

connection with the establishment of plantations of coniferous trees and the maintenance of existing coniferous forests. Attention was also invited to the general inadequacy of the laws regarding protection of forests from fire. The preservation under permanent forest cover of all high mountain ranges which formed the sources of streams and springs was stated to be a matter of first national importance, owing to the irregular rainfall in many parts of Australia; and the Conference recommended that all high ranges which were still crown lands should be dedicated as permanent forests, strictly maintained under forest cover, and controlled under forest law.

### § 3. Commercial Uses of Principal Australian Timbers.

The uses of the more important of Australian timbers are many and various. Four varieties of ironbark, viz., white or grey (*E. paniculata*), narrow-leaved (*E. crebra*), broad-leaved (*E. siderophloia*), and red (*E. sideroxylon*) are largely used for public works, preference being given to the white and narrow-leaved varieties. These timbers are used extensively in the building of bridges and culverts, for railway sleepers and fencing posts, and for framing, naves, spokes, poles and shafts in carriage and waggon building. Ironbark beams are of great strength, hence it is largely employed for girders and joists of upper floors, especially in stores for heavy goods.<sup>1</sup> Another red ironbark (*E. leucoxydon*), heavy, dense, and strong, is greatly valued for bridge beams and piles. Tallowwood (*E. microcorys*) is strong, heavy, very durable, not easily split, and turns and planes well. It is used for bridge-decking, house-flooring (being peculiarly suitable for ballrooms), girders, piles, and fencing posts, and especially for paving blocks, giving even and regular wear under heavy traffic. Even better in this latter regard is blackbutt (*E. pilularis*), a fine hardwood for house and ship building, as well as street paving. Grey gum (*E. propinqua*), makes excellent railway sleepers, and is used for felloes and spokes in coach building. It makes very durable fencing posts, and is also sometimes split for shingles. Murray red gum (*E. rostrata*), the common river gum of all the eastern States, is one of the best hardwoods for use in contact with the ground, being largely used for poles, house foundations, wood paving, and railway sleepers. It is also extensively cut for mining shafts and public and municipal works. The forest variety of red gum (*E. tereticornis*) serves the same purpose as the river red gum. White mahogany (*E. acmenoides*) is used for posts, poles, girders, and similar classes of work, being an exceedingly durable timber. Red mahogany (*E. resinifera*) is largely employed for general building work, street paving, fencing, and weatherboards. It is very durable and hardens greatly with age. Grey box (*E. hemiphloia*) is very durable in contact with the ground, and is hence used for railway sleepers (lasting from thirty to thirty-five years in the track), telegraph poles, mine props, fence posts, piles, girders, and for heavy framing and naves, wheel cogs, shafts, dray poles, spokes, etc. Bairnsdale grey box (*E. bosistoana*) serves similar purposes. Brush box (*Tristania conferta*), another hard and durable wood, is used for tram rails, bullock yokes, tool handles, planes, etc. Sydney blue gum (*E. saligna*) is greatly valued by shipwrights and wheelwrights, and furnishes ships' planks, felloes of wheels, etc. It is also used for buildings, and makes very durable paving blocks. Woollybutt (*E. longifolia*) is used for house building, fencing, felloes, spokes, and wheelwrights' work generally. Being durable in contact with the ground, and resistant to heavy traffic, it is also used for street paving. Spotted gum (*E. maculata*) is one of the best hardwoods for bending, even when cold, and is therefore specially valuable in wheelwrights' and coachbuilders' work for poles, shafts, crosspieces, naves, and spokes; also for framing and house building, tram rails, ship planking, decking of bridges, and wood paving. Turpentine (*Syncarpia laurifolia*) is of a great durability in the ground or under water, being used for piles or jetties, wharves, bridges, pillars and girders of buildings, wood paving, and hewn posts and rails. Yellow stringy-bark (*E. muelleriana*) is chiefly used

