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1909.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WOODS AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1909,

BY

C. G. RICHARDSON,

ACTING INSPECTOR GENERAL OF FORESTS.

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

PERTH:

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1909.

WOODS AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT.

Report by the Acting Inspector General of Forests.

To the Hon. J. Mitchell, Minister for Lands.

Woods and Forests Department,
Perth, 20th July, 1909.

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, 1909.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

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
1st July, 1908, to 30th June, 1909	29,484 3 8	9,030 12 6
	265,957 10 8	62,670 10 7

2. From the above statement it will be seen that to the 30th June, 1909, the revenue exceeds the expenditure by the very large sum of £203,287 0s. 1d.

Revenue and Expenditure for the year ended 30th June, 1909.

The revenue derived from our forests for the year under review amounts to the large sum of £29,484 3s. 8d. This, with the exception of the year ended 31st December, 1898, is the highest revenue on record since the inception of the Department, and is an increase of £5,985 10s. 3d. over the revenue for last year.

The total expenditure of the Department totalled £9,030 12s. 6d., being an increase of £228 18s. 3d., as compared with the previous year. This increase was caused by the necessity for the appointment of additional rangers and inspectors to cope with abnormal activity in the industry, the past year being a record one in the history of the State.

The details of the revenue are as follows:—

Rents of Timber Leases, £12,693 4s. 2d.

Timber Licenses and Royalty, £13,822 10s. 1d.

Inspection fees, £2,968 9s. 5d.

The introduction of the royalty system is responsible for a very considerable increase in the revenue. It has for the past few years been made applicable to the Crown lands of the South-West, and is an equitable system which should give satisfaction to all concerned. Each cutter pays only for the timber he cuts, and no cutter gets what he does not pay for. Greater expense and supervision are, of course, necessary under this system than when monthly licenses were in vogue; but this is more than counterbalanced by the increased revenue and the many advantages which the royalty system undoubtedly possesses. Under it there is less waste than when the licensees were given *carte blanche* to cut as much as they could for a monthly fee, and the rangers have a better hold over the cutters than heretofore.

THE STAFF.

The officers of the Department are as follows:—

HEAD OFFICE.

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

F. U. Palmer, Clerk.
R. Cooper, Typist.
D. W. Arnold, Clerk.

R. R. Marshall, Clerk.
F. A. Goerke, Clerk.

FOREST RANGERS.

H. S. Brockman, Donnybrook.
J. J. Fitzgerald, Waroona.
J. H. Gregory, Narrogin.
G. F. Griffiths, Noggerup.
C. L. Hastie, Bunbury.
E. Kelso, Coolgardie.
P. E. Port, Preston.
H. G. Yelverton, Newlands.
D. McVicar, Greenbushes.

F. Doust, Bridgetown.
G. Singleton, Sawyers' Valley.
W. Pennell, Chidlow's Well.
A. Stevenson, Collie.
D. Milligan, Collie.
T. Adams, Collie.
W. M. Cusack, Collie.
F. E. S. Willmott, Bridgetown.
T. Steedman, Lunenburg.

Caretaker, Point Walter Reserve : T. W. Allen.

Nurseryman, State Nursery, Hamel: A. McFarlane.

The great activity in the timber trade and the large quantity of export timber to be inspected, coupled with the number of Conditional Purchase, etc., blocks referred to the Department for inspection as regards timber have considerably increased the work during the twelve months under review and taxed the resources of the staff to the utmost. I am pleased, however, to be able to state that the officers comprising same have made every effort to keep the work in hand, and I take this opportunity to place on record my appreciation of the way in which they have carried out their duties.

PINE PLANTING.

The planting of pines for commercial purposes is still receiving the attention of the Department, the area being considerably increased each season.

During the year under review about 68,000 pines have been set out in the Ludlow Pine Plantation, and it is intended to extend this plantation each year until the whole area reserved for the purpose, about 5,000 acres, is planted with softwoods.

The pine which can be most profitably and successfully grown in Western Australia is undoubtedly the remarkable pine of California (*Pinus insignis*), and it is this species which is being planted at Ludlow.

From this tree the quickest results in timber yield can be obtained, and its rapidity of growth and hardiness render it most suitable for planting in the poor sandy lands of the coastal districts.

Considerable evidence regarding the growth of this pine both in South Australia and Victoria was obtained by a recent Royal Commission. In both these States the demand for its timber for fruit and packing cases, weatherboards, flooring, moulding, turnery, etc., etc., greatly exceeds the supply. Mr. W. Gill, Conservator of Forests, South Australia, in his evidence before the Commission, stated that the well-

known London authority on timbers (Mr. Herbert Stone, F.L.S.) considered *Pinus insignis* to be as good as the North American White Pine, and predicted a great future for it.

Mr. Gill, in his evidence before the Commission also gave valuable information as to the planting and growth of this pine in his State. To obtain the best results, he said, the trees should be planted out about nine feet apart. When planted in this manner, the yield per acre 21 years after planting would amount to 24,000 superficial feet of timber, which at the existing price in South Australia would represent a value of £200 per acre.

In this State, the climatic conditions are more favourable to the growth of pines than those of South Australia, *Pinus insignis* growing with the most remarkable rapidity, and although the cost of clearing and preparing the land for planting would be higher in this State, I think the return per acre after 20 years would be considerably higher than in the sister State.

