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1905.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WOODS AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1904,

BY

G. G. RICHARDSON,

ACTING INSPECTOR GENERAL OF FORESTS.

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

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To the Hon. T. H. Bath, M.L.A., Minister for Lands.

Woods and Forests Department,
17th June, 1905.

SIR,

1. I have the honour to submit this (the ninth) Annual Report upon the operations and progress of the Woods and Forests Department for the year ended the 31st of December, 1904.

2. In compliance with instructions to the effect 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,
Acting Inspector General of Forests.

WOODS AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT.

Report by the Acting Inspector General of Forests.

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
" 1903 " " 1903	20,478 9 1	3,789 3 4
" 1904 " " 1904	20,018 19 4	4,192 16 9
	160,737 15 6	30,092 8 5

2. From the above statement it will be seen, therefore, that to the end of 1904 the revenue has exceeded the expenditure by the large amount of £130,645 7s. 1d.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1904.

3. The revenue derived from our Forests for rents of Timber Leases, Timber Concessions, Monthly Licenses, and Royalty amounted to £20,018 19s. 4d., and is £459 9s. 9d. less than that of the previous year.

4. The total expenditure of the Department for the year under review amounted to £4,192 16s. 9d., being £403 13s. 5d. more than that of last year; this increase being caused by the re-appointment of three rangers to supervise the mallet bark stripping along the Great Southern Railway line.

THE STAFF.

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

Head Office.

C. G. Richardson, Secretary.	D. W. Arnold, Clerk.
F. U. Palmer, Clerk.	R. R. Marshall, Clerk.

Forest Rangers.

S. Patterson, Inspecting Ranger, Chidlow's Well, E.R.	E. Kelso, Coolgardie.
H. S. Brockman, Donnybrook, S.W.R.	W. Pennell, Menzies.
J. J. Fitzgerald, Waroona, S.W.R.	T. C. Williams, Collie.
F. E. S. Willmott, Bridgetown.	J. H. Gregory, Narrogin, G.S.R.
	D. McVicar, Katanning, G.S.R.
	T. W. Allen, Caretaker, Point Walter Reserve.

PLANTING OPERATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

6. About 17 acres of permanent plantations of Remarkable Pine (*Pinus insignis*); Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halysensis*); the Nepaul Pine (*Pinus excelsa*); and Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) were formed at the State Nursery during the year ended 31st December, 1904.

All these pines have made phenomenal growth, are in a healthy and flourishing condition at the present time, and form a valuable object lesson to those interested in the introduction of soft woods into Western Australia.

THE STATE NURSERY.

LIST OF TREES AND SHRUBS RAISED IN NURSERY DURING THE YEAR 1904.

Trees, etc., raised in Pots.

Acacia pycnantha	...	Golden Wattle	1,000
Do. dealbata	...	Queensland Silver Wattle	1,000
Do. Baileyana	...	N.S.W. Silver Weeping Wattle	1,000
Eucalyptus ficifolia	...	Red Flowering Gum	748
Do. citriodora	...	Lemon Scented Gum	703
Do. corynocalyx	...	Sugar Gum	5,753
Schinus molle	...	Pepper Tree	6,870
Lagunaria Pattersonii	...	N.Z. Pyramid Tree	511
Trevillea robusta	...	Silky Oak	1,487
Ceratonia siliqua	...	Carob Bean	2,052
Pittosporum of sorts	...	...	1,140
Agonis flexuosa	...	W.A. Peppermint	416
Tristania conferta	...	White Box	306
Ficus macrophylla	...	Morton Bay Fig	2,170
Araucaria excelsa	...	Norfolk Island Pine	1,260
Tagasaste	...	Tree Lucerne	640
Cupressus of sorts	...	Cypresses	1,800
Thuya occidentalis	...	Northern White Cedar or Arbor Vitæ	260
Cedrus deodara	...	Indian Cedar	116
Ornamental shrubs, etc.	...	...	3,460

Open rooted.

Pinus insignis	...	Remarkable Pine	5,604
Abies Douglasii	...	Oregon Pine	206
Pinus pinaster	...	Cluster "	2,196
Do. Halepensis	...	Aleppo "	380
Do. ponderosa	...	Yellow "	2,556
Do. canariensis	...	Canary Island Pine	3,286
Do. sylvestris	...	Scots Fir	4,600
Do. excelsa	...	Bhotan Pine	...
Do. rigida	...	Pitch Pine	1,612
Do. strobus	...	Weymouth Pine	860
Thuya occidentalis	...	Northern White Cedar or Arbor Vitæ	280
Cedrus deodara	...	Indian Cedar	320
Cupressus	...	Cypresses (assorted)	414
Ficus	...	Figs (assorted)	4,180
Juglans regia	...	English Walnut	561
Platanus occidentalis	...	Plane Tree	490
Cedrela Australis	...	Australian Red Cedar	204
Melia Azedarach	...	Pride of India	5,880
Robinia pseudacacia	...	False Acacia	2,400
Sterculia diversifolia	...	Kurrajong	3,344
Tamarisk Sallica	...	Tamarisk	506
Salix aurea	...	Basket Willow	709
Populus dilbata	...	Upright poplar	1,706
Populus alba	...	Silver Poplar	1,040
Lycium Europæum	...	Box Thorn	6,056
Various Trees	...	...	7,660

Trees raised in Seed-beds.

