

COMMERCE.

It is reasonable to expect that the trade of the states which now form the Commonwealth of Australia, and the colony of New Zealand would increase as quickly as the population; but as a matter of fact its growth for many years was much more rapid, and at the present time under normal conditions the total commerce of Australasia per head of population is exceeded by that of no country except Belgium, half of whose trade consists of goods in course of transit to and from the north-western and central parts of the continent of Europe. Below will be found a statement of the trade of Australasia for various periods since the year 1825, prior to which date no information is available:—

Year.	Trade of Australasia.	
	Total Value.	Value per head.
	£	£ s. d.
1825	511,998	10 13 11
1841	5,573,000	22 4 0
1851	8,957,610	18 10 7
1861	52,228,207	41 19 10
1871	69,435,524	35 17 10
1881	101,710,967	36 12 7
1891	144,766,285	37 14 11
1901	167,663,713	36 11 8
1902	163,442,664	34 16 4

It will be seen that the average value of trade per inhabitant increased by £1 17s. 1d. during the twenty years extending from 1871 to 1891, of which the period from 1881 to 1891 accounted for no less than £1 2s. 4d. This, however, does not show the full extent of the growth in trade, for the prices of produce—especially of wool, which has been the staple product since very early years—had fallen heavily during the same period. From 1891 till 1894, the trade of Australasia seriously declined, viz., from £37 14s. 11d. to £26 17s. 10d. per

inhabitant, a state of affairs partly brought about by the continued fall in prices and partly resulting from the financial crisis of 1893. Since 1894, however, the value has steadily increased, reaching its maximum in 1901 with a sum of £167,663,713, the largest total yet recorded, and thus proving that the states have shaken off to a great extent the ill effects of the period of depression. The figures for 1902 show some falling off as compared with those of the preceding two years, the decline being due chiefly to the adverse effect of the bad season, but regard must also be paid to the fact that there were some importations in 1900 and 1901 in anticipation of the imposition of the federal tariff, while the exports underwent considerable expansion through the demand for produce created by the South African war.

The following series of tables shows the distribution of the total trade of Australasia, and also of the Australian Commonwealth, for the years 1881, 1891, and 1902, with the average value per head of population. The first table represents the imports :—

State.	Total Value of Imports.			Value per Inhabitant.		
	1881.	1891.	1902.	1881.	1891.	1902.
	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales	17,587,012	25,333,397	25,974,210	23 2 7	22 4 5	18 9 0
Victoria	16,718,521	21,711,608	13,270,245	10 4 3	18 19 2	15 3 1
Queensland	4,063,625	5,079,004	7,352,538	13 5 8	12 16 2	14 5 7
South Australia	5,320,549	10,051,123	6,130,054	19 4 3	31 3 4	16 15 2
Western Australia	404,831	1,280,093	7,213,352	13 14 3	25 14 3	33 11 0
Tasmania	1,431,144	2,051,964	2,442,745	12 5 0	13 15 6	13 15 10
Commonwealth	45,525,682	65,557,189	67,383,144	19 18 7	20 9 1	17 6 9
New Zealand	7,457,045	6,503,849	11,326,723	15 2 7	10 6 5	14 0 4
Australasia	52,982,727	72,061,038	73,714,867	19 1 7	18 15 9	16 15 4

The values of the total exports for the same years were as given below :—

State.	Total Value of Exports.			Value per Inhabitant.		
	1881.	1891.	1902.	1881.	1891.	1902.
	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales	16,307,305	25,944,020	23,544,051	21 9 0	22 14 3	16 14 6
Victoria	16,252,103	16,006,743	18,210,523	18 13 6	13 19 7	15 2 1
Queensland	3,540,306	8,305,887	9,171,023	15 18 6	20 18 11	17 16 3
South Australia	4,508,754	10,642,416	7,861,357	16 5 7	33 0 0	21 9 10
Western Australia	502,770	799,466	9,051,358	17 0 8	16 1 2	42 1 5
Tasmania	1,555,576	1,440,818	3,244,508	13 6 3	9 13 6	18 6 6
Commonwealth	42,067,374	63,133,850	71,032,320	18 13 6	19 13 11	18 5 10
New Zealand	6,060,866	9,566,397	13,644,977	12 5 11	15 3 8	16 17 9
Australasia	48,728,240	72,705,247	84,727,797	17 11 0	18 19 2	18 1 0

The total trade, similarly classified, was as follows :—

State.	Value of Total Trade.			Value per Inhabitant.		
	1881.	1891.	1902.	1881.	1891.	1902.
	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales	33,894,817	51,327,417	49,518,261	44 11 7	44 18 8	35 3 6
Victoria	32,070,624	37,718,351	36,480,768	37 17 9	32 18 9	30 5 2
Queensland	7,603,991	13,384,391	16,523,561	34 4 2	33 15 1	32 1 10
South Australia	9,829,303	20,693,539	13,991,411	35 9 10	64 3 4	38 5 0
Western Australia	907,001	2,079,559	16,269,710	30 14 11	41 15 5	75 12 5
Tasmania	2,986,720	3,492,782	5,687,253	25 11 3	23 9 0	32 2 4
Commonwealth	88,193,056	128,696,039	138,470,964	38 12 1	40 3 0	35 12 7
New Zealand.....	13,517,911	16,070,246	24,971,700	27 8 6	25 10 1	30 18 1
Australasia	101,710,967	144,766,285	163,442,664	36 12 7	37 14 11	34 16 4

The point most notable in this series of tables is the very marked impetus which the trade of South Australia received during the period 1881-91—a trade of £64 3s. 4d. per inhabitant, the value transacted by that state during 1891, being almost without parallel in any important country. This huge trade was, however, not drawn altogether from its own territory, for in 1891 more than £5,731,000, or about £17 15s. per inhabitant, and in 1902, £1,986,700, or £5 8s. 7d. per inhabitant, was due to the Barrier District of New South Wales, of which South Australia is the natural outlet; and it must also be remembered that considerable quantities of goods on their way to Broken Hill are entered as imports in South Australia when they arrive in that state, and as exports to New South Wales when they cross the border. Of the total shrinkage of £25 18s. 4d. per head from 1891 to 1902, £8 15s. 1d. must be attributed to the falling-off in the Barrier trade. The large and increasing production of the gold-fields is the chief cause of the remarkable development in the trade of Western Australia, which will be noticed when comparing the years 1891 and 1902.

The trade of New South Wales in 1891 was valued at no less than £51,327,417. Five years later, owing in great measure to the same influences as affected the trade of Australia generally, the total had fallen to £43,571,859; but for 1901 the value stood at £54,279,342, the largest amount yet recorded. In 1902, owing to causes which have already been alluded to, there was a decline to £49,518,261. If the figures for the years 1902 and 1891 be compared for the states comprising the Commonwealth, it will be found that, there is an increase of upwards of £1,830,000 in the total value of imports, and of £7,944,000 in the exports, while the value of the total trade advanced during the period in question from £128,696,039 to £138,470,964, representing an expansion of upwards of £9,774,000.

INTERSTATE TRADE.

The trade shown in the above series of tables represents, not only the business transacted with countries outside Australasia, but the trade maintained by the states of the Commonwealth with one another.

This interstate trade forms a considerable proportion of the total which has just been dealt with, and reached an amount of £54,088,459 in 1902; this however, in proportion to population, is lower than that for any previous year shown in the table.

The following figures represent the value of the interstate trade, excluding that of New Zealand, as well as the value per inhabitant. It is obvious that the total interstate trade which is shown by the table represents in reality twice the actual value of goods passing from one state to another, the same merchandise figuring in one place as exports, and in another as imports. The value of goods passing through a state on their way to foreign countries, as well as of goods imported from abroad and re-exported, is, of course, also included in the figures. The actual movement is therefore less than half of the values given below :—

Year.	Total.	Value per Inhabitant of Australia.
1861.....	£14,912,688	£12 18 5
1871.....	25,431,948	15 4 10
1881.....	34,166,233	15 3 4
1891.....	57,395,687	18 0 7
1901.....	54,088,459	14 6 10

EXTRA-AUSTRALASIAN TRADE.

If Australasia be regarded as a whole, and an elimination made of the real trade which the provinces carry on with each other, as well as the value of the goods which pass through one state on their way to another, as shown under the heading of Interstate Trade, the total and average amounts will, of course, be greatly reduced. Such an elimination has been made in the following table, which shows the growth since 1861 of what may be called the external trade—that is, trade transacted with all countries outside of Australasia :—

Year.	External Trade.	
	Total Value.	Value per head.
	£	£ s. d.
1861.....	35,061,282	28 3 10
1871.....	39,729,016	20 10 10
1881.....	64,554,678	23 6 3
1891.....	84,651,488	22 0 8
1902.....	105,165,516	22 8 1

TRADE WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM.

In order to make a useful comparison of the value of the Australasian trade to the United Kingdom, it is necessary to refer to the British Board of Trade returns, and these returns have been used in the ensuing comparisons. The figures relating to Australasia, especially for late years, approximate very closely to the local Customs statistics. From the table it will be observed that while in 1881 the produce of the Commonwealth of Australia and the colony of New Zealand formed 29·5 per cent. of

the imports of the United Kingdom from her possessions, in 1891 the proportion was 31·4 per cent., while in 1902 it declined to 28·7 per cent.

