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1901.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WOODS AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT,

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1900,

BY

C. G. RICHARDSON,

ACTING CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS.

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*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.*

PERTH:

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1901.

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## CONTENTS.

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|  | PAGE. |
|--|-------|
| SECTION I. ....                        | 7     |
| REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ....           | 7     |
| SECTION II. ....                       | 7     |
| THE STAFF ....                         | 7     |
| SECTION III. ....                      | 8     |
| PLANTING OPERATIONS OF DEPARTMENT .... | 8     |
| SECTION IV. ....                       | 11    |
| STATE NURSERY ....                     | 11    |
| SECTION V. ....                        | 13    |
| DISTRIBUTION OF TREES ....             | 13    |
| SECTION VI. ....                       | 13    |
| THE TIMBER INDUSTRY ....               | 13    |
| SECTION VII. ....                      | 20    |
| RAILWAY SLEEPERS FOR EXPORT ....       | 20    |
| SECTION VIII. ....                     | 20    |
| ADVERTISING LOCAL TIMBERS ....         | 20    |

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*To the Honourable Chas. J. Moran, M.L.A., Minister for Lands.*

Woods and Forests Department,  
Perth, 1st May, 1901.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report upon the operations and progress of the Woods and Forests Department during the year ended the 31st December, 1900.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. G. RICHARDSON,

Acting Conservator of Forests.

# WOODS AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT

## *Report by the Acting Conservator of Forests.*

### SECTION I.

#### REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The Woods and Forests Department was instituted in the year 1895, and in order that the public may form an opinion as to the utility of its operations since our forests were placed under a proper system of management, I beg to subjoin the following statement in regard to the Revenue and Expenditure up to the end of the year 1900.

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure from 1st January, 1895, to 31st December, 1900 :—

| Year.                                     | Revenue. |    |    | Expenditure. |    |    |
|---|----------|----|----|--------------|----|----|
|   | £        | s. | d. | £            | s. | d. |
| 1st January, 1895, to 31st December, 1895 | 3,175    | 5  | 2  | 1,108        | 5  | 5  |
| " 1896 " "                                | 4,838    | 11 | 2  | 2,020        | 11 | 5  |
| " 1897 " "                                | 12,320   | 6  | 4  | 3,489        | 14 | 4  |
| " 1898 " "                                | 30,150   | 6  | 3  | 3,356        | 5  | 7  |
| " 1899 " "                                | 16,999   | 11 | 3  | 2,438        | 7  | 5  |
| " 1900 " "                                | 15,525   | 19 | 2  | 2,648        | 11 | 10 |

2. The above statement, therefore, shows that to the end of 1900 the revenue derived from the forests of this State has exceeded the expenditure by the sum of £67,948 3s. 4d.

#### REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1900.

3. The amount of revenue derived from timber for the year under review amounted to the sum of £15,525 19s. 2d., and was made up of rents of Timber Leases, Timber Concessions, Royalty, and various monthly Timber Licenses.

4. The total amount of revenue for the year is somewhat less than that of 1899, which amounted to £16,999 11s. 3d., and shows a decrease of £1,473 12s. 1d.

5. The falling off in revenue may be accounted for by the fact that a good deal of the country which was taken up some years ago for speculative purposes has now been allowed to revert to the State.

6. The total expenditure of the Department for the year 1900 amounted to £2,648 11s. 10d.; being £210 4s. 5d. more than that of the calendar year ended 31st December, 1899.

### SECTION II.

#### THE STAFF.

7. The officers of the Department are as shown below :—

##### *Head Office:*

C. G. Richardson, Acting Conservator of Forests.  
 F. U. Palmer, Clerk.  
 D. W. Arnold, Clerk and Messenger.

*Forest Rangers :*

S. Patterson, Chidlow's Well, E.R.  
 H. S. Brockman, Donnybrook.  
 J. J. Fitzgerald, Waroona, S.W.R.  
 J. H. Gregory, Northam.  
 E. Kelso, Coolgardie.

*Nurseryman :*

A. McFarlane, State Nursery, DeHamel, S.W.R.  
 N. P. Davis, Cadet, State Nursery.  
 J. C. S. Deans, Caretaker, Point Walter Reserve.

**SECTION III.****PLANTING OPERATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT.****A.—PINE PLANTATION, BUNBURY.**

8. This plantation was completed during the year under review, and something like 21,000 Pines have now been planted on the block.

9. The trees, on the whole, have made good growth, and if the plantation can be protected from fire, there is little reason to doubt that the experiment will prove a complete success.

10. Any blanks that may occur through failure will be filled up this season.

11. Our soil and climate are both well adapted to the growth of Pines generally, and if further plantations are formed they would, in a comparatively short time, be available for commercial purposes.

12. The value of these plantations would be a great source of wealth to the State in a few years time, for the rapid growth of the Pine in Western Australia is astonishing.

13. It is to be hoped therefore, that the planting of pines will be proceeded with from year to year, and, with the approval of the Hon. the Minister, it is intended to form, this season, another plantation on the "North Beach," about twelve miles from Perth.

**B.—PLANTING AT POINT WALTER RESERVE.**

14. Some 300 ornamental trees were planted on this reserve during the past year, clumps being formed of the following varieties:—*Araucaria excelsa*, *Pinus insignis*, *Pinus pinaster*, *Cupressus horizontalis*, *Cupressus macrocarpa*, *Ficus Macrophylla*, *Robinia*, *Pseudo-Acacia*, *Melia Azedarach*, etc. About 75 per cent. of these trees are now looking well, the balance having succumbed to the long dry summer, and being also probably injuriously affected by the brackish water, which was unfortunately struck when the new well was sunk.

**C.—WATTLE PLANTATIONS.**

15. The plantation at Spencer's Brook received its first thinning during the year under review, this being the only operation necessary, and now forms a permanent plantation of some 13,500 trees.

16. It was the intention of the Department to form another Wattle Plantation last year near the Harvey Station on the South-Western Railway Line, but owing to the wet winter the land was under water and could not be got ready in time, consequently the work had to be postponed till next season.

17. In this connection it might be well to point out the advantages that might arise to the Railway Department if it were to continue the planting of Wattles on the unused lands within the fences of the areas resumed for the construction of its railway lines.

18. In the Eastern States I understand this matter has received the attention of the Railway authorities with considerable success, the varieties of trees planted being the Wattle of commerce, viz., *Acacia pycnantha* and *Acacia decurrens*.

