

1903.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WOODS AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1902,

BY

G. G. RICHARDSON,

SECRETARY FOREST DEPARTMENT.

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

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To the Hon. J. M. Hopkins, M.L.A., Minister for Lands.

Woods and Forests Department,
15th May, 1903.

SIR,

1. I have the honour to submit this, the seventh, Annual Report upon the operations and progress of the Woods and Forests Department during the year ended the 31st of December, 1902.

2. In compliance with the wish expressed in Parliament that Departmental Reports should be reduced in bulk, I have confined my report this year to mere statements of facts.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

C. G. RICHARDSON,

Secretary.

WOODS AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT.

Report by the Secretary.

SECTION I.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

1. The subjoined statement shows the revenue and expenditure of the Department since it was established in 1895:—

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1st January, 1895, to 31st December, 1895	3,175	5	2	1,108	5	5
" 1896 " " 1896	4,838	11	2	2,020	11	5
" 1897 " " 1897	12,320	6	4	3,489	14	4
" 1898 " " 1898	30,150	6	3	3,356	5	7
" 1899 " " 1899	16,999	11	3	2,438	7	5
" 1900 " " 1900	15,525	19	2	2,648	11	10
" 1901 " " 1901	18,477	16	2	2,747	6	3
" 1902 " " 1902	18,752	11	7	4,301	6	1

2. From the above statement it will be seen, therefore, that to the end of 1902 the revenue has exceeded the expenditure by the large amount of £98,129 18s. 9d.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1902.

3. The revenue derived from our Forests for rents of Timber Leases, Timber Concessions, Monthly Licenses, and Royalty amounted to £18,752 11s. 7d., and is £274 15s. 5d. in excess of that of the previous year.

4. The total expenditure of the Department for the year under review amounted to £4,301 6s. 1d., being £1,553 19s. 10d. more than that of last year; this excess being caused by the appointment of additional rangers, who have since been retrenched.

SECTION II.

THE STAFF.

5. The officers of the department are as follow:—

Head Office :

C. G. Richardson, Secretary.
 F. U. Palmer, Clerk.
 D. W. Arnold, Clerk and Messenger.

Forest Rangers :

S. Patterson, Inspecting Ranger, Chidlow's Well, E.R.
 H. S. Brockman, Donnybrook, S.W.R.
 J. J. Fitzgerald, Waroona, S.W.R.
 F. E. S. Willmott, Warren River.
 E. Kelso, Coolgardie.
 W. Pennell, Menzies.
 T. C. Williams, Mingenew.
 J. H. Gregory, Northam.
 D. McVicar, Katanning.
 L. Day, Southern Cross.

The three last mentioned officers have been retrenched.

SECTION III.

PLANTING OPERATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

6. No further planting of pines or wattle was effected during the year 1902, as the then Minister for Lands, Dr. Jameson, decided that all clearing and grubbing of land for plantation purposes should be done by prison labour, and this was not available until after the planting season had passed.

SECTION IV.

THE STATE NURSERY.

LIST OF TREES AND SHRUBS RAISED IN NURSERY DURING THE YEAR 1902.

<i>Trees, etc., raised in Pots.</i>		
Schinus Molle	Pepper Tree	6,050
Euc. corynocalyx	Sugar Gum	4,024
Do. ficifolia	Red Flowering Gum	537
Do. macrocarpa	Desert Gum	48
Cupressus Lawsoniana	Lawson's Cypress	304
Do. torulosa	Twisted Cypress	306
Do. Californica	Californian Cypress	119
Do. funebris	Funeral Cypress	416
Do. Knightii	Knight's Cypress	406
Do. Goveniana ... ..	... ..	213
Do. Benthami	Mexican Cypress	103
Do. macrocarpa	Monterey Cypress	447
Callitris Arborea	African Frenella	96
Do. Verucosa	W.A. Cypress Pine	232
Araucaria excelsa	Norfolk Island Pine	120
Do. Bidwilli	Bunya Bunya Pine	80
Cedrus deodara	Indian Cedar	874
Sequoia gigantea	Mammoth Tree	61
Thuja occidentalis	Arbor Vitæ	407
Gleditschia triacanthos	Honey Locust Tree	37
Tristania conferta	White Box	251
Acacia Baileyana	Silver Weeping Wattle	909
Do. pycnantha	Golden Wattle	760
Do. decurrens	Black Wattle	244
Laurus camphora	Camphor Laurel	54
Agonis flexuosa	Peppermint	418
Ceratonia Siliqua	Carob Bean	40
Lagunaria Pattersonii	Pyramid Tree	463
Pittosporum undulatum	Cheese Wood	761
Sterculia acerifolia	Queensland Flame Tree	38
Grevillea robusta	Silky Oak	1,209
Ficus macrophylla	Morton Bay Fig	450
Do. elastica	Indiarubber Tree	416
Do. Australis	Port Macquarrie Fig	1,179
Hymenosporum flavum ... ..	... ..	143
Yucca Whipelii	Desert Yucca	140
Virgillia Capensis ... ..	... ..	90
Kennedyia nigrescens... ..	Californian Elderberry	103
Achras Australis	Black Kennedyia	350
Podocarpus elata	Black Apple, N.S.W.	140
Leucadendron Argentum	N.S.W. Deal	60
Pittosporum of sorts	African Silver Tree	40
Phoenix dactylifera ... ..	... ..	621
	Date Palm	119
	Algarobo Tree	120
Total		23,998
<i>Raised in Bamboo Tubes.</i>		
Acacia pycnantha	Golden Wattle	16,000
<i>Open Rooted.</i>		
Pinus insignis	Remarkable Pine	5,000
Do. Pinaster	Maritime Pine	8,822
Do. halepensis	Aleppo Pine	5,300
Do. excelsa	Botham Pine	2,980
Do. ponderosa	Yellow Pitch Pine	4,326
Do. sylvestris	Scotch Fir Pine	2,604

