

## PART V.—ACCUMULATION.

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

722. In dealing with moneys or money values taken from returns where foreign moneys have been quoted, such values, for the purpose of this work, have been converted into their British equivalents according to the scale adopted by the Imperial Board of Trade, which is given in the following table:—

## FOREIGN MONEYS AND BRITISH EQUIVALENTS.

Countries.	Foreign Moneys.	British Equivalents.		
		£	s.	d.
Austria-Hungary ...	Gulden ...	0	1	8
		or 12 to the £		
Argentine Republic ...	Peso nacional ...	0	4	0
Belgium ...	Franc ...	0	0	9·6
		or 25 to the £		
Bulgaria ...	Lew ...	0	0	9·6
		or 25 to the £		
Chile ...	Peso fuerte ...	0	4	2
China ...	Tael ...	Various*		
Denmark ...	Krone ...	0	1	1½
		or 18 to the £		
Egypt ...	Piastre ...	0	0	2½
		or 96 to the £†		
France ...	Franc ...	0	0	9·6
		or 25 to the £		
Germany ...	Mark ...	0	1	0
	Krone ...	0	10	0
	Doppel krone ...	1	0	0
Greece ...	Drachme ...	0	0	9·6
		or 25 to the £		
Holland ...	Gulden ...	0	1	8
		or 12 to the £		
Italy ...	Lira ...	0	0	9·6
		or 25 to the £		

\* The Tael is not a coin, but a weight. The ideal tael should consist of sycee (pure) silver, and should weigh 583·2 grains. As a matter of fact, however, the weight as well as the purity of the tael varies in different localities. The weight of the Haikwan tael—which is that employed by the Chinese Government in collecting revenue—is about 580 grains, and the fineness about ·9855. The value of the tael is regulated by the price of silver; that of the Haikwan tael has been as follows in the seven years prior to the year under notice:—1889, 4s. 8¼d.; 1888, 4s. 8¾d.; 1887, 4s. 10¼d.; 1886, 5s. 0½d.; 1885, 5s. 3½d.; 1884, 5s. 7d.; 1883, 5s. 7¼d.

† An Egyptian pound is 100 piastres, or £1 0s. 10d.

FOREIGN MONEYS AND BRITISH EQUIVALENTS—*continued.*

Countries.	Foreign Moneys.	British Equivalents.
Japan ... ..	Yen ... ..	0 3 1*
Mexico ... ..	Dollar ... ..	0 4 2†
Norway ... ..	Krone ... ..	0 1 1½
Portugal ... ..	Milreis ... ..	or 18 to the £
Roumania ... ..	Lei ... ..	0 4 6
Russia ... ..	Credit rouble ... ..	0 0 9·6
	Metallic rouble (gold)	or 25 to the £
Spain ... ..	Peseta ... ..	0 2 0
		0 3 2
Sweden ... ..	Krona ... ..	0 0 9·6
		or 25 to the £
Switzerland ... ..	Franc ... ..	0 1 1½
		or 18 to the £
Turkey ... ..	Piastre ... ..	0 0 9·6
		or 25 to the £
United States ... ..	Dollar ... ..	0 0 2·16
Uruguay ... ..	Peso fuerte ... ..	or 100 equal 18s.
		0 4 2
		0 4 2

723. The following is a statement of the metallic money which circulates in the various dominions of the British Empire:—

Coins in  
British  
dominions.

## METALLIC CURRENCY IN BRITISH DOMINIONS. †

Countries.	Metallic Circulation.
Great Britain and Ireland Australasian Colonies (including Fiji) South African Colonies Falkland Islands ... St. Helena ... .. Channel Islands ... .. Malta ... .. West African Settlements West Indian Colonies ...	£ s. d.
Canada ... ..	£ s. d., and a special subsidiary copper coinage.
Newfoundland ... ..	£ s. d., and a special ½ farthing called a grain.
Gibraltar ... ..	£ s. d., supplemented with other coins.
Cyprus ... ..	British silver and bronze. In some places accounts are kept in dollars at 4s. 2d.
India ... ..	Dollars at 4s. 1·31d.
Ceylon ... ..	Dollars at 4s. 2d.
	Mixed British and Spanish coins.
	British, French, and Turkish gold; British silver, and special bronze piastres.
	Rupees, annas, and pies.
	Rupees, and local subsidiary coins.

\* The average value of the yen has been as follows in the years named:—1889, 3s. 0¼d.; 1888, 3s.; 1887, 3s. 2d.; 1886, 3s. 6d.; 1885, 3s. 3d.; 1884 and 1883, 3s. 7¼d.

† In making payments from the Imperial funds in places where the dollar is current, the valuation of the Mexican dollar is fixed by the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury quarterly, according to the market price of silver. Upon this basis the price of the dollar was fixed at 3s. 1d. for the June, 3s. 2d. for the September, and 3s. 5d. for the December quarter of 1890; and at 3s. 8d. for the March, 3s. 5d. for the June, and 3s. 2d. for the September quarter of 1891. See 21st Report of the Deputy Master of the Imperial Mint, page 33.

‡ The information in this table was obtained for the most part from a paper read before the Royal Colonial Institute, London, on the 11th February, 1890, by Mr. L. C. Probyn.

METALLIC CURRENCY IN BRITISH DOMINIONS\*—*continued.*

Countries.	Metallic Circulation.
Mauritius ... ..	Rupees, and local subsidiary coins.
British Honduras ... ..	Guatemalan, and other dollars worth 2s. 11.15d.; special bronze cents.
Hong Kong ... ..	Mexican dollars worth 3s. 2.21d., with special subsidiary silver and bronze.
Labuan ... ..	Mexican dollars worth 3s. 2.21d., with subsidiary silver and copper of Straits Settlements and British North Borneo copper.
Straits Settlements ... ..	Mexican dollars worth 3s. 2.21d., with special subsidiary silver and copper.
British North Borneo... ..	Mexican dollar worth 3s. 2.21d., with special subsidiary copper.

Royal Mint.

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

Gold received at Mint.

725. From the time of the opening of the Mint to the end of 1890, upwards of 12 million ounces of gold were received thereat. In point of average purity, the gold sent to the Mint is considerably above the standard (viz., 22 carats, worth £3 17s. 10½d. per oz.), and thus the value of the whole quantity was rather over 48 millions sterling, or almost exactly £4 per oz.‡ The following table shows the quantity and value of the gold received in each year:—

## GOLD RECEIVED AT THE MELBOURNE MINT, 1872 TO 1890.

Year.	Quantity.	Value.	Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Oz.	£		Oz.	£
1872§	190,765	765,024	1883	786,021	3,159,609
1873	221,904	887,256	1884	945,709	3,803,320
1874	335,366	1,349,290	1885	836,433	3,351,767
1875	489,823	1,948,067	1886	756,611	3,029,783
1876	543,304	2,149,890	1887	770,222	3,075,487
1877	378,410	1,492,207	1888	757,813	3,023,414
1878	570,079	2,268,001	1889	761,931	3,030,958
1879	656,724	2,638,393	1890	752,923	3,003,635
1880	758,937	3,062,663			
1881	692,425	2,793,810	Total	12,024,542	48,144,468
1882	819,142	3,311,894			

\* See footnote (†) on page 423.

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

‡ See also paragraphs 726 and 734 *post*.

§ From the 12th June, the day the Mint was opened to the public.

726. A simple calculation, based upon the total value as shown in the lowest line of the last column of the table, will show that the gold received amounted to 12,364,549 oz. standard, valued at £3 17s. 10½d. per oz., or 340,007 oz. more than the actual weight of gold received at the Mint. Gold received in standard ounces.

727. It will be observed that the gold received at the Mint in 1890 was less by 9,008 ounces than the quantity in 1889, and was also less than in any other year since 1881. Gold received, 1890.

728. Gold is issued from the Mint as coin or as bullion. The former, with the exception of 555,614 half-sovereigns, has consisted entirely of sovereigns. The following is a statement of the gold issued in each year, whether in the shape of coin or bullion:— Gold issued from Mint.

## GOLD ISSUED AT MELBOURNE MINT, 1872 TO 1890.

Year.	Coin.		Bullion.		Total Value of Coin and Bullion.
	Sovereigns.	Half-Sovereigns.	Quantity.	Value.	
	Number.	Number.	Oz.	£	£
1872*	748,180	...	1,313	4,028	752,208
1873	752,199	165,034	3,129	11,126	845,842
1874	1,373,298	...	2,912	10,416	1,383,714
1875	1,888,405	...	3,553	13,857	1,902,262
1876	2,124,445	...	3,625	14,145	2,138,590
1877	1,487,316	80,016	3,326	13,004	1,540,328
1878	2,171,457	...	3,691	14,640	2,186,097
1879	2,740,594	...	1,743	6,839	2,747,433
1880	3,053,454	...	1,861	7,219	3,060,673
1881	2,325,303	42,009	106,999	448,767	2,795,074
1882	2,465,781	107,522	189,837	789,687	3,309,229
1883	2,050,450	...	266,679	1,112,478	3,162,928
1884	2,942,630	48,009	200,766	835,728	3,802,364
1885	2,967,143	11,003	91,335	379,839	3,352,483
1886	2,902,131	38,008	25,701	107,719	3,028,854
1887	2,856,424	64,013	45,030	186,395	3,074,825
1888	2,830,612	...	46,611	194,219	3,024,831
1889	2,732,590	...	72,497	299,285	3,031,875
1890	2,473,537	...	126,430	527,144	3,000,681
Total ...	42,885,949	555,614	1,197,038	4,976,535	48,140,291

729. The difference in value between the gold coin issued from the Mint in 1889 and 1890 was £259,000, the excess being in favour of the former. The gold coin issued in 1890 was less not only than that in 1889, but was also less than that in 1888, 1887, 1886, 1885, 1884, 1880, or 1879; it was, however, in excess of that in any other year. Gold coin issued.

\* From the 12th June, the day the Mint was opened to the public.

Gold bullion  
issued.

730. The quantity of gold issued in the form of bullion has fallen off very considerably since 1883. In that year its value amounted to over £1,100,000, or to 35 per cent. of the total value of coin and bullion issued; but in 1890, although in excess of the value in the previous five years, it amounted to only £527,000, or something over 17 per cent. of that value.

Victorian  
and other  
gold  
minted.

731. Nearly four-fifths of the gold received at the Mint since its first establishment was raised in Victoria, and rather less than a seventh came from New Zealand. The bulk of the remainder was contributed by the other Australasian colonies—chiefly Tasmania and South Australia—and a very small quantity by Natal. The following were the quantities received from these countries respectively prior to and during 1890 :—

VICTORIAN AND OTHER GOLD RECEIVED AT MELBOURNE MINT,  
1872 TO 1890.

Colony in which the Gold was raised.	Gold Received.		
	Prior to 1890.	During 1890.	Total.
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.
Victoria ... ..	8,928,403	594,145	9,522,548
New South Wales ... ..	9,744	394	10,138
Queensland ... ..	8,603	232	8,835
South Australia ... ..	214,987	16,980	231,967
Western Australia ... ..	16,568	17,837	34,405
Tasmania ... ..	460,069	30,600	490,669
New Zealand ... ..	1,548,045	73,183	1,621,228
Natal ... ..	1,731	...	1,731
Light Gold Coin*	...	8,367	8,367
Unknown ... ..	83,470†	11,184	94,654
Total	11,271,620	752,922	12,024,542

Mint  
charges.

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

Mint allow-  
ances.

733. Any silver in a deposit in excess of 4 per cent. of the weight of the deposit after melting is allowed for at a rate per ounce to be fixed from time to time by the Deputy Master. A reduction of a sixth of the charges is made on deposits containing more than 24 ounces of unrefinable gold, or gold containing silver in less proportion than 4½

\* Until the year 1890 all deposits of Light Gold Coin were included under "Unknown."

† Including not quite 1 oz. from India.

per cent., and base metal in less proportion than 2 per cent., of the weight of the deposit after melting.

734. Standard gold contains 91·67 per cent. (22 carats out of 24) of pure gold, but the gold (chiefly dust and bars) received at the Mint in 1890 contained as much as 94·6 per cent. of pure gold, and therefore it had to be considerably reduced in fineness to bring it to a fit state for making into money. The silver in the gold received in 1890 amounted to 3·9 per cent., and the base metals to 1·5 per cent. These proportions vary but little from year to year.

Fineness of gold received at Mint.

735. The standard weight of the sovereign is ·25682 of an ounce (equal to 7·988 grammes, or 123·27447 grains troy), and the standard weight of the half-sovereign is ·12841 of an ounce. The standard fineness of those pieces is 916·7 parts (or  $\frac{1}{12}$ ) of pure gold in every 1,000 parts. In practice a small margin is allowed, and the actual weight and fineness of the gold coins struck at the Melbourne Mint, as based on the assay of pyx pieces transmitted to London for examination, and there tested, at the periods named, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, were as follow:—

Weight and fineness of gold pieces coined, 1887 and 1888.

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

Date.	Average Weight.		Average Proportion of Gold in 1000 parts.	
	Sovereigns.	Half-sovereigns.	Sovereigns.	Half-sovereigns.
	Oz.	Oz.		
September, 1887 ...	·2568	·1284	916·680	916·606
December ,, ...	·2568	...	916·623	...
March, 1888 ...	·2568	...	916·689	...
June ,, ...	·2568	...	916·685	...

736. Mr. Roberts-Austen, C.B., the chemist and assayer to the London Mint, reports that samples of the pieces struck at the Melbourne Mint in 1889, on being assayed in his office, proved to approximate very closely to the standard prescribed by law. The exact figures, however, are not given.

Weight and fineness of gold pieces, 1890.

737. By the *Victorian Mint Act* (31 Vict. No. 307) it is provided that the sum of £20,000 shall be paid annually to the Mint from the Consolidated Revenue, the unexpended portion of the subsidies to be paid back to the Treasury. The following table shows the amount of such unexpended balances, also the receipts, expenditure, and cost of the Mint to the colony in each year from that in which the Mint was established to 1890:—

Mint receipts and expenditure.

## MINT REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1872 TO 1890.

Year.	Paid into the Treasury.			Expenditure.	Excess of Expenditure over Receipts from the Public (Cost of Mint to the Colony).†
	Unexpended Balance of Subsidy.*	Receipts from the Public.	Total.		
	£	£	£	£	£
1872 ...	6,232	3,945	10,177	13,768	9,823
1873 ...	4,299	5,121	9,420	15,701	10,580
1874 ...	4,801	6,555	11,356	15,199	8,644
1875 ...	5,893	7,928	13,821	14,107	6,179
1876 ...	7,104	8,153	15,257	12,896	4,743
1877 ...	7,070	6,514	13,584	12,930	6,416
1878 ...	6,349	8,572	14,921	13,651	5,079
1879 ...	5,627	9,349	14,976	14,373	5,024
1880 ...	5,344	10,275	15,619	14,656	4,381
1881 ...	4,102	10,735	14,837	15,898	5,163
1882 ...	4,851	10,378	15,229	15,149	4,771
1883 ...	5,304	10,835	16,139	14,696	3,861
1884 ...	4,612	12,494	17,106	15,388	2,894
1885 ...	1,986	11,471	13,457	18,014	6,543
1886 ...	3,874	11,340	15,214	16,126	4,786
1887 ...	3,641	10,759	14,400	16,359	5,600
1888 ...	4,478	9,967	14,445	15,522	5,555
1889 ...	4,760	11,012	15,772	15,240	4,228
1890 ...	5,044	11,672	16,716	14,956	3,284
Total ...	95,371	177,075	272,446	284,629	107,554

Excess of expenditure over receipts.