19. The area of land available for planting would be very considerable, and, running as the railway lines do in various directions through the State, the plantations would, in the more exposed parts, act to a great extent as shelter belts to the agricultural lands adjoining, and, at the same time, by their dense evergreen foliage, act as breaks to prevent fire spreading from falling sparks to the adjacent crops.

20. Were the above-mentioned Wattles planted, the bark obtained from them would, no doubt, form a considerable source of revenue to the Department concerned, as the product would come into the market early, and the expenses of placing the bark on the metropolitan or other markets would be small, in consequence of the close vicinity of the plantations to the trucks.

21. The putting of these unused lands under a crop of Wattle would be a very easy matter, as the ground would only need to be ploughed to a depth of about six inches and the seed either sown broadcast or in rows, the whole being run over with a light harrow.

22. The cost of ploughing, purchase of seed, sowing, and harrowing should not amount to more than £2 per acre under average circumstances.

23. The *Acacia Pycnantha* produces the best tanning bark of commerce, and its introduction into this State in situations suited to its growth should be a matter of general interest, as well as one of importance to the community at large.

#### D.—SANDALWOOD PLANTATIONS.

24. The plantations formed at Pingelly and Meckering for experimental purposes in the year 1896 are still being operated upon and extended.

25. Some 13,530 Sandalwood nuts were sown upon both blocks during the year, a large percentage of which have germinated; some of the plants making, in many instances, phenomenal growth, and proving Sandalwood to be anything but the slow grower it was supposed to be.

26. This fact is a very gratifying one, as it goes to show that if the areas of Sandalwood country, which have in the past been almost denuded of this valuable tree, are given time, they will regenerate themselves rapidly by natural reproduction.

27. All the work of sowing was performed by the Forest Ranger for the district, and consequently this experiment, which may in years to come prove of considerable value to the State, has cost only a nominal sum.

28. I am aware that some people look upon these experiments with amusement, but if they would give the matter reasonable consideration, and consider the immense source of wealth the Sandalwood industry has been to this State in the past, I think they would admit that any experiment which would serve as an object lesson to our selectors, or as a stimulus to them to plant their waste land with this valuable tree, is worthy of the attention and interest of the community at large.

#### E.—PLANTING ON THE GOLDFIELDS.

29. Some experimental plantations were made on the goldfields during the year under review, but, owing to the unusually hot weather in the early part of October, the young trees in nearly every instance failed to establish themselves.

30. The following varieties and numbers were planted by the Forest Ranger for the District:—200 Sugar Gums, 50 Date Palms, 200 Carob Beans, 200 Silky Oaks, 200 Golden Wattles, and 200 Pines of sorts. Seeds of various kinds were also sent to the Ranger for sowing in suitable localities.

31. In addition to the Date Palms which were planted as above referred to, parcels of seed were sent, for sowing in suitable situations, to a number of Wardens and Resident Magistrates throughout the goldfields, and to the squatters of the North and North-West portions of the State.

32. This is the most inexpensive mode of introducing the Palm, and as the seed germinates freely and produces strong, vigorous plants—even when thrown away by travellers—they should have little difficulty, with a favourable season, of establishing themselves.

33. Great difficulties, however, have to be contended with in forming plantations on our goldfields, and I fear that, unless the Government is prepared to establish local nurseries or experimental plantations under the supervision of some experienced men, our efforts will be attended with only a small amount of success.

34. During the year under review parcels of seed of Assam Rubber (*Ficus Elastica*) were forwarded, with directions for sowing, to thirty-six Government officials and squatters throughout the tropical portions of the State, asking them to sow same in suitable localities, and pointing out the benefits and possible profits to be derived from plantations of this valuable tree.

35. Assam Rubber grows equally well on high land or low land, in forest or grass country, but preferably on a light sandy loam, and, provided it is shaded from the direct rays of the sun during the early stages of its growth, is easily raised from seed.

36. To give some idea of the value of this tree, it may be stated that the imports of rubber into the United Kingdom amounted in 1884 to 198,000cwt., representing a value of £2,266,000, and the demand and value has vastly increased during recent years; the price having risen to between £400 and £500 per ton.

37. In Assam a Rubber tree is tapped when it attains about the age of 25 years, and when 50 years old the yield is about 40lbs. of rubber every third year, which continues till the tree is over 100 years old.

38. The white sap flowing from incisions in the trunk is poured into boiling water, stirred until it gets firm, and is then taken out, pressed, and finally washed with lime water.

39. I am glad to say that considerable interest is being taken in the culture of the Rubber tree by the persons to whom the seeds were sent, and it is hoped that success may attend their efforts to establish the tree in this State.

## SECTION IV.

## THE STATE NURSERY.

40. The Nursery at Drakesbrook presents a very fine and satisfactory appearance this season; the total number of plants raised during the year under review being 162,185, which, if valued at nurserymen's prices, would amount to something like £4,000.

41. During the year referred to some five or six acres of the lower lying and richer portion of the block were planted with Catalpas, Ash, Red Cedar, Walnuts, Maples, and the mammoth tree of California, all of which will be treated as permanent plantations. The higher and poorer portion of the land round the Nursery cottage, some three or four acres in extent, was also planted with pines, and the trees in both areas have made wonderful growth, some being now ten to twelve feet high.

42. The cost of the maintenance of the Nursery amounted only to the sum of £96 11s. 2d., as against £74 2s. 4d. the previous year. This is a very small amount, and when it is stated that close upon £1,000 worth of trees raised in the Nursery have been used to beautify property of the State, *viz.*, Parks, Reserves, Recreation Grounds, etc., I think it will be conceded that even if the upkeep of this establishment had amounted to ten times the expenditure mentioned, the money had been well spent.

