

130. At the time of the last general election, 3 in every 14 persons in the colony, or 5 in every 7 males over 21 years of age, was an elector. The proportion of members to the total population was 1 to every 9,833, or 1 member to every 2,985 males over 21 years of age.

Proportion of electors and members to population.

131. The United Kingdom returns 650 members to the Imperial Parliament, viz., 485 for England, 60 for Scotland, and 105 for Ireland. The proportion of members to the population of the United Kingdom at the end of 1877 was 1 to every 51,453; or, for England, 1 member to every 50,613 persons; for Scotland, 1 member to every 59,345 persons; and for Ireland, 1 member to every 50,823 persons.

Proportion of members of Imperial Parliament to population.

132. If Victoria were to be represented according to population in the same proportion as the United Kingdom, she would in 1877, instead of sending 86 members to Parliament, have returned only 16; if in the same proportion as England, she would have returned 17; if in the same proportion as Ireland, rather less than 17; and if in the same proportion as Scotland, 14.

Representation to population. Victoria and United Kingdom compared.

PART III.—FINANCE.

133. In the financial year ended with the 30th June 1878 the general revenue was diminished by about £85,000 in consequence of the transfer of four-fifths of the wharfage rates for the Port of Melbourne to the Harbor Trust, and by a net remission of about £26,000 in Customs duties; but, on the other hand, it was augmented by the imposition, for the first time, of a land tax which realised £50,000, and by a proportion of the amounts received for publicans' licenses, &c., which produced about £5,000. A net deficiency of £56,000 is thus attributable to the sources of revenue being disturbed by legislation.

Changes effected by legislation.

134. The financial year commenced with a credit balance of £207,000, which not only wiped out a deficiency of £130,000 which occurred on the year's transactions, but also allowed of a credit balance of £77,000 being carried forward to the ensuing year. The exact figures are as follow:—

Finance account, 1877-8.

FINANCE ACCOUNT, 1877-8.*

	£	s.	d.
Net receipts	4,504,412	13	11
Net expenditure	4,634,349	0	0
Expenditure in excess of receipts	129,936	6	1
Credit balance of 1876-7 brought forward	206,888	0	5
Credit balance to carry forward to 1878-9	76,951	14	4

* The revenue and expenditure of 1878-9, made up whilst these pages were going through the press, but not audited, were as follow:—Revenue, £4,516,418; expenditure, £4,944,966. The estimated mean population of the same twelve months was 878,243; so that the revenue per head was £5 2s. 10d., and the expenditure per head £5 12s. 7½d.

Recoups. 135. The receipts of 1876-7 were swelled to an unusual extent by recoups, which, though not strictly speaking revenue, are included therein for the sake of convenience. This circumstance will account to a great extent for the difference between the revenue of that year and that of 1877-8, the addition to the latter from recoups having been comparatively slight, as will be seen by the following figures :—

REVENUE AND RECOUPS,* 1876-7 AND 1877-8.

	1876-7.	1877-8.
Revenue proper	£4,513,738	£4,485,412
Recoups	210,139	19,001
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total receipts	£4,723,877	£4,504,413
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Excess of receipts and contrary. 136. In only one year of the last five were the net receipts in excess of the net expenditure. The following figures show the surplus or deficiency in each of those years—the advances to be recouped from loans, and the recoups, being left out of the account :—

	Receipts in Excess of Expenditure.	Expenditure in Excess of Receipts.
	£	£
1873-4	80,485
1874-5	126,949
1875-6	68,910
1876-7	177,599	...
1877-8	82,692

Amount of credit balance in five years. 137. According to these figures, the transactions of the quinquennial period resulted in a net debit balance of £181,437.

Revenue and expenditure, 1877-8, and former years. 138. Inclusive of recoups, the revenue of 1877-8 was less than that of 1876-7 by £219,464, but larger than that raised in any previous year. If, however, recoups be excluded, the difference between the revenues of the last two financial years will be reduced to £28,326; and if allowance be also made for changes in legislation,† the income from sources of revenue common to the two years will be found to have been £28,000 in favor of the year under review. The expenditure of 1877-8 was greater than that of 1876-7 by £276,253, and was the largest amount that had ever been expended in the colony in one year.‡

Revenue and expenditure per head, 1851 to 1877-8. 139. The revenue and expenditure per head for each year from that of separation from New South Wales to 1877-8 will be found in the following table.

* A recoup is a recovery in after years of moneys advanced in previous years from the revenue. It is included in the revenue in order to balance a similar amount charged to the expenditure of a previous year. Such advances are usually voted by Parliament in anticipation of a loan.

† See paragraph 133 *ante*.

‡ Figures showing the revenue and expenditure of each year from the first settlement of the colony will be found in the Statistical Summary of Victoria (first folding sheet) *ante*.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE PER HEAD, 1851 TO 1877-8.*

Year.	Average Population of each Year.	Revenue per Head.			Expenditure per Head.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1851	86,825	4	10	5	4	14	8
1852	132,905	12	5	11	7	7	4
1853	195,378	16	11	2	16	9	3
1854	267,371	11	11	0	15	13	1
1855	338,315	8	1	4	7	14	6
1856	380,942	7	16	1	7	0	1
1857	430,347	7	14	8	6	17	11
1858	483,827	6	2	11	6	7	10
1859	517,226	6	6	1	6	11	3
1860	539,337	5	14	4	6	2	11
1861	541,012	5	9	1	5	14	4
1862	548,450	5	19	2	5	10	10
1863	561,322	4	18	10	5	2	8
1864	589,160	5	0	4	4	19	5
1865	616,375	4	19	10	4	16	10
1866	634,077	4	17	1	5	1	8
1867	649,826	4	19	0	4	19	9
1868	671,222	4	16	3	4	15	0
1869	696,942	4	17	1	4	12	7
1870	709,838	4	11	11	4	16	7
1871 (six months)†	731,528	2	6	3	2	8	0
1871-2	749,964	4	19	7	4	17	7
1872-3	770,306	4	14	7½	4	11	0
1873-4	789,438	5	4	0½	5	5	10
1874-5	806,760	5	5	0¼	5	7	0½
1875-6	822,231	5	5	2½	5	11	2¾
1876-7	839,493	5	12	6½	5	3	10
1877-8	859,235	5	4	10	5	7	10½

140. The revenue per head was less in the year under review than in any one of the three years immediately preceding it, but was greater than in any other year since 1862. The expenditure per head in the year under review was exceeded in 1875-6, but was not equalled in any other year since 1862. It will be observed that, in proportion to population, both revenue and expenditure declined pretty steadily year by year from 1862 to 1873-4, but that in the latter year an augmentation took place, which has been maintained ever since.

Revenue and expenditure per head in various years.

141. The following are the heads of revenue‡ in Victoria for the last five financial years, and the amounts received under each head. Recoups, which have been before alluded to,§ have been eliminated, and are added separately at the end of the table.

Heads of revenue.

* For amounts per head in 1878-9, see footnote to paragraph 134 ante.

† The financial year was changed in 1871, so as to terminate on the 30th June instead of on the 31st December as formerly.

‡ The heads of Revenue and Expenditure are arranged according to a classification agreed upon at a Conference of representatives of several of the Australian colonies upon the subject of statistics, which was held in Tasmania in January 1875.—See Report of Conference, with introductory letter by the Government Statist of Victoria, Parliamentary Paper No. 11, Session, 1875.

§ See paragraph 135 ante.

HEADS OF REVENUE, 1873-4 TO 1877-8.

Heads of Revenue.	Amounts Received.				
	1873-4.	1874-5.	1875-6.	1876-7.	1877-8.
	£	£	£	£	£
Customs	1,761,099	1,628,235	1,657,788	1,631,832	1,487,448
Excise	32,869	32,475	33,437	34,768	36,309
Ports and harbors ...	20,654	19,935	22,104	20,993	22,647
Licenses (business) ...	10,135	10,714	10,712	11,688	17,150†
Duties on estates of deceased persons	72,085	32,526	48,963	44,103	72,500
„ on bank notes...	...	...	7,191*	27,248	26,672
Land tax ... ..	...	...	...	...	50,227
Mint, charges	4,799	7,504	7,659	7,512	7,247
„ subsidy returned	16,695	4,299	10,695	7,104	447
Land sales (including rents counting towards purchase-money)	558,316	767,624	782,069	783,311	756,674
Rents of Crown lands (not counting towards purchase-money)	196,114	173,601	184,776	208,872	186,337
Penalties under Land Acts	13,200	5,528	53,167	54,233	14,704
Railways	851,425	921,714	983,033	1,078,082	1,202,280
Water supply	103,493	88,556	92,947	100,219	104,819
Public works (exclusive of railways and water supply)	1,641	6,834	6,042	5,690	5,190
Post and telegraphs ...	186,637	198,326	209,213	226,597	239,002
Fines, fees, and forfeitures (exclusive of Land Act penalties)	97,730	111,304	112,664	121,676	119,632
Rents (ordinary)	1,393	749	674	730	824
Reimbursements in aid	32,108	29,341	37,739	34,492	36,894
Interest and exchange	84,077	75,025	48,086	95,106	78,080
Miscellaneous receipts	20,653	55,410†	16,197	19,482	20,329
	4,065,123	4,169,700	4,325,156	4,513,738	4,485,412
Recoups.	41,667	66,723	...	210,139	19,001
Total	4,106,790	4,236,423	4,325,156	4,723,877	4,504,413

Customs
revenue.

142. The following are the particulars of Customs revenue received during the years 1876-7 and 1877-8; the increase or decrease in the latter year being also shown. It will be observed that the net falling-off in the duties was £63,167, and that nearly all the items show decrease. It should be pointed out, however, that the deficiency, apart from that occasioned by changes in the tariff, amounted to only about £37,000 as against £24,000 in the previous year. Of individual items, the revenue from tobacco exhibits the greatest falling-off, the decrease

* For six months only.

† Including "Immigration deposits," £23,074; and accumulation of pension fund transferred to revenue, £14,500.

‡ Including a proportion, amounting to £4,600, of publicans' license fees, &c., received, for the first time in 1877-8, under Act 40 Vict. No. 566, section 111.

during the last four years having averaged about £11,500 per annum ; the decrease from spirits, though great, is only half what it was in the previous year ; sugar and hops also show large decreases :—

CUSTOMS REVENUE, 1876-7 AND 1877-8.