Melia composita	...	White Cedar	...	13,680
Robinia pseudo-acacia	...	Locust Acacia	...	2,496
Salix Aurea	...	Basket Willow	...	500
Sterculia diversifolia	...	Kurrajong	...	1,840
Acer Negundo	...	The Box Elder	...	80
Do. pseudo-platanus	...	Sycamore	...	217
Platanus occidentalis	...	Plane Tree	...	416
Populus dilatata	...	Upright Poplar	...	2,600
Do. alba	...	Silver Poplar	...	1,009
Quercus Hodgkinsonii	...	Evergreen English Oak	...	2,400
Do. Robur	...	Deciduous English Oak	...	400
Cupressus stricta	...	Upright Cypress	...	416
Do. Horizontalis	...	Spreading Cypress	...	454
Sterculia acerifolia	...	Queensland Flame Tree	...	106
Cedrela Australis	...	Red Cedar	...	2,091
Lycium Europaeum	...	Box Thorn	...	4,000
Total	...		...	<u>61,737</u>

Trees raised in Seed-beds.

Pinus sylvestris	...	Scots Fir	...	9,480
Do. strobus	...	White Pine	...	614
Do. ponderosa	...	Yellow Pine	...	846
Do. rigida	...	Pitch Pine	...	1,230
Do. insignis	...	Remarkable Pine	...	3,200
Do. halepensis	...	Aleppo Pine	...	2,860
Do. Pinaster	...	Maritime Pine	...	4,040
		Cypresses of sorts	...	3,700
Sterculia diversifolia	...	Kurrajong	...	6,100
Robinia pseudo-acacia	...	False Acacia	...	4,164
Melia composita	...	White Cedar	...	10,600
		Trees of sorts	...	12,778
Total	...		...	<u>59,612</u>
Grand Total	...		...	<u>161,347</u>

SECTION V.

DISTRIBUTION OF TREES.

7. The following list shows the number and the various public bodies to which the trees raised in the nursery were distributed:—

Agricultural Societies	...	300
Beagle Bay Mission	...	48
Boys' Orphanage (R.C.)	...	83
Cemetery Boards	...	1,410
Churches	...	232
Coronation Committee	...	200
Deaf and Dumb Institutions	...	60
Experimental Purposes (including settlers)	...	13,850
Government Gardens	...	684
House of Mercy	...	102
Hospitals	...	819
Municipalities	...	4,807
Mundaring Water Reserve	...	200
Old Men's Depôt	...	24
Police Department	...	24
Post Offices	...	124
Point Walter Reserve	...	100
Railway Department	...	3,265
Recreation Reserve	...	24
Salvation Army	...	50
Schools	...	1,521
School of Mines	...	30
Settlers' Associations	...	146
Training College, Claremont	...	176
Wardens' Courts	...	30
Zoological Gardens	...	3,011
Total number of trees	...	<u>31,320</u>

SECTION VI.
TIMBER IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

8. Through the courtesy of the Registrar General, I am enabled to furnish the following statements showing the value of the timber imports and exports for the years ended 31st December, 1901 and 1902.

TIMBER IMPORTS FOR YEARS 1901 AND 1902.

A RETURN SHOWING THE VALUE OF TIMBER IMPORTED INTO WESTERN AUSTRALIA,
AND THE COUNTRIES FROM WHENCE IMPORTED, FOR THE YEAR 1901.

