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1908.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WOODS AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT

FOR THE

Year ended 30th June, 1908,

BY

C. G. RICHARDSON,

ACTING INSPECTOR GENERAL OF FORESTS.

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

SEVENTH PARLIAMENT—FIRST SESSION.

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WOODS AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT.

Report by the Acting Inspector General of Forests.

To the Hon. N. J. Moore, C.M.G., Minister for Lands.

Woods and Forests Department,
Perth, 20th July, 1908.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report upon the operations of the Woods and Forests Department for the year ended 30th June, 1908.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

1. The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure of the Department since its inception in 1895:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1st January to 31st December, 1895	3,175 5 2	1,108 5 5
1st January to 31st December, 1896	4,838 11 2	2,020 11 5
1st January to 31st December, 1897	12,320 6 4	3,489 14 4
1st January to 31st December, 1898	30,150 6 3	3,356 5 7
1st January to 31st December, 1899	16,999 11 3	2,438 7 5
1st January to 31st December, 1900	15,525 19 2	2,648 11 10
1st January to 31st December, 1901	18,477 16 2	2,747 6 3
1st January to 31st December, 1902	18,752 11 7	4,301 6 1
1st January to 31st December, 1903	20,478 9 1	3,789 3 4
1st January to 31st December, 1904	20,018 19 4	4,192 16 9
1st January to 31st December, 1905	18,479 18 6	5,089 18 6
(6 months) 1st January, 1906, to 30th June, 1906	10,973 18 4	3,385 1 9
1st July, 1906, to 30th June, 1907	22,783 1 5	6,270 15 2
1st July, 1907, to 30th June, 1908	23,498 13 3	8,801 14 3
	236,473 7 0	53,639 18 1

2. From the above statement it will be seen that to the 30th June, 1908, the revenue exceeds the expenditure by the large sum of £182,833 8s. 11d.

4. The total expenditure of the Department for the year under review amounted to £3,801 14s. 3d.

Revenue and Expenditure for the year ended 30th June, 1908.

THE STAFF.

3. The revenue derived from our Forests for rents of Timber Leases, Timber Concessions, Monthly Licenses, and Royalty amounted to £23,498 13s. 3d.

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

HEAD OFFICE.

C. G. Richardson, Acting Inspector General of Forests.	D. W. Arnold, Clerk.
F. U. Palmer, Clerk.	R. R. Marshall, Clerk.
R. Cooper, Typist.	
W. Arnold, Messenger.	

FOREST RANGERS.

H. S. Brockman, Donnybrook.	W. Pennell, Chidlow's Well.
J. J. Fitzgerald, Waroona.	A. Stevenson, Collie.
J. H. Gregory, Narrogin.	D. Milligan, Collie.
G. F. Griffiths, Donnybrook.	T. Adams, Collie.
C. L. Hastie, Bunbury.	W. M. Cusack, Collie.
E. Kelso, Coolgardie.	F. E. S. Willmott, Bridgetown.
P. E. Port, Preston.	D. McVicar, Greenbushes.
H. G. Yelverton, Newlands.	

Caretaker, Point Walter Reserve : T. W. Allen.
Nurseryman, State Nursery, Hamel : A. McFarlane.

PLANTATIONS.

1. The planting of soft woods has been still further extended during the year under review, about 21,000 pines having been planted about a mile south of the State Nursery, Hamel, on the west side of the Railway line. The pines set out in this plantation are principally *Pinus insignis*, *P. ponderosa*, *P. resinosa*, and *P. strobus*.

2. Clearing and grubbing operations are still being carried on at the Ludlow, and there is every prospect of a large area being ready for planting next season. This year's planting had, unfortunately, to be abandoned, through the contractor being behind with the work, and the small area cleared turning out too wet to plant. However, although it is disappointing to miss this season, the following year's planting will undoubtedly benefit by the delay, as we shall be enabled to thoroughly prepare the land instead of putting the young trees out into land that had only just been grubbed and roughly ploughed.