Heads of Revenue.	Amounts Received.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1876-7.	1877-8.		
	£	£	£	£
Spirits	499,568	489,236	...	10,332
Wine	39,139	37,893	...	1,246
Beer and cider	30,352	29,346	...	1,006
Tobacco and snuff	97,034	82,830	...	14,204
Cigars	16,929	17,639	710	...
Tea	69,907	69,628	...	279
Sugar and molasses	90,394	84,372	...	6,022
Coffee, chicory, cocoa, and chocolate... ..	15,622	14,814	...	808
Opium	15,520	14,214	...	1,306
Rice	13,489	13,681	192	...
Hops	9,934	7,586	...	2,348
Malt	14,129	12,870	...	1,259
Dried and preserved fruits and vegetables	42,994	43,714	720	...
Live stock ... ..	...	28,270	28,270	...
All other articles (including <i>ad valorem</i> duties)	567,784	513,466	...	54,318
Export duty on timber ... ..	...	69	69	...
Total	1,522,795	1,459,628	...	63,167
Wharfage rates	109,037	27,820	...	81,217
Grand Total	1,631,832	1,487,448	...	144,384

143. The wharfage rates have been separated from the other items in the last table, as during the year 1877-8 those for the Port of Melbourne, for the first time, were not collected by the Customs Department. These rates have been received since the 1st July 1877 by the Harbor Trust Commissioners under Act 40 Victoria No. 552, who pay a fifth part thereof into the consolidated revenue, and appropriate the remainder to the purposes of the Trust. The wharfage rates received during 1877-8, including the portion paid to the revenue as well as that retained by the Harbor Trust, amounted to £113,069, or an increase of £4,032 on the amount collected in the previous year. Wharfage rates.

144. The following are the heads of expenditure* during the last five financial years and the amounts expended under each head. The expenditure of amounts subsequently to be recouped has been kept separate from the ordinary disbursements. Heads of expenditure.

* See footnote (†) to paragraph 141 ante.

HEADS OF EXPENDITURE, 1873-4 TO 1877-8.

Heads of Expenditure.	Amounts Expended.				
	1873-4.	1874-5.	1875-6.	1876-7.	1877-8.
	£	£	£	£	£
Legislature	56,614	56,552	57,521	58,807	64,040
Civil establishment * ...	93,994	103,681	100,130	102,444	101,175
Judicial and legal ...	177,369	172,975	170,594	171,682	171,065
Public instruction, science, &c.	382,783	414,662	472,776	490,409	519,175
„ State school buildings	154,976	181,440	†	†	†
Charitable institutions, medical, &c.	272,290	273,537	270,318	278,970	281,509
Mining	33,009	30,653	38,153	37,543	28,530
Police	194,329	198,312	199,738	197,371	207,119
Gaols and penal establishments	61,787	60,469	61,051	60,008	58,132
Mint ‡	21,667	20,000	20,000	18,333	20,000
Crown lands and survey ...	118,329	140,246	139,070	164,011	150,248
Railways	386,924	437,931	489,751	562,517	616,207
Water supply	11,794	17,013	17,192	18,099	22,621
Public works §	591,655	655,495	680,219	552,987	562,505
Customs	93,840	57,364	56,311	56,186	64,058
Harbors and lights ...	24,638	35,035	34,703	29,980	29,017
Defences	56,629	53,507	58,233	74,020	121,266
Post and telegraphs ...	309,112	357,890	286,688	341,397	376,091
Retiring allowances, pensions, &c.	31,508	34,694	34,101	36,917	79,039
Redemption of loans ...	35,100	35,000	...	...	...
Interest	726,142	742,008	793,600	818,670	920,911
Civil list ¶	78,570	70,984	71,227	29,604	29,564
Aborigines	7,055	6,209	6,100	7,500	7,464
Placed to railway loan liquidation and construction account ¶¶	200,000	100,000	300,000	200,000	100,000
Miscellaneous services ...	25,494	40,992	36,590	28,684	38,368
	4,145,608	4,296,649	4,394,066	4,336,139	4,568,104
Expenditure of amounts to be recouped from loans, &c.	31,730	21,472	178,777	21,957	66,245
Total	4,177,338	4,318,121	4,572,843	4,358,096	4,634,349

* Including cost of the following departments:—Chief Secretary, Government Statist, Shorthand Writer, Agent-General, Audit Office, Inspector of Stock, Treasury, Stores and Transport, and Government Printer.

† The amount expended on school buildings since 1874-5 has been paid entirely out of loans.

‡ The annual subsidy to the Mint is £20,000; portion of this sum, however, has been repaid each year to the revenue. See table following paragraph 141 *ante*, under the head “Mint subsidy returned.”

§ Exclusive of school buildings and of all public works paid for out of loans. Including endowments of municipalities under the Local Government Act. The expenditure on the Port of Melbourne included under this head prior to 1st January 1877 has since been paid out of the Harbor Trust fund; see next table.

¶ Including Governor's salary, and salaries of Ministers, Commissioners of Audit, Agent-General, and expenses of Executive Council, in all the years; also Public Worship until the middle of 1875-6, when State Aid was abolished.

¶¶ This account was created under the Land Act 1869 (33 Vict. No. 360, secs. 42 and 43), whereby it was provided that an amount of £200,000, proceeding from the alienation of land, should be placed annually to a trust account, the moneys standing to the credit of which should be available for the repurchase of debentures, or the further construction of railways. The total amount which had been paid to this fund up to the 30th June 1878 was £2,102,207 1s. 2d., viz., £1,600,000 paid in accordance with these provisions, and £502,207 1s. 2d. advanced during 1876-7 and 1877-8 under the Railway Loan Act 1876 (39 Vict. No. 531, section 11), which provides that advances to this fund out of the Railway Loan may, from time to time, be made in anticipation of the moneys of the fund accruing and becoming available. The total amount expended up to the 30th June 1878, all on the survey or construction of lines of railway, was £2,078,463 18s. 3d., leaving a balance of £23,743 2s. 11d. for payment of amounts not finally charged.

145. The following table shows the expenditure of amounts raised by means of loans during each of the five years ended with the year under review ; also the expenditure on the Port of Melbourne during each of the two years which have elapsed since the establishment of the Harbor Trust on 1st January 1877. This is intended to supplement the foregoing table by exhibiting those items which, having never been, or having ceased to be, a charge on the general revenue, are treated in separate accounts :—

EXPENDITURE OF PROCEEDS OF LOANS, AND OF THE HARBOR TRUST FUND, 1873-4 TO 1877-8.

Purposes of Expenditure.	Amounts Expended.*				
	1873-4.	1874-5.	1875-6.	1876-7.	1877-8.
	£	£	£	£	£
Water supply ...	341,816	215,719	123,834	245,647	185,165
Railways ...	335,703	605,886	683,905	118,724	445,842
Public buildings ...	258	37,257	55,000	58,851	55,217
State school buildings	†	†	99,899	168,320	285,306
Alfred graving-dock ...	77,849	31,411	1,406	2,442	225
Defences ...	435	...	...	...	...
Total from Loans	756,061	890,273	964,044	593,984	971,755
Maintenance and improvement of the Port of Melbourne †	†	†	†	16,940	92,136
Grand Total ...	756,061	890,273	964,044	610,924	1,063,891

146. The total revenue and expenditure, and the amount of each per head of the living population, of each of the Australasian colonies, are shown in the following table for the five years ended with 1877. As the financial year of Victoria terminates on the 30th June, the items for this colony are given for six years, the last year but one being six months behind, and the last year being six months in advance, of the latest period in respect to which returns are given for the other colonies except Queensland, in which the financial year also now ends on the 30th June, so the returns of it are twelve months behind those of Victoria and six months behind those of all the other colonies.

* These are the actual payments during the various years shown, whether made direct from the loans, &c., themselves, or indirectly through the general revenue, and subsequently recouped.

† The expenditure on State school buildings prior to 1875-6, and that on the Port of Melbourne prior to the middle of 1876-7, were chargeable to the general revenue, and are therefore included in the last table.

‡ The figures in this line apply to the years ended 31st December. For details of Harbor Trust expenditure, see table following paragraph 186 post.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES.

Colony.	Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.				
		Total Amount.	Amount per Head.		Total Amount.	Amount per Head.			
		£	£	s.	d.	£	£	s.	d.
Victoria	1872-3	3,644,135	4	14	7½	3,504,953	4	11	0
	1873-4	4,106,790	5	4	0½	4,177,338	5	5	10
	1874-5	4,236,423	5	5	0¼	4,318,121	5	7	0½
	1875-6	4,325,156	5	5	2½	4,572,844	5	11	2¾
	1876-7	4,723,877	5	12	6½	4,358,096	5	3	10
	1877-8	4,504,413	5	4	10	4,634,349	5	7	10½
New South Wales	1873	3,324,713	6	0	11½	2,333,166	4	4	10½
	1874	3,509,966	6	2	8	2,939,227	5	2	8¾
	1875	4,121,996	6	18	5¼	3,341,324	5	12	2¾
	1876	5,033,828	8	2	10¼	4,749,013	7	13	7¾
	1877	5,748,245	8	17	11½	4,627,979	7	3	3½
Queensland	1873	1,120,034	7	19	10½	956,335	6	16	6
	1874	1,160,947	7	9	8½	1,121,710	7	4	7¾
	1875	1,261,464	7	6	4	1,404,198	8	2	10¾
	1875-6	1,263,268	6	19	4½	1,283,520	7	1	7¼
	1876-7	1,436,582	7	13	6¾	1,382,806	7	7	9¾
South Australia...	1873	937,648	4	16	1¼	839,152	4	6	0
	1874	1,003,820	4	19	8½	1,051,622	5	4	5½
	1875	1,143,312	5	10	2¼	1,176,412	5	13	4¼
	1876	1,320,204	6	1	1	1,323,337	6	1	4½
	1877	1,441,401	6	4	7¾	1,443,653	6	4	10¼
Western Australia	1873	134,832	5	4	9	114,270	4	8	9¼
	1874	148,073	5	13	11½	143,266	5	10	3¼
	1875	157,775	5	19	3	169,230	6	7	10¾
	1876	162,189	6	0	1	179,484	6	12	10½
	1877	165,412	5	19	11½	182,959	6	12	8
Tasmania	1873	293,753	2	16	8¾	299,995	2	17	11¼
	1874	327,925	3	2	11¼	374,078	3	11	9½
	1875	343,676	3	6	1¾	385,731	3	14	2¾
	1876	327,349	3	2	7¼	336,388	3	4	4
	1877	361,771	3	8	0¾	352,564	3	6	4¼
New Zealand	1873	2,776,388	9	12	11¾	2,119,524	7	7	3¾
	1874	3,063,811	9	12	1¾	3,035,711	9	10	4½
	1875	2,813,928	7	16	10	3,431,973	9	11	3¼
	1876	3,580,294	9	4	9¾	4,305,337	11	2	2¾
	1877	3,916,023	9	11	9½	3,822,426	9	7	2½

NOTE.—For revenue and expenditure of the neighboring colonies during 1878, see Summary of Australasian Statistics (third folding sheet) *ante*.