Melia Azedarach	Pride of India	20,000
Sterculia diversifolia	Kurrajong	8,000
Pinus insignis	Remarkable Pine	15,000
Do. pinaster	Cluster Pine	6,000
Do. Halepensis	Aleppo Pine	2,000
Do. rigida	Pitch Pine	800
Do. Canariensis	Canary Island Pine	2,000
Robinia pseudacacia	False Acacia	5,000
Various Trees ... ..	... ..	6,300
Total number of trees raised ... ..	... ..	<u>154,842</u>

DISTRIBUTION OF TREES.

7. The following list shows the number of trees raised in the nursery and the various public bodies to which they were distributed. Trees sent to the Goldfields are shown separately:—

Agricultural Societies	685
Armadale Institute	50
Cemetery Boards	905
Convalescent Home, Cottesloe Beach	88
Convents	192
Churches	531
Deaf and Dumb Institution	95
Experimental Farm	206
Experimental purposes	9,159
Hospitals	176
King's Park	236
Lunatic Asylums	2,740
Monastery	51
Municipalities	3,012
Park Committee, York	210
Police Department	24
Progress Associations	400
Railway Department	2,677
Recreation Reserves	546
Roads Boards	2,297
Salvation Army	104
Schools	2,097
Zoological Gardens	2,650
	<u>29,131</u>

GOLDFIELDS.

Board of Health	300
Cemetery Boards	481
Churches	60
Convents	106
Experimental purposes	363
Goldfields Water Supply	6,000
Hospitals	243
Municipalities	8,236
Post and Telegraph Department	21
Progress Associations	106
Racing Clubs	50
Railway Department	48
Recreation Reserves	190
Road Boards	2,360
	<u>18,564</u>
Total number of trees distributed	<u>47,695</u>

TIMBER IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

8. The following statement show the value of the timber imports into Western Australia during the years ended 31st December, 1903 and 1904:—

TIMBER IMPORTS FOR YEARS 1903 AND 1904.

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
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	143	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

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.
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$\frac{1}{4}$ IN. AND OVER:			
U.S. of America	87	...	87
DOORS, UNDER 1$\frac{1}{4}$ 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
DOORS, 1$\frac{1}{2}$ IN. AND UNDER:			
Victoria	20	3	23
South Australia	4	1	5
New South Wales	21	...	21
U.S. of America	3,456	...	3,405
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

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.
	£	£	£
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

A RETURN SHOWING THE VALUE OF TIMBER IMPORTED INTO WESTERN AUSTRALIA, AND THE COUNTRIES FROM WHENCE IMPORTED, FOR THE YEAR 1904.

Articles and Countries whence imported.	Importations.	
	Quantities.	Values.
ARCHITRAVES, MOULDINGS, AND SKIRTINGS:	Lin. feet.	£
Victoria	9,468	79
United Kingdom	500	11
U.S. of America	12,400	54
Total	22,368	144
DRESSED, N.E.I.:	Super. feet.	
New South Wales	11,040	184
Victoria	157,560	1,313
South Australia	19,080	159
Total Commonwealth ... ..	...	1,656
United Kingdom	8,400	374
India	35,200	1,142
Norway	2,430,900	15,005
Singapore	12,500	101
Sweden	2,799,300	15,088
U.S. of America	869,800	6,946
Total	6,343,780	40,312
UNDRESSED OREGON, IN SIZES OF 12IN. X 6IN. (OR ITS EQUIVALENT) AND OVER:		
Victoria	31,600	108
U.S. of America	2,749,800	8,747
Total	2,781,400	8,855

A Return showing the Value of Timber imported into Western Australia and the Countries from whence imported for the Year 1904—continued.