3. With regard to the plantations that have already been established at Hamel and are now attracting public attention, there appears to be a great deal of misapprehension, as the ordinary person seems to be of opinion that the trees are growing too closely together. This is, however, not the case. The trees are being purposely crowded so that the ultimate crop may benefit. The amount of wood made during the growing season by a tree depends on the amount of leaf surface exposed to the light and air. A large expanse of crown produces a large quantity of wood, whereas a small one produces a small quantity. It

is by taking advantage of this tendency that the silviculturist is able to control the quantity and quality of the wood produced. Trees grow in two ways—in height and girth. Trees which are planted closely together when young are drawn up into long, straight trunks through their tendency to run upwards to the light, consequently close planting produces long, thin, straight boles. During this period the growth in girth is slow, but the tall, straight trunks form a basis for the more valuable timber of subsequent years. When the tree has reached its maximum height, thinning out causes an increased growth in the crown and a consequent larger leaf surface to the trees left. Growth in height has now become less rapid, and the growth in girth increases. When the trees close up again and another thinning is made, the same growth is repeated, the crowns grow larger and the girth increases in proportion, and this goes on as each successive thinning is made until the required form of bole has been attained.

4. In this way, therefore, the inherent tendency of trees to grow rapidly in height during the early years of their growth is strengthened by close planting, and the subsequent tendency to less growth in height and greater growth in girth is encouraged by thinning out. If trees were planted wide apart as popular opinion would have them, most of the energy of growth would be dissipated in the formation of side branches, with a consequent reduction in height growth, so that instead of obtaining a long, straight bole containing the maximum of timber free of knots, we should have short ones with large, strong side branches, containing a much less volume of timber, and full of knots.

THE STATE NURSERY.

List of Trees and Shrubs raised in Nursery during the Year under review.

Acacia Baileyana	Silver Weeping Wattle, (N.S.W.)	1,335
Acacia decurrens	Black Wattle (N.S.W.)	574
Acacia dealbata	Silver Wattle (Queensland)	714
Acacia pycnantha	Golden Wattle	1,692
Araucaria Bidwilli	Queensland Pine	640
Agonis flexuosa	Peppermint (W.A.)	1,039
Araucaria excelsa	Norfolk Island Pine	225
Ceratonia siliqua	Carob Bean	1,064
Cupressus (of sorts)	Cypress	4,513
Eucalyptus citriodora	Lemon-scented Gum (Queensland)	986
Eucalyptus corynocalyx	Sugar Gum (S.A.)	5,400
Eucalyptus ficifolia	Red Flowering Gum	1,000
Ficus Australis	Pt. Macquarrie Fig	3,644
Ficus macrophylla	Morton Bay Fig	1,060
Lagunaria Patersonii	Pyramid Tree	1,064
Phoenix dactylifera	Date Palm	1,116
Pittosporum undulatum	Cheese Wood	3,060
Sterculia acerifolia	Queensland Flame Tree	315
Schinus molle	Pepper Tree	7,474
Grevillea robusta	Silky Oak	1,001
Thuya occidentalis	Northern White Cedar (Arbor vitæ)	916
Laurus Camphora	Camphor Laurel	3,018
Sterculias	Kurrajongs	2,108
Robenia, Pseudo Acacia	False Acacia	1,974
Melia Adzedarach	Pride of India	2,197
Salix Aurea	Basket Willows	306
Populus fastigata	Lombardy Poplar	650
Populus alba	Silver Poplar	2,160
Platanus orientalis	Plane Tree	354
Juglans regia	English Walnut	943
Quercus Hodgkinsonii	Evergreen Oak	792
Pinus insignis	Remarkable Pine	43,680
Pinus Halepensis	Alleppo Pine	1,060
Pinus ponderosa	Yellow Pitch Pine	2,380
	Texas Umbrella	2,106
	Kei Apple	2,160
	Total number of trees raised	104,720

DISTRIBUTION OF TREES.