43. The stock of trees raised last year is composed of the numbers and varieties shown in the following tabulated statement:—

LIST OF TREES AND SHRUBS RAISED IN THE NURSERY LAST YEAR.

| Names of Plants.                |                             | In Open Beds. | In Seed Boxes. | In Bamboo Tubes. | Open Rooted. | Raised in Pots. | Total. |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------|
| Botanical.                      | Vernacular.                 |               |                |                  |              |                 |        |
| Cedrus deodara ... ..           | Indian Cedar ... ..         | ...           | ...            | ...              | 786          | 760             |        |
|                                 | Norfolk Island Pine ... ..  | ...           | ...            | ...              | ...          | 803             |        |
| Cupressus Lawsoniana ... ..     | The Lawson Cypress ... ..   | ...           | ...            | ...              | ...          | 381             |        |
| Do. torulosa ... ..             | Nepal Cypress ... ..        | ...           | ...            | ...              | ...          | 227             |        |
| Do. goveniana ... ..            | ... ..                      | ...           | ...            | ...              | ...          | 107             |        |
| Do. pendula ... ..              | ... ..                      | ...           | ...            | ...              | ...          | 240             |        |
| Do. macrocarpa ... ..           | ... ..                      | ...           | ...            | ...              | ...          | 503             |        |
| Do. guadaloupenensis ... ..     | ... ..                      | ...           | ...            | ...              | ...          | 40              |        |
| Do. horizontalis ... ..         | Horizontal Cypress ... ..   | ...           | ...            | ...              | 450          | 180             |        |
| Do. glauca ... ..               | Cedar of Goa ... ..         | ...           | ...            | ...              | ...          | 151             |        |
| Callitris arborea ... ..        | ... ..                      | ...           | ...            | ...              | ...          | 187             |        |
| Do. verucosa ... ..             | Murray Cypress Pine ... ..  | ...           | ...            | ...              | ...          | 120             |        |
| Thuya Occidentalis ... ..       | Northern White Cedar ... .. | ...           | ...            | ...              | ...          | 62              |        |
| Pinus pinaster ... ..           | Cluster Pine ... ..         | ...           | ...            | ...              | ...          | 303             |        |
| Sequoia Gigantea ... ..         | Mammoth Tree ... ..         | ...           | ...            | ...              | ...          | 68              |        |
|                                 | White Box ... ..            | ...           | ...            | ...              | ...          | 520             |        |
| Schinus Molle ... ..            | Pepper Tree ... ..          | ...           | 1,700          | ...              | ...          | 3,722           |        |
| Eucalyptus corynocalyx ... ..   | Sugar Gum ... ..            | ...           | ...            | 3,060            | ...          | 3,003           |        |
| Ceratonia Siliqua ... ..        | Carob Bean ... ..           | ...           | 386            | ...              | ...          | 590             |        |
| Lagunaria Pattersoni ... ..     | ... ..                      | ...           | 1,200          | ...              | ...          | 513             |        |
| Prosopis dulcis ... ..          | Mesquite or Algaroba ... .. | ...           | ...            | ...              | ...          | 280             |        |
| Ficus Macrophylla... ..         | Moreton Bay Fig ... ..      | ...           | ...            | ...              | ...          | 660             |        |
| Ficus Australis ... ..          | ... ..                      | ...           | ...            | ...              | ...          | 768             |        |
| Castanospermum Australis ... .. | Moreton Bay Chestnut ... .. | ...           | ...            | ...              | ...          | 46              |        |



