

CHAPTER XIII.

PASTORAL PRODUCTION.

§ 1. Initiation and Growth of Pastoral Industry.

1. **Early Statistics.**—The live stock which Captain Phillip brought with him when establishing the first settlement in January, 1788, is stated to have comprised seven horses, six cattle, twenty-nine sheep, twelve pigs and a few goats. Later in the same year, in a letter from Captain Phillip to Lord Sydney, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, an enclosure sets forth the numbers of each kind of live stock in the colony on 1st May, 1788. These details together with those of later enumerations are shown in the following table:—

LIVE STOCK : AUSTRALIA.

Date.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Goats.
1st May, 1788	7	7	29	74	19
10th November, 1791	4	18	57	37	(a)
1st July, 1794	(b) 20	40	576	(a)	522
15th June, 1795	(c) 49	176	832	(a)	985
1st September, 1796	57	227	1,531	1,869	1,427
15th August, 1800	203	1,044	6,124	4,026	2,182

(a) Not stated.

(b) Not including three asses.

(c) Not including seven asses.

The return for the year 1788 includes, in addition to poultry, five rabbits.

2. **Subsequent Statistics.**—The statistical returns of live stock in Australia subsequent to the year 1800 referred mainly to those in possession of the Government, omitting those owned by individuals. Doubtless the growth of population, the expansion of the area settled and the increase of private ownership made it difficult in those early times to secure accurate returns. The figures continued to be somewhat defective up to 1860, but from that year onwards fairly complete information is available for most of the States. At the present time, statistics of live stock are collected annually in all the States principally through the agency of the police, but in the years 1885 to 1888 inclusive, and 1893 to 1895 inclusive, these particulars were not collected in South Australia, and similar gaps occur in the Victorian records for the periods 1895 to 1899 inclusive and 1901 to 1903. In order to obtain totals for Australia for these years the missing numbers have been supplied by interpolation. The results so obtained probably differ but slightly from the actual numbers for the respective years.

3. **Increase in Live Stock.**—Particulars concerning the numbers of each of the principal kinds of live stock in Australia at decennial intervals from 1860 to 1930, and from 1931 onwards in single years are given in the following table, and are shown continuously on the graph on page 300.

During the seventy-eight years covered by the table the live stock of Australia increased considerably, horses, 303 per cent.; cattle, 225 per cent.; sheep, 452 per cent.; and pigs, 229 per cent. The average annual increases which these aggregates represent are as follows:—Horses, 1.80 per cent.; cattle, 1.52 per cent.; sheep, 2.21 per cent.; and pigs, 1.46 per cent.

LIVE STOCK : AUSTRALIA.

31st December.				Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
1860	..	..	..	431,525	3,957,915	20,135,286	351,096
1870	..	..	..	716,772	4,276,326	41,593,612	543,388
1880	..	..	..	1,068,774	7,527,142	62,184,252	815,776
1890	..	..	..	1,521,598	10,299,816	97,881,221	891,138
1900	..	..	..	1,609,654	8,640,225	70,602,995	950,349
1910	..	..	..	2,165,866	11,744,714	98,066,046	1,025,850
1920	..	..	..	2,415,510	13,499,737	1,795,727	764,406
1930	..	..	..	1,792,734	11,720,916	110,568,279	1,071,679
1931	..	..	..	1,775,550	12,260,955	110,618,893	1,167,845
1932	..	..	..	1,765,437	12,783,137	112,926,931	1,162,407
1933	..	..	..	1,763,225	13,512,486	109,921,053	1,046,867
1934	..	..	..	1,767,758	14,048,671	113,048,037	1,158,274
1935	..	..	..	1,764,430	13,911,659	108,875,801	1,293,964
1936	..	..	..	1,762,750	13,491,072	110,242,704	1,202,752
1937	..	..	..	1,746,513	13,078,356	113,372,518	1,100,082
1938	..	..	..	1,741,056	12,861,781	111,057,832	1,155,591

4. **Fluctuations.**—The increases referred to, however, have not been continuous, marked fluctuations having taken place during the period, mainly on account of droughts which have from time to time left their impress on the pastoral history of Australia. These were in evidence in 1868, 1877, 1883-4, 1892, 1893, 1895, 1901-2, 1912, 1914, 1918, 1919, 1922-23, 1925-26 and 1927-28.

The years in which the numbers of live stock attained their maxima are as follows:—Horses, 1918, 2,527,149; cattle, 1921, 14,441,309; sheep, 1937, 113,372,518; and pigs, 1935, 1,293,964.

5. **Live Stock in Relation to Population.**—The number of each kind of live stock per head of the population of Australia has varied during the past seventy-eight years in the manner shown in the succeeding table:—

LIVE STOCK PER HEAD OF POPULATION : AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Year.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.		
1860	..	0.38	3.45	17.58	0.31	1930	..	0.28	1.81	17.07	0.17
1870	..	0.43	2.60	25.24	0.33	1933	..	0.26	2.03	16.52	0.16
1880	..	0.48	3.37	27.87	0.37	1934	..	0.27	2.11	16.97	0.17
1890	..	0.48	3.17	31.06	0.28	1935	..	0.26	2.06	16.13	0.19
1900	..	0.43	2.29	18.75	0.25	1936	..	0.26	1.98	16.20	0.18
1910	..	0.49	2.65	22.16	0.23	1937	..	0.26	1.91	16.59	0.16
1920	..	0.44	2.49	15.11	0.14	1938	..	0.25	1.87	16.11	0.16

6. Live Stock in Relation to Area.—The numbers of live stock per square mile in the several States and Territories of Australia are given in the following table :—

LIVE STOCK PER SQUARE MILE, 1938.

State or Territory.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Figs.
New South Wales	1.77	9.09	157.96	1.22
Victoria	3.91	19.31	193.52	2.87
Queensland	0.66	9.09	34.54	0.49
South Australia	0.52	0.84	26.14	0.18
Western Australia	0.15	0.78	9.40	0.01
Tasmania	1.16	10.01	100.16	1.73
Northern Territory	0.06	1.72	0.06	0.00
Australian Capital Territory	1.27	7.51	261.21	0.61
Australia	0.59	4.32	37.33	0.37

7. Minor Classes of Live Stock.—Excluding Victoria, where the details are not available, the numbers of minor classes of live stock returned for 1938 were as follows :— Goats, 84,391; camels, 2,745; and mules and donkeys, 8,620. Of these, goats were most numerous in Queensland, and camels, mules and donkeys in Western Australia. In the raising of goats, some attention has been devoted to the angora goat and its product (mohair), and 6,375 angora goats are included in the total of 84,391 goats shown above. Of these, 1,831 were in New South Wales, 1,000 in Queensland, 2,931 in South Australia, and 613 in Tasmania.

8. Net Exports of Principal Pastoral Products.—The quantities by which the exports of the principal pastoral products of Australia exceeded the imports for the years 1934-35 to 1938-39 were as follows :—

NET EXPORTS OF PASTORAL PRODUCTS : AUSTRALIA.

Product.	Unit of Quantity.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.
QUANTITIES.						
Animals (living)—						
Cattle	No.	63	76	— 665	184	405
Horses	"	4,123	3,783	4,674	3,549	2,294
Sheep	"	58,182	64,340	49,806	67,808	66,739
Bones	cwt.	10,207	17,188	16,603	17,895	21,497
Glue-pieces and Sinews	"	1,251	379	(a)	— 1,945	— 11,145
Glycerine	lb.	— 9,282	— 1,193,982	— 1,163,777	— 1,023,406	78,727
Hair	"	— 559,673	— 962,875	— 1,152,954	— 1,820,795	— 1,003,366
Hoofs	cwt.	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Horns	"	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Meats—						
Frozen Beef (b)	lb.	212,099,109	196,818,221	233,851,658	293,802,831	271,948,548
„ Mutton and Lamb	"	196,102,828	178,005,079	208,457,576	201,800,129	186,487,551
„ Rabbits and Hares	Pair	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
„ Other	lb.	15,012,149	15,098,299	18,498,278	20,737,142	19,585,368
Potted, and Extract of	"	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Preserved in Tins, etc.	lb.	5,941,584	6,418,202	9,197,093	12,230,650	14,778,896
Other (excluding Bacon and Ham)	"	408,396	561,341	637,509	398,085	308,148
Sausage Casings	cwt.	14,543	8,938	12,502	11,973	8,673
Skins—						
Hides	No.	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Sheep	"	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Rabbit and Hare	cwt.	84,744	91,443	66,446	43,946	37,544
Other (including Undressed Furs)	"	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Tallow	cwt.	822,751	445,358	624,521	524,170	560,241
Wool—						
Greasy	lb.	782,278,901	742,738,515	755,610,976	708,509,619	779,781,662
Scoured	"	66,408,783	68,053,803	66,594,446	61,314,071	70,299,505
Tops	"	3,104,232	3,144,411	3,746,779		
Nolls	"	1,303,616	1,647,629	1,219,681		
Waste	"	1,067,598	880,045	621,324		

NOTE.—The minus sign (—) signifies net imports. (a) Quantity not available. (b) Including chilled beef.

The values of the net exports for the same five years are furnished in the next table, and amount to no less a total than £312,847,661 for the period, or an average of £62,569,532 per annum, of which wool represents 77.19 per cent. Meat, skins and tallow rank next in order of importance.

NET EXPORTS OF PASTORAL PRODUCTS: AUSTRALIA.

Product.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.
VALUES. (a)					
	£	£	£	£	£
Animals (living)—					
Cattle	-26,491	-39,244	-24,921	-11,131	142
Horses	-15,631	3,473	-9,385	-16,276	-11,258
Sheep	30,118	36,062	16,605	47,458	39,405
Bones	7,406	9,911	9,804	10,919	10,741
Glue-plates and Sinews	2,908	4,812	317	-1,618	-7,706
Glycerine	4,962	-34,937	-38,748	-41,326	4,004
Hair	-81,902	-115,077	-120,245	-177,266	-103,353
Hoofs	6,092	5,935	(b)	8,560	8,027
Horns	18,083	16,721	19,762	21,811	18,615
Meats—					
Frozen Beef (c)	2,559,605	2,481,803	3,035,943	4,367,049	4,323,235
" Mutton and Lamb	4,475,665	4,465,691	5,233,626	5,339,832	4,807,418
" Rabbits and Hares	443,484	243,623	(c)	172,225	232,034
" Other	266,167	286,415	385,061	406,748	417,670
Potted, and Extract of	-29,507	-32,925	-38,916	-25,391	-32,580
Preserved in Tins, etc.	152,880	191,316	295,172	390,535	492,709
Other (excluding Bacon and Ham)	7,649	9,885	10,407	7,459	6,336
Sausage Casings	106,210	9,206	60,582	125,366	185,649
Skins—					
Hides	147,782	450,577	976,227	929,687	775,398
Sheep	1,753,908	2,808,267	3,785,748	3,435,269	2,336,718
Rabbit and Hare	867,068	1,732,715	1,623,046	1,033,519	393,641
Other (including Undressed Furs)	-32,942	-110,180	165,625	-238,123	-287,277
Tallow	922,505	653,353	812,828	611,844	480,459
Wool—					
Greasy	34,095,191	45,806,287	54,921,808	40,531,631	36,617,167
Scoured	4,598,459	5,548,336	6,659,952		
Tops	331,833	404,644	532,121		
Noils	75,950	123,481	112,969	5,731,196	5,277,027
Waste	39,935	48,848	32,780		
Total Values	50,727,387	65,017,998	78,458,168	62,659,977	55,984,131

(a) Australian currency values.

