

INTERCHANGE.

COMMERCE.

Customs and Excise. By the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act (section 51) the power to make laws with respect to trade and commerce with other countries and among the States was conferred on the Federal Parliament, and by the same Act (section 86) the collection and control of duties of Customs and Excise passed to the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on 1st January, 1901. The first Commonwealth Customs Tariff was assented to on 16th September, 1902, and was made retrospective to 8th October, 1901. Since then various amendments have been made. The present Tariff was assented to on 16th December, 1921, but it has been operative as from 25th March, 1920. It contains three scales of duties—British Preferential, Intermediate, and General. The first relates to goods which are the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom, but its provisions may be applied wholly or in part to any of the British Dominions. The Intermediate Tariff may be applied to any part of the British Dominions, or to any foreign country.

Recorded Value of Imports and Exports. The recorded value of goods imported represents the amount on which duty is payable or would be payable if the duty were charged *ad valorem*. The value of goods is taken to be the fair market value in the principal markets of the country whence the goods were exported, plus 10 per cent. to cover the cost of insurance, freight and other charges. The value of goods exported is the value in the principal markets of the State.

The total values and the values per head of population of imports from and exports to oversea countries for the ten and a half years 1913 to 1922-23 are set forth hereunder:—

VALUE OF OVERSEA IMPORTS AND EXPORTS,
1913 TO 1922-23.

Year.	Merchandise.	Specie and Bullion.*	Total.	Per Head of Population.
IMPORTS (OVERSEA).				
	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1913	23,940,233	446,840	24,387,073	17 9 5
1914 (first six months) ..	12,518,720	200,074	12,718,794	8 18 2
1914-15	20,657,539	392,771	21,050,310	14 15 5
1915-16	26,485,281	276,641	26,761,922	18 15 9
1916-17	25,427,527	47,312	25,474,839	18 2 8
1917-18	20,669,696	443,892	21,113,588	14 18 0
1918-19	35,026,311	..	35,026,311	24 7 4
1919-20	33,785,847	2,440	33,788,287	22 9 6
1920-21	57,607,798	979	57,608,777	37 14 0
1921-22	36,343,061	8,995	36,352,056	23 8 10
1922-23†	46,603,518	4,721	46,608,239	29 6 2
EXPORTS (OVERSEA).				
- 1913	17,168,918	668,673	17,837,591	12 15 7
1914 (first six months) ..	8,889,560	105,138	8,994,698	6 6 0
1914-15	11,883,465	466,197	12,349,662	8 12 1
1915-16	14,418,652	330,078	14,748,730	10 7 1
1916-17	19,024,830	5,316	19,030,146	13 10 11
1917-18	18,715,252	2,001,436	20,716,688	14 12 4
1918-19	27,823,980	271,179	28,095,159	19 10 11
1919-20	42,117,153	1,007,787	43,124,940	28 13 9
1920-21	34,868,871	3,090	34,871,961	22 16 5
1921-22	34,633,478	10,704	34,644,182	22 6 10
1922-23†	33,766,820	1,835	33,768,655	21 4 8

* Includes gold, silver, and bronze specie, and gold and silver bullion.

† The figures for this year are subject to slight revision.

The aggregate trade of the year 1923 (£80,376,894) represents an increase in imports of £10,256,183, and a decrease in exports of £875,527, as compared with the totals of the preceding year.

Percentage
of Common-
wealth Trade.

Victoria's portion of the value of Commonwealth trade for each of the last ten and a-half years is shown in the table which follows :—

Year.	Commonwealth Trade—			Victoria's Portion of Commonwealth Trade—		
	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£	%	%	%
1913 ..	79,749,653	78,571,769	158,321,422	30·6	22·7	26·7
1914 (6 months)	39,777,497	37,930,087	77,707,584	32·0	23·7	27·9
1914-15 ..	64,431,837	60,592,576	125,024,413	32·7	20·4	26·7
1915-16 ..	77,744,566	74,778,321	152,522,887	34·4	19·7	27·2
1916-17 ..	76,228,679	97,955,482	174,184,161	33·4	19·4	25·6
1917-18 ..	62,334,449	81,429,221	143,763,670	33·9	25·4	29·1
1918-19 ..	102,335,159	113,963,976	216,299,135	34·2	24·7	29·2
1919-20 ..	98,974,292	149,823,509	248,797,801	34·1	28·8	30·9
1920-21 ..	163,801,826	132,158,912	295,960,738	35·2	26·4	31·2
1921-22 ..	103,066,436	127,846,535	230,912,971	35·3	27·1	30·7
1922-23* ..	131,808,673	117,855,937	249,664,610	35·4	28·7	32·2

* The figures for this year are subject to slight revision.

Principal
Imports.

The principal articles imported from overseas countries into Victoria during each of the last four years are shown below in the order in which they appear in the statistical classification. The number of divisions in this classification has been reduced from 23 to 21 since 1st July, 1922.

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES INTO VICTORIA DURING THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1919-20 TO 1922-23.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
CLASS I.—FOODSTUFFS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN, BUT EXCLUDING LIVING ANIMALS.	£	£	£	£
Fish—				
Preserved in Tins ..	190,498	191,304	290,308	256,514
All other	46,952	69,114	82,076	80,602
Meats	65,804	94,671	90,957	111,529
Milk and Cream	34,014	9,248	2,681	3,873
All other Animal Foodstuffs ..	7,452	11,893	25,974	172,601
Total, Class I. . . .	344,720	376,230	491,996	625,119

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1919-20 TO 1922-23—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
CLASS II.—FOODSTUFFS OF VEGETABLE ORIGIN; NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND SUBSTANCES USED IN MAKING.	£	£	£	£
Caramel, Caramel Paste, &c. ..	45,700	58,756	109,101	2,236
Cocoa and Chocolate ..	324,750	209,590	94,236	218,781
Coffee and Chicory ..	66,847	34,106	43,863	53,081
Confectionery ..	4,280	16,527	6,156	17,702
Fruits, Dried ..	57,881	45,734	36,320	55,157
Fruits, Fresh ..	33,197	64,581	3,379	2,523
Fruits &c., Preserved ..	6,339	7,193	7,013	17,509
Grain and Pulse—				
Rice ..	214,593	81,246	165,037	46,749
All other ..	53,121	44,759	16,601	75,951
Hops ..	9,941	85,499	21,671	17,796
Mustard ..	23,575	38,375	21,106	23,048
Nuts, Edible ..	127,303	66,120	123,020	126,778
Pickles and Sauces ..	13,582	14,385	8,853	12,899
Sago and Tapioca ..	43,502	30,968	30,024	32,431
Spices ..	92,497	59,843	57,020	59,013
Sugar (Cane) ..	2,216,281	2,163,097	9,008	23,565
Tea ..	1,337,626	486,640	643,115	903,814
All other Vegetable Foodstuffs	106,726	106,294	59,748	71,683
Total, Class II. ..	4,777,741	3,613,713	1,455,271	1,765,716
CLASS III.—SPIRITUOUS AND ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS.				
Ale, Beer, and Porter, &c. ..	28,167	39,201	52,859	62,088
Spirits (Beverages)—				
Brandy ..	50,205	97,646	43,846	42,669
Gin ..	43,526	44,025	26,521	34,039
Whisky ..	136,231	219,203	160,390	251,411
Other ..	7,908	15,501	7,845	12,677
Wine (Fermented)—				
Sparkling ..	46,966	43,000	7,957	12,843
Other ..	20,450	13,377	4,458	8,635
Total, Class III. ..	333,453	471,953	303,876	424,362
CLASS IV.—TOBACCO AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF.				
Tobacco—				
Manufactured ..	22,980	16,967	79,760	17,604
Unmanufactured ..	621,484	851,998	672,444	613,146
Cigars ..	26,692	33,780	19,193	28,739
Cigarettes ..	34,074	34,442	27,435	46,943
Snuff ..	717	783	316	285
Total, Class IV. ..	705,947	937,970	799,148	706,717

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1919-20 TO 1922-23—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	£	£	£	£
CLASS V.—LIVE ANIMALS ..	16,627	14,975	20,213	28,521
CLASS VI.—ANIMAL SUBSTANCES (MAINLY UNMANUFACTURED), NOT FOODSTUFFS.				
Gelatine and Glue of all kinds	14,415	16,440	14,094	21,422
Skins—				
Hides (Calf, Cattle, and Horse)	251,871	322,541	310,214	330,322
Other	134,799	56,546	85,400	78,519
All other Animal Substances ..	17,733	17,103	20,377	86,346
Total, Class VI. ..	418,818	412,630	430,085	516,609
CLASS VII.—VEGETABLE SUB- STANCES AND FIBRES.				
Bark, Tanning	10,009	11,920	9,435	21,104
Fibres—				
Flax and Hemp	252,071	332,004	220,106	147,470
All other	191,780	138,696	146,217	212,167
Gums and Resins	140,097	133,525	77,648	105,011
Grass or Straw, for hatmaking, furniture, mats, &c. ..	115,483	95,033	50,124	81,567
Pulp for Papermaking ..	12,474	39,262	39,310	38,140
All other Vegetable Substances	136,441	158,776	77,547	143,203
Total, Class VII. ..	858,355	909,216	620,387	748,662
CLASS VIII.—(a) APPAREL; (b) TEXTILES; (c) MANUFACTURED FIBRES.				
(a) <i>Apparel.</i>				
Apparel—				
Blouses, Skirts, Costumes, &c.	70,072	62,877	61,206	104,235
Boots and Shoes	75,296	106,277	47,552	136,357
Hats and Caps	89,900	119,401	98,925	177,201
Hosiery and Knitted Apparel (including Socks and Stock- ings)	495,495	1,221,552	598,671	913,258
Men's and Boys' Outer Garments	35,567	49,590	4,694	31,301
Shirts, Collars, Ties, &c. ..	45,709	69,373	33,299	62,783
Trimmings	301,618	602,417	541,629	603,745
Other	666,539	1,227,795	881,994	1,132,076

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1919-20 TO 1922-23—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
CLASS VIII.—(a) APPAREL; (b) TEXTILES; (c) MANUFACTURED FIBRES— <i>continued.</i>	£	£	£	£
(b) <i>Textiles.</i>				
Piece Goods—				
Canvas and Duck	702,531	1,199,172	295,190	512,699
Cotton and Linen	2,715,458	5,587,223	3,538,400	4,705,743
Silk	1,203,439	1,472,941	1,696,906	1,643,684
Woollen	1,505,458	2,538,405	1,355,607	2,033,674
Other	974,386	1,542,409	972,949	1,005,686
Floor Coverings—Carpets, Linoleums, Mats, &c.	315,776	817,248	689,525	1,100,722
Sewing and Embroidery Silks, &c.	292,910	575,423	386,165	554,057
All other Textiles	219,897	322,052	265,235	509,283
(c) <i>Manufactured Fibres.</i>				
Bags and Sacks—				
Bran, Chaff, and Compressed Fodder	340,810	494,716	124,060	250,818
Corn and Flour	225,819	1,634,633	715,129	583,118
All other	113,021	89,282	74,341	120,084
Cordage and Twines (excluding Metal Cordage)	50,388	64,913	41,594	58,378
Yarns—				
Cotton	72,537	199,853	162,231	193,643
Wool	445,660	971,471	583,121	1,002,516
Other	30,582	149,691	78,006	153,299
Total, Class VIII.	10,988,868	21,118,714	13,246,429	17,588,360
CLASS IX.—OILS, FATS, AND WAXES.				
Oils (in bulk)—				
Kerosene	211,879	438,578	195,544	223,840
Lubricating (Mineral)	108,355	485,579	160,488	216,670
Petroleum Spirit	705,750	1,103,800	1,027,802	1,076,118
All other Oils, Fats, and Waxes	437,603	524,474	261,418	386,171
Total, Class IX.	1,463,587	2,552,431	1,645,252	1,902,799
CLASS X.—PAINTS AND VARNISHES	160,656	206,954	150,382	227,938
CLASS XI.—STONES AND MINERALS, INCLUDING ORES AND CONCENTRATES	34,292	53,896	38,180	122,083

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1919-20 TO 1922-23—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	£	£	£	£
CLASS XII.—METALS, METAL MANUFACTURES, AND MACHINERY.				
<i>(a) Machines and Machinery.</i>				
Electrical Machinery and Appliances—				
Cable and Wire, Covered..	249,079	469,397	344,501	436,983
N.E.I.	605,267	1,384,775	1,403,718	1,574,304
Implements and Machinery (Agricultural, Horticultural, and Viticultural)	138,531	376,483	170,574	179,182
All other Machines and Machinery	995,976	2,289,867	1,783,789	2,059,790
<i>(b) Metals and Metal Manufactures, other than Machinery.</i>				
Alloys	13,918	32,216	33,154	125,388
Gas Appliances	21,681	29,779	14,462	16,308
Iron and Steel—				
Bar, Rod, Hoop, Ingots, Blooms, &c.	199,798	471,109	389,858	511,651
Girders, Beams, Channels, Joists, &c.	80,764	181,654	84,625	107,333
Pig and Scrap	7,144	14,999	49,853	106,892
Pipes and Tubes	280,040	656,014	192,276	371,931
Plate and Sheet	1,491,771	2,905,383	855,287	1,473,913
Rails, Fishplates, &c. ..	1,193	1,966	10,691	138,278
Tools of Trade (not being Machines)	232,523	408,597	214,867	280,275
Vehicles—				
Motor Cycles, Tricycles, &c.	95,733	60,807	47,254	118,091
Bodies for Motor Cars, &c.	41,901	27,501	26,870	143,912
Chassis for Motor Cars, &c.	667,633	1,198,808	986,408	2,012,257
Other, and Parts	412,511	493,599	300,685	471,381
Wire—Iron and Steel	306,445	496,391	222,280	326,699
All other Metals and Metal Manufactures other than Machinery	1,169,114	2,382,546	1,602,401	1,881,084
Total, Class XII. ..	7,011,022	13,881,891	8,733,553	12,335,652

