

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS,
MELBOURNE.

OFFICIAL
YEAR BOOK
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,
CONTAINING AUTHORITATIVE STATISTICS FOR THE PERIOD
1901-1907
AND CORRECTED STATISTICS FOR THE PERIOD 1788 TO 1900.

No. 1.—1908.

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BY

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BY AUTHORITY.

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YEAR BOOK OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

PREFACE.

By the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Commonwealth is empowered "to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Commonwealth, with respect to," *inter alia*, "Census and Statistics." In exercising the power so conferred, a "Census and Statistics Act" was passed in 1905, and in the year following the "Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics" was created. The publication here presented is therefore the first authoritative Year Book issued under the Federal Constitution.

In addition to Statistics for the whole of the Federal period, 1901 to 1907, this Year Book also furnishes corrected statistics for the period 1788 to 1900. This was necessary to constitute this publication the authoritative source of statistical information for the Commonwealth of Australia for the whole Federal period, and to shew the proper relation of that information to the past statistical history of Australia.

The general arrangement of the publication, differing somewhat from that of previous Year Books, is shewn in the synopsis on pp. v. to xvi. immediately following, and will be substantially adhered to in the future issues.

In addition, however, to what may be called purely statistical matter, each issue will contain articles dealing at length with some particular subject or subjects of more or less permanent interest. It is undesirable as well as impracticable to repeat these year after year, seeing that it would unduly increase the size of the publication. As a rule, therefore, only a brief condensation of special articles will appear in subsequent issues of the Year Book, or they may be omitted altogether.

The general statistical matter will, of course, be brought up to date from year to year, and, except in cases intended to specially illustrate or elaborate some question of peculiar importance, will be set forth on each occasion with equal fulness. In this way each Year Book will, by reason of its special features, have some measure of independent interest.

Through the co-operation of the various State Bureaux with the Commonwealth Bureau it has been possible to considerably advance the accuracy, and in general the intrinsic value, of Australian Statistics. The collection of data is also being continually improved.

It has been found desirable to deal with the subject matter from a threefold aspect, viz. :—

- (i.) The development of the component States.
- (ii.) The progress of Australia as a whole from the earliest times.
- (iii.) The statistical comparison of Australia with other leading countries of the world.

In the endeavour to supply reliable details of this character, considerable difficulties have been experienced, more particularly as regards the early years of Australian colonisation, and although assistance has been cordially rendered not only by the State Statistical Bureaux, but also by other State Departments that were in a position to help, the results obtained must in many cases be considered as roughly approximate only.

A feature of this publication is the use made of maps and diagrams. The changing boundaries of the various States, the distribution of the population of Australia, of its rainfall, etc., the development of its railway system, and similar facts can be properly appreciated only by the use of maps. In like manner the progress of events, the characteristics of growth and decline, can in general be represented much better graphically than numerically. The diagram or "graph" is a direct picture in which the relative magnitudes are preserved and by which instantaneous comparisons are made possible.

The graph has also the advantage of shewing current events in relation to the past, from which often they derive their significance, and comparisons of the graphs of interdependent facts often throw light on the nature of the interdependence.

The development of Australia has been in many instances very remarkable, and this could be shewn only by graphs dating back to its beginning in 1788. In most cases accurate data are not available for years much before 1860. In such cases, therefore, it seemed sufficient at present to give continuous results from that year onwards.

The great mass of material embodied in this Year Book has been carefully examined, but to hope that all error has been avoided would be idle. If readers will kindly point out any errors or limitations which they may discover, the Commonwealth Statistician will much appreciate the opportunity thus afforded of perfecting the matter and arrangement of the Year Book.

In conclusion, the Commonwealth Statistician desires to express his cordial thanks to the State Statisticians, and to the responsible officers of the various Commonwealth and State Departments, who have so kindly supplied all desired information.

G. H. KNIBBS,
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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS.
31st March, 1908.

SYNOPSIS.

SECTION I.—INTRODUCTION.

§ 1. Development of State Statistics	page	§ 5. Devolution of Census and Statistics	page
1. Origin of Statistics in Australia	1	to the Commonwealth	
2. Condition of Development of Statistics	1	1. The Commonwealth Constitution in respect to Statistics	8
3. The Granting of Responsible Government and its Effect	2	2. Exercise of Prerogative in Creating a Census and Statistics Bureau	8
4. Administrative Control of Statistical Compilation	2	§ 6. The Census and Statistics Act of 1905	
5. Registrars-General and their Statistical Functions	2	1. General Review of the Act	8
§ 2. The Statistical Bureaux of the Several States		2. The Act:	8
1. New South Wales	2	Part I.—Introductory	8
2. Victoria	3	Part II.—Administration	9
3. Queensland	3	Part III.—The Census	9
4. South Australia	4	Part IV.—Statistics	10
5. Western Australia	4	Part V.—Miscellaneous	11
6. Tasmania	5	§ 7. Creation of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics	
7. New Zealand	5	1. Appointment of Commonwealth Statistician and Staff	11
§ 3. Co-ordination of Statistical Effort		2. Organisation of the Bureau	12
1. Early Recognition of Need of Uniformity	5	3. The Technical Library of the Bureau	12
2. Individualistic Tendencies of States	5	§ 8. The Statistical Conference of 1906	
3. Conferences of Statisticians	6	1. Personnel, etc., of Conference	12
4. Results of Statistical Conferences	6	2. Abridged Extracts from Commonwealth Statistician's Address	13
§ 4. Uniformity in Statistic an Imperative Necessity		3. Resumé of the Conference Resolutions	15
1. Uniformity an Essential	7	§ 9. Sources of Information	
2. Uniformity demanded by Commonwealth Administration	7	1. State Statistical Bureaux	16
3. International Uniformity in Statistic	8	2. C'wealth and State Departments	16
		3. Scientific and Technical Experts	16
		4. Direct Inquiry by C'wealth Bureau	16

CHAPTER II.—FEDERATION AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION.

§ 1. The Federal Movement in Australia		Chapter II.—The Executive Government	30
1. Early Stages of the Federal Movement	17	Chapter III.—The Judicature	30
2. The Federal Council	18	Chapter IV.—Finance and Trade	32
3. Formative Stages of the Federal Movement	18	Chapter V.—The States	35
4. Adoption and Enactment of the Constitution	20	Chapter VI.—New States	36
§ 2. The Creation of the Commonwealth		Chapter VII.—Miscellaneous	36
1. The Act	21	Chapter VIII.—Alteration of the Constitution	37
The Constitution	22	Schedule	37
Chapter I.—The Parliament	22	2. The Royal Proclamation	38
Part I.—General	22	§ 3. Commonwealth Legislation	
Part II.—The Senate	23	1. The Commonwealth Parliaments	38
Part III.—The House of Representatives	24	2. The Several Administrations	39
Part IV.—Both Houses of the Parliament	26	3. The Course of Legislation	40
Part V.—Powers of the Parliament	27		

SECTION III.—THE AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH AND AUSTRALASIA.

