

1916.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WOODS AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1915,

BY

C. G. RICHARDSON,

ACTING INSPECTOR GENERAL OF FORESTS.

PERTH:

BY AUTHORITY: FRED. WM. SIMPSON, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1916.

WOODS AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT.

Report by the Acting Inspector General of Forests.

Woods and Forests Department,
Perth, 8th May, 1916.

The Under Secretary for Mines.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Hon. the Minister, my Seventeenth Annual Report upon the operations of the Woods and Forests Department for the year ended the 31st December, 1915.

I have, etc.,

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

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 to 30th June, 1906	10,973 18 4	3,385 1 9
1st July, 1906, to 30th June, 1907	22,783 1 5	6,207 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
1st July, 1909, to 30th June, 1910	31,549 6 11	8,531 0 9
1st July, 1910, to 30th June, 1911	37,477 3 5	8,862 16 8
1st July, 1911, to 30th June, 1912	44,560 10 10	10,469 4 10
1st July, 1912, to 30th June, 1913	48,236 14 0	11,463 2 11
1st July, 1913, to 30th June, 1914	53,038 16 0	12,092 15 3
6 months, 30th June to 31st December, 1914	22,906 0 0	5,468 14 0
1st January to 31st December, 1915	45,725 13 9	8,869 15 11
	549,451 15 7	128,365 0 11

It will be seen from the above statement that to the 31st December, 1915, the revenue exceeded the expenditure by the large sum of £421,108 14s. 11d.

Revenue and Expenditure for the year ended the 31st December, 1915.

The Revenue derived from the forests of the State for the year under review amounted to £45,725 13s. 9d., which is a decrease of £8,256 12s. 3d., as compared with the previous year.

The details of the revenue for the years ended the 31st December, 1914 and 1915, respectively, are as follow:—

	1914.	1915.
Rents on Timber Leases	£9,144 14 9	£13,427 6 10
Timber Licenses, Royalty on Timber and Sandalwood	£37,870 4 9	£27,795 8 11
Timber Inspection Fees	£6,962 6 6	£4,502 18 0

The revenue from license fees, royalty, and inspection fees has markedly decreased every month throughout the year under review. This decrease is owing to the collapse of the timber industry; most of the mills having had to close down and the hewers having ceased cutting on Crown Lands, the conditions arising from the War having rendered the sale and shipment of timber overseas almost impossible.

The total expenditure of the Department for the year ended the 31st December last amounted to £8,869 15s. 11d., the details of which are as follow:—

<i>Total Expenditure of the Department.</i>	
Salaries and Allowances	£7,981 16 4
Maintaining State Nursery, Pine, Wattle, and Sandalwood plantations	163 17 10
Incidental Expenses	649 19 11
Workers' Compensation	15 0 0
Re-afforestation	59 1 10
	£8,869 15 11

PINE PLANTING.

During the year under review a further area of one hundred acres of land was planted with pines at the Ludlow plantation, near Busselton.

The plantation, which now embraces about 1,000 acres planted, presents a very fine appearance, and should do much to encourage the planting of softwoods in the future.

STATE NURSERY.

The following list shows the various species and numbers of trees raised during last season at the Nursery:—

List of Trees and Shrubs raised in the State Nursery.

<i>Acacia Baileyana</i>	Silver Weeping Wattle (N.S.W.)	1,540
" <i>decurrans</i>	Black Wattle (N.S.W.)	2,714
" <i>dealbata</i>	Silver Wattle (Queensland)	1,978
" <i>melanozylon</i>	Blackwood Tree	484
" <i>podalyfloria</i>		242
<i>Araucaria Bidwilli</i>	Queensland Pine	28
<i>Agonis flexuosa</i>	Peppermint (W.A.)	80
<i>Ceretonia siliqua</i>	Carob Bean	3,340
<i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i>	Californian Cypress	7,000
" <i>sempervirens</i>	The common Cypress	5,254
" <i>toralosa</i>	The Nepal Cypress	1,848
<i>Eucalyptus corynocalyx</i>	Sugar Gum (S.A.)	9,644
" <i>globulus</i>	Blue Gum	4,156
" <i>ficifolia</i>	Red Flowering Gum	4,495
" <i>rudis</i>	Flooded Gum	966
<i>Erythrina Indica</i>	Coral Tree	300
<i>Ficus macrophylla</i>	Morton Bay Fig	988
" <i>Australis</i>	Pt. MacQuarie Fig	1,200
<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	Silky Oak	648
<i>Lagunaria Patersonii</i>	Pyramid Tree (N.Z.)	711
<i>Laurus camphora</i>	Camphor Laurel	2,238
<i>Pinus pinaster</i>	Maritime Pine	5,564
<i>Pinus insignis</i>	Remarkable Pine	138,921
<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	Cheesewood	1,470
<i>Platanus Orientalis</i>	Plane Tree	2,484
<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>	Date Palm	342
<i>Robinia Pseudo Acacia</i>	False Acacia	3,198
<i>Sterculia acerifolia</i>	Queensland Flame Tree	676
<i>Sterculia diversifolia</i>	Kurrajong Tree	4,200
<i>Schinus molle</i>	Pepper Tree	8,441
<i>Tristania conferta</i>	White Box	216
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	Arbor vitæ	1,012
	Total	216,378

Distribution of Trees.