738. In the period to which the table relates, leaving the cost of lands, buildings, and machinery out of account,‡ the Mint expenditure exceeded the Mint receipts by about 61 per cent., and the establishment was worked at an apparent total loss of £107,554, the average loss per annum being £5,661. During 1890 the loss was £3,284, or 28 per cent. over the receipts.

Mint receipts, etc., Melbourne, Sydney, and London.

739. Prior to 1887, the expenditure of the Melbourne Mint exceeded its revenue by a much smaller proportion than the expenditure of the Sydney Mint exceeded its revenue; but in 1887 and subsequent years the business of the Sydney Mint—and consequently its revenue—was increased by large accessions of gold, chiefly from Mount Morgan in Queensland; and as the Mint expenditure did not increase in a corresponding ratio, the proportional excess of it over the Mint revenue considerably diminished, and in each of the four years ended with 1890 was lower than the Victorian proportion. In 1890 the receipts of the Sydney exceeded those of the Melbourne Mint by

\* The Mint subsidy in each year was £20,000, or £380,000 in 19 years.

† Exclusive of the cost of lands, buildings, and machinery. See paragraph 724 *ante*.

‡ See paragraph 724 *ante*.

£2,041, whilst the expenditure of the two Mints was identical. In the London Mint, on account of the large profit made on the purchase of silver\* and bronze for coinage, the receipts in 1890 amounted to over two and a half times the expenditure, and it may be inferred that if Victoria and New South Wales were allowed the profit on the silver and gold coinage used in the currency of the Australasian colonies, these establishments would become more than self-supporting institutions. The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure, and difference between those items, in the three Mints during the past year:—

MELBOURNE, SYDNEY, AND LONDON MINTS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1890.

Locality of Mint.	Mint Receipts.†	Mint Expenditure.	Excess of Expenditure over Receipts.	
			Amount.	Percentage.
	£	£	£	
Melbourne ...	11,672	14,956	3,284	28·14
Sydney ...	13,713	14,954	1,241	9·05
London ...	391,173	146,555	+ 244,618	+ 166·91

NOTE.—The plus sign (+) indicates that the receipts exceeded the expenditure.

740. At the London Mint in 1890, the profit made upon silver bullion purchased for coinage was £320,624; and the profit made upon bronze coinage was £67,621. As against this there was a loss of £4,752 on the coinage of gold; a loss of £41,555 on pre-Victorian gold coin exchanged, of which exchange £784 was effected at the Melbourne, and £274 at the Sydney Mint; and a loss of £34,002 on worn silver coin exchanged, of which £507 was effected at the Melbourne, and £379 at the Sydney, Mint.

London mint, profit on silver and bronze coinage.

741. As far back as February, 1873, a memorial from representatives of ten banks doing business in Melbourne was forwarded to the then Governor (Lord Canterbury) setting forth the inconvenience entailed upon the public by the scarcity of silver coin circulating in the colonies, and praying His Excellency to petition Her Majesty to authorize the manufacture and issue of silver coin by the Melbourne Mint. This memorial was strongly supported by the then Treasurer, and was duly forwarded to the Colonial Office. Some correspondence

Proposition to coin silver in Melbourne.

\* The average price at which silver bullion was purchased by the London Mint in 1890 was 4s. 0 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. per ounce, as compared with 3s. 6 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. in 1889; and as silver coin is issued at 5s. 6d. per ounce, the profit (seigniorage) which accrued to the State in the year under review was 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. per ounce, or at the rate of 35 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. The rate of seigniorage averaged only 9 per cent. in the years 1870 to 1872, but rose rapidly to 54 per cent. in 1889; this was the maximum, and it fell to 35 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. in 1890. (See 21st Report of London Mint, p. 13.)

† Receipts from the public only. The Government subsidy, amounting to £20,000 in Victoria, and £15,000 in New South Wales, is not included.

ensued, and objections were raised, the principal being that should the colonies be granted permission to coin silver there would be a difficulty in securing the Imperial Government against the loss arising from the withdrawal of worn coin; also in securing an adequate safeguard against the over-issue of silver coinage. The then Deputy Master of the Melbourne Mint pointed out, moreover, that, as but little silver was at that time produced in the colonies, it would be necessary to import what silver was required for coining, and consequently little or no profit would result. It was, therefore, decided to proceed no further in the matter. Subsequently, silver mines of great richness having been discovered in Australia, the question was revived in 1890 by the then Treasurer (Mr. D. Gillies), and, in July, 1891, the subject was brought under the notice of the present Governor (Lord Hopetoun) by the successor to Mr. Gillies (Mr. J. Munro), who pointed out that, whilst the Imperial Government made an average profit of £11,000 per annum by coining the silver supplied to this colony, the Victorian Government lost on an average £5,000 per annum by coining gold. The Treasurer also showed how the objections previously raised might, in his opinion, be met, and suggested that the matter should be again brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for the colonies, with the view of its being again considered by Her Majesty's Government. The matter remains in this position at the present time.

742. The Sydney Branch of the Royal Mint was established in 1855, and from that date to the end of 1890, 17,918,033 ounces\* of gold were received thereat, of which it is believed that 7,416,345 ounces, or about two-fifths, were raised in the colony of New South Wales; 6,564,598 ounces, or rather more than a third, in Queensland; 2,165,592 ounces, or about an eighth, in New Zealand; and 1,441,652 ounces, or about a twelfth, in Victoria. In the same period, 62,105,500 sovereigns, 4,841,000 half-sovereigns, and 711,116 ounces of bullion (valued at £2,849,044), were issued from this branch, the whole being valued at £67,375,044. It should be mentioned that since the establishment of the Melbourne Mint only about 4,300 ounces of Victorian gold have been coined in Sydney.

743. The quantity of gold received at the Sydney Mint during 1890 was 804,123† ounces, valued at £2,943,675, three-fourths of which was produced in Queensland, about one-seventh in New South Wales, but only a very small quantity in the other colonies. The total value of coin and bullion issued in that year amounted to

\* Including 238,598 ounces of coin.

† Including 11,623 ounces of coin.

Sydney  
Mint, 1855  
to 1890.

Sydney  
Mint, 1890.

£2,923,476, consisting of 2,808,000 sovereigns, and 27,320 ounces of gold bullion valued at £115,476. The value of coin and bullion issued from the Sydney Mint was less by nearly a million sterling in 1887, and by over three-quarters of a million in 1888; but was more by over a quarter of a million in 1889 than that issued from the Melbourne Mint in those years.

744. No other metal than gold is coined at the Melbourne and Sydney Mints, the silver and bronze coinage required by the colonies being obtained from England. Besides gold, silver, and bronze British money, silver, nickel and bronze coins of various denominations are struck at the Royal Mint, London, for several of Her Majesty's possessions. The following table shows the number and value of coins of twenty-five different denominations issued from that Mint in 1890:—

## COINS STRUCK AT THE LONDON MINT, 1890.

Denomination.	Number of Coins.	Nominal Value.		
		£	s.	d.
<b>Imperial—</b>				
Gold—Sovereigns ... ..	6,529,887	6,529,887	0	0
„ Half-sovereigns ... ..	2,266,023	1,133,011	10	0
Silver—Crowns ... ..	997,862	249,465	10	0
„ Double Florins ... ..	782,146	156,429	4	0
„ Half-crowns ... ..	3,228,111	403,513	17	6
„ Florins ... ..	1,684,737	168,473	14	0
„ Shillings ... ..	8,794,042	439,702	2	0
„ Sixpences ... ..	9,386,955	234,673	17	6
„ Fourpences (Maundy money only)	9,087	151	9	0
„ Threepences ... ..	4,470,322	55,879	0	6
„ Twopences (Maundy money only)	8,613	71	15	6
„ Pence „ „ „	13,115	54	12	11
Bronze—Pence ... ..	15,330,840	63,878	10	0
„ Half-pence ... ..	11,254,235	23,446	6	6
„ Farthings ... ..	2,133,070	2,221	18	11
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>66,889,045</b>	<b>9,460,860</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Colonial—</b>				
Cyprus, Bronze—Piastres ... ..	90,000	500	0	0
„ „ Half-piastres ... ..	180,000	500	0	0
Hong Kong, Silver—Fifty cents ... ..	50,000	3,958	6	8
„ „ Twenty cents ... ..	125,000	3,958	6	8
„ „ Ten cents ... ..	1,500,000	23,750	0	0
„ „ Five cents ... ..	1,500,000	11,875	0	0
Newfoundland, Silver—Twenty cents ... ..	100,000	4,166	13	4
„ „ Ten cents ... ..	100,000	2,083	6	8
„ „ Five cents ... ..	160,000	1,666	13	4
„ Bronze cents ... ..	200,000	416	13	4
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>70,894,045</b>	<b>9,513,735</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>

Silver coined  
at London  
Mint, 1890.

745. According to the table, the silver coined at the London Mint in 1890, represented an aggregate nominal value of £1,759,873, which was less by £641,467 than that coined in 1889, but more by £732,786 than that coined in 1888, more by £794,007 than that coined in 1887, more by £1,173,855 than that coined in 1886, and more by £487,848 than that coined in 1883, that being the year in which, after the year under review and the previous one, the silver coinage was larger than in any other year since the introduction of the present coinage in 1817.

Gold coined  
at London  
Mint, 1872  
to 1890.

746. In consequence, no doubt, of the gold coined at the Colonial Mints having been sufficient to meet all requirements, no sovereigns were struck at the London Mint in 1881, 1882, 1883, or 1886, and no half-sovereigns in the first two and last of those years, or in 1888 or 1889. Gold to the value of £1,999,075, however, was coined in 1887, of £2,287,841 in 1888, of £7,257,455 in 1889, and of £7,662,898 in 1890, about a seventh of which was in half-sovereigns. With the exception of 25,000 double gold dollars for Newfoundland, of the value of £10,417, coined in 1888, all the gold coinage struck at the London Mint of late years has been of British money. The following is the nominal value of the gold coins struck thereat during the last 19 years :—

NOMINAL VALUE OF GOLD COINS STRUCK AT THE LONDON MINT,  
1872 TO 1890.

	£		£
1872 ... ..	15,261,436	1883 ... ..	1,403,713
1873 ... ..	3,384,564	1884 ... ..	2,324,015
1874 ... ..	1,461,564	1885 ... ..	2,973,453
1875 ... ..	243,247	1886 ... ..	Nil
1876 ... ..	4,693,649	1887 ... ..	1,999,075
1877 ... ..	981,469	1888 ... ..	2,287,841
1878 ... ..	2,265,069	1889 ... ..	7,257,455
1879 ... ..	35,050	1890 ... ..	7,662,898
1880 ... ..	4,150,053		
1881 ... ..	Nil	Total ... ..	£58,387,551
1882 ... ..	Nil		

Value of  
Australian  
Mints to  
the Empire.

747. It has been pointed out that although of late years the productive power of the London Mint has been so much extended that it could easily coin gold enough for all wants in addition to the other coinage, it was not always so; and the Australian Mints have been of great, though unacknowledged, value to the Empire during some years when the London Mint could coin little or no gold.

748. It is estimated that 80,000,000 sovereigns, and 45,000,000 half-sovereigns, of a nominal value in all of £102,500,000, are circulating in the United Kingdom, and that about half these are light. The Mint authorities state that, exclusive of the expense of re-coinage, it would cost £804,390 to make good the deficient weight.

Gold coins  
in the  
United  
Kingdom

749. In 1889 light gold coins to the value of £603,531 were received at the London Mint, and were paid for according to weight; but in August of that year the *Coinage Act* 1889 came into force which provided that gold coins issued prior to the reign of Her present Majesty which had become light by fair wear and tear, and were not more than 4 grains below the standard weight, might be received by the Bank of England at such times as might be fixed by an Order-in-Council at their full nominal value, instead of as previously by weight. An Order-in-Council limited the time at which light coins would be received on such terms to the 31st March, 1890; but on the 22nd November, 1890, a royal proclamation was issued calling in all gold coins of former reigns, whether light or not, and declaring that after the 28th February, 1891, they should be no longer legal tender in the United Kingdom. Under this Act, order, and proclamation, sovereigns to the value of £2,334,573, and half-sovereigns to the value of £128,575, were received at the Bank of England. Of these, sovereigns to the value of £30,168 came from Victoria, £12,776 from New South Wales, and £13,481 from the Cape; and half-sovereigns to the value of £2,015 came from Victoria, £712 from New South Wales, and £674 from the Cape. The deficiency in weight and standard of the whole of the pre-Victorian coins received amounted to a value of £51,300. To this has to be added the cost of re-coinage.

British light  
gold coins  
called in.

750. It may be mentioned that, according to experiments made by the late Professor Stanley Jevons, the sovereign when in circulation loses .043 grain, and the half-sovereign .069 grain per annum. According to this rate of wear a sovereign would become light after 18 years, and a half-sovereign after  $7\frac{1}{2}$  years of circulation; but, owing to certain peculiarities of the half-sovereign circulation, Mr. Jevons preferred to adopt ten years as the average "legal life" of that coin, which would make the annual wear .051 grain. Mr. J. B. Martin, who read a paper on the subject before the London Institute of Bankers in

Loss of  
weight of  
gold coins  
by circula-  
tion.

1882, estimated the annual wear of the sovereign at  $\cdot 04325$  grain, thus confirming Mr. Jevons' figure. His experiments on the half-sovereign, however, gave the rate of wear as  $\cdot 04379$  grain, or rather less than Mr. Jevons' estimate. An inquiry made by the London Mint in the early part of 1888 showed an annual rate of wear for sovereigns of  $\cdot 03956$  grain, and for half-sovereigns of  $\cdot 05511$  grain, which would give a legal life for sovereigns of  $19\frac{1}{2}$  years, and for half-sovereigns of 9 years.\*

751. The subjoined account of the currency system of the United Kingdom has been taken, almost word for word, from a statement submitted by the Right Honorable G. J. Goschen to a monetary conference held in Paris in 1878 :—

“ Gold is the only standard metal.

“ The metal coined is  $\cdot 917$  fine, *i.e.*,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pure gold, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  alloy.

“ The coins are sovereigns and half-sovereigns. There is also a five-sovereign piece, and a two-sovereign piece, but these coins are not in general circulation. The sovereign, representing the pound sterling, contains  $113\cdot 001$  grains of pure gold, or  $123\cdot 27447$  grains of standard gold. The half-sovereign precisely half of the above.

“ Sovereigns and half-sovereigns are legal tender to any amount, provided that the pieces be not worn below  $122\cdot 5$  and  $62\cdot 125$  grains respectively.

“ Below these weights they may be refused, and the Bank of England cuts all such light coins tendered to it, and receives them only as so much standard gold. The loss on light gold is thus borne by the public. Special arrangements have, however, been made under which the State will bear the loss on light pre-Victorian gold coins presented up to a certain date.