§ 1. Early Knowledge of Australia	page	§ 5. The Geology of Australia	page
1. Introduction	44	1. General	70
2. The Austral Land of the Ancients	44	2. Geology of New South Wales	73
3. Precise Period of Discovery Unknown	44	3. Geology of Victoria	78
4. Old Manuscript Charts and Globes	44	4. Geology of Queensland	83
5. Discoveries by Spanish and Portuguese Mariners	45	5. Geology of South Australia	89
6. The Dutch Period of Activity	46	6. Geology of Western Australia	94
7. Discoveries by the English	48	7. Geology of Tasmania	98
8. Bibliographical References	49		
§ 2. The Taking Possession of Australia		§ 6. The Fauna of Australia	
1. Annexation of Eastern Part of Aust.	51	1. Zoological Isolation of Australia	103
2. Original Extent of New South Wales	51	2. Effect of Isolation	103
3. Annexation of Western Australia	52	3. The Non-marine Fauna	103
§ 3. The Creation of the Several Colonies		4. Origin of the Fauna	109
1. New South Wales as Original Colony	52	§ 7. The Flora of Australia	
2. Separation of Van Diemen's Land	52	1. Typical Character of the Australian Flora	109
3. Extension of N.S.W. Westward	52	2. Botanic Distribution	110
4. Western Aust. constituted a Colony	52	3. Natural Orders of Plants Represented in Australia	114
5. Creation of South Aust. as a Province	53	§ 8. Climate and Meteorology of Australia	
6. Separation of New Zealand	53	1. General Description	115
7. Separation of Victoria	53	2. Meteorological Divisions of Australia	115
8. Separation of Queensland	53	3. Temperatures	116
9. No further Constitution of Colonies	53	4. Relative Humidity	118
10. The Changing Boundaries of the Colonies	54	5. Evaporation	118
11. Australasia, 1863 to 1900	54	6. Rainfall	119
12. British New Guinea or Papua	57	7. Remarkable Falls of Rain	123
§ 4. General Description of Australia		8. Snowfall	125
1. Geographical Position	57	9. Hail	125
2. Area of Australia compared with that of other Countries	57	10. Barometric Pressures	126
3. Relative Size of Political Subdivisions	58	11. Wind	126
4. Coastal Configuration	59	12. Cyclones and Storms	127
5. Orography	68	13. Influences affecting Australian Climate	133
6. Hydrology of Australia	69	14. Comparison of Rainfalls and Temperatures	135
		15. Climatological Tables	135

SECTION IV.—POPULATION.

§ 1. General Observations		§ 7. Assisted Immigration	160
1. Special Characteristics of Australian Population	142	§ 8. Enumerations and Estimates	
2. Age Distribution	143	1. Musters	160
3. Race and Nationality	144	2. Census-taking	160
4. Differences among the States	145	3. The Census of 1901	160
§ 2. Commonwealth Population—Its Distribution and Fluctuation		4. The Census of 1911	161
1. Present Population	148	5. Estimates of Population	162
2. Growth of Population	148	§ 9. Principal Results of Census of 1901	
§ 3. Influences affecting Growth and Distribution of Population		1. Ages	164
1. Mineral Discoveries	150	2. Birthplaces	165
2. Pastoral Development	151	3. Occupations	169
3. Agricultural Expansion	151	4. Religions	172
4. Progress of Manufacturing Industries	151	5. Conjugal Condition	175
5. Influence of Droughts	151	§ 10. Naturalisation	
6. Other Influences	151	1. The Commonwealth Act	180
§ 4. Elements of Growth of Population		2. Statistics of Naturalisations	181
1. Natural Increase	152	3. Census Particulars	182
2. Comparison with other Countries	153	§ 11. Graphical Representation of Growth of Population	
3. Net Immigration	153	1. General	189
4. Total Increase	155	2. Graphs of Total Population	189
§ 5. Seasonal Variations of Population		3. Graphs for Commonwealth of Male and Female Population	190
1. Natural Increase	157	4. Graphs for each State of Male and Female Population	190
2. Net Immigration	157	5. Graphs of Natural Increase of Population, Commonwealth and States	190
§ 6. Urban Population		6. Graphs shewing Net Increase of Population	190
1. The Metropolitan Towns	158		
2. Provincial Towns	159		

SECTION V.—VITAL STATISTICS.

§ 1. Births	page		page
1. Male and Female Births, 1901 to 1906	192	4. Total Deaths, 1901 to 1906	200
2. Total Births, 1901 to 1906	192	5. Crude Death Rates, 1901 to 1906	201
3. Birth Rates, 1901 to 1906	193	6. Male and Female Death Rates, 1901 to 1906	201
4. Birth Rates of Various Countries	194	7. Infantile Death Rate	202
5. Masculinity at Birth	194	8. Deaths in Age Groups, 1901 to 1906	203
6. Illegitimacy	195	9. Average Age at Death	203
7. Ages of Parents	197	10. Index of Mortality	203
§ 2. Marriages		11. Causes of Death	205
1. Marriages, 1901 to 1906	197	12. Deaths from Special Causes	208
2. Marriage Rates, 1901 to 1906	197	§ 4. Graphical Representation of Vital Statistics	
3. Marriage Rates in Various Countries	198	1. General	211
4. Age at Marriage	198	2. Graphs of Annual Births, Commonwealth and States	212
5. Fertility of Marriages	198	3. Graphs of Annual Marriages, Commonwealth and States	213
6. Registration of Marriages	198	4. Graphs of Annual Deaths, Commonwealth and States	213
7. Mark Signatures	198	5. Graphs of Phthisis, Cancer, Suicide, and Plague	213
§ 3. Deaths			
1. Male and Female Deaths, 1901 to 1906	199		
2. Male and Female Death Rates, 1906	200		
3. Death Rates of various Countries	200		

SECTION VI.—LAND TENURE AND SETTLEMENT.

§ 1. Introduction		15. Classification of Holdings according to Area	244
1. First Grants of Land in New South Wales, 1787	219	16. Areas Acquired and made Available for Closer Settlement, 1901 to 1906	246
2. Grants of Town Allotments in Sydney, 1811	219	§ 4. Queensland	
3. Introduction of Land Sales, 1825	219	1. Settlement in Early Days	246
4. Free Grants Abolished, 1831	220	2. History of Land Legislation	246
5. Land Regulations Issued under Imperial Acts, 1842 to 1847	220	3. Land Acts now in Force	246
6. First Land Legislation of Individual States	220	4. Administration under the Land Acts	247
7. New South Wales Areas Alienated between 1787 and 1859	221	5. Modes of Tenure	247
§ 2. New South Wales		6. Co-operative Settlement	250
1. History of Land Legislation	221	7. Closer Settlement	251
2. Land Acts now in Force	222	8. Areas Alienated, in Process of Alienation, and Areas Occupied under Lease or License, 1901 to 1906	251
3. Administration	222	9. Areas Occupied for Pastoral Purposes, 1901 to 1906	252
4. Modes of Tenure	222	10. Areas of Holdings Selected, 1901 to 1906	252
5. Western Division	227	11. Closer Settlement	253
6. Areas Alienated Absolutely and in Process of Alienation, 1901 to 1906	227	§ 5. South Australia and Northern Territory	
7. Areas Occupied under Leases and Licenses for Pastoral and other Purposes, 1901 to 1906	228	1. Settlement in Early Days	253
8. Classification of Holdings of One Acre and over in Extent, according to Size	229	2. History of Land Legislation	254
9. Area Acquired and Disposed of for Purposes of Closer Settlement, 1901 to 1906	229	3. Administration and General Provisions	254
10. General Summary of Lands in the State of New South Wales	230	4. Modes of Tenure	255
§ 3. Victoria		5. Pinnaroo Railway Act 1903	259
1. Settlement in Early Days	231	6. The Pastoral Act 1904	259
2. History of Land Legislation	231	7. The Northern Territory	260
3. Land Acts now in Force	231	8. Areas Alienated and Areas held under Lease, 1901 to 1906	260
4. Administration and Classification of Lands	232	9. Areas Acquired and Disposed of for Purposes of Closer Settlement, 1902 to 1906	262
5. Modes of Tenure	232	§ 6. Western Australia	
6. Mallee Lands	238	1. Settlement in the Early Days	262
7. Village Communities	240	2. History of Land Regulations and Legislation	263
8. Homestead Associations	240	3. Land Acts now in Force	263
9. Labour Colonies	241	4. Administration of Land Acts	263
10. Closer Settlement	241	5. Modes of Tenure under the Land Acts	263
11. The Small Improved Holdings Act, 1906	242	6. General Provisions of the Land Acts	267
12. Areas Alienated and in Process of Alienation and Area of Occupied and Unoccupied Crown Lands, 1901 to 1906	243	7. Closer Settlement under the Agricultural Lands Purchase Acts, 1896 to 1904	268
13. Areas Available for Occupation, 1901 to 1906	243	8. Loans to Settlers	268
14. Areas Occupied for Pastoral Purposes, 1901 to 1906	244	9. Area of Land Alienated, in Process of Alienation, and Area held under Lease or License	269
		10. Areas Acquired and Disposed of for Purposes of Closer Settlement, 1901 to 1906	269
		11. Classification of Holdings according to Size, 1901 to 1906	270

§ 7. Tasmania	page
1. Settlement in Early Days	270
2. History of Land Legislation	270
3. Classification of Lands... ..	271
4. Acquisition of Land for Agricultural Purposes	271
5. Grazing Leases	272
6. Leases for Miscellaneous Purposes... ..	272
7. Occupation Licenses	273
8. Opening-up of New Districts to Settlement	273
9. Closer Settlement	273

	page
10. Areas Alienated, in Process of Alienation, Areas Occupied under Lease or License, and Areas Unoccupied	274
11. Principal Land Transactions, 1901 to 1906	274
§ 8. The Progress of Land Settlement, 1897 to 1906	
1. Recent Progress	274
2. Diagram shewing Condition of Public Estate	277

SECTION VII.—PASTORAL PRODUCTION.

