

APPENDIX.

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

CHAPTER III.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

§ 1. Scheme of Parliamentary Government.

3. Governor-General and State Governors, p. 28.—

Victoria The Hon. SIR WILLIAM HILL IRVINE, K.C.M.G. (Lieutenant Governor).

Western Australia.. The Hon. JOHN ALFRED NORTHMORE (Administrator).

§ 2. Parliaments and Elections.

3. Federal Elections, p. 31.—The twelfth Parliament was dissolved 27th November, 1931, and the elections for the thirteenth Parliament were held on the 19th December, 1931.

6. The Parliament of Victoria, p. 33.—Particulars of the Legislative Council elections held on the 6th June, 1931, are as follows :—Electors enrolled, 470,349 ; electors enrolled in contested electorates, 239,975 ; electors who voted, 93,244 ; percentage of electors who voted in contested electorates, 38.86.

10. The Parliament of Tasmania, p. 36.—Particulars of the House of Assembly election held on the 9th May, 1931, are as follows :—Electors enrolled—males 59,024, females 59,706, total 118,730 ; electors who voted—males 56,674, females 56,105, total 112,779 ; percentage of electors who voted—males 96.02, females 93.97, total 94.99.

§ 3. Administration and Legislation.

2. (c) Scullin Government, p. 38.—From the 26th June, 1931, Senator the Hon. John Joseph Daly, and the Hon. Lucien Lawrence Cunningham succeeded, as Assistant Ministers, the Hon. Edward James Holloway and the Hon. Charles Ernest Culley, whose appointments terminated on the 12th and 24th June, 1931, respectively.

CHAPTER VI.

TRADE.

§ 2. Commonwealth Legislation Affecting Oversea Trade, p. 104.

Primage Duty.—From the 10th July, 1930, a primage duty of 2½ per cent. *ad valorem* was imposed on all goods, whether dutiable or not dutiable, in addition to the duties collected in accordance with the Customs Tariff 1921–30, excepting bullion, specie, radium and certain special Governmental and other imports.

The rate of primage duty was subsequently increased to 4 per cent. as from the 6th November, 1930.

On the 11th July, 1931, a further amendment came into operation (a) exempting certain aids to primary production and minor imports from primage duty, (b) providing for a rate of 4 per cent. *ad valorem* on a few other items, mainly aids to production, and (c) increasing the *ad valorem* rate of primage duty to 10 per cent. on all other articles imported.

§ 4. Oversea Trade.

2. Balance of Trade, p. 114.—The following table shows the commodity balance of trade for each year of the period from 1910 to 1930–31 inclusive. The export totals for the years 1924–25 to 1928–29 inclusive have been reduced in accordance with the amended basis adopted for the valuation of exports of sugar and butter. Gold and silver production have also been brought into account, being included in merchandise when exported in an unrefined state and shown as a separate trade item when produced and refined in Australia.

With the exception of the above-mentioned amendments for the years 1924–25 to 1928–29, the total balance of trade is the same as that previously published as being the recorded excess of exports in each year.

BALANCE OF TRADE.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE. NET EXPORTS OF BULLION AND SPECIE, AND PRODUCTION OF GOLD AND SILVER, AUSTRALIA, 1910 to 1930-31.

Year.	Imports of Merchandise.	Exports of Merchandise.	Gold and Silver produced and refined in Australia.	Total Exports of Merchandise and Gold and Silver Production.	Commodity Balance of Trade.	Net Exports of Bullion and Specie above Production.	Total Balance.
	£1,000,000	£1,000,000	£1,000,000	£1,000,000	£1,000,000	£1,000,000	£1,000,000
1910 ..	58.7	69.9	12.0	81.9	23.2	-8.7	14.5
1911 ..	65.0	67.4	11.1	78.5	13.5	-1.0	12.5
1912 ..	76.4	66.6	10.4	77.0	0.6	0.4	1.0
1913 ..	78.2	74.8	9.9	84.7	6.5	-7.7	-1.2
1914 (a) ..	38.9	36.3	4.6	40.9	2.0	-3.8	-1.8
1914-15 ..	63.6	57.7	9.0	66.7	3.1	-6.9	-3.8
1915-16 ..	76.9	64.0	8.3	72.3	-4.6	1.7	-2.9
1916-17 ..	75.9	85.9	7.5	93.4	17.5	4.2	21.7
1917-18 ..	60.7	74.0	7.3	81.3	20.6	-1.5	19.1
1918-19 ..	95.3	104.8	7.1	111.9	16.6	-5.0	11.6
1919-20 ..	98.9	143.2	6.2	149.4	50.5	0.4	50.9
1920-21 ..	163.8	126.7	5.1	131.8	-32.0	0.3	-31.7
1921-22 ..	103.0	123.5	4.7	128.2	25.2	-0.4	24.8
1922-23 ..	131.7	114.6	4.4	119.0	-12.7	-1.2	-13.9
1923-24 ..	140.6	115.7	4.2	119.9	-20.7	-0.4	-21.1
1924-25 ..	146.6	159.3	3.8	163.1	16.5	-12.3	4.2
1925-26 ..	151.2	140.7	3.4	144.1	-7.1	1.7	-5.4
1926-27 ..	164.1	131.8	3.2	135.0	-29.1	8.5	-20.6
1927-28 ..	146.9	137.4	3.0	140.4	-6.5	-0.2	-6.7
1928-29 ..	143.3	137.7	2.8	140.5	-2.8	0.8	-2.0
1929-30 ..	130.8	97.4	2.7	100.1	-30.7	24.7	-6.0
1930-31 (b)	60.2	(c) 75.8	2.6	78.4	18.2	10.1	28.3

(a) First six months only.

(b) Preliminary figures.

(c) Estimated British currency values.

Balance of International Payments, p. 115.—The following table gives a statement of the balance of visible trade for the last three years, together with the oversea payments and receipts on public account. For this period it has been possible to obtain more complete information than that which has been previously published in the Year Book.

The table does not purport to give a complete statement of the balance of international payments. Private investments, dividends, private payments for services, tourist expenditure, and remittances to friends, are some important items not taken into account.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, AUSTRALIA, 1928-29 TO 1930-31.

Particulars.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
	£'000,000 sterling	£'000,000 sterling	£'000,000 sterling
Current Items—			
Credits—			
(a) Net export of goods	-2.8	-30.7	18.2
(b) Net export of gold and silver	0.8	24.7	10.1
Total credits	-2.0	-6.0	28.3
Debits—			
(c) Interest payable abroad	28.8	29.0	29.1
(d) Balance of other Government payments	4.1	3.4	1.5
Total debits	32.9	32.4	30.6
Credit balance on year	-34.9	-38.4	-2.3
Capital Movement—			
(e) By long term loans	2.1	-3.7	-2.6
(f) By net increase in short term debt .. ..	..	5.0	28.1
(g) By balance, not here accounted for	32.8	37.1	-23.2
Credit balance on year	34.9	38.4	2.3

(a) Includes the value of gold and silver production for the year. The values as recorded of sugar and butter exports for 1928-29 have been reduced to actual values received.

(b) Excluding the gold and silver production of the year.