The year 1902 was, however, an unfortunate one for some of the mainland states, and the diminished production was reflected in the decreased body of exports. In the preceding year the proportion of imports into the United Kingdom from Australia was 23 per cent., and from New Zealand 10 per cent., making a total of 33 per cent. :—

Year.	As returned by British Customs.				Proportion of Imports from Australasia to total from British Possessions.		
	Total Imports from British Possessions.	Imports from Australasia.			Commonwealth of Australia.	New Zealand.	Total.
		Commonwealth of Australia.	New Zealand.	Total.			
	£	£	£	£	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
1881	91,539,660	21,837,709	5,125,859	26,963,568	23·9	5·6	29·5
1891	99,464,718	23,068,972	8,192,594	31,261,566	23·2	8·2	31·4
1901	105,573,706	24,217,669	10,594,587	34,812,256	23·0	10·0	33·0
1902	106,793,033	19,734,017	10,883,648	30,617,663	18·5	10·2	28·7

Although it is very little more than a century since the commencement of Australasian settlement, an examination of the trade statistics of the mother country with her numerous dependencies shows that the total trade of the Commonwealth and New Zealand with the United Kingdom is more than one and a half times that of Canada, and in a larger degree exceeds the trade of any other British possession, with the exception of India. In normal years the Australasian trade is even in excess of that of India, the amount of such excess in 1901 being considerably over a million sterling. The following table, which is also compiled from the returns of the Board of Trade, shows the total trade of the United Kingdom exclusive of specie and diamonds for the three years 1881, 1891, and 1902, with the most important of British possessions :—

Country,	1881.	1891.	1902.	Proportion of Trade of United Kingdom with British possessions.		
				1881.	1891.	1902.
	£	£	£	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
India	63,682,398	64,783,605	62,215,041	35·7	33·6	27·7
British North America	20,608,159	20,906,357	36,048,950	11·6	10·8	16·1
Cape Colony and Natal	13,105,264	14,892,965	32,096,628	7·4	7·7	14·3
Straits Settlements	6,527,675	7,946,127	8,857,246	3·7	4·1	3·9
Hongkong	4,815,905	3,833,859	2,884,615	2·7	2·0	1·3
Australasia--						
Commonwealth of Australia ..	41,662,820	47,522,331	41,263,423	23·4	24·7	18·4
New Zealand	9,206,331	11,970,938	17,042,533	5·2	6·2	7·6
Total, Australasia	50,869,151	59,493,319	58,305,956	28·6	30·9	26·0

If, again, a comparison be made of the total trade transacted by the United Kingdom with all countries during the year 1902, it will be found that the trade with Australasia, amounting to £58,305,956, was only exceeded by that carried on with three countries, namely, the United States, with a total of £170,042,674; France, with £72,918,649; and Germany, with £66,728,521. The amounts taken by other countries will be found below, and it must be noted that the values given do not include specie:—

Country.	1881.	1891.	1902.	Proportion to Total Trade of United Kingdom		
				1881.	1891.	1902.
	£	£	£	per cent	per cent	per cent
France	70,069,848	69,114,136	72,918,649	10·1	9·8	8·3
Germany	52,927,199	56,970,104	66,728,521	7·6	7·7	7·6
Belgium	25,047,833	30,525,737	39,153,510	3·6	4·1	4·5
Holland	38,205,414	42,290,587	47,913,659	5·5	5·7	5·4
Spain	14,421,326	16,050,936	19,652,029	2·1	2·2	2·3
Italy	10,792,615	10,272,329	11,675,995	1·6	1·2	1·3
United States	139,990,876	145,475,197	170,042,674	20·2	19·5	19·4
Argentine Republic	4,000,090	7,817,250	20,144,348	0·6	1·0	2·3
Chili	5,417,393	5,916,225	7,587,142	0·8	0·8	0·9
Brazil	13,254,733	12,855,202	11,857,831	1·9	1·7	1·3
Uruguay	1,881,522	1,568,891	2,233,936	0·3	0·2	0·2
Australasia—						
Commonwealth of Australia..	41,662,820	47,522,331	41,263,423	6·0	6·4	4·7
New Zealand.....	9,206,331	11,970,988	17,042,533	1·3	1·6	1·9
Total, Australasia ..	50,869,151	59,493,319	58,305,956	7·3	8·0	6·6

TRADE WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Every year steamers of greater tonnage and higher speed are visiting the Commonwealth of Australia and the colony of New Zealand from Europe, and a considerable expansion of commerce must of necessity take place, owing to the new outlets for trade which have been opened up thereby. The values of the imports into the Commonwealth from the principal foreign countries during the period 1861-1902 were as shown below:—

Country.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Belgium .....	.....	.....	26,087	314,434	567,803	352,447
France and New Caledonia	136,053	158,573	321,238	359,951	480,175	547,617
Germany	90,686	3,899	219,893	1,707,175	2,800,342	2,658,060
Netherlands and Java	110,179	194,519	404,503	652,517	993,778	813,565
Italy .....	.....	.....	7,874	56,617	156,389	163,797
Sweden and Norway	22,666	106,720	259,147	450,046	506,457	479,798
China	827,347	842,087	1,281,765	690,328	159,485	226,207
Japan .....	.....	.....	23,150	52,887	288,216	354,327
South Sea Islands	35,973	84,913	104,932	12,792	73,966	128,795
United States	1,053,883	567,280	1,249,443	2,558,320	5,854,239	4,989,812
Other Foreign Countries	834,101	139,039	93,389	73,874	525,486	730,360
Total	3,160,888	2,087,630	4,052,021	6,927,941	12,412,336	11,444,775

For the same period the exports from the Commonwealth to the countries mentioned in the preceding table were as appended:—

Country.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Belgium			100,437	1,484,073	1,505,635	1,435,263
France and New Caledonia ...	26,793	101,618	281,544	1,807,905	2,475,406	2,753,820
Germany			70,422	859,557	2,552,458	2,543,360
Netherlands and Java	3,907	39,517	52,192	92,645	322,970	282,451
Italy			152,914	27,956	139,166	142,311
Sweden and Norway					4,040	1,001
China	112,969	26,636	67,501	30,185	128,976	107,071
Japan	1,805	9,470	6,872	16,485	123,355	414,523
South Sea Islands	31,319	111,715	108,758	55,963	107,857	120,123
United States	66,602	271,800	943,118	2,754,053	3,373,876	2,714,424
Other Foreign Countries	483,457	3,133,350	363,458	581,286	1,758,333	978,215
Total	726,852	3,694,106	2,147,216	7,710,108	12,492,072	11,492,862

SUMMARY.

Summary.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Imports and Exports ²	3,887,740	5,781,736	6,199,237	14,638,049	24,004,408	22,937,637

Similar information regarding the trade of New Zealand with foreign countries will be found in the succeeding tables. The first table gives the imports:—

Country.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Belgium			26	6,591	63,083	86,236
France and New Caledonia ...	71	419	19,512	9,084	27,714	35,595
Germany	18,486		5,779	66,102	198,521	210,560
Netherlands and Java	4,125		1,941	2,143	100,730	65,368
Italy				1,867	9,211	11,129
Sweden and Norway			9	368	11,963	19,543
China		32,838	149,228	18,815	15,324	12,500
Japan			95	8,399	45,465	56,087
South Sea Islands	4,227	50,147	19,515	65,493	68,733	41,042
United States	26,790	59,345	343,645	361,795	1,415,260	1,318,937
Other Foreign Countries	2,151	14,745	11,555	21,826	62,214	48,769
Total	55,850	157,494	551,305	562,483	2,018,218	1,905,766

The next table shows the exports from New Zealand to foreign countries during the same period :—

Country.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Belgium				1,658	14	394
France and New Caledonia		140	54,954	27,879	1,771	2,026
Germany				4,258	10,470	9,389
Netherlands and Java					100	82
Italy				48		32
Sweden and Norway					692	169
China	1,180	2,501	11,098	564	15,407	42
Japan				93	1,640	3,780
South Sea Islands	4,811	41,853	31,541	93,407	109,460	93,903
United States	9,552	95,561	355,787	515,208	519,079	489,964
Other Foreign Countries	4,095	9,809	9,993	19,506	20,004	16,658
Total	19,638	149,864	463,373	662,616	678,637	616,499

SUMMARY.

Summary.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Imports and Exports	75,488	307,358	1,014,678	1,225,099	2,696,855	2,522,265

Combining the results obtained in the previous series of tables, the following figures will show the trade of Australasia with foreign countries at intervals since 1861. The first table represents the imports :—

Country.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Belgium			26,713	321,025	630,886	438,083
France and New Caledonia	136,124	158,992	340,750	369,035	513,889	583,212
Germany	109,172	3,899	225,072	1,773,277	2,998,863	2,368,620
Netherlands and Java	114,304	194,519	466,444	654,060	1,094,508	878,933
Italy			7,874	58,484	165,600	174,926
Sweden and Norway	22,666	106,720	259,156	459,414	516,420	499,341
China	827,347	874,925	1,430,993	699,143	174,809	238,767
Japan			23,245	61,286	333,681	410,414
South Sea Islands	40,200	135,960	124,447	78,285	142,699	139,837
United States	1,030,673	616,625	1,593,088	2,920,115	7,269,499	6,308,749
Other foreign Countries	886,252	154,384	104,944	95,700	587,700	179,119
Total	3,216,738	2,245,124	4,603,326	7,480,424	14,430,554	13,350,541

The following table shows the exports from Australasia to foreign countries during the years 1861-1902 :—

Country.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Belgium			100,437	1,485,731	1,505,649	1,435,657
France and New Caledonia	26,793	101,758	336,498	1,835,784	2,477,177	2,755,846
Germany			70,422	863,815	2,562,928	2,552,749
Netherlands and Java	3,907	39,517	52,192	92,645	323,070	282,533
Italy			152,914	27,999	139,166	142,343
Sweden and Norway					4,732	1,170
China	114,149	29,137	78,599	30,749	144,383	107,113
Japan	1,805	9,470	6,872	16,578	124,995	418,603
South Sea Islands	36,130	153,568	140,299	149,370	217,317	214,086
United States	76,154	367,361	1,298,905	3,269,261	3,892,955	3,204,388
Other foreign Countries	487,552	3,143,159	373,451	600,792	1,778,337	994,873
Total	746,490	3,843,970	2,610,589	8,372,724	13,170,709	12,109,361

SUMMARY.