1. Ironbark girders do not burn rapidly and often stand a fire when iron girders yield through the effect of the heat.

for jetty and pier work, and for fencing posts. Blue gum (*E. globulus*) is a valuable timber with straight, symmetrical bole, used for upper timbers and decking in jetty and bridge work, bridge piles, shafts, felloes, spokes and frame work of vehicles, and in general building and construction. Spotted gum (*E. goniocalyx*) furnishes a hard, heavy, and durable timber, similar in appearance to blue gum, and serving the same purposes. Yellow box (*E. melliodora*) bears a large quantity of blossom, and hence is a favourite tree with beekeepers. Its timber is used for piles and posts, squared beams, and stringers for bridges. Messmate (*E. obliqua*) is largely sawn by mills for weatherboards, studs, rafters, joists, etc., and is also used for railway sleepers and fencing posts. Stringy-barks (*E. macrorrhyncha*, *E. capitellata*, *E. piperita*) are sawn by mills into ordinary building timber, and split by settlers into posts and rails and rough building material. Mountain ash (*E. amygdalina regnans*) is sawn into building material, and is also split into palings, shingles, rails, and mining laths. Silvertop (*E. sieberiana seu virgata*)—called also Gippsland mountain ash, green top, and white ironbark—is used for ordinary building purposes, and for fencing rails and rough construction. Sugar gum (*E. corynocalyx*) is held in high repute on account of its toughness and durability, and is chiefly used for railway sleepers, telegraph poles, coach building, and in wharf and jetty construction. White or manna gum (*E. viminalis*) is not a good weather timber, but is suitable for interior construction, such as house frames and floors.

The pre-eminent timber trees of the West are jarrah (*E. marginata*) and karri (*E. diversicolor*). Jarrah is in great request for piles in jetty and bridge construction, and for railway sleepers and street paving. It also furnishes a favourite material for boat-building, fencing, and rough furniture, and makes excellent charcoal. Karri is heavy, dense, elastic, and tough, not so easily wrought as jarrah, and is used for bridge-decking, flooring, planking, spokes, felloes, shafts, and street paving. Tuart (*E. gomphocephala*) is exceedingly strong and tough, suitable for the framework of railway waggons, bridge supports, buffers, keelsons, shafts, wheelwrights' work, and generally for all purposes where great strength and hardness are necessary. The red gum (*E. calophylla*) is a fine shade tree, and is valued for the shelter it affords to cattle and sheep. Its timber, however, is not held in much esteem; but in short lengths it is employed for wheelwrights' work and agricultural implements. Its gum or kino has medicinal properties, and is also used locally for tanning hides. Wando (*E. redunca*) is used for fencing, wheelwrights' work, and railway buffers and sleepers. The blackbutt (*E. patens*), York gum (*E. loxophleba*), and yate (*E. cornuta*) of the West are largely used for fencing, building, and rough construction.

The Moreton Bay or hoop pine (*Araucaria cunninghami*) is used for interior work (flooring, ceiling, and lining boards) and for packing cases and butter boxes. Brown pine (*Podocarpus elata*) is also used for interior work, and for bridge, jetty and pier piles. Cypress pine (*Callitris*), including red or black pine (*C. calcarata*); Murray pine (*C. verrucosa*), Port Macquarie pine (*C. macleayana*), and the Richmond River cypress pine (*C. columellaris*) are used for buildings liable to attacks of white ants, being strongly resistant to these pests. Cypress pine is also suitable for bridge decking and makes good fuel. Red cedar (*Cedrela australis*) furnishes timber of great beauty; it is easily worked and very durable, and is used for furniture and cabinet-making, doors, panelling, and interior fittings generally. Rosewood (*Dysoxylon fraserianum*) is easily wrought, and is used for furniture, turnery, carving, cabinet work, mouldings, planes, window joints, house fittings, and wine casks. Red bean (*Dysoxylon muelleri*) has a finely-figured grain and is an excellent furniture wood. White beech (*Gmelina leichhardtii*) is durable and easily worked, and is in great request for decks of vessels, furniture, picture frames, carving, flooring, house-fittings, vats, casks, and general coopers' work. Silky oak (*Grevillea robusta* and *Orites excelsa*) is also in request for coopers' work, and makes handsome furniture and wainscoting. The silky oak has also been used for butter kegs, buckets, churns, etc., and makes good butter boxes for the local markets. Black bean (*Castanospermum australe*), or Moreton Bay chestnut, is used for furniture, cabinet-making, and gun stocks. Tulip-wood (*Harpulia pendula*) is highly esteemed for

