

ACCUMULATION.

PRIVATE WEALTH.

The returns of the Probate Office provide a means whereby an estimate may be made of the private wealth of the people. The returns for the years 1908-11 were adopted as the basis of an estimate made in 1912, and this estimate was amended in the year 1915 so as to allow for the experience of the six-year period 1908-13. The procedure adopted in the later year was to tabulate according to age at death the net amount of property left by deceased persons during the six years mentioned. The totals for these years were divided by the numbers of deaths occurring in the community at the respective ages, and the results were multiplied by the numbers living at those ages according to the 1911 census. The assumption involved was that persons surviving and persons dying at any age would on the average have the same average amount of wealth. By summarizing the amounts of wealth pertaining to the different ages obtained in the manner described and making the adjustments referred to below, the total for all persons in the community was arrived at.

The values of estates used in the calculations were the net amounts on which duty was paid, liabilities being deducted. It must be kept in view that the wealth represented by the estimate is the private wealth "in" the State, and not that "of" the State. Probates, &c., of persons dying out of the State, leaving property in the State, are included in the figures quoted; but, on the other hand, many Victorians have large interests, pastoral, mining, and other, in the other States, which are not included.

In dealing with a problem of this nature there are so many disturbing elements that scientific accuracy is not possible. Of these elements the most obvious is that probates or letters of administration are taken out in respect of about 25 per cent. only of the persons who die each year in Victoria. The amounts left by the remaining 75 per cent., while small in the case of the individual, may in the aggregate amount to a considerable sum. It must be remembered, however, that in comparatively few cases where the amount of the estate exceeds £100 will it fail to come under the notice of the probate officers, and that the great majority of children, as well as many other persons, leave practically no property. After taking into account these considerations, it would seem that property belonging to the poorer classes of the community will be small in proportion to the total, and that an allowance can be made therefor.

The statement has been made from time to time by authorities who have dealt with this subject that results based on probate returns

will be defective to some extent through a number of persons having disposed by settlement of the whole or a portion of their wealth before death. According to the law of this State, the payment of duty will not be evaded by a settlement of this nature unless it be absolute, and be made at least twelve months before death. For this and other reasons it is considered that in Victoria the disposal of estates during lifetime would not have a very important effect on the estimate at the date at which it was made.

The omission from consideration of the above two items would lead to an understatement of the wealth. On the other hand, there is an over-estimation of the amount held by life assurance companies on account of their policy-holders. The amount so held is the reserve value of the policies, not the full sum assured, as is implied by the method of computation adopted.

It is probable that the rate of mortality among persons having property is below that prevailing in the general community, and that it will approximate to the rate among assured lives. Calculations have been made with the view of ascertaining to what extent the amount of private wealth owned by males, as estimated from the probate returns and the death rates in the community, would be increased, if it were assumed that the rates of mortality at the different ages were similar to those shown in the published experience of the Australian Mutual Provident Society for the years 1849-1903.

Considerable sums have been lent on mortgage on Victorian property or invested in Victorian enterprises by companies and individuals in Britain and elsewhere. In the majority of cases where an investor does not reside in Victoria, and where on his decease his estate will not be dealt with by the Victorian Probate Office, it is probable that he has no personal interest in the State. In such cases it seems right that the amount of the investment should not be regarded as forming portion of the wealth of the State, the more especially as it is likely to be included in any estimate of wealth which may be prepared for the country in which the investor resides. On the other hand, shares held by Victorians in companies which are registered in Victoria, but whose operations are confined entirely to other States and countries, may fairly be regarded as Victorian assets, and as constituting a portion of the wealth of the community.

An estimate of the wealth in Victoria based on the figures for the six years 1908-13 was first given in the *Year-Book* for 1914-15. If it be assumed that the unadjusted probate returns of those years afforded a suitable basis for the estimation of such wealth, that the mortality rates amongst male property-owners were below those relating to all males in the community and corresponded with the rates for assured lives as given in the published experience of the Australian Mutual Provident Society, and that the rates amongst female property-owners were also lower than in the general population, though not to the same extent as those relating to the other sex, the percentage addition to the value of their property due to this being only about one

half of that adopted in the case of males, the private wealth in Victoria for the year 1911 was about £292,000,000, or approximately 38 times the average annual amount left by deceased persons.

It has been shown that calculations based on probate returns require adjustment, and that allowance must be made for small estates, as well as for other property which does not come under the notice of the Probate Office. The extent to which the figures were affected by the necessary alterations and additions could not be stated exactly, but from the information available it was assumed that the net result was to increase the estimate derived from the probate returns by about £28,000,000, and thus to make the amount of private wealth in the State about £320,000,000.

The following statement shows the private wealth existing in Victoria in 1911 according to the assumptions made. Estimates on a similar basis are given for the other Australian States; but, in the absence of detailed information as to the amounts left by deceased persons at different ages, it has not been possible to attain the same degree of accuracy in preparing these as in the case of the Victorian wealth.

PRIVATE WEALTH IN AUSTRALIAN STATES, 1911.

State.	Estates of Deceased Persons. Net Amount. (1908-13.)	Adults at Census, 1911.	Private Wealth.	
			Total.	Per Head of Population.
	£		£	£
Victoria	46,409,937	752,607	320,000,000	243
New South Wales	54,767,000*	921,731	450,000,000	278
Queensland	10,635,000*	329,091	86,000,000	142
South Australia	12,466,000*	232,625	99,000,000	241
Western Australia	4,530,000*	166,812	42,000,000	149
Tasmania	4,339,000*	100,895	34,000,000	178
Total	133,146,937	2,503,761	1,031,000,000	231

*Estimated.

The above represents private wealth only. There is, in addition, a very large amount of property not owned by persons in their individual capacities, such as Crown lands, Government and municipal property, churches, charitable institutions, club property, &c.

In a paper read before the Royal Statistical Society in 1915, Mr. Bernard Mallet, C.B., and Mr. H. C. Strutt suggested that in estimating the private wealth of the United Kingdom a multiplier of 30 should be applied to the average annual amount left by deceased persons. The difference between this multiplier and that resulting from the method under which the Victorian estimate was obtained is partly accounted for by the lower death rate prevailing in Victoria. If the multiplier suggested by Messrs. Mallet and Strutt be applied to the value of estates of persons who died in the United Kingdom during 1914 the product will be about £11,000,000,000, or £238 per head

of the population. The amount of wealth would probably differ somewhat from this for reasons similar to those mentioned above in connexion with Victoria.

Diffusion of wealth. The diffusion of wealth appears to be wider in Victoria and South Australia than in the other States of Australia, judging by the number of probates or letters of administration granted in proportion to adult deaths. The following are the number of persons who died leaving property as shown by the probate returns, the number of adult deaths, and the proportion of the former to the latter for the six years 1908-1913. The persons leaving wealth include those under 21 years of age and absentees. These form only a small percentage of the total in Victoria, but are necessarily included, as details of such persons for the other States are not available:—

DIFFUSION OF WEALTH IN AUSTRALIAN STATES, 1908-1913.

	Deaths of Adults.	Estates Proved.	
		Number.	Number per 1,000 Deaths of Adults.
Victoria	67,305	26,224	390
New South Wales	69,471	20,531	296
Queensland	25,136	4,338	173
South Australia	18,062	6,937	384
Western Australia	11,078	3,076	277
Tasmania	7,921	2,361	298

It is thus shown that the cases where persons were possessed of accumulated property in respect of which it was found necessary to obtain probate or letters of administration in the six years 1908 to 1913 were equivalent to more than one-third of the adult deaths in Victoria and South Australia, and more than one-fourth of such deaths in New South Wales, Tasmania, and Western Australia in those years. An allowance should be made for the number of probates sealed of persons dying out of the State. It is estimated that a deduction of 5 per cent. from the number of estates would cover this.

Property left by deceased persons. The accompanying table shows, in various age groups, the number and value of estates of deceased persons of either sex in connexion with which probate or letters of administration were granted during 1916, also the average amount left by each person whose estate passed through the Probate Office, and by each person dying, and the amount of duty collected on the estates. The resident adults who left property at death in 1916 numbered 5,011, the sex distribution being 3,376 males, or 52 per cent. of male deaths over the age of 21 years, and 1,635 females, or 29 per cent. of adult female deaths. The average value of estates left by males is 57 per cent. more than that of estates left by females. It appears that the average wealth of deceased persons in 1916 reached

its maximum in the age group 80 to 90 in the case of males and in the age group 60 to 70 in the case of females. In the estates dealt with during the last three years wills were made by a larger proportion of females than of males, while in 1912 and 1913 wills made by males were proportionately more numerous.

ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS IN AGE GROUPS, 1916.

Age at Death.	Estates.		Value of Estates.					Amount of Duty.
	Total Number.	Percentage Intestate.	Gross.		Net—after deducting Liabilities.			
			Real.	Personal.	Real and Personal.	Average to each Estate.	Average Deaths in Victoria in each Age Group.	
MALES.								
			£	£	£	£	£	£
Under 15 years..	1	100·0	..	312	312	312	0·14	7
15 to 21 " ..	80	91·2	3,607	9,553	12,032	150	62	147
21 to 30 " ..	548	66·1	31,073	157,153	163,688	299	400	4,775
30 to 40 " ..	319	56·4	120,901	146,045	177,313	556	372	3,997
40 to 50 " ..	317	42·9	276,000	242,674	373,628	1,179	501	13,121
50 to 60 " ..	521	32·2	544,401	783,952	1,072,491	2,059	884	55,725
60 to 70 " ..	522	29·7	568,294	776,926	1,141,757	2,187	1,019	56,073
70 to 80 " ..	612	19·3	916,484	940,285	1,601,900	2,617	1,211	86,000
80 to 90 " ..	494	13·0	912,256	1,184,866	1,942,942	3,933	1,779	126,811
90 years and upwards ..	43	11·6	43,032	30,106	70,769	1,646	571	2,234
Absentees ..	249	34·9	51,386	271,564	308,550	1,239	..	16,102
Total Males	3,706*	36·4	3,467,434	4,543,436	6,865,382	1,853	737	364,992
FEMALES.								
			£	£	£	£	£	£
Under 15 years..	1	100·0	25	..	25	25	0·14	..
15 to 21 " ..	2	100·0	..	450	450	225	2	11
21 to 30 " ..	32	87·5	6,567	12,856	17,147	536	36	410
30 to 40 " ..	84	63·1	20,916	22,481	35,936	428	78	1,019
40 to 50 " ..	171	48·0	65,320	66,034	107,546	629	171	3,138
50 to 60 " ..	261	39·9	137,441	119,678	216,026	828	258	7,566
60 to 70 " ..	292	29·5	258,995	284,988	495,287	1,696	567	30,385
70 to 80 " ..	481	20·4	298,671	404,952	650,697	1,353	535	29,704
80 to 90 " ..	268	16·4	101,269	263,475	400,581	1,495	433	17,368
90 years and upwards ..	46	17·4	18,817	27,720	44,936	977	326	1,230
Absentees ..	104	24·0	20,818	71,942	83,468	803	..	2,894
Total Females	1,742	30·5	988,839	1,274,076	2,052,099	1,178	259	93,725
Total Males and Females 1916	5,448	34·5	4,456,273	5,817,512	8,917,481	1,637	517	458,717
1915	4,449	34·4	4,360,810	5,648,622	8,759,728	1,969	523	490,072
1914	4,451	30·3	4,296,796	5,300,293	8,481,720	1,906	485	450,499
1913	4,483	31·1	4,795,160	4,808,431	8,367,862	1,867	526	433,592
1912	4,585	31·4	4,606,715	5,116,530	8,533,502	1,861	469	445,628
1911	4,614	31·1	4,905,399	4,835,480	8,469,163	1,836	524	444,270
1910	4,128	30·6	3,977,173	4,518,071	7,430,949	1,800	477	377,923
1909	4,069	30·0	3,771,483	4,034,100	6,480,376	1,593	449	344,592
1908	4,345	29·7	4,109,944	4,274,422	7,128,085	1,641	452	407,463

* Including 788 estates of soldiers who were killed in action. These estates are distributed in age groups as follows:—70 between 15 and 21; 453 between 21 and 30; 170 between 30 and 40; 27 between 40 and 50; and 3 between 50 and 60; those of 65 soldiers whose ages could not be ascertained are included in "absentees."

The numbers and values of estates dealt with in each of the last four years, grouped according to value, and distinguishing estates of males from those of females, are as follows:—

NUMBER AND VALUE OF ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS, 1913 TO 1916.