§ 1. Initiation and Growth of Pastoral Industry	
1. Early Statistics	278
2. Subsequent Development	278
3. Increase in Numbers	278
4. Fluctuations	279
5. Live Stock in Relation to Population	279
6. Live Stock in Relation to Area	279
7. Net Exports of Principal Pastoral Products	280
§ 2. Horses	
1. Suitability of Australia for Horse-breeding	281
2. Distribution throughout C'wealth... ..	281
3. Proportion in the several States	281
4. Export Trade in Horses	282
5. Comparison with other Countries... ..	282
6. Relation to Population	283
7. Value of Australian Horses	283
§ 3. Cattle	
1. Purposes for which Raised	283
2. Distribution throughout C'wealth	284
3. Proportion in each State	284
4. Exports of Cattle	285
5. Cattle Slaughtered	285
6. Exports of Frozen Beef	285
7. Comparison with other Countries... ..	286
8. Relation to Population	286
9. Value of Australian Cattle	287

§ 4. Sheep	
1. The Founding of the Commonwealth Pastoral Industry	287
2. Distribution throughout C'wealth... ..	287
3. Proportion in the several States	288
4. Exports of Sheep... ..	288
5. Sheep Slaughtered	288
6. Exports of Frozen Mutton and Lamb	288
7. Comparison with other Countries	289
8. Relation to Population... ..	290
9. Value of Australian Sheep	290
§ 5. Wool	
1. Importance of Wool Production	290
2. Greasy and Scoured Wool	290
3. Total Production... ..	291
4. Wool Locally Used	291
5. Exports of Wool	291
6. Care needed in Comparing Clips	293
7. Wool-producing Countries in Southern Hemisphere	293
8. England's Importation of Wool	293
9. The Wool Market	294
§ 6. Graphical Representation of Pastoral Production	
1. General	294
2. Graph for Cattle	297
3. Graph for Horses	297
4. Graph for Sheep	297
5. Graph for Pigs	297

SECTION VIII.—AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

§ 1. Introductory	
1. Early Attempts at Agriculture	298
2. The First Sowing	298
3. Discovery of Suitable Agricul. Land	298
§ 2. Progress of Agriculture	
1. Early Records	298
2. Progress of Agriculture since 1860	299
3. Artificially-sown Grasses	299
§ 3. Relative Importance of Crops	
1. Various Crops	300
2. Relative Areas o Crops in States	300
3. Acreage of Principal Crops, C'wlth	301
§ 4. Wheat	
1. Progress of Wheat-growing	301
2. Australian & Foreign Wheat-yields	302
3. Wheat Crop of the World	303
4. Prices of Wheat	303
5. Exports of Wheat and Flour	304
6. Value of the Wheat Crop	306
§ 5. Oats	
1. Progress of Cultivation	307
2. Total Yield	307
3. Average Yield	308
4. Value of Oat Crop	308
5. Imports and Exports	308
6. Oatmeal, etc.	308
7. Comparisons with other Countries	309
8. Comparison of Yields	309
9. Interstate Trade... ..	309
10. Price of Oats	309

§ 6. Maize	
1. States Growing Maize	310
2. Area under Maize	310
3. Total Yield	310
4. Average Yield	311
5. Value of Maize Crop	311
6. Imports and Exports	311
7. Prepared Maize	312
8. Maize-growing in other Countries... ..	312
9. Interstate Trade in Maize	312
10. Price of Maize	312
§ 7. Barley	
1. Area under Barley	313
2. Malting and other Barley	313
3. Total Yield... ..	313
4. Value of Barley Crop	314
5. Imports and Exports Oversea	314
6. Oversea Imports & Exports of Malt	315
7. Interstate Trade in Barley & Malt... ..	315
8. Comparison with other Countries... ..	316
9. Average Yield	316
10. Price of Barley	316
§ 8. Other Grain and Pulse Crops	316
§ 9. Potatoes	
1. Area	317
2. Total Yield... ..	317
3. Average Yield	317
4. Value of Potato Crop	318
5. Oversea Imports and Exports	318
6. Interstate Trade in Potatoes	318
7. Comparison with other Countries... ..	319

	page		page
§ 10. Other Root and Tuber Crops	319	4. Tobacco	333
1. Nature and Extent	319	5. Hops	333
2. Oversea Imports and Exports	319	6. Millet	334
3. Interstate Trade	320	7. Nurseries	334
§ 11. Hay		8. Cotton	334
1. Nature and Extent	320	9. Coffee	334
2. Kinds of Hay	321	10. Other Crops	334
3. Total Yield	321	§ 17. Agricultural Colleges and Experimental Farms	
4. Value of Hay Crop	322	1. Introduction	334
5. Average Yield per Acre	322	2. New South Wales	335
6. Oversea Imports and Exports	322	3. Victoria	337
7. Interstate Trade in Hay and Chaff	323	4. Queensland	339
8. Hay Production in other Countries	323	5. South Australia	340
§ 12. Green Forage		6. Western Australia	341
1. Nature and Extent	323	7. Tasmania	342
2. Value of Green Forage Crops	324	8. Organisation of Agricultural Departments and of their Work	342
§ 13. Sugar Cane		§ 18. Government Loans to Farmers	
1. Area	324	1. Introduction	342
2. Productive and Unproductive Cane	324	2. Particulars of Transactions in each State	343
3. Yield of Cane	325	3. New South Wales	343
4. Quality of Cane	325	4. Victoria	348
5. Sugar Bounties	325	5. Queensland	349
6. Cost of Bounties	326	6. South Australia	350
7. Collection of Sugar Excise	326	7. Western Australia	351
8. Imports and Exports of Sugar	326	§ 19. Ensilage	
9. Interstate Trade in Sugar	327	1. Value to Stockowners	352
§ 14. Vineyards		2. Government Assistance in the Production of Ensilage	353
1. Nature and Extent	327	3. Quantity made	353
2. Wine Production	328	§ 20. Fertilisers	
3. Imports and Exports	328	1. General	354
4. Interstate Trade	329	2. Fertilisers Acts	354
5. Other Viticultural Products	329	3. Imports	354
§ 15. Orchards and Fruit Gardens		4. Production	355
1. Nature and Extent	330	5. Statistics of Use of Fertilisers	355
2. Oversea Imports and Exports	331	§ 21. Graphical Representation	
3. Jams and Jellies	331	1. Areas of Principal Crops	356
4. Preserved Fruit	332	2. Production	359
§ 16. Minor Crops			
1. Nature and Extent	332		
2. Market Gardens	332		
3. Grass Seed	333		

SECTION IX.—FARMYARD AND DAIRY PRODUCTION.

