

of the Customs. In 1884, the former showed much larger numbers as regards horses, but smaller numbers as regards cattle and sheep, than the latter. The following are the imports of these descriptions of stock, according to the returns of both authorities:—

#### IMPORTS OF LIVE STOCK OVERLAND, 1884.

	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.
According to returns of the stock inspectors	8,485 ...	43,535 ...	1,769,143
” ” Customs	5,678 ...	48,914 ...	1,975,623

Imports of pigs. 1092. According to the returns of the stock inspectors, the pigs imported overland in 1884 numbered 848. According to the Customs returns, the total number of pigs imported in the same year numbered 1,694, but it is not stated how many were imported by land and how many by sea.

Value of live stock overland. 1093. According to the Customs returns, the value of live stock (exclusive of pigs) imported overland in 1883 was £847,885, and in 1884, £1,226,099.

#### PART VII.—ACCUMULATION.

Coins and accounts. 1094. The coins in circulation in Victoria are in all respects the same as those used in the United Kingdom. The accounts are kept in sterling money (£ s. d.).

Royal Mint. 1095. A branch of the Royal Mint was established in Melbourne in 1872, and was opened to the public on the 12th June of that year. The premises occupy 2 acres 1 rood and 26 perches of land. valued in October, 1880, at £8,500, but now probably worth four times that amount; the original cost of the buildings, machinery, fittings, and furniture, was £68,350.\*

Gold received at Mint. 1096. From the time of the opening of the Mint to the end of 1884, over  $7\frac{1}{3}$  million ounces of gold were received thereat, valued at nearly 30 millions sterling. The following table shows the quantity and value of the gold received in each year:—

\* See Amended Return to an order of the Legislative Assembly, Parliamentary Paper C.—No. 4\*. Session 1880.

## GOLD RECEIVED AT THE MELBOURNE MINT, 1872 TO 1884.

Year.			Quantity.	Value, £3 17s. 10d $\frac{1}{2}$ . per oz. Standard.
			Ounces.	£
1872	...	...	190,738	764,917
1873	...	...	221,870	887,127
1874	...	...	335,318	1,349,102
1875	...	...	489,732	1,947,713
1876	...	...	543,199	2,149,481
1877	...	...	378,310	1,491,819
1878	...	...	569,932	2,267,431
1879	...	...	656,556	2,637,738
1880	...	...	758,721	3,061,820
1881	...	...	692,213	2,792,985
1882	...	...	818,905	3,310,971
1883	...	...	785,716	3,158,420
1884	...	...	945,429	3,802,229
<b>Total</b>	...	...	<b>7,386,639</b>	<b>29,621,753</b>

1097. It will be observed that the quantity of gold received in 1884 <sup>Gold received, 1884.</sup> was larger by 159,713 ounces than in 1883, and was much larger than in any previous year. Before this the largest quantity received was in 1882, but this was less than the quantity in 1884 by 126,524 ounces.

1098. Gold is issued from the Mint as coin or as bullion. The former, with the exception of 441,000 half-sovereigns, has consisted entirely of sovereigns. <sup>Gold issued from Mint.</sup> The following is a statement of the gold issued in each year, whether in the shape of coin or bullion :—

## GOLD ISSUED AT MELBOURNE MINT, 1872 TO 1884.

Year.	Coin.		Bullion.		Total Value of Coin and Bullion.
	Sovereigns.	Half-sovereigns.	Quantity.	Value.	
	Number.	Number.	Ounces.	£	£
1872	748,000	...	1,205	3,610	751,610
1873	752,000	165,000	3,106	11,035	845,535
1874	1,373,000	...	2,912	10,417	1,383,417
1875	1,888,000	...	3,553	13,857	1,901,857
1876	2,124,000	...	3,625	14,145	2,138,145
1877	1,487,000	80,000	3,326	13,004	1,540,004
1878	2,171,000	...	3,691	14,640	2,185,640
1879	2,740,000	...	1,740	6,830	2,746,830
1880	3,052,800	...	1,861	7,219	3,060,019
1881	2,324,800	42,000	106,999	448,767	2,794,567
1882	2,466,000	106,000	189,837	789,687	3,308,687
1883	2,050,000	...	266,679	1,112,478	3,162,478
1884	2,942,000	48,000	200,766	835,728	3,801,728
<b>Total</b>	...	...	<b>789,300</b>	<b>3,281,417</b>	<b>29,620,517</b>

Gold issued,  
1884.

1099. It will be noticed that the value of coined gold issued in 1884 was larger than that in 1883 by £916,000, and was much larger than that in any previous year except 1880, when the gold coined exceeded that in 1884 by £86,800. The larger quantity in 1884 makes up for the comparatively small quantity coined in the preceeding year. The falling-off in the coinage since 1880 has been in consequence of the large issue in recent years of gold in the form of bullion; the value of such gold, however, was not so great by a fourth in 1884 as in 1883.

Difference  
of gold  
received  
and issued.

1100. Over a series of years, the amount of gold issued from the Mint very nearly balances that received thereat, so that the loss attendant upon the Mint operations must be but trifling. By comparing the figures in the total lines of the last two tables, it will be found that the value of the gold issued during the period the Mint has been in existence was less by only £1,236 than the value of the gold received.

Victorian  
and other  
gold minted.

1101. More than three-fourths of the gold received at the Mint, since its first establishment, was raised in Victoria, and nearly a sixth came from New Zealand. The bulk of the remainder was contributed by the other Australasian colonies, and a small quantity by Natal. The following were the quantities received from these countries respectively prior to and during 1884 :—

VICTORIAN AND OTHER GOLD RECEIVED AT MELBOURNE MINT,  
1872 TO 1884.

Colony in which the Gold was raised.	Gold Received.		
	Prior to 1884.	During 1884.	Total.
	Ounces.	Ounces.	Ounces.
Victoria ... ..	4,964,476	763,475	5,727,951
New South Wales ... ..	6,246	309	6,555
Queensland ... ..	2,173	17	2,190
South Australia ... ..	123,916	7,836	131,752
Tasmania ... ..	260,267	33,722	293,989
New Zealand ... ..	1,044,554	135,464	1,180,018
Natal ... ..	1,731	...	1,731
Unknown ... ..	37,847	4,606	42,453
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>6,441,210</b>	<b>945,429</b>	<b>7,386,639</b>

Mint  
charges.

1102. Gold deposited at the Mint is subject to a charge of 1½d. per ounce on the gross weight before melting if the deposit contains 1,000 ounces of standard gold or over; and of 2d. per ounce if the deposit contains less than 1,000 ounces—the minimum charge on any deposit being four shillings.

1103. Any silver in a deposit in excess of 4 per cent. of the weight of the deposit after melting is allowed for at a rate per ounce to be fixed from time to time by the Deputy Master. A reduction of a sixth of the charges is made on deposits containing more than 24 ounces of unrefinable gold, or gold containing silver in less proportion than  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. and base metal in less proportion than 2 per cent. of the weight of the deposit after melting.

Mint allowances.

1104. The standard weight of the sovereign is .25682 of an ounce (equal to 7.988 grammes, or 123.27447 grains troy), and the standard weight of the half-sovereign is .12841 of an ounce. The standard fineness of those pieces is 916.666 parts (about  $\frac{22}{24}$ ) of pure gold in every 1,000 parts. The following was the actual weight and fineness of gold coins struck at the Melbourne Mint, as tested in London, at the periods named, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury:—

Weight and fineness of gold pieces coined.

WEIGHT AND FINENESS OF GOLD COINS STRUCK AT THE MELBOURNE MINT.

Date.	Average Weight.		Average Proportion of Gold in 1,000 Parts.	
	Sovereigns.	Half-sovereigns.	Sovereigns.	Half-sovereigns.
	oz.	oz.		
September, 1883 ...	.2567	...	916.570	...
December " ...	.2567	...	916.544	...
March, 1884 ...	.2568	...	916.553	...
June " ...	.2568	.1284	916.594	916.450

1105. It may be mentioned that, according to experiments made by the late Professor Stanley Jevons and Mr. J. B. Martin, of the Institute of Bankers, the sovereign, when in circulation, loses .043 grain per annum, equivalent to  $\frac{7}{20,000}$ , or about one-twelfth of a penny, and becomes light in 18 years from the date of its issue.

Loss of weight by circulation.

1106. By the Victorian Mint Act (31 Vict., No. 307) it is provided that the sum of £20,000 shall be paid annually to the Mint from the Consolidated Revenue, but in the following table, which shows the Mint revenue and expenditure in each of the eleven financial years ended with 1883-4, and the excess of the latter over the former, the net results alone are given, the amount of subsidy returned to the Treasury each year being omitted from the account. During the period to which the table relates the expenditure exceeded the receipts by nearly 55 per cent., and the establishment was worked at an apparent loss to the country of £52,253:—

Mint receipts and expenditure.