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1919-20 TO 1922-23—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	£	£	£	£
CLASS XIII. — RUBBER AND LEATHER AND MANUFACTURES THEREOF AND SUBSTITUTES THEREFOR.				
<i>(a) Rubber and Rubber Manufactures.</i>				
Rubber, Crude, Powdered or Reclaimed	138,158	412,409	130,931	127,365
Rubber Manufactures	307,700	523,033	298,772	509,851
<i>(b) Leather and Manufactures of Leather and Substitutes therefor.</i>				
Patent and Enamelled	221,874	255,526	53,217	129,498
All other	156,536	190,523	164,836	186,487
Total, Class XIII.	824,268	1,381,491	647,756	953,201
CLASS XIV.—WOOD AND WICKER, RAW AND MANUFACTURED.				
Timber—				
Dressed	267,650	930,399	278,046	890,897
Undressed	435,140	1,132,098	590,227	1,056,153
Wood and Wicker Manufactures, including Furniture	131,949	307,409	132,040	184,638
Total, Class XIV.	834,739	2,369,906	1,000,313	2,131,688
CLASS XV. — EARTHENWARE, CEMENTS, CHINA, GLASS, AND STONWARE.				
Cement (Portland)	2,135	132,273	62,669	42,770
Earthenware, China, &c.	148,338	295,693	252,048	225,938
Glass and Glassware	212,263	592,421	256,698	365,208
All other Earthenware, Cements, China, Glass, and Stoneware.	25,550	40,905	35,689	68,556
Total, Class XV.	388,286	1,061,292	607,104	702,472

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1919-20 TO 1922-23—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
CLASS XVI.—PAPER AND STATIONERY.	£	£	£	£
(a) <i>Paper—</i>				
Cardboard and other Paper				
Boards	48,699	113,665	57,349	71,883
Printing	573,951	1,378,634	763,703	793,898
Wrapping of all Colours ..	113,255	298,407	101,563	144,934
Writing and Typewriting ..	147,512	389,851	131,196	270,497
All other	195,738	493,807	246,209	176,648
(b) <i>Stationery and Paper Manufactures—</i>				
Books (Printed), Directories, &c.	285,814	357,269	297,465	333,613
All other.. .. .	164,217	263,998	195,881	388,337
Total, Class XVI. ..	1,529,186	3,295,631	1,793,366	2,179,810
CLASS XVII.—JEWELLERY, TIME-PIECES, AND FANCY GOODS.				
Fancy Goods	227,124	336,428	261,855	437,431
Jewellery, including Cameos, &c	334,408	323,106	176,001	274,294
Watches, Clocks, Chronometers, &c.	98,315	158,890	110,590	138,473
Total, Class XVII.	659,847	818,424	548,446	850,198
CLASS XVIII.—OPTICAL, SURGICAL, AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS.				
Surgical and Dental Instruments, &c.	82,895	102,923	75,121	101,449
Talking Machines—Phonographs, &c.	39,545	29,605	24,423	48,106
All other Optical and Scientific Instruments	100,897	123,392	83,775	124,312
Total, Class XVIII. ..	223,337	255,920	183,319	273,867
CLASS XIX.—DRUGS, CHEMICALS, AND FERTILIZERS.				
Cream of Tartar	121,403	142,448	78,742	84,219
Dyes	101,590	345,274	144,771	132,923
Fertilizers	238,338	397,233	214,986	288,600
Oils, Essential (Non-spirituos) ..	48,982	43,421	25,957	31,597

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1919-20 TO 1922-23—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
CLASS XIX.—DRUGS, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS— <i>continued.</i>	£	£	£	£
Perfumery and Toilet Preparations	90,523	100,408	78,375	78,975
Proprietary Medicines	31,879	48,329	29,448	37,922
Sodium Salts	119,060	216,844	122,327	179,646
Sulphur (Brimstone)	85,325	157,110	60,643	74,325
All other Drugs and Chemicals ..	430,703	627,329	480,879	465,978
Total, Class XIX.	1,267,803	2,078,396	1,236,128	1,374,185
CLASS XX.—MISCELLANEOUS.				
Brushware	56,290	99,270	58,975	99,574
Matches and Vestas	26,750	98,200	22,339	71,024
Musical Instruments, &c.—				
Pianos and Parts	80,383	195,071	70,509	168,159
Other and Parts	42,488	98,431	71,631	66,582
Soap	24,804	28,600	14,656	24,513
All other Articles	713,580	1,276,593	2,153,747	715,707
Total, Class XX.	944,295	1,796,165	2,391,857	1,145,559
CLASS XXI.—GOLD AND SILVER; AND BRONZE SPECIE.				
Gold	346	389	312	393
Silver	2,087	590	8,660	3,442
Bronze—Specie	7	..	23	886
Total, Class XXI.	2,440	979	8,995	4,721
Grand Total	33,788,287	57,608,777	36,352,056	46,608,239

The articles imported were mainly manufactured goods. Apparel, textiles, manufactured fibres, machinery, and manufactures of metal amounted to 60 per cent. of the total value of imports in the last five years. Compared with the previous year the imports for 1923 showed an increase of £10,256,183. The items showing the largest increases were as follows:—Metals and metal manufactures, £3,054,422; textiles, £2,865,571; timber, £1,078,777; apparel, £892,986; machines and machinery, £547,677; yarns, £526,100; tea, £260,699; oils, fats, and waxes, £257,547; and rubber manufactures, £211,079.

The principal articles exported to oversea countries from Victoria during each of the last four years are shown hereunder in 21 divisions, in accordance with the statistical classification :—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES FROM VICTORIA DURING THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1919-20 TO 1922-23.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
CLASS I.—FOODSTUFFS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN, BUT EXCLUDING LIVING ANIMALS.	£	£	£	£
Butter	2,089,296	4,027,256	3,026,447	3,190,805
Cheese	184,107	48,251	39,900	22,955
Meats—				
Potted or Concentrated Preserved by Cold Process—				
Beef	27,758	14,041	1,300	5,128
Lamb	44,532	42,803	33,046	41,890
Mutton	1,287,528	483,359	751,077	1,493,156
Rabbits and Hares	2,470,354	362,296	306,199	880,472
Preserved in Tins	224,737	131,130	35,385	10,176
Other	875,108	50,789	16,331	48,750
Milk and Cream	308,731	163,210	163,810	143,385
All other Animal Foodstuffs	787,627	1,123,352	1,530,172	1,198,708
	67,603	14,110	19,963	6,315
Total, Class I.	8,367,381	6,460,597	5,923,630	7,041,740
CLASS II.—FOODSTUFFS OF VEGETABLE ORIGIN; NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND SUBSTANCES USED IN MAKING.				
Biscuits	143,415	110,609	62,243	52,036
Fruits, Dried	395,031	472,304	564,065	810,103
Fruits, Fresh	112,086	81,240	164,452	182,414
Fruits and Vegetables—Preserved	292,661	110,235	602,623	80,988
Grain and Pulse—				
Unprepared—				
Wheat	7,983,987	10,086,400	9,182,731	2,498,066
Other	272,403	282,155	198,956	93,607
Prepared—				
Flour (Wheaten)	3,259,296	1,900,888	2,157,754	2,024,921
Other	189,798	97,274	38,479	32,144
Jams and Fruit Jellies	394,339	202,654	72,531	26,968
Tea	78,354	6,634	37,223	58,365
All other Vegetable Foodstuffs	272,929	298,448	355,234	95,490
Total, Class II.	13,394,299	13,648,841	13,436,291	5,955,102

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES
FROM VICTORIA, 1919-20 TO 1922-23—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
CLASS III.—SPIRITUOUS AND ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS.. ..	£ 144,651	£ 222,422	£ 48,039	£ 39,726
CLASS IV.—TOBACCO AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF.. ..	182,004	273,319	346,697	528,616
CLASS V.—LIVE ANIMALS ..	65,490	134,186	20,316	38,351
CLASS VI.—ANIMAL SUBSTANCES (MAINLY UNMANUFACTURED). NOT FOODSTUFFS.				
Skins—				
Hides (Calf, Cattle, Horse) ..	12,728	8,521	31,530	46,781
Rabbit and Hare	780,038	326,681	201,921	237,853
Sheep	1,035,870	382,711	517,934	1,241,533
Other	119,111	66,508	16,625	36,405
Wool—				
Greasy	9,976,435	6,906,633	9,640,670	12,231,285
Scoured and Washed	2,527,215	1,567,455	1,154,290	3,469,056
Tops	296,869	434,916	390,866	415,630
All other Animal Substances ..	64,771	30,639	14,624	19,253
Total, Class VI. ..	14,813,037	9,724,064	11,968,460	17,697,796
CLASS VII.—VEGETABLE SUBSTANCES AND FIBRES ..	59,091	55,592	32,269	47,511
CLASS VIII.—(a) APPAREL; (b) TEXTILES; AND (c) MANUFACTURED FIBRES.				
Boots and Shoes	486,311	377,320	67,781	6,656
All other Apparel	147,763	178,681	250,921	75,073
All other Textiles, including Bags, Cordage, Yarns, &c. ..	275,657	224,275	220,956	173,469
Total, Class VIII. ..	909,731	780,276	539,658	255,198
CLASS IX.—OILS, FATS, AND WAXES.				
Tallow—Unrefined	1,037,986	282,306	336,869	451,405
All other Oils, Fats, and Waxes ..	180,569	93,256	110,862	40,264
Total, Class IX. ..	1,218,555	375,562	447,731	491,669

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES
FROM VICTORIA, 1919-20 TO 1922-23—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
CLASS X.—PAINTS AND VARNISHES	£ 8,841	£ 10,124	£ 6,763	£ 6,550
CLASS XI.—STONES AND MINERALS, INCLUDING ORES AND CONCENTRATES	97,238	70,172	67,616	77,300
CLASS XII.—METALS, METAL MANUFACTURES, AND MACHINERY.				
(a) <i>Machines and Machinery—</i> Machines and Machinery	150,130	264,468	276,719	148,574
(b) <i>Metal and Metal Manufactures other than Machinery—</i>				
Iron and Steel—Bar, Rod, Hoop, Ingots, &c.	19,573	57,837	14,588	16,613
Lead—Pig and in Matte	45,408	3,298	380	1,295
Tin Ingots	191,745	219,767	121,651	137,531
Zinc—Bars, Blocks, &c.	19,957	25,643	400	50,689
All other Metals and Manufactures thereof	212,394	319,153	168,601	95,970
Total, Class XII.	639,207	890,166	582,339	450,672
CLASS XIII.—RUBBER AND LEATHER, AND MANUFACTURES THEREOF, AND SUBSTITUTES THEREFOR.				
Indiarubber and Manufactures	223,537	508,341	156,427	120,673
Leather and Manufactures	941,210	410,050	320,701	305,744
Total, Class XIII.	1,164,747	918,391	477,128	426,417
CLASS XIV.—WOOD AND WICKER, RAW AND MANUFACTURED	19,818	56,401	37,816	29,867
CLASS XV.—EARTHENWARE, CEMENTS, CHINA, GLASS, AND STONWARE	22,423	59,416	24,168	14,356
CLASS XVI.—PAPER AND STATIONERY.				
Paper	16,865	18,275	13,154	11,389
Stationery	61,323	85,398	77,613	67,368
Total, Class XVI.	78,188	103,673	90,767	78,757

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES
FROM VICTORIA, 1919-20 TO 1922-23—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
CLASS XVII.—JEWELLERY, TIME-PIECES, AND FANCY GOODS.	£	£	£	£
Precious Stones, Unset; Pearls, Cameos, &c.	68,728	87,966	10,600	6,029
All other Jewellery, Timepieces, and Fancy Goods	60,609	68,502	34,088	17,161
Total, Class XVII.	129,337	156,468	44,688	23,190
CLASS XVIII.—OPTICAL, SURGICAL, AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS. . .	25,765	53,057	38,591	36,218
CLASS XIX.—DRUGS, CHEMICALS, AND FERTILIZERS.				
Fertilizers—				
Ammonium Sulphate	72,892	51,310	35,373	28,395
Superphosphates	37,259	29,645	250	..
Other	45,846	6,436	6,726	9,434
Oil—Eucalyptus	58,489	54,589	19,348	26,083
All other Drugs and Chemicals	148,365	155,715	113,563	155,722
Total, Class XIX.	362,851	297,695	175,260	219,634
CLASS XX.—MISCELLANEOUS.				
Soap	97,847	170,848	181,623	208,957
Vessels transferred abroad	157,650	215,042	..	..
All other Articles	159,002	192,559	143,628	99,193
Total, Class XX.	414,499	578,449	325,251	308,150
CLASS XXI.—GOLD AND SILVER; AND BRONZE SPECIE.				
Gold	567,588	624	7,882	759
Silver	440,199	1,966	2,822	1,076
Bronze Specie . . . . .	..	500	..	..
Total, Class XXI.	1,007,787	3,090	10,704	1,835
Grand Total	43,124,940	34,871,961	34,644,182	33,768,655

The export trade consists largely of agricultural and pastoral products. The value of wool, wheat, flour, and butter exported during the last five years amounted to about 68 per cent. of the total exports for that period. There was a decrease of £875,527 in the exports of 1923, as compared with the previous year. The following articles accounted for the largest decreases:—Wheat, £6,684,665; fruits and vegetables (preserved), £521,635; milk and cream, £331,464; and apparel, £236,973. The items showing the greatest increases were as follows:—Wool, £4,930,145; meats, £1,315,809; and hides and skins, £794,562.