“ Every person is entitled to bring gold to the Mint for coinage, and to receive it back, in his turn, cut into coins, stamped with the proper die, as a certificate of due weight and fineness, at the rate of £3 17s.  $10\frac{1}{2}$ d. per ounce troy of standard gold—that is to say, 1,869 sovereigns for 40 lbs. troy of standard gold.

“ If the gold so brought to the Mint is higher or lower than the standard, the Mint adds alloy or fine gold for the account of the owner, according as it is needed, to bring it down to the standard or to bring it up.

“ The Bank of England is by law obliged to receive all gold brought to it by the public, paying for it immediately at the rate of £3 17s. 9d. per ounce standard.

“ The difference of three halfpence per ounce compensates the Bank for the loss of interest between the date of its bringing the gold to the Mint and the date of receiving it again in the form of coin, and gives it also a small profit by way of brokerage for its trouble.

“ The public finds that its own loss in interest and expenditure in the operation, were it to take gold to the Mint, would be more than three halfpence. Consequently, by far the greater part of the gold coined in the United Kingdom is taken to the Mint by the Bank of England.

“ The silver crown, double florin, half-crown, florin, shilling, sixpence piece, fourpence piece, and threepence piece represent respectively one-quarter, one-fifth, one-eighth, one-tenth, one-twentieth, one-fortieth, one-sixtieth, and one-eightieth of a

\* See London Mint Report 1889, page 96.

sovereign, while the bronze penny, half-penny, and farthing represent respectively one two-hundred-and-fortieth, one four-hundred-and-eightieth, and one nine-hundred-and-sixtieth of the same coin.

“The piece of fourpence is no longer coined for use in Great Britain, but it is sometimes supplied to some of the West Indian Colonies, where, especially in Barbados, it is found a useful coin for wages. There are also coined silver penny and twopence pieces, but they are not in general circulation, though some of the latter are said to be still in Jamaica, in which colony, as also in Sierra Leone, some of the old silver three-halfpenny pieces, which have not been coined for many years, are still said to circulate.

“The silver coinage is a legal tender to the amount of 40 shillings only.

“The bronze coinage is legal tender to the amount of one shilling.

“The silver to be coined is .925, or  $\frac{37}{40}$  fine, and one troy pound, costing about 45 shillings at the present market price, is coined into 66 shillings, a sum fixed when the price was nominally about 60 shillings.

“One pound avoirdupois of bronze is coined into 48 pence. The same quantity is coined in 80 halfpence or into 160 farthings. Thus, two halfpence, or four farthings, weigh more than one penny.

“It will be seen that, beyond the cost of making the subsidiary coins, a considerable seigniorage is charged on both silver and copper, which contributes towards the cost of coining the sovereign, and of replacing the silver coinage which is withdrawn from circulation as soon as any pieces are so worn by use that neither effigy nor legend are distinguishable.”

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

Silver and bronze coin supplied and withdrawn.

COIN SUPPLIED TO AND WITHDRAWN FROM THE AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES BY THE LONDON MINT, 1879 TO 1890.

Colony.	Year.	Value of Coin Supplied.			Value of Worn Silver Coin Withdrawn.
		Silver.	Bronze.	Total.	
		£	£	£	£
Victoria ...	1879	125,500	2,080	127,580	24,230
	1880	80,000	...	80,000	58,039
	1881	74,800	...	74,800	51,519
	1882	55,200	1,005	56,205	34,036
	1883	24,800	600	25,400	10,601
	1884	10,000	2,000	12,000	9,474
	1885	30,000	2,500	32,500	9,483
	1886	21,600	2,500	24,100	9,407
	1887	28,800	1,000	29,800	7,633
	1888	63,200	2,000	65,200	2,980
	1889	16,000	3,500	19,500	6,172
	1890	62,000	...	62,000	3,754

COIN SUPPLIED TO AND WITHDRAWN FROM THE AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES BY THE LONDON MINT, 1879 TO 1890—*continued.*

Colony.	Year.	Value of Coin Supplied.			Value of Worn Silver Coin Withdrawn.
		Silver.	Bronze.	Total.	
		£	£	£	£
New South Wales ...	1879	85,000	1,000	86,000	890
	1880	25,000	...	25,000	16,574
	1881	24,000	500	24,500	9,950
	1882	44,000	2,000	46,000	7,590
	1883	49,000	2,000	51,000	9,207
	1884	40,000	1,000	41,000	4,531
	1885	56,000	3,000	59,000	4,075
	1886	34,000	1,500	35,500	2,380
	1887	2,400	500	2,900	4,042
	1888	...	1,000	1,000	4,850
	1889	9,000	2,000	11,000	3,251
1890	39,000	1,500	40,500	3,200	
Queensland ...	1882	50,000	...	50,000	...
	1885	51,200	520	51,720	...
	1888	57,300	500	57,800	...
South Australia ...	1879	30,000	2,240	32,240	...
	1880	57,000	...	57,000	...
	1882	40,000	...	40,000	...
	1886	4,000	1,100	5,100	...
	1887	...	20	20	...
	1888	...	20	20	...
	1889	20,000	...	20,000	...
1890	...	700	700	...	
Western Australia ...	1879	5,000	400	5,400	...
	1880	...	...	...	1,200
	1881	...	...	...	1,200
	1889	...	...	...	890
Tasmania ...	1882	16,000	...	16,000	...
	1883	14,000	20	14,020	10,045
	1885	...	600	600	...
	1886	2,400	...	2,400	...
New Zealand ...	1879	500	2,500	3,000	...
	1882	73,800	...	73,800	...
	1884	500	1,500	2,000	...
	1886	2,000	500	2,500	...
	1887	5,295	480	5,775	...
	1889	2,200	1,000	3,200	...
	1890	500	100	600	...
Total ...	1879	246,000	8,220	254,220	25,120
	1880	162,000	...	162,000	75,813
	1881	98,800	500	99,300	62,669
	1882	279,000	3,005	282,005	41,626
	1883	87,800	2,620	90,420	29,853
	1884	50,500	4,500	55,000	14,005
	1885	137,200	6,620	143,820	13,558
	1886	64,000	5,600	69,600	11,787
	1887	36,495	2,000	38,495	11,675
	1888	120,500	3,520	124,020	7,830
	1889	47,200	6,500	53,700	10,313
1890	101,500	2,300	103,800	6,954	

753. The value of gold and silver coin issued from the mints of the different countries of the world in the three years ended with 1889 is stated to have been as follows\* :—

## GOLD AND SILVER COINAGE OF THE WORLD, 1887 TO 1889.†

Countries.	1887.		1888.		1889.	
	Gold.	Silver.	Gold.	Silver.	Gold.	Silver.
Australia ...	£ 4,956,800	£ ...	£ 5,017,000	£ ...	£ 5,281,537	£ ...
Europe—						
Austria-Hungary ...	556,198	1,157,582	572,423	1,149,206	686,456	943,387
Belgium ...	...	121,590	...	...	...	...
Denmark ...	...	...	...	13,017	...	5,751
France ...	991,867	358,280	22,281	231,746	702,753	15
Germany ...	5,861,515	149,030	7,154,317	206,068	10,034,634	36,891
Great Britain ...	2,026,770	862,945	2,061,120	767,060	7,604,695	2,255,750
Italy ...	...	1,302,750	97,865	...	...	12,543
Netherlands ...	34,131	15,913	29,802	...	171,655	27,638
Norway ...	...	16,750	...	11,167	...	11,167
Sweden ...	65,590	11,684	...	3,482	225,008	29,636
Portugal ...	56,250	200,025	21,375	319,500	20,025	141,750
Russia ...	4,189,432	323,273	4,262,602	242,318	3,928,145	240,344
Spain ...	...	2,372,795	...	924,334	703,881	982,506
Switzerland ...	...	56,292	3,538	...	80,417	45,235
Turkey ...	...	...	13,750	15,510	...	...
Asia—						
Cochin China ...	...	651,335	...	229,275	...	271,371
Hong Kong ...	...	83,333	...	230,208	...	229,167
India ...	885	9,196,253	22,545	7,561,902	22,985	7,903,712
Japan ...	186,962	2,141,574	202,987	2,129,606	369,794	1,982,575
Siam ...	...	461,680	...	...	...	301,380
Straits Settlements	...	36,875	...	50,833	...	62,500
Africa—						
Congo ...	...	4,021	...	...	...	...
Egypt ...	51,324	449,935	53,574	1,767	...	...
America—						
Argentine Republic	1,911,119	...	1,732,568	...	...	...
Bolivia ...	...	367,386	...	367,386	...	...
Brazil ...	...	...	5,434	184,074	...	...
Canada ...	...	17,708	...	51,495	...	3,455
Chile ...	5,283	69,375	8,785	25,495	...	...
Columbia ...	...	138,139	...	125,092	...	45,028
Costa Rica ...	...	...	...	...	...	53,752
Ecuador ...	...	...	...	98,579	...	...
Hayti ...	...	104,167	...	...	...	...
Honduras ...	...	14,995	...	...	...	...
Mexico ...	83,051	5,592,506	62,600	5,553,951	66,647	5,269,735
Nicaragua ...	...	83,333	...	...	...	...
Peru ...	...	351,042	...	678,750	...	...
United States ...	4,994,246	7,331,475	6,537,668	6,880,335	4,461,236	7,395,142
Venezuela ...	...	...	137,604	56,666	...	...
Total ...	25,971,423	34,044,041	28,019,838	28,108,822	34,359,868	28,250,430

\* Taken, except the figures for Australia, from the report for 1890 of Mr. Edward O. Leech, director of the United States Mint. Mr. Leech gives the amount in dollars, which have been turned into pounds sterling upon the assumption that £1 is equal to 4½ dollars.

† Calendar years, except for India and Mexico.

Gold coined  
in Australia  
and other  
countries.

754. The figures in the table show that the value of the gold coin issued from the Australian Mints in 1889 was less by £4,753,000 than that issued from the Mint of Germany, less by £2,323,000 than that issued from the Mint of Great Britain, but more by £1,353,392 than that issued from the Mint of Russia, more by £820,301 than that issued from the Mint of the United States, and considerably more than that issued from the mints of any of the other countries named.

Exports of  
gold coin.

755. Since the establishment of the Melbourne Mint in 1872, the value of gold coin exported from Victoria (£38,782,879), less the value of that imported (£2,745,111), has amounted to £36,037,768, or less by £7,125,988 than the total value of such coin issued from the Mint. In 1890 the value of the gold coin exported amounted to £2,223,065, or more by £239,152 than in the previous year; and the value of that imported was £36,282, or less by £180,884 than in the previous year. The destination and value of the exports of gold coin in that year were as follow:—

#### EXPORTS OF GOLD COIN, 1890.

Destination.	£
United Kingdom ... ..	1,583,965
South Australia ... ..	212,000
Tasmania ... ..	125,000
New Zealand ... ..	85,000
Hong Kong ... ..	70,205
Bombay ... ..	60,500
Western Australia ... ..	52,000
Ceylon ... ..	30,895
New South Wales ... ..	3,500
Total ... ..	<u>2,223,065</u>

Australian  
coinage at  
Bank of  
England.

756. The returns of the Bank of England show that a considerable quantity of the Australian gold coinage finds its way there. The figures are complete for each year from 1875 to 1890, and in the following table are collated with those showing the amount of coinage struck in the same years at the two Australian Mints, the difference between the amount coined and the amount lodged in the Bank of England being also shown:—

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

Year.	Nominal Value of Australian Gold Coinage.			Nominal Value of Australian Gold Coinage received at Bank of England.	Excess of Australian Gold Coinage over and above that received at the Bank of England.
	Struck at Melbourne Mint.	Struck at Sydney Mint.	Total.		
	£	£	£	£	£
1875 ...	1,888,405	2,122,000	4,010,405	2,726,000	1,284,405
1876 ...	2,124,445	1,643,000	3,767,445	2,075,000	1,692,445
1877 ...	1,527,324	1,590,000	3,117,324	3,748,000	— 630,676*
1878 ...	2,171,457	1,322,000	3,493,457	2,773,000	720,457
1879 ...	2,740,594	1,413,000	4,153,594	1,617,000	2,536,594
1880 ...	3,053,454	1,499,000	4,552,454	2,377,000	2,175,454
1881 ...	2,346,307	1,391,000	3,737,307	3,306,000	431,307
1882 ...	2,519,542	1,324,000	3,843,542	2,203,000	1,640,542
1883 ...	2,050,450	1,218,000	3,268,450	1,518,000	1,750,450
1884 ...	2,966,635	1,595,000	4,561,635	284,040	4,277,595
1885 ...	2,972,644	1,486,000	4,458,644	3,012,000	1,446,644
1886 ...	2,921,135	1,708,000	4,629,135	2,187,000	2,442,135
1887 ...	2,888,431	2,069,000	4,957,431	202,000	4,755,431
1888 ...	2,830,612	2,187,000	5,017,612	3,535,000	1,482,612
1889 ...	2,732,590	3,294,000	6,026,590	3,423,500	2,603,090
1890 ...	2,473,537	2,808,000	5,281,537	1,361,000	3,920,537
Total ...	40,207,562	28,669,000	68,876,562	36,347,540	32,529,022†

757. It will be noticed that in the sixteen years named in the table more than half the gold coin issued from the Australian Mints found its way to the Bank of England; also, that the value of Australian coinage received at the Bank of England exceeded that struck in 1877, but in no other year. The smallest quantity was received in 1887, in which year, in consequence of the large amount of English money which for some time previously had been in course of remittance to Australia for investment, the coined gold was necessarily retained in the colonies for purposes of exchange, and the next smallest amount was in 1884. Next to these, the smallest amount received in any year was that in the year under review.

758. At the end of 1885, Herr Soetbeer, a distinguished German economist, estimated that, in the civilized countries of the world, are circulating gold coins to the value of 669 millions sterling, and silver coins to the value of 393 millions sterling, or 1,062 millions in all. Of

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

† Net figures.

these values, about  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., viz.,  $16\frac{2}{3}$  per cent. of the gold and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the silver, circulated in the United Kingdom.\*

Quantity  
and value  
of gold and  
silver used  
in arts, etc.

759. Herr Soetbeer estimates that the gold used annually in arts and manufactures by the civilized nations of the world amounts to 3,298,590 ozs., and the silver so used to 19,289,200 ozs. The value of the gold at £4 per oz. would be £13,194,360, or at £3 15s. per oz. to £12,369,712; and the value of the silver at 4s. per oz. would be £3,857,840, or at 3s. 6d. per oz. to £3,375,610.†

Silver sold  
from  
Melbourne  
Mint.

760. The silver sold by the Melbourne Mint in 1890 to silversmiths and others was 41,279 ozs. as against 17,955 ozs. in 1889, and 35,951 ozs. in 1888. At the end of 1890, 5,858 ozs. remained in store at the Mint.‡

Number of  
banks.

761. During 1890 there were 16 banks of issue§ in Victoria, possessing therein 545 branches or agencies. There were only 11 banks of issue in the colony both in 1885 and 1880.

Liabilities,  
assets, etc.,  
of banks.