## LIST OF TREES AND SHRUBS RAISED IN THE NURSERY LAST YEAR—continued.

| Names of Plants.           |                                    | In Open<br>Beds. | In Seed<br>Boxes. | In<br>Bamboo<br>Tubes. | Open<br>Rooted. | Raised<br>in Pots. | Total.                     |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Botanical.                 | Vernacular.                        |                  |                   |                        |                 |                    |                            |
| Grevillea robusta ...      | Silky Oak ...                      | ...              | ...               | ...                    | ...             | 503                |                            |
| Dracæna Draco ...          | Camphor Laurel ...                 | ...              | ...               | ...                    | ...             | 42                 |                            |
| Leucadendron argenteum ... | Dragon Blood Tree ...              | ...              | ...               | ...                    | ...             | 30                 |                            |
| Agonis flexuosa ...        | African Silver Tree ...            | ...              | 240               | ...                    | ...             | 219                |                            |
| Zizyphus neuronatus ...    | Peppermint ...                     | ...              | ...               | ...                    | ...             | 302                |                            |
| Eucalyptus Macrocarpa ...  | Buffalo-thorn ...                  | ...              | ...               | ...                    | ...             | 80                 |                            |
| Pittosporum undulatum ...  | ...                                | ...              | ...               | ...                    | ...             | 49                 |                            |
| Do. Eugenioides ...        | ...                                | ...              | ...               | ...                    | ...             | 612                |                            |
| Do. Nigrescens ...         | ...                                | ...              | ...               | ...                    | ...             | 252                |                            |
| Do. Colemanii ...          | ...                                | ...              | ...               | ...                    | ...             | 217                |                            |
| Padocarpus elata ...       | ...                                | ...              | ...               | ...                    | ...             | 40                 |                            |
| Cordyline Australis ...    | ...                                | ...              | ...               | ...                    | ...             | 103                |                            |
| Phoenix dactylifera ...    | Date Palms ...                     | ...              | 878               | ...                    | ...             | 72                 |                            |
| Kentia Belmoriana ...      | ...                                | ...              | ...               | ...                    | ...             | 455                |                            |
| Do. Fosteriana ...         | ...                                | ...              | ...               | ...                    | ...             | 64                 |                            |
| Sterculia acerifolia ...   | Kurrajong ...                      | ...              | ...               | ...                    | ...             | 58                 |                            |
| Acacia pycnantha ...       | Broad-leaved Wattle ...            | ...              | ...               | 4,200                  | ...             | 165                |                            |
| Do. acumenata ...          | Raspberry Jam Tree ...             | ...              | ...               | ...                    | ...             | 315                |                            |
| Do. decurrens ...          | Black Wattle ...                   | ...              | ...               | 1,600                  | ...             | 93                 |                            |
| Do. melonoxylon ...        | Blackwood ...                      | ...              | ...               | ...                    | ...             | 90                 |                            |
| Do. Baileyana ...          | ...                                | ...              | ...               | ...                    | ...             | 72                 |                            |
| ...                        | Ornamental and<br>Flowering Shrubs | ...              | ...               | ...                    | ...             | 234                |                            |
| Pinus insignis ...         | Remarkable Pine ...                | ...              | ...               | ...                    | 22,680          | 480                |                            |
| Do. pinaster ...           | Cluster Pine ...                   | ...              | ...               | ...                    | 14,200          |                    | 18,781 raised in pots.     |
| Do. halepensis ...         | Allepo Pine ...                    | ...              | ...               | ...                    | 9,180           |                    |                            |
| Do. excelsa ...            | Bhotan Pine ...                    | ...              | ...               | ...                    | 5,440           |                    |                            |
| Do. canariensis ...        | Canary Pine ...                    | ...              | ...               | ...                    | 300             |                    |                            |
| Do. sylvestris ...         | Scots Pine ...                     | ...              | ...               | ...                    | 3,260           |                    |                            |
| Cupressus stricta ...      | ...                                | ...              | ...               | ...                    | 580             |                    |                            |
| Tamarix Gallica ...        | Tamarisk ...                       | ...              | ...               | ...                    | 3,780           |                    |                            |
| Melia Azedarach ...        | White Cedar ...                    | ...              | ...               | ...                    | 8,160           |                    |                            |
| Robinia pseudo-acacia ...  | False Acacia ...                   | ...              | ...               | ...                    | 6,626           |                    |                            |
| Populus alba ...           | White Poplar ...                   | ...              | ...               | ...                    | 930             |                    |                            |
| Do. pyramidalis ...        | Upright Poplar ...                 | ...              | ...               | ...                    | 7,216           |                    |                            |
| Cedrela Taona ...          | Red Cedar ...                      | ...              | ...               | ...                    | 608             |                    |                            |
| ...                        | Kurrajong ...                      | ...              | ...               | ...                    | 5,350           |                    |                            |
| Catalpa Speciosa ...       | ...                                | ...              | ...               | ...                    | 2,800           |                    |                            |
| ...                        | Basket Willow ...                  | ...              | ...               | ...                    | 400             |                    |                            |
| ...                        | Golden Willow ...                  | ...              | ...               | ...                    | 380             |                    |                            |
| Platanus orientalis ...    | Oriental Plane Tree ...            | ...              | ...               | ...                    | 936             |                    |                            |
| Ulmus campestris ...       | Elm ...                            | ...              | ...               | ...                    | 60              |                    |                            |
| Fraxinus excelsior ...     | Ash ...                            | ...              | ...               | ...                    | 3,350           |                    |                            |
| Quercus pedunculata ...    | Oak ...                            | ...              | ...               | ...                    | 2,840           |                    |                            |
| Acer platanoides ...       | Maple ...                          | ...              | ...               | ...                    | 200             |                    |                            |
| Juglans nigra ...          | Walnut ...                         | ...              | ...               | ...                    | 206             |                    |                            |
| Lycium Europxum ...        | Boxthorn ...                       | ...              | ...               | ...                    | 9,880           |                    | 110,598, open<br>rooted.   |
| Euc. Callophylla ...       | Red Gum ...                        | ...              | ...               | 1,800                  | ...             |                    |                            |
| Do. Gomphocephala ...      | Tuart ...                          | ...              | ...               | 1,400                  | ...             |                    |                            |
| Medicago arborea ...       | Tree Lucerne ...                   | ...              | ...               | 870                    | ...             |                    | 12,930 in bamboo<br>tubes. |
| Agonis flexuosa ...        | Peppermint ...                     | ...              | 300               | ...                    | ...             |                    |                            |
| Tristania conferta ...     | ...                                | ...              | 540               | ...                    | ...             |                    |                            |
| Cupressus (of sorts) ...   | Cypresses (of sorts) ...           | ...              | 2,260             | ...                    | ...             |                    |                            |
| ...                        | Acacias (of sorts) ...             | ...              | 1,759             | ...                    | ...             |                    |                            |
| Sterculia acerifolia ...   | Kurrajong ...                      | ...              | 876               | ...                    | ...             |                    |                            |
| Pittosporum (of sorts) ... | ...                                | ...              | 940               | ...                    | ...             |                    |                            |
| Ficus elastica ...         | Assam Rubber ...                   | ...              | 1,680             | ...                    | ...             |                    |                            |
| Do. macrophylla ...        | Moreton Bay Fig ...                | ...              | 2,112             | ...                    | ...             |                    |                            |
| Do. Australis ...          | ...                                | ...              | 1,138             | ...                    | ...             |                    |                            |
| Prosopis dulcis ...        | Mesquite or Alga-<br>roba tree     | ...              | 467               | ...                    | ...             |                    |                            |
| Various ...                | ...                                | ...              | 3,400             | ...                    | ...             |                    | 19,876 in seed<br>boxes.   |
| ...                        | Grand Total ...                    | ...              | ...               | ...                    | ...             | 162,185            |                            |

## SECTION V.

## DISTRIBUTION OF TREES.

44. Last year it was found that there would be a surplus stock of plants in the State Nursery beyond the requirements of the Department for the ensuing season's planting operations, and in concurrence with the wishes of the Hon. the Minister for Lands it was decided to offer these to State Schools and corporate bodies generally, for the purpose of planting them in school grounds, streets, and public parks.

45. During the year under review many applications were received for trees, and, so far as the stock would admit, these applications were complied with without in any way interfering with the progressive plantations of the Department.

46. The plants distributed consist of timber tree seedlings and shrubs of various kinds which have been raised in pots, bamboo tubes, and in open root nursery beds.

47. The following statement shows the number of trees and the various public institutions to which same were sold or distributed last year:—

|                               |        |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Municipalities                | 2,990  |
| Schools                       | 809    |
| Churches                      | 628    |
| Zoological Gardens            | 2,655  |
| Railway Department            | 12,722 |
| Roads Boards                  | 286    |
| Wardens' Courts               | 77     |
| Agricultural Societies        | 30     |
| Hospitals                     | 930    |
| Cemetery Boards               | 425    |
| Recreation Reserves           | 100    |
| Orphanages                    | 95     |
| Eclipse Brewery, Northam      | 84     |
| Experimental Purposes         | 14,594 |
| Immigration Depot             | 30     |
| Industrial Schools            | 90     |
| Working Men's Clubs           | 100    |
| Lawn Tennis Clubs             | 24     |
| Mechanics' Institutes         | 100    |
| Mining Registrars             | 22     |
| Asylums                       | 400    |
| Post and Telegraph Department | 24     |
|                               | <hr/>  |
|                               | 37,215 |

48. This amounts to 18,863 more trees than were distributed the previous year, or more than twice the number, and it is hoped that this wide-spread distribution will not only meet with the success and appreciation it deserves, but tend to encourage a taste for arboriculture throughout the whole State.

## SECTION VI.

## THE TIMBER INDUSTRY.

49. By the courtesy of the Registrar General I am able to supply the following particulars of the timber imports and exports of the Colony for the years ended 31st December, 1899 and 1900.

