

## SECTION XXI.

## PRIVATE FINANCE.

## § 1. Currency.

1. **The Three Australian Mints.**—Soon after the discovery of gold in Australia steps were taken for the establishment of a branch of the Royal Mint in Sydney. The formal opening took place on the 14th May, 1855, the mint being located in the southern part of the building once known as the "rum hospital," where it has remained up to the present. It is now proposed, however, to erect more suitable buildings for its accommodation in some other part of the city. The Melbourne branch of the Royal Mint was opened on the 12th June, 1872, and the Perth branch on the 20th June, 1899. The States of New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia provide an annual endowment, in return for which the mint receipts are paid into the respective State Treasuries, and it may be said that, apart from expenditure on buildings, new machinery, etc., the amounts paid into the Treasuries fairly balance the mint annuities.

2. **Receipts and Issues in 1909.**—(i.) *Assay of Deposits Received.* The number of deposits received during 1909 at the Sydney Mint was 1701, of a gross weight of 628,871 ozs.; at the Melbourne Mint, 4462, of a gross weight of 904,694 ozs.; and at the Perth Mint, 6509, of a gross weight of 1,458,270 ozs. The average composition of these deposits in Sydney was, gold 859.2, silver 95.2, base 45.6 in every 1000 parts; Melbourne, gold 921.0, silver 39.0, base 40.0 in every 1000 parts; and Perth, gold 830.9, silver 107.0, base 62.1 in every 1000 parts. As many parcels have, however, undergone some sort of refining process before being received at the mint, the average assay for gold shews higher in these figures than for gold as it naturally occurs.

(ii.) *Receipts.* Practically all the gold coined at the Australian mints is the produce of either the Commonwealth or of the Dominion of New Zealand. The Sydney Mint, however, receives small parcels from Papua, and some gold produced in Rhodesia was, in 1909, sent to Perth for coinage. The following table shews the origin of the gold received at the three mints during 1909:—

## ORIGIN OF GOLD RECEIVED AT MINTS DURING 1909.

Origin of Gold.	Sydney Mint.	Melbourne Mint.	Perth Mint.
	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.
New South Wales ... ..	152,711.56	2,991.68	...
Victoria ... ..	1,440.51	704,583.91	...
Queensland... ..	328,914.91	1,886.24	...
South Australia ... ..	1,653.04	8,881.94	247
Western Australia ... ..	568.55	21,181.47	1,457,387
Tasmania ... ..	481.04	25,852.43	...
New Zealand ... ..	126,454.83	95,545.98	...
Other countries, origin not stated, and light gold coin ... ..	16,646.59	43,770.42	636
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>628,871.03</b>	<b>904,694.07</b>	<b>1,458,270</b>

It will be seen that practically all gold produced in New South Wales and Queensland, nearly three-fifths of that produced in New Zealand, and about one-sixth of the South Australian produce, found its way to the Sydney Mint, while the Melbourne Mint received all Victorian and about five-sixths of the South Australian gold, together with all of the Tasmanian and over two-fifths of the New Zealand production, and the Perth Mint coined practically all Western Australian gold with the exception of a small portion sent to Sydney and Melbourne.

(iii.) *Issues.* The Australian mints, besides issuing gold coin in the shape of sovereigns and half-sovereigns, also issue gold bullion, partly for the use of local manufacturers (jewellers and dentists), and partly for export, India taking annually a considerable quantity of gold cast into 10-oz. bars. The issues during 1909 are shewn in the table below:—

#### ISSUES OF GOLD FROM MINTS DURING 1909.

Mint.	Coin.			Bullion.	Total.
	Sovereigns.	Half-sovereigns.	Total.		
	£	£	£	£	£
Sydney ...	2,057,000	...	2,057,000	241,796	2,298,796
Melbourne ...	3,029,538	93,047	3,122,585	417,909	3,540,494
Perth ...	4,524,241	22,011	4,546,252	601,919	5,148,171
Total ...	9,610,779	115,058	9,725,837	1,261,624	10,987,461

In addition to the issue of gold the Mints are also charged with the issue of silver and bronze coin struck in London. The total value of silver coin issued in 1909 was £40,800, viz.—£9800 in half-crowns, £6400 in florins, £9200 in shillings, £8000 in sixpences, and £7400 in threepences. The value of bronze coin issued was £9620, viz., £6320 in pence, and £3300 in halfpence.

(iv.) *Withdrawals of Worn Coin.* The mints receive light and worn coin for recoinage, gold being coined locally, while silver is forwarded to London. The value of gold coin so received in 1909 amounted to £191,377, viz.—Sydney, £51,257; and Melbourne, £140,120. The value of worn silver coins received during 1909 was £12,639, viz.—Sydney, £7076; Melbourne, £5563.

3. **Total Receipts and Issues.** (i.) *Receipts.* The total quantities of gold received at the three mints since their establishment are stated in the gross as follows:—Sydney, 33,704,622 ozs.; Melbourne, 32,789,922 ozs.; and Perth, 13,292,977 ozs. As the mints pay for standard gold (22 carats) at the rate of £3 17s. 10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. per oz., which corresponds to a value of £4 4s. 11<sup>5</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. per oz. fine (24 carats), it is possible to arrive at the number of fine ounces received from the amounts paid for the gold received. These amounts were:—Sydney, £124,246,681; Melbourne, £129,182,162; Perth, £47,101,041; corresponding to—Sydney, 29,250,155 ozs. fine; Melbourne, 30,412,066 ozs. fine; and Perth, 11,088,528 ozs. fine. Silver found in assaying is paid for if it exceeds 8 per cent.; in Sydney it has been paid for at the rate of one shilling and sixpence per oz. fine since 12th May, 1902; in Melbourne the price is fixed monthly by the Deputy-master of the Mint; and in the Perth accounts it has been taken at one shilling per oz.

(ii.) *Issues.* The total values of gold coin and bullion issued by the three mints were as shewn in the table on page 862. It may be said that about one-half of the total gold production of Australasia has passed through the three Australian mints, the

production of the Commonwealth States to the end of 1909 being valued at £514,091,517, and that of New Zealand at £74,398,318, or a total of £588,489,835:—

**TOTAL ISSUES OF GOLD FROM MINTS TO END OF 1909.**

Mint.	Coin.			Bullion.	Total.
	Sovereigns.	Half-sovereigns.	Total.		
	£	£	£	£	£
Sydney ...	114,476,500	3,448,000	117,924,500	6,332,873	124,257,373
Melbourne ...	118,257,085	883,948	119,141,033	16,041,588	129,182,621
Perth ...	43,015,232	124,048	43,139,280	3,953,758	47,093,038
Total ...	275,748,817	4,455,996	280,204,813	20,328,219	300,533,032

The total issues of silver coins to the end of 1909 were £2,398,800, viz.:—Crowns, £3500; double florins, £4585; half-crowns, £716,600; florins, £528,215; shillings, £605,400; sixpences, £247,820; and threepences, £292,680.

Bronze coins to the value of £161,270 were issued, viz.:—Pence, £112,100; halfpence, £48,970; and farthings, £200.

(iii.) *Withdrawals of Worn Coin.* Complete figures as to the withdrawal of gold coin can only be given for the Sydney Mint, where they amounted to £1,026,569; at the Melbourne Mint the coins withdrawn since 1890 were worth £420,251, and no figures are given for Perth.

Withdrawals of worn silver coin amounted to £264,360 in Sydney, and to £333,366 in Melbourne.

**4. Standard Weight and Fineness of Coinage.**—The coinage of the Commonwealth is the same as that of the United Kingdom, and the same provisions as to legal tender hold good, viz., while gold coins are legal tender to any amount, silver coins are only so for an amount not exceeding forty shillings, and bronze coins up to one shilling. As will be seen from the table below, the standard weights of the sovereign and half-sovereign are respectively 123.27447 grains and 61.63723 grains, but these coins will pass current if they do not fall below 122.5 grains and 61.125 grains respectively.

**STANDARD WEIGHT AND FINENESS OF COMMONWEALTH COINAGE.**

Denomination.	Standard Weight.	Standard Fineness.
<b>GOLD—</b>		
	Grains.	
Sovereign ...	123.27447	} Eleven-twelfths fine gold, viz.:— Gold ... 0.91667 } Alloy ... 0.08333 } 1.00000
Half-sovereign ...	61.63723	
<b>SILVER—</b>		
Crown ...	436.36363	} Thirty-seven-fortieths fine silver, viz.:— Silver ... 0.925 } Alloy ... 0.075 } 1.000
Double florin ...	349.09090	
Half-crown ...	218.18181	
Florin ...	174.54545	
Shilling ...	87.27272	
Sixpence ...	43.63636	
Threepence ...	21.81818	
<b>BRONZE—</b>		
		Mixed metal, viz.:—
Penny ...	145.83333	} Copper ... 0.95 } Tin ... 0.04 } 1.00 Zinc ... 0.01 }
Half-penny ...	87.50000	
Farthing ...	43.75000	

5. Prices of Silver and Australian Coinage.—(i.) *Prices of Silver.* The value of silver has greatly decreased since its demonetisation and restricted coinage in almost the whole of Europe. Its average price in the London market is shown in the subjoined table:—

**AVERAGE PRICE OF SILVER IN LONDON MARKET, 1873 to 1909.**

Year.	Price per Standard Oz.	Year.	Price per Standard Oz.	Year.	Price per Standard Oz.
	d.		d.		d.
1873	59.2500	1886	45.3750	1899	27.5000
1874	58.3125	1887	44.6250	1900	28.3125
1875	56.8125	1888	42.8750	1901	27.2500
1876	53.0000	1889	42.6875	1902	24.1250
1877	54.7500	1890	47.7500	1903	24.7500
1878	52.5625	1891	45.0625	1904	26.3750
1879	51.1875	1892	39.8125	1905	27.8125
1880	52.2500	1893	35.6250	1906	30.8750
1881	51.7500	1894	29.0000	1907	30.1875
1882	51.8125	1895	29.8750	1908	24.3750
1883	50.5625	1896	30.7500	1909	23.6875
1884	50.6875	1897	27.5625		
1885	48.6250	1898	26.9375		

The monthly fluctuations during the year 1909 were as follows:—

**AVERAGE PRICE OF SILVER IN LONDON MARKET, 1909.**

Month.	Price per Standard Oz.	Month.	Price per Standard Oz.	Month.	Price per Standard Oz.
	d.		d.		d.
January	23.8125	May	24.3125	September	23.7500
February	23.6875	June	24.1875	October	23.5000
March	23.2500	July	23.5000	November	23.3750
April	23.6875	August	23.5625	December	24.0000

(ii.) *Profits on Coinage of Silver.* As sixty-six shillings are coined out of one pound troy of standard silver, the silver required to produce £3 6s. of coin was only worth £1 3s. 9d. during 1909; the difference of £2 2s. 3d. represents, therefore, the gross profit or seigniorage made on the coinage of every £3 6s. This gross profit is equivalent to over 64 per cent., but from it the expenses of coining (including interest on cost of machinery) and of withdrawals of worn coin must be deducted. Still, given a large annual demand for new silver coin, even the net profit amounts to a considerable sum. Negotiations, therefore, took place for a number of years between the Imperial authorities and the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria, which in 1898 resulted in permission being granted to the two Governments named to coin silver and bronze coin at the Sydney and Melbourne Mints for circulation in Australia. No steps were, however, taken in the matter, and as section 51 of the Commonwealth Constitution makes legislation concerning "currency, coinage, and legal tender" a federal matter, the question remained in abeyance until the latter part of 1908, when the Commonwealth Treasurer announced his intention of initiating the coinage of silver in the near future.