## MINT REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE,\* 1873-4 TO 1883-4.

Year.	Mint Receipts.	Mint Expenditure.	Excess of Expenditure over Receipts.	
			Amount.	Percentage.
	£	£	£	£
1873-4 ...	4,799	4,972	173	3·60
1874-5 ...	7,504	15,701	8,197	109·24
1875-6 ...	7,659	9,305	1,646	21·49
1876-7 ...	7,512	11,229	3,717	49·48
1877-8 ...	7,247	19,553	12,306	169·81
1878-9 ...	7,906	13,376	5,470	69·19
1879-80 ...	10,158	13,650	3,492	34·38
1880-81 ...	10,197	14,372	4,175	40·94
1881-2 ...	10,917	14,656	3,739	34·24
1882-3 ...	11,292	15,897	4,605	40·78
1883-4 ...	10,415	15,148	4,733	45·44
Total ...	95,606	147,859	52,253	54·65

Mint receipts, &c. Melbourne, Sydney, and London.

1107. In 1884, the expenditure exceeded the revenue in the Sydney Mint by a somewhat larger proportion than in the Melbourne Mint; but in the London Mint, on account of the large profit made on the purchase of silver bullion for coinage,† the receipts amounted to more than double the expenditure. The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure, and difference between those items, in the three Mints during the past year:—

## MELBOURNE, SYDNEY, AND LONDON MINTS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1884.

Locality of Mint.	Mint Receipts. ‡	Mint Expenditure.	Excess of Expenditure over Receipts.	
			Amount.	Percentage.
	£	£	£	£
Melbourne ...	10,415	15,148	4,733	45·44
Sydney ...	8,566	12,495	3,929	45·87
London ...	168,970	81,260	-87,710	-51·91

NOTE.—The minus sign (-) indicates that the receipts exceeded the expenditure.

\* Figures derived from those given in the Treasurer's Finance Statements. The fluctuations in the expenditure in the earlier years are probably due chiefly to the subsidy being returned at irregular periods.

† The average price at which silver bullion was purchased by the London Mint in 1884 was 4s. 2½d. per ounce, and as silver coin is issued at 5s. 6d. per ounce, the profit (seignorage) which accrued to the State was 1s. 3½d. per ounce, or at the rate of 30 per cent. The rate of seignorage averaged only 9 per cent. in the years 1870 to 1872, rose to nearly 32 per cent. in 1878, and ranged from 25 to 31 per cent. in the last six years.—(See Annual Report of London Mint for 1884, page 9.)

‡ The Melbourne Mint receives an annual subsidy of £20,000 from the Government of Victoria, and the Sydney Mint one of £15,000 from the Government of New South Wales. The unexpended portions of these amounts are left out of account in this table.

1108. The Sydney Branch of the Royal Mint was established in 1855, and from that date to the end of 1884, 14,108,558 ounces\* of gold were received thereat, of which it is believed that 6,808,290 ounces, or nearly half, were raised in the colony of New South Wales; 3,662,025 ounces, or over a fourth, in Queensland; 2,024,322 ounces, or a seventh, in New Zealand; and 1,437,954 ounces, or about a ninth, in Victoria. In the same period, 48,693,500 sovereigns, 4,561,000 half-sovereigns, and 653,706 ounces of bullion, valued at £2,612,414, were issued from this branch, the whole being valued at £53,586,404. It should be mentioned that since the establishment of the Melbourne Mint only about 608 ounces of Victorian gold has been coined in Sydney.

Sydney  
Mint, 1855  
to 1884.

1109. The quantity of gold received at the Sydney Mint during 1884 was 475,053 ounces, valued at £1,713,844, nearly two-thirds of which was produced in Queensland, between a fourth and a fifth in New South Wales, and about a twentieth in New Zealand. The total value of coin and bullion issued in that year amounted to £1,665,592, consisting of 1,595,000 sovereigns and 16,680 ounces of gold bullion, valued at £70,592. The value of coin and bullion issued was less by over one and four-fifth millions sterling in 1883, and by over two millions sterling in 1884, than that issued from the Melbourne Mint in those years.

Sydney Mint,  
1884.

1110. No other metal than gold is coined at the Melbourne and Sydney Mints, the silver and bronze coinage required by the colonies being obtained from England. Besides gold, silver, and bronze British money, silver, nickel, and bronze coins of various denominations are struck at the Royal Mint, London, for several of Her Majesty's possessions. The following table shows the number and value of coins of thirty-four different denominations issued from that Mint in 1884:—

London  
Mint, 1884.

#### COINS STRUCK AT THE LONDON MINT, 1884.

Denomination.	Number of Coins.	Nominal Value.		
		£	s.	d.
Imperial, Gold—Sovereigns ... ..	1,769,635	1,769,635	0	0
"    "    Half-sovereigns ... ..	1,133,756	566,878	0	0
"    Silver—Half-crowns ... ..	1,569,175	196,146	17	6
"    "    Florins... ..	1,447,379	144,737	18	0
"    "    Shillings ... ..	3,923,993	196,199	13	0
"    "    Sixpences ... ..	3,422,565	85,564	2	6
"    "    Fourpences† ... ..	5,353	89	4	4
"    "    Threepences ... ..	3,326,912	41,586	8	0
"    "    Twopences† ... ..	6,042	50	7	0
"    "    Pence† ... ..	14,109	58	15	9
"    Bronze—Pence ... ..	11,702,802	48,761	13	6
"    "    Half-pence ... ..	6,989,580	14,561	12	6
"    "    Farthings ... ..	5,782,000	6,022	18	4

\* Including 134,902 ounces of coin.

† Maundy money only.

COINS STRUCK AT THE LONDON MINT, 1884—*continued.*

Denomination.	Number of Coins.	Nominal Value.		
		£	s.	d.
Colonial—				
Canada, Silver—Ten cents ... ..	150,000	3,082	3	11
"    "    Five cents ... ..	200,000	2,054	15	11
"    Bronze—Cents ... ..	2,500,000	5,136	19	10
Cyprus, Bronze—Piastres ... ..	18,000	100	0	0
"    "    Half-piastres ... ..	36,000	100	0	0
"    "    Quarter-piastres ... ..	72,000	100	0	0
Hong Kong, Silver—Twenty cents ... ..	80,000	3,000	0	0
"    "    Ten cents ... ..	960,000	18,000	0	0
"    "    Five cents ... ..	960,000	9,000	0	0
Jamaica, Nickel—Pence ... ..	48,000	200	0	0
"    "    Half-pence ... ..	96,000	200	0	0
"    "    Farthings ... ..	96,000	100	0	0
Malta, Bronze—One-third farthings ... ..	144,000	50	0	0
Mauritius, Bronze—Five cents ... ..	100,000	416	13	4
"    "    Two cents ... ..	250,000	416	13	4
"    "    One cent ... ..	500,000	416	13	4
Straits Settlements, Silver—Twenty cents ... ..	220,000	8,250	0	0
"    "    "    Ten cents ... ..	1,240,000	23,250	0	0
"    "    "    Five cents ... ..	440,000	4,125	0	0
"    "    Bronze—One cent ... ..	3,160,000	5,925	0	0
"    "    "    Half-cent ... ..	4,000,000	3,750	0	0
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>56,363,301</b>	<b>3,157,966</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>

Silver  
coinage,  
1884.

1111. According to the table, the silver coined at the London Mint in 1884 represented an aggregate nominal value of £725,195, or less by £546,830 than that coined in 1883, when, however, the silver coinage was larger than in any other year since the introduction of the present coinage in 1817.

London Mint,  
1872 to 1884.

1112. In consequence, no doubt, of the gold coined at the Colonial Mints having been sufficient to meet all requirements no sovereigns were struck at the London Mint in 1881, 1882, and 1883, and no half-sovereigns in the first two of those years. Gold coinage was resumed in 1883, half-sovereigns to the number 2,870,456 having been struck in that year, and both sovereigns and half-sovereigns were struck in 1884, as shown in the last table. The fluctuations in the gold coinage at this Mint have been very great for years past, as will be seen by the following figures, which show the nominal value of the gold coins struck at the London Mint during the last 13 years\* :—

NOMINAL VALUE OF GOLD COINS STRUCK AT THE LONDON MINT,  
1872 TO 1884.