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

#### FINANCIAL POSITION OF BANKS, 1880, 1885, AND 1890.

—	1880.	1885.	1890.
<b>LIABILITIES.</b>			
	£	£	£
Notes in circulation ... ..	1,236,046	1,474,809	1,543,340
Bills in circulation ... ..	50,987	67,968	142,770
Balances due to other banks ...	228,776	381,304	245,909
Deposits   not bearing interest ...	5,735,029	7,765,496	10,814,117
„ bearing interest ... ..	12,237,674	22,828,068	29,477,948
Total ... ..	19,488,512	32,517,645	42,224,084
<b>ASSETS.</b>			
Coined gold, silver, and other metals	3,408,961	3,798,154	6,868,328
Gold and silver in bullion or bars ...	445,674	432,464	314,991
Landed and other property ... ..	865,488	1,125,477	1,824,564
Notes and bills of other banks ...	120,989	164,906	231,382
Balances due from other banks ...	404,690	440,432	421,849
Debts due to the banks¶ ... ..	18,039,020	33,212,694	51,276,841
Total ... ..	23,284,822	39,174,127	60,937,955

\* For a table showing Herr Soetbeer's estimate of the amount of gold and silver coin in different countries, see *Victorian Year-Book* 1889-90, Vol. I., paragraph 833.

† For a table showing Herr Soetbeer's estimate of the gold and silver used in Arts, etc., in different countries, see *Victorian Year-Book* 1889-90, Vol. I., paragraph 836.

‡ See London Mint Report, 1890, page 93.

§ Two of these did not issue notes in 1890.

|| Including Government deposits, the amount of which was not returned in 1880, but in 1885 consisted of £160,284 not bearing interest, and £2,103,151 bearing interest; and in 1890 of £195,639 not bearing interest, and £895,318 bearing interest.

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

FINANCIAL POSITION OF BANKS, 1880, 1885, AND 1890—*continued.*

—	1880.	1885.	1890.
CAPITAL AND PROFITS.	£	£	£
Capital stock paid up ... ..	9,126,250	8,901,250	13,281,790
Average rate per annum of last dividend declared	10·391 per cent.	12·595 per cent.	12·277 per cent.
Amount of last dividend declared ...	474,140	560,663	815,330
Amount of reserved profits after declaring dividend	2,714,730	3,908,245	6,701,281

763. It will be observed that the shareholders' capital (including reserves) amounted in 1890 to nearly 20 millions, having increased by 8,142,000, or by over two-thirds since 1880. The total liabilities show an increase of 23 millions—or 117 per cent.—since 1880, or of nearly 10 millions—or 30 per cent.—since 1885; whilst the total assets increased by 37 $\frac{2}{3}$  millions—or 162 per cent.—since 1880, and by 21 $\frac{3}{4}$  millions—or 60 per cent.—since 1885. This expansion in banking business has been greater than that of the population, which, during the ten years ended with 1890 increased by only 32 per cent. Of the liabilities, the notes and bills in circulation have increased 31 per cent. since 1880, and 9 per cent. since 1885, and this, notwithstanding the former have been restricted by a Government tax and other charges, which are said to average as much as 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.\* The deposits, which now compose 94 per cent. of the total liabilities, have increased by over 22 millions in the last ten, and by nearly 10 millions in the last five years, and now amount to over 40 $\frac{1}{4}$  millions. Under the head of assets it will be noticed that in 1890 the banks had over 7 millions sterling in coin and bullion—which was £650,000 more than in 1889, £580,000 more than in 1888,† and was 3 millions more than in 1885, and nearly twice as much as in 1880; the landed property also represented over 1 $\frac{4}{5}$  million sterling, showing an increase of over £699,000 since 1885, or of £959,000 since 1880; but the most important item of all, the advances (debts due to the banks), which embrace 84 per cent. of the total assets, shows a marked advance in recent years, for since 1880 they have increased by nearly 33 $\frac{1}{4}$  millions, and since 1885 by 18 millions; and thus in 1890 they amounted to 51 $\frac{1}{4}$  millions sterling.‡ It will be observed that, in 1890, the advances exceeded the deposits by close on 11 millions as against an excess of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  millions in 1885 and only £66,000 in 1880. The average rate of

Liabilities,  
assets, etc.,  
compared  
at three  
periods.

\* Including a tax on bank notes of 2 per cent. per annum payable to the general revenue. See *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record* for May, 1884, p. 191: McCarron, Bird & Co., 37 Flinders-lane west.

† See paragraph 767, *post.*

See also paragraph 768, *post.*

the last dividend declared in 1890 (£12 5s. 7d. per £100) was not so high as at the middle period, but higher than at the first period. This dividend, it may be remarked, varied in different banks in 1890 from 6 to 17½ per cent.

Percentage  
of items of  
liabilities  
and assets.

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

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS OF BANKS.—PERCENTAGE OF ITEMS.

—	1880.	1885.	1890.
<b>LIABILITIES.</b>			
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Notes in circulation ... ..	6·34	4·54	3·65
Bills in circulation ... ..	·26	·21	·34
Balance due to other banks ...	1·17	1·17	·58
Deposits not bearing interest ...	29·43	23·88	25·61
„ bearing interest ... ..	62·80	70·20	69·82
Total ... ..	100·00	100·00	100·00
<b>ASSETS.</b>			
Coined gold, silver and other metals	14·64	9·70	11·26
Gold and silver in bullion or bars	1·91	1·10	·52
Landed and other property ...	3·72	2·87	2·99
Notes and bills of other banks ...	·52	·42	·38
Balance due from other banks ...	1·74	1·13	·69
Debts due to the banks ... ..	77·47	84·78	84·16
Total ... ..	100·00	100·00	100·00

Analysis of  
bank  
returns.

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

The liabilities amounted to ...	{	83·70 per cent. of the assets in 1880	}
		83·01 „ „ 1885	
		69·29 „ „ 1890	
Coin and bullion formed ...	{	16·55 per cent. of the assets in 1880	}
		10·80 „ „ 1885	
		11·78 „ „ 1890	
The paid-up capital was equal to	{	39·19 per cent. of the assets in 1880	}
		22·72 „ „ 1885	
		21·79 „ „ 1890	
		46·83 per cent. of the liabilities in 1880	
		27·37 „ „ 1885	
		31·46 „ „ 1890	
Of the moneys deposited ...	{	68·09 per cent. bore interest in 1880	}
		74·62 „ „ 1885	
		73·16 „ „ 1890	

766. It will be observed that in 1890 the liabilities bore a much lower proportion to the assets than in 1885 or 1880, that coin and bullion bore a much smaller proportion to the assets than in 1880 but a larger proportion than in 1885; that the paid-up capital, which was formerly equal to over one-third of the assets, or nearly half of the liabilities, was, in 1890, equal to less than one-fourth of the assets and not quite a third of the liabilities; and that of the moneys deposited a smaller proportion bore interest at the last period than in 1885, but a larger proportion than in 1880.

Former periods and 1890 compared.

767. In 1890 the coin and bullion held by the banks increased by £650,000 sterling as compared with the previous year, and was more by £345,000 than in 1887, when the quantity was the largest ever held previously. The following figures show the value of coin and bullion held by the Victorian banks in the last quarter of 1890, and of each of the previous fourteen years:—

Coin and bullion in banks.

COIN AND BULLION HELD BY BANKS, 1876 TO 1890.

(Average of the last quarter of each year.)

£			£		
1876	...	3,519,377	1884	...	5,014,749
1877	...	2,438,657	1885	...	4,230,618
1878	...	2,387,972	1886	...	4,932,940
1879	...	3,475,345	1887	...	6,838,719
1880	...	3,854,635	1888	...	5,604,097
1881	...	3,008,491	1889	...	6,533,037
1882	...	3,201,733	1890	...	7,183,319
1883	...	3,245,472			

768. In all the years the bank advances exceeded the moneys on deposit. The maximum of excess, viz., all but 11 millions, was reached in 1890; the next largest excess being 10 millions in 1889 and 7½ millions in 1888. In no other previous years except 1877 and 1878 did the excess exceed 4½ millions. The enormous increases in the last three years were brought about by the large speculations chiefly in land, which received a sudden check about the latter part of 1888. The great commercial depression of 1879-80 is indicated by the restriction of advances in 1880, when the excess was as low as £66,000. The chief periods of inflation, as indicated by the advances

Deposits and advances of banks.

during the last 15 years, were the three years 1888 to 1890, as is shown by the figures in the following table:—

DEPOSITS IN AND ADVANCES BY BANKS, 1876 TO 1890.

(Average of the last quarter of each year.)

Year.	Deposits.			Advances.	Excess of Advances over Deposits.
	Government.*	Other.	Total.		
	£	£	£	£	£
1876 ...	1,956,619	12,893,529	14,850,148	19,138,461	4,288,313
1877 ...	1,148,176	15,355,352	16,503,528	22,493,261	5,989,733
1878 ...	422,211	15,684,370	16,106,581	22,430,329	6,323,748
1879 ...	1,120,809	15,305,356	16,426,165	20,717,750	4,291,585
1880 ...	1,953,241	16,019,462	17,972,703	18,039,020	66,317
1881 ...	2,470,880	18,681,030	21,151,910	22,783,420	1,631,510
1882 ...	951,809†	22,673,284	23,625,093	26,562,427	2,937,334
1883 ...	575,058	23,484,111	24,059,169	26,994,137	2,934,968
1884 ...	2,147,035	26,270,009	28,417,044	29,487,969	1,070,925
1885 ...	2,268,435	28,325,129	30,593,564	33,212,694	2,619,130
1886 ...	2,023,687	29,215,785	31,239,472	34,625,144	3,385,672
1887 ...	2,899,185	32,316,362	35,215,547	38,034,062	2,818,515
1888 ...	2,559,702	35,011,136	37,570,838	45,325,559	7,754,721
1889 ...	1,585,834	37,183,102	38,768,936	48,817,112	10,048,176
1890 ...	1,091,007	39,201,058	40,292,065	51,276,841	10,984,776

*Banks and  
Currency  
Statute  
1887.*

769. By *The Banks and Currency Statute 1887* (52 Vict., No. 1002), passed on the 22nd December, 1888, it was provided that bank notes issued in Victoria should be a first charge on the assets in Victoria in the case of insolvency or bankruptcy; that banks issuing notes must have a subscribed capital of at least £250,000, and a paid-up capital of £125,000; and that the banks may advance or lend money on the security of lands, houses, ships, or pledges of merchandise. The provisions of the Banking Statute, were, moreover, extended so as to apply to every foreign banking company, firm, or individual banker trading in Victoria engaged in the ordinary business of banking by receiving deposits and issuing in Victoria or elsewhere bills or notes payable to the bearer at sight or on demand; whilst banks publishing misleading advertisements as to their capital were made liable to certain penalties.

\* The figures in this column, for years prior to 1883, represent the amounts at the end of the year. The figures of 1883 and subsequent years represent, like the other figures in the table, the average amounts during the last quarter of the year.

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

770. Subjoined are the average rates of exchange for bank bills drawn on the following places in 1890, and in the first year of each of the two previous quinquennia. Those upon London are drawn at sixty days' sight, and those upon the neighbouring colonies at sight:—

RATES OF EXCHANGE, 1880, 1885, AND 1890.

Places on which Bills were drawn.	Average Rates of Exchange.		
	1880.	1885.	1890.
London .. ..	$\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. premium	$\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 per cent. premium	$\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. premium
British India ..	$\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. premium and nominal	..	..
New South Wales ..	$\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. premium	$\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium	$\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. premium
Queensland ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 per cent. premium	$\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium	$\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. premium
South Australia ..	$\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium	$\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium	$\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. premium
Tasmania ..	$\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium	$\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium	$\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium
New Zealand ..	$\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium	$\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium	$\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium

771. The average rates of discount on local bills were higher at the last than at the middle period, but not so high as at the first period, as will be seen by the following figures:—

RATES OF DISCOUNT ON LOCAL BILLS, 1880, 1885, AND 1890.

Currency of Bills.	Average Rates of Discount per Annum.		
	1880.	1885.	1890.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Under 65 days ... ..	6 to 8	6 to 7	6 to $7\frac{1}{4}$
65 to 95 „ ... ..	6 to 8	6 to $7\frac{1}{2}$	6 to 8
95 to 125 „ ... ..	7 to 9	7 to 8	7 to 9
Over 125 „ ... ..	7 to $9\frac{1}{2}$	7 to 10	7 to 9

772. For overdrafts, the bank rate was from 8 to 9 per cent. during 1889 and 1890, as compared with 8 per cent. for nearly the whole of the year 1888.

773. According to the *Bankers' Magazine*,\* the average Bank of England rate of discount—by which all financial operations are ruled—was as follows, during the first and second half of each of the eleven years ended with 1890:—

\* Waterlow and Sons, Limited, London Wall, London.

## AVERAGE BANK OF ENGLAND RATE OF DISCOUNT, 1880-1890.

Year.	January to June.	July to December.	Average for the Year.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1880 ... ..	2 19 2	2 11 2	2 15 2
1881 ... ..	2 18 5	4 0 5	3 9 6
1882 ... ..	3 19 0	4 6 3	4 2 8
1883 ... ..	3 14 3	3 8 10	3 11 6
1884 ... ..	2 16 4	3 2 4	2 19 4
1885 ... ..	3 9 7	2 7 1	2 18 2
1886 ... ..	2 12 6	3 9 7	3 1 2
1887 ... ..	3 4 1	3 9 7	3 6 11
1888 ... ..	2 12 0	3 19 6	3 6 4
1889 ... ..	3 1 0	4 3 0	3 12 0
1890 .. ..	4 4 0	4 16 0	4 10 0
Average ...	3 4 7	3 12 2	3 8 5

774. The rate of interest allowed on moneys deposited with the principal Victorian banks for a period of 12 months stood at 5 per cent. during the first seven months of 1890, and at 4 per cent. during the remainder of the year. It may be mentioned that the rate on deposits for 6 months is usually 1 per cent. lower than that for 12 months, and the rate for three months 1 per cent. lower than that for 6 months. No interest is allowed by the leading Banks on deposits at call.\*

775. In 1887 and the first nine months of 1888 extensive speculations took place in land, mining, and other securities, but these, which had no doubt been partly induced by the cheapness of money—only 4 per cent. being allowed by the banks on deposits for 12 months—were suddenly checked in October of the latter year by the rate being raised to 5 per cent. The 4 per cent. rate lasted for 14 months, that being the first period since 1882 in which the rate had been below 5 per cent. For the succeeding twenty months the rate stood firm at 5 per cent.; and then, about the end of July 1890, it was again lowered to 4 per cent., which rate prevailed until the month of March 1891, when it was again raised to 5 per cent. According to the *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record*, the following are the periods at which the changes in the rate of interest allowed by the banks on deposits are reported to have taken place since August, 1880:—

\* One or two of the smaller banks allow from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 per cent. above the rates quoted, and allow also interest on current accounts and deposits at call.

Rates of interest on bank deposits, 1890.

Fluctuation in rate of interest on deposits, 1880 to 1891.

BANK RATE OF INTEREST ON DEPOSITS\* FOR TWELVE MONTHS,  
1880 TO 1891.

