

CHAPTER XXVI.

MISCELLANEOUS.

§ 1. Patents, Trade Marks, and Designs.

1. **Patents.**—(i) *General.* The granting of patents is regulated by the Commonwealth Patents Act 1903–21, which, in regard to principle and practice, has the same general foundation as the Imperial Statutes, modified to suit Australian conditions. The Act is administered by a Commissioner of Patents. Comparatively small fees, totalling £8, are now sufficient to obtain for an inventor protection throughout Australia, Papua and the Territory of New Guinea, and the only renewal fee (£5) is payable before the expiration of the seventh year of the patent, or within such extended time, not exceeding one year, and upon payment of further fees, as may be allowed.

(ii) *Summary.* The number of separate inventions in respect of which applications were filed during the years 1922 to 1926 is given in the following table, which also shows the number of letters patent sealed in respect of applications made in each year.

PATENTS, AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY, 1922 TO 1926.

Particulars.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
No. of applications	5,431	5,306	5,432	5,306	5,391
No. of applications accompanied by provisional specifications	3,643	3,454	3,637	3,405	3,515
Letters patent sealed during each year	3,273	2,464	2,313	2,479	2,706

(iii) *Revenue.* The revenue of the Commonwealth Patents Office during the years 1922 to 1926 is shown hereunder :—

PATENTS, AUSTRALIA.—REVENUE, 1922 TO 1926.

Particulars.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	£	£	£	£	£
Fees collected under—					
States Patents Acts	4	3	..	..	..
Patents Acts 1903–21	30,912	27,995	26,259	29,017	30,967
Receipts from publications	561	599	1,004	926	733
Total	31,477	28,597	27,263	29,943	31,700

2. **Trade Marks and Designs.**—(i) *Trade Marks.* Under the Trade Marks Act 1905, the Commissioner of Patents is also Registrar of Trade Marks. This Act has been amended from time to time, the last amendment having been made in 1922. Special provisions for the registration of a “ Commonwealth Trade Mark ” are contained in the

Act of 1905, and are applicable to all goods included in or specified by a resolution passed by both Houses of Parliament that the conditions as to remuneration of labour in connexion with the manufacture of such goods are fair and reasonable.

(ii) *Designs.* The Designs Act 1906, as amended by the Patents, Designs and Trade Marks Act 1910, and the Designs Act 1912, is now cited as the Designs Act 1906-12. Under this Act a Commonwealth Designs Office has been established, and the Commissioner of Patents appointed "Registrar of Designs."

(iii) *Summary.* The following table shows the applications for trade marks and designs received and registered during the years 1922 to 1926 :—

TRADE MARKS AND DESIGNS, AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY, 1922 TO 1926.

Applications.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
RECEIVED.					
Trade Marks	2,763	2,773	2,829	2,770	2,821
Designs	427	488	498	554	329
REGISTERED.					
Trade Marks	1,991	2,038	1,801	2,029	1,971
Designs	380	377	453	439	537

(iv) *Revenue.* The revenue of the Trade Marks and Designs Office during the years 1922 to 1926 is given hereunder :—

TRADE MARKS AND DESIGNS, AUSTRALIA.—REVENUE, 1922 TO 1926.

Particulars.	1922.			1923.			1924.			1925.			1926.		
	Trade Marks.	Designs.	Publ-ications.												
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fees collected under State Acts	1
Fees collected under Commonwealth Acts	9,282	499	131	9,263	539	102	8,710	561	238	9,310	629	186	9,246	407	210
Total	9,283	499	131	9,263	539	102	8,710	561	238	9,310	629	186	9,246	407	210

§ 2. Copyright.

1. *Legislation.*—Copyright is regulated by the Commonwealth Copyright Act of 1912, details of which will be found in previous issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 8, p. 1066), while, subject to modifications relating to procedure and remedies, the British Copyright Act of 1911 has been adopted as law and declared to be in force within Australia.

Reciprocal protection was extended in 1918 to citizens of Australia and of the United States under which copyright may be preserved in the latter country by registration at the Library of Congress, Washington. The Commonwealth Government promulgated a further Order in Council which came into operation on the 1st February, 1923, and extended the provisions of the Copyright Act to the foreign countries of the Copyright Union, subject to the observance of the conditions therein contained.

2. Applications and Registrations.—The following table shows under the various headings the number of applications for copyright received and registered, and the total revenue received for the years 1922 to 1926 :—

COPYRIGHT, AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY, 1922 TO 1926.

Particulars.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Applications received—					
Literary No.	1,027	1,133	1,145	1,269	1,166
Artistic No.	185	186	150	134	115
International .. . No.	14	3	2	15	23
Applications registered—					
Literary No.	942	1,105	1,059	1,257	1,105
Artistic No.	160	190	138	117	105
International .. . No.	..	13	2	4	19
Revenue £	312	339	336	360	340

§ 3. Local Option, and Reduction of Licences.

1. **General.**—Local option concerning the sale of fermented and spirituous liquors is in force in all the States, the States being divided into areas generally conterminous with electoral districts, and a poll of the electors taken from time to time in each district regarding the continuance of the existing number of licensed premises, the reduction in number, or the closing of all such premises. Provision is made for giving effect to the results of the poll in each district in which the vote is in favour of a change.

2. **New South Wales.**—(i) *Local Option.* The Liquor Act of 1912 made provision for taking a vote of the electors on the parliamentary rolls on the question of continuance of existing licences, the reduction of the same, or that no licence be granted of public houses, wine-shops, and clubs. This vote was to take place simultaneously with that for a general election. Three such polls were taken, but in 1919, by an Amending Act, further taking of polls was suspended pending a referendum on the question of prohibition, to be taken within eighteen months after the passing of this Act. This referendum was not held, and a later amendment of the Act in 1923 fixed the first Saturday in September, 1928, as the day on which the vote is to be taken.

(ii) *Licences Reduction Board.* The Liquor (Amendment) Act of 1923 provided for the reconstitution, as from 1st July, 1924, of the Licences Reduction Board and of the Licensing Courts which control the issue of licences. Three Licensing Magistrates constitute the Licensing Court in each licensing district, as well as the Licences Reduction Board, so that one tribunal controls all matters relating to the issue and withdrawal of licences. The funds for compensation in respect of publicans' licences are obtained by a levy at the rate of 3 per cent. on the value of all liquor purchased during the preceding year, of which the licensees pay one-third and the owners two-thirds. Since the beginning of 1923 the Board has also been empowered to reduce the number of Australian wine licences, the holders of which are liable to pay fees into the compensation fund at the rate of 1 per cent. of their purchases.