1. Introductory		§ 3. Pigs, Bacon, etc.	
1. General	361	1. Pigs	366
2. State Supervision of Industry	361	2. Bacon and Ham	366
3. Mixed Farming and Value of Dairy Production	361	3. Oversea Trade in Pig Products	367
4. Factory System	362	4. Interstate Trade in Pig Products	368
5. Butter and Cheese Factories	362	5. Local Consumption of Bacon and Ham	368
§ 2. Milk, Butter, and Cheese		§ 4. Poultry Farming	
1. Dairy Herds	362	1. Development of the Industry	369
2. Milk	363	2. Oversea Trade in Poultry Products	369
3. Butter and Cheese	363	3. Interstate Trade in Poultry Products	370
4. Concentrated Milk	363	§ 5. Bee Farming	
5. Oversea Trade in Milk, Butter, and Cheese	364	1. The Bee Farming Industry	370
6. Interstate Trade in Milk, Butter, and Cheese	364	2. Honey and Beeswax	370
7. Local Consumption of Butter and Cheese	366	3. Oversea Trade in Bee Products	371
		4. Interstate Trade in Bee Products	371
		§ 6. Graphical Representation	371

SECTION X.—FORESTS, FORESTRY AND FORESTAL PRODUCTS.

§ 1. The Forests of Australia		§ 3. Commercial Uses of Principal Australian Timbers	
1. Extent of Forests	372	1. Timber	382
2. Characteristics of State Forest Areas	373	2. Forest Produce	382
3. Distribution of Timber in the Commonwealth generally	375	§ 5. Oversea Trade	
4. Distribution of Timber in N.Z.	376	1. Imports	382
§ 2. Forestry		2. Exports	383
1. Objects	376		
2. Forestry Departments	376		
3. Silviculture	377		

SECTION XI.—FISHERIES AND PISCICULTURE.

§ 1. Commercial Fisheries	page		page
1. Early Fishing Excursions of Malays	386	3. Victoria	388
2. Fish Stocks	386	4. Queensland	389
3. Economic Fisheries	386	5. South Aust. and Northern Territory	390
4. Lake and River Fishing	386	6. Western Australia	392
5. Distribution of Supplies	386	7. Tasmania	391
6. Oyster Fisheries	386	§ 3. Oversea Trade	392
7. Pearl-shelling	387	§ 4. Development of the Industry	
§ 2. Fisheries Statistics		1. Transport and Marketing	394
1. Departmental Estimates	387	2. Experiment and Culture	394
2. New South Wales	387	§ 5. Fish Preserving	396

SECTION XII.—MINES AND MINING.

§ 1. Introduction		§ 9. Other Metals	
1. Place of Mining in Australian Development	397	1. Aluminium	417
2. Extent of Mineral Wealth	397	2. Antimony	417
METALS (A)		3. Arsenic	417
§ 2. Gold		4. Bismuth	417
1. Discovery of Gold in various States	398	5. Chromium	417
2. Production of Gold at various Periods	400	6. Carnotite	418
3. Changes in Relative Positions of States as Gold Producers	402	7. Cobalt	418
4. Methods of Gold Mining adopted in each State	402	8. Lead	418
5. Remarkable Masses of Gold	405	9. Mercury	418
6. Modes of Occurrence of Gold in Aust.	405	10. Manganese	418
7. Place of Commonwealth in the World's Gold Production	406	11. Tungsten	418
§ 3. Platinum and the Platinoid Metals		12. Tantalum	418
1. Platinum	407	Non-METALLIC MINERALS (B)	
2. Osmium, Iridium, etc.	407	§ 10. Coal	
§ 4. Silver		1. Historical	419
1. Development in each State	408	2. Production of Coal	419
2. Development of Silver Mining	408	3. Distribution and Quality of Coal in each State	420
3. Chief Centres of Silver Production	408	4. Production of Coal in various Countries	424
4. World's Production of Silver	410	5. Export of Coal	424
5. Prices of Silver	410	6. Price of Coal	425
6. Employment in Silver Mining	410	7. Price of Coal in other Countries	426
§ 5. Copper		8. Employment in Coal Mining	426
1. History	411	§ 11. Coke	
2. Production of Copper	412	1. Production of Coke	427
3. Price of Copper	412	§ 12. Kerosene Shale and Mineral Oils	
4. Relationship to World's Production	412	1. Production of Shale	428
5. Employment in Copper Mining	413	2. Production of Mineral Oil	428
§ 6. Tin		§ 13. Other Non-metallic Minerals	
1. History	413	1. Alunite	428
2. Value of Tin Produced	414	2. Asbestos	428
3. World's Production of Tin	414	3. Graphite	428
4. Prices of Tin	415	4. Tripolite or Diatomaceous Earth	428
5. Employment in Tin Mining	415	5. Salt	429
§ 7. Zinc		6. Natural Manures	429
1. Production of Zinc	415	§ 14. Gems and Gemstones	
§ 8. Iron		1. Diamonds	429
1. History	416	2. Sapphires	429
		3. Precious Opal	429
		4. Other Gems	430
		§ 15. The Mineral Wealth of Australia	
		1. Total Production	430
		2. Total Employment in Mining	432
		3. Wages Paid in Mining	431

SECTION XIII.—MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

§ 1. Introduction		§ 4. Sex Distribution in Factories	
1. Defects in Industrial Statistics	434	1. Distribution of Employés as regards Sex	439
2. Classification of Factories	434	2. Rate of Increase for each Sex	440
3. History	434	3. Increasing Ratio of Female Employment in Factories	440
§ 2. Australian Factories in General		4. General Circumstances of Female Employment in Factories	440
1. Localisation of Industry	435	5. Factory Proprietorship by Women	441
2. Development of Manufactories	435	§ 5. Child Labour in Factories	
3. Use of Mechanical Power	436	1. Number of Children in Factories	442
§ 3. Numbers Employed in Aust. Factories		2. Industries Employing Child Labour	442
1. Total Number Employed	436	3. Apprenticeship	443
2. Number of Actual Operatives	437	4. Conditions of Child Labour	443
3. Outworkers	438		
4. Numbers in Factories of various Sizes	438		

	page
§ 6. Investment of Capital in Manufactories	
1. Land and Buildings	443
2. Plant and Machinery	443
3. Wages	444
§ 7. General Summary regarding Manufacturing Industries	444
§ 8. Particular Industries	
1. General	445
2. Industries of Class I.—Raw Material, Pastoral Products, etc.	445
3. Industries of Class II.—Oils and Fats, Animal and Vegetable	448
4. Industries of Class III.—Processes relating to Stone, Clay, Glass, etc.	450
5. Industries of Class IV.—Wkg. in Wood	451
6. Industries of Class V.—Metal Working, Machinery, etc.	453
7. Industries of Class VI.—Food & Drink	459
8. Industries of Class VII.—Clothing and Textile Fabrics	472
9. Industries of Class VIII.—Books, Paper, Printing, etc.	476

	page
10. Industries of Class IX.—Musical Instruments... ..	476
11. Industries of Class X.—Arms and Explosives	477
12. Industries of Class XI.—Vehicles and Fittings, Saddlery, etc.	477
13. Industries of Class XII.—Shipbuilding, Fittings, etc.	478
14. Industries of Class XIII.—Furniture, Bedding, etc.	478
15. Industries of Class XIV.—Drugs, Chemicals, and By-products	479
16. Industries of Class XV.—Surgical and Scientific Appliances... ..	480
17. Industries of Class XVI.—Timepieces, Jewellery, and Plated-ware	480
18. Industries of Class XVII.—Heat, Light, and Energy	481
19. Industries of Class XVIII.—Leatherware (excepting harness & saddlery)	482
20. Industries of Class XIX.—Minor Wares not elsewhere included	482
§ 9. Conclusion	483

SECTION XIV.—WATER CONSERVATION AND IRRIGATION.

§ 1. Water Supply Works	
1. General	484
2. The Goldfields Water Supply of Western Australia	484
3. The Mines Water Supply Branch	484
§ 2. Artesian Wells	
1. General	485
2. Queensland	486
3. New South Wales	487

4. South Australia	488
5. Victoria	488
6. Western Australia	488
§ 3. Irrigation Plants	
1. General	489
2. Victoria	489
3. South Australia	490
4. New South Wales	491
5. Conflicting Interests	491

SECTION XV.—COMMERCE.

