

APPENDIX.

(Recent information and returns which have come to hand since the various chapters were sent to press are given hereunder.)

CHAPTER III.—GENERAL GOVERNMENT.**§ 3. Administration and Legislation, p. 64.**

2. Governor-General and Ministry—

Governor-General: His Excellency General the Rt. Hon. Alexander Gore Arkwright, Baron Gowrie, V.C., P.C., G.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

Commonwealth Ministry: The Commonwealth Ministry was reconstructed on 14th March, 1940, and is now constituted as follows:—

Prime Minister, Minister for Defence Co-ordination and Minister for Information	Rt. Hon. R. G. Menzies, K.C.
Minister for Commerce and Minister for the Navy	Hon. A. G. Cameron.
Attorney-General and Minister for Industry	Rt. Hon. W. M. Hughes, K.C.
Minister for the Army and Minister for Repatriation	Hon. G. A. Street, M.C.
Vice-President of the Executive Council	Hon. Sir Henry Gullett, K.C.M.G.
Minister for Supply and Develop- ment and Minister for Social Services	Hon. Sir Frederick Stewart.
Postmaster-General and Minister for Health	Hon. H. V. C. Thorby.
Treasurer	Hon. P. C. Spender, K.C.
Minister for Trade and Customs ..	Senator the Hon. G. McLeay.
Minister for External Affairs ..	Hon. J. McEwen.
Minister for the Interior	Senator the Hon. H. S. Foll.
Minister for Air and Minister for Civil Aviation	Hon. J. V. Fairbairn.
Assistant Ministers	Senator the Hon. P. A. M. McBride. Hon. A. W. Fadden. Senator the Hon. H. B. Collett, C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D. Hon. H. K. Nock.

CHAPTER V.—TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION.**A. SHIPPING.****§ 2. Oversea Shipping.**

3. Shipping Communication with various Countries, p. 100.—The following table gives the net tonnages of oversea vessels entered and cleared from Australian ports during 1938–39 according to direction:—

OVERSEA SHIPPING, AUSTRALIA.—DIRECTION, 1938–39.

Country.	Net Tonnage Entered.	Net Tonnage Cleared.
United Kingdom and European Countries ..	1,996,533	2,791,230
New Zealand	1,009,946	938,221
Asiatic Countries and Islands in the Pacific	2,461,393	2,429,058
Africa	169,146	177,917
North and Central America	1,058,637	485,907
South America	15,344	12,380
Total	6,710,999	6,834,713

4. Nationality of Oversea Shipping, p. 101.—Particulars of the nationality of oversea shipping during 1938-39 are as follows :—

OVERSEA SHIPPING, AUSTRALIA.—NATIONALITY OF VESSELS ENTERED, 1938-39.

Nationality.		Net Tonnage.
British—		
Australian		330,590
United Kingdom		3,744,224
Canadian		19,901
New Zealand		563,405
Other British		228,951
Total		4,887,071
Foreign—		
Danish		55,441
Dutch		290,605
French		108,120
German		140,954
Italian		68,256
Japanese		329,884
Norwegian		324,649
Swedish		123,737
United States		175,126
Other		207,156.
Total		1,823,928
Grand Total		6,710,999

§ 5. Interstate Shipping.

2. Vessels and Net Tonnage Entered, p. 106.—(*Interstate Direct*).—Particulars of the net tonnage of vessels recorded as having entered each State from any other State during 1938-39 are as follows :—

INTERSTATE SHIPPING.—NET TONNAGE OF VESSELS ENTERED, 1938-39.

State or Territory.	Net Tonnage. (a)
New South Wales	6,204,907
Victoria	4,751,032
Queensland	1,730,478
South Australia	3,322,512
Western Australia	2,019,125
Tasmania	1,769,829
Northern Territory	102,910
Total	19,900,793

(a) Includes oversea vessels on interstate voyages.

§ 6. Tonnage of Cargo.

1. Oversea and Interstate Cargo.—(ii) *Principal Ports*, p. 109.—The following table shows the tonnage of oversea and interstate cargo discharged and shipped during 1938-39 :—

TONNAGE OF CARGO DISCHARGED AND SHIPPED, STATES, 1938-39.

