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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS,  
CANBERRA.

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OFFICIAL

YEAR BOOK

OF THE

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

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No. 32.—1939.

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Prepared under Instructions from  
The Right Honorable the Treasurer,

BY

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## PREFACE.

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By the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Parliament of the Commonwealth is empowered "to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Commonwealth, with respect to Census and Statistics." In the exercise of the power so conferred, a "Census and Statistics Act" was passed in 1905, and in the year following, the "Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics" was created. The first Official Year Book was published early in 1908. The publication here presented is the thirty-second Official Year Book issued under the authority of the Commonwealth Government.

The synopsis on pp. viii to xxi immediately following shows the general arrangement of the work. The special index (following the usual general index) provided at the end of the volume, together with certain references given in the various Chapters, will assist in tracing in previous issues matter which, owing to limitations of space, has been omitted or is not printed fully in the present volume.

Economic and financial conditions during recent years have caused a demand for new information, or information expressed in new terms, concerning many matters of finance, trade, prices, production and population, and some progress has been made in the later volumes towards bringing closer to present day requirements the Chapters dealing with these branches of statistics, while a diary of the principal financial and economic events of more recent years is inserted after the last chapter.

In the present volume the section dealing with Municipal Government has been recast, and in Chapter XXVIII. "Miscellaneous" a new section has been added giving particulars of the total and per capita consumption in Australia of a number of principal commodities. Details of the arrangements made for the sale of Australian primary products during the war are inserted in the Appendix.

Later information which has come to hand since the various Chapters were sent to press has been incorporated in the Appendix (p. 957).

The material contained in each issue is always carefully examined, but it would be idle to hope that all error has been avoided. I shall be grateful to those who will be kind enough to point out defects or make suggestions.

My best thanks are due to the State Statisticians, who have collected and compiled the data on which the greater part of the information given in the Year Book is based. Thanks are also due to the responsible officers of the various Commonwealth and State Departments, and to others, who have kindly, and often at considerable trouble, supplied information; special mention should be made of the services of the Chief Draftsman of the Property and Survey Branch, Department of the Interior, who was responsible for the drawing of the graphs throughout this volume.

I wish to express my keen appreciation of the valuable work performed by Mr. J. Barry, the Editor of the Year Book, and of the services rendered by the officers in charge of the various branches of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, upon whom has devolved the duty of revising the Chapters relative to their respective branches.

ROLAND WILSON,  
Commonwealth Statistician.

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## STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Heading.		Year.						
		1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1931.	1938.
Population(a)	Males	1,247,059	1,736,617	2,004,836	2,382,232	2,799,462	3,332,577	3,504,369
	Females	1,059,677	1,504,368	1,820,077	2,191,554	2,711,532	3,220,029	3,425,322
	Persons	2,306,736	3,240,985	3,824,913	4,573,786	5,510,994	6,552,606	6,929,691
Births	No.	80,004	110,187	102,945	122,193	136,198	118,509	120,415
	Rate	35.26	34.47	27.16	27.21	24.95	18.16	17.46
Deaths	No.	33,327	47,430	46,330	47,869	54,076	56,560	66,451
	Rate	14.69	14.84	12.22	10.66	9.91	8.67	9.64
Marriages	No.	17,244	23,862	27,753	39,482	46,869	38,882	62,411
	Rate	7.66	7.47	7.32	8.79	8.59	5.96	9.05
		1881-82.	1891-92.	1901-02.	1911-12.	1921-22.	1931-32.	1937-38.
Agriculture--								
Wheat	Area, acs.	2,995,814	3,334,957	5,115,965	7,427,834	9,719,042	14,741,313	(f) 14,263,000
	Yld., bshl.	21,443,862	25,675,265	38,501,619	71,636,347	129,088,806	190,612,188	(f) 155,379,000
	Av., "	7.16	7.70	7.54	9.64	13.28	12.93	(f) 10.89
Oats	Area, acs.	194,816	246,129	461,430	616,794	733,406	1,085,489	1,408,422
	Yld., bshl.	4,795,897	5,726,256	9,789,854	9,561,833	12,147,433	15,194,680	17,165,061
	Av., "	24.62	23.27	21.22	15.50	16.59	14.00	12.19
Barley	Area, acs.	75,864	68,068	74,511	116,466	298,910	342,390	625,495
	Yld., bshl.	1,353,380	1,178,560	1,519,819	2,056,836	6,085,685	6,290,672	12,534,082
	Av., "	17.84	17.31	20.40	17.66	20.36	18.37	20.04
Maize	Area, acs.	165,777	284,428	294,849	340,065	305,186	269,448	320,207
	Yld., bshl.	5,726,266	9,261,922	7,034,786	8,939,855	7,840,438	7,062,383	6,816,612
	Av., "	34.54	32.56	23.86	26.29	25.69	26.21	21.29
Hay	Area, acs.	768,388	942,166	1,688,402	2,518,351	2,994,519	2,634,680	2,982,465
	Yld., tons	767,194	1,067,255	2,024,608	2,867,973	3,902,189	3,167,459	3,423,763
	Av., "	1.00	1.13	1.20	1.14	1.30	1.20	1.15
Potatoes(b)	Area, acs.	76,265	112,884	109,685	130,463	149,144	145,111	114,385
	Yld., tons	243,216	380,477	322,524	301,489	388,091	397,102	345,382
	Av., "	3.19	3.37	2.94	2.31	2.60	2.74	3.02
Sugar Cane(c)	Area, acs.	19,708	45,444	86,950	101,010	128,350	241,576	255,847
	Yld., tons	349,627	737,573	1,367,802	1,682,250	2,436,890	4,213,453	5,194,610
	Av., "	17.74	16.23	15.73	16.65	18.99	17.44	21.48
Vineyards	Area, acs.	14,569	48,882	63,677	66,602	92,414	112,961	125,171
	Wine, gal.	1,438,060	3,437,598	5,262,447	4,975,147	8,542,573	14,190,522	20,430,031
Total gross value all agricultural production		£ 15,519,000	16,988,000	23,835,000	38,774,000	81,890,000	74,489,000	93,229,000
Pastoral, dairying, etc.—								
Live Stock(a)	Sheep No.	65,092,719	106,421,068	72,040,211	96,886,234	86,119,068	110,618,893	(f) 110,050,578
	Cattle "	8,010,991	11,112,112	8,491,428	11,828,954	14,441,309	12,260,955	13,078,356
	Horses "	1,088,029	1,584,737	1,620,420	2,278,226	2,438,182	1,775,550	1,746,513
	Pigs "	703,188	845,888	931,309	1,110,721	960,385	1,167,845	1,100,082
Wool prod. lb. (greasy)		319,649,000	634,046,000	539,395,000	798,391,000	723,059,000	1,007,455,847	(f) 982,400,000
Butter production	lb.	(d)	42,314,585	103,747,295	212,073,745	267,071,340	390,654,070	(f) 456,120,000
Cheese production	"	(d)	10,130,945	11,845,153	15,886,712	32,653,003	31,422,973	56,606,842
Bacon and ham	"	(d)	16,771,886	34,020,629	53,335,092	58,626,469	71,121,740	70,340,190
Total gross value of pastoral and dairying production		£ 29,538,000	39,256,000	36,890,000	72,883,000	119,399,000	103,018,000	158,435,000
		1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1931.	1938.
Mineral production—								
Gold	£	5,194,390	5,281,861	1,017,538	10,551,624	4,018,685	3,563,519	14,026,615
Silver and lead	£	45,622	3,736,352	2,248,598	3,022,177	1,539,992	1,443,897	4,744,437
Copper	£	714,003	367,373	2,215,431	2,564,278	803,957	567,558	893,080
Tin	£	1,145,889	500,502	48,234	1,209,973	418,418	216,205	711,628
Zinc	£	200	2,979	4,067	1,415,169	283,455	512,795	916,905
Coal	£	637,865	1,912,353	2,602,733	3,927,360	11,014,831	6,355,246	7,539,622
Total value of all mineral production		£ 7,820,290	12,074,106	21,816,772	23,302,878	20,029,107	13,352,316	32,462,995
Forestry production—								
Quantity of local timber sawn or hewn—								
	1,000 sup. ft.	(d)	(d)	452,131	604,794	590,495	236,707	746,741