(b) Not recorded separately.

(c) Including chilled beef..

NOTE.—The minus sign (—) signifies net imports.

9. Value of Pastoral Production.—Particulars of the gross, local and net values of pastoral production for each State are shown in the following table for the year 1938-39 together with the totals for the preceding four years. Fuller details of the source of the information and an explanation of the terms used in this compilation will be found in Chapter XXVIII. "Miscellaneous". It should be noted, however, that maintenance costs have not been computed in all States and depreciation has not been deducted; consequently the net values are inflated to the extent of these costs.

GROSS, LOCAL AND NET VALUES OF PASTORAL PRODUCTION, 1938-39.

State.	Gross Production valued at Principal Markets.	Marketing Costs.	Gross Production valued at Farm.	Farm Costs.		Net Value of Production. (a)
				Seed used and Fodder for Farm Stock.	Value of other materials used in process of Production.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ..	28,078,000	3,184,000	24,894,000	964,000	317,000	23,613,000
Victoria ..	17,936,267	1,599,441	16,336,826	425,000	755,550	15,156,276
Queensland ..	17,417,000	1,682,000	15,735,000	608,000	246,000	14,881,000
South Aust. ..	6,163,342	712,656	5,450,686	198,216	197,686	5,054,784
Western Aust.	4,662,929	538,288	4,124,641	194,933	263,247	3,666,461
Tasmania ..	1,681,490	135,150	1,546,340	39,560	57,190	1,449,590
Total 1938-39	75,939,028	7,851,535	68,087,493	2,429,709	1,836,673	63,821,111
1937-38	90,524,251	8,323,090	82,201,161	2,512,610	1,521,809	78,166,742
1936-37	95,429,294	7,952,997	87,476,297	1,737,541	1,317,480	84,421,276
1935-36	83,224,102	7,506,983	75,717,119	1,505,633	983,754	73,227,732
1934-35	64,647,128	6,986,693	57,660,435	1,314,516	587,420	55,758,499

(a) No deduction has been made for depreciation and maintenance.

Although depreciation has not been deducted in arriving at the net value of production this item was compiled in each State for 1938-39 and amounted in the aggregate to £445,806.

10. Consumption of Meats.—Particulars of the per capita consumption of meat in Australia are shown in the following table, together with details for certain other countries. The figures have in each case been obtained from official sources, but it is not known whether they have been compiled on the same basis.

The average consumption in Australia is slightly lower than that of New Zealand, but it is greatly in excess of that of Canada, Great Britain and the United States of America. Compared with Australia the consumption of beef, mutton and lamb in these countries is relatively small, but pork consumption is greatly in excess of the average recorded for both Australia and New Zealand.

The world's supply of beef, mutton and lamb is obtained chiefly from countries situated in the Southern Hemisphere of which Argentine Republic, Australia, New Zealand and Uruguay are the main contributors. Argentine Republic furnishes the largest export of beef and New Zealand that of mutton and lamb, while Australia occupies second place in both commodities. Supplies of pork and pork products are largely drawn from countries in the Northern Hemisphere. It is to be expected, therefore, that the per capita consumption of beef, mutton and lamb will be greatest in the southern producing countries, and pig meat in the northern.

ESTIMATED PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF MEAT: AUSTRALIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

Description.	Australia, 1938-39.	New Zealand.	Great Britain, 1937.	Canada, 1938.	United States of America, 1937.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Beef and Veal ..	139.95	140-175*	69.00	61.53	62.7
Mutton and Lamb ..	76.11	77	30.00	6.09	6.6
Pork and Bacon and Ham ..	18.03	19	42.00	56.88	55.1
Total All Meats ..	234.09	266*	141.00	124.50	124.4

* Veal not included.

§ 2. Horses.

1. **Suitability of Australia for Horse-breeding.**—From the earliest times the suitability of the climate and pastures of Australia for the production of serviceable breeds of horses has been fully recognized. By the importation of high-class sires, and the careful selection of breeding mares, these natural advantages have been utilized to the fullest extent in breeding all classes of horses. As a consequence of this combination of advantages, the Australian horse, whether of the heavy draught, medium weight, or light saddle and carriage variety, compares more than favourably with the product of other lands. The Australian horse is highly regarded by the military authorities in India and considerable numbers are purchased each year for remount purposes. Owing to the mechanization of the Army the demand is not so great as in former years.

2. **Distribution throughout Australia.**—The States of New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria together depasture more than 76 per cent. of the total number of horses in Australia. In the following table figures are given for each State and Territory during each of the last five years :—

HORSES : NUMBER.

31st Dec.	N.S.W. (a)	Vic. (a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T. (a)	Total.
1934	534,853	357,877	447,804	198,765	161,636	30,662	35,094	1,067	1,767,758
1935	542,862	356,106	441,075	197,368	160,181	30,626	35,152	1,060	1,764,430
1936	545,829	357,158	440,568	200,870	155,177	30,971	31,056	1,121	1,762,750
1937	528,625	359,106	445,916	197,334	151,067	31,578	31,662	1,225	1,746,513
1938	548,355	343,828	444,521	195,834	143,674	30,458	33,191	1,195	1,741,056

(a) 31st March year following.

The number of horses attained its maximum in Australia during 1918, when a total of 2,527,149 was recorded; in the same year the United States of America made its highest recording, and Canada reported likewise in 1921. The number in Australia has declined considerably since 1918 as the result of the development in motor transportation and the increasing use of petrol-driven cultivating and other machinery on farms.

During the past five years, however, the rate of decline has slackened considerably, probably on account of the halt in the use of power-driven machinery on farms owing to depressed prices. The introduction of rationing of motor spirit as a war-time measure should tend to make the horse more popular in the rural industries.

The number of horses in Australia from 1860 onwards may be ascertained from the graph on page 300.

3. **Proportions in the Several States and Territories.**—The percentages of the numbers of horses in the several States and Territories on the total for Australia for the year 1938 were :—New South Wales, 31.49; Victoria, 19.75; Queensland, 25.53; South Australia, 11.25; Western Australia, 8.25; Tasmania, 1.75; Northern Territory, 1.91; and Australian Capital Territory, 0.07 per cent.

The percentages in the various States have remained practically constant during the last quinquennium.

4. *Relation to Population.*—In proportion to population, horses are much more numerous in the Northern Territory than in any other of the principal divisions of Australia. Queensland is next in order, while the Australian Capital Territory has the smallest number of horses per head. The number per head of population has declined in all the statistical divisions since 1927. For the year 1938 the relative numbers were.—New South Wales, 0.20; Victoria, 0.18; Queensland, 0.44; South Australia, 0.33; Western Australia, 0.31; Tasmania, 0.13; Northern Territory, 5.32; Australian Capital Territory, 0.11; and Australia, 0.25.

5. *Comparison with other Countries.*—The numbers of horses in the leading horse-breeding countries of the world are as follows:—

HORSES : NUMBERS IN PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES.

Country.	Year.	Number of Horses (,000 omitted).	Country.	Year.	Number of Horses (,000 omitted).
U.S.S.R. (Russia) ..	1938	17,500	Turkey	1938	651
U.S.A.	1938	10,800	Uruguay	1930	623
Argentine Republic	1937	8,527	Sweden	1938	617
Brazil	1935	6,052	Cuba	1934	569
China	1935	4,080	Spain	1933	568
Poland	1938	3,886	Denmark	1938	565
Germany	1938	3,443	Lithuania	1938	558
Canada	1938	2,821	Bulgaria	1934	532
France	1938	2,692	Chile	1936	528
India (British and Native)	1936	2,380	Eire	1938	442
Rumania	1937	2,167	Peru	1932	432
Mexico	1932	1,888	Haiti	1935	400
Manchuria	1936	1,840	Latvia	1938	400
Australia	1938	1,741	Bolivia	1932	390
Japan	1936	1,432	Thailand	1938	386
Yugoslavia	1938	1,265	Finland	1937	380
United Kingdom ..	1938	1,100	Greece	1937	372
Colombia	1934	972	Netherlands ..	1938	312
Hungary	1938	814	New Zealand ..	1938	278
Italy	1938	791	Belgium	1938	265
Union of South Africa	1937	778	Austria	1938	246
Czechoslovakia ..	1936	704	Estonia	1938	219
Dutch East Indies	1937	671	French Morocco	1938	192
			Paraguay	1935	186

6. *Oversea Trade in Horses.*—(i) *Exports.* Australia's export trade in horses is now far below that of earlier years. During the period 1901-5 the average number exported was over 18,000, whereas during the last five years the figure was 4,005. The total number of horses exported during the latter period amounted to 20,026, valued at £696,061, equal to an annual average of 4,005 for £139,212. The average export price was £34 15s. 2d. The horses exported to India, where they are largely used for army remounts, numbered 3,145 or 79 per cent. of the average exports for the quinquennium.

(ii) *Imports.* The number of horses imported into Australia is comparatively small, consisting mainly of valuable stud animals from the United Kingdom and racehorses from New Zealand. The average value per head of the horses imported during the last

five years was £371. The average number imported per annum was, however, only 320, and the average annual value, £148,840. The following table gives the imports, exports and net exports of horses during each of the years from 1934-35 to 1938-39:—

HORSES : IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Imports.		Exports.		Net Exports.	
	No.	Value. (a)	No.	Value. (a)	No.	Value. (a)
		£		£		£
1934-35 ..	388	150,703	4,511	135,072	4,123	-15,631
1935-36 ..	352	132,645	4,135	136,118	3,783	3,473
1936-37 ..	352	180,686	5,026	171,301	4,674	-9,385
1937-38 ..	273	154,912	3,822	138,636	3,549	-16,276
1938-39 ..	238	125,192	2,532	113,934	2,294	-11,258

(a) Australian currency values.

NOTE.—The minus sign (—) signifies net imports.

§ 3. Cattle.

1. **Purposes for which Raised.**—Cattle-raising is carried out in all the States, the main object in certain districts being the production of stock suitable for slaughtering purposes, and in others the raising of profitable dairy herds. The great impetus which the development of the export trade in Australian butter gave to the dairying industry led to a considerable increase in numbers and an improvement in quality of the dairy herds in Victoria, New South Wales and Southern Queensland in particular, the portion of Australia in the temperate zone being the best adapted to this industry. On the other hand, beef-producing cattle are mainly raised in the tropical districts, i.e., in the northern parts of Queensland, in the Northern Territory, and in the Kimberley district in the north of Western Australia.

2. **Distribution throughout Australia.**—Until 1880, New South Wales was the principal cattle-raising State, but in that year Queensland occupied the leading position, which it has since maintained. There was a very rapid increase in the number of cattle in Australia up to the year 1894, when 12,311,617 head were depastured. From 1895 onwards, however, the effects of droughts and the ravages of tick fever reduced the number to 7,062,742 in 1902. Following the disastrous drought which terminated in the latter year the herds were gradually built up, and, despite recurring droughts, they continued to increase until the maximum number of 14,441,300 cattle was attained in 1921. After that year the numbers dropped continuously to 1929, largely owing to the decline in the overseas demand for frozen beef. They recovered with the expansion of dairying during the depression years, but are again declining, the loss during the last four years amounting to more than 1,000,000 head.