Date of Alteration.	Duration of Rate. (Months.)	Rate.
From August, 1880 †	6	4 per cent.
„ February, 1881	9	3 „
„ November, 1881	9	4 „
„ August, 1882 ...	3	5 „
„ November, 1882	1	5½ „
„ December, 1882	19	6 „
„ July 8th, 1884	½	5½ „
„ July 25th, 1884	23	5 „
„ June 22nd, 1886	7	6 „
„ January 17th, 1887	7	5 „
„ August 12th, 1887	14	4 „
„ October 22nd, 1888	20	5 „
„ July 28th, 1890	7½	4 „
„ March 18th, 1891	...	5 „

776. The average annual rates of interest for “deposits at notice” given by the London joint stock banks are thus quoted for the nine years ended with 1890 :—

Rates of interest on bank deposits in London.

INTEREST PER £100 DEPOSITED IN LONDON BANKS.

£ s. d.			£ s. d.		
1882	...	2 14 0	1887	...	1 19 6
1883	...	2 10 10	1888	...	1 18 0
1884	...	1 17 10	1889	...	2 2 0
1885	...	1 17 2	1890	...	2 17 9
1886	...	1 12 11			

777. The following are the proportions which the Government deposits bore to the total amounts on deposit with the Victorian banks during each of the fourteen years ended with 1890. Until 1883, the proportions are based upon the amount of Government deposits at the end of the year, but, on and after 1883, upon the average amount during the last quarter of the year. The small proportion in 1890 will be at once noticed :—

Proportion of Government moneys with the banks.

PROPORTIONS OF GOVERNMENT MONEYS TO ALL BANK DEPOSITS,  
1877 TO 1890. †

Per Cent.			Per Cent.		
1877	...	6·96	1884	...	7·56
1878	...	2·62	1885	...	7·41
1879	...	6·82	1886	...	6·48
1880	...	10·87	1887	...	8·24
1881	...	11·68	1888	...	6·81
1882	...	4·03	1889	...	4·09
1883	...	2·39	1890	...	2·71

\* One or two of the smaller banks allow from ½ to 1 per cent. above the rates quoted.

† Immediately prior to this date, 5 per cent.

‡ For figures on which these proportions were based, see table following paragraph 768 ante.

Banks in  
Austral-  
asian  
colonies,  
1891.

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

### BANKS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1891.

(Compiled from the Averages of the Quarter ended 31st March, 1891.)

Colony.	Number of Banks.	Liabilities.				
		Notes in Circulation.	Bills in Circulation.	Balances due to other Banks.	Deposits. †	Total.
		£	£	£	£	£
Victoria ...	16	1,538,268	139,827	136,242	39,990,424	41,804,761
New South Wales...	17	1,630,261	115,672	124,228	35,414,410	37,284,571
Queensland ...	12	643,816	28,350	98,619	10,135,532	10,906,317
South Australia ...	10	534,939	15,088	76,160	7,723,558	8,349,745
Western Australia...	5	63,640	5,920	8,851	1,075,416	1,153,827
Tasmania ...	5	168,177	92,731	38,361	4,286,024	4,585,293
New Zealand ...	6	929,065	58,355	29,986	12,812,416	13,829,822
Total ...	71	5,508,166	455,943	512,447	111,437,780	117,914,336

  

Colony.	Assets.					Total.
	Coin and Bullion.	Landed Property.	Notes and Bills of other Banks.	Balances due from other Banks.	All Debts due to Banks. †	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Victoria ...	6,805,598	1,854,168	206,842	441,535	51,208,320	60,516,463
New South Wales...	5,776,095	1,698,199	288,969	1,929,273§	42,277,025	51,969,561
Queensland ...	2,404,583	706,941	42,144	261,150	17,433,230	20,848,048
South Australia ...	1,464,549	510,116	37,115	309,743	9,188,748	11,510,271
Western Australia...	329,358	96,024	4,302	2,981	1,513,734	1,946,399
Tasmania ...	643,818	109,762	...	209,193	4,075,651	5,038,424
New Zealand ...	2,483,761	514,991	43,338	149,639	13,911,195	17,102,924
Total ...	19,907,762	5,490,201	622,710	3,303,514	139,607,903	168,932,090

\* *Record* for May, 1891, page 349.

† Including Government deposits, which in Victoria amounted to £970,618, in Queensland to £1,411,965, in South Australia to £677,949, and in New Zealand to £538,383.

‡ Including Government securities, which in New South Wales amounted to £913,177, in Queensland to £30,067, in South Australia to £240,700, in Western Australia to £7,500, in Tasmania to £156,434, and in New Zealand to £100,801. If any Government securities were held by the Victorian banks, they were not distinguished in the returns.

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

779. It will be noticed that both the bank liabilities and the bank assets are smaller in New South Wales than in Victoria, notwithstanding the fact that in New South Wales the bank assets include the large amount of £1,929,273 as due from other banks, which, in addition to sums due from independent institutions, is said to embrace capital lent to their own branches outside the colony, the latter being an item which is not considered as forming part of the assets of the banks in the other colonies.

Liabilities and assets in Victoria and New South Wales compared.

780. In Tasmania the assets of the banks only slightly exceed the liabilities, but in all the other colonies they are considerably in excess. In Victoria the liabilities amount to 69 per cent. of the assets, which is a higher proportion than obtains in Queensland or Western Australia, a slightly lower one than in New South Wales or South Australia, and a much lower one than in New Zealand or Tasmania. The following are the positions of the colonies in respect to the proportion the bank liabilities bear to the bank assets, the colony in which the former are least in proportion to the latter being placed first and the rest in succession, the figures showing the percentage of liabilities to assets being placed against each colony :—

Proportion of liabilities to assets in Australasian banks

PROPORTION OF LIABILITIES TO ASSETS OF BANKS OF AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 31ST MARCH, 1891.

	Per Cent.		Per Cent.
1. Queensland ...	52·30	5. South Australia ...	72·54
2. Western Australia ...	59·30	6. New Zealand ...	80·89
3. Victoria ...	69·07	7. Tasmania ...	91·01
4. New South Wales ...	71·71		

781. Coin and bullion in 1891 bore a higher proportion to the total assets of the banks in Victoria than they did to those in New South Wales, but a lower proportion than that borne in all the other colonies. The following is the order of the colonies in reference to this matter about the beginning of 1891 :—

Proportion of specie to assets of Australasian banks.

PROPORTION OF COIN AND BULLION TO ASSETS OF BANKS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 31ST MARCH, 1891.

	Per Cent.		Per Cent.
1. Western Australia ...	16·92	5. Queensland ...	11·53
2. New Zealand ...	14·53	6. Victoria ...	11·25
3. Tasmania ...	12·77	7. New South Wales ...	11·11
4. South Australia ...	12·73		

782. In his evidence before a Royal Commission on banking laws appointed in February, 1887,\* Mr. J. F. McMullen, a Victorian

Proportion of specie to liabilities of Australasian banks.

\* See *Victorian Year-Book*, 1886-7, page 500; also Parliamentary Paper No. 65, Session 1887

banker of great experience, and at the time general manager of the Union Bank of Australasia, gave it as his opinion that every bank ought to possess a metallic reserve equal to three shillings in the pound (15 per cent.) of its liabilities. By the following figures it is shown that on the 31st March, 1891, this proportion was exceeded in all the Australasian colonies, except Tasmania, where it was 1 per cent. lower than the proportion referred to; also that the average for the whole of Australasia was  $16\frac{9}{10}$  per cent., or rather over 3s. 4½d. in the pound:—

PROPORTION OF COIN AND BULLION TO LIABILITIES OF BANKS  
IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 31ST MARCH, 1891.

	Per Cent.		Per Cent.
1. Western Australia ...	28·54	6. New South Wales ...	15·50
2. Queensland ...	22·05	7. Tasmania ...	14·04
3. New Zealand ...	17·92		—
4. South Australia ...	17·55	Australasia ...	16·89
5. Victoria ...	16·29		—

Austral-  
asian  
banks' de-  
posits not  
bearing and  
bearing  
interest.

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

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

(Average during the Quarter ended 31st March, 1891.)

Colony.	Amount of Deposits. †		Proportion of Deposits.	
	Not Bearing Interest.	Bearing Interest.	Not Bearing Interest.	Bearing Interest.
	£	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Victoria ...	11,345,047	28,645,377	28·37	71·63
New South Wales ...	10,413,869	25,000,541	29·41	70·59
Queensland ...	3,356,244	6,779,288	33·12	66·88
South Australia ...	2,168,565	5,554,993	28·07	71·93
Western Australia ...	503,002	572,414	46·77	53·23
New Zealand ...	3,687,880	9,124,536	28·78	71·22

Proportion  
of interest  
bearing de-  
posits in  
Austral-  
asian banks.

784. It will be seen that between two-thirds and three-fourths of the bank deposits are interest-bearing in all the colonies except Western Australia, in which not much more than half of the deposits bear interest.

\* Exclusive of Tasmania.

† Including Government deposits, amounting in Victoria to £970,613, of which £193,625 did not bear, and £776,993 bore, interest; in Queensland to £1,411,965, all bearing interest; in South Australia to £677,949, of which £100,795 did not bear, and £577,154 bore, interest; and in New Zealand to £538,383, all of which bore interest.

785. It is stated on the authority of the *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record*\* that if the deposits held in the colonies, as shown by the quarterly average statements of the banks, be deducted from the total deposits shown in the bank balance sheets, the difference approximately indicates the amount received from British depositors. If this be correct, the British deposits in Australasian banks amounted to nearly 36 millions in March, 1890, and to nearly 40 millions in March, 1891, the increase in twelve months being close on 4 millions sterling. This is made plain by the following figures:—

BRITISH DEPOSITS IN AUSTRALASIAN BANKS, 1890 AND 1891.

Deposits in Australasian Banks.	On the 31st March—	
	1890.	1891.
	£	£
As per Balance Sheets ... ..	142,186,507	150,459,324
„ Quarterly Statements ... ..	106,372,525	110,677,864
Difference, being British Deposits... ..	35,813,982	39,781,460

786. The following particulars taken from the *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record*† show the capital and profits of the banks of issue carrying on business in the Australasian colonies, according to the sworn averages of the quarter ended 31st December of the last three years:—

CAPITAL AND PROFITS OF BANKS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES,  
1888 TO 1890.

—	1888.	1889.	1890.
	£	£	£
Capital paid up ... ..	16,609,852	17,497,739	17,518,750
Amount of reserved profits at declaration of dividend	7,913,731	8,427,505	9,052,831
Capital and reserved profits ...	24,523,583	25,925,244	26,571,581
Amount of last dividend declared (half-year)	934,323	1,018,655	1,041,318
Average per cent. per annum of dividend on paid-up capital	11.25	11.64	11.89

NOTE.—There were 29 banks in each of the years.

787. The following is a summary of figures derived from the last issued balance sheets of the banks in Australasia. The balance sheets are of different dates, the latest being the 31st March, 1891:—

\* *Record* for June, 1891, page 403.

† *Record* for March, 1891, page 161

## COMBINED BALANCE SHEET OF AUSTRALASIAN BANKS, 1891.

## LIABILITIES.

To Shareholders—			
Paid-up Capital	...	£17,815,036	0 0
Reserve and Undivided Profit	...	9,189,806	0 0
Dividend	...	1,040,119	0 0
			£28,044,961 0 0
To the Public—			
Notes in circulation	...	£5,747,761	0 0
Bills payable and in circulation	...	16,994,183	0 0
Deposits, Balances to other Banks, etc.	...	152,155,644	0 0
			174,897,588 0 0
			£202,942,549 0 0

## ASSETS.

Cash and Bullion, Cash at Bankers, Money at Call and at Short Notice, and Notes of other Banks			
...	...	£28,507,810	0 0
Government and other Public Securities	...	8,562,463	0 0
Premises, Furniture, etc.	...	5,831,003	0 0
Bills, receivable, discounted, or <i>in transitu</i> , and other debts due	...	160,041,273	0 0
			£202,942,549 0 0

Average Dividend, £11 13s. 4d. per cent. per annum.

Note circulation in Australasian colonies.

788. In the quarter ended 31st March, 1891, the circulation of bank notes ranged from £1 13s. 5d. in South Australia to £1 2s. 11d. per head in Tasmania; the proportion in Victoria being £1 7s., and in the whole of Australasia £1 8s. 11d. The following are the figures for the different colonies:—

## BANK NOTE CIRCULATION IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1891.

Colony.	Enumerated Population on 5th April, 1891.*	Bank Note Circulation (First Quarter of 1891).	
		Total.	Per Head of Population.
		£	£ s. d.
South Australia	320,006	534,939	1 13 5
Queensland	393,938	643,816	1 12 8
New Zealand	626,830	929,065	1 9 8
New South Wales	1,134,207	1,630,261	1 8 9
Victoria	1,140,405	1,538,268	1 7 0
Western Australia	49,782	63,640	1 5 7
Tasmania	146,667	168,177	1 2 11
Total	3,811,835	5,508,166	1 8 11

Note circulation in the United Kingdom.

789. At the end of 1890 the average note circulation was only 18s. 7d. per head in England and Wales, whereas it was as high as

\* Subject to future revision in some cases.

£1 12s. 7d. in Scotland, and £1 11s. 11d. in Ireland. In the United Kingdom, as a whole, the paper currency was close on 41 millions sterling, the proportion per head being £1 1s. 9d. It will be remembered that whilst the lowest denomination of bank notes in England and Wales is five pounds, in Scotland and Ireland, as in the Australasian colonies, it is one pound :—

## BANK NOTE CIRCULATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1890.

Division.	Estimated Population. (000's omitted.)	Bank Note Circulation, December, 1890.	
		Total. (000's omitted.)	Per Head of Population.
England and Wales ...	29,000,	£ 26,985	£ s. d. 0 18 7
Scotland... ..	4,033,	6,562,	1 12 7
Ireland ... ..	4,670,	7,450,	1 11 11
United Kingdom ...	37,703,	40,997,	1 1 9

790. Two kinds of savings banks exist in Victoria, the General Savings Banks, which were first established in 1842, and the Post Office Savings Banks, which were established in 1865. The following figures show the number of institutions, the number of depositors having accounts at the last dates of balancing in 1890, and the total and average amount of depositors' balances at such dates\* :—

## SAVINGS BANKS, 1890.

Description of Institution.	Number of Savings Banks.	Number of Depositors.	Amount remaining on Deposit.	
			Total.	Average to each Depositor.
Post Office Savings Banks ...	343	104,320	£ 1,996,093	£ s. d. 19 2 8
General Savings Banks ...	17	177,189	3,266,012	18 8 8
Total ... ..	360	281,509	5,262,105	18 13 10

791. In the nineteen years 1872 to 1890, the number of depositors in savings banks has increased more than fourfold. For several years prior to 1880 the amount standing to the credit of the depositors had been tolerably uniform, but since then a steady increase has taken place, and by 1890 it had risen to over  $5\frac{1}{4}$  millions sterling, or £240,000 more than in the previous year, and over three times the amount in

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

1880—ten years previously. The average amount to each depositor was highest in 1872 and lowest in 1887, the proportion of the latter being 16s. less than in the year under review. The following is a statement of the number of depositors and the amount remaining on deposit during the period referred to :—

## SAVINGS BANKS, 1872 TO 1890.

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Amount remaining on Deposit.	
		Total.	Average to each Depositor.
		£	£ s. d.
1872 ... ..	52,749	1,405,738	26 13 0
1873 ... ..	58,547	1,498,618	25 11 11
1874 ... ..	64,014	1,617,301	25 5 3
1875 ... ..	65,837	1,469,849	22 6 6
1876 ... ..	69,027	1,507,235	21 16 9
1877 ... ..	73,245	1,575,305	21 10 2
1878 ... ..	76,696	1,510,273	19 13 7
1879 ... ..	82,941	1,520,296	18 6 7
1880 ... ..	92,115	1,661,409	18 0 9
1881 ... ..	107,282	2,569,438	23 19 0
1882 ... ..	122,584	3,121,246	25 9 3
1883 ... ..	136,087	2,818,122	20 14 2
1884 ... ..	152,342	2,981,083	19 11 4
1885 ... ..	170,014	3,337,018	19 12 7
1886 ... ..	189,359	3,589,916	18 19 2
1887 ... ..	206,596	3,696,699	17 17 10
1888 ... ..	237,433	4,669,541	19 13 4
1889 ... ..	261,067	5,021,522	19 4 8
1890 ... ..	281,509	5,262,105	18 13 10

Rate of interest in savings banks.