Revenue greater than expenditure in most colonies.

147. In the last year the amounts expended in Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia were in excess of the revenues of those colonies respectively, but in the other colonies the revenue was greater than the expenditure.

Increasing revenue in most colonies.

148. The total revenue of each of the colonies, except Victoria, was greatest in the last of the years named, but Victoria, New South Wales, and South Australia were the only ones whose expenditure was greatest in that year.

149. In three of the colonies, viz., New South Wales, South Australia, and Tasmania, the revenue per head was greater in the last year than in any of the previous ones. The only colony in which a larger expenditure per head took place in 1877 than in any previous year was South Australia.

Revenue and expenditure per head in colonies.

150. The following is the order in which the respective colonies stand in regard to the total amount they raised in the last year shown. Victoria, for the second time, is not at the head of the list, and South Australia, for the second time, takes a higher position than Queensland.

Order of colonies in respect to revenue.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO REVENUE.

1. New South Wales.	5. Queensland.
2. Victoria.	6. Tasmania.
3. New Zealand.	7. Western Australia.
4. South Australia.	

151. In reference to expenditure, the colonies follow the same order as they do in regard to revenue, except that Victoria changes places with New South Wales, and is at the head of the list. The expenditure of Victoria in the last year shown was, however, higher by only £6,000 than that of New South Wales, and in the previous year it was less than the expenditure in that colony by nearly £400,000.

Order of colonies in respect to expenditure

152. In respect to the revenue and expenditure per head, the colonies assume an altogether different order, New Zealand standing first, Victoria sixth, and Tasmania last, in regard to both those points:—

Order of colonies in respect to revenue, &c., per head.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO AMOUNTS OF REVENUE AND OF EXPENDITURE PER HEAD.

Revenue per Head.	Expenditure per Head.
1. New Zealand.	1. New Zealand.
2. New South Wales.	2. Queensland.
3. Queensland.	3. New South Wales.
4. South Australia.	4. Western Australia.
5. Western Australia.	5. South Australia.
6. Victoria.	6. Victoria.
7. Tasmania.	7. Tasmania.

153. Adding together the amounts of revenue and likewise the amounts of expenditure for the latest year to which the table refers, it will be found that the aggregate revenue of the colonies on the continent of Australia amounts to over 13¼ millions, and their aggregate expenditure to over 12¼ millions sterling; also that the aggregate revenue of Australia, with the addition of Tasmania and New Zealand, amounts to over 17½ millions, and the aggregate expenditure to nearly 16½ millions sterling. The following are the exact figures, also the proportions per head of population.

Revenue and expenditure of Australasia.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF AUSTRALIA AND AUSTRALASIA, 1877.

	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	Total Amount.	Amount per Head.*	Total Amount.	Amount per Head.*
	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
Continent of Australia ...	13,296,053	6 16 3½	12,271,746	6 5 9½
Ditto, with Tasmania and New Zealand	17,573,847	7 2 6½	16,446,736	6 13 4¾

Revenue, &c., of Victoria and Australasia compared.

154. It will be observed that the large revenue and expenditure of New Zealand more than counterbalance the small revenue and expenditure of Tasmania, and hence the amounts per head for Australia are below those for all Australasia. It will also be noticed that in Victoria the revenue per head is about £1 10s., and the expenditure per head is nearly £1, less than the average of Australia, and both revenue and expenditure are below the average of Australasia by still higher amounts.

Revenues of British dominions.

155. The following table gives a statement of the public revenues of the United Kingdom and the various British possessions throughout the world, according to the latest official information available; also the average amount of revenue to each person in the population of the different countries and colonies named. All the calculations have been made in the office of the Government Statist, Melbourne:—

REVENUES OF BRITISH DOMINIONS.

Country or Colony.	Year.	Revenue.	
		Gross Amount.	Average per Head.†
		£	£ s. d.
EUROPE.			
United Kingdom	1877-8	79,763,298	2 7 2
Gibraltar	1875	42,144	1 0 3
Malta	1876	176,003	1 4 0
ASIA.			
India	1875-6	51,310,063	0 5 5
Ceylon	1876	1,375,888	0 10 10
Straits Settlements	"	352,544	1 2 11
Labuan	"	9,430	1 18 6
Hong Kong	"	184,406	1 6 6
AFRICA.			
Mauritius	"	732,106	2 2 4
Seychelles	"	11,126	0 17 6
Natal	"	265,552	0 16 6
Cape of Good Hope	1875-6	1,864,928	2 3 11
St. Helena	1876	13,167	2 2 2
Lagos	"	46,448	0 15 5
Gold Coast	"	64,788	0 3 2
Sierra Leone	1875	83,141	2 4 10
Gambia	1876	19,787	1 7 11

* The estimated mean population of the Australian continent, 1877, was 1,951,180, and of the continent, with the addition of Tasmania and New Zealand, was 2,465,823.

† For population on which these calculations have been based, see table following paragraph 71 ante.

REVENUES OF BRITISH DOMINIONS—*continued.*

Country or Colony.	Year.	Revenue.	
		Gross Amount.	Average per Head.*
		£	£ s. d.
AMERICA.			
Canada	1875-6	4,705,747	1 5 7
Newfoundland	1876	204,902	1 5 5
Bermudas	"	27,374	2 0 10
Honduras	"	40,231	1 12 7
British Guiana	"	363,808	1 17 2
West Indies—			
Bahamas	"	41,645	1 1 3
Turk's Island	"	9,577	2 0 7
Jamaica	"	572,686	1 2 8
St. Lucia	"	27,850	0 17 8
St. Vincent	"	28,858	0 16 2
Barbadoes	"	117,057	0 14 6
Grenada	"	26,286	0 12 11
Tobago	"	11,769	0 13 2
Virgin Islands	"	2,049	0 6 2
St. Christopher	"	31,577	1 2 5
Nevis	"	11,218	0 19 2
Antigua	"	32,354	0 18 2
Montserrat	"	6,056	0 13 11
Dominica	"	18,809	0 13 10
Trinidad	"	316,170	2 17 8
AUSTRALASIA AND SOUTH SEAS.			
Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand † ...	1877	17,573,847	7 2 6½
Fiji	1878	61,021	0 10 11
Falkland Islands	1876	9,150	8 4 3
Total ... ..	...	160,554,860	0 13 6

156. By this table it will be noticed that by far the greater portion, or 93 per cent., of the 160 millions sterling which represent the aggregate annual revenue of British dominions, is raised in the United Kingdom, India, and Australasia, the proportion contributed to the total by each respectively being about one-half, one-third, and one-ninth. As regards geographical distribution, 50 per cent. is raised in Europe, 33 per cent. in Asia, 2 per cent. in Africa, 4 per cent. in America, and 11 per cent. in Australasia.

Aggregate revenue of British dominions.

157. The very large amount in proportion to population raised in every one of the Australasian colonies, as compared with other British possessions, will be at once noticed.† It will, however, be remembered that these colonies possess an immense territory, scantily peopled, and that a considerable revenue is derived from the usufruct of the unsold lands, which is not generally the case elsewhere; also that the revenues are

Large amount per head raised in Australasian colonies.

* For population on which these calculations have been based, see table following paragraph 71 ante.

† See table following paragraph 146 ante.

swelled by the large sums which are received annually from the alienation of Crown lands in fee-simple.

158. The following table shows the actual or estimated revenues of the principal Foreign countries at latest dates, according to the best information obtainable. The calculations in the last column have been made in the office of the Government Statist :—

REVENUES OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Country.	Year.	Revenues.	
		Gross Amount. (000's omitted.)	Amount per Head.*
		£	£ s. d.
Argentine Confederation	1876	2,717	1 4 2
Austro-Hungary	1878	61,964 †	1 12 3
Belgium	1875	9,941	1 17 3
Brazil	1874-5	10,508	1 2 3
Denmark	1876-7	2,536	1 6 2
Egypt	1875	10,689 ‡	0 12 7
France	1876	123,845	3 7 1
Germany ... ..	...	88,574 §	2 1 6
Greece	1877	1,402	0 19 3
Holland	1878	8,540	2 4 2
Italy	1877	53,356	1 19 10
Japan	1877-8	10,251	0 6 2
Mexico	1874-5	3,741	0 8 0
Peru	1875	10,220	3 16 6
Portugal	1876-7	5,347	1 6 8
Roumania	1877	3,916	0 14 10
Russia	1876	88,550	1 0 4
Spain	1877-8	29,433	1 15 0
Sweden and Norway	1878-9	6,142 ||	0 19 8
Switzerland	1878	1,618	0 12 1
Turkey	1875-6	19,106	0 18 2
United States	1877-8	51,553	1 6 9

159. According to this and the preceding table, the country which raises the largest revenue of any in the world is France, next Germany, next Russia, and next the United Kingdom. After the revenues of these countries the largest amounts are raised in Austro-Hungary, Italy, the United States, British India, Spain, and Turkey. These are the only countries whose revenues exceed the united revenues of the Australasian colonies.

* For populations of Foreign countries on which these calculations are based, *see* paragraph 73 *ante*. The quotations of revenue are generally for somewhat later dates than those of population. The averages per head will not, however, be much affected thereby.