Summary.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Imports and Exports	3,963,228	6,089,094	7,213,915	15,863,148	27,601,263	25,459,902

The commerce with foreign countries from the commencement of the period under review exhibits very satisfactory progress; the imports have increased by over ten millions sterling, and the exports by considerably over eleven millions, while the expansion in the total trade was as much as 542 per cent. This remarkable growth is chiefly due to the development of the European continental trade, consequent on the diversion of part of the wool business from London, which was largely brought about by the display of local resources at the Sydney and Melbourne International Exhibitions of 1879 and 1880. The annual increase per cent. of the trade of Australasia with the four principal foreign countries with which it has commercial relations is shown below, the period covered being the twenty-one years extending from 1881 to 1902 :—

Country.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Belgium	14·26	13·50	13·67
France	2·59	10·53	7·97
Germany	12·87	18·65	14·58
United States	6·77	4·39	5·83

It will be seen from the table on the previous page that trade with these countries has now reached a fairly large volume, but its beginnings were small, hence the large percentage of increase just shown. Turning to individual countries, Germany exhibits the greatest progress, and Belgium ranks second. From Antwerp, in the latter country, a great

portion of German and French manufactures is shipped. This port is also the distributing centre for a considerable part of the wool destined for the Continent, and large quantities of this product landed there ultimately find their way to Germany, France, and other countries. The French, early in 1883, were the first to establish direct commercial relations with Australia, the steamers of the Messageries Maritimes, a subsidised line, making their appearance for the first time in Australian waters in the year named. In 1887 the vessels of the Norddeutscher Lloyd Company, of Bremen, commenced trading with Australasia; and in the latter part of 1888 a line of German cargo-boats opened up further communication between the great wool-exporting cities of Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide and the ports of Antwerp, Hamburg, and Dunkirk. Belgium has also established a line of steamships; and the latest foreign testimony to the growing importance of Australasia is the regular running of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's steamers between Japanese ports and Sydney, and a line of steamers which run between San Francisco and Sydney, calling at New Zealand. In addition to the companies mentioned, some British lines run their vessels direct to Continental ports.

The result of these efforts to establish commercial relations is evident from the increase of trade which the foregoing table discloses, and from the diversion, now rapidly being effected, in the channel by which the wool required for Europe reaches the market. The example of the South American Republics, the bulk of whose produce now finds a market at the ports of Antwerp, Hamburg, Havre, and Dunkirk without passing through London, was not lost on Continental buyers. It was manifest that direct shipments of wool to Europe could as readily be made from Sydney or Melbourne as from Buenos Ayres or Monte Video; hence the presence in the local markets, in increasing numbers, of buyers representing Continental firms.

Australasia has for many years maintained important commercial relations with the United States of America, and in 1902 America's share of the trade of Australasia with foreign countries was 37·4 per cent. The greater part of this trade was carried on with the states of New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania, and the colony of New Zealand. The main exports to the United States are specie, copper, wool, coal, kauri gum, and New Zealand flax—chiefly the two first mentioned; so that, though large in its nominal amount, the trade is less valuable than would at first sight appear. The total exports to the United States from New South Wales were valued at £2,092,000, but this sum included gold coin to the amount of £1,601,000. Tasmania's export to America in 1902 reached a value of £464,000, practically the whole of which was made up by the export of blister copper, copper matte, and copper ore. If to these figures there be added the value of coal and coke exported from New South Wales, £103,444, and of marsupial skins, £242,096, a total of £2,410,000 is reached out of the entire Commonwealth export to the United States of £2,714,000. Of the

balance, the principal item was wool, the export of which was valued at £198,588, of which Victoria contributed £108,688. The wool trade with the United States has fallen away considerably since 1891, when the export amounted to £514,243, while the export from the whole of Australia in 1902 was only £198,588. The export from New Zealand to the United States in 1902 was valued at £490,000, and included kauri gum to the value of £323,000, and phormium £64,000.

Under present tariff conditions little extension of commercial relations with the United States can be looked forward to ; but trade with the East gives good promise for the future, especially with India, China, Japan, and the East Indian Archipelago, where markets for Australasian wool will possibly in time be found, little in that direction having been accomplished up to the present time. As mentioned above, Japan has established a national line of steamers to foster the trade between that country and Australasia ; and with the abolition of the duty on wool, and the benefits to be derived from wearing woollen clothing impressed upon the people, there ought to be a good opening in that country for the staple product of these states. The foundation of such a trade has already been laid down, the exports of wool from New South Wales ports to Japan in 1902 being valued at £34,000, and from Victoria at £17,000. Western Australia in 1902 showed an export to Japan of £250,000, but the whole of this amount was made up of specie.

A large volume of business is already transacted with India and Ceylon, and this trade bids fair to increase, particularly in the tea of those places, which now strongly competes with the Chinese leaf in public estimation. The value of the direct import of Indian teas increased from £280,780 in 1890 to £766,616 in 1902 ; while the imports of this article from China decreased from £788,943 in 1890 to £83,913 in 1902. The following table shows the direct import of tea by each of the Commonwealth states and New Zealand from India and Ceylon, and from China, during the year 1902 :—

State.	Imports of tea from—		Total.
	India and Ceylon.	China (including Hongkong).	
	£	£	£
New South Wales.....	203,560	25,584	229,144
Victoria	257,820	42,144	299,964
Queensland	34,401	5,598	39,999
South Australia.....	53,250	2,091	55,341
Western Australia.....	63,225	6,431	69,656
Tasmania	3,140	1,394	4,534
Commonwealth ...	615,396	83,242	698,638
New Zealand	151,220	671	151,891
Australasia	766,616	83,913	850,529

The total import into Australasia from India and Ceylon was valued at £1,735,201, and of this amount the value of tea imported was equal to 44 per cent. Of the remaining imports the chief items were jute and canvas goods and castor oil. The exports from Australasia to India in 1902 were valued at £3,881,932, but this amount included £2,822,000 worth of specie. In addition, New South Wales exported coal to the value of £25,000, and horses valued at £16,000, while Victoria and Queensland exported horses to the value of £36,000 and £28,000 respectively,

For 1902 the total of the Australasian exports to China was recorded as £107,113. The Customs returns, however, do not represent the whole amount of the trade with China, as a considerable portion of the commerce with Hongkong is in reality transacted with the Chinese Empire, Hongkong being to a large extent a distributing centre for the Empire. In view of this fact, the following table, showing the trade with the Chinese Empire and Hongkong, has been compiled:—

Country.	Commonwealth of Australia.		New Zealand.		Australasia.		
	1891.	1902.	1891.	1902.	1891.	1902.	
Chinese Empire . . .	Imports . . .	680,323	226,207	18,815	12,500	699,143	238,707
	Exports . . .	30,185	107,071	564	42	30,749	107,113
Hongkong	Imports . . .	626,882	320,429	21,903	18,670	648,785	339,099
	Exports . . .	484,363	390,178	7,408	66,354	491,771	456,582
Total	Imports . . .	1,307,210	546,636	40,718	31,170	1,347,928	577,806
	Exports . . .	514,548	497,249	7,972	66,396	522,520	563,645
	Total Trade	1,821,758	1,043,885	48,690	97,566	1,870,448	1,141,451

Trade with Java has assumed considerable proportions, the total for Australasia in 1902 being £975,000, of which imports represented £803,000, and exports £172,000. Kapok and sugar are the chief articles imported, the import into Australasia of the former being valued in 1902 at £68,000, and of the latter at £726,000. The export trade was confined to the four states New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia, New South Wales exporting coal to the value of £51,000, Victoria butter to the value of £20,000, Queensland preserved meat to the value of £22,000 and South Australia flour to the value of £52,000.

Trade with the South Pacific Islands is increasing, and consists mostly of the importation of raw articles in exchange for Australasian

produce. The bulk of the trade is done with Fiji and New Caledonia, the French colony dealing principally with New South Wales, as Sydney is the terminal port in Australia for the mail-steamers of the Messageries line. But owing to the enforcement of the new French Customs tariff, which is highly protective in its character, in the colonies of that country as well as in France itself, the New Caledonian trade bids fair to be lost to Sydney; for while the exports from New South Wales to New Caledonia in 1892 amounted to £184,128, they had fallen in 1902 to £147,858, or by more than 19 per cent. The Commonwealth trade with Fiji was valued in 1902 at £294,000 and was practically confined to New South Wales whose share came to £285,000. The chief article of import is copra, the value of the quantity taken by New South Wales in 1902 being £59,000. New Zealand transacts a considerable trade with the group the value for 1902 being £388,000. The principal article of import was unrefined sugar, the quantity imported being 26,000 tons valued at £286,000. The trade with New Guinea is at present but small, though when the resources of that prolific island come to be developed a large increase may be expected. Besides the countries mentioned, Australasia maintains a not inconsiderable trade with Norway and Sweden, but it consists mainly of imports.

In the following table will be found some interesting information respecting the nature of the goods imported into the Commonwealth from foreign countries during the year 1901. This statement was prepared by the Board of Trade and it is unfortunate that the different classifications adopted in the Customs returns of the various states do not permit of a more detailed tabulation.