The numbers of cattle, beef and dairy, in the several States and Territories during each of the last five years are as follows.—

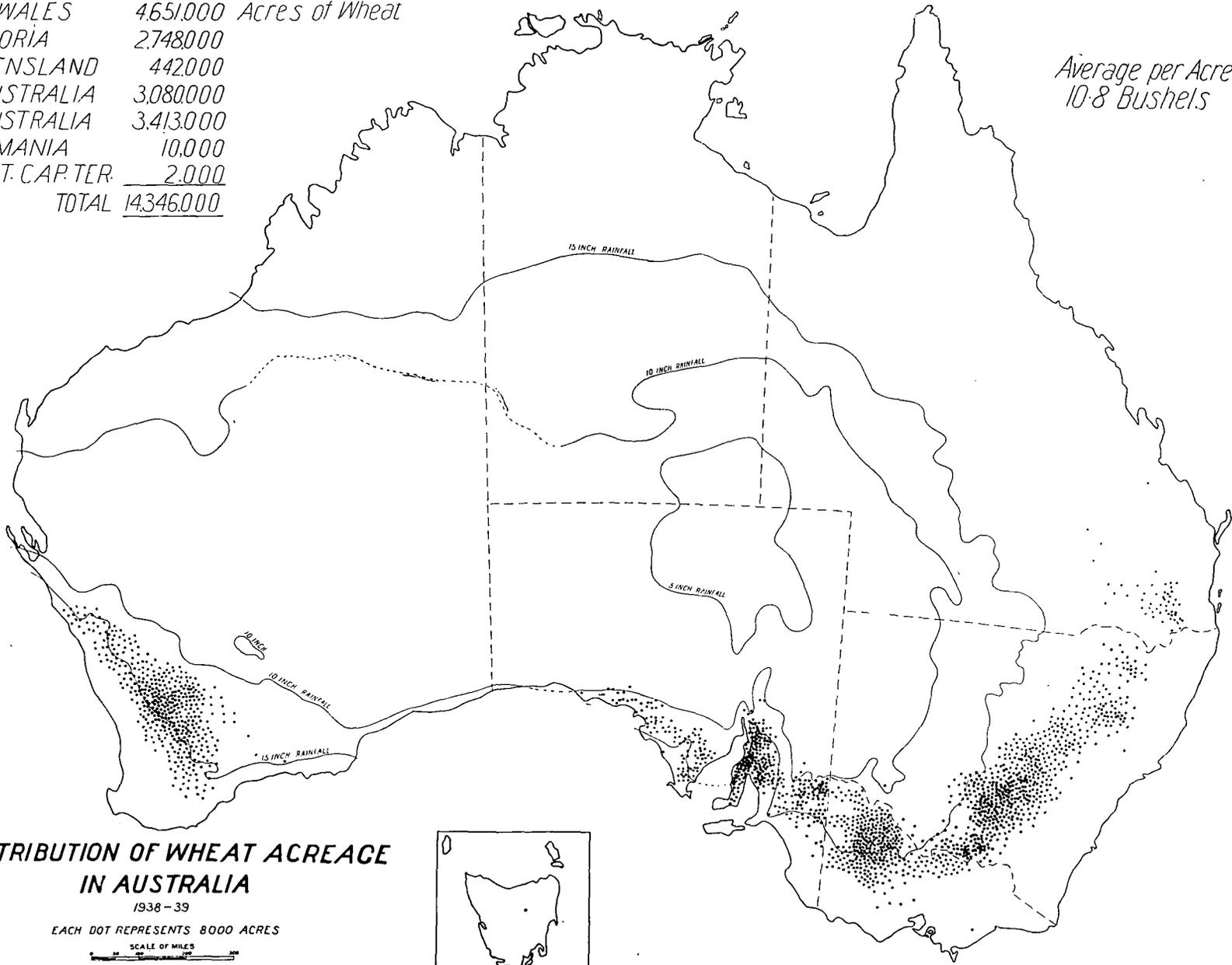
CATTLE : NUMBER.

31st Dec.	N.S.W. (a)	Vic. (a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Nor. Terr.	Aus. Cap. Terr. (a)	Total.
1934	3,482,831	2,085,080	6,052,641	346,479	911,940	261,588	899,679	8,433	14,048,671
1935	3,388,538	2,091,246	6,033,004	335,354	882,761	270,035	900,535	10,186	13,911,659
1936	3,288,169	2,004,959	5,950,572	328,013	792,508	261,597	855,398	9,856	13,491,072
1937	3,019,581	1,880,429	5,959,165	324,163	740,241	254,812	891,640	8,325	13,078,356
1938	2,811,884	1,697,295	6,097,089	318,897	767,680	262,407	899,472	7,057	12,861,781

(a) 31st March, year following.

N. S. WALES	4651000	Acres of Wheat
VICTORIA	2748000	
QUEENSLAND	442000	
S. AUSTRALIA	3080000	
W. AUSTRALIA	3413000	
TASMANIA	10000	
AUST. CAP. TER.	2000	
TOTAL	<u>14346000</u>	

*Average per Acre
10.8 Bushels*

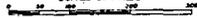


**DISTRIBUTION OF WHEAT ACREAGE
IN AUSTRALIA**

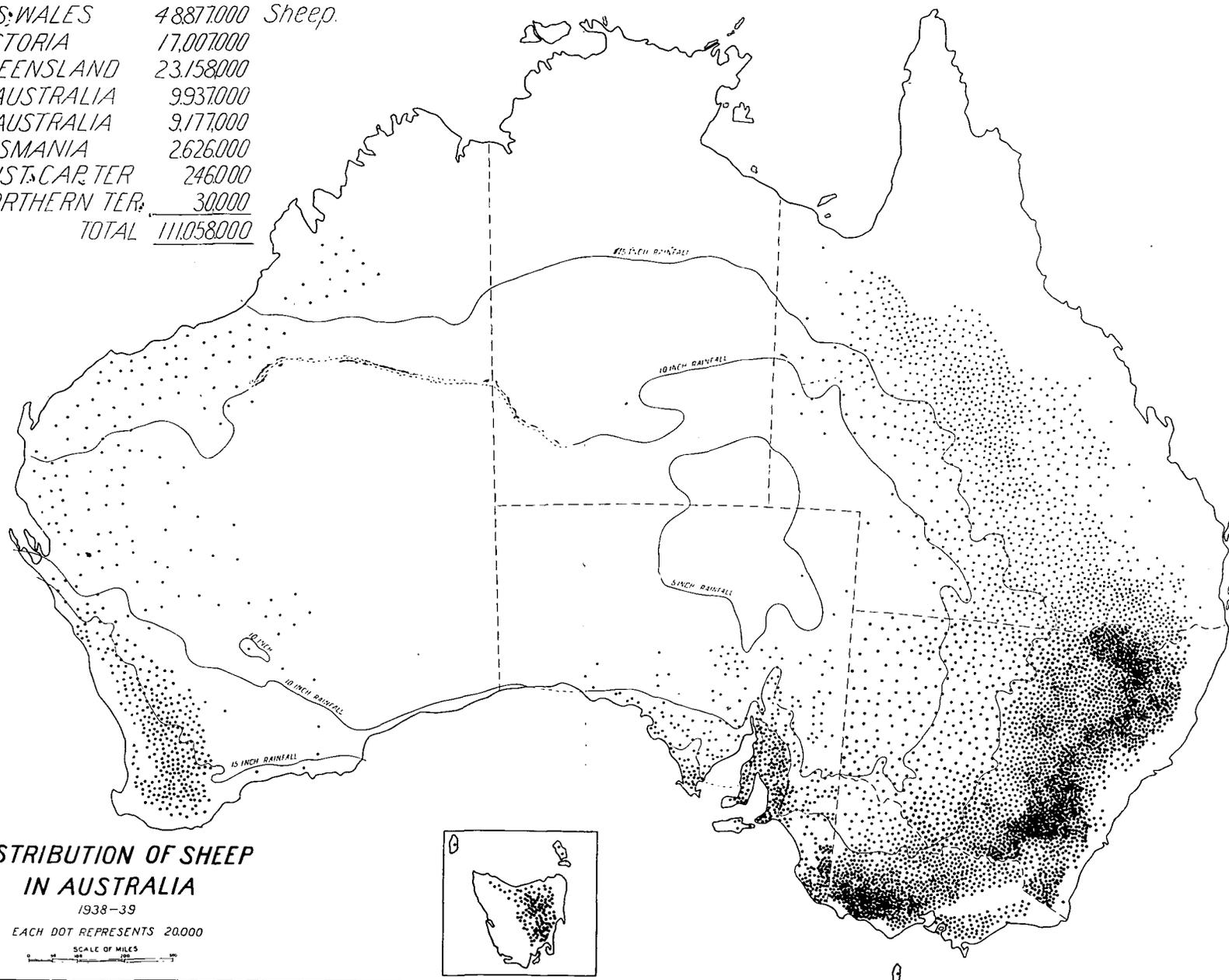
1938 - 39

EACH DOT REPRESENTS 8000 ACRES

SCALE OF MILES



N.S. WALES	4,887,000	Sheep.
VICTORIA	17,007,000	
QUEENSLAND	23,158,000	
S. AUSTRALIA	9,937,000	
W. AUSTRALIA	9,177,000	
TASMANIA	2,626,000	
AUST. CAPITAL	246,000	
NORTHERN TERR.	30,000	
TOTAL	<u>111,058,000</u>	