(c) Commonwealth, State, and Local Government (including Boards of Works, Harbour and Tramway Trusts, &c.). Interest as at the beginning of the year specified. The local Government interest was roughly £1.5m. yearly.

(d) This item includes Government debits and credits abroad, which have not been taken into account in the previous columns. Debits for material imported by Governments, particularly by the Post Office, the Defence Department, and the Railways Departments, have been included in the commodity balance of trade (a), except in the case of complete warships. The sub-items are given in the table below. The values are rough in some cases, and probably a number of small payments are omitted, but the total is sufficiently accurate for "balance of payments" purposes.

(e) Commonwealth, State and Local Government.

(f) Commonwealth and State; not including bank overdraft.

(g) The balance, here ascribed to capital movements, includes the balance (probably small) on current items which have not been taken into account. The movement in bank overdraft is a prominent feature in these years. Overdrafts in London were £29.1 m. at 30th June, 1930, and £5,000,000 at 30th June, 1931, so that there was a decrease of overdraft by £24.1 m. in the year, which corresponds very closely to the debit balance of £23.2 m. set down in the table. Similar information for the preceding years is at present incomplete, but the increase in overdraft in those years could have accounted for less than half of the capital balance. There was, however, probably a considerable credit balance in London at June, 1928, on account of loans of £54,000,000 raised abroad in 1927-28.

BALANCE OF OTHER GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS.

Particulars.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
	£'000 sterling	£'000 sterling	£'000 sterling
Dr.—			
Sinking Fund payments	1,972	2,074	992
Repayment of principal of debt to British Government	1,425	1,496	1,570
Money Orders—balance	240	270	148
Oversea mails	130	130	130
Australia House and Agents—General ..	164	164	140
Department of Defence	1,386	453	132
Total "Other" Debits	5,317	4,587	3,112
Cr.—			
Reparations	876	878	1,265
Sales of Steamers—Interest and part of Principal	250	256	247
War Pensions—Credit balance	39	84	73
Total "Other" Credits	1,165	1,218	1,585
Net Debit	4,152	3,369	1,527

The balance of money orders above what is accounted for in the balance of visible trade is estimated on the lines adopted by Dr. Roland Wilson (Economic Record, May, 1931, pp. 51-2).

CHAPTER VII.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION.

E. MOTOR VEHICLES.

5. Motor Vehicles Registered, p. 215.—Motor Vehicles registered at 30th June, 1931, were as follows :—

MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED AT 30th JUNE, 1931.

State or Territory.	Motor Cars.	Commercial Vehicles.	Motor Cycles.	All Vehicles.	
				No.	Per 1,000 of Population.
New South Wales	154,096	43,454	25,453	223,003	89
Victoria	116,568	28,028	23,635	168,231	94
Queensland	(a) 80,185	(b) 2,102	8,544	90,831	95
South Australia	37,541	10,532	8,152	56,225	96
Western Australia(c) ..	13,221	3,725	4,129	21,075	(e)
Tasmania	12,020	2,169	4,289	18,478	84
Northern and Central Aus- tralia	307	205	32	544	117
Federal Capital Territory	1,096	215	84	1,395	165
Australia(d)	415,034	90,430	74,318	579,782	(e)

(a) Pneumatic tyred vehicles.

(b) Solid tyred vehicles.

(c) Metropolitan Area only.

(d) Incomplete.

(e) Not yet available.

CHAPTER VIII.

FINANCE.

THE FINANCIAL CRISIS.

1. **General.**—It is not within the functions of the Year Book to attempt a full record of the financial and economic crisis which began to develop in Australia towards the end of 1929, and space does not permit even a collection into one place of the statistical and financial data relevant to the subject. The principal documents relating to the crisis, however, up to June, 1931, have been conveniently put together, with some brief comment, by Professors E. G. Shann and D. B. Copland in the two handy volumes, entitled "The Crisis in Australian Finance", and "The Battle of the Plans". These may be supplemented by the official reports of the "Premiers' Conference", Parliamentary Papers, No. 236, reporting the Conference of 25th May to 11th June, 1931, and No. 269, reporting the Conference of 14th August to 12th September, 1931. Particular reference may be made to the Treasury Officers' Report on the Budgets of 1931-32 in the latter paper. Discussions of the economic and financial issues will be found in Nos. 11, 12, and 13, of the *Economic Record* (Melbourne); in the "Economic Survey of Australia" published in the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science (Philadelphia) for November, 1931, and the Circulars of the Bank of New South Wales (Sydney).

2. **Elements of the Situation.**—The elements of the situation before the depression began, were :—

- (1) A national income of about £100 per head in 1928-29.
- (2) Oversea interest obligations, fixed for the most part in sterling of about £5 per head.
- (3) Imports of about £27 per head in 1926-27, falling to £23 per head in 1928-29.
- (4) Exports of commodities, which for some years had failed to pay for imports, and in 1928-29 were £21 per head.
- (5) A standing net debit of interest obligations and balance of visible trade, which had been met by oversea long-term loans averaging about £5 per head for some years, helped by some investment of private capital from oversea.
- (6) Deficits in Government finance for the Commonwealth and all States which for 1929-30 totalled about £1 15s. per head.

On this situation impinged :—

- (1) A world fall in commodity prices, with consequent general depression and increase in the burden of fixed money claims which were estimated for Australia at about £20 per head in 1928-29.
- (2) A fall in Australian export prices, which, in gold, have now (October, 1931) sunk to about 30 per cent. of the 1927-28 level, and to 50 per cent. even in the depreciated Australian £, while, at the same time, interest obligations remained fixed in sterling for the most part, and import prices fell very much less than export prices, probably only to 70 per cent. in gold.
- (3) A total cessation of oversea long-term loans, which had hitherto balanced interest obligations overseas.
- (4) Government deficits, which had been about £1 15s. per head in 1929-30 rose to nearly £5 per head in 1930-31, and threatened to be £7 per head in 1931-32, with consequent further loss of business confidence and intensification of the depression.

3. Attempts to meet the Situation.—A brief diary of the attempts to meet this situation may be set out as follows :—

July-August, 1930. Sir Otto Niemeyer, representing the Bank of England, visited Australia at the invitation of the Commonwealth Government, and made a statement on severely deflationary lines to a Conference of Premiers in Melbourne. (See "The Crisis in Australian Finance", p. 18.) The Premiers resolved to balance budgets in 1930-31.

22nd January, 1931. The Commonwealth Court of Arbitration after a protracted hearing made a comprehensive survey of the economic position (See "The Crisis" pp. 102-145), and awarded a 10 per cent. reduction in all railway wages which were the subject of the case, operative from the 1st February, 1931. This judgment was followed by others making the same reduction in practically all wages and salaries, which were determined by Federal award. This reduction of 10 per cent. was in addition to the "automatic" adjustment to falling prices and made the total reduction over 20 per cent. on the wage ratio of 1929. Wages under State jurisdiction were gradually brought into line, except in New South Wales where no adjustment was made in State awards.