The value of Victorian trade with various oversea countries and the surplus of imports or exports in each case, during the year ended 30th June, 1923, are given below. In the tables which follow the imports have been assigned to the country of origin owing to the Customs Department having discontinued the recording of the country of shipment.

IMPORTS FROM AND EXPORTS TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES,
1922-23.

Country.	Value of Imports into Victoria of the Produce of the Country mentioned.	Value of Exports from Victoria to the Country mentioned.	Victorian excess of Imports (-) Exports (+).
BRITISH.			
	£	£	£
United Kingdom	24,548,609	19,163,038	- 5,385,571
Canada	1,741,100	94,266	- 1,646,834
Ceylon	324,870	83,754	- 241,116
Egypt	10,281	514,029	+ 503,748
Hong Kong	763	104,902	+ 104,139
India	1,490,881	169,391	- 1,321,490
Mauritius	71	90,224	+ 90,153
New Zealand	1,006,244	1,497,238	+ 490,994
Pacific Islands	206,822	79,595	- 127,227
South African Union	213,987	647,742	+ 433,755
Straits Settlements	124,171	627,207	+ 503,036
West Indies	71,336	622	- 70,714
Other British Possessions	125,728	67,918	- 57,810
FOREIGN.			
Africa, Portuguese East .. .. .	..	56,612	+ 56,612
Belgium	324,102	358,102	+ 34,000
Brazil	72,629	..	- 72,629
Chile	76,166	..	- 76,166
China	313,137	48,643	- 264,494
Czecho-Slovakia	156,181	129	- 156,052
France	1,391,763	2,374,421	+ 982,658
French Indo-China	1,524	38,319	+ 36,795
Germany	291,935	295,279	+ 3,344
Italy	516,158	1,221,882	+ 705,724
Japan	1,203,135	2,153,961	+ 950,826
Netherlands	218,455	14,863	- 203,592
Netherlands East Indies	1,427,876	1,127,099	- 300,777
Norway	850,698	42,773	- 807,925
Peru	260	28,734	+ 28,474
Philippine Islands	66,796	80,239	+ 13,443
Spain	47,401	460	- 46,941
Sweden	624,075	49,836	- 574,239
Switzerland	951,027	1,691	- 949,336
United States of America	7,999,794	2,678,354	- 5,321,440
Other Foreign Countries	210,264	57,332	- 152,932
Total	46,608,239	33,768,655	- 12,839,584

The value of the trade with the leading countries of the world in each of the last five years was as specified hereunder:—

IMPORTS (CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN)
FROM PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES, AND EXPORTS DIRECT
THERE TO, 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

Country.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	Imports of Products or Manufactures of—				
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	13,288,961	13,498,551	27,118,215	18,835,097	24,548,609
Canada	907,621	874,045	1,642,315	1,219,609	1,741,100
Egypt	30,972	18,008	12,140	12,188	10,281
India and Ceylon	2,865,229	2,278,564	3,105,404	1,782,350	1,815,751
New Zealand	712,784	685,628	961,338	837,731	1,006,244
South African Union	184,147	242,998	143,286	161,169	213,987
Straits Settlements	228,890	172,683	155,112	412,976	124,171
Other British Possessions	347,531	514,943	636,843	399,534	404,720
Belgium	2,062	133,998	688,201	393,146	324,102
China	308,674	363,746	397,396	320,121	313,137
France	753,574	1,141,152	1,545,833	1,140,223	1,391,763
Italy	199,985	281,117	354,277	423,742	516,158
Japan	3,071,288	1,310,027	1,737,111	1,061,238	1,203,135
Netherlands	133,600	62,819	261,774	205,662	218,455
Netherlands East Indies	1,192,946	3,549,604	3,544,622	927,041	1,427,876
Norway	346,960	335,691	1,144,328	386,566	850,698
Philippine Islands	49,961	91,784	97,756	72,696	66,796
Sweden	181,724	308,589	868,232	372,347	624,075
Switzerland	575,400	408,772	890,516	808,288	951,027
United States of America	9,116,410	7,057,365	11,552,483	6,135,555	7,999,794
Other Foreign Countries	527,592	463,203	751,595	444,777	856,360
Total	35,026,311	33,788,287	57,608,777	36,352,056	46,608,239
	Exports to—				
United Kingdom	16,122,709	24,354,013	17,825,150	16,308,899	19,163,038
Canada	353,610	113,975	27,721	93,341	94,266
Egypt	1,989,799	1,629,315	2,300,658	1,361,936	514,029
India and Ceylon	1,309,432	1,132,242	408,222	1,535,548	253,145
New Zealand	1,735,217	3,073,267	2,610,367	1,673,784	1,497,238
South African Union	632,001	1,666,807	1,285,913	680,118	647,742
Straits Settlements	270,748	771,051	453,949	842,251	627,207
Other British Possessions	266,861	833,192	443,921	327,372	343,261
Belgium		804,577	1,819,434	590,352	358,102
China	81,815	97,318	85,254	125,984	48,643
France	436,009	1,439,209	1,446,353	1,965,004	2,374,421
Italy	732,956	686,213	637,647	1,673,832	1,221,882
Japan	381,588	1,723,080	628,648	2,499,434	2,153,961
Netherlands			549,228	91,150	14,863
Netherlands East Indies	1,227,791	1,561,990	975,885	1,117,009	1,127,099
Norway	111,578	246,753	136,428	295,684	42,773
Philippine Islands	105,785	278,112	65,323	96,413	80,239
Sweden	379,284	225,273	37,759	8,351	49,836
Switzerland	17	4,862	7,587	4,815	1,691
United States of America	1,633,757	1,556,304	1,981,499	2,342,628	2,678,354
Other Foreign Countries	324,202	927,387	1,145,015	1,010,277	476,865
Total	28,095,159	43,124,940	34,871,961	34,644,182	33,768,655

Fifty-seven per cent. of the total value of the exports in 1923 were sent to the United Kingdom, whilst 53 per cent. of the imports were the products or manufactures of the United Kingdom. The chief articles of United Kingdom origin imported in the last five years, and the principal articles exported direct to that country in the same period were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of United Kingdom origin).</i>					
Piece Goods—	£	£	£	£	£
Cotton and Linen	4,219,316	2,419,268	4,932,213	2,528,758	4,261,605
Woolen	1,161,568	1,453,306	2,412,813	1,316,445	1,983,388
Silk	89,069	87,595	200,228	267,785	213,897
Canvas and Duck	310,276	522,655	885,135	256,418	423,078
Velvets, and Lace for Attire	381,079	296,775	331,915	232,130	209,025
Other	193,581	220,573	600,829	309,445	383,200
Vessels (Ships)			207,000	1,516,000	24,136
Machines and Machinery	541,081	986,278	2,490,293	1,984,705	2,432,184
Iron and Steel	231,565	876,446	1,573,359	1,034,715	1,885,899
Yarns	781,005	533,640	1,254,114	796,881	1,300,772
Apparel and Attire	548,897	328,023	1,041,681	710,294	1,179,643
Floor Coverings	280,969	259,255	743,528	656,745	1,042,462
Paper	150,909	116,041	822,188	428,767	690,860
Vehicles and Parts	104,686	376,779	672,360	374,956	538,581
Sewing and Embroidery Silks, &c.	364,096	240,545	508,895	334,250	479,620
Books	190,865	215,103	294,215	260,678	301,330
Tinned Plates and Sheets (plain)	813,775	676,027	1,391,941	222,007	436,209
Whisky	209,923	135,121	210,840	159,782	251,372
Trimmings and Ornaments	74,245	72,703	145,638	121,822	151,093
Rubber and Rubber Goods	97,124	87,657	196,856	121,266	187,205
Dyes	109,306	89,458	224,087	118,514	109,490
Pipes and Tubes	94,641	162,329	333,147	99,485	242,583
All other Articles	2,400,985	3,342,972	5,644,940	4,984,149	5,818,977
Total	13,288,961	13,498,551	27,118,215	18,835,097	24,548,609
<i>Exported from Victoria to United Kingdom.</i>					
Wool	9,301,607	10,717,454	6,064,096	6,078,549	10,087,573
Wheat and Flour	865,520	3,907,258	4,582,943	3,692,630	1,172,682
Butter	1,377,259	1,255,184	3,547,396	2,439,098	2,586,722
Fruits—all kinds	288,977	379,598	433,516	1,146,743	882,536
Meats—					
Beef, Mutton and Lamb	711,798	3,748,720	798,043	1,088,846	2,403,593
Rabbits and Hares	73,043	224,377	130,999	35,210	9,689
Preserved in tins	475,890	827,218	40,364	11,603	26,934
Hides and Skins	999,568	1,068,577	602,481	443,224	738,385
Milk and Cream	26,914	173,113	209,577	420,229	50,025
Tallow, unrefined	321,668	356,771	151,263	130,010	227,968
Tin Ingots	14,438	172,892	216,426	118,621	135,688
Leather, &c.	483,400	471,292	183,591	113,063	140,480
Jams and Jellies	326,246	197,823	74,246	43,863	13
All other Articles	856,381	853,731	790,209	547,210	700,750
Total	16,122,709	24,354,013	17,825,150	16,308,899	19,163,038

Trade with India and Ceylon amounted to £2,068,896 in 1923, and was less than in the previous year by £1,249,002. There was an increase in imports of £33,401, and there was a decrease in exports of £1,282,403 which was largely accounted for by the reduction in wheat shipments. The principal articles interchanged during the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH INDIA AND CEYLON, 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of Indian and Cingalese origin).</i>					
	£	£	£	£	£
Bags and Sacks	1,548,511	678,106	2,218,121	911,099	952,611
Tea	610,294	835,221	352,755	355,710	384,958
Rice	14,810	176,456	55,833	129,853	34,714
Hessians	194,879	121,416	121,821	98,325	146,736
Hides and Skins	93,993	90,117	23,807	49,786	35,680
Nuts	18,848	62,228	14,659	42,667	27,816
Gums and Resins	27,402	24,663	27,125	28,873	43,163
Fibres	10,237	67,506	29,750	25,135	32,475
Coffee	22,256	27,892	17,679	19,942	22,466
Seeds	43,894	78	16,438	9,147	2,802
Cocoa Beans	42,248	16,200	26,133	8,993	8,228
Waxes	26,493	57,447	35,371	5,896	-2,769
Oils in Bulk	15,729	21,227	7,963	4,394	6,386
Rubber, &c.	18,504	2,150	30,716	2,216	2,524
Cordage and Twines	60,073	4,470	..	175	2,300
All other Articles	111,058	93,387	127,233	90,133	110,123
Total	2,865,229	2,278,564	3,105,404	1,782,550	1,815,751
<i>Exported from Victoria to India and Ceylon.</i>					
Specie and Bullion	400	504,619	..	..	453
Wheat, Flour, and Oatmeal	511,523	270,691	12,633	1,282,040	52,800
Milk and Cream	40,687	29,829	8,685	67,690	45,727
Wool	64,005	..	38,737	42,559	11,485
Tallow	9,046	117,883	53,157	23,191	25,966
Fruits (preserved in liquid)	34,438	2,903	13,371	8,425	9,107
Meats	162,216	17,838	12,275	8,137	20,492
Horses	15,427	19,917	28,569	7,430	19,739
Jams and Jellies	66,414	12,578	79,156	7,180	3,755
Butter	922	20,883	24,254	7,107	15,215
Biscuits	6,389	10,051	7,964	4,594	4,914
Hay and Chaff	3,247	10,434	8,946	4,175	4,248
Leather, &c.	42,405	6,664	9,600	3,610	2,758
Soap	119	6,315	4,203	2,740	5,234
All other Articles	352,194	101,637	106,672	66,670	31,252
Total	1,309,432	1,132,242	408,222	1,535,548	253,145

The trade with New Zealand for the year ended 30th June, 1923, amounted to £2,503,482. The exports thereto amounted to £1,497,238, and represented 4·4 per cent. of the total oversea exports. The principal articles of trade during the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF CHIEF IMPORTS OF NEW ZEALAND ORIGIN
AND OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED DIRECT TO
THAT COUNTRY, 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Imported into Victoria (of New Zealand origin).</i>					
Timber	247,940	181,337	320,108	278,737	251,715
Hides and Skins	185,502	186,823	290,336	262,158	319,660
Flax and Hemp	103,768	128,497	182,155	106,843	47,459
Fish	12,194	20,332	27,598	38,940	33,809
Seeds	53,925	50,382	44,094	29,380	31,558
Oakum and Tow	11,586	21,641	21,301	18,736	22,820
Animals (horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs)	6,236	2,360	8,454	7,447	11,006
Hops	13,871	4,937	1,808	7,430	10,316
Meat, preserved in tins	1,125	1,342	1,763	3,190	4,021
Milk and Cream	30,027	31,249	2,377	..	1,782
All other Articles	46,610	56,728	61,344	84,870	272,098
Total	712,784	685,628	961,338	837,731	1,006,244
<i>Exported from Victoria to New Zealand.</i>					
Tobacco manufactured	114,726	177,960	265,452	344,850	525,954
Rubber manufactures	105,495	173,647	464,669	133,614	101,007
Fruits—Dried	29,814	223,268	61,271	118,582	112,309
Piece Goods	43,123	107,707	87,614	91,943	97,971
Boots and Shoes	159,020	376,570	303,300	61,887	4,100
Leather, etc.	41,239	109,880	60,195	54,139	40,392
Machines and Machinery	30,579	60,180	69,518	45,721	41,912
Metal manufactures	48,402	64,548	94,567	43,196	57,723
Tea	46,350	77,555	6,225	36,681	57,111
Books	27,518	34,590	38,597	33,137	22,755
Grain and Pulse—					
Wheat	346,134	681,227	165,370	2	..
Barley	17,264	39,425	26,146	..	920
Oats	11,666	16,258	10,878	3,142	1,995
Rice and Rice Meal	11,389	5,956	9,784	19,147	9,213
Flour	1,880	1,043	1,869	..	..
Fertilizers	55,627	42,690	34,828	5,037	8,029
Spirits	67,342	10,535	13,094	5,011	4,628
Milk and Cream	18,993	37,687	16,509	2,118	907
All other Articles	558,606	832,541	879,981	676,077	410,312
Total	1,735,217	3,073,267	2,610,367	1,673,784	1,497,238

The trade with Belgium was suspended in 1918 and 1919, and for the two preceding years consisted of imports only. Goods of Belgian origin received in 1915-16 amounted in value to £30,774, and those received in 1916-17 to £23,235. The principal articles of trade with Belgium in the year 1914-15, and in each year since 1918-19, were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH BELGIUM, 1914-15 TO 1922-23.