5. The following list shows the number of trees and the various public bodies to which same were supplied during the year ended 30th June, 1908.

Agricultural Societies..	802
Caves Board ..	300
Cemeteries ..	505
Churches ..	714
Churches (R.C.) ..	254
Convents (R.C.) ..	245
Experimental purposes ..	622
Flax roots to Settlers ..	482
Farmers' Associations ..	40
Government Gardens ..	946
Hospitals ..	1,755
King's Park, Perth ..	1,834
Lunatic Asylums ..	50
Municipalities ..	8,917
Monasteries ..	259
Old Men's Home ..	225
Orphanages ..	216
Orphanages (R. C.) ..	59
Police Department ..	492
Progress Associations..	170
Railway Department ..	1,642
Recreation Grounds ..	276
Road Boards ..	3,308
Rottneet Island ..	3,285
Salvation Army ..	524
Schools ..	2,882
Settlers Associations ..	688
State Farms ..	699
Zoological Gardens ..	2,404
	<hr/>
	34,595

GOLDFIELDS.

Bowling Club ..	55
Cemeteries ..	376
Hospitals ..	392
Municipalities ..	4,108
Police Department ..	55
Road Boards ..	3,590
Schools ..	741
Water Supply Department ..	2,615
	<hr/>
	11,932
	<hr/>
Total number of trees distributed ..	46,527

6. From the above it will be seen that during last season the number of trees distributed throughout the State amounted to 46,527. One hundred and eighty-six applications were received for trees during the period above referred to, and it is evident that a taste for arboriculture is being rapidly developed by the residents of the Goldfields and the farmers in the South-West.

7. From the reports to hand, the trees distributed are in many cases doing well and adding to the beauty of the localities in which they are planted.

8. The free distribution of trees throughout the State, it must be admitted, is a wise policy on the part of the Government, and the benefits which will accrue therefrom to the community at large are boundless.

9. As stated in my last report, the distribution of trees in the Eastern States is general, and I hope that in future the same policy will be adopted in Western Australia. The introduction of exotic timber trees is a matter of national importance, and if the people of the State are willing to plant and look after such trees they should be encouraged in every possible way.

TIMBER IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

10. The following statements show the quantity and value of the timber imported into Western Australia during the years ended the 30th June, 1907, and 1908, respectively, and the countries whence imported:—

Country from whence imported.	Year ended 30th June, 1907.		Year ended 30th June, 1908.	
	Quantity. super. feet.	Value £	Quantity. super. feet.	Value £
(531) ARCHITRAVES, MOULDINGS, ETC. :				
South Australia	501	2	3,302	18
Victoria	41,234	274	13,090	74
United Kingdom .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Germany .. .. .	..	..	..	..
United States of America	5,539	16	1,584	8
Total	47,274	292	17,976	106
(532) DRESSED, N.E.I. :				
New South Wales	7,705	84	1,600	17
Victoria	199,519	1,769	50,265	570
Queensland .. .. .	..	..	..	..
South Australia	10,149	81	3,182	37
United Kingdom	1,771	28	246	6
United States of America	436,991	4,846	518,693	6,736
Sweden	1,827,860	11,139	782,618	4,696
Norway	1,165,166	7,166	51,300	232
Singapore	4,904	47	4,133	22
Total	3,654,065	25,160	1,412,037	12,316
(533) UNDRESSED OREGON, IN SIZES 12IN. X 6IN. AND OVER :				
New South Wales	50,246	608	..	..
Victoria	52,543	455	3,773	27
South Australia	600	12	..	..
United States of America	2,067,022	8,169	141,707	585
Total	2,170,411	9,224	145,480	612
(534) UNDRESSED, N. E. I., IN SIZES 12IN. X 6IN. AND OVER :				
New South Wales .. .. .	..	..	1,700	24
Victoria	4,334	37	4,800	40
Queensland	810	16	5,000	177
South Australia	144	1	700	7
Tasmania .. .. .	..	..	..	..
United States of America	411,291	2,767	2,648,259	12,159
Singapore	1,666	8	9,092	52
India	250,113	4,402	45,700	1,155
Norway	432	4	..	..
Sweden .. .. .	..	..	245,649	821
Total	668,790	7,235	2,960,900	14,435
(535) UNDRESSED, N.E.I., IN SIZES LESS 12IN. X 6IN. :				
New South Wales	59,265	548	50,331	714
Victoria	266,643	2,831	145,275	1,853
Queensland	128,298	1,611	54,186	962
South Australia	47,329	373	4,156	47
Tasmania	120,162	547	93,989	460
United Kingdom	22,696	102	11,138	55
United States of America	6,220,160	31,087	5,555,721	28,492
Germany	94,166	556	..	..
Singapore	123,150	809	66,216	330
Sweden	317,667	1,987	509,229	2,723
Norway .. .. .	..	..	36,000	264
India	41,469	1,097	50,413	1,573
Russia	98,590	834	..	..
New Zealand	1,545	6	..	..
Italy .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Java .. .. .	..	..	537	11
Cape Colony .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Lorenzo Marquez .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Uruguay .. .. .	..	..	400	2
Total	7,541,143	42,388	6,577,591	37,486