Articles and Countries whence Imported.	Value.	
	British and Foreign Produce.	Total.
DOORS:	£	£
Architraves, Mouldings, etc:		
New Zealand	8	8
Ash, Hickory, Oak, and Walnut, undressed:		
United Kingdom	43	43
Corkwood, unmanufactured:		
United Kingdom	15	15
1½ in. and over:		
Victoria	2	2
United States of America	125	125
Total	127	127
Over 1½ in. and under 1¾ in.:		
Victoria	8	8
New South Wales	364	364
United States of America	371	371
Total	743	743
1½ in. and under:		
Victoria	202	202
New South Wales	1,450	1,450
New Zealand	7	7
United States of America	1,170	1,170
Total	2,829	2,829
LATHS:		
Victoria	8	8
South Australia	86	86
New South Wales	101	101
Canada	105	105
United States of America	220	220
Total	520	520

Articles and Countries whence Imported.	Value.		
	British and Foreign Produce.	Australasian Produce.	Total.
BOARDS:	£	£	£
United Kingdom	27	...	27
Victoria	1,364	...	1,364
South Australia	306	39	345
New South Wales	35	...	35
New Zealand	242	...	242
Singapore	42	...	42
Norway	7,671	...	7,671
Sweden	12,661	...	12,661
United States of America	4,461	...	4,461
Total	26,809	39	26,848

A Return showing the Value of Timber imported into Western Australia, and the Countries from whence imported, for the Year 1901—continued.

Articles and Countries whence Imported.	Value.		
	British and Foreign Produce.	Australasian Produce.	Total.
SPOKES, RIMS, AND FELLOES, HICKORY IN THE ROUGH:	£	£	£
United Kingdom	3	...	3
Victoria	20	...	20
South Australia	15	...	15
United States of America	223	...	223
Total	261	...	261
WORKED, N.O.E.:			
United Kingdom	12	...	12
Victoria	273	409	682
South Australia	114	177	291
New South Wales	108	17	125
New Zealand	87	...	87
Singapore	17	...	17
United States of America	1,044	...	1,044
Total	1,655	603	2,258
DRESSED, N.E.I.:			
United Kingdom	11	...	11
Victoria	85	...	85
New Zealand	13	...	13
Germany	268	...	268
United States of America	296	...	296
Sweden	948	...	948
Total	1,621	...	1,621

Articles and Countries whence Imported.	Value.	
	British and Foreign Produce.	Total.
UNDRESSED, N.E.I., IN SIZES OF 12IN. X 6IN. (OR ITS EQUIVALENT) AND OVER:	£	£
Victoria	81	81
New Zealand	889	889
United States of America	7	7
Canada	810	810
Total	1,787	1,787
UNDRESSED, N.E.I., IN SIZES OF 7IN. X 2½IN. (OR ITS EQUIVALENT) AND UPWARDS AND LESS THAN 12IN. X 6IN.:		
Victoria	79	79
New South Wales	8	8
New Zealand	392	392
Canada	634	634
United States of America	39	39
Sweden	9	9
Total	1,161	1,161
UNDRESSED, N.E.I., IN SIZES OF LESS THAN 7IN. X 2½IN. (OR ITS EQUIVALENT):		
United Kingdom	28	28
Victoria	10	10
New South Wales	21	21
New Zealand	799	799
Canada	132	132
Singapore	205	205
United States of America	17	17
Total	1,212	1,212

A Return showing the Value of Timber imported into Western Australia, and the Countries from whence imported, for the Year 1901—continued.

Articles and Countries whence Imported.	Value.		
	British and Foreign Produce.	Australasian Produce.	Total.
UNWORKED, N.O.E. :	£	£	£
United Kingdom	25	...	25
Victoria	863	924	1,787
South Australia	300	401	701
New South Wales	78	292	370
Queensland ... ..	...	515	515
Tasmania ... ..	...	255	255
New Zealand	4,351	...	4,351
Canada	2,752	...	2,752
Cape Colony	4	...	4
Natal	18	...	18
Singapore	865	...	865
Germany	5	...	5
Sweden	3,043	...	3,043
United States of America	14,176	...	14,176
Total	26,480	2,387	28,867
SPARS :			
Natal	7	...	7
Singapore	5	...	5
Norway	2	...	2
Total	14	...	14
IN BULK, ROUGH OR HEWN :			
United Kingdom	19	...	19
Victoria	37	...	37
South Australia	92	...	92
New Zealand	254	...	254
Canada	436	...	436
United States of America	1,246	...	1,246
Total	2,084	...	2,084
VENEERS :			
United Kingdom	25	...	25
Victoria	32	...	32
United States of America	10	...	10
Total	67	...	67
IN SHORT LENGTHS FOR CASE-MAKING :			
United Kingdom	62	...	62
Victoria	154	1,291	1,445
South Australia	16	573	589
New South Wales	4	226	230
Singapore	394	...	394
Belgium	22	...	22
France	15	...	15
Germany	596	...	596
United States of America	143	...	143
Total	1,406	2,090	3,496
GRAND TOTAL	68,842	5,119	73,961

A RETURN SHOWING THE VALUE OF TIMBER IMPORTED INTO WESTERN AUSTRALIA, AND THE COUNTRIES FROM WHENCE IMPORTED, FOR THE YEAR 1902.