The Board, which was established by the Liquor (Amendment) Act of 1919, commenced operations in 1920, and up to 31st December, 1926, had terminated 272 publicans' licences and 60 wine licences, and had accepted the surrender of 67 publicans' licences

and 4 wine licences. The compensation awarded was £556,645 in respect of 333 publicans' licences and £53,040 for 64 wine licences, while compensation had not been awarded in respect of one publican's licence. The reductions made by the Board in the Sydney electoral district were 70 hotel licences and 31 wine licences, and the compensation awarded amounted to £155,870 and £28,075 respectively. In the Newcastle electoral district the reductions were 23 hotel licences, and the compensation awarded £29,470. The other reductions were in country districts. The fees payable into the compensation fund amounted to £1,515,245. During the years 1920 to 1926, 63 hotel licences were terminated by other than the Board's action, and 20 new licences were granted, and during the years 1923 to 1926, 7 wine licences were terminated and 2 new licences granted.

3. *Victoria.*—(i) *Local Option.* Under the Licensing Act of 1922, the previous system of local option was abolished, and provision was made for a vote of the electors for the Legislative Assembly to be taken once in every eighth year on the issue of "no licence," the first of such votes to be taken in the year 1930. The Act also prescribes that each licensing district shall consist of an electoral district, instead of the subdivisions which under the previous Acts formed licensing districts. Under the Redistribution of Seats Act passed in 1927 the new electorates become new licensing districts. Except by means of petitions under the special provisions for additional licences in areas proclaimed by the Governor in Council after recommendation by the Licensing Court, no licences to retail liquor can be obtained in these new electorates beyond the number existing therein on 1st January, 1917. The new electorates are in many cases widely different from the old areas.

(ii) *Licences Reduction Board.* This Board was established in 1906 with power to reduce the number of licensed victuallers' premises in districts in which there were more than the statutory number of licences. It has also the duty of fixing and awarding compensation to the owners and licensees of closed hotels. The compensation fund was in 1916 merged into the licensing fund, which, in addition to the fees received from billiard table licences and permits for special facilities, is derived from vendors of liquor who must all pay in proportion to the benefit they derive from their licences. The amount charged to the wholesale trade is 4 per cent. of the cost of all liquors sold to non-licensed persons, no charge being made on sales to other licensed vendors. The retail trade is charged 6 per cent. on liquor purchases, except the holders of Australian wine licences, who are charged 4 per cent. The expenses of operating the Licensing Act are a charge on the Licensing Fund, and, in addition, £23,000 is paid annually to the Police Superannuation Fund, and £68,000 to the municipalities which formerly granted licences. The balance is available for compensation purposes, but any surplus at the end of the financial year over an increment in the funds of £20,000 annually is carried to Consolidated Revenue. The balance in the Fund at the 30th June, 1926, was £381,715, and the amount transferred to Consolidated Revenue for the same year amounted to £192,041.

Under the 1922 Act, the Court has held deprivation sittings each year in different licensing districts, and has taken away 144 victuallers', 31 Australian wine, 3 spirit merchants', and 2 grocers' licences. When the Board came into existence in 1906, the number of hotels licensed was 3,521, of which 73 were roadside victuallers', and up to the 31st December, 1926, the number closed was 1,636. Of these, 1,224 represented hotels delicensed, and 412 hotels surrendered, the compensation paid to owners and licensees amounting to £868,301 and £180,820 respectively.

(iii) *Mallee and Additional Licences.* Under the 1916 Act, special provisions were made for the granting of victuallers' licences in proclaimed areas in the Mallee, and by the 1922 Act these provisions as amended by that Act are extended to any area outside the Mallee country proclaimed for the purpose. Licences have been granted in 10 such areas.

4. *Queensland.*—Local Option is regulated in Queensland by the Liquor Act of 1912, as amended by the Liquor Act Amendment Acts of 1920 and 1923. A vote on the question is to be taken on the request of one-tenth of the number of electors in an area, which is defined in the request, and such area may be (a) an electoral district, or (b) an electoral division of an electoral district, or (c) a group of two or more divisions of an

electoral district, provided that the whole of such local option area is wholly comprised within one and the same electoral district. A separate request is necessary for each resolution on which a vote is to be taken.

By the amending Act of 1926 every local option vote must be taken in the month of May in every seventh year, after the vote which is expected to be taken in 1928, on a day to be fixed by the Governor in Council. On the 16th May, 1925, 43 polls were taken as requested in local option areas defined by the petitioners on the questions of prohibition in 25 areas, and new licences in 18 areas. Increase of licence was carried in 16 areas, while in 2 areas the majority for prohibition did not reach the necessary three-fifths of the total votes polled.

5. *South Australia.*—In this State the subject of local option is regulated by Part VIII. of the Licensing Act 1917. Under this Act each electoral district for the House of Assembly is constituted a local option district, and each electoral district may, by proclamation of the Governor, be divided into local option districts. A quorum of 500 electors, or of one-tenth of the total number of electors—whichever is the smaller number—in any district may petition the Governor for a local option poll. The persons entitled to vote are those whose names appear on the electoral roll and who reside in the local option district. A local option poll is taken on the same date as a general election.

In order to settle any doubt as to the validity of the proclamation of 1917 relating to local option districts, an Act was passed in 1922 by which such proclamation was declared to be valid, and the local option resolutions in force in old districts at the time of the proclamation were declared to be still in force notwithstanding any alterations in the boundaries of the districts.

Early in 1927 petitions were presented from 30 local option districts requesting polls in the various districts.

The poll was taken in conjunction with the General State Elections on 26th March, 1927, the results being that the second resolution, "That the number of licences be not increased or reduced," was carried in all districts.

6. *Western Australia.*—(i) *General.* By an Amending Act, No. 39 of 1922, the Local Option provisions of the Licensing Act 1911 were repealed, and in lieu thereof a Licences Reduction Board was constituted, and charged with the duty of reducing the number of licences throughout the State over a period of 6 years from 1st January, 1923, to the extent of the money for the time being to the credit of a fund to enable compensation to be paid to the lessors and licensees of premises deprived of a licence. The fund is formed by a levy of 2 per cent. per annum on the amount of liquor purchased for licensed premises, excluding duties thereon. More extended reference to this subject was made in Official Year Book No. 18, page 1030.

(ii) *Prohibition.* In addition to the above provisions, the Act of 1922 provides that in the year 1925 and in every fifth year thereafter on a day to be fixed by proclamation, a poll shall be taken in each electoral district as to whether prohibition shall come into force. It also provides that where prohibition has been carried and is in force, the proposal shall be that the licences for sale of intoxicating liquor be restored. Where a resolution of prohibition is carried, no compensation is payable. A poll was taken on the 4th April, 1925, with the following result:—In favour of prohibition, 41,362; against, 77,113; informal, 658; total, 119,133. The percentage of persons voting on the number enrolled (200,212) was 59.5.

