

CHAPTER XVI.

PASTORAL PRODUCTION.

§ 1. Initiation and Growth of Pastoral Industry.

1. **Early Statistics.**—In earlier issues of the Year Book will be found a brief reference to the pastoral industry in Australia prior to the year 1860. (See Year Book No. 6, page 330).

2. **Subsequent Statistics.**—While the statistical records of live stock in Australia prior to the year 1860 are somewhat defective, from that year onwards fairly complete particulars are available for most of the States. At the present time, statistics of live stock are collected annually in all the States principally through the agency of the police, but in the years 1885 to 1888 inclusive, and 1893 to 1895 inclusive, these particulars were not collected in South Australia, and similar gaps occur in the Victorian records for the periods 1895 to 1899 inclusive, and 1901 to 1903. In order to obtain totals for Australia for these years the missing numbers have been supplied by interpolation. The results so obtained probably differ but slightly from the actual numbers for the respective years.

3. **Increase in Live Stock.**—Particulars concerning the numbers of each of the principal kinds of live stock in Australia at decennial intervals from 1860 to 1920, and from 1921 onwards in single years, are given in the following table, and are shown continuously in the graphs hereinafter.

During the sixty-five years covered by the table the live stock of Australia increased considerably, horses 421 per cent., cattle 236 per cent., sheep 414 per cent., and pigs 221 per cent. The average annual increases which these aggregates represent are as follows:—Horses, 2.67 per cent.; cattle, 1.98 per cent.; sheep, 2.55 per cent.; and pigs, 1.81 per cent.

LIVE STOCK.—AUSTRALIA, 1860 TO 1925.

Year.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.(a)	Pigs.
1860	431,525	3,957,915	20,135,286	351,096
1870	716,772	4,276,326	41,593,612	543,388
1880	1,068,774	7,527,142	62,184,252	815,776
1890	1,521,598	10,299,816	97,881,221	891,138
1900	1,609,654	8,640,225	70,602,995	950,349
1910	2,165,866	11,744,714	98,066,046	1,025,850
1920	2,415,510	13,499,737	81,795,727	764,406
1921	2,438,182	14,441,309	86,119,068	960,385
1922	2,390,460	14,336,673	82,700,514	985,930
1923	2,327,440	13,357,508	84,011,048	897,874
1924	2,292,050	13,309,473	93,154,953	980,009
1925	2,250,361	13,279,785	103,563,218	1,128,374

(a) See note to Table in § 4. 2 hereinafter.

4. **Fluctuations.**—The increases referred to, however, have not been continuous, marked fluctuations having taken place during the period mainly on account of the droughts which have from time to time left their impress on the pastoral history of Australia. These were in evidence in 1868, 1877, 1883–4, 1892, 1893, 1895, and subsequent years, 1901–2, 1912, 1914–15, 1918, 1919, 1922–23, and again in 1925–26, in which latter years Central and Northern Queensland experienced one of the driest periods on record, and a heavy mortality of stock.

As an offset to these visitations, good seasons invariably supervene on the dry periods, and the large natural increases occurring under these conditions greatly facilitate the process of restocking, thus bearing convincing testimony to the extraordinary recuperative powers of the country.

The years in which the numbers of live stock attained their maxima are as follows:—Horses, 1918, 2,527,149; cattle, 1921, 14,441,309; sheep, 1891, 106,421,063; and pigs, 1917, 1,169,365.

5. **Live Stock in Relation to Population.**—The number of each kind of live stock per head of the population of Australia has varied during the past sixty-five years in the manner shown in the succeeding table :—

LIVE STOCK PER HEAD OF POPULATION.—AUSTRALIA, 1860 TO 1925.

Year.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Year.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
1860	0.38	3.45	17.58	0.31	1920	0.44	2.49	15.11	0.14
1870	0.43	2.60	25.24	0.33	1921	0.44	2.61	15.63	0.17
1880	0.48	3.37	27.87	0.37	1922	0.42	2.54	14.68	0.17
1890	0.48	3.17	31.06	0.28	1923	0.40	2.31	14.61	0.16
1900	0.43	2.29	18.75	0.25	1924	0.39	2.27	15.86	0.17
1910	0.49	2.65	22.16	0.23	1925	0.38	2.22	17.28	0.19

Considered in relation to population the most noticeable variations have been the largely reduced numbers of sheep and pigs in recent years. The number of cattle has also declined, and a decrease in the numbers of horses is in evidence since 1918.

6. **Live Stock in Relation to Area.**—The numbers of live stock per square mile in the several States and Territories of Australia are given in the following table :—

LIVE STOCK PER SQUARE MILE, 1925.

States and Territories.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
New South Wales (a)	2.10	9.47	173.50	1.24
Victoria	5.27	17.22	156.35	3.86
Queensland	0.95	9.60	30.82	0.30
South Australia	0.64	0.98	17.92	0.24
Western Australia	0.17	0.86	7.03	0.08
Tasmania	1.44	8.10	61.76	1.56
Northern Territory	0.09	1.85	0.02	0.00
Federal Capital Territory (a)	1.59	5.65	183.25	0.36
Total	0.76	4.46	34.82	0.38

(a) 30th June, 1926.

7. **Minor Classes of Live Stock.**—The numbers of minor classes of live stock returned for 1925 were as follows :—Goats, 218,686; camels, 9,904; mules and donkeys, 12,986; and ostriches, 529. Of these, goats were most numerous in Queensland; camels, mules and donkeys in Western Australia; and ostriches in South Australia. In the raising of goats, attention has in recent years been devoted to the angora goat and its product (mohair), and about 12,000 angora goats are included in the total of 218,686 goats shown above. Of these, 3,129 were in New South Wales, 608 in Tasmania, 1,152 in Western Australia, 1,548 in South Australia, and 3,923 in Queensland, while the quantity of mohair produced in the latter State in 1925 was set down at 1,604 lbs., and the number of skins placed on the market was returned as 520.

8. **Net Exports of Principal Pastoral Products.**—The quantities by which the exports of the principal pastoral products of Australia exceeded the imports for the years 1921-22 to 1925-26 are as follows :—

NET EXPORTS OF PASTORAL PRODUCTS.—AUSTRALIA, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Products.	Unit of Quantity.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
QUANTITIES.						
Animals (Living)—						
Cattle	No.	9,110	13,818	— 71	9,674	9,898
Horses	"	1,798	3,545	1,478	4,604	5,255
Sheep	"	36,111	37,959	30,302	4,143	20,331
Bones	cwt.	21,718	23,276	26,158	23,748	27,329
Glue-pieces and Sinews	"	4,987	6,927	-1,993	-11,055	-8,757
Glycerine	lb.	19,348	343,292	-230,485	-489,113	-608,485
Hair	"	-126,037	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Hoofs	cwt.	10,615	11,174	10,380	8,340	20,510
Horns	"	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Meats—						
Frozen Beef	lb.	124,158,191	152,925,321	105,145,255	283,584,278	214,058,586
Frozen Mutton and Lamb	"	91,712,280	167,578,967	39,768,347	50,224,659	85,679,850
Frozen Rabbits and Hares	pair	4,857,404	4,264,054	3,489,496	3,415,334	4,043,511
Frozen, Other	lb.	6,676,605	13,062,037	6,687,005	9,141,545	8,935,466
Potted, and Extract of	"	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Preserved in Tins, etc.	lb.	9,133,860	10,583,164	4,268,814	8,687,019	10,209,971
Other (excluding Bacon and Ham)	"	344,167	459,564	234,058	314,867	24,119
Sausage Casings	cwt.	(a)	24,623	13,213	26,860	
Skins—						
Hides	No.	80,415	47,900	665,460	900,274	699,080
Sheep	"	6,780,522	10,237,162	6,891,162	6,016,231	8,007,249
Rabbit and Hare	cwt.	74,224	122,748	77,862	116,522	134,024
Other (including Undressed Furs)	"	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Tallow	cwt.	893,772	1,016,831	394,313	855,596	824,974
Wool—						
Greasy	lb.	710,591,430	597,429,649	478,210,488	489,669,907	767,812,768
Scoured	"	102,346,835	106,319,965	41,735,194	39,221,259	49,972,194
Tops	"	6,200,505	6,374,922	4,988,258	4,090,968	5,219,085

NOTE.—The minus sign — signifies net imports. (a) Quantity not available.

The values of the net exports for the same five years are furnished in the next table, and amount to no less a total than £351,899,754 for the period, or an average of £70,379,951 per annum, of which wool represents 81.47 per cent. Meat, skins, and tallow rank next in order of importance.

NET EXPORTS OF PASTORAL PRODUCTS.—AUSTRALIA, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Products.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
VALUES.					
Animals (living)—	£	£	£	£	£
Cattle	53,274	64,731	-31,430	43,623	32,632
Horses	-1,148	27,978	-36,741	28,062	-8,655
Sheep	36,921	42,017	40,887	29,793	27,958
Bones	19,610	26,137	32,301	23,031	22,407
Glue-pieces and Sinews	7,883	13,725	21,688	10,363	3,071
Glycerine	1,516	8,536	-5,965	-10,896	-15,586
Hair	6,786	-62,880	-70,283	-73,556	-63,681
Hoofs	7,120	8,137	7,723	6,011	10,459
Horns	34,418	35,388	32,888	47,216	36,102
Meats—					
Frozen Beef	1,867,681	1,794,104	1,301,304	4,138,729	3,263,859
Frozen Mutton and Lamb	2,139,537	4,320,977	1,169,667	1,520,657	2,430,430
Frozen Rabbits and Hares	407,143	321,329	320,442	310,683	399,039
Frozen, Other	128,451	189,170	95,127	165,002	166,538
Potted, and Extract of	-49,636	-40,170	-78,343	-49,953	-30,580
Preserved in Tins, etc.	324,275	266,273	94,094	247,405	328,888
Other (excluding Bacon and Ham)	10,852	10,577	5,798	4,058	3,083
Sausage Casings	128,127	285,504	154,068	208,673	259,299
Skins—					
Hides	122,471	249,208	338,263	890,639	713,589
Sheep	1,305,223	2,973,146	3,057,789	3,773,328	3,413,809
Rabbit and Hare	784,346	1,961,777	1,348,508	2,482,933	2,874,582
Other (including Undressed Furs)	288,633	785,467	798,166	328,325	569,744
Tallow	1,440,683	1,612,676	745,209	1,703,308	1,584,465
Wool—					
Greasy	38,970,130	45,760,295	48,294,399	55,297,455	56,429,712
Scoured	7,795,146	9,898,651	6,293,197	6,524,471	5,537,671
Tops	1,207,048	1,412,683	1,161,920	1,119,849	1,035,107
Total Values	57,036,440	71,974,486	65,095,676	78,769,210	79,023,942

NOTE.—The minus sign — signifies net imports.

§ 2. Horses.

1. **Suitability of Australia for Horse-breeding.**—From the earliest times the suitability of the climate and pastures of Australia for the production of serviceable breeds of horses has been fully recognized. By the importation of high-class sires, and the careful selection of breeding mares, these natural advantages are utilized to the fullest extent, all classes of horses being bred. As a consequence of this combination of advantages, the Australian horse, whether of the heavy draught, medium weight, or light saddle and carriage variety, compares more than favourably with the product of other lands. The Australian horse has been found suitable for the army in India, and large numbers are obtained annually for remount purposes. During the war, Australian horses were found to be well adapted for all purposes, especially in Palestine.

2. **Distribution throughout Australia.**—As regards numbers, the State of New South Wales, the earliest settled of the group, established a lead, which it retained till the year 1914, when it gave place to Queensland, where rapid progress had been in evidence during the previous decade. New South Wales regained the lead during the next three seasons, but Queensland again replaced the latter State in 1918, and maintained its position until 1925, when New South Wales recorded 12,000 horses more than the Northern State. Particulars of the several States for the past five years are as follows:—

HORSES.—NUMBER, 1921 TO 1925.

