exported from Victoria to Belgium.					
Hides and Skins	241,635	194,814	233,806	280,705	11,577
Wool	381,183	365,026	442,832	387,793	1,924
Tallow	18,993	55,650	24,358	40,085	..
Wheat	105,239	73,800	59,362	30,945	..
Cameos and Precious Stones ..	1,791	3,132	17,393	9,085	605
Leather	23,397	9,050	11,119	6,010	..
Ores—Silver, Lead, &c.	23,342	22,098	16,370	120	..
All other Articles	14,029	26,536	7,434	13,006	805
Total	809,609	755,106	812,674	767,749	14,911

During the five years ended 1913 exports to Belgium exceeded imports therefrom. In exports the principal articles were wool and hides and skins, together representing 82 per cent. of the total; if to these be added the other five articles specified in the above table, less than 2 per cent. is unaccounted for.

With France there has, on account of the war, been considerable interruption in trade in the last three years.

The export figures for 1916-17, however, show an improvement as compared with the two preceding years, due principally to the wheat exported, the value of which is responsible for 77½ per cent. of the total exports. The great bulk of the trade is represented by exports. These amounted in 1913—the year immediately preceding the war—to £2,563,201, as against imports of £215,475. The increase in the total trade in the five years ended 1913 was £671,687, viz., exports £608,653, and imports £63,034. The principal articles imported from and exported to France in the years 1911 to 1916-17 were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM AND EXPORTED TO FRANCE, 1911 TO 1916-17.

Articles.	Value in Year—						
	Imported into Victoria from France.	1911.	1912.	1913.	Ended 30th June.		
					1915.	1916.	1917.
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Piece Goods	28,935	34,807	34,330	14,252	15,330	12,285	
Rubber Manufactures ..	3,554	4,753	15,909	5,601	17,290	5,607	
Cream of Tartar	50,002	51,323	47,463	13,871	14,905	5,291	
Wine	11,374	10,533	17,021	3,281	3,870	2,790	
Cameos and Precious Stones	9,774	7,108	5,128	1,896	3,162	218	
Corks, Cork Mats, &c. ..	6,965	4,068	3,148	1,232	3,048	1,228	
Gelatine, &c.	5,589	4,162	4,040	1,500	2,278	907	
Acids	9,691	3,562	1,822	2,317	1,749	..	
Vehicles, and parts ..	26,117	10,911	9,678	4,330	454	..	
All other Articles ..	97,910	94,476	76,946	36,068	48,290	24,106	
Total ..	250,411	226,343	215,475	84,348	110,376	52,432	
Exported from Victoria to France.							
Wheat	499,428	1,197	43,545	1,699	234,069	1,124,829	
Flour .. ..	..	..	..	..	38,397	130,927	
Wool	1,465,492	1,668,061	1,792,625	42,334	205,078	97,402	
Hides and Skins	390,969	437,967	675,669	194,992	76,909	74,978	
Tallow	33,322	24,855	40,122	670	6,774	..	
Horns	995	272	611	..	..	..
All other Articles ..	12,252	4,426	10,699	8,945	4,638	20,346	
Total ..	2,407,978	2,136,898	2,563,201	248,640	565,865	1,448,482	

Imports direct from France, of which more than one-fifth consisted of cream of tartar, did not in 1913 indicate the extent to which articles produced in France were received in Victoria, as goods of French origin to the extent of £879,718 were imported in that year. The value of exports was practically covered by that of wool and hides and skins, as all other items accounted for less than 4 per cent. of the total.

The trade with Germany, which amounted to 6½ per cent. of the total with oversea countries in 1913, was discontinued early in the year 1914-15 owing to the outbreak of war and the passing of the *Trading with the Enemy Act* 1914. The principal articles interchanged with Germany during the six years 1908 to 1913 are shown in the subjoined table:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM AND EXPORTED TO GERMANY, 1908 TO 1913.

Articles.	Value in Year—					
	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
Imported into Victoria from Germany.						
Rubber and Rubber Manufactures	£ 57,777	£ 95,373	£ 60,279	£ 110,029	£ 100,123	£ 147,570
Machines, Tools, and Implements	89,810	70,191	84,557	127,718	123,100	127,781
Pianos	78,784	69,753	81,523	119,392	140,602	110,658
Apparel and Attire	46,009	62,059	74,351	82,381	95,703	98,354
Wire and Wire Netting	131,718	112,284	136,739	125,027	97,436	98,080
Piece Goods	68,819	53,956	65,851	60,900	80,851	76,352
Paper, Paperhangings, &c.	110,103	56,024	77,494	91,416	83,719	66,609
Vehicles and parts	27,557	23,777	16,523	24,533	60,972	82,383
Glass and Glassware	34,673	26,758	33,523	39,973	58,259	58,740
Iron and Steel	24,213	31,662	61,167	39,174	78,205	48,267
All other Articles	636,139	603,522	646,605	810,312	950,073	823,884
Total	1,305,602	1,205,359	1,338,612	1,631,455	1,878,043	1,738,678
Exported from Victoria to Germany.						
Wool	533,050	792,840	952,760	688,166	934,723	716,127
Tin Ingots	1,250	..	5,542	10,842	33,397	79,659
Apples—Fresh	9,630	17,405	14,080	17,213	28,149	63,544
Wheat .. ..	..	9,003	39,089	11,931	16,873	39,945
Ores	2,958	1,436	3,770	3,072	16,146	36,817
Sausage Casings	11,698	10,596	12,431	13,400	15,170	14,471
Hides and Skins	31,961	17,733	9,908	7,711	4,465	11,468
Tallow	59	940	11,100	15,803	3,282	6,478
Gold—Specie	1,410,000	..	..	..	200,000	..
All other Articles	14,930	22,508	22,711	33,164	35,335	60,924
Total	2,015,536	872,461	1,071,391	801,302	1,287,540	1,029,433

The articles imported from Germany were very varied in character, as may be seen from the fact that only half their total value was accounted for in the ten leading items shown above. In exchange for the imports, 59 per cent. of their value was returned in merchandise in 1913. Of the exports for that year 70 per cent. consisted of wool.

Trade with Japan (including Formosa) consists mainly of imports, which have increased considerably during the last two years. In 1914-15 the imports amounted to £540,316, in 1915-16 to £1,242,383, and in 1916-17 to £1,338,578. The principal articles interchanged during the last five years were as follows :—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM AND EXPORTED TO JAPAN, 1912 TO 1916-17.

Articles.	Value in Year—				
	1912.	1913.	Ended 30th June.		
			1915.	1916.	1917.
Imported into Victoria from Japan.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Piece Goods	91,429	98,312	190,850	304,171	327,111
Apparel and Attire	19,145	20,510	20,704	88,599	168,306
Sugar—Produce of Cane				271,826	127,178
Sulphur—Brimstone	17,651	51,646	48,809	46,905	101,474
Timber	25,550	31,736	13,060	29,205	60,824
Glass and Glassware	2,511	3,189	9,159	31,454	42,382
Cosies, Cushions, Counterpanes, &c.	16,040	17,122	12,953	26,107	36,755
Fancy Goods	4,408	3,772	8,005	24,053	34,721
Hats, Bonnets, and Caps	1,709	7,572	15,791	24,830	27,762
Buttons, Buckles, &c.			11,962	23,301	26,283
Earthenware, Brownware, &c.	4,033	2,267	4,106	19,408	23,481
All other Articles	121,359	92,010	204,917	352,524	362,306
Total	303,835	328,127	540,316	1,242,383	1,338,578
Exported from Victoria to Japan.					
Wool	2,544	13,839	51,397	77,421	..
All other articles	37,628	162,799	32,160	48,704	48,417
Total	40,172	176,638	83,557	126,125	48,417

For the year 1916-17, the eleven articles specified accounted for 73 per cent. of the total imports, whilst the items piece goods and apparel and attire formed 37 per cent. thereof. On page 634 *post* it is shown that the articles produced in Japan and received in Victoria during the latest year amounted in value to £1,334,317.

Wool was the chief item of export, and for the four years ended 30th June, 1916, it amounted to 34 per cent. of the total.

Trade with the United States in 1916-17 amounted to £5,210,686, of which £5,013,064 represented imports. As compared with the year 1915-16 this trade had decreased by £1,697,024, there having been a growth of £204,830 in imports, and a falling off of £1,901,854 in exports, the decline in the latter having been due to the suspension of the direct export of wool. The principal articles included in the trade with the United States in the last six years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM AND EXPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES, 1911 TO 1916-17.

Articles.	Value in Year—					
	1911.	1912.	1913.	Ended 30th June.		
				1915.	1916.	1917.
Imported into Victoria from the United States.	£	£	£	£	£	£
Machines, Tools, and Implements	477,271	494,569	505,743	481,222	593,391	684,575
Oil	207,004	335,901	228,975	237,423	469,490	574,646
Iron and Steel	115,671	163,042	161,038	140,919	326,906	420,189
Tobacco, Cigars, and Cigarettes	286,783	220,255	230,504	120,865	186,324	355,481
Leather	50,396	75,927	124,232	106,441	154,337	327,264
Vehicles, and parts	85,905	147,943	116,668	143,289	429,023	305,686
Paper, Paperhangings, &c.	43,592	74,393	33,962	30,299	146,419	228,212
Piece Goods	65,981	66,370	36,993	42,860	108,749	204,630
Wire and Wire Netting	89,781	96,724	74,534	50,545	134,084	98,812
Timber	325,668	326,835	321,429	220,900	238,995	97,037
Rails, Fishplates, &c.	139,686	41,823	2,760	3,496	39,821	5,139
All other Articles	704,294	869,504	743,534	1,040,306	1,980,695	1,711,393
Total	2,592,032	2,913,341	2,580,362	2,668,565	4,808,234	5,013,064
Exported from Victoria to the United States.						
Wool	362,072	260,318	300,202	1,066,144	2,008,725	..
Leather	3,601	2,064	1,194	1,422	5,780	58,426
Hides and Skins	35,637	60,891	89,530	75,389	60,849	51,833
Eucalyptus Oil	3,926	1,060	4,993	2,185	7,117	20,264
All other Articles	6,874	6,926	37,077	17,685	17,005	67,099
Total	412,160	331,259	632,996	1,162,825	2,099,476	197,622

The imports from the United States cover a wide range of articles, as after the six leading items, which in 1916-17 accounted for 53 per cent. of their amount, the next largest four were responsible for only 12½ per cent. of the total, and 34½ per cent. of the whole was made up of articles of much smaller value.