(a) At 31st December. (b) Partly estimated for 1881. (c) Area of productive cane. (d) Information not available. (e) Years ended December, except for last two columns which refer to years ended June. (f) 1938-39 figures.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA—continued.

Heading.	Year.						
	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921-22.	1931-32.	1938-39.
<b>Manufactories—</b>							(f) 26,395
No. of factories ..				14,455	18,023	21,657	559,160
Hands employed No.				311,710	378,540	336,658	(f)102,078,550
Wages paid .. £				27,528,377	68,050,861	55,931,818	(f)196,488,024
Value of production £				51,259,004	121,674,119	110,981,830	(f)498,779,141
Total value of output £				133,022,090	320,340,765	281,645,785	
<b>Shipping—</b>							
Oversea vessels of No. ent. & cleared (tons	3,284	3,778	4,028	4,174	3,111	3,057	3,814
	2,549,364	4,726,307	6,541,991	9,984,801	9,081,278	11,395,784	13,545,712
<b>Commerce—</b>							
Imports, oversea £	29,067,000	37,711,000	42,434,000	66,967,488	103,066,436	44,712,868	102,156,352
per head £	12/16/2	11/16/0	11/3/11	14/18/2	18/14/1	6/16/6	14/14/11
Exports oversea £	27,528,000	36,043,000	49,696,000	79,482,258	127,846,535	(b) 85,842,887	(b)122,201,372
per head £	12/2/8	11/5/6	13/2/2	17/13/10	23/4/1	13/1/11	16/3/11
Total oversea trade £	56,595,000	73,754,000	92,130,000	146,449,746	230,912,971	130,555,755	214,357,724
per head £	24/18/10	23/1/6	24/6/1	32/12/0	41/18/2	19/18/5	30/18/10
Customs " and Excise duties per head £	4,809,326	7,440,869	8,656,530	13,515,005	27,565,199	28,524,996	47,820,941
	2/2/5	2/6/7	2/5/8	2/19/2	5/0/1	4/7/1	6/17/6
<b>Principal Oversea Exports (c)—</b>							
Wool (greasy) lb.	328,369,200	619,259,800	518,018,100	720,364,900	927,833,700	893,644,148	946,960,391
£	13,173,026	19,940,029	15,237,454	26,071,193	47,977,044	32,102,246	42,629,461
Wheat cental	3,218,792	5,876,875	12,156,035	33,088,704	59,968,334	76,440,603	37,877,414
£	1,189,762	1,938,864	2,774,643	9,641,608	28,644,155	19,220,203	8,734,974
Flour tons	49,549	33,363	96,814	175,891	359,734	610,858	725,065
£	519,635	328,423	589,604	1,391,529	5,519,881	3,833,237	4,540,210
Butter lb.	1,298,800	4,239,500	34,607,400	101,722,100	127,347,400	201,639,494	229,542,779
£	39,383	206,868	1,451,168	4,637,362	7,968,078	10,230,002	12,891,837
Skins and hides £	316,878	873,695	1,250,938	3,227,236	3,136,810	2,175,594	4,094,754
Tallow .. £	644,149	571,069	677,745	1,935,836	1,441,795	831,415	483,034
Meats .. £	362,965	466,894	2,611,244	4,303,159	5,542,102	6,370,012	11,776,635
Timber (undressed) £	118,117	38,448	731,301	1,023,900	1,158,166	432,595	926,504
Gold £	6,445,365	5,703,532	14,315,741	12,045,766	3,483,239	12,694,786	17,953,292
Silver and lead £	57,954	1,932,278	2,250,253	3,212,584	2,697,130	2,902,056	5,794,006
Copper .. £	676,515	417,687	1,619,145	2,345,961	705,358	472,468	437,125
Coal .. £	361,081	645,972	986,957	900,622	1,099,899	341,800	347,054
<b>Govt. Railways—</b>							
Lgh. of line open, mls.	3,832	9,541	12,579	16,078	25,502	26,959	27,234
Capital cost .. £	42,741,350	99,764,090	123,223,779	152,194,603	244,353,233	323,365,450	317,253,832
Gross revenue .. £	3,910,122	8,654,085	11,038,468	17,847,837	38,194,630	37,579,965	44,779,965
Working expenses .. £	2,141,735	5,630,182	7,133,617	10,945,727	29,817,970	28,141,984	35,957,863
Per cent. on working expenses on earnings %	54.77	65.06	64.63	61.33	78.07	74.88	80.30
<b>Postal—</b>							
Letters and postcards dealt with No.	67,640,000	157,297,000	220,853,000	453,063,000	561,973,105	d 731,134,500	d/889,770,900
per head ..	29.61	49.07	58.26	100.90	107.01	111.62	(f) 129.62
Newspapers dealt with No.	38,063,000	85,280,000	102,727,000	141,638,000	140,477,184	139,502,100	(f)162,682,200
per head ..	16.66	26.61	27.10	31.54	25.50	21.30	(f) 23.70
<b>Cheque-paying Banks(e)—</b>							
Note circulation £	3,978,711	4,417,269	3,399,462	3,718,458	g 213,868	197,121	(k) 166,904
Coin & bullion held £	9,108,243	16,712,923	19,780,528	33,470,770	21,626,832	2,882,026	(k) 3,958,947
Advances .. £	57,732,824	129,741,583	86,352,832	108,578,774	193,435,760	260,917,515	k 337,380,965
Deposits .. £	53,849,455	98,345,338	91,487,148	143,446,910	273,866,737	319,241,333	k 399,632,628
<b>Savings Banks (j)—</b>							
Total deposits £	7,854,480	15,536,592	30,882,645	59,393,682	154,396,051	197,966,308	(l)244,866,213
Aver. per head of population £	3,10/5	4/18/7	8/3/0	13/8/5	28/0/4	30/1/11	(l) 35/1/11
				1921.	1931.	1937.	
<b>State Schools—</b>							
Number of Schools ..	4,494	6,231	7,012	8,060	9,445	10,097	10,205
Teachers .. No.	9,028	12,564	14,500	16,971	26,120	33,762	32,661
Enrolment ..	432,320	561,153	638,478	638,850	819,042	936,901	886,982
Aver. attendance ..	255,143	359,773	450,246	463,799	666,498	817,262	761,848