ARTICLES AND COUNTRIES WHENCE IMPORTED.	VALUE.		
	British and Foreign Produce.	Australasian Produce.	Total.
ARCHITRAVES:	£	£	£
United Kingdom... ..	1	...	1
Sweden	4	...	4
Total	5	...	5
COMPOSITION BOARDS:			
United Kingdom... ..	45	...	45
Sweden	297	...	297
Total	342	...	342
DOORS OF WOOD:			
1 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. and over—			
U.S. of America	879	...	879
Over 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. and under 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.—			
Victoria ... ..	...	5	5
U.S. of America	1,069	...	1,069
Total	1,069	5	1,074
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. and under—			
Victoria ... ..	...	46	46
U.S. of America	8,657	...	8,657
Total	8,657	46	8,703
DRESSED, N.E.I.:			
United Kingdom... ..	2,878	...	2,878
Victoria ... ..	...	201	201
South Australia ... ..	...	23	23
New South Wales ... ..	...	25	25
New Zealand	263	...	263
Canada	2	...	2
Germany	193	...	193
Norway	12,842	...	12,842
Singapore... ..	233	...	233
Sweden	2,123	...	2,123
U.S. of America	5,764	...	5,764
Total	24,298	249	24,547
ELM HUBS, WITH OR WITHOUT METAL BANDS:			
United Kingdom... ..	10	...	10
South Australia ... ..	...	7	7
U.S. of America	94	...	94
Total	104	7	111
HICKORY, UNDERESSED:			
United Kingdom... ..	19	...	19
Victoria ... ..	...	15	15
U.S. of America	60	...	60
Total	79	15	94
LATHS:			
U.S. of America	1,456	...	1,456
Canada	22	...	22
Total	1,478	...	1,478

A Return showing the Value of Timber imported into Western Australia, and the Countries from whence imported, for the year 1902—continued.

ARTICLES AND COUNTRIES WHENCE IMPORTED.	VALUE.		
	British and Foreign Produce.	Australasian Produce.	Total.
LOGS, NOT SAWN :	£	£	£
U.S. of America	10	...	10
MOULDINGS :			
Victoria ... ..	...	13	13
Queensland ... ..	...	18	18
U.S. of America	20	...	20
Total	20	31	51
NEW ZEALAND PINE, UNDRESSED :			
New Zealand	3,206	...	3,206
PALINGS :			
South Australia ... ..	...	2	2
Tasmania ... ..	...	11	11
Total ... ..	...	13	13
SHAFTS AND POLES, SAWN OR BENT, BUT NOT DRESSED :			
United Kingdom	27	...	27
Victoria ... ..	...	387	387
South Australia ... ..	...	46	46
New South Wales ... ..	...	21	21
Tasmania ... ..	...	32	32
U.S. of America	426	...	426
Total	453	486	939
SPARS, IN THE ROUGH :			
United Kingdom	6	...	6
Canada	38	...	38
Sweden	3	...	3
U.S. of America	5	...	5
Total	52	...	52
UNDRESSED, N.E.I., IN SIZES LESS THAN 12IN. X 6IN. :			
United Kingdom... ..	1,046	...	1,046
Victoria ... ..	...	120	120
South Australia ... ..	...	10	10
New South Wales ... ..	...	72	72
Queensland ... ..	...	957	957
Tasmania ... ..	...	363	363
New Zealand	37	...	37
India	29	...	29
Java	4	...	4
Norway	1,196	...	1,196
Russia	979	...	979
Singapore... ..	850	...	850
Sweden	5,932	...	5,932
U.S. of America	20,566	...	20,566
Total	30,639	1,522	32,161
VENEERS :			
United Kingdom... ..	9	...	9
Victoria ... ..	...	3	3
South Australia ... ..	...	1	1
New South Wales ... ..	...	3	3
Total	9	7	16
Grand Total	71,300	2,381	73,681

9. The above statements show, therefore, that during the year under review the value of the timber imported into Western Australia amounted to £73,681, as compared with £73,961 in the preceding year.

TIMBER EXPORTS FOR YEARS 1901 AND 1902.

10. The following statements show the various kinds of timbers exported from the State, the respective quantities of each, their values, and the countries to which same were exported:—

EXPORT OF TIMBER FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA DURING YEAR 1901.