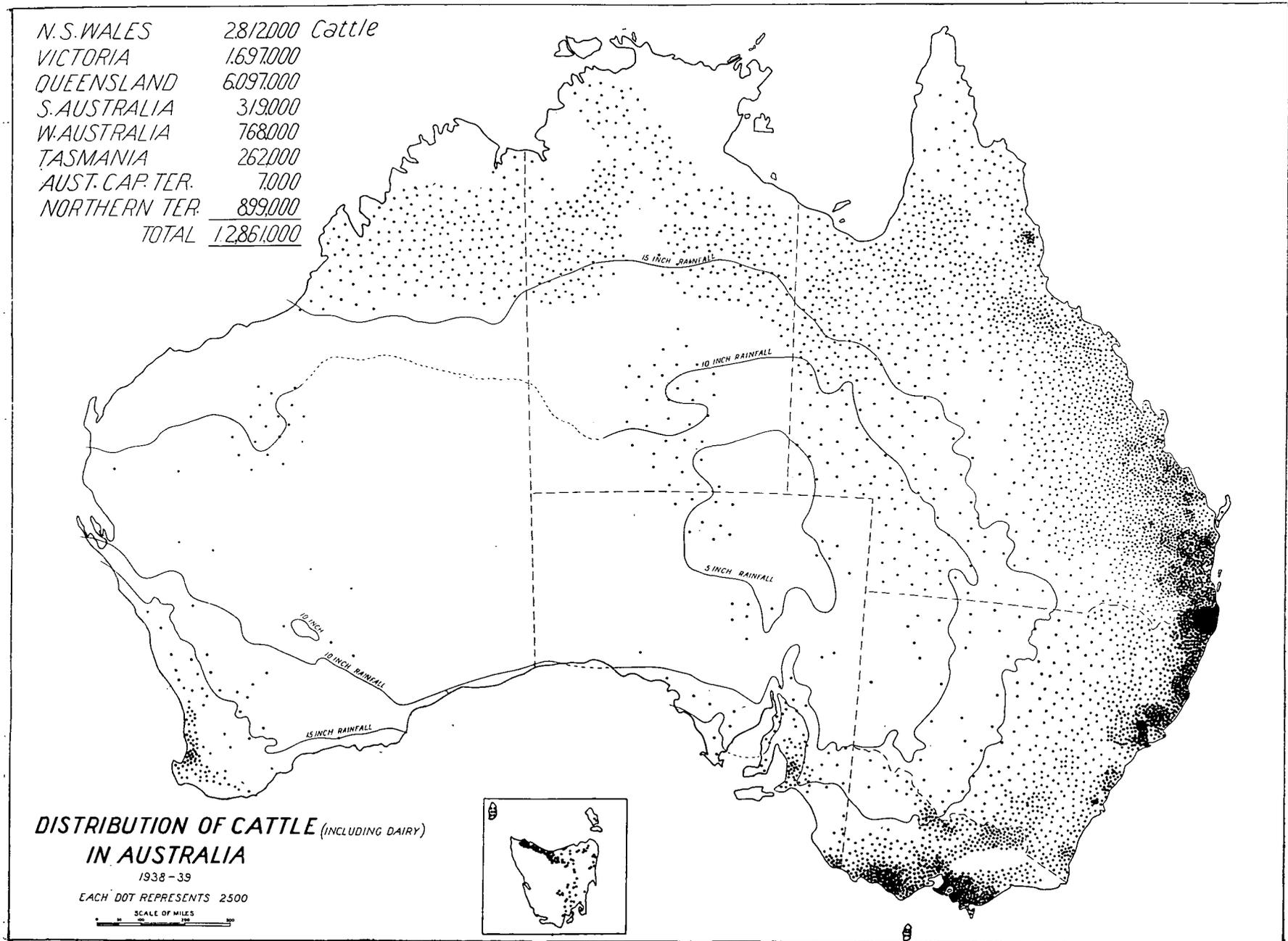


DISTRIBUTION OF SHEEP IN AUSTRALIA

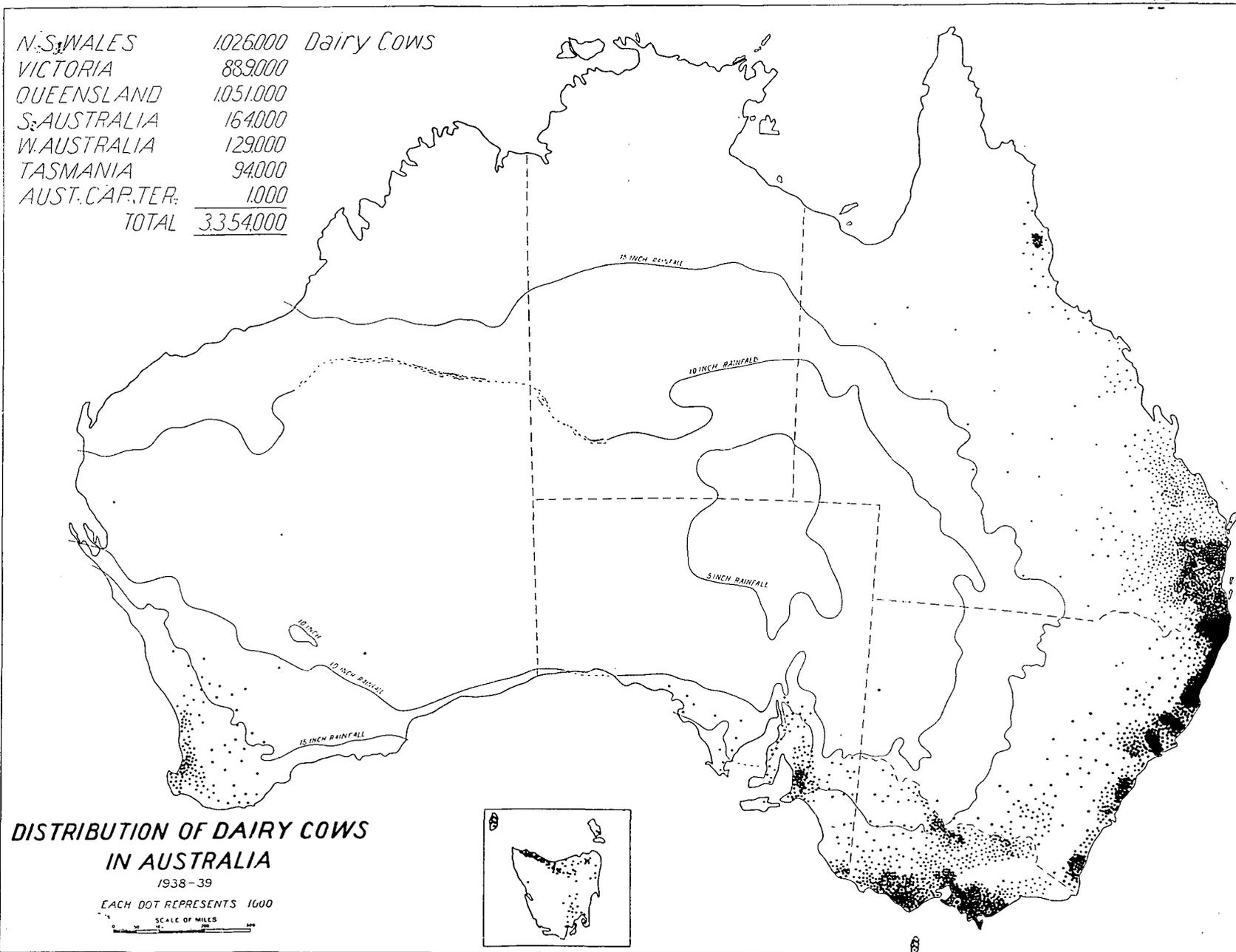
1938-39

EACH DOT REPRESENTS 20,000

SCALE OF MILES



N.S.WALES	1,026,000	Dairy Cows
VICTORIA	889,000	
QUEENSLAND	1,051,000	
S.AUSTRALIA	164,000	
W.AUSTRALIA	129,000	
TASMANIA	94,000	
AUST. CAP. TER.	1,000	
TOTAL	<u>3,354,000</u>	



Although the proportion is not as high as it has been in the past, Queensland was carrying 47.40 per cent. of the cattle in Australia in 1938. The percentage in each of the other States and Territories during 1938 was :—New South Wales, 21.87; Victoria, 13.20; Queensland, 47.40; South Australia, 2.48; Western Australia, 5.97; Tasmania, 2.04; Northern Territory, 6.99; Australian Capital Territory, 0.05.

A graph showing the distribution of cattle in Australia during 1938-39 appears on page 335.

3. Comparison with other Countries.—The following table shows the number of cattle in Australia and in some of the principal cattle-raising countries of the world at the latest available date :—

CATTLE : NUMBERS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

Country.	Year.	Number of Cattle (,000 omitted).	Country.	Year.	Number of Cattle (,000 omitted).
India (British and Native) ..	1936	119,437	Czechoslovakia ..	1937	4,938
U.S.A. ..	1938	66,821	Cuba ..	1935	4,651
U.S.S.R. (Russia) ..	1938	63,200	New Zealand ..	1938	4,506
Brazil ..	1935	40,514	Dutch East Indies	1937	4,414
Argentine Republic	1937	33,101	Yugoslavia ..	1938	4,268
China ..	1935	22,647	Rumania ..	1937	4,184
Germany ..	1938	19,911	French Equatorial and West Africa	1937	4,073
France ..	1938	15,622	Eire ..	1938	4,056
Australia ..	1938	12,862	Spain ..	1933	3,570
Union of South Africa	1937	11,395	Denmark ..	1938	3,238
Poland ..	1938	10,554	Paraguay ..	1935	3,052
Mexico ..	1930	10,083	Sweden ..	1938	3,036
United Kingdom ..	1938	8,903	Nigeria ..	1937	2,985
Colombia ..	1935	8,337	Rhodesia ..	1937	2,936
Uruguay ..	1937	8,297	Netherlands ..	1938	2,764
Canada ..	1938	8,091	Venezuela ..	1929	2,750
Italy ..	1938	7,667	Sudan (Anglo- Egyptian) ..	1938	2,700
Turkey ..	1938	5,896	Austria ..	1936	2,596
Thailand ..	1938	5,712	Uganda ..	1938	2,582
Kenya ..	1932	5,214	Chile ..	1937	2,460
Tanganyika Territory	1937	5,035	Bolivia ..	1931	2,064
Madagascar ..	1937	4,947			

4. Imports and Exports of Cattle.—The products of the cattle-raising industry figure largely in the export trade of Australia, although the export of live cattle has never been large. The number of cattle imported is also small, consisting, as in the case of horses, mainly of valuable animals for stud purposes. Details are as follows :—

CATTLE : IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Imports.		Exports.		Net Exports.	
	No.	Value. (a)	No.	Value. (a)	No.	Value. (a)
		£		£		£
1934-35 ..	161	30,382	224	3,891	63	— 26,491
1935-36 ..	164	33,527	240	3,283	76	— 30,244
1936-37 ..	946	32,276	281	7,355	— 665	— 24,921
1937-38 ..	164	16,913	348	5,782	184	— 11,131
1938-39 ..	42	7,530	447	9,573	405	2,043

(a) Australian currency values.

NOTE.—The minus sign (—) signifies net imports.

The average value of the cattle imported during the last five years was £81 13s. 4d. per head, while the average value of the cattle exported during the same period was £19 8s. 1d. As previously stated, the imported cattle were required principally for stud purposes.

5. **Cattle Slaughtered.**—The number of cattle slaughtered during each of the years 1934 to 1938 is given hereunder :—

CATTLE (INCLUDING CALVES) SLAUGHTERED.

Year.	N.S.W. (a)	Victoria (a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas. (a)	N. Terr.	A.C.T. (a)	Total.
1934	974,749	593,248	851,393	140,170	110,124	37,581	4,358	1,791	2,713,414
1935	1,100,472	774,395	866,410	153,686	120,123	39,588	1,531	1,620	3,057,825
1936	1,186,476	904,889	1,040,980	166,468	124,214	46,718	4,814	2,339	3,476,898
1937	1,223,320	971,338	1,266,412	167,451	145,375	48,451	2,456	2,693	3,827,496
1938	1,136,024	811,703	1,284,465	160,044	126,580	50,397	9,105	2,609	3,580,927

(a) For year ended 30th June of year following.

6. **Production and Consumption of Beef.**—The production of beef in Australia during the year 1938–39 was estimated at 1,252,631,000 lb. The requirements of the local market absorbed 969,495,000 lb. or approximately 77 per cent., leaving a balance of 283,136,000 lb. or 23 per cent., which was exported as frozen, chilled or canned beef. (See also § 1 par. 10.)