*January-February, 1931. The Canberra Conference (Loan Council and Premiers).—*A committee of Treasury officers presented a report analysing the financial and economic position. The report preserved much of the deflationary tone of Sir Otto Niemeyer's statement, and commented adversely on the high exchange rate. Curtailment of Government expenditure was strongly urged, but no definite reductions were proposed. This report was signed by four of the State Under-Treasurers only.

Mr. Lang (Premier of New South Wales) proposed as an alternative the reduction of internal interest on Government bonds to 3 per cent., the stoppage of oversea interest payments pending agreement for a similar reduction, and the substitution for the gold standard of "currency based on the wealth of Australia".

The Conference rejected Mr. Lang's motion and resolved to aim at budget equilibrium in three years, reducing salaries and wages on a cost of living basis, taxing interest on Government bonds at the source and putting on the banks the responsibility reducing of interest rates.

January.—The Unpegging of the Exchange.—Exchange on London had been held by the banks at £8 10s. per cent. discount since 9th October, 1930. On 5th January, 1931, on the initiative of the Bank of New South Wales, the rate was allowed to move up until it reached 30 per cent. on 29th January, 1931. At this figure it was held, in spite of some "outside" competition at higher rates.

2nd April.—Letter from the Commonwealth Bank to the Chairman of the Loan Council, stating that it was unable to finance Governments further than the outstanding £25,000,000 in London, and a limit of £25,000,000 in Australia. This limit in Australia was bound to be, and was, in fact, reached within three months.

25th May to 11th June. Premiers' Conference, Melbourne. The Conference had before it a report of a Committee of economists and Treasury officers, of which Professor D. B. Copeland was Chairman. This report proposed a definite scheme of reduction of expenditure of all kinds, including wages, salaries, pensions, and interest. The reduction aimed at was from 20 to 25 per cent. below the 1928-29 level, based on the actual reduction in wage rates in Federal awards of something over 20 per cent. The aim of the proposals was to reduce total Government deficits in 1931-32 from a prospective £40,000,000, to some figure not much above £10,000,000. This report which is printed in full at the end of this section, formed the basis of the "Premiers' Plan," adopted on the 10th June, 1931, referred to hereinafter.

19th June.—Gold Position. The minimum proportion of gold to be held against notes was reduced from 25 per cent. to 15 per cent. with provision for gradual restoration over a term not exceeding five years to 25 per cent. This amendment of the Commonwealth Bank Act was put through by general consent to permit further shipments of

gold to meet short-term debt in London. The gold movements since June, 1929, have been roughly :—

	£ m.
30th June, 1929—	
Gold held by Note Issue Department	22.6
Gold held by Trading Banks	22.6
Other (say)	0.8
Add Production to 30th September, 1931	4.6
Total	50.6
Net Exports of Gold 1st July, 1929 to 30th September, 1931	39.8
30th September, 1931—	
Gold held by Note Issue Department	10.5
Gold held by Trading Banks (about)	0.3
Total	50.6

The reserve ratio at 30th June, 1929, was 53.4 per cent. ; at 30th September, 1931, it was 20.2 per cent.

26th June.—*Reduction of Bank Deposit and Advance Rates.* The Commonwealth Bank and the trading banks reduced by 1 per cent. the rates on new fixed deposits or renewals. This was followed by a further reduction on 27th November, of one-half and one-quarter of 1 per cent. on short and long term deposits respectively.

1st July. The Commonwealth Bank reduced rates for advances by 1 per cent. The other trading banks by successive small steps fell into line.

The Commonwealth and State Savings Banks reduced interest rates by 1 per cent., except in Victoria where successive reductions of one-half and one-quarter of 1 per cent. were made by the State Savings Bank.

July–August.—*Conversion Loan.* Conversion Loan, by which the rate of interest on all internal Government debt was reduced by approximately 2½ per cent.

The results of the conversion plan will be best understood by the consideration of the following figures :—

	£
Total internal public debt at 31st July, 1931	557,998,904
Conversion applications notified	510,331,153
Dissents notified	16,655,769
Conversion effected automatically (in absence of notification of either conversion or dissent)	31,011,982
	557,998,904

The amount held by dissentients was thus a little less than 3 per cent. of the total outstanding public debt.

The annual savings in interest to all the Governments for a full year in consequence of the conversions effected will be about £6,500,000, but some part of this relief is being passed on to settlers and other debtors to the State Governments.

14th August to 12th September.—Resumption of Premiers' Conference in Melbourne. The various Governments reported the adjustments of their budgets to the Premiers' Plan. After some allowance had been made for unforeseen contingencies, the new budgets appeared on the whole to be in fair conformity with the Premiers' Plan, though for some of the State Governments there was an appreciable gap. Measures were agreed upon for applying compulsion to the small amount of Government Debt which had not been converted, with provision for the redemption from the National Debt Sinking Fund of securities held by persons in necessitous circumstances.

21st September. Great Britain ceased payment in gold, and sterling depreciated something over 20 per cent. in terms of gold, thus making a corresponding reduction in the real burden of interest payments by Australian Governments, which are for the most part fixed in sterling. Australian exchange was kept for the time at the old discount of 30 per cent. with sterling, so that no direct relief to Australian budgets ensued.

3rd December.—Exchange. Commonwealth Bank Board resolved to take responsibility for the regulation of sterling exchange and to announce rates for the coming week every Friday. The rate was fixed at £125 for £100 sterling, in place of £130 which had been the official bank rate since 29th January. It may be noted that sterling in the preceding week had depreciated from about 20 per cent. discount on gold to about 30 per cent.

4. Position of Government Finance, 31st October, 1931.—The position of Government finance at the 31st October, 1931, the latest date for which complete figures are available, is outlined in the summarized statements hereunder.

RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES AND DEFICITS, COMMONWEALTH AND STATES, FOR FOUR MONTHS ENDED 31ST OCTOBER, 1930, AND 1931.

Commonwealth or States.	Four Months ended—					
	31st October, 1930.			31st October, 1931.		
	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Deficit.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Deficit.
	£'000.	£'000	£'000.	£'000.	£'000.	£'000.
Commonwealth ..	19,546	25,446	5,900	21,506	22,223	717
New South Wales ..	12,059	17,365	5,306	11,097	(a)18,879	7,782
Victoria ..	5,554	9,335	3,781	5,290	8,745	3,455
Queensland ..	4,165	4,844	679	3,765	4,619	854
South Australia ..	2,361	3,856	1,495	2,541	3,925	1,384
Western Australia ..	2,366	3,114	748	2,224	3,118	894
Tasmania ..	746	956	210	670	888	218
Total States ..	27,251	39,470	12,219	25,587	40,174	14,587
Net Total (b) ..	43,243	61,362	18,119	44,048	59,352	15,304

(a) Includes interest £711,000 and exchange £322,000 (Total, £1,033,000) attributable to the year 1930-31.

(b) Exclusive of amounts received by States from Commonwealth on account of interest on States debts and special "disabilities" grants.

In the above table there is a certain unavoidable duplication of receipts and expenditure as between Commonwealth and States, e.g., interest paid by the States to the Commonwealth on account of advances for soldier land settlement appears as expenditure by States and as revenue of the Commonwealth.

As compared with the corresponding four months of 1930-31, the first four months of 1931-32 show that the net total receipts have improved by £800,000, and expenditures have declined by £2,000,000, the consequent improvement in regard to deficits being £2.8 million.