(a) Owing to variation in classification and lack of information, effective comparison is impossible.  
 (b) British currency values. The recorded values were—Exports, 1931-32, £A109,034,065; and 1938-39, £A140,496,312.  
 (c) Australian produce, except gold, which includes re-exports. (d) Includes packets.  
 (e) Figures for the first three years are averages for the December quarter; the remainder for the June quarter.  
 (f) 1937-38 figures. (g) Decrease due to prohibition of re-issue. (h) Includes Commonwealth Savings Bank Deposits. (i) Government "Set-off" accounts. Interstate (Commonwealth Bank) excluded. (j) First three years at 31st December, next three at 30th June. (k) Quarter ended December, 1939. (l) At 31st December, 1939.

# CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE.

## CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF CHIEF EVENTS SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SETTLEMENT IN AUSTRALIA.

NOTE.—The Government was centralized in Sydney, New South Wales, up to 1825, when Tasmania (Van Diemen's Land) was made a separate colony. In the Table, the names now borne by the States serve to indicate the localities.

### Year.

- 1788 N.S.W.—Arrival of "First Fleet" at Botany Bay. Land in vicinity being found unsuitable for settlement, the expedition moved to Sydney Cove. Formal proclamation of colony on 7th February. Branch Settlement established at Norfolk Island. French navigator Lapérouse visited Botany Bay. First cultivation of wheat and barley. First grape vines planted.
- 1789 N.S.W.—First wheat harvest at Parramatta, near Sydney. Discovery of Hawkesbury River.
- 1790 N.S.W.—"Second Fleet" reached Port Jackson. Landing of the New South Wales Corps.
- 1791 N.S.W.—Arrival of "Third Fleet." Territorial seal brought by Governor King.
- 1792 N.S.W.—Visit of *Philadelphia*, first foreign trading vessel.
- 1793 N.S.W.—First free immigrants arrived in the *Bellona*. First Australian church opened at Sydney. Tas.—D'Entrecasteaux discovered the Derwent River.
- 1794 N.S.W.—Establishment of settlement at Hawkesbury River.
- 1795 N.S.W.—Erection of the first printing press at Sydney. Descendants of strayed cattle discovered at Cowpastures, Nepean River.
- 1796 N.S.W.—First Australian theatre opened at Sydney. Coal discovered by fishermen at Newcastle.
- 1797 N.S.W.—Introduction of merino sheep from Cape of Good Hope.
- 1798 Tas.—Insularity of Tasmania proved by voyage of Bass and Flinders.
- 1800 N.S.W.—Hunter River coal mines worked. First Customs House in Australia established at Sydney. Flinders' charts published.
- 1801 N.S.W.—First colonial manufacture of blankets and linen.
- 1802 Vic.—Discovery of Port Phillip by Lieut. Murray. Q'land.—Discovery of Port Curtis and Port Bowen by Flinders. S.A.—Discovery of Spencer's and St. Vincent Gulfs by Flinders.
- 1803 N.S.W.—First Australian wool taken to England by Capt. Macarthur. Issue of "The Sydney Gazette," first Australian newspaper. Vic.—Attempted settlement at Port Phillip by Collins. Discovery of Yarra by Grimes. Tas.—First settlement formed at Risdon by Lieut. Bowen.
- 1804 N.S.W.—Insurrection of convicts at Castle Hill. Vic.—Abandonment of settlement at Port Phillip. Tas.—Foundation of settlement at Hobart by Collins, and at Yorktown by Colonel Paterson.
- 1805 N.S.W.—First extensive sheep farm established at Camden by Capt. Macarthur. Portion of settlers from Norfolk Island transferred to Tasmania.
- 1806 N.S.W.—Shortage of provisions. Tas.—Settlement at Launceston.
- 1807 N.S.W.—Final transfer of convicts from Norfolk Island. First shipment of merchantable wool (245 lb.) to England.
- 1808 N.S.W.—Deposition of Governor Bligh.
- 1809 N.S.W.—Isaac Nichols appointed to supervise delivery of oversea letters.
- 1810 N.S.W.—Post-office officially established at Sydney, Isaac Nichols first post-master. First race meeting in Australia at Hyde Park, Sydney. Tas.—First Tasmanian newspaper printed.
- 1813 N.S.W.—Passage across Blue Mountains discovered by Wentworth, Lawson and Blaxland. Macquarie River discovered by Evans.
- 1814 N.S.W.—Flinders suggested the name "Australia," instead of "New Holland." Creation of Civil Courts.