Species.	Countries to which Exported.	Quantity.	Value.
Jarrah		Loads.	£
	United Kingdom ...	34,146 $\frac{1}{2}$	136,586
	Victoria ...	27 $\frac{1}{4}$	109
	South Australia ...	14,315 $\frac{1}{4}$	57,261
	New South Wales ...	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	374
	New Zealand ...	2,322 $\frac{1}{4}$	9,289
	Singapore ...	1,215 $\frac{1}{4}$	4,861
	Ceylon ...	5,072	20,288
	India ...	6,272 $\frac{1}{2}$	25,090
	Mauritius ...	857 $\frac{1}{2}$	3,430
	Natal ...	14,189	56,756
	Cape Colony ...	13,341 $\frac{1}{4}$	53,365
	Java ...	5	20
	Japan ...	74 $\frac{1}{2}$	298
	Sumatra ...	2	2
	China ...	984	3,936
	Germany ...	475 $\frac{1}{4}$	1,901
	Holland ...	5	20
	Argentina ...	4,947 $\frac{1}{4}$	19,789
	Peru ...	1,200	4,800
Philippine Islands ...	2,092 $\frac{1}{2}$	8,370	
	Total ...	101,636 $\frac{1}{4}$	406,545
Karri	United Kingdom ...	28,578 $\frac{3}{4}$	114,315
	Victoria ...	655 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,622
	South Australia ...	885	3,540
	Ceylon ...	3,962	15,848
	Natal ...	2,287	9,148
	Argentina ...	5007 $\frac{1}{4}$	20,029
	Total ...	41,375 $\frac{1}{2}$	165,502
	GRAND TOTAL ...	143,011	572,047

EXPORT OF TIMBER FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA DURING 1902.

Species.	Countries to which Exported.	Quantity.	Value.
Jarrah		Loads.	£
	United Kingdom ...	32,076	128,304
	Victoria ...	1,710 $\frac{1}{4}$	6,841
	South Australia ...	14,467 $\frac{1}{4}$	57,869
	New South Wales ...	175 $\frac{1}{2}$	702
	New Zealand ...	681	2,724
	Singapore ...	1,325 $\frac{1}{4}$	5,301
	Ceylon ...	3,965	15,860
	India ...	5,480 $\frac{1}{2}$	21,922
	Natal ...	14,154	56,616
	Cape Colony ...	13,433 $\frac{3}{4}$	53,735
	Mauritius ...	1,600	6,400
	Hong Kong ...	176	704
	Canada ...	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	34
	Delagoa Bay ...	8,053 $\frac{3}{4}$	32,215
	Philippine Islands ...	487 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,950
	China ...	3,576 $\frac{1}{2}$	14,306
	Argentine Republic ...	2,853	11,412
	Italy ...	1	4
	Spain ...	498 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,994
	Total ...	104,723 $\frac{1}{4}$	418,893

EXPORT OF TIMBER FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA DURING 1902—*continued.*

Species.	Countries to which Exported.	Quantity.	Value.
Karri ...	United Kingdom ...	Loads. 16,890 $\frac{3}{4}$	£ 67,563
	South Australia ...	761 $\frac{1}{2}$	3,046
	Natal ...	1,541 $\frac{1}{4}$	6,165
	Cape Colony ...	1,010 $\frac{1}{4}$	4,041
	Argentina ...	177 $\frac{1}{2}$	710
	Total ...	20,381 $\frac{1}{4}$	81,525
N.E.I....	United Kingdom ...	30	110
	South Australia ...	1	5
	Total ...	31	115
	GRAND TOTAL ...	125,135	500,533

11. It will be observed from the foregoing statements that the exports of timber during the year 1901 were 143,011 loads, valued at £572,047, as compared with those for 1902, viz., 125,135 loads, valued at £500,533.

12. The following statements show the sandalwood exports from the State for the years 1901 and 1902, and the countries to which the wood was sent:—

EXPORT OF TIMBER FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA DURING 1901.

Species.	Country to which Exported.	Quantity.	Value.
Sandalwood	United States ...	tons cwts. 34 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	£ 367
	Singapore ...	1,899 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	15,126
	Hong Kong ...	5,848 4 $\frac{1}{4}$	50,468
	China ...	1,076 0	7,905
	Germany ...	5 0	60
	U.S. of America ...	1 0	5
	Total ...	8,863 17 $\frac{1}{2}$	73,931

EXPORT OF SANDALWOOD FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA FOR THE YEAR 1902.

Species.	Country to which Exported.	Quantity.	Value.
Sandalwood	United Kingdom ...	tons cwts. 17 4	£ 150
	Singapore ...	1,697 5 $\frac{2}{4}$	12,119
	Hong Kong ...	3,564 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	27,005
	China ...	2,716 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	22,497
	Total ...	7,994 16 $\frac{1}{4}$	61,771

13. The above statements show that for the year 1901 sandalwood to the amount of 8,863 tons was exported, valued at £73,931, and that for the year 1902 the export was 7,994 tons, valued at £61,771, thus showing a falling off of 869 tons and £12,160.

SECTION VII.

RAILWAY SLEEPERS, ETC., BRANDED FOR EXPORT.