TIMBER IMPORTS AND EXPORTS—continued.

Country from whence imported.	Year ended 30th June, 1907.		Year ended 30th June, 1908.	
	Quantity. super. feet.	Value £	Quantity. super. feet.	Value £
(535A) UNDRESSED, N.E.I., IN SIZES LESS THAN 7IN. x 2½IN.				
New South Wales			11,500	125
Victoria			26,100	328
Queensland			12,200	284
South Australia			7,000	167
Tasmania			44,300	301
United Kingdom			8,400	60
United States of America			552,300	6,250
Germany			47,800	361
India			34,200	1,653
Singapore			55,600	441
Sweden			311,100	2,163
Norway			15,300	139
Uruguay			1,200	6
Total			1,127,000	12,278
(535B) TIMBER FOR MAKING BOXES :				
New South Wales			1,100	22
Victoria			20,800	280
South Australia			13,900	160
United Kingdom			5,900	38
Germany			16,000	141
Singapore			54,400	345
Sweden			133,000	1,135
Holland			800	8
Norway			14,700	86
Total			264,600	2,215
(535C) TIMBER BENT OR CUT INTO SHAPE :				
United Kingdom				86
(535D) VENEERS, 3-PLY :				
Victoria			300	12
United Kingdom			1,500	12
United States of America			1,100	30
Total			2,900	54
(535E) VENEERS, N.E.I. :				
United States of America			100	7
(536) LATHS :	No.		No.	
New South Wales				
Victoria	125,610	175	12,206	29
South Australia	20,000	32		
United Kingdom	14,000	7		
United States of America	1,517,760	1,352	2,352,470	2,300
Total	1,677,370	1,566	2,364,676	2,329
(537) PALINGS :				
New South Wales				
Victoria				
South Australia	1,300	13	250	2
Tasmania	300	2		
Total	1,600	15	250	2
(538) PICKETS, DRESSED	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
(539) PICKETS, UNDRESSED :				
United States of America	80,130.	277	Nil.	Nil.
(544) HICKORY, UNDRESSED :	sup. ft.		sup. ft.	
New South Wales				
Victoria	634	16	201	8
South Australia				
United States of America	3,937	99	25,208	666
Tasmania			500	5
Total	4,607	115	25,909	679

TIMBER IMPORTS AND EXPORTS—continued.