## 50. Timber imports for years above referred to:—

RETURN SHOWING THE VALUE OF TIMBER IMPORTED INTO WESTERN AUSTRALIA, AND THE COUNTRIES FROM WHENCE IMPORTED, FOR THE YEAR 1899.

| Countries whence Imported.      | Value.                       |                       |        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|
|                                 | British and Foreign Produce. | Australasian Produce. | Total. |
| <b>BOARDS:</b>                  | £                            | £                     | £      |
| Victoria ... ..                 | 384                          | 83                    | 467    |
| South Australia ... ..          | 44                           | 2                     | 46     |
| New South Wales ... ..          | ...                          | 19                    | 19     |
| Singapore ... ..                | 44                           | ...                   | 44     |
| Sweden ... ..                   | 4,062                        | ...                   | 4,062  |
| Total ... ..                    | 4,534                        | 104                   | 4,638  |
| <b>LATHS:</b>                   |                              |                       |        |
| South Australia ... ..          | ...                          | 5                     | 5      |
| Canada ... ..                   | 231                          | ...                   | 231    |
| United States of America ... .. | 195                          | ...                   | 195    |
| Sweden ... ..                   | 40                           | ...                   | 40     |
| Total ... ..                    | 466                          | 5                     | 471    |
| <b>MOULDINGS:</b>               |                              |                       |        |
| United Kingdom ... ..           | 2                            | ...                   | 2      |
| South Australia ... ..          | ...                          | 2                     | 2      |
| New South Wales ... ..          | ...                          | 298                   | 298    |
| Germany ... ..                  | 5                            | ...                   | 5      |
| Sweden ... ..                   | 47                           | ...                   | 47     |
| Total ... ..                    | 54                           | 300                   | 354    |
| <b>PALINGS:</b>                 |                              |                       |        |
| Victoria ... ..                 | ...                          | 2                     | 2      |
| New Zealand ... ..              | ...                          | 3                     | 3      |
| Total ... ..                    | ...                          | 5                     | 5      |
| <b>WOODEN HOUSES:</b>           |                              |                       |        |
| United Kingdom ... ..           | 178                          | ...                   | 178    |
| <b>WORKED:</b>                  |                              |                       |        |
| United Kingdom ... ..           | 277                          | ...                   | 277    |
| Victoria ... ..                 | 138                          | 441                   | 579    |
| South Australia ... ..          | ...                          | 229                   | 229    |
| New South Wales ... ..          | 13                           | 438                   | 451    |
| New Zealand ... ..              | ...                          | 360                   | 360    |
| Singapore ... ..                | 26                           | ...                   | 26     |
| United States of America ... .. | 2,129                        | ...                   | 2,129  |
| Germany ... ..                  | 2                            | ...                   | 2      |
| Sweden ... ..                   | 128                          | ...                   | 128    |
| Norway ... ..                   | 1,173                        | ...                   | 1,173  |
| Total ... ..                    | 3,886                        | 1,468                 | 5,354  |
| <b>UNWORKED:</b>                |                              |                       |        |
| United Kingdom ... ..           | 234                          | ...                   | 234    |
| Victoria ... ..                 | 64                           | 1,192                 | 1,256  |
| South Australia ... ..          | 49                           | 977                   | 1,026  |
| New South Wales ... ..          | 328                          | 2,232                 | 2,560  |
| New Zealand ... ..              | ...                          | 2,352                 | 2,352  |
| Singapore ... ..                | 1,909                        | ...                   | 1,909  |
| Cape Colony ... ..              | 4                            | ...                   | 4      |
| Canada ... ..                   | 4,439                        | ...                   | 4,439  |
| United States of America ... .. | 2,473                        | ...                   | 2,473  |
| Sweden ... ..                   | 6,906                        | ...                   | 6,906  |
| Norway ... ..                   | 4,029                        | ...                   | 4,029  |
| Total ... ..                    | 20,435                       | 6,753                 | 27,188 |

*Return showing the Value of Timber Imported into Western Australia, and the Countries from whence Imported, for the Year 1899—continued.*

| Countries whence Imported.                | Value.                       |                       |               |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|   | British and Foreign Produce. | Australasian Produce. | Total.        |
| <b>IN BALK, ROUGH, OR HEWN:</b>           | £                            | £                     | £             |
| Victoria ... ..                           | ...                          | 83                    | 83            |
| South Australia ... ..                    | ...                          | 155                   | 155           |
| New South Wales ... ..                    | ...                          | 33                    | 33            |
| Singapore ... ..                          | 333                          | ...                   | 333           |
| Canada ... ..                             | 758                          | ...                   | 758           |
| United States of America ... ..           | 1,871                        | ...                   | 1,871         |
| <b>Total</b> ... ..                       | <b>2,962</b>                 | <b>271</b>            | <b>3,233</b>  |
| <b>IN SHORT LENGTHS, FOR CASE-MAKING:</b> |                              |                       |               |
| United Kingdom ... ..                     | 83                           | ...                   | 83            |
| Victoria ... ..                           | ...                          | 163                   | 163           |
| South Australia ... ..                    | ...                          | 420                   | 420           |
| New South Wales ... ..                    | ...                          | 531                   | 531           |
| Singapore ... ..                          | 304                          | ...                   | 304           |
| United States of America ... ..           | 118                          | ...                   | 118           |
| <b>Total</b> ... ..                       | <b>505</b>                   | <b>1,114</b>          | <b>1,619</b>  |
| <b>Grand Total Timber Imports</b> ... ..  | <b>33,020</b>                | <b>10,020</b>         | <b>43,040</b> |

**A RETURN SHOWING THE VALUE OF TIMBER IMPORTED INTO WESTERN AUSTRALIA, AND THE COUNTRIES FROM WHENCE IMPORTED, FOR THE YEAR 1900.**