The value of the imports from different countries does not represent the value of the produce of such countries received by Victoria. In the next table the country of shipment is contrasted with the country of origin of the oversea imports for 1916-17.

OVERSEA IMPORTS, 1916-17—COUNTRY OF SHIPMENT AND COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.

Country.	Value of Oversea Imports.		Percentage of Oversea Imports.	
	Imported from each Country.	Produced in each Country.	Imported from each Country.	Produced in each Country.
	£	£		
Canada	428,214	516,433	1·682	2·028
Ceylon	434,719	447,543	1·707	1·757
Fiji	73,913	63,929	·290	·250
Hong Kong	93,508	664	·367	·003
India (including Burmah)	1,373,255	1,383,632	5·393	5·433
New Zealand	582,762	567,158	2·288	2·227
Ocean Island	141,117	141,102	·554	·554
South African Union ...	113,562	152,008	·446	·597
Straits Settlements ...	285,828	101,377	1·122	·398
United Kingdom	13,624,806	11,849,592	53·503	46·532
West Indies (British) ...	41,340	50,713	·162	·199
Other British Countries	41,860	64,891	·164	·255
Belgium	5,964	23,235	·023	·091
Borneo (Dutch)	6,438	42,705	·025	·168
Brazil	51,132	132,560	·201	·521
Chili	58,589	58,589	·230	·230
China	95,905	206,065	·377	·809
Cuba	122	27,700	...	·109
Denmark	13,973	12,985	·055	·051
France	52,432	657,929	·206	2·584
Holland (Netherlands) ...	21,223	124,337	·083	·488
Italy	80,453	229,175	·316	·900
Japan (including Formosa)	1,338,578	1,334,317	5·257	5·240
Java	572,788	514,462	2·249	2·020
Norway	314,269	379,936	1·234	1·492
Philippine Islands	95,426	96,581	·375	·379
Russia	290	25,186	·001	·099
Spain	1,908	26,927	·008	·106
Sumatra	878	193,679	·004	·761
Sweden	334,831	275,183	1·315	1·081
Switzerland	43,840	625,958	·172	2·458
United States of America	5,013,064	4,951,750	19·686	19·445
Other Foreign Countries	128,477	187,113	·505	·735
Total	25,465,464	25,465,464	100·000	100·000

Australian
produce
exported.

Leaving gold out of consideration, an examination of the various articles of Australian produce exported from Victoria to oversea countries reveals the fact that in 1916-17 about 92 per cent. of the total was covered by the thirteen articles specified below :—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF AUSTRALIAN PRODUCE
EXPORTED FROM VICTORIA TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES,
1912 TO 1916-17.

Principal Articles.	Value in Year—				
	1912.	1913.	Ended 30th June.		
			1915.	1916.	1917.
	£	£	£	£	£
Gold (Bullion, Ore and Specie) ...	2,880,010	624,264	446,788	320,995	643
Butter ...	1,545,771	1,681,987	798,569	653,115	2,154,673
Flour ...	600,267	710,416	191,214	653,490	1,213,751
Wheat ...	1,836,387	2,053,454	160,642	2,767,099	4,177,726
Fruits (Fresh, Dried, and Preserved) ...	155,189	184,389	42,339	367,806	264,850
Jams and Jellies ...	14,404	20,686	36,625	196,979	371,753
Lead ...	9,621	1,209	144,734	338,083	501,775
Leather ...	245,707	221,454	492,553	488,956	433,950
Meat, Frozen—					
Mutton and Lamb ...	762,344	1,296,741	1,248,035	47,348	394,044
Other ...	126,953	268,320	531,867	92,807	236,450
Milk and Cream ...	25,426	53,873	77,388	14,847	305,738
Skins and Hides ...	1,328,817	1,685,700	884,997	534,396	548,725
Tallow ...	324,497	371,316	192,400	45,214	246,091
Tin Ingots ...	346,118	282,817	109,337	224,598	114,635
Wool ...	6,990,918	6,282,291	5,237,304	6,203,565	6,149,212
All other articles ...	1,173,663	1,011,361	1,414,655	1,330,184	1,554,553
TOTAL ...	18,366,092	16,750,278	12,009,497	14,279,482	18,668,569
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Per Head of Population	13 11 3	12 0 11	8 7 11	10 1 5	13 6 9
Percentage of Total Oversea Exports ...	96·09	93·92	96·54	96·85	98·10

Those articles of Australian produce exported oversea which are not specified in the above table, but are grouped under the heading "All other Articles," represented only 6 per cent. of the oversea exports in 1912 and 1913, 12 per cent. in 1914-15, 9 per cent. in 1915-16, and 8 per cent. in 1916-17.

Distribution of
Australian
produce.

The subjoined table shows the destination under general headings of Australian produce exported from Victoria to overseas countries in each of the past five years:—

EXPORTS OF AUSTRALIAN PRODUCE, 1912 TO 1916-17.

Destination.	Value in Year —				
	1912.	1913.	Ended 30th June.		
			1915.	1916.	1917.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	8,864,218	8,606,317	8,281,709	7,074,914	12,359,067
Other British Possessions	3,582,434	1,637,256	1,692,457	2,101,525	2,521,613
Foreign Countries ...	5,919,440	6,506,705	2,035,331	5,103,043	3,787,889
Total ...	18,366,092	16,750,278	12,009,497	14,279,482	18,668,569

Of the Australian produce exported overseas during 1916-17, 66 per cent. was sent to the United Kingdom, about 14 per cent. to "Other British Possessions," and 20 per cent. to foreign countries.

The following statement illustrates the development of Inter-State trade in each of the Australian States between the year preceding Federation and the ninth year thereafter—the latest year for which Inter-State records are available:—

Trade between
Australian
States.

TRADE BETWEEN AUSTRALIAN STATES, 1900 AND 1909.

State.	Value of Trade with Other States.					
	1900.			1909.		
	Imports.	Exports.	Excess of Imports (+) Exports (-)	Imports.	Exports.	Excess of Imports (+) Exports (-)
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Victoria	6,364,167	5,267,188	+1,106,979	11,618,217	12,053,399	-435,182
New South Wales ..	10,164,080	9,979,214	+184,866	17,146,943	15,792,608	+1,354,335
Queensland	3,067,278	5,412,881	-2,345,603	5,594,309	8,982,846	-3,388,537
South Australia ..	4,225,876	4,018,678	+207,192	6,239,257	4,177,986	+2,061,271
Western Australia ..	2,675,156	1,125,031	+1,550,125	3,084,578	2,060,537	+1,024,041
Tasmania	1,872,552	1,071,829	+800,723	2,387,854	3,003,782	-615,928

The Victorian export trade grew from £5,257,188 in 1900 to £12,053,399 in 1909, there being thus an increase in the nine years of

£6,796,211, or 129 per cent. In New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania, exports showed increases of 58 per cent., 66 per cent., 4 per cent., 83 per cent., and 180 per cent. respectively. The import trade of Victoria increased during the same period by 83 per cent., as compared with increases of 69 per cent. in New South Wales, 82 per cent. in Queensland, 48 per cent. in South Australia, 15 per cent. in Western Australia, and 74 per cent. in Tasmania. The growth of exports exceeded that of imports by £1,542,161 in Victoria, £1,042,934 in Queensland, £526,084 in Western Australia, and £916,651 in Tasmania; whereas the growth of imports exceeded that of exports by £1,169,469 in New South Wales, and £1,854,079 in South Australia.

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

REVENUE OF CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT, 1912-13 TO 1916-17.

Hheads of Revenue.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.
	£	£	£	£	£
Import Duty—					
Alcoholic Liquors ...	655,313	652,416	687,599	574,690	422,693
Narcotics ...	459,874	434,413	434,447	476,721	497,662
Sugar... ..	397,189	74,735	11,957	249,220	112,753
All other Articles ...	2,569,625	2,612,855	2,395,549	2,901,721	2,799,442
Total ...	4,082,001	3,774,419	3,529,552	4,202,352	3,832,550
Excise Duty—					
Spirits	111,812	113,184	129,821	139,437	124,083
Beer	229,108	260,825	401,041	494,161	458,430
Tobacco	254,869	265,237	282,412	290,365	303,307
Sugar... ..	57,703	3,945	1,481	350	...
Total ...	653,492	643,191	814,755	924,313	885,820
Miscellaneous ...	14,645	12,685	12,522	13,553	14,652
Grand Total ...	4,750,138	4,430,295	4,356,829	5,140,218	4,733,022

These figures have been furnished by the Customs Department. The discrepancies between the totals in the table and those given in part "Finance" of the *Year-Book* are due to refunds recorded at the Treasury but not at the Customs House. The item "Miscellaneous" in the table is distributed between Customs and Excise duties in part "Finance."

The amounts shown for the five years are exclusive of drawbacks and refunds. No record has been kept since 1st July, 1910, of goods which were imported into or manufactured in the State, and afterwards

passed into another State for consumption, and consequently no adjustment of duties paid has been possible between the States concerned. The net debit against Victoria on this account amounted to £564,746 for the financial year 1909-10, so that the total duties shown for each subsequent year may be assumed to be overstated to at least that extent.

INTER-STATE COMMISSION.

Inter-State Commission. The Inter-State Commission is a body incorporated under the terms of Act No. 33 of 1912 of the Commonwealth of Australia. The members of the Commission, of whom there are three, were appointed on 5th August, 1913.