Articles and Countries whence imported.	Importations.	
	Quantities.	Values.
UNDRESSED, N.E.I., IN SIZES OF 12IN. X 6IN. (OR ITS EQUIVALENT) AND OVER:		
New South Wales	80,800	670
Victoria	54,600	424
Queensland	76,130	643
South Australia	8,600	65
Tasmania	31,560	254
Total Commonwealth		2,056
U.S. of America	564,100	4,210
Total	815,790	6,266
UNDRESSED, N.E.I., IN SIZES OF LESS THAN 12IN. X 6IN. (OR ITS EQUIVALENT):		
New South Wales	12,600	106
Victoria	158,600	1,322
Queensland	500	4
South Australia	21,600	174
Tasmania	6,100	52
Total Commonwealth		1,658
Norway	62,200	273
Russia	474,500	3,685
Singapore	118,900	510
Sweden	766,600	5,416
U.S. of America	8,934,000	42,221
Germany	767,000	549
Total	11,322,600	54,312
LATHS:—		
	Number.	£
New South Wales	50,000	58
Victoria	14,000	18
South Australia	70,000	111
Total Commonwealth		187
U.S. of America	4,273,000	3,775
Total	4,407,000	3,962
PICKETS (UNDRESSED):		
U.S. of America	10,000	39
DOORS, 1$\frac{3}{4}$IN. AND OVER:		
Victoria	31	26
U.S. of America	1,659	943
Total	1,690	969
DOORS OVER 1$\frac{1}{2}$IN. AND UNDER 1$\frac{3}{4}$IN.:		
Queensland	1	2
South Australia	600	325
Total Commonwealth		327
U.S. of America	1,865	1,162
Total	2,466	1,489

A. Return showing the Value of Timber imported into Western Australia and the Countries from whence imported for the Year 1904—continued.

Articles and Countries whence imported.	Importations.	
	Quantities.	Values.
DOORS, 1½ IN. AND UNDER :		
New South Wales	54	32
Victoria	212	132
South Australia	519	337
Total Commonwealth ... ..	...	501
Sweden	12	6
U.S. of America	10,394	4,391
Total	11,191	4,898
HICKORY (UNDRESSED) :	Super. feet.	
U.S. of America	8,967	183
LOGS, NOT SAWN, AND SPARS IN THE ROUGH :		
New Zealand	928	9
STAVES, UNDERESSED OR ROUGHLY DRESSED BUT NOT SHAPED :	Number.	
Victoria	2,865	50
South Australia	14,736	276
Total Commonwealth ... ..	...	326
U.S. of America	576	17
Total	18,177	343
NEW ZEALAND PINE (UNDRESSED) :		
New South Wales	1,100	11
Victoria	6,400	85
Total Commonwealth ... ..	...	96
New Zealand	1,572,320	7,656
Total	1,579,820	7,752
OTHER (FREE) :		
New South Wales	} Not available.	751
Victoria		786
Queensland		457
South Australia		374
Tasmania		211
Total Commonwealth		2,579
New Zealand		244
United Kingdom		549
India		1,974
Siam		799
Singapore	351	
U.S. of America	1,393	
Total	7,889	
GRAND TOTAL VALUE OF IMPORTS ... ..	...	£137,422

9. From the above statements it will be seen that during the year 1904 the value of the timber imported into Western Australia amounted to £137,422, as compared with £96,062 in the preceding year.

TIMBER EXPORTS FOR YEARS 1903 AND 1904.

10. The following statements show the value of the timber exported from the State, and the countries to which same were exported.

Owing to the Customs returns not showing the species of timber exported, it is impossible to give particulars for 1904 in the same form as last year.

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
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	83
	GRAND TOTAL	92,943,175	619,620

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

EXPORT OF TIMBER FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA DURING YEAR 1904.

West Australian Hardwoods.	Countries to which Exported.	Quantity in Super. Feet.	Value.
			£
Dressed, N.E.I.	New Zealand	6,240	42
Undressed, size 12in. x 6in.	Do.	140,916	939
Do.	United Kingdom	2,943,330	20,282
Do.	Belgium	81,016	840
Do.	Cape Colony	601,663	4,013
Do.	Ceylon	9,852	80
Do.	India	920,726	6,140
Do.	Lorenzo Marquez	625,272	4,168
Do.	Mauritius	28,200	188
Do.	Natal	882,187	5,881
Do.	Philippine Islands	90,972	607
		6,324,134	43,138
Undressed, in sizes less than 12in. x 6in.	New Zealand	3,019,428	20,129
Do.	United Kingdom	25,200,417	166,773
Do.	Argentina	467,208	3,115
Do.	Cape Colony	8,546,368	57,136
Do.	Ceylon	2,682,540	17,728
Do.	Egypt	3,116,808	20,778
Do.	Hong Kong	580,758	3,878
Do.	Holland	703,980	4,693
Do.	India	21,845,673	145,633
Do.	Lorenzo Marquez	6,927,892	46,185
Do.	Mauritius	647,928	4,316
Do.	Natal	3,809,650	25,396
Do.	Philippine Islands	2,033,682	13,558
Do.	Singapore	37,500	250
Do.	Straits Settlements	947,046	6,314
Do.	United States of America	948	6
Do.	Belgium	17,983	120
		80,585,809	536,008
Pickets, undressed	New Zealand	14,235	81
Logs, not sawn	New Zealand	5,340	36
Do.	United Kingdom	632,484	4,217
Do.	Argentina	135,012	900
		772,836	5,153

EXPORT OF TIMBER FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA TO OTHER STATES DURING 1904.