| Countries whence Imported.      | Value.                       |                       |               |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
|                                 | British and Foreign Produce. | Australasian Produce. | Total.        |
| <b>BOARDS:</b>                  | £                            | £                     | £             |
| United Kingdom ... ..           | 37                           | ...                   | 37            |
| Victoria ... ..                 | 2,012                        | 300                   | 2,312         |
| South Australia ... ..          | 1,924                        | 130                   | 2,052         |
| New South Wales ... ..          | 2                            | 314                   | 316           |
| United States of America ... .. | 3,354                        | ...                   | 3,354         |
| Germany ... ..                  | 125                          | ...                   | 125           |
| Sweden ... ..                   | 4,127                        | ...                   | 4,127         |
| <b>Total</b> ... ..             | <b>11,581</b>                | <b>744</b>            | <b>12,325</b> |
| <b>LATHS:</b>                   |                              |                       |               |
| Victoria ... ..                 | ...                          | 2                     | 2             |
| United States of America ... .. | 486                          | ...                   | 486           |
| <b>Total</b> ... ..             | <b>486</b>                   | <b>2</b>              | <b>488</b>    |
| <b>WOODEN HOUSES:</b>           |                              |                       |               |
| United Kingdom ... ..           | 192                          | ...                   | 192           |
| Victoria ... ..                 | ...                          | 1                     | 1             |
| <b>Total</b> ... ..             | <b>192</b>                   | <b>1</b>              | <b>193</b>    |
| <b>WORKED:</b>                  |                              |                       |               |
| United Kingdom ... ..           | 3,144                        | ...                   | 3,144         |
| Victoria ... ..                 | 1,405                        | 2,273                 | 3,678         |
| South Australia ... ..          | 43                           | 213                   | 256           |
| New South Wales ... ..          | ...                          | 114                   | 114           |
| Singapore ... ..                | 75                           | ...                   | 75            |
| United States of America ... .. | 313                          | ...                   | 313           |
| Sweden ... ..                   | 4,319                        | ...                   | 4,319         |
| <b>Total</b> ... ..             | <b>9,299</b>                 | <b>2,600</b>          | <b>11,899</b> |

*A. Returns showing the Value of Timber Imported into Western Australia, and the Countries from whence Imported, for the Year 1900—continued.*

| Countries whence Imported.                | Value.                       |                       |        |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|
|   | British and Foreign Produce. | Australasian Produce. | Total. |
|   | £                            | £                     | £      |
| <b>UNWORKED:</b>                          |                              |                       |        |
| United Kingdom ... ..                     | 174                          | ...                   | 174    |
| Victoria ... ..                           | 1,068                        | 2,837                 | 3,905  |
| South Australia ... ..                    | 765                          | 403                   | 1,168  |
| New South Wales ... ..                    | 906                          | 3,332                 | 4,238  |
| Queensland ... ..                         | ...                          | 143                   | 143    |
| New Zealand ... ..                        | ...                          | 1,535                 | 1,535  |
| Tasmania ... ..                           | ...                          | 82                    | 82     |
| Singapore ... ..                          | 1,871                        | ...                   | 1,871  |
| Cape Colony ... ..                        | 1                            | ...                   | 1      |
| Canada ... ..                             | 875                          | ...                   | 875    |
| United States of America ... ..           | 7,518                        | ...                   | 7,518  |
| Sweden ... ..                             | 792                          | ...                   | 792    |
| Total ... ..                              | 13,970                       | 8,332                 | 22,302 |
| <b>IN BALK, ROUGH OR HEWN:</b>            |                              |                       |        |
| Victoria ... ..                           | 5                            | 216                   | 221    |
| South Australia ... ..                    | ...                          | 16                    | 16     |
| New South Wales ... ..                    | ...                          | 215                   | 215    |
| New Zealand ... ..                        | ...                          | 14                    | 14     |
| United States of America ... ..           | 2,332                        | ...                   | 2,332  |
| Sweden ... ..                             | 210                          | ...                   | 210    |
| Total ... ..                              | 2,547                        | 461                   | 3,008  |
| <b>IN SHORT LENGTHS, FOR CASE MAKING:</b> |                              |                       |        |
| United Kingdom ... ..                     | 31                           | ...                   | 31     |
| Victoria ... ..                           | 811                          | 95                    | 906    |
| South Australia ... ..                    | 763                          | 80                    | 843    |
| New South Wales ... ..                    | 289                          | 302                   | 591    |
| Singapore ... ..                          | 386                          | ...                   | 386    |
| United States of America ... ..           | 272                          | ...                   | 272    |
| Belgium ... ..                            | 30                           | ...                   | 30     |
| Total ... ..                              | 2,582                        | 477                   | 3,059  |
| Grand Total, Timber Imports ... ..        | 40,557                       | 12,517                | 53,274 |

51. The above statements show that during the year 1899 the value of our timber imports amounted to £43,040, and to £53,274 last year; consequently these figures show an increase of £10,234 in the imports of softwoods during 1900.

52. This considerable increase in the amount of foreign timbers imported into the State is to be regretted, as our own hardwoods could, no doubt, be more generally used for constructive purposes, interior work, etc., but so long as softwood continues to be the cheaper article, I fear they will be used in preference.

53. It was suggested some years ago that the import duty be somewhat increased in order to encourage the use of our native woods for building purposes, etc., in the State; but it seems to me that if our local timber companies would turn out a specially prepared weatherboard or matchboard at a reduced price, the local article might have a chance of being more generally used, and of successfully competing with the imported one.

54. The large increase in the imports of softwoods shows, however, one good purpose in emphasising the wisdom of planting the pines of commerce in Western Australia, so that in years to come, when, owing to the gradual diminishing of the world's supply, it is difficult or impossible to obtain softwoods, this State may be in a position to supply its own demands.

TIMBER EXPORTS FOR YEARS 1899 AND 1900.

55. Particulars of the various timbers exported being now to hand, the subjoined statement gives the varieties of timbers exported from the State, the respective quantities of each, their corresponding values, and the countries to which same were exported:—

EXPORTS OF TIMBER FROM THE STATE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
FOR THE YEAR 1899.