† This amount is made up of £39,979,000, revenue of Austria; £21,985,000, revenue of Hungary.

‡ According to the report of the Right Honorable Stephen Cave, who was sent to Egypt by the British Government in 1875 to examine into the state of the finances.

§ This amount is made up of the revenue of the empire, 1878-9, £22,467,564, and of the revenues of the following States at the dates named, viz. :—Alsace-Lorraine, £2,189,064 in 1876; Anhalt, £338,250 in 1876; Baden, £1,626,019 in 1877; Bavaria, £12,934,339 in 1877; Bremen, £599,170 in 1876; Brunswick, £1,385,006 in 1878; Hamburg, £1,206,165 in 1876; Hesse, £1,052,573 in 1875; Lippe, £33,208 in 1876; Lübeck, £137,622 in 1877; Oldenburg, £296,985 in 1877; Prussia, £35,692,889 in 1878-9; Reuss-Greiz, £24,494 in 1876; Reuss-Schleiz, £36,480 in 1876; Saxe-Altenburg, £111,178 in 1877; Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, £292,333 in 1878; Saxe-Meiningen, £190,000 in 1877; Saxe-Weimar, £315,998 in 1877; Saxony, £5,477,619 in 1877; Schaumburg-Lippe, £30,912 in 1874; Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, £89,703 in 1878; Schwarzburg-Sondershausen, £95,809 in 1875; Waldeck, £70,000; and Württemberg, £1,880,256 in 1876-7.

|| This amount is made up of £4,103,000, revenue of Sweden, and £2,039,000, revenue of Norway.

160. France is the only European country named in the last table which raises more per head than the United Kingdom. Not one of the countries raises so much per head as any of the colonies on the Australian continent, or as New Zealand; and only two countries (Peru and France) raise more per head than Tasmania. Countries raising largest amount per head.

161. The amounts of which revenue is made up are of two classes, Taxation. viz., those raised by taxation and those raised otherwise. In Victoria the former class consists of Customs and Excise duties, wharfage rates, port and harbor dues, business licenses, duties on bank notes, duties on estates of deceased persons, and a land tax.* The latter class comprises amounts derived from the sale or occupation of Crown lands, from railways, water supply, and other public works, from post and telegraph offices, from fees, fines, and forfeitures, from the labor of prisoners, from the interest on the public account, &c. The following figures show the result of a division of the Victorian revenue for the financial year under review based upon this principle:—

REVENUE OF VICTORIA, 1877-8.

				£	s.	d.
Amount raised by taxation ...	...	...	...	1,712,952	14	11
„ otherwise ...	...	...	...	2,791,459	19	0
Total ...	...	...	...	4,504,412	13	11

162. The changes which have taken place in the taxes levied by the General Government in 1877-8, as compared with 1876-7, are as follow. Changes in taxation. On the one hand, a land tax has been levied, and a proportion of the amount received from publicans' license fees has been transferred from the local bodies to the State. These two items produced about £55,000, whereby the amount raised by taxation has been increased. On the other hand, certain Customs duties have been remitted, and four-fifths of the wharfage rates levied at the Port of Melbourne have been transferred to the Melbourne Harbor Trust, whereby the amount raised by taxation has been reduced by £111,000.† The difference between these two sums is £56,000, which represents the amount by which the taxation actually levied would have been exceeded if no measures affecting the sources of taxation had become law.

163. The Act for imposing a land tax (41 Vict. No. 575) came Land tax. into operation on the 28th August 1877. It provides that all estates over 640 acres in extent, valued at upwards of £2,500, whether consisting of one block or several blocks of land not more than five miles

* For amount under each of these heads during the last four years, see table following paragraph 190 post.

† The Melbourne Harbor Trust Act 1876 came into operation on the 1st January 1877 or at the beginning of the last half of 1876-7, but the Trust did not receive any portion of the wharfage rates until after the first six months of its existence had expired.

apart, shall be taxed at the rate of twenty-five shillings per cent. upon their capital value after deducting therefrom the sum of £2,500. For the purpose of ascertaining their capital value, the estates in question are divided into four classes, their value being estimated according to the number of sheep they are able to carry, as follows :—

			Value per acre.	
Class I.	carrying 2 or more sheep per acre	...	...	£4
Class II.	" 3 sheep to 2 acres	...	...	3
Class III.	" 1 sheep per acre	...	...	2
Class IV.	" under 1 sheep per acre	...	...	1

Proportion of revenue raised by taxation.

164. The proportion raised by taxation in 1877-8 amounted to 38 per cent. of the total revenue, as compared with $37\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in 1876-7 and 41 per cent. in 1875-6.

Taxation per head.

165. The amount raised by taxation divided by the estimated mean population of the financial year, already stated to have been 859,235, gives an average of £1 19s. $10\frac{1}{2}$ d. to each individual. The following table contains a statement of the gross amount of taxation and the average amount per head during each year since 1852 :—

TAXATION, 1853 TO 1877-8.*

Year.	Taxation.		Year.	Taxation.	
	Gross Amount.	Average per Head.†		Gross Amount.	Average per Head.†
	£	£ s. d.		£	£ s. d.
1853	800,577	4 1 11½	1866	1,219,567	1 18 5½
1854	1,052,462	3 18 8½	1867	1,516,231	2 6 8
1855	1,193,309	3 10 6½	1868	1,352,818	2 0 3¾
1856	1,458,647	3 16 7	1869	1,539,495	2 4 2
1857	1,331,362	3 1 10½	1870	1,394,333	1 19 3½
1858	1,414,511	2 18 5¾	1871 (6 months)	724,261	0 19 9½
1859	1,414,760	2 14 8½	1871-2...	1,612,034	2 3 0
1860	1,330,761	2 9 4¼	1872-3...	1,784,056	2 6 4
1861	1,244,389	2 6 0	1873-4...	1,896,842	2 8 0¾
1862	1,183,194	2 3 2	1874-5...	1,724,822	2 2 9
1863	1,158,219	2 1 3¼	1875-6...	1,780,392	2 3 3¾
1864	1,167,036	1 19 7½	1876-7...	1,770,685	2 2 2¼
1865	1,214,479	1 19 4¾	1877-8...	1,712,953	1 19 10½

NOTE.—An export duty on gold existed from May 1855 to the end of 1867. The receipts from that source have not, for the purposes of this table, been considered as taxation.

Comparison of taxation 1877-8 with former years.

166. It will be observed that in 1877-8 the gross amount of taxation levied by the General Government‡ was less than in 1876-7 by £57,732, and was also less than in any other year since 1871-2 ; also, that the average per head, although slightly greater than in the years 1864 to 1866 and 1870, was smaller than in any other year since 1852.

* According to figures made up whilst these pages were passing through the press, but not audited, the taxation in 1878-9 amounted to £1,730,087, or £1 19s. $4\frac{3}{4}$ d. per head of the estimated mean population (878,243) of that financial year.

† For mean population of each year, see table following paragraph 139 ante.

‡ See also paragraphs 177 and 190 post.

167. The following table shows the gross amount raised by taxation and the amount of taxation per head in Victoria during each of the last six financial years, and in the other Australasian colonies during each of the five years ended with 1877 :—

TAXATION IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES.

Colony.	Year.	Taxation.			
		Gross Amount.	Average per Head.		
		£	£	s.	d.
Victoria* ...	1872-3	1,784,056	2	6	4
	1873-4	1,896,842	2	8	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
	1874-5	1,724,822	2	2	9
	1875-6	1,780,392	2	3	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
	1876-7	1,770,685	2	2	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
	1877-8	1,712,953.	1	19	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
New South Wales ...	1873	1,382,752	2	10	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
	1874	1,217,401	2	2	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
	1875	1,138,901	1	18	3
	1876	1,161,406	1	17	7
	1877	1,235,021	1	18	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
Queensland *	1873	546,732	3	14	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
	1874	552,758	3	11	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
	1875	562,227	3	5	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
	1875-6	568,776	3	2	9
	1876-7	609,861	3	5	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
South Australia ...	1873	362,246	1	17	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
	1874	370,440	1	16	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
	1875	339,103	1	12	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
	1876	445,548	2	0	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
	1877	499,885	2	3	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Western Australia ...	1873	71,625	2	15	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
	1874	82,275	3	3	4
	1875	80,645	3	0	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
	1876	85,177	3	3	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
	1877	81,286	2	18	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
Tasmania ...	1873	178,942	1	14	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
	1874	215,233	2	1	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
	1875	213,642	2	1	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
	1876	215,639	2	1	3
	1877	236,777	2	4	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
New Zealand ...	1873	1,055,296	3	13	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
	1874	1,294,276	4	1	2
	1875	1,350,296	3	15	3
	1876	1,350,025	3	9	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
	1877	1,343,944	3	5	9 $\frac{3}{4}$

NOTE.—For returns of taxation in these colonies during 1878, see Summary of Australasian Statistics (third folding sheet) *ante*.

168. In the last years referred to in the table the amount of taxation per head was higher in New Zealand and lower in New South Wales than in any of the other colonies. In Victoria it was lower than in any other colony of the group except New South Wales. The following is

* The financial year in Victoria since 1871 and in Queensland since 1875 has ended on the 30th June.

the order in which the colonies stood in this respect during that year, the colony with the highest taxation per head being placed at the head, and that with the lowest at the bottom of the list :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO AMOUNT OF TAXATION
PER HEAD.

1. New Zealand.	5. South Australia.
2. Queensland.	6. Victoria.
3. Western Australia.	7. New South Wales.
4. Tasmania.	

169. The colonies differ considerably in respect to the proportion the amount raised by taxation bears to the total revenue. Thus, in the last year named, whilst Tasmania raised nearly two-thirds of her revenue by taxation, New South Wales raised little more than a fifth, and Victoria, as has been already stated, about 38 per cent. The following is the order in which they respectively stand in this particular, the percentage of revenue raised by taxation being placed against the name of each colony :—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO PROPORTION OF REVENUE
RAISED BY TAXATION.