7. *Tasmania.*—In this State the subject of Local Option is dealt with in Part V. (Sections 39 to 53) of "The Licensing Act 1908" as amended by the "Licensing Act 1917." The provisions of Part V. of the Act of 1908 did not come into force until 1st January, 1917. It was thereby provided that a poll of ratepayers was to be taken in each city and in each municipality in which more than one licensed house was situate, once in every third year. The most recent polls taken were Launceston, December, 1926; Hobart, May, 1927; all other municipalities, April, 1927. In one municipality (New Norfolk) the resolution for continuance was carried. In each of the remaining 41 municipalities in which polls were taken, the statutory proportion of electors failed to vote and accordingly no resolution was carried.

§ 4. Lord Howe Island.

1. **Area, Location, etc.**—Between Norfolk Island and the Australian coast is Lord Howe Island, in latitude 31° 30' south, longitude 159° 5' east. It was discovered in 1788. The total area is 3,220 acres, the island being 7 miles in length and from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles in width. It is distant 436 miles from Sydney, and in communication therewith by monthly steam service. The flora is varied and the vegetation luxuriant, with shady forests, principally of palms and banyans. The highest point is Mount Gower, 2,840 feet. The climate is mild and the rainfall abundant, but on account of the rocky formation only about a tenth of the surface is suitable for cultivation.

2. **Settlement.**—The first settlement was by a small Maori party in 1853; afterwards a colony was settled from Sydney. Constitutionally, it is a dependency of New South Wales, and it is included in the electorate of Sydney. A Board of Control manages the affairs of the island and supervises the palm seed industry referred to hereunder.

3. **Population.**—The population at the Census of 3rd April, 1921, was 65 males, 46 females—total 111.

4. **Production, Trade, etc.**—The principal product is the seed of the native or Kentia palm. The lands belong to the Crown. The occupants pay no rent, and are tenants on sufferance.

§ 5. Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

1. **General.**—By the Science and Industry Research Act, 1926, the previously existing Commonwealth Institute of Science and Industry was reorganized under the title of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. An account of the organization and work of the former Institute was given in previous issues of the Official Year Book. (See No. 18, p. 1062.)

2. **Science and Industry Research Act, 1926.**—This Act provides for a Council consisting of—

(a) Three members nominated by the Commonwealth Government.

(b) The Chairman of each State Committee constituted under the Act.

(c) Such other members as the Council, with the consent of the Minister, co-opts by reason of their scientific knowledge.

The three Commonwealth nominees form an Executive Committee which may exercise, between meetings of the Council, all the powers and functions of the Council, of which the principal are as follow:—(a) The initiation and carrying out of scientific researches in connexion with primary or secondary industries in the Commonwealth; (b) the training of research workers and the establishing of industrial research studentships and fellowships; (c) the making of grants in aid of pure scientific research; (d) the establishment of industrial research associations in any industries; (e) the testing and standardization of scientific apparatus and instruments; (f) the establishment of a Bureau of information; (g) the function of acting as a means of liaison between the Commonwealth and other countries in matters of scientific research.

State Committees have been constituted in accordance with regulations that have been prescribed, and their main function is to advise the Council as to matters that may affect their respective States. A sum of £250,000 has been appropriated under the terms of the Act for the purpose of scientific and industrial investigations.

3. **Science and Industry Endowment Act, 1926.**—Under this Act the Government has established a fund of £100,000, the income from which is to be used to provide assistance (a) to persons engaged in scientific research, and (b) in the training of students in scientific research. Provision is made for gifts or bequests to be made to the fund, which is controlled by a trust consisting of the three Commonwealth nominees on the Council. In accordance with the Act arrangements have been made to send a number of qualified graduates abroad for training in special fields of work.

4. **Work of the Council.**—The full Council held its first meeting in June, 1926, since which time it has held meetings at about half-yearly intervals. At the first meeting it

was decided to concentrate initially on five main branches of work, viz., (i) Animal problems; (ii) Plant problems; (iii) Fuel research—especially liquid fuels; (iv) Forest products; and (v) Preservation of food stuffs—especially cold storage problems. A fundamental investigation of the nutrition of all Australian animals of economic importance has been initiated and a special laboratory is to be erected in the grounds of the Adelaide University for the purpose. In co-operation with the Waite Agricultural Research Institute a comprehensive investigation aimed at the improvement of Australian pastures is under way. In addition six veterinary investigators have been appointed to carry out researches into such problems as the sheep blowfly pest, the stomach and lung parasites of sheep, caseous lymphadenitis in sheep and braxy disease.

In the field of plant problems laboratories at Merbein (Victoria) and Griffith (N.S.W.) have been taken over, and work is being carried out on the production of grapes and citrus fruits respectively. A survey of Australian plant problems has been made and largely as a result it is proposed to establish sections of economic botany, of entomology, and of mycology. Towards the end of 1927 the Council expects to receive reports from Dr. Kidd, a senior officer of the British Food Investigation Board, and from Mr. A. J. Gibson, of the Indian Forest Service, in regard to programmes of research which it should undertake in the fields of cold storage and of forest products respectively. As regards liquid fuels it has been decided to refrain from undertaking any costly and fundamental investigations for the present.

In addition to the above activities the Council is engaged on a number of researches which were either commenced by the former Institute of Science and Industry or by the Council itself. Other than that already mentioned, the chief research work now being carried out relates to the prickly-pear pest, bunchy top and squirter of bananas, tomato wilt, tobacco production, the underground grass grub in Tasmania, the buffalo fly pest, dried fruit grubs, paralysis in pigs, Kimberley horse disease, poisonous plants, paper pulp, tannin extracts, clays, synthetic stone, and mineragraphy. In addition one or two special Committees and Boards have been formed, e.g., a Committee on Maintenance of Standards and a Radio Research Board.

In carrying out its functions it is the policy of the Council to co-operate closely not only with existing scientific institutions and State Government Departments in Australia, but also with similar organizations in other parts of the Empire.

As far as Australia itself is concerned an important scheme of co-operation in agricultural research has been set up in the shape of a Standing Committee on Agriculture. This Committee consists of the permanent heads of the State Departments of Agriculture and of representatives of the Council. All agricultural research projects are referred to the Committee prior to the actual initiation of the work, and in that way unnecessary duplication of effort is avoided.

§ 6. The Commonwealth Solar Observatory.

1. Reasons for Foundation.—The Commonwealth Solar Observatory was established for the study of solar phenomena, for allied stellar and spectroscopic research, and for the investigation of associated terrestrial phenomena. Its situation is such that it will fill a gap in the chain of existing astrophysical observatories; with its completion there will be stations separated by 90 degrees of longitude round the globe. Its location in lat. 35° south places it in the unique position of being the only observatory making a feature of solar work south of the equator. In addition to advancing the knowledge of the universe and the mode of its development, it is hoped that the eventual discovery of the true relation between solar and terrestrial phenomena may lead to results which will prove of direct value to the country.

2. History of Inauguration.—A short account of the steps leading up to the establishment of the Observatory will be found in Official Year Book No. 19, p. 979. Limits of space preclude its repetition in this issue.

