

1904.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WOODS AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1903,

BY

C. 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,

May, 1904.

SIR,

1. I have the honour to submit this, the eighth, Annual Report upon the operations and progress of the Woods and Forests Department during the year ended the 31st of December, 1903.

2. In compliance with the wish expressed in Parliament that Departmental Reports should be reduced in bulk, I have made my report this year as short as possible.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

C. G. RICHARDSON,

Secretary.

WOODS AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT.

Report by the Secretary.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

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

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
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	2,488 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
" 1903 " " 1903 	20,478 9 1	3,789 3 4

2. From the above statement it will be seen, therefore, that to the end of 1903 the revenue has exceeded the expenditure by the large amount of £114,819 4s. 6d.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1903.

3. The revenue derived from our Forests for rents of Timber Leases, Timber Concessions, Monthly Licenses, and Royalty amounted to £20,478 9s. 1d., and is £1,725 17s. 6d. in excess of that of the previous year.

4. The total expenditure of the Department for the year under review amounted to £3,789 3s. 4d., being £512 2s. 9d. less than that of last year; this decrease being caused by retrenchment of three rangers.

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, Collie.

PLANTING OPERATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

6. About seven acres of permanent plantations of *Pinus insignis*, *Pinus halepensis*, *Pinus Pinaster*, *Pinus excelsa*, and *Pinus sylvestris* were formed at the State Nursery during the year under review; also an experimental plantation of three acres of Jarrah.

THE STATE NURSERY.

LIST OF TREES AND SHRUBS RAISED IN NURSERY DURING THE YEAR 1903.

Trees, etc., raised in Pots.

Schinus Molle	Pepper Tree	8,873
Euc. corynocalyx	Sugar Gum	6,074
Cupressus torulosa	Twisted Cypress	760
Do. Knightii	Knight's Cypress	406
Do. Goveniana	...	213
Do. macrocarpa	Montarey Cypress	1,040
Callitris Arborea	African Frenella	100
Do. Verucosa	W.A. Cypress Pine	149
Araucaria excelsa	Norfolk Island Pine	1,400
Do. Bidwilli	Bunya Bunya Pine	30
Cedrus deodara	Indian Cedar	340
Thuja occidentalis	Arbor Vitæ	780
Tristania conferta	White Box	380
Acacia Baileyana	Silver Weeping Wattle	920
Do. pycnantha	Golden Wattle	900
Do. dealbata	Silver Wattle	640
Laura camphora	Camphor Laurel	288
Agonis flexuosa	Peppermint	200
Lagunaria Pattersonii	Pyramid Tree	598
Pittosporum undulatum	Cheesewood	672
Sterculia acerifolia	Queensland Flame Tree	150
Grevillea robusta	Silky Oak	860
Ficus macrophylla	Morton Bay Fig	900
Do. elastica	Indiarubber Tree	100
Do. Australis	Port Macquarie Fig	1,204
Hymenosporum flavum	...	103
Yucca Whipelii	Desert Yucca	140
Virgillia Capensis	...	...
Kennedya nigrescens	Black Kennedya	200
Achras Australis	Black Apple, N.S.W.	70
Podocarpus elata	N.S.W. Deal	61
Leucadendron Argentum	African Silver Tree	33
Pittosporum of sorts	...	602
Phoenix dactylifera	Date Palm	110
Flowering Shrubs and Creepers	...	2,900

Raised in Bamboo Tubes.

Acacia pycnantha	Golden Wattle	4,000
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Open-rooted.

Pinus insignis	Remarkable Pine	13,000
Do. Pinaster	Maritime Pine	3,040
Do. halepensis	Aleppo Pine	4,600
Do. ponderosa	Yellow Pitch Pine	4,200
Do. sylvestris	Scotch Fir	7,480
Tamarix Gallica	Flowering Cypress	890
Melia composita	White Cedar	16,000
Robinia pseudo-acacia	Locust Acacia	5,402
Salix Aurea	Basket Willow	460
Sterculia diversifolia	Kurrajong	3,008

Open-rooted—continued.