Articles.	Value in Year—				
	Ended 30th June—				
	1915.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of Belgian Origin).</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Iron and Steel	18,186	..	103,805	124,878	3,527
Glass and Glassware	15,744	68,200	302,820	64,030	115,840
Paper	3,728	124	54,791	29,735	33,153
Wire and Wire Netting	287	..	14,185	24,926	249
Piece Goods	18,542	9,129	56,750	23,281	24,275
Cameos and Precious Stones ..	7,056	38,998	63,788	21,136	41,133
Vehicles	6,883	1,160	8,544	9,695	14,462
Copper	1,770	..	1,843	8,556	6,554
All other Articles	38,280	16,387	81,675	86,909	84,909
Total	110,476	133,998	688,201	393,146	324,102
<i>Exported from Victoria to Belgium.</i>					
Wool	1,924	580,671	333,684	316,178	243,366
Hides and Skins	11,577	7,411	4,034	42,673	53,683
Wheat .. .. .	..	..	948,175	81,905	..
Ores .. .. .	..	5,500	22,094	11,674	140
Tallow .. .. .	..	83,028	5,125	10,657	18,536
Leather, &c. .. .. .	..	10,440	164	6,348	5,330
Cameos and Precious Stones ..	605	..	8,458	114	463
Milk and Cream .. .. .	..	31,654	395,336	..	..
All other Articles	9,347	85,873	102,364	120,303	31,584
Total	23,453	804,577	1,819,434	590,352	358,102

The Netherlands East Indies accounted for about 3 per cent. of Victoria's oversea trade in 1923. The chief articles interchanged during the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH
NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES, 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of Netherlands East Indies origin).</i>					
	£	£	£	£	£
Oils	302,464	509,985	914,545	427,692	614,414
Tea	87,358	468,456	118,894	263,771	487,542
Fibres	43,782	83,187	60,208	96,481	144,426
Tobacco—unmanufactured	57,850	22,922	71,172	36,454	50,395
India-rubber	77,570	9,667	104,751	20,159	21,403
Coffee and Chicory	13,431	35,725	10,326	13,073	16,500
Sago and Tapioca	11,398	19,709	11,404	11,856	3,878
Sugar	450,771	2,216,242	2,163,733	8,969	23,391
Spices	22,516	29,069	10,058	7,025	5,692
Hides and Skins	49,858	58,897	16,837	5,892	3,959
Drugs and Medicinal Preparations	13,637	13,711	4,258	3,329	1,555
Seeds	9,406	31,538	9,039	3,276	16,569
Waxes	15,854	15,098	3,919	1,069	2,455
All other Articles	37,051	35,398	45,478	27,995	35,697
Total	1,192,946	3,549,604	3,544,622	927,041	1,427,876
<i>Exported from Victoria to the Netherlands East Indies.</i>					
Butter	385,647	531,511	335,361	411,388	459,033
Grain and Pulse	248,221	370,949	211,266	335,458	343,103
Milk and Cream	83,226	148,365	68,795	155,206	137,666
Leather, etc.	69,757	108,367	60,843	50,977	46,139
Biscuits	28,430	63,968	43,621	27,180	26,626
Meats	3,341	21,039	30,653	19,348	16,185
Machines and Machinery	49,032	23,271	10,716	8,551	2,004
Ammonium Sulphate	110,270	46,381	49,416	7,178	..
All other Articles	249,867	248,139	165,214	101,723	96,343
Total	1,227,791	1,561,900	975,885	1,117,003	1,127,099

Trade with
France.

In 1923 trade with France amounted to £3,766,184, or 4.7 per cent. of the oversea total. Details of the

exports to France and of the goods of French origin received in the past five years are given in the appended table:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH FRANCE, 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of French origin.)</i>					
	£	£	£	£	£
Piece Goods	312,456	506,051	576,397	462,112	466,907
Trimmings and Ornaments	119,033	138,691	197,137	136,059	192,548
Motor Cars and Parts .. .. .	..	4,834	64,936	92,529	130,906
Brandy	12,565	49,773	79,007	41,515	42,287
Rubber Manufactures	28,103	28,852	46,149	41,118	56,814
Cream of Tartar	77,247	70,557	90,312	39,851	39,816
Pipes (smoking)	22,227	38,589	41,683	17,136	24,935
Perfumery and Toilet Preparations	16,338	29,331	28,331	16,492	18,429
Wine	6,183	49,382	44,369	9,671	15,375
Oils	13,692	17,066	33,028	6,933	9,739
Gloves	25,800	14,631	18,520	25,554	28,152
Apparel and Attire	12,214	27,604	50,962	48,295	47,451
All other Articles	107,716	165,791	274,952	202,958	318,404
Total	753,574	1,141,152	1,545,833	1,140,223	1,391,763
<i>Exported from Victoria to France.</i>					
Wool	167,941	479,810	230,398	1,252,317	1,809,489
Hides and Skins .. .. .	..	..	32,581	186,783	372,034
Wheat .. .. .	..	763,007	1,162,663	433,992	..
Tallow (unrefined)	56,054	953	..	8,027	3,188
Flour .. .. .	..	170,240	..	..	..
Leather, &c.	81,717	17,120	32	..	5
All other Articles	130,297	8,079	20,679	83,885	189,645
Total	436,009	1,439,209	1,446,353	1,965,004	2,374,421

Trade with Germany.

The trade with Germany, which amounted to 8·4 per cent. of the total with oversea countries in 1913, was discontinued early in the year 1914-15 owing to the outbreak of war and the passing of the *Trading with the Enemy Act* 1914. The provisions of this Act automatically ceased to operate on the ratification of peace, but the Commonwealth authorities issued a proclamation on 14th January, 1920, under the Customs Act, prohibiting exports to and imports from Germany without the written consent of the Minister of State for Trade and Customs. On 2nd December, 1920, the embargo against exports was removed. The exportation of goods to Germany was thereafter allowed upon the same conditions as apply to all other countries, which means that it is only necessary to obtain permission from the Government when it is desired to export to Germany goods which are specifically prohibited from exportation, e.g., metals.

The proclamation of 14th January, 1920, which prohibited the importation of goods from Germany, was revoked as from 1st August, 1922, by special proclamation dated 12th January, 1922. There are, therefore, no restrictions on the importation of goods from that

country, except as regards those specified in the *Customs Tariff (Industries Preservation) Act 1921-22*. The principal sections of this Act, in so far as German goods are concerned, are Nos. 8 and 9. Section 8 is designed to protect Australian industries from the competition of goods imported from countries having a depreciated currency, whilst section 9 protects British manufacturers from competition with goods manufactured in other countries having a depreciated currency in comparison with the currency of the United Kingdom.

Victorian imports of German origin were valued at £46,107 in 1920-21, £66,296 in 1921-22, and £291,935 in 1922-23, whilst the exports to Germany in the same years amounted in value to £591,926, £242,524, and £295,279 respectively.

The value of Japanese goods received represented 8·8 per cent. of the total overseas imports into Victoria in 1919, 3·9 per cent. in 1920, 3·0 per cent. in 1921, 2·9 per cent. in 1922, and 2·6 per cent. in 1923. The exports to Japan during 1923, although £345,473 less than in 1922, were very much above the average of former years, owing chiefly to the large shipments of wheat, wool, and milk and cream. The principal articles interchanged during the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH JAPAN, 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of Japanese origin).</i>					
	£	£	£	£	£
Piece Goods	1,555,509	651,196	887,606	690,178	788,842
Glass and Glassware	78,102	41,334	87,486	23,733	26,949
Chinaware	62,849	49,725	55,605	26,433	26,701
Hosiery and Knitted Articles	23,855	7,628	28,928	25,976	27,021
Fancy Goods	65,133	37,281	41,022	20,870	46,328
Oils	9,088	12,534	21,637	13,685	14,344
Buttons, Buckles, &c.	25,632	27,937	33,345	12,665	21,048
Timber	16,987	13,288	21,816	7,409	13,658
Socks and Stockings	48,345	28,637	37,917	4,574	5,194
Electrical and Gas Appliances	19,188	8,360	45,422	3,859	6,652
Sulphur—Brimstone	114,747	17,078	6,078	1,833	..
Cosies, Cushions, &c.	27,537	10,280	2,499	1,100	1,331
Shirts, Collars, Pyjamas, &c.	22,902	3,959	4,883	943	1,818
Grass Straw, &c.	33,431	48,652	26,223	310	15,765
Cable and Wire, covered	79,608	19,661	326	14	299
All other Articles	888,375	332,477	436,318	222,647	202,185
Total	3,071,288	1,310,027	1,737,111	1,061,238	1,203,135
<i>Exported from Victoria to Japan.</i>					
Grain and Pulse	196,347	1,110,379	26,251	1,522,437	519,919
Wool	37,275	229,993	443,940	636,404	1,050,369
Milk and Cream	18,435	13,520	60	72,443	481,161
Tallow (unrefined)	28,015	145,165	30,500	56,015	40,525
Fertilizers	1,366	44,838	2,314	20,034	26,495
Butter	991	22,549	4,357	4,734	2,197
Tallow Oil	11,453	4,419	..	..	..
All other Articles	87,706	152,217	121,226	187,367	33,295
Total	381,588	1,723,080	628,648	2,499,434	2,153,961

Trade with the United States in 1923 amounted to £10,678,148, or 13·3 per cent. of the Victorian oversea trade. As compared with the year 1922 this trade had increased by £2,199,965, there having been an increase in imports of United States origin of £1,864,239 and in exports of £335,726. The principal articles included in the trade with the United States in the last five years were as follows :—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH THE UNITED STATES, 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Imported into Victoria (of United States origin).</i>					
Machines and Machinery	660,018	691,871	1,314,129	1,186,239	1,336,229
Oils	709,873	592,669	1,389,584	790,096	1,025,939
Tobacco, &c.	367,570	612,987	716,674	672,857	555,589
Vehicles, and Parts	418,380	649,043	843,173	474,371	1,095,199
Timber	223,578	197,422	672,815	264,011	698,791
Piece Goods	847,384	431,894	736,013	231,426	307,954
Socks and Stockings	453,344	247,751	464,181	146,950	171,004
Leather, &c.	212,175	308,828	285,989	121,825	222,271
Paper	912,890	354,054	319,198	108,081	95,074
Tools of Trade	129,284	114,717	193,041	96,095	128,930
Instruments—Musical	97,963	97,265	219,517	95,431	116,850
Iron and Steel	681,642	260,442	406,482	87,779	114,331
Rubber, &c.	154,309	114,018	219,821	70,584	158,889
Stationery	106,584	111,075	137,107	65,556	111,315
Gloves	108,903	85,332	142,998	61,559	65,336
Sausage Casings	21,470	39,458	67,269	59,794	76,851
Pipes and Tubes	103,129	74,790	231,989	54,818	73,564
Wire (all kinds)	243,892	212,441	309,763	47,150	80,830
Hosiery and Knitted Articles	66,363	42,379	98,757	41,700	37,455
Sewing and Embroidery Silks, &c.	54,318	49,182	53,155	33,958	47,583
Gums and Resins	41,718	65,646	63,095	15,202	12,296
Fancy Goods	23,291	20,553	26,590	14,293	30,579
Corsets	73,892	36,813	36,036	14,192	37,687
Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives	121,245	102,940	82,079	12,328	28,441
All other Articles	2,284,195	1,543,797	2,493,028	1,369,260	1,370,807
Total	9,116,410	7,057,365	11,552,483	6,135,555	7,999,794
<i>Exported from Victoria to the United States.</i>					
Wool	925,908	310,376	1,422,716	1,969,796	2,154,892
Sausage Casings	52,015	160,952	61,770	95,105	78,672
Hides and Skins	37,726	787,914	117,285	76,485	351,732
Platinum—Bars, Blocks, &c.	5,311	24,419	51,678	21,639	374
Fruits, dried .. .. .	.. .. .	5,474	87,093	4,984	6
Flour	44,373	20	1	.. .. .	.. .. .
Wheat	387,921	24,554	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
All other Articles	180,503	242,595	240,956	174,619	92,678
Total	1,633,757	1,556,304	1,981,499	2,342,628	2,678,354

Wool, wheat and flour, butter, meats, hides and skins, and milk and cream were the six principal articles exported from Victoria in 1923—their value being equal to about 87 per cent. of the total exports. The countries which received these products are shown in the following statement :—

Destination of principal articles exported.