Immense areas of our coastal country while being poor sandy soil are eminently suited to the growth of many species of pines, and these lands could be profitably planted with these trees as has been done with similar country on the western coast of France and other parts of Europe. In the French province of Gascony hundreds of thousands of acres of waste lands have been put under pines, with the result that these lands have been reclaimed, forests of commercial value provided, and a large population afforded employment.

I think, therefore, I am right in saying that this Government, which has been the first to take any active steps in regard to extensive pine-planting, should receive the thanks of the community for authorising a work which will prove of immense value in laying the foundation of our future system of growing softwoods for commercial purposes.

THE STATE NURSERY.

The State nursery at Hamel, S.W.R., has, as in previous years, turned out a splendid stock of young

trees for distribution throughout the State. The various kinds and numbers raised are shown in the sub-joined list:—

List of Trees and Shrubs raised in the State Nursery.

Agonis flexuosa	Peppermint (W.A.)	608
Acacia Baileyana	Silver Weeping Wattle (N.S.W.)	1,383
Acacia decurrens	Black Wattle (N.S.W.)	578
Acacia dealbata	Silver Wattle (Queensland)	1,638
Acacia pycnantha	Golden Wattle	2,032
Araucaria Bidwilli	Queensland Pine	780
Araucaria excelsa	Norfolk Island Pine	3,200
Cerantonia siliqua	Carob Bean	2,336
Cupressus (of sorts)	Cypress	4,230
Eucalyptus citriodora	Lemon-scented Gum (Queensland)	530
Eucalyptus corynocalyx	Sugar Gum (S.A.)	4,788
Eucalyptus ficifolia	Red-flowering Gum	680
Ficus Australis	Pt. Macquarie Fig	3,242
Ficus macrophylla	Morton Bay Fig	1,305
Lagunaria Pattersonii	Pyramid Tree	1,280
Phoenix dactylifera	Date Palm	608
Pittosporum undulatum	Cheese Wood	1,468
Schinus molle	Pepper Tree	8,240
Grevillea robusta	Silky Oak	636
Thuya occidentalis	Northern White Cedar (Arbor vitae)	360
Laurus Camphora	Camphor Laurel	2,016
Sterculia	Kurrajong	3,010
Robenia Pseudo Acacia	False Acacia	4,224
Melia Adzedarach	Pride of India	300
Salix Aurea	Basket Willow	800
Populus fastigata	Lombardy Poplar	550
Platanus orientalis	Plane Tree	1,271
Populus Alba	Silver Poplar	500
Pinus insignis	Remarkable Pine	64,000
Pinus halipensis	Aleppo Pine	1,036
Corynocarpus taevigata	New Zealand Laurel	339
Frenella verucosa	Cypress Pine	1,224
Aberia Caffra	Kei Apple	2,300
	Texas Umbrella Tree	5,152
	Flowering Shrubs, etc.	3,050
	Total number raised	131,994

From the above list it will be seen that during the twelve months ended the 30th June last, 131,994 trees and shrubs were raised at the State nursery. This shows an increase in number of 27,274 over the previous year.

that every tree planted is a benefit to the community at large. The Railways, Education, Police, Goldfields Water Supply and other Departments are going in for a vigorous system of tree planting, and large numbers have been supplied to them.

DISTRIBUTION OF TREES.

The distribution of trees has now obtained since 1896, and is becoming more popular every year. Its beneficial effects are very apparent throughout the South-West and the Goldfields, and there is no doubt

From the following list it will be seen that during last year 49,395 trees were planted throughout the State. From reports to hand, the trees supplied are—in the majority of cases—doing well, and it is evident that a taste for arboriculture is rapidly increasing among the residents of the State.

Agricultural Societies	818
Caves Board	222
Cemeteries	610
Churches	807
Churches (R.C.)	681
Experimental purposes	444
Government Gardens	88
Hospitals	481
King's Park, Perth	666
Lunatic Asylums	858
Municipalities	9,859
Orphanages	351
Orphanages (R.C.) .. .. .	..
Police Department	207
Progress Associations	1,410
Railway Department	578
Recreation Grounds	676
Road Boards	8,023
Schools	6,150
Settlers' Associations	6,814
Zoological Gardens	500
	40,243
GOLDFIELDS.	
Railway Department	531
Cemeteries	70
Hospitals	136
Municipalities	3,022
Police Department .. .. .	..
Road Boards	2,494
Schools	1,279
Water Supply Department	1,134
Progress Associations	486
	9,152
Total number of trees distributed	49,395

THE TIMBER INDUSTRY.

The total output from the various saw-mills during the twelve months under review is unfortunately not yet available, but for the year ended December last it amounted to 276,277 loads, valued at £1,105,108, while the total exports for the year ended the 30th June last, including the timber transferred to the Eastern States amounted to the large sum of £833,710. The number of men directly employed in the industry including hewers, beam squarers and pile getters, amounted to something like 4,600. The value of the plant of the companies and mills engaged in the industry is estimated at £355,224, and the timber railways connected therewith at £342,679.

From the above figures it will be seen that the timber industry is one of the most important in the State, and although it must be admitted that a large proportion of the profits derived from the export trade go abroad, still we must remember that a very con-

siderable sum is circulated locally by the various companies in rents, royalties, railway freights, wharfage dues, wages, purchase of goods, horsefeed, etc.; Millar's Karri and Jarrah Company alone spending £360,000 annually in wages, £100,000 in railway freight, and £40,000 in horse feed.

The importance, therefore, of the industry to Western Australia and its influence upon the prosperity of the community at large cannot be overrated, and it is to be hoped that in the future there will be none of the troubles between employer and employees which had such disastrous effects upon the trade some few years ago.