Percentage of Revenue.		Percentage of Revenue.	
1. Tasmania ...	65·45	5. South Australia ...	34·68
2. Western Australia ...	49·14	6. New Zealand ...	34·32
3. Queensland ...	42·45	7. New South Wales ...	21·49
4. Victoria ...	38·03		

170. If the gross totals of taxation in the different colonies raised in the last year of which particulars are given in the table be added together, it will be found that the total taxation levied on the continent of Australia amounted to over four millions sterling; and the total taxation of the colonies on the continent, added to that of Tasmania and New Zealand, amounted to nearly five millions and three-quarters sterling. The exact figures will be found in the following table, also the average amount of taxation per head of the population, and the proportion that the taxation bore to the total revenue :—

TAXATION OF AUSTRALIA AND AUSTRALASIA, 1877.

	Taxation.		
	Gross Amount.	Average per Head.*	Percentage of Total Revenue.†
	£	£ s. d.	
Continent of Australia	4,139,006	2 2 5	31·13
Ditto, with Tasmania and New Zealand	5,719,727	2 6 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	32·55

* For figures of population, see footnote to table following paragraph 153 ante.

† For figures of revenue, see table following paragraph 153 ante.

Order of colonies in respect to revenue raised by taxation.

Taxation of Australia and Australasia.

171. By comparing the above figures with those of this colony, it will be found that in Victoria the taxation per head of the population is less, and the proportion of taxation to the total revenue is somewhat greater, than the same items in the Australian and the Australasian colonies, taken as a whole.

Comparison
of Victoria
and Aus-
tralasia.

172. The taxation in the United Kingdom and the few British possessions respecting which particulars are at hand is given in the following table. It will be observed that in Australasia the gross amount of taxation is half as much again as that in Canada; and that in proportion to population the taxation in Australasia is greater, but in proportion to revenue is much lower, than in the United Kingdom and the other colonies shown. In Victoria, where the gross amount of taxation is equal to about half that in Canada, the average per head (£1 19s. 10½d.) approximates closely to that in the United Kingdom, whilst the taxation in proportion to revenue, being but little higher than the average of Australasia, is extremely low when compared with the other portions of the British dominions of which information is available:—

Taxation in
British
possessions.

TAXATION IN CERTAIN BRITISH POSSESSIONS.

Country or Colony.	Year.	Taxation.		
		Gross Amount.	Average Per Head.*	Percentage of Total Revenue.†
United Kingdom	1877-8	£ 66,879,000	£ s. d. 1 19 6	83·85
Canada	1875-6	3,723,324	1 0 2½	79·12
Mauritius	1876	488,151	1 8 3	66·68
West Indies—				
Dominica	„	14,974	0 11 0	79·61
Grenada	„	24,447	0 12 0	93·00
Jamaica	1875-6	480,435	0 19 0	83·89
Virgin Islands	1876	1,463	0 4 5	71·40
Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand ‡	1877	5,719,727	2 6 ¼	32·55

173. From the manner in which the statistical returns of Foreign countries are compiled, it is not always easy to separate the items of taxation from other sources of revenue. An endeavor, which it is believed is fairly successful, has, however, been made to do this in the case of the countries named in the following table.

Taxation in
Foreign
countries.

* For figures of population, see paragraph 71 ante.

† For figures of revenue, see paragraph 155 ante.

‡ For gross amount of taxation and taxation per head in the various Australasian colonies, see table following paragraph 167 ante; and for proportion of taxation to total revenue, see paragraph 169 ante.

TAXATION IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Countries.	Year.	Taxation.		
		Gross Amount. (000's omitted.)	Average per Head.*	Percentage of Total Revenue.†
Austro-Hungary ...	1878	£ 43,241‡	£ s. d. 1 2 6	69·78
Belgium ...	1875	5,856	1 2 0	58·95
Denmark ...	1876-7	2,152	1 2 2	84·86
France ...	1876	106,591	2 17 9	86·09
Greece ...	1877	1,063	0 14 7	75·82
Holland ...	1878	7,248	1 17 6	84·87
Italy ...	1877	38,948	1 9 1	73·00
Portugal ...	1876-7	4,651	1 3 2	86·98
Russia ...	1876	69,933	0 16 1	78·98
Spain ...	1877-8	28,625	1 14 1	97·25
Switzerland ...	1878	741	0 5 7	45·80
United States ...	1877-8	49,523	1 5 8	96·06

Gross amount of taxation in various countries.

174. It will be observed that the gross amount raised by taxation is greater in France than in any other country of which information is given, and that Russia comes next in this respect; the United Kingdom§ follows; then the United States, Austro-Hungary, and Italy, in the order named. The amount of taxation in the Australasian colonies, § taken as a whole, is somewhat less than that levied in Belgium.

Taxation per head in various countries.

175. The average amount of taxation per head is greater in France than in any other independent country. The taxation per head, however, in New Zealand, Western Australia, and Queensland, but in no other Australasian colony, ¶ is greater than that in France. The taxation per head in Victoria is about equal to, and that in New South Wales is 1s. 3¼d. less than, that in the United Kingdom; but that in all the other Australasian colonies is above that in the United Kingdom.§

Proportion of revenue raised by taxation in various countries.

176. It will be observed that with one exception—Switzerland—all the countries named in the last table raise more than half their revenue by taxation; whilst the Australasian colonies, ¶ on the other hand, with only one exception—Tasmania—raise less than half from that source. The revenues of Spain and the United States appear to be almost entirely derived from taxation, and although the United Kingdom raises seven-eighths of its revenue from that source, as many as six of the countries named raise a higher proportion. Tasmania and Western

* For figures of population, see table following paragraph 73 ante. The figures of taxation are generally for somewhat later dates than those of population.

† For figures of revenue, see table following paragraph 158 ante.

‡ This amount is made up of £26,630,000 taxation in Austria and £16,611,000 taxation in Hungary.

§ See table following paragraph 172 ante.

¶ See table following paragraph 167 ante.

¶ See paragraph 169 ante.

Australia are the only Australian colonies in which the proportion is larger than in Switzerland; in the former colony also the proportion is higher than in Belgium.

177. In connection with the general revenue, taxation, and expenditure of Victoria, the revenue, taxation, and expenditure of local bodies should also be considered. There are at present two such bodies in Victoria, viz., the municipalities and the Melbourne Harbor Trust. Local revenue and expenditure.

178. The following table gives a statement of the revenue and expenditure of municipalities in the year 1878; the amounts raised and expended in cities, towns, and boroughs being shown separately from those in shires:— Municipal revenue and expenditure.

MUNICIPAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1878.

				Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	Shires.	Total.
REVENUE.				£	£	£
From Government	...	...	...	67,762	202,068	269,830*
„ rates	...	...	...	212,903	188,305	401,208
„ tolls	...	...	...	6,697	7,199	13,896
„ licenses	...	...	...	68,160	34,572	102,732
„ registration of dogs and goats	...	...	...	5,162	5,131	10,293
„ market dues	...	...	...	32,372	403	32,775
„ other sources	...	...	...	60,609	17,915	78,524
Total	...	...	...	453,665	455,593	909,258
EXPENDITURE.						
Public works	...	...	...	266,080	375,811	641,891
Salaries, &c.	...	...	...	43,502	63,715	107,217
Other expenditure	...	...	...	162,040	72,185	234,225
Total	...	...	...	471,622	511,711	983,333

179. Municipalities receive an endowment from the State amounting to £310,000 per annum, which is the maximum sum provided for by the Local Government Act 1874 (38 Vict. No. 506). This endowment will cease by effluxion of time at the end of 1879, and therefore fresh legislation will be necessary to provide for payments after that period. Endowment to municipalities.

180. According to the present law, the endowment to any city, town, or borough is not to exceed £2,000, and if the rate levied in a municipality exceed one shilling in the pound, the endowment will be calculated on an amount which bears the same proportion to the total amount of rates received as one shilling bears to the rate levied. † Rate of endowment.

* This amount is less than that named in the next paragraph, the reason being that the financial year of the municipalities terminates in September, whilst that of the General Government ends in June.

† For ratings in municipalities, see paragraph 112 *et seq.*, *ante*.

Subject to these conditions, the endowments are paid to shires in the proportion of £2, and to cities, towns, and boroughs in the proportion of £1, for every £1 of general rates collected.

181. The total falling-off in the revenue of municipalities in 1878 as compared with 1877 amounted to £85,346, but from this a deduction of £40,170 should be made on account of Government subsidy to be received.* The balance, amounting to £45,176, which represents the real falling-off, is almost entirely due to the final abolition of tolls on the 1st January 1878, which caused a deficiency which the increased rating consequent thereon proved inadequate to meet. The following table shows the amounts derived from tolls in both kinds of municipalities during each of the past two years :—

TOLL RECEIPTS, 1877 AND 1878.

Year.			Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	Shires.	Total.
			£	£	£
1877	...	...	30,408	26,669	57,077
1878	...	...	6,697	7,199	13,896
Decrease	...	...	23,711	19,470	43,181

182. This circumstance, however, appears to have had little or no effect in curtailing the municipal expenditure, since in cities, towns, and boroughs £36,848 more, and in shires only £5,777 less, was spent in the year under review than in the previous one.

183. In 1877 the total revenue of municipalities exceeded the total expenditure by $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., or the revenue of cities, towns, and boroughs exceeded the expenditure by $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the revenue of shires exceeded the expenditure by $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. ; but in 1878 the expenditure exceeded the revenue in municipalities, taken as a whole, by 8 per cent., or in cities, towns, and boroughs by 4 per cent., and in shires by 12 per cent.

184. The expenditure was greater than the revenue in 17 individual cities, towns, and boroughs, and in 41 individual shires, in 1877, but in as many as 28 cities, towns, and boroughs, and in no less than 60 shires, in 1878.

185. Payments for salaries formed about 10 per cent of the expenditure of cities, towns, and boroughs in 1877, and 9 per cent. in 1878. The same item formed 11 per cent. of the expenditure of shires in 1877, and about 12 per cent. in 1878.

* See footnote to table following paragraph 178 *ante*.

Abolition of
tolls.

Increase of
expenditure
in municipa-
lities.

Municipal
expendi-
ture, 1878,
in excess
of revenue.

Municipa-
lities in
which ex-
penditure
exceeded
revenue.