Value.	1913.		1914.		1915.		1916.	
	Number.	Net Value.	Number.	Net Value.	Number.	Net Value.	Number.	Net Value.
MALES.								
		£		£		£		£.
Under £100 ..	429	20,572	389	16,785	489	18,929	779	31,183.
£100 to £300 ..	608	117,843	542	108,401	640	121,903	811	154,304
£300 to £500 ..	381	148,907	367	146,497	363	142,222	464	181,288.
£500 to £1,000 ..	445	316,763	451	328,878	443	316,511	548	394,465.
£1,000 to £2,000 ..	301	555,510	408	579,208	384	557,381	447	640,848.
£2,000 to £3,000 ..	183	446,266	167	411,983	179	442,847	180	447,720.
£3,000 to £4,000 ..	100	343,034	99	343,146	94	325,072	127	444,314
£4,000 to £5,000 ..	77	344,448	75	335,843	73	327,494	87	390,200.
£5,000 to £10,000 ..	170	1,183,292	155	1,077,751	155	1,046,374	145	1,005,715
£10,000 to £15,000 ..	54	651,890	55	666,624	51	620,639	44	528,468
£15,000 to £25,000 ..	20	375,681	27	484,594	20	385,425	47	916,848
£25,000 to £50,000 ..	17	585,051	21	724,040	16	562,452	16	514,006
£50,000 to £100,000 ..	6	453,999	7	445,105	3	204,009	6	412,304
Over £100,000 ..	6	1,188,136	5	954,213	9	1,888,141	5	803,759
Total Males ..	2,887	6,730,202	2,768	6,617,958	2,919	6,959,399	3,706	6,865,382
FEMALES.								
		£		£		£		£.
Under £100 ..	242	12,830	266	12,810	251	11,611	287	14,696
£100 to £300 ..	441	84,187	426	80,955	426	81,108	472	88,649
£300 to £500 ..	243	95,122	281	108,835	245	95,525	280	109,721
£500 to £1,000 ..	817	228,488	865	216,112	253	176,563	282	206,486
£1,000 to £2,000 ..	186	266,933	213	296,187	188	267,302	221	318,297
£2,000 to £3,000 ..	62	152,774	73	181,979	62	148,753	76	186,832
£3,000 to £4,000 ..	29	100,100	36	128,333	35	121,540	37	128,482
£4,000 to £5,000 ..	13	58,979	18	81,179	9	39,992	23	103,724
£5,000 to £10,000 ..	48	235,056	38	262,733	39	263,601	41	290,463
£10,000 to £15,000 ..	11	188,790	15	181,941	6	77,452	6	69,186
£15,000 to £25,000 ..	5	90,460	8	170,901	10	186,276	11	213,247
£25,000 to £50,000 ..	4	123,941	4	143,797	3	161,956	4	130,114
£50,000 to £100,000 ..	..	..	..	..	2	122,233	1	53,766
Over £100,000 ..	..	..	..	..	1	106,418	1	138,637
Total Females ..	1,596	1,637,660	1,633	1,863,762	1,530	1,800,329	1,742	2,052,099
GRAND TOTAL ..	4,483	8,367,862	4,451	8,481,720	4,449	8,759,728	5,448	8,917,481

Compared with the returns for 1915, the figures for 1916 show, in estates of females, an increase of 14 per cent. in both the number and the value, while in estates of males there is an increase of 27 per cent. in the number but a reduction of a little more than 1 per cent. in the value.

The following figures prove that the economic conditions prevalent in Victoria during the last thirty-eight years have led to a wide and growing diffusion of wealth amongst the people:—

Period.				Percentage of Adults who died leaving Estates which went through the Probate Office.
				Yearly Average.
1879-83	...	...	...	22.6
1884-88	...	...	...	25.9
1889-93	...	...	...	30.3
1894-98	...	...	...	33.3
1899-1903	...	...	...	36.7
1904	...	...	...	37.3
1905	...	...	...	36.8
1906	...	...	...	37.4
1907	...	...	...	38.6
1908	...	...	...	37.2
1909	...	...	...	37.1
1910	...	...	...	37.1
1911	...	...	...	39.3
1912	...	...	...	37.2
1913	...	...	...	38.7
1914	...	...	...	37.1
1915	...	...	...	36.7
1916	...	...	...	37.4

RATEABLE PROPERTY: TOTAL AND GROUND VALUES.

The whole of Victoria, with the exception of French Island, being divided into municipalities for the purposes of local government, the value of real property, based on the municipal valuations, can be given with some degree of accuracy

Rateable property.

Returns are obtained annually from each city, town, borough, and shire; and the following figures show the net annual rateable value and the capital value estimated by the municipalities over a series of years:—

RATEABLE PROPERTY: ANNUAL AND CAPITAL VALUES, 1880 TO 1917.

Year ended 30th Sept.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Year ended 30th Sept.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.	
	Annual.	Capital.		Annual.	Capital.
	£	£		£	£
1880 ...	7,117,946	83,947,418	1899 ...	10,134,108	168,456,523
1881 ...	7,175,289	87,642,459	1900 ...	10,283,500	169,911,900
1882 ...	7,433,812	91,792,547	1901 ...	10,537,497	174,141,754
1883 ...	7,692,706	95,610,959	1902 ...	10,885,087	185,101,993
1884 ...	8,098,814	103,795,832	1903 ...	11,188,932	203,902,919
1885 ...	8,793,490	114,283,570	1904 ...	11,437,830	209,143,730
1886 ...	9,621,135	125,878,748	1905 ...	11,743,270	210,920,174
1887 ...	10,153,771	137,885,701	1906 ...	11,795,143	216,615,624
1888 ...	11,913,473	167,385,210	1907 ...	12,174,325	222,598,041
1889 ...	12,931,526	187,553,511	1908 ...	12,638,900	232,725,666
1890 ...	13,265,543	194,313,646	1909 ...	13,123,958	242,688,771
1891 ...	13,733,770	203,351,360	1910 ...	13,564,488	252,006,613
1892 ...	13,605,990	197,366,940	1911 ...	14,225,309	265,083,727
1893 ...	12,779,600	189,461,350	1912 ...	14,774,660	275,078,517
1894 ...	11,676,079	174,984,851	1913 ...	15,423,445	287,872,434
1895 ...	10,641,200	167,197,780	1914 ...	16,046,159	301,917,636
1896 ...	10,393,000	168,427,700	1915 ...	16,735,978	314,610,747
1897 ...	10,345,535	171,253,984	1916 ...	16,942,062	318,960,116
1898 ...	10,152,509	168,611,906	1917 ...	17,319,418	326,415,110

It will be observed from the table that there has been a steady increase each year since 1899 in the annual value of rateable property, as estimated by the municipalities. The capital values given are not to be relied upon for purposes of accurate comparison. The great bulk of the municipalities capitalize the net annual value on a 5 per cent. basis; but 20 per cent. of them assume the capital value to be much less in proportion to the annual value, some estimating from 18 down to as low as 8 years' purchase, whilst in one case 7 years' purchase is given as the capital value. Twenty years' purchase is adopted by twelve of the metropolitan municipalities, one adopts 18 years', one 16½ years', four 15 years', one 12½ years', and two 12 years' purchase; whilst of thirty country towns, twelve adopt 20 years', one 17 years', three 15 years', one 14 years', two 12½ years', four 12 years', six 10 years', and one 7 years' purchase as the capital value. Of the 139 shires, 128 adopt a basis of 20 years' purchase and of the others one adopts 16 years', five 15 years', one 12½ years' one 12 years', two 10 years', and one 8 years' purchase.

Landed
property,
capital and
ground values.

The following is an estimate for the last eleven years of the capital value of land with and without improvements, the latter of which is commonly called the unimproved value, but should more correctly be termed the ground value:—

VALUE OF LAND WITH AND WITHOUT IMPROVEMENTS,
1906-7 to 1916-17.

Year.	Annual Rateable Value.	Capital Value with Improvements.	Unimproved or Ground Value.
Urban.			
	£	£	£
1906-7	5,779,231	100,801,295	50,400,647
1907-8	5,944,691	103,666,178	51,833,089
1908-9	6,080,447	106,149,960	53,074,980
1909-10	6,232,091	108,863,963	54,431,981
1910-11	6,508,534	114,113,507	57,056,753
1911-12	6,804,697	119,400,893	59,700,446
1912-13	7,270,972	127,743,501	63,871,750
1913-14	7,790,654	137,649,219	68,824,609
1914-15	8,218,040	147,205,224	73,602,612
1915-16	8,335,553	149,235,137	74,617,568
1916-17	8,587,302	154,105,571	77,052,785
Rural.			
	£	£	£
1906-7	6,395,094	121,797,646	81,199,431
1907-8	6,694,209	129,059,488	86,039,659
1908-9	7,043,511	136,538,811	91,025,874
1909-10	7,332,397	143,142,655	95,428,437
1910-11	7,716,775	150,970,220	100,646,814
1911-12	7,969,963	155,677,624	103,785,083
1912-13	8,152,473	160,128,933	106,752,622
1913-14	8,255,505	164,268,467	109,512,311
1914-15	8,517,938	167,405,523	111,603,682
1915-16	8,606,509	169,724,979	113,149,986
1916-17	8,732,116	172,309,539	114,873,026
Total.			
	£	£	£
1906-7	12,174,325	222,598,941	131,599,078
1907-8	12,638,900	232,725,666	137,872,748
1908-9	13,123,958	242,688,771	144,100,854
1909-10	13,564,488	252,006,618	149,860,418
1910-11	14,225,309	265,083,727	157,703,567
1911-12	14,774,660	275,078,517	163,485,529
1912-13	15,423,445	287,872,434	170,624,372
1913-14	16,046,159	301,917,686	178,336,920
1914-15	16,735,978	314,610,747	185,206,294
1915-16	16,942,062	318,960,116	187,767,554
1916-17	17,319,418	326,415,110	191,925,811

Improvements are estimated at one-half in the case of urban and one-third in the case of rural properties, which are about the proportions that are found to prevail in New Zealand, according to the valuations of the Valuer-General revised to 1915. If the Victorian estimate were based upon the New Zealand proportion, without distinguishing urban and rural properties, the ground value in 1916-17 would be about £202,938,000, which is approximate to the above estimate.

ROYAL MINT.

The Melbourne branch of the Royal Mint was established in 1872, the date of opening being the 12th June. The following table shows for the period 1872 to 1912 and for each of the last four years the quantity of gold received at the Mint, where the same was raised, and its coining value; also the gold coin and bullion issued during the same periods:—

ROYAL MINT RETURNS, 1872 TO 1916.

Gold Received.	1872 to 1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
<i>Gross Weight.</i>					
Raised in Victoria ... oz.	25,812,121	481,558	433,681	361,309	271,059
" New Zealand ..	3,676,231	62,960	36,464	36,094	5,560
" Western Australia ..	2,893,140	6,771	6,227	9,220	12,137
" elsewhere ..	2,633,241	56,166	47,470	80,572	76,093
Total	35,019,733	607,455	523,842	487,195	364,849
Coinage Value	£ 137,877,195	2,358,854	2,038,814	1,904,570	1,364,164
<i>Gold Issued.</i>					
Coin—					
Sovereigns ... No.	126,632,340	2,323,180	2,012,029	1,637,839	1,273,643
Half-Sovereigns	1,767,895	...	...	125,664	...
Bullion—Quantity ... oz.	2,479,163	9,356	7,037	48,759	23,414
" Value	£ 10,363,163	37,085	27,458	203,037	92,061
Total value, Coin and Bullion	£ 137,879,450	2,360,265	2,039,487	1,903,708	1,365,704

Since the opening of the Mint 37,003,074 ounces of gold have been received thereat, the coinage value, at £3 17s. 10½d. per ounce standard, being £145,543,597, thus averaging £3 18s. 8d. per ounce gross. Of the total quantity of gold received at the Mint, 27,359,728 ounces were raised in Victoria, 3,817,309 ounces in New Zealand, and 2,927,495 ounces in Western Australia. The average value of Victorian gold received at the Mint during the year 1916 was £3 19s. 2d. per ounce gross, £3 19s. 1d. being the value of the gold and 1d. the value of the silver contained therein. The output of the Mint since its establishment has consisted of 133,879,031 sovereigns, 1,893,559 half-sovereigns, and 2,567,729 ounces of gold bullion; the total value of coin and bullion being £145,548,614.

BANKING.

By Act No. 18 of 1911, the Parliament of the Commonwealth Bank. wealth established a Commonwealth Bank, with power (a) to carry on the general business of banking; (b) to acquire and hold land on any tenure; (c) to receive money on deposit; (d) to make advances by way of loan, overdraft, or otherwise; (e) to discount bills and drafts; (f) to issue bills and drafts, and grant letters of credit; (g) to deal in exchanges, specie, bullion, gold-dust, assayed gold, and precious metals; (h) to borrow money; and (i) to do anything incidental to any of its powers. The capital of the bank, which is raised by the issue of debentures, was by Act No. 24 of 1914 increased from £1,000,000 to £10,000,000. The appointment of the Governor of the bank dates from 1st June, 1912, and the original Act came into operation by proclamation on the 15th of the following month. The Savings Bank department of the bank commenced business on the latter date, and the general banking department on 20th January, 1913.