Acer pseudo-platanus	...	...	Sycamore	...	...	140
Platanus occidentalis	...	...	Plane Tree	...	...	641
Pepulus dilatata	...	...	Upright Poplar	...	...	590
Do. alba	...	...	Silver Poplar	...	...	1,504
Quercus Hodgkinsonii	...	...	Evergreen English Oak	...	...	160
Do. Robur	...	...	Deciduous English Oak	...	...	200
Cupressus stricta	...	...	Upright Cypress	...	...	596
Do. Horizontalis	...	...	Spreading Cypress	...	...	500
Cedrela Australis	...	...	Red Cedar	...	...	1,106

Trees raised in Seed-beds.

Pinus sylvestris	...	...	Scots Fir	...	...	8,600
Do. strobus	...	...	White Pine	...	...	360
Do. ponderosa	...	...	Yellow Pine	...	...	4,200
Do. rigida	...	...	Pitch Pine	...	...	2,606
Do. insignis	...	...	Remarkable Pine	...	...	11,060
Do. halepensis	...	...	Aleppo Pine	...	...	4,600
Do. pinaster	...	...	Maritime Pine	...	...	3,040
			Cypresses of sorts	...	...	3,226
Sterculia diversifolia	...	...	Kurrajong	...	...	5,840
Robinia pseudo-acacia	...	...	False Acacia	...	...	3,000
Melia composita	...	...	White Cedar	...	...	8,000
			Trees of sorts	...	...	10,000
Total number of trees raised						163,892

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:—

Albany Park Board	...	...	...	...	559
Agricultural Societies	...	...	...	...	244
Blind Institute	...	...	...	...	30
Bowling Clubs	...	...	...	...	81
Cemetery Boards	...	...	...	...	1,081
Churches	...	...	...	...	1,387
Convalescent Home	...	...	...	...	80
Deaf and Dumb Institution	...	...	...	...	36
Experimental purposes (including settlers)	...	...	...	...	14,969
Government Gardens	...	...	...	...	648
Hospitals	...	...	...	...	226
Lunatic Asylum	...	...	...	...	24
Medical Department	...	...	...	...	95
Mines Department	...	...	...	...	50
Municipalities	...	...	...	...	13,348
Orphanages	...	...	...	...	370
Police Department	...	...	...	...	82
Point Walter Reserve	...	...	...	...	250
Railway Department	...	...	...	...	2,349
Racing Clubs	...	...	...	...	60
Recreation Clubs	...	...	...	...	92
Recreation Reserve	...	...	...	...	100
Roads Boards	...	...	...	...	3,187
Resident Magistrates	...	...	...	...	47
Schools (Private)	...	...	...	...	202
Schools (Public)	...	...	...	...	1,612
Settlers' Associations	...	...	...	...	945
Training College, Claremont	...	...	...	...	100
Zoological Gardens	...	...	...	...	1,425
Total number of trees						43,629

TIMBER IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

8. Through the courtesy of the Collector of Customs, I am enabled to furnish the following statements, showing the value of timber Imports and Exports for the years ended 31st December, 1902 and 1903.

TIMBER IMPORTS FOR YEARS 1902 AND 1903

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 $\frac{3}{4}$ 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

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.
HICKORY, UNDRESSED:	£	£	£
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
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

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.
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

A RETURN SHOWING THE VALUE OF TIMBER IMPORTED INTO WESTERN AUSTRALIA,
AND THE COUNTRIES FROM WHENCE IMPORTED, FOR THE YEAR 1903.

Articles and Countries whence Imported.	Value.		
	British and Foreign Produce.	Australasian Produce.	Total.
ARCHITRAVES, ETC.:	£	£	£
New South Wales ... ..	...	1	1
Victoria ... ..	...	48	48
Total ... ..	...	49	49
DRESSED, N.E.I.:			
United Kingdom	89	...	89
Victoria	40	329	369
South Australia	105	91	196
New South Wales	1,124	104	1,228
Queensland ... ..	...	51	51
U.S. of America	7,036	...	7,036
New Zealand	304	...	304
Singapore	7	...	7
Sweden	5,772	...	5,772
Norway	14,519	...	14,519
Total	28,996	575	29,571

A Return showing the Value of Timber imported into Western Australia, and the Countries from whence imported, for the Year 1903—continued.