7. **Exports of Frozen Beef.**—The export of frozen meat from Australia dates from about 1881, and since that year the trade has grown considerably, the quantities and values exported during the past five years being as follows :—1934–35, 212,099,109 lb., £2,559,605; 1935–36, 196,823,248 lb., £2,481,896; 1936–37, 233,854,189 lb., £3,036,239; 1937–38, 293,803,532 lb., £4,367,064; and 1938–39, 271,963,829 lb., £4,323,680. Since 1932–33 chilled beef to the extent mentioned hereunder has been included in the foregoing. (See Table in § 1 par. 8.) The largest purchaser of Australian beef is the United Kingdom, which during the year 1938–39 took £3,901,691 worth, or about 90.2 per cent., of the total shipments. Other countries importing Australian beef were in order of importance Egypt, Malaya (British), Malta, Philippine Islands and Hong Kong; these countries, together with the United Kingdom, accounted for 98.62 per cent. of the total value of export.

In view of the preference for chilled beef overseas the Australian beef industry was at a serious disadvantage until investigations proved that beef could be successfully transported from Australia to United Kingdom in a chilled condition. Trial shipments of 254,000 lb. in 1932–33 and 1,515,000 lb. in 1933–34 were made, and the exports in subsequent years increased as follows :—1934–35, 21,570,928 lb., £322,239; 1935–36, 23,193,737 lb., £348,047; 1936–37, 41,869,695 lb., £608,175; 1937–38, 58,690,559 lb., £972,341; and 1938–39, 58,963,009 lb., £988,148.

8. **War-time Contract.**—The Government of the United Kingdom has contracted to purchase Australian beef. Fuller particulars will be found in Chapter XXVIII. "Miscellaneous".

9. **Agreements Regarding Meat at the Ottawa Conference.**—A stimulus to the Australian meat industry was provided by the agreement at the Imperial Economic Conference at Ottawa in August, 1932, under the terms of which the Government of the United Kingdom undertook to regulate importations of foreign meat from 1st January, 1932.

This matter is more specifically referred to in Chapter XXIV. "Trade".

10. Imports of Chilled and Frozen Beef into the United Kingdom.—The following statement shows the quantities and values of chilled and frozen beef imported into the United Kingdom during each of the five years 1934 to 1938 :—

IMPORTS OF CHILLED AND FROZEN BEEF IN QUARTERS AND SIDES INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Country of Origin.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
CHILLED—QUANTITY.					
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
Brazil	509,103	508,512	508,653	496,818	517,374
Uruguay	560,997	561,560	545,283	583,689	558,708
Argentine Republic	6,942,113	6,937,141	7,108,768	6,993,075	6,888,542
Other Foreign Countries .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..
British Countries	238,445	478,336	616,981	896,117	998,877
Total Chilled	8,250,658	8,485,549	8,779,685	8,969,699	8,963,501
CHILLED—VALUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Brazil	798,693	793,741	809,936	909,703	981,920
Uruguay	937,456	907,452	839,141	1,046,813	1,046,882
Argentine Republic	11,695,034	11,529,888	12,001,446	13,449,779	13,788,986
Other Foreign Countries .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..
British Countries	380,422	728,673	900,359	1,651,332	1,858,564
Total Chilled	13,811,605	13,959,754	14,550,882	17,057,627	17,676,352
FROZEN—QUANTITY.					
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
Brazil	5,473	11,245	3,421	7,900	3,879
Uruguay	40,950	41,971	36,090	53,974	72,147
Argentine Republic	97,234	93,933	113,479	111,798	158,522
Other Foreign Countries .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..
Australia	1,322,855	1,104,511	1,055,162	1,325,749	1,186,955
New Zealand	697,146	464,758	277,904	246,999	207,486
Other British Countries	4,866	4,509	4,248	12,413	1,454
Total Frozen	2,168,524	1,720,927	1,490,304	1,758,834	1,639,443
Grand Total (Chilled and Frozen)	10,419,182	10,206,476	10,269,989	10,728,533	10,593,944
FROZEN—VALUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Brazil	7,635	17,417	5,230	12,199	6,768
Uruguay	63,800	78,018	62,610	94,434	134,471
Argentine Republic	153,758	159,524	172,338	199,506	290,141
Other Foreign Countries .. .. .	..	..	..	2	..
Australia	1,660,554	1,481,103	1,316,743	1,969,902	1,885,549
New Zealand	824,611	606,849	344,012	363,996	313,359
Other British Countries	5,578	6,134	5,143	18,792	2,054
Total Frozen	2,715,936	2,349,045	1,906,076	2,658,831	2,632,342
Grand Total (Chilled and Frozen)	16,527,541	16,308,799	16,456,958	19,716,458	20,308,694

§ 4. Sheep.

1. **Initiation of the Pastoral Industry.**—Fortunately for Australia, the suitability of its climate and general conditions for the production of a high class of wool were, at an early date in the history of its settlement, surmised and tested by Captain Macarthur, one of the pioneer sheep-breeders of New South Wales. To the energy of this enterprising pastoralist is due in large measure the rapid and extremely satisfactory development of Australia as a producer of fine wool, and, while it would appear that the introduction of the merino sheep into Australia was not due to Macarthur, a great deal of the credit for having successfully established the pastoral industry in Australia must certainly be his.

2. **Distribution throughout Australia.**—With the exception of a short period in the early sixties, when the flocks of Victoria outnumbered those of the mother State, New South Wales has occupied the premier position in sheep-raising, and practically one-half of the sheep of Australia are in this State.

A graph showing the distribution of sheep in Australia during 1938-39 appears on p. 334. A similar graph showing the distribution of sheep during 1924-25 was published in Official Year Book No. 22, p. 659.

Fluctuations in the number of sheep recorded for each year in Australia from 1860 onwards may be seen from the graph on page 300. Five marked periods of decline depleted the numbers at successive intervals, but these losses were made up rapidly. In every year since 1925 the sheep flocks have exceeded 100 millions, reaching 113,372,518 in 1937, the greatest number ever recorded in Australia. At no previous period have such large numbers been depastured continuously, and the development has taken place notwithstanding an average annual slaughter of approximately nineteen million sheep and lambs for the mutton and lamb trade. The forecast for 1939 indicates a record number of over 116 million.

The numbers of sheep in the several States and Territories for each year from 1934 to 1938, together with an estimate of the numbers at the 31st December, 1939, are shown in the table hereunder:—

SHEEP : NUMBER.

31st Dec.	N.S.W. (a)	Victoria. (a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	N.T.	A.C.T. (a)	Total.
1934	53,327,000	16,783,631	21,574,182	7,884,919	11,197,156	2,038,450	23,356	219,343	113,048,037
1935	51,936,000	17,457,291	18,060,093	7,945,745	11,082,972	2,139,900	25,483	228,317	108,875,801
1936	53,166,010	17,663,103	20,011,749	7,905,112	9,007,535	2,233,655	11,162	244,378	110,242,704
1937	51,563,181	18,863,497	22,497,970	8,904,402	8,732,076	2,520,950	26,856	263,616	113,372,518
1938	48,876,663	17,007,352	23,158,569	9,936,586	9,177,531	2,625,690	29,901	245,340	111,057,832
1939b	52,500,000	18,252,000	23,500,000	9,941,000	9,574,000	2,500,000	25,000	250,000	116,542,000

(a) 31st March year following.

(b) Estimated.

3. **Proportion in the Several States and Territories.**—Apart from the effect of drought the relative numbers of sheep depastured in the different States remain fairly constant. The flocks of Western Australia which were depleted in 1936 by drought declined further in 1937, but the total for Australia increased by 3 million owing to gains in the other States.

The percentage distribution in 1938 was:—New South Wales, 44.01; Victoria, 15.31; Queensland, 20.85; South Australia, 8.95; Western Australia, 8.26; Tasmania, 2.37; Northern Territory, 0.03; Australian Capital Territory, 0.22 per cent.

4. **Comparison with other Countries.**—As regards the size of its flocks and the quantity and quality of wool produced, Australia has long occupied a leading position amongst the sheep-raising countries of the world. The following figures taken mainly from the *Year Book of the International Institute of Agriculture* represent the latest returns available in regard to the number of sheep in the principal wool-producing countries. The leading position is held by Australia, with 111 million, followed by the U.S.S.R. (Russia) with 85 million, the United States of America with 54 million, the

Argentine Republic with 44 million and India (British and Native), 42 million. On account of drought the number of sheep in the Union of South Africa dropped from 46 million in 1933 to 36 million in 1935, but the number had increased to 41 million in 1938. In the Argentine Republic sheep flocks also declined from 44.4 million in 1930 to 38 million in 1935, but the number recorded in 1937 was 44 million. During the years 1925 to 1929 the sheep flocks of the U.S.S.R. exceeded those of Australia. The maximum number recorded was 130 million in 1928, but after that year a remarkable decline took place and the number depastured in 1934 was only 46,848,000. It was proposed under the second Five Year Plan to increase the number to 85 million by 1937, but this number was only approximately reached by 1938. Russian sheep are mainly coarse-woolled, and the wool is of inferior quality, but the Soviet Government is making efforts to improve it. In a classification of the wool production in 1934, 10 per cent. was classed as fine wool, 16 per cent. as semi-fine quality, and 74 per cent. as coarse wool. In 1938 the production of fine wool had increased to 14 per cent. and semi-fine to 39 per cent., while the proportion of coarse wool had declined to 47 per cent. Production of wool in the U.S.S.R. amounted to about 303 million lb. during 1938, representing an average weight of fleece shorn of more than 3 lb.

SHEEP : NUMBERS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

Country.	Year.	No. of Sheep (,000 omitted).	Country.	Year.	No. of Sheep (,000 omitted).
Australia	1938	111,058	Italy	1938	9,467
U.S.S.R. (Russia) ..	1938	84,500	Bulgaria	1934	8,840
U.S.A.	1938	53,762	Greece	1937	8,451
Argentine Republic	1937	43,740	Algeria	1937	5,965
India (British and Native)	1936	42,060	Chile	1936	5,749
Union of South Africa	1938	41,150	Germany	1938	5,677
New Zealand	1938	32,379	Iraq	1938	5,514
United Kingdom ..	1938	26,775	Bolivia	1931	5,232
China	1935	20,957	Mexico	1930	3,674
Spain	1933	19,093	Canada	1938	3,415
Uruguay	1932	17,931	Poland	1938	3,411
Turkey	1937	16,449	Tunis	1937	3,383
Iran	1936	13,615	Portugal	1934	3,274
Brazil	1935	12,645	Kenya	1930	3,243
Rumania	1937	12,372	Eire	1938	3,197
Peru	1929	11,209	Somaliland ..	1938	3,000
French Equatorial and West Africa	1937	11,014	Sudan (Anglo-Egyptian) ..	1938	2,500
French Morocco ..	1938	10,162	Syria and Lebanon	1938	2,129
Yugoslavia	1938	10,137	Manchuria	1937	1,966
France	1938	9,872	Nigeria	1938	1,796
			Tanganyika Territory	1937	1,646

5. Oversea Imports and Exports of Sheep.—As in the case of cattle, the oversea exports of live sheep from Australia are of comparatively little importance. During the last five years the principal consignments of ordinary sheep have been made to Malaya (British) from Western Australia. On the 27th November, 1929, the export of stud sheep was prohibited, except with the approval of the Minister for Trade and Customs. Stud sheep, however, are being exported in increasing numbers to New Zealand, South Africa and Japan, the total shipments in 1938-39 amounting to 12,235 sheep valued at £45,744. The ordinary flock sheep exported from Australia

are, for the most part, consigned to Malaya and the Pacific Islands. The following table shows the imports and exports of stud and flock sheep for the years 1934-35 to 1938-39 :—

SHEEP : IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Imports.		Exports.		Net Exports.	
	No.	Value. (a)	No.	Value. (a)	No.	Value. (a)
		£		£		£
1934-35 ..	1,377	15,233	59,559	45,351	58,182	30,118
1935-36 ..	2,167	18,917	66,507	54,979	64,340	36,062
1936-37 ..	5,903	46,371	55,799	62,976	49,896	16,605
1937-38 ..	4,241	41,712	72,049	89,170	67,808	47,458
1938-39 ..	5,288	44,961	72,027	84,366	66,739	39,405

(a) Australian currency values.