State.	Discharged.			Shipped.		
	Oversea.	Interstate.	Total.	Oversea.	Interstate.	Total.
New South Wales ..	2,291,495	3,842,422	6,133,917	2,037,615	3,408,381	5,445,996
Victoria ..	2,074,343	2,534,179	4,608,522	858,786	1,123,431	1,982,217
Queensland ..	515,322	720,874	1,236,196	928,056	469,417	1,397,473
South Australia ..	680,608	1,076,229	1,756,837	1,262,298	2,889,250	4,151,548
Western Australia ..	740,710	332,847	1,073,557	943,436	119,522	1,062,958
Tasmania ..	92,018	543,898	635,916	200,785	938,202	1,138,987
Northern Territory ..	4,964	26,424	31,388	182	3,484	3,666
Total, Australia..	6,399,460	9,076,873	15,476,333	6,231,158	8,951,687	15,182,845

B. RAILWAYS.

§ 1. General.

9. Summary of Operations, 1938-39, p. 116.—A summary of the working of all Government railways open for general traffic during 1938-39 is given hereunder :—

GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS, AUSTRALIA, 1938-39.

Particulars.	C'wealth.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land. (b)	S. Aust. (c)	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Miles Open ..	2,201	6,114	4,759	6,497	2,558	4,378	658	27,165
Revenue—								
(a) Coaching ..	£ 194	7,834	4,286	2,253	759	699	152	16,177
(a) Goods ..	£ 224	10,357	4,276	5,404	2,153	2,753	318	25,485
(a) Miscellaneous ..	£ 129	(d) 956	720	(e)	221	147	17	2,190
(a) Total Revenue ..	£ 547	(f) 19,147	9,282	7,657	3,133	3,599	487	43,852
(a) Expenditure ..	£ 642	14,543	8,060	6,080	2,943	2,911	(g) 588	35,767
(a) Train Miles Run ..	902	30,106	17,890	13,822	6,177	(h) 6,722	(i) 1,914	77,533
Earnings per train mile ..	12s. 1d.	12s. 9d.	10s. 5d.	11s. 1d.	10s. 2d.	10s. 9d.	5s. 1d.	11s. 4d.
Expenditure per train mile ..	14s. 3d.	9s. 8d.	9s. 0d.	8s. 10d.	9s. 6d.	8s. 8d.	6s. 2d.	9s. 3d.
Expenditure per cent. on Earnings ..	117.43	75.96	86.82	79.40	93.93	80.90	120.74	81.56
(a) Passenger Journeys ..	118	186,720	142,124	24,549	17,528	11,415	2,297	384,751
(a) Coal, Coke and Shale carried ..	22	7,633	200	735	129	298	477	9,494
(a) Other Minerals ..	1	1,464	(j)	518	669	(k) 244	(l)	2,896
(a) Live Stock ..	65	739	727	528	194	116	30	2,399
(a) Other Goods ..	97	5,582	5,050	3,400	1,670	2,201	336	18,336
(a) Total Freight ..	185	15,418	5,977	5,181	2,662	2,859	843	33,125

(a) 000 omitted. (b) Exclusive of Uniform Gauge Railway. (c) Including Road Motors.
 (d) From sale of electrical energy only, other miscellaneous included with Coaching. (e) Included with Coaching.
 (f) Excluding Governmental contributions towards losses on non-paying developmental lines. (g) Excluding depreciation. (h) Including Assistant and Light Miles.
 (i) Including Assistant, Light and Rail Motor Miles. (j) Included with Other Goods.
 (k) Miscellaneous—includes Ores and Minerals. (l) Included with Coal, Coke and Shale.

[NOTE.—The figures in the above table, taken from quarterly statements, are preliminary only, and do not entirely agree with the final particulars in the Annual Railways Reports of the several States.]

D. MOTOR VEHICLES.

5. Motor Vehicles on the Register, p. 133.—Motor vehicles registered at 30th June, 1939, were as follows :—

MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED AT 30th JUNE, 1939.

State or Territory.	Motor Cars.	Commercial Vehicles.	Motor Cycles.	All Vehicles.	
				No.	Per 1,000 of Population.
New South Wales ..	217,361	77,503	24,151	319,015	116.7
Victoria	153,391	81,766	26,698	261,855	139.7
Queensland	76,654	43,341	8,168	128,163	127.3
South Australia ..	56,983	24,554	9,219	90,756	152.7
Western Australia ..	38,039	24,441	7,199	69,679	150.6
Tasmania	17,668	5,036	3,656	26,360	111.3
Northern Territory ..	404	966	56	1,426	243.9
Australian Capital Territory	1,771	418	90	2,279	194.7
Australia	562,271	258,025	79,237	899,533	129.9

6. New Vehicles Registered, p. 134.—New vehicles registered in the various States during the year 1938–39 were as follows :—

REGISTRATIONS OF NEW VEHICLES DURING THE YEAR ENDED JUNE, 1939.