Article.	Value.	Article.	Value.
	£		£
Agricultural Implements	146,000	Iron and Steel, and manufactures thereof.	2,116,000
Apparel and Slops	164,000	Leather	157,000
Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives.	234,000	Matches	68,000
Beer and Ale	53,000	Milk, Condensed	111,000
Bicycles, &c., including parts	50,000	Oil, Kerosene	687,000
Boots and Shoes	277,000	„ „ all other kinds	171,000
Carriages, Carts, Waggons, including materials.	77,000	Paper and Stationery	526,000
Cement and Plaster of Paris	153,000	Spirits and Liqueurs	173,000
China and Earthenware	56,000	Sugar	1,073,000
Copra	62,000	Tea	69,000
Drapery (Textiles in general)	581,000	Telegraphic materials	72,000
Drugs and Chemicals	393,000	Timber, rough	383,000
Fancy Goods	87,000	„ „ manufactured	662,000
Fish (dried or preserved)	126,000	Tobacco, unmanufactured	201,000
Fruit of all kinds	193,000	„ „ manufactured	337,000
Furniture (including kapok and materials).	204,000	Tools	174,000
Glass and Glassware (including bottles).	209,000	Turpentine	55,000
Grain—Rice	127,000	Watches and Clocks	71,000
Hats and Caps	65,000	Wax	24,000
Instruments, musical	254,000	Wines	95,000
„ „ scientific	73,000	Other articles	1,608,000
		Total foreign imports . . .	£12,412,000

A classification of the goods imported into New Zealand from foreign countries during the year 1901 will be found below:—

Article.	Value.	Article.	Value.
Apparel and Slops	£ 20,000	Instruments, musical	£ 68,000
Arms and Ammunition	20,000	Iron and Steel, and manufactures thereof.	603,000
Bicycles, Tricycles, &c.	25,000	Manure, Guano	11,000
Boots and Shoes	62,000	Oil, Kerosene	122,000
Carriages, Carts, &c.	10,000	Paper, Books, and Stationery	88,000
China-ware, Earthenware, Glassware	31,000	Seeds	14,000
Clocks and Watches	16,000	Sugar	99,000
Drapery	51,000	Tobacco, manufactured	165,000
Drugs, Chemicals, &c.	43,000	Tools	54,000
Fancy Goods	32,000	Other articles	315,000
Fish, dried and preserved	20,000		
Fruit, fresh or preserved	104,000		
Furniture and Upholstery	21,000		
Grain, Rice.....	18,000	Total foreign imports.....	£2,018,000

The figures relating to the trade of each state with countries outside Australasia would be extremely interesting if they could be given with exactness. Unfortunately this is impossible, as the destination of goods exported overland cannot be traced beyond the state to which they are in the first instance despatched—all that can be given is the trade by sea, which the following series of tables shows. The imports during 1902 from countries outside Australia for the states comprised in the Commonwealth, together with the total for Australasia were as follows:—

State.	Value of Imports.	Value per Inhabitant.
	£	£ s. d.
New South Wales	15,024,535	10 13 6
Victoria	12,857,725	10 13 4
Queensland	3,734,212	7 5 1
South Australia	3,157,500	8 12 8
Western Australia.....	5,171,651	24 0 9
Tasmania	732,616	4 2 9
Commonwealth	40,678,239	10 9 4
New Zealand	9,611,428	11 17 11
Australasia	50,289,667	10 14 3

The values of the external exports for 1902 were as shown below:—

State.	Value of Exports.	Value per Inhabitant.
	£	£ s. d.
New South Wales	15,975,129	11 7 0
Victoria	10,369,335	8 12 0
Queensland	4,108,269	7 19 7
South Australia	3,766,206	10 5 11
Western Australia.....	8,252,608	33 7 2
Tasmania.....	1,443,675	8 3 0
Commonwealth	43,915,222	11 6 0
New Zealand	10,960,627	13 11 4
Australasia	54,875,849	11 13 10

The total extra Australian trade for the year 1902 was therefore as follows:—

State.	Total Extra Australian Trade.	Value per Inhabitant.		
	£	£	s.	d.
New South Wales	30,999,664	22	0	6
Victoria	23,227,060	19	5	4
Queensland	7,842,481	15	4	8
South Australia	6,923,706	18	18	7
Western Australia.....	13,424,259	62	7	11
Tasmania.....	2,176,291	12	5	9
Commonwealth	84,593,461	21	15	
New Zealand	20,572,055	25	9	3
Australasia	105,165,516	22	8	1

It will be seen from the above table that the total value of the external trade of Australasia in 1902 was £105,165,516, equal to £22 8s. 1d. per head of population. The effects of the adverse season experienced over a great portion of the continent are reflected in these figures, which show a serious decline on the returns for 1901, when the total trade was valued at nearly 117 millions, and averaged £25 9s. 11d. per inhabitant. Turning to individual states, it will be found that in proportion to population, the trade of Western Australia is far in excess of that of any of the other Commonwealth states or of New Zealand. This of course is only to be expected in a rich gold-producing state with a comparatively small population. New Zealand, which had a remarkably favourable season, comes next with an average of £25 9s. 3d. per head, followed by New South Wales with £22 0s. 6d., and Victoria with £19 5s. 4d., Tasmania occupying the lowest position with £12 5s. 9d. per inhabitant. Comparisons of this description are, however, not quite fair, since states like Queensland and Tasmania, possessing but a small direct trade, appear at a disadvantage.

The foregoing represent the figures as returned by the statistical branches of the various Customs departments. Somewhat different and slightly smaller figures will be given later on as representing the goods valued for purposes of duty. The difference is in no case very great and may be accounted for partly by the difference in the year, the trade year coinciding with the calendar year and the fiscal year ending on June 30th following, partly by the amount of goods imported and placed in bond, while the totals are also modified by the fact that certain ship's stores pay duty but are not included in the Customs statements of imports.

A comparison of the external trade of the Commonwealth and of New Zealand with the latest returns of other countries is given below :—

Country.	Total Trade.			Per Inhabitant.
	Merchandise.	Specie and Bullion.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	877,630,000	57,519,000	935,149,000	22 5 9
France	433,036,000	34,188,000	467,224,000	11 19 11
Germany	523,550,000	18,515,000	542,065,000	9 10 8
Italy	125,755,000	1,125,000	126,880,000	3 18 2
Belgium.....	275,204,000	13,387,000	288,591,000	42 8 9
Spain	69,358,000	1,182,000	70,540,000	3 15 10
Canada	78,368,000	1,133,000	79,501,000	14 15 1
United States ...	481,445,000	45,814,000	527,259,000	6 18 2
Commonwealth of Australia...	67,701,948	16,891,513	84,593,461	21 15 4
New Zealand.....	22,642,071	2,329,629	24,971,700	30 18 2
Australasia	90,344,019	19,221,142	109,565,161	23 6 10

The trade of Australasia per head of population exceeds that of any country appearing in the list with the exception of Belgium.

An excess in the value of imports over exports was for many years a prominent feature of the trade of Australasia taken as a whole, although in some states the reverse was the case. The surplus of imports was due to two causes: (1) the importation, by the Governments and local bodies of the various states, of money to cover the cost of construction of public works; and (2) the private capital sent to Australasia for investment. Taking the states as a whole, these two items combined exceeded the payments made for interest on past loans, both public and private, and the sums drawn from the country by absentees; but as some of the states have ceased to borrow, and the amount borrowed by the others has fallen below their yearly payments for interest, the whole of Australasia now shows an excess of exports, and the same fact is also exhibited in the trade returns for 1902 for all the states with the exception of New South Wales and Victoria. The present excess of exports and its cause come more properly within the parts of this work dealing with Public and Private Finance, and are dealt with at some length there.

COMPARISON OF TRADE WITH BRITISH POSSESSIONS AND FOREIGN STATES

The external trade of the Commonwealth amounts to £84,593,461, and of this trade more than half still remains with Great Britain, as the following statement shows :—

	Total trade (Imports and Exports).	Proportion of total.
United Kingdom.....	44,073,053.....	52·1 per cent.
British Possessions.....	17,582,771.....	20·8 „
Foreign Countries	22,937,637.....	27·1 „
	84,593,461.....	100 „

The figures just given refer to the direct trade, but a considerable amount of goods is sent from foreign countries to Great Britain and thence exported to Australia. There are no means of ascertaining with exactitude the value of this trade, but a measure of it may be obtained from the British Board of Trade returns, which show an average export of foreign and colonial produce to Australia, during the last five years, of £1,966,730 per annum, while a somewhat larger quantity of Australian produce is exported from Great Britain to foreign countries. Neglecting this indirect trade, the following is a statement of the direction of the external trade of the Commonwealth in 1891 and in 1902.

Trade with—	Imports.		Exports.		Total trade.	
	1891.	1902.	1891.	1902.	1891.	1902.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
British Empire—						
United Kingdom	26,453,841	23,848,562	25,498,010	20,224,491	51,951,851	44,073,053
New Zealand	1,793,038	2,749,958	660,213	1,396,211	2,453,251	4,146,109
India and Ceylon	982,824	1,323,249	998,320	3,979,771	1,981,144	5,203,020
Canadian Dominion	140,786	346,276	40	33,372	149,826	379,648
Cape Colony	373	6,153	171,812	3,781,261	171,685	3,787,414
Natal		815		2,187,795		2,188,110
Fiji	155,067	89,059	122,430	204,793	277,497	293,852
Mauritius	388,529	280,731	107,147	64,176	495,676	344,907
Hongkong	626,882	320,429	484,363	390,178	1,111,245	710,607
Straits Settlements	173,516	118,456	151,143	118,555	329,659	287,011
Other Possessions	54,256	150,276	139,464	141,757	193,720	292,033
Total	30,783,112	20,233,464	28,332,442	32,422,360	50,115,554	61,655,824
Foreign Countries—						
France	359,951	525,937	1,807,905	2,603,336	2,167,856	3,129,273
Germany	1,707,175	2,059,060	859,557	2,543,360	2,560,732	5,201,420
Italy	56,617	163,797	27,956	142,311	84,573	306,108
Belgium	314,434	352,447	1,484,073	1,435,263	1,798,507	1,787,710
Sweden and Norway	459,046	479,798		1,001	459,046	480,799
United States	2,558,320	4,989,812	2,754,053	2,714,424	5,312,373	7,704,236
Netherlands and Java	652,517	813,565	92,645	282,451	745,162	1,006,016
South Sea Islands	12,792	128,795	55,963	120,123	68,755	248,918
China	680,328	226,207	30,185	107,071	710,513	338,278
Japan	52,887	354,327	16,485	414,823	69,372	769,150
Other Countries	73,874	762,030	581,286	1,128,699	655,160	1,880,729
Total	6,927,941	11,444,775	7,710,108	11,492,862	14,638,049	22,937,637
Total, British and Foreign	37,711,053	40,678,239	36,042,550	43,915,222	73,753,603	84,593,461