West Australian Hardwoods	New South Wales ... ..	...	1,183
Do.	Victoria ... ..	...	26,609
Do.	South Australia ... ..	...	42,735
		...	70,527
	Grand total	Super. feet. 87,697,014	£654,907

11. It will be seen from the foregoing returns that the exports of timber during the year 1904 amounted to the sum of £654,907 as compared with £619,620 in 1903, showing an increase during the year under review of £35,287.

12. The following statements show the sandalwood exports from Western Australia for the years 1903 and 1904, and the countries to which same was sent:—

EXPORT OF SANDALWOOD FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA FOR THE YEAR 1903.

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

EXPORT OF SANDALWOOD FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA FOR THE YEAR 1904.

Species.	Countries to which exported.	Quantity.	Value.
Sandalwood ...		cwt.	£
	Singapore ...	9,007	2,264
	China ...	14,987	5,719
	Hong Kong ...	65,946	17,369
	India ...	260	65
	Total ...	90,200	25,417

13. The above statements show that for the year 1903 sandalwood was exported to the value of £37,913, and that for the year 1904 the export was valued at £25,417, showing a falling off of £12,496.

MALLET BARK EXPORT.

14. Through the courtesy of the Collector of Customs I am enabled to furnish the subjoined statement, showing the quantity of mallet bark exported during the year 1904, and the countries to which same was sent.

Countries to which exported.	Quantity.	Value.
	cwts.	£
Belgium ...	685	254
Germany ...	53,941	16,771
Holland ...	400	140
United Kingdom ...	16,008	5,841
United States of America ...	200	70
Total ...	71,234	23,076

15. The above statement only shows the quantity and value of the bark exported beyond the Commonwealth; particulars of that exported to the Eastern States not being recorded by the Customs authorities.

Handwritten note: Singapore ... 30.6.06

Handwritten note: 30/6/06

RAILWAY SLEEPERS, ETC., BRANDED FOR EXPORT.

16. The following statement shows the number of sleepers, etc., passed and branded by various Inspectors of the Department during 1904, and the countries to which same were sent:—

Countries to which exported.	Loads.	Sleepers.	Pieces.	Lineal feet.	Tons.	Superficial feet.
Bombay ... ..	...	23,121	...	...	...	...
Calcutta ... ..	...	8,192	...	...	...	...
Central South Africa ... ..	...	526,016	...	...	...	...
Ceylon ... ..	...	41,679	...	...	...	...
Hong Kong ... ..	...	20,584	...	...	...	...
Karachi, India ... ..	...	321,222	...	...	...	...
Mauritius ... ..	...	2,111	...	...	...	...
Natal, South Africa... ..	...	5,376	...	...	...	...
Rangoon ... ..	...	...	30	622	...	...
Singapore	272	...	...	32,669	...	...
South Australia ... ..	...	2,057	...	...	...	...
Suakim, Egypt ... ..	...	142,912	...	...	...	...
Wellington, New Zealand	1,372	...	...	451,588	391	282,651
Total	1,644	1,093,270	30	484,879	391	282,651

STATE FORESTS.

LAND SET APART FOR STATE FORESTS DURING YEAR 1904.

State Forest.	Gazetted.	Approximate Area.
	1904.	
Chidlow's Well	2nd September	1,500 acres. /
Greenbushes	8th January	22,000 " /
Greenmount	25th March	11,000 " /
Gindalbie	18th November	900 " /
Marradong	26th February	2,000 " /
Meekatharra	30th September	227,000 " /
Nannine	27th May	735,000 " /
Princess Royal (Town)	9th December	10,000 " /
Port Hedland	29th January	64,000 " /
Burtville	18th November	10,000 " /
Tuckanarra	9th December	250,000 " /
	Total area about ...	1,333,400 "

REPORTS.

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, Bridgetown.
„ 7.—Report from Forest Ranger Williams, Collie.
„ 8.—Report from Forest Ranger Gregory, Narrogin.
„ 9.—Report from Forest Ranger McVicar, Katanning.
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REPORT FROM FOREST RANGER BROCKMAN, DONNYBROOK.

To the Secretary Woods and Forests Department.

SIR,

I have the honour to report, for information of the Hon. the Minister for Lands, as follows:—

The greater part of my time during the past year I was occupied in inspecting Conditional Purchase blocks, and as the amount of available agricultural and pastoral land in my district is so scattered over large areas containing valuable timber, this naturally becomes an important work, as my duty is to conserve the timber without reference to the quality of the soil.

On the south side of the Blackwood is the best timbered land in my district, and part of this land, when denuded of timber, would be considered very good grazing country; the timber at present, however, is of most value to the State, but what the future of such land shall be—whether left for a renewed growth of timber or given up to the settler—is a matter of the policy of the Government. While referring to Conditional Purchase lands I might mention the fact that in many cases where the usual minimum area of 100 acres could not be allowed owing to timber on the land, small patches of 40 or 50 acres might be granted, with but little harm to the forests, while we would have an increased settlement in the State.