The Commission is charged with the duty of investigating all matters which, in the opinion of the Commission, ought in the public interest to be investigated, affecting—

- (a) the production of, and trade in, commodities ;
- (b) the encouragement, improvement, and extension of Australian industries and manufactures ;
- (c) markets outside Australia, and the opening up of external trade generally ;
- (d) the effect and operation of any Tariff Act or other legislation of the Commonwealth in regard to revenues, Australian manufactures, and industry, and trade generally ;
- (e) prices of commodities ;
- (f) profits of trade and manufacture ;
- (g) wages and social and industrial conditions ;
- (h) labour, employment and unemployment ;
- (i) bounties paid by foreign countries to encourage shipping or export trade ;
- (j) population ;
- (k) immigration ; and
- (l) other matters referred to the Commission by either House of the Parliament, by resolution, for investigation.

Further, the Commission may investigate all matters affecting—

- (a) the extent of diversions or proposed diversions, or works or proposed works for diversions, from any river and its tributaries, and their effect or probable effect on the navigability of rivers that, by themselves or by their connexion with other waters, constitute highways for Inter-State trade and commerce ;
- (b) the maintenance and the improvement of the navigability of such rivers ;
- (c) the abridgment by the Commonwealth by any law or regulation of trade or commerce of the rights of any State or the residents therein to the reasonable use of the waters of rivers for conservation or irrigation ;

(d) the violation by any State, or by the people of any State, of the rights of any other State, or the people of any other State, with respect to the waters of rivers.

The Act requires that all rates fixed or made by any common carrier for any service rendered in respect of Inter-State commerce, or which affect Inter-State commerce, shall be reasonable and just, and prohibits all such rates which are unreasonable or unjust, and all undue preferences upon State railways in respect of Inter-State commerce.

SHIPPING.

Victorian shipping as dealt with in the succeeding tables **Vessels entered and cleared.** refers to vessels trading with other States and oversea countries. Vessels trading on the Victorian coast and on the River Murray have not been taken into consideration, although in the particulars of the shipping of the port of Melbourne given on page 643 *post* shipping trading on the Victorian coast is included. The number of vessels entered and cleared, their total tonnage, and the number of men forming their crews in each of the last five years were as follows :—

SHIPPING INWARD AND OUTWARD, 1912 TO 1916-17.

	1912.	1913.	Year ended 30th June.		
			1915.	1916.	1917.
Vessels Entered—					
Number	2,399	2,481	2,324	2,392	1,962
Tons	5,426,146	5,950,035	5,290,063	4,935,129	4,042,819
Average tonnage	2,262	2,398	2,276	2,063	2,061
Crews	163,055	176,844	157,209	142,885	119,200
Vessels Cleared—					
Number	2,385	2,469	2,329	2,385	1,967
Tons	5,410,801	5,902,277	5,308,817	4,902,245	4,050,095
Average tonnage	2,269	2,391	2,279	2,055	2,059
Crews	161,611	175,704	157,745	141,698	118,360

The figures for the year 1916-17 in the above table show a decrease in the tonnage and crews of vessels as compared with the average of the last five-year period. For the twelve months ended 30th June, 1917, steamers numbered 1,787 of the vessels entered, and 1,791 of the vessels cleared, their tonnage aggregating 3,977,613 and 3,980,621 respectively.

The inward shipping of 1916-17 included 97 vessels **Shipping in ballast.** in ballast, of an aggregate tonnage of 334,123, whilst the outward shipping included 366 vessels in ballast, having an aggregate tonnage of 564,816.

Shipping with principal countries. The more important of the countries having shipping communication with Victoria in 1916-17 are set out in the following statement:—

SHIPPING WITH PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES, 1916-17.

Countries.	ENTERED.		CLEARED.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
Australian States	1,423	2,254,634	1,530	2,755,961
United Kingdom	161	830,792	114	491,667
New Zealand	58	70,621	48	102,741
Other British	97	276,238	85	275,637
Oversea Country (unspecified)*	11	37,735	66	240,621
Total British Countries	1,750	3,470,020	1,893	3,866,627
Japan	59	141,241	22	66,929
Java	15	47,063	12	38,473
United States	89	248,470	15	19,079
Other Foreign	49	136,025	25	58,987
Total Foreign Countries	212	572,799	74	183,468
Total	1,962	4,042,819	1,967	4,050,095

*Due to war conditions.

Nationality of vessels. The nationality of vessels entered and cleared at Victorian ports in each of the years 1912 to 1916-17 was as shown hereunder:—

NATIONALITY OF VESSELS ENTERED AND CLEARED, 1912 TO 1916-17.

Year.	NUMBER OF VESSELS.				TONNAGE OF VESSELS.			
	Australian.	Other British.	Foreign.	Total.	Australian.	Other British.	Foreign.	Total.
	Entered.							
1912	1,372	749	278	2,399	1,880,992	2,713,182	831,972	5,426,146
1913	1,444	741	296	2,481	2,278,624	2,757,350	914,061	5,950,035
1914-15	1,480	709	135	2,324	2,294,137	2,633,365	362,561	5,290,063
1915-16	1,499	714	179	2,392	2,044,398	2,519,317	371,414	4,935,129
1916-17	1,253	586	123	1,962	1,713,714	2,035,346	293,759	4,042,819
	Cleared.							
1912	1,356	752	277	2,385	1,866,304	2,720,180	824,317	5,410,801
1913	1,447	731	291	2,469	2,276,338	2,722,324	903,615	5,902,277
1914-15	1,484	712	133	2,329	2,303,739	2,645,617	359,461	5,308,817
1915-16	1,498	709	178	2,385	2,034,655	2,494,320	373,270	4,902,245
1916-17	1,255	587	125	1,967	1,713,916	2,038,340	297,839	4,050,095

The proportions of the shipping of each nationality, as tabulated to the total entered and cleared for the respective years in their proper sequence from 1912 to 1917 are:—Australian vessels, 57, 58, 64, 63, and 64 per cent.; Australian tonnage, 35, 39, 43, 41, and 43 per cent.; other British vessels 31, 30, 30, 30, and 30 per cent.; other British tonnage 50, 46, 50, 51, and 50 per cent.; foreign vessels, 12, 12, 6, 7, and 6 per cent.; and foreign tonnage 15, 15, 7, 8, and 7 per cent.

In the next table further details of the nationality of the shipping for the year 1916-17 are given:—

NATIONALITY OF SHIPPING, 1916-17.

Nationality.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
British—				
Australian	1,253	1,713,714	1,255	1,713,916
United Kingdom	450	1,910,288	453	1,913,751
Indian	3	11,228	3	11,228
New Zealand... ..	128	108,760	126	108,291
South African	5	5,070	5	5,070
Total British	1,839	3,749,060	1,842	3,752,256
Foreign—				
Chilian	1	1,272	1	1,272
Danish	2	6,800	2	6,800
Dutch	13	39,708	13	39,708
French	7	18,951	7	18,951
Greek	2	5,360	2	5,360
Italian	4	13,950	4	13,950
Japanese	49	113,179	49	113,179
Norwegian	8	21,813	9	23,808
Portuguese	1	3,706	1	3,706
Russian	2	3,503	1	1,869
Swedish	6	16,583	6	16,583
United States	28	48,934	30	52,653
Total Foreign	123	293,759	125	297,839
Total	1,962	4,042,819	1,967	4,050,095

The vessels on the Victorian register on 31st December, 1916, were as follows, the ports of registration and net tonnage being distinguished:—

VESSELS ON THE VICTORIAN REGISTER, 1916.

Port of Registration.	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
	Number.	Net Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Net Tonnage.
Melbourne	222	133,713	191	37,843	413	171,556
Geelong	3	449	5	360	8	809
Port Fairy	3	621	...	...	3	621
Total	228	134,783	196	38,203	424	172,986

During 1916 there were added to the register 12 steamers with net tonnage of 12,821, and 2 sailing vessels with a tonnage of 560; whilst 8 steamers having net tonnage of 4,576, and 9 sailing vessels having a tonnage of 1,536, were taken off the register.

The following statement, compiled by the Marine Underwriters' and Salvage Association of Victoria, shows the number and net tonnage of vessels on the registers of all the Australian States and New Zealand on 30th June, 1917:—

VESSELS OWNED IN AUSTRALASIA, 1917.

States, &c.	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
	Number.	Net Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Net Tonnage.
Victoria ...	197	133,811	212	38,003	409	171,814
New South Wales ...	528	97,171	583	36,754	1,111	133,925
Queensland ...	95	20,286	191	7,474	286	27,760
South Australia ...	115	57,814	198	16,808	313	74,622
Western Australia ...	37	24,413	437	17,155	474	41,568
Tasmania ...	58	11,397	158	5,872	216	17,269
Total Australia ...	1,030	344,892	1,779	122,066	2,809	466,958
Fiji ...	5	432	5	833	10	1,265
New Guinea ...	...	...	15	289	15	239
New Zealand ...	259	64,180	312	24,209	571	88,389
Total ...	1,294	409,504	2,111	147,397	3,405	556,901

Compared with 1916, vessels owned in Australia decreased by 17 in number, though there was an increase of 28,291 in tonnage.

PORT OF MELBOURNE.

The port of Melbourne is under the control of the Melbourne Harbor Trust, which has 10·08 miles of wharfs, piers, and jetties in the River Yarra, Victoria Dock, and Hobson's Bay. The area of these wharfs is 55½ acres, of which 17 acres 2 roods are under sheds. An outline of some of the Trust's activities is given below.

The river has been widened from Queen's Bridge to the Bay from about 140 to 300 feet, and three swinging basins have been provided, one just below Queen's Bridge, 500 feet wide, one three-quarters of a mile further down the river, 550 feet wide, and one at the entrance to the Victoria Dock, 500 feet wide. The depth of the river has been gradually increased, until at the present time it is 27 feet at low water for all but the upper half-mile, where the depth is from 18 feet upwards, but is being increased to 27 feet. Turning to the wharfage available for shipping, there is a berthing space of 49,010 feet, the whole of which has a good depth of

water—7,780 feet at Williamstown, 9,150 feet at Port Melbourne, 20,320 feet in the River Yarra, and 11,760 feet in the Victoria Dock. This dock, which is 4 miles from the river entrance, was opened in 1892, and has an area of 96 acres, and a depth of 30 feet of water at low tide. The entrance to the dock is 160 feet wide, and on the 8,500 feet of wharfage there are six closed and seven open sheds, all 53 feet in width, and two open and two closed sheds 60 feet in width, the total length of all the sheds being 4,870 feet. On the pier in this dock, which is 1,631 feet in length and 250 feet in width, two sheds each 486 feet long and 60 feet wide are being erected.