The Head Office of the Bank is located in Sydney, and it has twenty-nine Branches established throughout the various States of the Commonwealth, one in London, one at Tidworth (Salisbury Plain), and one at Rabaul (New Britain).

The Savings Bank Department is conducted at all Branches and at 2,700 Post Offices in the Commonwealth, Papua, New Britain, and the Solomon Islands.

The institutions engaged in the ordinary business of banking on 31st December, 1916, were seventeen in number. These are cheque-paying banks, but there are other institutions such as Savings Banks, Deposit and Mortgage Banks, and Building Societies which receive deposits and make advances, but do not come within the scope of the present subject. Of the Deposit and Mortgage Banks no particulars are available, but information regarding Savings Banks and Building Societies will be found elsewhere in this part.

The following return shows the assets and liabilities within Victoria and the capital and profits of the cheque-paying banks at 31st December, in each year 1912 to 1916, except that particulars of the Commonwealth Bank, the Ballarat Banking Company, and the Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris are not included for the year 1912. The particulars of the Commonwealth Bank include the balances of the Savings Bank department of that institution, as it issues one general statement only of assets and liabilities.

VICTORIAN BANKING RETURNS, 1912 TO 1916.

	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
LIABILITIES WITHIN VICTORIA.					
Deposits bearing interest ¹	£ 30,316,863	£ 31,582,236	£ 32,668,387	£ 32,859,239	£ 33,639,033
Deposits not bearing interest	16,941,185	17,103,885	18,228,149	21,180,863	25,563,798
Notes in circulation ...	138,639	117,821	109,476	103,568	98,934
Other ...	439,365	451,274	813,644	1,669,565	893,867
Total ...	47,836,052	49,255,216	51,819,656	55,813,235	60,195,632
ASSETS WITHIN VICTORIA.					
Coin, Bullion, &c. ...	7,321,292	8,968,778	8,701,403	6,713,122	5,826,880
Australian Notes ...	1,011,430	962,659	2,182,114	7,909,446	9,271,347
Debts due to Banks ²	38,538,647	37,242,982	38,267,480	41,245,334	45,141,466
Property ...	1,614,084	1,578,383	1,537,072	1,506,553	1,485,616
Other ...	1,058,431	1,582,618	1,307,998	2,074,952	1,709,816
Total ...	49,543,884	50,335,420	51,996,067	59,449,407	63,435,125
CAPITAL AND PROFITS.					
Capital stock paid up	14,529,735	23,677,252	25,074,076	25,112,160	26,519,044
Reserved Profits (ex Dividend)	8,472,271	11,582,116	12,886,739	13,728,553	14,273,516
Last Dividend—					
Amount ...	685,017 ³	1,360,309 ⁴	1,387,849 ⁵	1,280,060 ⁶	1,310,672 ⁷
Average rate per cent. per annum	8·84	8·57	8·99	8·17	7·98

¹ Including perpetual inscribed stocks, which in 1916 amounted to £1,041,846.—² Including notes, bills of exchange, and all stock and funded debts of every description, excepting notes, bills, and balances due to the banks from other banks.—³ Half-yearly dividend in the case of nine banks.—⁴ Half-yearly dividend in the case of eleven banks.—⁵ Half-yearly dividend in the case of eleven banks and quarterly dividend in the case of one bank.—⁶ Half-yearly dividend in the case of ten banks and quarterly dividend in the case of one bank.—⁷ Half-yearly dividend in the case of eleven banks and quarterly dividend in the case of one bank.

The Victorian liabilities of the banks to other than shareholders, in 1916, were £4,382,397 in excess of the liabilities in 1915, and were in excess of the liabilities at the close of the years 1912, 1913, and 1914 by £12,359,580, £10,940,416, and £8,375,976 respectively. During the interval 1912-1916 the Victorian assets increased by £13,891,241; whilst during 1916, they increased by

£3,985,718. There have been considerable fluctuations in the excess of assets over liabilities, such excess being £1,707,832 in 1912, £1,080,204 in 1913, £176,411 in 1914, £3,636,172 in 1915, and £3,239,493 in 1916. The dwindling in the excess of assets up to 1915 was due to the fact that an increasingly large proportion of the Victorian deposits held by the banks was being invested in the other States. It must be borne in mind that the figures given above represent only the assets and liabilities *within* the State.

Shareholders' capital, which represents the capital of the shareholders without as well as within Victoria, amounted to 26½ millions at 31st December, 1916, the great increase shown in 1913 and subsequent years being due to the inclusion of the capital of the French bank, viz., £8,000,000. The reserves at the end of 1916 exceeded those of the previous year by £544,963 and amounted to 54 per cent. of the paid up capital.

The principal item in each case of the liabilities and assets of the banks is shown for a series of years in the next statement. Prior to 1911 the proportion of deposits to liabilities to the public was usually about 96 per cent., but in each of the five following years, owing to the large withdrawal of bank notes from circulation, the proportion of deposits to liabilities was about 98 per cent.

DEPOSITS IN AND ADVANCES BY BANKS, 1907 TO 1916.

(Average of the last quarter of each year.)

Year.	Deposits.			Advances.	Excess of Deposits over Advances.
	Bearing Interest.	Not bearing Interest.	Total.		
	£	£	£	£	£
1907	24,615,431	13,631,858	38,247,289	33,238,732	5,008,557
1908	23,975,491	12,659,502	36,634,993	33,711,188	2,923,805
1909	25,677,111	13,983,615	39,660,726	32,915,373	6,745,353
1910	27,333,254	15,805,721	43,138,975	35,868,709	7,320,266
1911	29,825,861	17,659,739	47,485,600	38,024,328	9,461,272
1912	30,316,863	16,941,185	47,258,048	38,538,647	8,719,401
1913	31,582,236	17,103,885	48,686,121	37,242,982	11,443,139
1914	32,668,387	18,228,149	50,896,536	38,267,480	12,629,056
1915	32,859,239	21,180,863	54,040,102	41,245,334	12,794,768
1916	33,639,033	25,563,798	59,202,831	45,141,466	14,061,365

Rates of
exchange.

The average rates of exchange for bank bills in 1916 and in the first year of each of the two preceding five-year periods are given below. The bills drawn on London are payable at 60 days' sight, and those drawn on Australian States and New Zealand on demand.

RATES OF EXCHANGE, 1906, 1911, AND 1916.

Places on which Bills were Drawn.	Average Rates of Exchange.		
	1906.	1911.	1916.
London	1s. 7d. per cent. premium	5s. to 7s. 6d. per cent. discount	2s. 6d. to 9s. 2d. per cent. premium
New South Wales	5s. per cent. premium	3s. 9d. to 5s. per cent. premium	2s. 6d. to 5s. per cent. premium
Queensland	10s. per cent. premium	5s. to 10s. per cent. premium	5s. to 10s. per cent. premium
South Australia ...	5s. per cent. premium	3s. 9d. to 5s. per cent. premium	2s. 6d. to 5s. per cent. premium
Western Australia	10s. to 15s. per cent. premium	8s. 9d. to 10s. per cent. premium	5s. to 10s. per cent. premium
Tasmania	5s. per cent. premium	2s. 6d. to 5s. per cent. premium	2s. 6d. to 5s. per cent. premium
New Zealand	10s. per cent. premium	7s. 6d. to 10s. per cent. premium	5s. to 10s. per cent. premium

Rates of
discount.

The average rate of discount on local bills in the same years is given in the next statement and shows but slight variation.

RATES OF DISCOUNT ON LOCAL BILLS, 1906, 1911, AND 1916.

Currency of Bills.	Average Rate of Discount per annum.		
	1906.	1911.	1916.
Under 65 days	per cent. 5 to 6	per cent. 5 to 6	per cent. 5 to 6½
65 to 95 ,,	5 to 6	5 to 6	5 to 7
95 to 125 ,,	5½ to 7	5 to 7	5½ to 7
Over 125 ,,	5½ to 7	5 to 7	5½ to 7½

Rates of Interest.

The succeeding statement shows the range for ten years of the average rates of interest per annum paid by the different banks to depositors for twelve months:—

Year.					Average rate of Interest per cent.
1907	...	...	...	...	3
1908	...	...	...	...	3
1909	...	...	...	...	3 to 3½
1910	...	...	...	...	3
1911	...	...	...	...	2·72 to 3
1912	...	...	...	...	3 to 4
1913	...	...	...	...	3 to 4
1914	...	...	...	...	3 to 4
1915	...	...	...	...	3 to 4
1916	...	...	...	...	3 to 4

Analysis of bank returns.

An analysis of the banks' liabilities and assets *within* the State for the years 1906, 1911, and 1916 gives the following results:—

The liabilities in proportion to the assets amounted to	{	94·94 per cent. in	...	1906
		97·60	„	1911
		94·89	„	1916
Coin and bullion* formed	{	16·90 per cent. of the assets in	1906	
		17·76	1911	
		23·80	1916	
Of the moneys deposited	{	64·41 per cent. bore interest in	1906	
		62·81	1911	
		56·82	1916	

* Including Australian notes in 1911 and 1916.

Banks in Australia and New Zealand.

There are twenty-six banks in Australasia, many of which do business in several States. Seventeen do business in Victoria, eighteen in New South Wales, twelve in Queensland, nine in South Australia, eight in Western Australia, seven in Tasmania, three in the Northern Territory, two in New Guinea and six in New Zealand. The liabilities to the public and

the assets, together with the principal items thereof in each State and New Zealand for the quarter ended 31st December, 1916, are as follows:—

AUSTRALASIAN BANKING BUSINESS, 31st DECEMBER, 1916.

State, &c.	Deposits.	Total Liabilities to the Public	Advances, &c.	Total Assets.
	£	£	£	£
Victoria	59,202,831	60,195,632	45,141,466	63,435,125
New South Wales	81,410,768	84,278,183	62,861,724	92,387,282
Queensland	27,510,701	28,776,991	18,994,797	28,675,774
South Australia	13,293,311	14,149,174	9,778,113	14,463,758
Western Australia	8,091,425	8,421,386	10,191,648	14,882,559
Tasmania	5,765,854	5,886,578	4,516,625	6,395,045
Northern Territory	300,514	334,800	6,821	108,596
New Guinea	122,232	145,315	133,387	165,855
Australia	195,697,636	202,188,059	151,624,581	220,513,994
New Zealand	37,619,681	42,580,222	31,794,161	41,528,753
Australasia	233,317,317	244,768,281	183,418,742	262,042,747

NOTE.—This table includes particulars of the Commonwealth Bank for each State.

As compared with the preceding year deposits at 31st December, 1916, had increased by £15,809,810 in Australia as a whole, and by £5,433,734 in New Zealand. The increases in the different States were:—Victoria, £5,162,729; New South Wales, £9,361,530; Queensland, £34,834; South Australia, £1,152,486; Western Australia, £162,057; Northern Territory, £52,240; New Guinea, £122,232; and there was a decrease of £238,298 in Tasmania. "Advances, &c.," which include Municipal and other Government securities amounting to £19,299,644, and notes, bills of exchange, and all stock and funded debts of every description, except notes, bills, and balances due to the banks from other banks, were at the same date in excess of the amounts for the previous year by £15,761,827 for Australia and by £5,792,337 for New Zealand. The increases in the different States were:—Victoria, £3,896,132; New South Wales, £8,510,846; Queensland, £1,228,068; South Australia, £1,102,796; Western Australia, £460,479; Tasmania, £429,767; Northern Territory, £352; and New Guinea, £133,387. Compared with 31st December, 1915, the total

liabilities to the public had increased by £15,435,939 in the Australian States, and by £7,117,694 in New Zealand; whilst the total assets had increased by £14,934,198 and £7,456,891 in Australia and New Zealand respectively.

Melbourne
Clearing
House.

The following table contains particulars in regard to the clearances through the Melbourne Clearing House for the ten years 1907 to 1916 :—

MELBOURNE CLEARING HOUSE TRANSACTIONS,
1907 TO 1916.