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

Male and female depositors.

793. In the General Savings Banks, the male depositors in 1890 numbered 98,807, and the female depositors 78,382, or about 79 of the latter to 100 of the former. In the general population the proportion of females per 100 males is 90, so that relatively to their respective numbers females do not appear to use the savings banks as much as males.

Small depositors.

794. Nearly four-fifths of the depositors in savings banks have less than £20 to their credit, and over a tenth have between £20 and £50.

795. The depositors and deposits in the savings banks of Melbourne and suburbs amount to over three-fifths of the whole. Savings banks in Melbourne.

796. The following is a statement of the number of depositors and their proportion to population, also the total and average amount standing to their credit in the savings banks of the various Australasian colonies at the end of 1889:— Savings banks in Australasian colonies.

**SAVINGS BANKS IN AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES, 1889.\***  
(Including both General and Post Office Savings Banks.)

Colony.	Number of Depositors.		Amount remaining on Deposit.	
	Total.	Per 100 of Population.	Total.	Average to each Depositor.
			£	£ s. d.
Victoria † ...	268,462	24·32	4,971,933	18 10 5
New South Wales ...	134,914	12·02	4,280,083	31 14 6
Queensland ...	43,875	10·79	1,597,784	36 8 4
South Australia ...	65,815	20·28	1,905,632	28 19 1
Western Australia ‡	2,965	6·78	31,061	10 9 6
Tasmania ...	24,397	16·11	497,492	20 7 10
New Zealand... ..	110,566	17·83	2,858,644	25 17 1
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>650,994</b>	<b>17·19</b>	<b>16,142,629</b>	<b>24 15 11</b>

797. In Victoria the rate of interest paid in both descriptions of savings banks is 4 per cent., as already stated, but the rate paid in the other Australasian colonies is often higher than in Victoria. Thus, in New South Wales, whilst the rate in the Post Office Savings Banks is 4 per cent., as in Victoria, that in the General Savings Banks is 5 per cent. for accounts remaining open at end of year, only 4 per cent., however, being allowed on closed accounts; in Queensland the rate is 5 per cent. on deposits below £100; in South Australia it is 4½ per cent.; in Tasmania the rates are from 5 per cent. on sums up to £150 in the General, and 3½ per cent. in the Post Office Savings Banks; and in New Zealand they are 4½ and 4 per cent. respectively. On the other hand, the rate is only 3¾ per cent. in Western Australia. Rate of interest in Australasian savings banks.

798. In proportion to population, the number of depositors is greatest in Victoria, and next in South Australia. The following is the order of the colonies in this respect:— Order of colonies in respect to proportion of depositors to population.

\* For later figures see *Australasian Statistics* for 1890, in Appendix to the second volume.

† These figures relate to the 31st December, both for General and Post Office Savings Banks, and therefore differ slightly from the figures given in paragraph 790 *ante*.

‡ The number of depositors differs from that shown in the *Australasian Statistics* 1889, an error having been discovered.

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

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

Order of colonies in respect to average amount of deposits.

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

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

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

Savings banks of United Kingdom.

800. The amount lying to the credit of depositors in the savings banks of the United Kingdom in August, 1890, was £110,408,894, of which £43,557,904 was in ordinary savings banks, and £66,850,990 in Post Office Savings Banks. The present Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Right Honorable G. J. Goschen, in an address delivered by him at a meeting of the Royal Statistical Society of London, stated that the number of depositors in the savings banks at the end of 1886 was 5,322,225, and the amount on deposit £97,660,000, or an average of £18 7s. per depositor, or £2 12s. 9d. per head of population.

Savings banks of France.

801. A return issued by the French Minister of Commerce shows that, at the end of 1884, there were 4,704,452 depositors in French savings banks, who had at their credit £81,011,200. In the previous twelve months the depositors had increased by 169,021, and the amount to the credit of depositors by £8,367,700; and in the last five years the former increased by 25 per cent., and the latter more than doubled.

Life assurance.

802. The substance of the following table, which embodies the returns for 1889 and 1890 of the Life Assurance Companies whose head offices are in the Australasian colonies, has been taken from the *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record*.\* It contains a summary

\* *Record* for January, 1891, page 53.

of the results in 1889 of twelve, and in 1890 of eleven, offices, one of which is the Government Life Insurance Department of New Zealand, the remainder being proprietary or mutual companies. It should be mentioned that there are many English, and three large American, offices also doing business in Australasia, but no returns are available of the local business done by these institutions:—

LIFE ASSURANCE RETURNS OF AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES,  
1889 AND 1890.

Particulars.	1889. 12 offices.	1890. 11 offices.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-)	
			Numerical.	Centesimal.
New Policies during the Year*—				
Assurances and endowments No.	30,497	32,011	+ 1,514	+ 4·97
„ amount assured £	8,690,542	9,201,925	+ 511,383	+ 5·88
Annuities† ... .. No.	48	39	- 9	- 18·75
„ amount per annum† £	4,131	2,127	- 2,004	- 48·51
Premiums, single ... £	37,802	40,507	+ 2,705	+ 7·16
„ annual ... £	277,457	296,613	+ 19,156	+ 6·90
Funds at beginning of the year £	12,505,500	13,892,592	+ 1,387,092	+ 11·09
Receipts—				
New premiums ... .. £	257,531	279,624	+ 22,093	+ 8·58
Renewal „ ... .. £	1,891,554	1,907,168	+ 15,614	+ ·82
Consideration for annuities £	29,284	18,183	- 11,101	- 37·90
Interest ... .. £	786,514	887,730	+ 101,216	+ 12·86
Other ... .. £	2,035	2,041	+ 6	+ ·30
Disbursements—				
Claims (with bonus additions) and endowments matured				
Surrenders‡ ... .. £	235,853	246,041	+ 10,188	+ 4·32
Annuities ... .. £	21,706	23,027	+ 1,321	+ 6·08
Bonuses and dividends ... £	46,647	51,315	+ 4,668	+ 10·00
Expenses ... .. £	504,490	494,838	- 9,652	- 1·91
Funds at the end of the year £	13,907,432	15,330,854	+ 1,423,422	+ 10·23

803. The total receipts of these offices amounted to £2,966,918 in 1889, and to £3,094,746 in 1890; and the total disbursements to £1,564,985 and £1,656,483 respectively. The balance in favour of receipts thus amounted to £1,401,933 in the former, and £1,438,263 in the latter, year. Receipts and disbursements.

804. The working expenses of the same offices amounted to 17 per cent. in 1889, and to 16 per cent. in 1890, of the total receipts. In the former year they amounted to 23½ per cent., and in the latter to 22 per cent., of the premium income. Working expenses.

\* Mr. T. S. Robertson estimated the whole number of policies in force in Australian offices in 1884 at 150,000, assuring £12,000,000.—See his paper read before the Insurance Institute of Victoria, 10th September, 1884.

† Information incomplete.

‡ Information incomplete, but including surrenders, advances reduced by surrender, and endowment premiums returned.

Rate of  
interest  
realised.

805. The average rate of interest realized in 1890 on the total funds standing to the credit of these institutions was 5·81 per cent., or slightly below the average of the previous nine years, which was 6 per cent. The rates in those years were as follow :—

RATES OF INTEREST REALIZED ON FUNDS OF AUSTRALASIAN LIFE ASSURANCE OFFICES.

	Per Cent.		Per Cent.
1881 ...	6·29	1886 ...	6·06
1882 ...	6·07	1887 ...	5·98
1883 ...	5·61	1888 ...	5·91
1884 ...	6·10	1889 ...	5·95
1885 ...	6·00	1890 ...	5·81

Liabilities  
and assets  
of life  
offices.

806. The following statement of the liabilities and assets of the life assurance offices in the last two years has been taken from the same publication\* :—

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS OF AUSTRALASIAN LIFE ASSURANCE OFFICES, 1889 AND 1890.

	1889.	1890.	Increase.†
	£	£	£
<b>LIABILITIES.</b>			
Life, endowment, and annuity funds ...	13,856,892	15,305,825	1,448,933
Investment fluctuation funds ...	55,152	55,048	-104
Paid-up capital ...	90,000	90,000	...
Reserve funds ...	171,000	201,000	30,000
Deposits and interest ...	53,150	27,548	-25,602
Profit and loss balances ...	211,616	149,449	-62,167
Outstanding claims, annuities, and surrenders	179,439	185,510	6,071
Outstanding accounts ...	125,691	64,756	-60,935
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>14,742,940</b>	<b>16,079,136</b>	<b>1,336,196</b>
<b>ASSETS.</b>			
Mortgages ...	7,756,329	9,007,310	1,250,981
Loans on policies and on personal security ...	2,396,281	2,707,279	310,998
Government securities ...	1,249,599	1,283,458	33,859
Debentures ...			
Sbaires ...	123,478	124,909	1,431
Cash on deposit ...	1,023,093	723,198	-299,895
Cash on hand and on current account ...			
Freehold and leasehold property ...	1,696,014	1,717,167	21,153
Agents' balances ...	18,449	18,690	241
Outstanding premiums ...	248,103	253,824	5,721
Outstanding and accrued interest ...	134,969	147,590	12,621
Sundries ...	96,625	95,711	-914
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>14,742,940</b>	<b>16,079,136</b>	<b>1,336,196</b>

\* *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record* for January, 1891, page 53.

† When the minus sign (-) occurs a decrease has taken place.

807. The following is a statement of the capital and reserves of 30 fire and marine insurance companies doing business in Australasia in 1890 \*:—

Capital of fire and marine insurance companies.

AUSTRALASIAN FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANIES.—CAPITAL AND RESERVES, 1890.

Colony in which Head Office is situated.	Number of Companies.	Paid-up Capital.	Reserve Funds and Unappropriated Profits.	Total Paid-up Capital and Reserves.
		£	£	£
Victoria ... ..	10	307,080	539,370	846,450
New South Wales ... ..	9	189,703	206,532	396,235
South Australia ... ..	2	112,500	168,019	280,519
Queensland ... ..	1	7,306	715	8,021
Tasmania ... ..	3	101,340	15,433	116,773
New Zealand ... ..	5	602,293	563,962	1,166,255
Total ... ..	30	1,320,222	1,494,031	2,814,253

808. It will be noticed that the amount of capital and reserves of the five New Zealand companies is nearly equal to that of the 19 companies having their head offices in Victoria and New South Wales.

Large proportion of capital in New Zealand companies.

809. The profits, losses, dividends, etc., of the same companies in 1890, of 32 companies in 1889, and of 33 companies in 1888, were as follow:—

Profits of fire and marine insurance companies.

PROFITS, ETC., OF AUSTRALASIAN FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANIES, 1888 TO 1890.

Profits, Losses, Dividends, etc.	1888. (33 Companies.)	1889. (32 Companies.)	1890. (30 Companies.)
	£	£	£
Premiums, less reassurances and returns ... ..	1,474,821	1,527,674	1,414,567
Interest, rents, and fees ... ..	160,928	154,520	144,141
Total ... ..	1,635,749	1,682,194	1,558,708
Losses ... ..	966,895	1,075,940	985,038
Expenses and commission ... ..	415,150	424,125	405,859
Total ... ..	1,382,045	1,500,065	1,390,897
Net profits ... ..	253,704	182,129	167,811
Dividends paid ... ..	213,706	201,071	180,219
Proportion of losses and expenses to premium income ... ..	Per cent. 93·71	Per cent. 98·19	Per cent. 93·33

\* The figures relating to these companies have been rearranged from figure statements contained in tables at page 455 of the *Insurance and Banking Record* for June, 1891.

Dividends compared with profits of fire and marine companies.

810. The net profits exceeded the dividends paid by £39,998 in 1888; but the dividends paid exceeded the net profits by £18,942 in 1889, and by £12,408 in 1890. The losses and expenses were less than the premium income by 6·29 per cent. in 1888, by 1·81 per cent. in 1889, and by 1·67 in 1890.

Fire and marine business in certain companies.

811. In the returns of 22 of these companies in 1888, of 20 in 1889, and of 17 in 1890, the premiums and losses on fire business were distinguished from those on marine business, with the following result:—

PREMIUMS, LOSSES, ETC., OF CERTAIN AUSTRALASIAN FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANIES, 1888 TO 1890.

Premiums, Losses, etc.	1888 (22 Companies.)	1889 (20 Companies.)	1890 (17 Companies.)
FIRE ASSURANCE.			
Premiums, less reassurances and returns	£ 301,737	£ 279,300	£ 270,846
Losses ... ..	148,098	173,558	141,597
Premiums in excess of losses ... ..	153,639	105,742	129,249
MARINE ASSURANCE.			
Premiums, less reassurances and returns	301,531	251,316	202,907
Losses ... ..	227,068	197,228	168,384
Premiums in excess of losses ... ..	74,463	54,088	34,523
FIRE AND MARINE ASSURANCE.			
Premiums in excess of losses (as above)	228,102	159,830	163,772
Interest, rents and fees ... ..	106,586	98,055	91,416
Expenses and commission ... ..	334,688 169,894	257,885 155,989	255,188 146,631
Net profits ... ..	164,794	101,896	108,557

Life assurance in the United Kingdom.

812. In 1888 the total income of the ordinary life assurance companies doing business in the United Kingdom (exclusive of American companies) amounted to £21,567,000, of which £6,326,000 was from interest, £13,928,000 from premiums, and £1,108,000 from sales of annuities; and that their working expenses amounted to £2,134,000, or nearly 10 per cent. of the receipts. The claims satisfied during the year amounted to £11,002,000, and £743,000 was paid to annuitants; the amount paid as cash bonuses or allowed in reduction of premiums was £1,063,000; for surrender, £889,000; and as dividends, etc., to shareholders, £602,000.

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

Price of debentures and stock in Melbourne.

PRICE OF VICTORIAN DEBENTURES AND STOCK IN MELBOURNE, 1890 AND 1891.