Coode Canal. In 1886 a canal across the flats below Fisherman's Bend was completed at a cost of £96,000, the length being 2,002 yards. The construction of the canal had the effect of reducing the distance from Queen's Bridge to the river entrance from 7 miles to $5\frac{3}{4}$ miles, and of greatly facilitating navigation. This channel, which is called Coode Canal, has been widened by 164 feet, making its total width 487 feet, its width at low water 430 feet, and its bottom width 264 feet. It has a depth of 27 feet at low water, and is being dredged to 32 feet.

Dredging. The material dredged and disposed of during 1916 amounted to 3,711,157 cubic yards, viz., 933,270 cubic yards from Hobson's Bay, and 2,777,887 cubic yards from the River Yarra and Victoria Dock. Since the establishment of the Trust the river dredgings have amounted to 32,359,085, and the Bay dredgings to 25,532,728 cubic yards, making a total of 57,891,813 cubic yards. Of the dredgings 44,536,173 cubic yards were deposited in deep water and 13,355,640 cubic yards were landed and deposited for reclamation work. The average cost of dredging, towing, and depositing in 1916 was 5·55d. per cubic yard.

Plant. The floating plant of the Trust consists of 7 dredgers, 2 steam tugs, 9 steam hopper barges, 10 iron dumb hopper barges, 3 steam launches, 4 motor launches, 1 Lobnitz rock-breaker, 4 grab cranes, 3 coal hulks, 2 derrick punts, and diving equipment.

Trade of the Port. Since the inception of the Trust, in the year 1877, the trade of the port has greatly increased. In the year 1878 vessels to the number of 5,060, comprising 164 ships, 414 barques, 96 brigs, 849 schooners, 350 cutters, 458 ketches, 2,084 steamers, and 645 lighters, with a registered tonnage aggregating 1,169,320, berthed within the port, whereas in the year 1916 the total number of vessels was 4,825, comprising 4,004 steamers, 21 ships, 47 barques, 19 barquentines, 362 ketches, 134 schooners, and 238 lighters, with registered tonnage aggregating 5,555,000. The tonnage of imports in 1916 was 2,634,000, and that of exports 1,358,000.

The trade of the port for the past five years was as follows :—

Year.	Imports.		Exports.		Net Registered Tonnage.
	Oversea.	Inter-State.	Oversea.	Inter-State.	
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	
1912	1,445,000	1,511,000	657,000	607,000	6,343,000
1913	1,620,000	1,305,000	665,000	705,000	7,004,000
1914	1,313,000	1,663,000	576,000	740,000	6,934,000
1915	1,290,000	1,683,000	239,000	730,000	5,994,000
1916	982,000	1,652,000	655,000	703,000	5,555,000

The abnormal conditions arising out of the war are responsible for the decrease of vessels' tonnage in the last three years.

Of the trade in 1916, 91 per cent. of imports and 65 per cent. of exports were dealt with in the river and Victoria Dock, the balance, of course, being handled at the piers in the Bay.

Coal forms a great part of the above Inter-State imports, the particulars being as follows :—

COAL IMPORTED FROM OTHER STATES.

(Exclusive of Coal transhipped.)

	Tons.		Tons.
1912	801,074	1915	846,980
1913	831,219	1916	809,209
1914	906,962		

A new railway pier at Port Melbourne has been completed, its length being 1,902 feet, and its width 186 feet.

The total cost of the pier and superstructures is £212,415, and the cost, including dredging, to the end of 1916 was £377,848. Dredging is being carried to 37 feet, to provide for four berths for vessels drawing 35 feet. Two shelter sheds are being provided, to enable passengers to board and disembark from vessels clear of the railway traffic.

The construction of the new Central Pier at the Victoria Dock, the first contract for which was let for £102,785, is almost complete. A bed for the centre roadway on this pier has been formed by the insertion of reinforced concrete plates on which wood blocks have been made, the cost of the work being £23,983. A contract for two large cargo sheds has been let for £15,880. The pier is 1,631 feet in length by 250 feet in width.

A contract for reinforced concrete sheet piling with relieving platforms at the middle swinging basin has been let for £37,445 and the work is in progress. This is the first contract in connexion with the widening and lengthening of this Basin.

A new wharf at Newport in the River Yarra has been completed, the amount expended thereon having been £13,785. The new Railway Pier, Williamstown, has been extended a further 100 feet and widened at a cost of £9,791. The old Railway Pier, Williamstown, has been extended a further 250 feet and widened to 81 feet, at a cost of £17,918, and the Town Pier, Port Melbourne, has also been extensively renovated.

Other improvements proposed for the near future include the widening of the river by 100 feet on the south side between the swinging basin and Coode Canal, lengthening and widening the middle swinging basin by increasing its size from 550 feet by 800 feet to 650 feet by 1,000 feet, the re-alignment of the Australian Wharf, provision for greater facilities for the timber trade, a re-arrangement of the berths at Yarraville, the provision of machinery for the handling of cargo, and the lighting of the port throughout by electricity. Timber is being accumulated for the carrying out of these works, and contracts have been let for the supply of over £60,000 worth of timber, which will form an addition to large quantities already in hand.

The expenditure for the year 1916 was £461,158, as compared with £205,664 in 1911, £366,954 in 1912, £439,191 in 1913, £427,001 in 1914, and £434,625 in 1915.

With a view to preventing pillage on the wharfs, the Trust is paying for a police patrol of 21 men, and this, together with the cost of providing wharfingers and shedmen, costs £6,505 per annum. During the year 1916 prosecutions for pillaging goods were instituted in 60 cases, and 58 convictions were obtained. Fines were inflicted amounting to £302. Rewards amounting to £229 were paid during the year for the apprehension of offenders.

The police patrol has proved effective, the powers of the police and their sources of information having been of assistance in obtaining convictions.

PARTICULARS OF BERTHAGE ACCOMMODATION AND DEPTH OF WATER
AT THE WHARFS AND PIERS WITHIN THE PORT OF MELBOURNE.

Name.	Berthing Space, in Feet.	Depth, in Feet, O.L.W.
Breakwater Pier, Williamstown	920	28 to 30
Railway Pier, Williamstown (old)	2,500	28 to 30
Railway Pier, Williamstown (new)	1,200	28 to 30
Graving Dock Pier, Williamstown	860	25 to 28
Reid-street Pier, Williamstown	1,000	20 to 24
Ann-street Pier, Williamstown	800	17 to 22
Gem Pier, Williamstown	500	8 to 10
New Railway Pier, Port Melbourne	2,650	35 to 37*
Railway Pier, Port Melbourne	3,000	28 to 30
Town Pier, Port Melbourne	3,500	27 to 30
Newport Wharf (river)	400	27
Footscray Wharf (river)	700	13 to 14
Queen's Wharf (river)	1,800	17 to 26
Princes' Wharf (river)	2,050	17 to 24
Australian Wharf (river)	7,620	24 to 26
South Wharf (river)	7,750	23 to 26
Victoria Dock (river)	11,760	25 to 27
	49,010	

* Dredging in progress to 37 feet.

NOTE.—For rise of spring tides throughout harbor, 2 ft. 8 in. to be added to all depths; for rise of neap tides, 2 feet to be added.

At the various piers and wharfs are the following cranes:—

One steam crane, to lift 75 tons.

One hydraulic crane, to lift 35 tons.

One hydraulic crane, to lift 15 tons.

Seven hand cranes, to lift from 1 to 10 tons.

The following particulars relating to the dry and floating docks in Australasia have been taken from *Lloyd's Register*:—

DOCKS IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

Port.		Description of Dock.	Extreme Length. — Length on Bottom.	Breadth at Entrance	Height of Sill above Bottom of Dock.	Depth on Sill at High Water. Ordinary Spring Tides.
			ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.
Albany	W.A.	Small Floating Dock ..	{ 130 0 121 0	{ 22 2	{ 3 0	{ 6 10
Brisbane	Q.	Government Dry Dock	{ 431 6	{ 53 0	{ 3 2	{ 19 0
Clarence River	N.S.W.	Dry Dock ..	{ 110 0	{ 42 0	{ 3 0	{ 8 6
Launceston	Tas.	Floating Dry Dock ..	{ 172 0	{ 37 0	{ 2 4	{ 12 6
Melbourne	V.	Graving Dock ..	{ 520 0 510 0	{ 70 0 (top) 60 0 (bottom)	{ 4 0	{ 23 6
"	"	" " ..	{ 430 0 420 0	{ 64 0 (top) 52 0 (bottom)	{ 4 0	{ 23 6
"	"	Alfred Graving Dock	{ 475 0 459 0	{ 80 0	{ 2 6	{ 26 0
"	"	Floating Dry Dock ..	{ 216 0 200 0	{ 36 6	{ 1 0	{ 12 6
Newcastle	N.S.W.	Floating Dock ..	{ 426 0 (on blocks)	{ 84 0	{ ..	{ 25 0 (over blocks)
Sydney	"	Mort's Graving Dock	{ 640 0 640 0	{ 69 0 83 0 (top)	{ 4 6 4 0	{ 18 0 28 9
"	"	New Graving Dock ..	{ 700 0	{ 83 0 (top)	{ 4 0	{ 28 9
"	"	Floating Dock ..	{ 320 0 317 0	{ 44 0	{ ..	{ ..
"	"	" " ..	{ 109 0 100 0	{ 23 0 extreme	{ ..	{ ..
"	"	Pontoon Floating Dock	{ 195 0 (on blocks)	{ 60 6 (inside walls)	{ ..	{ ..
"	"	Floating Dock ..	{ 163 0	{ 40 0	{ ..	{ 12 0
"	"	Fitzroy Graving Dock	{ 477 0 463 0	{ 59 0	{ 1 4	{ 21 6
"	"	Sutherland Dock ..	{ 637 0 630 0	{ 84 0	{ 3 6	{ 32 0
"	"	Drake's Floating Dock	{ 159 0 150 0	{ 40 0	{ 5 0	{ 8 0
Auckland	N.Z.	Calliope Graving Dock	{ 566 0 521 0	{ ..	{ 1 7	{ 33 0
Lyttelton	"	Graving Dock ..	{ 481 6 450 0	{ 62 0	{ 2 0	{ 23 0
Port Chalmers	"	Dry Dock ..	{ 328 0 300 0	{ 50 0	{ 3 0	{ 19 6
"	"	" " ..	{ 528 0 590 0	{ 70 0	{ 3 0	{ 21 0

POSTS, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

The Department of Posts and Telegraphs was transferred to the Federal Government by proclamation on 1st March, 1901.