Year.	Clearances.				Average Weekly Clearances.
	By Exchange of Instruments.			By Payments in Coin.	
	Notes.	Cheques, Bills, &c.	Total.		
£	£	£	£	£	
1907	11,557,939	225,035,841	236,593,780	29,281,793	4,549,876
1908	11,211,842	210,141,833	221,353,675	26,226,196	4,256,801
1909	11,157,341	228,506,266	239,663,607	30,065,454	4,608,915
1910	11,760,548	249,622,886	261,383,434	30,507,742	5,026,604
1911	4,744,292	285,368,807	290,113,099	35,001,404	5,579,098
1912	15,546	303,447,177	303,462,723	35,201,226	5,835,821
1913	Nil	297,256,200	297,256,200	34,681,472	5,716,465
1914	Nil	299,667,584	299,667,584	36,669,375	5,762,838
1915	Nil	299,294,510	299,294,510	37,523,627	5,755,663
1916	Nil	357,788,383	357,788,383	48,440,910	6,880,545

In this table the two sides of the clearance are considered as one transaction. The particulars tabulated indicate that the largest amount ever passed through the Melbourne Clearing House was that for 1916.

The issue of Australian notes was authorized by the Commonwealth Parliament in its Act No. 11 of 1910, which came into operation on 1st November of that year, and provided that after six months from that date it would not be legal

Commonwealth
notes.

for a bank to issue or circulate notes of a State. This resulted in the recall of the note issue of Queensland. Under a separate Act (No. 14 of 1910) a tax of 10 per cent. per annum was placed on bank notes issued after 1st July, 1911. In order to facilitate circulation, the Commonwealth Bank has been appointed Notes Agent in all States except Victoria. In the Northern Territory, the English, Scottish and Australian Bank undertakes the business.

The original Act (No. 11 of 1910) required that the reserve of gold coin to be held by the Treasurer of the Commonwealth against the note circulation should be equal to at least one-fourth of the amount of the notes in actual circulation up to £7,000,000, and to the full amount of notes in circulation in excess of that sum; but these conditions expired on 30th June, 1912, as it is prescribed by Act No. 21 of 1911 that the reserve of gold coin shall, from 1st July, 1912, be not less than one-fourth of the amount of Australian notes issued.

To meet a possible emergency the Treasurer is empowered to issue, on the security of the revenue of the Commonwealth, Treasury bills, the proceeds of the sale of which shall be applied towards the redemption of Australian notes.

The notes are legal tender, redeemable in gold at the Commonwealth Treasury at the seat of government.

Australian notes in the hands of the banks and the public on 30th June, 1917, were as follows:—

Denomination.	Number.	Amount	
		£	s.
10s.	3,228,599	1,614,299	10
£1	11,442,823	11,442,823	0
£5	1,270,318	6,351,590	0
£10	266,812	2,668,120	0
£20	22,724	454,480	0
£50	23,537	1,176,850	0
£100	10,582	1,058,200	0
£1,000	22,435	22,435,000	0
Totals	16,287,830	47,201,362	10

The amount of gold coin held by the Treasurer on that date was £15,418,391 or 32·67 per cent. of the note circulation.

Victorian
Savings
Banks.

The Savings Banks of Victoria comprised the Post Office and Commissioners' Banks up to 30th September, 1897, on which date they were amalgamated and became one institution, now known as the State Savings Bank. On 15th July, 1912, the Savings Bank Department of the Commonwealth Bank commenced operations, but particulars relating thereto are not included in the subjoined table. Particulars of depositors and deposits in the Savings Bank Deposit Stock, and in the Penny Bank Department of the State Savings Bank, are also excluded.

VICTORIAN SAVINGS BANKS: DEPOSITORS AND DEPOSITS, 1875 TO 1916.

On 30th June.	Number of Depositors.		Amount remaining on Deposit.	
	Total.	Per 1,000 of Population.	Total.	Average per Depositor.
1875	65,837	81	£ 1,469,849	£ s. d. 22 6 6
1880	92,115	108	1,661,409	18 0 9
1885	170,014	174	3,337,018	19 12 7
1890	231,509	252	5,262,105	18 13 10
1895	338,480	286	7,316,129	21 12 3
1900	375,070	314	9,110,793	24 5 9
1905	447,382	369	10,896,741	24 7 2
1910	560,515	429	15,417,887	27 10 2
1911	595,424	451	17,274,423	29 0 3
1912	641,736	474	19,662,465	30 12 9
1913	674,542	485	21,508,125	31 17 8
1914	705,029	496	23,258,775	32 19 10
1915	721,936	506	24,874,811	34 9 1
1916	746,597	531	26,143,608	35 0 4

These returns are good evidence of a growing habit of thrift, as well as of a wide diffusion of wealth amongst the middle and poorer classes in Victoria, as the number of depositors in proportion to population in 1916 represents an increase of 69 per cent. since 1900, and of 24 per cent. since 1910. On 30th June, 1916, fifty-three persons out of every hundred in the State (including children and infants, who

themselves number more than one-third of the population) were depositors with a balance, on the average, of £35 Os. 4d. The figures given in the above table include each year a large number of inoperative accounts, that is to say, of small sums under £1 which the depositors had ceased to operate upon. At 30th June, 1916, these inoperative accounts numbered 174,929, and had £25,058 at credit. The number of active accounts at that date was thus 571,668, with £26,118,850 at credit, the number of depositors per thousand of the population being 407, and the average amount per depositor, £45 13s. 9d.

The State Savings Bank at 30th June, 1916, had 760,894 depositors, with £26,404,284 to their credit, of whom 14,297 depositors in the Penny Bank Department with £10,834 to their credit, have been excluded from the preceding table, a sum of £249,542 in the Savings Bank Deposit Stock account being also excluded. The rate of interest allowed to depositors in this Bank on 30th June, 1916, was $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on all sums from £1 to £350. Interest was also allowed at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on Savings Bank Deposit Stock under the authority of the *Savings Banks Act 1912*, which permits depositors to invest sums up to £1,000 in this security, in addition to the ordinary current account deposit. Of the amount (£26,143,908) on ordinary current account deposit in the State Bank at 30th June, 1916, about 30 per cent. belonged to depositors with accounts up to £100 each, 51 per cent. to those with accounts over £100 and up to £350, and 19 per cent. to those with accounts over £350. The aggregate of the excess over £350—the amount on deposit for which interest was not allowed—was £788,104 on 30th June, 1916.

The next statement shows the assets and liabilities of the State Savings Bank, the former indicating the manner in which deposits are invested or held :—

STATE SAVINGS BANK, ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 30TH JUNE, 1916.

<i>Assets.</i>	£
With Treasurer of Victoria—Certificate representing Post Office Savings Bank Deposits, taken over 30th September, 1897	248,365
Government Debentures, Stock and Bonds	14,154,070
Bank Fixed Deposit Receipts (in name of Treasurer of Victoria)	3,608,355
Savings Bank Debentures	2,661,629
Municipal Debentures	860,566
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Debentures	1,272,665
Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust Debentures	100,000
Commonwealth Inscribed Stock (War Loan)	100,000
Mortgage Securities	2,011,536
Mortgage properties foreclosed or in possession	6,611
Accrued Interest, &c., on Investments	302,885
Bank premises	345,000
Current Accounts and Deposits with Bankers	866,289
Cash at various Savings Banks, Agencies, and Trustees' Bankers and in Transit	472,733
Total	27,010,704

STATE SAVINGS BANK, ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 30TH JUNE, 1916—
continued.

				<i>Liabilities.</i>	£
Depositors' balances, with Interest to date .. .. .	..	..	..	26,404,284	
Other liabilities .. .. .	..	..	..	22,717	
Surplus Funds allotted as follows :—					
Reserve Fund .. .. .	..	..	..	£500,000	
Depreciation Fund .. .. .	..	..	..	5,797	
Fidelity Guarantee Fund .. .. .	..	..	..	11,060	
Profit and Loss Account .. .. .	..	..	..	66,846	
Total Surplus Funds .. .. .				..	583,703
Total .. .. .				..	<u>£27,010,704</u>

State Savings Bank—Advances department. The “Crédit Foncier” or advances department of the State Savings Bank was established by Act of Parliament in 1896 for the purpose of making advances on farm properties in sums ranging from £50 to £2,000, and in 1910, under the authority of Act No. 2280, the system was extended to house and shop securities in sums of from £50 to £1,000. Funds for the purpose were obtained at the initiation of the system by the sale of mortgage bonds redeemable by half-yearly ballots; but since 1901 by the sale of debentures in denominations of £100 and over, redeemable at fixed dates not more than twenty years from date of issue. The *Savings Bank Act* 1913 gives power to substitute stock for debentures on the application of any debenture-holder or any person offering to purchase debentures. The balance of debentures and stock current at 30th June, 1916, amounted to £4,579,050. Of this amount, £1,832,250 is held by the public, and the balance by the Commissioners themselves in respect of money invested out of Savings Bank funds. The sum advanced during the year 1915-16 was £594,309, making with the amounts previously advanced a total of £6,493,892, of which £2,427,557 had been repaid at 30th June, 1916, leaving outstanding on that date an amount of £4,066,335 representing 3,696 loans to farmers for £1,833,988, which thus averaged £496, and 8,181 loans to owners of houses or shops for a total of £2,232,347, or an average per borrower of £273. As a measure of the safety with which the advances department has been conducted, it may be mentioned that the instalments of principal in arrear amounted on 30th June, 1916, to £1,132, and the interest in arrear to £2,749. The amount of arrears on Farm Securities was larger than usual, owing mainly to the drought conditions that so seriously affected the agricultural and pastoral industries in 1914. During the

year six properties were taken into possession. The transactions in this department are shown below:—

STATE SAVINGS BANK—TRANSACTIONS IN ADVANCES DEPARTMENT.

				At 30th June, 1915.	During 1915-16.	At 30th June, 1916.
Loans raised	...	...	£	5,896,887	1,047,363	6,944,250
„ repaid	...	...	£	1,989,275	375,925	2,365,200
„ outstanding	...	...	£	3,907,612	...	4,579,050
<i>Pastoral or Agricultural Property.</i>						
Applications received	...	...	No.	16,583	518	17,101
„ „ amount	...	...	£	8,548,598	335,644	8,884,242
Applications granted	...	...	No.	10,164	302	10,466*
„ „ amount	...	...	£	4,750,730	175,985	4,926,715*
Amount advanced	...	...	£	3,714,733	152,219	3,866,952
„ repaid	...	...	£	1,931,690	161,274	2,032,964
„ outstanding	...	...	£	1,783,043	...	1,833,988
<i>House or Shop Property.</i>						
Applications received	...	...	No.	11,331	1,872	13,203
„ „ amount	...	...	£	3,460,460	546,696	4,007,156
Applications granted	...	...	No.	8,728	1,679	10,407†
„ „ amount	...	...	£	2,509,097	468,185	2,977,282†
Amount advanced	...	...	£	2,184,850	442,090	2,626,940
„ repaid	...	...	£	243,134	151,459	394,593
„ outstanding	...	...	£	1,941,716	...	2,232,347

* Including £748,290 offered to, but not accepted by, 1,864 applicants.

† Including £247,852 offered to, but not accepted by, 860 applicants.

The profit for the year in the advances department was £10,244 on ordinary funds, and £3,786 on reserve fund investments, making a total profit of £14,030. This amount will be transferred to reserve fund, and will make the total of that fund £126,441, which is held, in accordance with Act No. 2729, for the purpose of meeting any loss or deficiency which may occur in the department.

As already stated the Savings Bank department of the Commonwealth Savings Bank. Commonwealth Bank commenced business on 15th July, 1912. At 31st December, 1916, it had in Victoria 67,016 depositors, with £2,543,341 at credit, which amount is included in the general deposits of the bank.

The depositors in the Savings Bank department of the Commonwealth Bank in each State and the amounts of their deposits at 31st December, 1916, were as follows, viz. :—

COMMONWEALTH SAVINGS BANK, 31ST DECEMBER, 1916.

State.	Number of Depositors.	Amount at Credit.
		£
Victoria	67,016	2,543,341
New South Wales	101,803	3,200,274
Queensland	51,623	1,850,725
South Australia	21,777	847,623
Northern Territory	1,133	81,012
Western Australia	26,978	879,373
Tasmania	41,875	1,127,744
Papua	627	28,067
Australia	312,832	10,558,159

The Savings Banks of Australasia comprise the Commonwealth Bank, which at 31st December, 1916, had branches doing business in all the States; State banks in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, and Western Australia; Trustee banks in South Australia; Joint Stock banks in Tasmania; and Government and private banks in New Zealand. The figures in the subjoined table, which exclude particulars of the Commonwealth Bank and also of penny savings banks, except those of New South Wales, Queensland, and New Zealand, where details of such banks are not kept separate from the ordinary business, relate to the date, 31st December, 1916, except in the case of the Tasmanian Joint Stock banks and the New Zealand banks. The information in regard to the Tasmanian Joint Stock banks is given as at the end of August, 1916, and that relating to the New Zealand banks as at 31st December, 1915, (Post Office), and 31st March, 1916, (Private).

SAVINGS BANKS IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, 1916.