Vehicles.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.(a)	W.A.(b)	Tas.	A.C.T.	Total.
Motor Cars	20,493	15,090	7,604	5,152	2,306	2,010	242	52,897
Commercial Vehicles, etc. . . .	7,845	6,831	5,330	2,222	652	700	66	23,646
Motor Cycles	2,196	2,349	1,090	769	291	350	19	7,064
Total	30,534	24,270	14,024	8,143	3,249	3,060	327	83,607

(a) Exclusive of Northern Territory.

(b) Metropolitan Area only.

F. AVIATION.

12. Statistical Summary, p. 149.—The subjoined table gives a summary of operations in 1938–39 :—

CIVIL AVIATION, 1938–39.

Registered Aircraft Owners. (a)	Registered Aircraft. (a)	Licensed Pilots. (a)		Flights Carried Out.	Hours Flown.	Approx. Mileage.	Passengers Carried.	Weight of Goods Carried.	Weight of Mails Carried.
		Private.	Commercial.						
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	Miles.	No.	lb	lb.
AUSTRALIA.									
149	296	1,096	346	159,704	121,935	14,098,615	147,919	1,734,644	6740,375
NEW GUINEA.									
10	47	13	23	15,235	15,626	1,456,154	14,478	127,063,912	162,608

(a) At 30th June, 1939.

(b) Includes gross weight of Oversea Mails.

G. POSTS, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

§ 6. Radio Telegraphy and Telephony.

2. Wireless Licences, 1938-39, p. 170.—The following table shows the number of each class of licence issued in each State, etc., during 1938-39:—

WIRELESS LICENCES IN FORCE AT 30th JUNE, 1939.

Station Licence.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Coast ..	2	1	6	1	5	3	1	..	19
Ship ..	93	96	16	10	5	1	1	..	222
Aircraft ..	14	13	7	4	3	2	1	..	44
Land (a) ..	14	3	52	27	72	9	43	..	220
Broadcasting (b)	35	18	19	8	8	8	..	1	97
Broadcast Listeners ..	431,159	327,579	133,217	117,091	79,262	39,392	216	1,870	1,129,786
Experimental ..	774	580	260	212	142	68	1	10	2,047
Portable ..	11	4	5	4	5	1	8	..	38
Special ..	74	24	18	1	8	..	..	..	125
Total ..	432,176	328,318	133,600	117,358	79,510	39,484	271	1,881	1,132,598

(a) In addition to the licensed stations there are two operated by the Postmaster-General's Department, viz., Camoowal (Q.) and Wave Hill (N.T.). (b) There are also 26 stations operated by the National Broadcasting Service, including a short-wave station (VLR, Lyndhurst, Vic.).

CHAPTER XIV.—POPULATION.

§ 4. Distribution and Fluctuation of Population.

2. Growth and Distribution, p. 350.—The population of Australia at 30th June, 1939, was estimated at 6,960,890 persons distributed amongst the States and Territories as follows:—

ESTIMATED POPULATION AT 30th JUNE, 1939.

State or Territory.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	1,383,938	1,362,933	2,746,871
Victoria	929,076	952,357	1,881,433
Queensland	531,828	484,670	1,016,498
South Australia	297,890	297,880	595,770
Western Australia	244,705	220,724	465,429
Tasmania	120,409	116,237	236,646
Northern Territory	4,234	1,955	6,189
Australian Capital Territory ..	6,575	5,479	12,054
Total	3,518,655	3,442,235	6,960,890

CHAPTER XV. LABOUR, WAGES AND PRICES.

D.—EMPLOYMENT.

§ 2. Fluctuations in Employment.

2. Unemployment, p. 456.—The following are the percentages of unemployment in each State for the four quarters of 1939 :—

UNEMPLOYMENT.—PERCENTAGES.