TIMBER IMPORTS.

The following statements show the quantity and value of the timber imported into this State during the years ended 30th June, 1908 and 1909 respectively, and the countries whence imported.

Statement showing the Quantity and Value of Timber imported during the Year ended 30th June, 1908.

Country from whence imported.	Year ended 30th June, 1908.	
	Quantity. super. feet.	Value £
(531) ARCHITRAVES, MOULDINGS, ETC. :		
South Australia	3,302	18
Victoria	13,090	74
United Kingdom .. .. .	..	..
Germany .. .. .	..	..
United States of America	1,584	8
Total	17,976	100
(532) DRESSED, N.E.L. :		
New South Wales	1,600	17
Victoria	50,265	570
Queensland .. .. .	..	..
South Australia	3,182	37
United Kingdom	246	6
United States of America	518,693	6,736
Sweden	782,618	4,696
Norway	51,300	232
Singapore	4,133	22
Total	1,412,037	12,316
(533) UNDRESSED OREGON, IN SIZES 12IN. X 6IN. AND OVER :		
New South Wales .. .. .	..	..
Victoria	3,773	27
South Australia .. .. .	..	..
United States of America	141,707	585
Total	145,480	612
(534) UNDRESSED, N. E. L., IN SIZES 12IN. X 6IN. AND OVER :		
New South Wales	1,700	24
Victoria	4,800	40
Queensland	5,000	177
South Australia	700	7
Tasmania .. .. .	..	..
United States of America	2,648,259	12,159
Singapore	9,092	52
India	45,700	1,155
Norway .. .. .	..	..
Sweden	245,649	821
Total	2,960,900	14,435
(535) UNDRESSED, N.E.L., IN SIZES LESS 12IN. X 6IN. :		
New South Wales	50,331	714
Victoria	145,275	1,853
Queensland	54,186	962
South Australia	4,156	47
Tasmania	93,989	460
United Kingdom	11,138	55
United States of America	5,555,721	28,492
Germany .. .. .	..	..
Singapore	66,216	330
Sweden	509,229	2,723
Norway	36,000	264
India	50,413	1,573
Russia .. .. .	..	..
New Zealand .. .. .	..	..
Italy .. .. .	..	..
Java	537	11
Cape Colony .. .. .	..	..
Lorenzo Marquez .. .. .	..	..
Uruguay	400	2
Total	6,577,591	37,486

TIMBER IMPORTS—continued.

Country from whence imported.	Year ended 30th June, 1908.	
	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.	
New South Wales .. .. .	..	..
Victoria.. .. .	12,206	29
South Australia .. .. .	..	..
United Kingdom .. .. .	..	..
United States of America	2,352,470	2,300
Total	2,364,676	2,329
(537) PALINGS :		
New South Wales .. .. .	..	..
Victoria.. .. .	..	..
South Australia	250	2
Tasmania .. .. .	..	..
Total	250	2
(538) PICKETS, DRESSED	Nil.	Nil.
(539) PICKETS, UNDRESSED :		
United States of America	Nil.	Nil.
(544) HICKORY, UNDRESSED :	sup. ft.	
New South Wales .. .. .	..	..
Victoria.. .. .	201	8
South Australia .. .. .	..	..
United States of America	25,208	666
Tasmania	500	5
Total	25,909	679

TIMBER IMPORTS—*continued.*

Country from whence imported.	Year ended 30th June, 1908.	
	Quantity. super. feet.	Value £
(545) LOGS NOT SAWN AND SPARS IN THE ROUGH :		
New South Wales		
Victoria		
Queensland		
United Kingdom		
Japan		
Total		
(546) STAVES, UNDRESSED, OR ROUGHLY DRESSED, BUT NOT SHAPED :		
	No.	
Victoria	200	62
South Australia	576	111
United Kingdom	200	49
United States of America	1,100	93
Germany	500	63
Total	2,576	378
(547) NEW ZEALAND PINE, UNDRESSED .		
	sup. ft.	
New South Wales	22,689	280
Victoria	235,628	3,076
South Australia	14,900	160
New Zealand	67,655	919
Total	340,872	4,435
548) OTHER (FREE) :		
New South Wales .. .. .	..	729
Victoria .. .. .	..	1,146
Queensland .. .. .	..	..
South Australia .. .. .	..	224
Tasmania .. .. .	..	75
United Kingdom .. .. .	..	262
United States of America .. .. .	..	3,218
Germany .. .. .	..	..
Singapore .. .. .	..	..
New Zealand .. .. .	..	..
France .. .. .	..	..
China .. .. .	..	..
Japan .. .. .	..	..
Total .. .. .	..	5,655
Grand Total in Super. feet	12,875,365	90,358
Total number of Laths, Palings, Pickets, Staves	2,367,502	2,709
Grand Total Value .. .. .	..	£93,067

Statement showing the quantity and value of Timber imported during the Year ended 30th June, 1909.