£			£		
1872 ... ..	...	15,261,436	1880 ... ..	...	4,150,058
1873 ... ..	...	3,384,564	1881 ... ..	...	Nil
1874 ... ..	...	1,461,564	1882 ... ..	...	Nil
1875 ... ..	...	243,247	1883 ... ..	...	1,435,228
1876 ... ..	...	4,696,700	1884 ... ..	...	2,336,513
1877 ... ..	...	981,400			
1878 ... ..	...	2,265,114	<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>£36,250,874</b>
1879 ... ..	...	35,050			

\* It is estimated that 90,000,000 sovereigns, and 40,000,000 half-sovereigns, of a nominal value in all of £100,000,000, are circulating in the United Kingdom, and that about half these are light. The Mint authorities state that, exclusive of the expense of re-coinage, it would cost nearly £650,000 to make good the deficient weight, which amounts to 5½ tons.

1113. Besides supplying the silver and bronze coinage required for circulation in the Australasian colonies, as already stated, the London Mint also withdraws silver coin from the colonies after it has become worn or defaced, allowing for the same at its full nominal value. The following are the values of the coin supplied and withdrawn in the last six years :—

Silver and bronze coin supplied and withdrawn.

COIN SUPPLIED TO AND WITHDRAWN FROM THE AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES BY THE LONDON MINT, 1879 TO 1884.

Colony.	Year.	Value of Coin Supplied.			Value of Worn Silver Coin Withdrawn.
		Silver.	Bronze.	Total.	
		£	£	£	£
Victoria ...	1879	125,500	2,080	127,580	24,230
	1880	80,000	...	80,000	58,039
	1881	74,800	...	74,800	51,519
	1882	55,200	1,005	56,205	34,036
	1883	24,800	600	25,400	10,601
	1884	10,000	2,000	12,000	9,474
New South Wales ...	1879	85,000	1,000	86,000	890
	1880	25,000	...	25,000	16,574
	1881	24,000	500	24,500	9,950
	1882	44,000	2,000	46,000	7,590
	1883	49,000	2,000	51,000	9,207
	1884	40,000	1,000	41,000	4,531
Queensland ...	1882	50,000	...	50,000	...
South Australia ...	1879	30,000	2,240	32,240	...
	1880	57,000	...	57,000	...
	1882	40,000	...	40,000	...
Western Australia ...	1879	5,000	400	5,400	...
	1880	...	...	...	1,200
	1881	...	...	...	1,200
Tasmania ...	1882	16,000	...	16,000	...
	1883	14,000	20	14,020	10,045
New Zealand ...	1879	500	2,500	3,000	...
	1882	73,800	...	73,800	...
	1884	500	1,500	2,000	...
Total ...	1879	246,000	8,220	254,220	25,120
	1880	162,000	...	162,000	75,813
	1881	98,800	500	99,300	62,669
	1882	279,000	3,005	282,005	41,626
	1883	87,800	2,620	90,420	29,853
	1884	50,500	4,500	55,000	14,005

1114. The value of gold coin issued from the Mints of nine European countries, also from those of British India, Japan, and the United States, during the latest years in which any gold was coined or the information is available, was as follows :—

Gold coin issued in certain countries.

## GOLD COIN ISSUED FROM MINTS OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES.

Country.	Year.	Value.
		£
British India ... ..	1882-3	17,494
Austria-Hungary ... ..	1884	510,164
Belgium ... ..	1882	417,848
France ... ..	1884	418,736*
Germany ... ..	1884	2,883,087
Italy ... ..	1884	12,884
Portugal ... ..	1884	38,444
Spain ... ..	1884	1,032,748
Sweden and Norway ... ..	1884	211,944
Japan ... ..	1883-4	326,350
Russia ... ..	1881	4,297,807
United States ... ..	1882-3	7,486,860

Gold coined  
in Victoria  
and other  
countries.

1115. A comparison with former figures† will show that the value of the gold coin issued from the Melbourne Mint in 1884 far exceeded that issued in the years named from the Mints of any of the countries referred to except Russia and the United States.

Exports of  
gold coin.

1116. Since the establishment of the Melbourne Mint in 1872, the value of gold coin exported from Victoria (£24,474,136), less the value of that imported (£1,906,337), has amounted to £22,567,799, or less by £3,771,301 than the total value of such coin issued from the Mint. In 1884, the value of the gold coin exported amounted to £1,249,420— or only half the quantity in the previous year; ‡ and the value of that imported to £549,798. The destination and value of the exports of gold coin in that year were as follow :—

## EXPORTS OF GOLD COIN, 1884.

	£
Ceylon ... ..	294,794§
United Kingdom ... ..	282,055
New Zealand ... ..	211,000
South Australia ... ..	200,000
New South Wales ... ..	170,123
Tasmania ... ..	60,000
France ... ..	20,000
Western Australia ... ..	6,000
Mauritius ... ..	5,448
Total ... ..	£1,249,420

Australian  
coinage at  
Bank of  
England.

1117. The returns of the Bank of England show that a considerable quantity of the Australian gold coinage finds its way there. The figures are complete for each year from 1875 to 1884, and in the following table are collated with those showing the amount of coinage struck in the same

\* The whole of this coinage was intended for Greece and Monaco.

† See table following paragraph 1098 *ante*.

‡ See also paragraph 1118 *post*.

§ The coin exported to Ceylon is probably, for the most part, intended for England, as exports by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamers are entered for Ceylon and there transhipped.

years at the two Australian Mints, the difference between the amount coined and the amount lodged in the Bank of England being also shown:—

.AUSTRALIAN GOLD COINAGE.—AMOUNT STRUCK AND AMOUNT  
RECEIVED AT BANK OF ENGLAND.

Year.	Nominal Value of Australian Gold Coinage.			Nominal Value of Australian Gold Coinage received at Bank of England.	Excess of Australian Gold Coinage over and above that received at the Bank of England. *
	Struck at Melbourne Mint.	Struck at Sydney Mint.	Total.		
	£	£	£	£	£
1875 ...	1,888,000	2,122,000	4,010,000	2,726,000	1,284,000
1876 ...	2,124,000	1,643,000	3,767,000	2,075,000	1,692,000
1877 ...	1,527,000	1,590,000	3,117,000	3,748,000	- 631,000
1878 ...	2,171,000	1,322,000	3,493,000	2,773,000	720,000
1879 ...	2,740,000	1,413,000	4,153,000	1,617,000	2,536,000
1880 ...	3,052,800	1,499,000	4,551,800	2,377,000	2,174,800
1881 ...	2,345,800	1,391,000	3,736,800	3,306,000	430,800
1882 ...	2,519,000	1,324,000	3,843,000	2,203,000	1,640,000
1883 ...	2,050,000	1,218,000	3,268,000	1,518,000	1,750,000
1884 ...	2,966,000	1,595,000	4,561,000	284,040	4,276,960
Total ...	23,383,600	15,117,000	38,500,600	22,627,040	15,873,560†

1118. It will be noticed that in the ten years named in the table nearly three-fifths of the gold coin issued from the Australian Mints found its way to the Bank of England; also, that the value of Australian coinage received at the Bank of England exceeded that struck in 1877, but in no other year. It will, moreover, be observed that an unusually small quantity of Australian gold coin was received at the Bank of England in 1884, as compared with every one of the previous years shown, notwithstanding the total amount coined in 1884 was larger than in any of those years. Indeed, so great was the demand for gold in Australia in 1884, that in the early part of the year, over a million sterling was actually shipped from London to Australia.‡ This circumstance, at the time, created much surprise, and has received various explanations, but there is very little doubt that the chief cause was the extensive borrowings of the Australasian colonies during the last two years; for whilst at the end of 1882, the aggregate debt of the Australasian colonies was about 99¼ millions, nearly 10 millions was added thereto in 1883, and a further sum of 17¼ millions in 1884, thus swelling the debt by the end of 1884 to 126 millions.

Proportion of Australian coinage sent to Bank of England.

\* The minus sign (-) indicates that the value of Australian gold coinage received at the Bank of England exceeded that struck in the year by the amount against which it is placed.

† Net figures.

‡ It is believed that none of this gold was intended for, or rested in, Victoria.

Number of banks.

1119. During 1884 there were 11\* banks of issue in Victoria, possessing therein 366 branches or agencies. There were also 11 banks of issue in the colony in 1879 and 1874.

Rates of exchange.

1120. Subjoined are the average rates of exchange for bank bills drawn on the following places in 1884, and in the first year of each of the two previous quinquennia. Those upon London are drawn at sixty days' sight, and those upon the neighbouring colonies at sight:—

### RATES OF EXCHANGE, 1874, 1879, AND 1884.

Places on which Bills were drawn.	Average Rates of Exchange.		
	1874.	1879.	1884.
London .. ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 per cent. premium	$\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. premium	par to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium
British India ..	5 per cent. premium to 2s. 1d. per rupee	5 per cent. premium, nominal	$2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium
New South Wales	par to $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. prem.	$\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. premium	$\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. premium
Queensland ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 per cent. premium	$\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 per cent. premium	$\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. premium
South Australia ..	$\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium	to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium	$\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. premium
Tasmania ..	$\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium	to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium	per cent. premium
New Zealand ..	$\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium	$\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium	$\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium.