3. Site of the Observatory.—The site selected for the Observatory is on Mount Stromlo, a ridge of hills about seven miles west of Canberra. The highest point is 2,560 feet above sea level, or about 700 feet above the general level of the Federal Capital City. A road has been constructed to the summit, upon which has been erected the temporary building to house the Oddie telescope. From the summit clear views are obtained in

all directions. The approach to the Observatory passes the reservoir which supplies Canberra with water, and thence follows the eastern side of the ridge past several sheltered sites suitable for residences for the members of the staff, who will thus be within easy reach of the instruments to be housed on its crest.

4. Buildings.—The temporary structure for housing the Oddie telescope, which was the first building erected upon Mount Stromlo, is a concrete building, comprising a central dome 17 feet in diameter, with four rooms opening off it. A small reservoir has been built near the summit which is fed with water pumped from the main reservoir 120 feet below. In December, 1926, the administrative building upon Mt. Stromlo was occupied and the apparatus which had previously been housed and operated at the Hotel Canberra transferred thereto and installed. The atmospheric electricity apparatus was erected in the old kite house. During the year houses for an assistant, the chief mechanic, and a groundsman have been built, and additions made to the bachelor quarters. The houses for other members of the staff are approaching completion.

The present building programme includes the building to house the 30-inch reflecting telescope presented by Mr. Reynolds, the library, sun-telescope, electric substation, workshop and spectroscopic laboratory. With the exception of the first-named these buildings will be centred about the administrative building with which they will be connected by covered ways. Electric light and power have already been conveyed to the residential area and to the summit. The station is connected by telephone with the Canberra Post Office. The preliminary work of assembling the instruments, testing them and making a beginning with the observing programme was done in temporary offices in one of the pavilions of the Hotel Canberra.

5. Equipment.—The bulk of the present equipment is due to the generosity of supporters of the movement in England and Australia. The gifts include a 6-inch Grubb refracting telescope, presented by the late W. E. Wilson, F.R.S., and Sir Howard Grubb, F.R.S., trustees of the late Lord Farnham, a 9-inch Grubb refractor with a 6-inch Dallmeyer lens, both presented by the late Mr. James Oddie, of Ballarat, while Mr. J. H. Reynolds, of Birmingham, has presented a large reflecting telescope with a mirror 30 inches in diameter. Cash donations amounting to over £2,000 have been received, and will form the nucleus of a Foundation and Endowment Fund. With these generous gifts as testimony to the value of Australia's co-operation in solar and astrophysical research, it is hoped that the Government will liberally equip and endow the institution so that it may rank with the great observatories of the world.

6. Observational Work.—The Oddie telescope fitted with a dense flint prism has been employed in routine work upon stellar spectra, with the object of measuring the absolute brightness and distances of the stars. To determine the intensity of the auroral component, the luminosity of the night sky was observed with a Rayleigh photometer. Measures were recorded of the solar radiation reaching the earth throughout the 24 hours, and observations were made of the potential gradient of the earth's electric field. A laboratory research upon certain spectroscopic phenomena is in progress.

7. Staff.—The present staff consists of the Director, three Assistants, a Research Fellow, clerical assistant, two mechanics, and two groundsmen.

§ 7. Department of Chemistry, South Australia.

In South Australia, a Department of Chemistry was formed in 1915. The Department is principally engaged in general routine chemical examinations and analyses in pursuance of various Acts of Parliament and for Government Departments, but the chemical investigation of local products and industries forms an important branch of its work. At first the Department issued bulletins, of which nine have been published, but since 1918 the results of investigations made have been embodied in the reports of the Advisory Council of Science and Industry of South Australia. Researches have been carried out for the Wheat Weevil Committee, and investigations have been made into the lignites at Moorlands, the conditions of safe storage of petrol in tanks, the utilization of grapes and surplus lemons, cold-water paints, calorific values of South Australian firewoods, charcoal and coke, kernel oil from peaches and apricots, and a survey of the tannin resources of South Australia. Further investigations into South Australian lignite are reported in the South Australian Mining Review.

§ 8. State Advisory Council of Science and Industry of South Australia.

The Advisory Council of Science and Industry of South Australia is the result of the fusion of the members of the Committee of Scientific Research and the Committee on Post-war Problems. The members of the Council, who all act in an honorary capacity, are the nominees of the different public bodies in the State, such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Manufactures, Associated Banks, United Trades and Labour Council, Employers' Federation, etc., and include a number of Government technical officials and University professors.

For the purposes of investigation, the Council is divided into Committees, under the headings Agriculture, Pastoral, Mineral, Manufacture, Trade, Commerce, and Transport. These Committees consider and take evidence on subjects proper to their provinces, and report to the Government.

The office of the Council is attached to the Department of Chemistry, where research work is carried out at the instance of the Council, the Director of Chemistry being Vice-Chairman of the Council. Seven reports have been issued for the years 1919 to 1925, and contain a summary of the work done, with reports of investigations, including the "Wheat Pests Problem," "Utilization of Surplus Lemons," "Cold Water Paint," "Caloric Values of Different Firewoods," "Peach and Apricot Kernel Oil," "Tannin Resources of South Australia," "Brown Coal Experiments," and "A Gauge for Petrol Tanks," etc. The Council also distributes information forwarded by the Commonwealth Department of Markets and Migration.

§ 9. Valuation of Australian Production.

1. Value of Production.—The want of uniformity in methods of compilation and presentation of Australian statistics renders it an extremely difficult task to make anything like a satisfactory valuation of the various elements of production. At present there is so little accurate statistical knowledge regarding such industries as forestry, fisheries, poultry, and bee-farming, that any valuation of the production therefrom can only be regarded as the roughest approximation. As a matter of fact, complete information as to value of production in all States is available in regard to the mining industry alone, and even in this case adjustments have to be made before the returns are strictly comparable. Careful estimates have been made in connexion with the value of production from the agricultural and pastoral industries, which, it is believed, in the main give fairly accurate results. The returns given in the following table for 1915 and subsequent years may be taken as substantially correct. The table hereunder shows the approximate value of the production from all industries during the years specified:—

ESTIMATED VALUE OF PRODUCTION.—AUSTRALIA, 1915 TO 1925-26.

Year.	Agriculture.	Pastoral.	Dairy, Poultry, and Bee-farming.	Forestry and Fisheries.	Mining.	Manufacturing.(a)	Total.
	£1,000.	£1,000.	£1,000.	£1,000.	£1,000.	£1,000.	£1,000.
1915 ..	75,475	70,144	22,399	6,253	22,060	59,212	255,543
1916 ..	61,255	83,003	27,931	6,062	23,192	60,502	261,945
1917 ..	59,641	91,917	31,326	6,147	24,998	65,327	279,356
1918 ..	59,036	96,573	33,738	6,890	25,462	70,087	291,786
1919-20 ..	72,202	111,594	38,830	9,670	18,982	92,330	343,608
1920-21 ..	112,801	90,573	52,613	11,136	21,613	101,778	390,514
1921-22 ..	81,890	74,982	44,417	10,519	19,977	112,517	344,302
1922-23 ..	84,183	97,629	43,542	11,124	20,316	123,188	379,382
1923-24 ..	81,166	110,075	42,112	11,866	22,232	132,732	400,183
1924-25 ..	107,163	126,773	45,190	12,357	24,646	137,977	454,106
1925-26 ..	89,267	113,327	47,161	12,734	24,592	143,256	430,387

(a) These amounts differ from those given in Chapter XXII., Manufacturing Industry, which include certain products included under Dairy Farming and Forestry in this table.