| Species.  | Country to which Exported. | Quantity.             | Value.       |
|-----------|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Jarrah    | United Kingdom             | Loads.<br>69,108      | £<br>276,432 |
|           | Victoria ...               | 314 $\frac{1}{2}$     | 1,258        |
|           | South Australia...         | 7,602 $\frac{3}{4}$   | 30,411       |
|           | New South Wales            | 163                   | 652          |
|           | Singapore                  | 935                   | 3,740        |
|           | Ceylon                     | 103                   | 412          |
|           | Hong Kong                  | 782 $\frac{1}{2}$     | 3,130        |
|           | India                      | 522 $\frac{1}{2}$     | 2,090        |
|           | Mauritius                  | 751                   | 3,004        |
|           | Natal                      | 5,696                 | 22,784       |
|           | Cape Colony                | 5,639 $\frac{1}{2}$   | 22,558       |
|           | France                     | 616                   | 2,464        |
|           | Germany                    | 65                    | 260          |
|           | Belgium                    | 300                   | 1,200        |
|           | Argentina                  | 510                   | 2,040        |
|           | Uruguay                    | 746 $\frac{1}{2}$     | 2,986        |
| Guam      | 3                          | 12                    |              |
|           | Total                      | 93,858 $\frac{1}{4}$  | 375,433      |
| Karri     | United Kingdom             | 27,143                | 108,572      |
|           | Victoria ...               | 1,543 $\frac{1}{2}$   | 6,174        |
|           | South Australia            | 738                   | 2,952        |
|           | New South Wales            | 792                   | 3,168        |
|           | Singapore                  | 819                   | 3,276        |
|           | India                      | 1,936                 | 7,744        |
|           | Ceylon                     | 1,942                 | 7,768        |
|           | Natal                      | 5,934                 | 23,736       |
|           | Cape Colony                | 1,709                 | 6,836        |
|           | Argentina                  | 854                   | 3,416        |
| France    | 995                        | 3,980                 |              |
|           | Total                      | 44,405 $\frac{1}{2}$  | 177,622      |
| White Gum | Victoria ...               | 2                     | 9            |
|           | South Australia            | 5                     | 20           |
|           | Total                      | 7                     | 29           |
| N.O.E.    | United Kingdom             | *                     | 5            |
|           | France                     | ...                   | 109          |
|           | Total                      | ...                   | 114          |
|           | Grand Total                | 138,270 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 553,198      |

\* Quantity not stated.

EXPORTS OF TIMBER FROM THE STATE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA FOR  
THE YEAR 1900.

| Species.  | Country to which Exported. | Quantity.                     | Value.   |
|-----------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| Jarrah    | United Kingdom             | Loads.<br>2,314 $\frac{1}{4}$ | £ 92,593 |
|           | Victoria                   | 376 $\frac{3}{4}$             | 1,507    |
|           | South Australia            | 10,184 $\frac{5}{6}$          | 40,739   |
|           | New Zealand                | 43                            | 172      |
|           | Singapore                  | 4,226 $\frac{1}{2}$           | 16,906   |
|           | India                      | 882 $\frac{1}{4}$             | 3,529    |
|           | Ceylon                     | 2,294                         | 9,176    |
|           | Hong Kong                  | 40                            | 160      |
|           | Mauritius                  | 811 $\frac{1}{2}$             | 3,246    |
|           | Cape Colony                | 12,227                        | 48,908   |
|           | Natal                      | 5,512 $\frac{3}{4}$           | 22,051   |
|           | Germany                    | 262                           | 1,048    |
|           | France                     | 7                             | 28       |
|           | Spain                      | 917 $\frac{1}{4}$             | 3,669    |
|           | China                      | 1                             | 4        |
|           | Philippines                | 1,003 $\frac{1}{4}$           | 4,013    |
|           | Uruguay                    | 1,852                         | 7,408    |
| Argentine | 9,273 $\frac{1}{2}$        | 37,094                        |          |
| Mexico    | 1,399                      | 5,596                         |          |
|           | Total                      | 74,461 $\frac{5}{8}$          | 297,847  |
| Karri     | United Kingdom             | 23,717 $\frac{3}{4}$          | 94,871   |
|           | South Australia            | 372 $\frac{1}{2}$             | 1,490    |
|           | New South Wales            | 201                           | 804      |
|           | India                      | 1,269                         | 5,076    |
|           | Ceylon                     | 2,692 $\frac{1}{2}$           | 10,770   |
|           | Cape Colony                | 5,476 $\frac{1}{10}$          | 21,904   |
|           | Natal                      | 484                           | 1,936    |
|           | Germany                    | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$               | 5        |
|           | France                     | 16 $\frac{1}{2}$              | 66       |
|           | Mexico                     | 505 $\frac{1}{2}$             | 2,022    |
|           | Uruguay                    | 1,268                         | 5,072    |
| Argentine | 4,041                      | 16,164                        |          |
|           | Total                      | 40,045 $\frac{1}{10}$         | 160,180  |
| Spars     | Guam                       | ...                           | 317      |
| Tuart     | South Australia            | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$               | 9        |
| N.O.E.    | France                     | ...                           | 420      |
|           | Guam                       | ...                           | 5        |
|           | Total                      | ...                           | 425      |
|           | Grand Total                | 114,508 $\frac{13}{80}$       | 458,778  |

56. It will be seen from the preceding statements that the exports of timber during 1899 were £553,198 as against £458,778 in 1900, showing a decrease of £94,420.

57. This falling off in our export timber trade is to be deeply regretted, but is, I feel confident, only temporary; due, no doubt, to the war in South Africa, which has closed, to a great extent, one of our best markets.

58. We can now, however, look forward to the satisfactory conclusion of the war, and may expect a renewal and rapid increase in the South African business.

59. Another cause is, I fear, the unfavourable opinion which has recently been formed of our timbers in Cape Colony and Natal owing to the fact that Karri has either been exported from this State as Jarrah, or that, from the great similarity between the two woods, Karri has been mistaken for Jarrah, and used for purposes for which it is unsuited.

60. I have received communications from South Africa stating that large quantities of Karri have been used, in the belief that it was Jarrah, for railway sleepers and piles, with the result that a very bad opinion has been formed of Jarrah as a durable timber, and that if this sort of thing is allowed to continue the effect will be irremediable damage to our timber trade.

61. These facts, therefore, emphasise more than ever the necessity for all timber exported from this State being inspected by Forest Officers thoroughly conversant with our timbers, who would brand each kind of timber with a distinctive brand.

62. The Timber Branding Act, which I have recommended to be brought before Parliament during next Session, deals with this important matter, and renders it compulsory for all timbers leaving our shores to be branded with a brand indicating that it is the variety it purports to be.

63. I feel confident that, if the Act in question becomes law, great benefits, not only to the sellers and buyers, but to the State at large will result.

64. Although there continues to be a considerable demand throughout the world for our timbers, the condition of the trade is not in as flourishing a state as might be desired. This is due no doubt to the great competition among the various companies, and to the fact that in cutting 9in. x 3in. timbers for the home market a considerable waste is caused, owing to some extent to the absurd prejudice existing with regard to gum veins in the timber, thus leaving little margin for profit; the timber in fact, in some instances, being cut at a loss.

65. In order therefore to remedy this evil and remove the prejudice referred to, the Agent General was written to, pointing out that gumminess in timber used for such purposes as wood paving, sleepers, piles, etc., and underground work is not detrimental, as the durability of our Jarrah is largely attributable to the peculiar acid contained in the wood, which is really a natural preservative, and tends rather to increase than diminish its durability.