Although increased taxation revenue of £2.2 million was responsible for the improved receipts, this was largely offset by a reduction of railway revenue of £1,000,000. The taxation revenue of the Commonwealth increased by £2.4 million, that of Victoria, by £250,000; and of South Australia by £140,000, while New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania, showed decreases of approximately £440,000, £130,000, and £40,000 respectively. There was practically no change in the amount of taxation collections in Western Australia during the two periods under review.

The reduction of interest on loans by Governments arising from the Premiers' Conference was another factor offsetting the increase in taxation.

Notwithstanding substantial increases in expenditure on account of exchange and unemployment relief, the aggregate net total expenditure decreased by £2,000,000. This decrease would, however, have been £3,000,000, had it not been for the fact that the figures for New South Wales for 1931-32 include £1,033,000 on account of interest and exchange attributable to the year 1930-31.

On the other hand, the suspension by the British Government of payments under the *Funding Arrangements Act 1921*, has contributed to the satisfactory budgetary position of the Commonwealth Government, as the deficit would otherwise have been increased by roughly £2,000,000 ordinarily due on 30th September, 1931, plus exchange thereon.

Railway expenditure has decreased by approximately £1.3 million, and, although complete details for other business undertakings are not available for all States, the information given definitely indicates a reduction of expenditure on these services of at least £300,000. Similarly, expenditure on account of ordinary services shows a distinct downward trend as compared with the previous year.

The statement below shows for the Commonwealth and each State the deficit position at 31st October, 1930, in comparison with the actual deficit for 1930-31, and the deficit for the four months of 1931-32, with the estimates of the deficit for that year.

Column four of the table shows an estimate of the financial position prior to the May-June 1931 Conference, when proposals for the restoration of budgetary equilibrium were formulated. The position after making the necessary adjustments consequent upon the adoption of the "Conference Plan" is as stated in column five, while the deficits budgeted for are given in column six.

DEFICITS, COMMONWEALTH AND STATES, FOR FOUR MONTHS TO 31ST OCTOBER, 1930 AND 1931.

Government.	1930-31.		1931-32.			Deficit for Four Months.
	Deficit.		Estimated Deficit for Year.			
	For Year.	For Four Months.	Prior to Melbourne Conference.	After Conference Adjustments.	Budget.	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
	£'000.	£'000.	£'000.	£'000.	£'000.	£'000.
Commonwealth ..	10,760	5,900	20,400	4,380	5,170	717
New South Wales ..	7,850	5,306	11,510	5,410	(b) 6,700	7,782
Victoria ..	2,450	3,781	3,060	1,310	820	3,455
Queensland ..	840	679	1,630	760	1,870	854
South Australia ..	1,810	1,495	2,400	1,500	(c) 1,600	1,384
Western Australia ..	1,420	748	1,860	1,200	1,230	894
Tasmania ..	240	210	220	90	180	218
Total States ..	14,610	12,219	20,680	10,270	12,300	14,587
Grand Total ..	(a)25,370	18,119	41,080	14,650	17,470	15,304

(a) Excluding interest, &c., £3,834,149 paid by the Commonwealth on behalf of New South Wales and not recovered at 30th June, 1931. Of this amount £1,672,722 would normally have been brought to account as expenditure by New South Wales during 1930-31 and the remainder in 1931-32.

(b) Excluding £1,672,000 interest and exchange in respect of 1930-31.

(c) Excluding certain sinking fund and depreciation charges.

While it is rather too early in the current financial year to draw reliable inferences from the position as disclosed in the foregoing table, it would appear that unless unforeseen developments arise there is good reason to anticipate that the aggregate deficits of all Governments will not exceed the amounts provided for in the several budgets.

5. **The Adopted Plan.**—The full text of the Report prepared by the representatives of the various Australian Governments in connexion with the national financial position is as follows :—

CONFERENCE REPORT.

The Governments of Australia have met in Conference to consider what measures are possible to restore solvency and avoid default. The national income was £650,000,000 in 1927-28. It fell to £564,000,000 in 1929-30, and a further fall to £450,000,000 in 1931-32 is estimated.

This has reacted on Government finance.

The total deficit of the seven Australian Governments will be £31,000,000 for the present financial year. The Governments are now going behind at the rate of £40,000,000 a year, in spite of reduction of expenditure amounting to £11,000,000 per annum since 1929-30. The deficits have been met hitherto by bank overdraft. The Commonwealth Bank has notified the Governments that the limit to that process has been reached. Early in July, Governments will have insufficient means to meet their obligations. Unless the drift be stopped, Public Service salaries and wages, pensions, and interest could not be paid in full. Public default would be followed by a partial breakdown in public utilities such as railways, and in private industry and trade. Revenue would come toppling down, and even half-payment might become impossible. With this prospect, everything that can be got from Government economy, from taxation, and from reduction of interest, must be called on to bring the debit balance within manageable limits that can safely and practicably be covered for a time by borrowing.

THE PLAN.

The Conference has, therefore, adopted a plan which combines all possible remedies in such a way that the burden falls as equally as possible on every one, and no considerable section of the people is left in a privileged position. This sharing of the burden is necessary to make the load more tolerable ; it is still more necessary, because only on this condition will it be possible to get the combined effort required.

The plan has been adopted by the Conference as a whole, each part of which is accepted on the understanding that all the other parts are equally and simultaneously put into operation. It embraces the following measures :—

- (a) A reduction of 20 per cent. in all adjustable Government expenditure, as compared with the year ending 30th June, 1930, including all emoluments, wages, salaries, and pensions paid by the Governments, whether fixed by statute or otherwise, such reduction to be equitably effected ;
- (b) Conversion of the internal debts of the Governments on the basis of a 22½ per cent. reduction of interest ;
- (c) The securing of additional revenue by taxation, both Commonwealth and State ;
- (d) A reduction of bank and Savings Bank rates of interest on deposits and advances ;
- (e) Relief in respect of private mortgages.

These proposals require the greatest effort in economy and taxation which the Conference considers it safe to attempt. The effect will be still to have a gap of from £13,000,000 to £15,000,000 to be covered for a time by borrowing.

REDUCTION OF EXPENDITURE.

The plan provides for Government economy on the basis of an immediate cut, averaging 20 per cent. for all Government wages and salaries below the level of 1929-30. To this will be added all saving that can be made from a strict scrutiny into the necessity of every item of Government expenditure.

The same general principle is extended to all pensions provided out of Government funds—old-age and invalid pensions, war pensions, superannuation pensions, and the maternity allowance. Over the whole field of this expenditure, the cut will amount to 16 per cent. The result will be, for each Government, savings as shown in the following table :—

FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN EXPENDITURE BEYOND THOSE PROVIDED FOR IN THE PRESENT ESTIMATES FOR 1931-32.—ADMINISTRATION AND PENSIONS.

	£
Commonwealth	6,050,000
New South Wales	3,300,000
Victoria	880,000
Queensland.. .. .	620,000
South Australia	400,000
Western Australia	560,000
Tasmania	110,000
	11,920,000

The further savings to be made in accordance with the plan are, therefore, £11.92 millions for all Governments. The total reduction of expenditure (excluding Commonwealth pensions) compared with 1929-30 will be £21.4 millions.