2. **Relative Productive Activity.**—The relative output or production per head of population measured quantitatively cannot be gauged from a mere statement of the total value of production from year to year. If measured by mere value, increase of price might have the effect of making an equal production to that of a time when prices were lower, and show an increase which would, of course, be misleading. For example, the annual figures relating to the estimated value of production from Australian industries do not directly show whether there has been any increase in the quantity produced, since the price-level at the time is itself a factor in the determination of the values. Before therefore, any estimate of the relative increase or decrease in production (that is, in the relative quantity of output) can be formed, the variations due to the price element must be eliminated. This is done in the following table, in which Column I. shows the estimated value of production (i) in the aggregate and (ii) per head of mean population. In Column II. the estimated value of production per head of population is shown in the form of index-numbers with the year 1911 as base; that is to say, the production per head in 1911 is made equal to 1,000, and the values for the other years computed accordingly. In Column III. production price index-numbers are given; it is assumed that these index-numbers reflect, with substantial accuracy, variations in production prices in Australia as a whole. The figures in Column IV. are obtained by dividing the figures for each year in Column II. by the corresponding figures in Column III. They show the estimated relative productive activity per head of population, taking the year 1911 as the basic or standard year, the fluctuations due to variations in prices having been eliminated:—

RELATIVE PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITY.—AUSTRALIA, 1871 TO 1925-26.

Year.	I.		II.	III.	IV.
	Estimated Value of Production.		Relative Value of Production per Head (Year 1911 = 1,000).	Production Price Index-Numbers (Year 1911 = 1,000). (a)	Estimated Relative Productive Activity Index-Numbers (Year 1911 = 1,000). (a)
	(i) Total (000 omitted)	(ii) Per Head of Population.			
	£	£			
1871	46,700	27.46	667	1,229	543
1881	71,116	30.83	749	1,121	668
1891	96,087	29.65	720	945	762
1896	92,605	26.06	633	922	686
1901	114,585	29.96	728	974	747
1906	147,043	35.94	873	948	921
1911	188,359	41.18	1,000	1,000	1,000
1916	261,945	53.26	1,293	1,398	925
1921-22	344,302	62.50	1,518	1,579	961
1922-23	379,382	67.35	1,636	1,753	933
1923-24	400,183	69.60	1,690	1,850	914
1924-25	454,106	77.31	1,877	1,880	998
1925-26	430,387	71.83	1,744	1,836	950

(a) Production Price Index-numbers are not available prior to 1908, and Wholesale Price Index numbers are substituted therefor.

The total production from all recorded industries during 1925-26 was £430,387,000, equal to an average of £71.83 per inhabitant.

The index of productive activity given above is based on total population and is that most usually employed for such a purpose. As a measure of the efficiency of the whole community to provide with its existing organization the commodities produced in the industries concerned the index is correct, but it does not necessarily indicate the variation in efficiency of the workers engaged in those industries, since these workers may not represent a constant proportion of the total population. As a fact this proportion

is diminishing, and if the index were based on persons engaged in the industries rather than on total population it would be increased by nearly 10 per cent. in the later years of the period, and the index for 1925-26 instead of falling short of the 1911 standard by 5 per cent. would be in excess of it by 4.7 per cent. This aspect of the question is at present the subject of further investigation.

In Year Book No. 5 (page 1217) will be found the value of production in each State at decennial intervals since 1871, and for the year 1909. Details for individual States are not available for subsequent years owing to discontinuance by the Customs Department of the collection of statistics of interstate trade.

§ 10. Wealth of Australia.

1. Methods of Estimating.—(i) *General*. At various times estimates have been made of the wealth of Australia, and more especially of the private wealth. For this purpose three different methods have been employed—(a) The Probate method, (b) The Census method, (c) The Inventory method.

(ii) *The Probate Method*. This method consists essentially in taking account over a given period of the amount of property left by deceased persons as disclosed by probate returns, and in assuming that, in respect of wealth, those dying at each age represent a fair sample of the persons living at that age. It also involves the further assumption that the whole of a deceased person's wealth passes under review in the probate returns. If the period involved is a fairly long one, and the community is large, the first of these assumptions is probably warranted; but, owing to the large number of cases in which property passes by settlement or by gift *inter vivos*, the second assumption is rarely allowable, and the probate method of estimate is consequently unsatisfactory. It has a further disadvantage in that it requires a record over a long period of the ages of the deceased persons combined with the values of the estates subject to probate, and thus involves an elaborate inquiry to furnish a result which when obtained relates to a somewhat remote and rather indefinite past. In these circumstances it may be regarded under Australian conditions as an unreliable method.

(iii) *The Census Method*. From many points of view the census method would appear to be that which should give the most reliable results. The figures are obtained directly from the persons who should be best able to give the information—the owners of the property concerned. The results relate to a comparatively recent and specific date, thereby avoiding one of the disadvantages of the probate method. Further, the form in which the information is obtained enables a classification to be made, showing the number of persons in each wealth group. Notwithstanding these manifest advantages, the census method is not convenient to employ for the purposes of an estimate of wealth, since in normal times its inquisitorial character is objected to, and its cost is very great.

(iv) *The Inventory Method*. The inventory method has been employed for many years in the United States of America, and has been the basis of several estimates of Australian wealth. This method consists in making use of various valuations of different forms of material wealth that have been made for other purposes, and of supplementing these by estimates based on statistical data available in respect of items for which no such valuations are already in existence. The estimate when obtained relates to a specific and fairly recent point of time, and is in such form as to enable a classification to be made according to nature and locality of the items concerned.

2. Inventory Estimates, Private Wealth, 1813 to 1921.—(i) *Australia*.—Inventory estimates for Australia are furnished for a number of years in the following table, together with the average wealth per head of population in each case. These figures relate to private wealth, and do not include any estimate in respect of Government or Municipal property :—

PRIVATE WEALTH, AUSTRALIA.—INVENTORY ESTIMATES, 1813 TO 1921.

Year to which Estimate Relates.	Authority.	Aggregate Amount.	Mean Population.	Average Private Wealth per Head of Mean Population.
		Million £.	Thousands.	£
1813	T. A. Coghlan	1	13	75
1838	"	26	143	182
1863 (a)	"	160	1,233	130
1888 (a)	"	885	2,932	302
1890	"	1,019	3,107	328
1899	"	879	3,690	238
1901	"	909	3,791	240
1903	"	982	3,893	252
1915	G. H. Knibbs	1,620	4,985	325
1921	C. H. Wickens	2,166	5,458	397

(a) Adjusted to allow for exclusion of New Zealand.