(iii.) *Coinage Bill.* In 1909 a coinage bill was introduced in the Commonwealth Parliament, which provides that the future Australian coinage shall consist of the

following coins:—In gold, £5, £2, £1, and 10s.; in silver, 2s., 1s., 6d., and 3d.; and in bronze, 1d. and  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Gold is to be legal tender up to any amount, silver up to 40s., and bronze up to 1s. Ultimately the coinage will be undertaken in Australia, but for the present an agreement has been made with the authorities of the Royal Mint in London, under the terms of which the coinage is to be done in London on account of the Commonwealth Government. Orders were given for the immediate coinage of £200,000 worth of silver, viz., one million florins, one million shillings, one million sixpences, and two million threepences. The coins bear on the obverse H.M. the King's head, with the Latin inscription which appears on the British coins, and on the reverse the Australian coat-of-arms, with the denomination and the date. The Imperial authorities have undertaken to withdraw £100,000 worth of the present silver coinage per annum at its face value. The first consignment of the new coinage arrived in Australia early in 1910, and by the 30th June, 1910, all the silver coins contracted for, except half a million florins, had been supplied to the Royal mints, Australia. Copper coins of the value of £10,000, viz., 1,560,000 pennies and 1,680,000 half-pennies of a design similar to that of the silver coins, have also been ordered. It is not, however, intended to withdraw any of the present copper coins, but merely to make good the "leakage," which is considerable. Possibly the time is not far distant when the copper coinage will be replaced by a nickel coinage.

**6. Decimal Coinage.**—Considered apart from the cognate subject of decimal weights and measures, the introduction of a decimal coinage would present no great difficulties. Of the various systems that have been advocated from time to time, the one that appears to meet with most favour and presents the maximum advantage, would retain the sovereign as the unit, but would divide it into a thousand parts instead of the present 960 farthings. In such a system there would be the following coins (adopting the name of "cent" for the hundredth part of the sovereign):—Sovereign=100c. (gold); half-sovereign=50c. (gold), 20c.=4s. (gold or silver); 10c.=2s. (silver); 5c.=1s. (silver); 2c.=4.8d. (silver); 1c.=2.4d. (silver or nickel); 0.5c. or 5 mils.=1.2d. (nickel or bronze); 0.2c. or 2 mils.=0.48d. (nickel or bronze); 0.1c. or 1 mil.=0.24d. (bronze). As only the subdivisions of the present shilling would be altered, such a system could be introduced with less disturbing effects on the arrangements of trade than other proposals, *e.g.*, one which would make the present farthing its unit. It will be seen from the terms of the Coinage Act, as quoted in the preceding paragraph, that no provision has been made for the introduction of a decimal coinage, apart from the omission of the half-crown.

**7. Circulation of Specie.**—Many conflicting estimates have from time to time been made as to the amount of coin in private hands. In 1892 the general manager of one of the Sydney banks estimated the coin in private hands in New South Wales at only £725,000, while the estimate of the Deputy-master of the Mint for the same period was £4,416,000, the truth lying, no doubt, somewhere between those two estimates. In 1906 the Deputy-master of the Perth Mint conducted an enquiry with the object of obtaining information on the condition of the currency in Australia. His estimate was—sovereigns, £2,500,000; half-sovereigns, £500,000; silver and bronze coin, £1,200,000. This estimate appears, however, very low, amounting only to a little over £1 per head of population. The coin in private hands amounts, however, only to a comparatively small part of the total coin in the country, the value of coin held by the banks during the quarter ended 30th June, 1910, being £23,826,729. To the active currency must be added the notes in circulation, which for the same period amounted to £3,748,482, exclusive of Queensland Treasury notes. For particulars relative to Australian notes, see page 866.

**8. Imports and Exports of Coin and Bullion.**—A table is appended shewing the imports into, and exports from, the Commonwealth of coin and bullion during the year 1909, distinguishing the countries of import and export:—

## IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF COIN AND BULLION, 1909.

Countries from which Imported and to which Exported.	Coin.				Bullion.			Total Coin and Bullion.
	Gold.	Silver.	Bronze.	Total Coin.	Gold. <sup>1</sup>	Silver. <sup>2</sup>	Total Bullion.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>IMPORTS.</b>								
United Kingdom ...	...	29,455	10,292	39,747	464	1,677	2,141	41,888
Germany ...	...	1,500	...	1,500	...	...	...	1,500
New Zealand ...	10,000	...	...	10,000	934,006	617	934,623	944,623
Hawaii ...	1,318	...	...	1,318	...	...	...	1,318
New Caledonia ...	248	252	...	500	...	...	...	500
South Sea Islands (so described) ...	...	1,130	2	1,132	...	...	...	1,132
Papua ...	...	...	...	...	64,407	...	64,407	64,407
Philippine Islands ...	...	...	...	...	800	...	800	800
U.S. of America ...	...	...	...	...	207	...	207	207
<b>Total Imports ...</b>	<b>11,566</b>	<b>32,337</b>	<b>10,294</b>	<b>54,197</b>	<b>999,884</b>	<b>2,294</b>	<b>1,002,178</b>	<b>1,056,375</b>
<b>EXPORTS.</b>								
Belgium ...	...	...	...	...	785	2,110	2,895	2,895
France ...	882	318	...	1,200	316	1,260	1,576	2,776
Germany ...	450,000	...	...	450,000	393	...	393	450,393
United Kingdom ...	445,242	...	...	445,242	2,401,692	381,642	2,783,334	3,228,576
U.S. of America ...	...	...	...	...	36,251	28,765	65,016	65,016
Ceylon ...	853,300	...	...	853,300	90,572	166,760	257,332	1,110,632
Hong Kong ...	385,056	...	...	385,056	1,997	...	1,997	387,053
China ...	30,402	...	...	30,402	...	5,030	5,030	35,432
Japan ...	1,450,000	...	...	1,450,000	...	...	...	1,450,000
India ...	301,093	...	...	301,093	1,016,262	74,320	1,090,582	1,391,675
New Zealand ...	702,800	347	800	703,947	...	350	350	704,297
Java ...	20,000	...	...	20,000	...	...	...	20,000
Timor ...	92	...	...	92	...	...	...	92
Natal ...	650,000	...	...	650,000	...	...	...	650,000
Papua ...	134	350	...	484	...	...	...	484
Fiji ...	35,000	6,000	50	41,050	...	...	...	41,050
New Britain ...	614	...	...	614	...	...	...	614
New Hebrides ...	3,471	3,205	1	6,677	...	...	...	6,677
South Sea Islands, (so described) ...	20,980	5,154	...	26,134	...	...	...	26,134
Hawaii ...	...	1,000	...	1,000	...	...	...	1,000
<b>Total Exports ...</b>	<b>5,349,066<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>16,374<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>851<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>5,366,291</b>	<b>3,548,268<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>660,237<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>4,208,505</b>	<b>9,574,796</b>

1. Bullion and gold contained in matte. 2. Bullion and silver contained in matte. 3. £4,267,070 Australian produce and £1,081,996 other produce. 4. Other produce. 5. Australian produce. 6. Australian produce, £659,332; other produce, £905.

## § 2. Banking.

**1. Banking Facilities.—(i.) Head Offices of Banks.** Of the twenty-one banks trading in the Commonwealth, four have their head offices in London, viz., the Bank of Australasia; the Union Bank of Australia Limited; the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank Limited; and the London Bank of Australia Limited. The head offices of the following four banks are in Sydney—The Bank of New South Wales; the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Limited; the Australian Joint Stock Bank Limited (now the Australian Bank of Commerce Limited); and the City Bank of Sydney. Five banks have their head offices in Melbourne, viz., the National Bank of Australasia Limited; the Commercial Bank of Australia Limited; the Bank of Victoria Limited; the Colonial Bank of Australasia Limited; and the Royal Bank of Australia Limited. Brisbane is the headquarters of three banks, viz., the Queensland National Bank Limited; the Royal Bank of Queensland Limited; and the Bank of North Queensland Limited. Only one bank has at present its head office in Adelaide, viz., the Bank of Adelaide; and one in Perth, viz., the Western Australian Bank. Of the two Tasmanian banks the Commercial Bank of Tasmania Limited has its head office in Hobart, and the National Bank of Tasmania Limited in Launceston. The remaining bank, the Bank of New Zealand, has its headquarters in Wellington. It is proposed, in the few instances where the banks are referred to by name, to arrange them in the order just given.

(ii.) *Establishments in Different States.* Only three of the banks have establishments in all six States of the Commonwealth, the total number of their branches and sub-branches being 526. One bank with a total of 228 branches is trading in five States, and two with 321 branches are established in four States. One bank has 59 branches distributed over three States, but has now also opened a branch in a fourth State, while six banks with a total of 357 branches, confine their operations to two States. The remaining eight banks, with 433 branches, trade only within the State where their head offices are located. Of this total of 1924 banking establishments, New South Wales contains 572; Victoria, 645; Queensland, 254; South Australia, 232; Western Australia, 167; and Tasmania, 54. In addition to the branches in the Commonwealth, four of the banks have a total of 261 establishments in New Zealand, while sixteen have each an office in London. Only two of the banks are established in the Pacific Islands, with a total of four branches. The total for the Commonwealth amounts to about one bank to every 2300 inhabitants, which does not appear out of proportion when the general sparseness of the Australian population is taken into consideration. There is, however, a difference between the various States which is not easy of explanation, but which seems to be due chiefly to the desire of a few of the banks to open up branches wherever there is a prospect of a small amount of business, while other banks are more conservative in this respect. Thus the proportion in New South Wales is about 2873 inhabitants per bank, while in Victoria it is only 2029. In Western Australia, where the proportion is lowest and amounts to one in 1673, there are, of course, exceptional circumstances which explain this apparent disproportion.

**2. Banking Legislation.**—Under section 51 of the Commonwealth Constitution Act the Commonwealth Parliament has power to legislate with respect to "Banking, other than State banking; also State banking extending beyond the limits of the State concerned, the incorporation of banks, and the issue of paper money." Until quite recently the only Commonwealth banking legislation passed was Act No. 27 of 1909, "An Act relating to Bills of Exchange, Cheques, and Promissory Notes," which came into force on the 1st February, 1910. In the session of 1910, however, two Acts relating to banking were passed by the Federal Parliament. The first was the Australian Notes Act No. 11 of 1910, assented to on 16th September, 1910, and proclaimed 1st November, 1910; and the second the Bank Notes Tax Act No. 14 of 1910, assented to on 10th October, 1910, and to be proclaimed 1st July, 1911. Under the first of these Acts the Commonwealth Treasurer is empowered to issue notes which shall be legal tender throughout the Commonwealth, and redeemable at the seat of Federal Government. The notes are issued in denominations of 10s., £1, £5, £10, or any multiple of £10. The Act directs the Treasurer to hold the following reserve of gold coin:—

- (a) An amount not less than one-fourth of the amount of Australian notes issued up to seven million pounds;
- (b) An amount equal to the amount of Australian notes issued in excess of seven million pounds.

For the purposes of estimating the reserve, notes which have been redeemed are not included amongst those issued.

The Australian Notes Act prohibits the circulation of notes issued by a State six months after the commencement of the Act, and such notes will then cease to be legal tender. In addition the Bank Notes Act imposes a tax of 10 per cent. per annum in respect of all bank notes issued or re-issued by any bank in the Commonwealth after the commencement of this Act and not redeemed.

Under the existing laws banks are required to furnish quarterly statements of their average assets and liabilities, but these statements are not equally complete in all the States. Until the close of 1907 these quarterly statements, together with the periodical balance-sheets of the banks (generally half-yearly, but in a few cases yearly), were the only information available in regard to banking business. During the year 1908 the Commonwealth Statistician, under the provisions of the Census and Statistics Act, asked the banks for quarterly returns giving slightly more detailed information than had previously been obtained. As, however, a few of the banks have found it

impossible up to the present to give all the particulars required, while promising to do so in future, the returns for the years 1908, 1909 and 1910 have been practically left in the same condition as those for 1907 and previous years.

The Acts under which the various banks are incorporated are not all of the same nature, but it may be stated that while most of the older banks were incorporated by special Acts, *e.g.*, the Bank of New South Wales, by Act of Council 1817; the Bank of Australasia, by Royal Charter; the Bank of Adelaide, by Act of the South Australian Parliament; and the Bank of New Zealand, by Act of the General Assembly of New Zealand, the newer banks are generally registered under a "Companies Act," or some equivalent Act. This is also the case with those banks which, after the crisis of 1893, were reconstructed.