14. The following Statement shows the number of sleepers, etc., passed and branded by the various Inspectors of the Department during 1902, and the countries to which same were sent:—

Country to which Exported.	Sleepers.	Piles.	Loads of Paving.	Beams.	Pieces.
Colombo	60,860				
Natal, S. Africa	126,050	...	588	467	10,357
Mauritius	3,070				
New Zealand ... ..	...	152	...	550	2,237
Victoria	30,783	...	...	...	11,709
Transvaal	28,020				
South Australia ... ..	...	4	...	...	...
Cape Colony	87,810	...	...	261	7,426
Shanghai ... ..	...	...	...	188	...
Hong Kong ... ..	...	...	...	489	...
Manila ... ..	...	...	...	...	14,258
Singapore	29,364	...	...	...	868
New South Wales	2,487	...	...	...	...
	368,444	156	588	1,955	46,855

SECTION VIII.

STATE FORESTS.

LAND SET APART FOR STATE FORESTS—YEAR 1902.

			Approximate Area.	
Burbanks State Forest, gazetted	14-11-1902	...	About 57,600	acres
Bulong " " "	21-3-1902	...	" 91,520	"
Keysbrook " " "	19-9-1902	...	" 7,500	"
Feysville " " "	17-10-1902	...	" 8,960	"
Hester " " "	19-9-1902	...	" 5,000	"
Merriden " " "	3-1-1902	...	" 900	"
Doongin " " "	3-1-1902	...	" 900	"
Mulline " " "	21-3-1902	...	" 74,880	"
Davyhurst " " "	21-3-1902	...	" 115,200	"
Kanowna " " "	21-3-1902	...	" 108,800	"
Jaurdie Hills " " "	18-4-1902	...	" 32,640	"
196-Mile, Midland Railway (Yarra Yarra), State Forest, gazetted	20-6-1902	...	" 580	"
Midland Railway (near Carnamah) State Forest, gazetted	20-6-1902	...	" 5,850	"
Coorow (Midland Railway), State Forest, gazetted	20-6-1902	...	" 1,500	"
Menzies State Forest, gazetted	11-7-1902	...	" 250,500	"
Mulgarrie " " "	11-7-1902	...	" 60,000	"
Gibraltar " " "	11-7-1902	...	" 9,600 ^a	"
West Collie " " "	25-7-1902	...	" 200	"
Gindalbie " " "	25-7-1902	...	" 48,230 ^a	"
Kalpini " " "	25-7-1902	...	" 69,120 ^a	"
Kellerberrin No. 2 State Forest, gazetted	25-7-1902	...	" 3,800	"
182-Mile, Northam (Yilgarn Railway) State Forest, gazetted	15-8-1902	...	" 6,000	"
Boandee State Forest, gazetted	15-8-1902	...	" 6,500	"
Booran " " "	15-8-1902	...	" 1,530	"
Nangeenan " " "	15-8-1902	...	" 5,520	"
Kellerberrin No. 1 State Forest, gazetted	15-8-1902	...	" 3,900	"
Carrabin State Forest, gazetted	15-8-1902	...	" 1,920	"
Merriden No. 2 State Forest, gazetted	15-8-1902	...	" 9,000	"
Bodallin " " "	15-8-1902	...	" 1,920	"
Yerdi " " "	26-9-1902	...	" 12,800	"

Total area about 1,002,370 acres.

SECTION IX.

ADVERTISING LOCAL TIMBERS.

15. At the request of the Hon. W. H. Montague, P.C., of Canada, a consignment of 6in. x 3in. jarrah, for paving one of the principal streets of Ontario, was shipped during the year under review.

16. A similar shipment was also sent at the suggestion of the Hon. F. Illingworth, M.L.A., the then Colonial Treasurer, for laying down in one of the principal streets of Quebec.

17. At the instance of the Royal Commission, Glasgow International Exhibition, sample parcels of Western Australian timbers were sent to Lord Addington, of Addington Manor, Winslow, Bucks, who had been much struck with the beauty of our timbers exhibited in England.

18. In consequence of an application from Mr. Geo. Cadell, of the Surveyors' Institution, Westminster, London, samples of our local timbers were supplied for exhibition in the Forestry Museum of said institution.

19. Numerous other applications from private persons and public institutions had to be refused owing to want of funds, the amount of £50 voted for the purpose of advertising our timbers being altogether inadequate.

In this connection (prosecutions) it invariably brings unpleasantness to bear against the Ranger by law-breakers; and it may not be out of place here to mention that there are instances where defendants threaten vindictiveness against me in the following language: "I shall be even with you, Fitzgerald, if it takes me two or even three years' time to come."

I have evidence of this language in a well-known witness, and I sincerely hope that the influence of such persons, however indirect, may not succeed in their machinations in a departmental direction.

Conditional purchase inspections have increased to a very satisfactory degree, and while guarding the interests of forestry during my inspection, I adopt every possible means to facilitate selectors in their object.

No doubt a large area in the hills, favoured both by altitude and rainfall as it is, will take a prominent part in settlement during the coming year, 1904.