Year.	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N.T.	F.C.T. (a)	Total.
1921	668,501	496,124	746,281	267,639	180,334	38,439	39,565	1,299	2,438,182
1922	658,686	494,947	713,015	264,150	181,159	37,313	39,845	1,345	2,390,460
1923	656,939	486,075	660,387	258,489	181,944	37,570	44,603	1,433	2,327,440
1924	646,110	473,236	659,023	255,022	175,116	37,091	45,059	1,393	2,292,050
1925	649,534	463,051	637,436	244,111	170,563	37,785	46,380	1,501	2,250,361

(a) 30th June year following.

The number of horses attained its maximum in Australia during 1918, when 2,527,149 were recorded. Since that date, however, a gradual decline has taken place in all divisions of the Commonwealth, except Northern Territory, the decrease for Australia during the period amounting to 276,788.

Particulars regarding the number of horses in Australia from 1860 onwards, may be ascertained from the graph herein.

3. **Proportions in the Several States and Territories.**—The percentages of the number of horses in the several States and Territories on the total for Australia for the past five years are as follows:—

HORSES.—PERCENTAGE IN EACH STATE, 1921 TO 1925.

Year.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N.T.	F.C.T.	Total.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1921	27.42	20.35	30.61	10.98	7.40	1.57	1.62	0.05	100.00
1922	27.55	20.70	29.83	11.05	7.58	1.56	1.67	0.06	100.00
1923	28.23	20.88	28.37	11.11	7.82	1.61	1.92	0.06	100.00
1924	28.19	20.65	28.75	11.13	7.64	1.62	1.96	0.06	100.00
1925	28.86	20.58	28.32	10.85	7.58	1.68	2.06	0.07	100.00

The relative changes in distribution are insignificant, the only alteration during the last four years being a decrease of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Queensland, occasioned by increases in New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, Tasmania, and the Northern Territory.

4. **Relation to Population.**—In proportion to population, horses are much more numerous in the Northern Territory than in any other of the principal divisions of Australia. Queensland is next in order, while Tasmania has the smallest number of

horses per head. The number per head of population has declined in all the statistical divisions, with the exception of Northern Territory, since 1921. Particulars for the past five years as follows:—

HORSES.—NUMBER PER HEAD OF POPULATION, 1921 TO 1925.

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Fed. Cap. Ter.	All States.
1921 ..	0.31	0.32	0.97	0.53	0.54	0.18	10.59	0.45	0.44
1922 ..	0.30	0.31	0.90	0.51	0.53	0.17	11.22	0.41	0.42
1923 ..	0.30	0.30	0.81	0.49	0.51	0.17	12.55	0.39	0.40
1924 ..	0.29	0.29	0.79	0.47	0.48	0.17	12.60	0.46	0.39
1925 ..	0.28	0.27	0.74	0.44	0.46	0.17	12.69	0.38	0.38

5. Comparison with other Countries.—The number of horses in some of the leading horse-breeding countries of the world, according to the latest available returns, is as follows:—

HORSES.—NUMBER IN PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES.

Country.	Date.	Number of Horses (,000 omitted.)	Country.	Date.	Number of Horses (,000 omitted.)
Soviet Republics ..	1925	24,530	Union of South Africa	1925	815
U.S. of America ..	1926	15,279	Cuba ..	1924	785
Argentine Republic ..	1921	9,432	Dutch East Indies ..	1924	744
Brazil ..	1920	5,254	Czecho-Slovakia ..	1925	740
China ..	1916	4,401	Sweden ..	1920	728
Germany ..	1926	3,869	Spain ..	1924	643
Canada ..	1926	3,559	Uruguay ..	1919	555
Poland ..	1921	3,290	Denmark ..	1926	548
France ..	1925	2,880	Turkey ..	1924	505
Australia ..	1925	2,250	Lithuania ..	1925	497
India (British and Native) ..	1924	2,156	Paraguay ..	1919	490
Rumania ..	1925	1,875	Mexico ..	1925	438
Japan ..	1924	1,624	Finland ..	1924	403
United Kingdom ..	1925	1,447	Bulgaria ..	1920	398
Jugo-Slavia ..	1925	1,106	Irish Free State ..	1926	379
Italy ..	1919	990	Netherlands ..	1921	364
Colombia ..	1924	964	Latvia ..	1925	352
Hungary ..	1926	885	New Zealand ..	1925	327
			Chile ..	1925	324

6. World's Totals.—Several countries do not issue annual statistics of live stock, the information available consisting of censuses or estimates made at varying intervals. It is not possible, therefore, to give world aggregates for the different classes of stock year by year, nor to make a satisfactory comparison between the totals for consecutive years. In order, however, to give some idea of the latest position as regards live stock and the changes that have taken place as compared with pre-war years, the following information has been taken from the report issued by the International Institute of Agriculture. The list of countries included is fairly complete, but China, which possesses large numbers of horses, is omitted, as also are certain parts of Asiatic Russia, together with a few other countries. While for some countries the figures are the result of careful enumeration, in the case of others they are merely approximations. The

totals, therefore, can be regarded as a general indication only of the position at the dates shown. The figures for horses are as follows:—

HORSES.—WORLD'S TOTALS, 1913 AND 1925.

Continents, &c.	Number at the date nearest—		Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in 1925.	
	1913.	1925.	Actual Figures.	Percentages.
	,000	,000	,000	%
Europe	44,206	40,910	–3,296	–7.5
North and Central America	27,631	26,904	–727	–2.6
South America	18,132	17,494	–638	–3.5
Asia	12,197	11,596	–601	–4.9
Africa	1,661	1,985	+324	+19.5
Oceania	2,971	2,652	–319	–10.7
Total	106,793	101,541	–5,257	–4.9

Compared with the pre-war totals reductions have taken place in all the continents, with the exception of Africa, where the number of horses is relatively insignificant. The greatest decrease occurred in Europe, where there are 3,296,000 horses less than in 1913.

7. *Oversea Trade in Horses.*—(i) *Exports.* Australia's export trade in horses is not nearly as large as formerly, and is somewhat fluctuating. During the past five years it has varied in number between 5,610 in 1925–26 and 1,785 in 1923–24, and in value between £160,714 in 1924–25 and £59,799 in 1923–24. The total number of horses exported during the five years amounted to 18,284, valued at £524,879, or equal to an annual average of 3,657 for £104,976. The average export price for the period was £28 14s. 2d. Nearly 77 per cent of the horses exported went to India, where they are largely used for remount purposes.

(ii) *Imports.* The number of horses imported into Australia is comparatively small, consisting mainly of valuable animals introduced for breeding purposes, principally from the United Kingdom and New Zealand. The average value per head of the horses imported during the last five years was £321 6s. 3d., as compared with £28 14s. 2d. per head for the exports for the same period. The average number imported per annum was, however, only 321, and the average annual value, £103,077. The following table gives the imports, exports, and net exports of horses during each of the years from 1921–22 to 1925–26:—

HORSES.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, AUSTRALIA, 1921–22 TO 1925–26.

Year.	Imports.		Exports.		Net Exports.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
		£		£		£
1921–22	277	69,382	2,075	68,234	1,798	– 1,148
1922–23	309	81,685	3,854	109,663	3,545	27,978
1923–24	307	96,540	1,785	59,799	1,478	– 36,741
1924–25	356	132,652	4,960	160,714	4,604	28,062
1925–26	355	135,124	5,610	126,469	5,255	– 8,655

NOTE.—The minus sign – signifies net imports.

§ 3. Cattle.

1. **Purposes for which Raised.**—In all the States, cattle-raising is carried out on a more or less extensive scale, the main objects in certain districts being the production of stock suitable for slaughtering purposes, and in others the raising of profitable dairy herds. The great impetus which the development of the export trade in Australian butter gave to the dairying industry led to a considerable increase in numbers and improvement in quality of the dairy herds in Victoria, New South Wales, and Southern Queensland in particular, the portion of Australia in the temperate zone being the best adapted to this industry. On the other hand, by far the finest specimens of beef-producing cattle are those raised in the tropical districts, *i.e.*, in the northern parts of Queensland, in the Northern Territory, and in the Kimberley districts in the north of Western Australia.

2. **Distribution throughout Australia.**—Until 1880 New South Wales occupied the leading position as a cattle-raising State, but in that year Queensland took first place, which it has since maintained. The graph herewith shows a rapid increase in the number of cattle in Australia up to the year 1894, when 12,311,617 head were depastured. From 1895 onwards, however, the effects of droughts and the ravages of tick fever reduced the number to 7,062,742 in 1902. Following the disastrous drought which terminated in the latter year, the herds were gradually built up, and despite recurring droughts, they continued to increase in recent years until the maximum number of 14,441,309 cattle was attained in 1921. The decline in the frozen beef trade and the drought of 1922–23, which particularly affected the beef cattle areas of New South Wales and Queensland, were mainly responsible for the heavy decreases recorded in both these States during the past four years. Preliminary figures available for Queensland reveal the fact that as the result of the disastrous drought of 1925–26 the herds of that State have been further depleted by more than one million cattle.

The numbers of cattle in the several States and Territories during each of the last five years are as follows:—

CATTLE.—NUMBER, 1921 TO 1925.

Year.	N.S.W. (a)	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Nor. Ter.	Fed. Cap. Ter. (a)	Total.
1921	3,538,240	1,750,369	7,047,370	(a)419,197	893,108	216,704	568,031	8,290	14,441,309
1922	3,244,905	1,785,060	6,955,463	(a)425,811	939,596	218,197	760,766	6,275	14,336,673
1923	2,932,437	1,591,367	6,396,514	(a)413,272	953,764	220,351	843,718	6,085	13,357,508
1924	2,871,196	1,605,554	6,454,653	400,423	891,564	225,740	855,285	5,058	13,309,473
1925	2,931,818	1,513,787	6,436,645	373,597	835,911	212,373	970,342	5,312	13,279,785

(a) 30th June year following.

3. **Proportion in each State.**—Percentages showing the relative importance of the various cattle-breeding States during the years 1921 to 1925 are given hereunder:—

CATTLE.—PERCENTAGE IN EACH STATE, 1921 TO 1925.

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Nor. Ter.	Fed. Cap. Ter.	Total.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1921	24.50	12.12	48.80	2.90	6.19	1.50	3.93	0.06	100.00
1922	22.63	12.46	48.52	2.97	6.55	1.52	5.31	0.04	100.00
1923	21.95	11.91	47.89	3.09	7.14	1.65	6.32	0.05	100.00
1924	21.57	12.06	48.50	3.01	6.70	1.69	6.43	0.04	100.00
1925	22.08	11.40	48.47	2.81	6.29	1.60	7.31	0.04	100.00

Queensland contains within its borders nearly one half of the cattle-herds of Australia. Despite decreases during recent years the percentage of cattle in Queensland on the total for Australia amounted to 48.47 in 1925. The largest relative gain since 1920 occurred in the Northern Territory, where the number has considerably increased during the past four seasons.

4. Relation to Population.—The number of cattle per head of population varies considerably in the several States, as may be seen from the following table :—

CATTLE.—NUMBER PER HEAD OF POPULATION, 1921 TO 1925.