Another difficulty that is arising owing to the alienation of country carrying marketable timber before the industry was brought under regulations, is the fact that many sleeper-hewers are cutting on private lands, where no license is required. These men can also cut timber on adjoining Crown lands, remove it rapidly, and say it was cut on private property. The same difficulty arises in the royalty on piles and poles.

I am, unfortunately, obliged to state that some of the mills in my district, where a large number of hands are employed, have little or no timber left near them, and can do little more work until they build new railway lines through other holdings or could use the uncut forests that are held by other lessees. Having mentioned this fact, however, I have done my duty, and whether the holders of these leases are still allowed to hold them, or whether they shall be forfeited after having rent paid on them so long, does not come within my province. Without taking any drastic measures the rents already received on these lands would almost pay for a line to one of the best belts of timber lands we have, and to which I have previously referred.

If a light line, such as exists along the old Jarrahwood's line, were continued about 15 miles to the south side of the Blackwood River, near Nannup, the best belt of timber would be within reasonable access.

It would also be advisable, in my opinion, to construct a few lines through the forests, under Government control, and allow mill owners then to run branch lines out from them.

It should be compulsory to cut out certain sections before others were touched, and so the industry could be controlled and a definite knowledge of the extent of our available timber be known, and also what time it would take a new forest to grow if the "cut out" areas were absolutely withdrawn immediately they were cut out.

In conclusion, I might state that I am more than convinced that it would be advisable for the Government to open up new timber lands by light and inexpensive lines very much the same as the present private lines, which carry the loads as safely as the more expensive structures, the interest of the cost of which places an unnecessary load upon the development of the industry.

20th June, 1905.

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 report regarding the workings of my district during the year 1904:—

In consequence of a considerable decrease in timber prices, the industry has not maintained its activity equal to that of the previous 12 months. The same cause has been specially hard upon the small mills, so much so, that some of them have at present shut down. With the extra cost of haulage continually increasing with all mills, besides cost of carriage by Government railway, together with other charges, the success of the industry cannot be viewed in a hopeful light at present. Some of the timber reserves being now cut out, this tends to lessen the revenue of royalty obtained in the district. The money collected by me, with license fees added, amounted during the year to £745 17s. 2d. Regarding the workers under license, they have regularly applied for their monthly licenses, and it is pleasing to record the result: that far less infringement of the regulations have taken place than heretofore, consequently, a smaller percentage of informations for illegal cutting have been laid. Conditional Purchase Selections, of which I have inspected 57 during the year under review, have fairly maintained their number.

21st June, 1905.

I have, etc.,
JAMES J. FITZGERALD,
Forest Ranger.

REPORT FROM FOREST RANGER KELSO, COOLGARDIE.

To the Secretary Woods and Forests Department.

EASTERN GOLDFIELDS.

The firewood supply, which is the principal feature of the timber industry on the goldfields, has been maintained at a fairly even output throughout the year without any marked fluctuations either in price or quantity. The three principal firewood and timber contractors who operate under the advantage derived from the regulations permitting the construction of timber tramways over Crown lands are:—

- (1.) Kalgoorlie & Boulder Firewood Co., carrying on operations north-east of Broad Arrow.
- (2.) Westralia Timber & Firewood Co., operating east and north of Kanowna.
- (3.) W.A. Goldfields Firewood Supply, operating to the north-west of Coolgardie, and connecting with the State railways at Kurrawang.

These companies have, under the regulations, a total mileage of about 94 miles of main line and spurs, laid 3' 6" gauge, and all connected with the Government railways, and by this means are enabled to open up a large zone of country. These companies recently came to a commercial understanding as regards a fixed minimum tender for annual contracts with steam users, which is slightly in advance of the average price of the preceding year, viz.: 13s. per ton of 2,240lbs. The award of the Arbitration Court fixed the rates of wages, and by this means the industry is now in a much more settled condition than heretofore.

The principal demand for firewood was necessarily on the Kalgoorlie-Boulder mines, and, including the other large steam users in this district—such as the Electric Power Co., electric light stations, etc., the consumption of wood fuel was, approximately, 489,744 tons, being a slight increase on last year's consumption. All this was supplied from the timber tramway companies with the exception of a few 100 tons obtained locally, and from sidings on the Government railway. The other mining centres on this goldfield, East Coolgardie, draw their supplies locally, and have good timber areas to operate on. On the Coolgardie goldfield the mining industry, having been rather quiet of late, has not caused any large demand for fuel, and the supply has been small and intermittent, and at none of the mining centres has there been any marked advance in price.

On the Yilgarn and Dundas goldfields the mining industry has not altered or made any important developments, and the supply of fuel has been maintained without any marked difference.