Interest.		Outstanding Debt.		Closing Price per £100.			
Rate per annum.	When Payable.	Amount.	When due.	January.	April.	July.	October.
1890.							
5	Jan. 1 and July 1	312,900	1894	102-103	102-103	102-103	102-103
4	April 1 and Oct. 1	†966,893	‡1897	100	100	100	100
Total ...		1,279,793					
1891.							
5	Jan. 1 and July 1	312,900	1894	102-103	102-103	102-103	102-103
4	April 1 and Oct. 1	1,049,465†	‡1897	100	100	100	100
Total ...		1,362,365					

NOTE.—See note to next table. The debentures of the late Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Railway Company are not included.

814. According to *Westgarth's Circular*, the following are the prices at four periods of 1890, and three periods of 1891, of debentures payable in London§ ; the lower price indicates that at or about which sales might be effected, and the higher that at which purchases might be made :—

Price of debentures in London.

PRICE OF VICTORIAN DEBENTURES IN LONDON, 1890 AND 1891.

Interest.		Outstanding Debentures and Stock.		Price per £100 Bond.			
Rate per annum	When payable.	Amount.	When due.	January.	April.	July.	October.
1890.							
6	Jan. 1 & July 1	850,000	1891	101-103	101-103	100½	101-103
5	" "	2,107,000	1894	104-106	104-106	103¼-103¾	103-105
4	" "	4,500,000	1899-1901	103-105	104-106	101½-102¼	101-103
4½	" "	5,000,000	1904	109-111	111-113	108	106-109
4	" "	4,000,000	1907	107-109	108-110	106½	105-107
4	April 1 & Oct. 1	2,000,000	1908	110-111	108-110	} 105½-108	105-107
4	" "	4,000,000	1913	110-111	108-110		105-107
4	" "	4,000,000	1919	110-112	108-109		105-108
4	Jan. 1 & July 1	6,000,000	1920	111½-111¾	110¾-111¼	108-108½	107-109
3½	" "	7,000,000	1923	102-103	101½-102	97½-99¾	97½-98½
Total ...		39,457,000					

\* See tables following paragraphs 230 and 252 ante.

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

‡ Or at any time thereafter at option of Government.

§ See also tables following paragraphs 230, 253, and 258 ante.

|| The first four amounts in this column are debentures, and the subsequent amounts are stock, or debentures inscribable as stock.

PRICE OF VICTORIAN DEBENTURES IN LONDON, 1890 AND 1891—  
*continued.*

Interest.		Outstanding Debentures and Stock.		Price per £100 Bond.			
Rate per annum	When payable.	Amount.*	When due.	January.	April.	July.	October.
	1891.						
5	Jan. 1 & July 1	2,107,000	1894	103-105	103-105	102-104	...
4	" "	4,500,000	1899-1901	104-106	101-103	102-104	...
4½	" "	5,000,000	1904	108-110	107-109	106-108	...
4	" "	4,000,000	1907	105-107	106-108	105-106	...
4	April 1 & Oct. 1	2,000,000	1908	106-109	103-106	104-106	...
4	" "	4,000,000	1913	106-109	107-109	...	...
4	" "	4,000,000	1919	106-107	103-105	...	...
4	Jan. 1 & July 1	6,000,000	1920	108¼-108¾	106½-107	105-106	...
3½	" "	7,000,000	1923-4	99⅝-99⅞	96¼-97¼	96-97	...
	Total ...	38,607,000					

NOTE.—When the figures appear in a column and line wherein the month of the quotation and one of the months in which the interest is payable correspond, the price is exclusive of interest; in other cases the deduction of about a quarter's interest will give the net price.

Prices of  
Austral-  
asian stock  
in London.

815. Evidence of the improved credit of the Australasian colonies is to be found in the circumstance, not only that their stocks have risen in price in the London market, but all of them, except Western Australia, have succeeded in floating loans at as low a rate as 3½ per cent. The sudden rise in Australian Stocks in 1888 and 1889, together with the causes which led up to it, was described in the last edition of this work.† Since 1889, when the prices were at a maximum, there has, however, since been a falling off, although the prices are still invariably higher than they were prior to 1888. Taking the mean of the highest and lowest rates quoted in the official list, the price of the Victorian 4 per cents. fell from 112 in 1889 to 109¼ in 1890, and that of New South Wales from 115¾ to 114; whilst the 3½ per cents. of the same colonies fell from 103¾ to 100, and from 103½ to 102 respectively. In 1891, moreover, a still further depreciation took place in these as well as in all the other Australasian Stocks. This recent fall in the prices of Australian securities is probably only of a temporary character, being due, as already pointed out,‡ not to any loss of confidence in the high character entertained of these securities, but to a severe crisis in London, consequent on heavy losses in South American securities. The following are the highest and lowest prices for the principal stocks of the Australasian colonies in the years 1889 and 1890, and in 1891 up to the latest date:—

\* See footnote (ll) on page 461.

† See *Victorian Year-Book*, 1889-90, Vol. I., paragraph 891. See also paragraph 248 *ante*.

‡ See paragraph 248 *ante*.

PRICES OF STOCK OF THE AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES IN LONDON, 1889 TO 1891.

Colony.	Stock.*		Prices.†						
	Year when principal is due.	Interest payable on the first day of—	1889.		1890.		1891 (to 25th July).		Latest (week ended 25th July, 1891).
			Highest	Lowest.	Highest	Lowest.	Highest	Lowest.	
4 per cents.									
Victoria ...	1920	Jan. & July.	113 $\frac{3}{4}$	110 $\frac{1}{2}$	112 $\frac{1}{4}$	106 $\frac{1}{4}$	109 $\frac{1}{8}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
New South Wales	1933	" "	118 $\frac{3}{4}$	113	116	112	114 $\frac{1}{2}$	108	109
Queensland ...	1915-24	" "	114	109 $\frac{1}{4}$	112	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	102	105 $\frac{5}{8}$
South Australia...	1917-36	April & Oct.	111	107 $\frac{7}{8}$	110 $\frac{1}{4}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{4}$	102 $\frac{3}{4}$	105 $\frac{7}{8}$
Western Australia	1934	Jan. & July.	112 $\frac{1}{8}$	109	110 $\frac{1}{8}$	106	108 $\frac{3}{4}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{5}{8}$
Tasmania ...	1911	" "	108	102 $\frac{3}{4}$	105	101	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{8}$	102 $\frac{1}{4}$
New Zealand ...	1929	May & Nov.	109 $\frac{1}{4}$	99 $\frac{5}{8}$	109 $\frac{1}{8}$	102 $\frac{1}{4}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	104 $\frac{7}{8}$
3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cents.									
Victoria ...	1923	Jan. & July.	105	102 $\frac{3}{8}$	103 $\frac{1}{8}$	97	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	95	96 $\frac{1}{4}$
New South Wales	1924	April & Oct.	106	101 $\frac{1}{4}$	105	99 $\frac{1}{4}$	103 $\frac{7}{8}$	98	101 $\frac{1}{8}$
Queensland ...	1924	Jan. & July.	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	101 $\frac{3}{4}$	96 $\frac{3}{4}$	98 $\frac{3}{4}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
South Australia...	1939	" "	102 $\frac{5}{8}$	99 $\frac{3}{4}$	101 $\frac{7}{8}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	95	96 $\frac{3}{4}$
Tasmania ...	† 1920-40	" "	101	98 $\frac{3}{8}$	100 $\frac{3}{8}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{3}{4}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{4}$
New Zealand ...	1940	" "	...	...	98 $\frac{3}{8}$	93 $\frac{1}{4}$	98 $\frac{1}{4}$	92 $\frac{1}{4}$	94

816. The following figures, showing the highest and lowest prices quoted in London of New South Wales and New Zealand Government stocks during 1890 and previous years, which have been taken from *Burdett's Official Intelligence* for 1891, will give some idea of the increased value of colonial Government securities over a series of years. Strange to say, the prices of Victorian stocks were not given :—

Prices of New South Wales and New Zealand stocks.

PRICES IN LONDON OF 4 PER CENT. GOVERNMENT STOCKS OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND NEW ZEALAND.

Year.	New South Wales. (Prices per £100.)		New Zealand. (Prices per £100.)	
	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.
1877 ...	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...
1878 ...	103 $\frac{1}{4}$	95 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...
1879 ...	101 $\frac{3}{4}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...
1880 ...	105 $\frac{1}{8}$	95 $\frac{3}{8}$	...	...
1881 ...	105 $\frac{3}{4}$	99 $\frac{3}{4}$	99	88 $\frac{5}{8}$
1882 ...	105 $\frac{1}{4}$	99 $\frac{1}{8}$	101 $\frac{3}{4}$	94
1883 ...	104	99 $\frac{1}{4}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
1884 ...	105 $\frac{3}{8}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	99
1885 ...	106 $\frac{5}{8}$	99	101	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
1886 ...	107	102	103 $\frac{3}{8}$	95 $\frac{1}{4}$
1887 ...	108	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{5}{8}$	93 $\frac{3}{8}$
1888 ...	111 $\frac{1}{4}$	105 $\frac{1}{4}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{4}$
1889 ...	111	105	109 $\frac{1}{4}$	99 $\frac{5}{8}$
1890 ...	108 $\frac{1}{4}$	102 $\frac{3}{4}$	109 $\frac{1}{8}$	102 $\frac{1}{4}$

\* Debentures in the case of Tasmanian 4 per cents.

† Taken from *Burdett's Official Intelligence* and the *Weekly Official Intelligence*.

‡ At any time on or after 1st January, 1920, on giving 12 months' notice.

Value of  
Colonial  
Government  
securities  
in London.

817. According to the same valuable work, the par value of all British, Colonial, and Provincial Government securities dealt with on the London Stock Exchange at the end of 1890, was £272,829,653; and it was calculated that, at the end of 1890, the market value of £70,791,000 of these securities was £73,974,000, as compared with £76,017,000 at the end of 1889, and £73,780,000 at the end of 1888.\* The excess above the par value was thus  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. in 1890, as against  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. in 1889, and  $4\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. in 1888; but in connexion with this it should be borne in mind that most of the securities were disposed of in the first instance at a discount.

Price of  
stock in  
various  
countries.

818. A London newspaper, *The Statist*, has published an article on the market prices in London of the Government 4 per cent. securities of various countries in 1885, 1890 and 1891.† The figures given in that article are subjoined, the countries being placed in order so as to show the position in which they relatively stood at each period in the estimation of the investing public:—

PRICE OF 4 PER CENT. STOCK IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES,  
1885, 1890, AND 1891.

January, 1885.		1890.		May, 1891.	
Country.	Price of 4 per cent. Stock.	Country.	Price of 4 per cent. Stock.	Country.	Price of 4 per cent. Stock.
	£		£		£
France ... ..	104	France ... ..	127	France ... ..	122
Sweden & Norway	101	Sweden & Norway	105½	Sweden & Norway	104
Italy ... ..	90	Russia ... ..	100	Russia ... ..	96
Austria ... ..	86	Egypt ... ..	99	Egypt ... ..	94
Hungary ... ..	79½	Austria ... ..	96	Austria ... ..	94
Russia ... ..	76	Turkey ... ..	94	Turkey ... ..	89
Turkey ... ..	64½	Hungary ... ..	93	Hungary ... ..	89
Portugal ... ..	64	Italy ... ..	91½	Italy ... ..	85
Egypt ... ..	63½	Portugal ... ..	86½	Spain ... ..	70
Spain ... ..	60	Spain ... ..	79	Greece ... ..	61
Greece ... ..	56	Greece ... ..	76	Portugal ... ..	57

NOTE.—The prices given, being exclusive of accrued interest, are only approximate.

Fluctuations  
in prices of  
stock.

819. It will be noticed that France and Sweden stood at the head of the list, with their stocks at a considerable premium at all the periods. The other countries were subject to fluctuations, the most remarkable rises being those of Russia and Egypt, and the most remarkable fall that of Portugal, which in 1891 stood below all the other countries in point of national credit. All the prices were higher in 1890 than at either of the other periods. Reference to a former

\* See *Bankers' Magazine*, 1891, page 86.

† *The Statist*, 23rd May, 1891, page 587.

table\* will show that, at the latest date, the 4 per cent. stocks of all the Australasian colonies, except Tasmania, stood at a higher price than the same stocks in any of the countries named except France.

820. The following table contains a statement of the number and amount of mortgages on land and live stock, and of preferable liens on wool and growing crops, effected during 1890, also the number and amount of releases registered in that year. It should be mentioned that the figures do not express the full amounts secured and released, as the amounts were frequently not given†:—

## MORTGAGES AND LIENS, AND RELEASES, 1890.

Security.	Mortgages and Liens.		Releases.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
Land under <i>Transfer of Land Statute</i> ...	11,099	£ 13,284,553	7,322	£ 7,306,622
„ under old system...	1,569	2,410,446	1,039	1,012,284
Live stock ...	1,519	337,044	36	20,666†
Wool ...	469	165,493	1	200
Crops ...	989	162,162	...	...
Total ...	15,645	16,359,698	8,398	8,339,772

821. The number of registered mortgages and liens of all descriptions, and the amounts advanced in respect thereof, during each of the twenty-one years ended with 1890, were as follow:—

## MORTGAGES AND LIENS, 1870 TO 1890.

Year.	Number of Transactions.	Amount.	Year.	Number of Transactions.	Amount.
		£			£
1870 ...	4,410	4,203,743	1881 ...	10,636	6,672,733
1871 ...	4,849	4,278,197	1882 ...	9,416	6,985,689
1872 ...	5,151	4,076,229	1883 ...	9,023	6,021,120
1873 ...	5,155	5,248,365	1884 ...	9,236	7,139,774
1874 ...	5,929	6,019,904	1885 ...	10,738	9,476,724
1875 ...	6,035	4,542,569	1886 ...	13,547	12,224,992
1876 ...	6,417	5,081,387	1887 ...	12,981	11,427,243
1877 ...	6,510	4,706,138	1888 ...	13,685	16,772,497
1878 ...	9,655	6,233,752	1889 ...	15,453	18,876,605
1879 ...	12,063	7,358,952	1890 ...	15,645	16,359,698
1880 ...	10,722	5,615,401			

\* See table following paragraph 815 *ante*.

† Assuming that the average amount was the same in all cases as in those for which the information was returned, the following would be the total amounts:—Mortgages of land—under *Transfer of Land Statute*, £15,582,900, under old system, £2,571,000; and of live stock, £340,600. Releases of land—under *Transfer of Land Statute*, £8,342,300; under old system, £1,341,500; and of live stock, £46,498.

† Amount of 16 releases only; in the case of 20 no particulars were given.

Mortgages  
and liens,  
1890 and  
former  
years.

822. It will be observed that the number of mortgages and the amount secured thereby fell to the lowest point in 1883, and reached by far the highest point in 1889, the number of mortgages in the latter year having been larger by 1,768, and the amount advanced larger by over 2 millions sterling than in the previous year. In 1890, although the mortgages were more numerous, the amount secured was less by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  millions than in 1889, and less by £400,000 than in 1888. In each of the three years named, the amount was more than twice as large as in 1884 or any previous year.

Proportion  
of releases  
to mort-  
gages.

823. In 1890 the number of releases of mortgages on land and the amounts paid off were equal to about 66 and 53 per cent. respectively of the number of mortgages effected and the amounts lent thereon, as compared with 59 and 35 per cent. respectively in the previous year. The number of releases of live stock is small as compared with the number of mortgages, and of liens on wool and crops not one release was registered; the reason being, in regard to these descriptions of property, that, although the mortgage or lien may be paid off, the mortgagor seldom takes the trouble to protect himself by a registered release.