(ii) *Details for States, 1921.* The following table furnishes details as at 30th June, 1921, in respect of each State and Territory and for Australia as a whole:—

PRIVATE WEALTH.—INVENTORY ESTIMATE, DETAILS, 1921.

Class of Property.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Nor. Ter.	Fed. Ter.	Australia.
I. Land and Improvements	£1,000.	£1,000.	£1,000.	£1,000.	£1,000.	£1,000.	£1,000.	£1,000.	£1,000.
II. Live Stock	593,484	399,503	142,120	115,814	67,777	41,549	625	397	1,361,269
III. Agricultural, Dairying and Pastoral Implements and Machinery	48,947	27,817	48,664	10,790	15,336	4,422	2,696	161	158,833
IV. Manufacturing Plant and Machinery	12,409	10,218	4,057	5,248	3,300	709	12	11	35,964
V. Mining Properties (including Plant and Machinery)	29,735	17,588	9,999	4,233	3,325	2,838	..	..	67,718
VI. Coin and Bullion	14,800	5,300	2,800	1,300	7,200	2,600	..	..	34,000
VII. Private Railways and Tramways	13,607	38,874	3,173	2,452	2,163	945	1	1	61,216
VIII. Shipping	3,511	777	4,906	278	5,047	1,454	..	..	15,973
IX. Agricultural and Pastoral Products	2,970	2,793	370	756	164	186	4	..	7,243
X. Locally Manufactured Products	24,692	17,993	11,711	8,275	5,624	2,210	3	7	70,515
XI. Mining Products (other than gold)	44,479	34,481	12,755	7,132	3,645	2,343	..	..	104,835
XII. Imported Merchandise	1,964	111	214	148	88	132	3	..	2,660
XIII. Clothing and Personal Adornments	31,616	23,062	11,448	7,461	5,008	3,200	59	37	81,891
XIV. Furniture and Fittings, Books, Pictures, etc.	10,536	7,685	3,815	2,486	1,669	1,066	20	12	27,289
XV. Motor Vehicles	43,482	33,229	12,183	10,845	5,529	3,428	46	38	108,780
	9,862	7,537	3,235	4,688	1,417	931	5	..	27,675
	886,094	626,968	271,450	181,906	127,292	68,013	3,474	664	2,165,861
Mean Population for 1921 (in thousands)	2,107.1	1,537.0	763.0	497.2	333.8	213.3	3.9	2.5	5,457.8
Private Wealth per Head	£421	£408	£356	£366	£381	£319	£889	£267	£397

(iii) *Details for Australia 1903, 1915, and 1921.* A comparison of the leading items for 1903, 1915, and 1921, and of the relative distribution of such items, is given in the following table :—

**PRIVATE WEALTH.—INVENTORY ESTIMATE, AUSTRALIA,
1903, 1915, AND 1921.**

Classification.	Aggregate Amount.			Relative Distribution.		
	1903 (Coghlan).	1915 (Knibbs).	1921 (Wickens).	1903 (Coghlan).	1915 (Knibbs).	1921 (Wickens).
	Million £.	Million £.	Million £.	%	%	%
Land and Improvements ..	683.9	1,105.6	1,361.3	69.6	68.3	62.9
Live Stock	96.9	100.4	158.8	9.9	6.2	7.3
Coin and Bullion	26.1	44.4	61.2	2.6	2.7	2.8
Merchandise and Produce on hand	59.6	148.0	259.9	6.1	9.1	12.0
Household Furniture and Per- sonal Property	43.4	91.9	163.8	4.4	5.7	7.6
Shipping	6.4	13.3	7.2	0.7	0.8	0.3
Mines and Mining Plant ..	32.2	41.3	34.0	3.3	2.6	1.6
Plant, Machinery, etc., not else- where included	33.5	74.6	119.7	3.4	4.6	5.5
Total	982.0	1,619.5	2,165.9	100.0	100.0	100.0

(iv) *Private Wealth per Head.* A comparison of the wealth per head under the principal items mentioned above is furnished in the following table :—

**INVENTORY ESTIMATE.—PRIVATE WEALTH PER HEAD, AUSTRALIA,
1903, 1915, AND 1921.**

Classification.	Average Wealth per Head.					
	1903 (Coghlan).		1915 (Knibbs).		1921 (Wickens).	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Land and Improvements	175	13 5	221	15 10	249	8 6
Live Stock	24	17 10	20	2 9	29	1 11
Coin and Bullion	6	13 11	8	18 1	11	4 3
Merchandise and Produce on hand ..	15	6 4	29	13 7	47	12 5
Household Furniture and Personal Property ..	11	2 9	18	8 10	30	0 3
Shipping	1	12 8	2	13 6	1	6 4
Mines and Mining Plant	8	5 5	8	5 9	6	4 7
Plant, Machinery, etc., not elsewhere included ..	8	12 1	14	19 2	21	18 8
Total	252	4 5	324	17 6	396	16 11

(v) *Distribution according to States and Territories.* The following table gives the distribution of the private wealth of Australia, according to the States and Territories in which it was situated. In the case of the 1903 estimates, the Northern Territory was regarded as part of South Australia, and the Federal Capital Territory not having come into being as a separate entity, was included in New South Wales :—

**PRIVATE WEALTH.—INVENTORY ESTIMATE, STATES, ETC.,
1903, 1915, AND 1921.**

State or Territory.	Estimated Private Wealth.					
	Aggregate Amount.			Per Head of Population.		
	1903 (Coghlan).	1915 (Knibbs).	1921 (Wickens).	1903.	1915.	1921.
	Million £.	Million £.	Million £.	£	£	£
New South Wales	368.8 ^a	660.8	886.1	261 ^a	350	421
Victoria	310.0	454.1	627.0	257	317	408
Queensland	119.5	209.6	271.4	232	303	356
South Australia	86.3 ^b	134.0	181.9	240 ^b	300	366
Western Australia	49.1	107.1	127.3	223	333	381
Tasmania	48.2	51.3	68.0	268	261	319
Northern Territory	(b)	2.0	3.5	(b)	450	889
Federal Capital Territory	(a)	0.6	0.7	(a)	236	267
Australia	982.0	1,619.5	2,165.9	252	325	397

(a) Particulars for Federal Capital Territory included with New South Wales.
 (b) Particulars for Northern Territory included with South Australia.

In all instances the figures relate to the material private wealth existing in the several States and Territories, irrespective of the domicile of the owner.