**3. Capital Resources of Banks.**—The paid-up capital of the twenty-one banks, together with their reserve funds, and the rate per cent. and the amount of their last dividends, is shewn in the table hereunder. The information relates to the balance-sheet last preceding the 30th June, 1910. In regard to the reserve funds it must be stated that in the case of some of the banks these are invested in Government securities, while in other cases they are used in the ordinary business of the banks, and in a few instances they are partly invested and partly used in business.

## CAPITAL RESOURCES OF BANKS.

Bank.	Paid-up Capital.	Rate per cent. per annum of last Dividend and Bonus.	Amount of last ½-yrly. Dividend & Bonus.	Amount of Reserved Profits.
	£	%	£	£
Bank of Australasia ... ..	1,600,000	12 & 8/10 Bonus p.s.	112,000	1,727,471
Union Bank of Australia Limited ... ..	1,500,000	14	105,000	1,328,879
English, Scottish, and Australian Bank Limited ... ..	539,438	6	32,366 <sup>7</sup>	212,039
London Bank of Australia Limited ... ..	548,153 <sup>1</sup>	{ 5½ Preferen. 5 Ordinary }	27,858 <sup>7</sup>	71,680
Bank of New South Wales ... ..	2,621,340	10	125,000	1,780,335
Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Limited	1,500,000	10	75,000	1,414,611
Australian Bank of Commerce Limited ... ..	958,172	...	...	...
City Bank of Sydney ... ..	400,000	3	6,000	16,595
National Bank of Australasia Limited ... ..	1,498,220 <sup>2</sup>	6	44,947	238,037
Commercial Bank of Australia Limited	2,212,969 <sup>3</sup>	{ 3 Preferen. ... Ordinary }	31,760	7,473
Bank of Victoria Limited ... ..	1,478,010 <sup>4</sup>	5	36,950	248,921
Colonial Bank of Australasia Limited ... ..	439,281	7	15,375	145,503
Royal Bank of Australia Limited ... ..	300,000	7	10,500	135,119
Queensland National Bank Limited ... ..	413,369 <sup>5</sup>	...	...	...
Royal Bank of Queensland Limited ... ..	515,492	4½	11,483	75,438
Bank of North Queensland Limited ... ..	100,000	5	2,500	23,775
Bank of Adelaide ... ..	400,620	10	20,000	386,838
Western Australian Bank ... ..	200,000	20	19,189	518,216
Commercial Bank of Tasmania Limited ... ..	175,000	12	10,500	193,295
National Bank of Tasmania Limited ... ..	152,040	7	5,321	50,000
Bank of New Zealand ... ..	2,000,000 <sup>6</sup>	{ 3½ Preferen. 5 Ordinary & 2½ Bonus }	56,250	864,134
Total ... ..	19,552,104	...	...	9,438,359

1. £171,930 preferential, £376,223 ordinary. 2. £305,780 preferential, £1,192,440 ordinary. 3. £2,117,350 preferential, £95,619 ordinary. 4. £416,760 preferential, £1,061,250 ordinary. 5. After deducting £47,156 paid on forfeited shares. 6. £500,000 preference shares issued to the Crown under the "Bank of New Zealand Act 1903," £500,000 ordinary shares, and £1,000,000 guaranteed stock. 7. For 12 months.

**4. Liabilities and Assets of Banks.**—(i.) *Liabilities of Banks for Quarter ended 30th June, 1910.* As already stated, the banks transacting business in any State are obliged, under the existing State laws, to furnish a quarterly statement of their assets and liabilities, which contains the averages of the weekly statements prepared by the bank for that purpose, and have, during the years 1908, 1909 and 1910, furnished quarterly statements to the Commonwealth Statistician. As all other financial returns in this work embrace, so far as possible, a period ended 30th June, 1910, it seems advisable to give the banking figures for the quarter ended on that date, and, where they are shewn for a series of years, similarly to use the figures for the June quarter of each year. The

liabilities are those to the general public, and are exclusive of the banks' liabilities to their shareholders, which are shewn in the preceding table:—

**AVERAGE LIABILITIES OF BANKS IN EACH STATE OF THE COMMONWEALTH FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30th JUNE, 1910.**

State.	Notes in Circulation, not bearing interest.	Bills in Circulation, not bearing interest.	Balances Due to other Banks.	Deposits.			Total Liabilities.
				Not Bearing Interest.	Bearing Interest.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	1,801,905	370,374	100,348	23,484,284	26,534,601	50,018,885	52,291,412
Victoria	901,238	173,826	206,116	15,049,917	26,759,791	41,809,708	43,090,888
Queensland	*	177,580	57,812	7,274,059	10,145,975	17,420,034	17,655,426
South Australia	538,761	37,348	77,959	4,397,660	6,385,230	10,782,890	11,436,958
West. Australia	338,123	46,396	127,733	3,269,132	2,860,536	6,129,668	6,641,920
Tasmania	168,555	16,234	147	1,758,810	1,971,141	3,729,951	3,914,887
Commonwealth	3,748,482	821,758	570,115	55,233,862	74,657,274	129,891,136	135,031,491

\* In Queensland, Treasury notes were used instead of bank notes.

(ii.) *Assets of Banks for Quarter ended 30th June, 1910.* The average assets of the banks are shewn in the following table:—

**AVERAGE ASSETS OF BANKS IN EACH STATE OF THE COMMONWEALTH FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30th JUNE, 1910.**

State.	Coined Gold and Silver and other Metals.	Gold and Silver in Bullion or Bars.	Government and Municipal Securities.	Landed and House Property.	Notes and Bills of other Banks.	Balances Due from other Banks.	Discounts, Overdrafts, and all other Assets.	Total Assets.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
N.S.W.	12,785,107	194,906	2,694,404	1,824,349	406,916	503,850	34,809,345	53,218,877
Victoria	7,867,697	372,441	122,138	1,755,736	312,782	292,344	33,064,881	43,788,019
Q'land	2,752,697	141,250	262,971	689,333	832,044*	246,964	14,167,480	19,092,739
S. Aust.	2,376,073	6,629	118,202	340,481	112,292	95,903	6,426,809	9,476,389
W. Aust.	2,317,271	607,673	139,529	196,231	56,560	101,717	5,889,061	9,308,042
Tas. ...	727,884	...	193,646	113,861	13,273	102,891	2,722,645	3,874,200
Cwlth.	28,826,729	1,322,899	3,530,890	4,919,991	1,733,867	1,343,669	97,080,921	138,758,266

\* Including Queensland Treasury Notes, £760,706.

(iii.) *Liabilities of Banks for June Quarter, 1901 to 1910.* In the subjoined table, which shews the average liabilities of the banks for the quarters ended 30th June, 1901 to 1910, for the Commonwealth as a whole, it will be seen that the growth in total liabilities is almost entirely due to an increase in the deposits, and that deposits not bearing interest and deposits bearing interest have shared in that increase very equally:—

**AVERAGE LIABILITIES OF BANKS IN THE COMMONWEALTH FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30th JUNE IN THE YEARS 1901 to 1910.**

Year.	Notes in Circulation not Bearing Interest.	Bills in Circulation not Bearing Interest.	Balances due to other Banks.	Deposits.			Total Liabilities.
				Not Bearing Interest.	Bearing Interest.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1901	3,399,462	525,958	376,972	37,457,960	54,029,188	91,487,148	95,789,540
1902	3,305,135	518,504	459,255	37,727,861	55,708,373	93,436,234	97,719,128
1903	3,315,747	539,132	407,947	37,056,187	54,701,047	91,757,234	96,020,060
1904	3,133,268	521,267	290,441	35,630,255	55,917,848	91,548,103	95,493,079
1905	3,036,879	555,256	446,555	36,847,610	61,295,775	98,143,385	102,182,075
1906	3,244,256	568,670	577,094	41,036,116	65,479,150	106,515,266	110,905,286
1907	3,563,151	801,878	444,460	46,781,234	65,916,735	112,697,969	117,507,488
1908	3,536,227	707,903	796,447	46,015,448	67,678,940	113,694,388	118,734,965
1909	3,510,629	720,853	555,806	46,812,632	70,945,623	117,758,255	122,545,543
1910	3,748,482	821,758	570,115	55,233,862	74,657,274	129,891,136	135,031,491

(iv.) *Assets of Banks for June Quarter, 1901 to 1910.* A similar table shewing the average assets of the banks for the June quarters of each of the years 1901 to 1910 is shewn below. Bullion, in the case of the Tasmanian banks, is included with coin in the years 1901 to 1907.

**AVERAGE ASSETS OF BANKS IN THE COMMONWEALTH FOR THE QUARTER  
ENDED 30th JUNE IN THE YEARS 1901 to 1910.**

Year.	Coined Gold and Silver and other Metals.	Gold and Silver in Bullion or Bars.	Landed and other Property.	Notes and Bills of other Banks.	Balances Due from other Banks.	All other Debts Due to the Banks.	Total Assets.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1901	18,581,224	1,199,304	6,145,742	695,676	1,215,701	93,710,166	121,547,813
1902	19,744,914	1,330,304	5,337,277	656,302	1,152,534	94,015,098	122,236,429
1903	18,513,784	1,507,825	5,289,440	741,977	1,115,369	93,301,160	120,469,555
1904	17,910,771	1,447,698	5,245,312	692,688	781,368	87,705,222	113,783,059
1905	19,988,465	1,501,890	5,212,799	705,089	809,929	85,766,259	113,984,431
1906	21,268,679	1,412,763	5,160,875	802,225	1,234,921	87,889,121	117,768,584
1907	22,420,395	1,291,033	5,028,379	840,217	1,170,276	94,990,435	125,740,735
1908	23,578,293	1,353,267	4,938,212	1,692,402	1,131,612	100,844,019*	133,537,805
1909	24,943,910	1,353,933	4,852,471	1,720,975	1,153,611	97,692,800†	131,717,700
1910	28,826,729	1,322,899	4,919,991	973,161	1,343,669	100,611,111‡	138,758,266§

\* Including £3,454,715 Government and municipal securities. † Including £3,085,058 Government and municipal securities. ‡ Including £3,530,890 Government municipal securities. § Including £760,706 Queensland Treasury notes.

The figures do not call for much comment. As the table shews, the increase in the total amount of assets is mainly due to an increase in the amount of specie held by the banks against liabilities at call and advances.

**5. Percentage of Coin and Bullion to Liabilities at Call.—(i.) Commonwealth.** Although it is not strictly correct to assume that the division of deposits into those bearing interest and not bearing interest would in every case coincide with a division into fixed deposits and current accounts, the division, in default of a better one, must be adopted, and in the following table "liabilities at call" are therefore understood to include the note circulation of the banks and the deposits not bearing interest:—

**PERCENTAGE OF COIN AND BULLION TO LIABILITIES AT CALL, COMMONWEALTH,  
1901 TO 1910.**

Year.	Liabilities at Call.			Coin and Bullion.			Percentage of Coin and Bullion to Liabilities at Call.
	Notes in Circulation.	Deposits not Bearing Interest.	Total.	Coin.	Bullion.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
1901 ...	3,399,462	37,457,960	40,857,422	18,581,224	1,199,304	19,780,528	48.41
1902 ...	3,305,135	37,727,861	41,032,996	19,744,914	1,330,304	21,075,218	51.36
1903 ...	3,315,747	37,056,187	40,371,934	18,513,784	1,507,825	20,021,609	49.59
1904 ...	3,133,747	35,630,255	38,764,002	17,910,771	1,447,698	19,358,469	49.94
1905 ...	3,036,879	36,847,610	39,884,489	19,988,465	1,501,890	21,490,355	53.88
1906 ...	3,244,256	41,036,116	44,280,372	21,268,679	1,412,763	22,681,442	51.22
1907 ...	3,563,181	46,781,234	50,344,415	22,420,395	1,291,033	23,711,428	47.10
1908 ...	3,536,227	46,015,448	49,551,675	23,578,293	1,353,267	24,931,560	50.31
1909 ...	3,510,629	46,812,632	50,323,261	24,943,910	1,353,933	26,297,843	52.26
1910 ...	3,748,482	55,233,862	58,982,344	28,826,729	1,322,899	30,149,628	51.12

It would appear from the figures just given that the banks generally consider it advisable to hold about half the amount of liabilities at call in coin and bullion. The drop to 47.10 per cent. in 1907 was due to the very large increase in the amount of deposits during the year, with which the increase in the coin and bullion held, considerable though it was, did not keep pace.