- Year.
- 1815 N.S.W.—First steam engine in Australia erected at Sydney. Lachlan River discovered by Evans. Tas.—Arrival of first immigrant ship with free settlers. First export of wheat to Sydney.
- 1816 N.S.W.—Botanic Garden formed at Sydney.
- 1817 N.S.W.—Oxley's first exploration inland. Discovery of Lakes George and Bathurst and the Goulburn Plains by Meehan and Hume. First bank in Australia—Bank of New South Wales—opened at Sydney.
- 1818 N.S.W.—Liverpool Plains, and the Peel, Hastings and Manning Rivers discovered by Oxley, and Port Essington by Captain King.
- 1819 N.S.W.—First Savings Bank in Australia opened at Sydney.
- 1820 Tas.—First importation of pure merino sheep.
- 1821 Tas.—Establishment of penal settlement at Macquarie Harbour.
- 1823 N.S.W.—New South Wales Judicature Act passed. Discovery of gold at Fish River by Assistant-Surveyor McBrien. Qld.—Brisbane River discovered by Oxley.
- 1824 N.S.W.—Constituted a Crown Colony. Executive Council formed. Establishment of Supreme Court at Sydney, and introduction of trial by jury. First Australian Enactment (Currency Bill) passed by the Legislative Council. Proclamation of freedom of the press. First manufacture of sugar. Vic.—Hume and Hovell, journeying overland from Sydney, arrived at Corio Bay. Qld.—Penal settlement founded at Moreton Bay (Brisbane). Fort Dundas Settlement formed at Melville Island, N. Terr.
- 1825 N.S.W.—Extension of western boundary to 129th meridian. Tas.—Separation of Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). Qld.—Major Lockyer explored Brisbane River to its source, and discovered coal.
- 1826 N.S.W.—Settlement in Illawarra District. Vic.—Settlement at Corinella, Western Port, formed by Captain Wright.
- 1827 N.S.W.—Colony became self-supporting. Qld.—Darling Downs and the Condamine River discovered by Allan Cunningham. W.A.—Military Settlement founded at King George's Sound by Major Lockyer. First official claim of British Sovereignty over all Australia.
- 1828 N.S.W.—Second constitution. First Census. Sturt's expedition down Darling River. Gas first used at Sydney. Richmond and Clarence Rivers discovered by Captain Rous. Vic.—Abandonment of settlement at Western Port. Qld.—Cunningham discovered a route from Brisbane to the Darling Downs, and explored Brisbane River.
- 1829 N.S.W.—Sturt's expedition down Murrumbidgee River. W.A.—Foundation of settlement at Swan River. Foundation of Perth.
- 1830 N.S.W.—Insurrection of convicts at Bathurst. Sturt, voyaging down Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers, arrived at Lake Alexandrina. Tas.—Trouble with natives. Black line organized to force aborigines into Tasman's Peninsula, but failed. Between 1830 and 1835, however, George Robinson, by friendly suasion, succeeded in gathering the small remnant of aborigines (203) into settlement on Flinders Island.
- 1831 N.S.W.—Crown lands first disposed of by public competition. Mitchell's explorations north of Liverpool Plains. Arrival at Sydney of first steamer, *Sophia Jane*, from England. SS. *Surprise*, first steamship built in Australia, launched at Sydney. First coal shipped from Australian Agricultural Company's workings at Newcastle, N.S.W. First assisted immigration to N.S.W. S.A.—Wakefield's first colonization committee. W.A.—Appointment of Executive and Legislative Councils.
- 1832 N.S.W.—State Savings Bank established.
- 1833 N.S.W.—First School of Arts established at Sydney.
- 1834 N.S.W.—First settlement at Twofold Bay. Vic.—Settlement formed at Portland Bay by Henty Bros. S.A.—Formation of the South Australian Association. W.A.—Severe reprisals against natives at Pinjarrah.