The foregoing table shows that a considerable change is taking place in the direction of the Australian trade. The United Kingdom, though still the greatest factor in the trade of the Commonwealth, has diminished in importance both actually and relatively. Amongst British Possessions the most notable increase appears in the trade of Cape Colony, which advanced from £171,685 in 1891 to £3,787,414 in 1902. Natal appears in the returns for 1902 with a total of £2,188,110, a trade due, as in the case of Cape Colony, almost wholly to the war in South Africa, which created a large demand for Australian produce. Trade with India and Ceylon advanced during the period from £1,981,144 to £5,203,020; the increased popularity of India and Ceylon tea accounts for some portion of this growth; but in 1902 there was a considerable export of specie and bullion, Western Australia sending £1,895,000 and Victoria £1,063,000. Amongst foreign countries the most notable increase observable is in the trade with Germany, which more than doubled during the period, the total trade in 1902 being £5,201,420 as compared with £2,566,732 in 1891. The exports also show a remarkable advance during this period, the value rising from £859,557 to £2,543,360. Trade with the United States showed a total of £7,704,236 in 1902, the value in 1891 being £5,312,373; the increase of trade was, however, wholly on the import side, the exports showing a fall of £39,629, while the imports showed an increase of £2,431,492. The exports for 1891, however, included gold bullion and specie to the value of £1,710,670, the corresponding figure for 1902 being £1,601,000. Extending the period reviewed back to 1861, the importance of the change taking place will be more clearly apprehended. The following statement shows the volume of trade in quinquennial periods, commencing with 1861, and distinguishing the trade with the United Kingdom, British Possessions, and foreign countries.

Years.	Imports from--			Total Imports.
	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.	
	£	£	£	£
1861-65	69,824,585	13,284,813	16,931,345	100,040,743
1866-70	60,392,217	18,065,939	14,537,213	92,998,369
1871-75	75,568,020	19,924,188	13,491,699	108,983,907
1876-80	89,020,970	18,327,973	15,766,484	123,115,427
1881-85	128,073,941	22,491,217	24,066,365	174,631,523
1886-90	122,729,684	21,329,451	28,849,366	172,908,501
1891-95	97,408,111	15,915,497	23,352,095	136,675,703
1896-1900	109,024,399	18,709,125	41,090,263	168,823,787
1901-1902	49,085,594	10,169,381	23,857,111	83,112,086

* Two Years.

Stating the foregoing figures as percentages of the total imports in each quinquennium, the following results are obtained :—

Years.	Imports from—		
	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
1861-65	69·80	13·28	16·92
1866-70	64·94	19·43	15·63
1871-75	69·34	18·28	12·38
1876-80	72·30	14·89	12·81
1881-85	73·34	12·88	13·78
1886-90	70·98	12·34	16·68
1891-95	71·27	11·64	17·09
1896-1900	64·58	11·08	24·34
1901-2	59·06	12·24	28·70

These figures show a remarkable diversion of trade, especially in recent years, from the United Kingdom to foreign countries. An explanation has been hazarded that the diversion is more apparent than real, being due to the carriage of goods direct from foreign countries to Australia, whereas such goods were formerly sent via London, but this explanation only partly accounts for the change. Making allowance for foreign goods reaching Australia by way of London, the following would appear to be the percentages of foreign goods to total goods imported in the years named. It is unfortunately impossible to give the information for an earlier period :—

1886-90	23·5
1891-95	23·4
1896-1900	30·0
1901-2	33·6

One-third of all goods now imported into Australia may be said to be of non-British origin as compared with one-fourth ten years ago. The chief factor in bringing about this change is undoubtedly the establishment of direct and rapid communication between Germany, France, Belgium, Japan, the United States, and the Commonwealth. Twenty years ago it was difficult, if not impossible, to obtain goods direct from the continent of Europe or the eastern sea-board of the United States, now there is fortnightly communication with Hamburg and Bremerhaven by a line subsidised by the German Imperial Government, and with Marseilles, Havre, and Dunkirk by the Messageries Maritimes—a line heavily subsidised by the French Republic. Turning

to the exports to the same countries it will be found that a change of a somewhat similar character has taken place.

Year.	Exports to—			
	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.	Total Exports.
	£	£	£	£
1861	11,643,598	5,030,311	725,747	17,399,656
1871	15,754,990	5,055,926	609,032	21,419,948
1881	19,866,821	5,516,610	2,105,644	27,489,075
1891	25,498,010	2,834,432	7,710,108	36,042,550
1901	25,194,923	12,028,463	12,492,072	49,715,458
1902	20,224,491	12,197,869	11,492,862	43,915,222

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL.

1861	66·9	28·9	4·2	100·0
1871	73·6	23·6	2·8	100·0
1881	72·3	20·0	7·7	100·0
1891	70·7	7·9	21·4	100·0
1901	50·7	24·2	25·1	100·0
1902	46·1	27·8	26·1	100·0

As the table shows there was a remarkable falling off in the percentage of exports to British Possessions in 1891 as compared with 1881. Investigation of the returns discloses the fact that the Victorian exports to British Possessions dropped from £3,863,750 in 1881 to £968,550 in 1901, and this was brought about by a decline in the exports to Ceylon of gold bullion and specie from £2,784,046 in 1881 to £58,074 in 1891; the exports of specie have been since resumed.

From the above figures it is apparent that, as in the case of the imports, there has been a considerable modification in the direction of the export trade. The causes of the great advance in the proportion of trade taken by foreign countries have already been discussed. It will be observed that the percentage of exports to the British Possessions advanced considerably in 1901 and 1902, the increase being chiefly due to the demand for the produce of the Commonwealth occasioned by the war in South Africa.

TRADE OF NEW ZEALAND.

The trade of New Zealand during the years 1891 and 1902 will be found below :—

Trade with—	Imports.		Exports.		Total Trade.	
	1891.	1902.	1891.	1902.	1891.	1902.
British Empire—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Commonwealth of Australia	1,013,549	1,715,295	1,705,561	2,684,350	2,719,110	4,399,645
United Kingdom	4,369,633	6,851,452	7,140,831	9,450,648	11,510,464	16,302,100
India and Ceylon	275,248	411,952	2,551	2,161	277,799	414,113
Canadian Dominion	1,941	33,516	.....	3,018	1,941	36,534
Cape Colony	9	843	100	79,213	109	80,056
Natal	.....	135	.....	674,708	.....	674,843
Fiji	177,707	327,972	43,896	59,690	221,603	387,662
Mauritius	70,650	.....	4	.....	70,654	.....
Hongkong	21,903	18,670	7,408	66,354	29,311	85,024
Straits Settlements	10,055	23,113	100	284	10,155	23,397
Other Possessions	671	35,009	3,330	8,052	4,001	46,061
Total	5,941,366	9,420,957	8,903,781	13,028,478	14,845,147	22,449,435
Foreign Countries—	£	£	£	£	£	£
France	9,084	35,572	27,879	15	36,963	35,587
Germany	66,102	210,560	4,253	9,389	70,360	219,949
Italy	1,867	11,129	43	32	1,910	11,161
Belgium	6,591	86,236	1,668	394	8,249	86,630
Sweden and Norway	368	19,543	.....	169	368	19,712
United States	361,795	1,318,937	515,208	489,964	877,003	1,808,901
Netherlands and Java	2,143	65,368	.....	82	2,143	65,450
South Sea Islands	65,493	41,042	93,407	93,963	158,900	135,005
China	18,815	12,500	564	42	19,379	12,542
Japan	8,399	56,087	93	3,780	8,492	59,867
Other Countries	21,826	48,792	19,506	18,669	41,332	67,461
Total	562,483	1,905,766	662,616	616,499	1,225,099	2,522,265
Total, British and Foreign	6,503,849	11,326,723	9,566,397	13,644,977	16,070,246	24,971,700

The following table shows the volume and percentage of New Zealand trade at intervals since 1881, distinguishing the trade with United Kingdom, British possessions, and foreign countries :—

Year.	Imports from—			Total.
	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.	
	£	£	£	£
1881	4,530,316	2,489,839	436,890	7,457,045
1891	4,369,633	1,571,733	562,483	6,503,849
1901	6,885,831	2,913,866	2,018,218	11,817,915
1902	6,851,452	2,569,505	1,905,766	11,326,723
PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL.				
1881	60·8	33·4	5·8	100·0
1891	67·2	24·2	8·6	100·0
1901	58·3	24·6	17·1	100·0
1902	60·5	22·7	16·8	100·0

In spite of fluctuations in individual years, trade with the United Kingdom still comprises more than three-fifths of the total, but the greatest increase in imports has taken place in the trade with foreign countries, which doubled itself during the period from 1891 to 1902. Amongst the chief countries contributing to this advance were the United States, the imports from which rose from £362,000 in 1891 to £1,319,000 in 1902, and Germany, from which the imports increased from £66,000 in 1891 to £211,000 in 1902.