(ii.) *Queensland Treasury Notes.* No bank-notes are issued by any of the banks in Queensland, where a Treasury note has taken the place of bank-notes since 1893. These Treasury notes are disregarded in the quarterly statements of the banks; according to Treasury returns the amount outstanding on 30th June, 1910, was £1,579,568, of which £815,425 was in circulation, while the balance of £764,143 was held by the banks.

(iii.) *States.* The proportion of coin and bullion to liabilities at call varies considerably in the different States, and is generally highest in Western Australia, and lowest in Queensland and Tasmania. A table is appended shewing the percentages for each State for the quarter ended 30th June, in each of the years 1901 to 1910:—

**PERCENTAGE OF COIN AND BULLION TO LIABILITIES AT CALL, STATES AND COMMONWEALTH, 1901 to 1910.**

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1901 ...	45.96	47.82	40.95	54.94	71.59	37.49	48.41
1902 ...	46.97	51.91	44.42	57.67	80.46	35.12	51.36
1903 ...	47.47	50.58	46.33	50.12	61.83	42.20	49.59
1904 ...	48.67	52.92	39.66	51.45	58.70	46.41	49.94
1905 ...	50.51	58.01	45.78	55.66	67.35	44.25	53.88
1906 ...	48.49	53.55	40.43	51.25	73.98	42.39	51.22
1907 ...	44.81	49.17	37.20	46.73	71.14	39.84	47.10
1908 ...	47.70	54.68	41.09	45.63	76.09	40.06	50.31
1909 ...	50.38	56.57	39.68	46.90	83.29	41.48	52.26
1910 ...	51.33	51.66	39.78	48.27	81.09	37.77	51.12

6. *Deposits and Advances.*—(i.) *Total Deposits.* The total amount of deposits held by the banks shews a steady advance during the period under review, although the totals for 1903 and 1904, when the country was slowly recovering from the effects of the drought, were slightly below those for 1902:—

**TOTAL DEPOSITS IN BANKS, STATES AND COMMONWEALTH, 1901 to 1910.**

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	C'wealth.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1901	33,118,860	30,991,038	13,525,489	6,270,396	4,402,519	3,178,846	91,487,148
1902	34,382,531	30,839,444	13,795,737	6,212,957	4,742,579	3,462,986	93,436,234
1903	33,309,691	30,719,334	12,645,725	6,603,225	4,785,839	3,693,420	91,757,234
1904	33,058,342	31,188,971	12,626,184	6,375,267	4,726,158	3,573,181	91,548,103
1905	35,972,265	33,642,092	12,987,859	6,892,103	4,999,650	3,649,416	98,143,385
1906	39,099,630	36,764,392	13,665,110	7,513,802	5,645,701	3,826,631	106,515,266
1907	41,967,265	38,393,179	14,852,584	8,247,366	5,500,112	3,737,463	112,697,969
1908	43,616,984	37,538,722	15,328,056	8,644,346	4,894,639	3,671,641	113,694,388
1909	44,626,194	38,611,731	16,138,931	9,727,879	4,987,894	3,665,626	117,758,255
1910	50,018,885	41,809,708	17,420,034	10,782,890	6,129,668	3,729,951	129,891,136

(ii.) *Deposits per Head of Population.* To shew the extent to which the population makes use of the banking facilities afforded to it, a table is given hereunder shewing the amount of total deposits per head of mean population for each of the years 1901 to 1910. The figures must not be taken to shew part of the savings of the people, as a large

proportion of the deposits is non-interest-bearing and therefore presumably used in the business of the banks' customers, together with a small part of the interest-bearing deposits.

### DEPOSITS PER HEAD OF POPULATION, STATES AND COMMONWEALTH,

1901 TO 1910.

Year.	N.S.W.			Victoria.			Q'land.			S. Aust.			W. Aust.			Tasmania.			C'wealth.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1901 ...	24	6	5	25	14	9	26	18	8	17	7	0	23	5	11	18	10	5	24	2	9
1902 ...	24	14	4	25	9	8	27	0	5	17	1	8	22	18	2	20	0	8	24	4	8
1903 ...	23	10	7	25	8	7	24	13	3	18	1	10	21	11	2	20	17	5	23	10	0
1904 ...	22	18	8	25	17	2	24	5	8	17	5	5	19	17	2	20	1	8	23	3	3
1905 ...	24	8	1	27	15	7	24	13	6	18	8	3	19	18	0	20	10	2	24	8	11
1906 ...	25	17	11	30	1	3	25	11	10	19	15	7	21	13	0	21	10	7	26	1	6
1907 ...	27	1	2	30	0	10	27	7	9	21	6	3	20	16	3	21	2	9	27	2	1
1908 ...	27	12	10	29	18	4	27	19	2	21	16	4	18	10	3	20	5	2	26	18	6
1909 ...	28	0	9	30	7	6	29	4	5	23	17	10	18	13	6	19	14	6	27	10	11
1910 ...	30	16	11	32	1	7	30	8	5	25	18	4	22	8	2	19	19	3	29	13	11

(iii.) *Total Advances.* In the quarterly statements furnished by the banks the column headed "all other debts due to the banks," which usually averages from 75 to 80 per cent. of the total assets, is made up of such miscellaneous items as bills discounted, promissory notes discounted, overdrafts on personal security, overdrafts secured by deposit of deeds or by mortgage, etc. The quarterly returns furnished to the Commonwealth Statistician in 1908 and 1909 provided for a division of the amounts contained under this heading into a number of sub-headings, but all the banks were not in a position to make the necessary division, so that under present circumstances it is impossible to separate these items, and the total amounts contained in the column must, therefore, be treated as advances. The following table shews the totals for each State during the years 1901 to 1910:—

### ADVANCES BY BANKS, STATES AND COMMONWEALTH, 1901 to 1910.

Year.	N.S.W.			Victoria.			Q'land.			S. Aust.			W. Aust.			Tasmania.			C'wealth.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1901...	39,194,344			30,958,243			13,568,589			4,332,730			3,117,818			2,538,442			93,710,166		
1902...	39,797,960			30,446,032			13,633,376			4,434,031			3,276,409			2,397,290			93,985,098		
1903...	38,658,565			29,905,949			14,082,725			4,428,983			3,683,451			2,541,487			93,301,160		
1904...	33,237,755			29,426,052			13,974,233			4,401,991			3,955,108			2,710,083			87,705,222		
1905...	31,965,017			28,593,201			13,590,333			4,793,936			4,172,983			2,650,789			85,766,259		
1906...	32,057,192			29,699,683			13,850,921			5,053,184			4,635,624			2,592,517			87,889,121		
1907...	34,460,993			31,894,070			15,076,455			5,545,346			5,140,911			2,872,660			94,990,435		
1908...	37,948,889			33,254,780			15,245,537			5,805,575			5,581,001			3,008,237			100,844,019		
1909...	34,853,220			31,455,141			14,499,669			5,699,546			5,384,518			2,715,648			94,607,742		
1910...	34,809,345			33,064,881			14,167,480			6,426,809			5,889,061			2,722,645			97,080,221		

(iv.) *Proportion of Advances to Deposits.* The percentage borne by advances to total deposits shews to what extent the needs of one State have to be supplied by the resources of another State, and where the percentage for the Commonwealth as a whole exceeds 100, as it did in 1901, 1902, and 1903, the banks must have supplied the deficiency from their own resources, or from deposits obtained outside the Commonwealth. The following figures shew, however, that the banking business of the Commonwealth has been practically self-contained during the period under review:—

**PERCENTAGE OF ADVANCES TO TOTAL DEPOSITS, STATES AND COMMONWEALTH,  
1901 TO 1910.**

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'wealth.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1901 ... ..	118.34	99.89	100.32	69.10	70.82	79.85	102.43
1902 ... ..	115.75	98.72	98.82	71.37	69.08	69.23	100.59
1903 ... ..	116.06	97.35	111.36	67.07	76.97	68.81	101.68
1904 ... ..	100.54	94.35	110.68	69.05	83.69	75.85	95.80
1905 ... ..	88.86	84.99	104.64	69.56	83.47	72.64	87.39
1906 ... ..	81.99	80.78	101.36	67.25	82.11	67.75	82.51
1907 ... ..	82.11	83.07	101.51	67.24	93.47	76.86	84.29
1908 ... ..	87.00	88.59	99.46	67.16	114.00	81.93	88.70
1909 ... ..	78.10	81.47	89.84	58.59	107.95	74.08	80.34
1910 ... ..	69.59	79.08	81.33	59.60	96.07	72.99	74.74

**7. Clearing Houses.**—The Sydney Banks' Exchange Settlement and the Melbourne Clearing House, at which two institutions settlements are effected daily between the banks doing business in New South Wales and Victoria respectively, publish figures of the weekly clearances effected. From these figures it appears that in 1910 the total clearances in Sydney amounted to £274,344,000, and in Melbourne to £261,383,000. These figures represent in both cases an increase on those for 1909, the increase in Sydney amounting to £33,698,000, and in Melbourne to £21,719,000. Owing to the different distribution of the banking business in the two cities these figures do not, however, afford a fair comparison of the volume of banking business transacted in Sydney and Melbourne.

### § 3. Companies.

**1. General.**—Returns in regard to registered companies are defective, and, with few exceptions, are not available for Tasmania. They embrace (a) Returns relating to Trustees, Executors, and Agency Companies; (b) Returns relating to Registered Building and Investment Societies; and (c) Returns relating to Registered Co-operative Societies.

**2. Trustees, Executors, and Agency Companies.**—Returns are available of seven Victorian, two New South Wales, one Queensland, one South Australian, one Western Australian, and two Tasmanian companies. The paid-up capital of these fourteen companies amounted to £404,422; reserve funds and undivided profits to £290,555; other liabilities, £112,176; total liabilities, £807,153. Among the assets are included:—Deposits with Governments, £140,100; other investments in public securities, fixed deposits, etc., £185,515; loans on mortgage, £136,360; property owned, £202,260; other assets, £152,928. The net profits for the year were £65,453, and the amount of dividends and bonus £33,365. Returns as to the amount at credit of estates represented by assets are only available for six companies, viz.:—Two Victorian, one New South Wales, one Queensland, one South Australian, and one Western Australian, the total shewn being £23,423,172.

Probably nearly £20,000,000 would at the least have to be added to this amount for the remaining eight companies, so that the total amount is probably not far short of £44,000,000. None of these companies receive deposits, and advances are only made under exceptional circumstances, and to a very limited extent, the total so shewn in the last balance-sheets being only £75,754.

**3. Registered Building and Investment Societies.**—Returns have been received of a total of 155 societies, viz., 73 in New South Wales, 27 in Victoria, 15 in Queensland, 24

in South Australia, 12 in Western Australia, and 4 in Tasmania. The balance-sheets cover various periods ended during the second half of 1909 and the first half of 1910, so that the returns may be assumed to roughly correspond to the financial year 1909-10. The liabilities of the societies are stated as follows:—

#### LIABILITIES OF REGISTERED BUILDING AND INVESTMENT SOCIETIES, 1909-10.

State.	Paid-up Capital or Subscriptions.	Reserve Funds.	Deposits.	Bank Over-drafts and other Liabilities.	Total Liabilities.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	546,728	78,709	431,720	54,626	1,111,783
Victoria ...	1,247,497	212,116	714,265	337,158	2,511,036
Queensland ...	334,218	25,861	81,349	20,045	461,473
South Australia ...	318,943	3,946	2,408	5,552	330,849
Western Australia	100,953	...	13,795	13,097	127,845
Tasmania ...	109,344	*	145,693	...	255,037
Commonwealth ...	2,657,683	320,632	1,389,230	430,478	4,798,023

\* Not available.