DESTINATION OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED
IN 1922-23.

Destination.	Wool.	Wheat and Flour.	Butter.	Meats.	Hides and Skins.	Milk and Cream.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ..	10,087,573	1,172,682	2,586,722	2,471,348	738,385	50,025
Canada	52,022	..	..	11,237	25,212	..
Egypt .. ..	..	883,370	14,682	2,186	..	2,252
Hong Kong .. ..	..	63,980	1,437	1,079	500	18,334
India and Ceylon ..	11,485	52,122	15,215	20,492	..	45,727
Mauritius .. ..	..	78,492	7,065	588	..	40
New Zealand	1,249	..	..	443	1,675	907
South African Union ..	450	488,090	194	2,281	..	78,505
Straits Settlements ..	..	100,938	59,684	7,663	19	314,024
Other British Countries	..	54,798	1,640	5,122	..	816
Africa, Portuguese East	..	40,414	..	32	..	13,263
Belgium	248,366	..	..	..	53,113	..
Canary Islands .. ..	..	129,621	..	..	..	..
Cape Verde Islands ..	..	152,912	..	..	..	..
China	3,366	1,105	19,971	1,344	767	3,803
France	1,809,489	..	16,863	..	372,094	..
French Indo-China ..	..	15,460	175	646	..	20,949
Germany	195,397	9	..	503	11,933	..
Italy	461,673	365,849	..	548	2,512	..
Japan	1,050,369	519,912	2,197	319	945	481,161
Netherlands	1,766	640	..	..	3,243	..
Netherlands East Indies	..	340,568	459,033	16,185	17	137,666
Norway	10,371	63	..	..	..	..
Pacific Islands .. ..	..	6,884	..	..	..	45
Peru .. ..	..	28,695	..	..	..	..
Philippine Islands ..	2,081	18,713	954	2,006	..	30,314
Spain	455	..	..	..	5	..
Sweden	19,784	50	..	12	420	..
United States of America	2,154,892	..	..	78,672	351,732	865
Other Foreign Countries	5,183	7,620	4,973	251	..	7
Total	16,115,971	4,522,987	3,190,805	2,622,957	1,562,572	1,198,708

SHIPPING.

Victorian shipping as dealt with in the succeeding tables refers to vessels trading with other States and overseas countries; the tonnage quoted is net. Vessels trading on the Victorian coast and on the River Murray have not been taken into consideration, except in the particulars of the shipping at Victorian ports (page 404) and at the port of Melbourne (page 406) where coastal shipping is included.

The number of vessels entered and cleared, their total tonnage, and the number of men forming their crews in each of the last five years were as follows:—

OVERSEA AND INTERSTATE SHIPPING, 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

	Year ended 30th June—				
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Vessels Entered—					
Number	1,730	1,792	2,246	2,442	2,634
Tons	2,870,974	3,987,262	4,663,126	5,506,127	6,611,352
Average tonnage ..	1,660	2,225	2,076	2,255	2,510
Crews	82,214	116,873	134,671	148,879	*
Vessels Cleared—					
Number	1,709	1,809	2,248	2,436	2,634
Tons	2,815,938	4,021,188	4,651,818	5,518,393	6,618,968
Average tonnage ..	1,648	2,223	2,069	2,265	2,513
Crews	81,181	117,352	132,728	148,644	*

* Not available.

The figures in the above table for the year 1923 show a large increase in the tonnage of vessels as compared with each of the preceding four years. For the twelve months ended 30th June, 1923, steamers numbered 2,465 of the vessels entered, and 2,464 of the vessels cleared, their tonnage aggregating 6,550,992 and 6,558,628 respectively.

The inward shipping of 1923 included 46 vessels in ballast, of an aggregate tonnage of 125,422, whilst the outward shipping included 366 vessels in ballast, having an aggregate tonnage of 655,127.

Shipping with principal countries.

The more important of the countries having shipping communication with Victoria in 1922-23 are set out in the following statement :—

SHIPPING WITH PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES, 1922-23.

Countries.	Entered.				Cleared.			
	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	Num-ber.	Net Tonnage.	Num-ber.	Ton-nage.	Num-ber.	Net Tonnage.	Num-ber.	Ton-nage.
Australian States	1,748	3,570,420	138	11,151	1,955	4,345,723	150	30,002
United Kingdom	225	1,384,997	..	..	230	1,342,635	6	10,738
New Zealand	49	83,716	4	720	29	59,072	4	664
India	22	74,087	..	..	11	37,253	..	..
Straits Settlements	38	108,680	..	..	38	101,537	..	..
Other British	98	256,211	3	5,873	51	121,417	1	1,314
Total British Countries	2,180	5,478,111	145	17,744	2,314	6,007,637	161	42,718
Japan	48	156,422	..	..	45	144,542	..	..
Dutch East Indies	14	38,326	..	..	10	27,631	..	..
United States	121	489,650	5	7,893	16	60,341	..	..
Other Foreign	102	388,483	19	34,723	79	318,477	9	17,622
Total Foreign Countries	285	1,072,881	24	42,616	150	550,991	9	17,622
Total	2,465	6,550,992	169	60,360	2,464	6,558,628	170	60,340

Nationality of vessels.

The nationality of vessels entered and cleared at Victorian ports for the year 1922-23 was as shown hereunder :—

NATIONALITY OF SHIPPING, 1922-23.

Nationality.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
British—				
Australian	1,649	2,350,185	1,646	2,333,208
United Kingdom	607	3,198,881	607	3,212,467
Canadian	32	107,773	32	106,756
New Zealand	76	54,546	77	55,767
South African	11	15,861	11	15,861
Other British	15	29,244	15	29,244
Total British	2,390	5,756,490	2,388	5,753,303
Foreign—				
Dutch	41	159,823	44	172,444
French	18	83,180	19	88,947
Italian	23	80,552	23	80,552
Japanese	50	167,696	49	163,439
Norwegian	24	83,171	22	80,630
Swedish	23	63,363	23	62,897
United States	38	138,023	37	134,187
Other Foreign	27	79,054	29	82,569
Total Foreign	244	854,862	246	865,665
Total	2,634	6,611,352	2,634	6,618,968

Shipping
entered at
Victorian
Ports

Particulars of shipping—oversea, interstate, and coastwise—which entered at each port of Victoria are given in the following statement for the year ended 30th June, 1923 :—

VESSELS ENTERED AT EACH OF THE VICTORIAN PORTS, 1922-23.

Direction.	Melbourne.		Cunning- hame (Lakes Entrance).		Geelong.		Portland.		Warrnam- bool.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
Oversea—										
Steam	704	2,932,894	..	..	13	47,678	..	..	..	..
Sailing	31	49,203	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Inter-State—										
Steam	1,723	3,529,239	..	..	21	29,713	3	10,514	1	954
Sailing	132	10,511	..	..	5	418	1	222	..	..
Oversea <i>vid</i> Ports—										
Steam	7	21,684	..	..	3	16,335	..	..	..	..
Sailing	1	1,565	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Inter-State <i>vid</i> Ports—										
Steam	57	136,583	..	..	3	2,966	..	..	..	..
Sailing	1	94	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Local (within the State)—										
Steam	1,342	326,419	39	7,995	645	449,103	114	131,193	150	53,134
Sailing	172	6,832	..	..	15	7,476	..	..	..	..
Total—										
Steam	3,833	6,946,819	39	7,995	685	545,795	117	141,707	151	54,088
Sailing	337	68,211	..	..	20	7,894	1	222	..	..
Grand Total	4,170	7,015,030	39	7,995	705	553,689	118	141,929	151	54,088

NOTE.—“Ports” mean Victorian ports.

Vessels on
Victorian
register.

The number of vessels on the Victorian register on 31st December, 1922, their net tonnage, and the ports of registration are given in the statement which follows.

VESSELS ON THE VICTORIAN REGISTER, 1922.

Port of Registration.	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
	Number.	Net Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Net Tonnage.
Melbourne ..	209	142,188	135	32,040	344	174,228
Geelong ..	2	419	1	16	3	435
Port Fairy ..	3	621	..	..	3	621
Total ..	214	143,228	136	32,056	350	175,284

During 1922 there were added to the register 6 steamers with net tonnage of 14,401, and 4 sailing vessels with a tonnage of 1,461;

whilst 7 steamers having net tonnage of 1,901, and 5 sailing vessels having a tonnage of 960, were taken off the register.

PORT OF MELBOURNE.

Port of Melbourne. The port of Melbourne is under the control of the Melbourne Harbor Trust, which has 10·8 miles of wharfs, piers, and jetties in the River Yarra, Victoria Dock, and Hobson's Bay. The area of these wharfs is 68 acres, of which 26 acres are under sheds. The constitution of the Trust and the revenue and expenditure are shown in part "Municipal Statistics." The *Year-Book* for 1919-20 contains, on page 430, a statement of works recently undertaken by the Trust in the river and Victoria Dock, and information relating to that dock and the Coode Canal.

Port Improvement. A new railway pier at Port Melbourne (called Prince's Pier) was completed in 1915, its length being 1,902 feet, and its width 186 feet. The total cost of the pier and superstructures is £214,666. Dredging has been completed to 37 feet, to provide for four berths for vessels drawing 35 feet. Two shelter sheds are provided, which are connected with vessels by movable gangways bridging the railway lines. Passengers are thus enabled to board and disembark from vessels clear of the railway traffic.

Another modern pier is being constructed on the site of the old railway pier at Port Melbourne, to be called "Station Pier." This new structure will be similar in design to the Princes Pier, and will have a length of 2,110 feet and a width of 191 feet. The extra width will allow for the installation of electric travelling cranes when required. The pier will ultimately provide four berths for oversea steamers with a depth of 37 feet below low water, at an estimated cost (including dredging) of £492,800. The construction of two inner berths, as a provision for bay excursion steamers, is in progress.

The channel leading to the piers at Port Melbourne and Williamstown is 600 feet wide, and dredging is in progress to provide a depth of 37 feet at low water. The first stage of providing a depth of 34 feet has been completed and a channel with this depth is now open for the full width of 600 feet.

The construction of the new Central Pier at the Victoria Dock was completed in 1916. A bed for the centre roadway on this pier was formed by the insertion of reinforced concrete plates on which wood blocks have been laid. The expenditure on the pier to 31st December, 1922, including the erection of six cargo sheds, was £201,117.

The widening of the swinging basin on the south side of the river, and the erection of a timber wharf around the basin, have been completed. This work makes the width of the river at the basin 700 feet for a length of 1,000 feet. The river below the swinging basin as far as the Coode Canal, viz., for 4,480 feet, is being widened by 100 feet; 1,930 feet has been completed, leaving 2,550 feet still to be put in hand. The works being carried out in this connexion are:—Construction of reinforced concrete sheet piling, erection of wharf in front of sheet piling, demolition of the old wharf and sheet piling and dredging to a depth of 27 feet. The swinging basin has been dredged to 27 feet O.L.W. The cost of these works to 31st December, 1922, was £206,690; the estimated total cost is £341,158.

Dredging. The material dredged and disposed of during 1922 amounted to 2,704,470 cubic yards, viz., 1,478,174 cubic yards from the Bay within the Harbor Trust boundary, and 1,226,296 cubic yards from the River Yarra and Victoria Dock. Since the establishment of the Trust the river dredgings have amounted to 39,201,022, and the Bay dredgings to 34,798,126 cubic yards, making a total of 73,999,148 cubic yards. Of the dredgings 60,574,429 cubic yards were deposited in deep water and 13,424,719 cubic yards were landed and deposited for reclamation work. The average cost of dredging, towing, and depositing in 1922 was 14·10d. per cubic yard.

Berthing Accommodation. There is a berthing space of 49,010 feet, the whole of which has a good depth of water—7,780 feet at Williamstown, 9,150 feet at Port Melbourne, 20,320 feet in the River Yarra, and 11,760 feet in the Victoria Dock.

Trade of the Port. In the year 1922 vessels to the number of 5,139, comprising 4,196 steamers, 8 ships, 2 barques, 3 barquentines, 263 ketches, 105 schooners, and 562 lighters, with registered gross tonnage aggregating 11,089,415, berthed within the port. The tonnage of imports in 1922 was 3,026,917, and that of exports, 1,494,939. These figures include New Zealand and Inter-State tonnage, which amounted to 1,853,297 in the case of imports, and 566,656 in the case of exports. Coal forms a great part of the Inter-State imports. Exclusive of transshipments, 1,169,614 tons of coal were imported in 1922. The exports of goods in that year (1,494,939 tons) were the second highest on record, being only 193,002 tons below the quantity for the year 1919. The exports in 1919 were the greatest in the history of the port. This was owing to the exports of wheat and flour, which accounted for 863,000 tons, as compared with an average yearly export of 500,000 tons.

POSTS, TELEGRAPHS, AND TELEPHONES.

The Department of Posts and Telegraphs was transferred to the Federal Government by proclamation on 1st March, 1901.

Rates of postage.