Country from whence imported.	Year ended 30th June, 1907.		Year ended 30th June, 1908.	
	Quantity. super. feet.	Value £	Quantity. super. feet.	Value £
(545) LOGS NOT SAWN AND SPARS IN THE ROUGH :				
New South Wales	50	5		
Victoria	533	6		
Queensland	8,206	86		
United Kingdom	7	1		
Japan	481	3		
Total	9,277	101		
(546) STAVES, UNDRESSED, OR ROUGHLY DRESSED, BUT NOT SHAPED :				
	No.		No.	
Victoria			200	62
South Australia			576	111
United Kingdom	500	78	200	49
United States of America	1,200	42	1,100	93
Germany			500	63
Total	1,700	120	2,576	378
(547) NEW ZEALAND PINE, UNDRESSED .				
	sup. ft.		sup. ft.	
New South Wales	21,052	207	22,689	280
Victoria	109,123	1,218	235,628	3,076
South Australia	1,690	21	14,900	160
New Zealand	619,761	5,098	67,655	919
Total	751,626	6,544	340,872	4,435
(548) OTHER (FREE) :				
New South Wales		264		729
Victoria		327		1,146
Queensland				
South Australia		177		224
Tasmania		46		75
United Kingdom		129		262
United States of America		392		3,218
Germany		26		
Singapore				
New Zealand				
France				
China		29		
Japan		4		
Total		1,394		5,655
Grand Total in Super. feet	14,847,193	92,473	12,875,365	90,358
Total number of Laths, Palings, Pickets, Staves	1,759,100	1,978	2,367,502	2,709
Grand Total Value		£94,451		£93,067

11. From the foregoing statements it is seen that during the year ended the 30th June, 1907, the value of the timber imported into Western Australia amounted to the sum of £94,451 as against £93,067 for the year under review, showing a decrease of £1,384.

12. The large sum spent annually in the importation of soft wood timber into Western Australia (a

large percentage of which might be profitably produced within our own boundaries) only goes to illustrate the wisdom of the steps taken by the Department in forming pine plantations for commercial purposes on the large areas of sandy land throughout the State.

TIMBER EXPORTS.

13. The following statements show the quantity and value of the timber exported from this State beyond the Commonwealth during the years ending 30th June, 1907 and 1908 respectively, and the countries to which same was exported. Owing to the fact that no record is kept by the Customs here of the shipments to the Eastern States, I am unable to include this in-

formation in detail; upon reference, however, to the Customs Department, Melbourne, I learn that timber to the value of £140,370 was exported from Western Australia to the Eastern States during the year ended 30th June last—the quantity is unfortunately not available.

Article and Countries to which exported.	1906-7.		1907-8.	
	Quantities. Super. feet.	Value. £	Quantities. Super. feet.	Value. £
TIMBER UNDRESSED, N.E.L., 12IN. X 6IN. AND OVER :				
United Kingdom	2,833,627	18,271	1,992,804	13,284
Cape Colony	31,296	209	126,204	841
Ceylon	360	22	..	..
India	906,062	6,040	1,154,076	7,695
Mauritius .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Natal	33,132	221	17,880	119
New Zealand	655,656	4,371	1,301,777	8,677
Singapore .. .. .	..	..	30,510	187
Argentina	559,320	3,729	385,380	2,569
Belgium	61,841	362	129,576	862
China	1,267,848	8,452	53,272	388
Egypt .. .. .	..	..	73,332	487
Germany	137,923	927	..	..
Holland	27,168	181	77,784	518
Lorenzo Marquez .. .. .	..	..	492,468	3,283
Uruguay	118,218	788	53,811	360
Philippines .. .. .	..	..	478,620	3,191
Total	6,640,451	43,573	6,372,494	42,461
TIMBER UNDRESSED, N.E.L., LESS THAN 12IN. X 6IN. :				
United Kingdom	18,548,242	127,213	9,703,507	64,693
Cape Colony	978,996	6,526	320,904	2,139
Ceylon .. .. .	..	..	..	..
India	20,630,697	137,671	19,366,170	151,993
Mauritius	535,980	3,468	..	..
Natal	466,080	3,107	481,728	3,212
New Zealand	6,212,962	41,343	13,147,348	87,549
Straits Settlements	548,532	3,654	..	..
Argentina	1,457,200	9,712	2,232,912	14,886
Belgium	573,536	3,182	915,640	6,384
China	10,890,332	71,985	64,800	429
Egypt .. .. .	..	..	1,987,036	13,259
Germany	347,864	2,359	764,996	5,100
Holland .. .. .	..	..	85,800	572
Java .. .. .	..	..	32,012	213
Lorenzo Marquez	1,974,917	13,166	652,332	4,349
Uruguay	5,244,586	33,963	9,849,878	65,666
Singapore .. .. .	..	..	602,826	3,931
France .. .. .	..	..	35,508	237
Chile .. .. .	..	..	792,132	5,281
Philippines .. .. .	..	..	3,079,980	20,533
Total	68,429,924	457,349	64,115,509	450,426
TIMBER, LOGS NOT SAWN, ETC. :				
United Kingdom	1,440	..	7,452	50
Germany .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Cape Colony .. .. .	..	..	27,720	184
India .. .. .	..	..	..	..
New Zealand	16,092	107	119,280	795
Argentina	16,074	80	..	..
China	10,836	72	..	..
Egypt .. .. .	..	..	98,940	641
Total	44,442	263	253,392	1,670
Grand Total	75,114,817	501,185	70,741,395	424,557
TIMBER—PICKETS, UNDRESSED :	number		<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>
Cape Colony	31,140	208	..	..
New Zealand .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Total	31,140	208	..	..
Grand Total Value .. .. .	..	£501,393	..	£424,557