6. Sheep Slaughtered.—The numbers of sheep slaughtered in the several States during each of the years from 1934 to 1938 were as follows :—

SHEEP (INCLUDING LAMBS) SLAUGHTERED.

Year.	N.S.W. (a)	Victoria. (a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas. (a)	N.T.	A.C.T. (a)	Total.
1934..	6,829,477	7,646,070	1,275,936	1,591,054	1,079,516	349,044	..	22,207	18,793,304
1935..	6,054,749	7,691,488	972,458	1,642,550	1,166,663	351,684	..	21,948	17,895,540
1936..	6,428,027	7,914,433	1,024,519	1,697,498	1,106,107	341,586	..	24,230	18,536,400
1937..	6,875,496	8,128,544	1,129,729	1,588,507	1,227,843	372,547	..	23,375	19,339,041
1938..	6,322,338	7,727,774	1,120,783	2,007,312	1,318,249	376,583	250	26,222	18,899,511

(a) Year ended 30th June, year following.

7. Production and Consumption of Mutton and Lamb.—The production of mutton and lamb during the year 1938-39 amounted to 717,454,000 lb., of which 527,241,000 lb. or 73 per cent. was consumed locally, leaving a balance of 190,213,000 lb. or 27 per cent. for exportation. (See also § 1 par. 10.)

8. Exports of Frozen Mutton and Lamb.—The export trade in mutton and lamb preserved by cold process expanded rapidly to 1913 when 205 million lb. were dispatched. Progress was interrupted during the War of 1914-19, and probably owing to high wool prices the exports of mutton and lamb for a number of years after that war were considerably less than earlier shipments. Exports commenced to rise again in 1929-30, and from that year onwards they have continued to expand almost uninterruptedly. Formerly the shipments consisted largely of frozen mutton, but in 1923-24 lamb supplanted mutton, and the exports of lamb have been almost solely responsible for the increased shipments of mutton and lamb during the past ten years.

The quantity and value of the shipments of mutton and lamb during each of the last five years were as follows :—Lamb, 1934-35, 135,879,651 lb., £3,515,230; 1935-36, 151,377,838 lb., £4,020,163; 1936-37, 162,885,887 lb., £4,466,801; 1937-38, 159,556,221 lb., £4,645,624; 1938-39, 158,332,714 lb., £4,393,773. Mutton, 1934-35, 60,314,351 lb., £960,479; 1935-36, 26,629,544 lb., £445,589; 1936-37, 45,572,359 lb., £766,851; 1937-38, 42,246,245 lb., £694,357; 1938-39, 28,155,757 lb., £413,693.

As with beef, the principal customer in this trade is the United Kingdom, which absorbed 97 per cent. of the total quantity exported from Australia during the year 1938-39.

9. War-time Contract.—The Government of the United Kingdom has contracted to purchase Australian mutton and lamb. Fuller particulars will be found in Chapter XXVIII. "Miscellaneous".

10. Resolutions at Ottawa Conference.—Reference has already been made to the agreement reached at the Imperial Economic Conference at Ottawa regarding the regulation of imports of meat into the United Kingdom. (See § 3 par 9.)

11. Imports of Frozen Mutton and Lamb into the United Kingdom.—The quantities and values of frozen mutton and lamb imported into the United Kingdom from various countries for the five years ended 1938 are given in the following table:—

IMPORTS OF FROZEN MUTTON AND LAMB INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Country of Origin.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
MUTTON—QUANTITY.					
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
Chile	82,258	89,326	95,759	94,201	96,594
Uruguay	13,690	6,232	8,240	16,553	23,713
Argentine Republic	137,748	150,423	121,908	110,907	98,884
Other Foreign Countries	2,895	2,870	2,063	4,871	1,424
Total, Foreign	236,591	248,851	227,970	226,532	220,615
Australia	461,259	424,050	227,097	405,929	367,044
New Zealand	898,965	1,041,563	888,864	862,182	1,014,652
Other British Countries .. .. .	..	..	350	4,582	2,605
Total, British	1,360,224	1,465,613	1,116,311	1,272,693	1,384,301
Grand Total	1,596,815	1,714,464	1,344,281	1,499,225	1,604,916
MUTTON—VALUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Chile	163,574	129,856	177,128	163,122	166,009
Uruguay	23,260	10,635	13,945	28,128	43,859
Argentine Republic	261,398	223,070	219,406	202,384	192,254
Other Foreign Countries	4,744	3,984	3,204	8,762	2,500
Total, Foreign	452,976	367,545	413,683	402,396	404,622
Australia	845,228	693,878	421,720	727,408	622,648
New Zealand	1,716,799	1,754,720	1,616,742	1,638,107	1,779,019
Other British Countries .. .. .	..	..	613	8,482	4,194
Total, British	2,562,027	2,448,598	2,039,075	2,373,997	2,405,861
Grand Total	3,015,003	2,816,143	2,452,758	2,776,393	2,810,483

IMPORTS OF FROZEN MUTTON AND LAMB INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM—
continued.

Country of Origin.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
LAMB—QUANTITY.					
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
Chile	124,067	118,554	111,209	115,682	99,199
Uruguay	124,702	130,176	118,055	148,876	147,637
Argentine Republic .. .	783,868	754,827	777,996	778,943	794,712
Other Foreign Countries .. .	27,641	28,561	37,230	38,006	42,947
Total, Foreign .. .	1,060,278	1,032,118	1,044,490	1,081,507	1,084,495
Australia	1,165,848	1,360,158	1,268,909	1,476,615	1,531,232
New Zealand	2,655,611	2,591,399	2,641,494	2,740,202	2,660,882
Other British Countries .. .	242	18	558	4,174	7,312
Total, British .. .	3,821,701	3,951,575	3,910,961	4,220,991	4,199,426
Grand Total .. .	4,881,979	4,983,693	4,955,451	5,302,498	5,283,921

LAMB—VALUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Chile	365,115	271,858	316,386	312,972	287,386
Uruguay	311,953	327,257	316,870	419,469	411,710
Argentine Republic .. .	2,051,554	1,898,688	2,091,387	2,179,470	2,250,955
Other Foreign Countries .. .	67,008	77,642	101,194	108,090	113,239
Total, Foreign .. .	2,795,630	2,575,445	2,825,837	3,020,001	3,063,290
Australia	3,320,964	3,934,693	3,698,058	4,349,418	4,571,384
New Zealand	8,414,183	8,063,996	8,264,409	8,753,793	8,743,507
Other British Countries .. .	674	51	1,529	11,704	17,831
Total, British .. .	11,735,821	11,998,740	11,963,996	13,114,915	13,332,722
Grand Total .. .	14,531,451	14,574,185	14,789,833	16,134,916	16,396,012

§ 5. Wool.

1. **General.**—Australia is the leading wool-growing country in the world. With less than one-sixth of the world's sheep Australia produces one-quarter of the world's supply. Moreover, half of the world's production of fine quality merino wool is produced in Australia. The bulk of the production is exported, but with the greater activity of Australian woollen mills the quantity used locally is increasing; the amount so used represented 7 per cent. of the total production in 1938-39.

The important position held by Australia among the principal sheep and wool producing countries of the world is more clearly shown in the following table :—

SHEEP AND WOOL : PRINCIPAL PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

Country.	Year.	No. of Sheep (in millions).	Wool Production (in millions of lb., greasy).
Australia	1938-39	111.1	984
United States of America	1938-39	53.7	458
Argentine Republic	1937-38	43.7	389
New Zealand	1938-39	32.4	329
U.S.S.R. (Russia)	1938-39	84.5	303
Union of South Africa	1938-39	41.2	264

2. **Greasy and Scoured Wool.**—Whether the weight of the wool clip should be stated as “in the grease” or as “scoured or washed” is a matter which seriously affects comparisons between the clips of different seasons and of different countries. The quantity of grease and other extraneous matter in a fleece differs, not only between countries, but between districts in the same country. It fluctuates with the vagaries of the season, while it varies also with the breed and the condition of the sheep. There is, moreover, no clearly defined standard in regard to the cleanliness of wool described as scoured or washed. Consequently, any comparisons of the weight of the Australian clip for different years or seasons whether on a greasy or a scoured basis cannot be regarded as exactly similar. After extensive inquiry this Bureau estimates the average clean weight at 46.15 per cent. of the greasy weight; or, in other words, 1 lb. of clean wool is equivalent to 2¼ lb. of greasy.

The quantity of scoured or washed Australian wool exported during the last five years was approximately 15 per cent. of the total wool exports regarded as “greasy”.

3. **Production.**—(i) *Quantity.* The bulk of the Australian wool production is shorn from live sheep. Approximately 6 per cent. is obtained by fellmongering and about 5 per cent. is on skins exported. Statistics of wool production are compiled from data received from growers, fellmongers, etc. The following table gives the production for each of the last five seasons, but the figures shown for 1939-40 are preliminary only, and are subject to revision. Particulars of the gross value of wool produced in Australia are also shown; these values are based upon the average price of greasy wool realized at auction in the principal markets of the Commonwealth. The production in 1939-40 has been valued at 13.4375d. per lb., the average price agreed upon under the Imperial Purchase Scheme referred to later :—

WOOL : TOTAL PRODUCTION.

State.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.	1939-40.(a)
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
New South Wales (b)	474,359,226	505,375,065	496,824,150	439,949,939	534,000,000
Victoria	163,397,896	163,048,510	178,890,131	165,829,182	187,000,000
Queensland	142,793,328	153,766,368	174,751,280	179,458,589	190,000,000
South Australia	81,709,440	76,604,296	86,606,388	102,888,121	102,000,000
Western Australia	92,458,673	69,935,210	70,684,855	78,802,143	78,000,000
Tasmania	16,300,000	14,067,000	15,598,500	17,519,000	18,000,000
Northern Territory (c)	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Total—Quantity	971,053,563	982,831,449	1,023,390,304	983,581,974	1,109,035,000
Value ..	£ 55,186,000	£ 63,585,782	£ 54,131,618	£ 41,405,483	£ 62,100,000^o

(a) Preliminary; subject to revision. (b) Including Australian Capital Territory. (c) Approximate.