Countries from whence imported.	Quantity in super. feet.	Value £.
TIMBER.		
(716.) ARCHITRAVES, MOULDINGS, AND SKIRTING OF ANY MATERIAL :	100 lin. ft.	
From Victoria	132	89
United Kingdom	10	2
Total	142	91
(717.) BENT OR CUT INTO SHAPE, DRESSED OR PARTLY DRESSED, N.E.I. :		
From Victoria .. .. .	..	11
United Kingdom .. .. .	..	5
United States of America .. .. .	..	33
Total .. .. .	..	49
(718.) BROOM STOCKS :		
From Victoria .. .. .	..	16
Total .. .. .	..	16
(719.) DRESSED, N.E.I. :	100 sup. ft.	
From New South Wales	31	32
Victoria	390	394
South Australia	151	157
United Kingdom	22	61
Singapore	9	11
Norway	2,235	1,495
Sweden	4,932	3,211
United States of America	2,448	3,171
Total	10,218	8,532
(720.) FOR MAKING BOXES OR DOORS, BEING CUT INTO SHAPE AND DRESSED OR PARTLY DRESSED :	100 sup. ft.	
From New South Wales	11	16
Victoria	395	478
Queensland	1	2
South Australia	931	1,008
United Kingdom	384	229
Singapore	1,616	812
Germany	224	93
Holland	23	24
Sweden	2,884	2,700
United States of America	34	8
Total	6,503	5,370
(721.) HICKORY, UNDRESSED :	100 sup. ft.	
From United States of America	45	119
Total	45	119
(722.) HUBS—ELM, WITH METAL BANDS, KNOWN AS SARVEN HUBS :	No.	
From United States of America	2,066	294
Total	2,066	294
(723.) HUBS, PREPARED (OTHER) :		
From Victoria	128	20
United Kingdom	100	17
Total	228	37
(724.) LATHS FOR BLINDS :		
From New South Wales .. .. .	..	75
United Kingdom .. .. .	..	27
United States of America .. .. .	..	34
Total .. .. .	..	136

TIMBER IMPORTS—continued.

Countries from whence imported.		Quantity in super. feet.	Value £.
(725.)	LATHS, N.E.I.:	No.	
	From Victoria	48,000	83
	United States of America	1,396,000	1,597
	Total	1,444,000	1,680
(726.)	LOGS, NOT SAWN, AND SPEARS IN THE ROUGH:	100 sup. ft.	
	From New South Wales	16	6
	Victoria	26	12
	Queensland	529	815
	Total	571	833
(727.)	NEW ZEALAND PINE, UNDRESSED, OF ALL SIZES:	100 sup. ft.	
	From New South Wales	229	294
	Victoria	3,813	4,666
	South Australia	203	230
	New Zealand	341	374
	Total	4,586	5,564
(728.)	PALINGS:	No.	
	From Victoria	100	1
	Tasmania	500	4
	Total	600	5
(729.)	PICKETS—DRESSED.. .. .	..	..
(730.)	UNDRESSED .. .. .	..	..
(731.)	PICTURE AND ROOM MOULDINGS:		
	From New South Wales .. .. .	..	73
	Victoria .. .. .	..	137
	South Australia .. .. .	..	15
	United Kingdom .. .. .	..	372
	Germany .. .. .	..	1,364
	United States of America .. .. .	..	976
	Total .. .. .	..	2,937
(732.)	RIMS, N.E.I.:	No.	
	From Victoria	196	38
	United Kingdom	173	45
	Total	369	83
(733.)	SHAFTS, POLES, AND BARS:		
	From New South Wales .. .. .	..	250
	Victoria .. .. .	..	1,020
	South Australia .. .. .	..	34
	Tasmania .. .. .	..	50
	United Kingdom .. .. .	..	55
	United States of America .. .. .	..	1,191
	Total .. .. .	..	2,600
(734.)	SHINGLES:		
(735.)	SPOKES—DRESSED OR PREPARED (NOT BEING OF HICKORY), 2IN. OR UNDER IN DIAMETER:	No.	
	From New South Wales	30,004	561
	Victoria	14,025	304
	Total	44,029	865
(736.)	SPOKES—DRESSED, HICKORY, 2IN. OR UNDER IN DIAMETER:		
	From United Kingdom	1,850	27
	United States of America	70,373	1,009
	Total	72,223	1,036

TIMBER IMPORTS—continued.

Countries from whence imported.	Quantity in super. feet.	Value £.
(737.) SPOKES, RIMS, AND FELLOES OF HICKORY IN THE ROUGH :	No.	
From Victoria	40	9
South Australia	8	6
United States of America	26,848	1,507
Total	26,896	1,522
(738.) STAVES—DRESSED, OR PARTLY DRESSED, BUT NOT SHAPED :		
From United Kingdom	600	146
Total	600	146
(739.) STAVES—UNDRESSED :		
From Victoria	1,300	17
South Australia	30	1
United States of America	5,419	377
Total	6,749	395
(740.) UNDRESSED, N.E.I., IN SIZES LESS THAN 7 X 2½ INCHES :	100 sup. ft.	
From New South Wales	268	323
Victoria	431	516
Queensland	293	392
South Australia	6	6
Tasmania	303	225
United Kingdom	29	3
Singapore	1,379	758
Germany	794	785
Norway	1,852	1,421
Sweden	2,004	1,596
United States of America	11,243	6,672
Total	18,602	12,697
(741.) UNDRESSED, N.E.I., IN SIZES LESS THAN 7FT. 6IN. X 10IN. X 2½IN. FOR DOOR STOCKS :	100 sup. ft.	
From United States of America	1,020	1,278
Total	1,020	1,278
(742.) UNDRESSED, N.E.I., IN SIZES OF 7IN. X 2½IN. AND UPWARDS, AND LESS THAN 12IN. X 6IN. :	100 sup. ft.	
From New South Wales	37	57
Victoria	798	777
Queensland	713	806
South Australia	37	32
Tasmania	259	148
United Kingdom	28	18
Canada	39	1
Singapore	132	208
Java	22	47
Norway	290	149
Sweden	674	531
United States of America	29,844	FF 17,420
Total	32,873	20,194
(743.) UNDRESSED, N.E.I., IN SIZES OF 12IN. X 6IN. AND OVER :	100 sup. ft.	
From Victoria	152	131
Queensland	53	107
Tasmania	28	34
Singapore	19	8
Norway	21	10
United States of America	12,942	6,325
Total	13,215	6,615
(744.) VENEERS—THREE PLY :	100 sup. ft.	
From New South Wales	3	2
Victoria	1	4
United Kingdom	19	12
United States of America	10	7
Total	33	25