Rates of discount

1121. The average rates of discount on local bills was slightly lower at the last than at the first period, but much higher than at the middle period, as will be seen by the following figures:—

### RATES OF DISCOUNT ON LOCAL BILLS, 1874, 1879, AND 1884.

Currency of Bills.	Average Rates of Discount per Annum.		
	1874.	1879.	1884.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Under 65 days ... ..	6 to 7	8 to 9	6 to 7
65 to 95 „ ... ..	7 to 8	8 to 9	6 to 8
95 to 125 „ ... ..	8 to 9	9 to 10	7 to 9
Over 125 „ ... ..	8 to 10	9 to 10	7 to 9

Interest on overdrafts.

1122. For overdrafts, the average bank rate was 10 per cent. in 1874 and 1879, and 9 per cent. in 1884.

Liabilities, assets, &amp;c., of banks.

1123. The position of the banks as regards liabilities, assets, capital, and profits, according to the sworn returns for the last quarter of the same three years, was as follows:—

\* In the early part of the year there were 12 banks, but one of these—the Oriental Bank Corporation—stopped payment on the 3rd May, 1884. In February 1885 the first dividend to creditors—of 10s. in the £1—was declared by the liquidators, and at the same time it was notified that creditors who would accept 17s. in the £1 would be paid the balance by September 1885, an offer which, it is believed, was largely availed of; and in August 1885, a second dividend of 2s. 6d. in the £1 was sanctioned. The amounts due to the Governments of Victoria and New South Wales at the time of the failure were £434,355, and about £60,000 respectively, which amounts will be recovered in full with interest at  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. The Victorian business of the Bank had, up to the last, been large and profitable.

## FINANCIAL POSITION OF BANKS, 1874, 1879, AND 1884.

	1874.	1879.	1884.
<b>LIABILITIES.</b>			
	£	£	£
Notes in circulation ... ..	1,395,502	1,090,760	1,391,644
Bills in circulation ... ..	82,877	53,957	53,076
Balances due to other banks ...	188,495	247,343	324,572
Deposits not bearing interest *... ..	4,922,187	4,187,452	6,654,296
„ bearing interest * ... ..	7,516,399	12,238,713	21,762,748
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>14,105,460</b>	<b>17,818,225</b>	<b>30,186,336</b>
<b>ASSETS.</b>			
Coined gold, silver, and other metals	2,279,502	3,154,566	4,666,586
Gold and silver in bullion and bars	466,848	320,779	348,163
Landed property ... ..	705,598	847,389	1,037,844
Notes and bills of other banks ...	183,777	113,373	135,959
Balances due from other banks	302,883	185,986	342,345
Debts due to the banks † ... ..	16,518,244	20,717,750	29,487,969
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>20,456,852</b>	<b>25,339,843</b>	<b>36,018,866</b>
<b>CAPITAL AND PROFITS.</b>			
Capital stock paid up ... ..	8,503,033	9,026,250	8,663,184
Average rate per annum of last dividend declared	11·702 per cent.	10·698 per cent.	12·321 per cent.
Amount of last dividend declared	497,500	482,800	533,690
Amount of reserved profits after declaring dividend	2,518,470	2,698,097	3,553,358

1124. Both liabilities and assets show a large increase at each successive period, and more especially in the interval between the second and last periods, during which the liabilities increased by over 12 millions sterling, or by two-thirds, and the assets by nearly 11 millions, or something less than half. It will be observed that the expansion under the head of liabilities was chiefly due to the increase of deposits; the note circulation ‡ at the last period having been somewhat lower than at the first. Under the head of assets it will be noticed that in 1884 the banks had over 5 millions sterling in coin and bullion, and the landed property represented over 1 million sterling, the former showing an increase of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  millions since 1879, or of  $2\frac{1}{4}$  millions since 1874, and the latter of about £200,000 and £330,000 since those periods respectively; but the most important item of all, the advances (debts due to the bank), stood, in 1884, as high as 30 millions, having increased by 9 millions since 1879, or by nearly 13 millions since 1874. It will be observed that the

Liabilities, assets, &c. compared at three periods.

\* Including Government deposits, the amount of which was not returned in 1874 and 1879, but in 1884 consisted of £53,258 not bearing interest, and £2,093,777 bearing interest.

† Including notes, bills of exchange, and all stock and funded debts of every description, except notes, bills, and balances due to the banks from other banks.

‡ It is stated that the cost of the note circulation to the banks, including a tax to the general revenue of 2 per cent., is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. per annum. See *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record* for May, 1884, p. 191: McCarron, Bird, and Co., 37 Flinders lane west.

deposits and advances exhibited a much closer approach to equality in 1884 than at either of the former periods. The capital was slightly larger in 1884 than in 1874, but was smaller than in 1879; and the reserve was higher at the last than at either of the former periods by about a million sterling. The rate of dividend, in 1884 ( $12\frac{1}{3}$  per cent.), was considerably higher than at either of the other periods.

Percentage of items of liabilities and assets.

1125. The following table shows the proportion of each item of the liabilities to the total liabilities, and of each item of the assets to the total assets, of the banks at the same periods :—

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS OF BANKS.—PERCENTAGE OF ITEMS.

—	1874.	1879.	1884.
LIABILITIES.			
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Notes in circulation ... ..	9·89	6·12	4·61
Bills in circulation ... ..	·59	·30	·18
Balances due to other banks ... ..	1·34	1·39	1·08
Deposits not bearing interest* ... ..	34·89	23·50	22·04
„ bearing interest* ... ..	53·29	68·69	72·09
Total ... ..	100·00	100·00	100·00
ASSETS.			
Coined gold, silver, and other metals	11·14	12·45	12·95
Gold and silver in bullion or bars	2·28	1·27	·97
Landed property ... ..	3·45	3·35	2·88
Notes and bills of other banks ... ..	·90	·44	·38
Balances due from other banks... ..	1·48	·73	·95
Debts due to the banks ... ..	80·75	81·76	81·87
Total ... ..	100·00	100·00	100·00

Analysis of bank returns.

1126. The following results are arrived at by analyzing the bank returns at the three periods :—

The liabilities amounted to ...	{	68·95 per cent. of the assets in 1874	1874
		70·32 „ „	1879
		83·81 „ „	1884
Coin and bullion formed ...	{	13·42 per cent. of the assets in 1874	1874
		13·72 „ „	1879
		13·92 „ „	1884
The paid-up capital was equal to	{	41·57 per cent. of the assets in 1874	1874
		35·62 „ „	1879
		24·05 „ „	1884
	{	60·28 per cent. of the liabilities in 1874	1874
		50·66 „ „	1879
		28·70 „ „	1884
Of the moneys deposited ...	{	60·43 per cent. bore interest in 1874	1874
		74·51 „ „	1879
		76·58 „ „	1884

\* In 1884, the proportion of Government deposits not bearing interest to the total liabilities was ·02 per cent., and the proportion of those bearing interest was about 7 per cent. There is reason to believe that in 1874 and 1879 these proportions were about half as high as in 1884.

1127. It will be observed that in 1884 the liabilities bore a much larger, and coin and bullion a slightly larger, proportion to the assets than at either of the former periods ; that the paid-up capital was equal to only one-third of the liabilities in 1884, as against nearly two-thirds in 1874, and less than one-fourth of the assets in 1884, as against over two-fifths in 1874 ; and that the proportion of the moneys deposited which bore interest gradually increased from 60 per cent. at the first period to over 76 per cent. at the last period of the total amount on deposit.

Former periods and 1884 compared.

1128. The rates of interest allowed on moneys deposited with the Victorian banks for a period of 12 months ranged from 4 to 6 per cent. in 1874, from 6 to 6½ per cent. in 1879, and from 5 to 6½ per cent. in 1884. It may be mentioned that the rate for deposits for 6 months is usually 1 per cent. lower than that for 12 months, and the rate for 3 months 1 per cent. lower than that for 6 months. As a rule, no interest is allowed on deposits at call.

Rates of interest on bank deposits.

1129. According to the *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record*,\* immediately prior to August, 1880, the rate of interest allowed by the Melbourne Associated Banks on moneys left with them on deposit for periods of 12 months was 5 per cent. This fell in August to 4 per cent., and in February, 1881, to the exceptionally low rate of 3 per cent., which prevailed during the greater portion of that year. In 1882, however, there was an advance, and by the end of that year the rate had reached the other extreme of 6 per cent. This comparatively high rate then prevailed during the next 18 months, and was subsequently followed by a rapid fall in July 1884 to 5 per cent, which rate has been maintained ever since. The following are the periods at which the changes took place :—

Fluctuation in rate of interest on deposits

BANK RATE OF INTEREST ON DEPOSITS FOR TWELVE MONTHS, 1880 TO 1885.