TAXATION.

Taxation equally must make a maximum contribution. Ordinary direct taxation has nearly reached the limit in some States. The Commonwealth will raise an additional £1.5 millions by income tax, and what capacity for direct taxation remains will be left for a last reserve as the option of the several State Governments. The only possible substantial contribution must, therefore, be by taxes on consumption so designed as to add as little as possible to the costs of industry. It has been agreed that the sales tax and primage should be increased to give £6.4 millions of additional revenue. By the agreed economies and taxation, the position estimated for 1931-32 will be improved by £20,000,000, exclusive of savings on interest and additional State taxation.

REDUCTION OF INTEREST.

The reduction in the rate of interest is of urgent importance, for two reasons :—

1. With the fall in prices since 1929, interest payments have become an intolerable load on all industry, and immediate relief is necessary for the restoration of industry and employment. Government budgets are subject to the same strain, because revenue falls with falling prices, and thus interest relatively becomes a heavier burden. A reduction of interest will substantially reduce the deficit which remains when economy and taxation have made their maximum contribution.

2. Income from interest, particularly from Government bonds and bank interest, has hitherto suffered little loss. A reduction of interest will ensure that it will contribute equitably to the common effort to restore solvency. Unless the contribution is made, it is not to be expected that the wage-earner and the pensioner will acquiesce in the very real hardships imposed on them by this plan.

The second of these objects could be obtained by taxation, but taxation would give no relief to industry and no stimulus to employment. The Conference has, therefore, resolved on an appeal to all bond-holders to accept a reduction of 22½ per cent. in the effective rate of interest. This is to be done by a conversion loan, and the new securities will be exempt from the present super-tax of 7½ per cent. and from any additional taxation imposed on income from interest, in order to spread as evenly as possible the sacrifices required to restore solvency.

Concurrently with the reduction of bond interest must go a reduction in private interest. This is mainly a matter for the banks, who are co-operating to that end. Reductions of interest are being arranged between the Commonwealth Bank, the trading banks, and the Savings Banks which will result in the rapid reduction in the interest on money required for trade and industry. This reduction of interest will be supplemented by legislation giving relief to mortgagors. This legislation forms part of the plan.

The lower rates of interest will greatly stimulate the general demand for credit, and the conference has the assurance of the Commonwealth Bank and the trading banks that, as a result of the operation of the plan, money will be readily available. With falling costs and ample supplies of credit, industry should then recover. This recovery will be stimulated by the maintenance of a free external exchange rate and the avoidance of any measures that will cause a sudden further fall in prices. A reduction of existing exchange rates will best be achieved on rising markets for Australian exports. If premature attempts are made to force the rates down earlier, they may bring about a further crisis by reducing export values once more.

SUMMARY.

The total effects of the plan on the budgets of 1931-32 may now be summarized. The total deficit as estimated for 1931-32 was £39,000,000. The extra economies agreed upon take £12,000,000 off this total. New Federal taxation embodied in the plan will contribute a net £7.5 millions, in addition to any increases which may be obtained by the States. The saving of interest by conversion will reduce the internal interest burden by £6.5 millions. As Governments will pass on this relief to their own borrowers—public bodies, public utilities, and private individuals—the net benefit to the budgets will be £5.5 millions. The combined effect will be a reduction of the deficit from £40,000,000 to £15,000,000. A further reduction of the deficit by £2,000,000 could be secured by levelling up the income tax in at least two States.

These very substantial reductions will go far to restore confidence both at home and abroad. This restoration of confidence, with the indirect effects of the fall in interest, may be expected to restore revenue, even to some extent in 1931-32, and substantially in the years following. A rise in world's price for our exports would accelerate the upward movement, and this rise may reasonably be expected within the next two years. With any improvement in industry, the expenditure on unemployment sustenance will decline, with further relief to budgets.

With this prospect, and confidence restored, there would be no difficulty in borrowing temporarily to meet the deficits as substantially reduced.

The deficit includes £10.6 millions additional charge on overseas interest and external payments on account of exchange. If the exchange rate falls, there will be a corresponding decline in the deficit. On the other hand, if the present exchange rate is maintained, its full effect in keeping up local prices and incomes will have a beneficial effect on Government revenues.

A UNITED EFFORT.

Before the details of the plan were settled, and in order to make it effective, the Leaders of the Opposition in the Commonwealth Parliament were invited to attend the Conference. After full discussion of the whole plan, the following resolution was passed :—

“ The Conference, including the Leaders of the Opposition in the Federal Parliament, having most carefully considered the financial position of the Commonwealth and the States, and recognizing the national inability to meet existing Government charges, is unanimously of the opinion that to prevent national default in the immediate future, and a general failure to meet Government payments, all expenditure, including interest on Government securities and other interest, and expenditure upon governmental salaries and wages, pensions, and other social services must be substantially reduced.

These measures, drastic as they may appear, are the first essentials to the restoration of prosperity and the re-employment of our workless people.

The necessary sacrifice is due to national inability to pay, and it must, therefore, be shared by all.

The Conference has accordingly provided a conversion plan under which bond-holders may make their contribution to the general sacrifice by themselves accepting the lower rate of interest which the existing position makes unavoidable.

The Conference therefore appeals to all sections of the people to recognize the position, and, in the interests of the nation to accept the sacrifices which are involved.

A National Appeal Executive, consisting of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Chairman of the Commonwealth Bank Board, is appointed by this Conference to direct the conversion campaign."

CONCLUSION.

1. The plan agreed upon is an indivisible whole, and the carrying out of any one part is dependent upon the carrying out of all parts.

2. It involves sacrifices by every member of the community, and the Conference appeals to all sections of the people to recognize the position, and to accept these sacrifices as a national duty.

3. To the bond-holder the plan involves a reduction of interest by $22\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but it safeguards the capital of the investor.

4. To the Government employee the plan involves a reduction which, with reductions already effected, represent an average of 20 per cent., but it makes his position, and future emoluments, much more secure.

5. To the war pensioner, the plan involves a reduction of 20 per cent. (in some cases less), but it removes the danger of any sudden stoppage, and provides security for future payments.

6. To the invalid and old-age pensioner the plan involves a reduction in most cases of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but it removes the danger of any sudden stoppage, and provides security for future payments.

7. To all of these a large part of the reduction is counterbalanced by the fall in prices, and in the cost of living.

8. To the unemployed, the plan provides for a restoration of employment, and in the meantime makes more secure the continuation of sustenance relief.

9. With the sacrifice distributed over the whole community in this manner, with the lead of Governments followed by all citizens, with the revival of business confidence and activity, a sure foundation will have been laid for the restoration of general prosperity in Australia.

EFFECT OF THE PLAN ON DEFICITS.