Period.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Australia.
1939—							
March Quarter ..	11.0	10.8	6.1	9.3	7.3	7.6	9.8
June ..	11.1	10.4	5.7	9.5	6.2	9.4	9.7
September ..	12.1	11.2	5.8	9.4	8.2	8.3	10.4
December ..	11.6	9.0	5.8	9.1	6.6	7.1	9.5

CHAPTER XVII.

MINERAL INDUSTRY.

§ 1. The Mineral Wealth of Australia.

3. Value of Production, p. 542.—The following table gives the value of Australian mineral production for the year 1938 :—

MINERAL PRODUCTION.—VALUE, 1938.

Mineral.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Coal ..	5,603,842	188,101	958,884	..	375,083	61,991	..	7,187,901
Coal—Brown ..	..	351,721	..	..	..	..	..	351,721
Copper ..	87,905	..	203,967	15,333	1,275	580,238	4,362	893,080
Gold ..	780,958	1,273,351	1,334,788	46,922	10,286,349	195,079	109,168	14,026,615
Ironstone ..	43	..	3,365	2,582,171	..	..	..	2,585,579
Lead ..	(a)	..	628,025	19	..	163,102	..	(b) 791,146
Silver ..	(a) 7,357	647	298,589	51	28,852	104,671	..	(b) 440,167
Silver-lead Ores, Concentrates, etc.	3,513,108	..	..	..	625	..	..	3,513,733
Tin and Tin Ores	286,768	28,650	141,547	..	7,421	244,037	3,205	711,628
Zinc and Concen- trates ..	230,989	..	329,464	..	..	356,452	..	916,905
Other Minerals ..	220,421	41,545	67,490	287,977	144,864	184,234	97,989	1,044,520
Total ..	10,731,391	1,884,015	3,966,119	2,932,473	10,844,469	1,889,804	214,724	32,462,995

(a) The bulk of the silver and lead is contained in the concentrates, etc., dispatched from the Broken Hill field and treated outside this State.

(b) Incomplete see Note (a).

CHAPTER XXVIII.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WAR-TIME MARKETING OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS.

Before the European War commenced an understanding had been reached by the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth which enabled exports from Australia to proceed normally even before any contracts for the sale of commodities had been concluded.

On the outbreak of hostilities, the existence of Statutory Boards for the meat, dairy produce and fruit industries facilitated war-time organization. The experience already gained in marketing control enabled the Commonwealth Government to proceed quickly with the formation of committees and/or boards in those industries where Statutory Boards or organizations had not been established previously, namely, the Central Wool Committee, the Australian Wheat Board, the Australian Barley Board, the Apple and Pear Marketing Committee, the Australian Hide and Leather Industries Board, and a Committee to supervise the export of eggs.

In addition to the organizations established in respect of these commodities, a shipping Control Board was set up to control coastal shipping should the need arise for close supervision and control of cargo movements in interstate trade. At a later stage, a Shipping Committee was established to control and supervise oversea shipping to and from Australia in conjunction with the Ministry of Shipping in the United Kingdom.

Prior to the outbreak of war, a survey was made of refrigerated and cold storage space in Australia. Thus the handling of refrigerated produce up to the time of shipment was not only facilitated, but the survey was also of material assistance in connexion with the arrangements made subsequently for the transport of commodities to the United Kingdom.

A. CONTRACTS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Contracts have been entered into with the Government of the United Kingdom in respect of the following commodities :—

Wool.—The Government of the United Kingdom agreed to purchase for the duration of the war, plus one full clip after the cessation of hostilities, the whole Australian wool clip, i.e., wool, wool tops, noils and waste at 10½d. sterling per lb., plus 50 per cent. of the profits derived from the sale of the wool for use outside the United Kingdom. Transactions covering the sale of wool to British Dominions, Allied and Neutral countries are on account of the United Kingdom Government. On appraisalment in Australia, funds are made available to the Central Wool Committee which arranges for payment to growers within fourteen days of appraisalment. An amount of 10 per cent. is retained by the Central Wool Committee to adjust growers' returns at the end of the season. The agreement provides that sufficient quantities of wool shall be retained in Australia for domestic use. Arrangements have been made for an annual consultation between the Governments of the United Kingdom and Australia to consider whether conditions have so altered as to justify a review of the price.