Rates of postage.

The rates of postage in force within the Commonwealth and Papua are as follows:—

Letters	1d. per half ounce
Letter-cards	{ Single, 1d. each
	{ Reply, 1d. each half
Post-cards	{ Single, 1d. each
	{ Reply, 1d. each half
Printed papers (other than newspapers)	½d. per 2 ounces
Books printed in Australia	½d. per 8 ounces
Books printed outside Australia	½d. per 4 ounces
Magazines printed and published in Australia ... each	½d. per 8 ounces
Magazines printed and published outside Australia ... each	½d. per 4 ounces
Commercial papers, patterns, samples, and merchandise as prescribed	1d. per 2 ounces
Newspapers printed and published in Australia	½d. per 10 ounces
Newspapers printed and published outside Australia	½d. per 4 ounces

The rate of postage on letters from the Commonwealth to the United Kingdom and the Oversea Dominions, British colonies and protectorates, is 1d. per half-ounce.

Cable rates. The ordinary rate for cabling to the United Kingdom is 3s. per word, and the deferred rate is 1s. 6d. per word. Deferred cablegrams are transmitted only after the despatch of non-urgent private cablegrams and press cablegrams. In January, 1913, the Pacific Cable Board instituted a tariff for week-end cable letters available between Australia and the United Kingdom. The rate is 9d. per word, with a minimum charge of 15s. A scheme exists under which week-end messages may be lodged up to midnight on Saturday, and are deliverable on Tuesday morning, or if practicable on Monday. This has, however, been temporarily suspended, as an arrangement has been made for the transmission of messages to soldiers, which are chargeable at the rate of 9d. per word without a minimum.

Postal returns. The post-offices in the State on 30th June, 1917, numbered 1,782, and in addition there were 852 receiving offices (principally loose-bags), 12 travelling offices, and 1,653 letter boxes. The postal and telegraphic staff numbered 5,065 persons, and there were in addition 4,388 non-official postmasters, mail contractors, and casual employees employed part time only in the service. The postal routes in 1916-17 covered a distance of 16,039 miles, of which 3,945 were by railway, the distance traversed being 9,275,716 miles, including 4,847,090 railway miles. In the following table is shown the business done by the Postal Department in each of the last five years:—

POSTAL RETURNS, 1912 TO 1916-17.

	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915-16.	1916-17.
Posted and Received—					
Letters and Post-cards	175,588,805	189,975,987	188,440,698	191,427,078	201,093,447
Newspapers	37,826,929	40,950,516	40,737,663	40,246,088	43,175,024
Packets	20,631,887	18,292,538	16,464,556	11,146,357	11,490,795
Parcels	764,821	893,934	961,755	1,163,140	1,283,949
Total	234,812,442	250,112,975	246,604,672	243,982,663	257,043,215

Registered letters and articles are included in this statement, and numbered 1,645,982 in 1916-17. The total number of letters, newspapers, packets, and parcels passing through the post-office in 1916-17 showed an increase of 5 per cent. on the number for 1915-16. The large increase in the number of letters posted and received in 1916-17 was chiefly due to the mails of the soldiers on active service. A clear idea of the magnitude of the postal matter dealt with will be obtained when it is stated that in 1916-17 the letters posted and received represented 143 and the newspapers, packets, and parcels, 40 per head of the population.

The next table gives in three groups the destination of letters, newspapers, packets, and parcels posted, whether for delivery inland, in other States, or in countries outside the Commonwealth, and shows whence those received came, whether from other States or from outside countries.

**POSTAL SERVICE—INLAND, INTER-STATE AND
INTERNATIONAL: 1912 TO 1916-17.**

Service.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915-16.	1916-17.
LETTERS AND POSTCARDS.					
Posted for delivery inland	129,610,388	135,963,724	139,043,933	134,212,538	133,312,357
" " in other States	15,177,996	15,201,166	16,234,172	16,267,863	16,366,285
" " outside the States ..	6,780,247	7,687,758	6,760,903	13,944,397	15,935,748
Total	151,568,631	158,852,648	162,039,008	164,424,798	165,614,390
Received from other States	15,220,243	16,977,659	16,220,068	16,481,811	17,529,247
" " outside the States ..	8,799,931	14,145,680	10,181,622	10,520,469	17,949,810
Total	24,020,174	31,123,339	26,401,690	27,002,280	35,479,057
NEWSPAPERS.					
Posted for delivery inland	10,894,399	14,980,478	13,526,750	14,410,719	19,871,312
" " in other States	13,934,818	14,548,365	15,962,880	14,823,566	12,830,757
" " outside the States ..	3,153,631	3,332,069	2,793,660	3,955,133	2,987,080
Total	27,982,848	32,860,912	32,283,290	33,189,418	35,689,149
Received from other States	4,748,731	4,762,405	5,212,038	4,685,452	4,776,097
" " outside the States ..	5,095,250	3,327,199	3,242,335	2,371,218	2,709,778
Total	9,844,081	8,089,604	8,454,373	7,056,670	7,485,875
PACKETS.					
Posted for delivery inland	13,084,847	11,725,748	9,783,256	6,136,500	6,060,216
" " in other States	2,577,753	3,095,332	4,051,319	2,495,132	2,737,515
" " outside the States ..	1,400,431	1,149,648	750,134	922,389	881,171
Total	17,063,031	15,970,728	14,584,759	9,554,021	9,678,902
Received from other States	1,870,407	1,511,567	1,232,022	1,039,866	1,080,527
" " outside the States ..	1,698,449	810,243	647,775	552,470	731,366
Total	3,568,856	2,321,810	1,879,797	1,592,336	1,811,893
PARCELS.					
Posted for delivery inland	421,342	508,652	577,585	593,895	520,785
" " in other States	184,457	213,047	210,404	243,655	227,773
" " outside the States ..	21,248	23,573	17,658	145,907	357,689
Total	627,047	745,272	805,647	983,457	1,106,247
Received from other States	90,678	96,985	107,327	118,626	115,307
" " outside the States ..	47,096	51,677	48,731	61,057	62,395
Total	137,774	148,662	156,108	179,683	177,702

Dead letters, &c. Dead letters in 1916-17 numbered 531,146, of which 33,748 were irregularly posted. These letters contained money amounting to £8,353, as well as other articles of value, and were disposed of as follows:—Returned to writers, 392,131; destroyed, 80,124; returned to other States or countries as unclaimed, 58,891. There were also 519,300 undelivered packets and newspapers, of which 45,501 were returned to the senders, 463,710 were destroyed, and 10,089 were returned to other States and countries.

Money orders and postal notes. There are 534 money order offices in the State, which in 1916-17, issued 420,347 orders for £2,046,113. Of these 294,039 (for £1,591,010) were inland, 56,750 (for £256,009) inter-state, and 69,508 (for £199,094) international orders. The orders paid in the same year numbered 461,477, and were for an aggregate amount of £2,213,594, the inland being 315,650 (for £1,603,502), the inter-state 106,333 (for £488,207), and the international 39,494 (for £121,885). Inland postal notes paid totalled 2,087,326 (for £689,222), Victorian notes paid in other States 651,476 (for £200,196), and the notes of other States paid in Victoria 348,019 (for £127,684). The following is a comparative statement of the business done since 1911:—

MONEY ORDERS AND POSTAL NOTES, 1912 TO 1916-17.

—	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915-16.	1916-17.
Money Orders Issued—					
Number	316,538	376,961	381,671	654,324	420,347
Amount £	1,261,829	1,673,878	1,714,513	2,646,488	2,046,113
Money Orders Paid—					
Number	355,540	408,988	405,841	676,062	461,477
Amount £	1,506,658	1,922,665	1,928,550	2,800,880	2,213,594
Postal Notes—					
Victorian—Paid in Victoria £	811,606	849,013	849,888	731,044	689,222
Victorian—Paid in Other States ... £	181,540	215,334	225,836	197,412	200,196
Of Other States— Paid in Victoria ... £	168,771	177,967	171,414	132,429	127,684

The value of money orders issued and paid increased year by year from 1912 to 1915-16, but the large increase in 1915-16 was due to the payment of military allotments, which practice ceased in November, 1915. Since that date only the relatives of men in camp have been paid by money order.

The total business in postal notes showed a reduction in 1916-17, the amount of Victorian notes paid within the State and the amount of notes of other States paid in Victoria during that year being less by £41,822 and £4,745 respectively than the amounts paid in 1915-16. The amount of Victorian notes paid in other States during the year was greater by £2,784 than in 1915-16.

There are 1,711 telegraph offices in the State, 215 of which are attached to the railway service. Of the mileage of line and wire, 5,202 miles of line carrying 23,524 miles of wire are controlled by the Postal Department, and 3,797 miles of line carrying 5,922 miles of wire by the Railway Department. The length of lines and wire open, and the number of telegrams sent from Victorian offices, and of those received from outside the State, in each of the last five years, were as follows :—

TELEGRAPHS AND TELEGRAMS, 1912 TO 1916-17.