cabinet-work, being used for door panels, dadoes, and billiard tables. Coachwood (*Ceratopetalum apetalum*) is suitable for boat-building, cabinet-work, and coach-building. Kauri pine (*Agathis palmerstoni*) gives a light, strong, and durable timber, and is used for general building and construction, wainscoting, furniture and joinery, railway carriages, and ship-decking. Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) is very strong and durable, diminishing, however, greatly in weight in seasoning, though shrinking very little in volume. Figured blackwood is a beautiful timber; it is used for furniture, such as billiard tables, chairs, secretaires, casings of pianofortes and organs, and general cabinet work; dadoes, panelling of railway carriages, boat-building, picture frames, wheel naves, gun stocks, walking sticks, and a great variety of useful and ornamental purposes; it is also split into staves for wine and tallow casks. Evergreen beech (*Fagus cunninghami*) yields also a handsome timber, used for furniture, sashes and doors, light joinery, wood-carving, picture frames, and cog-wheels. Huon pine furnishes a fine, strong, and light timber; it is almost indestructible in water, and hence is largely used for boat planking; its beautiful grain brings it into request for furniture, panelling, and wainscoting. The King William variety is very tough, being used for racing sculls; it is also a favourite timber in joiners' work. Celery-top pine is strong and heavy, suitable for furniture, flooring, house frames, coopers' work, and masts. Other Australian brush timbers of minor importance are sassafras (*Atherosperma moschatum*), used for saddle-trees and boot lasts; and satin box, sycamore, olive, and pencil-wood, giving woods of beautiful grain for parquetry, veneers, carving, and picture frames. The sandalwood of Western Australia (*Santalum cygnorum*) is a very valuable forest product, and has been exported in varying amounts during the last fifty years.

As aids in the development of Commonwealth industries, the Government is experimenting with Australian woods for rifle stocks, telephone switch boards, etc. It has also made available a sum of money for the seasoning and storing of Australian timber. It is intended to establish seasoning depôts at the Federal Capital, and also at the principal centres in the various States, whence contractors will be able to obtain timber at scheduled rates. Other timber seasoning works have been established by State and private enterprise.

#### § 4. Forestal Industries and Production.

1. Timber.—Estimates of the quantity and value of timber cut and sawn have been prepared by the States Forestry Departments, and are as follows:—

##### QUANTITIES OF LOCAL TIMBER SAWN OR HEWN IN EACH STATE OF THE COMMONWEALTH DURING THE YEARS 1907 to 1911.

State.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
	Sup. feet.				
New South Wales ... ..	122,996,000	123,152,000	134,070,000	133,845,000	142,358,000
Victoria ... ..	55,873,000	54,602,000	50,000,000	51,000,000	53,000,000
Queensland ... ..	91,752,000	100,760,000	108,391,000	116,438,000	138,896,000
South Australia ... ..	143,000	436,000	240,500	210,000	217,000
Western Australia ... ..	110,395,000	165,766,000	171,825,000	174,528,000	191,114,000
Tasmania... ..	35,228,000	44,335,000	45,035,000	54,933,000	66,061,000
Commonwealth ... ..	415,389,000	489,051,000	509,561,500	535,954,000	591,646,000

The only States for which annual returns are furnished of the value of locally sawn or hewn timber are South Australia and Tasmania. The values returned for South Australia for the years 1907 to 1911 are respectively, £815; £1084; £411; £330; and £383.\* For Tasmania the values for the years 1907 to 1910 are respectively, £110,689; £93,762;

\* It is, of course, evident that the value of production was much greater than this.