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Nor. Ter.	Fed. Cap. Ter.	All States.
1921 ..	1.65	1.12	9.15	0.83	2.66	0.99	152.00	2.84	2.61
1922 ..	1.48	1.12	8.82	0.82	2.73	1.00	214.24	1.93	2.54
1923 ..	1.32	0.98	7.89	0.78	2.70	1.01	237.33	1.65	2.31
1924 ..	1.27	0.97	7.73	0.74	2.45	1.03	237.75	1.69	2.27
1925 ..	1.28	0.90	7.47	0.68	2.24	0.98	265.41	1.35	2.22

5. Comparison with other Countries.—In the following comparison of the herds of Australia with those of some of the principal cattle-raising countries of the world, the latest available figures have been inserted in each case :—

CATTLE.—NUMBER IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

Country.	Date.	No. of Cattle ('000 omitted).	Country.	Date.	No. of Cattle ('000 omitted).
India (British) ..	1925	119,492	Turkey	1924	4,622
Soviet Republics ..	1926	63,000	Cuba	1924	4,600
U.S. of America ..	1926	57,521	French Equatorial and West Africa ..	1924	4,539
Argentine Republic ..	1922	37,065	Tanganyika Territory ..	1925	4,472
Brazil	1920	34,271	Dutch East Indies ..	1925	4,343
Germany	1926	17,195	Irish Free State ..	1926	3,947
China	1921	15,973	Siam	1925	3,872
France	1925	14,373	Jugo-Slavia	1925	3,768
Australia	1925	13,280	New Zealand	1925	3,504
Union of South Africa ..	1925	9,738	Spain	1924	3,436
Canada	1926	9,160	Kenya	1925	3,417
Uruguay	1924	8,432	Japan	1924	3,157
United Kingdom ..	1926	8,115	Mexico	1925	2,925
Poland	1921	8,063	Nigeria	1925	2,864
Madagascar	1923	7,367	Denmark	1926	2,840
Italy	1919	6,239	Sweden	1920	2,737
Colombia	1924	6,500	Rhodesia	1925	2,483
Paraguay	1919	5,500	Venezuela	1922	2,278
Rumania	1925	4,798	Austria	1924	2,162
Czecho-Slovakia ..	1925	4,691			

6. World's Totals.—The information in the appended table has been taken from the returns published by the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. The figures given therein are subject to the limitations previously noted in respect to horses (See § 2. No. 6 ante.)

CATTLE.—WORLD'S TOTALS, 1913 AND 1925.

Continents, etc.	Number at the date nearest—		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1925.	
	1913.	1925.	Actual Figures.	Percentages.
	,000	,000	,000	%
Europe	129,695	139,519	+9,824	+7.6
North and Central America ..	79,105	89,950	+10,845	+13.7
South America	85,978	98,259	+12,281	+14.3
Asia	168,858	172,295	+3,437	+2.0
Africa	32,826	46,240	+13,414	+40.9
Oceania	13,850	17,158	+3,308	+23.9
Total	510,312	563,421	+53,109	+10.4

Compared with the returns for 1913, increases were recorded in 1925 in all continents. The chief percentage increases were in Africa and Australia, but considerable gains in numbers were also reported for South America, North and Central America, and Europe.

7. Imports and Exports of Cattle.—Although the various products of the cattle-raising industry bulk largely in the export trade of Australia, the export of live cattle has never been considerable. The number of cattle imported is also small, consisting, as in the case of horses, mainly of valuable animals for the purpose of breeding. Details are as follows:—

CATTLE.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, AUSTRALIA, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Year.	Imports.		Exports.		Net Exports.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
		£		£		£
1921-22 ..	108	10,769	9,218	64,043	9,110	53,274
1922-23 ..	147	18,856	13,965	83,587	13,818	64,731
1923-24 ..	2,683	46,684	2,612	15,254	-71	-31,430
1924-25 ..	70	2,318	9,744	45,946	9,674	43,628
1925-26 ..	173	15,743	10,071	48,375	9,898	32,632

NOTE.—The minus sign — signifies net imports.

The importation of fat cattle from New Zealand for the Melbourne market was the cause of the relatively large import in 1923-24. Omitting these unusual shipments the average value of the cattle imported during the last five years was £99 3s. 8d. per head, while the average value of the cattle exported during the same period was £5 12s. 9d. As previously stated, the imported cattle were required principally for stud purposes.

8. Cattle Slaughtered.—The number of cattle slaughtered during each of the years 1921 to 1925 is given hereunder:—

CATTLE (INCLUDING CALVES) SLAUGHTERED, 1921 TO 1925.

Year.	N.S.W. (a)	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas. (a)	N. Ter.	Fed. Cap. Ter. (a)	Total.
1921	631,699	331,707	499,992	495,323	54,640	33,566	2,445	90	1,649,462
1922	738,908	424,199	504,394	427,294	79,823	31,026	1,587	142	1,907,373
1923	752,376	461,958	566,452	414,979	90,833	33,729	2,500	113	2,048,940
1924	818,683	499,840	893,169	155,050	95,648	36,154	6,630	143	2,505,317
1925	825,628	523,960	778,060	157,210	110,286	36,824	2,000	456	2,434,424

(a) For year ended 30th June of year following.

9. Production and Consumption of Beef.—The production of beef in Australia during the three years ended 1925-26 was estimated at 1,180,272,537 lbs. per annum. The requirements of the local market absorbed 972,963,833 lbs., or nearly 82½ per cent. leaving a balance of slightly more than 17½ per cent., which was exported as frozen and canned beef. The annual consumption of beef per head of population in Australia averaged 166 lbs. compared with 71 lbs. in the United States of America, 72 lbs. in Canada, and 64 lbs. in the United Kingdom for the same period.

10. Export of Beef Preserved by Cold Process.—The establishment of the frozen meat export trade about the year 1882 provided an outlet for the surplus stock of

Australia, and since that date the trade in frozen beef has grown to large proportions. the quantities exported during the five years 1921-22 to 1925-26 being as follows :—

BEEF PRESERVED BY COLD PROCESS.—EXPORTS, AUSTRALIA, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Country to which Exported.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	Total for 5 years.
QUANTITY.						
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
United Kingdom ..	108,671,867	112,316,545	62,286,753	175,276,049	124,287,414	582,838,628
Italy ..	..	67,315	8,511,922	48,938,055	11,764,463	69,281,755
Belgium ..	..	2,452,475	7,723,342	25,679,801	31,760,595	67,620,713
Germany ..	..	17,321,705	5,437,968	6,777,898	15,600,259	45,137,850
Philippine Islands ..	8,093,851	4,780,134	8,442,695	8,117,712	9,201,185	38,635,577
Egypt ..	1,904,187	5,228,357	3,242,520	6,406,583	4,019,222	21,700,869
Malaya (British) ..	2,392,991	2,215,561	1,903,621	2,012,101	2,062,674	10,591,948
Malta ..	..	1,223,563	2,007,894	3,006,897	3,987,758	10,226,112
France ..	783,824	1,802,192	625,223	2,909,841	3,262,353	9,383,433
Hawaiian Islands ..	554,698	2,089,605	230,274	996,735	2,042,684	6,813,996
Hong Kong ..	610,785	..	1,444,881	382,390	1,370,380	4,319,853
Gibraltar ..	..	353,354	1,254,888	929,137	1,432,295	3,969,674
Japan ..	213,295	398,301	884,679	981,672	450,557	2,928,504
Ceylon ..	322,010	456,739	319,546	309,781	428,357	1,836,433
Other Countries ..	619,845	1,733,404	837,714	816,535	619,783	4,707,283
Total ..	124,167,353	152,950,667	105,163,940	283,620,687	214,089,981	879,992,623

VALUE.						
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ..	1,616,075	1,285,049	734,814	2,552,775	1,915,739	8,104,452
Italy ..	..	842	115,819	125,510	170,829	1,013,000
Belgium ..	..	27,314	96,270	366,488	487,448	977,520
Germany ..	..	202,119	65,054	105,496	225,063	597,732
Philippine Islands ..	133,696	60,843	105,971	103,781	124,010	523,301
Egypt ..	24,431	67,684	45,858	93,805	80,722	312,500
Malaya (British) ..	44,637	34,552	23,980	32,496	33,927	174,642
Malta ..	..	14,265	30,658	46,872	62,753	154,548
France ..	9,798	21,720	7,101	44,539	45,871	129,029
Hawaiian Islands ..	7,280	28,412	3,955	16,386	46,325	102,358
Hong Kong ..	11,117	6,771	19,537	5,567	23,365	66,357
Gibraltar ..	..	4,214	14,853	15,458	24,997	59,522
Japan ..	3,892	5,340	12,603	10,806	4,772	37,413
Ceylon ..	6,111	8,455	6,405	5,868	8,324	35,163
Other Countries ..	10,840	27,155	14,001	14,240	10,775	77,011
Total ..	1,867,927	1,794,735	1,301,879	4,140,087	3,264,920	12,369,548

Despite the weakness of overseas markets conditions in Australia were favourable for export beef during 1925-26, and 214,089,981 lbs. were sent overseas. Had it not been for local and overseas trade interruptions it is believed this figure could have been considerably improved upon. The largest purchaser of Australian beef is the United Kingdom, which during the five years ended 1925-26 took £8,104,452 worth, or more than 65 per cent. of the total shipments. A satisfactory feature of the trade was the increased quantities taken by European countries other than the United Kingdom, the value of the exports thereto in 1925-26 amounting to £1,016,961 or 31 per cent. of the total exportation.

11. **Beef Subsidy.**—Particulars of the efforts of the Commonwealth Government to assist the beef industry by the passage of the Meat Export Bounties Act and the operations of that measure are contained in previous issues of the Year Book.

§ 4. Sheep.

1. **Initiation of the Pastoral Industry.**—Fortunately for Australia, the suitability of its climate and general conditions for the production of a high class of wool was, at an early date in the history of its settlement, surmised and tested by Captain Macarthur, one of the pioneer sheep-breeders of New South Wales. To the energy of this enterprising pastoralist is due in large measure the rapid and extremely satisfactory development of Australia as a producer of fine wool, and, while it would appear that the introduction of the merino sheep into Australia was not due to Macarthur, a great deal of the credit for having successfully established the pastoral industry in Australia must certainly be his.

2. **Distribution throughout Australia.**—With the exception of a short period in the early sixties, when the flocks of Victoria outnumbered those of the mother State, New South Wales has maintained the lead in sheep-raising which naturally attached to it as the portion of Australia in which settlement was first effected. The number of sheep in New South Wales generally represents about half the total for Australia, but this ratio was slightly exceeded in the returns for the past two years.

Fluctuations in the number of sheep recorded for each year in Australia from 1860 onwards may be seen from the graph accompanying this chapter. Five marked periods of decline greatly reduced the numbers at successive intervals, but these losses were quickly regained, and, despite a decrease of 3½ millions during the drought of 1922, the number reported early in 1926 was 103,563,218, the greatest number since the maximum year, 1891, when 106,421,068 sheep were depastured. To approximate the record number so closely when the requirements of the mutton and lamb trade entail the annual slaughter of some ten to twelve million sheep and lambs is a striking commentary on the soundness of the sheep and wool industry, and on the excellent seasons experienced in Australia during recent years.

Although the flocks of Queensland have been seriously depleted by the recent drought in that State, the preliminary figures available for early in 1927 estimate the Commonwealth sheep total at 103,000,000.

The number of sheep in the several States and Territories for each year from 1921 to 1925 was as follows:—

SHEEP.—NUMBER, 1921 TO 1925.

Year.	New South Wales. (a)	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Nor. Ter.	Fed. Cap. Ter. (a)	Total.
1921	40,902,432	12,325,818	18,402,399	6,257,052	6,508,177	1,551,273	6,349	167,568	86,119,068
1922	38,605,391	11,765,520	17,641,071	6,305,133	6,664,135	1,558,494	6,161	154,609	82,700,514
1923	41,293,843	11,059,761	16,756,101	6,596,875	6,595,867	1,557,716	4,728	146,157	84,011,048
1924	46,934,210	12,649,898	19,028,252	6,359,240	6,396,564	1,614,085	6,914	165,790	93,154,953
1925	53,687,749	13,740,500	20,663,323	6,810,495	6,861,795	1,619,075	8,030	172,251	103,563,218

(a) 30th June, year following.

The figures for New South Wales shown above have been revised by the Government Statistician in view of the discrepancies previously noted in landholders' returns.

3. **Proportion in the Several States and Territories.**—Particulars concerning the relative positions of the several States and Territories with respect to the total flocks of Australia during the years 1921 to 1925 are given hereunder:—

SHEEP.—PERCENTAGE IN EACH STATE, 1921 TO 1925.