TIMBER IMPORTS—*continued.*

Countries from whence imported.	Quantity in super. feet.	Value £.
(745.) VENEERS—N.E.I.:	100 sup. ft.	
From Victoria	2	5
United Kingdom	24	24
United States of America	1	3
Total	27	32
(746.) TIMBER, OTHER (FREE):		
From New South Wales .. .. .	..	22
Victoria .. .. .	..	19
United States of America .. .. .	..	107
Total .. .. .	..	148
Grand Total in super. feet	8,769,300	..
Total number of Laths, Palings, Pickets, and Staves, etc.	1,597,760	..
Grand Total Value .. .. .	..	73,364

From a comparison of the foregoing statements, it will be seen that the value of the timber imported into West Australia during the year ended 30th June, 1908, amounted to £93,067, and that for the year ended 30th June, 1909, the imports amounted to £73,364, showing a decrease of £19,703.

TIMBER EXPORTS.

The following statements show the quantity and value of the timber exported beyond the Commonwealth during the years ended 30th June, 1908, and 1909 respectively, and the countries to which same was exported.

Owing to the fact that no record is kept by the Customs in this State of the shipments to the Eastern States, I am unable to include these exports in detail.

I learn, however, on reference to the Customs Department, Melbourne, that 23,063,201 super feet of timber, valued at £163,229 were exported from West Australia to the Eastern States during the year ended the 30th June last. In addition to this, timber to the value of £409 was exported for which no quantity was recorded; thus bringing the total value of the exports to the sister States up to the large sum of £163,638.

Statement showing Quantity and Value of Timber Exported during Year ended 30th June, 1908.

Article and Countries to which exported.	1907-8.	
	Quantities. Super. feet.	Value. £
TIMBER UNDRESSED, N.E.I., 12IN. x 6IN. AND OVER :		
United Kingdom	1,992,804	13,284
Cape Colony	126,204	841
Ceylon .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
India	1,154,076	7,695
Mauritius .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
Natal	17,880	119
New Zealand	1,301,777	8,677
Singapore	30,510	187
Argentina	385,380	2,569
Belgium	129,576	862
China	58,272	388
Egypt	73,332	487
Germany .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
Holland	77,784	518
Lorenzo Marquez	492,468	3,283
Uruguay	53,811	360
Philippines	478,620	3,191
Total	6,372,494	42,461
TIMBER UNDRESSED, N.E.I., LESS THAN 12IN. x 6IN. :		
United Kingdom	9,703,507	64,693
Cape Colony	320,904	2,139
Ceylon .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
India	19,366,170	151,993
Mauritius .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
Natal	481,728	3,212
New Zealand	13,147,348	87,549
Straits Settlements .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
Argentina	2,232,912	14,886
Belgium	915,640	6,384
China	64,800	429
Egypt	1,987,036	13,259
Germany	764,996	5,100
Holland	85,800	572
Java	32,012	213
Lorenzo Marquez	652,332	4,349
Uruguay	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	64,115,509	450,426
TIMBER, LOGS NOT SAWN, ETC. :		
United Kingdom .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
Germany	7,452	50
Cape Colony .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
India	27,720	184
New Zealand	119,280	795
Argentina .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
China .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
Egypt	98,940	641
Total	253,392	1,670
Grand Total	70,741,395	424,557
TIMBER—PICKETS, UNDRESSED :	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>
Cape Colony .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
New Zealand .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
Total .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
Grand Total Value .. .. .	.. .. .	£424,557

The above statement only shows the timber exported beyond the Commonwealth. To it, therefore, must be added the value of the shipments to the Eastern

States, which amounted to £140,370. This brings the total value of the exports for the year ended 30th June, 1908, up to £564,927.

Statement showing Quantity and Value of Timber exported during the year ended 30th June, 1909.

Countries to which Exported.	1908-9.	
	Quantities in super feet.	Value £.
TIMBER, UNDRESSED :		
To United Kingdom	18,063,726	119,216
Ceylon	2,231,461	14,851
India	47,914,855	314,296
Mauritius	240,915	1,606
Natal	13,399,938	7,531
New Zealand	14,982,116	99,181
Singapore	261,794	1,746
Argentina		
Belgium	1,500,507	9,853
Egypt	7,842,546	52,284
France	30,480	203
Germany	967,937	6,393
Holland	70,896	472
Java		
Philippines	1,642,992	10,952
Portuguese East Africa	623,916	4,159
Uruguay	4,098,516	273,23
	101,812,595	27,323
		670,066
TIMBER—LOGS NOT SAWN :		
Germany	984	6
Total	101,813,579	£670,072

From the foregoing returns, it will be seen that during the year ended the 30th June, 1908, the value of the timber exported amounted to £564,927, and that for the same period ended 30th June, 1909, the exports, including those to the Eastern States, amounted to £833,710, thus showing an increase of £268,783.