Articles and Countries whence imported.	Value.		
	British and Foreign Produce.	Australasian Produce.	Total.
UNDRESSED OREGON, IN SIZES OF 12IN. X 6IN. (OR ITS EQUIVALENT) AND OVER:	£	£	£
U.S. of America	6,750	...	6,750
UNDRESSED, N.E.I., IN SIZES OF 12IN. X 6IN. (OR ITS EQUIVALENT) AND OVER:			
Victoria ... ..	...	1	1
South Australia	29	...	29
Queensland ... ..	...	40	40
U.S. of America	5,355	...	5,355
Total	5,384	41	5,425
UNDRESSED, N.E.I., IN SIZES OF LESS THAN 12IN. X 6IN. (OR ITS EQUIVALENT):			
United Kingdom	55	...	55
Victoria	450	367	817
South Australia	123	148	271
New South Wales	8	449	457
Queensland ... ..	...	1,794	1,794
Tasmania ... ..	...	270	270
U.S. of America	26,024	...	26,024
New Zealand	2	...	2
Singapore	884	...	884
Sweden	3,338	...	3,338
Natal	12	...	12
Norway	4,257	...	4,257
Total	35,153	3,028	38,181
LATHS:			
Victoria	83	...	83
South Australia	83	...	83
New South Wales	5	18	23
U.S. of America	1,178	...	1,178
Total	1,349	18	1,367
PALINGS:			
Victoria ... ..	...	1	1
PICKETS, UNDRESSED:			
U.S. of America	132	...	132
DOORS OF WOOD, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ IN. AND OVER:			
U.S. of America	87	...	87
DOORS, UNDER 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ IN. AND OVER 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ IN:			
Victoria ... ..	...	6	6
South Australia	2	...	2
U.S. of America	1,067	...	1,067
Total	1,069	6	1,075

A Return showing the Value of Timber imported into Western Australia, and the Countries from whence imported, for the Year 1903—continued.

Articles and Countries whence imported.	Value.		
	British and Foreign Produce.	Australasian Produce.	Total.
	£	£	£.
DOORS, 1½ IN. AND UNDER :			
Victoria	20	3	23
South Australia	4	1	5
New South Wales	21	...	21
U.S. of America	3,456	...	3,456
Total	3,501	4	3,505
HICKORY (UNDRESSED) :			
United Kingdom... ..	14	...	14
U.S. of America	200	...	200
Total	214	...	214
LOGS (NOT SAWN), SPARS, ETC. :			
South Australia	5	...	5
Queensland ... ..	...	28	28
Total	5	28	33
STAVES (UNDRESSED), ETC. :			
United Kingdom	56	...	56
South Australia ... ..	...	42	42
U.S. of America	460	...	460
Holland	2	...	2
Total	518	42	560
NEW ZEALAND PINE (UNDRESSED) :			
New Zealand	5,909	...	5,909
OTHER :			
United Kingdom... ..	130	...	130
Victoria	16	535	551
South Australia	5	105	110
New South Wales ... ..	...	345	345
Queensland ... ..	...	303	303
Tasmania ... ..	...	44	44
U.S. of America	1,717	...	1,717
India	3	...	3
Total	1,871	1,332	3,203
GRAND TOTAL	90,938	5,124	96,062

9. The above statements show, therefore, that during the year 1903 the value of the timber imported into Western Australia amounted to £96,062, as compared with £73,681 in the preceding year.

TIMBER EXPORTS FOR YEARS 1902 AND 1903.

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 1902.

Species.	Countries to which exported.	Quantity.	Value.
Jarrah	United Kingdom	Loads. 32,076	£ 128,304
	Victoria	1,710 $\frac{1}{4}$	6,841
	South Australia	14,467 $\frac{3}{4}$	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
Karri	United Kingdom	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 $\frac{1}{2}$	4,041
	Argentine	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

EXPORT OF TIMBER FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA DURING YEAR 1903.

Species.	Countries to which exported.	Quantity.	Value.
Jarrah	United Kingdom	Super. feet. 15,775,325	£ 105,169
	Victoria	1,270,350	8,469
	South Australia	2,277,300	15,182
	New Zealand	4,230,900	28,206
	Singapore	240,000	1,600
	India	9,671,550	64,477
	Hong Kong	200	1
	Mauritius	391,200	2,608
	Cape Colony	18,249,750	121,665
	Natal	5,526,900	36,846
	Lorenzo Marques	21,916,200	146,108
	Uruguay	958,200	6,388
	China	31,500	210
	Philippine Islands	1,575,300	10,502
	Ceylon	1,408,050	9,387
Lorenzo Marques	292,800	1,952	
	Total	83,815,525	558,770

EXPORT OF TIMBER FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA DURING YEAR 1903—*continued*.