The assets of the companies for the same period were as follows:—

#### ASSETS OF REGISTERED BUILDING AND INVESTMENT SOCIETIES, 1909-10.

State.	Advances on Mortgage.	Landed and House Property, Furniture, etc.	Cash in Hand and on Deposit and other Assets.	Total Assets.
	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ...	1,001,984	66,793	93,984	1,167,761
Victoria ...	1,741,368	602,029	117,667	2,461,064
Queensland ...	435,549	11,758	23,418	470,725
South Australia ...	322,262	6,181	17,065	345,508
Western Australia ...	123,507	25	4,313	127,845
Tasmania ...	269,847	18,848	...	288,695
Commonwealth ...	3,894,517	705,634	261,447	4,861,598

Complete statistical information is furnished in the following table:—

#### REGISTERED BUILDING AND INVESTMENT SOCIETIES, 1909-10.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Cwltth.
Number of societies ...	73.	27	15	24	12	4	155
Number of shareholders ...	*	7,413	4,194	6,798	2,794	2,812	24,011†
Number of shares ...	*	*	506,702	13,950	8,234	9,995	538,881†
Number of borrowers ...	*	8,127	3,481	2,272	856	62,020	76,756†
Income for year from interest ...	*	127,520	29,377	12,008	...	75,664	244,569†
Working expenses for year ...	*	33,665	7,052	4,559	3,101	3,664	51,041†
Amount of deposits during year ...	*	426,627	61,354	22,032	31,363	140,575	681,951†
Repayment of loans during year ...	*	330,848	120,309	68,032	36,722	*	555,911§
Loans granted during year ...	*	242,790	122,399	89,290	29,981	*	484,460§

\* Not available. † Exclusive of New South Wales. ‡ Exclusive of New South Wales and Victoria. § Exclusive of New South Wales and Tasmania.

4. **Registered Co-operative Societies.**—Returns are available of 91 societies, of which 39 were in New South Wales, 37 in Victoria, 5 in Queensland, 7 in South Australia, and 3 in Western Australia. As in the case of Building and Investment Societies, so in the case of Co-operative Societies do the balance-sheets cover various periods ended during the financial year 1909-10. The liabilities of the 91 societies are shewn in the following table:—

**LIABILITIES OF REGISTERED CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES, 1909-10.**

State.	Paid-up Capital.	Reserve Funds.	Bank Over-drafts and Sundry Creditors.	Other Liabilities, Profit and Loss Account, &c.	Total Liabilities.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ...	97,891	42,152	52,592	20,548	213,183
Victoria ...	118,903	8,192	116,550	41,968	285,613
Queensland ...	6,153	1,827	1,781	1,175	10,936
South Australia ...	91,664	6,743	24,462	6,593	129,462
Western Australia ...	6,388	1,180	19,814	18,029	45,411
Commonwealth*	320,999	60,094	215,199	88,313	684,605

\* Exclusive of Tasmania.

The assets of the societies are shewn hereunder:—

**ASSETS OF REGISTERED CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES, 1909-10.**

State.	Stock and Fittings.	Cash in Hand and Sundry Debtors.	Freehold and other Property and other Assets.	Total Assets.
	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ...	117,865	134,522	...	252,387
Victoria ...	196,316	82,666	17,839	296,821
Queensland ...	7,838	4,317	64	12,219
South Australia ...	61,799	41,219	33,512	136,530
Western Australia ...	34,216	10,691	504	45,411
Commonwealth*	418,034	273,415	51,919	743,368

\* Exclusive of Tasmania.

The following table gives statistical information, as far as available:—

**REGISTERED CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES, 1909.**

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wth.
Number of societies on 31st Dec., 1909	39	37	5	7	3	*	91†
Total No. of members on 31st Dec., 1909	*	23,622	10,803	7,502	695	*	42,622‡
Total income for year 1909 ... £	*	480,702	15,737	278,911	158,227	*	933,577‡
Working expenses for year ended 31st December, 1909 ... £	*	90,212	9,205	33,328	160,653	*	293,398‡

\* Not available. † Exclusive of Tasmania. ‡ Exclusive of Tasmania and New South Wales.



3. **Deposits.**—The total amount of deposits in the savings banks of the six States reaches the large sum of fifty-three million pounds, and would no doubt be even larger if the banks did not restrict interest-bearing deposits to certain limits. It must be remembered that though not granting him facilities to draw cheques, the Australian savings banks practically afford the small tradesman all the advantages of a current account, in addition to which they also allow him interest on his minimum monthly balance, instead of charging him a small fee for keeping his account, as the banks of issue do. The rates of interest allowed, and the limits of interest-bearing deposits, are as follows:—New South Wales, Government Savings Bank, 3 per cent. up to £500; Savings Bank of New South Wales, 3½ per cent. up to £200; Victoria, 3½ per cent. on first £100, and 3 per cent. on excess from £101 to £250; Queensland, 3 per cent. up to £200; South Australia, 2½ per cent. on accounts closed during the year, and 3½ per cent. up to £250 on accounts remaining open; Western Australia, 3 per cent. up to £1000; Tasmania, Government Savings Bank, 3 per cent. up to £250; Hobart Trustees' Savings Bank, 3½ per cent. up to £150; Launceston Trustees' Savings Bank, 3½ per cent. up to £150. The savings banks of four of the States—New South Wales (Government Savings Bank); Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia—have, for the further benefit of depositors, entered into a reciprocity arrangement, under which money deposited in one State may be drawn out in another State, and even by telegraph.

The table below shews the total amounts at credit of depositors in each of the last ten years:—

**DEPOSITS IN SAVINGS BANKS, 1900-1 to 1909-10.**

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	C'wealth.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1900-1 ... ..	10,901,382	9,662,006	3,896,170	3,795,631	1,618,359	1,009,097	30,882,645
1901-2 ... ..	11,808,710	10,131,604	4,118,337	3,988,649	1,889,082	1,092,047	33,028,429
1902-3 ... ..	12,425,464	10,341,857	3,772,686	4,187,590	1,988,624	1,194,157	33,910,378
1903-4 ... ..	12,344,623	10,582,808	3,741,967	4,217,836	2,079,763	1,249,760	34,216,757
1904-5 ... ..	12,982,648	10,896,741	3,875,197	4,398,041	2,207,296	1,263,542	35,623,465
1905-6 ... ..	13,963,635	11,764,179	4,142,791	4,766,907	2,316,161	1,332,546	38,286,219
1906-7 ... ..	15,320,532	12,792,590	4,543,104	5,320,872	2,633,135	1,488,056	42,098,289
1907-8 ... ..	17,530,157	13,428,676	4,921,881	5,820,344	2,885,463	1,560,951	46,147,472
1908-9 ... ..	18,805,082	14,101,710	5,158,219	6,347,271	3,059,738	1,605,919	49,077,989
1909-10 ... ..	20,150,574	15,417,888	5,622,986	6,791,320	3,481,764	1,652,966	53,117,498

A comparison between the tables shewing the number of depositors and the amount of deposits reveals the fact that the average amounts to the credit of each depositor are considerably larger in one State than in another; in other words, that in one State a comparatively larger proportion of the population makes use of the savings banks, and that the natural result is a smaller amount to the credit of the individual depositor. Within the same State there is little variation in the figures from year to year.

**AVERAGE AMOUNTS PER DEPOSITOR IN AUSTRALIAN SAVINGS BANKS,**

1900-1 TO 1909-10.

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	C'wealth.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1900-1 ... ..	38 11 5	24 11 8	48 1 9	30 2 4	41 3 3	23 14 9	32 0 4
1901-2 ... ..	38 11 0	24 14 1	48 12 7	30 3 11	41 17 7	24 10 6	32 5 10
1902-3 ... ..	38 8 10	24 14 3	47 2 8	30 10 8	41 8 5	25 14 2	32 3 10
1903-4 ... ..	37 3 9	24 9 0	46 4 5	29 15 10	37 18 0	26 1 9	31 7 9
1904-5 ... ..	36 9 9	24 7 2	46 0 10	30 1 0	36 18 8	25 11 2	31 3 4
1905-6 ... ..	38 7 2	25 4 1	47 1 3	31 5 3	36 8 8	26 5 4	32 5 10
1906-7 ... ..	39 1 7	26 0 9	48 17 11	32 17 6	39 9 1	27 13 0	33 8 11
1907-8 ... ..	41 10 11	26 5 0	49 1 2	33 7 11	39 19 6	28 1 4	34 10 10
1908-9 ... ..	43 11 2	26 9 9	48 7 6	33 17 1	39 7 1	27 12 5	35 4 1
1909-10 ... ..	43 15 8	27 10 1	49 0 4	33 14 10	40 8 2	27 5 1	35 16 1

The average amount deposited per head of population shows a satisfactory increase during the period under review. In 1900-1 it ranged from £10 10s. in South Australia to £5 16s. 9d. in Tasmania, while in 1909-10 the amount in South Australia had risen to £16 5s., and in Tasmania to £8 19s. 3d. Tasmania's average in 1906-7 was higher than that of Queensland, which, nevertheless, rose from £7 15s. 2d. to £8 7s. 6d. during the seven years. The following table gives the figures for each year:—

#### SAVINGS BANKS DEPOSITS PER HEAD OF POPULATION, 1900-1 to 1909-10.

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	C'wealth.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1900-1 ...	8 0 3	8 0 6	7 15 2	10 10 0	8 11 3	5 16 9	8 3 0
1901-2 ...	8 11 9	8 7 5	8 1 4	10 19 4	9 2 6	6 5 3	8 12 0
1902-3 ...	8 17 1	8 11 3	7 7 2	11 9 5	8 19 2	6 14 7	8 14 5
1903-4 ...	8 13 0	8 15 6	7 3 11	11 8 6	8 14 9	6 19 3	8 13 8
1904-5 ...	8 18 2	9 0 0	7 7 3	11 15 0	8 15 9	7 0 3	8 18 1
1905-6 ...	9 7 3	9 12 5	7 15 2	12 11 0	8 17 8	7 7 2	9 8 1
1906-7 ...	10 0 8	10 6 10	8 7 6	13 15 0	9 19 3	8 8 4	10 3 8
1907-8 ...	11 3 6	10 13 10	8 18 4	14 2 3	10 17 4	8 13 1	10 18 8
1908-9 ...	11 16 4	10 19 10	9 1 9	15 9 7	11 5 8	8 15 4	11 7 11
1909-10...	12 5 3	11 16 2	9 12 7	16 5 0	12 10 10	8 19 3	12 0 3

4. **Annual Business.**—The annual volume of business transacted by the Australian savings banks is very large when compared with the total amount of deposits. This is mainly due to the fact already pointed out of many accounts being used as convenient current accounts. Thus, during the last year of the period under review, the total amount deposited and withdrawn (exclusive of interest added) amounted to about 140 per cent. of the total amount of deposits at the end of the previous year, while the amount at credit of depositors (inclusive of interest added) increased by only 8½ per cent. during the same year. The following table shews the business transacted during the year 1909-10:—

#### SAVINGS BANKS TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1909-10.

State.	Total Deposits at End of Year 1908-9.	Amounts Deposited during Year 1909-10.	Interest Added during Year 1909-10.	Total	Amounts Withdrawn during Year 1909-10.	Total Deposits at End of Year 1909-10.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
N.S. Wales ...	18,805,082	14,188,451	567,511	33,561,044	13,410,470	20,150,574
Victoria ...	14,101,710	11,832,578	413,732	26,348,020	10,930,132	15,417,888
Queensland ...	5,158,219	2,977,874	145,483	8,281,576	2,658,590	5,622,986
South Australia ...	6,347,271	4,339,909	191,587	10,878,767	4,087,447	6,791,320
West. Australia ...	3,059,738	2,404,368	90,472	5,554,578	2,072,814	3,481,764
Tasmania ...	1,605,919	863,860	48,780	2,518,559	865,593	1,652,966
Commonwealth	49,077,939	36,607,040	1,457,565	87,142,544	34,025,046	53,117,498

### § 5. Life Assurance.

1. **General.**—Under section 51 of the Commonwealth Constitution Act, the Commonwealth Parliament is empowered to legislate in regard to "insurance, other than State insurance; also State insurance extending beyond the limits of the State concerned." With the exception of Act No. 12 of 1905, "an Act relating to assurance on the lives of children by life assurance companies or societies," no legislation relating to life

insurance has been passed by the Commonwealth Parliament, and life assurance companies carry on their business under State laws where such laws are in existence, or otherwise under the provisions of various companies or special Acts. A Royal Commission consisting of the Honourable J. H. Hood, one of the judges of the Supreme Court of Victoria, and G. H. Knibbs, Esquire, Commonwealth Statistician, was, however, appointed in 1908, "to inquire into and report upon the law relating to and the methods of operating Fire, Life, Industrial, and other Insurance in Australia." The Commission was originally required to report the result of its inquiry before the 30th June, 1909. A progress report was issued before that date, and the time for the final report extended to the 30th June, 1910. The report relating to Life Assurance was published on 15th March, 1910, and that relating to Fire Insurance on 15th October, 1910. On the conclusions contained in these reports future Commonwealth legislation will probably be based. In addition to these a report on Social Insurance was prepared by the Commonwealth Statistician and issued on 9th September, 1910.