August, 1880,† to February, 1881	...	...	4 per cent.
February, 1881, to November, 1881	...	...	3 „
November, 1881, to August, 1882	...	...	4 „
August, 1882, to November, 1882	...	...	5 „
November, 1882, to December, 1882	...	...	5½ „
December, 1882, to July, 1884	...	...	6 „
July 8th to July 24th, 1884	...	...	5½ „
July, 1884, to November, 1885	...	...	5 „

1130. At the end of 1884 the amount of Government moneys in the various banks standing to the credit of the public account was nearly four times as large as the amount at the end of 1883, was somewhat less than that at the end of 1882 and 1881, but was much above the

Government moneys with the banks.

\* "Record" for July, 1884, page 305.

† Immediately prior to this date, 5 per cent.

amount remaining at the end of any of the years 1874 to 1880. The following are the amounts and the proportions they bore to the whole amounts on deposit during the eleven years 1874 to 1884 :—

GOVERNMENT MONEYS IN THE HANDS OF THE BANKS, 1874 TO 1884.

On the 31st December.				Government Moneys.	
				Total Amount held by the Banks.	Percentage of all Moneys on Deposit.
				£	
1874	...	...	...	1,348,048	10·84
1875	...	...	...	677,445	4·93
1876	...	...	...	1,956,619	13·18
1877	...	...	...	1,148,176	6·96
1878	...	...	...	422,211	2·62
1879	...	...	...	1,120,809	6·82
1880	...	...	...	1,953,241	10·87
1881	...	...	...	2,470,880	11·68
1882	...	...	...	2,951,809*	12·50
1883	...	...	...	574,958†	2·04
1884	...	...	...	2,147,035†	7·56

Banks in Australasian colonies, 1885.

1131. The particulars contained in the following table respecting the assets and liabilities of the banks in each of the Australasian colonies at the end of the second quarter of the present year have, in the absence of official information, been taken from the *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record*.† The care habitually exercised by the proprietors and writers of this publication to procure accurate information, and state it correctly, leaves no reason for doubt as to the substantial reliability of the figures :—

BANKS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1885.

(Compiled from the Averages of the Quarter ended 30th June, 1885.)

Colony.	Number of Banks.	Liabilities.				
		Notes in Circulation.	Bills in Circulation.	Balances due to other Banks.	Deposits.‡	Total.
		£	£	£	£	£
Victoria ...	11	1,406,490	87,240	338,730	29,514,080	31,346,540
New South Wales	14	1,690,930	52,210	610,880	27,610,820	29,964,840
Queensland ...	8	611,220	141,770	811,500	6,258,860	7,823,350
South Australia	11	563,110	11,930	91,480	5,397,070	6,063,590
Western Australia	4	34,720	3,140	12,990	669,900	720,750
Tasmania ...	5	168,060	17,080	7,730	3,908,490	4,101,360
New Zealand ...	6	992,910	46,080	24,810	9,884,780	10,948,580
Total ...	59	5,467,440	359,450	1,898,120	83,244,000	90,969,010

\* Including an advance of £2,000,000 obtained from the contracting banks on account of a new loan of £4,000,000, to be floated in 1883 under the Railway Loan Act 1881 (45 Vict. No. 717).

† Averages for the last quarter.

‡ "Record" for September, 1885, page 528.

§ Including Government deposits, which in Victoria amounted to £2,692,848, in South Australia to £649,837, and in New Zealand to £561,363.

BANKS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1885—*continued.*

(Compiled from the Averages of the Quarter ended 30th June, 1885.)

Colony.	Assets.					
	Coin and Bullion.	Landed Property.	Notes and Bills of other Banks.	Balances due from other Banks.	All Debts due to the Banks.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Victoria ...	4,987,580	1,065,930	137,890	292,570	31,543,590	38,027,560
New South Wales	4,343,280	931,540	124,280	2,204,380*	29,999,800	37,603,280
Queensland ...	1,283,300	353,040	18,160	177,020	10,267,010	12,098,530
South Australia	1,273,720	399,830	60,040	224,460	10,190,500	12,148,550
Western Australia	165,660	35,280	4,000	4,460	993,210	1,202,610
Tasmania ...	546,530	67,090	...	614,140	2,688,000	3,915,760
New Zealand ...	2,058,630	475,820	38,580	45,650	15,882,220	18,500,900
Total ...	14,658,700	3,328,530	382,950	3,562,680	101,564,330	123,497,190

1132. It will be noticed that both the bank liabilities and the bank assets are smaller in New South Wales than in Victoria, notwithstanding the fact that in New South Wales the bank assets include the large amount of £2,204,000 as due from other banks, which, in addition to sums due from independent institutions, no doubt embraces capital lent to their own branches outside the colony, the latter being an item which is not considered as forming part of the assets of the banks in the other colonies.

1133. In Tasmania the liabilities of the banks exceed the assets, but in all the other colonies the latter are considerably in excess of the former. In Victoria the liabilities amount to 82 per cent. of the assets, which (excluding New South Wales, in which, as has been just stated, the mode of keeping the accounts is different)† is a higher proportion than obtains in any of the other colonies except Tasmania. The following are the positions of the colonies in respect to the proportion the bank liabilities bear to the bank assets, the colony in which the former are least in proportion to the latter being placed first and the rest in succession, and the figures showing the percentage of liabilities to assets being placed against each colony :—

PROPORTION OF LIABILITIES TO ASSETS OF BANKS OF AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 30TH JUNE, 1885.

	Per Cent.		Per Cent.
1. South Australia ...	49·91	5. New South Wales ...	79·99†
2. New Zealand ...	59·18	6. Victoria ...	82·43
3. Western Australia ...	59·93	7. Tasmania ...	104·74
4. Queensland ...	64·66		

\* This amount probably includes capital lent by the New South Wales banks to their own branches outside the colony.

† If the capital lent to branches outside the colony were excluded from the assets of the banks of New South Wales, the proportion of liabilities to assets would be probably as much as 84 per cent., or even higher than in Victoria.

Proportion of specie to assets of Australasian banks.

1134. Coin and bullion in 1885 bore a much higher proportion to the total assets of the banks of Victoria than they did to those of New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, or South Australia, but not quite so high a one as they did in the other two colonies. In March, 1884, Victoria was fourth on the list in this respect, but the proportion rose in 15 months from  $10\frac{1}{2}$  to 13 per cent. The following is the order of the colonies in reference to this matter:—

PROPORTION OF COIN AND BULLION TO ASSETS OF BANKS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 30TH JUNE, 1885.

	Per Cent.
1. Tasmania ... ..	13·96
2. Western Australia ... ..	13·78
3. Victoria ... ..	13·12
4. New South Wales ... ..	11·55
5. New Zealand ... ..	11·13
6. Queensland ... ..	10·62
7. South Australia ... ..	10·48

Australasian banks' deposits not bearing and bearing interest.

1135. The deposits quoted in the last table may be divided into those bearing and those not bearing interest, except in the case of Tasmania, respecting which colony the necessary information is not given. The following is a statement of the division referred to:—

DEPOSITS IN BANKS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES\* NOT BEARING AND BEARING INTEREST.

(Average during the Quarter ended 30th June, 1885.)

Colony.	Amount of Deposits.†		Proportion of Deposits.	
	Not Bearing Interest.	Bearing Interest.	Not Bearing Interest.	Bearing Interest.
	£	£	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Victoria ... ..	7,211,580	22,302,500	24·43	75·57
New South Wales ... ..	8,886,330	18,724,490	32·18	67·82
Queensland ... ..	2,294,960	3,963,900	36·67	63·33
South Australia ... ..	1,666,150	3,730,920	30·87	69·13
Western Australia ... ..	199,050	470,850	29·71	70·29
New Zealand ... ..	3,546,400	6,338,380	35·88	64·12

Proportion of interest-bearing deposits in Australasian banks.

1136. It will be seen that three-fourths of the bank deposits are interest-bearing in Victoria, as against only about two-thirds in New South Wales, South Australia, and Western Australia, which come next to Victoria in this respect; whilst the proportion is lowest in Queensland.

\* Exclusive of Tasmania.

† Including Government deposits, amounting in Victoria to £2,692,848, of which £232,763 did not bear, and £2,460,085 bore, interest; in South Australia to £649,837, of which £48,953 did not bear, and £600,884 bore, interest; and in New Zealand to £561,363, all of which bore interest.

1137. The following statement, taken from the *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record*,\* shows the capital and profits of the twenty-seven banks of issue carrying on business in the Australasian colonies, according to the sworn averages of the quarter ended 31st December of the last two years:—

Capital and profits of Australasian banks.