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Fed. Cap. Ter.	Total.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1921	47.50	14.31	21.37	7.27	7.55	1.80	0.01	0.19	100.00
1922	46.68	14.23	21.33	7.62	8.06	1.88	0.01	0.19	100.00
1923	49.15	13.16	19.95	7.85	7.85	1.86	0.01	0.17	100.00
1924	50.38	13.58	20.42	6.83	6.87	1.73	0.01	0.18	100.00
1925	51.84	13.27	19.95	6.58	6.62	1.56	0.01	0.17	100.00

Apart from the effect of drought the percentage of sheep depastured in the different States shows little change. The most noteworthy alteration was a gain of 4.34 per cent. in New South Wales mainly at the expense of Queensland and Victoria.

4. **Relation to Population.**—The relation of the flocks of the several States and Territories to the population at the end of each year from 1921 to 1925 is as follows:—

SHEEP.—NUMBER PER HEAD OF POPULATION, 1921 TO 1925.

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Fed. Cap. Ter.	Total.
1921 ..	19.22	7.95	23.90	12.39	19.41	7.10	1.70	81.19	15.63
1922 ..	17.77	7.40	22.38	12.20	19.39	7.12	1.74	60.46	14.68
1923 ..	18.69	6.80	20.66	12.47	18.64	7.11	1.33	55.74	14.61
1924 ..	20.82	7.64	22.79	11.81	17.57	7.34	1.92	55.30	15.86
1925 ..	23.36	8.16	23.99	12.35	18.44	7.46	2.20	43.76	17.28

5. **Comparison with other Countries.**—As regards the size of its flocks, and the quantity and quality of wool produced, Australia has long occupied the leading position amongst the sheep-raising countries of the world. The following comparison taken mainly from the Year Book of the International Institute of Agriculture gives the latest figures relative to the number of sheep in the principal wool-producing countries:—

SHEEP.—NUMBER IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

Country.	Date.	No. of Sheep (,000 omitted).	Country.	Date.	No. of Sheep (,000 omitted).
Australia	1925	103,563	Brazil	1920	7,933
Soviet Republics ..	1925	81,858	Jugo-Slavia	1925	7,907
U.S. of America ..	1926	41,909	French Equatorial and West Africa	1924	6,562
Argentine Republic ..	1922	36,209	Algeria	1925	6,171
Union of South Africa ..	1925	35,570	Greece	1923	5,643
India (British and Native)	1924	34,602	Iraq	1924	4,433
New Zealand	1925	24,548	Tanganyika Territory(a)	1925	4,333
United Kingdom	1925	23,577	Chile	1925	4,094
China	1916	22,232	Germany	1926	4,084
Spain	1924	18,460	Portugal	1925	3,684
Uruguay	1924	14,443	Irish Free State	1926	3,003
Rumania	1925	12,950	Canada	1926	2,877
Italy	1919	11,754	Kenya	1925	2,679
Turkey	1925	11,444	Poland	1921	2,193
Peru	1922	11,335	Basutoiland	1925	2,051
France	1925	10,537	Soudan (Anglo-Egyptian)	1925	1,639
French Morocco	1925	9,278			
Bulgaria	1920	8,923			

(a) Including goats.

6. **World's Totals.**—The number of sheep in the various great divisions of the world has been estimated by the International Institute of Agriculture, and a comparison has been made with pre-war estimates. In the table below the results are shown, the totals being subject to the limitations noted for other classes of live stock. (See § 2, 6 *ante*).

SHEEP.—WORLD'S TOTALS, 1913 AND 1925.

Continents, etc.	Number at the date nearest—		Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in 1925.	
	1913.	1925.	Actual Figures.	Percentages.
	,000	,000	,000	%
Europe	162,070	188,615	+26,545	+16.4
North and Central America ..	56,996	39,909	–17,087	–30.0
South America	99,349	78,118	–21,231	–21.4
Asia	59,702	62,174	+2,472	+4.1
Africa	74,123	76,073	+1,950	+2.6
Oceania	109,330	128,141	+18,811	+17.21
Total	561,570	573,030	+11,460	+2.0

Despite large reductions in the United States, Argentine, Brazil, and Uruguay the total number of sheep recorded in 1925 exceeded that depastured in the various countries during 1913. The increase was mainly due to important additions to the flocks of Europe and Australia.

7. **Oversea Imports and Exports of Sheep.**—As in the case of cattle, the oversea exports of live sheep from Australia are of comparatively small importance. During the past five years the principal consignments of ordinary sheep have been made to Malaya (British) from the State of Western Australia. The purchases by South African and Japanese buyers at the Australian Stud Sheep Sales during recent years have opened up a regular export trade with these two countries in stud sheep, the bulk of which has been secured from the leading flocks of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. The following are particulars of the imports and exports for the years 1921-22 to 1925-26:—

SHEEP.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, AUSTRALIA, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Year.	Imports.		Exports.		Net Exports.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
		£		£		£
1921-22 ..	345	4,836	36,456	41,757	36,111	36,921
1922-23 ..	235	3,378	38,194	45,395	37,959	42,017
1923-24 ..	1,021	8,487	31,323	49,374	30,302	40,887
1924-25 ..	2,183	10,902	6,326	40,695	4,143	29,793
1925-26 ..	2,375	13,873	22,706	41,831	20,331	27,958

8. **Sheep Slaughtered.**—The number of sheep slaughtered in the several States during each of the years from 1921 to 1925 was as follows:—

SHEEP (INCLUDING LAMBS) SLAUGHTERED, 1921 TO 1925.

Year.	N.S.W. (a)	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas. (a)	Nor. Ter.	Fed. Cap. Ter.(a)	Total.
1921 ..	5,226,516	4,005,587	769,360	1,208,347	871,831	362,871	30	3,333	12,447,875
1922 ..	5,662,953	5,863,195	762,540	1,290,669	900,128	344,989	..	3,323	14,827,797
1923 ..	3,614,457	4,078,273	618,127	956,140	809,379	316,438	..	2,898	10,395,712
1924 ..	3,396,957	3,591,219	446,247	933,426	588,577	276,117	..	2,989	9,235,532
1925 ..	4,244,497	4,194,572	635,335	1,028,533	613,935	286,691	..	7,908	11,011,471

(a) Year ended 30th June year following.

9. **Production and Consumption of Mutton and Lamb.**—The annual production of mutton and lamb during the three years ended 1925-26 averaged 410,326,466 lbs., of which 349,623,169 lbs., or 85.21 per cent., was consumed locally, leaving a balance of 14.79 per cent. for exportation. The consumption of mutton and lamb in Australia during the same period averaged 60 lbs. per head per annum, a figure considerably in excess of the per capita consumption during the past three years in the following countries:—United Kingdom, 27 lbs.; Canada, 8 lbs.; and United States of America, 5 lbs.

10. **Exports of Mutton and Lamb Preserved by Cold Process.**—The export trade in mutton and lamb preserved by cold process grew rapidly until in 1913, the year immediately before the war, the value of the shipments amounted to nearly £3,000,000. The exports fell away considerably during the war years, but a record shipment of 246,971,346 lbs., valued at £5,482,564, was made in 1919-20, and another large consignment was dispatched in 1922-23. Climatic conditions favoured a considerable output in the next three seasons, but shipments were not large, owing chiefly to the sound position of wool.

As in the case of frozen beef, the principal customer in this trade is the United Kingdom, which absorbed more than 95 per cent. of the total quantity exported from Australia during the last five years, while the balance was shipped mainly to Malaya (British), Egypt, Hong Kong, Ceylon, Canada, and Philippine Islands.

MUTTON AND LAMB PRESERVED BY COLD PROCESS.—EXPORTS, AUSTRALIA, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Country to which Exported.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	Total for 5 years.
QUANTITY.						
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
United Kingdom ..	88,631,613	162,653,301	35,906,594	46,025,699	80,584,284	413,891,491
Malaya (British) ..	1,089,985	1,106,778	846,641	1,072,104	994,153	5,109,661
Egypt ..	178,380	984,473	463,332	739,176	617,805	2,983,166
Hong Kong ..	391,166	432,250	491,660	446,076	601,292	2,362,444
Ceylon ..	396,880	340,484	415,729	443,937	411,241	2,008,271
Canada ..	329,030	203,315	251,046	216,121	543,043	1,544,555
Philippine Islands ..	289,294	208,910	184,482	167,118	154,014	1,003,818
Malta ..	..	..	..	..	707,093	707,093
Hawaiian Islands ..	..	..	..	..	416,307	416,307
Union of South Africa ..	72,920	179,226	156,102	..	..	408,248
France ..	..	..	..	..	342,908	342,908
Other Countries ..	335,731	1,503,824	999,763	1,161,231	307,830	4,308,379
Total ..	91,714,999	167,612,561	39,805,349	50,271,462	85,681,970	435,086,341

VALUE.						
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ..	2,073,276	4,205,189	1,067,571	1,397,291	2,298,400	11,041,727
Malaya (British) ..	24,750	28,531	25,067	34,548	27,964	140,860
Egypt ..	3,514	18,825	11,021	20,781	15,226	69,367
Hong Kong ..	8,690	12,104	14,969	14,144	16,269	66,176
Ceylon ..	7,781	8,872	12,296	14,018	10,751	53,718
Canada ..	7,422	3,944	6,216	6,503	15,210	39,295
Philippine Islands ..	6,347	5,740	5,486	5,556	4,526	27,655
Malta ..	..	..	..	..	15,158	15,158
Hawaiian Islands ..	..	..	..	..	13,620	13,620
Union of South Africa ..	1,029	3,710	4,167	..	..	8,906
France ..	..	..	..	..	6,430	6,430
Other Countries ..	6,806	35,002	24,057	29,241	6,911	102,017
Total ..	2,139,615	4,321,917	1,170,850	1,522,082	2,430,465	11,584,929

§ 5. Wool.

1. **Importance of Wool Production.**—Wool is the chief factor in the pastoral wealth of Australia, the value of the output for the season ended 30th June, 1926, being about £61,404,000. The bulk of the production is exported, but with the greater activity of Australian woollen mills the quantity used locally is increasing, nevertheless the amount so used represents about 5 per cent. only of the total production.

2. **Greasy and Scoured Wool.**—For the purpose of comparing the clips as a whole for a series of years, it is convenient to have the total production expressed in terms of greasy wool.

The quantity of Australian wool scoured and washed before export during recent years has been on the average about 18 per cent. of the total quantity shipped. The loss of weight in scouring varies largely with season, locality, breed, and condition. It seems preferable to express "scoured and washed" wool in terms of "greasy" rather than vice versa, since the absolute error arising from uncertainty as to average loss of weight is thereby minimized.

In the tables dealing with production, "scoured and washed" wool has been converted into the estimated equivalent amount of "greasy" on the assumption that two pounds of "greasy" wool are on the average required to produce one pound of "scoured and washed."

3. **Production.**—(i) *Total.* The estimated production of wool in the several States, formerly based on the Customs returns, being no longer available from that source, an effort has been made to arrive at approximate figures from data collected by the State Statisticians from growers, fellmongers, etc. An examination of the figures so obtained revealed a serious discrepancy when compared with oversea exports plus local consumption, the cause of which was mainly due to understatement of their production by pastoralists. As the result of exhaustive inquiries in New South Wales and South Australia the Statisticians of those States have been able satisfactorily to revise their original figures. Pending similar action the statistics of the other States have been provisionally amended from existing data available. The following table gives the revised estimates obtained for the five seasons ended 30th June, 1922 to 1926:—

WOOL.—TOTAL PRODUCTION, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

State.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
New South Wales(a) ..	333,856,000	336,899,000	303,032,000	369,118,000	402,490,000
Victoria ..	128,512,777	127,467,950	107,513,361	133,484,871	139,076,017
Queensland ..	142,579,733	144,971,150	131,913,075	152,131,544	158,744,544
South Australia ..	57,764,173	58,698,738	57,881,936	62,438,953	69,007,266
Western Australia ..	47,301,039	45,139,138	49,055,393	44,307,052	48,547,780
Tasmania ..	11,634,624	12,218,550	11,712,273	12,483,452	12,564,000
Northern Territory(b)	30,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	30,000
Total ..	721,678,346	725,414,526	661,128,038	773,983,872	830,459,607

(a) Including Federal Capital Territory.