- Year.
- 1835 Vic.—John Batman arrived at Port Phillip; made treaty with the natives for 600,000 acres of land; claim afterwards disallowed by Imperial Government. Foundation of Melbourne.
- 1836 N.S.W.—Mitchell's overland journey from Sydney to Cape Northumberland. Vic.—Proclamation of Port Phillip district as open for settlement. S.A.—Settlement founded at Adelaide under Governor Hindmarsh.
- 1837 N.S.W.—Appointment in London of Select Committee on Transportation. Vic.—Melbourne named by Governor Bourke. First overlanders from Sydney arrived at Port Phillip.
- 1838 N.S.W.—Discontinuance of assignment of convicts. Qld.—Settlement of German missionaries at Brisbane. S.A.—“Overlanding” of cattle from Sydney to Adelaide along the Murray route by Hawden and Bonney. Settlement at Port Essington, Northern Territory, formed by Captain Bremer.
- 1839 N.S.W.—Gold found at Vale of Clwydd by Count Strzelecki. S.A.—Lake Torrens discovered by Eyre. Port Darwin discovered by Captain Stokes. W.A.—Murchison River discovered by Captain Grey.
- 1840 N.S.W.—Abolition of transportation to New South Wales. Land regulations—proceeds of sales to be applied to payment for public works and expenditure on immigration. Vic.—Determination of northern boundary. Qld.—Penal settlement broken up and Moreton Bay district thrown open. S.A.—Eyre began his overland journey from Adelaide to King George's Sound.
- 1841 N.S.W.—Gold found near Hartley by Rev. W. B. Clarke. W.A.—Completion of Eyre's overland journey from Adelaide to King George's Sound. Tas.—Renewal of transportation.
- 1842 N.S.W.—Incorporation of Sydney. Vic.—Incorporation of Melbourne. S.A.—Discovery of copper at Kapunda.
- 1843 N.S.W.—First Representative Constitution (under Act of 1842). First manufacture of tweed. Qld.—Moreton Bay granted legislative representation.
- 1844 Qld.—Leichhardt's expedition to Port Essington. S.A.—Sturt's last expedition inland.
- 1845 N.S.W.—Mitchell's explorations on the Barcoo. Qld.—Explorations by Mitchell and Kennedy. S.A.—Discovery of the Burra copper deposits. Sturt discovered Cooper's Creek.
- 1846 N.S.W.—Initiation of meat preserving. Qld.—Foundation of settlement at Port Curtis. S.A.—Proclamation of North Australia. W.A.—Foundation of New Norcia (Benedictine) Mission.
- 1847 N.S.W.—Iron smelting commenced near Berrima. Overland mail established between Sydney and Adelaide. Vic.—Melbourne created a City. Qld.—Explorations by Leichhardt, Burnett and Kennedy.
- 1848 Qld.—Leichhardt's last journey. Kennedy speared by the blacks at York Peninsula. Chinese brought in as shepherds.
- 1849 N.S.W.—Indignation of colonists at arrival of convict ship *Hashemy*. Exodus of population to goldfields of California. Vic.—*Randolph* prevented from landing convicts. Qld.—Assignment of convicts per *Hashemy* to squatters on Darling Downs. W.A.—Commencement of transportation to Western Australia.
- 1850 N.S.W.—Final abolition of transportation. First sod of first Australian railway turned at Sydney. Sydney University founded. Vic.—Gold discovered at Clunes by Hon. W. Campbell. Representative government granted. S.A.—Representative government granted. W.A.—Pearl oysters found by Lieut. Helpman at Saturday Island Shoal. Tas.—Representative government granted.

## Year.

- 1851 N.S.W.—Payable gold discovered by Hargraves at Lewis Ponds and Summerhill Creek. Telegraph first used. Vic.—Separation of Port Phillip—erected into independent colony under the name of Victoria. Discovery of gold in various localities. "Black Thursday," 6th Feb., a day of intense heat. W.A.—Proclamation of Legislative Council Act.
- 1852 N.S.W.—Arrival of the *Chusan*, first P. and O. mail steamer from England. S.A.—First steamer ascended the Murray River to the junction with the Darling. Tas.—Meeting of first elective Council protests against transportation. Payable gold discovered at The Nook, near Fingal, and at Nine Mile Springs.
- 1853 Tas.—Abolition of transportation. Vic.—Melbourne University founded.
- 1854 Vic.—Opening of first Victorian railway—Flinders-street to Port Melbourne. Riots on Ballarat gold-fields. Storming of the Eureka Stockade, 3rd Dec.
- 1855 N.S.W.—Opening of railway—Sydney to Parramatta. Mint opened.
- 1856 N.S.W.—Pitcairn Islanders placed on Norfolk Island. W.A.—A. C. Gregory's expedition in search of Leichhardt.  
Responsible Government in N.S.W., Vic., S.A. and Tas. (Act of 1855).
- 1857 N.S.W.—Wreck of the *Dunbar* (119 lives lost), and *Catherine Adamson* (21 lives lost), at Sydney Heads. Select Committee on Federation. Vic.—Manhood suffrage and vote by ballot. S.A.—Passage of Torrens' Real Property Act.
- 1858 N.S.W.—Establishment of manhood suffrage and vote by ballot. Telegraphic communication between Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. Qld.—Canoona gold rush.
- 1859 Qld.—Proclamation of Queensland as separate colony. Tas.—First submarine cable, via Circular Head and King Island to Cape Otway.
- 1860 Vic.—Burke and Wills left Melbourne and crossed to Gulf of Carpentaria. S.A.—Copper discoveries at Wallaroo and Moonta. McDouall Stuart reached centre of continent and named "Central Mount Stuart."
- 1861 N.S.W.—Anti-Chinese riots at Lambing Flat and Burrangong gold-fields. Opening of first tramway in Sydney. Regulation of Chinese immigration. Vic.—Burke and Wills perished at Cooper's Creek, near Innamincka, S.A.
- 1862 N.S.W.—Abolition of State aid to religion. Real Property Act. S.A.—Stuart crossed the Continent from south to north. W.A.—First export of pearl-shell.
- 1863 Vic.—Intercolonial Conference at Melbourne. S.A.—Northern Territory taken over. W.A.—Initiation of settlement in the North-west district. Henry Maxwell Lefroy discovered and traversed area now comprised in the Coolgardie-Kalgoorlie gold-field.
- 1864 Qld.—First railway begun and opened. First sugar made from Queensland cane. Tas.—First successful shipment of English salmon ova.
- 1865 N.S.W.—Destruction by fire of St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney.
- 1866 N.S.W.—Passage of Public Schools Act of (Sir) Henry Parkes. S.A.—Introduction of camels for exploration, etc.
- 1867 Vic.—Imposition of protective tariff. Qld.—Discovery of gold at Gympie.
- 1868 N.S.W.—Attempted assassination of the Duke of Edinburgh at Clontarf, near Sydney. W.A.—Arrival of the *Hougomont*, last convict ship. Tas.—First sod of first railway (Launceston and Western) turned by Duke of Edinburgh.
- 1869 W.A.—First telegraph line opened from Perth to Fremantle.
- 1870 N.S.W.—Intercolonial Exhibition opened at Sydney. Imperial troops withdrawn. Vic.—Intercolonial Congress at Melbourne. S.A.—Commencement of transcontinental telegraph.
- 1871 N.S.W.—Permanent military force raised. W.A.—Passage of Elementary Education Act. Forrest's explorations. Tas.—Discovery of tin at Mount Bischoff. Launceston-Western railway opened for traffic.
- 1872 N.S.W.—International Exhibition at Sydney. Vic.—Mint opened. S.A.—Cable from Java to Port Darwin. Completion of transcontinental telegraph line.