State.	Number of Depositors.		Amount remaining on Deposit.	
	Total.	Per 1,000 of the Population.	Total.	Average per Depositor.
			£	£ s. d.
Victoria	760,620	543	26,121,482	34 6 10
New South Wales	734,181	395	34,749,100	47 6 7
Queensland	213,720	319	11,740,750	54 18 8
South Australia	261,554	606	9,384,998	35 17 7
Western Australia	112,143	363	4,598,602	41 0 2
Tasmania	46,526	233	1,477,198	31 15 0
Australia	2,128,744	437	88,072,130	41 7 5
New Zealand	587,109	532	24,238,940	41 5 8
Australasia	2,715,853	454	112,311,070	41 7 1

In November, 1912, the State Savings Bank established a Penny Bank department in connexion with State and private schools. The system has been adopted in 266 schools, and at 31st December, 1916, there were 14,001 depositors in the department with £10,945 at credit. Penny Savings Banks have also been established in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, and New Zealand. On the above mentioned date there were in South Australia 23,233, and in Western Australia, 23,818 depositors, who had £19,478 and £32,397 respectively on deposit. Particulars for New South Wales, Queensland, and New Zealand are not available.

Savings
Banks in
various
countries.

The following table shows the number and proportion to population of depositors, the amount of deposits, and the average to each depositor in Savings Banks in Great Britain and other countries:—

SAVINGS BANKS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

Country.	Year.	Number of Depositors.		Amount remaining on Deposit.	
		Total.	Per 1,000 of the Population.	Total.	Average per Depositor.
England and Wales	1914	13,412,114	361	£ 200,191,710	£ s. d. 14 18 6
Scotland ...	1914	1,282,764	270	28,949,665	22 11 4
Ireland ...	1914	737,880	168	15,335,104	20 15 8
United Kingdom...	1914	15,432,758	333	244,476,479	15 16 10
Canada ...	1915	167,887	21	11,096,593	66 2 0
Union of S'th Africa	1914	252,620	39	6,361,737	25 3 8
Austria ...	1914	6,681,657	230	304,174,758	45 10 6
Belgium ...	1912	3,013,296	398	41,932,944	13 18 4
France ...	1913	15,011,116	378	232,582,657	15 9 11
Italy ...	1914	8,747,349	242	180,412,428	20 12 6
Netherlands ...	1913-14	2,181,334	344	26,194,667	11 16 2
Russia ...	1915	9,242,671	52	193,942,917	20 19 8
Sweden ...	1914	2,822,430	497	76,006,914	26 18 7
Norway ...	1913	1,136,262	468	33,705,504	29 13 3
Denmark ...	1914	1,393,839	497	47,665,341	34 4 0
United States ...	1914	11,109,499	113	1,014,402,928	91 6 2

The following statements give the approximate stocks of gold, silver, and paper money in the principal countries of the world for 1915, and the world's coinage of gold and silver for 1915. The information in the first statement has been extracted from the Report of the Director of the Mint, Washington, U.S.A., and that in the second from the Report of the Deputy Master and Comptroller of the Royal Mint, London.

APPROXIMATE STOCKS OF MONEY IN THE PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD AT THE CLOSE OF 1915.

Country.	Value of—		
	Gold.	Silver.	Uncovered Paper.
	£	£	£
Argentine	47,044,000	*	152,300,000
Brazil	5,016,000	*	115,824,000
British Empire—			
Australasia	51,274,000	2,055,000	*
Canada	35,048,000	583,000	27,583,000
India	8,715,000	23,054,000	9,332,000
South Africa	6,693,000	535,000	2,761,000
United Kingdom	136,021,000	42,000,000	92,677,000
Egypt	4,692,000	4,446,000	4,485,000
France	284,419,000	84,473,000	308,746,000
Germany	146,732,000	1,604,000	155,954,000
Italy	68,980,000	9,569,000	126,747,000
Japan	29,411,000	14,694,000	8,371,000
Netherlands	35,454,000	40,269,000	11,858,000
Russia	217,503,000	35,234,000	420,520,000
Spain	34,393,000	49,689,000	19,038,000
Turkey	59,837,000	11,673,000	26,690,000
United States	472,506,000	155,350,000	198,302,000
Other Countries	53,213,000	26,367,000	82,459,000
Total	1,696,951,000	501,595,000	1,763,647,000

* No information.

WORLD'S COINAGE DURING THE YEAR 1915.

Country.	Gold,	Silver,	Nickel, Copper Bronze, &c.
	£	£	£
United Kingdom*	21,319,654	7,715,437	249,478
Australia	7,934,377	...	...
India ... ..	...	1,148,362	63,806
British Colonies and Dependencies†	...	248,541	46,704
Austria-Hungary‡	757,033	1,998,339	26,932
China ... ..	...	8,805,519	388,957
Cuba	1,170,416	1,079,418	98,034
Denmark	591,613	162,823	5,505
Egypt ... ..	...	758,667	20,513
France and French Colonies	51	3,542,339	34,866
Germany	1,258,556	2,139,071	265,429
Holland and Dutch Colonies ... ..	...	1,556,667	56,091
Italy and Italian Colonies ... ..	...	863,324	9,867
Japan	3,103,590	275,988	13,335
Morocco ... ..	...	145,225	...
Portugal ... ..	...	564,444	...
Russia ... ..	...	4,085,170	203,324
Serbia ... ..	...	667,388	...
Switzerland... ..	760,000	...	9,400
Turkey‡	1,186,825	17,236	299,057
United States and Philippines	4,993,203	875,430	432,362
Other Countries	219,982	1,844,277	107,206
Total	43,305,960	33,493,665	2,330,666

* Including sterling gold coins struck at the Branch Mint in Canada.

† Inclusive of coins struck at Calcutta and Bombay, at Ottawa, and at the "Mint," Birmingham, Limited.

‡ Figures for 1913.

PRICES, ETC., OF GOVERNMENT STOCKS.

Comparative prices of Victorian stocks.

An adequate idea may be formed of the general course of prices of Victorian stocks in London during nineteen and a half years by selecting one of the leading 4 per cent. and one of the leading 3½ per cent. stocks, and finding the highest prices quoted in 1895 and each subsequent year to the end of July, 1914. Shortly after that date business in the London Stock Exchange was suspended until the end of the year on account of the outbreak of war, and consequently there were no official quotations. The prices quoted for sales in 1915 and 1916 are, on account of the disturbed conditions which existed, of no service for the purpose of

ordinary comparison, but they are of interest as showing the value of Victorian securities in those years of the war. The highest prices quoted on the London Stock Exchange in the years mentioned are given in the following table, together with the equivalent returns to the investor :—

PRICES OF VICTORIAN REPRESENTATIVE STOCKS IN
LONDON, 1895 TO 1916.

Year.	Highest Prices quoted on Stock Exchange.		Minimum Return to Investor.	
	4 per cents. (due 1920).	3½ per cents. (due 1923).	4 per cents.	3½ per cents.
1895	111½	105½	£ s. d. 3 9 0	£ s. d. 3 6 1
1896	116½	109½	3 2 7	3 1 6
1897	115	108½	3 4 0	3 2 7
1898	113½	107½	3 5 1	3 3 6
1899	114	107½	3 4 5	3 2 10
1900	111½	105½	3 6 8	3 5 0
1901	112½	106½	3 5 3	3 4 1
1902	112½	104½	3 5 3	3 6 0
1903	107½	101½	3 11 2	3 10 0
1904	107	98½	3 11 10	3 14 5
1905	107	100½	3 11 6	3 11 6
1906	105½	101½	3 13 4	3 10 7
1907	105	100½	3 14 2	3 11 8
1908	105½	101½	3 12 1	3 10 5
1909	104½	100½	3 13 11	3 12 9
1910	103½	99½	3 15 9	3 14 5
1911	103½	99½	3 15 5	3 14 9
1912	102½	97½	3 17 10	3 19 9
1913	101½	94½	4 0 10	4 7 8
1914 (to 30th July)...	102½	98½	3 17 8	3 18 9
1915	99½	95½	4 11 5	4 9 2
1916	96	91½	5 15 0	5 7 4

The minimum return to the investor is calculated after allowing for accrued interest and redemption at par at maturity.

The following are the means between the highest and lowest prices of Australasian stocks in London during a period of twenty-two and a half years. The stocks selected are representative issues of 4 and 3½ per cents. :—

MEAN PRICES OF AUSTRALASIAN STOCKS IN LONDON, 1894, 1897, 1900, 1902 AND 1904 TO 1916.

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.
	FOUR PER CENTS. REDEEMABLE IN—						
	1920.	1933.	1915.	1917-36.	1934.	1920-40.	1929.
1894 ..	103½	107½	105½	105½	108½	..	107½
1897 ..	113	120½	113½	112½	121½	..	114½
1900 ..	109½	114½	108½	108½	115½	110½	111½
1902 ..	108½	112½	105½	105½	112½	110	111½
1904 ..	104½	107½	102½	101½	107½	105½	106
1905 ..	105½	107½	103½	103½	107½	106½	107½
1906 ..	103½	108½	102½	102½	108½	105½	107½
1907 ..	102½	106½	101½	101½	107½	104½	106
1908 ..	103½	107½	102½	102½	107½	104½	107½
1909 ..	103½	107½	102½	102½	107½	103½	106½
1910 ..	102½	105½	101½	102½	100	102½	104½
1911 ..	102½	105½	101½	101½	106½	103½	104½
1912 ..	101½	103½	100½	101	104½	101½	102½
1913 ..	99½	100½	99½	99½	99½	98½	99
1914* ..	100½	100½	100½	100	99½	98½	100½
1915 ..	96½	97½	97½†	97½	97½	96½	97½
1916 ..	94½	88½	90½†	89½†	83½	81½	89½
	THREE AND A HALF PER CENTS. REDEEMABLE IN—						
	1923.	1924.	1924.	1939.	1915-35.	1920-40.	1940.
1894 ..	95½	99½	95½	97½	..	96½	99½
1897 ..	106½	109½	106½	111½	..	108½	107½
1900 ..	103½	105	103½	105½	102½	102½	105
1902 ..	102½	103½	101½	103½	100½	103½	105½
1904 ..	96½	97½	96½	98½	95½	98	99½
1905 ..	98½	99½	98½	99	97½	99½	98½
1906 ..	100	100½	99½	100½	99	98½	100½
1907 ..	98½	99½	97½	99	96½	97½	99½
1908 ..	99½	100½	98½	99½	98½	98½	99½
1909 ..	98½	99½	97½	98½	98½	98½	98½
1910 ..	97½	98½	97½	98½	97½	98½	96½
1911 ..	97½	98½	97½	97½	96½	97½	96½
1912 ..	95½	96½	95	95½	93½	93½	94
1913 ..	93½	94½	93½	90½	89½	88½	89½
1914* ..	95½	96	94½	90½	91	89½	89½
1915 ..	93½	92	92½	87½	88½	87½	85½
1916 ..	88½	87½	87½	87½	73½	76½	76½

* To 30th July.

† Due in 1924.

The year 1897 marked the climax of a series of rapid rises in the prices of all the stocks quoted, but in 1898 prices began to recede and this process continued until 1904. In 1905 and 1906 they hardened generally, but in 1907 a fall took place; in 1908 a partial recovery was made which, however, was not sustained, as during the next three years prices receded gradually, and in 1912 and 1913 they dropped considerably. There was a

slight improvement in 1914, and, though the prices in 1915 are lower than those in any of the years referred to, they must, under the exceptional circumstances of the time, be regarded as most satisfactory. The figures, as they stand, do not afford an indication of the real values of the stocks concerned; the table simply shows the mean between the highest and lowest prices for the year.

The best method of comparing the values of stocks over a series of years, or of comparing the values placed upon the stocks of different States by investors, is to show the actual or effective rate of interest the investor is satisfied with, as evidenced by the mean between the highest and lowest quotations during the year. This is done in the following table, allowance being made for an average of three months' accrued interest, which is deducted from the market price before the computation is made. In computing the yield to the investor, the gain or loss incurred by redemption at par at maturity is taken into account:—

INVESTORS' INTEREST RETURN FROM AUSTRALASIAN STOCKS, 1894, 1897, 1900, 1902, AND 1904 TO 1916.