Owing to the alteration in the statistical classification by the Customs Department, I have been unable to furnish details of this year's timber exports under the same headings as heretofore.

SANDALWOOD EXPORTS.

The sandalwood trade following on the revival of last year continued brisk until the commencement of 1909, when the industry slackened down somewhat; this may be attributed to two main causes:—

(a) The dry summer prevented the getters from penetrating far inland away from settlement on account of the scarcity of water.

(b) About that time a fall of 10s. per ton in price took place, no doubt owing to the supply exceeding the demand, and this combined with the first cause was the result of a falling off in the supply.

There was at no time during the period under re-

view any very great fluctuation in the price, the market merely moving slightly up and down following on the demand and supply. The average price was about £7 per ton on trucks at the nearest port.

The royalty of 5s. per ton on cleaned wood is now collected by the State Railway Department together with the freight charges when the wood is conveyed to the port of shipment.

Although large areas have been cut over to obtain the sandalwood, I can see no cause to fear a shortage of supplies for many years ahead, as fresh country is constantly being opened up by the construction of new railways either by the State or by the timber tramways employed conveying timber and firewood to the large mining centres. The re-growth of sandalwood is necessarily slow as is the case with all hardwoods producing essential oils. Under most conditions on the goldfields the growth is fairly rapid for the first three years, from that point onwards the slower the growth the more valuable the wood becomes. Marketable wood may be estimated at a 25 years' growth.

The following statement shows the quantity and value of the sandalwood exported from Western Australia during the years ended the 30th June, 1908 and 1909 respectively.

Countries to which Exported.	Year ended 30th June, 1908.		Year ended 30th June, 1909.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	cwts.	£	cwts.	£
United Kingdom .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Ceylon .. .. .	..	..	..	..
India	12,919	5,010	5,942	2,273
Hong Kong	187,877	74,383	78,160	30,853
Singapore	1,487	512	2,498	968
China	12,953	4,688	31,244	11,769
France .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Germany .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Holland .. .. .	..	..	..	..
United States of America	292	95	..	..
Total	215,528	84,688	117,844	45,863

From the above it will be seen that for the year ended the 30th June, 1908, the value of sandalwood exported was £84,688, while the exports for the year under review amounted to £45,863, showing a decrease of £38,825.

The royalty charge of 5s. per ton imposed on all sandalwood cut on Crown lands has greatly increased the revenue derived from this source during the year under review, and has reached the record figures of £1,389 10s. 1d.

For the same period before the royalty was imposed, and when the wood was obtained under

monthly license, the revenue from this source amounted to £215 only.

MALLET BARK EXPORT.

The following statements show the quantity and value of bark exported during the year ended the 30th June, 1908 and 1909, respectively. No record being kept by the Customs of shipments to the Eastern States, I am only able to show what was exported beyond the Commonwealth:—

Countries to which Exported.	Year ended 30th June, 1908.		Year ended 30th June, 1909.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	cwts.	£	cwts.	£
United Kingdom	74	27	21	13
New Zealand	540	203		
Singapore				
Belgium	28,304	10,614	9,050	3,393
Germany	196,481	69,498	116,101	43,498
Italy	500	188		
United States of America	500	188		
Total	226,399	80,718	125,172	46,904

The supply of Mallet Bark has fallen off very considerably during the year under review, owing in a great measure to the country being cut out as regards matured trees and the long distances the bark has to be carted to the sidings. The largest quantity has been procured from the country in the vicinity of the rabbit-proof fence, and the prices have ranged from £4 to £4 5s. per ton delivered at the railway station or sidings.

From the above statement it will be seen that the exports of this bark have decreased greatly during the last year. Those for the year ended the 30th June, 1908, amounted to £80,718, while the exports for the year ended the 30th June, 1909, only came to £46,904; thus showing a decrease of £33,814.

FIREWOOD SUPPLIES ON THE EASTERN AND MURCHISON GOLDFIELDS.

On the Eastern Goldfields the marked increase in firewood consumption on the Kalgoorlie-Boulder belt, which took place last year, has again been maintained this year. This is attributable to the increase and additions to treatment plants; the consumption of firewood for the year under review being 498,940 tons, of the value of £330,541, delivered at the various mines' sidings.

The supplies are brought in from the bush by three timber tramways constructed under Section 127a of "The Land Act Amendment Act, 1902," viz., the West Australia Goldfields Firewood Supply, Ltd., headquarters and works at Kurrawang; the Kalgoorlie and Boulder Firewood Co., at Lakeside; and the Westralia Timber and Firewood Co., with works at Kurramia.

The total value of the plant of these companies is estimated at £221,500, and they give direct employment to 1,120 men, representing all classes of skilled and unskilled labour; besides a large number of wage earners whose living is indirectly made from this source.

One hundred and sixteen miles of tramway are now in use, 3ft. 6in. gauge, most of which is laid on

Salmon Gum (*E. salmonopholia*) sleepers. Many of these have been in use for over four years, have so far resisted the attacks of white ants, and show no signs of the fungus of dry rot which attacks the Jarrah on the high dry tableland of the Goldfields.

These sleepers might almost be termed a by-product of the firewood and mining timber industry, as they are sawn from the twisted and shortgrained butts of the logs that are unsuitable for the first purpose.