	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915-16.	1916-17.
Number of Offices ...	1,538	1,648	1,748	1,796	1,711
Miles open—					
Line (poles) ...	7,455	7,628	7,998	8,800	8,999
Wire ...	18,649	19,403	26,146	28,937	29,446
Telegrams despatched—					
Inland ...	1,994,436	1,969,752	2,217,361	2,189,333	2,258,435
Inter-State ...	882,051	902,969	948,497	1,012,605	1,038,411
International ...	92,750	98,320	101,337	133,088	132,025
Total ...	2,969,237	2,971,041	3,267,195	3,335,026	3,428,871
Telegrams received—					
Inter-State ...	950,015	1,006,618	1,009,362	1,061,206	1,059,334
International ...	89,709	92,456	95,489	150,951	160,497
Total ...	1,039,724	1,099,074	1,104,851	1,212,157	1,219,831

The total telegrams despatched show a gradual improvement annually in the five-year period, the number for 1916-17 exceeding that for the previous year by 93,845. Compared with 1912 the telegrams despatched in 1916-17 showed an increase of 459,634, of which 263,999 were inland, 156,360 inter-state, and 39,275 international. Telegrams received from outside the State have increased by 180,107 since 1912. In 1916-17 the value of inland telegrams was £86,982, of inter-state despatched £86,357, of inter-state received £82,054, of international despatched £192,847, and of international received £251,601.

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 following statement shows for the past five years the length of lines

and wire open and the number of subscribers, telephones, and private lines :—

TELEPHONES, 1912 TO 1916-17.

	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915-16.	1916-17.
Miles Open—					
Lines (Poles and under-ground					
Cables)	2,467	2,902	3,097	3,145	3,271
Wire	153,400	189,193	208,444	218,603	218,706
Subscribers	26,562	30,640	34,071	36,372	38,025
Telephones	35,541	39,968	44,505	46,454	50,636
Private Lines	530	548	562	573	592

During the last five years the length of wire and the number of subscribers have both increased by 43 per cent. The subscribers given in the table are direct connexions. The actual number of telephones in use in 1916-17 was 50,636. This number represents an increase of 9 per cent. as compared with 1915-16, and of 42 per cent. as compared with 1912.

The revenue of the Post and Telegraph Department amounted to £1,491,153 in 1916-17, the items being postage £759,067, commission on money orders and postal notes £28,954, telegrams, cablegrams, &c., £200,390, telephones, &c., £432,361, and various, £70,381. It is estimated that the number of stamps and pre-payment forms sold for postal and telegraphic purposes in 1916-17 was 153,877,972, and the value thereof £908,439. The ordinary expenditure of the Department in 1916-17 amounted to £1,201,575, whilst capital expenditure (exclusive of salaries) on buildings, furniture, &c., telegraph lines, and telephone exchanges amounted to £136,658. The items of ordinary expenditure were :—Salaries, &c., £844,580 ; inland mail services, £151,587 ; British and foreign mail services, £16,897 ; maintenance of buildings, &c., £66,693 ; and miscellaneous, £121,818. In the following table the revenue and expenditure of the Department are summarized for the last five years :—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT, 1913 TO 1916-17.

	1913.	Year ended 30th June.			
		1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue	1,172,639	1,191,206	1,220,681	1,353,287	1,491,153
Expenditure (ordinary)...	1,157,841	1,140,823	1,206,202	1,211,123	1,201,575
Surplus	14,798	50,383	14,479	142,164	289,578
Capital Expenditure* ...	324,329	397,793	323,084	257,456	136,658

*Exclusive of salaries which are included with ordinary expenditure.

RAILWAYS.

Victorian
Railways,
length and
cost.

All railways in Victoria available for general traffic are, with the two exceptions referred to on pages 658 and 659, the property of the State, and are under the management of three Commissioners appointed by the Government.

The succeeding tables relate to the State railways, the motive power of which, with the exception of the St. Kilda to Brighton Electric Street Railway, is steam. Parliament has sanctioned the electrification of the Melbourne Suburban Railways, and it is expected that electric traction will be introduced in 1918. The gauge of the lines is 5 ft. 3 in., with the exception of 121·9 miles of single lines, of which the gauge is 2 ft. 6 in. The following table shows the length of double and single lines, the cost of construction, and the average cost per mile at the close of each of the last five years :—

RAILWAYS, LENGTH AND COST OF CONSTRUCTION, 30TH JUNE, 1913, TO 30TH JUNE, 1917.

	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
Length of Lines on 30th June—					
Double Lines (miles)	325·71	325·71	325·71	328·19	328·19
Single Lines (miles)	3,374·69	3,562·26	3,602·47	3,825·33	3,847·57
Total ...	3,700·40	3,887·97	3,928·18	4,153·52	4,175·76
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost of Construction	34,732,556	35,792,561	36,411,149	37,906,057	38,305,630
Average Cost per mile	9,386	9,206	9,269	9,126	9,173

In addition to the lines embraced in this table, the following were in course of construction on 30th June, 1917 :—

	Miles.
5-ft. 3-in. Gauge.	
Dartmoor to Mumbannar ...	13·48
Shelley to Cudgewa ...	19·64
Cavendish to Toolondo ...	44·00
Neerim South to Toorong River ...	5·98
Koo-wee-rup to McDonald's Track ...	30·75
North Geelong to Fyansford ...	2·87
	<u>116·72</u>
4-ft. 8½-in. Gauge.	
Sandringham to Black Rock (electric tramway) ...	2·33

and the following lines had been authorized, but their construction had not been commenced :—

	Miles.
5-ft. 3-in. Gauge.	
Part of Woomelang to Mildura and Yelta ...	10
Alberton to Won-Wron ...	12½
Nandaly to Kulwin ...	19½
Bittern to Red Hill ...	10
	<u>52</u>

The capital cost of lines opened, works, rolling-stock and equipment at 30th June in each of the last five years was as follows :—

CAPITAL COST OF RAILWAYS AND EQUIPMENT, 1913 TO 1917.

30th June.	£
1913	47,076,911
1914	49,311,907
1915	51,620,187
1916	54,560,106
1917	55,808,163

The cost given is the actual cost of construction, exclusive of expenses of floating loans, &c. Of the capital expended to 30th June, 1917, £3,912,012 was derived from the general revenue, and the balance (£51,896,151) from loans. The latter liability is represented by debentures and stock outstanding to the nominal amount of £53,599,000, on which the annual interest payable is £2,026,042, or at the average rate of 3·78 per cent. The nominal amount of loans, however, was reduced by £1,702,849—the cost of flotation, together with the discount at time of flotation. It has been computed that, whilst the nominal rate of interest on loans outstanding on 30th June, 1917, was 3·78 per cent., the real interest on the net proceeds available for railway construction was 3·9 per cent.

The capital expenditure incurred in respect of lines now closed for traffic was approximately £392,741, and for surveys of lines not constructed £365,436.

The mileage and the traffic of the railways since 30th June, 1912, are given in the following table :—

RAILWAYS—MILEAGE AND TRAFFIC, 1912-13 TO 1916-17.

	Year ended 30th June.				
	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
Miles Constructed ...	3,700·40	3,887·97	3,928·18	4,153·52	4,175·76
„ Dismantled ...	18·03	18·03	18·03	18·03	36·13
„ Closed to Traffic	29·93	29·93	29·93	29·93	11·83
„ Open for Traffic	3,652·44	3,840·01	3,880·22	4,105·56	4,127·80
Train Mileage ...	14,648,489	15,570,098	15,880,677	14,424,357	14,594,775
Passengers carried ...	113,430,526	119,002,397	119,978,898	118,898,222	111,791,982
Goods and Live Stock Carried (Tons) ...	5,150,404	5,816,088	5,410,045	5,829,835	5,962,602

The mileage given in the above tables relates to lines of railway, irrespective of the number of tracks, the actual length of which open for traffic on 30th June, 1917, was 4,484·36 miles of main tracks, and 818·97 miles of sidings.

The passenger traffic of 1916-17, though more than in any year prior to 1912-13, was less than in any other of the last five years. In 1914-15 this traffic was the heaviest experienced by the Railway

Department, passenger journeys exceeding those of the second heaviest year—1913-14—by 976,501, and those of 1915-16, the next in volume, by 1,080,676. Of the passenger journeys in 1916-17, 103,589,028 were made by metropolitan-suburban, and 8,202,954 by country passengers, the former being a decrease of 6,465,737, and the latter of 640,503, as compared with the corresponding journeys for the previous year. The tonnage of goods and live stock carried in 1916-17 was the highest recorded, and exceeded that for 1915-16, which now stands second in importance, by 132,767. The items of goods carried in 1916-17 showing greatest tonnage were :—Wheat, 1,596,883 tons; firewood, 523,582 tons; stone, gravel, and sand, 521,639 tons; minerals (including coal, coke, ores, &c.), 371,985 tons; hay, straw, and chaff, 274,240 tons; and timber, 214,651 tons. Live stock carried in the same year had an aggregate weight of 408,241 tons, and comprised 42,333 horses, 422,348 cattle, 5,261,116 sheep, and 273,100 pigs. Comparing 1916-17 with 1912-13, the goods and live stock carried had increased by 812,198 tons, or by 16 per cent., whilst the passenger traffic was less by 1,638,544 passengers, or by $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the number of train miles run showed a reduction of 53,714, or of rather less than one-half per cent.

The receipts and working expenses of the Railway Department during the last five financial years were as follows :—

**RAILWAY RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE,
1912-13 TO 1916-17.**

	Year ended 30th June.				
	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
Receipts—					
Passenger Fares ...	£ 2,445,324	£ 2,541,285	£ 2,481,621	£ 2,667,289	£ 2,606,339
Freight on Goods and Live Stock	2,373,978	2,625,338	2,289,482	2,628,487	2,951,513
Sundries ...	402,969	414,851	412,584	434,967	422,786
Total ...	5,222,271	5,581,474	5,183,687	5,730,743	5,980,638
Working Expenses—					
Way and Works...	£ 959,836	£ 939,902	£ 1,200,298	£ 1,128,286	£ 1,100,192
Rolling-stock ...	1,471,346	1,644,180	1,724,358	1,676,395	1,838,605
Transportation ...	953,976	1,075,021	1,090,796	1,094,877	1,105,741
General Charges*	219,843	227,245	242,864	242,030	261,420
Total ...	3,605,001	3,886,348	4,258,316	4,141,588	4,305,958
Net Receipts ...	1,617,270	1,695,126	925,371	1,589,155	1,674,680
Percentage of Ex- penses to Receipts	69·03	69·63	82·15	72·27	72·00

* Including pensions and gratuities.