The following are the principal postal charges within the Commonwealth, as from 1st October, 1923:—

Letters .. .. .	..	1½d. per ounce
Letter-cards .. .. .	..	Single, 1½d. each
Post-cards .. .. .	..	Single, 1d. each
Printed papers (other than newspapers)	..	1d. per 4 ounces
Books printed in Australia .. .. .	..	1d. per 8 ounces
Books printed outside Australia .. .. .	..	1d. per 4 ounces
Magazines printed and published in Australia ..	each	1d. per 8 ounces
Magazines printed and published outside Australia	each	1d. per 4 ounces
Commercial papers, patterns, samples, and merchandise as prescribed .. .. .	..	1d. per 2 ounces
Newspapers printed and published in Australia ..	each	1d. per 10 ounces
Newspapers printed and published outside Australia	each	1d. per 4 ounces

The rate of postage on letters to all places within the British Empire is the same as applies to places within the Commonwealth, viz., 1½d. per ounce. To the United States of America and all foreign countries the rate of postage is 3d. for the first ounce and 1½d. for each additional ounce.

Cable rates. The ordinary rate for cabling to the United Kingdom is 3s. per word, and the deferred rate is 1s. 6d. per word. Deferred cablegrams are transmitted only after the despatch of non-urgent private cablegrams and press cablegrams. In January, 1913, the Pacific Cable Board instituted a tariff for week-end cable letters which is available between Australia and the United Kingdom. The rate is now 7½d. per word, with a minimum charge of 12s. 6d. Week-end messages may be lodged up to midnight on Saturday, and are deliverable on Tuesday morning, or if practicable on Monday. These messages are also available to Canada at a charge of 7d. per word, with a minimum charge of 11s. 8d. per message. A new service *viâ* either "Pacific" or "Eastern" has been instituted, and is known as "Daily Letter Telegram." The rate to the United Kingdom is 9d. per word, with a minimum charge of 15s. per message. Messages by this service are accepted any day except Sunday, and are subject to a normal delay of 48 hours.

Postal Returns.

The following table shows the destination of letters, newspapers, packets, and parcels posted in Victoria, whether for delivery inside the Commonwealth or to oversea countries. The recording of the numbers of letters, &c., received from other States

has been discontinued, only those received in Victoria from outside the Commonwealth being given :—

POSTAL RETURNS : 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

Service.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
LETTERS AND POSTCARDS.					
Posted for Delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth ..	145,970,371	153,562,848	139,011,219	149,921,631	157,552,117
Outside the Commonwealth	9,762,076	5,911,404	5,308,217	4,743,414	5,246,566
Total	155,732,447	159,474,252	144,319,436	154,665,045	162,798,683
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	12,656,760	15,323,262	14,064,345	13,946,384	14,102,942
REGISTERED LETTERS AND ARTICLES.					
Posted for Delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth ..	1,301,919	1,444,537	1,527,973	1,529,748	1,566,130
Outside the Commonwealth	72,920	68,775	77,330	77,182	81,966
Total	1,374,839	1,513,312	1,605,303	1,606,930	1,648,096
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	153,109	118,383	126,591	119,567	132,574
NEWSPAPERS.					
Posted for Delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth ..	28,841,405	26,543,271	26,554,335	27,631,937	33,120,157
Outside the Commonwealth	2,899,892	1,334,776	1,336,918	1,264,932	1,368,343
Total	31,741,297	27,878,047	27,891,253	28,896,869	34,488,500
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	1,225,321	1,446,886	1,550,950	2,396,421	2,775,606
PACKETS.					
Posted for Delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth ..	8,599,579	8,219,981	8,507,077	10,386,880	11,947,310
Outside the Commonwealth	807,523	364,029	364,962	344,987	310,219
Total	9,407,104	8,584,010	8,872,039	10,731,867	12,257,529
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	333,831	414,335	439,090	642,793	588,805
PARCELS.					
Posted for delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth ..	835,797	1,102,601	1,454,853	1,909,355	2,072,153
Outside the Commonwealth	279,065	47,586	56,610	48,211	53,504
Total	1,114,862	1,150,187	1,511,463	1,957,566	2,125,657
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	151,414	92,865	97,956	90,154	122,929

The number of letters and other postal articles dealt with by the Dead Letter Office in Victoria during each of the last two years was as follows:—

DEAD LETTERS, ETC., 1921-22 AND 1922-23.

How dealt with.	1921-22.		1922-23.	
	Letters and Post Cards.	Packets and Newspapers.	Letters and Post Cards.	Packets and Newspapers.
<i>Inland.</i>				
Returned to writers or delivered	370,925	136,895	311,866	157,958
Destroyed in accordance with Act	36,394	258,974	40,538	200,685
<i>Inter-State.</i>				
Originally addressed to other States—				
Returned to writers ..	30,948	41,057	26,412	63,542
Destroyed in accordance with Act	9,723	136,369	7,803	102,790
Returned to other States as unclaimed	33,660	10,388	36,516	8,481
<i>International.</i>				
Originally addressed to other Countries—				
Returned to writers ..	15,239	11,848	14,529	13,866
Destroyed in accordance with Act	4,978	117,713	2,965	142,163
Returned to other Countries as unclaimed	22,684	6,035	24,516	14,779
Total	524,551	719,279	465,145	704,264

The above return includes for 1922-23 letters containing money to the amount of £45,355; letters containing other articles of value to the number of 552; and letters, &c., irregularly posted, 32,013. In the figures for that year are also included 13,734 registered letters, viz.:—12,156 inland, 545 interstate, and 1,033 international.

**Money Orders
and Postal
Notes.**

The following table shows the total number and value of money orders and postal notes issued and paid in Victoria in each of the last five years :—

MONEY ORDERS AND POSTAL NOTES, 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

—		1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
Number of Money Order Offices open		534	536	554	573	582
Money Orders issued—						
Inland ..	{ Number ..	359,807	323,175	350,958	389,926	422,505
	{ Amount £	2,296,601	2,021,270	2,211,109	2,103,788	2,119,437
Inter-State ..	{ Number ..	52,189	58,120	64,520	65,461	74,021
	{ Amount £	270,042	322,610	363,681	370,498	429,524
International ..	{ Number ..	49,168	48,428	57,776	59,046	65,560
	{ Amount £	145,869	192,146	258,158	210,161	222,570
Total ..	{ Number ..	461,164	429,723	473,254	514,433	562,086
	{ Amount £	2,712,512	2,536,026	2,832,948	2,684,447	2,771,531
Money Orders Paid—						
Inland ..	{ Number ..	334,211	319,808	356,891	388,795	400,109
	{ Amount £	2,041,856	1,996,139	2,212,045	2,110,891	2,118,513
Inter-State ..	{ Number ..	111,196	116,361	122,188	124,343	125,990
	{ Amount £	555,494	611,509	676,755	663,754	666,065
International ..	{ Number ..	31,136	34,653	34,567	32,465	32,322
	{ Amount £	104,942	147,375	146,004	123,089	124,938
Total ..	{ Number ..	476,543	470,822	513,646	545,603	558,421
	{ Amount £	2,702,292	2,755,023	3,034,804	2,897,734	2,909,516
Postal Notes—						
Sold ..	{ Number ..	2,888,387	2,992,955	3,275,352	3,774,184	4,013,977
	{ Amount £	912,938	923,269	1,044,786	1,180,819	1,240,935
Inland, Issued and Paid ..	{ Number ..	2,100,515	2,138,623	2,198,170	2,340,742	2,456,462
	{ Amount £	698,606	737,698	777,706	834,474	879,054
Victorian—Paid in other States ..	{ Number ..	769,377	844,108	1,075,914	1,433,442	1,531,548
	{ Amount £	193,660	215,206	268,329	346,345	357,147
Of other States—Paid in Victoria ..	{ Number ..	330,390	322,697	330,274	338,118	353,203
	{ Amount £	120,167	117,859	125,800	129,707	134,432

Of the orders issued in 1922-23, 6,172 for £27,573 were payable in New Zealand, and 48,190 for £145,212 in the United Kingdom. The orders paid included 17,913 for £60,749 issued in New Zealand, and 9,975 for £48,353 issued in the United Kingdom.

**Telegraphs
and
telegrams.**

There are 1,858 telegraph offices in the State, 136 of which are attached to the railway service. The number of telegrams sent from Victorian offices, and the number

received from outside the State, in each of the last five years, were as follows :—

TELEGRAMS DESPATCHED AND RECEIVED, 1918-19
TO 1922-23.

	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
Telegrams despatched—					
Inland	2,538,632	2,977,725	2,703,781	2,593,954	2,687,030
Inter-State .. .	1,132,989	1,359,122	1,240,840	1,177,108	1,227,522
International ..	132,613	153,809	152,222	169,105	180,311
Total	3,804,234	4,490,656	4,096,843	3,940,167	4,094,863
Telegrams received—					
Inter-State .. .	1,175,771	1,405,875	1,277,836	1,215,826	1,228,851
International ..	158,111	154,858	150,207	161,345	175,429
Total	1,333,882	1,560,733	1,428,043	1,377,171	1,404,280

Telephones. There were 708 telephone exchanges in Victoria on 30th June, 1923. Formerly, the connexion of one subscriber to a telephone office constituted an exchange, but the rule now followed is that at least two subscribers must be connected before an office becomes an exchange. The actual number of subscribers' lines on the date mentioned was 61,201, with 84,452 telephones connected which represented 5·28 to every 100 persons in the State. Telephone bureaux for the use of the public are placed in prominent positions in or near public buildings, post-offices, railway stations, &c. The number of these on 30th June, 1923, was 1,480.

RAILWAYS.

Victorian Railways, length and cost. All railways in Victoria available for general traffic are, with the two exceptions referred to on pages 419 and 420, the property of the State, and are under the management of three Commissioners appointed by the Government.

The succeeding tables relate to the State railways, and the St. Kilda-Brighton and Sandringham-Black Rock Electric Tramways—all of which are under the control of the Railways Commissioners. The usual motive power is steam, but electric traction is used on the suburban lines (with the exception of a portion of the Outer Circle line), and on the 7½ miles of tramways referred to above. The gauge of the lines is 5 ft. 3 in., with the exception of 121·8 miles of single lines, of which the gauge is 2 ft. 6 in., and 2·41 miles (2·22 miles double and ·19 mile single) of electric street tramway, of which the gauge is 4 ft. 8½ in. The following table shows the length of double and single

lines, the cost of construction, and the average cost per mile at the close of each of the last five years :—

**RAILWAYS, LENGTH AND COST OF CONSTRUCTION,
1918-19 TO 1922-23.**

—	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Length of Lines opened to 30th June—					
Double Lines (miles)	330·41	330·41	330·41	332·04	336·25
Single Lines (miles)	3,914·64	3,939·12	3,991·70	4,040·35	4,052·46
Total	4,245·05	4,269·53	4,322·11	4,372·39	4,388·71
Cost of Construction	£ 38,945,068	£ 39,148,873	£ 39,681,760	£ 40,408,014	£ 40,743,821
Average Cost per mile	9,174	9,169	9,181	9,242	9,284

In addition to the lines embraced in this table the following were in course of construction on 30th June, 1923 :—

	Miles.
5 ft. 3 in. Gauge.	
Red Cliffs to Millewa North	35
Annuello to Bumbang	20
Kerang to Gonn Crossing	17
Total	72

and the following lines had been authorized, but their construction had not been commenced :—

	Miles.
4 ft. 8½ in. Gauge.	
Black Rock to Beaumaris (electric street tramway) ..	2·25
5 ft. 3 in. Gauge.	
Port Fairy to Yambuk	11·50
Hopetoun to Patchewollock	27·25
Moama to Balranald	120·00
Gonn Crossing to Stony Crossing	44·00
Euston Extension	30·00
Mildura to Murray River	10·00
Gol Gol Extension	20·00
Total	265·00

Electrification of suburban lines. Parliament sanctioned the electrification of the Melbourne Suburban Railways in the year 1912, and the whole suburban system is now conducted under electric traction with the exception of a small section of the Outer Circle line (between Ashburton and Deepdene). Since electric traction was commenced in May, 1919, there has been a large development in the suburban passenger traffic—the number of passenger journeys having increased

from 104,000,000 in 1918-19 to 146,000,000 in 1922-23, an increase of 40 per cent. It is estimated that the additional traffic due solely to electrification amounts to about 20,000,000 passenger journeys per annum.

As most lines are now carrying heavy traffic, it is intended to increase the length of trains—in fact, seven-car trains are now being run on the St. Kilda line during the maximum loading hours. One of the two electric locomotives, which will be used in the suburban area for passenger yard shunting and the more expeditious handling of goods traffic, has been completed, and the other one is being constructed. Parcels traffic on most of the suburban lines is now being conducted by electric parcels coaches.

The original project of establishing an electrification scheme has developed in another highly important direction, viz., the supply of power for industrial purposes. The revenue from this source in 1922-23 was £179,033.

The total expenditure debited to the Electrification Capital Account to 30th June, 1923, was £6,270,155.

The capital cost of lines opened, works, rolling-stock and equipment at 30th June in each of the last five years was as follows:—

CAPITAL COST OF RAILWAYS AND EQUIPMENT, 1919 TO 1923.

30th June—	£
1919	57,658,557
1920	58,496,357
1921	60,012,250
1922	63,186,759
1923	64,938,085

The cost given is the actual cost of construction, exclusive of expenses of floating loans, &c. Of the capital expended to 30th June, 1923, £3,943,103 was derived from the general revenue, and the balance (£60,994,982) from loans. The latter liability is represented by debentures and stock outstanding to the nominal amount of £62,922,790, on which the annual interest payable is £2,624,900, or at the average rate of 4·172 per cent. The nominal amount of loans, however, was reduced by £1,927,808—the cost of flotation, together with the discount at time of flotation. It has been computed that, whilst the nominal rate of interest on loans outstanding on 30th June, 1923, was 4·172 per cent., the real interest on the net proceeds available for railway construction was 4·303 per cent.