§ 1. Introductory	
1. General	492
2. Constitutional Powers of Commonwealth in regard to Commerce	492
§ 2. Commonwealth Commercial Legislation	
1. Customs Act 1901... ..	494
2. Customs Tariff Act 1902	494
3. Sea Carriage of Goods Act	494
4. Secret Commission Act 1905	495
5. Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act 1905	495
6. Aust Industries Preservation Act 1906	496
7. Customs Tariff 1906	496
8. Customs Tariff (South African Preference) 1906	496
§ 3. Method of Recording Imports and Exports	
1. Value of Imports	496
2. Value of Exports	496
3. Records of Past Years	496
4. Vessels (Ships) Imported & Exported	497
5. Ships' Stores	497
§ 4. Oversea Trade	
1. Total Oversea Trade	497
2. Ratio between Exports and Imports	498
§ 5. Direction of Trade	
1. Countries of Origin of Imports	499
2. Direct Imports according to Country of Shipment	500
3. Imports Shipped from the U.K.	501
4. Imports Shipped from Brit. Poss.	502
5. Principal Impt's from Brit. Poss. 1906	502
6. Imports from Foreign Countries	503
7. Principal Imports from For'n Count.	503
8. Direction of Exports	504
9. Exports to the United Kingdom	506
10. Exports to British Possessions	507
11. Principal Exports to British Possessions, 1906... ..	507
12. Exports to Foreign Countries	508
13. Principal Exports to Foreign Countries	508

§ 6. Trade of Commonwealth since Federation	
1. Classified Summary of Australian Trade	509
§ 7. Movements of Noble Metals	
1. Specie and Bullion	511
2. Imports of Bullion and Specie	512
3. Exports of Bullion and Specie	513
§ 8. Effects of Prices on the Values of Exports	
1. Significance of Price in Totals	513
2. Effect of Prices	513
3. Influence of Quantity and Price on Total Increased Value of Exports	514
§ 9. External Trade of Australia and other Countries	
1. Essentials of Comparisons	514
2. "Special Trade" of Various Countries	515
3. External Trade as a Measure of Prosperity	515
4. Australian Trade Evidence of Prosperity	516
§ 10. Trade of the United Kingdom with Australia. Has it been diverted?	
1. General	516
2. Proportion of Trade from U.K.	516
3. Manufactures of Metals	517
4. Significance of Increase of Trade with other Countries	518
REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE OF THE BOARD OF TRADE... ..	518
1. Causes of the Success of Foreign Competition	518
2. Conclusions	521
§ 11. Imports of Dutiable and Free Goods	
1. Classified Statement of Imports... ..	522
2. Comparative Rates of Duty	523
§ 12. Trade of the Individual States of the Commonwealth	
1. Character of Data	524
2. Record of Transshipments	524
3. Adjustment of Data	525
4. General Results	525

SECTION XVI.—SHIPPING.

§ 1. General	page		page
1. Historical	528	5. General Trend of Shipping	531
2. Record of Shipping before Federation	528	6. Nationality of Oversea Shipping	532
3. Shipping since Federation	528	7. Tonnage in Ballast	535
4. Difficulties of Comparisons of Total Shipping	528	8. Shipping at Ports	536
5. Present System of Record	528	9. Vessels Registered	536
		10. Vessels Built	537
§ 2. Oversea Shipping		§ 3. Interstate Shipping	
1. Total Oversea Shipping	528	1. Total Vessels and Tonnage	537
2. Growth of Oversea Shipping	529	2. Total Interstate Movement in Shipping	539
3. Comparison with other Countries	529	3. Vessels engaged solely in Interstate Trade	540
4. Shipping Communication with various Countries	530	4. Interstate and Coastal Services	540

SECTION XVII.—ROADS AND RAILWAYS.

§ 1. Roads and Bridges			
1. Introduction	541	21. Number of Passenger Journeys and Coaching Traffic Receipts	574
2. Expenditure on Roads and Bridges	542	22. Goods and Live-stock Traffic Receipts per Mile Worked, per Goods Train-mile and per Ton carried	575
3. New South Wales	542	23. Working Expenses	575
4. Victoria	544	24. Working Expenses per Average Mile Worked and per Train-mile Run	576
5. Queensland	546	25. Distribution of Working Expenses	577
6. South Australia	546	26. Analysis of Working Expenses	577
7. Western Australia	548	27. Net Revenue, Total and per Cent. of Capital Cost	578
8. Tasmania	549	28. Net Revenue, per Average Mile Worked and per Train-mile Run	579
§ 2. Railways		29. Interest Returned on Capital Expenditure	579
1. Introduction	551	30. Numbers and Description of Rolling-stock	581
2. Rail. Communication in the C'w'lth	551	31. Number of Railway Employés	581
3. Mileage open for Traffic	552	32. Accidents—Numbers of Killed and Injured	582
4. Average Mileage Worked, Train-miles Run, Number of Passenger Journeys, and Tonnage of Goods and Live Stock carried on Government Railways	553		
5. Non-conformity of Gauge	554	§ 3. Graphical Representation of Railway Developments	
6. Interstate Communication	555	1. General	587
7. Classification of Lines according to Gauge	555	2. Capital Cost and Mileage Open	587
8. Unification of Gauge	555	3. Cost per Mile Open	587
9. Comparative Mileage of State-owned and Private Lines	556	4. Gross Revenue	587
10. Comparative Railway Facilities in different States	557	5. Working Expenses and Net Revenue	587
11. History of Railway Construction	557	6. Percentages of Working Expenses to Gross Revenue	587
12. Length and Gauge of Railway System in each State	561	7. Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost	587
13. Administration & Control of Gov. Rls.	564	8. General Indication of Graphs	587
14. Lines under Construction and Proposed New Lines	566	§ 4. Tramways	
15. Particulars of Private Railways	567	1. General	588
16. Guaranteed Railways	568	2. New South Wales	589
17. Cost of Construction and Equipment of Government Railways	569	3. Victoria	592
18. Revenue and Working Expenses	572	4. Queensland	594
19. Gross Revenue, Total per Average Mile Worked, & per Train-mile Run	573	5. South Australia	595
20. Coaching Traffic Receipts per Average Mile Worked, per Passenger Train-mile, & per Pass'g'r. Journey	574	6. Western Australia	595
		7. Tasmania	597

SECTION XVIII.—POSTS, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

§ 1. Posts			
1. The Commonwealth Postal Dept.	598	15. Number and Value of Money Orders Issued	619
2. First Post Office in Australia	598	16. Number & Val. of Money Orders Pd.	619
3. Postal Services in Early Days	599	17. Classification of Postal Notes Issued and Paid	620
4. Development of Postal Services	600	18. Number and Value of Postal Notes Issued	620
5. Postal Matter Dealt with	602	19. Number and Value of Postal Notes Paid	621
6. Postal Facilities	608	20. The Value Payable Post	622
7. Rates of Postage	608	21. Transactions of the Dead Letter Of.	622
8. Registered Letters	609	22. Post Offices and Receiving Offices and Employés	623
9. Ocean Mail Services	609	23. Miles of Postal Lines (including Railways) & Mail-miles Travelled	624
10. Amount of Mail Subsidies paid by each State	614	24. Gross Revenue of Postal Dept.	624
11. Average and Fastest Time of Mails to and from London	614	25. Expenditure in respect of Postal Departments	626
12. Letters, Packets, Newspapers Transmitted by different Ocean Mail Routes during the year 1906	615	26. Analysis of Gross Revenue and Expenditure of Postal Departments	626
13. Money Orders and Postal Notes	616		
14. Classification of Money Orders Issued and Paid	617		

§ 2. Telegraphs	page
1. First Lines Constructed	627
2. Development of Services	627
3. Length of Telegraphic Lines and Wire Open	627
4. Number of Telegraphic Offices	628
5. Revenue and Expenditure	628
6. Number of Telegrams dealt with	628
7. Rates for Transmission of Telegrams	629
§ 3. Submarine Cables	
1. First Cable Communication with the Old World	630
2. The Tasmania-Victoria Cable	631

3. The Eastern Extension Comp'y's Cables	631
4. The Pacific Cable	631
5. New Zealand Cables	632
6. The New Caledonian Cable	632
7. Number of Cablegrams received and despatched in each State	632
8. Lengths of Cable Routes	633
9. Cable Rates	633
10. Cable Subsidies Paid by each State	634

§ 4. Telephones	
1. Development of Telephone Services	635
2. Telephone Rates	636
3. Miscellaneous Particulars, 1906	637

SECTION XIX.—COMMONWEALTH FINANCE.