3. Estimated Value of Government and Municipal Property, 1915 and 1921.—An estimate of the value of Government and Municipal property at any date cannot be readily obtained, but with the object of presenting a complete view of Australian wealth, a rough estimate has been prepared in respect of the years 1915 and 1921, the results of which are given hereunder :—

**GOVERNMENT AND MUNICIPAL PROPERTY.—ESTIMATED VALUE,
1915 AND 1921.**

Particulars.	1915.	1921.
<i>Commonwealth—</i>	Million £.	Million £.
Railways	6	11
Land, Buildings, and other Property	11	18
<i>State—</i>		
Railways and Tramways	202	240
Crown Lands	38	53
Buildings and other Property	100	121
<i>Municipal—</i>		
Roads and Streets	120	160
Other Property	40	54
Total	517	657

These figures indicate that the total for Government and Municipal property is about one-fourth of the aggregate wealth of Australia, public and private, a proportion which agrees approximately with estimates that have been made in the case of Great Britain.

As the estimates previously given, whether for public or private wealth, are in respect of the values of material objects, irrespective of ownership, the effect of public or private indebtedness does not enter into the question.

§ 11. Film Censorship.

1. **General.**—(i) *Legislation.* The censorship of films derives its authority from section 52 (g) of the Customs Act, which is the section giving authority to prohibit the importation of goods. Under this section proclamations have been issued prohibiting the importation of films and relative advertising matter except under certain conditions and with the consent of the Minister. The conditions governing importation are contained in regulations issued under the Customs Act and provide, *inter alia*, that no film shall be registered which in the opinion of the censor is (a) blasphemous, indecent or obscene; (b) likely to be injurious to morality, or to encourage or incite to crime; (c) likely to be offensive to the people of any friendly nation; (d) depicts any matter the exhibition of which is undesirable in the public interests; (e) likely to be offensive to the people of the British Empire.

The new regulations governing the exportation of Australian-made films are similar, with the addition that no film may be exported which in the opinion of the Censor is detrimental to Australian interests or is likely to lower Australia in the eyes of the world.

The Censorship consists of a Chief Censor and a Deputy Censor, and importers have the right of appeal to the Minister against their decisions.

(ii) *Imports of Films.* Imported films dealt with by the Censorship for the years 1925 and 1926 were as follows:—

IMPORTS OF FILMS, 1925 AND 1926.

Heading.	1925.		1926.	
	Films No.	Feet (one copy).	Films No.	Feet (one copy).
Passed without eliminations	1,324	2,996,898	1,590	3,584,877
Passed after eliminations	371	2,138,927	283	1,610,195
Rejected in first instance	68	437,107	87	538,203
Total	1,763	5,572,932	1,960	5,733,275

The countries of origin of the abovementioned films will be found in the following table:—

IMPORTS OF FILMS.—COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, 1925 AND 1926.

Country of Origin.	1925.		1926.	
	Films No.	Feet (one copy).	Films No.	Feet (one copy).
United States of America	1,555	5,115,133	1,618	5,085,720
United Kingdom	146	257,786	198	351,456
Other Countries	62	200,013	144	296,099
Total	1,763	5,572,932	1,960	5,733,275

(iii) *Export of Films.* The new regulations governing the export of films came into force on the 16th September, 1926. The number of films exported up to 31st December, 1926, and the length were 136 and 88,263 feet respectively, and were consigned to England, New Zealand, Singapore, Dutch East Indies, United States of America, and Ocean Island.

(iv) *Royal Commission.* A Royal Commission is at present (1927) engaged inquiring into all aspects of the Film Industry.

§ 12. Marketing of Australian Commodities.

1. **Introduction.**—Particulars in respect of the various Commonwealth Acts and Regulations, together with the operations of the Boards or Councils appointed to assist or control the marketing of Australian commodities, are set out below :—

2. **Dairy Produce Export Control Act 1924.**—(i) *General.* This Act, which was introduced at the request of the dairying industry, was passed by the Commonwealth Parliament with the object of organizing the marketing of Australian dairy produce overseas.

(ii) *Dairy Produce Export Control (Poll and Election of Board) Regulations.*—Regulations were approved providing for a poll of producers to enable the Act to operate and for the election of members to the Dairy Produce Control Board.

(iii) *Dairy Produce Control Board.*—A Board consisting of thirteen members, of whom nine are producers' representatives, was appointed under the Act to supervise the export, and the sale and distribution after export, of Australian dairy produce. In conjunction with its London Agency the Board has improved organization on overseas markets, ensured continuity of supply, regulated shipments, stabilized overseas prices, obtained reductions in overseas freight and insurance, and participated in an advertising campaign in the United Kingdom.

(iv) *Dairy Produce Export Control Licences Regulations.*—Provision was made for the issue, under certain conditions, of licences to exporters to permit of butter and cheese being exported from Australia.

3. **Dairy Produce Export Charges Act 1924.**—(i) *General.* This Act provided for the imposition of a levy on all butter and cheese exported from the Commonwealth. The levy is used to cover administrative expenses of the Board, and for advertising and other purposes.

(ii) *Dairy Produce Export Charges Regulations.* Regulations were issued under this Act to lower the rate of levy fixed upon the export of butter and cheese.

4. **Dried Fruits Export Control Act 1924.**—(i) *General.*—This act was passed by the Commonwealth Parliament at the request of the dried fruit industry to organize the overseas marketing of Australian dried fruit.

(ii) *Dried Fruits Export Control (Poll and Election of Board) Regulations.* Regulations providing for a poll of dried fruit growers were issued to enable the Act to operate and to hold an election of members to the Dried Fruits Control Board.

(iii) *Dried Fruits Control Board.*—A Board composed of seven members, including four growers' representatives, was appointed to control the export, and the sale and distribution after export, of Australian sultanas, currants and lexias. In conjunction with its London Agency the Board has improved the overseas marketing and increased the demand for Australian dried fruits. Its system of appraisalment has resulted in more satisfactory realizations, and its methods of ensuring continuity of supply, regulating shipments, advertising and securing reductions in freight and insurance have benefited the industry considerably.

(iv) *Dried Fruits Export Control Licences Regulations.*—Regulations were framed providing for the issue, under certain conditions, of licences to exporters to enable Australian sultanas, currants and lexias to be shipped overseas.

5. **Dried Fruits Export Charges Act 1924.**—This Act provided for the imposition of a levy on all sultanas, currants and lexias exported from the Commonwealth. The levy is used to defray the administrative expenses of the Board and the cost of advertising, &c.

6. **Dried Fruits Export Charges Act 1927.**—This Act provides for the exemption of sultanas, currants or lexias from the levy imposed after recommendation by the Board.

7. **Canned Fruits Export Control Act 1926.**—(i) *General.* This legislation was introduced at the request of canners and representative organizations of fruit growers, and provides for the establishment of a Canned Fruits Control Board. The Act could not come into operation until a poll of canners was taken to determine whether a majority favoured the system of control provided under the Act. The poll was accordingly taken on 29th November, 1926, and a substantial majority of votes was cast in favour of the Act.