The capital expenditure incurred to 30th June, 1923, in respect of lines now closed for traffic was approximately £383,407, and, for surveys of lines not constructed, £372,884. Both of these items are included in the totals shown above.

**Railway
traffic.**

The mileage and the traffic of the railways since 30th June, 1918, are given in the following table:—

RAILWAYS—MILEAGE AND TRAFFIC, 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

	Year ended 30th June—				
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Miles Constructed ..	4,245·05	4,269·53	4,322·11	4,372·39	4,388·71
Dismantled ..	36·13	36·13	36·13	36·13	36·14
Closed to Traffic	11·83	11·83	11·83	11·83	11·62
Open for Traffic	4,197·09	4,221·57	4,274·15	4,324·43	4,340·95
Train Mileage ..	13,587,968	15,687,177	16,583,638	16,522,658	17,023,611
Passenger Journeys..	117,467,159	143,251,216	140,850,933	149,223,529	163,120,037
Goods and Live Stock Carried (Tons) ..	6,515,470	7,770,694	7,572,993	7,491,031	7,517,216

The mileage given in preceding tables relates to lines of railway, irrespective of the number of tracks, the actual length of which open for traffic on 30th June, 1923, was 4,720·89 miles of main tracks, and 937·12 miles of sidings.

The number of passengers carried in 1922-23 constituted a record, and exceeded the best total previously recorded by 9 per cent. Of the passenger journeys in 1922-23, 153,072,979 were made by metropolitan-suburban, and 10,047,058 by country passengers, the former being an increase of 13,660,176, and the latter of 236,332, as compared with the corresponding journeys for the previous year. The tonnage of goods and live stock carried was 26,185 more than in 1921-22. The items of goods carried in 1922-23 showing greatest tonnage were stone, gravel, and sand, 1,162,317 tons; wheat, 866,096 tons; and firewood, 614,080 tons. Live stock carried in the same year had an aggregate weight of 574,205 tons, and comprised 43,995 horses, 420,082 cattle, 8,535,753 sheep, and 326,707 pigs.

The daily average number of passengers who travel to and from Flinders-street and Prince's-bridge—which are connected and may be considered as one station—is 241,139. But for the system of "through routing," which was made practicable by the introduction of electrification, this number would have been greater, as the new method of working has had the effect of transferring a large portion of the traffic from Flinders-street to Spencer-street.

An analysis of the total traffic for the twelve months ended 30th June, 1922, gives the following approximation to the average number of passengers who travel to and from the three metropolitan stations:—

Station.	Average Number of Passengers per Day—	
	Week Days.	Sundays.
Flinders-street	209,181	52,295
Prince's-bridge	31,958	7,990
Spencer-street	44,469	11,117
Total	285,608	71,402

The figures for Flinders-street and Prince's-bridge include both suburban and country travellers, but only suburban passengers are included in the numbers for Spencer-street.

The number of trains handled on an ordinary week-day at Flinders-street is 2,640, and at Prince's-bridge 374.

The receipts and working expenses of the Railway Department during the last five financial years were as follows :—

RAILWAY RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE,
1918-19 TO 1922-23.

	Year ended 30th June—				
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Receipts—	£	£	£	£	£
Passenger Fares ..	2,938,139	3,841,844	4,453,408	4,880,595	5,160,256
Freight on Goods and Live Stock	2,977,069	3,746,375	4,440,071	4,848,245	4,990,420
Sundries ..	560,868	698,844	958,429	1,129,013	1,263,106
Total ..	6,476,076	8,287,063	9,851,908	10,857,853	11,413,782
Working Expenses—					
Way and Works ..	1,028,871	1,296,418	1,599,761	1,718,955	1,770,997
Rolling-stock ..	1,889,360	2,721,091	3,418,674	3,183,084	3,093,780
Transportation ..	1,260,362	1,839,998	2,508,790	2,664,486	2,685,068
General Charges* ..	296,178	408,247	566,644	720,621	892,369
Total ..	4,474,771	6,265,754	8,093,869	8,287,146	8,442,214
Net Receipts ..	2,001,305	2,021,309	1,758,039	2,570,707	2,971,568
Percentage of Ex- penses to Receipts	69·10	75·61	82·16	76·32	73·97

* Including pensions and gratuities.

The railway receipts of 1922-23 were the highest recorded for any year, and exceeded those of 1921-22, which were the best previously recorded, by about 5 per cent. The increase in the revenue was mainly accounted for by the heavier traffic on the suburban lines, the much larger numbers of live stock carried, and increased sales of electric power—the increases due to these three causes having been £256,991, £124,393, and £86,493 respectively, as compared with the previous year. Small increases were shown in most classes of goods traffic, but there was a substantial reduction of £277,135 in the amount received for the carriage of wheat.

Railway
interest
charges
compared with
net revenue.

The amount of interest on current loans allocated to railways, together with the expenditure incurred by the Treasury in connexion with the payment of such interest, is compared with the net revenue of the Department for the last five years in the following statement :—

RAILWAY INTEREST CHARGES AND EXPENSES AND NET REVENUE, 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

Year.	Interest, &c.		Net Revenue.
	£		£
1918-19	2,164,902		2,001,305
1919-20	2,234,202		2,021,309
1920-21	2,409,674		1,758,039
1921-22	2,589,816		2,570,707
1922-23	2,951,385		2,971,568

The figures show that in four of the last five years there was a deficit after providing for working expenses, pensions and gratuities, special expenditure and interest charges and expenses. The financial operations for 1922-23 resulted in a surplus of £20,183.

Railway
earnings and
expenses per
mile.

The earnings, expenses, and net profits per average mile of railway worked for each of the last five years were as follows :—

RAILWAY RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE PER AVERAGE MILE WORKED, 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
Average Number of Miles Open for Traffic	4,165	4,202	4,244	4,287	4,330
Gross Earnings per Mile	£ 1,555	£ 1,972	£ 2,321	£ 2,533	£ 2,636
Expenses per Mile	1,074	1,491	1,907	1,933	1,950
Net Profits per Mile	481	481	414	600	686

This table does not take account of the interest payable on railway loans and expenses of paying the same, which are given in the preceding table.

Railway
Rolling-stock.

The inventory of the rolling-stock at 30th June, 1923, showed that there were at that time 14 steam cranes, 789 locomotives, 2,587 coaching stock including 649 luggage

vans, 19,211 goods vehicles, and 728 service stock, of which 17 locomotives, 55 coaching stock, and 243 goods vehicles were narrow-gauge stock. Electric railway rolling-stock are included in the above figures. The capital cost of the broad-gauge stock was £11,985,209, of the narrow-gauge stock £105,373, and of the electric street railway stock £91,876.

Railway staff. The number of officers and employees in the railway service and the amount of salaries and wages (excluding travelling and incidental expenses) paid in each of the last five financial years were as set forth below:—

RAILWAY STAFF—NUMBERS, SALARIES, ETC.

Year.	Number of Employees at end of Year.			Amount of Salaries and Wages Paid during Year.
	Permanent.	Supernumerary.	Total.	
				£
1918-19 ..	12,034	7,892	19,926	3,284,779
1919-20 ..	12,580	12,117	24,697	4,683,707
1920-21 ..	12,094	15,139	27,233	5,895,347
1921-22 ..	19,273	7,688	26,961	6,388,508
1922-23 ..	19,450	7,295	26,745	6,293,720

St. Kilda-Brighton and Sandringham-Black Rock Electric Tramways. The results of operating the St. Kilda-Brighton and Sandringham-Black Rock Electric Tramways for 1922-23 are detailed in the following statement. As these tramways are controlled by the Railways Commissioners, particulars relating to them have been included in all the preceding railway tables.

ELECTRIC STREET TRAMWAYS, 1922-23.

	St. Kilda-Brighton Electric Tramway.	Sandringham-Black Rock Electric Tramway.
Average Mileage of Railway Worked	5.18	2.41
Car Mileage	504,098	125,274
Number of Passengers Carried	5,750,912	1,411,885
	£	£
Gross Revenue	54,194	12,531
Working Expenses	42,598	9,607
Interest Charges	8,893	4,783
Net Result	Profit 2,703	Loss 1,859
Capital Expenditure at 30th June, 1923—	£	£
Construction of Line	119,128	64,393
Rolling-stock	69,295	22,581

Railway
accidents.

The following table shows the number of persons killed or injured in each of the last ten years in railway accidents, the amounts paid in compensation, damages, &c., and the yearly averages for the period:—

PERSONS KILLED OR INJURED ON VICTORIAN RAILWAYS AND AMOUNTS PAID IN COMPENSATION, DAMAGES, ETC.: 1913-14 TO 1922-23.

Year ended 30th June.	Passengers.				Employees whilst in the execution of their duty.				Employees proceeding to or from duty; Persons at Crossings; Trespassers, and Others.		Total.		Amount paid on account of Compensation, Damages, &c.
	Due to Causes beyond their own Control.		Due wholly or partly to their own Action or Negligence.		Due to Causes beyond their own Control.		Due wholly or partly to their own Action or Negligence.		Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.					
1914	33	8	199	1	61	11	233	25	38	45	564	£ 13,567
1915	40	6	185	2	36	8	253	32	44	48	558	14,359
1916	29	11	198	2	28	10	242	31	37	54	534	20,766
1917	46	5	133	1	35	4	225	22	26	32	465	15,556
1918	33	4	197	2	46	9	246	29	39	44	561	18,221
1919	41	6	174	1	31	7	222	38	42	52	510	18,303
1920	32	8	174	..	33	8	164	22	48	38	451	18,161
1921	18	3	187	2	46	7	282	29	64	41	597	14,803
1922	10	10	135	1	35	13	191	34	37	58	408	17,848
1923	5	6	140	1	33	9	150	35	44	51	372	14,887
Yearly Average	28·7	6·7	172·2	1·3	38·4	8·6	220·8	29·7	41·9	46·3	502·0	16,647

With regard to the payments referred to in the above table, it should be pointed out that they not only cover cases of passengers where the accidents causing death or injury were "due to causes beyond their own control"; but they also include compensation paid on account of injuries sustained by employees whilst on duty, such payments being £5,903 in 1913-14, £7,008 in 1914-15, £17,143 in 1915-16, £12,925 in 1916-17, £11,480 in 1917-18, £13,035 in 1918-19, £10,815 in 1919-20, £10,468 in 1920-21, £13,387 in 1921-22, and £10,739 in 1922-23.

Freights on Victorian railways.

A statement of freights, operative on 1st October, 1923, in respect of commodities affecting rural producers, has been supplied by the General Passenger and Freight Agent of the Victorian Railways, and is appended hereto.

VICTORIAN RAILWAY GOODS RATES.

Commodities.	50 Miles.	100 Miles.	150 Miles.	200 Miles.	250 Miles.	300 Miles.	350 Miles.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Rate per Ton.							
Agricultural Produce, in trucks loaded to full carrying capacity, less 5 per cent.*	7 0	10 10	12 10	14 4	15 6	16 6	17 8
Dairy Produce, consisting of Butter, Milk, Cream, Cheese (boxed), Hams and Bacon (minimum, 1 ton), and Eggs† ..	13 6	25 2	33 8	42 4	48 4	54 2	60 2
Fresh Fruit† ..	9 0	16 0	21 0	26 0	29 6	33 4	37 0
Fresh Meat, in 5-ton lots; Milk, in 4-ton lots; Fencing Wire, in trucks loaded to full carrying capacity, less 5 per cent.; Woolpacks and Cornsacks, in truck loads of 8 or 12 tons ..	11 10	21 4	28 0	34 6	39 4	44 4	49 2
Poultry (living)† ..	18 10	34 10	46 8	58 10	67 2	75 4	83 8
Wool (greasy)† ..	24 6	47 9	61 6	70 3	79 6	88 3	97 3
Agricultural Machinery and Implements, Binder Twine† ..	26 3	51 0	76 3	94 9	113 6	126 0	138 9
Fencing Wire, in truck loads of 6 and 8 tons	16 9	32 0	46 9	57 9	69 0	74 3	79 9
Wire Netting, in trucks loaded to full carrying capacity, less 5 per cent. ..	6 2	10 10	15 0	17 6	20 6	22 8	24 10
Manures, in trucks loaded to full carrying capacity, less 5 per cent. ..	3 6	5 4	6 8	7 10	9 2	10 6	11 0
Rate per Truck.							
Live Stock ..	57 6	111 0	130 0	171 0	213 0	254 0	296 0

* Agricultural Produce includes Wheat, Oats, Barley, Maize, Beet, Onions, Hay, Straw, Chaff, Compressed Fodder, Flour, Bran, Pollard, Peas, Potatoes, Sharps, Molasses and Treacle for cattle food (on declaration), Pig Feed, unrefined Salt, and Malt; also Wine, Fruit, Jams, Jellies, Sauces, and Pickles, if produced in the Commonwealth and consigned direct for export. The minimum loadings for Chaff, Hay and Straw, and Pig Feed are as follows:—

	Per 10 or 12-ton Truck.	Per 15-ton Truck.
	Tons.	Tons.
Hay and Straw	8	8
Chaff	7	10
Pig Feed	8	12

† These commodities are subject to the Tariff for "Smalls," and, when consigned in lots up to 3 cwt., the charges are slightly higher than *pro rata* of the tonnage rates.