Year	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.
	FOUR PER CENTS.						
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1894	3 17 2	3 13 7	3 13 10	3 13 9	3 13 0	..	3 13 4
1897	3 5 1	3 2 2	3 2 2	3 4 1	3 1 3	..	3 6 2
1900	3 8 8	3 6 4	3 7 6	3 7 10	3 6 2	3 7 0	3 9 0
1902	3 8 4	3 8 2	3 11 10	3 11 8	3 8 0	3 6 9	3 8 5
1904	3 14 0	3 13 0	3 16 2	3 19 9	3 13 0	3 13 2	3 13 9
1905	3 12 11	3 12 5	3 13 5	3 15 4	3 12 8	3 11 1	3 11 6
1906	3 14 11	3 11 5	3 15 1	3 16 5	3 11 8	3 11 8	3 11 3
1907	3 17 0	3 13 6	3 18 2	3 18 2	3 12 10	3 13 0	3 13 3
1908	3 14 1	3 11 7	3 15 6	3 15 1	3 12 5	3 12 1	3 11 3
1909	3 15 4	3 12 0	3 15 4	3 16 4	3 11 10	3 14 0	3 12 3
1910	3 16 8	3 13 11	3 17 3	3 16 4	3 13 2	3 16 1	3 14 4
1911	3 16 4	3 14 3	3 18 8	3 18 7	3 13 1	3 13 2	3 14 8
1912	3 18 11	3 16 8	4 1 10	4 0 0	3 15 7	3 19 3	3 17 7
1913	4 4 0	4 1 5	4 12 9	4 10 9	4 1 8	4 7 5	4 3 6
1914	4 1 8	4 0 9	4 10 5	4 7 3	4 1 10	4 9 3	4 0 10
1915	5 2 2	4 6 0	4 10 6	5 14 2	4 5 10	5 2 2	4 7 9
1916	6 0 6	5 3 7	5 14 3	5 16 9	5 13 1	5 9 8	5 5 10

INVESTORS' INTEREST RETURN FROM AUSTRALASIAN STOCKS, 1894,
1897, 1900, 1902, AND 1904 TO 1916—*continued.*

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.
THREE AND HALF PER CENTS.							
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	\$ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1894	3 15 11	3 11 11	3 16 4	3 12 10	..	3 13 11	3 11 0
1897	3 3 11	3 0 6	3 3 7	3 1 0	..	3 3 8	3 3 11
1900	3 6 10	3 5 0.	3 6 10	3 5 9	3 8 7	3 8 2	3 6 4
1902	3 7 10	3 6 8	3 9 0	3 7 6	3 10 1	3 7 10	3 5 6
1904	3 16 0	3 14 10	3 16 10	3 12 7	3 15 8	3 12 10	3 11 9
1905	3 14 0	3 11 8	3 13 10	3 11 10	3 14 0	3 11 6	3 12 0
1906	3 11 5	3 10 5	3 12 3	3 10 0	3 12 1	3 12 0	3 10 4
1907	3 14 4	3 12 2	3 15 6	3 11 11	3 15 0	3 13 7	3 11 5
1908	3 12 5	3 10 10	3 13 10	3 11 2	3 13 1	3 12 3	3 11 3
1909	3 14 5	3 13 2	3 15 8	3 12 5	3 13 2	3 12 9	3 12 6
1910	3 16 2	3 14 8	3 15 7	3 13 2	3 14 2	3 12 10	3 14 8
1911	3 16 4	3 14 8	3 16 8	3 13 7	3 15 1	3 14 2	3 14 7
1912	4 2 2	3 19 11	4 2 9	3 16 8	4 0 7	3 19 1	3 18 2
1913	4 9 2	4 4 7	4 7 9	4 3 4	4 6 6	4 5 5.	4 4 0.
1914	4 3 9	4 2 3	4 5 1	4 3 4	4 4 8	4 4 8.	4 4 3.
1915	4 13 3	4 15 3.	4 12 7	4 9 1	4 9 5.	4 8 4	4 11 6.
1916	5 17 6	5 14 9	5 14 6	5 15 2	6 0 11	5 7 6	5 8 4.

NOTE.—The figures for 1914 are to 30th July only. Where the date of redemption is optional, the date adopted for the calculation was the earliest in the case of the 4 per cents., and the latest in the case of the 3½ per cents., until 1916, when the latest date in each case was adopted.

Taking the 3½ per cents. as being the representative stocks, it appears that those of New South Wales, South Australia and New Zealand, for years prior to 1915 were practically alike and, with very few exceptions, yielded least to the investor.

The following is a statement of the interest return to the investor in the principal issues of Colonial stocks and in British Consols, as indicated by the mean between the highest and lowest market prices quoted during the years 1900, 1914, and 1916 :—

INTEREST ON MEAN PRICES OF BRITISH CONSOLS AND COLONIAL STOCKS, 1900, 1914, AND 1916.

Country.	Date of Maturity.	Rate of Interest on Stock.	Return to Investor per cent.		
			1900.	1914. (to 30th July)	1916
		per cent.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
United Kingdom ..	Inter-minable	2½*	2 10 0	3 8 8	4 7 6
Canada	1947	2½	2 17 1	3 19 10	5 12 8
Natal	1937	4	3 10 1	3 19 10	5 1 0
Ceylon	1934	4	3 6 11	4 0 4	5 13 6
Jamaica	1934	4	3 10 11	4 0 7	5 12 0
New South Wales ..	1933	4	3 6 4	4 0 9	5 3 7
New Zealand ..	1929	4	3 9 0	4 0 10	5 5 10
Cape Colony ..	1923	4	3 10 4	4 1 4	5 13 11
Canada	1938	3	3 0 0	4 1 5	5 0 4
Newfoundland ..	1935	4	3 11 1	4 1 5	5 8 10
South Australia ..	1924	4	..	4 1 7	5 16 9
Victoria	1920	4	3 8 8	4 1 8	6 0 6
Cape Colony ..	1929-49	3½	3 6 2	4 1 10	5 0 11
Western Australia ..	1934	4	3 6 2	4 1 10	5 13 1
New South Wales ..	1924	3½	3 5 0	4 2 3	5 14 9
British Guiana ..	1935	4	3 12 3	4 2 7	5 13 1
South Australia ..	1939	3½	3 5 9	4 3 4	5 15 2
Victoria	1923	3½	3 6 10	4 3 9	5 17 6
New South Wales ..	1935	3	3 0 11	4 3 10	5 10 4
New Zealand ..	1940	3½	3 6 4	4 4 3	5 8 4
Hong Kong	1918-43	3½	3 8 5	4 4 4	5 10 6
Natal	1929-49	3	3 3 8	4 4 4	5 2 11
Victoria	1929-49	3	3 3 8	4 4 5	5 1 8
New Zealand ..	1945	3	3 3 2	4 4 6	5 4 6
Tasmania	1920-40	3½	3 8 2	4 4 8	5 7 6
Western Australia ..	1915-35	3½	3 8 7	4 4 8	6 0 11
Queensland	1924	3½	3 6 10	4 5 1	5 14 6
Queensland	1922-47	3	3 3 11	4 5 2	5 5 9
Western Australia ..	1916-36	3	3 6 10	4 5 3	5 16 7
Trinidad	1917-42	4	3 7 8	4 7 8	5 9 4
Trinidad	1922-44	3	3 4 7	4 9 3	5 16 2
Tasmania	1920-40	4	3 7 0	4 9 3	5 9 8
Quebec	1937	3	3 10 7	4 10 5	6 2 9
Queensland	1924	4	..	4 2 4	5 14 3

* Consols carried 2½ per cent. interest until 1903; but the rate of interest to a permanent investor in 1900 is reckoned at 2½ per cent. only, which is now the permanent rate.

As in the preceding table, where the date of redemption is optional, the earliest date was used in the case of the 4 per cents. and the latest date in the case of the 3½ and 3 per cents., in obtaining the

interest returns for the years 1900 and 1914. For 1916 the latest date of redemption was taken in all cases, because the market rate of interest was greatly in excess of 4 per cent., and it seemed unlikely that the respective Governments would redeem stocks bearing interest at 4 per cent. or a lower rate until the latest date of option.

The amount of Victorian Government stock and debentures under certain loans repayable in Melbourne which were outstanding on 30th June, the price in January, and the return to the investor per cent. for each year since 1900, are as follows. The market prices are taken from the *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record* :—

PRICES OF STOCK AND DEBENTURES IN MELBOURNE:
1901 TO 1917.

Year.	Amount Outstanding on 30th June.	Price in January.	Return to Investor per cent.		
			£	s.	d.
3 % Stock, due 1917 or at any time thereafter.					
1901	3,146,000	98½-99½	3	0	7
1902	3,195,619	99½	3	0	4
1903	3,196,933	97	3	1	10
1904	3,120,492	92½	3	4	10
1905	3,155,773	88½	3	7	7
1906	3,153,067	93	3	4	6
1907	3,197,732	91½	3	5	7
1908	3,226,585	89	3	7	5
1909	3,229,429	87	3	9	0
1910	3,224,771	85½	3	10	2
1911	3,229,286	85	3	10	7
1912	3,254,312	83½	3	11	10
1913	3,281,404	74	4	1	1
1914	3,288,617	74½	4	0	6
1915	3,272,967	73	4	2	2
1916	3,309,069	78	3	16	11
1917	...	62	4	16	9
3 % Debentures, due 1921-30.					
1901	532,000	97½-97½	3	2	9
1902	1,000,000	95-95½	3	4	10
1903	1,000,000	93½-93½	3	7	1
1904	1,000,000	88-90	3	13	2
1905	1,000,000	87½-88	3	15	3
1906	997,400	93	3	8	7
1907	993,150	90	3	12	10
1908	985,950	89	3	14	8
1909	985,650	86½-87	3	18	8
1910	972,850	88½-89	3	16	0
1911	972,850	90	3	14	7
1912	972,850	88	3	13	7
1913	972,850	82-83	4	9	9
1914	972,850	82½	4	11	1
1915	970,050	82	4	13	10
1916	969,850	78	5	5	7
1917	...	73½-75	5	19	0

The prices quoted in this table do not include any allowance for accrued interest, the practice on the Melbourne Stock Exchange differing from that on the London Exchange where accrued interest is included in prices quoted.

In computing the returns to investors, the 3 per cent. stock has been regarded as interminable, since it is at the option of the Government whether it be redeemed in 1917, or at any time thereafter; and it is unlikely that redemption will take place at the earliest date. For the 3 per cent. debentures it has been assumed that redemption will be made at the latest optional date, viz., 1930. In each year quoted investors have obtained the higher yield per cent. from the debentures. The returns from both these investments in the last five years were considerably higher than previously and in the last year, in the case of the debentures, they were higher than the rates generally obtained by the investor in Colonial stocks on the British market during 1916.

INSURANCE.

There are twenty companies transacting life assurance business in Victoria. Six of these companies have their head offices in Victoria, five in New South Wales, one in New Zealand, three in America, and five in the United Kingdom. The following table shows the number and amount of policies in force in Victoria with companies whose head offices are within, and with those whose head offices are outside Australasia for the years 1900 to 1916:—

LIFE POLICIES IN FORCE IN VICTORIA, 1900 TO 1916.

Year.	Companies with Head Offices in—			Total.
	Australasia.	United Kingdom.	America.	
NUMBER.				
1900	165,848	1,203	5,662	172,713
1901	188,073	1,130	6,833	196,036
1902	202,033	1,052	7,837	210,922
1903	205,302	1,004	8,555	214,861
1904	214,372	950	8,890	224,212
1905	217,225	914	9,029	227,168
1906	226,440	841	7,810	235,091
1907	234,562	805	7,018	242,385
1908	247,820	751	6,146	254,717
1909	265,033	706	5,160	270,899
1910	286,312	815	4,928	292,055
1911	306,201	772	4,722	311,695
1912	326,511	732	4,603	331,846
1913	346,238	680	4,332	351,250
1914	363,691	645	4,145	368,481
1915	376,588	609	3,909	381,106
1916	397,304	574	3,713	401,591

LIFE POLICIES IN FORCE IN VICTORIA, 1900 TO 1916—*continued.*

Year.	Companies with Head Offices in—			Total.
	Australasia.	United Kingdom.	America.	
AMOUNT.				
	£	£	£	£
1900	23,185,797	554,124	2,575,941	26,315,862
1901	25,220,187	523,560	2,821,142	28,564,889
1902	26,408,467	477,934	2,991,761	29,878,162
1903	26,634,510	458,820	3,137,237	30,230,567
1904	27,338,229	434,030	3,208,084	30,980,343
1905	27,944,942	426,840	3,214,742	31,586,524
1906	28,984,315	393,765	2,868,727	32,246,807
1907	30,190,191	377,906	2,544,255	33,112,352
1908	31,511,180	344,859	2,201,808	34,057,847
1909	32,874,409	324,630	1,921,714	35,120,753
1910	34,286,548	378,577	1,830,126	36,495,251
1911	36,097,151	353,108	1,735,600	38,185,859
1912	38,119,403	336,198	1,676,745	40,132,346
1913	39,675,710	312,101	1,559,014	41,546,825
1914	41,512,853	298,186	1,494,336	43,305,375
1915	42,741,257	282,693	1,378,139	44,402,089
1916	44,565,105	267,423	1,313,045	46,145,573

The figures in the preceding table relate to simple life assurance, endowment assurance, and pure endowment policies, in both the ordinary and industrial classes.