Salaries in
municipa-
lities

186. Subjoined is a statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Harbor Trust Melbourne Harbor Trust during the two years which have elapsed since the Act was passed under which that body was created :—

MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE,
1877 AND 1878.

						1877.	1878.
NET RECEIPTS.						£	£
Wharfage rates	...	...	...	...	...	43,106*	84,731
Leases...	...	...	...	...	...	55	143
Licenses	...	...	...	...	...	1,072	1,140
Interest	...	...	...	...	...	82	687
Sundries	...	...	...	...	...	120	45
Total						44,435	86,746
EXPENDITURE.							
Plant ...	...	...	...	...	...	5,055	38,786
Harbor improvements and maintenance	...	...	...	...	...	111	894
Dredging, landing, and depositing silt	...	...	...	...	...	4,872	9,872
Wharves and approaches—formation and maintenance	...	...	...	...	...	421	20,989
Special survey for Sir John Coode	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,635
Timber in stock	...	...	...	...	...	371	3,412
General expenses	...	...	...	...	...	2,332	3,078
Contingent expenses	...	...	...	...	...	838	1,770
General management	...	...	...	...	...	2,940	5,720
Commissioners' fees	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,980
Total						16,940	92,136

187. It will be observed that in 1878 the expenditure of the Harbor Trust exceeded the revenue by £5,390 ; but that this did not nearly absorb the surplus resulting from the previous year's transactions, which amounted to £27,495.

188. A statement of the revenue and expenditure of the General Government added to those of the Municipal Government during the last four years, and to those of the Melbourne Harbor Trust during the two years that body has been in existence, will be found in the following table. From the totals of municipal revenue and expenditure the amounts granted by the State have been deducted.

* Wharfage rates did not form part of the revenue of the Trust until after the 30th June 1877.

GENERAL AND LOCAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE,
1875 TO 1878.*

	Total Amounts Received and Expended.			
	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
REVENUE.				
General Government ...	£ 4,236,423	£ 4,325,156	£ 4,723,876	£ 4,504,413
Municipal Government ...	683,002	684,691	674,436	639,428
Melbourne Harbor Trust ...	...	...	44,435	86,746
Total ...	4,919,425	5,009,847	5,442,747	5,230,587
EXPENDITURE.				
General Government ...	4,318,121	4,572,843	4,358,096	4,634,349
Municipal Government ...	572,243	649,655	632,094	713,503
Melbourne Harbor Trust ...	...	...	16,940	92,136
Total ...	4,890,364	5,222,498	5,007,130	5,439,988

General and local revenue and expenditure per head.

189. The next table gives the general and local revenue and expenditure per head in the same four years. It will be observed that in the last year named the local revenue, embracing that of the municipal bodies and that of the Harbor Trust, amounted to nearly 17s. per head, and the general and local revenue combined to over £6 per head:—

GENERAL AND LOCAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE PER HEAD,
1875 TO 1878.*

	Amounts Received and Expended per Head. †			
	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
REVENUE.				
General Government ...	£ 5 5 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	£ 5 5 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	£ 5 12 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	£ 5 4 10
Municipal Government ...	0 16 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 16 7 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 16 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 14 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Melbourne Harbor Trust ...	...	...	0 1 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 2 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Total ...	6 1 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 1 10 $\frac{1}{4}$	6 9 8	6 1 9
EXPENDITURE.				
General Government ...	5 7 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 11 2 $\frac{3}{4}$	5 3 10	5 7 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Municipal Government ...	0 14 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 15 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 15 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 16 7 $\frac{1}{4}$
Melbourne Harbor Trust ...	...	...	0 0 5	0 2 1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Total ...	6 1 2 $\frac{3}{4}$	6 7 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 19 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	6 6 7 $\frac{1}{2}$

* The financial year of the General Government ends on the 30th June; that of Melbourne and Geelong on the 31st August; that of other municipalities on the 30th September; and that of the Melbourne Harbor Trust on 31st December.

† Although the financial years of the respective bodies named in this table terminate at different dates (*see* last footnote), the same populations as have already been taken (*see* table following paragraph 139 *ante*) to calculate the amount of general revenue and general expenditure per head have been used to make these calculations. As the population varies very slightly, this will scarcely, if at all, affect the result.

190. The amount of taxation under the General and Municipal Governments, and under the Melbourne Harbor Trust, is given in the following table for the same years, the items being specified in each case. The principle upon which the items of taxation are separated from the general revenue has been already explained.* The local taxation is separated from the municipal revenue by rejecting—besides all grants received from the General Government—rents of buildings and land, proceeds of the letting of halls, &c., the balance being considered as taxation. The taxation levied by the Harbor Trust consists only of wharfage rates :—

General and local taxation.

GENERAL AND LOCAL TAXATION, 1875 TO 1878.†

Heads of Taxation.	Amount Received.			
	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
GENERAL GOVERNMENT TAXATION.	£	£	£	£
Customs duties	1,527,440	1,550,461	1,522,795	1,459,628
Wharfage rates	100,795	107,327	109,037	27,820
Ports and harbors	19,935	22,104	20,993	22,647
Spirits distilled in Victoria	32,475	33,437	34,768	36,309
Licenses (not territorial) ...	10,714	10,712	11,688	17,150
Duties on estates of deceased persons	32,526	48,963	44,104	72,500
Duties on bank notes ... ..	...	7,191	27,248	26,672
Land tax ... ..	...	...	...	50,227
Toll receipts	937	97	52	...
Total	1,724,822	1,780,392	1,770,685	1,712,953
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT TAXATION.				
Rates	364,338	359,266	381,580	401,208
Toll receipts	69,107	61,055	57,078	‡ 13,895
Licenses	107,071	108,753	108,367	102,732
Registration of dogs and goats	10,293	10,783	10,843	10,293
Market dues	27,982	31,248	32,742	32,776
Total	578,791	571,105	590,610	560,904
MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST TAXATION.				
Wharfage rates ... ..	...	...	43,106	84,731
Total general and local taxation }	2,303,613	2,351,497	2,404,401	2,358,588

* See paragraph 161 *ante*.

† The financial year of the General Government ends on the 30th June; that of Melbourne and Geelong on the 31st August; that of other municipalities on the 30th September; and that of the Melbourne Harbor Trust on the 31st December.

‡ The diminution under this head was due to the abolition of tolls on the 1st January 1878.

General and local taxation per head.

191. The aggregate amounts raised from the general and local taxation represented in 1875 a proportion of £2 17s. 1½d. to each individual in the community; in 1876, a proportion of £2 17s. 2½d.; in 1877, a proportion of £2 17s. 3½d.; and in 1878, a proportion of £2 14s. 10¾d.

Chief sources of taxation.

192. The greater portion of the General Government taxation is derived from Customs duties; but the proportion from that source has been gradually decreasing from 89 per cent. in 1874-5, 87 per cent. in 1875-6, 86 per cent. in 1876-7, to as low as 81 per cent. in the year under review. Seventy-one per cent. of the Municipal Government taxation in 1877-8, as against 65, 61, and 63 per cent. respectively in the three previous years, was derived from rates.

Public debt.

193. The public debt of Victoria amounted on the 30th June 1878* to £17,022,065,† and consisted of—

	£	s.	d.
Debentures	15,993,220	0	0
Stock	1,028,844	16	5
Total	£17,022,064	16	5

Repayment of debentures.

194. The debentures are repayable at the following dates and places:—

REPAYMENT OF DEBENTURES.

When Repayable.	Amount Repayable.		
	In Melbourne.	In London.	Total.
	£	£	£
1st October 1883	236,600	3,587,500	3,824,100
" 1884 ... ..	...	812,500	812,500
" 1885	580,620	2,600,000	3,180,620
" 1888	130,000	...	130,000
" 1889	276,100	...	276,100
1st January 1891 ... ..	...	850,000	850,000
" 1894	312,900	2,107,000	2,419,900
1st July 1899 ... ..	...	1,500,000	1,500,000
" 1901 ... ..	...	3,000,000	3,000,000
Total	1,536,220	14,457,000	15,993,220

* A loan of £3,000,000 bearing interest at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum, being the first instalment of £5,000,000 authorized to be borrowed under Act 42 Vict. No. 608, was floated in London on the 13th March 1879. The minimum price fixed for tenders was £98 per £100 debenture. At and above this price 1,407 tenders were received, the total amount tendered for being £8,503,200. The tenders accepted numbered 427, the highest being at £102 5s. 0d., the lowest at £98 18s. 6d., and the average £99 1s. 7d., per £100 debenture. The total proceeds of the sale of debentures was £2,972,427 12s. 0d. The accrued interest at the time of floating the loan was £1 3s. 11d. per £100. On the 30th June 1879 the public debt amounted to £20,048,222.

† This is exclusive of a liability of £60,000 upon the purchase of the Bendigo Water Works.

195. The following is the condition of the loan account, and the steps whereby it reached its present* amount:—

				£	s.	d.	Loan ac- count.
Amount authorized to be borrowed	...	...	...	18,683,100	0	0	
Less stock unsold	...	...	£71,037	1	7		
„ amount repaid	...	...	1,603,100	0	0		
				<hr/>			
				1,674,137	1	7	
				<hr/>			
Increase by bonus on conversion of 5 and 6 per cent. debentures into 4 per cent. stock				17,008,962	18	5	
				<hr/>			
				13,101	18	0	
				<hr/>			
Total	...	...	...	£17,022,064	16	5	
				<hr/>			

196. No additions were made during 1877-8 to the sums repaid, amounting in the aggregate to £1,603,100. An account of the purposes for which this money was originally borrowed is given in the *Victorian Year-Book*, 1877-8.†

197. The present* debt was contracted for the following purposes:—

				£	s.	d.	Purposes for which debt was in- curred.
Construction of railways	...	...	...	13,515,885	18	0	
Water supply, Melbourne and suburbs	...	...	...	462,771	0	0	
Provincial water supply, graving-dock, and other public works	...	...	...	2,343,407	18	5	
Defences	...	...	...	100,000	0	0	
State school buildings	...	...	...	600,000	0	0	
				<hr/>			
				£17,022,064	16	5	
				<hr/>			

198. The following are the rates of interest payable on the various amounts of which the debt is composed:—

				£	s.	d.	Rates of interest.
6 per cent.	...	...	...	9,073,320	0	0	
5 per cent.	...	...	...	2,419,900	0	0	
4 per cent.	...	...	...	5,528,844	16	5	
				<hr/>			
Total	...	...	...	£17,022,064	16	5	
				<hr/>			

199. No conversion of debentures into stock has taken place since 1873. The value of the debentures converted is therefore identical with that quoted in previous issues of the *Victorian Year-Book*, viz.:—

				£
6 per cent. debentures	...	...	...	76,680
5 per cent. „	...	...	...	397,100
				<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	£473,780
				<hr/>

* 30th June 1878.