The North-East Coolgardie goldfield was fairly active in the early part of the year, and wood fuel was in fair demand, but the industry settled down to a quiet stage towards the close of the year. The output on the various goldfields was as follows:—

Goldfield.	Annual consumption, in tons.	Average price per ton.	
Yilgarn	10,680	15s. to 16s. per cord	Supplied locally.
Coolgardie	30,060	14s. 6d. to 22s. 6d. per cord	Supplied locally and by railway.
East Coolgardie	489,744	12s. 3d. to 13s. per ton	By railway.
North-East Coolgardie	16,500	17s. to 20s. per cord	Timber tramway and locally.
Dundas	9,440	16s. to 18s. per cord	Supplied locally.

The mining timber supplies are mostly drawn from the more solid class of timber to be found in the vicinity of the Yilgarn railway, westward of Boorabbin, and, although a heavy railway freight is charged, this is apparently counterbalanced by the cheaper cost of supplying the timber on trucks, owing to cheaper labour and the better class of timber country operated on. The timber tramways have made several attempts to secure the local trade, but they are unable to compete with the prices of timber supplied from the Yilgarn railway. In many instances the price of timber obtained from this source and landed at the mine is the same that the tramway companies have to pay the cutter at the stumps on the goldfields. The output of the timber tramways of all classes of mining timber is about 176,304 cubic feet, and, approximately, twice that amount comes up to the fields from the Yilgarn railway.

The total consumption of firewood at the principal mining centres in touch with the State railway system on the Eastern goldfields is, roughly, about 500,000 tons per annum, and, at a minimum of 12s. per ton, represents £300,000 being distributed in the State.

The sandalwood industry has not shown any signs of a permanent revival; the demand has been limited and irregular and very few men are making a permanent living sandal-wood getting. Prices throughout the year have varied from £4 to £7 per ton, and the quantity sent down to Fremantle by rail has varied from 50 tons to 2,000 tons per month.

MURCHISON GOLDFIELDS.

Throughout the year the firewood industry has been very quiet, and only at Day Dawn has there been any demand for a large and constant supply. At the leading mine on this goldfield, the Great Fingall Consolidated, Newcastle coal was introduced for a time instead of wood fuel, and, although special facilities for transport were made, eventually this fuel proved much more expensive than local firewood (principally mulga). So many minor difficulties had also to be encountered, which, no doubt, would eventually be overcome to a large degree were there any other large fuel users in the district so as to require large quantities and warranting the introduction of various automatic appliances. At present most of the

firewood used at Cue and Day Dawn is obtained from sidings along the Nannine-Mullewa railway, and the price at the mines varies from 22s. 6d. to 35s. per cord. A few mines use the much more satisfactory and economical system of wood by weight, and at present pay 15s. per ton. Around most of the old established mining centres the timber is now cut out to a radius of about 10 miles, and as this is mostly mulga country, there is no sign of a re-growth.

The more important mining centres in touch with the State railway system use, approximately, 650 cords per week, and as these mines are practically dependent on the railway for their supply of wood fuel, it is from that source that calculations for a future supply must be based, and, by enabling these centres to obtain all their supplies from this source, the timber now remaining would be left for the centres more remote from the railway, who are never likely to be in a position to be supplied from that source.

The proposed construction of the railway from Magnet to Lawlers will open up a large area of good mulga country, about 400 square miles, and it is estimated that a three years' supply could be drawn from this source at the present rate of consumption. But the more permanent supply for these goldfields is from the extensive area of gum forest around Mullewa, the only difficulty being the long haulage along this line, which is about 180 miles, and at the existing rate this is prohibitive. At present all this timber is of no commercial value, and in all probability, as settlement for agricultural purposes advances inland, will be destroyed to clear the land.

E. KELSO,
Forest Ranger.

25th June, 1905.

REPORT FROM INSPECTING RANGER PATTERSON, CHIDLOW'S WELL.

To the Secretary Woods and Forests Department.

SIR,

During the past year, despite lack of orders and industrial disputes, the timber trade of the State has been responsible for a large volume of business, and afforded much employment in innumerable channels. The export of jarrah and karri still continues to all quarters of the globe. In the absence of navigable streams in the jarrah and karri forests, the expense attendant upon haulage and railage is, and ever will be, a great barrier to the cheap production of timber in this State. During the year I have made numerous trips of inspection to all the timber-cutting districts under supervision of the forest rangers, and find that those officers have performed their arduous duties satisfactorily, although, frequently, under considerable difficulties. The want of additional forest rangers is felt in some districts, and it is to be hoped will soon be remedied. The local markets for building and mining timbers have been more than well catered for by the numerous companies and sawmillers now existent. The hewn timber industry has given employment of a profitable nature to a large number of hewers. The minor industries, such as woodcutting and charcoal burning, have made considerable progress lately, and have afforded a crust to many a poor man, especially when on the "wallaby track." The bark industry last winter and spring assumed great proportions, and promises this year to be of considerable magnitude. The cartage of bark during the present season will be a considerable item in the cost of its production, as a 30 and 40 miles lead will frequently be necessary before the nearest railway siding is reached. Since last year's report I have reported upon numerous phases of forestry and made many recommendations for the more equitable and efficient management of a most valuable asset of the State.