The railway receipts for 1916-17 were larger than those for any previous year, exceeding the receipts for 1915-16 by £249,895, or more than 4 per cent. The passenger fares received in 1916-17 were less than those received in 1915-16 by £42,431 in the case of country passengers, and by £18,519 in the case of metropolitan-suburban passengers. The most notable features in receipts from goods in 1916-17 as compared with the previous year were increases of £317,161 for the carriage of wheat, £31,876 for the carriage of wool, and £30,246 for the carriage of flour, bran, and pollard, and a decrease of £27,697 for the carriage of stone, gravel, and sand. The freight on live stock in 1916-17 was less than that for the previous year by £10,828. There has been an increase in working expenses in recent years, chiefly on account of the improved train facilities, the higher cost of materials, &c., and the better conditions which have been provided for the staff. Abnormal expenditure for the purpose of meeting adverse conditions occasioned by the war, alterations connected with electrification, the relaying of lines with heavier rails, and the allowances to the staff owing to the increased cost of living, amounted to £354,597 in 1916-17 and is included in the working expenses for that year.

Railway
interest
charges
compared
with net
revenue.

The amount of interest on current loans allocated to railways, together with the expenditure incurred by the Treasury in connexion with the payment of such interest, is compared with the net revenue of the Department for the last five years in the following statement:—

RAILWAY INTEREST CHARGES AND EXPENSES AND NET REVENUE, 1912-13 TO 1916-17.

Year.	Interest, &c.	Net Revenue.
	£	£
1912-13	1,595,020	1,617,270
1913-14	1,677,369	1,695,126
1914-15	1,767,807	925,371
1915-16	1,927,107	1,589,155
1916-17	2,012,447	1,674,680

The financial position of the railways in recent years is exhibited by this table, the figures showing that in two out of the last five years there were surpluses after payment of working expenses, pensions and gratuities, special expenditure and interest charges and expenses. The surpluses were £22,250 in 1912-13 and £17,757 in 1913-14. The deficit in 1914-15 was largely the result of the drought of 1914, and the deficits in 1915-16 and 1916-17 were due mainly to special expenditure arising from conditions created by the war, including higher average payments to the staff.

Railway earnings and expenses per mile.

The earnings, expenses, and net profits per mile of railway open for the years ended 30th June, 1913 to 1917, were as follows:—

RAILWAY RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE PER TRAIN MILE, 1912-13 TO 1916-17.

	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.
Average Number of Miles Open for Traffic	3,644	3,752	3,853	3,960	4,109
Gross Earnings per Mile	£ 1,433	£ 1,488	£ 1,345	£ 1,447	£ 1,456
Expenses per Mile ..	989	1,036	1,105	1,046	1,048
Net Profits per Mile	444	452	240	401	408

This table excludes all consideration of the interest payable on railway loans and expenses of paying the same, which are given in the preceding table.

The inventory of the rolling-stock at 30th June, 1917, showed that there were at that time 812 locomotives, 1,612 carriages, 19,270 trucks, and 890 vans and sundry stock, of which 17 locomotives, 34 carriages, 247 trucks, and 5 luggage vans were narrow-gauge stock. The electric railway stock comprised 32 combined cars and trailers. During the year 1916-17, the following new stock (built at the Newport workshops, with the exception of 12 locomotives) was put into service:—25 locomotives, 33 carriages, 370 trucks, and 28 vans. The capital cost of the broad-gauge stock was £10,920,148, of the narrow-gauge £104,474, and of the electric railway stock £48,511.

The number of officers and employees in the railway service and the amount of salaries and wages (including travelling and incidental expenses) paid in each of the last three financial years were as set forth below:—

RAILWAY STAFF—NUMBERS, SALARIES, ETC.

Year.	Number of Employees at end of Year.	Amount of Salaries and Wages Paid during Year.
1914-15	26,577	£ 3,667,251
1915-16	21,819	3,558,893
1916-17	19,591	3,191,516

Figures relating to the Railway Construction Branch, the State Coal Mine, and co-operative labour parties are not included in the above statement, but particulars of the staff on the St. Kilda and Brighton Electric Street Railway are included. The number of employees excludes members of the staff who were absent on service in connexion with the war.

**AMOUNTS PAID IN DAMAGES, CLAIMS, ETC., AND PERSONS KILLED OR INJURED ON
VICTORIAN RAILWAYS: 1907-8 TO 1916-17.**

Year ended 30th June.	Amount Paid on Account of Compensation, Damages, Claims, Costs, &c.	Passengers.				Employees whilst in the execution of their duty.				Employees proceeding to or from duty; Persons at Cross- ings; Trespassers, and Others.		Total.	
		Due to Causes beyond their own Control.		Due wholly or partly to their own Action or Negligence.		Due to Causes beyond their own Control.		Due wholly or partly to their own Action or Negligence.		Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
		Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.				
1908* ...	£ 9,509	45	434	2	203	...	29	6	263	26	41	79	970
1909 ...	128,154*	...	9	5	155	...	12	10	232	30	43	45	451
1910 ...	8,528	...	11	2	101	...	7	6	205	13	29	21	353
1911† ...	146,135	10	526	8	99	...	31	5	148	26	25	49	829
1912 ...	23,100	...	13	9	117	...	44	23	146	35	42	67	362
1913‡ ...	66,694	2	441	5	131	1	15	5	100	23	36	36	723
1914 ...	13,567	...	33	8	199	1	61	11	142	25	38	45	473
1915 ...	14,359	...	40	6	185	2	36	8	104	32	44	48	409
1916 ...	20,766	...	29	11	198	2	28	10	68	31	37	54	360
1917 ...	15,556	...	46	5	133	1	35	4	225	22	26	32	465
Yearly Average ...	44,637	5·7	158·2	6·1	152·1	·7	29·8	8·8	163·3	26·3	36·1	47·6	539·5

* Including Sunshine accident, claims for which were not fully paid on 30th June, 1908.

† Including Richmond accident.

‡ Including West Melbourne accident.

The amounts paid on account of compensation, damages, claims, costs, &c., in each of the last ten years and the number of persons killed or injured in the same years, also the yearly averages for the period are as follows:—

With regard to the payments referred to in the above table, it should be pointed out that for the year ended 30th June, 1908, they only cover cases of passengers where the accidents causing death or injury were "due to causes beyond their own control"; but that for the other nine years they include, in addition thereto, compensation paid on account of injuries sustained by employees whilst on duty, such payments being £2,685 in 1908-9, £4,669 in 1909-10, £7,021 in 1910-11, £9,178 in 1911-12, £4,670 in 1912-13, £5,903 in 1913-14, £7,008 in 1914-15, £17,143 in 1915-16, and £12,925 in 1916-17.

It may be of some interest to examine the probability of accident to passengers. The average annual ratio of those killed or injured, based on the Victorian figures for the last ten years, is compared with the latest available ten years' experience of different countries in the return which follows:—

**AVERAGE ANNUAL NUMBER AND RATIO OF PASSENGERS
KILLED OR INJURED ON THE RAILWAYS IN VICTORIA
AND OTHER COUNTRIES OVER A PERIOD OF TEN YEARS.**

Country.	Average Annual Number of Passengers in 10 years.		Average per Ten Million Passengers carried.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
France	24·2	393·5	·52	8·46
Belgium	12·2	459·9	·69	25·91
Austria	16·1	369·5	·75	17·15
Germany	108·8	546·3	·81	4·09
Holland (The Netherlands) ...	3·7	19·9	·88	4·72
Norway	1·3	1·5	1·09	1·26
Victoria	11·8	310·3	1·15	30·18
New South Wales	8·5	143·8	1·26	21·35
Switzerland	13·0	87·5	1·33	8·98
Japan	22·7	296·3	1·67	21·83
Sweden	8·6	13·9	1·81	2·92
Hungary	24·8	122·1	2·19	10·76
Spain	19·6	92·4	4·62	21·77
United States of America ...	391·9	9,857·5	4·99	125·46
Canada (Steam Railways) ...	37·3	370·1	9·81	97·34
Russia in Europe	165·5	867·8	12·28	64·38

A railway between Kerang and Koondrook, owned and worked by the municipality of the Shire of Kerang, is open for general traffic. This railway, which has a 5 ft. 3 in. gauge, is 13 miles 75 chains in length, and, up to the end of 1916, cost £39,229 for construction and equipment. For the year 1916, the gross

Municipal
railway.

receipts were £2,977, and the working expenses were £2,204. The train mileage for the same year was 18,978 and the passengers carried numbered 9,859.

Another railway in Victoria not belonging to the State system is one of 3-ft. gauge and 12 miles in length between Yarra Junction and Powelltown. It was constructed principally for private use, but, in addition to serving its immediate purpose, does general passenger and goods traffic. Up to 30th September, 1916, the cost of construction was £46,684, and for the year ended on the same date the receipts and working expenses were £3,112 and £3,219 respectively.

A statement of freights, which came into operation on 1st July, 1917, in respect of commodities affecting rural producers, has been supplied by the General Passenger and Freight Agent of the Victorian Railways, and is appended hereto :—

VICTORIAN RAILWAY GOODS RATES.

Commodities.	50	100	150	200	250	300	350
	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Rate per ton.							
Agricultural Produce, in truck loads of 6 tons*	6 2	9 8	11 4	12 8	13 10	14 8	15 8
Dairy Produce, consisting of Butter, Milk, Cream, Cheese, Hams and Bacon (minimum, 1 ton) and Eggs†	10 6	19 2	26 0	32 8	37 2	41 10	46 4
Fresh Fruit	7 0	12 6	16 2	20 0	22 8	25 6	28 6
Fresh Meat, in 5-ton lots; Fencing Wire, in lots of 10 tons and upwards; Woolpacks and Cornsacks, in truck loads of 6 tons	9 2	16 6	21 6	26 6	30 4	34 0	37 10
Poultry†	14 8	26 6	36 2	45 6	51 8	58 2	64 6
Wool†	18 9	37 0	47 6	54 3	61 3	68 0	75 0
Agricultural Machinery and Implements, Binder Twine†	20 3	39 6	58 9	73 0	87 6	97 3	106 9
Fencing Wire, in truck loads of 6 tons	13 0	24 6	36 0	44 9	53 0	57 3	61 6
Wire Netting, in truck loads of 6 tons	4 8	8 4	11 8	13 6	15 8	17 6	19 2
Manures, in 6-ton lots	3 2	4 8	5 10	7 0	8 2	9 4	9 10
Rate per truck.							
Live Stock	44 6	86 0	100 6	132 0	164 6	196 6	229 0

* Agricultural Produce includes Wheat, Oats, Barley, Maize, Beet, Onions, Hay, Straw, Chaff, compressed Fodder, Flour, Bran, Pollard, Peas, Potatoes, Sharps, Molasses and Treacle for cattle food (on declaration), Pigs' Food, unrefined Salt, and Malt, also Wine, Fruit, Jams, Jellies, Sauces, and Pickles, if produced in the Commonwealth and consigned direct for export.