14. From the above return it will be seen that during the year ended the 30th June, 1907, the value of our local hardwood exported from this State beyond the Commonwealth, amounted to £501,393, and

that for the similar period ended the 30th June, 1908, the exports amounted to £424,557. To this must be added the £140,370 above referred to, which brings the total exports up to £564,927.

SANDALWOOD EXPORTS.

15. The following statements show the quantity and value of the Sandalwood exported from Western Australia during the years ended the 30th June, 1907 and 1908 respectively:—

Countries to which Exported.	Year ended 30th June, 1907.		Year ended 30th June, 1908.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
United Kingdom	cwts. 175	£ 53	cwt. .	£ .
Ceylon	160	80	.	.
India	4,557	1,909	12,919	5,010
Hong Kong	120,791	45,135	187,877	74,383
Singapore	12,369	4,666	1,487	512
China	36,482	13,187	12,953	4,688
France .. .. .	.	.	.	.
Germany	20	8	.	.
Holland	48	20	.	.
United States of America .. .. .	.	.	292	95
Total	174,602	65,058	215,528	84,688

16. A revival of the Sandalwood trade took place early in the year under review, the industry having been gradually getting dormant toward the close of the previous year, the price obtained by the sandalwood getters for their wood being better than for the past three years and the market keeping fairly steady, prices fluctuating between £6 10s. and £7 15s. f.o.b. Fremantle. The price was not forced by a shortness of wood, as large stocks had accumulated owing to poor prices, and during the year two entirely new areas were opened up and brought into railway communication with the coast by the construction of the Westralia Timber Co.'s tramline and the Norseman Railway.

17. A royalty of 5s. per ton is now imposed on all Sandalwood obtained off Crown Lands, and we can

in the future look forward to deriving a much better proportion of revenue from this source.

18. From the above statement it will be seen that for the year ended 30th June, 1907, the value of the Sandalwood exported was £65,058, whereas for the year ended 30th June, 1908, the exports amounted to £84,688, showing an increase of £19,630.

MALLET BARK EXPORT.

19. The following statement shows the quantity and value of mallet bark exported during the years ended 30th June, 1907 and 1908 respectively, and the countries to which same was sent. No record being kept by the Customs Department of shipments to the Eastern States, it is only possible to show what was exported beyond the Commonwealth.