(ii) *Estimate for 1940-41.* No official information is yet available for the season ending June, 1941. In many parts the wool is not yet shorn. It is expected, however, that the production for that year will approximate 3,500,000 bales. Should this estimate be realized the total production of wool in Australia for 1940-41 would approximate 1,050,000,000 lb.

4. *Care Needed in Comparing Clips.*—In comparing successive clips allowance must be made for the circumstance that, owing to climatic or other conditions, the time of shearing may be so far delayed in some areas that one clip may include almost thirteen months' growth of wool, while the succeeding one may include little more than eleven months' growth.

5. *World's Wool Production.*—The following table gives details of the world's wool production and shows the importance of Australia as a wool-producing country. Of a total production of 3,990 million lb. in 1938-39, Australia produced 984 million lb., or 24.7 per cent. It is also interesting to note that the share of the British Empire in world production during the same year was estimated at 1,849 million lb., or 46.3 per cent.

WOOL : WORLD'S PRODUCTION.

(In millions of lb., "greasy" basis.)

Countries.	Average Five Years 1909-13.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.
Australia	741.4	1,015.4	971.1	982.8	1,023.4	983.6
U.S.A.	314.1	451.0	452.7	448.6	454.6	457.7
Argentine Republic ..	358.7	370.0	359.0	379.0	380.0	394.0
New Zealand	198.5	265.0	304.0	303.5	297.0	329.0
U.S.S.R. (Russia) ..	380.0	128.0	158.4	202.1	259.0	303.0
Union of South Africa	165.9	219.0	250.0	277.0	246.0	264.0
Uruguay	157.0	112.0	110.0	114.0	110.0	114.0
China (a)	100.0	110.0	110.0	110.0	110.0	110.0
United Kingdom ..	134.0	115.0	109.0	108.0	107.0	110.0
India (a)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Turkey	118.0	35.4	41.1	48.9	64.5	69.0
Spain	72.0	73.0	66.0	66.0	60.0	60.0
France	80.7	52.8	52.7	53.9	55.1	54.4
Rumania	13.2	43.0	42.9	42.9	45.0	48.5
Morocco (French) ..	14.9	35.6	40.8	40.7	47.8	44.7
Germany	52.0	32.2	36.3	40.1	43.3	44.5
Brazil	35.0	36.4	37.5	37.5	43.2	(a)43.0
Iran	12.1	40.0	37.5	37.5	35.3	40.0
Yugoslavia	25.4	31.0	32.2	33.6	31.5	35.5
Chile	17.4	37.0	35.2	35.7	36.0	33.0
Italy	55.0	36.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	33.0
Bulgaria	23.7	21.3	21.1	20.4	20.7	21.2
Canada	11.2	19.5	19.4	18.9	19.0	18.8
Eire .. ..	..	17.0	16.5	17.6	16.4	17.9
Algeria	35.2	15.2	16.1	17.6	17.2	16.4
Basutoland .. ..	..	5.1	7.3	6.0	4.7	6.9
Falkland Islands ..	..	4.0	4.2	4.0	4.6	3.6
Other Countries ..	71.2	201.4	214.0	222.3	215.9	234.8
Total	3,286.6	3,621.3	3,675.0	3,798.6	3,877.2	3,990.5

(a) Estimated.

6. **War-time Contract.**—After the outbreak of war in September, 1939, negotiations were concluded between the Governments of the Commonwealth and of the United Kingdom whereby the latter contracted to purchase the entire wool clip of Australia for the duration of the war and one full clip thereafter. The price per lb. at store in Australia was fixed at 10½d. sterling, or 13.4375d. in Australian currency, and provision was made for an equal division between the two Governments of any profits derived from the sale of the wool for use outside the United Kingdom. In addition, an amount not exceeding ¾d. sterling will be paid by the United Kingdom Government to cover costs from the store to shipboard. The agreement provides that sufficient quantities of wool shall be retained in Australia for domestic use. The administration of the scheme in Australia is controlled by the Central Wool Committee, assisted by a Committee in each State. These Committees consist of representatives of growers, brokers, buyers and manufacturers.

Further particulars of this contract will be found in Chapter XXVIII. "Miscellaneous".

A similar agreement was negotiated in August, 1940, between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Union of South Africa.

7. **Appraisals, 1939-40 Season.**—More than 1,066.2 million lb. of greasy and 45.8 million lb. of scoured wool were appraised during that portion of the 1939-40 season in which the Central Wool Committee operated. The appraised values were £55,880,000 for greasy and £3,962,000 for scoured, or a total of £59,842,000 which includes wool appraised at £2,421,000 which will not participate in any subsequent distribution of profits. The average appraised price per lb. in the grease was 12.4028d. This was 1.0347d. below the agreement price of 13.4375d. The amount to be distributed on account of this 8.3426 per cent. shortage is £4,790,000.

8. **Consumption of Locally Processed Wool.**—It is impossible to obtain particulars of the total consumption of wool in Australia, as considerable quantities of manufactured woollen goods are imported. It is possible, however, to secure with reasonable accuracy the quantities of wool used in Australian factories and mills to produce woollen cloth and other woollen goods, such as blankets, rugs and knitted-wear. Some difficulties arise in the aggregation of returns from individual mills concerned with only one process in manufacture and whose output constitutes the raw material of other mills, but it is believed that the risk of duplication has now been reduced to a minimum. Reference is made to the woollen mills established in Australia in Chapter XVIII. "Manufacturing Industry".

In the following table particulars are given of the quantity of wool processed in Australian factories during each of the past ten years.

For reasons mentioned in § 5 par. 2 above, the factor used for converting wool in terms of scoured, tops, yarn, etc., to a greasy basis must be regarded as approximate.

CONSUMPTION OF LOCALLY PROCESSED WOOL IN AUSTRALIA.

(In terms of greasy.)

Year.	Quantity.	Year.	Quantity.
	lb.		lb.
1929-30	49,606,200	1934-35	55,753,478
1930-31	35,200,996	1935-36	70,205,840
1931-32	50,159,704	1936-37	71,579,920
1932-33	65,343,392	1937-38	68,377,043
1933-34	60,881,494	1938-39	68,444,311

9. Exports of Wool.—(i) *Greasy—Quantities.* Of the total weight of greasy wool shipped overseas during the last five years 38 per cent. was sent to the United Kingdom, the same proportion as that dispatched during the years 1909 to 1913. The other leading consignees since 1934–35 were Japan 17 per cent.; Belgium 14 per cent.; France 13 per cent.; and Germany 5 per cent. The balance of 13 per cent. was distributed among all other countries. The following table shows the quantities of “greasy” wool exported, and the principal countries of recorded destination:—

EXPORTS OF WOOL IN THE GREASE: AUSTRALIA.

Country to which Exported.	Average Five Years 1909–13.	1934–35.	1935–36.	1936–37.	1937–38.	1938–39.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
United Kingdom ..	212,004,088	292,725,835	244,568,575	277,210,184	294,411,888	333,263,937
Other British Countries ..	(a)	1,252,059	2,477,886	2,396,943	1,931,028	2,861,227
Belgium ..	55,143,706	124,169,015	102,501,997	120,959,897	87,862,566	104,147,161
France ..	149,835,946	75,760,166	64,692,287	76,063,696	123,835,665	162,034,076
Germany ..	106,344,696	27,220,923	27,116,447	41,451,486	53,956,616	35,027,760
Italy ..	4,381,197	17,694,730	4,502,392	35,775,546	29,577,669	21,186,800
Japan ..	7,262,683	196,125,519	234,518,700	84,058,539	69,162,890	72,659,411
Netherlands ..	(a)	16,450,416	15,296,631	8,798,135	7,084,535	15,701,733
Poland ..	(a)	12,058,269	12,679,782	12,296,714	17,988,525	6,954,917
United States of America ..	15,486,447	5,448,868	24,810,766	72,758,475	4,193,370	21,484,584
Other Foreign Countries ..	6,382,577	16,878,821	18,722,139	27,404,760	31,821,901	20,406,016
Total ..	556,841,340	785,784,621	751,887,602	759,174,375	721,826,953	795,727,712

(a) Included with Other Foreign Countries.

(ii) *Scoured and Washed including Tops, Noils and Waste—Quantities.* The exports of “scoured and washed” wool including tops, noils and waste during the period shown were as follows:—

EXPORTS OF WOOL—SCOURED AND WASHED, INCLUDING TOPS, NOILS AND WASTE: AUSTRALIA.

Country to which Exported.	Average Five Years 1909–13.	1934–35.	1935–36.	1936–37.	1937–38.	1938–39.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
United Kingdom ..	32,032,577	36,713,150	33,670,787	34,770,657	30,951,063	36,591,488
Canada ..	(a)	3,270,402	4,226,701	5,227,856	4,686,416	4,470,367
Other British Countries ..	(a)	862,051	1,000,077	1,363,204	1,650,938	1,156,535
Belgium ..	7,538,658	10,733,900	10,826,486	8,701,786	5,113,651	5,802,183
France ..	16,068,910	9,843,830	10,835,868	7,668,430	8,238,396	9,900,450
Germany ..	12,310,967	2,879,686	3,927,532	3,561,744	2,772,248	1,935,088
Italy ..	265,442	1,073,491	213,531	593,359	310,170	67,051
Japan ..	1,888,161	1,027,420	1,814,949	474,775	695,954	1,618,827
Poland ..	(b)	1,187,583	2,003,013	812,765	555,721	497,285
Other Foreign Countries ..	252,995	4,392,352	5,378,311	9,134,695	6,687,941	3,845,890
Total ..	70,347,110	71,983,865	73,897,255	72,309,271	61,664,498	70,945,164

(a) Included with Other Foreign Countries.

(iii) *Total Value of Exports.* The value of wool exported from Australia during the five years ending 1938–39 averaged 39 per cent. of the value of the exports of merchandise of local origin, but during 1938–39 the proportion was only 36 per cent. The

value during the periods under review together with the principal countries to which wool was exported is shown in the next table :—

VALUE OF WOOL EXPORTS : AUSTRALIA.

Country to which Exported.	Average Five Years 1909-13.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ..	10,608,967	16,007,777	18,379,416	23,025,184	20,247,877	18,513,175
Other British Countries ..	(a)	409,286	657,572	948,495	834,619	675,143
Belgium ..	2,546,915	5,433,157	6,184,099	8,195,565	4,782,798	4,720,537
France ..	6,494,832	3,558,066	4,413,359	5,441,316	7,111,406	7,566,458
Germany ..	5,131,282	1,511,094	2,052,436	3,578,244	3,877,114	1,094,320
Italy ..	202,434	807,775	273,549	2,594,586	1,846,631	1,175,304
Japan ..	516,528	8,680,119	14,594,465	7,513,956	4,042,266	3,804,120
Netherlands ..	(a)	825,971	1,058,533	707,361	466,198	826,198
Poland ..	(a)	617,064	968,108	918,665	1,056,739	403,446
United States of America	795,328	352,466	2,102,066	7,039,771	391,356	1,346,187
Other Foreign Countries	296,356	1,063,165	1,661,958	2,541,424	2,326,557	1,712,208
Total ..	26,592,642	39,265,940	52,345,561	62,504,567	46,983,561	42,737,096

(a) Included with Other Foreign Countries.