CAPITAL AND PROFITS OF BANKS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1883 AND 1884.

	1883.		1884.
	£		£
Capital paid up ... ..	15,513,691	...	14,829,262
Amount of reserved profits at declaration of dividend	6,010,662	...	6,551,638
Capital and reserved profits ... ..	21,524,353†	...	21,380,900
Amount of last dividend declared (half-year)	909,130	...	911,461
Average per cent. per annum of dividend on paid-up capital	11·72	...	12·29

1138. Two kinds of savings banks exist in Victoria, the General Savings Banks, which were first established in 1842, and the Post Office Savings Banks, which were established in 1865. The following figures show the number of institutions, the number of depositors having accounts at the last dates of balancing in 1884, and the total and average amount of depositors' balances at such dates ‡:—

Savings banks.

SAVINGS BANKS, 1884.

Description of Institution.	Number of Savings Banks.	Number of Depositors.	Amount remaining on Deposit.	
			Total.	Average to each Depositor.
			£	£ s. d.
Post Office Savings Banks ...	230	70,722	1,149,494	16 5 1
Ordinary Savings Banks ...	13	81,622	1,831,589	22 8 10
Total ... ..	243	152,344	2,981,083	19 11 4

1139. By the following figures it is ascertained that the depositors in the savings banks in Melbourne and suburbs amounted to 60 per cent. of the whole, and the depositors' balances in such savings banks amounted to 61 per cent. of the whole:—

Savings banks in and outside metropolis.

\* "Record" for April, 1885, page 215.

† If the capital of the Oriental Bank employed outside the colony be left out of account, this amount would be reduced to £20,730,102.

‡ The financial year of the Post Office Savings Banks terminates on the 31st December, that of the Ordinary Savings Banks on the 30th June.

SAVINGS BANKS IN METROPOLITAN AND EXTRA-METROPOLITAN  
DISTRICTS, 1884.

Locality.				Number of Depositors.	Amount remaining on Deposit.
					£
Melbourne and Suburbs	...	...	...	92,030	1,821,876
Remainder of the Colony	...	...	...	60,314	1,159,207
Total				152,344	2,981,083

Savings  
banks, 1872  
to 1884.

1140. In the thirteen-year period, 1872 to 1884, the number of depositors in savings banks increased steadily from year to year. The total amount remaining on deposit was tolerably uniform until 1881, when a marked increase occurred, followed by a further increase in 1882, which, however, probably in consequence of the rate of interest given by the ordinary banks of issue having been raised to much above the savings bank rate, was not continued in 1883. The average amount to each depositor was highest in 1872 and lowest in 1880; the proportion in 1884 (£19 11s. 4d.) was exceeded in all the years of the period except 1879 and 1880. The following is a statement of the number of depositors and the amount remaining on deposit during the period referred to:—

SAVINGS BANKS, 1872 TO 1884.

Year.			Number of Depositors.	Amount remaining on Deposit.			
				Total.	Average to each Depositor.		
				£	£	s.	d.
1872	...	...	52,749	1,405,738	26	13	0
1873	...	...	58,547	1,498,618	25	11	11
1874	...	...	64,014	1,617,301	25	5	3
1875	...	...	65,837	1,469,849	22	6	6
1876	...	...	69,027	1,507,235	21	16	9
1877	...	...	73,245	1,575,305	21	10	2
1878	...	...	76,697	1,510,273	19	13	7
1879	...	...	82,941	1,520,296	18	6	7
1880	...	...	92,114	1,661,409	18	0	9
1881	...	...	107,282	2,569,438	23	19	0
1882	...	...	122,584	3,121,246	25	9	3
1883	...	...	136,089	2,818,122	20	14	2
1884	...	...	152,344	2,981,083	19	11	4

Classifica-  
tion of  
depositors  
according  
to balances.

1141. More than three-fourths of the depositors in 1883 and 1884, had less than £20 to their credit, and about a ninth had from £20 to £50. In 1884, as compared with 1883, a satisfactory increase appears in the number of depositors of amounts under £150, and a

decrease—which must also be regarded as satisfactory, as showing that the savings banks are being less used by the class for which they are not intended—in the depositors of amounts of £150 and upwards. In the following table the depositors are classified according to their balances during each of those years:—

CLASSIFICATION OF DEPOSITORS IN SAVINGS BANKS ACCORDING TO BALANCES, 1883 AND 1884.

Classification.	1883.		1884.	
	Number of Depositors in each Class.	Proportions per Cent.	Number of Depositors in each Class.	Proportions per Cent.
Under £20 ... ..	103,531	76·08	117,132	76·89
£20 to £50 ... ..	15,500	11·39	17,397	11·41
£50 to £100... ..	8,829	6·49	9,537	6·26
£100 to £150 ... ..	3,926	2·88	4,139	2·72
£150 to £200 ... ..	1,904	1·40	1,760	1·16
£200 and upwards ... ..	2,399	1·76	2,379	1·56
Total ... ..	136,089	100·00	152,344	100·00

1142. The highest rate of interest savings banks are permitted to give on moneys left on deposit is 4 per cent., which rate was paid in all the years. Interest is allowed on the minimum monthly balance, but not on any amounts which do not remain in the savings banks for a full month. Rate of interest in savings banks.

1143. The following is a statement of the number of depositors and their proportion to population, also the total and average amount standing to their credit in the savings banks of the various Australasian colonies, except New Zealand, at the middle of 1884:— Savings banks in Australasian colonies.

SAVINGS BANKS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, JUNE, 1884.\*  
(Including both General and Post Office Savings Banks.)

Colony.	Number of Depositors.		Amount remaining on Deposit.	
	Total.	Per 100 of Population.	Total.	Average to each Depositor.
Victoria ... ..	148,622	15·70	£ 2,901,713	£ s. d. 19 10 6
New South Wales ... ..	92,217	10·30	2,944,858	31 18 8
Queensland ... ..	29,849	9·99	1,115,328	37 7 4
South Australia ... ..	49,237	15·95	1,433,510	29 2 3
Western Australia ... ..	1,987	6·15	25,799	12 19 8
Tasmania ... ..	18,302	14·26	391,304	21 7 7
Total ... ..	340,214	12·42	8,812,512	25 18 1

\* The figures for Western Australia are for the 31st December, 1883. Most of the information in this table is taken from *The Year-Book of Australia*, 1885, by Edward Greville: John Sands, George-street, Sydney.

Rate of  
Interest in  
Australasian  
savings  
banks.

1144. In Victoria the rate of interest paid in both descriptions of saving banks is 4 per cent., as already stated, but the rate paid in the other Australasian colonies is often higher than in Victoria. Thus, in New South Wales, whilst the rate in the Post Office Savings Banks is 4 per cent., as in Victoria, that in the General Savings Banks is 6 per cent.; in Queensland, the rate is 4 or 5 per cent., according to the amount deposited; in South Australia,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.; and in Tasmania the rates are 4 and 5 per cent. in the General and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. in the Post Office Savings Banks.

Order of  
colonies in  
respect to  
proportion  
of depositors  
to population

1145. In proportion to population, the number of depositors appears to be greatest in South Australia, and next in Victoria. New South Wales stands fourth on the list, and Western Australia last. The following is the order of the colonies in this respect:—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO PROPORTION OF DEPOSITORS  
IN SAVINGS BANKS TO POPULATION.

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. South Australia. | 4. New South Wales.   |
| 2. Victoria.        | 5. Queensland.        |
| 3. Tasmania.        | 6. Western Australia. |

Order of  
colonies in  
respect to  
average  
amount of  
deposits.

1146. Judged by the average amounts to the credit of depositors, the savings banks of Queensland and New South Wales appear to attract a class of larger capitalists than those of the other colonies; and Victoria, more than any other colony except Western Australia—the figures relating to which are too small to be of much value—appears to attract rather the persons of small means, for whom savings banks are specially established. The following is the order of the colonies in reference to the average balance lying to the credit of each depositor:—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO AVERAGE BALANCE OF  
DEPOSITORS IN SAVINGS BANKS.

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Queensland.      | 4. Tasmania.          |
| 2. New South Wales. | 5. Victoria.          |
| 3. South Australia. | 6. Western Australia. |

Savings  
banks of  
United  
Kingdom.

1147. According to a return published in the *London Gazette*, the amount lying to the credit of depositors in the savings banks of the United Kingdom at the beginning of 1885 was £90,440,984, of which £45,665,246 was in ordinary savings banks, and £44,775,738 in post office savings banks. The increase upon the amount on deposit at the beginning of the previous year was £3,805,819.

Savings  
banks of  
France.

1148. A return issued by the French Minister of Commerce shows that, at the end of 1884, there were 4,704,452 depositors in French savings banks, who had at their credit £81,011,200. In the previous

twelve months the depositors had increased by 169,021, and the amount to the credit of depositors by £8,367,700.