Returns for the year 1909 have been directly collected from life assurance societies by the Commonwealth Statistician, with results which are in the main satisfactory. Figures for 1909 refer to business in the Commonwealth only, and do not include New Zealand business.

**2. Companies Transacting Business in the Commonwealth.**—The total number of companies at present established in the Commonwealth is seventeen, of which the following six have their head offices in New South Wales:—The Australian Mutual Provident Society, the Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Company Limited, the City Mutual Life Assurance Society Limited, the Standard Life Association Limited, the Australian Metropolitan Life Assurance Company Limited, and the People's Prudential Assurance Company Limited. The Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Company Limited was formed in 1908 by the amalgamation of the Mutual Life Association of Australasia and the Citizens' Life Assurance Company Limited. During 1910 it increased in size by amalgamating with the Australian Widows' Fund Life Assurance Society Limited, but separate accounts and statements were issued for the year 1909-10. Six companies have their head offices in Victoria, viz.—The Australian Alliance Assurance Company, the National Mutual Life Association of Australasia Limited, the Australian Widows' Fund Life Assurance Society Limited, the Victoria Life and General Insurance Company, the Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society Limited, and the Australasian Temperance and General Mutual Life Assurance Society Limited. The head office of the Provident Life Assurance Company is in New Zealand, and that of the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company in England. The remaining three societies belong to the United States, viz.—The Equitable Life Insurance Society of the United States, the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, and the New York Life Insurance Company.

Most of the Australian companies are purely mutual; the Victoria Life and General (which takes no new life business), the Mutual Life and Citizens', the Standard, the Metropolitan, and the Prudential, are the only companies which are partly proprietary, the shareholders' capital amounting to £40,000, £56,788, £12,500, £11,740 and £4791 respectively. Of foreign companies transacting business in the Commonwealth, the Liverpool and London and Globe, the Provident, and the Equitable are partly proprietary, the shareholders' capital amounting to £245,640, £10,000 and £20,550 respectively.

**3. Ordinary and Industrial Business.**—Of the societies enumerated in the preceding paragraph the following five in 1909 transacted both ordinary and industrial business:—The Australian Mutual Provident Society, the Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Company Limited, the Australasian Temperance and General Mutual Life Assurance Society Limited, the Standard Life Association Limited, the Australian Metropolitan Life Assurance Company Limited, and the Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society.

The People's Prudential Assurance Company Limited and the Provident Life Assurance Company formerly restricted their operations to industrial business, but have now established an ordinary department.

The remaining nine societies transacted ordinary life assurance business only, with the exception of those companies which have fire and accident branches, etc.

It has been attempted in this section to keep returns relating to ordinary and to industrial business apart, so far as it is possible to do so, and figures relating to companies whose head offices are in New Zealand or in Europe or America refer to the Australian business only of those companies.

**4. Ordinary Business: Australian Business in Force, 1909.**—The subjoined table shows the ordinary life business in force at the latest dates available in the seventeen societies conducting operations in the Commonwealth:—

**ORDINARY LIFE ASSURANCE.—AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS IN FORCE, 1909.**

Society.	Policies in force, exclusive of Annuities.	Amount Assured, exclusive of Bonus Addition, etc.	Annual Premium Income, exclusive of Annuities.
	No.	£	£
Australian Mutual Provident Society ... ..	194,828	53,468,922	1,728,852
Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Company Limited ...	65,779	10,950,648	383,607
City Mutual Life Assurance Society ... ..	16,449	2,194,889	82,406
Standard Life Association ... ..	4,533	576,286	21,549
Australian Metropolitan Life Assurance Company ... ..	2,304	292,947	9,175
Australian Alliance Assurance Company ... ..	578	195,491	5,188
National Mutual Life Association of Australasia ... ..	61,780	13,505,647	644,217
Australian Widows' Fund Life Assurance Society ... ..	23,755	4,957,238	169,241
Victoria Life and General Insurance Company ... ..	151	72,800	2,067
Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society ... ..	17,864	3,730,784	125,667
People's Prudential ... ..	2,396	119,390	17,848*
Australasian Temperance & General Mutual Life Assurance Society ... ..	31,419	3,179,267	115,972
Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company (Life Branch) ... ..	352	166,341	4,944
Provident Life ... ..	29	6,403	169
Equitable Life Assurance Society of United States ... ..	7,084	2,486,757	103,210
Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York ... ..	4,238	1,669,522	58,478
New York Life Insurance Company ... ..	5,956	2,281,704	81,454

\* Including industrial.

**5. Industrial Business: Australian Business in Force, 1909.**—Similar information in regard to the industrial business of the eight societies transacting that kind of business is given in the following table:—

**INDUSTRIAL LIFE ASSURANCE.—AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS IN FORCE, 1909.**

Society.	Policies in Force.	Amount Assured.	Annual Premium Income.
	No.	£	£
Australian Mutual Provident Society ... ..	36,739	1,142,101	60,575
Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Company ... ..	194,338	3,700,590	177,020
Standard Life Association ... ..	23,585	640,316	26,195
Australian Metropolitan Life Assurance Company ... ..	14,957	308,419	17,468
Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society ... ..	8,915	237,479	3,370
People's Prudential Assurance Company ... ..	4,845	108,900	*
Aust. Temperance and General Mutual Life Ass. Society ... ..	102,497	2,039,583	122,926
Provident Life Assurance Company ... ..	2,901	69,979	2,725

\* Included in ordinary.

6. **Receipts and Expenditure of Insurance Societies, 1909.**—(i.) *Ordinary Business.* The following returns refer to the Australian business of all societies doing business in the Commonwealth. The People's Prudential Assurance Company, whose accounts do not distinguish between revenue and expenditure on account of ordinary and industrial business, has been included among the companies doing industrial business.

**ORDINARY LIFE ASSURANCE.—AUSTRALIAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1909.**

Society.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Excess Receipts (Addition to Funds).
	£	£	£
Australian Mutual Provident Society ... ..	2,707,483	1,810,751	896,732
Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Company ...	537,989	302,641	235,348
City Mutual Life Assurance Society * ... ..	106,965	67,670	39,295
Standard Life Association ... ..	22,463	17,127	5,336
Australian Metropolitan Life Assurance Company ...	9,655	6,331	3,324
Australian Alliance Assurance Company ... ..	25,940	43,751	17,811*
National Mutual Life Association of Australasia ...	880,052	433,586	446,466
Australian Widows' Fund Life Assurance Society ...	254,290	227,693	26,597
Victoria Life and General Insurance Company ...	10,868	19,161	8,293*
Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society ... ..	217,018	231,479	14,461*
Aust. Temperance & General Mutual Life Ass. Socy.	139,567	84,835	54,732
Liverpool and London and Globe (Life Branch) ...	4,944	16,178	11,234*
Provident Life ... ..	169	76	93
Equitable Life Assurance Society ... ..	126,138	165,682	39,544*
Australian Life Insurance Company of New York ...	77,256	82,545	5,289*
New York Life Insurance Company ... ..	87,258	66,029	21,229

\* Decrease.

(ii.) *Industrial Business.* A similar return for those societies which transact industrial business is given below. The figures for the Prudential, as stated above, are included therein.

**INDUSTRIAL LIFE ASSURANCE.—AUSTRALIAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1909.**

Society.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Excess Receipts (Addition to Funds)
	£	£	£
Australian Mutual Provident Society ... ..	62,231	36,621	25,610
Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Company ...	206,015	159,815	46,200
Standard Life Association ... ..	27,710	36,511	8,801*
Australian Metropolitan Life Assurance Company	33,918	19,606	14,312
Colonial Mutual ... ..	19,082	3,336	15,746
People's Prudential Assurance Company ... ..	18,645	15,794	2,851
Aust. Temperance & General Mutual Life Ass. Soc.	134,420	93,242	41,178
Provident Life Assurance Company ... ..	2,762	4,151	1,389*

\* Decrease.

7. **Expenses of Management of Insurance Societies, 1909.**—(i.) *Ordinary Business.* In the following table the expenses of management (including commission, expenses of management, license fees, and taxes) of the several societies transacting ordinary life

business are shewn, together with the proportion these expenses bear to premium income and to gross receipts. The People's Prudential Company is included amongst the industrial companies in a subsequent table, as that company transacts mainly industrial business, and as its returns include both ordinary and industrial business.

### ORDINARY LIFE ASSURANCE.—EXPENSES OF MANAGEMENT IN AUSTRALIA, 1909.

Society.	Expenses of Management.	Proportion to Premium Receipts.	Proportion to Gross Receipts.
	£	%	%
Australian Mutual Provident Society ... ..	225,742	13.06	8.34
Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Company ... ..	42,344	11.04	7.87
City Mutual Life Assurance Society ... ..	26,555	32.22	24.83
Standard Life Association ... ..	14,293	66.33	63.63
Australian Metropolitan Life Assurance Company ... ..	3,977	43.35	41.19
Australian Alliance Assurance Company ... ..	2,865	55.22	11.04
National Mutual Life Association of Australasia ... ..	67,956	10.55	7.72
Australian Widows' Fund Life Assurance Society ... ..	44,078	26.04	17.33
Victoria Life and General Insurance Company ... ..	1,286	62.20	11.83
Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society ... ..	42,472	33.80	19.57
Australasian Temperance & General Mutual Life Assurance Society ... ..	34,857	30.06	24.98
Liverpool and London and Globe (Life Branch) ... ..	*	*	*
Provident Life ... ..	76	44.97	44.97
Equitable Life Assurance Company ... ..	4,603	4.46	3.65
Mutual Life Insurance Society of New York ... ..	4,833	8.35	6.32
New York Life Insurance Society ... ..	6,881	8.45	7.89

\* Not available.

(ii.) *Industrial Business.* The Australasian assurance societies have, in common with assurance societies elsewhere, made the experience that industrial business is much more expensive than ordinary business. This is, of course, principally due to the great expenses in connection with collection and commission. The subjoined table shews particulars in regard to this business, the figures again including commission, expenses of management, license fees, and taxes:—

### INDUSTRIAL LIFE ASSURANCE.—EXPENSES OF MANAGEMENT IN AUSTRALIA, 1909.

Society.	Expenses of Management.	Proportion to Premium Receipts.	Proportion to Gross Receipts.
	£	%	%
Australian Mutual Provident Society ... ..	34,281	56.59	55.09
Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Company ... ..	83,710	47.29	40.63
Standard Life Association ... ..	21,400	81.69	77.23
Australian Metropolitan Life Assurance Company ... ..	13,695	78.40	40.38
Colonial Mutual ... ..	3,298	97.86	17.28
People's Prudential Assurance Company* ... ..	8,137	45.59	43.64
Aust. Temperance & General Mutual Life Ass. Socy. ... ..	50,198	40.84	37.34
Provident Life Assurance Company ... ..	2,587	94.94	93.66

\* Including ordinary business

8. **Liabilities and Assets of Insurance Societies, 1909.**—The liabilities of the Australasian societies consist mainly of their assurance funds; as already mentioned, only six of the societies are partly proprietary, viz., the Mutual Life and Citizens', with a paid-up capital of £56,788; the Standard, with a paid-up capital of £12,500; the Metropolitan, with a paid-up capital of £11,740; the Prudential, with a paid-up capital of £4791; the Victoria Life and General, with a paid-up capital of £40,000; and the Provident, with a paid-up capital of £10,000. With the exception of the Victoria Life and General, this paid-up capital belongs in every case to the industrial branch of the respective societies. The capital of the Provident (£10,000) is held in New Zealand, that of the Liverpool and London and Globe (£245,640) in England, and that of the Equitable Life (£20,550) in the United States. Neither of these three amounts appears, therefore, in the two subjoined tables where the capital of the Australian societies is included with the assurance funds. The assets consist mainly in loans on mortgage and policies, in Government, municipal, and similar securities, shares, freehold property, etc. Loans on personal security are only granted by very few of the Australian societies.