The Board is composed of three members—one representative of proprietary and privately-owned canneries, one representative of co-operative and State-controlled canneries, and one representative appointed by the Commonwealth Government. The terms and conditions of office are similar to those adopted in connexion with the Dried Fruits and Dairy Produce Boards. The Board controls the export of canned apricots, peaches, and pears only, but provision is made in the Act for the inclusion of pineapples or any other variety of canned fruits should the canners concerned at any time desire it. No canned fruits to which the Act applies are permitted to be exported from Australia unless under a licence issued to the exporter by the Department of Markets and Migration, subject to conditions recommended by the Board. Owing to a considerable drop in the production of canned fruits during the season 1926-27 only a small quantity of fruit was available for export, consequently the operations of the Board were somewhat limited.

(ii) *Regulations under the Act.*—The Regulations issued under the Act provide for the (a) preparation of rolls of voters for the poll and election of members to the Board; (b) taking the poll and election of members to the Board; (c) the rates of fees and expenses to be paid to members in connexion with their attendance at Board meetings, &c.; (d) the system of export under licence, which operates as from 14th February, 1927. For the season 1926-27, exporters are required to obtain a separate licence for each shipment to Great Britain, and a general licence, granted for a period from date of issue to 31st December, 1927, for all shipments to destinations other than Great Britain. The conditions under which licences are issued were adopted on the recommendation of the Board; and (e) the method of signing cheques drawn by the Board.

8. Canned Fruits Export Charges Act 1926.—(i) *General.*—The Canned Fruits Control Board is financed by the canning industry by means of a levy imposed on all canned fruits exported. Under this Act a levy not exceeding one-fourth of a penny per 30-oz. tin (3d. per dozen tins) may be imposed.

(ii) *Canned Fruits Export Charges Regulations.*—The Board has determined that a levy of 1d. per dozen tins on exports will produce sufficient revenue for its present requirements, and these Regulations provide for that rate to be adopted. The charge was imposed as from 14th February, 1927.

9. Fresh Fruits Overseas Marketing Act 1927.—This Act was passed by the Commonwealth Government at the request of the fresh fruit industry, to organize the overseas marketing of Australian fresh fruit. This Act, which is dependent for operation upon a poll of fresh fruit growers, will not now operate in view of the adverse result of the poll.

10. Fresh Fruits Export Charges Act 1927.—This Act was subsidiary to the Dried Fruits Export Control Act, and will not now operate in view of the adverse decision at the poll.

11. Pearl-Shell Overseas Marketing Act 1927.—(i) *General.*—This measure provides for the control of the export and sale oversea of pearl-shell produced in the Commonwealth. A poll of producers of pearl-shell throughout Australia will be taken about the end of 1927 to decide whether the Act shall be brought into operation. Should the result of the poll be favourable, a Pearl-Shell Overseas Marketing Board will be appointed consisting of one representative elected by the producers of Western Australia, one representative elected by the producers of Queensland and the Territory of North Australia, and a representative of the Commonwealth Government, appointed by the Governor-General. The Act provides for the prohibition of the export of pearl-shell except by licence issued by the Minister subject to such conditions and restrictions as are prescribed after recommendation to the Minister by the abovementioned Board. The Board may accept control of any pearl-shell placed under its control, and will have full authority to make arrangements for its handling, marketing, storage, shipment, sale and all other matters necessary in connexion with its disposal.

(ii) *Pearl-Shell Overseas Marketing (Preparation of Rolls) Regulations.* These regulations provide machinery for the preparation of a roll of pearl-shell producers entitled to vote at the poll to decide whether the Pearl-Shell Overseas Marketing Act shall be brought into operation, and to vote at the election of members of the Board.

(iii) *Pearl-Shell Overseas Marketing (Poll and Election of Board) Regulations.*—These regulations prescribe the machinery for taking the poll of producers under the Pearl-Shell Overseas Marketing Act, and conducting the election of members of the Overseas Marketing Board.

12. *Pearl-Shell Export Charges Act 1927.*—This Act provides for a levy on pearl-shell exported from Australia at the rate of £3 per ton, but this rate may be reduced by regulation. The funds collected as a result of this levy will be used in the payment of the administrative and other expenses of the Pearl-Shell Overseas Marketing Board, and any surplus will be invested in securities of, or guaranteed by, the Commonwealth or any State Government.

13. *Export Guarantee Act 1924-25.*—(i) *General.* Under this measure the Minister may, by *Gazette* notice, declare that the Act shall apply to any particular produce the export or marketing of which is controlled by a Board. The Treasurer may guarantee to the Commonwealth Bank or any other prescribed Bank the amount of any advance made by the Bank to a Board in connexion with the financing of any scheme for the export and marketing of the produce under the control of the Board. Any such guarantee shall not be more than 80 per cent. of the market value of the produce, which market value shall be determined by the Minister. The Treasurer may revoke the guarantee if it appears to him that its conditions have not been observed. Under this Act the Minister may also, upon the receipt of a report and recommendation from the Commonwealth Board of Trade, grant assistance :—

- (a) in relation to the export and marketing of primary produce ;
- (b) to the growers of primary produce used or to be used in the manufacture or preparation of goods of a kind suitable for export from the Commonwealth.

The sum of £500,000 has been appropriated for granting such assistance.

(ii) *Ohanez Grapes Assistance Regulations 1925.* Under the *Export Guarantee Act 1924-25*, the Commonwealth Government recouped growers of ohanez grapes exported during 1925 portion of the out-of-pocket expenses incurred in placing the grapes on the oversea market in those instances where the fruit exported by any grower realized on that market an average of less than 14s. per case over the whole season. The Government paid the grower the difference between 14s. per case and the amount actually realized, with a maximum payment of 4s. per case. The total amount paid under this regulation was £2,021.

(iii) *Broom Millet Assistance Regulations.*—Owing to the heavy crop of broom millet in 1924, and the difficulty of disposing of the surplus locally at satisfactory prices, the Commonwealth Government came to the assistance of the growers in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland by granting a payment in those cases where the broom millet of that crop sold by them before 1st April, 1926, realized an average of not more than £30 per ton. The Government paid the grower the difference between that amount and the amount actually realized, with a maximum payment of £3 per ton. The total amount paid was £2,226.

(iv) *Assistance granted to 30th September, 1927.*—Assistance under the *Export Guarantee Act 1924-25* has been granted in the following directions :—

	£	s.	d.
A. Marston Process for the Preservation of Citrus Fruits ..	292	7	6
B. Citrus Fruits Exported	936	19	7
C. Tasmanian Hop Industry	24,572	4	0
D. Doradillo Grapes	15,248	6	6
E. Canned Fruits Exported	29,043	12	11
F. Broom Millet	2,226	3	7
G. Special Trade Publicity in the United Kingdom	39,382	7	2
H. Ohanez Grapes Exported	2,021	0	2
I. Herd Testing	1,454	1	3
J. Payment to recoup Dried Fruits Advances Account ..	127,103	12	5
K. Commonwealth Representation at the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, 1927	2,400	0	0
	£244,680	15	1