§ 1. General

1. Financial Provisions of the Constitution	638
2. Departments Transferred or Transferable under Constitution	638
3. Departments Transferable by Means of Commonwealth Legislation	638
4. Commonwealth Departments	639
5. Adjustment of Accounts between Commonwealth and States	639
6. The "Braddon" Clause	639
7. The "Book-keeping System"	640
8. Western Australian Sliding Scale	640
9. Special Assistance	641
10. Transfer and Consolidation of State Debts	641
11. Disadvantages of the Present System	641
12. Proposals to Modify Present System	641
13. Interstate Conferences	642

§ 2. Consolidated Revenue Fund

(A) NATURE OF FUND	642
(B) REVENUE—	
1. Total Collections	642
2. Collections per Head	643
3. Proportions Collected in respect of the Several States	644
4. Details of Revenue	644
5. Sources of Revenue	645
6. Customs	645
7. Customs Revenue	646
8. Customs Revenue for Past Five Years	646
9. Excise	647
10. Excise Collections	647
11. Commonwealth Taxation	648
12. Taxation per Head	648
13. Postal Revenue	648
14. Postal Revenue per Head	649
15. Details of Postal Revenue, 1906-7	649
16. Details of Postal Revenue, 1901 to 1906-7	650

17. Revenue from Patents	650
18. Revenue from Trade Marks, etc.	650
19. Defence Revenue	650
20. New Revenue	650

(C) EXPENDITURE—

1. Nature of C'wealth Expenditure	651
2. Expenditure Debited to the Several States	651
3. Expenditure per Head	651
4. Details of Expenditure	652
5. New Works, etc.	652
6. "Other" Expenditure	652
7. Cost of Departments, etc.	653
8. Governor-General	653
9. Parliament	654
10. External Affairs	654
11. Papua	655
12. Attorney-General's Department	655
13. Home Affairs Department	655
14. Treasurer's Department	656
15. Trade and Customs	656
16. Cost of Collection	656
17. Defence	657
18. Postal	657
19. Miscellaneous	658

(D) SURPLUS REVENUE PAID TO STATES—

1. Net Revenue	658
2. Actual Payments of Surplus	658
3. Payments to the Several States	658
4. The Commonwealth Fourth of Net Customs and Excise Revenue	659
5. Proportion Actually Paid	659

(E) INTERSTATE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE ADJUSTMENTS—

1. Reason for Adjustments	659
2. Interstate Adjustments	660
3. Net Results	660

§ 3. Trust Fund

1. Trust Accounts	660
2. Distribution	661

SECTION XX.—STATE FINANCE.

§ 1. General

1. Functions of State Governments	662
2. Accounts of State Governments	662
3. Inter-relation of Commonwealth and State Finance	662

§ 2. State Consolidated Revenue Funds

(A) RECEIPTS—	
1. Sources of Revenue	663
2. Amount Collected	663
3. Revenue per Head	663
4. Details for 1906-7	664
5. Revenue per Head, 1906-7	664
6. Relative Importance of Sources of Revenue	664
7. State Taxation	665
8. Commonwealth and State Taxation	666
9. Public Works and Services	666
10. Land Revenue	667
11. Surplus Commonwealth Revenue	667
12. Miscellaneous Items of Revenue	668
(B) DISBURSEMENTS—	
1. Heads of Expenditure	668
2. Total Expenditure	668

3. Expenditure per Head	668
4. Details of Expenditure	669
5. Expenditure per Head	669
6. Relative Importance	669

(C) BALANCES—

1. Position on 30th June, 1907	670
--------------------------------	-----

(D) PRINCIPAL STATE TAXES—

(a) Probate and Succession Duties—

1. General	670
2. New South Wales	671
3. Victoria	672
4. Queensland	672
5. South Australia	673
6. Western Australia	674
7. Tasmania	674

(b) Stamp Duties—

1. Legislation in the Several States	675
2. Bank Notes	675
3. Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes	675
4. Bills of Lading	676
5. Receipts	676

(c) <i>Land Tax</i> —		page	§ 4. <i>Loan Funds</i>		page
1. General	...	676	1. Nature	...	686
2. New South Wales	...	677	2. Loan Expenditure	...	686
3. Victoria	...	677	3. Aggregate Loan Expenditure	...	687
4. South Australia	...	678	4. Relative Importance of Loan Items	...	687
5. Western Australia	...	678	5. Loan Expenditure in Successive Yrs.	...	688
6. Tasmania	...	679	6. Loan Expenditure per Head...	...	688
(d) <i>Income Tax</i> —			§ 5. <i>Public Debt</i>		
1. General	...	679	1. The Initiation of Public Borrowing	...	688
2. New South Wales	...	680	2. Nature of Securities	...	689
3. Victoria	...	680	3. Increase in Indebtedness of the	...	
4. Queensland	...	682	Several States	...	690
5. South Australia	...	683	4. Indebtedness per Head	...	690
6. Western Australia	...	683	5. Flotation of Loans	...	690
7. Taxation	...	684	6. Rates of Interest	...	691
8. Taxat'n of Cwlt'h. Sal'r's & Allow'nc's	...	685	7. Interest Payable per Head	...	692
§ 3. <i>Trust Funds</i>			8. Dates of Maturity	...	692
1. Nature	...	685	9. Sinking Funds	...	693
2. Extent of Funds	...	686	10. London Prices of Australian Stocks	...	694

SECTION XXI.—PRIVATE FINANCE.

§ 1. <i>Currency</i>			§ 5. <i>Life Assurance</i>		
1. The Three Australian Mints...	...	695	1. General	...	709
2. Receipts and Issues in 1906	...	695	2. Companies Transacting Business in	...	709
3. Total Receipts and Issues	...	696	the Commonwealth	...	709
4. Standard Weight and Fineness of	...		3. Ordinary and Industrial Business	...	710
Coinage	...	697	4. Ordinary Business	...	710
5. Prices of Silver and Aust. Coinage...	...	698	5. Industrial Business	...	711
6. Decimal Coinage...	...	698	6. Receipts and Expenditure of Aus-	...	711
7. Circulation of Specie	...	699	tralasian Societies	...	711
8. Imports & Exports of Coin & Bullion	...	699	7. Expenses of Management of Aus-	...	712
§ 2. <i>Banking</i>			tralasian Societies	...	712
1. Banking Facilities	...	700	8. Liabilities and Assets of Aus-	...	713
2. Banking Legislation	...	700	tralasian Societies	...	713
3. Capital Resources of Banks	...	701	§ 6. <i>Other Insurance</i>		
4. Liabilities and Assets of Banks	...	701	1. General	...	714
5. Percentage of Coin and Bullion to	...		2. Sydney	...	714
Liabilities at Call	...	703	3. Melbourne	...	714
6. Deposits and Advances	...	704	4. Country Districts of Victoria	...	715
7. Clearing Houses	...	705	5. Brisbane	...	715
§ 3. <i>Financial Companies</i>			6. Australian Insurance Business	...	715
1. Pastoral Companies	...	706	§ 7. <i>Friendly Societies</i>		
2. Trustees, Executors & Agency Co.'s	...	706	1. General	...	716
§ 4. <i>Savings Banks</i>			2. Number of Societies, Lodges, and	...	716
1. General	...	706	Members	...	716
2. Depositors	...	707	3. Sickness and Death	...	717
3. Deposits	...	707	4. Revenue and Expenditure	...	717
4. Annual Business	...	708	5. Funds	...	718