† Paragraph 177.

Rates at which debentures were converted.

200. The 6 per cent. debentures were converted at rates varying from £113 to £118 per £100, and the 5 per cent. debentures at rates varying from £100 to £109 per £100. The total amount paid as bonus on conversion has already been stated to have been £13,101 18s. 0d. The stock produced therefore represents a liability of £486,881 18s. 0d., instead of £473,780.

Stock held by Treasurer and public.

201. To the 30th June 1878, stock of the following amounts had been purchased, and debentures amounting, with the bonus paid on conversion, to the following values had been converted by the Treasurer and by the public respectively :—

VICTORIAN STOCK.

				£	s.	d.
Stock purchased by the Treasurer	...	...	...	249,417	18	5
" " public	...	...	...	292,545	0	0
				<hr/>		
Total	...	...	...	541,962	18	5
				<hr/>		
Stock produced by debentures converted by the Treasurer				393,328	0	0
" " " public	...	...	...	93,553	18	0
				<hr/>		
Total	...	...	...	486,881	18	0
				<hr/>		
Total stock held by the Treasurer	...	...	...	642,745	18	5
" " public	...	...	...	386,098	18	0
				<hr/>		
Total Victorian stock	...	...	...	£1,028,844	16	5

Interest on stock.

202. The whole of the Victorian stock bears interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum.

Investment of funds.

203. The following amounts on account of various funds had been invested in the stock held by the Treasurer on the 30th June 1878 :—

INVESTMENT OF FUNDS.

				£	s.	d.
Trust fund general account	...	...	...	457,120	0	0
Suitors' fund	...	...	...	32,310	0	0
Estates of deceased persons	...	...	...	32,360	0	0
Municipalities	...	...	...	14,682	4	5
Specific trust accounts	...	...	...	8,793	14	0
Police superannuation fund	...	...	...	70,000	0	0
Assurance fund	...	...	...	27,480	0	0
				<hr/>		
Total stock held by the Treasurer	...	...	...	£642,745	18	5

Indebtedness per head.

204. On the 30th June 1878 the estimated population of Victoria was 867,634. If the amount of debt at the same period (£17,022,065) be divided by this number, the proportionate indebtedness of each man, woman, and child in the colony will be shown to have been £19 12s. 4½d.*

* On the 30th June 1879 the public debt was £20,048,222. At the same date the estimated population was 887,434. The amount of indebtedness per head was thus £22 11s. 9¼d.

205. No fresh loans were raised during the year 1877-8, but the total debt shows an increase of £10,683 as compared with the amount on the 30th June 1877, owing to the sale of stock on hand. The average indebtedness per head, however, decreased by 8s. 4½d.* Increase of debt, 1877-8.

206. Three-fifths of the interest on the public debt is payable in October and April, the remainder in July and January. Six-sevenths is payable in London, and the remainder in Melbourne. The following table shows the exact amounts payable at those times and places in 1877-8. It will be observed that the total amount payable was £886,548 :— Interest on debt.

INTEREST ON PUBLIC DEBT, 1877-8.

Rate per cent.	When Due.	Amount Payable—					
		In Melbourne.		In London.		Total.	
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
6	July and January	...			51,000	0	0
5	" "	15,645	0	0	105,350	0	0
4	" "	...			180,000	0	0
	Total ...	15,645	0	0	336,350	0	0
6	October and April	73,399	4	0	420,000	0	0
4	" "	41,153	15	10	...		
	Total ...	114,552	19	10	420,000	0	0
	Grand Total ...	130,197	19	10	756,350	0	0

207. The interest on the public debt represented a charge of £1 0s. 7¾d. per head of the mean population in 1877-8, as against a charge of £1 1s. 1¼d. per head in 1876-7. Interest on debt per head.

208. The interest on the public debt in the last two years amounted to nearly 20 per cent. of the revenue proper (exclusive of recoups). Proportion of interest to revenue.

209. The expenses connected with the public debt, consisting chiefly of premium on remittances to London and commission, viz., ½ per cent. on interest payable thereat, amounted to £11,725 in 1877-8, as against £8,483 in the previous year. Expenses of debt.

210. The following table shows the total amount of debt and the indebtedness per head in Victoria and the other Australasian colonies on the 31st December of each of the five years ended with 1877. Debts of Australasian colonies.

* For a statement respecting the loan floated in March 1879, see footnote (*) to paragraph 193 ante.

PUBLIC DEBTS OF THE AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES.

Colony.	Year.	On the 31st December.			
		Total Amount of Debt.	Amount of Indebtedness per Head.		
		£	£	s.	d.
Victoria	1873	12,445,722	15	14	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
	1874	13,990,553	17	6	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
	1875	13,995,093	16	9	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
	1876	17,011,382	20	4	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
	1877 *	17,018,913	19	15	5
New South Wales	1873	10,842,415	19	7	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
	1874	10,516,371	17	19	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
	1875	11,470,637	18	18	2
	1876	11,759,519	18	13	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
	1877	11,724,419	17	14	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Queensland	1873	4,786,850	32	12	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
	1874	5,253,286	32	2	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
	1875	6,948,586	38	6	7
	1876	6,948,586	37	2	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
	1877	7,685,350	37	16	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
South Australia	1873	2,174,900	10	19	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
	1874	2,989,750	14	12	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
	1875	3,320,600	15	15	7
	1876	3,837,100	17	0	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
	1877	4,737,200	20	0	0
Western Australia	1873	35,000	1	7	2
	1874	119,000	4	10	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
	1875	135,000	5	1	1
	1876	135,000	4	18	10
	1877	161,000	5	15	8
Tasmania	1873	1,477,600	14	3	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
	1874	1,476,700	14	3	6
	1875	1,489,400	14	7	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
	1876	1,520,500	14	8	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
	1877	1,589,705	14	16	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
New Zealand	1873	10,913,936	36	17	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
	1874	13,366,936	39	2	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
	1875	17,400,031	46	5	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
	1876	18,678,111	46	16	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
	1877	20,691,111	49	10	10 $\frac{3}{4}$

NOTE.—For public debts of the respective colonies at the end of 1878, see Summary of Australasian Statistics (third folding sheet) *ante*.

Order of colonies in respect to indebtedness.

211. According to the returns of the last year named, by far the most heavily indebted colony, in proportion to its population, is New Zealand, and the least so is Western Australia. Victoria is much less heavily indebted than New Zealand or Queensland, and slightly less than South Australia; but is more so than any of the other colonies. The following is the order in which the colonies stand in respect to their indebtedness per head, the most heavily indebted colony being placed first.

* For the figures on the 30th June 1879, see footnote to paragraph 204 *ante*.

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO AMOUNT OF INDEBTEDNESS
PER HEAD.

1. New Zealand.	4. Victoria.	6. Tasmania.
2. Queensland.	5. New South Wales.	7. Western Australia.
3. South Australia.		

212. The public debt in the different colonies varies from an amount equal to over 5 years' revenue in Queensland and New Zealand to a sum equal to less than a year's revenue in Western Australia. Victoria occupies a central position between these extremes, her debt being equal to her revenue for $3\frac{3}{4}$ years. The following is the order in which the colonies stand in respect to this matter, the figures by which the revenue of 1877 must be multiplied to equal the debt in that year being also shown:—

ORDER OF COLONIES IN REFERENCE TO PROPORTION OF ANNUAL
REVENUE* TO PUBLIC DEBT.

Times amount of Revenue is contained in amount of Debt.		Times amount of Revenue is contained in amount of Debt.	
1. Queensland ...	5·35	5. South Australia ...	3·29
2. New Zealand ...	5·28	6. New South Wales ...	2·04
3. Tasmania ...	4·39	7. Western Australia...	·97
4. Victoria † ...	3·78		

213. If the amounts of debt at the latest period shown in the table be added together, it will be found that the aggregate debt of the colonies on the continent of Australia was in 1877 over forty-one millions, and the aggregate debt of Australia, with the addition of Tasmania and New Zealand, was over sixty-three and a half millions sterling. The following are the exact figures, also the proportion of indebtedness per head of the population, and the proportion the aggregate debt bore to the aggregate revenue of the same year:—

PUBLIC DEBT OF AUSTRALIA AND AUSTRALASIA, 1877.

	Public Debt.		
	Total Amount.	Amount per Head.‡	Multiple of Revenue.§
Continent of Australia	£ 41,326,882	£ s. d. 20 15 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	3·11
Ditto, with Tasmania and New Zealand	63,607,698	25 5 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	3·62

214. The next table shows the amounts of public debt in Great Britain and her various possessions at latest dates, so far as the

* For figures of revenue, see table following paragraph 146 ante.

† This calculation has been made upon the debt on the 30th June 1878 compared with the revenue of the financial year ended at that date. The public debt of Victoria on the 30th June 1879 amounted to 4·88 times the revenue of the previous twelve months.

‡ For figures of population, see table following paragraph 67 ante.

§ For figures of revenue, see table following paragraph 153 ante.

information can be gathered from official documents existing in this colony; also the amount of debt per head of the population of each possession, and the number and fraction of a number the revenue of each would have to be multiplied with in order to make an amount equal to its debt. All the calculations have been made in the office of the Government Statist, Melbourne:—

PUBLIC DEBTS OF BRITISH DOMINIONS.