Species.	Countries to which exported.	Quantity.	Value.
		Super. feet.	£
Karri	United Kingdom ...	7,075,350	47,169
	South Australia ...	121,650	811
	New South Wales ...	13,800	92
	Cape Colony ...	1,366,200	9,108
	Natal	394,200	2,628
	Belgium	144,000	960
	Total	9,115,200	60,768
Blackbutt	United Kingdom ...	12,450	88
	GRAND TOTAL ...	92,943,175	619,620

Grand Total—92,943,175 super. feet (about 154,905 loads). Value—£619,620.

11. It will be observed from the foregoing statements that the exports of timber during the year 1903 were 154,905 loads, valued at £619,620, 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 1902 and 1903, and the countries to which the wood was sent.

EXPORT OF SANDALWOOD FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA FOR THE YEAR 1902.

Species.	Countries to which exported.	Quantity.	Value.
Sandalwood	United Kingdom ...	tons. cwt. 17 4	£ 150
	Singapore	1,697 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	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 $\frac{1}{2}$	61,771

EXPORT OF SANDALWOOD FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA FOR THE YEAR 1903.

Species.	Countries to which exported.	Quantity.	Value.
Sandalwood	Singapore	cwts. 18,842	£ 6,727
	China	47,671	21,399
	Hong Kong	21,606	9,782
	Fiji	10	5
	Total	88,129	37,913

13. The above statements show that for the year 1902 sandalwood was exported to the value of £61,771, and that for the year 1903 the export was valued at £37,913, thus showing a falling-off of £23,858.

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 1903, and the countries to which same were sent:—

Countries to which exported.	Loads.	Sleepers.	Pieces.	Running feet.
London, England	40	...	...	...
South Africa (Central) ... ..	...	1,284,322	...	...
Karachi, India ... ..	...	82,320	...	...
New Zealand	1,223	...	37,865	956,873
Natal, South Africa... ..	...	9,541	...	...
Mauritius ... ..	...	16,646	...	...
Singapore	200	...	1,036	...
Ceylon ... ..	...	35,053	...	...
Suakim, Egypt ... ..	...	2,150	...	...
Manilla ... ..	...	31,023	...	...
Cape Town, South Africa ... ..	...	27,472	...	...
Total	1,463	1,488,527	38,901	956,873

STATE FORESTS.

LAND SET APART FOR STATE FORESTS,
YEAR 1903.

State Forest.	Gazetted.	Approximate Area.
		Acres.
Balgarri	30-1-1903	30,340
Bamboo	27-3-1903	10,240
Bridgetown	17-4-1903	615
Balingup	7-8-1903	1,140
Crossland	27-3-1903	31,200
Cunderdin	29-5-1903	50,265
Collie	14-8-1903	36,000
Dedari	29-5-1903	50,265
Edjudina	5-6-1903	51,200
Five-mile, Sandy Creek (Pilbarra Goldfield)	27-3-1903	2,560
Gnarlbine	6-3-1903	5,760
Ghooli	29-5-1903	50,265
Gilgai	29-5-1903	50,265
Gungup	24-7-1903	1,200
Greenbushes	9-10-1903	16,630
Kirupp	14-8-1903	1,040
Keysbrook (amended)	10-7-1903	5,400
Kanowna (amended)	20-2-1903	96,720
Lallarookh	27-3-1903	19,040
Marble Bar	27-3-1903	50,000
Mosquito Creek	27-3-1903	2,560
Merriden (amended)	29-5-1903	50,265
Middle Creek	27-3-1903	640
Nullagine	27-3-1903	10,240
Twenty-mile, Sandy Creek (Pilbarra Goldfield)	27-3-1903	2,560
Widgiemooltha	6-2-1903	268,800
Warrawoona	27-3-1903	20,000
Yandacoogina	27-3-1903	2,560
Yerbillon	29-5-1903	50,265
Total Area about		968,035

R E P O R T S .