66. These facts were brought to the notice of the various London buyers by the Agent General, and it is hoped that the action taken will remove the prejudice referred to and thus minimise the regrettable waste of timber that now exists in cutting timber for the home market.

67. The following tabulated statements show the value of the sandalwood which has been exported from the State during the years 1899 and 1900, and the countries to which it was sent:—

EXPORT OF SANDALWOOD FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA FOR THE YEAR 1899.

| Species.       | Country to which Exported. | Quantity. |       | Value. |
|----------------|----------------------------|-----------|-------|--------|
|                |                            | tons      | cwts. |        |
| Sandalwood ... | United Kingdom ...         | 216       | 16    | 1,464  |
|                | Singapore ...              | 1,352     | 16½   | 8,053  |
|                | Hong Kong ...              | 2,514     | 0     | 20,202 |
|                | Total ...                  | 4,083     | 12½   | 29,719 |



## EXPORT OF SANDALWOOD FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA FOR THE YEAR 1900.

| Species.   | Country to which Exported. | Quantity. |                  | Value. |
|------------|----------------------------|-----------|------------------|--------|
|            |                            | tons      | cwts.            |        |
| Sandalwood | Singapore ... ..           | 631       | 5 $\frac{1}{4}$  | 3,992  |
|            | India ... ..               | 2         | 14               | 27     |
|            | Hong Kong... ..            | 2,761     | 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  | 20,635 |
|            | Germany ... ..             | 0         | 2                | 1      |
|            | U.S. of America ... ..     | 20        | 0                | 160    |
|            | China ... ..               | 1,679     | 6 $\frac{3}{4}$  | 14,233 |
|            | Total ... ..               | 5,094     | 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 39,038 |

68. It is pleasing to note, from above returns, that the export of Sandalwood for the year under review exceeds that of the previous year by £9,319, and that the Sandalwood trade, after having passed through a period of considerable depression, is in a fair way to recover itself.

69. It is to be regretted, however, that the wood being now sent forward for export is of a very inferior quality, owing to the cutters having in many cases failed to clean it in the usual way by removing the bark and sapwood, which are valueless for commercial purposes; and if the shippers allow this inferior wood to be sent abroad, damage to the trade will be sure to result.

## SECTION VII.

## RAILWAY SLEEPERS FOR EXPORT.

70. During the year under review large contracts for Jarrah Railway Sleepers were entered into by various of the local timber companies, and I am pleased to state that there continues to be a very considerable demand for our timbers for above-mentioned purposes.

71. At the request of the foreign buyers, these sleepers were inspected by Officers of this Department before shipment; in all something like 500,000 sleepers having been passed and branded during the year. These were all Jarrah, and certificates to that effect signed by an authorised Inspector accompanied each shipment.

## SECTION VIII.

## ADVERTISING LOCAL TIMBERS.

72. The following are a few instances of what steps have been taken by the Department in this direction.

73. In order to show the suitability of our local timbers for veneer and inlay work, and to illustrate that the colours of our woods are suitable for a variety of designs, an octagonal table of "Chippendale" design was ordered for the Departmental Museum.

74. The table is a beautiful piece of workmanship, and is made exclusively of Western Australian woods.

75. The centre is a piece of York Gum, with the black swan formed out of Native Pear; then come circles of Shea-oak, Jarrah, and Native Pear, and then a design of a Maltese Cross in three different shades of Jarrah.

56  
uring 18  
94,420.

57. This falling off in our export timber trade is to be regarded as a temporary phenomenon, due, no doubt, to the depression of the world's economy, and the exports of timber in 1900, showing a decrease of £400,778 in 1900, showing a decrease of

76. Between the cross are rays of Sandalwood, Karri, and Jarrah, which form octagonal borders, with bands of Banksia and Shea-oak.

77. Next is an Egyptian border with Sandalwood band, the whole being enclosed with a Greek key border of Native Pear and Shea-oak.

78. Although our timbers are now pretty generally known in the principal markets of the world for wood-paving blocks and railway sleepers, the fact has not yet been fully recognised that they are equal, if not superior, to many timbers on the home market for manufacturing purposes; and, with the view of bringing this fact before the notice of the English manufacturers, samples of all our timbers, polished and unpolished, were sent to the principal furnishing firms and shipbuilders throughout the United Kingdom.

79. Great research having been made, and a large amount of money expended during recent years in endeavouring to render timber fire-proof by artificial means, samples of our Blackbutt (*Euc. patens*), which is a naturally non-flammable timber, were sent to the Agent General, with the request that he would bring its well-known qualities before the home Naval Authorities. Further samples were also sent to the Board on Fire-proofing Wood, United States Navy Yard, Washington, as this body has been giving the matter of rendering wood non-flammable by artificial means great attention.

80. At the request of the Education Department, Melbourne, samples of all our commercial timbers were supplied for use in the Manual Training Branch, and it is hoped that these will prove of service in extending a useful knowledge of Western Australian timbers amongst the rising generation in the East, thus making our resources more generally known to the mutual advantage of both States.

81. In a list of Walking Sticks supplied to the London market I find that these articles are supplied from all parts of the world; saplings of our Eucalyptus being supplied by Algeria, but none by Australia. The variety of sticks that could be supplied from this State is very considerable, and in order to ascertain whether a trade could not be opened up, samples of wood suitable for walking sticks and umbrella handles were sent to Messrs. Henry Howell & Co., London, who are large manufacturers of these articles.

82. Various specimens of old timbers, piles, railway sleepers, etc., were supplied to the Royal Commission, Paris International Exhibition, 1900, from the Departmental Museum, and have helped, no doubt, to bring the extraordinary durability, etc., of our hardwoods, and their suitability above all others for large engineering works, before the notice of the world.

83. At the instance of Mr. Arthur Balfour, a visitor from England, samples of our timbers, with quotations f.o.b. Fremantle, Bunbury, etc., were sent to Mr. C. H. Bingham, of Sheffield, who is a very large manufacturer, using a great variety of woods in his business.

84. Subsequent inquiries from above-mentioned source have been received for timbers to take the place of Rosewood and Mahogany, and, provided satisfactory arrangements can be made, orders for from five to ten tons of Jamwood and Jarrah will be forthcoming.

85. The steps taken by the Department in the direction of advertising our timbers will, it is hoped, bear fruit, and assist in illustrating to the world that Western Australian hardwoods are suitable for a variety of purposes above the dead level of railway sleepers and wood paving blocks.