I have, etc.,

STUART PATTERSON,

Inspecting Ranger.

20th June, 1905.

REPORT FROM FOREST RANGER PENNELL, MENZIES.

To the Secretary Woods and Forests Department.

SIR,

In reply to your memo. 18/121, I beg to report for your information as follows:—

During the year 1904, I have patrolled all the localities where cutting has been going on in my district. The country under my supervision contains areas of good firewood and a few patches of mining timber, mostly in a virgin state. Only in the vicinity of Davyhurst has any quantity of mining timber been cut, and it was before my time. The few salmon gum forests that are scattered over my district are, unfortunately, isolated, not being accessible to the mining centres, and the trees are mostly pipey and faulty in many respects. A sawmill on a fair scale was started some time back at Davyhurst to mill the timber, but was very shortly dismantled, as the timber proved to be of little value.

Kurrajong trees grow throughout the district in patches, and in the more settled localities many have been removed into the towns to beautify the streets. This appears to be the only use they are, outside of good shade for man and beast.

25th June, 1905.

WM. PENNELL,
Forest Ranger.

REPORT FROM FOREST RANGER WILLMOTT, BRIDGETOWN.

To the Secretary Woods and Forests Department.

SIR,

During the year ended 1904 the timber trade in this district has been fluctuating from depression to normal. Among the large mills the depression has been very noticeable; at Karridale only one mill (Jarrahdene) is now working. Again, Denmark has closed all mills, leaving only one mill cutting in karri country at present. The small spot mills are hampered owing to the lack of timber adjacent to railways, but should a line be extended from Bridgetown through timber country towards Balbarrup a considerable number of these mills would spring up immediately.

The owners of these mills are able to work country at a profit, where the larger mills have to close down, owing no doubt to small outlay, etc. The sleeper hewers have been busy up to the end of the year, but since then there has been very little done at this end of the line.

The granting of the right to cut under royalty over the Margaret Reserve has given a new lease of life to the Karridale mills, as it will enable the company to cut right through to their Quindalup country. The work of inspecting conditional purchases for timber, etc., has been very heavy. The number of applications seem to be ever increasing, and, owing to the long distance apart of the blocks applied for, the mileage I have had to cover has been enormous and very trying, both to horses and man. The fruit box industry around Bridgetown is keeping one mill busy meeting orders. I have heard a good many complaints this year as to the quality of the timber (redgum) used.

Blackbutt is also being cut by one orchardist for the use of himself and neighbours. These cases, when carefully cut, have a very neat appearance; in fact, both redgum and blackbutt cases, if the trees are carefully selected, as being free from gum, etc., and milled with precision, are first-class cases for local use.

Of the many proposed railway extensions in this district, the extension of the Bridgetown line to Balbarrup and Warren River (upper) would open up some good jarrah country, and also be within working distance of some karri.

The extension of the Jarrah Woods Railway to Lower Blackwood would also touch good jarrah and karri forests, and a slight extension south would run into splendid forests of either timbers.

The proposed private line from Karridale to Warren (lower) would run through plains for some distance and then would be in the thick of magnificent forests, both of jarrah and karri.

A matter that I think requires adjustment is that at present a mill can cut on both Crown lands and their own leases at one time. This, I think, opens a path for fraud. A company should be bound down to cut on Crown lands only, or else confine themselves to their leases.

In the matter of granting permits to settlers to cut timber for their own use on Crown lands, could not these permits be issued by the rangers? At present a permit is supposed to be signed by the Minister for Lands, which causes a good deal of delay to settlers in the back blocks and causes the laws to be evaded in this respect.

Another matter I should like to see altered is the careless way land is applied for. It frequently turns out after inspection that the selector wishes to settle on land some distance from the land applied for at the Lands Office, and consequently the rangers have to make a re-inspection, which causes delay all round. The land guides could surely give definite starting points to work from when the application is put in. In the event of power being given to rangers to refuse to issue licenses to certain would-be sleeper hewers who wantonly waste quantities of valuable timber by careless billeting out, etc., a step in the right direction would be made towards conserving the forests. At present, as long as a man has a license, he can do practically what he likes with timber over standard size, and consequently many hewers leave more wasted timber in the bush than most people have any idea of.

26th June, 1905.

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 during the year 1904:—

There are about 150 cutters in the district at present, but only about half that number are licensed. The balance are cutting either on freehold or conditional purchase holdings. When these holdings have been cut out (which is being rapidly done) there will no doubt be an increase in licenses.

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

The revenue derived from timber in this district is on the increase. All the cutters' license fees are paid through the local Resident Magistrate's office. The following shows the amount collected for the year ending 31st December, 1904:—

	£	s.	d.
359 Hewers' licenses issued	179	10	0
5 Pole and Pole licenses	15	0	0
Royalties collected	156	17	1
	£351	7	1

This amount does not include royalty paid by Messrs. E. Brown & Co. to head office direct from my district. This firm's mill has been closed since about 15th December last.