The following reports are attached as Appendices :—

- APPENDIX 1.—Report from Forest Ranger Brockman, Donnybrook.
„ 2.—Report from Forest Ranger Fitzgerald, Waroona.
„ 3.—Report from Forest Ranger Kelso, Coolgardie.
„ 4.—Report from Inspecting Ranger Patterson, Chidlow's Well.
„ 5.—Report from Forest Ranger Pennell, Menzies.
„ 6.—Report from Forest Ranger Willmott, Lower Blackwood.
„ 7.—Report from Forest Ranger Williams, Collie.
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REPORT FROM FOREST RANGER BROCKMAN, DONNYBROOK.

To the Secretary Woods and Forests Department.

SIR,

I beg to report that during the past twelve months great activity has been exhibited in the timber trade in the district under my charge, caused through the execution of large sleeper contracts, principally.

The mills have all been very busy, some mills working two shifts nearly all the time, whilst scores of sleeper hewers have been cutting all over the district, and kept me continually on the move.

I have been obliged to prosecute a number of hewers for cutting without license, and as many hewers were unacquainted with local conditions a constant watch has to be kept to see that immature timber is protected.

Reporting on blocks applied for under Conditional Purchase occupies a considerable part of my time, it being extremely difficult, without interfering with the regulations as regards the shapes, to pass blocks so as not to include any timber.

The amount of red gum country in fairly large areas in the timber belt is becoming limited, and to secure the holding of the smaller areas of this timber, which constitutes the best of our agricultural and grazing lands, without including some jarrah, is at present becoming almost impossible.

The best timber now is becoming harder to get at, and before it can be got out more railways must be built, particularly that to the Lower Blackwood, which, besides getting into the heart of the timber country, would also serve a large area of good land already occupied.

During my travels round the district I have seen some excellent crops of potatoes, some averaging from eight to nine and up to 12 tons to the acre.

Stock in this district look better now than they have done for years, and, with our recent rains, every prospect is held out of having a record season in the South-West of this State.

H. S. BROCKMAN,

Forest Ranger.

REPORT FROM FOREST RANGER FITZGERALD, WAROONA.

To the Secretary Woods and Forests Department.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the following regarding the workings of my district, from the Canning to the Brunswick Rivers, during the past year 1903.

In consequence of the renewal to a great extent of former prices and demand for jarrah timber, all available forest country within the influence of the South-Western Railway line is being utilised, through the medium of "Spot Mills." The following is a list of names, with their various outlets to the State Railway line:—

- No. 1: Buckingham, outlet at Kelmscott.
- No. 2: Higgs', outlet at Armadale.
- No. 3: Franklin and Finlay, outlet at Keysbrook.
- No. 4: Whittaker Bros., outlet, with tramline, North Dandalup.
- No. 5: J. M. Ferguson, outlet, with tramline, at Cookernup.
- No. 6: R. Williams & Co., outlet, with tramline, near Cookernup.

The timber cut by the above-named mills is procured from private estates and Crown lands, and there is every prospect of their present good position being successfully maintained.

The larger mills, such as Millar's Karri and Jarrah Co., are extending their tram service further inland upon the Mornington, Waterous, and Waroona leases, entailing an expenditure beyond the reach and power of "Spot Mills," however much inclined the proprietors of the latter would be of reaching the Eastern forest country.

The Waroona Mills are shut down to avoid extended haulage from the East, which (haulage) is now concentrated to Yarloop instead. This change has lessened the working population at Waroona, a serious loss to the place, yet to the benefit of other parts further South, because the complement of employees must be sustained to accomplish the work required.

As the milling process within my district is in greater prominence than that of hewing, the license fees obtained by me during the year are less in amount than otherwise expected. Yet, the amount of royalty collected by me for the period named more than compensates for such an apparent deficiency of revenue. Besides which, there is the satisfactory knowledge of less waste taking place in milling than that of hewing.

With license fees and royalty added, I have worked up the revenue of the year, from the 1st January to the 31st December, to a total of £1,780 9s. 5d. Out of 14 informations laid for illegal cutting and removal of timber 13 convictions have been gained, without any cost to the State for legal assistance, as I conduct my own prosecutions.

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 1s. 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.