(i.) *Ordinary Business.* The following table shews the liabilities and assets of the societies transacting ordinary life business:—

**ORDINARY LIFE ASSURANCE.—AUSTRALIAN LIABILITIES AND ASSETS, 1909:**

Society	Liabilities.			Assets.		
	Total Funds including Paid-up Capital.	Other Liabilities.	Total.	Loans on Mortgages and Policies.	Securities, Freehold Property, etc.	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Australian Mutual Provident Society* ...	20,831,157	329,441	21,160,598	11,489,643	7,585,948	19,075,591
Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Co. ...	3,107,055	29,131	3,136,186	1,385,481	2,367,935	3,753,416
City Mutual Life Assurance Society ...	430,872	3,221	434,093	242,362	191,731	434,093
Standard Life Association ...	27,598	1,608	29,206	1,140	28,066	29,206
Australasian Metropolitan Life Assurance Co.	22,108	422	22,530	1,127	21,403	22,530
Australasian Alliance Assurance Company	181,741	11,472	193,213	116,876	76,937	193,213
National Mut. Life Assoc. of Australasia ...	4,851,154	80,435	4,931,589	3,965,959	1,665,630	4,931,589
Aust. Widows' Fund Life Assur. Society ...	1,828,170	17,468	1,845,638	1,446,748	398,821	1,845,638
Victoria Life and General Insurance Co. ...	225,915	12,930	238,845	104,195	134,374	238,569
Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society ...	2,353,432	6,477	2,359,909	1,392,387	1,027,522	2,359,909
Aust. Temp. & Gen. Mut. Life Assur. Soc. *	820,174	5,746	825,920	286,519	529,401	825,920
Liverpool & London & Globe (Life Branch)	†	†	†	†	†	†
Provident Life ...	62	...	62	...	62	62
Equitable Life Assurance Society ...	294,996	155	295,151	129,775	443,058	572,833
Mutual Life Insurance Society of New York	†	†	†	82,707	180,395	263,102
New York Life Insurance Society ...	733,000	5,250	738,250	90,368	27,892	118,260

\* Including industrial business. As the business of these two societies is mainly ordinary life business they have been included in this table. † Not available.

(ii.) *Industrial Business.* As stated in the footnote to the preceding table, the Australian Mutual Provident Society and the Australasian Temperance and General Mutual Life Assurance Society, which transact a certain amount of industrial business, but whose business is mainly ordinary life business, have been included with those societies doing only ordinary life business. On the other hand, the People's Prudential Assurance Company, in whose case industrial business greatly predominates over ordinary life business, has been included in the following table. Incomplete as the table is, it shews that the funds appropriated to industrial business are very insignificant in comparison with those pertaining to ordinary life business. Taking the table in conjunction with the statements of revenue and expenditure, the question may well be asked whether in the case of some of the societies industrial business is worth catering for at all.

## INDUSTRIAL LIFE ASSURANCE.—AUSTRALIAN LIABILITIES AND ASSETS, 1909.

Society.	Liabilities.			Assets.		
	Total Funds, including Paid-up Capital.	Other Liabilities.	Total.	Loans on Mortgages and Policies.	Securities, Freehold Property, etc.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Mutual Life & Citizens' Assurance Company	717,142	22,755	739,897	303,021	475,129	778,150
Standard Life Association ...	23,105	19,500	42,605	2,295	40,310	42,605
Australian Metropolitan Life Assurance Co.	37,610	15,816	53,426	541	52,885	53,426
Colonial Mutual ...	145	15,600	15,745	...	...	15,745
People's Prudential Assurance Company*	21,533	160	21,693	8,381	13,312	21,693
Provident Life Assurance Company	4,441	...	4,441	...	5,231	5,231

\* Including ordinary business.

(iii.) *Total Liabilities and Assets.* It has been thought advisable to confine the figures relating to life assurance to business in the Commonwealth. Several of the companies whose head offices are in Australia transact, however, a large amount of business elsewhere, viz., in New Zealand, in South Africa, and in the United Kingdom, while in the case of the foreign companies, the Australian business is insignificant compared with that done elsewhere. Particulars as to this foreign business of both Australian and foreign companies will be found in "Finance Bulletin, No. 4," and a short table only is inserted here, shewing the total liabilities and assets (which balance in every case) of the various companies, so that the deficiencies in the Australian assets shewn in the previous tables for those companies doing business elsewhere may not be misunderstood:—

## TOTAL LIABILITIES AND ASSETS OF INSURANCE COMPANIES, 1909.

Society.	Liabilities and Assets.	Society.	Liabilities and Assets.
	£		£
<b>ORDINARY BUSINESS.</b>			
*Australian Mutual Provident Soc. ...	26,087,089	Liverpool & London & Globe (Life)...	11,638,453
Mutual Life and Citizens' Assur. Co.	4,053,199	Provident Life ...	10,071
City Mutual Life Assurance Society...	434,093	Equitable Life Assurance Society ...	99,252,982
Standard Life Association ...	29,206	Mutual Life Ins. Society of New York	115,014,880
Aust. Metropolitan Life Assur. Co. ...	22,530	New York Life Insurance Society ...	123,245,910
Australian Alliance Assurance Co. ...	193,213	<b>INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS.</b>	
National Mutual Life Association ...	6,040,936	Mutual Life and Citizens' Assur. Co.	820,846
Australian Widows' Fund ...	1,957,392	Standard Life Association ...	42,605
Victoria Life and General Insur. Co.	238,845	Aust. Metropolitan Life Assur. Co. ....	53,426
Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Soc.	3,117,515	†People's Prudential Assurance Co.	21,693
*Aust. Temp. & Gen. Mut. Life A. Soc.	891,451	Provident Life Assurance Company	38,667

\* Including industrial business. † Including ordinary business.

## § 6. Fire Insurance.

1. **General.**—Returns as to fire insurance are very defective, and only for Sydney and Melbourne and the country districts of Victoria have some figures been given which are worth reproducing. The Royal Commission mentioned above under "Life Assurance" is inquiring into fire insurance matters, and Commonwealth legislation may, therefore, be expected at an early date.

2. **Sydney.**—Under the Fire Brigades Act 1902 the cost of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade is defrayed by equal payments on the part of the Colonial Treasurer, the municipal councils within the area under the jurisdiction of the Fire Brigades Board, and the insurance companies represented in Sydney. The companies divide their share proportionately to the amount held at risk. Under this arrangement the amount payable by the companies for the year 1909 was £19,100, divided amongst sixty-five companies, of which not more than six had their head office in Sydney. The amounts thus held at

risk at the close of the last four years for which returns are available were, in 1905, £78,108,749; in 1906, £81,364,129; in 1907, £86,563,304; and in 1908, £89,971,992. A new Act, coming into force on the 1st January, 1910, was passed in 1909. This Act substitutes a Board of Fire Commissioners for New South Wales for the present Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, and divides the whole State into eight fire districts for the greater facilitation of working.

3. **Melbourne.**—In Melbourne the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board assesses the amount payable by the insurance companies on the amount of premiums returned. These premiums for the last four years averaged about £300,000 per annum, while the contributions paid by the companies amounted to about £13,000, or about £4 6s. 8d. for every £100 of premiums. It may be said, therefore, that the companies have to devote about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of their premium income from metropolitan insurances to the maintenance of the fire brigade.

The annual value of ratable property is nearly £5,000,000, and the amounts contributed by the municipalities—as in the case of the insurance companies, one-third of the amount required by the Fire Brigades Board, the remaining one-third being contributed by the State Treasurer—are equal to about  $\frac{1}{3}$ d. per £1 of ratable value. In addition to this contribution insurance companies doing business in Victoria have to take out an annual license at a cost of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of their gross premium income, which is probably equal to about  $1\frac{1}{3}$  per cent. on net income.

4. **Country Districts of Victoria.**—The country districts are divided into nine areas for fire insurance purposes, and the contributions to be paid vary in these areas according to the actual requirements of the Country Fire Brigades Board. The annual values of ratable property for the last four years were slightly under £1,500,000. The premium income of the insurance companies from country business during the same period averaged about £150,000, and the contributions of the companies £3700, equal to nearly  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the premium income.

5. **Brisbane.**—A similar arrangement holds good in Brisbane, under which the cost of the Fire Brigade Board, amounting to about £6000 per annum, is paid in equal shares by the Government, the Brisbane City Council, and the insurance companies.

6. **Adelaide.**—The Fire Brigades' Board of South Australia is incorporated under "The Fire Brigades Act 1904"; "The Fire Brigades Act Amendment Act 1905"; and "The Fire Brigades Act Further Amendment Act 1910." The cost is distributed as follows:—Three-ninths to the Government; four-ninths to the insurance companies; and two-ninths to the municipalities and districts which come under the operations of the board. The insurance companies are assessed in proportion to that portion of their premium incomes derived from the insurance of property (re-insurance within the State excepted) situated within the limits of the municipalities and districts coming under the operations of the board. The respective contributions for 1910 were as follows:—The Government, £6012; the companies, £8016; the municipalities, £4008.

7. **Perth.**—A District Fire Brigades' Bill was reported on by a committee of the Legislative Assembly during 1909, and it was recommended that all brigades should in future be controlled by one board, and that the expense should be met by contributions at the following rate:—By Government, two eighths; by the municipalities, three eighths; and by the Insurance companies, three eighths. These provisions were incorporated in an Act, "The District Fire Brigades Act 1909," which was assented to on 21st December, 1909, and came into force on the 1st day of January, 1909. This Act, however, does not apply to Perth or the other districts in which the Fire Brigades Act 1898 is still operative. According to the provisions of the latter Act the expenditure is allocated as follows:—One-ninth to the Government; four-ninths to the insurance companies; and four-ninths to the municipalities. It is provided that the Governor may, at any time, on the petition of the council of any municipality, declare by proclamation that the provisions of the Act of 1898 shall cease to be in force in that municipal district.

8. **Australian Insurance Business.**—Returns are available shewing the revenue and expenditure, assets and liabilities, and investments of sixteen insurance companies

having their head offices either in the Commonwealth or in New Zealand. These companies are:—(a) with head-office in Sydney—the Australian Mutual Fire Insurance Company, the City Mutual Fire Insurance Company, the Mercantile Mutual Fire Insurance Company, the Queensland Insurance Company Limited, and the United Insurance Company; (b) with head office in Melbourne—the Australian Alliance Assurance Company, the Colonial Mutual Fire Insurance Company, the Commonwealth Insurance Company Limited, the Victoria Insurance Company, and the Victoria General Insurance and Guarantee Company Limited; (c) with head-office in Hobart—the Derwent and Tamar Fire and Marine Assurance Company Limited; (d) with head-office in Launceston—the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Tasmania; (e) with head-office in Auckland—the New Zealand Insurance Company, and the South British Fire and Marine Insurance Company of New Zealand; and (f) with head-office in Dunedin—the National Fire and Marine Insurance Company of New Zealand, and the Standard Fire and Marine Insurance Company of New Zealand. As their names imply, the majority of these companies transact marine insurance and in some cases guarantee and other business in addition to fire insurance business, and the returns relating to the latter cannot be separated from the former.

The accounts cover two periods of one year, the second year ending at various dates from 30th June, 1909, to 31st March, 1910. The figures for the first year are put in brackets.