(b) Approximate figures.

(ii) *Estimate for 1926-27.* Although the returns are not yet complete the total wool production of the Commonwealth during 1926-27 is officially estimated at 900,000,000 lbs., the record quantity produced to date, and 70,000,000 lbs. greater than the previous record obtained in 1925-26.

4. **Care Needed in Comparing Clips.**—In comparing successive clips, allowance must be made for the circumstance that, owing to climatic or other conditions, the time of shearing may be so far delayed that one clip may include almost thirteen months' growth of wool, while the succeeding one may include little more than eleven months' growth.

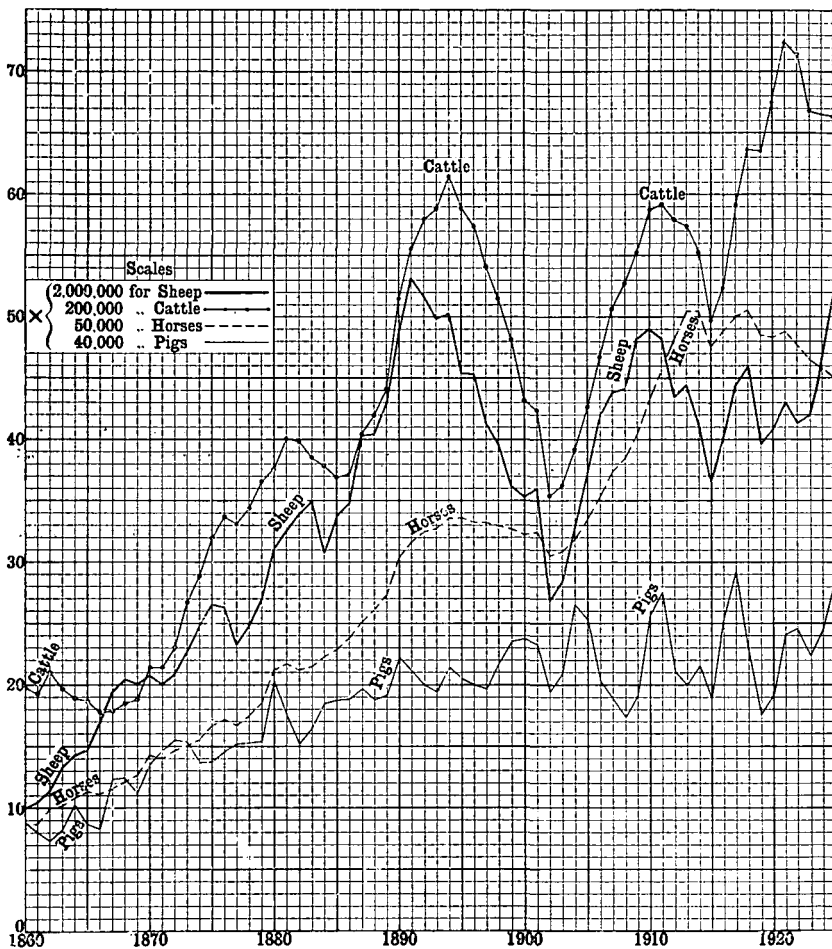
5. **World's Wool Production.**—The following table compiled by the Textile Division of the United States Department of Commerce shows the importance of Australia as a wool-producing country. Out of a total production of 3,123,490,000 lbs. in 1926, Australia's contribution amounted to 830,460,000 lbs., or more than 26½ per cent. of the world's supply.

WOOL(a).—WORLD'S PRODUCTION, 1909 TO 1926.

Countries.	Average Annual Pre-War Production.(b)	Production.	
		1925.	1926.(c)
North America—	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
United States	314,110,000	292,362,000	310,901,000
Canada	11,210,000	15,553,000	17,180,000
Mexico	7,000,000	4,529,000	5,250,000
Total	332,320,000	312,444,000	333,331,000
Central America and West Indies	1,000,000	750,000	750,000
South America—			
Argentine Republic	358,688,000	312,400,000	314,840,000
Brazil	35,000,000	21,801,000	22,597,000
Chile	17,430,000	33,000,000	31,000,000
Peru	9,940,000	8,816,000	9,257,000
Uruguay	156,968,000	117,000,000	125,000,000
All other	9,324,000	9,500,000	9,500,000
Total	587,350,000	502,517,000	512,194,000
Europe—			
Austria	15,360,000	1,800,000	1,700,000
Belgium	1,060,000	840,000	775,000
Bulgaria	23,700,000	29,769,000	25,450,000
Czecho-Slovakia .. .. .	.. .. .	3,420,000	3,370,000
Denmark	3,508,000	1,213,000	1,102,000
Estonia .. .. .	.. .. .	2,189,000	2,396,000
Finland .. .. .	.. .. .	5,000,000	5,000,000
France	80,688,000	44,974,000	47,619,000
Germany	52,000,000	50,160,000	41,710,000
Greece	14,000,000	18,000,000	14,500,000
Hungary	17,637,000	16,500,000	16,500,000
Iceland	1,980,000	1,530,000	1,433,000
Italy	55,000,000	57,000,000	55,800,000
Jugo-Slavia	25,446,000	28,000,000	28,727,000
Netherlands	3,556,000	5,842,000	6,173,003
Norway	8,160,000	5,762,000	5,976,000
Poland	7,100,000	4,480,000	4,500,000
Portugal	10,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000
Rumania	13,228,000	54,940,000	57,000,000
Russia	320,000,000	(d) 195,000,000	(d) 195,000,000
Spain	72,000,000	88,469,000	105,792,000
Sweden	2,875,000	2,200,000	2,200,000
Switzerland	1,049,000	660,000	660,000
Turkey	28,000,000	.. .. .	.. .. .
United Kingdom	134,000,000	96,132,000	99,600,000
Irish Free State .. .. .	.. .. .	13,668,000	14,900,000
All other .. .. .	.. .. .	7,847,000	8,722,000
Total	890,347,000	741,395,000	752,605,000

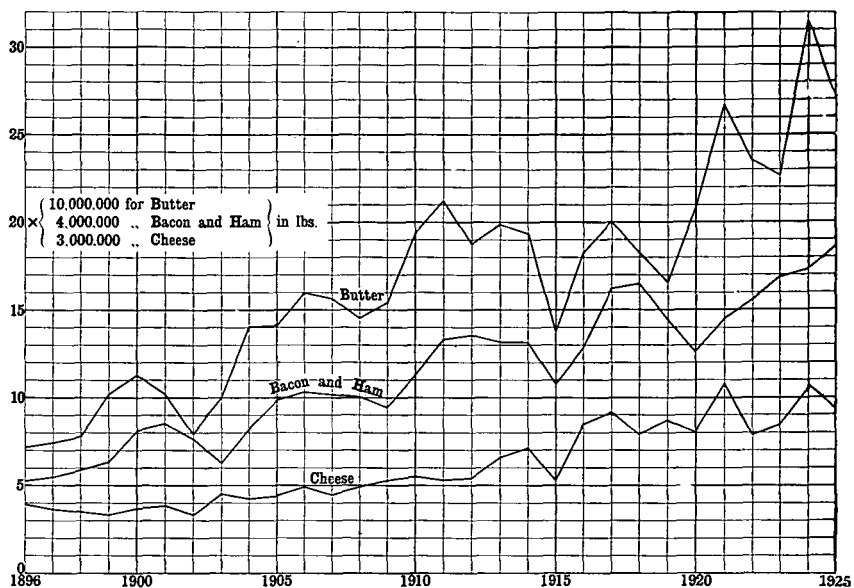
(a) Computed on "greasy" basis. (b) Average for years 1909 to 1913 inclusive. (c) Where 1926 figures were not obtainable, an earlier figure or an unofficial estimate has been inserted. (d) Including Asiatic Russia.

NUMBER OF HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP, AND PIGS—AUSTRALIA, 1860 TO 1925.



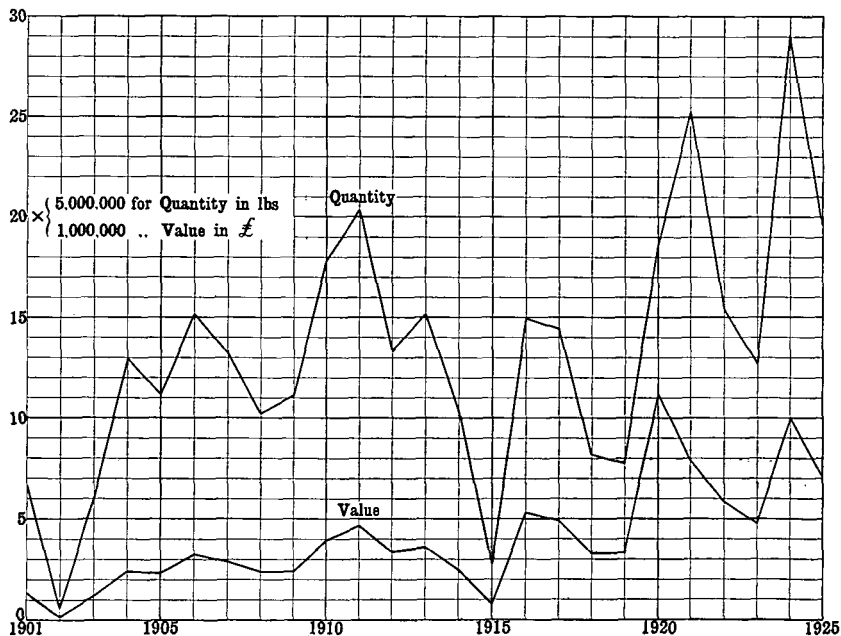
EXPLANATION.—The base of each small square represents an interval of one year, and the vertical side 2,000,000 in the case of sheep, 200,000 for cattle, 50,000 for horses, 40,000 for pigs.

PRODUCTION OF BUTTER AND CHEESE, AND BACON AND HAM—AUSTRALIA
1896 TO 1925.