	1929-30 Actual.	1930-31 Estimate.	1931-32.	
			Original Estimate.	After making the Agreed Adjustments.
	£ millions.	£ millions.	£ millions.	£ millions.
Commonwealth ..	1.50	13.40	20.40	4.38
New South Wales ..	5.57	10.48	11.51	5.41
Victoria ..	1.17	2.60	3.06	1.31
Queensland ..	.72	.74	1.63	.76
South Australia ..	1.63	2.20	2.40	1.50
Western Australia ..	.52	1.52	1.86	1.20
Tasmania ..	.02	.21	.22	.09
Total States ..	9.63	17.75	20.68	10.27
Total ..	11.13	31.15	41.08	14.65

FINAL RESOLUTION.

Just prior to concluding its business, the Conference unanimously passed the following resolution, on the motion of Mr. Hill (Premier of South Australia):—

"The representatives of each Government present at this Conference bind themselves to give effect promptly to the whole of the resolutions agreed to at this Conference."

CHAPTER VIII.

Finance—continued.

A. COMMONWEALTH FINANCE.

COMMONWEALTH FINANCE, 1930-31.

Particulars.	See page—	Amount.	Per Head of Population.
Consolidated Revenue Fund—(a)		£	£ s. d.
Revenue	239	69,566,920	10 14 10
Expenditure	240	80,324,539	12 8 1
Loan Fund—			
Works Expenditure, 1930-31	255	1,991,026	0 6 2
Aggregate expenditure to 30th June, 1931 ..	..	85,023,904	..
Public Debt, 30th June, 1931—			
Commonwealth—			
War	283	277,780,226	42 14 8
Works .. .. .	..	110,938,319	17 1 3
Total .. .. .	..	388,718,545	59 15 11
States .. .. .	..	767,317,573	118 5 7
Grand Total .. .. .	..	1,156,036,118	177 16 9
Place of Maturity—			
Australia .. .. .	..	556,901,206	85 13 5
Overseas .. .. .	..	599,134,912	92 3 4
Total .. .. .	..	1,156,036,118	177 16 9

(a) Excludes interest received from States on account of States' Debts, recoverable from States.

E. PRIVATE FINANCE.

§ 2. Cheque-paying Banks, p. 287.

Suspension of Payments.—(a) *Primary Producers' Bank of Australia Ltd.* On 24th August, 1931, the Primary Producers' Bank of Australia Ltd. was forced to close its doors owing to the depletion of its liquid assets. Before closing, unsuccessful attempts had been made to amalgamate with some other financial house and at the end of September, 1931, steps were taken for the winding up of the bank's business.

(b) *Federal Deposit Bank.* Following on the closure of the Primary Producers' Bank, which had its origin in Queensland, considerable uneasiness developed amongst depositors in the small banks, and the stream of withdrawals seriously embarrassed the managements of these institutions. The Brisbane Permanent Building and Banking Co. Ltd., and the Queensland Deposit Bank received the support of some of the stronger trading banks, and were able to withstand the demands on their resources. The directors of the Federal Deposit Bank decided to suspend payment as from 5th September, 1931, and court orders were subsequently issued for placing the affairs of the bank in the hands of a liquidator. At the end of October 1931, a scheme of settlement was placed before depositors providing for the immediate payment of small current accounts and extended payment of higher amounts. A proposal for the reconstruction of the bank on building society lines is also under consideration.

Amalgamations.—Negotiations for the amalgamation of the Australian Bank of Commerce Ltd. with the Bank of New South Wales were completed and became effective from 17th November, 1931.

On 12th November, 1931, an agreement was completed for the amalgamation of the Brisbane Permanent Building and Banking Co. Ltd., and the Queensland Deposit Bank.

§ 3. Savings Banks, p. 296.

Government Savings Bank of New South Wales.—Owing to the continuous demands of depositors depleting the liquid assets of the bank, the Commissioners decided, after abortive negotiations for its absorption by the Commonwealth Savings Bank, to suspend payments to depositors from 22nd April, 1931, until further notice.

On 7th September, 1931, the Government appointed new Commissioners and the Savings Bank re-opened, accepting deposits repayable on demand in what were termed "new business" accounts. No arrangements had then been completed to enable depositors in the "old business" division to withdraw deposits, although transfers from one account to another in that division were permitted.

Negotiations for the absorption of the Government Saving Bank by the Commonwealth Savings Bank were re-opened by the new Commissioners, and early in December, 1931, agreement was reached upon all contentious aspects of the transfer. While full details of the terms of the agreement are not yet available, it has been announced that the Commonwealth Savings Bank will on and from the 15th December, provide relief to depositors in the "old business" division to the extent of up to £10 or 10 per cent. of their deposits, whichever is the greater.

State Savings Bank of Western Australia.—During August 1931, consistently increasing withdrawals induced the Government of Western Australia to negotiate for the amalgamation of the State Savings Bank with the Commonwealth Savings Bank. Satisfactory arrangements were completed and the transfer was effected during October, 1931.

Latest Statistics.—The following statement shows the amount on deposit and the average deposits per Savings Bank account at 30th June, and 30th September, 1931:—

SAVINGS BANKS—DEPOSITS AND AVERAGE PER ACCOUNT, 1931.

State or Territory.	At 30th June, 1931.		At 30th September, 1931.	
	Amount on Deposit.	Average per Account.	Amount on Deposit.	Average per Account.
	£'000	£ s. d.	£'000	£ s. d.
New South Wales	69,811	36 19 10	71,448	36 6 9
Victoria	63,243	39 0 6	62,602	38 13 6
Queensland	22,354	43 15 3	22,412	43 12 3
South Australia	21,422	37 14 3	20,957	37 0 7
Western Australia	10,867	29 4 10	10,366	27 19 4
Tasmania	5,366	29 11 10	5,472	30 3 10
Federal Capital Territory	269	27 18 9	280	27 16 11
Northern Territory	43	31 14 9	44	31 18 2
Total	193,375	37 10 10	193,581	37 0 6

While deposits declined sharply from £226,000,000 at the peak in September, 1929 to £192,400,000 in July 1931, there are signs that the consistently heavy excess of withdrawals has been temporarily arrested, although it is by no means certain that the lowest point has been reached.

CHAPTER XIII. LABOUR, WAGES, AND PRICES.

A—PRICES.

§ 2. Retail Prices and House Rents, p. 364.

Retail Price Index Numbers—Food, Groceries and Rent (all Houses) 1911 Base.—The index numbers in the following table are computed for the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration on a different basis to those given in § 2. The rent constituent is based upon the weighted average of all houses. The index numbers are directly comparable with those published in Labour Report, No. 15, and in Quarterly Summaries of Australian Statistics previous to No. 99.

RETAIL PRICE INDEX NUMBERS—FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT—ALL HOUSES.

Weighted Average—Six Capitals in 1911 = 1,000.