A similar statement regarding the exports for the same years is given below :—

Year.	Exports to—			Total.
	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.	
	£	£	£	£
1881	4,475,601	1,116,948	458,317	6,060,866
1891	7,140,831	1,762,950	662,616	9,566,397
1901	9,295,375	2,907,412	678,637	12,881,424
1902	9,450,648	3,577,830	616,499	13,644,977
Percentage of total—				
1881	73·9	18·4	7·7	100·0
1891	74·7	18·4	6·9	100·0
1901	72·2	22·5	5·3	100·0
1902	69·3	26·2	4·5	100·0

As the table shows, the percentage of exports to the United Kingdom and foreign countries declined during the period 1881–1902, while the rate of export to the other British possessions shows an increase. Under British Possessions it must be noted that the States of the Commonwealth are included. The figures for 1901 and 1902 are, however, swollen by reason of the heavy exports of New Zealand produce to South Africa to supply the demand created by the war; the export of oats alone in 1901 being valued at £716,000, and in 1902 at £512,000. Of the foreign countries New Zealand's chief customer in 1902 was the United States, the value of the export thereto being £490,000, the export of kauri gum being £323,000, and phormium £64,000.

EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC PRODUCE.

The values of the exports of Australasia and of its various provinces have been given in the previous pages without respect to the countries where the articles were produced. It is important to find to what extent the exports have been the produce of each of the states whence they were shipped. The following table shows the value of the exports

of domestic produce of each state as returned by the Customs for the years 1891, 1901, and 1902, and the value thereof per inhabitant :—

State.	Total Value.			Value per Inhabitant.		
	1891.	1901.	1902.	1891.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales	21,085,712	10,915,884	17,248,494	18 8 9	14 10 3	12 5 1
Victoria	13,026,426	14,134,028	13,823,939	11 7 6	11 14 11	11 9 4
Queensland	7,979,080	9,009,696	8,732,058	19 17 4	17 17 3	16 19 2
South Australia	4,810,512	4,392,364	4,935,529	14 17 10	12 1 11	13 9 11
Western Australia	788,873	8,216,718	8,871,676	15 9 7	43 16 4	41 4 9
Tasmania	1,367,927	2,933,873	3,227,777	9 3 8	16 18 0	18 4 7
Commonwealth.....	49,058,530	58,602,568	56,839,473	15 16 1	15 8 2	14 12 6
New Zealand.....	9,400,094	12,690,460	13,498,599	14 18 6	16 5 9	16 14 2
Australasia	58,458,624	71,293,028	70,338,072	15 4 4	15 11 1	14 19 8

The figures, prior to 1901, must be regarded as approximate, for it is difficult to ascertain with exactitude the domestic exports of some of the states, chiefly New South Wales, South Australia, and Victoria. In the last-mentioned state, a large proportion of the domestic export of wool consisted, in former years, of New South Wales produce, but in 1902 the amount of Victorian wool was found to be largely under-stated and the figures in the following table have therefore been amended. There is also an export by South Australia, as local produce, of wool grown in New South Wales, but the value thereof is inconsiderable, and, in fact, as regards the total export of South Australian wool, the figures for 1902 were somewhat under-estimated. Wool, chiefly from Queensland, has in some years been exported as domestic produce by New South Wales, but in 1902 no such over-statement took place. Also, as regards New South Wales, tin and copper ore, the former chiefly from Queensland and Tasmania and the latter from South Australia, which are imported for the purpose of being refined, are exported as domestic produce. An attempt has been made to remove these elements of error from the returns as they are presented by the

Customs, and the amounts shown in the following table may be accepted as the true values of domestic produce exported by each state during 1902:—

State.	Domestic Exports.		
	Total Value.	Proportion to Total.	Value per Inhabitant.
	£	per cent.	£ s. d.
New South Wales	17,140,316	24·1	12 3 6
Victoria	14,554,922	20·5	12 1 6
Queensland	8,732,058	12·3	16 19 2
South Australia	4,959,949	7·0	13 11 2
Western Australia	8,871,676	12·5	41 4 9
Tasmania	3,227,777	4·6	18 4 7
Commonwealth	57,486,698	81·0	14 15 10
New Zealand	13,498,599	19·0	16 14 2
Australasia	70,985,297	100·0	15 2 5

As the table shows, the largest values per inhabitant were returned by Western Australia and Tasmania, with £41 4s. 9d. and £18 4s. 7d. respectively per head of population. The growth of the domestic exports of Western Australia has been extremely rapid, the total value rising from £1,273,638 at the end of 1895 to £8,871,676 for the year 1902, an increase of over 596 per cent. Of course, this great expansion is in the main due to the export of gold, the value of the total export of the precious metal being returned at £3,318,958 in 1902 as against £879,748 in 1895. Tasmania also shows a large increase both in actual and comparative value of domestic export trade, the returns for 1902 showing a total value of £3,227,777, with £18 4s. 7d. per head of population, as against £1,473,283 and £9 0s. 3d. in 1896. The phenomenal mineral export of Tasmania for the year 1902, when the gross total reached the sum of £1,526,000, is chiefly accountable for the expansion, and, so far as can be seen, there is every prospect of this being sustained.

Placing the values of the external exports of domestic production of Australasia side by side with those of some of the more important countries of the world, a useful comparison is afforded, and from whatever standpoint the matter be viewed these states appear in a very favourable light. The following table shows the value of the domestic exports, exclusive of coin and bullion, of some of the principal countries of the world, the figures referring to the year 1901. The figures for Australasia only represent the external exports of domestic produce in

1902; in the preceding table the values include the domestic produce of each state consumed in the other provinces :—

Country.	Exports of Domestic Produce (exclusive of Coin and Bullion).	Value per Inhabitant.
United Kingdom	£283,424,000	£6 16 9
France	160,516,000	4 2 5
Germany	221,570,000	3 17 11
Austria-Hungary.....	78,561,000	1 13 7
Italy	54,978,000	1 7 8
Belgium	73,129,000	10 17 1
Canada	36,472,000	6 15 5
Argentine Republic	33,543,000	7 5 0
United States	304,263,000	3 19 9
Australasia	33,897,000	7 4 5

The extent to which the geographical position of a state enables it to benefit by the production of its neighbours is illustrated by the proportion which the non-domestic bear to the total exports. The following table shows the value of the total re-export trade and the proportion which it bears to the total export trade of each state in 1902; and it would appear that South Australia, New South Wales, and Victoria, in the order named, benefit largely by their position, the re-export trade of the other states being insignificant :—

State.	Total Re-exports.	Proportion to Total Exports.
New South Wales	£6,295,557	26·74 per cent.
Victoria	4,386,584	24·09 „
Queensland	438,965	4·79 „
South Australia	2,926,113	37·22 „
Western Australia	179,682	1·99 „
Tasmania	16,781	0·51 „
Commonwealth	£14,243,632	20 04 „
New Zealand	146,378	1·07 „
Australasia	£14,390,010	16·98 „

More than one-half of this re-export trade is external, the amount for the Commonwealth states being £8,500,459; as compared with £5,743,173 of interstate trade.

THE WOOL TRADE.

The following table shows the destination of the wool exported by the Commonwealth and New Zealand to countries outside Australasia, with the proportion of the total amount taken by each during the period 1881-1902 :—

Country.	Value.				Proportion.			
	1881.	1891.	1901.	1902.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£	£	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
United Kingdom.....	15,777,827	19,891,218	13,497,271	10,947,298	97·8	82·7	71·3	68·0
Belgium	96,557	1,453,755	1,146,349	924,447	0·6	6·0	6·0	5·8
Germany	53,809	782,676	1,852,053	1,755,053	0·3	3·3	9·8	10·9
France	26,965	1,386,768	2,003,197	2,133,975	0·2	5·8	10·6	13·2
United States	132,699	514,551	273,933	212,960	0·8	2·1	1·5	1·4
Other Countries....	48,725	34,259	147,460	128,807	0·3	0·1	0·8	0·7
Total	16,136,082	24,063,227	18,920,863	16,102,540	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

The total under the heading of "Other Countries" included for 1902 wool to the value of £55,367 sent to Italy, and £55,802 taken by Japan.

The table shows that, while the trade increased considerably during the period from 1881 to 1891, since the latter year there has been a heavy decline, the value of the external export in 1902 being slightly less than that of 1881. The decrease is accounted for by the series of unfavourable seasons experienced since 1891. In 1891, the sheep depastured in the Commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand numbered 124,548,000, but at the end of 1902, the total had fallen to 74,348,000; a decrease of over 50 millions. It will be observed that since 1881 the wool exported to the United Kingdom has decreased in value to the extent of £4,830,000, or from 97·8 to 68 per cent. France and Germany both show proportionate increases throughout the whole period, the proportion for France rising from 0·2 per cent. in 1881 to 13·3 per cent. in 1902, while the percentage for Germany rose from 0·3 per cent. in 1881 to 10·9 per cent. in 1902.

It is necessary to point out here that all the figures in the present chapter dealing with the export of wool are based on the Customs returns of the different states, and represent the values placed on the wool by the exporters. The figures relating to the value of the wool clip which are given in the chapter on the pastoral industry are less than those just given, the difference being made up in the cost of carriage and other charges from the sheep-runs to the ship's side.

The following table shows the total and proportionate value of the wool shipped direct to countries outside Australasia by each state :—

State.	Value.			Proportion.		
	1881.	1891.	1902.	1881.	1891.	1902.
	£	£	£	per cent	per cent	per cent
New South Wales..	4,485,295	7,917,587	6,704,424	27·8	32·9	41·6
Victoria..	5,327,934	7,070,661	3,458,548	33·0	29·4	21·5
Queensland	996,047	2,438,321	868,842	6·2	10·1	5·4
South Australia ...	1,747,696	1,888,107	1,059,146	10·8	7·8	6·6
Western Australia..	256,689	311,925	454,995	1·6	1·3	2·8
Tasmania	416,572	313,422	205,029	2·6	1·3	1·3
New Zealand	2,905,849	4,123,204	3,351,556	18·0	17·2	20·8
Australasia ...	16,136,082	24,063,227	16,102,540	100·0	100·0	100·0

It will be seen from the table just given that Victoria was credited in 1881 with exporting wool to a considerable value in excess of that of New South Wales. In 1891 and 1902, however, the positions were reversed. The change is mainly due to the extension of railways, especially noticeable in New South Wales, where some lines are expressly designed to bring trade to Sydney.