SECTION XXII.—PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

§ 1. Early History of Primary Education in Australia			4. University of Tasmania 742		
1. Primary System of N.S.W. 719			5. University of New Zealand 743		
2. " " Victoria 723			6. Teachers & Students at Universities 743		
3. " " Queensland 724			7. University Revenues 744		
4. " " South Australia 725			8. New Zealand University 744		
5. " " West. Australia 726			9. University Extension 744		
6. " " Tasmania 727			§ 5. Technical Education		
7. " " New Zealand 727			1. General 745		
§ 2. State Schools			2. New South Wales 745		
1. Enrolment and Attendance 729			3. Victoria 745		
2. Births and School Attendance 730			4. Queensland 745		
3. Centralisation of Schools 731			5. South Australia 746		
4. Education in Sparsely-settled Distrs. 731			6. Western Australia 746		
5. Higher State Schools 731			7. Tasmania 746		
6. Agricultural Training in State Schls. 732			8. New Zealand 746		
7. Teachers in State Schools 733			9. Expend. on Technical Education ... 747		
8. Training Colleges and their Develop. 733			§ 6. Diffusion of Education		
9. Expenditure on State Schools 736			1. General Education 748		
§ 3. Private Schools			2. Education of Children 749		
1. School Teachers, etc., in 1906 737			3. Education as shewn by Marriage Registers 750		
2. Growth of Private Schools 737			§ 7. Miscellaneous		
3. Defects in Returns of Private Sch'ls 738			1. Scientific Societies 751		
4. Expend. on Higher Private Schools 738			2. Libraries 752		
§ 4. Universities			3. Museums 752		
1. Sydney University 739			4. Art Galleries 753		
2. University of Melbourne 741			5. State Expenditure on all Forms of Educational Efforts 754		
3. University of Adelaide 742					

SECTION XXIII.—PUBLIC JUSTICE.

§ 1. Police	page	§ 3. Superior Courts	page
1. Introductory	755	1. Convictions at Superior Courts ...	764
2. Strength of Police Force ...	755	2. Offences for which Convictions	
3. Duties of the Police	756	were Recorded at Superior Courts	764
4. Cost of Police Forces	757	3. Capital Punishment	765
§ 2. Lower (Magistrates') Courts		§ 4. Prisons	
1. Introductory	757	1. Prison Accommodation & Prisoners	
2. Powers of the Magistrates ...	757	in Gaol	766
3. Persons Charged at Magistrates'		2. Improvement in Penological Methods	767
Courts	758	§ 5. Civil Courts	
4. Convictions for Serious Crime ...	759	1. Lower Courts	768
5. Decrease in Crime	760	2. Superior Courts	768
6. Need of Statistic of Distinct Persons	760	3. Divorces and Judicial Separations	769
7. Causes of Decrease in Crime ...	760	4. Probates	770
8. Drunkenness	762	5. Bankruptcies	770
9. Treatment of Drunkenness as Crime	762	6. High Court of Australia	771
10. Treatment of Habitual Offenders ...	763	§ 6. Cost of Administration of Justice ...	771
11. Treatment of First Offenders ...	763		
12. Children's Courts	763		
13. Committals to Superior Courts ...	763		

SECTION XXIV.—PUBLIC BENEVOLENCE.

§ 1. Introductory	page	3. Orphanages, Industrial Schools, etc.	page
1. General	774	4. Lepers	784
2. Difficulties of General Tabulation ...	775	5. Hospitals for the Insane	789
§ 2. The Larger Charities of Australia		6. Protection of Aborigines	790
1. Hospitals	775	7. Other Charitable Institutions ...	790
2. Benevolent and Destitute Asylums	777	8. State Expenditure on Charities ...	790
		9. Total Charitable Expenditure ...	790

SECTION XXV.—GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

§ 1. Scheme of Parliamentary Government	page	§ 2. Parliaments and Elections	page
1. General	791	1. Qualifications for membership and	
2. Number Members of the Legislatures	791	for Franchise	795
3. The Cabinet and Executive Govmt.	792	2. The Federal Parliament	798
4. The Appointment of Ministers and		3. The Parliament of New South Wales	799
of Executive Councillors	793	4. " " Victoria	799
5. The Resignation of Ministers ...	793	5. " " Queensland	800
6. Enactments of the Parliament ...	793	6. " " South Australia	800
7. Powers and Functions of the Govern-		7. " " West. Australia	801
nor-General and of the Governors	794	8. " " Tasmania	802
8. Cost of Parliamentary Government	795		

SECTION XXVI.—LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

§ 1. Introduction	page	3. Boroughs and Shires, Number, Popu-	page
1. Systems of Local Government ...	803	lation, and Value of Ratable Pro-	
2. Early History of Local Government		perty	826
in Australia	805	4. Municipal Assets and Liabilities ...	827
§ 2. New South Wales		5. Revenue and Expenditure of Muni-	
1. Development of Local Gov. Systems	806	cipalities	827
2. Local Gov. Systems now in Operat'n	807	6. Number and Assessment of Proper-	
3. Annual and Capital Improved Value		ties Rated, 1905-6	828
of Ratable Property	810	7. The Melbourne and Metropolitan	
4. Unimproved Capital Value, Area,		Board of Works	828
Population, and Rates Levied ...	810	8. Melb. Metropolitan Water Supply ...	830
5. Revenue and Expenditure, Assets		9. Melbourne Sewerage	834
and Liabilities of Municipalities ...	810	10. Water Supply in Country Towns ...	836
6. Expenditure by General Govern-		11. Fire Brigades	837
ment on Local Works	811	12. The Melbourne Harbour Trust ...	837
7. Sydney Metropolitan Board of Water		§ 4. Queensland	
Supply and Sewerage	811	1. Development of Local Government	
8. Metropolitan Water Supply	812	Systems	839
9. Metropolitan Sewerage System ...	814	2. Systems of Local Government now	
10. The Hunter District Water Supply	817	in Operation	840
11. Water Supply and Sewerage in		3. Area, Population, Number of Dwell-	
Country Towns	818	ings, Rates, Assets and Liabilities	
12. Municipal Gas & Elect. Light. W'ks	818	of Cities, Towns, and Shires, 1906	842
13. Fire Brigade Board	819	4. Receipts and Expenditure of Local	
14. Sydney Harbour Trust	820	Authorities, 1906	842
15. Local Option	821	5. Receipts and Expenditure of Cities,	
16. Municipal Association of N.S.W. ...	821	Towns, and Shires	843
§ 3. Victoria		6. Area, Population, Number of Dwell-	
1. Development of Types of Local		ings, Assets and Liabilities of	
Authorities	821	Cities, Towns, and Shires ...	843
2. Local Gov. Systems now in Operat'n	823	7. Brisbane Water Supply	844
		8. Country Towns Water Supply ...	846
		9. Fire Brigades	846

	page		page
§ 5. South Australia		7. Boards of Health...	854
1. Development of Local Government Systems ...	846	8. The Perth Metropolitan Waterworks ...	854
2. District Councils ...	846	9. Fremantle Harbour Trust ...	856
3. Municipalities ...	848	10. Fire Brigades Board ...	856
4. Finances of District Councils and Corporations ...	849	§ 7. Tasmania	
5. Adelaide Water Supply System ...	850	1. Development of Local Areas ...	856
6. Adelaide Sewerage System ...	850	2. Acts now in Force ...	856
7. Water Supply in Country Towns ...	850	3. Annual Value, Revenue, and Expenditure of Municipalities ...	858
§ 6. Western Australia		4. Annual Value, Revenue, and Expenditure of Town Boards ...	861
1. Types of Local Authorities ...	851	5. Total Revenue and Expenditure of Local Bodies ...	861
2. Municipalities ...	851	6. Hobart Water Supply ...	862
3. Area, Population, etc., of Municipalities ...	853	7. Hobart Sewerage System ...	862
4. Revenue and Expenditure of Municipalities ...	853	§ 8. Capital Cities of the States	
5. Assets & Liabilities of Municipalities ...	853	1. Population, Area, Finances, etc. ...	863
6. Road Districts ...	854	2. Date of First Settlement ...	863

SECTION XXVII.—INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM AND INDUSTRIAL LEGISLATION.