Countries to which Exported.	Year ended 30th June, 1907.		Year ended 30th June, 1908.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
United Kingdom	cwts. 4,866	£ 1,846	cwts. 74	£ 27
New Zealand	170	79	540	203
Singapore .. .. .	.	.	.	.
Belgium	13,000	4,875	28,304	10,614
Germany	237,173	89,676	196,481	69,498
Italy	2,548	956	500	188
United States of America .. .. .	.	.	500	188
Total	257,757	97,432	226,399	80,718

20. From the above it will be seen that the exports of this bark have fallen off for the year under review, those for the year ended the 30th June, 1907, amounting to £97,432, while the exports for a similar period of last year come to £80,718, making a decrease of £16,714.

21. This falling-off in the amount of bark exported is no doubt due to cutting out of the mallet within payable distance of the railway line. All the country within easy distance of the Great Southern Railway line has been practically cut out, and it does not pay at present prices to exploit the areas of mallet lying far back from the line.

22. It is to be regretted that this valuable tree has been so rapidly cut out and that the life of the industry has been so short, but as the country in which the mallet grows has been and is being rapidly selected and fast becoming a great wheat-producing

belt, the ultimate destruction of this eucalypt is only a matter of time.

23. It might be said that the Department should have reserved large areas of mallet country so as to protect the tree from being destroyed, but as it is found only in strips and patches spread here and there over a large extent of country, it would be impossible to do this without locking up large areas of land suitable for selection, and thus retarding the settlement of the land.

24. If areas of pure mallet forest could have been found, it might have been possible to protect them by reserving the land, but even then I fear that it would have ultimately proved impossible to provide for the future maintenance of this tree, as it is only a matter of time when all the natural habitat of the mallet will be alienated under the C.P. or other clauses of the Land Act.

INSPECTION OF TIMBER LANDS.

25. Six hundred and seventy Conditional Purchase and Homestead Farm applications were referred to the various Forest Rangers for inspection as regards timber during the year under review.

26. The inspection of Forest lands prior to the approval of the land being alienated is one of the most necessary and important of the rangers' duties, and is the only way to prevent large areas of valuable forest lands being given away and the timber ruthlessly destroyed.

27. In the past large areas of valuable timber have been alienated, and these are now being exploited by the owners, and large sums of money received in the shape of royalty for the timber.

28. In this way a valuable asset has been lost to the State, and royalty which should have come to this

Department has gone into the pockets of private property owners.

INSPECTION OF TIMBER FOR EXPORT.

29. The subjoined table shows the quantity of railway sleepers and other timber passed and branded by the various timber inspectors of the Department during the year ended 30th June last, and the various countries to which same were shipped.

30. The charge for Government inspections is now one shilling per load for hewn timber and ninepence per load for sawn timber, this cost to be borne by the purchasers.

31. During the year above mentioned inspection fees to the amount of £1,513 were collected by the Department.

Country to which Exported.	Number of Sleepers.	Paving Blocks in loads.	Piles, Beams, and Scantling in loads.	Number of Pickets.
Adelaide, South Australia	48,507	..	565	
Belgium, Europe .. .. .	..	..	268	
Bombay, India	4,045	..	1,690	
Broken Hill, New South Wales	2,788	..		
Ceylon	46,789	..	20	
China .. .. .	..	..
Chittagong, India	34,410	..		
Karachi, India	472,206	..		
London .. .. .	..	1,192	399	
Malay States	20,475	..	1,864	
Manila	131,551	..		
New Zealand	239,462	..	3,824	
Rotterdam .. .. .	..	..	124	
Soudan, Egypt	136,715	..	193	63,531
South America	281,804	..		
Total	1,418,752	1,192	8,947	63,531

SAWMILLING PERMITS.

The following table gives the Sawmill Permit applications received during the year ended 30th June, 1908:—

Name of Applicant.	Area in Acres.	No. of Permit.	District.
Adelaide Timber Company	12,000	16-11	Wellington.
Franklin & Finlay	10,500	17-11	Wellington.
Bunning Bros .. .. .	..	18-11	Wellington.
Ferguson, J. M.	1,000	19-11	Wellington.
Buckingham Bros.	15,000	20-11	Wellington.
J. G. Elkin	5,300	21-11	Wellington.