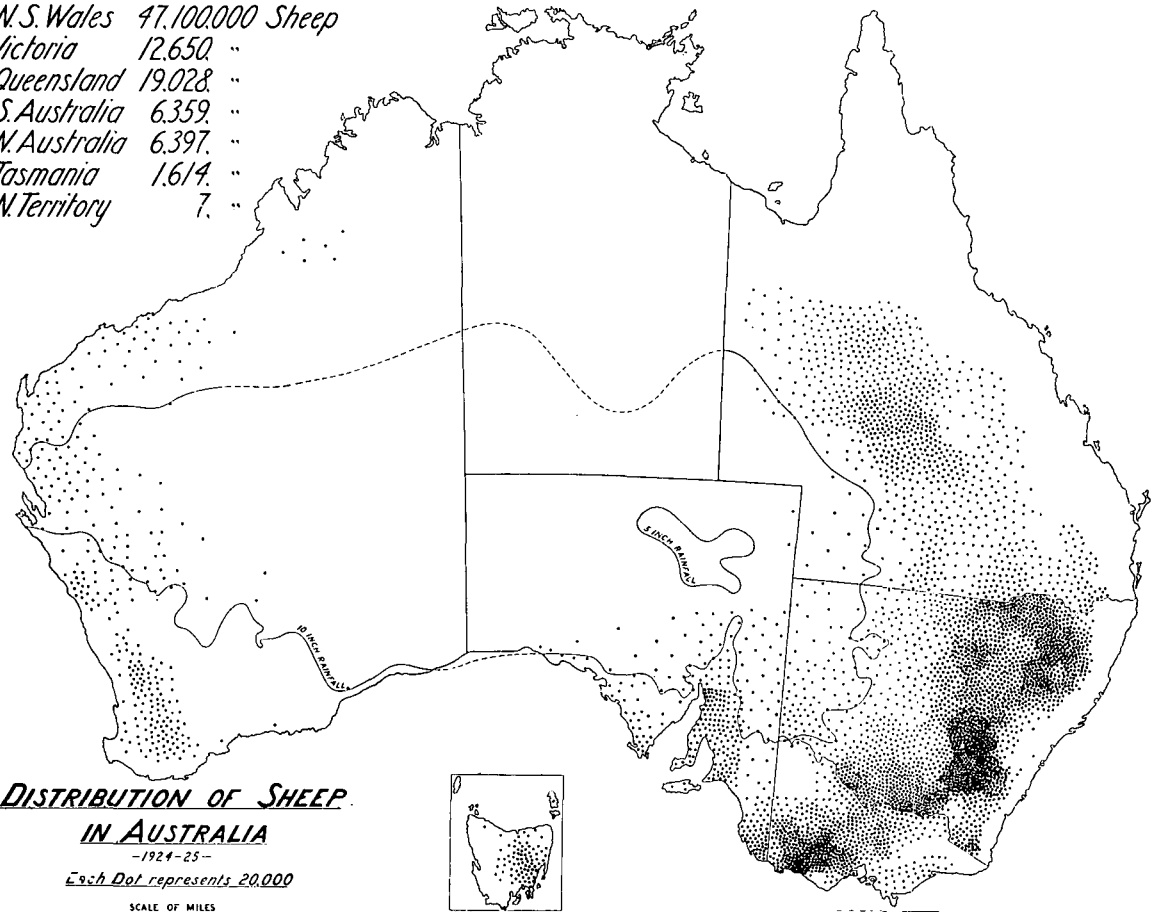
EXPLANATION.—The base of each small rectangle represents an interval of one year, and the vertical height of each denotes in the case of butter 10,000,000 lbs.; in the case of bacon and ham 4,000,000 lbs.; and in the case of cheese 3,000,000 lbs.

QUANTITY AND VALUE OF NET EXPORTS OF BUTTER FROM AUSTRALIA, 1901 TO 1925.



EXPLANATION.—The base of each small rectangle represents an interval of one year, and the vertical height of each denotes in the case of quantity 5,000,000 lbs. in weight, or £1,000,000 in value.

N.S. Wales 47,100,000 Sheep
Victoria 12,650 "
Queensland 19,028 "
S. Australia 6,359 "
W. Australia 6,397 "
Tasmania 1,614 "
N. Territory 7 "



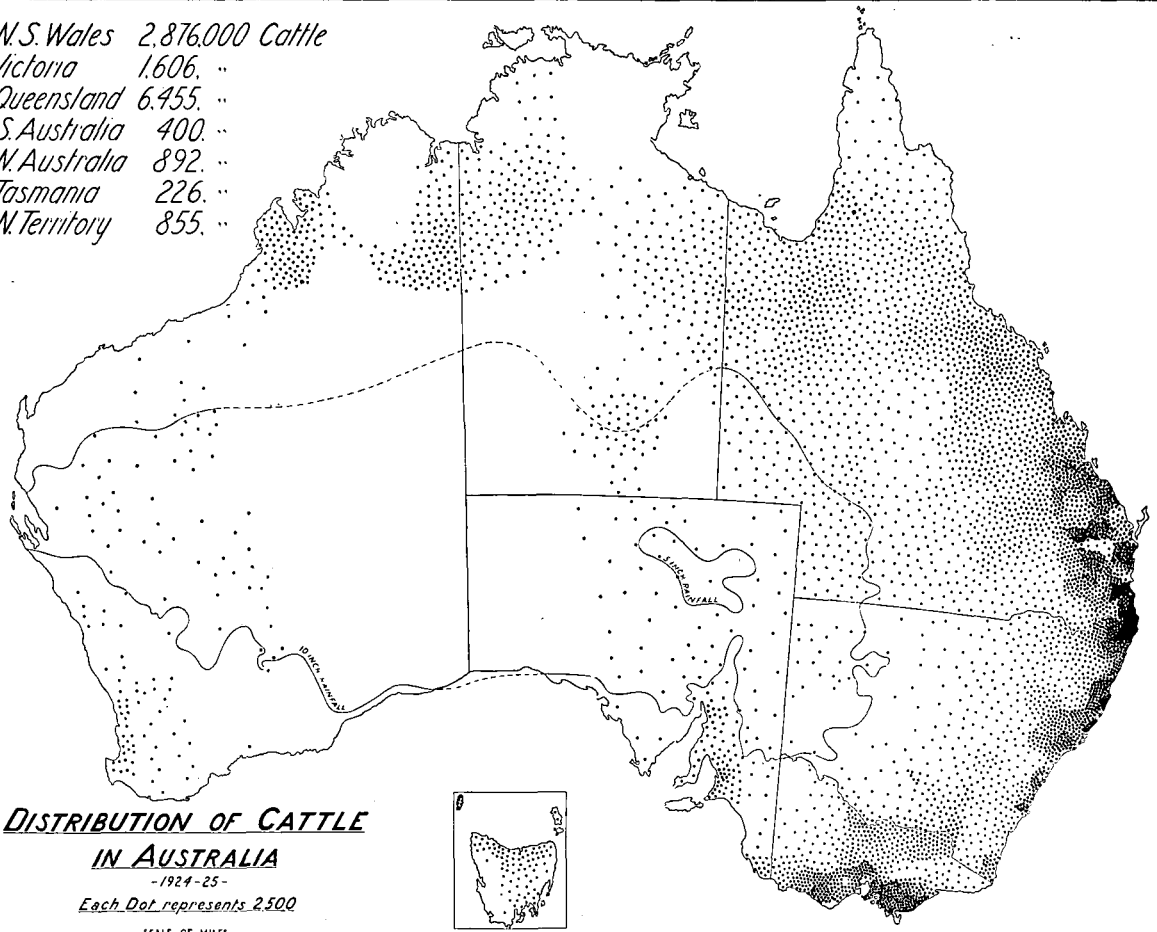
***DISTRIBUTION OF SHEEP
 IN AUSTRALIA***

-1924-25-

Each Dot represents 20,000

SCALE OF MILES

N.S. Wales 2,876,000 Cattle
Victoria 1,606,000 ..
Queensland 6,455,000 ..
S. Australia 400,000 ..
W. Australia 892,000 ..
Tasmania 226,000 ..
N. Territory 855,000 ..

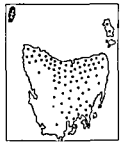


***DISTRIBUTION OF CATTLE
IN AUSTRALIA***

-1924-25-

Each Dot represents 2,500

SCALE OF MILES
 0 100 200



WOOL(a).—WORLD'S PRODUCTION, 1909 TO 1926—*continued.*

Countries.	Average Annual Pre-War Production.(b)	Production.	
		1925.	1926.(c)
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Asia—			
British India	60,000,000	60,000,000	55,000,000
China	50,000,000	75,000,000	75,000,000
Persia	12,146,000	13,000,000	18,000,000
Russia in Asia	60,000,000	(d)	(d)
Turkey in Asia	90,000,000	12,500,000	13,000,000
All other	1,000,000	24,000,000	22,000,000
Total	273,146,000	184,500,000	183,000,000
Africa—			
Algeria	35,221,000	46,137,000	38,649,000
British South Africa	165,888,000	185,000,000	180,000,000
Tunis	3,735,000	5,000,000	5,700,000
Morocco	14,850,000	33,000,000	39,000,000
All other	30,000,000	25,200,000	25,000,000
Total	249,694,000	294,337,000	288,349,000
Oceania—			
Australia.. .. .	741,377,000	773,984,000	830,460,000
New Zealand	198,474,000	199,731,000	207,801,000
Total	939,851,000	973,715,000	1,038,261,000
Total all other Countries	13,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000
GRAND TOTAL	3,286,708,000	3,024,658,000	3,123,490,000

(a) Computed on "greasy" basis. (b) Average for years 1909 to 1913 inclusive. (c) Where 1926 figures were not obtainable, an earlier figure or an unofficial estimate has been inserted. (d) Included with European Russia.

6. Wool Locally Used.—The quantity of wool used in the woollen and tweed mills of the various States during the past five years was approximately as follows:—

WOOL.—GREASY, USED IN LOCAL WOOLLEN AND TWEED MILLS,
1921-22 TO 1925-26.

State.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
New South Wales	6,648,224	4,882,740	4,895,206	4,345,956	6,016,754
Victoria	13,293,011	15,926,225	13,068,648	14,420,497	17,642,326
Queensland	1,822,494	1,358,888	1,317,521	1,102,110	} 1,902,247
South Australia	608,098	621,265	586,800	536,870	
Western Australia					} 3,321,213
Tasmania	1,048,706	1,502,060	963,369	1,931,814	
Total	23,415,533	24,291,178	20,831,544	22,387,247	28,942,540

The total consumption of wool in Australia cannot be given, as particulars in respect of wool-combing and knitting establishments are not collected in all the States. An estimate, based upon the available particulars and the purchases made by manufacturers at local wool sales, places the figure in the vicinity of 45,000,000 lbs.

7. Exports of Wool.—(i) *Greasy—Quantities.* Of the total exports of wool expressed in terms of "greasy" shipped overseas prior to the war, about 40 per cent. were sent to the United Kingdom, whereas during the past five years the percentage dispatched to the same destination had increased slightly to 43 per cent. The other leading consignees during the latter period were France, Japan, Belgium, United States of America, Germany, and Italy, the principal continental countries taking 41 per cent., and America and Japan 15 per cent. of the total shipments. The following table shows for the years 1921–22 to 1925–26 the quantities of "greasy" wool exported, and the principal countries of destination:—

WOOL IN THE GREASE.—EXPORTS, AUSTRALIA, 1921–22 TO 1925–26.

Country to which Exported.	1921–22.	1922–23.	1923–24.	1924–25.	1925–26.	Total for 5 years.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
United Kingdom ..	337,775,993	259,230,707	163,169,820	175,937,327	256,078,293	1,192,192,140
France ..	136,751,611	137,742,458	121,268,001	114,678,170	224,052,949	734,491,189
Japan ..	50,775,592	50,043,561	45,455,153	53,015,265	59,595,292	258,884,863
Belgium ..	55,690,271	34,180,045	48,011,894	36,682,734	64,602,486	239,187,430
United States of America ..	45,778,371	50,284,655	31,900,668	38,501,358	61,317,978	227,742,030
Germany ..	39,830,067	32,040,661	31,422,309	39,595,031	65,802,691	209,590,759
Italy ..	39,629,628	28,646,259	25,143,698	28,752,441	34,173,784	156,345,808
Netherlands ..	636,378	3,017,462	14,091,947	2,977,389	1,472,172	22,195,348
Canada ..	1,619,372	1,184,321	697,794	483,127	461,719	4,446,333
India ..	613,701	296,164	1,598,944	770,543	193,292	3,472,644
Other Countries ..	1,619,731	807,697	1,196,811	875,712	1,353,614	5,853,566
Total ..	710,720,713	598,323,990	483,966,039	492,267,097	769,104,270	3,054,382,109

(ii) *Scoured and Washed—Quantities.* Similar particulars concerning the exports of "scoured and washed" wool were as follows:—

WOOL, SCOURED AND WASHED^(a).—EXPORTS, AUSTRALIA, 1921–22 TO 1925–26.