- Year.
- 1873 N.S.W.—Intercolonial Conference at Sydney. First volunteer encampment. Inauguration of mail service with San Francisco.
- 1874 N.S.W.—Triennial Parliaments Act passed. Intercolonial Conference. W.A.—John and Alexander Forrest arrived at Overland Telegraph from Murchison. S.A.—University of Adelaide founded.
- 1875 Qld.—Transfer of Port Albany Settlement to Thursday Island.
- 1876 N.S.W.—Completion of cable—Sydney (La Perouse) to Wellington (Wakapuaka). W.A.—Giles crossed colony from east to west. Tas.—Death of Truganini, last representative of Tasmanian aborigines.
- 1877 W.A.—Opening of telegraphic communication with South Australia.
- 1878 Qld.—Restriction of Chinese immigration.  
Introduction of telephone into Australia.
- 1879 N.S.W.—First artesian bore at Killara. International Exhibition at Garden Palace, Sydney. First steam tramway. W.A.—A. Forrest's explorations in the Kimberley district, and discovery of the Fitzroy pastoral country.
- 1880 N.S.W.—Public Instruction Act passed. Vic.—Opening of first Victorian International Exhibition at Melbourne. First Australian Telephone Exchange opened in Melbourne.  
Federal Conference at Melbourne and Sydney.
- 1881 N.S.W.—Further restrictions on Chinese immigration.  
Visit to Australia of T.R.H. Prince Albert Victor and Prince George.
- 1882 W.A.—Nugget of gold found between Roebourne and Cossack.
- 1883 N.S.W.—Discovery of silver at Broken Hill. Completion of railway between New South Wales and Victoria. Qld.—Annexation of New Guinea—repudiated by Imperial authorities.  
Federal Conference held at Sydney. Federal Council created.
- 1884 Federation Bill passed in Victoria and rejected in New South Wales. British protectorate declared over New Guinea.
- 1885 N.S.W.—Military contingent sent to the Sudan. Opening of the Broken Hill Proprietary Silver Mines. W.A.—Gold found by prospectors on the Margaret and Ord Rivers in the Kimberley district. Tas.—Silver-lead discovered at Mount Zeehan.
- 1886 Tas.—Discovery of gold and copper at Mount Lyell.  
First session of Federal Council met at Hobart on the 26th January.
- 1887 N.S.W.—Disaster at Bulli coal mine (81 lives lost). S.A.—International Exhibition at Adelaide. W.A.—Cyclone destroyed nearly the whole pearling fleet off the Ninety-Mile Beach—200 lives lost. Gold discovered at Southern Cross. First "Colonial" Conference in London. Australasian Naval Defence Force Act passed.
- 1888 N.S.W.—Centennial celebrations. Restrictive legislation against Chinese, imposing poll-tax of £100. Vic.—Second Victorian International Exhibition held at Melbourne. Qld.—Railway communication opened between Sydney and Brisbane.  
Conference of Australian Ministers at Sydney to consider question of Chinese immigration. First meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science held in Sydney.
- 1889 Qld.—Direct railway communication established between Brisbane and Adelaide. W.A.—Framing of new Constitution. Tas.—University of Tasmania founded.
- 1890 W.A.—Responsible Government granted.  
Meeting at Melbourne of Australasian Federation Conference.
- 1891 N.S.W.—Election to Legislative Assembly of 35 Labour members. Arrival of Australian Auxiliary Squadron. Cessation of assisted immigration. W.A.—Discovery of gold on the Murchison.  
First Federal Convention in Sydney; draft bill framed and adopted.
- 1892 W.A.—Discovery of gold by Messrs. Bayley and Ford at Coolgardie.