The percentage of policies held in Australasian, British, and American offices in Victoria in 1916, and the percentage increase or decrease since 1900, are as follows:—

LIFE ASSURANCE POLICIES: PERCENTAGE AND GROWTH OF VICTORIAN BUSINESS IN AUSTRALASIAN AND OTHER OFFICES.

Companies with Head Offices in—	Percentage in 1916 of—		Increase per cent. in 1916 as compared with 1900.	
	Total Policies.	Total Amount Assured.	Number.	Amount.
Australasia	98·94	96·57	139·56	92·21
United Kingdom	·14	·58	— 52·29*	— 51·74*
America	·92	2·85	— 34·42*	— 49·03*
Total	100·00	100·00	132·52	75·35

* The minus sign denotes a decrease.

Thus, while there has been a very large increase in the business of the Australasian offices, there has been a large falling off in the business of the British and American companies, nearly all of which have, however, ceased to accept new business.

It is significant that of the total amount assured (£46,145,573) 97 per cent. is placed with the Australasian offices.

The business transacted by the different offices comprises many varieties of assurance, but these may be grouped into three large classes—(1) simple assurance payable only at death; (2) endowment assurance, payable at the end of a specified term or at previous death; (3) endowments payable only should a person named survive a specified term. An endeavour has been made to obtain direct from each office the business under each of these classes; but in the case of three of the offices the separation between simple assurance and endowment assurance could not be effected. The following table shows the available information on the subject for the past five years, distinguishing between ordinary and industrial business:—

LIFE ASSURANCE POLICIES IN FORCE AT 31st DECEMBER,
1912 TO 1916.

	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
<i>Ordinary Business.</i>					
Number of Policies—					
Assurance	162,083	167,991	175,958	181,685	186,884
Endowment Assurance					
Pure Endowment	11,590	11,852	11,483	10,961	10,888
Total	173,673	179,843	187,441	192,646	197,772
Amount Assured—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	35,701,008	36,779,077	38,289,982	39,197,977	40,376,833
Endowment Assurance					
Pure Endowment	1,121,712	1,140,696	1,119,557	1,089,141	1,092,457
Total	36,822,720	37,919,773	39,409,539	40,287,118	41,469,290
Annual Premiums—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	1,214,669	1,253,029	1,305,590	1,344,055	1,416,534
Endowment Assurance					
Pure Endowment	45,393	45,969	45,473	44,096	44,644
Total	1,260,062	1,298,998	1,351,063	1,388,151	1,461,178
<i>Industrial Business.</i>					
Number of Policies—					
Assurance	55,497	55,841	54,720	53,143	52,688
Endowment Assurance					
Pure Endowment	78,559	93,470	106,044	116,713	133,559
Total	158,173	171,407	181,040	188,460	203,819
Amount Assured—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	974,144	973,516	957,839	926,029	921,419
Endowment Assurance					
Pure Endowment	1,908,114	2,248,543	2,557,512	2,826,529	3,406,957
Total	432,368	404,993	380,485	362,413	347,907
Total	3,309,626	3,627,052	3,895,836	4,114,971	4,676,283
Annual Premiums—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	52,127	52,463	51,199	49,378	49,251
Endowment Assurance					
Pure Endowment	111,678	139,552	165,188	186,866	222,044
Total	30,302	28,414	26,257	25,187	24,163
Total	194,107	220,429	242,644	261,431	295,453

There has been an increase of 5,126 ordinary and 15,359 industrial policies since 1915, the increase in the total sum assured by the ordinary policies being £1,182,172, and in that by the industrial policies £561,312. The average amount of policy in the former category for 1916 was £210, whilst—calculated from the returns of those societies which distinguish between simple assurance and

endowment assurance—the average amount of the simple assurance policy in the ordinary branch was £346, and that of the endowment assurance policy £166, the total amounts of the policies in the two forms of assurance being £17,869,876 for simple assurance, and £21,236,466 for endowment assurance. The amount secured under pure endowment policies was £1,092,457, or an average of £100 for each policy. In the industrial branch of the business the average amount of policy was £22·9, and there was not much variation in the average policies of the three classes, viz., simple assurance, £17·5; endowment assurance, £25·5; and pure endowment, £19·8. The total amounts of the several classes of policies were £921,419, £3,406,957, and £347,907 respectively. Taking these figures in conjunction with those relating to the ordinary business (with the restriction before mentioned), a preference in favour of endowment assurance is shown. A better test of popularity is furnished by the number of policies in the respective classes. In the ordinary business there were 51,634 simple assurance, and 128,163 endowment assurance policies, and in the industrial business 52,688 and 133,559 policies respectively. Judging by these figures, endowment assurance must be regarded as the popular form.

The following are the number and amount of annuity policies in force in Victoria at the end of each of the last seventeen years, distinguishing between those in force in companies whose head offices are inside, and those in companies whose head offices are outside Victoria :—

ANNUITY POLICIES IN FORCE IN VICTORIA, 1900 TO 1916.

Year.	Head Offices in Victoria.		Head Offices outside Victoria.		Total.	
	Number.	Amount per Annum.	Number.	Amount per Annum.	Number.	Amount per Annum.
		£		£		£
1900 ..	65	3,877	189	12,307	254	16,184
1901 ..	81	4,221	229	15,150	310	19,371
1902 ..	85	4,958	269	15,990	354	20,948
1903 ..	91	4,850	294	13,971	385	18,821
1904 ..	101	7,275	308	14,108	409	21,383
1905 ..	117	7,253	308	14,179	425	21,432
1906 ..	137	8,146	320	14,270	457	22,416
1907 ..	144	8,181	336	15,007	480	23,188
1908 ..	157	8,845	324	14,163	481	23,008
1909 ..	181	11,662	334	14,838	515	26,500
1910 ..	159	9,686	388	17,656	547	27,342
1911 ..	154	11,720	422	21,482	576	33,202
1912 ..	158	11,635	419	21,509	577	33,144
1913 ..	173	12,268	427	20,418	600	32,686
1914 ..	179	12,310	441	21,454	620	33,764
1915 ..	188	11,208	429	20,195	617	31,403
1916 ..	192	11,541	419	19,836	611	31,377

The annuities at the close of 1916 exceed those at the close of 1900 by 141 per cent. in number and 94 per cent. in amount.

Of the 419 annuities held in 1916 in companies whose head offices were outside Victoria, 355 for £16,941 per annum were in New South Wales offices, 6 for £172 in English offices, and 58 for £2,723 in American offices. The figures in this table include annuities granted by industrial assurance companies, of which there was one for £49 in force on 31st December, 1916.

The preceding tables relate to policies in force on 31st December. The succeeding table contains summarized information in relation to the new business written by all life assurance companies during each of the last five years, the number of policies, sum assured, and premium income being given.

LIFE ASSURANCE.—NEW POLICIES ISSUED: 1912 TO 1916.

	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
<i>Ordinary Business.</i>					
Number of Policies—					
Assurance	3,199	3,053	3,056	3,718	3,773
Endowment Assurance	14,735	13,473	14,927	12,703	12,236
Pure Endowment	1,900	1,918	1,210	811	1,056
Total	19,834	18,444	19,193	17,232	17,115
Annuities	46	47	36	38	23
Sum Assured—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	1,119,830	1,109,981	1,192,465	1,196,272	1,261,756
Endowment Assurance	2,450,036	2,219,334	2,436,076	2,009,489	2,034,504
Pure Endowment	196,311	178,822	127,702	91,609	100,116
Total	3,766,177	3,508,137	3,756,243	3,297,370	3,396,376
Annuities	2,671	2,360	2,023	1,761	1,273
Single Premiums—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	5,001	4,459	1,643	7,193	3,405
Endowment Assurance	1,498	889	2,756	462	1,446
Pure Endowment	229	1,056	370	563	273
Total	6,728	6,404	4,769	8,218	5,124
Annuities	27,538	24,887	12,753	16,346	12,183
Annual Premiums—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	33,844	34,145	38,911	41,999	51,949
Endowment Assurance	90,506	85,626	92,616	82,432	88,576
Pure Endowment	7,507	7,274	5,728	4,077	4,216
Total	131,857	127,045	137,255	128,508	144,741
Annuities	14	23	184	7	..

LIFE ASSURANCE.—NEW POLICIES ISSUED: 1912 TO 1916—*continued.*

	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
<i>Industrial Business.</i>					
Number of Policies—					
Assurance ..	12,164	8,065	5,127	3,947	3,932
Endowment Assurance ..	30,410	35,823	37,409	36,467	39,187
Pure Endowment ..	6,428	4,108	2,440	2,248	1,587
Total	49,002	48,896	44,976	42,662	44,706
Sum Assured—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	264,793	193,458	133,679	96,136	94,193
Endowment Assurance ..	829,030	928,357	934,463	922,343	1,052,811
Pure Endowment ..	148,351	106,460	72,493	71,296	51,313
Total	1,242,174	1,228,275	1,140,635	1,089,775	1,198,317
Annual Premiums—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	15,316	10,693	7,170	5,894	5,414
Endowment Assurance ..	52,612	63,019	71,470	70,134	78,006
Pure Endowment ..	10,565	7,162	4,956	4,740	3,567
Total	78,493	80,874	83,596	80,268	86,977

The new business includes 17,115 ordinary assurance policies for £3,396,376 and 44,706 industrial policies for £1,198,317, the former averaging £198 and the latter £27 in amount. The policies in force in the two sections of the business increased in the year by 5,126 for £1,182,172 and 15,359 for £561,312 respectively, indicating that those which became claims by death or maturity or were discontinued during 1916 must, after deduction of revivals, have numbered 11,989 for £2,214,204 in ordinary, and 29,347 for £637,005 in industrial assurance.

The following table shows the transactions of insurance companies doing other than life business and operating in Victoria during the period 1912 to 1916:—

INSURANCE—OTHER THAN LIFE: 1912 TO 1916.

Nature of Insurance.	Year.	Receipts.			Outgo.		
		Premiums.	Other.	Total.	Losses.	Other.	Total.
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Fire ..	1912	620,011	31,886	651,897	296,265	282,591	578,856
	1913	669,571	42,069	711,640	289,682	307,640	597,322
	1914	809,372	36,539	845,911	511,943	338,817	850,760
	1915	845,351	36,959	882,310	336,653	334,885	671,538
	1916	928,300	35,443	963,743	343,170	385,651	728,821
Marine ..	1912	139,613	3,516	143,129	49,007	35,148	84,155
	1913	180,694	6,940	187,634	46,707	45,771	92,478
	1914	213,521	7,033	220,554	72,250	50,403	122,653
	1915	221,282	8,729	230,011	108,291	55,002	163,293
	1916	280,188	13,302	293,490	203,511	69,711	273,222
Guarantee ..	1912	10,029	1,510	11,539	1,349	5,140	6,489
	1913	10,632	1,012	11,644	2,697	5,459	8,156
	1914	10,639	865	11,504	1,847	4,927	6,774
	1915	10,620	2,062	12,682	3,805	4,212	8,017
	1916	11,190	861	12,051	2,549	4,836	7,385

INSURANCE—OTHER THAN LIFE: 1912 TO 1916—continued.