Town.	1926.				1927.				1928.				1929.				1930.			
	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.
NEW SOUTH WALES.																				
Sydney	1,828	1,868	1,841	1,842	1,828	1,803	1,819	1,872	1,840	1,853	1,825	1,830	1,916	1,905	1,914	1,929	1,851	1,836	1,770	1,704
Newcastle .. .	1,701	1,729	1,699	1,703	1,713	1,683	1,701	1,763	1,726	1,722	1,716	1,712	1,777	1,758	1,761	1,769	1,713	1,692	1,641	1,572
Broken Hill .. .	1,626	1,700	1,620	1,610	1,638	1,661	1,704	1,720	1,711	1,685	1,666	1,667	1,753	1,761	1,768	1,793	1,719	1,710	1,634	1,581
Goulburn .. .	1,785	1,798	1,794	1,804	1,803	1,784	1,820	1,851	1,836	1,840	1,827	1,828	1,897	1,891	1,901	1,926	1,852	1,813	1,750	1,617
Bathurst .. .	1,555	1,593	1,506	1,555	1,577	1,552	1,553	1,575	1,555	1,569	1,562	1,549	1,647	1,618	1,620	1,642	1,593	1,584	1,543	1,402
Weighted Average— New South Wales ..	1,809	1,840	1,821	1,821	1,811	1,787	1,804	1,850	1,830	1,835	1,810	1,814	1,898	1,887	1,895	1,910	1,884	1,819	1,759	1,687
VICTORIA.																				
Melbourne .. .	1,779	1,854	1,794	1,777	1,767	1,764	1,812	1,800	1,768	1,761	1,729	1,726	1,801	1,816	1,816	1,815	1,733	1,723	1,667	1,565
Ballarat .. .	1,545	1,584	1,565	1,543	1,532	1,525	1,565	1,554	1,553	1,549	1,548	1,540	1,604	1,610	1,636	1,655	1,579	1,570	1,542	1,455
Bendigo .. .	1,544	1,603	1,557	1,562	1,564	1,551	1,600	1,588	1,584	1,583	1,575	1,556	1,629	1,621	1,655	1,659	1,577	1,570	1,525	1,428
Geelong .. .	1,708	1,747	1,709	1,689	1,697	1,702	1,727	1,728	1,712	1,693	1,672	1,681	1,731	1,717	1,729	1,734	1,635	1,624	1,577	1,505
Warrnambool .. .	1,548	1,608	1,570	1,549	1,547	1,548	1,584	1,599	1,585	1,575	1,549	1,556	1,594	1,600	1,654	1,688	1,618	1,623	1,588	1,547
Weighted Average— Victoria .. .	1,756	1,828	1,771	1,754	1,737	1,733	1,789	1,778	1,749	1,742	1,713	1,709	1,782	1,795	1,798	1,799	1,717	1,707	1,653	1,554
QUEENSLAND.																				
Brisbane .. .	1,643	1,646	1,658	1,663	1,614	1,570	1,598	1,610	1,596	1,593	1,584	1,608	1,633	1,610	1,615	1,624	1,554	1,461	1,400	1,342
Toowoomba .. .	1,563	1,602	1,599	1,595	1,545	1,472	1,473	1,494	1,449	1,454	1,468	1,470	1,499	1,477	1,488	1,503	1,453	1,427	1,398	1,337
Rockhampton .. .	1,580	1,611	1,615	1,626	1,641	1,581	1,582	1,571	1,516	1,520	1,505	1,539	1,579	1,545	1,551	1,559	1,536	1,484	1,455	1,397
Charters Towers .. .	1,489	1,524	1,539	1,566	1,580	1,516	1,511	1,520	1,505	1,497	1,490	1,541	1,580	1,547	1,565	1,539	1,485	1,465	1,362	1,321
Warwick .. .	1,510	1,560	1,559	1,578	1,520	1,476	1,490	1,498	1,425	1,430	1,431	1,454	1,496	1,468	1,476	1,495	1,431	1,400	1,375	1,314
Weighted Average— Queensland .. .	1,623	1,634	1,643	1,649	1,608	1,560	1,581	1,592	1,570	1,569	1,561	1,536	1,613	1,589	1,595	1,608	1,539	1,459	1,407	1,345

RETAIL PRICE INDEX NUMBERS—FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT—ALL HOUSES—continued.

Weighted Average—Six Capitals in 1911 = 1,000.

Town.	1926.				1927.				1928.				1929.				1930.			
	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.																				
Adelaide	1,736	1,798	1,720	1,701	1,727	1,725	1,771	1,747	1,758	1,760	1,713	1,689	1,766	1,784	1,781	1,755	1,689	1,655	1,563	1,466
Kadina, &c. .. .	1,421	1,470	1,455	1,452	1,471	1,471	1,465	1,476	1,404	1,445	1,424	1,434	1,489	1,471	1,497	1,500	1,423	1,406	1,350	1,261
Port Pirie .. .	1,015	1,054	1,004	1,051	1,073	1,060	1,077	1,069	1,054	1,065	1,032	1,028	1,000	1,095	1,018	1,021	1,059	1,059	1,494	1,429
Mount Gambler ..	1,382	1,445	1,427	1,400	1,397	1,387	1,410	1,419	1,420	1,416	1,411	1,389	1,439	1,445	1,463	1,466	1,401	1,353	1,333	1,274
Peterborough .. .	1,589	1,661	1,660	1,653	1,651	1,649	1,656	1,679	1,682	1,672	1,655	1,673	1,741	1,724	1,758	1,749	1,668	1,660	1,608	1,501
Weighted Average— South Australia ..	1,712	1,773	1,700	1,681	1,706	1,703	1,745	1,724	1,733	1,734	1,689	1,668	1,743	1,759	1,759	1,736	1,669	1,637	1,549	1,453
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.																				
Perth, &c.	1,631	1,685	1,638	1,604	1,604	1,612	1,595	1,608	1,607	1,689	1,706	1,705	1,724	1,742	1,716	1,678	1,660	1,651	1,581	1,470
Kalgoorlie, &c. ..	1,566	1,597	1,568	1,522	1,515	1,532	1,512	1,487	1,480	1,515	1,577	1,583	1,626	1,667	1,659	1,679	1,625	1,554	1,530	1,391
Northam	1,001	1,062	1,020	1,007	1,005	1,021	1,018	1,027	1,071	1,010	1,037	1,039	1,064	1,097	1,072	1,033	1,099	1,009	1,057	1,440
Bunbury	1,506	1,587	1,572	1,549	1,556	1,543	1,525	1,533	1,525	1,559	1,593	1,572	1,578	1,613	1,616	1,586	1,575	1,574	1,510	1,384
Geraldton	1,592	1,629	1,605	1,587	1,586	1,577	1,565	1,573	1,565	1,570	1,571	1,596	1,627	1,650	1,661	1,629	1,621	1,630	1,615	1,488
Weighted Average— Western Australia ..	1,620	1,672	1,623	1,594	1,594	1,602	1,585	1,593	1,590	1,664	1,685	1,686	1,707	1,728	1,706	1,663	1,642	1,638	1,575	1,460
TASMANIA.																				
Hobart	1,789	1,795	1,777	1,753	1,737	1,715	1,711	1,686	1,658	1,665	1,653	1,666	1,730	1,721	1,725	1,740	1,687	1,685	1,651	1,564
Launceston	1,640	1,680	1,659	1,609	1,611	1,591	1,587	1,580	1,594	1,597	1,580	1,569	1,618	1,611	1,628	1,668	1,602	1,590	1,558	1,495
Burnie	1,683	1,709	1,684	1,617	1,580	1,576	1,577	1,562	1,500	1,688	1,562	1,576	1,640	1,623	1,663	1,669	1,589	1,606	1,563	1,466
Devonport	1,652	1,667	1,646	1,625	1,624	1,582	1,594	1,557	1,559	1,583	1,540	1,532	1,609	1,605	1,634	1,635	1,539	1,535	1,519	1,441
Queenstown	1,453	1,474	1,444	1,408	1,384	1,357	1,395	1,401	1,389	1,406	1,416	1,418	1,494	1,487	1,492	1,520	1,464	1,469	1,458	1,405
Weighted Average— Tasmania	1,725	1,742	1,722	1,689	1,678	1,656	1,655	1,635	1,622	1,630	1,615	1,620	1,681	1,673	1,683	1,704	1,644	1,640	1,608	1,529
Weighted Average— Thirty Towns.. ..	1,748	1,797	1,758	1,749	1,737	1,722	1,751	1,766	1,745	1,750	1,727	1,728	1,797	1,797	1,800	1,803	1,731	1,711	1,651	1,566
Weighted Average— Six Capital Cities ..	1,771	1,822	1,781	1,771	1,758	1,743	1,774	1,789	1,768	1,774	1,748	1,749	1,820	1,821	1,823	1,825	1,752	1,730	1,668	1,582