Country to which Exported.	1921–22.	1922–23.	1923–24.	1924–25.	1925–26.	Total for 5 years.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
United Kingdom ..	65,815,973	75,505,841	24,664,470	27,181,326	32,481,422	225,649,532
France ..	13,271,181	13,533,782	8,451,562	5,609,547	9,452,561	50,318,633
Belgium ..	16,153,469	3,938,725	3,749,960	3,179,143	3,295,602	30,316,899
Japan ..	5,051,529	6,435,286	5,010,121	3,462,119	6,484,570	26,443,625
Germany ..	3,209,868	6,006,516	2,469,208	1,979,909	1,780,997	15,446,498
United States of America ..	1,880,728	4,588,736	449,143	713,661	1,087,823	8,720,096
Italy ..	1,500,550	1,005,988	490,020	413,373	303,316	3,718,752
Canada ..	1,133,766	823,238	582,530	441,424	506,008	3,487,616
Netherlands ..		577,066	957,687	18,995	28,470	1,582,218
India ..	48,831	13,513	233,934	212,006	8,395	516,679
Other Countries ..	493,456	345,876	297,967	448,554	601,259	2,187,112
Total ..	108,559,351	112,774,567	47,356,652	43,661,062	56,036,028	363,387,660

(a) Including "tops."

The figures for "scoured and washed wool" include tops, amounting in 1921–22 to 6,200,505 lbs., valued at £1,207,048, in 1922–23, 6,374,922 lbs., valued at £1,412,683, in 1923–24, 4,988,258 lbs., valued at £1,161,920, in 1924–25, 4,090,958 lbs., valued at £1,119,849, and in 1925–26, 5,953,442 lbs., valued at £1,162,877. The total exports of wool tops during the last five years amounted to 27,608,085 lbs., valued at £6,064,377, of which 22,431,864 lbs., or more than 81 per cent., were shipped to Japan.

(iii) *Total Value of Exports.* The total value of the wool exported from Australia to the principal countries during the five years under review was :—

WOOL EXPORTS.—TOTAL VALUE, AUSTRALIA, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Country to which Exported.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	Total for 5 years.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ..	23,013,128	25,901,608	20,186,750	24,386,464	23,195,387	116,633,337
France ..	6,842,265	10,408,195	12,278,938	12,484,097	15,821,883	57,835,378
Japan ..	4,438,672	6,095,016	6,212,881	7,479,586	5,869,969	30,096,724
United States of America	4,347,360	5,618,652	4,323,239	5,926,430	6,076,012	26,291,698
Germany ..	2,404,833	3,448,031	3,576,436	4,929,589	5,034,599	19,393,488
Belgium ..	3,784,065	2,514,717	4,951,127	3,844,335	4,221,646	19,315,890
Italy ..	2,667,081	2,498,733	2,634,990	3,327,166	2,523,541	13,651,511
Netherlands ..	44,388	347,698	1,625,493	367,651	117,408	2,502,638
Canada ..	245,421	184,365	154,323	162,395	121,359	867,863
India ..	50,243	11,487	123,550	108,522	14,897	308,699
Other Countries ..	139,787	109,662	179,431	246,910	213,175	888,966
Total ..	47,977,243	57,138,764	56,197,158	63,263,145	63,209,876	287,786,186

8. *Average Export Value.*—The average values per lb. of Australian greasy wool according to the export returns for the past five years have been as follows :—

AUSTRALIAN GREASY WOOL.—EXPORT VALUE PER LB., 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Year	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Average value per lb. ..	13.16	18.38	24.14	27.10	17.63

9. *Exports and Local Sales of Wool, States, 1925-26.*—Wool selling in Australia has been developed to such a stage that the bulk of the wool grown is now disposed of locally prior to export. Buyers from the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Germany, and other European countries, also from America, Japan, China, and India, attend the sales conducted in Sydney, Albury, Melbourne, Geelong, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, Hobart, and Launceston.

The following table shows the number of bales of wool exported overseas from each State during the season ended 30th June, 1926, and the number sold for shipment, for use in local woollen mills, for scouring, etc. As considerable quantities of wool grown in some States are sold in or shipped from others, the figures consequently do not show actual local production, but total overseas shipments and sales.

WOOL.—EXPORTS AND LOCAL SALES, SEASON 1925-26.

State.	Overseas Exports.		Local Sales.(a)	
	Bales.	%	Bales.	%
New South Wales ..	1,096,340	41.12	1,078,216	40.61
Victoria ..	653,595	24.51	(b)690,284	26.00
Queensland..	504,461	18.92	477,337	17.98
South Australia	231,984	8.70	250,216	9.42
Western Australia	151,445	5.68	124,396	4.68
Tasmania ..	28,648	1.07	34,885	1.31
Total ..	2,666,473	100.00	2,655,334	100.00

(a) Including wool sold to local woollen mills, scourers, etc. (b) Including wool sold at Albury.

10. Exports and Local Sales of Wool, Australia, 1895 to 1926.—The number of bales of wool exported from Australia, and the number sold at local sales prior to shipment, or taken for local use from 1895 onwards are shown in the following table :—

WOOL.—EXPORTS AND LOCAL SALES, AUSTRALIA, 1895 TO 1926.

Year ended 30th June.	Oversea Exports.	Local Sales.(a)	Ratio of Wool sold locally to Exports.
	Bales.	Bales.	%
1895	1,595,652	817,333	51.22
1900	1,221,163	807,031	66.09
1905	1,218,969	926,940	76.04
1910	1,921,705	1,624,561	84.54
1911	1,975,378	1,642,555	83.15
1912	2,020,547	1,700,494	84.16
1913	1,718,488	1,518,650	88.37
1914	1,966,576	1,703,744	86.64
1922	2,579,484	2,226,758	86.33
1923	2,315,255	1,932,315	83.46
1924	1,708,938	1,698,141	99.37
1925	1,695,361	1,587,750	93.65
1926	2,666,473	2,655,334	99.58

(a) Including wool absorbed by local woollen mills and wool-scouring establishments.

The steady development of the Australian wool market is clearly shown in this table. In the nineteen years ended 1914, the quantity sold locally more than doubled, and the ratio of wool sold locally to that exported increased from 51 per cent. in 1895 to over 86½ per cent. in the season ended 30th June, 1914. Particulars for the years 1915 to 1921 are not comparable owing to the abnormal conditions arising from the war, but the figures for the two selling seasons ended 30th June, 1923, indicated a return to normal, especially when allowance is made for shipment of "Bawra" wool already appraised in previous seasons. During the past three seasons the excellent selling conditions in Australia are reflected in the unusually high percentages of wool sold before shipment. The ratio of sales to shipments is, of course, somewhat vitiated by the overlapping of the respective seasons, and the inclusion in the sales of wool for local consumption.

11. Quantities of Various Descriptions of Wool Sold in Each State.—The quantities and ratios of the various descriptions of wool marketed in each State are given in the following table :—

WOOL.—LOCAL SALES, DESCRIPTIONS, 1925-26.

Description of Wool.	N.S.W.	Victoria. (a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Total.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Greasy	1,027,732	686,323	448,631	247,346	122,006	34,885	2,566,923
Scoured	50,484	3,961	28,706	2,870	2,390	..	88,411
Total	1,078,216	690,284	477,337	250,216	124,396	34,885	2,655,334
Fleece, etc.	1,010,073	642,134	445,979	233,163	116,796	33,597	2,481,742
Lambs'	68,143	48,150	31,358	17,053	7,600	1,288	173,592
Total	1,078,216	690,284	477,337	250,216	124,396	34,885	2,655,334
Merino	933,735	402,088	474,948	240,004	119,466	8,514	2,178,755
Crossbred and all strong breeds..	144,481	288,196	2,389	10,212	4,930	26,371	476,579
Total	1,078,216	690,284	477,337	250,216	124,396	34,885	2,655,334

(a) Including wool sold at Albury.

WOOL.—LOCAL SALES, DESCRIPTIONS, 1925-26—*continued.*

Description of Wool.	N.S.W.	Victoria. (a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Total.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Greasy ..	95.32	99.43	93.99	98.85	98.08	100.00	96.67
Scoured ..	4.68	0.57	6.01	1.15	1.92	..	3.33
Total ..	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Fleece, etc. ..	93.68	93.02	93.43	93.18	93.89	96.31	93.46
Lambs' ..	6.32	6.98	6.57	6.82	6.11	3.69	6.54
Total ..	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Merino ..	86.60	58.25	99.50	95.92	96.04	24.41	82.05
Crossbred and all strong breeds..	13.40	41.75	0.50	4.08	3.96	75.59	17.95
Total ..	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

(a) Including wool sold at Albury.

A very large proportion of the wool clip is marketed in the greasy state. Buyers still show a decided preference for wool in the grease, and the proportion of such wool sold during the 1925-26 season amounted to over 96 per cent. Of fleece and lambs' wool, the former represented 93.46, and the latter 6.54 per cent. The class of wool produced is largely merino, which is almost exclusively grown in the northern, western, and central parts of the continent, a considerable portion of the merino wool dealt with in Victoria coming from Riverina and other parts of New South Wales. The development of the frozen mutton and lamb export trade and the resultant raising of a type of sheep suitable for both mutton and wool led to a considerable increase in the production of crossbred wool throughout Australia. The percentage of such wool sold on the total sales amounted to 18.6 per cent. in 1912, whereas, eight years later, in 1919-20, it had increased to 33.9 per cent. The accumulation of large stocks of coarse wools after the war and the consequent slump in prices induced many flock-masters to return to merino, and the percentage thereof sold in the local market increased from 66.11 in 1919-20 to 82.05 in 1925-26, while crossbred declined from 33.89 to 17.95 per cent. during the same period. The requirements of the frozen mutton and lamb trade, and the advance of closer settlement with its preference for crossbred sheep-raising in conjunction with wheat-growing or mixed farming, will compel the maintenance of the crossbred flocks; still, the prevailing demand for fine wool at remunerative rates must influence the Australian flockmasters to concentrate in the future on the production of merino wool and its close counterparts comeback and fine crossbred.

12. Percentages of Various Descriptions of Wool Sold in each State.—The following table gives the percentage of each description of wool sold in the several States on the total sold in Australia during the season 1925-26:—

WOOL.—LOCAL SALES, PERCENTAGES OF DESCRIPTIONS, 1925-26.

Description of Wool.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Total.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Greasy ..	40.04	26.74	17.48	9.63	4.75	1.36	100.00
Scoured ..	57.10	4.48	32.47	3.25	2.70	..	100.00
Fleece, etc. ..	40.70	25.87	17.97	9.40	4.71	1.35	100.00
Lambs' ..	39.26	27.74	18.06	9.82	4.38	0.74	100.00
Merino ..	42.86	18.45	21.80	11.02	5.48	0.39	100.00
Crossbred and all strong breeds..	30.32	60.47	0.50	2.14	1.04	5.53	100.00

The bulk of the crossbred wool in Australia is grown in Victoria and the southern parts of New South Wales; Tasmania, where crossbred sheep largely predominate, coming next in order, followed by small consignments from South Australia and Western Australia. In Victoria and New South Wales a noticeable feature of the past few seasons has been a general fining-up of the medium and coarse crossbreds by the use of merino and Corriedale rams. Australian pastures and climate are naturally more adapted for the growth of a larger proportion of fine crossbred wool than the River Plate, South Africa, and other wool-growing countries, and it is probable that this process of refinement will tend towards the abandonment of coarse wool-growing in Australia.

13. The Wool Market.—(i) *The 1925-26 Season.* The 1925-26 wool-selling season was distinguished by the complete restoration of confidence after a period of demoralization, and the remarkable stability of values maintained throughout the year. Dual records for the wool industry were established, for both in production and sales figures for the past twelve months have never before been equalled in pastoral history. With 500,000 bales of carry-over wool from the previous season, roughly 2,700,000 bales were available for Australian auctions, and not only was this huge quantity disposed of, but it would be difficult to point to a previous selling season where there was less price fluctuation. Prices for wool did not provide the producer with the phenomenal returns of the 1924-25 season, but they were very satisfactory, and with the larger volume of wool sold the gross receipts exceeded those of the previous year. The sale of the staple in such unprecedented volume was probably due to the moderate range of wool values, but due credit must also be given to the French section for the consistent and courageous buying policy adopted by them throughout the selling season.

The 1925-26 clip was a fair average one, of good length, fine in quality and soft handling, free or nearly free, and light in condition, and generally reflected the dry conditions under which it was grown.