Live stock  
mortgaged.

824. The live stock mortgaged in 1890 consisted of 701,339 sheep, 20,588 head of cattle, 4,285 horses, and 1,061 pigs. The live stock released consisted of 15,726 sheep, 281 cattle, 47 horses, and 20 pigs.

Difference  
between  
mortgages  
and re-  
leases, 1861  
to 1890.

825. During the thirty years ended with 1890, the sums advanced on mortgage of landed property amounted in the aggregate to £168,076,479, and the sums paid off amounted in all to £86,823,718. The balance is £81,252,761, or nearly half the amount originally advanced. Part of this balance represents the amount of mortgages still outstanding, and part the amount in default of payment of which properties have passed from the mortgagor either by foreclosure or sale.

Bills of sale.

826. In 1890, the number of bills of sale filed was less numerous than in 1889 by 65, but more so than in any other year since 1876. The amount secured under such instruments was not as high as in 1888 by £268,500, but was two and a half times as high as in any of the years immediately preceding 1888, and was also much higher than in every other year since 1873. The following are the number and amounts of those filed and satisfied in each of the last seventeen years :—

BILLS OF SALE, 1874 TO 1890.

Year.	Bills of Sale Filed.		Bills of Sale Satisfied.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
1874	3,207	727,370	251	98,492
1875	3,182	788,339	189	85,477
1876	3,330	747,717	194	56,318
1877	1,063	288,015	131	79,746
1878	1,117	348,319	76	28,710
1879	849	239,793	59	42,459
1880	752	593,857	47	25,628
1881	842	432,251	65	56,739
1882	812	461,710	68	51,804
1883	839	253,863	40	24,385
1884	866	248,768	36	30,761
1885	954	379,864	51	38,882
1886	980	436,900	48	32,724
1887	1,395	420,400	25	19,164
1888	1,547	1,317,122	25	21,443
1889	1,616	994,690	27	23,897
1890	1,551	1,048,629	22	18,751

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

Decrease in bills of sale since 1876.

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

Contracts for sale and letting.

CONTRACTS FOR SALE AND LETTING, 1877 TO 1890.

Year.	Contracts for Sale Filed.		Contracts for Letting Filed.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Average Rents.
		£		Per Week.
1877	605	47,720	668	} 2/6 to £5
1878	1,074	83,608	1,074	
1879	1,803	142,809	1,802	
1880	1,828	137,959	1,829	
1881	1,730	90,699	1,730	
1882	1,612	73,892	1,611	
1883	1,472	63,434	1,472	
1884	1,495	57,061	1,495	
1885	1,617	49,221	1,617	
1886	1,703	50,769	1,703	
1887	924	37,418	924	
1888	429	24,702	430	
1889	480	32,286	480	
1890	429	26,406	429	

Fluctuations  
in contracts  
for sale and  
letting.

829. It would seem that contracts for sale and letting appeared at first to be more convenient for the security of the creditor without injuring the credit of the person giving the security than bills of sale, as they increased very rapidly from 1877, that being the year in which the Act legalizing their registration came into operation, until 1880, whilst the bills of sale largely decreased. In the last four years, however, there has been a falling-off in the number and amount of these contracts, whilst there has been more than a corresponding increase in the number and amount of bills of sale.

Building  
societies.

830. Building societies in Victoria date from an early period in the colony's history, and much success both to borrowers and investors has attended their operations. Seventy such institutions sent in returns during 1890, as against 72 in 1889, and 74 in 1888. The following are the principal items furnished for the last three years. It should be mentioned that the returns of some of the societies were not perfect:—

BUILDING SOCIETIES, 1888 TO 1890.

	1888.	1889.*	1890.
Number of societies ... ..	74	72	70
Number of shareholders ... ..	26,312	22,222	21,858
Number of borrowers ... ..	19,288	19,210	23,529
Paid-up capital ... ..	£3,310,774	£3,306,981	£3,493,380
Value of landed property ... ..	£1,512,439	£1,012,422	£552,088
Advances during the year ... ..	£4,381,330	£3,264,984	£2,426,127
Repayments during the year ... ..	£2,968,887	£2,345,843	£2,335,331
Working expenses during the year ... ..	£82,081	£92,984	£79,597
Bank overdraft at end of the year ... ..	£224,418	£264,409	£194,532
Deposits at end of the year ... ..	£5,292,364	£5,062,328	£5,285,702

Advances by  
building  
societies,  
1876-1890.

831. In 1890, the business done by building societies, as measured by the advances made, was not so large as that in the previous year by £840,000; not so large as that in 1888 by nearly £2,000,000, but only slightly below that in 1887. It was, moreover, larger than that in any other year. The advances made by these institutions during the last fifteen years have been as follow:—

ADVANCES BY BUILDING SOCIETIES, 1876 TO 1890.

	£		£
1876 ... ..	870,203	1884 ... ..	1,469,542
1877 ... ..	815,860	1885 ... ..	2,073,189
1878 ... ..	703,932	1886 ... ..	2,358,729
1879 ... ..	489,312	1887 ... ..	2,544,688
1880 ... ..	564,411	1888 ... ..	4,381,330
1881 ... ..	805,551	1889 ... ..	3,264,984
1882 ... ..	1,040,965	1890 ... ..	2,426,127
1883 ... ..	1,089,480		

\* Exclusive of the returns of the Premier Permanent Society, which suspended payment on the 21st December, 1889, and has since been in liquidation. In 1888 this institution had a paid-up capital of £264,492, and deposits amounting to £780,186.

832. The rates of interest allowed by building societies on moneys left with them for a period of twelve months generally ranged, in 1883 from 5 to 7 per cent.; in 1884 from 5½ to 7 per cent.; in 1885 and 1886 from 6 to 7 per cent.; in 1887 from 5½ to 7½ per cent.; in 1888 from 5¼ to 7 per cent.; and in 1889 and 1890 from 5½ to 7 per cent.; Most of the societies allow interest on the daily balance on deposit in current account, the rates ranging from 3 to 5 per cent.

Rates of interest in building societies.

833. The sums deposited with building societies at the end of 1890 amounted in the aggregate to £5,285,702, or £6,662 less than was on deposit at the end of 1888, but £223,374 more than at the end of 1889. The deposits in 1890 exceeded the advances during the year by £2,859,575.

Deposits with building societies.

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

Total moneys on deposit.

MONEYS ON DEPOSIT AT END OF YEARS 1886 TO 1890.

Amount deposited with—	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
	£	£	£	£	£
Banks ...	31,239,472	35,215,547	37,570,838	38,768,936	40,292,065
Savings banks ...	3,589,916	3,696,699	4,669,541	5,021,523	5,262,105
Building societies	2,910,792	4,216,758	5,292,364	5,062,328	5,285,702
Total ...	37,740,180	43,129,004	47,532,743	48,852,787	50,839,872

835. According to the table, the moneys on deposit about the close of the last year amounted in the aggregate to nearly 51 millions sterling, or 2 millions more than in the previous year, and 13 millions more than in 1886, four years previously. There is no doubt, however, that in all the years some of the savings banks' money, and a portion of that deposited with building societies, is re-deposited with the banks, and thus counted twice over; but considering there are many institutions for the receipt of deposits from which no returns are obtained, it is not at all likely that the whole amount at deposit is less than that stated in the table.

Moneys on deposit, 1890.

836. An increase of about 27 millions, or one-eleventh, took place in the amounts passed through the Melbourne Clearing House in 1890, as compared with 1889; the amount was still, however, 12

Melbourne Clearing House.

millions below that in 1888, which will be memorable as a year of unusual speculation and inflation. Particulars respecting the clearances during the six years ended with 1890 are given in the following table:—

MELBOURNE CLEARING HOUSE.—TRANSACTIONS, 1885 TO 1890.  
(000's omitted,)

Year.	Clearances.			Amount cleared.		
	By Exchange of Instruments.			By Payments in Coin.	Total.	Weekly Average.
	Notes.	Cheques, Bills, etc.	Total.			
£	£	£	£	£	£	
1885	16,776,	129,213,	145,989,	21,097,	167,086,	3,213,
1886	17,431,	134,566,	151,997,	20,842,	172,839,	3,324,
1887	19,086,	157,614,	176,700,	25,508,	202,208,	3,889,
1888	28,293,	261,698,	289,991,	37,128,	327,119,	6,291,
1889	26,564,	231,180,	257,744,	30,672,	288,416,	5,546,
1890	26,568,	255,233,	281,801,	33,389,	315,190,	6,061,

NOTE.—In this table the two sides of the clearance are considered as one transaction. If the receipt and the payment should each be considered as a separate transaction, the amounts would obviously have to be doubled.

837. The property left by deceased persons affords an indirect means of ascertaining approximately the private wealth of the population, for it may be supposed that the average amount left by each person dying is equivalent to the average amount possessed by each person living. The result of such a calculation for four periods of five years is as follows:—

WEALTH OF THE POPULATION, 1870 TO 1889.

Quinquennial Periods.	Property of Deceased Persons Sworn under.	Total Number of Deaths.	Average Amount left by each Person Dying.	Average Number of Persons Living.	Total Wealth of the Population.
	£		£		£
1870-1874	8,048,325	54,892	147	749,313	110,149,011
1875-1879	14,019,097	66,446	211	809,599	170,825,389
1880-1884	17,170,139	64,099	268	890,353	238,614,604
1885-1889	32,310,400	81,000	399	1,020,764	407,284,836

838. The estimated private wealth is shown in the last column. It will be noticed that this amounted to 110 millions sterling, or £147 per head, in the five years 1870 to 1874; to 171 millions sterling, or £211 per head, in the five years 1875 to 1879; to nearly 239 millions sterling, or £268 per head, in the five years 1880 to 1884; and to 407 millions sterling, or £399 per head, in the five years ended with 1889.

Wealth of the population.

Total wealth and wealth per head.

It should, however, be mentioned that several large estates have been entered for probate in the last five years, and it is possible that this may partly account for the very large increase shown by the figures for the latest period.

839. It should be explained that the figures given represent only the property possessed by private individuals, no estimate being made of the value of Crown lands, Government or municipal buildings, churches, hospitals, libraries, museums, mechanics' institutes, State schools, forts, artillery, lighthouses, war vessels, railways, telegraphs, etc.; also that the figures no doubt understate the truth, as a considerable amount of property is taken over by relatives without any declaration of value, or issue of probate or letters of administration, and that, in order to reduce as much as possible the amount to be paid as succession duty, the properties are frequently declared at less than their full value. Public? wealth not estimated.

840. In the middle of 1890 the national debt amounted to £41,377,693, equal to little more than 10 per cent. of the value of property as above estimated; but it must not be forgotten that, as a set-off to the debt, there is public property of immense value which is not included in the above estimate, and that the amount which could be realized by the sale of the State railways alone—the original cost of which was about 33 millions—would probably be amply sufficient to extinguish the whole debt. Wealth as compared with indebtedness.

841. The only Australasian colony besides Victoria in which calculations as to the wealth of the population have been published, based upon the amounts left by persons who died, is New South Wales. The figures relating to that colony for the four quinquennial periods ended with 1889 are compared in the following table:— Wealth of Victoria and New South Wales.

WEALTH OF POPULATION OF VICTORIA AND NEW SOUTH WALES\*.

Quinquennial Periods.	Average Amount left by each Person Dying.			Total Wealth.		
	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Excess in favour of Victoria.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Excess in favour of Victoria.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1870-1874 ...	147	109	38	110,149,011	58,424,000	51,725,011
1875-1879 ...	211	178	33	170,825,389	115,112,600	55,712,789
1880-1884 ...	268	264	4	238,614,604	216,110,400	22,504,204
1885-1889 ...	399	319	80	407,284,836	332,445,850	74,838,986

\* The figures for New South Wales are taken from an official publication by the Government Statistician of that colony, entitled *Wealth and Progress of New South Wales, 1889-90*, page 703: Potter, Sydney, 1890.

Population  
of New  
South  
Wales un-  
corrected.

842. The populations for Victoria on which the amounts left by each person dying have been calculated will be found in the last table but one. For New South Wales, the numbers are 536,000 for the first quinquennial period, 646,700 for the second, 818,600 for the third, and 1,042,150 for the fourth. It may be remarked that the results of the recent census have shown that the last-named number is too high, and, therefore, the sum total of the wealth of New South Wales during the period 1885 to 1889 is really less, and the excess over it of the wealth of Victoria is really greater, than is shown in the table.

Estimate of  
wealth of  
New South  
Wales.

843. By another method the Government Statistician of New South Wales sets down the wealth of his colony as £403,600,000,\* or nearly as great as that of Victoria, but as the computer makes no allowance for foreign capital invested in and receiving the profits of a considerable portion of that wealth, the estimate can hardly be accepted as correct.

Wealth of  
Australasia.

844. For the whole of Australasia, the same authority† has estimated the private wealth to amount to £1,129,000,000, or £300 per head. The way in which these amounts were arrived at is not stated.

Wealth in  
the United  
Kingdom.

845. Subjoined, is an estimate‡ made recently by Dr. Robert Giffen, C.B., the head of the Statistical Department of the Imperial Board of Trade, of the wealth of the population of the United Kingdom in 1890, and at two previous periods :—

WEALTH § OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1865 TO 1890.

Year.	Population in Millions.	Wealth in Millions of Pounds Sterling.	Wealth in Pounds Sterling per Head.
1865	30,	6,000,	200,
1875	33,	8,500,	260,
1890	37,	10,000,	270,

Wealth of  
various  
countries.

846. The following estimate of the wealth of the United States of America and of various European countries has been taken from McCarthy's *Annual Statistician*, 1891.|| The countries are arranged in order according to the wealth per head in each :—

\* *Wealth and Progress of New South Wales*, 1889-90, page 699.  
 † *Wealth and Progress of New South Wales*, 1888-9, page 644.  
 ‡ *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society* for March, 1890, page 23. Stamford, Cockspur-street, London.  
 § Dr. Giffen includes public as well as private wealth. The former he computed to amount to 500 millions in 1890, or 5 per cent. of the whole. || Pages 331 and 631.

## WEALTH OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

Country.	Total Wealth (in millions.)	Wealth per Head.
	£	£
Holland ... ..	987,	240
United States ... ..	13,750,	219
France ... ..	8,060,	218
Denmark ... ..	366,	198
Sweden ... ..	977,	152
Belgium ... ..	806,	145
Germany ... ..	6,323,	140
Greece ... ..	211,	107
Austria ... ..	3,613,	95
Spain... ..	1,593,	93
Portugal ... ..	371,	86
Italy ... ..	2,351,	82
Russia ... ..	4,343,	53

847. Comparing the figures in this table with previous statements, it will be noticed that the total wealth of the United States exceeds that of any country in the world, the United Kingdom\* being next to it, and France next; also that per head the wealth is greatest in the Australasian colonies,† next in the United Kingdom, followed at some distance by Holland, the United States, France, and Denmark, in the order named.

Countries in which wealth is greatest.

\* See table following paragraph 845 *ante*.

† See paragraphs 841 and 843 *ante*.