† These commodities are subject to the Tariff for "Smalls," and when consigned in lots up to 3 cwt., the charges are slightly higher than *pro rata* of the tonnage rates.

Fares on
Victorian
Railways.

A summary of passenger fares, as increased on 1st July, 1917, has also been obtained from the same source

VICTORIAN RAILWAY PASSENGER FARES.

Distance.	Single.		Return.			
	1st Class.	2nd Class.	1st Class.	2nd Class.	1st Class Holiday Excursion.	2nd Class Holiday Excursion.
Miles.	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
50 ..	8 10	6 0	14 6	9 10	11 10	7 10
100 ..	17 6	11 8	29 0	19 4	23 6	16 0
150 ..	26 2	17 6	43 6	29 0	35 4	23 6
200 ..	34 8	23 2	57 10	38 6	46 8	31 2
250 ..	43 6	29 0	72 4	48 4	58 6	39 0
300 ..	51 8	34 4	85 8	57 4	70 2	46 8
350 ..	59 6	39 8	98 10	66 0	81 8	54 8

Cheap excursion tickets, at the rate of 2d. per mile for first class return and 1½d. per mile for second class return, are issued to and from Melbourne and the various country stations as may be advertised from time to time.

From the 15th November to the 30th April each year return tickets are issued to the various seaside and mountainous district resorts from all stations throughout Victoria at holiday excursion fares, and are available for two months from date of issue.

TRAMWAYS.

The various tramway systems in the State comprise 45·927 miles of cable lines, double track; 84·14 miles of electric lines, of which 48·2 miles are double, and 35·94 miles single track; ·625 of a mile of horse-line, double track, and a steam tramway of 1 mile, double track.

The towns other than the metropolis having tramway systems which are represented in these figures are:—Ballarat, with 13·85 miles of electric lines; Bendigo, with 8·113 miles of electric lines; Geelong, with 4·9 miles of electric lines; and Sorrento, with 1 mile of steam tramway.

The electric street railway, St. Kilda to Brighton, under the management of the Victorian Railways Commissioners, is not referred to in this connexion, being included under the heading Railways.

The following table contains a summary of particulars relating to all tramways in Victoria :--

VICTORIAN TRAMWAYS, 1912-13 TO 1916-17.

Financial Year.	Tram Mileage.	Passengers Carried.	Traffic Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Rolling Stock.	Persons Employed.
			£	£		
1912-13	14,747,353	106,952,134	888,240	596,246	1,160	2,524
1913-14	15,225,665	112,814,550	933,979	624,154	1,191	2,559
1914-15	15,852,348	116,118,517	948,543	607,761	1,217	2,709
1915-16	16,188,674	127,550,994	1,037,681	626,306	1,247	2,958
1916-17	17,900,697	148,484,311	1,154,998	689,888	1,267	3,157

Tramway Board tramways.

The sub-surface cable tramways were held by the Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company under lease, which expired on 1st July, 1916, and were constructed by the Melbourne Tramway Trust under authority of Parliament, Act No. 47 Vict. No. 765. The Trust was composed of representatives of all the municipalities in the streets of which tramways were authorized to be constructed under the Act referred to. On the security of the municipal properties and revenues and of the tramways the Trust issued debentures, at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., for £1,650,000, for which it received £1,705,794 in cash. The obligations of the company which leased the tramways were to provide its own rolling-stock, keep the tramways in repair and hand the same over to the Trust at the expiration of the lease, pay the interest on the money borrowed by the Trust, and contribute to a sinking fund for the extinction of the Trust's loan. On 1st July, 1914, £1,200,000 of the Trust's debentures fell due and were redeemed, leaving a balance of £450,000, which matured and was paid off on 1st July, 1916.

Under authority of the Tramway Board Acts, the Melbourne Tramways Trust was dissolved on 1st March, 1916, and a Board created, consisting of five members nominated by the Government, to take over and operate the undertaking from 1st July, 1916, to 31st October, 1918, or such earlier date as may be proclaimed by the Governor in Council. The Board is authorized to borrow up to £500,000 for the purposes of the Act, and to finance the amount required to purchase such property, car houses, cars, &c., of the Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company Limited as may be

necessary to carry on the undertaking. The amount of the compensation was fixed at £335,000 by His Honor Mr. Justice Cussen, who had been appointed arbitrator by the Governor in Council, but this award has been appealed against to the Privy Council. Surplus profits, which are paid to the State Savings Bank, are to be used to pay the aforementioned compensation, and to repay any moneys borrowed by the Board, and are to be applied in such other manner as is directed by any Act of Parliament hereafter enacted. The surplus profits at 31st October, 1917, amounted to about £490,000.

The following table has been compiled from information furnished by the secretary of the Tramway Board :—

TRAMWAYS OF THE TRAMWAY BOARD, 1907-8 TO
1916-17.

Year ended 30th June.	Tram Mileage.	Passengers Carried.	Traffic Receipts.
1908	9,810,808	63,954,512	£ 545,269
1909	9,856,345	66,522,463	565,601
1910	10,010,975	68,695,853	581,390
1911	10,636,440	76,295,825	644,187
1912	11,313,212	84,926,712	715,524
1913	11,839,473	89,359,248	751,092
1914	12,056,510	91,438,777	766,426
1915	11,887,462	87,707,934	734,177
1916	11,977,916	96,290,131	807,356
1917	12,423,929	103,118,377	841,784

The length of lines open on 30th June, 1917, comprised 43·677 miles of double track cable tramway, and ·625 of a mile of double track horse tramway. The cables are driven by steam power generated at eleven engine houses situated at various points upon the routes, and an average of about 5,000 horse-power is in daily use. The average speed of cars between termini, including stops, is 8·986 miles per hour. The rolling-stock consists of 1,064 dummies and trailers, which are housed at fifteen car depôts. The traffic of 1916-17 eclipsed that of any former year and, compared with 1915-16, showed increases of 446,013 in tram mileage, 6,828,246 in number of passengers carried, and £34,428 in traffic receipts.

In addition to the lines of the Tramway Board, there are within or on the fringe of the metropolitan area 57·282 miles of electric tramways (44·215 miles being double track and 13·067 miles single track), and 2½ miles of cable tramways (double track). These tramways and their mileage are as follows:—The North Melbourne-Essendon electric lines, 7·117 miles; the Prahran and Malvern electric lines, 32·058 miles; the Hawthorn electric lines, 11·175 miles; the Brunswick and Coburg electric lines, 6·932 miles; and the Northcote Municipal cable line, 2½ miles. Particulars of their traffic are given in the following statement:—

OTHER METROPOLITAN TRAMWAYS.

Financial Year.	Miles of Track.	Tram Mileage.	Passengers Carried.	Traffic Receipts.
1912-13	27·776	1,558,731	10,873,564	£ 73,955
1913-14	33·851	1,839,555	14,414,803	101,090
1914-15	40·9	2,644,574	21,841,246	151,806
1915-16	51·358	2,993,379	25,222,802	172,399
1916-17	59·532	4,280,404	39,296,747	253,907

Country tramways.

In 1917 there were in country towns 26·863 miles of electric tramways and 1 mile of steam tramway, of which the traffic particulars for the last five financial years are given below:—

TRAMWAYS IN COUNTRY TOWNS.

Financial Year.	Miles of Track.	Tram Mileage.	Passengers Carried.	Traffic Receipts.
1912-13	28·423	1,349,149	6,719,322	£ 63,193
1913-14	27·863	1,329,600	6,960,970	66,463
1914-15	27·863	1,320,312	6,569,337	62,560
1915-16	27·863	1,217,379	6,038,061	57,926
1916-17	27·863	1,196,364	6,069,187	59,307

LICENSED VEHICLES.

Licensed vehicles in Melbourne. The licensing of vehicles plying, kept, or let out for hire within the city of Melbourne or for a distance of 8 miles beyond the city boundaries is controlled by the Melbourne City Council. The appended statement gives details of vehicles and drivers licensed annually during the last five years:—

LICENSED VEHICLES IN MELBOURNE, 1912 TO 1916.

	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
<i>For Passenger Traffic.</i>					
Cabs (4 wheel)	527	517	537	577	527
" (Hansoms)	251	237	231	211	178
Omnibuses	11	9	18	6	9
Tram Cars	432	432	432	432	407
" Dummies	389	389	389	389	414
Motor Cars	17	25	57	212	232
" Omnibuses	12	43	63	69	33
Total	1,639	1,652	1,727	1,896	1,800
<i>For Conveyance of Goods.</i>					
Drivers licensed	2,643	2,534	2,522	2,199	2,373

Motor cars, &c. The use of motor cars and motor cycles in Victoria is regulated by Act No. 2702, under the provisions of which every motor car and motor cycle must be registered with the Chief Commissioner of Police, and the registration renewed annually. On 31st December, 1916, the number of motor cars registered was 10,713, on which fees were fixed at the following annual rates:—113 at six guineas each, 522 at five guineas each, 5,911 at four guineas each, 2,822 at three guineas each, 1,128 at two guineas each, and 217 at one guinea each. On the same date, 8,123 motor cycles, which are subject to an annual fee of 5s. each, and 372 traction engines were registered. No person may drive a motor car or motor cycle upon any public highway without having been licensed for that purpose. On 31st December, 1916, the number of drivers of motor cars and motor cycles licensed by the Chief Commissioner was 21,634. There were also 69 dealers registered.