These sleepers show but very slight indentation under the seat of the rail, and will stand re-dogging a number of times. As 90 per cent. of renewals are necessitated by this cause, the importance of this fact is a serious consideration on these timber tramways, where spur lines are frequently pulled up and re-laid in new bush. A comparison of the strengths of Salmon Gum and Jarrah from the tables of tests made with the authority of the Government of Western Australia by Mr. G. A. Julius, B.Sc.M.E., clearly shows how suitable Salmon Gum is to withstand the various strains under these conditions.

The completion of the Norseman railway has opened up a large area of well-timbered country, which will produce a large amount of sound timber suitable for mining props, both for the Kalgoorlie and Norseman Goldfields, as well as for some of the more Northern centres that are outside the Salmon Gum and Gimlet belt of timber country.

Appreciable decreases in firewood consumption have taken place in the following mining districts:—Kanowna, Broad Arrow, Coolgardie, Kookynie, Bulong, whereas considerable increases have been made at Southern Cross, Leonora, Lancefield, and Sandstone. Most of the other mining centres remaining about the same.

Southern Cross.—The mines are situated in a well-timbered area and distributed over a big auriferous belt, so that the future supplies for the district give no cause for anxiety as regards maintaining an adequate supply for many years.

Leonora.—The Gwalia mines are the principal consumers of firewood, and these continue to draw their

supplies from the narrow gauge tramway, extending about 20 miles in S.S.W. direction from Gwalia. Their consumption for the past year being 29,578 tons, the firewood under the zone of operations of this tramway is estimated to be equal to over four years' supply at the present rate of consumption. About 65 men find continual employment on this timber tramway. The remaining mines in the district draw their supplies by road.

Black Range and Sandstone.—The mines in these districts are still drawing their fuel supplies from the surrounding bush by horse teams, and on account of the recent progress of this goldfield difficulty is often experienced in maintaining an adequate supply in wet weather when the roads are bad. The completion of the Magnet-Sandstone railway will, however, ensure a safe supply in the near future, as this line will open up a large belt of Mulga suitable for firewood. It will at the same time, materially reduce the price of mining timber, which at present is an excessive charge on development work in the mining industry, due to the scarcity of suitable timber in the district.

At Lancefield operations were resumed at the principal mine in the district after four months' cessation of work, caused by the re-modelling of the treatment plant. A light tramway, 24in. gauge, brings the wood in from the adjacent Mulga forest to the mine. As the daily consumption is about 120 tons, this was the only means of providing a reliable supply of firewood. About £18,000 has been invested in the plant, which is very complete, but it will need continual additions in the way of rails and sleepers, for to maintain this supply over three square miles of country must be cut per month. About 70 men are permanently employed in various capacities.

Timber Tramway Permits.—The following table gives the particulars of the timber tramway licensees carrying on operations during the year ending June 30th, 1909:—

Name of Licensee.	No. of Permit.	District.
W.A. Goldfields Firewood Supply, Ltd.	10/802	Coolgardie.
Kalgoorlie and Boulder Firewood Co., Ltd.	32/802	E. Coolgardie.
Westralia Timber and Firewood Co., Ltd.	35/802	N.E. Coolgardie.
Sons of Gwalia G.M. (operated by K. & B. Co.)	36/802	Leonora.
Kalgoorlie and Boulder Firewood Co.	42/802	Mt. Margaret.
Murchison Firewood Co. ....	...	Cue.

Murchison Goldfield.—The recent satisfactory advancement in mining at several centres, notably

Meekatharra and Wiluna, has caused a heavy drain on the firewood resources of the local Mulga forests. At the former place, the position will be much improved by the extension of the railway from Nannine to this centre, as this will open up a large tract of fairly well timbered country, and thus ensure a good supply of wood fuel. At Wiluna there is at present no prospect of improving the position, and during the wet season supplies of firewood are only maintained with difficulty, and mining timber is almost at a prohibitive price. Should developments continue satisfactorily in the district, the only way to maintain a supply will be by means of a light timber tramway.

Cue and Day Dawn are still supplied by the timber tramway extending eastward from Nallan. There has been rather a falling off in the demand for firewood lately, but this may be looked upon as merely temporary.

Mt. Magnet is the only other mining centre on this goldfield which demands a fair supply of firewood, and although difficulty has been experienced in maintaining supplies, the construction of the railway from Magnet to Sandstone will overcome any present difficulties and open up a good area of suitable firewood country for the use of the mines in this locality.

Owing to the increased demand for agricultural land, large areas of Crown lands are being thrown open for selection in touch with the Goldfields railways. Frequently on this land there is much good Salmon Gum, which has a marketable value. Along the Eastern Goldfields railway, a number of reserves were made with a view of protecting certain portions of this country, and the rapid advance of agricultural settlement along this railway points to the fact that unless these areas are vigorously reserved, the future supplies of mining timber will be in danger of being much curtailed. Certain sidings along the railway that only three years ago were surrounded by thick Salmon Gum and Gimlet forests are now the centres of extensive wheat paddocks, and precautions must be taken lest, in advancing one industry, a concomitant industry is jeopardised by the curtailment of a commodity most necessary to its advancement.

INSPECTION OF TIMBER LANDS.

During the year under review there has been a considerable increase in land selection throughout the State, and a large number of Conditional Purchase and Homestead Farm applications have been referred to the various rangers for inspection as regards timber. Every effort has been made to expedite these inspections, but owing to the long distances to be travelled, and the large number of applications to be dealt with, it has been found impossible to have the blocks reported on as quickly as I should have wished.