In connection with this subject, a statement of the value of wool of its own production which each state exports direct and by way of the other states may not be without interest. The figures, which are given below, relate to the year 1902 :—

State.	Domestic Wool Exported.			Proportion of Export of Australasia.
	Direct.	By way of the other states.	Total.	
	£	£	£	per cent.
New South Wales	6,370,531	936,279	7,306,810	45·4
Victoria	2,309,804	23,356	2,333,160	14·5
Queensland	868,842	435,358	1,304,200	8·1
South Australia	923,629	144,391	1,068,020	6·6
Western Australia	454,995	3,083	458,078	2·9
Tasmania	205,029	58,222	263,251	1·6
New Zealand	3,351,556	3,007	3,354,563	20·9
Australasia	14,484,386	1,603,696	16,088,082	100·0

In the table given on the preceding page the value of the direct export of wool is quoted at £16,102,540. The apparent discrepancy, however, is of no moment when it is remembered that about one-fifth of the clip of Australasia is subject to valuation first at the border of the state in which it is produced, and again at the port from which it is finally shipped to Europe or America. In the amount of £16,088,082 shown above is, besides, included the value of such wool as was exported during 1902 to one of the adjacent states, and there held over for the sales in January of the following year.

The following figures serve to illustrate the development of the local wool sales in those states where such sales are held, viz., in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and New Zealand, for the ten seasons from 1892-93 to 1902-1903. The seasons are taken as extending from the 1st July to the 30th June. The number of bales sold during each period shown was as follows:—

Season.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	New Zealand.	Total.
	bales.	bales.	bales.	bales.	bales.	bales.
1892-93	362,688	310,828	.....	54,285	85,505	813,306
1893-94	401,185	305,700	.....	65,000	82,547	854,432
1894-95	425,135	328,142	... ..	64,056	82,547	899,880
1895-96	415,538	315,543	.....	80,234	82,965	894,280
1896-97	401,048	310,835	.....	63,804	82,515	858,202
1897-98	444,808	286,625	.....	51,287	100,514	883,234
1898-99	447,517	278,482	10,925	60,531	90,806	888,261
1899-1900 ...	399,893	312,571	27,015	70,717	108,846	919,042
1900-1901 ...	388,946	273,641	13,453	42,637	90,235	808,912
1901-1902 ...	522,003	321,482	25,936	65,239	100,860	1,035,520
1902-1903 ...	383,506	270,107	14,754	60,782	115,553	844,702

The importance of the pastoral industry to Australasia will be made clear in another part of this volume. Its value to each state varies considerably, as the statement of the exports of pastoral produce on the next page will show. In no state, however, Western Australia and Tasmania excepted, does the proportion of exports of this class fall below one-fourth of the total value of domestic produce exported. In the case of New South Wales it reaches 62 per cent., while in New Zealand it is 56 per cent., and in Queensland 47 per cent. On account

of the unfavourable season in 1902 the proportion for Australasia was nearly 3 per cent. below that of the preceding year, but it is anticipated that the results for 1903 will show a considerable increase.

State.	Wool.	Other Pastoral Products.	Total.	Proportion of Exports of Pastoral Produce to Total Exports of Domestic Products.
	£	£	£	per cent.
New South Wales	7,306,810	3,385,817	10,692,627	62·0
Victoria.....	2,333,160	1,622,245	3,955,405	28·6
Queensland	1,304,200	2,771,419	4,075,619	46·7
South Australia	1,068,020	634,983	1,703,003	34·5
Western Australia	458,078	131,710	589,788	6·6
Tasmania	263,251	157,974	421,225	13·1
New Zealand	3,354,563	4,149,965	7,504,528	55·6
Australasia—				
All Domestic	16,088,082	12,854,113	28,942,195	41·1
External Domestic.	14,484,386	9,411,255	23,895,641	49·7

It will be observed that the figures given in this table are not those furnished by the various Customs Departments; they have been corrected in the manner already explained in order to allow for the incorrect information furnished by shippers in regard to the state of origin.

MOVEMENTS OF GOLD.

Since the discovery of gold in the year 1851 large quantities of the metal—in the form of coin as well as of bullion—have been exported from the Australasian states every year. In the figures given below, showing the excess of exports of gold of each state, no attempt has been made to exclude the interstate trade. The largest exporters, it will be found, are also the largest producers, namely, Victoria, New Zealand, and Queensland. The other states, except Western Australia, now produce very little more than what suffices to meet their

requirements. It will be understood, of course, that the production is considerably in excess of the exports shown hereunder :—

State.	1851-60.	1861-70.	1871-80.	1881-90.
	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	8,337,067	13,656,650	5,248,994	277,509
Victoria	86,342,134	62,609,042	37,222,632	23,106,371
Queensland .....	.....	1,768,575	9,430,137	11,540,245
South Australia	1,900,955	*395,633	*1,100,309	*673,548
Western Australia.....	.....	19,586	*38,000	*44,320
Tasmania	843,029	*34,255	165,040	872,754
Commonwealth	97,423,185	77,623,965	50,928,494	35,079,011
New Zealand.....	48,981	20,294,822	14,215,143	7,637,381
Total Excess of Exports...	97,472,166	97,918,787	65,143,637	42,716,392
Average per annum	9,747,217	9,791,879	6,514,364	4,271,639

State.	1891-1900.	1901.	1902.	1851-1902.
	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	7,478,424	381,055	*49,389	35,330,310
Victoria.....	21,903,262	3,104,911	2,945,511	237,233,863
Queensland	21,672,494	2,008,774	2,602,438	49,022,663
South Australia	1,206,945	33,286	145,822	1,117,518
Western Australia	19,266,987	6,749,717	7,451,487	33,405,457
Tasmania	1,599,258	192,164	*34,438	3,603,552
Commonwealth	73,127,370	12,469,907	13,061,431	359,713,363
New Zealand	9,433,361	1,324,141	1,609,114	54,562,943
Total Excess of Exports ...	82,560,731	13,794,048	14,670,545	414,276,306
Average per annum	8,256,073	13,794,048	14,670,545	7,966,852

* Excess of Imports.

DUTIABLE AND FREE GOODS.

Very interesting results are obtained from a classification of the imports for home consumption into dutiable and free goods. In this connection, however, the fact must not be lost sight of that under the terms of the Commonwealth Constitution Act, Western Australia may continue to levy duties on interstate imports, for a period of five years after the imposition of the federal tariff, subject to the following restrictions :—For the first year the duties to be at the rates in force in the state at the time when the uniform federal tariff was imposed ; for the second year at four-fifths of those rates ; for the third year, three-fifths ; for the fourth year, two-fifths ; and for the fifth year,

one-fifth; these special rates thereafter ceasing. During the same five years the state is also authorised to levy on goods imported from beyond the Commonwealth a rate equal to the excess of the Western Australian tariff over the Commonwealth tariff where such existed at the time the Commonwealth tariff was instituted, *i.e.*, the 8th October, 1901. Under this special tariff Western Australia collected in 1902 £265,185. The state levied duties on foreign goods valued at £379,956; and on Australian goods to the value of £1,304,266, both free under the federal tariff; and on stimulants to the value of £133,232. In addition, duties were collected on other goods to the value of £387,701, taxable under the federal tariff, but in regard to which the Western Australian rates were higher.

The following statement shows the dutiable and free imports into the Commonwealth from places outside its boundaries, together with the amount of duty collected, exclusive of sums collected under the special tariff of Western Australia. In addition to the non-dutiable goods shown, merchandise to the value of £16,798,122, the produce of Australia, passed from one state to another free of duty.

With respect to the information contained in the following statement, it must be understood that interstate adjustments have not been taken into consideration. Thus the values of goods entered for home consumption in New South Wales and Victoria are in excess of those actually ascribable to these states, the former being debited with about £39,300, and the latter with £174,600 in connection with imports which paid duty in these states, but which were consumed in other portions of the Commonwealth. Information as to the declared value of the goods in question is not available, and they have, therefore, been allowed to remain in the totals of the states into which they were originally imported both in this and the succeeding statements: the total for the Commonwealth is, of course, correct.

State.	Dutiable Goods.				Free Goods.	Total.
	Nar- cotics.	Stimu- lants.	Other Merchandise.	Total Dutiable.	Value.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	178,595	507,670	8,399,900	9,086,165	3,487,030	12,573,195
Victoria	120,527	321,534	7,322,403	7,764,464	4,320,860	12,085,324
Queensland	95,467	219,575	2,620,626	2,935,668	1,359,801	4,295,469
South Australia ...	47,340	91,071	1,830,595	1,969,006	757,959	2,726,965
Western Australia	101,982	247,155	3,727,157	4,076,294	988,855	5,065,149
Tasmania	33,341	44,011	815,806	893,158	540,717	1,433,875
Commonwealth ...	577,252	1,431,016	24,716,487	26,724,755	11,455,222	38,179,977

The duties collected, distributed under the foregoing headings, were as follows :—

State.]	Duties Collected on—			
	Narcotics.	Stimulants.	Other Merchandise.	* Total.
	£	£	£	£
New South Wales.....	271,265	845,416	1,649,196	2,765,877
Victoria	193,238	428,399	1,448,318	2,069,955
Queensland	155,224	305,896	523,945	985,065
South Australia	60,511	104,294	450,662	615,467
Western Australia	154,298	270,749	668,531	1,093,578
Tasmania	37,048	66,105	131,561	234,714
Commonwealth	871,584	2,020,859	4,872,213	7,764,656

* Excluding interstate adjustments.