Meat.—From the 1st October, 1939 to 30th September, 1940, the United Kingdom Government agreed to purchase f.o.b. 240,000 tons of beef, mutton, lamb, veal and pork and to use its best endeavours to lift any additional quantities available for export. The contract embodies a long range of prices for various cuts, pieces and offals. The returns to Australian producers are satisfactory and are higher than those received during the previous season. Under the contract 90 per cent. is paid on shipment and 10 per cent. within 28 days of arrival, or in the case of a steamer being lost, the estimated due date of arrival.

Butter.—The quantity of butter to be sold under this contract, between the 13th November, 1939 and the 30th June, 1940, is 75,500 tons, which is on the basis of 94,500 tons per annum. The contract prices per cwt. in Australian currency are : Choicest 137s. 2½d. ; First Grade 135s. 7½d. ; Second Grade 131s. 1½d. ; and Pastry 127s. 6d. On shipment, 90 per cent. is paid, and the balance within 28 days after arrival.

Cheese.—Since the outbreak of war and until the 30th June, 1940, the United Kingdom Government has contracted to take 13,000 tons of cheese, which is on the basis of 16,500 tons per annum. The prices in Australian currency, f.o.b. Australian port, are per cwt. : Choicest and First Grade 76s. 6½d. ; Second Grade 74s. 0½d. ; and Third Grade 71s. 6½d. Payment is made on the same terms as for butter.

Eggs.—This contract was for the one season and covered all eggs packed for export up to 31st December, 1939. The quantity mentioned in the agreement was 900,000 long hundreds, but subject to freight being available, the United Kingdom Government agreed to accept any additional quantity available for export on the same terms as those

specified in the agreement. The prices in Australian currency, f.o.b. Australian port, were: 13½-lb. and 14-lb. packs 9s. 10.83d.; 15-lb. and 16-lb. packs 12s. 2.87d.; and 17-lb. and 18-lb. packs 12s. 4.25d. On shipment, 85 per cent. was paid, and 15 per cent. within 28 days after arrival.

Sugar.—Arrangements were concluded by the Queensland Government for the sale to the British Sugar Control Board of the balance of Australia's surplus production of raw sugar *ex* the 1939 crop. The quantity of raw sugar involved was approximately 332,500 tons and the price 7s. 6d. per cwt. sterling c.i.f. United Kingdom ports, basis 96 degrees polarization, plus the existing British tariff preference of £3 15s. on Dominion sugar. The arrangement involves an increase of 79,500 tons in the anticipated exports from the 1939 crop.

Lead.—This contract was arranged between the Minister of Supply and the Broken Hill Associated Smelters Pty. Ltd. for a period of twelve months. The quantity was 13,330 tons per month up to a total of 160,000 tons at a contract price of £15 1s. 3d. sterling or £18 16s. 7d. Australian currency per ton.

Zinc.—A contract was also entered into by the Ministry of Supply with the Electrolytic Zinc Company of Australasia Ltd. with regard to zinc. The period of contract was for twelve months and the quantity 3,000 tons per month up to a total of 36,000 tons. The contract price was £18 sterling per ton or £22 10s. Australian currency.

Canned and Dried Fruits.—Negotiations are proceeding with the Government of the United Kingdom for the purchase of the exportable surplus of canned and dried fruits.

B. OTHER COMMODITIES.

In addition to the foregoing contracts, the Commonwealth Government established Committees and/or Boards for the following commodities, but no undertaking was given by the United Kingdom Government to purchase the whole of the export surplus:—

Wheat and Flour.—The Commonwealth Government negotiated with the United Kingdom Government immediately on the outbreak of war for the purchase and transport of the old season's wheat, of which there was estimated to be about 20,000,000 bushels on hand. All old wheat in Western Australia and South Australia, approximately 7,500,000 bushels, was sold to the United Kingdom Government and a contract was also secured for 50,000 tons of flour.

These arrangements were administered by the Australian Wheat Board, which had been established to receive, care for and market wheat acquired by the Commonwealth Government. The 1940 harvest will be pooled in No. 2 Pool and payments of advances at the rate of 2s. 10½d. per bushel for bagged wheat, less rail freight, and 2s. 8½d. per bushel, less rail freight, for bulk wheat, are being made by the Wheat Board to wheat-growers on delivery of their wheat at sidings to agents appointed by the Board as licensed receivers. These advances are guaranteed by the Commonwealth Government.