1149. The substance of the following table, which embodies the returns for 1883 and 1884 of the Life Assurance Companies whose head offices are in the Australasian colonies, has been taken from the *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record*.\* It contains a summary of the results of thirteen offices, one of which is the Government Life Insurance Department of New Zealand, the remainder being proprietary or mutual companies :—

LIFE ASSURANCE RETURNS OF AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES,  
1883 AND 1884.

Particulars.	1883.	1884.	Increase.†	
			Numerical.	Centesimal.
New Policies during the Year ‡—				
Assurances & endowments No.	27,258	32,410	5,152	18·90
„ „ amount assured £	7,454,300	8,331,217	876,917	11·76
Annuities ... .. No.	32	16	—16	—50·00
„ amount per annum £	2,162	1,350	—812	—37·56
Premiums, single ... £	21,355	15,879	—5,476	—25·64
„ annual ... .. £	253,668	278,907	25,239	9·95
Funds at beginning of the year ... .. £	5,856,651	6,748,683	892,032	15·23
Receipts—				
New premiums ... .. £	208,609	230,292	21,683	10·39
Renewal „ ... .. £	1,036,431	1,242,216	205,785	19·85
Consideration for annuities £	18,453	11,806	—6,647	—36·02
Interest... .. £	353,275	444,179	90,904	25·73
Other ... .. £	1,702	1,945	243	14·28
Disbursements—				
Claims and surrenders ... £	418,247	488,464	70,217	16·79
Annuities ... .. £	9,571	12,212	2,641	27·59
Bonuses and dividends ... £	4,124	25,709	21,585	523·40
Expenses ... .. £	294,496	335,502	41,006	13·92
Funds at end of the year ... £	6,748,683	7,817,234	1,068,551	15·83

NOTE.—One company had furnished the information for 1883 for only six months.

1150. The total receipts of these offices amounted to £1,618,470 in 1883, and to £1,930,438 in 1884, and the total disbursements to £726,438 and £861,887. The balance in favour of receipts thus amounted to £892,032 in the former and £1,068,551 in the latter year.

1151. In 1883, the working expenses amounted to 18 per cent., and in 1884 to 17 per cent., of the total receipts.

\* "Record" for January, 1885, page 33.

† Where the minus sign (—) occurs a decrease has taken place.

‡ Mr. T. S. Robertson estimates the whole number of policies in force in Australian offices at 150,000, assuring £42,000,000.—See his paper read before the Insurance Institute of Victoria, 10th September, 1884.

Rate of  
interest  
realized.

1152. The average rate of interest realized on the total funds was 5·61 per cent. in 1883, and 6·10 per cent. in 1884.

Life assur-  
ance in the  
United  
Kingdom.

1153. The *Imperial Blue-Book* for 1884 contains the balance-sheets of 104 life assurance companies doing business in the United Kingdom, from which it is ascertained that during the year the receipts of these companies amounted to £21,857,000, of which £5,857,000 was from investments, £15,364,000 from premiums, and £636,000 from sales of annuities; and that their working expenses amounted to £3,000,000, or 13 per cent. of the receipts. Of the working expenses, £1,400,000 is set down to commissions, and £1,600,000 to management.

Price of  
debentures  
in London.

1154. According to *Westgarth's Circular*, the following are the prices at four periods of 1884 and similar periods of 1885 of debentures payable in London\*; the lower price indicates that at or about which sales might be effected, and the higher that at which purchases might be made:—

PRICE OF VICTORIAN DEBENTURES IN LONDON, 1884 AND 1885.

Interest.		Amount of Outstanding Debentures.	Price per £100 Bond.			
Rate per annum.	When Payable.		January.	April.	July.	October.
1884.						
6	April 1 and October 1	3,412,500†	102-105	99-103	...	...
5	January 1 and July 1	2,107,000	105-107	107-109	106-108	108-110
6	" "	850,000	110-112	112-114	110-112	113-115
4	" "	4,500,000	99-100	101½-102½	101-102	103-104
4½	" "	5,000,000	105-106	106-108	106½-107½	108-109
4	" "	4,000,000	99½-100½	102-103	102¼-103¼	105-105½
4	April 1 and October 1	2,000,000‡	99½-100½	101-101¼	101¾-102¼	103¾-104
4	" "	4,000,000‡	...	100¾-101¼	101¾-102¼	103¾-104
Total ...		25,869,500				
1885.						
6	April 1 and October 1	2,600,000§	...	...	...	...
5	January 1 and July 1	2,107,000	105-107	105-107	107-109	107-109
6	" "	850,000	109-112	109-111	109-111	109-111
4	" "	4,500,000	103-104	97-99	101-103	102-104
4½	" "	5,000,000	106-107	104-106	106-108	107-109
4	" "	4,000,000	103-103½	100¾-101¼	103-103½	102-104
4	April 1 and October 1	2,000,000‡	103-103½	98¼-98¾	102⅞-103⅞	101¾-102
4	" "	4,000,000‡	103-103½	98¼-98¾	102⅞-103⅞	101¾-102
4	" "	4,000,000‡	...	...	102⅞-103⅞	101¾-102
Total ...		29,057,000				

NOTE.—When the figures appear in a column and line wherein the month of the quotation and one of the months in which the interest is payable correspond, the price is exclusive of interest; in other cases the deduction of about a quarter's interest will give the net price. The figures under the head of October, 1885, are really for the 18th September, the October circular not having come to hand at time of going to press.

\* See also tables following paragraphs 336 and 350 *ante*.

† £812,500 paid off on 1st October, 1884, and £2,600,000 on 1st October, 1885.

‡ Inscrutable as stock. The last £4,000,000 loan was floated on the 13th May, 1885.—See footnote to table following 347 *ante*.

§ Paid off on 1st October, 1885.

1155. The following, according to the *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record*, were the prices in Melbourne of Victorian debentures payable thereat, and of Victorian stock, at the dates named\*:  
Price of debentures and stock, Melbourne.

PRICE OF VICTORIAN DEBENTURES AND STOCK IN MELBOURNE,  
1884 AND 1885.

Rate per annum.	Interest. When Payable.	Amount of Outstanding Debt.	Closing Price.			
			January.	April.	July.	October.
1884.						
6	April and October...	580,620	101-102	100-101	100-100 $\frac{3}{4}$	100-101 $\frac{1}{4}$
6	" "	130,000	...	...	...	...
6	" "	276,100	106 $\frac{1}{2}$ -	...	...	...
5	January and July ...	312,900	102-	...	102-103 $\frac{1}{2}$	...
4	April and October...	642,882†	-100	-100 $\frac{1}{2}$	99-100	99-100
Total ...		1,942,502				
1885.						
6	April and October...	580,620‡	100 $\frac{1}{4}$ -100 $\frac{3}{4}$	100 $\frac{1}{4}$ -100 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...
6	" "	130,000	...	...	...	...
6	" "	276,100	102 $\frac{1}{2}$ -	...	103-	106
5	January and July ...	312,900	102-	102-102 $\frac{3}{4}$	102-	106
4	April and October ...	642,882†	99-100 $\frac{1}{2}$	99-100 $\frac{1}{2}$	98-100	100 $\frac{3}{4}$
Total ...		1,942,502				

NOTE.—See footnote to last table.

1156. The following table contains a statement of the number and amount of mortgages on land and live stock, and of preferable liens on wool and growing crops, effected during 1884, also the number and amount of releases registered in that year:—  
Mortgages, liens, and releases.

MORTGAGES AND LIENS, AND RELEASES, 1884.

Security.	Mortgages and Liens.		Releases.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
Land under Transfer of Land Statute	5,417	£ 4,707,566	5,016	£ 2,873,445
Land under old system ...	1,734	1,699,837	1,216	753,494
Live stock ...	865	438,874	53	109,517
Wool ...	349	183,161	...	...
Crops ...	871	110,336	...	...
Total ...	9,236	7,139,774	6,285	3,736,456

\* See also table following paragraph 336 *ante*.

† Government stock. The figures in the other lines represent debentures.

‡ Paid off on 1st October, 1885.

Mortgages  
and liens,  
1870 to 1884.

1157. The number of registered mortgages and liens of all descriptions, and the amounts advanced in respect thereof, during each of the fifteen years ended with 1884 were as follow:—

MORTGAGES AND LIENS, 1870 TO 1884.