A comparison of the amount of duty realised, with the value of the goods on which the taxes were imposed, gives the following results :—

	Value of Imports for Home Consumption.	Duty.	Average Rate of Duty.
	£	£	per cent.
Stimulants	1,431,016	2,020,859	141·2
Narcotics	577,252	871,584	151·0
Other dutiable goods.....	24,716,487	4,872,213	19·7
Free goods	11,455,222	.....	.....

As shown above the total value of British and foreign goods imported for home consumption into Australia during the year ending December, 1902, was £38,179,977. Excluding stimulants and narcotics the imports were £36,171,709, and as the duties collected were £4,872,213, the average rate of duty on merchandise, including free goods, was therefore 13·5 per cent.

Although the duties are uniform throughout the Commonwealth, the collections do not work out as equal percentages for all the states. This of course is only to be expected, seeing that the different states are unequal consumers of dutiable goods, while the proportion of free goods also varies. Excluding stimulants and narcotics, the following statement shows the percentage of free goods to total imports, together

with the average rate of duty on dutiable goods, as well as on all goods for each state of the Commonwealth.

State.	Percentage of Free to Total Imports.	Rate of Duty—	
		On Dutiable Merchandise.	On all Merchandise Free and Dutiable.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
New South Wales	29·3	19·6	13·9
Victoria	37·1	19·8	12·4
Queensland	34·2	20·0	13·2
South Australia	29·3	24·6	17·4
Western Australia	21·0	17·9	14·2
Tasmania	39·9	16·1	9·7
Commonwealth	31·7	19·7	13·5

The variations in the percentage of duty are capable of simple explanation. For South Australia it appears that the average *ad valorem* on dutiable goods is 24·6 per cent. as compared with 20 per cent. in Queensland. The latter state, however, is not an importer of foreign sugar, and consequently receives little or no duty on that article, whereas the collections from sugar alone raise the *ad valorem* percentage by 5·4, that is to say, under like conditions as in Queensland the South Australian duties would average 19·2 per cent. Tasmania collects very little duty on sugar, as most of that consumed in the state is grown in Queensland or New South Wales. On this account the Customs revenue of the state suffers to the extent of £33,800 a year, while if it obtained an equivalent amount of duty the Tasmanian collections would be raised to an *ad valorem* of 20·2 per cent. The variations in the percentage results for some of the other states are susceptible of analogous explanation.

It will be seen from the foregoing that, taking the Commonwealth as a whole, the percentage of free goods is 31·7 per cent. of all goods imported, excluding narcotics and stimulants. As the following table shows, this is somewhat lower than the free list obtaining in the states prior to the imposition of the uniform duties of Customs; in fact, the only state with a smaller free list than the Commonwealth was Tasmania. As regards the average burthen of duties, the Commonwealth tariff was lower than that of any of the states with the exception of Western Australia and New South Wales. For the year 1902 the average of the Commonwealth was 13·5 per cent. on all goods imported

other than narcotics and stimulants, and 19·7 per cent. *ad valorem* on dutiable goods. The averages for the six states separately for the year 1900 were as shown :—

State.	Free List— Proportion of Goods on.	Average Rate of Duty, <i>ad valorem</i> .	
		On Dutiable Goods, Merchandise.	On all Merchandise other than Narcotics and Stimulants.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
New South Wales	89·8	10·3	1·1
Victoria	53·4	36·2	17·0
Queensland	39·5	20·4	12·4
South Australia	35·7	21·8	14·0
Western Australia.....	37·1	14·8	9·3
Tasmania.....	9·0	24·2	22·0

The operation of the Commonwealth tariff affords an interesting study, and it will probably be found that the percentage of free goods to dutiable will gradually increase. There is already evidence of this, for the percentage of free goods in the first year of the tariff's operation was 26·6 per cent., and in the second year, 31·7 per cent.

It is impossible at the present time to determine, with any degree of definiteness, the effect which the tariff has had or is likely to have on the trade of the different states, but a measure of that effect may be obtained by comparing the volume of the trade before the imposition of uniform duties and subsequent thereto. The period shown in the following table is five years; but of these five years only one, viz., 1902, represents a full year under the Commonwealth tariff; 1901 was partly under Commonwealth tariff, partly under state tariffs. The preceding years were wholly under the state tariffs. It is also to be borne in mind that it has been claimed that there was considerable loading-up of goods in anticipation of the imposition of the federal tariff. It is, however, difficult to discover evidence of such loading-up in the trade returns of any of the states except New South Wales, and to a less extent in Victoria. In some of the states it is probable that the loading-up was purely imaginary, as the federal tariff as it now exists is on an average less in all the states, except New South Wales and Western Australia, than the tariff which existed prior to the 8th October, 1901.

It will be understood that the actual consumption is less than the net import in the distributing states, as goods imported into such states were distributed amongst the other states on interstate certificates, and

their import does not appear in the returns of the states where such goods were ultimately consumed.

State.	Gross Import.	Re-export.	Net Import.
1898.			
	£	£	£
New South Wales.....	12,732,527	911,059	11,821,468
Victoria	9,509,952	273,256	9,236,696
Queensland.....	3,274,940	24,921	3,250,019
South Australia.....	2,901,680	12,918	2,888,762
Western Australia.....	2,507,305	7,607	2,499,698
Tasmania.....	555,114	889	554,225
Total..... £	31,481,518	1,230,650	30,250,868
1899.			
New South Wales.....	14,725,878	1,063,472	13,662,406
Victoria	9,902,375	248,028	9,654,347
Queensland.....	3,816,546	27,750	3,788,796
South Australia.....	3,138,202	14,428	3,123,774
Western Australia	2,169,688	13,916	2,155,772
Tasmania.....	577,546	646	576,900
Total..... £	34,330,235	1,368,240	32,961,995
1900.			
New South Wales.....	17,396,991	1,082,376	16,314,615
Victoria	11,937,644	267,200	11,670,444
Queensland.....	4,116,834	49,948	4,066,886
South Australia.....	3,948,349	6,136	3,942,213
Western Australia.....	3,287,022	11,218	3,275,804
Tasmania.....	701,105	214	700,891
Total..... £	41,387,945	1,417,092	39,970,853
1901.			
New South Wales.....	17,560,207	900,321	16,659,886
Victoria	12,686,880	243,633	12,443,247
Queensland.....	3,515,667	38,628	3,477,039
South Australia.....	3,964,745	10,736	3,954,009
Western Australia.....	3,895,151	21,343	3,873,808
Tasmania.....	811,198	756	810,442
Total..... £	42,433,848	1,215,417	41,218,431
1902.			
New South Wales.....	15,024,535	1,996,694	13,027,841
Victoria	13,503,517	1,986,737	11,516,780
Queensland.....	4,902,052	183,531	4,718,521
South Australia.....	3,157,499	500,028	2,657,471
Western Australia.....	5,171,651	65,145	5,106,506
Tasmania.....	1,728,925	16,095	1,712,830
Total..... £	43,488,179	4,748,230	38,739,949

The following tables show the revenue received from Customs and Excise, the cost of collecting the duties, and the proportion which such cost bears to the total revenue received in each of the Commonwealth

states during the last six years. In the first table will be found the revenue from duties since 1898.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE COLLECTIONS.

Year.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	†Tasmania.	Commonwealth.
1898-9	1,608,859	2,234,442	1,504,968	629,229	867,520	427,963	7,272,981
1899-1900	1,736,377	2,267,131	1,602,985	645,074	933,717	448,120	7,633,404
*1900	939,336	1,202,191	787,695	337,371	500,845	490,916	4,258,354
+1901	1,019,008	1,356,099	710,830	351,953	491,371	+221,328	4,150,589
1901-2	2,812,731	2,376,525	1,297,662	698,647	1,335,614	||373,140	8,894,319
1902-3	3,478,742	2,499,014	1,261,066	689,727	1,395,997	||360,607	9,685,153

* Half year ended 31st December, except Tasmania. † Half year ended 30th June. ‡ Year ended 31st December previous. || Year ended 30th June.

In the following statement will be found the cost of collecting the Customs and Excise duties during each year of the period, together with the proportion which such cost bears to the total receipts in each state and in the Commonwealth.

Year.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	†Tasmania.	Commonwealth.
1898-9	53,774	66,290	58,104	26,418	29,734	8,423	242,743
1899-1900	54,241	68,782	59,608	26,712	28,765	8,851	246,959
*1900	26,995	35,147	31,814	15,277	17,261	9,732	136,226
+1901	29,318	32,915	28,056	11,742	15,377	+4,898	122,306
1901-2	65,318	65,454	64,911	27,012	32,256	||10,564	265,515
1902-3	73,324	67,175	67,284	26,583	35,201	||11,019	280,586

PERCENTAGE OF COST OF COLLECTION TO TOTAL RECEIPTS.

1898-9	3·3	3·0	3·8	4·2	3·4	2·0	3·3
1899-1900	3·1	3·0	3·7	4·1	3·1	2·0	3·2
*1900	2·9	2·9	4·0	4·5	3·4	2·0	3·2
+1901	2·9	2·4	3·9	3·3	3·1	+2·2	2·9
1901-2	2·3	2·8	5·0	3·9	2·4	||2·8	3·0
1902-3	2·1	2·7	5·3	3·9	2·5	||3·0	2·9

* Half year ended 31st December, except Tasmania. † Half year ended 30th June. ‡ Year ended 31st December previous. || Year ended 30th June.

It will be seen that under federal administration in the Commonwealth as a whole and in the various states, with the exception of Queensland and Tasmania, the cost of collection of the duties has greatly declined. The greatest proportional decrease has taken place in New South Wales, the percentage falling from 3·3 in 1898-9 to 2·1 in 1902-3.