INSPECTION OF TIMBER FOR EXPORT.

1. The following table shows the quantity of railway sleepers and other timber inspected and branded by the various inspectors of the Department during

the year ended 30th June last, and the countries to which same were sent.

2. During the year above-mentioned inspection fees to the amount of £2,968 were collected by the Department.

Country to which Exported.	Number of Sleepers.	Number of Paving Blocks.	Pile, Beams, Scantlings, etc., in Loads.
New Zealand	121,676	86,630	1,502 21/50 loads
Ceylon	104,925	..	..
South Australia	64,163	..	157 7/50 loads
Suakim	195,112	..	..
Soudan	73,112	..	..
Bombay (India)	31,211	..	..
Madras (India)	532	..	..
Mombassa	7,280	..	2,350 8/50 loads
Burmah	9,087	..	..
Karachi, India	660,685	..	..
South America	25,535	..	..
South Africa	3,823	..	..
United Kingdom	967	..	246 4/50 loads
Singapore	9,259	..	..
Manilla	7,166	..	116 pieces
Rotterdam .. .. .	..	..	55 2/50 loads
Antwerp .. .. .	..	..	154 11/50 loads
China .. .. .	..	..	20 pieces
	1,314,533	86,630	4,485 3/50 loads 136 pieces

ALIENATION OF TIMBER COUNTRY.

1. Although I have in the past on many occasions plainly expressed my opinions in regard to this question, I desire to again place my views on record.

2. This matter is one of vital importance to the community at large, and there is no doubt that the time has arrived when we cannot afford to alienate any more forest lands. In the past large areas of land have been alienated at 10s. per acre which contained many pounds' worth of timber, and if this is still allowed to continue further large areas of forest will be allowed to pass into the hands of the selector to be ring-barked or cleared. The granting of valuable timber country under Conditional Purchase is not at present possible in such a wholesale manner as in the past, for all such country is inspected by a forest ranger prior to selection being permitted, and if the land is found to contain timber of commercial value, it is retained for forest purposes. Unrestricted liberty, however, in selecting land in forest country obtained for so many years that the public are averse to all restrictions or regulations, and bring political and other influences to bear to obtain the land they desire, and it is with the greatest difficulty even now that the alienation of timber land can be prevented altogether.

3. A great deal of time and money is spent in inspecting applications for land in forest country, and this might all be saved if the land were surveyed before selection instead of afterwards. All the timber country could then be reserved and the land suitable for cultivation thrown open for selection.

4. It is doubtful if for many years to come money will be provided for any extensive scheme of re-forestation, and if it were, it is very problematical if it would repay the very large expenditure that would be necessary. To reserve areas of forests for all time which contain a better growth naturally than can ever be grown artificially is obviously then the easier and wiser plan.

No proper or continuous system of forestry can be established in Western Australia until our forest areas are permanently dedicated to the State, and there is no doubt that the time has now arrived when this should be done.

One of the greatest faults in our present system is the impossibility of retaining intact our forest reserves. The cry is, this land is suitable for selection, cut it up and throw it open to settlement. It is in vain to point out that the land is eminently suited for timber and practically useless for farming. The land is alienated and the forest destroyed never to be replaced. The history of the forests of the Eastern States, in fact of the whole world, is being repeated, and until a strong feeling in favour of forestry is aroused in the public mind, I fear grave injury to our forests and the community as a whole will result.

The following extract from a recent Royal Commission on Forestry in New South Wales is interesting reading in this connection:—

"The land on which Cypress pine grows is easily prepared for wheat culture, and for a few years moderate crops of that grain are obtained without the application of fertilisers; consequently, in all the settled localities the unreserved land on which this timber is growing, or at one time grew, has been selected, and the authorities, yielding to pressure, have allowed many of our valuable reserves to be revoked and made open for settlement. The selectors, as a rule, have killed all the young saplings and seedlings and most of the trees of larger growth. This applies particularly to land in the counties of Nandewar, Pottinger, Ewenmar, Lincoln, Narromine, Kennedy, Ashburnham, Cunningham, Forbes, Gipps, Monteagle, Bland, Clarendon, Bourke, Cooper, Boyd, Mitchell, Hume, Urana, and Denison. In many other instances the pastoralists on their freeholds and on improvement leases, scrub leases, special leases, and occupation licenses have ruinously, in a forestry sense, destroyed the young pine growth and many of

the mature pine trees. A general condition in these leases, including leases of forest reserves, in which this wholesale destruction of pine has obtained, has been to kill every tree, sapling, and seedling within certain distances, ranging in at least one forest reserve to 60 feet apart, so that very little provision has been made for the supply of pine from such lands for the immediate future, and none at all for, say, twenty years hence. On the New England westerly slopes, saplings, which if they had been left, would have grown to trees of milling size, have been cut down in tens of thousands by miners and others for stake fences, out-buildings, etc., and the scarcity of trees fit for mill logs in that part of the State is now

very pronounced. Again, throughout the Western Slopes and Western Plains, within easy reach of nearly every well-settled locality, the supply of this practically indispensable timber is now inadequate, and already large quantities of it are being carted or trained, or carted and trained distances ranging from 40 to nearly 200 miles to places where this timber was formerly plentiful."

The facts detailed in the above extract show the serious position of affairs in New South Wales, and should serve as a warning to the inhabitants of this State, for if this condition of affairs is allowed to continue in Western Australia it will lead to the practical extinction of our forests.