Year.	Number of Transactions.	Amount.	Year.	Number of Transactions.	Amount.
		£			£
1870 ...	4,410	4,203,743	1878 ...	9,655	6,233,752
1871 ...	4,849	4,278,197	1879 ...	12,063	7,358,952
1872 ...	5,151	4,076,229	1880 ...	10,722	5,615,401
1873 ...	5,155	5,248,365	1881 ...	10,636	6,672,733
1874 ...	5,929	6,019,904	1882 ...	9,416	6,985,689
1875 ...	6,035	4,542,569	1883 ...	9,023	6,021,120
1876 ...	6,417	5,081,387	1884 ...	9,236	7,139,774
1877 ...	6,510	4,706,138			

Mortgages  
and liens,  
1884 and  
former  
years.

1158. It will be observed that a sudden increase in the transactions and in the amount advanced took place in 1878, and a still further increase in 1879, the latter being partly accounted for by the liens on growing crops, which were first legalized in November, 1878,\* and first appear in the returns for 1879. Since 1879, there has been a falling-off in the number of transactions, but not a corresponding decrease in the amount advanced. That amount in 1884 was not quite so high as in 1879, but higher than in any other year.

Proportion  
of releases  
of mort-  
gages.

1159. In 1884 the number of releases of mortgages on land and the amounts paid off were equal to about 87 and 57 per cent. respectively of the number of mortgages effected and the amounts lent thereon. The number of releases of live stock is small as compared with the number of mortgages, and of liens on wool and crops not one release was registered; the reason being, in regard to these descriptions of property, that, although the mortgage or lien may be paid off, the mortgagor seldom takes the trouble to protect himself by a registered release.

Live stock  
and wool  
mortgaged.

1160. The live stock mortgaged in 1884 consisted of 674,497 sheep, 20,167 head of cattle, 2,312 horses, and 17 pigs. The fleeces on which preferable liens were granted numbered 821,814. The live stock released consisted of 236,926 sheep, 8,680 cattle, and 581 horses; but no releases of fleeces were registered.

Difference  
between  
mortgages  
and releases,  
1861 to 1884.

1161. During the twenty-four years ended with 1884, the sums advanced on mortgage of landed property amounted in the aggregate to £89,552,370, and the sums paid off amounted in all to £47,457,558. The balance is £42,094,812, or not quite half the amount originally advanced. Part of this balance represents the

\* Under Act 42 Vict. No. 618.

amount of mortgages still outstanding, and part the amount in default of payment of which properties have passed from the mortgagor either by foreclosure or sale.

1162. The number of bills of sale filed, and the amount secured, also Bills of sale. the number of those satisfied, and the amount paid off, in the last eleven years, were as follow :—

### BILLS OF SALE, 1874 TO 1884.

Year.	Bills of Sale Filed.		Bills of Sale Satisfied.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
1874 ... ..	3,207	727,370	251	98,492
1875 ... ..	3,182	788,339	189	85,477
1876 ... ..	3,330	747,717	194	56,318
1877 ... ..	1,063	288,015	131	79,746
1878 ... ..	1,117	348,319	76	28,710
1879 ... ..	849	239,793	59	42,459
1880 ... ..	752	593,857	47	25,628
1881 ... ..	842	432,251	65	56,739
1882 ... ..	812	461,710	68	51,804
1883 ... ..	839	253,863	40	24,385
1884 ... ..	866	248,768	36	30,761

1163. The decrease in the number and amount of bills of sale filed since 1876 is chiefly owing to the law relating to such securities having been made more stringent under Act 40 Vict. No. 557, which came into force during 1877, as it is now necessary to give 15 days' notice to the Registrar-General previous to any bill of sale being filed, during which period any creditor can lodge a caveat against its registration. Decrease in bills of sale.

1164. The contracts for sale and amount secured thereby, also the contracts for letting, and extremes within which the rent named therein ranged, filed with the Registrar-General under Act 40 Vict. No. 557, during the last eight years, were as follow :— Contracts for sale and letting.

### CONTRACTS FOR SALE AND LETTING, 1877 TO 1884.

Year.	Contracts for Sale Filed.		Contracts for Letting Filed.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Rents.
		£		Per Week.
1877 ... ..	605	47,720	668	} 2/6 to £5
1878 ... ..	1,074	83,608	1,074	
1879 ... ..	1,803	142,809	1,802	
1880 ... ..	1,828	137,959	1,829	
1881 ... ..	1,730	90,699	1,730	
1882 ... ..	1,612	73,892	1,611	
1883 ... ..	1,472	63,434	1,472	
1884 ... ..	1,495	57,061	1,495	

Increase in  
contracts  
for sale and  
letting.

1165. It would seem that contracts for sale and letting appeared at first to be more convenient for the security of the credit or without injuring the credit of the person giving the security than bills of sale, as they increased very rapidly from 1877, that being the year in which the Act legalizing their registration came into operation, until 1880, whilst the bills of sale largely decreased. There has been a falling-off, however, in the number of both kinds of contracts since 1880, and in the amount of contracts for sale since 1879, when it was nearly three times as large as in 1884.

Building  
societies.

1166. Building societies in Victoria date from an early period in the colony's history, and much success both to borrowers and investors has attended their operations. Fifty-four such institutions sent in returns during 1884, as against 48 in 1882 and 1883, 49 in 1881, and 47 in 1880. The following are the principal items furnished for the five years. It should be borne in mind that the returns of some of the societies were not perfect:—

#### BUILDING SOCIETIES, 1879 TO 1884.

—	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
Number of societies ...	47	49	48	48	54
Number of members ...	18,052	18,883	18,356	20,033	24,679
Amount advanced during the year	£564,411	£805,551	£1,040,965	£1,089,480	£1,469,542
Income during the year	£1,040,926	£1,224,221	£1,408,764	£1,326,973	£1,767,138
Working expenses during the year	£31,166	£32,210	£33,126	£36,261	£42,426
Assets at date of balancing	£2,804,295	£2,853,970	£3,335,186	£3,675,941	£4,405,512
Liabilities at date of balancing	£2,352,808	£2,432,617	£2,716,058	£3,082,794	£3,762,072
Moneys on deposit at date of balancing	£829,941	£836,327	£1,038,034	£1,336,956	£1,793,992

Advances by  
and income  
of building  
societies.

1167. In 1884, the business done by building societies, as measured by the advances made, was rather over a third more than in 1883 or 1882, nearly double that in 1881, and more than double that in 1880. The aggregate income of building societies, in which the deposits received are not included, was much larger than in any of the other years.

Working  
expenses of  
building  
societies.

1168. The working expenses of building societies usually amount to less than 3 per cent. of their income. The exact proportion was 2.99 per cent. in 1880; 2.63 per cent. in 1881; 2.35 per cent. in 1882; 2.73 per cent. in 1883; and 2.40 per cent. in 1884; or an average of 2.62 per cent. in all the years.

1169. The rates of interest allowed by building societies on moneys left with them for a period of twelve months generally ranged, in 1880, from 5 to 7½ per cent., in 1881 and 1882 from 3 to 6½ per cent., in 1883 from 5 to 7 per cent., and in 1884 from 5½ to 7 per cent. Some societies allow as much as 5 per cent. on deposits at call.

Rates of interest in building societies.

1170. The sums deposited with building societies at the end of 1884 amounted in the aggregate to £1,793,992, or nearly half a million more than was on deposit at the end of 1883. These deposits exceeded the advances during the year by nearly £325,000.

Deposits with building societies.

1171. The following is a statement of the total amount of moneys on deposit at or about the end of each of the last five years with banks of issue, savings banks, and building societies. Other institutions, such as deposit banks, and some of the insurance companies, also receive deposits, but of these no returns are furnished:—

Total moneys on deposit.

MONEYS ON DEPOSIT AT END OF YEARS 1880 TO 1884.

Amount deposited with—	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.
	£	£	£	£	£
Banks ... ..	17,972,703	21,151,910	23,625,093	24,059,169	28,417,044
Savings banks ...	1,661,409	2,569,438	3,121,246	2,818,122	2,981,083
Building societies	829,941	836,327	1,038,034	1,336,956	1,793,992
Total ... ..	20,464,053	24,557,675	27,784,373	28,214,247	33,192,119

1172. It will be observed that the moneys known to be on deposit about the close of the last year amounted in the aggregate to over thirty-three millions sterling, or nearly five millions more than in the previous year, and nearly thirteen millions more than in 1880, four years previously.

Moneys on deposit, 1884.

PART VIII.—LAW, CRIME, ETC.

1173. The system whereby persons acquiring possession of land, either by transfer, inheritance, or other means, may receive a title thereto direct from the Crown, was introduced into Victoria in the year 1862, and continues in force to the present period.\*

Transfer of Land Statute.

1174. All lands alienated from the Crown since the introduction of the system have come at once under its provisions; and lands alienated

Lands under the Statute.

\* This system was originated by the late Sir R. R. Torrens, whence it is commonly known as "Torrens's system." He first introduced it into South Australia, but it has since been adopted by all the Australasian colonies.