- Year.
- 1893 N.S.W.—Departure by the *Royal Tar* of colonists for “New Australia.”  
Financial crisis, chiefly affecting the eastern States.
- 1895 N.S.W.—Free-trade tariff. Land and income taxes introduced.  
Conference of Premiers on Federation at Hobart.
- 1896 N.S.W.—People’s Federal Convention at Bathurst.
- 1897–8 Sessions of Federal Convention at Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne.
- 1898 N.S.W.—First surplus of wheat for export.  
Draft Federal Constitution Bill submitted to electors in Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania. Requisite statutory number of votes not obtained in New South Wales.
- 1899 First contingent of Australian troops sent to South Africa. Conference of Premiers in Melbourne to consider amendments to Federal Constitution Bill. Referendum—Bill accepted by New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania. First Labour Government (Queensland).
- 1900 N.S.W.—Old-age pensions instituted.  
Contingents of naval troops sent to China. Commonwealth Constitution Act received Royal Assent, 9th July. Proclamation of Commonwealth signed, 17th September. Mr. (afterwards Sir) Edmund Barton formed first Federal Ministry.
- 1901 Vic.—Old-age pensions instituted.  
Proclamation of the Commonwealth at Sydney. First Federal Parliament opened at Melbourne by the Duke of Cornwall and York. Interstate free-trade established.
- 1902 N.S.W.—Disastrous explosion at Mount Kembla Colliery—95 lives lost. W.A.—Opening of pumping station at Northam in connexion with Gold-fields water supply. Completion of Pacific Cable (all-British). First Federal Tariff.
- 1903 W.A.—Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie Water Supply Scheme completed.  
Inauguration of the Federal High Court.
- 1905 N.S.W.—Re-introduction of assisted immigration.
- 1906 Wireless telegraphy installed between Queenscliff, Vic., and Devonport, Tas.  
Papua taken over by Commonwealth.
- 1907 N.S.W.—Telephone, Sydney to Melbourne, opened. First telephone trunk line service between Capital Cities, i.e., Sydney and Melbourne.  
Imperial Conference in London.
- 1908 Canberra chosen as site of Australian Capital. Visit of U.S.A. fleet to Australia.
- 1909 Imperial Defence Conference in London—Commonwealth ordered two destroyers and one first-class cruiser for fleet unit. Visit of Lord Kitchener to report and advise on Commonwealth military defence. Queensland University founded.
- 1910 Referendum on financial relations between the Commonwealth and the States.  
Penny Postage. Arrival of the *Yarra* and *Paramatta*, first vessels built for the Royal Australian Navy. Australian Notes Act passed and first Commonwealth notes issued. Admiral Sir R. Henderson visited Australia to advise on naval defence.
- 1911 First Federal Census. Transfer of Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory to Commonwealth. Introduction of compulsory military training. Establishment of penny postage to all parts of British Empire. University of Western Australia founded.
- 1912 Opening of Commonwealth Bank. First payments of Maternity Bonus. First sod turned at Port Augusta of Trans-Australian Railway (Port Augusta to Kalgoorlie).
- 1913 Australian Capital named Canberra and foundation stone laid. Appointment of Interstate Commission.

- Year.  
1914 Visit of General Sir Ian Hamilton to report on military defence scheme. Double dissolution of Federal Parliament. Visit of British Association for the Advancement of Science. Transfer of Norfolk Island to Commonwealth.  
European War declared 4th August. Australian Navy transferred to British Navy. Australian offer to equip and furnish 20,000 troops accepted. German possessions in South-West Pacific seized by Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force. German cruiser *Emden* destroyed by H.M.A.S. *Sydney* at Cocos Islands, 9th November. First contingent landed in Egypt. Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (A.N.Z.A.C.) formed under Sir William Birdwood.
- 1915 Opening of Broken Hill Proprietary's Ironworks at Newcastle, N.S.W. Navy Department created.  
Australian and New Zealand troops landed at Gallipoli, 25th April. Battle of Sari Bair (Lone Pine), 6th-10th August. Evacuation, 18th-20th December. Australian warships with Grand Fleet, in Atlantic, Malaysia, and elsewhere overseas during remainder of war.
- 1916 Purchase of steamships by the Commonwealth.  
Australian and New Zealand mounted troops organized in mounted divisions and camel corps, operating thereafter in Egypt, Palestine and Syria. Battle of Romani, 4th August. Other troops with reinforcements organized as four infantry divisions (1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th) with some other units, and transferred to France. Fromelles, 19th July; the Somme, 1st July-18th November (Poizieres, Mouquet Farm, Flers). 3rd Division, formed in Australia, landed in France. First proposal for compulsory military service defeated by referendum.
- 1917 National Ministry formed. Kalgoorlie-Port Augusta railway completed.  
German withdrawal from Somme; Arras offensive (Bullecourt, 11th April and 3rd May); Messines, 7th June; Third Battle of Ypres, 1st July-10th November (Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Broodseinde, Passchendaele). Palestine-Gaza, 26th March, 19th April, 31st October (Beersheba). Australian Flying Corps operating with R.F.C. in Palestine and France. Second proposal for compulsory military service defeated by referendum.
- 1918 Population of Australia reached 5,000,000. Australia House (Strand, London) opened by the King.  
Five Australian divisions in France formed into army corps, 1st January. Sir William Birdwood succeeded by Sir John Monash, 30th May. Defensive campaign on Somme, 21st March-25th April (Dernancourt, Villers-Bretonneux); Battles of the Lys, 9th-29th April (Hazebrouck); Hamel, 4th July; Battle of Amiens, 8th August; Mont St. Quentin, 31st August; Hindenburg Line, 18th September-5th October. Palestine-Megiddo, 19th September; Damascus, 1st October. Armistice with Germany, 11th November. Repatriation Department created.
- 1919 Mr. Hughes and Mr. Cook represented Australia at Peace Conference. Return of Australian troops. Aerial flight England to Australia by Capt. Sir Ross Smith and Lieut. Sir Keith Smith. Peace Treaty signed at Versailles, 28th June.
- 1920 Visit to Australia of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. Wholesale prices reached a point more than double the 1914 level.
- 1921 Second Commonwealth Census. Germany's indemnity fixed (Australia's share approximately £63,000,000). Mandate given to Australia over Territory of New Guinea. First direct wireless press message, England to Australia.
- 1922 First lock on River Murray opened at Blanchetown, South Australia. Queensland Legislative Council abolished.
- 1923 First sod turned on the site of Federal Parliament House at Canberra.