There are two large timber mills at work in the district, and they employ about 250 men (which means the support of a population of something like 750). These mills are periodically visited by me.

I have made a great number of inspections of conditional purchase and other blocks, some of which I could not recommend on account of the quantity of valuable timber on them, and others I have had to cut out the timber-bearing land and recommend alteration of boundaries, etc. On the whole, I consider that the timber industry is decidedly on the increase in this district, and I believe there are some large orders for hewn sleepers to be placed here shortly.

Most of the Crown lands available to sleeper hewers at present near Collie are getting pretty well cut out, and if the concession of 10,000 acres out of the State forest now being applied for is granted to the hewers, I would recommend the closing of all Crown Lands North of the Collie railway bounded on the West by Timber Reserve 5,611, on the North by Southern boundary of Timber Lease 309/113, and on the East by the Collie River for a term, except for special purposes.

I have, etc.,

F. C. WILLIAMS,
Forest Ranger, Collie.

21st June, 1905.

REPORT FROM FOREST RANGER GREGORY, NARROGIN.

To the Secretary Woods and Forests Department, Perth.

SIR,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your memo. asking for a general report for the year 1904, and in reply I beg to state that, as my appointment as Forest Ranger extends only over a period of eight months, my report will be brief. During the period under review, I have travelled over a large extent of country, extending from Pingelly to Katanning, and for some 30 and 40 miles from the railway.

The inspection of mallet bark country entails much travelling, as the hills where it grows are scattered over very large areas, and where selections have been granted, tracing of survey lines is rendered necessary. The area of country placed in my charge is very much too large for one man to supervise properly, and I cannot visit all parts as often as I could wish. I hope, however, the department will be able to increase the staff, either by appointing a ranger or a temporary assistant to the present rangers.

I have issued over a hundred mallet bark and a few timber and firewood licenses, and I expect to issue a larger number of mallet bark licenses when the country is again opened to stripping. There is a considerable amount of selection going on all along the Great Southern Railway, and a good deal of it is applied for merely in order to secure the mallet bark growing on the land applied for.

The mallet bark industry, I do not think, will last more than another year or so with the present railway facilities, unless it is discovered in some other districts. The young forests should be strictly protected, as there are thousands that will mature in a few years.

J. H. GREGORY,
Forest Ranger.

Narrogin, 1st July, 1905.

REPORT FROM FOREST RANGER DOUGLAS McVICAR, KATANNING.

To the Secretary Woods and Forests Department.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year, 1904:—

Since taking charge of this district in October I have travelled hundreds of miles all over the area, giving particular attention to those portions carrying mallet timber, which has become so valuable within this last year for its bark, which yields such a large proportion of tannic acid, and has made for itself a place on the markets of Europe amongst the other known barks.

Like all other new industries of this sort, it was not handled at the start in the best possible way for those interested in it. In the first great rush the only thing that seems to have actuated those who were procuring it was to get over the thickets and secure as many tons as possible in the least possible time; hence a great area was quickly run over, the trees being only partially stripped. The heaviest bark around the butt only being taken off; in many instances there was more bark left on the trees than was taken off.

Since the issuing of the regulations which necessitates the falling of the trees and the stripping of the limbs, as well as the bole, this waste has been done away with.

The issuing of licenses during the last close season, for stripping those trees which had been butted, also saved a great amount of bark which would otherwise have been lost.

Mallet is not like any of the other well-known timbers of the State, that is, it does not cover large areas of country. It is usually found in thickets scattered all over this district, its favourite habitat being gravel ridges.

This new industry providentially came just at the time when a considerable number of men were being put off in the sawmill district, through the mills closing down, and provided work for large numbers. It is estimated that during the busiest months something like 1,500 men were employed in the bush, all earning good money. This, again, gave employment to a large number of teams for carting purposes. Most of these were supplied by the farmers, the stripping season coming just between seed time and harvest, so it gave them employment for their horses, and helped many a struggling farmer through the slack season.

The Great Southern line must have had a large increase of revenue through this unexpected industry.

At Albany, which is the principal port of shipment, three large bark-grinding mills have been erected, costing several thousand pounds, and employing a large number of men, as they work two and, in some cases, three shifts.

The total number of licenses issued were 1,820, giving a revenue of £455.

Have had a few prosecutions and seized one or two lots of bark on behalf of the Crown for infringements of the regulations, but for the most part find those employing men stripping to be very careful to obtain licenses, for it means a big loss to have all their bark confiscated.

Those in the industry are looking forward with much interest for the report on the various other barks of the State, and are hoping that the bark of some other trees that grow in greater numbers may be found to carry the requisite amount of tanning properties to make them marketable.

I have, etc.,

DOUGLAS McVICAR,

Forest Ranger.

Katanning, June, 1905.