During the year the sales figures showed a remarkable increase due to the carry-over of half a million bales and the increased production of the current clip. The total sales reached the record figure of 2,655,334 bales, as compared with 1,587,750 bales in 1924-25, an increase of no less than 1,067,584 bales. Despite a sharp decline in the average value per bale, the value of the wool sold rose from £55,545,838 in 1924-25 to £57,718,015 in 1925-26, an increase of £2,172,177.

The top prices of the season in Australian markets were considerably below the records made in 1924-25. Indeed, with a few exceptions, they were below those of the previous three seasons. In the case of greasy merino fleeces the season's record was 42½d., as compared with 53½d. in 1924-25, 46½d. in 1923-24, and 40½d. in 1922-23. The highest prices were, however, considerably above the level of the appraisalment scheme, when 31½d. was the record figure for greasy merino fleeces. The past season's record was secured for a line of Langi/Kal Kal sold in Geelong, the centre where most of the record figures have been reached during recent years for superfine lines grown in the Western District of Victoria. The Geelong market secured no less than seven records, while Brisbane obtained all four scoured firsts, Melbourne two, and Tasmania one. The highest prices for the past ten seasons for wools sold at auction, or fixed by appraisalment at selling centres in Australia, are as follows:—

RECORD PRICES OBTAINED FOR WOOL IN AUSTRALIAN MARKETS,
1916-17 TO 1925-26.

Description.	Price.	Brand.	Bales.	Selling Centre.	Season.
	<i>d.</i>				
Greasy Merino :					
Fleece ..	53½	Plains ..	4	Geelong ..	1924-25
Broken ..	45½	R/Carngham ..	34	Geelong ..	1924-25
Pieces ..	43½	Ware (conj.) ..	11	Geelong ..	1924-25
Bellies ..	40½	Langi/Kal Kal ..	12	Geelong ..	1924-25
Locks ..	22½	T/Binda ..	1	Sydney ..	1923-24
		Wattle Grove/M ..	6	Geelong ..	1923-24
		V (reversed) over W/Pen-	5	Brisbane ..	1923-24
		lan Downs (in ½ circle)			
Lambs' ..	48½	Ware (conj.) ..	1	Geelong ..	1924-25
Greasy comeback :					
Fleece ..	50½	WTA/Boorook ..	8	Geelong ..	1924-25
Lambs' ..	41½	North Station ..	8	Geelong ..	1924-25
Greasy crossbred :					
Fleece ..	43½	Mondilibi ..	4	Geelong ..	1924-25
		GR ..	25	Geelong ..	1924-25
		Barton ..	6	Tasmania ..	1924-25
Lambs' ..	37	JM/Tabletop ..	3	Melbourne ..	1924-25
Scoured merino :					
Fleece ..	70½	AS in centre of double	63	Brisbane ..	1924-25
		triangle, B/Tarbrax			
Pieces ..	63	Inisfail Downs/BB ..	18	Brisbane ..	1924-25
Lambs' ..	59½	Garomna ..	4	Brisbane ..	1924-25
Scoured crossbred :					
Fleece ..	52	Tomslake ..	9	Sydney ..	1923-24

Although 53½*d.* represents the highest price received for Australian greasy wool at recent Australian sales, the record price, according to "Dalgety's Annual Wool Review," for such wool in modern times was 109*d.* secured in London for the Geelong wool "NC" in February, 1920, while a line of scoured wool sold at London in March, 1920, realized 136*d.* per lb. In the early days John Macarthur sold wool at 126*d.* per lb., and in 1827 the "Sydney Gazette" contained an authentic record of Macarthur having secured 196*d.* per lb. for a single bale of the historic "J M'A" brand, sold at Garraway's Coffee House, Cornhill, London. Macarthur therefore not only played an important part in the founding of Australia's staple industry, but established a record that is still unbeaten.

(ii) *Wool Realization Scheme.* The British Australian Wool Realization Association Ltd. ("Bawra") was formed on the 27th January, 1921, for the purpose of selling in conjunction with the existing clip 50 per cent. of the Australian carry-over wool acquired by the Association on account of the Australian growers; also to dispose of, as agents, all carry-over wools owned by the British Government and consisting of New Zealand, Falkland Islands, South African and 50 per cent. of Australian wool as promptly and to the best advantage as market conditions would permit, while at the same time contributing to stabilize the wool market which had become demoralized on the return to free wool sales. Towards the end of the year 1921, 80,550 bales of South African wool owned by the British Government were handed over to the Association for disposal under the Agency Agreement.

The marketing of B.A.W.R.A. wools was successfully carried out at various centres in England and on the Continent, and the concluding auction sale took place at Liverpool on 2nd May, 1924, when the last bale of wool carried over from the Imperial Wool Purchase Scheme was disposed of. The whole of the wool controlled by B.A.W.R.A. amounting to 2,691,756 bales was sold in three and a half years, and passed into consumption together with the current clips of the wool-growing countries.

14. United Kingdom Importation of Wool.—The appended statement of the quantity and value of wool imported into the United Kingdom during the year 1925 from the principal wool-producing countries shows the important position which Australia occupies in the supply of wool to the mother country :—

WOOL(a).—IMPORTS, UNITED KINGDOM, 1925.

Country from which imported.	Quantity.	Value.	Country from which imported.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£		lbs.	£
Australia ..	242,873,800	26,154,145	Peru ..	3,444,500	202,696
New Zealand ..	198,832,900	17,190,089	Falkland Islands	3,159,600	308,590
Union of South Africa ..	146,060,100	13,502,240	United States of America ..	1,947,500	172,996
India ..	61,548,100	3,599,993	Other British Possessions ..	10,976,700	578,775
Argentine Republic ..	40,504,100	3,438,927	Other Countries	17,535,600	1,005,089
Chile ..	34,180,500	3,479,421			
France ..	15,761,500	1,321,048			
Irish Free State	9,475,600	554,630			
Uruguay ..	4,125,500	466,668			
Belgium ..	3,966,500	326,577			
			Total ..	794,392,500	72,301,884

(a) Greasy, Scoured, and Tops.

Of the importations of wool into the United Kingdom, Australian wool represented 31 per cent. of quantity and 36 per cent. of value, and New Zealand 25 per cent. of quantity and 24 per cent. of value. It is interesting to note that 672,926,800 lbs., valued at £61,888,462, were received from British Possessions, being 85 per cent. of the total weight and 86 per cent. of the total value imported.

§ 6. Trade in Hides and Skins.

1. **Extent of Trade.**—In addition to the hides and skins treated in the tanneries of the several States, a very considerable export trade is carried on, the value of cattle and horse hides and sheep and other skins exported from Australia during the five years 1921–22 to 1925–26 amounting to £32,555,356, or an average of £6,511,071 per annum.

2. **Sheepskins with Wool.**—By far the largest item included in the amount mentioned in the preceding sub-section arises from the value of sheepskins with wool—the exports of which during the five years aggregated £14,737,364. France with 46 per cent. of the total consignments was the largest purchaser, while United Kingdom ranked next in order of importance with 36.5 per cent., and the remaining 17.5 per cent. was shipped principally to the United States of America and Belgium. The exports of sheepskins with wool during each of the years from 1921–22 to 1925–26 were as follows :—

SHEEPSKINS WITH WOOL.—EXPORTS, AUSTRALIA, 1921–22 TO 1925–26.

Particulars.	1921–22.	1922–23.	1923–24.	1924–25.	1925–26.	Total for 5 years.
Sheepskins (with wool) .. No.	7,270,660	9,610,335	7,063,988	6,245,268	8,585,054	38,775,305
Value £	1,346,582	2,948,489	3,111,128	3,821,837	3,509,328	14,737,364

3. Sheepskins without Wool.—In the case of sheepskins without wool the principal countries of consignment are the United States of America and the United Kingdom. These two countries were responsible for nearly 89 per cent. of the exports during the past five years, the purchases of the United States of America alone amounting to 59 per cent. of the total shipments. Particulars concerning exports are as follows:—

SHEEPSKINS WITHOUT WOOL.—EXPORTS, AUSTRALIA, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Particulars.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	Total for 5 years.
Sheepskins (with-out wool) .. No.	116,553	1,150,739	599,866	64,425	89,860	2,021,443
Value £	6,880	78,630	50,655	7,139	13,858	157,162

4. Hides.—(i) *Exports.* The export trade in Australian cattle hides, which fell away during the war years, has again become important. Considerable quantities were shipped oversea during each of the last five years mainly to the United Kingdom, Italy, and Germany, which countries took respectively 34, 19, and 15 per cent. of the total exports during the period. United States of America and Belgium with shipments amounting to 444,753 and 207,641 respectively were the next largest purchasers.

Particulars concerning the export of cattle hides during the past five years are as follows:—

CATTLE HIDES.—EXPORTS, AUSTRALIA, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Particulars.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	Total for 5 years.
Cattle Hides .. No.	446,199	651,888	924,092	1,167,938	916,956	4,107,073
Value £	530,355	773,691	817,719	1,322,088	1,105,540	4,549,393

The calfskins exported during the years 1921-22 to 1925-26 numbered 833,922, valued at £242,470, shipped mainly to the United States of America, the value of the skins taken by that country averaging 65 per cent. of the total exports during the past five years. The annual export of horse hides is very small, and averaged only 1,754 hides, valued at £1,235.

(ii) *Imports.* The import trade in cattle hides and calfskins is expanding, the number annually imported on the average during the past five years amounting to 507,608. New Zealand supplies the great bulk of these importations, and shipments of limited quantities are also obtained from the Pacific Islands, France, and Italy. The number and value of cattle hides, including calfskins, imported into Australia during the five years 1921-22 to 1925-26 are as follows:—

CATTLE HIDES.—IMPORTS, AUSTRALIA, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Particulars.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	Total for 5 years.
Cattle Hides .. No.	451,373	675,471	480,265	456,589	474,342	2,538,040
Value £	433,014	541,079	533,539	494,501	462,066	2,464,199

The number of horse hides imported into Australia is unimportant. Imports during the last five years numbered 18,588, valued at £19,671.

5. **Other Skins.**—The oversea exports of skins other than those mentioned in the preceding sub-sections are of considerable importance. During the past five years the value of these shipments amounted to £12,862,790, or an annual average of £2,572,558. Rabbit and hare skins contributed most largely to this total, followed by opossum and kangaroo skins. The individual exports from 1921–22 to 1925–26 were as follows :—

OTHER SKINS.—EXPORTS, AUSTRALIA, 1921–22 TO 1925–26.

Particulars.	1921–22.	1922–23.	1923–24.	1924–25.	1925–26.	Total for 5 years.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Rabbit and Hare	787,816	1,962,664	1,349,978	2,492,438	2,880,360	9,473,256
Opossum ..	224,089	498,184	410,660	127,774	362,406	1,623,113
Kangaroo ..	170,669	273,977	290,809	182,009	154,476	1,071,940
Fox ..	28,841	77,300	137,733	62,988	112,986	419,848
Wallaby ..	9,873	37,790	57,306	55,653	74,464	235,086
Other ..	7,396	3,833	4,086	10,912	13,320	39,547
Total ..	1,228,684	2,853,748	2,250,572	2,931,774	3,598,012	12,862,790

The destination of these skins was practically confined to the United States of America and the United Kingdom, the former country taking the bulk of the rabbit, hare, and kangaroo skins, while the fox, opossum, and wallaby skins were mainly despatched to the United Kingdom. The shipments of the various skins to these two countries during the past five years were as follows :—

OTHER SKINS.—EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES AND UNITED KINGDOM, 1921–22 TO 1925–26.

Particulars.	United States of America.	United Kingdom.
	£	£
Rabbit and Hare	6,314,852	2,750,667
Opossum	605,831	920,645
Kangaroo	926,729	139,098
Fox	98,372	301,427
Wallaby	24,775	206,581
Other	7,631	22,047
Total	7,978,190	4,340,465