I have, etc.,

J. J. FITZGERALD,

Forest Ranger.

REPORT FROM FOREST RANGER KELSO, COOLGARDIE.

To the Secretary Woods and Forests Department.

SIR,

The arrival of the water to Kalgoorlie by the Coolgardie Water Scheme in January, 1902, made a large falling off in the demand for wood fuel for condensing purposes, the decrease being about 23 per cent. on the previous year, as all condensing plants were closed down in the mining centres in touch with the scheme; the saving in firewood consumption thus effected is appreciated in those mining centres where the prospective future supplies are not extensive.

Advantage was taken of the regulations permitting the construction of timber tramways on the goldfields. Under these regulations tramways may be laid over Crown lands connecting the various mining centres with outlying forest lands, and in most cases joining on to the State system of railways, to which they act as feeders; a small annual rental per mile of tramway is charged. Three companies are at present supplying firewood by this means to the various mining centres, the tramways being constructed on a 3ft. 6in. gauge, and about 86 miles of line are now in use.

The facilities of transport and the large area of forest country opened up by this means caused a marked falling off in the price of firewood; for, whereas in the previous year the average price of firewood was about 14s. per ton for 5ft. wood, in 1903 contract prices only averaged 13s. per ton. The total consumption of firewood on the Eastern goldfields is estimated at not less than 465,920 tons, of a value of about £297,848.

The Boulder mines alone consumed about 375,000 tons.

About 1,050 men are constantly employed on the Eastern Goldfields, and about 1,000 more on the northern portion of the fields, and the capital represented by the tramways, stock, and plant may be roughly estimated at £96,500.

In order to create and protect the timber supplies of the more outlying mining districts, State forests have been declared around those centres whose future supplies were likely to be jeopardised by the construction of timber tramways in their vicinity. The creation of a State forest around a mining district admits of the timber within the area only being used for local purposes. At present 1,758 square miles of country are set apart for this purpose.

The question of mining timber is at present very unsettled. The timber getters complain that prices are bad, and the demand for certain sizes so irregular that no stocks can be kept. They would like fixed prices for stock sizes. Under present conditions there is much waste, which is necessarily bad for all concerned; but the Chamber of Mines is making exhaustive inquiries into the whole matter, and it is anticipated that much good will result from these investigations.

The sandalwood industry is almost at a standstill. Large stocks have accumulated, owing to a bad market, and at present there are large stocks, representing some hundreds of tons, that are waiting for a more hopeful outlook and a better market.

E. KELSO,

Forest Ranger.

REPORT FROM INSPECTING RANGER PATTERSON, CHIDLOW'S WELL.

To the Secretary Woods and Forests Department.

SIR,

During the past year I have frequently inspected the districts under the supervision of the respective Forest Rangers, and recognise that their duties have been performed in a satisfactory manner.

I clearly see that the staff requires to be augmented in order to secure that constant and systematic supervision, without which the conservation of the forest resources cannot adequately be attended to commensurate with their importance and value to the State and to posterity. In consequence of the vast settlement on the land the Rangers in the South-West division have had numberless inspections of areas applied for under Conditional Purchase or Homestead Farms.

This inspection work entails a large amount of travelling and the expenditure of much time. The supervision of the operations of those connected with the timber trade cannot, therefore, under these circumstances and with the present staff, be as frequent and thorough as could be wished. The expense of a larger staff is a mere bagatelle in comparison to the increased revenue arising from such appointments, and the more efficient forestry service, and the quicker dealing with land applications, which is such a valuable adjunct in connection with land settlement.

During the ten months of the year under review I have issued 1,750 licenses, and collected royalties on 65 occasions.

I have also inspected 111 areas applied for in widely scattered localities under Conditional Purchase and Homestead Farm conditions. During the time mentioned I have sent in full and detailed reports on a variety of subjects connected with the timber industry.

STUART PATTERSON,

Inspecting Ranger.

REPORT FROM FOREST RANGER PENNEL, MENZIES.

To the Secretary for Woods and Forests.

SIR,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your memo. 16/246, asking for a general report for the year 1903, and in reply I beg to state that my district is principally a firewood one, and the only other timber of any value is the few patches of gums scattered over the whole area of my district, which extends from Broad Arrow as far as Laverton, and this is used for mining purposes.

My principal work is confined to firewood licenses and general supervision of the several large timber reserves and forest reserves around the several centres which are set apart for local use; and also to see that all cutters are outside the two-mile radius of the several towns within my district.

I have visited all parts of my country and made exhaustive inquiries from many quarters, and only find the same—mulga, salmon gum, and scrub. The best of the timber, viz., that used for mining purposes, is very limited, even for the purpose, and is in many places cut away.