The Australian Wheat Board has been entrusted with the task of marketing and storing wheat. The price of wheat for local requirements is determined by the Board. Free movement of wheat within the Commonwealth has been stopped and deliveries of wheat must be made to licensed receivers who are the receiving and distributing agents of the Board and by whom sales are made to the usual retailers. The Board has an Australian Selling Committee in London which negotiates sales of wheat and flour in the United Kingdom, Europe and certain other markets. Sales of appreciable quantities of wheat and flour from this year's harvest have been negotiated by the Board to several countries.

The Commonwealth Government has negotiated with the United Kingdom Government with a view to ensuring possible sales of wheat and flour for consumption in the United Kingdom. In this regard a sale was negotiated in January, 1940, with the United Kingdom for 1,500,000 tons of wheat and 150,000 tons of flour.

Barley.—The outbreak of war came a few weeks prior to the commencement of harvesting operations for the new barley crop, the estimates for which indicated that production would be on a higher scale than in former years.

An Australian Barley Board, representative of the industry, was formed with head-quarters at Adelaide, and the Commonwealth Government acceded to its request to acquire the entire barley crop, which is now under the control of the Board. A pool has been established from which proceeds will be distributed with appropriate margins for different grades of barley.

The Board has made arrangements for the payment of advances guaranteed by the Commonwealth Government as a first payment to growers. The rates approved are 1s. 3d. per bushel for No. 1 Malting Barley, with 1s. and 9d. per bushel for lower grades. Further payments to growers will be dependent upon receipts from sales both locally and overseas. The Board is responsible for the marketing and storage of barley, and, like the Australian Wheat Board, has appointed its licensed receivers in all States to receive grain on its behalf and to act as agents for all local and oversea sales.

Hides and Leather.—Owing to the added importance of these commodities in war-time, some measure of control became necessary in Australia. Within three weeks of the outbreak of war, the domestic price of leather in Australia was pegged at the 31st August level and the exportation of hides and leather from the Commonwealth was prohibited except with the consent of the Minister for Trade and Customs. It was decided that sufficient supplies of leather must be available in Australia at reasonable prices for manufacturing purposes and that hide producers and leather manufacturers should be treated reasonably, having regard to prices which similar products were bringing overseas. With these factors in mind, a conference was convened by the Commonwealth Government and an Australian Hide and Leather Industries Board was appointed to implement a control scheme set out in Regulations under the National Security Act.

An integral part of the scheme is the acquisition at appraised prices by the Board, acting on behalf of the Commonwealth Government, of cattle hides and yearling and calf skins produced in Australia. As in the case of wool, a Table of Limits has been laid down by the Board and the State Appraisal Committees work strictly to that Table in their determinations of hide and skins values. The prices shown in the Table of Limits are in conformity with the prices fixed by the Commonwealth Prices Commissioner, namely, in the case of hides, 20 per cent. above 31st August levels; and in the case of yearling and calf skins, 15 per cent. above 31st August levels. Before any sales of hides and skins for export take place, Australian tanners are given the opportunity to purchase at appraised prices sufficient supplies for their reasonable requirements. The balance is then submitted by auction at export sales at which tanners and exporters may buy in competition. An exporter may not ship leather overseas unless he is in possession of a licence issued by the Board. Australian tanners and leather merchants are thereby prevented from selling to oversea buyers at export parity prices leather manufactured from hides purchased at fixed Australian prices.

Apples and Pears.—Following upon a Conference, convened by the Minister for Commerce, of the Australian Apple and Pear Board and representatives of the State Governments, to review the difficulties confronting apple and pear growers, it was decided that the Commonwealth Government acquire the 1940 crop of apples and pears and appoint the Australian Apple and Pear Board as the authority to arrange for the marketing and disposal of the crop and return of the net proceeds to growers.

A Marketing Committee and State Committees have been appointed to market the crop which will be acquired as from the 1st March, 1940. All growers have been registered and have submitted particulars of plantings, their production of commercial fruit over the past three seasons, and an estimate of their 1940 crops together with the probable dates of picking. These estimates will be checked by officers of the State Departments of Agriculture and will be the basis for advances to be made by the Apple and Pear Board at the rates of 2s. per bushel for apples, and 3s. per bushel for pears. The advances will be guaranteed by the Commonwealth Government. It is proposed by the Board to market substantially increased quantities of apples and pears locally. The Board will, however, give the closest attention to possible alternative outlets for fruit, particularly to oversea markets when shipping space is available.