CHAPTER XVII. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

§ 4. Wheat.

7. Voluntary Wheat Pools, p. 498—(i) *General.* Voluntary wheat pools operated in the States of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia during the season 1930-31. The New South Wales pool had been inactive during 1928-29 and 1929-30. The system adopted in these States is somewhat similar, and is a co-operative one controlled by trustees, or committees appointed by the growers, the whole of the proceeds, less administrative expenses, being distributed amongst contributors of wheat to the pool. The trading names of these organizations in the various States are as follow :—

New South Wales.—The Wheat Growers' Pooling and Marketing Co. Ltd.

Victoria.—Victorian Wheat-growers' Corporation Ltd.

South Australia.—South Australian Co-operative Wheat Pools Ltd.

Western Australia.—The Co-operative Wheat Pool of Western Australia.

The marketing of wheat in Queensland was conducted on the compulsory basis by the State Wheat Board, consisting of five elected representatives and the Director of Marketing who represents the Queensland Government.

(ii) *Delivery of Wheat to Pools, Costs etc.* The quantities of wheat received and the estimated average costs per bushel of rail freight and of administrative and other expenses are given hereunder. As the season's operations are not yet complete, the costs shown are subject to revision.

WHEAT RECEIVED BY VOLUNTARY POOLS, 1930-31.

Particulars.	Unit.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	South Australia.	Western Australia.
Wheat received ..	Bushel	15,312,000	31,000,000	17,889,409	24,146,000
Percentage on Total Marketable Wheat	%	26	..	60	48
Estimated average cost of rail freight to seaboard, per bushel	d.	5.68	4.50	4.125	4.435
Estimated average cost per bushel of Administration and other expenses ..	d.	3.00	..	3.50	2.77

(iii) *Finance.* The requisite financial accommodation in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia was furnished by the Commonwealth Bank. In Western Australia funds were made available by the Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd., of Great Britain. Initial advances made available to growers on the delivery of their wheat at country stations are shown, together with subsequent payments, in the following table :—

WHEAT POOLS ADVANCES(a) PER BUSHEL MADE TO OCTOBER, 1931.

Particulars.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	South Australia.	Western Australia.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
1st Payment	1 4	1 6	1 10	1 4
2nd Payment	0 7	0 7	0 1	0 3
3rd Payment .. ..	..	0 1½	..	0 6½
Estimated Final Payment ..	(b)	(b)	0 1½	0 1½

(a) Less Rail Freight.

(b) Not available.

In Queensland the Commonwealth Bank provides the financial assistance necessary to make advances on wheat delivered, the State Government guaranteeing the Wheat Board's accounts with the bank. All wheat not required for consumption on the farm is delivered to the Board, which is the sole marketing agency. The crop in 1930-31 amounted to 5,101,000 bushels, of which 4,550,000 bushels, or 89 per cent., was delivered into the pool. Advances have been made on milling wheat as follows, viz.:—No. 1 quality, 3s. 7d. per bushel, No. 2, 3s. 5d. and 3s. 6d. per bushel according to quality and No. 3, 3s. 3d. and 3s. 4d. per bushel according to quality, while advances on feed wheat ranged from 1s. 7d. to 1s. 10d. per bushel according to quality. A further advance will be made when the season's operations have been finally dealt with.

CHAPTER XXI. MINERAL INDUSTRY.

§ 1. The Mineral Wealth of Australia.

3. Value of Production, p. 567.—The following table gives the value of Australian mineral production for the year 1930 :—

MINERAL PRODUCTION.—VALUE, 1930.

Mineral.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N. Ter.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gold ..	53,066	102,456	33,224	5,569	1,768,623	18,976	57	1,981,971
Silver and Lead ..	2,088,790	65	9,690	90	9,330	133,658	1,684	2,243,313
Copper ..	8,347	..	174,075	6,966	102	620,578	589	810,657
Iron ..	2,600	..	2,233	1,067,651	..	..	..	1,072,484
Tin ..	84,800	..	49,708	..	10,608	69,592	3,345	218,053
Zinc ..	986,087	..	..	..	19,322	..	..	1,005,409
Coal (Black) ..	5,193,032	802,677	952,856	..	394,758	110,253	..	7,453,576
Other ..	20,743	178,087	41,444	207,962	8,136	130,778	10,982	698,132
Total ..	8,437,405	1,083,285	1,263,236	1,288,238	2,101,557	1,103,157	16,657	15,383,695

CHAPTER XXIV. POPULATION.

§ 5. Distribution and Fluctuation of Population.

1. Present Number, p. 656.—The estimated population at the 30th June, 1931, was 6,500,536, distributed as follows :—

AUSTRALIA.—ESTIMATED POPULATION, 30th JUNE, 1931.

States and Territories.	Males.	Females.	Persons.
New South Wales	1,272,612	1,234,443	2,507,055
Victoria	888,548	908,911	1,797,459
Queensland	509,093	450,479	959,572
South Australia	301,158	282,430	583,588
Western Australia	225,625	194,991	420,616
Tasmania	108,614	110,519	219,133
Northern Territory	2,937	1,717	4,654
Federal Capital Territory	4,578	3,881	8,459
Total, Australia	3,313,165	3,187,371	6,500,536

The corresponding figures for Australia at the 30th June, 1930, were 3,287,994 males and 3,151,004 females, or a total of 6,438,998. There was thus an increase during the year ended 30th June, 1931, of 61,538, made up of 25,171 males and 36,367 females.

The rate of increase for the year was 0.9 per cent.

CHAPTER XXVII.**STATISTICAL ORGANIZATION AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION.****§3. Selected List of One Hundred Representative Works Dealing with Australia, p. 750.**

To the economic works listed may be added the following recent publications:—

An Economic Survey of Australia. Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, Philadelphia, November, 1931.

Wilson, Roland. Capital Imports and the Terms of Trade, Melbourne, 1931.

Brigden, J. B. Railway Economics, Brisbane, 1931.