- Year.
- 1924 Visit of British cruiser squadron. Directorate of Commonwealth Bank appointed. Australian Loan Council formed.
- 1925 Visit of American fleet. Solar Observatory established at Canberra. Brisbane-Grafton railway joining Sydney and Brisbane by uniform gauge was commenced. Sydney Harbour Bridge commenced.
- 1926 Population of Australia reached 6,000,000. Council for Scientific and Industrial Research established. Imperial Conference. Dominion Status defined.
- 1927 Transfer of Seat of Federal Government from Melbourne to Canberra. New Parliament House opened by H.R.H. the Duke of York. Beam Wireless established.
- 1928 Visit of British Economic Mission to report on the development of Australian resources. Financial agreement of Commonwealth and States; Loan Council reconstituted; State debts to be taken over; Referendum carried, November.
- 1929 Beginning of fall in export prices. Commonwealth Bank empowered to mobilize gold reserves. Substantial export of gold reserves towards end of year.
- 1930 Wireless phone service with other countries inaugurated. Export prices fell to half 1928 level. Cessation of oversea loans. Tariff embargoes and rationing of imports. Visit of Sir Otto Niemeyer, of Bank of England, to discuss financial questions. Heavy export of gold reserves. Exchange Pool formed. £28,000,000 Conversion Loan fully subscribed. Gold bonus granted. Government deficits total nearly £11,000,000. First Australian—Right Hon. Sir Isaac Alfred Isaacs, G.C.M.G., Chief Justice of the High Court—appointed Governor-General of Australia. Telephone trunk line service established between Adelaide and Perth linking up the whole of the mainland States by telephone.
- 1931 Depression continues; Australia substantially off gold standard with exchange rate at 130 in January; 10 per cent. cut in Federal basic wage. First experimental air mail England to Australia and return. New South Wales Savings Bank suspension and subsequent absorption by Commonwealth Bank. Postponement of sinking fund payments on war debt to British Government for two years. Initiation of Premiers' Conference plan to meet the financial situation. Commonwealth Bank Act amended to provide for temporary lower reserve against notes; substantial export of gold reserves. Hoover Moratorium on War Debts. England departs from gold standard in September; depreciation of Australian £1 on Sterling continued. Wheat bounty granted. Commonwealth Bank assumed control of exchange rate and lowered it to 125. Government deficits total £25,370,000, 1930-31.
- 1932 Sydney Harbour Bridge opened. Australian Broadcasting Commission established. New South Wales Government default in interest payments made good by Commonwealth Government; conflict of Commonwealth and New South Wales governments. Lang Ministry dismissed in New South Wales. Emergency restrictions on imports relaxed. Legislation passed enabling note reserve to be held in sterling securities, and subsequent shipping of gold to the United Kingdom. Imperial Economic Conference at Ottawa, with consequential tariff agreements. Sugar Agreement modified. Taxation reductions and assistance to wheat-growers. Government deficits reduced to £19,500,000 for 1931-32.
- 1933 Third Commonwealth Census. Imperial Air-mail "Astraea" arrived. World Economic Conference in London. Australia elected as Member of League of Nations. Secession Referendum (Western Australia). Referendum for reduction and limitation of number of members of Legislative Council (New South Wales). Disarmament Conference in London. Record wheat harvest (213,927,000 bushels). Antarctica and Ashmore and Cartier Islands taken over by the Commonwealth. Government deficits reduced to £4,500,000 for 1932-33.

## Year.

- 1934 Visit of H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester to open Victorian Centenary Celebrations. Goodwill Mission to the East—Leader Rt. Hon. J. G. Latham. New Governors in Victoria and South Australia. Record flight from England to Australia by Messrs. Scott and Black (Centenary Air Race) in 71 hours. Inauguration of England—Australia Air Mail Service.
- 1935 Silver Jubilee of His Majesty King George V. Visit to London for Jubilee Celebrations of the Rt. Hon. J. A. Lyons, Prime Minister. Empire Statistical Conference at Ottawa. Japanese Goodwill Mission to Australia. Meeting of the British Medical Association for the first time in Australia.
- 1936 Death of His Majesty King George V. South Australian Centenary. Trade dispute with Japan. Rise in wheat prices. Joint Commonwealth and State Marketing Schemes invalidated by decision of the Privy Council in the James case. Visit of British experts—Sir Walter Kinnear and Mr. G. H. Ince—to advise on national insurance. Abdication of King Edward VIII.
- 1937 Referendum on Commonwealth control of aviation and marketing defeated on both counts. Coronation of King George VI. Imperial conference in London. New Education Fellowship Conference held in all States. Commonwealth basic wage increased by 5s. per week. Report of the Royal Commission on Monetary and Banking Systems in Australia. Epidemic of Infantile Paralysis mainly in Victoria and Tasmania.
- 1938 New South Wales Sesqui-Centenary Celebrations. Australian Trade Delegation to review Ottawa Agreement. Resumption of nominated assisted migration. New Defence Programme involving expenditure of £63,000,000 over three years; militia forces to be raised to 70,000. New Trade Treaty with Japan.
- 1939 Death of the Rt. Hon. J. A. Lyons, Prime Minister of Australia. National Register of man-power. European war. Australia participating in vast Empire Air Training Scheme. Compulsory military training re-introduced for home defence. Special volunteer force of 20,000 men enlisted and trained for service overseas. Purchase by the British Government of the Australian wool clip and the export surplus of butter, cheese, eggs, meat, sugar, lead, zinc and copper.