§ 1. Development of Trade Unions in Australia		§ 3. Legislative Regulation of Wages and Terms of Contract	
1. General ...	864	1. General ...	872
2. History of Unions in Australia ...	864	2. Wages Boards ...	872
3. Operations and Organisation of Unions subsequent to the Acts ...	865	3. The Arbitration Court System ...	874
4. Registered Trade Unions and Industrial Associations ...	866	4. The "New Protection" ...	876
5. Registration under Industrial Arbitration Acts ...	866	§ 4. Operation of the Wage-regulating Laws	
§ 2. Laws relating to Conditions of Labour		1. Systems of Wages Boards ...	877
1. Tabular Statement of Statutes affecting Labour ...	868	2. Wages Boards ...	877
2. Limitation of Hours ...	869	3. Effect of Acts ...	878
3. General Conditions of Labour ...	869	4. Change of Rate of Wage ...	878
4. Legislation regulating Conditions of Labour ...	870	§ 5. Operation of the Arbitration Acts	
		1. New South Wales and Western Aust. ...	879
		§ 6. Other Commonwealth Legislation affecting Labour	
		1. Constitutional Power ...	879
		2. Legislation ...	880

SECTION XXVIII.—DEFENCE.

§ 1. Military Defence		§ 5. The Cadet System	
1. Historical Outline ...	881	1. School Cadets ...	894
2. Land Defence of Federated Australia ...	888	2. Senior Cadets ...	894
§ 2. Naval Defence		3. Mounted Cadets ...	895
1. Historical Outline ...	890	4. Naval Cadets ...	895
2. The Naval Agreement with the British Government ...	891	5. Boys' Brigades ...	895
3. Naval Defence of Federated Aust. ...	892	§ 6. Commonwealth Defence Legislation	
§ 3. Expenditure on Defence		1. The Defence Acts of 1903 and 1904 ...	895
1. Expenditure, 1901-2 to 1907-8 ...	893	§ 7. General Questions of Defence ...	898
2. Expenditure compared with various Countries ...	894	§ 8. Relation to the Empire ...	901
§ 4. The Training of Officers		§ 9. Military Education ...	902
1. Instruction and Exchange ...	894	§ 10. The Defence Forces of New Zealand ...	902

SECTION XXIX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

§ 1. The Regulation of Immigration into Aust.		2. Introduction of Old-age Pensions into Australia ...	912
1. Pre-Federal Restrictions ...	904	3. Rates of Pension Payable ...	912
2. Powers and Legislation of the Commonwealth ...	904	4. Pension Age ...	912
3. Prohibited Immigrants ...	904	5. Length of Residence ...	912
4. Liability of Shipmasters and others ...	905	6. Evidence of Character of Applicant for Pension ...	913
5. Agreement with other Countries ...	905	7. Limitations in respect of Income and Property ...	913
6. Statistics ...	905	8. Number of Pensioners ...	913
§ 2. Patents, Copyrights, Trade Marks, and Designs		9. Amount Paid in Pensions ...	913
1. Devolution of Jurisdiction upon the Commonwealth ...	907	10. Cost of Administration ...	914
2. Patents ...	907	11. Commonwealth Royal Commission on Old-age Pensions ...	914
3. Copyright ...	910	12. Estimated Cost of a Commonwealth Old-age Pension Scheme ...	916
4. Trade Marks ...	910	§ 4. Valuation of Commonwealth Production ...	917
5. Designs ...	911		
§ 3. Old Age Pensions			
1. General ...	911		

In the first official YEAR BOOK OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA, the corrections shewn hereunder are found to be necessary.

G. H. KNIBBS,

Commonwealth Statistician.

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS,

MELBOURNE, 20th May, 1908.

CORRIGENDA.

- Page v, for "Chapter II." read "Section II."
- " 3, line 6, for "February, 1891," read "March, 1890."
- " 3, line 7, for "315" read "186."
- " 39, line 43, for "Bachelor" read "Batchelor."
- " 39, line 50, for "Houston" read "Houstoun."
- " 56, in central map, Western boundary of Queensland should be Eastern boundary of South Australia prolonged. Area Northern Territory, 710,040 sq. m.; area Queensland, 554,300 sq. m. The text on p. 53 requires corresponding alteration.
- " 45, line 44, for "Java la Grande" read "Jave la Grande."
- " 119, " 27, for "4°" read "40°."
- " 120, " 9 from bottom, omit "extreme," and after "North-east" insert the words "of the Southern Goldfields."
- " 120, line 10, for "with" read "without."
- " 123, " 1, for "(v.)" read "7."
- " 127, " 19 from bottom, for "Whin Creek" read "Whim Creek."
- " 135, under *Ottawa* in 3rd column from right, for "31.6" read "—31.6."
- " 168, last line in last column on right, for "37,37,801" read "3,773,801."
- " 201, the rates are per 1000 of population.
- " 204, line 8 from bottom, for "1000 deaths" read "population of 1000 as constituted."
- " 205, in heading of table read "Tabulation" for "Compilation."
- " 215, line 2, for "of the" read "for the."
- " 235, line 8, after "grazing allotments" add "For existing conditions as to improvements see Acts No. 1749 and 1957."
- " 235, line 12, for "fourpence" read "threepence."
- " 241, line 2, add "The provisions relating to homestead associations were repealed in 1904."
- " 246, last line, for "Agricultural Lands Purchase 1894, as amended in 1897, 1901, and 1905," read "Closer Settlement Act 1906."
- " 253, for "10. Closer Settlement" read "11. Closer Settlement."
- " 270, for "1. Classification" etc., read "11. Classification" etc.
- " 294, for "§ 5. Graphical Representation" read "§ 6. Graphical Representation."
- " 312, in table of "Interstate Trade in Maize" read "Centals" for "Bushels."
- " 315, in table of "Interstate Trade in Barley, etc.," read "Centals" for "Bushels."
- " 343, in table under "Total Advanced," line Commonwealth, for £4,172,704 read £4,172,714; for £5,377,307 read £4,577,307.

Page 354, line 13, omit "Tasmania excepted," and below line 20, insert "Tasmania . . .
Manure Adulteration Acts 1893 and 1898."

„ 410, line 13, for “3666 tons” read “103,666 tons.”

424, for "6. Production" etc., read "4. Production" etc.

„ 424, for “7. Export” etc., read “5. Export,” etc.

„ 425, for “8. Price” etc., read “6. Price” etc.

„ 426, for “9. Price” etc., read “7. Price” etc.

„ 426, for “10. Employment” etc., read “8. Employment,” etc.

453, missing figures in first table for South Australia may be found on p. 382.

„ 499, under *Straits Settlements* in column 4, for “253,607” read “269,013.”

" " " *Total British Possessions in column 4, for "6,735,864" read "6,751,270."*

“ “ “ *Total British Countries* in column 4, for “33,311,697” read “33,327,103.”

" " " Total Imports from all Countries in column 4, for "44,729,506" read
"44,744,912."

„ „ under *Other Foreign Countries* in column 8, for “1,641,935” read “1,657,341.”

" " " *Total Foreign Countries* in column 8, for "15,355,753" read "15,371,159."

" " " *Total Imports from all Countries* in column 8, for "44,729,506" read "44,744,912."

552, line 21, for “§ 14. *infra*” read “§ 15. *infra*.”

561, line 31, for "Light Railway" read "Main Line Railway."

561, line 44, for "Devonport" read "Formby," and for "Formby" read "St. Marys."

566, line 7, under *South Australia*, for "87½" read "47½."

" " " " " Commonwealth, for "732¹/₄" read "692¹/₄."

569, under 17. Cost of Construction etc., for “£135,448,923” read “£137,936,168.”

" " " " " " " " for "£9754" read "£9669."

607, line 4 from bottom, in last column on right, for "747,116" read "77,116."

.. .. last line, in last column on right, for "2,839,356" read "2,169,356."

626, heading of table, for "1907" read "1906."

712, table "Ordinary Life Assurance," the figures are as given on the official statistics; they are not, however, compiled for each company on uniform lines.

719, line 10, for "at" read "of."

798, in heading of table, for "Electors Enrolled" read "Electors Enrolled in Contested Districts" for House of Representatives.