Away North, say, from Tampa to Laverton, the forest is nearly in its natural state, and even there the country only carries firewood, with an occasional gum flat. At the firewood sidings, between Menzies and Kookynie, the contractors are just about cutting it out, and then they must go North of Tampa to do any good.

The timber of any use between Menzies and Kalgoorlie is rapidly disappearing, and it will soon be a matter of out West or North, now that the railway facilitates matters. West of Menzies still supplies practically the local wants, which of late have dwindled down to about one-half, though in this direction it is cut out for miles.

Where the contractors are cutting, it is very easy to collect the licenses, as they are generally willing to pay up for the number of men they employ.

Cutters who work for themselves are giving up, and I have very few in my district. I would suggest that, if it were possible, to make all contractors responsible for the licenses for the number of cutters they each employ, as I find it almost impossible to get at individual cutters, and the waste of time

chasing after ls. license is absurd; so that I have arranged with the majority of contractors to do this, and I generally make the trip each month, to see how cutters are doing, that they are not encroaching upon any reserves, and that they can show their licenses; this is the only means of check, and even then I suppose that a few escape me.

I have been beaten once or twice at Broad Arrow by the contractors, inasmuch as they hold contracts for local consumption, and also for Kalgoorlie consumption. Now they cut on the Forest Reserve for the one place and outside for the other; if I am to properly supervise their actions then, I must practically be there every day.

W. PENNELL,
Forest Ranger.

REPORT FROM FOREST RANGER WILLMOTT, LOWER BLACKWOOD.

To the Secretary Woods and Forests Department.

SIR,

During the year, which for me has been a very busy one, I have travelled over that portion of the State which lies between Cape Leeuwin and Albany on the South, and as far North as the Blackwood River. I notice a marked increase in the number and extent of the orchards. This seems to be a favourite investment in this district, and the quality of the fruit and the thriving appearance of the orchards amply warrant the money and time expended thereon.

A large number of selectors have visited the district in the vicinity of Bridgetown, and many small holdings have been applied for. While on this subject, I should like to point out that many selectors hang on to the main roads too much, sacrificing everything to a main frontage, and too often taking no notice of the fact that the land they apply for has for the most part valuable jarrah timber thereon, and therefore they are certain to be disappointed when their applications are dealt with.

There have been two or three rushes in a small way in search of minerals, but I have not heard of any (authentic) valuable finds.

The prospectors for petroleum have been delayed on account of the shortage of suitable casing, but I believe are now making a start again.

The closing of the Jarrahwoods Saw Mills affected the settlers in the vicinity very considerably, although they still live in hopes of the line being relaid shortly.

Before very long, no doubt, a railway will be constructed to tap the timber in the Warren district, which timber is by far the finest I have seen. Many trees run up to close on 300ft. in height, and between 20ft. to 30ft. in girth.

There is also a fair quantity of Yate Gum on the coast, although these trees do not attain any great size. The timber is useful for such purposes as the manufacture of wheels. The best Yate I have seen is round about Lake Muir.

The land between the timber country and the coast hills consists, for the most part, of chains of swamps, very fertile, and eminently suited for raising potatoes, lucerne, etc., and would make ideal holdings for dairy farmers.

I speak from experience about these swamps, as I put in 12 months some years ago and had a swamp fenced, cleared, and cultivated; the results were all I could desire, but there being no railway nearer than 90 miles I had to give it up for the time being, but not until I had satisfied myself that at some future date these swamps will be of great value.

The Karri timber in the vicinity of the Upper Donnelly River is being utilised, some fine lengths of 88ft. being sent from there to the goldfields, but the cost of haulage must make the price excessive at present.

The sleeper industry (hewing) employs a large number of men, and many local teams put in the summer months hauling.

F. E. S. WILLMOTT,
Forest Ranger.

REPORT FROM FOREST RANGER WILLIAMS, COLLIE.

To the Secretary Woods and Forests Department.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the following report of my work in this district, between 25th May and 31st December, 1903.

I took up my duties as Forest Ranger in the Collie District on 25th May, 1903. A large number of sleeper cutters were residing in the district, but reference to the local office revealed the fact that only two cutting licenses were in force. At the end of June, 58 licenses were in force.

I have proceeded against several men for cutting without a license, and in each case secured a conviction.

The revenue to the Forest Department has considerably increased since my advent, and although all the cutting license fees are paid through the R.M.'s office, the following shows the amounts collected for the seven months, from 25th May to 31st December, 1903:—

	£	s.	d.
296 Hewers' Licenses issued	148	0	0
1 Woodcutter's License	0	3	0
4 Pole and Pole Licenses	12	0	0
Royalties collected	45	4	0
Total	205	7	0

There are three large timber mills in the district, and they employ, between them, about 300 men.

These mills are periodically visited by me.

I have made 25 inspections of Conditional Purchase applications, some of which I could not recommend on account of the quantity of good timber on them.

I have, etc.,

T. C. WILLIAMS,

Forest Ranger.