Municipal railway.

A railway between Kerang and Koondrook, owned and worked by the municipality of the Shire of Kerang, is open for general traffic. This railway, which has a 5 ft. 3 in. gauge, is 13 miles 75 chains in length, and, up to the end of 1922, cost £36,401 for construction and equipment. For the year 1922 the gross receipts were £7,592, and the working expenses, £7,348. The train mileage for the same year was 10,500, the number of passengers was 16,224, and the tonnage of goods and live stock carried was 21,579.

Private railway.

Another railway in Victoria not belonging to the State system is one of 3-ft. gauge and 12 miles in length between Yarra Junction and Powelltown. It was constructed principally for private use, but, in addition to serving its immediate purpose, it is engaged in the general business of transportation of passengers and goods. Up to 30th June, 1923, the cost of construction was £61,780, and for the year ended on the same date the receipts and working expenses (exclusive of depreciation and interest on capital) were £12,240 and £6,880 respectively. The above construction cost includes the cost of about 8 miles of steel tramway continuation beyond Powelltown, which is used for haulage of the Company's logs and sawn timber of other sawmillers, but not for passenger traffic. The freights on this extension line are included in the above receipts. The train mileage for the year between Powelltown and Yarra Junction was 22,000 and the passengers carried numbered 31,500.

Fares on Victorian railways.

A summary of passenger fares, operative on 1st October, 1923, has been obtained from the Railway Department, and is given below.

VICTORIAN RAILWAY PASSENGER FARES.

Distance.	Single.		Return.*	
	1st Class.	2nd Class.	1st Class Holiday Excursion.	2nd Class Holiday Excursion.
Miles.	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
50	9 9	6 6	16 3	10 10
100	18 11	12 7	31 7	21 1
150	28 0	18 8	46 11	31 3
200	37 9	25 2	63 2	42 1
250	47 2	31 6	78 9	52 6
300	52 9	35 2	88 3	58 9
350	58 5	38 11	97 4	64 11

* Tickets issued only at week-ends and on dates specially advertised.

Cheap excursion tickets, at the rate of 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ d. per mile for first class return and 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per mile for second class return, are issued to and from Melbourne and the various country stations as may be advertised from time to time.

From the 15th October to the 30th April each year return tourist tickets are issued to various holiday resorts from all stations throughout Victoria at holiday excursion fares, and are available for two months from date of issue.

TRAMWAYS.

Victorian tramways. The various tramway systems in the State comprise 45·900 miles of cable lines, double track; 100·606 miles of electric lines, of which 59·266 miles are double, and 41·340 miles single track; and ·625 of a mile of horse-line, double track.

The electric street tramways, St. Kilda to Brighton and Sandringham to Black Rock, under the management of the Victorian Railways Commissioners, are not referred to in this connexion, being included under the heading "Railways," page 417.

The subjoined table contains particulars relating to all tramways in Victoria for each of the last five years:—

VICTORIAN TRAMWAYS, 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

(Exclusive of St. Kilda-Brighton and Sandringham-Black Rock Electric Street Tramways).

Financial Year.	Miles of Track.	Tram Mileage.	Number of Passengers carried.	Traffic Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Number of Rolling-stock.	Number of Persons employed.
1918-19	{ 98·56 double 36·33 single }	19,902,007	179,405,472	£ 1,384,206	£ 908,404	1,354	3,563
1919-20	{ 100·46 double 40·188 single }	20,368,507	204,807,815	1,572,176	1,099,272	1,392	4,193
1920-21	{ 99·46 double 40·188 single }	21,494,747	221,908,333	1,730,521	1,305,727	1,426	4,417
1921-22	{ 100·016 double 44·148 single }	22,369,483	226,738,318	1,943,805	1,472,296	1,470	4,586
1922-23	{ 105·791 double 41·340 single }	22,775,563	234,588,628	1,999,633	1,492,031	1,465	5,070

Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Acts. On 7th January, 1919, the Royal Assent was given to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act, which is administered by a Board consisting of seven members appointed by the Governor in Council. The Chairman holds office for a period of five years and the remaining members for a period of three years. The Board assumed control of the Melbourne Cable Tramways and the Royal Park Horse Tramway on 1st November, 1919. Information in regard to the control of these tramways prior to that date is given in the *Year-Book* for 1918-19, page 569.

On 2nd February, 1920, the Electric Tramway systems of the following Trusts were vested in the Board:—Prahran and Malvern Tramways; Hawthorn Tramways; Melbourne, Brunswick and Coburg Tramways; Fitzroy, Northcote and Preston Tramways; and Footscray Tramways; also the Cable Tramway of the Northcote Council.

Authority was given by the Act to acquire the Electric Tramways of the North Melbourne Electric Tramway and Lighting Company Limited (Essendon) by agreement or by compulsory acquisition, and they were taken over by the Board as from 1st August, 1922.

The Board is empowered to borrow up to £3,000,000 by the issue of stock or debentures secured upon its revenues and undertakings, this being in addition to the transferred liabilities attaching to the tramways vested in it. Power is given to have an overdraft not exceeding £200,000. The Board has exercised its power to borrow to the extent of £500,000.

The Board has prepared a general scheme for the future development of tramways in the metropolis, which has been approved by the Railways Standing Committee. The scheme includes provision for the construction of about 100 single track miles of electric tramway, but, before the Board can actually construct any of such tramways, a "Special construction scheme" dealing with the proposed route must be approved by the Railways Standing Committee and authorized by Parliament. Authority is, however, given to the Board to construct certain tramways already approved by the Governor in Council or Parliament, without further formality.

The Act provides that the Board shall pay to the Consolidated Revenue each year a sum equivalent to the Government's contributions to the Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital, the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, and certain specified municipalities pursuant to the *Licensing Act* 1916. (The payments under this obligation for the year ended 30th June, 1923, amounted to about £93,000.) The surplus on the operations of any year, after transferring not less than 4 per cent. nor more than 6 per cent. of the capital cost of the undertaking to Reserve Funds and carrying to the credit of the succeeding year such sum, not

exceeding £10,000, as the Board thinks fit, is to be distributed amongst 28 constituent Metropolitan Councils in accordance with a scheme of distribution to be adopted by the Board. Any sum received by a municipality in pursuance of this arrangement is to be applied only to such purposes as the Governor in Council shall approve. No distribution to the Municipalities has been made since 30th June, 1920.

Pursuant to the *Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act 1923*, municipal councils may require the Board to submit a special construction scheme to the Railways Standing Committee dealing with any route included in the general scheme. In the event of such route being approved by the Committee, and its construction being authorized by Parliament, the Board shall construct the line under a guarantee against loss on operation from the council or councils concerned for a period of five years. The council or councils shall pay each year from the Municipal fund any losses in respect of which a guarantee has been given, and a council may, if not forbidden by the ratepayers, recoup itself by the levy of a "tramway betterment rate" over the whole or a portion of the district served.

**Melbourne and
Metropolitan
Tramways.**

The lines controlled by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board have been grouped as follows:—

- (a) The "Cable System," *i.e.*, the Metropolitan Cable Tramways (43·677 miles of cable and ·625 of a mile horse-line, double track), and the Northcote Cable Tramway (2·223 miles, double track).
- (b) The "Eastern System," *i.e.*, the Prahran and Malvern Electric Tramways (34·361 miles, double track, and 1·397 miles, single track), and the Hawthorn Electric Tramways (6·826 miles, double track, and 4·351 miles, single track).
- (c) The "Northern System," *i.e.*, the Melbourne and Coburg Electric Tramways (5·260 miles, double track, and 1·77 miles, single track), and the Fitzroy and Preston Electric Tramways (1·913 miles, double track, and 3·909 miles, single track).

An electric tramway at Footscray (1·590 miles, double track, and 2·877 miles, single track) was opened for traffic on 6th September, 1921. The electric tramway which extends from North Melbourne to Essendon was purchased by the Board on 1st August, 1922. It is 7·259 miles in length (3·921 double and 3·338 single track).

The capital cost of the tramways vested in the Tramways Board, including stores on hand, amounted to £4,547,027 on 30th June, 1923, as follows:—Melbourne Cable Tramways, £2,308,222; Prahran and

Malvern, £1,185,744; Hawthorn, £326,419; Melbourne, Brunswick, and Coburg, £212,039; Fitzroy, Northcote, and Preston, £144,285; Footscray, £152,541; North Melbourne and Essendon, £69,823; West Brunswick, £5,287; South Melbourne, £2,401; Northcote Cable Tramway, £53,531; Holden-street shop, £1,490; and general expenditure (unallotted), £85,245.

The length of tramway lines open for traffic on 30th June, 1923, in the metropolitan area comprised 45·900 miles of cable lines, double track; 71·513 miles of electric lines, of which 53·871 were double, and 17·642 single track; and ·625 of a mile horse-line, double track. Particulars in relation to the traffic of the metropolitan tramways for each of the last five years are given in the following statement:—

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN TRAMWAYS, 1918-19
TO 1922-23.

Financial Year.	Miles of Track.	Tram Mileage.	Number of Passengers carried.	Traffic Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Number of Rolling-stock.	Number of Persons employed.
1918-19	{ 93·575 double } { 13·452 single }	18,766,868	173,080,746	£ 1,321,723	£ 860,920	1,277	3,376
1919-20	{ 95·475 double } { 17·31 single }	19,253,929	197,708,685	1,501,381	1,050,707	1,315	3,997
1920-21	{ 95·475 double } { 17·31 single }	20,333,033	213,872,064	1,648,058	1,246,973	1,358	4,228
1921-22	{ 96·021 double } { 21·26 single }	21,208,879	218,450,712	1,857,469	1,406,127	1,402	4,399
1922-23	{ 100·396 double } { 17·642 single }	21,584,652	226,631,546	1,911,278	1,427,955	1,397	*4,875

* Including 99 employees at Head Office and 46 at Holden-street Carbuilding Shop.

The passenger revenue per tram mile of the metropolitan tramways for 1922-23 was 21·251d., and the average fare per passenger was 2·02d. The percentage of working expenses to traffic receipts for that year was 73·73 for the cable, and 76·59 for all the electric lines. The average distance which a passenger was allowed to travel for a fare of a penny on the tramways under the Board's control was 1·44 miles over the cable, and 1·104 miles over the electric system.

In 1922-23 the tram mileage of the Melbourne cable cars was 14,430,060, of the Royal Park horse-line cars 9,808, and of the Northcote cable cars 402,356; and the numbers of passengers carried by these cars were 150,383,977, 202,802, and 5,233,374 respectively.

The towns, other than the metropolis, having tramway systems are:—Ballarat, with 13·85 miles of electric lines (1·425 double and 12·425 single track); Bendigo, with 8·113 miles of electric lines (1·8 double and 6·313 single track); and Geelong, with 7·13 miles of electric lines (2·17 double and 4·96 single track).

Country
Tramways.

The traffic particulars of these lines for each of the last five years are summarized below :—

COUNTRY TRAMWAYS, 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

Financial Year.	Miles of Track.	Tram Mileage.	Number of Passengers carried.	Traffic Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Number of Rolling-stock.	Number of Persons employed
1918-19	{ 4·985 double 22·878 single }	1,135,139	6,324,726	£ 62,483	£ 47,874	77	187
1919-20	{ 4·985 double 22·878 single }	1,114,578	7,099,130	70,795	48,565	77	196
1920-21	{ 3·985 double 22·878 single }	1,161,714	8,036,269	82,463	58,754	68	189
1921-22	{ 3·995 double 22·888 single }	1,160,604	8,287,606	86,336	66,169	68	187
1922-23	{ 5·395 double 23·638 single }	1,190,911	7,957,032	88,355	64,076	68	195

LICENSED VEHICLES.

The licensing of vehicles plying, kept, or let out for hire within the city of Melbourne or for a distance of 8 miles beyond the city boundaries is controlled by the Melbourne City Council. The appended statement contains details of vehicles and drivers licensed annually during the last five years :—

LICENSED VEHICLES IN MELBOURNE, 1918 TO 1922.

	1918.	1919	1920.	1921.	1922.
<i>For Passenger Traffic.</i>					
Cabs, Drags (4 wheel)	458	464	472	470	423
„ (Hansoms)	149	166	165	157	135
Tram Cars	443	458	—	—	—
„ Dummies	442	447	—	—	—
Motor Cars	173	337	401	480	483
„ Omnibuses .. ..	..	..	..	..	3
„ Chars-a-bancs	25	24	23	37	60
Total	1,690	1,896	1,061	1,144	1,104
<i>For Conveyance of Goods.</i>					
Drivers licensed	2,719	2,911	3,151	3,253	3,322

NOTE.—Tram cars and dummies under the control of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board have not since 1919 been included in the vehicles which require to be licensed.

**Motor cars,
&c.**

The use of motor cars and motor cycles in Victoria is regulated by Act No. 2702, under the provisions of which every motor car and motor cycle must be registered with the Chief Commissioner of Police, and the registration renewed annually. On 31st December, 1922, the number of motor cars registered was 30,875, on which fees were payable at the following annual rates:—204 at six guineas each, 2,595 at five guineas each, 20,764 at four guineas each, 5,208 at three guineas each, 1,937 at two guineas each, and 167 at one guinea each. On the same date, 13 282 motor cycles, which are subject to an annual fee of 5s. each, and 322 traction engines were registered. No person may drive a motor car or motor cycle upon any public highway without having been licensed for that purpose. On 31st December, 1922, the number of drivers of motor cars and motor cycles licensed by the Chief Commissioner was 49,060. There were also 88 dealers registered.