The premiums, less reinsurances and returns, amounted to £1,799,303 (£1,795,366); losses were £1,064,464 (£1,044,154). Expenses and commission came to £603,572 (£590,689), and there was, therefore, a profit on trade operations of £131,267 (£160,523). As, however, interest, rent, fees, etc., amounted to £147,803 (£137,323), the total profit was £279,070 (£297,846). Dividends and bonuses came to £175,179 (£179,191). The ratio to premium income of losses was, therefore, 59.16 per cent. (58.16 per cent.), ranging from 26 per cent. to 88.59 per cent.; and of expenses and commissions, 33.54 per cent. (32.90 per cent.). The resulting ratio of trade surplus to premium income was 7.30 per cent. (8.94 per cent.).

The paid-up capital of the sixteen companies was £1,295,347 (£1,295,347); reserve and reinsurance funds, £2,041,435 (£2,000,262); undivided profits, £150,346 (£143,470). The total paid-up capital and reserves were, therefore, £3,487,128 (£3,439,079). In addition to these liabilities there were others, viz.:—Unsettled losses, £183,940 (£229,818); sundry creditors, £126,853 (£110,626); dividend to pay, £115,672 (£127,371); and, in the case of one company, a life assurance fund, £181,741 (£199,551), thus bringing the total liabilities to shareholders and to the general public up to £4,095,334 (£4,106,445).

The corresponding amount of assets is made up of investments, £3,556,645 (£3,553,959), viz.:—Loans on mortgage, £1,097,196 (£939,932); Government securities, debentures, shares, etc., £1,016,244 (£1,015,440); landed and other property, including furniture, £763,931 (£760,267); fixed deposits, £577,751 (£578,984); in the case of one company doing a mixed business—loans on its own life policies, etc., £15,338 (£17,730); other investments, £86,185 (£241,606). The balance of assets consisted of cash in bank, on hand, and bills receivable, £171,082 (£186,906); and sundry debtors, etc., £367,607 (£365,580).

The financial position of the companies is undoubtedly a strong one, owing to the steady accumulation of reserves, and the high ratio borne by capital and reserves to premium income must be a cause of satisfaction to policyholders.

## 7. Marine Insurance.

No returns are available in regard to Marine Insurance. It may, however, be stated that the Commonwealth Parliament in 1909 passed an Act (No. 11 of 1909, An Act relating to Marine Insurance), which was assented to on the 11th November, 1909. This Act materially alters some of the conditions under which marine policies have heretofore been issued.

## § 8. Friendly Societies.

1. **General.**—Friendly societies are an important factor in the social life of the community, as probably nearly one-third of the total population of the Commonwealth comes either directly or indirectly under their influence. Their total membership is nearly 380,000, but as certain benefits, such as medical attendance and free medicine and in many cases funeral expenses, are granted to members' families as well as to members themselves, this figure must, even when due allowance is made for young and unmarried members, be multiplied by four at the least to arrive at the total number of persons more or less connected with these societies. Legislation has conferred certain privileges on friendly societies, but, on the other hand, it insists on their registration, and it is the duty of the Registrars in the various States, prior to registering a new society, to see that its rules are conformable to the law, and that the scale of contributions is sufficiently high to enable the promised benefits to be conferred on members. Societies are obliged to forward annual returns as to their membership and their finances to the Registrar, and elaborate reports are published in most of the States dealing with the returns thus received.

In the following tables the figures refer to the year 1909, except those for South Australia, which refer to 1906.

2. **Number of Societies, Lodges, and Members.**—<sup>c</sup>The total number of societies registered in New South Wales is 67; in Victoria, 48; in Queensland, 17; in South Australia, 16; in Western Australia, 17; and in Tasmania, 11. No total is given of these figures for the Commonwealth, as the societies shewn in one State are in most cases represented in all the other States. The number of different lodges, the total number of benefit members at the end of the year, and their average number during the year are shewn in the following table:—

### FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.—LODGES AND MEMBERS, 31st DECEMBER, 1909.\*

State.	Number of Lodges.	Benefit Members at End of Year.	Average No. of Benefit Members during Year.
New South Wales	1,492	113,216	109,039
Victoria	1,441	136,340	133,194
Queensland	464	39,871	38,796
South Australia	506	52,165	51,226
Western Australia	260	16,044	16,071
Tasmania	168	20,141	19,548
Commonwealth	4,331	377,777	367,874

\* See, however, paragraph 1, above.

3. **Sickness and Death.**—Sick pay is generally granted for a number of months at full rates, then for a period at half rates, and in some societies is finally reduced to quarter rates. The following table shews the total number of members who received sick pay during the year, the number of weeks for which they received pay in the

aggregate, and the average per member sick, and further the number of benefit members who died during the year, together with the proportion of deaths per thousand average members:—

## FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.—SICKNESS AND DEATH, 1909.\*

State.	Number of Members who received Sick Pay.	Total Number of weeks Sick Pay granted.	Average No. of weeks per Member sick.	Deaths of Benefit Members and Wives.	Proportion of Deaths to 1000 average Benefit Members.
New South Wales	21,701	135,869	6.26	838	7.69
Victoria ...	24,158	199,150	8.24	1,634	12.27
Queensland ...	6,500	38,101	5.86	258	6.65
South Australia ...	8,851	84,707	9.57	698	13.63
Western Australia	2,321	12,347	5.32	120	7.47
Tasmania ...	3,935	20,962	5.33	128	6.70
Commonwealth	67,466	491,136	7.28	3,676	9.99

\* See, however, paragraph 1.

4. *Revenue and Expenditure.*—The financial returns are not made up in the same way in each State, but an attempt has been made in the subjoined table to group the revenue under the main headings:—

## FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.—REVENUE, 1909.\*

State.	Entrance Fees.	Members' Contributions.	Levies.	Interest, Dividends, and Rents.	All other Income.	Total Revenue.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	2,985	349,487	...	50,500	52,552	455,524
Victoria ...	2,854	385,251	†	77,037	58,729	523,871
Queensland ...	†	129,484	†	17,756	†	147,240
South Australia ...	1,535	122,643	§	29,464	159,227	212,869
Western Australia	1,273	44,470	957	7,017	35,875	89,592
Tasmania ...	1,144	61,660	†	5,842	8,523	77,169
Commonwealth		1,103,743		187,616	214,906	1,506,265

\* See, however, paragraph 1. † Included under "Members' contributions." ‡ Including Levies. § Included under "All other income."

The returns relating to expenditure are more complete than those relating to revenue, and can be shewn in full for every State. The figures shew that the excess of revenue, amounting in the aggregate to £290,935, was divided amongst the six States as follows:—New South Wales, £77,356; Victoria, £124,526; Queensland, £42,445; South Australia, £23,101; Western Australia, £12,829; and Tasmania, £10,678. The revenue exceeded the expenditure by about sixteen shillings per average benefit member, a margin which cannot be called very large.

## FRIENDLY SOCIETIES: EXPENDITURE, 1909.\*

State.	Sick Pay.	Medical Attendance and Medicine.	Sums Paid at Death of Members & Members' Wives.	Adminis-tration.	All other Expendi-ture.	Total Expendi-ture.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	105,882	122,927	25,706	49,831	74,472	378,168
Victoria ...	134,078	137,455	29,105	66,680	32,027	399,345
Queensland ...	28,577	44,552	10,273	21,393	†	104,795
South Australia ...	49,970	27,130	24,325	33,545	55,398	189,768
Western Australia	10,331	18,266	1,732	11,572	34,862	76,763
Tasmania ...	17,535	17,402	8,463	8,393	14,698	66,491
Commonwealth	345,723	367,132	99,604	191,414	211,457	1,215,330

\* See, however, paragraph 1. † Included in "Administration."

It appears from the above figures that sick pay averaged about fourteen shillings and twopence per week, but, as the returns include pay at half and quarter rates, and as the proportion of these to full rates is not stated, the average given must be taken for what it is worth. Medical attendance and medicine came to twenty shillings per average benefit member, or to nearly £5 10s. per member who received sick pay during the year. Funeral expenses averaged £27 1s. 11d. per death of a member or wife of a member during the year, but this average also must be taken for what it is worth, as the funeral expenses allowed in the case of the death of a member are generally much higher than those allowed in the case of the death of a member's wife.

5. **Funds.**—The two foregoing tables shew that the surplus of revenue over expenditure amounted to £290,935 for the year, and a small surplus must, of course, result annually in every society which levies adequate contributions to enable it to meet all possible claims. These accumulations of profits are generally invested, and the sub-joined table shews for all of the six States the division into invested and uninvested funds:—

## FRIENDLY SOCIETIES: FUNDS, 31st DECEMBER, 1909.\*

State.	Invested Funds.	Uninvested Funds.	Total Funds.
	£	£	£
New South Wales ...	1,273,464	61,915	1,335,379
Victoria ...	1,922,824	89,593	2,012,417
Queensland ...	478,947	24,865	503,812
South Australia ...	714,719	29,076	743,795
Western Australia ...	132,782	14,404	147,186
Tasmania...	178,061	10,448	188,509
Commonwealth ...	4,700,797	230,301	4,931,098

\* See, however, paragraph 1.

The total funds amounted, therefore, to £13 ls. per member at the close of the year under review.

§ 9. Probates.

1. Number of Probates and Letters of Administration and Value of Estates.—  
The value of the estates left by deceased persons gives a fair view of the distribution of property among the general population. There occurred in 1909 the deaths of 30,542 adult persons, while the total number of probates and letters of administration granted during the same period was 9822. It would therefore appear that about one in every three adults who died during the year was possessed of sufficient property to necessitate the taking out of probate. The details for each State are shewn in the table hereunder:—

PROBATES AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION, 1909.

State.	Number of Estates.			Value of Estates.		
	Probates.	Letters of Administration.	Total.	Probate	Letters of Administration.	Total.
				£	£	£
New South Wales	2,104	1,081	3,185	10,295,793	846,275	11,142,068
Victoria ...	2,859	1,210	4,069	6,480,376	*	6,480,376
Queensland ...	467	212	679	1,176,076	332,807	1,508,883
South Australia ...	913	202	1,115	1,863,480	76,029	1,939,509
Western Australia	231	182	413	833,423	105,895	939,318
Tasmania ...	278	83	361	613,153	108,858	722,011
Commonwealth	6,852	2,970	9,822	21,262,301	1,469,864	22,732,165

\* Included with Probates.

In addition to the foregoing, intestate estates to the value of £115,526 were placed under the control of the curator during the year, and £24,591 unclaimed money paid into Consolidated revenue. The details for each State are shewn hereunder:—

INTESTATE ESTATES, 1909.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	C'with.
Intestate estates placed under control of curator during 1909							
Number ...	598	253	572	149	275	95	1,942
Value ...	£ 49,895	16,350	18,500	18,937	11,844	...	115,526
Unclaimed money paid into consolidated revenue by curator during 1909 ...	£ 11,289	6,539	4,842	655	1,101	165	24,591

This would make the average value of each estate £2314, and the average value of property left by each adult who died in 1909, £744.

2. **Private Wealth.**—The probate figures have sometimes been used as a means for estimating the private wealth of a country. There are, however, many reasons why no reliance can be placed on such estimates. Generally, estates under a certain minimum value do not require to pass through the probate office. Settlements and deeds of gift, although liable to probate duty, occasionally evade detection. The falling in of several, or even of one very large estate, may vitiate the figures not only of one year but of a series of years. All these errors can, however, be more or less guarded against, while the assumption that each adult living is possessed of the same average amount of property as each adult who died during the year or during a series of years, an assumption on which the whole calculation is based, remains. But as it is certain that the accumulated wealth of an individual generally advances with age, and is probably in most cases greater at death than at any previous period, it will be seen that the results obtained by such a calculation must be unduly inflated. If the calculation were made for the Commonwealth and based on the figures of 1909 it would shew the average property of each adult to be £744, and of the 2,320,000 adults, which were approximately included in the population of the Commonwealth at the end of 1909, about £1,725,000,000, an estimate probably considerably in excess of the truth.