Country or Colony.	Year.	Public Debt.		
		Total Amount.	Amount per Head.*	Multiple of Revenue.†
EUROPE.				
United Kingdom	1877-8	£ 771,781,596	£ 22 16 8	9·68
Malta	1875	266,081	1 16 1	1·51
ASIA.				
India	1876	134,058,644	0 14 0	2·62
Ceylon	"	784,375	0 6 2	·57
AFRICA.				
Mauritius	"	1,000,000	2 17 10	1·37
Natal	"	681,700	2 2 4	2·57
Cape of Good Hope... ..	"	4,068,159	4 15 9	2·18
Lagos	"	288	0 1 0	·01
Sierra Leone	1875	80,335	2 3 4	·97
AMERICA.				
Canada	1876	25,948,232	7 0 10	5·51
Newfoundland	"	274,872	1 1 5	1·73
Bermudas	"	11,984	0 17 11	·44
Honduras	"	5,041	0 4 1	·13
British Guiana	"	354,821	1 16 9	·98
West Indies—				
Bahamas	"	61,161	1 11 3	1·50
Turk's Island	1875	1,000	0 4 3	·10
Jamaica	1876	646,706	1 5 7	1·13
St. Lucia	"	43,500	1 7 6	1·56
Barbadoes	"	25,130	0 3 1	·22
Grenada	"	7,908	0 3 11	·30
St. Christopher	"	5,700	0 4 1	·18
Nevis	"	3,400	0 5 10	·31
Antigua	"	58,511	1 12 10	1·81
Dominica	"	8,205	0 6 0	·44
Trinidad	"	184,670	1 13 8	·58
AUSTRALASIA.				
Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand ‡	1877	63,607,698	25 5 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	3·62
Total ... ..	...	1,003,969,717	4 4 10	6·28

Indebtedness per head of British dominions.

215. In Australasia, taken as a whole, the indebtedness, in proportion to population, is greater than that of the United Kingdom, which in this respect is far above that of any other of her dependencies. Of the individual colonies, ‡ however, New Zealand and Queensland are the

* For populations on which these calculations are based, see table following paragraph 71 ante.

† For revenues on which these calculations are based, see table following paragraph 155 ante.

‡ For public debts and amounts per head in the various Australasian colonies, see table following paragraph 211 ante.

only ones in which the indebtedness per head is greater than in the United Kingdom. The first named of these is, in proportion to population, the most heavily indebted country in the world.

216. In proportion to revenue, the debt of Great Britain is far above that of any of its dependencies. Canada is the only one of these in which the debt is a greater multiple of its revenue than the debt of any one of the Australasian colonies * is of its revenue. Proportion of debts to revenues of British dominions.

217. The public debts of Foreign countries at the latest dates are next shown, so far as the information is available. The calculations as to the amount of indebtedness per head and the multiple of the revenue of each country have all been made in the office of the Government Statist, Melbourne:— Public debts of Foreign countries.

PUBLIC DEBTS OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Country.	Year.	Public Debt.		
		Total Amount. (000's omitted.)	Amount per Head.†	Multiple of Revenue.‡
Argentine Confederation ...	1877	£ 21,434	£ 9 10 6	7·88
Austro-Hungary ...	1878	343,443§	8 18 10	5·54
Belgium... ..	1877	41,877	7 16 11	4·21
Brazil	1876	73,581	7 15 9	7·00
Denmark	1878	9,710	5 0 1	3·83
Egypt	1877	78,284 ||	4 12 4	7·32
France	1874	937,584	25 8 1	7·57
Germany ... ..	...	200,993 ¶	4 14 1	2·27
Greece	1877	15,360	10 10 8	10·96
Holland... ..	1878	75,964	19 13 1	8·90
Italy	1877	390,305	14 11 3	7·32
Japan	1878	72,645	2 3 10	7·09
Mexico	1876	79,100	8 9 3	21·14
Peru	1872	51,510	19 5 5	5·04
Portugal	1876	79,062	19 14 1	14·79
Roumania	„	18,760	3 10 11	4·79
Russia	1878	495,000 **	5 13 9	5·59
Spain	1875	409,760	24 7 10	13·92
Sweden and Norway ...	1877	14,048 ††	2 5 1	2·29
Switzerland	„	1,290 ††	0 9 8	·80
Turkey	1878	349,982 §§	16 13 4	18·32
United States	„	460,243	11 18 9	8·93

* See paragraph 212 ante.—† For population on which these calculations are based, see table following paragraph 73 ante.—‡ For revenues on which these calculations are based, see table following paragraph 158 ante.—§ This amount is made up of £300,043,000, debt of Austria Proper, including debt of the whole empire; and £43,400,000, special debt of Hungary.—|| Not including the personal debt of the Khedive, which amounts to about £8,815,000.

¶ This amount is made up of the debt of the empire, £17,108,552, in 1878, together with the debts of the following States at the dates named, viz.:—Anhalt, £372,270 in 1876; Baden, £16,406,739 in 1877; Bavaria, £54,429,461 in 1876; Bremen, £4,519,276 in 1876; Brunswick, £4,593,722 in 1876; Hamburg, £6,283,926 in 1876; Hesse, £1,269,100 in 1876; Lippe, £70,000 in 1876; Lübeck, £1,284,214 in 1876; Mecklenburg-Schwerin, £2,100,000 in 1876; Oldenburg, £1,857,917 in 1877; Prussia, £54,866,114 in 1876; Reuss-Greiz, £65,475; Reuss-Schleiz, £100,027; Saxe-Altenburg, £121,587 in 1876; Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, £535,905 in 1878; Saxe-Meiningen, £526,416 in 1876; Saxe-Weimar, £531,800 in 1876; Saxony, £17,044,402 in 1876; Schaumburg-Lippe, £70,000 in 1874; Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, £154,000; Schwarzburg-Sondershausen, £76,660; and Württemberg, £16,605,262 in 1877.

** Including £145,000,000 of paper money with forced currency.—†† This amount is made up of £10,120,000, debt of Sweden; and £3,928,000, debt of Norway.—‡‡ There exists, as a set-off against this debt, State property ("federal fortune") valued at £1,400,000.—§§ Including £90,000,000 of paper money.

Gross amount of debt in different countries.

218. France is the only country in the world in which the national debt is, in the aggregate, larger than in the United Kingdom.* Next to these in point of indebtedness are Russia, the United States, Spain, Italy, Turkey, Austro-Hungary, Germany, and British India, in the order named. Besides these countries, Mexico, Portugal, Egypt, Holland, Brazil, and Japan have debts larger than the present united debts of the Australasian colonies.*

Amount of debt per head in different countries.

219. In proportion to population, the most heavily indebted independent country is France, which is, however, in this respect far behind the colonies of New Zealand and Queensland.† Besides France and the colonies named, Spain is the only country whose debt per head is greater than that of the United Kingdom.

Proportion of debt to revenue in different countries.

220. Mexico is more heavily indebted in proportion to its revenue than any other country. The debts of Mexico, Turkey, Portugal, Spain, and Greece are all larger in proportion to their revenues than the debt of the United Kingdom* is to its revenue. The debts of the Australasian colonies‡ are much smaller in proportion to their respective revenues than the debts of most of the Foreign countries named in the table are to theirs.

Expenditure on immigration.

221. Since the separation of Victoria from New South Wales upwards of two millions sterling have been expended on the introduction of immigrants from the United Kingdom. Of late years, however, it has not been the policy of the State to devote much money to this object, and in 1877-8 the amount so expended was only £366. The following are the amounts spent in introducing immigrants during each year :—

EXPENDITURE ON IMMIGRATION, 1851 TO 1877-8.§

		£			£
1851	...	116,363	1866	...	35,813
1852	...	206,552	1867	...	38,401
1853	...	209,925	1868	...	32,549
1854	...	390,352	1869	...	50,637
1855	...	187,355	1870	...	33,313
1856	...	115,716	1871 (six months)		14,840
1857	...	115,877	1871-2	...	21,808
1858	...	59,023	1872-3	...	4,094
1859	...	48,809	1873-4	...	2,251
1860	...	6,948	1874-5	...	1,583
1861	...	63,739	1875-6	...	760
1862	...	115,209	1876-7	...	500
1863	...	50,081	1877-8	...	366
1864	...	47,887			
1865	...	41,808			
			Total	...	£2,012,559

* See table following paragraph 214 *ante*.—† See table following paragraph 210 *ante*.—‡ See paragraph 212 *ante*.

§ Prior to 1870 the figures denote the whole expenditure in connection with immigration, but from that date onwards it has not been possible to include the amounts for salaries and contingencies, in consequence of the Immigration Department having been amalgamated with the departments of Mercantile Marine and Distilleries.

222. During the last twenty-eight years about thirty-five millions sterling have been expended by the General Government on public works, including railways, roads and bridges, Melbourne and country water supply, and other works and buildings. Of this amount, over a million and a third was spent in 1878. The whole is exclusive of the sums expended by local bodies on public works, roads, &c., by the Melbourne and Hobson's Bay United Railway Company and its predecessors on the construction and maintenance of their lines, and on the Port of Melbourne,* since the 1st January 1877. The following table gives the amounts expended by the State prior to and during 1878 :—

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON PUBLIC WORKS. †

Public Works.	Amount Expended.		
	Prior to 1878.	During 1878.	Total.
	£	£	£
Victorian railways	15,741,657	935,666	16,677,323
Roads and bridges	6,857,267	11,888	6,869,155
Melbourne water supply (Yan Yean)	1,438,129	86,229	1,524,358
Other waterworks	1,740,232	34,512	1,774,744
Other public works	7,851,898	313,039	8,164,937
Total	33,629,183	1,381,334	35,010,517

PART IV.—VITAL STATISTICS.

223. The marriages celebrated in Victoria during 1878 numbered 5,092, as against 5,103 in the previous year. The excess in favor of 1877 was thus 11. Marriages,
1878.

224. Marriages in 1877 and 1878 were more numerous than in any previous year since the first settlement of the colony. ‡ The next highest numbers were 4,985 in 1875, 4,974 in 1873, and 4,949 in 1876. Until 1877 the marriages in Victoria had never numbered 5,000 in any one year. Marriages,
1878 and
former
years.

* See paragraph 143 *ante* and table following paragraph 186 *ante*.

† The Victorian Railway returns are brought down to the 31st December; those of the other works to the 30th June of the year named.

‡ For the number of marriages during each year since the first settlement of Port Phillip, see Statistical Summary of Victoria (first folding sheet) *ante*.