32. From the above it will be seen that an area of 43,000 acres was applied for under Sawmill Permit during the year under review.

33. All timber cut upon these areas is subject to the royalty charges prescribed by the existing timber Regulations.

GOLDFIELDS FIREWOOD AND TIMBER SUPPLIES.

34. On the Eastern Goldfields a notable feature during the year under review has been the increase in the firewood consumption of the mines comprising the Boulder belt, the consumption during the past year being approximately 558,000 tons, an increase of nearly 12,000 on last year's supply. The value of this firewood delivered at the mines is estimated at £362,700.

35. On the remaining mining centres on the Coolgardie Goldfields there has been a tendency to a decline in the demand all round. A new area of country was opened up by

the Westralia Timber & Firewood Co. transferring their operations from the Kanowna district, by re-laying their tramway in a south-easterly direction, from Bulong and connecting with the State railway system six miles from Kalgoorlie. This tramway will open up an extensive area of maiden bush that was hitherto beyond the zone of operations.

36. The Kalgoorlie and Boulder Firewood Co. extended their tramway from near Mt. Monger to the Wollubar district and have operated on a very fair bush that has provided very good mining timber.

37. The extension by the West Australia Goldfields Firewood Co. of a tramway 83 miles from their base in a north-westerly direction has opened up a large area of forest country, and although the distance from the home station to the forest was much beyond the usual run, economical management has made the undertaking successful from a financial point of view. The value of the plant in use for supplying the Boulder mines with firewood and mining timber is estimated at £175,650.

These Timber Tramway Cos. have been using the local Salmon Gum timber for sleepers, some of which have been in use for three years and from all outward appearances have stood the work well, they have so far resisted the attacks of white ants and show no signs of decay through dry rot. These sleepers have been particularly successful where other sleepers fail, at the seat of the rail, and where the dogs are driven to hold the rail. On spur lines where the rails are pulled up and re-laid about every second month, salmon sleepers will stand re-dogging a number of times and will hold the rail to gauge. The behaviour of these sleepers under the rough conditions of use on the timber tramways has already attracted the attention of Railway engineers, and future developments are being watched with interest.

The opening of the first section of the Norseman railway as far as Widgiemooltha will throw open a large area of well-timbered country from which a good supply of sound mining timber will be available for local mining purposes.

The Gwalia group of mines continue to draw their firewood and timber supplies from the narrow gauge tramway extending 20 miles south-west of Leonora. An interesting experiment was made two years ago by the introduction of the local native pine for sleepers. These have so far withstood the rough work very well, the gauge of this tramway is only 20 inches, and the load per axle two tons. The rails are 14lbs. to the lineal yard, and so far the sleepers show little wear under the seat of the rail. Should

these sleepers prove satisfactory, the use of this timber will prove a welcome addition to economical working in districts where only mulga and pine are to be found.

On the Mount Margaret Goldfield a progressive movement was made by the construction of a timber tramway to supply the Lancefield Gold Mine with timber and firewood. This mine is one of the largest fuel consumers in the State on account of the complex treatment necessary for the reduction of refractory ores. A tramway, with a 24-inch gauge, has been laid 18 miles in a general easterly direction to operate on a belt of mulga forest, which will ensure an economical and reliable supply of fuel for an extended period. The line is well equipped with three locomotives and the necessary rolling stock, and altogether some £15,000 have been spent in material and equipment.

On the Murchison Goldfield the demand of the Great Fingall and other local mines for an economical fuel supply was met by the Government supplying 20 miles of rails and material to a locally formed company on a time-payment basis carrying interest. This company has laid out the line in an easterly direction from Nallan; 12 miles from Cue, and is operating on a belt of mulga in that district. The supply is cheap and reliable, and on calorific values taken in conjunction with freight and handling charges is proving more economical than coal; the output is about 150 tons per day at present, but is expected to increase in the near future.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. G. RICHARDSON,
Acting Inspector General of Forests.