Nature of Insurance.	Year.	Receipts.			Outgo.		
		Premiums.	Other.	Total.	Losses.	Other.	Total.
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Live Stock ...	1912	50,779	1,018	51,797	27,037	20,781	47,868
	1913	36,061	885	36,946	20,379	16,064	36,443
	1914	25,414	675	26,089	14,179	8,514	22,693
	1915	18,078	70	18,148	14,703	4,841	19,544
	1916	20,455	995	21,450	10,503	6,256	16,759
Plate Glass ..	1912	8,637	395	9,032	3,001	3,921	6,922
	1913	9,571	403	9,974	3,039	4,361	7,400
	1914	10,494	364	10,858	3,698	4,452	8,150
	1915	11,710	377	12,087	4,196	4,798	8,994
	1916	11,923	989	12,912	4,163	4,704	8,867
Motor Car ..	1913	27,495	679	28,174	7,135	11,743	18,378
	1914	31,229	456	31,685	9,458	11,090	20,548
	1915	33,615	620	34,235	15,739	12,762	28,501
	1916	33,627	960	34,587	8,262	11,891	20,093
	1913	30,567	1,149	31,716	10,595	14,731	25,326
Accident (Personal)	1914	59,736	3,966	63,702	25,346	27,321	52,667
	1915	27,498	794	28,292	11,909	12,305	24,214
	1916	26,827	728	27,555	11,721	11,563	23,284
	1914	140,755	48	140,803	11,548	50,797	62,345
Workers' Compensation ..	1915	227,624	3,981	231,605	62,353	73,955	136,308
	1916	212,880	8,764	221,644	81,856	69,735	151,591
	1912	127,608	6,115	133,723	47,028	60,005	107,633
	1913	82,071	4,443	86,514	33,754	37,327	71,081
Other ..	1914	34,399	2,419	36,818	13,121	18,401	31,522
	1915	1,425,703	4,230	1,430,933	11,817	12,642	24,459
	1916	34,837	4,308	39,145	13,047	15,000	28,047
	1912	956,677	44,440	1,001,117	423,737	408,186	831,923
Totals ..	1913	1,046,662	57,580	1,104,242	413,988	443,096	857,084
	1914	1,335,559	52,365	1,387,924	663,390	514,722	1,178,112
	1915	1,425,703	57,822	1,483,525	569,466	515,402	1,084,868
	1916	1,560,227	66,350	1,626,577	678,782	579,287	1,258,069

The particulars given in this table relate to Victorian risks, that is, to all business written on the Victorian registers of the eighty-seven companies represented in the return. The figures are net, and in the case of premiums exclude all re-insurances in Australasia, and returns; the losses also exclude amounts recovered from Australasian re-insuring offices, but include losses on Victorian risks wherever paid. Premiums paid and losses recovered under re-insurances of Victorian business effected outside Australasia have not been deducted in compiling the figures quoted above for the last three years. It is probable that a portion of these premiums and losses were allowed for in previous years, and this will account to some extent for the increase in the receipts and outgo of the fire and marine sections of the business in the last three years, as compared with the immediately preceding years. The item "Other outgo" excludes expenditure, amounting to about £18,900 in 1916, incurred in Victoria in connexion with the supervision of branches outside the State, as well as the sum expended outside Victoria on the supervision of branches within the State. The amount so expended outside the State is unknown, but it is probably less than the outlay under the former heading.

The total amount at risk is not available, but it is obvious, from the extent of the premiums, that the amount covered must be very

large. The total losses on all classes of insurance for the five years given in the table represent $43\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the premiums.

BUILDING SOCIETIES.

Building Societies. Building societies in Victoria date from an early period in the history of the State, and up to 1892 their business was extensive. Since then it has been comparatively small, but the figures of recent years show that an improvement has taken place. The following table gives particulars of the principal items of business for the last five years:—

BUILDING SOCIETIES: 1911-12 TO 1915-16.

	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.
Number of societies ...	32	32	32	32	31
" shareholders ...	8,518	8,126	8,187	8,001	7,650
" borrowers ...	10,538	10,087	10,498	10,337	10,043
Transactions during the Year—	£	£	£	£	£
Income from loans and investments	150,379	162,268	168,541	172,448	174,366
Loans granted ...	591,253	372,757	653,877	315,350	369,093
Repayments ...	565,716	491,157	585,570	518,245	540,588
Deposits received	547,344	575,802	826,784	584,849	607,283
Working expenses*	71,281	73,689	69,553	71,773	70,257
Assets—					
Loans on mortgage	2,084,354	2,090,572	2,228,449	2,161,297	2,088,476
Properties in possession or surrendered	623,567	538,322	477,061	476,296	469,403
Other advances ...	15,524	14,720	15,015	20,273	19,931
Cash in hand, &c. ...	35,556	71,344	32,165	52,005	28,532
Other assets ...	6,985	8,640	9,373	9,508	16,411
Total ...	2,765,986	2,723,598	2,762,663	2,719,379	2,622,753
Liabilities—					
To shareholders ...	1,275,496	1,336,556	1,315,620	1,299,072	1,316,145
" debenture-holders ...	83,188	52,142	15,046	10,065	...
" depositors ...	829,792	789,309	931,756	887,813	796,325
Bank overdraft ...	41,564	30,047	29,606	21,928	29,821
Other ...	239,013	198,000	113,203	91,815	89,010
Total ...	2,469,053	2,406,054	2,405,231	2,310,693	2,231,301
Reserve Funds ...	261,368	274,511	295,111	331,174	332,877

* Includes interest on deposits, loans, &c.

Particulars relating to Starr-Bowkett societies are included in the above table, but, as the business transacted by these societies is on a comparatively small scale, it has had no pronounced effect on the items shown.

MORTGAGES, LIENS, ETC.

Land mortgages and releases. A statement of the number and amount of registered mortgages and releases of land in each of the last five years is given hereunder. In a small proportion of the mortgages the amount of the loan is not stated, and it is considered that the amounts appearing in the following table fall short of the total by about 5 per cent. No account is taken of unregistered or equitable mortgages to financial institutions and individuals, as there is no public record of these dealings; nor are building society mortgages over land held under the Transfer of Land Act included, they being registered as absolute transfers. Besides releases registered as such, some mortgages are released or lapse in other ways, *e.g.*, by a transfer from mortgagor to mortgagee, by sale by mortgagee, or by foreclosure.

LAND MORTGAGES AND RELEASES: 1912 TO 1916.

Transactions Registered.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
Mortgages—					
Number ..	14,798	14,901	14,731	13,934	11,445
Amount £	12,713,310	10,649,972	9,869,098	9,476,974	8,015,066
Releases—					
Number ..	10,256	9,506	10,277	9,051	8,670
Amount £	8,030,648	6,891,315	8,103,506	6,908,671	6,538,141

Stock mortgages, liens on wool and crops. The number and amount of stock mortgages, liens on wool, and liens on crops registered during each of the last five years were as follows. Releases are not shown, as releases of liens are not required to be registered, the latter being removed from the register after the expiration of twelve months, and very few of the mortgagors of stock trouble to secure themselves by a registered release:—

STOCK MORTGAGES AND LIENS ON WOOL AND CROPS:
1912 TO 1916.

Security.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
Stock Mortgages—					
Number ..	854	935	850	605	862
Amount £	157,560	221,872	157,381	129,753	202,872
Liens on Wool—					
Number ..	133	120	106	94	74
Amount £	57,599	47,398	47,541	46,118	42,483
Liens on Crops—					
Number ..	612	892	877	7,674	4,628
Amount £	137,761	176,875	146,824	332,684	276,390
Total—					
Number ..	1,599	1,947	1,833	8,373	5,564
Amount £	352,920	446,145	351,746	508,555	521,745

Two forms of security are taken by lenders over personal chattels, viz., a bill of sale, or a contract of sale for letting and hiring. The former is a simple mortgage of the chattels, whilst the latter purports to be an absolute sale of the chattels to the lender, with an agreement by the lender to hire the goods back to the borrower at a certain rental, which takes the place of interest. The following are the numbers and amounts of bills and contracts of sale which have been filed in each of the last five years.

BILLS AND CONTRACTS OF SALE: 1912 TO 1916.

Security.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
Bills of Sale—					
Number ..	1,238	1,316	1,134	1,106	877
Amount £	362,545	221,734	320,709	458,050	199,969
Contracts of Sale—					
Number ..	88	86	103	87	57
Amount £	6,229	6,282	7,305	7,383	4,151

Before filing a bill of sale, fourteen days' notice of intention to file must be lodged with the Registrar-General, within which period any creditor may lodge a "caveat" to prevent the filing of the bill without the payment by the borrower of his claim. To circumvent this, a practice arose in 1877, whereby the borrower purported to sell the chattels to the lender, who hired them back to the borrower, and this became the form of security more generally adopted until 1887, when a decision was given that if there were any tacit understanding that the transaction should be considered as a loan, the security would be void unless registered as a bill of sale. In consequence of this, the number of contracts of sale gradually decreased, and in 1916 the bills of sale were fifteen times their number, and the amount secured forty-eight times as great as against ratios of about one-half and six times respectively for the six years prior to 1887.

Trading
companies
registered.

A statement of the number and nature of the business of trading companies floated and registered in Victoria during the year 1916 is appended:—

TRADING COMPANIES REGISTERED IN VICTORIA, 1916.

Nature of Business.	No. Registered.	Nature of Business.	No Registered.
MANUFACTURING—		PRIMARY PRODUCTION—	
Tanning	1	Farmers	1
Fellmongering	1	Orchardists	2
Porcelain, chinaware	1	Rubber growing	2
Stained Glass	1	Mining and prospecting	1
Sawmill (forest)	1	Zinc production	2
Sawmilling, box making	4		
Brass, Copper	1	TRADING—	
Engineering, ironfounding	6	Warehousemen, merchants, &c.	22
Enamelware	1		
Wire working	1	FINANCIAL—	
Butter	2	Land and property invest-	
Confectionery	2	ment	4
Jams, preserves	3	Indenting, agency, &c.	6
Cereal foods	1	Financing	1
Ærated waters	1		
Brewing	1	TRANSPORT—	
Boot, shoe	2	Carriers, &c.	5
Clothing	3	Motor garage, taxi-cab	1
Corsets	1		
Hat, cap	1	MISCELLANEOUS—	
Hosiery	2	Coursing Club	1
Engraving, die sinking	1	Pastrycooks, bakers, caterers	2
Printing and publishing	4	Caterers for amusements	4
Munitions	1	Weighbridge	4
Side cars	1	Mineral waters	1
Perambulators	1	Irrigation	1
Boot polish	1	Public hall	1
Paint, varnish, whitelead	2	Cool storage	1
Perfumery	1	Educational	1
Jewellery	1	Opticians	1
Electric apparatus	1	Consulting engineers	1
Leather goods (excluding boots and shoes)	1	Legal Managers' and Secretaries' Association	1
Rubber goods (including tyres)	2	Employers' Association	1
Miscellaneous (Patent rights, &c.)	2		

The figures in the above table refer only to companies registered under the Companies Act 1915, and are, therefore, exclusive of ordinary mining companies, of which 27 were registered during 1916 under Part II. of the Companies Act 1915. Insurance companies doing life business only, as well as building societies, are also excluded.

According to records in the Registrar-General's office, there were 2,413 trading companies in 1916 actively engaged in the operations for which they were formed, as against 2,493 in 1915, 2,334 in 1914, 2,140 in 1913, 1,938 in 1912,

Number of
existing
companies.

1,627 in 1911, and 1,472 in 1910. In addition to the above, there were 18 insurance companies doing life business only in 1916, and a large number of mining companies, but how many is not known.

The following table contains particulars for the last five years of societies registered under the Provident Societies Act. The particulars given do not represent complete information regarding co-operative societies, since it is optional whether such societies register as provident societies or as trading companies. As a matter of fact there is a large number of co-operative butter factories and other co-operative societies which are registered as trading companies under the Companies Act, and which are not represented in the table here given.

PROVIDENT (CO-OPERATIVE) SOCIETIES, 1912 TO 1916.

	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
Number of Societies	36	36	43	50	49
Number of Shareholders ..	20,308	19,450	19,876	20,661	13,132
	£	£	£	£	£
Total Sales during Year ..	626,208	604,840	832,076	812,115	817,312
Other Revenue	12,360	21,573	11,460	8,462	16,046
Wages and Salaries for Year ..	56,914	59,320	65,428	55,127	53,558
Other Working Expenses	49,200	61,230	80,592	90,192	72,229
Net Profit	15,304	6,892	19,539	10,774	32,776
Liabilities at end of Year—					
Paid-up Capital	131,469	118,030	136,894	109,401	102,973
Reserves	19,382	21,577	28,062	36,305	38,804
Bank Overdraft	83,597	65,003	69,468	59,506	59,602
Sundry Creditors	43,054	49,227	71,464	66,181	64,323
Other Liabilities	48,685	82,957	70,087	79,217	57,636
Total Liabilities	326,187	336,794	375,975	350,700	323,338
Assets at end of Year—					
Real Estate	96,981	91,343	94,755	89,016	75,334
Stock	92,367	101,104	118,606	97,241	112,268
Fittings, Plant, and Machinery ..	37,355	38,212	38,260	24,800	22,908
Sundry Debtors	95,138	99,419	113,319	132,181	121,980
Cash in Hand and on Deposit ..	10,547	12,647	15,611	16,177	17,194
Other Assets	5,711	3,719	4,738	2,518	1,841
Total Assets	338,099	346,444	385,289	361,933	351,025

Of the forty-nine co-operative societies, sixteen were association of farmers acting as general merchants and commission agents, seven carried on the business of bread-making and the sale of groceries, &c., seven acted as general merchants, and six as fruit-packers, merchants, and salesmen, two were engaged in the manufacture of jams, &c., two were registered for cool storage, and two as commission agents, and one each was engaged in supplying coachbuilders' materials, in co-operative credit banking, in fish selling, in printing and publishing, in eucalyptus oil distilling, in storage of wheat, and in the erection of buildings.