10. Exports and Local Sales of Wool.—Approximately 90 per cent. of Australian wool is normally disposed of locally. Buyers from the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Germany and other European countries, and from America, Japan, China and India attend the sales conducted in Sydney, Albury, Melbourne, Geelong, Ballarat, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, Hobart and Launceston. Particulars regarding exports and local sales, as well as quantities and proportions of the various descriptions of wool marketed in each State, will be found in the *Production Bulletin* issued by this Bureau.

11. Value.—Wool is the chief factor in the pastoral wealth of Australia, and the nation's prosperity is largely dependent upon the satisfactory sale of the clip. During the ten years ended 1938-39, the price of greasy wool sold in the selling centres of Australia averaged 11½d. per lb. This figure may be compared with an average of 18d. per lb. during the nine post-war years ended 1928-29, and 9d. per lb. for the seven pre-war years ended 1913-14. The heavy decline in the price of wool which commenced in 1929-30 continued during the succeeding three years. In 1933-34, prices rose in a remarkable manner, averaging 15.84d. per lb., compared with 8.72d. per lb. for the previous year, an increase of 81.6 per cent. A decline in 1934-35 was succeeded by a period of rising prices in the two years following, but in 1937-38 and in 1938-39 prices again receded.

The effect of fluctuating wool values upon the national income is reflected in the following figures. Based on the average auction room price of greasy wool the output for the season 1938-39 was valued at £42,042,734 compared with £54,132,000 in 1937-38. These values may be compared with £81,430,000 in 1924-25 when the record price was realized and £34,804,000 in the depression year 1930-31. On the average of the five seasons 1934-35 to 1938-39 the annual clip was valued at £51,181,000.

The estimated value of the clip for 1939-40 is £62,000,000, but this figure is subject to revision.

The following table gives the average auction room price in Australia of greasy wool as compiled by the National Council of Wool-selling Brokers. This price represents the average price realized for all greasy wool of whatever type or quality marketed during the years indicated.

WOOL : AVERAGE MARKET PRICE PER LB.

Description.	1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.	1939-40.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Greasy (a) ..	15.84	9.75	14.01	16.48	12.51	10.39	(b)13.43

(a) National Council of Wool-selling Brokers.

(b) The equivalent of the contract price of 10½d. sterling.

Measured in terms of Australian, sterling and gold currencies the approximate values of greasy wool per lb. since 1930-31 were as follows :—

GREASY WOOL : AVERAGE VALUES PER LB.

Year.	Australian Currency.	Sterling.	Gold Prices.
	d.	d.	d.
1930-31	8.36	6.96	6.96
1931-32	8.46	6.69	5.10
1932-33	8.72	6.98	4.84
1933-34	15.84	12.65	8.19
1934-35	9.75	7.78	4.68
1935-36	14.01	11.19	6.79
1936-37	16.48	13.16	8.03
1937-38	12.51	9.99	6.15
1938-39	10.39	8.30	4.84
1939-40	13.43	10.75	5.37

The average values shown in sterling and gold currencies have been calculated by converting the average prices shown in Australian currency on the basis of the average rate of exchange between the months of September and June in each year. Though not exact these results will suffice for general purposes.

12. United Kingdom Importation of Wool.—The appended statement of the quantities and values of wool imported into the United Kingdom during the year 1938 from the principal wool-producing countries shows the important position which Australia occupies in the supply of wool to the Mother Country :—

WOOL (a) : IMPORTS INTO UNITED KINGDOM, 1938.

Country of Origin.	Quantity.	Value.	Country of Origin.	Quantity.	Value.
	lb.	£		lb.	£
Australia ..	365,518,900	18,703,343	Other British Possessions	4,149,300	142,470
New Zealand ..	197,995,400	9,206,519	Peru ..	488,100	25,202
Union of South Africa ..	106,956,000	4,217,125	Belgium ..	3,431,900	245,735
Argentine Republic ..	79,303,600	2,946,286	Falkland Islands	1,426,400	54,255
India ..	46,108,400	1,736,827	Germany ..	410,900	20,142
France ..	25,210,800	1,466,604	U.S.A. ..	1,530,500	74,305
Uruguay ..	22,072,200	1,027,644	Other Countries	3,206,000	134,236
Chile ..	15,240,700	685,336			
Eire ..	8,276,300	310,129	Total ..	881,325,400	40,996,158

(a) Greasy and Scoured.

Of the importations of wool into the United Kingdom, Australian wool represented 41 per cent. of quantity and 46 per cent. of value, and New Zealand 22 per cent. of quantity and 22 per cent. of value. Altogether, 674,619,600 lb., valued at £32,269,457, were received from British Possessions, these figures being equivalent to 77 per cent. of the total weight and 79 per cent. of the total value of all wool imported.

13. **Principal Importing Countries and Sources of Supply.**—The following table furnishes, in respect of the principal importing Countries, details of their production and imports of wool for the year 1938, together with the chief sources of supply. The quantities imported refer to the actual weight of wool without distinguishing between greasy and scoured. They are also exclusive of any wool imported on skins.

WOOL: PRINCIPAL IMPORTING COUNTRIES AND SOURCES OF SUPPLY, 1938.
(In millions of lb.)

Importing Country.	Production(a) of Importing Country.	Quantity Imported from—					Total Imports.
		Australia.	Union of South Africa.	Argentine Republic.	New Zealand.	Other Countries.	
United Kingdom ..	110.0	365	107	79	198	132	881
Belgium ..	0.7	106	19	20	7	65	217
Czechoslovakia ..	2.0	18	4	6	..	1	29
France ..	54.4	168	52	62	22	86	390
Germany ..	44.5	49	90	56	14	97	306
Italy ..	33.0	19	22	12	..	23	76
Japan ..	..	87	5	6	11	8	117
Poland ..	12.9	14	2	14	4	..	34
U.S.A. ..	457.7	7	1	47	4	44	103
Total ..	..	833	302	302	260	456	2,153

(a) As in the grease.

In connexion with the total imports shown in the table, it should be noted that a considerable transit trade exists between continental countries. It must not be assumed, therefore, that the whole of the imports recorded by these countries are retained for their own consumption. The countries chiefly concerned with this transit trade are United Kingdom, Belgium, and France. The quantities re-exported during 1938 were:—United Kingdom, 269 million lb., or 30 per cent., of the total imports; Belgium, 76 million lb., or 35 per cent.; and France, 49 million lb., or 13 per cent.

14. **Inquiry into Wool Industry.**—A Committee was appointed by the Commonwealth Government on the 15th August, 1932, to inquire into and report on the condition of the Australian Wool Industry. The report of the Committee was presented on the 24th November, 1932. The inquiry covered costs of production, prices, etc., and recommendations were made for the rehabilitation of the industry. For fuller details see Official Year Book No. 29, p. 644.

§ 6. Trade in Hides and Skins.

1. **Extent of Trade.**—In addition to the hides and skins treated locally, considerable quantities are exported; the value of cattle and horse hides, and sheep and other skins sent overseas during the five years 1934–35 to 1938–39 amounted to £27,296,551, or an average of £5,459,310 per annum.

2. **Sheepskins with Wool.**—The exports of sheepskins with wool aggregating £13,897,617 during the five years constitute the largest item in the values referred to in the preceding paragraph. During the year 1938–39 France was the largest purchaser, taking 74 per cent. of the total consignments, while the United Kingdom ranked next with 15 per cent., followed by Germany, with 7 per cent. The exports of sheepskins with wool during each of the years from 1934–35 to 1938–39 were as follows:—

EXPORTS OF SHEEPSKINS WITH WOOL: AUSTRALIA.

Particulars.	1934–35.	1935–36.	1936–37.	1937–38.	1938–39.
Number ..	10,765,364	11,811,480	12,130,265	12,713,364	12,625,200
Value £	1,772,595	2,805,083	3,636,659	3,381,480	2,301,800

3. **Sheepskins without Wool.**—Sheepskins without wool are exported chiefly to the United States of America. During 1938-39 this country accounted for 40 per cent. of the total shipments while 24 per cent. were exported to France and 16 per cent. to the United Kingdom. Quantities and values for the last five years are given in the table hereunder :—

EXPORTS OF SHEEPSKINS WITHOUT WOOL : AUSTRALIA.

Particulars.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.
Number	247,050	255,636	1,543,713	916,157	1,075,895
Value £	11,768	19,370	169,250	79,461	68,152

4. **Hides.**—(i) *Exports.* The export trade in cattle hides, which fell away during the depression years, has again become important. The consignments in 1938-39 were distributed as follows :—United Kingdom, £410,100; Japan, £143,882; Germany, £76,502; Finland, £44,722; United States of America, £40,151; Denmark, £33,452; Other Countries, £147,943.

The exports during the last five years are given in the table below :—

EXPORTS OF CATTLE HIDES : AUSTRALIA.

Particulars.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.
Number	690,578	807,604	1,034,937	1,063,806	1,186,543
Value £	417,071	613,717	940,024	1,092,048	896,752

Calfskins exported during the years 1934-35 to 1938-39 numbered 3,608,366 valued at £827,702 and were shipped mainly to the United States of America, the value of the skins taken by that country averaging 65 per cent. of the total exports during the year 1938-39. The annual export of horse hides is very small, and for the past five years averaged only 8,967 hides valued at £5,269.

(ii) *Imports.* The imports of cattle hides and calfskins are fairly large, the average annual value during the last five years amounting to £306,157. New Zealand is the chief source of supply, and small quantities are obtained also from the Pacific Islands, France and Italy. The quantities and values of cattle hides, including calfskins, imported into Australia during the years 1934-35 to 1938-39 were as follows :—

IMPORTS OF CATTLE HIDES : AUSTRALIA.

Particulars.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.
Quantity cwt.	90,703	64,902	47,705	69,955	80,641
Value (a) £	336,872	301,217	248,848	363,573	280,273

(a) Australian currency values.

The number of horse hides imported into Australia is small. The value of imports during 1938-39 amounted to £654 in Australian currency.

5. **Other Skins.**—The exports of skins other than those mentioned in the preceding paragraphs were valued as follows :—

EXPORTS OF OTHER SKINS : AUSTRALIA.

Description.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.
	£	£	£	£	£
Rabbit and Hare	876,221	1,744,834	1,649,412	1,052,709	429,140
Opossum ..	134,044	18,938	375,152	78,961	16,040
Kangaroo ..	159,571	229,469	125,033	182,490	169,078
Fox ..	50,232	61,943	80,390	68,684	27,767
Wallaby ..	12,051	12,803	25,789	27,635	9,640
Other ..	4,583	5,966	15,458	31,559	25,912
Total ..	1,236,702	2,073,953	2,271,234	1,442,038	677,577

These skins were shipped principally to the United States of America and the United Kingdom, the values taken by each during 1938-39 being as follows :—

OTHER SKINS : EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES AND UNITED KINGDOM, 1938-39.

Description.	United Kingdom.	United States of America.
	£	£
Rabbit and Hare	15,539	392,435
Opossum	11,386	4,654
Kangaroo	67	169,011
Fox	14,850	11,108
Wallaby	2,662	6,922
Other	2,278	9,576
Total	46,782	593,706