During the year under review numerous applications were received for trees for planting by Municipalities, Roads Boards, Schools, Churches, Public Parks, etc., etc., and from settlers throughout the State.

About 100,000 trees were distributed during the season.

Many letters have been received from public bodies and private persons eulogising the splendid manner in which the trees are packed and sent out from the Nursery at Hamel, under the supervision of the Manager, Mr. MacFarlane.

TIMBER IMPORTS.

The following return shows the quantity and value of the timber imported into Western Australia during the years ended the 31st December, 1914 and 1915, respectively, the various articles and the countries from which they were imported:—

Year ended 31st December, 1914.			Year ended 31st December, 1914.		
Articles and Countries.	Quantity.	Value.	Articles and Countries.	Quantity.	Value.
<i>Timber—Mouldings, etc.:</i>	sup. ft.	£	<i>Rims (N.E.I.):</i>	No.	£
Other States of Australia .. .. .	..	662	United States of America	7	3
<i>Bent or cut into shape:</i>			Other States of Australia	544	122
United Kingdom .. .. .	..	11		551	125
United States of America .. .. .	..	66			
Norway .. .. .	..	2			
	..	79	<i>Shafts, Poles, etc.:</i>		
			United Kingdom .. .. .	..	50
<i>Dressed, N.E.I.:</i>			United States of America .. .. .	..	229
United Kingdom	9,400	88	Other States of Australia .. .. .	..	1,020
United States of America	729,100	6,858			1,299
Germany	144,200	1,063	<i>Spokes (dressed) not Hickory:</i>		
Belgium	97,700	694	Other States of Australia	69,150	1,419
Norway	1,360,300	8,858			
Sweden	756,900	5,742	<i>Spokes (dressed) Hickory:</i>		
Straits Settlements	18,800	177	United Kingdom	600	17
Other States of Australia	38,036	484	United States of America	35,317	475
	3,154,436	23,964	Other States of Australia	3,977	97
				39,894	589
<i>For making Boxes and Doors:</i>			<i>Staves:</i>		
United Kingdom	32,200	508	Other States of Australia	9,700	112
Germany	2,500	66			
Straits Settlements	24,800	170	<i>Undressed (N.E.I.), less than 7ft. x 2½in.:</i>	sup. ft.	
Norway	3,500	31	United Kingdom	33,300	493
Holland	1,800	39	United States of America	2,224,400	16,788
Sweden	20,600	196	Straits Settlements	54,400	697
Belgium	1,300	21	Sweden	63,300	412
Other States of Australia	121,502	1,381	Norway	90,900	422
	208 202	2,412		2,466,300	18,812
<i>Undressed for making Boxes and Doors:</i>			<i>Undressed (N.E.I.) in sizes less than 7ft. 6in. x 10in. x 2½in. for door stocks:</i>		
United Kingdom	104,400	1,094	United States of America	282,200	3,225
Germany	103,600	880			
Straits Settlements	133,500	717	<i>Undressed (N.E.I.) in sizes of 7ft. x 2½in. and upwards, and less than 12ft. x 6in.:</i>		
Norway	326,500	2,682	United Kingdom	1,800	45
Sweden	605,300	5,579	Straits Settlements	15,000	365
	1,273,300	10,952	United States of America	3,591,200	29,418
<i>Hickory (Undressed):</i>			Germany	14,300	162
United States of America	300	4	Norway	86,100	423
			Sweden	187,800	1,841
<i>Hubs (Elm):</i>	No.			3,896,200	32,254
United States of America	384	67	<i>Undressed (N.E.I.) in sizes of 12ft. x 6in. and over:</i>		
<i>Hubs, prepared (other):</i>			United Kingdom	100	6
Other States of Australia	232	22	India	40,900	1,900
			Java	600	1
<i>Laths for Blinds:</i>			United States of America	3,891,606	23,232
Other States of Australia .. .. .	..	78	Straits Settlements	300	3
<i>Laths (N.E.I.):</i>			Other States of Australia	698,064	8,867
United States of America	1,484,000	1,644		4,591,570	34,009
Other States of Australia	11,000	21	<i>Veneers (3-ply):</i>		
	1,495,000	1,665	United Kingdom	20,200	884
			Belgium	1,700	13
<i>New Zealand Pine:</i>	sup. ft.		Germany	47,200	1,315
Other States of Australia	155,866	2,118	Norway	1,500	35
			Sweden	26,500	622
<i>Picture and Room Mouldings:</i>			United States of America	400	30
United States of America .. .. .	..	1,147		97,500	2,899
Germany .. .. .	..	931	<i>Veneers (N.E.I.):</i>		
Norway .. .. .	..	83	Belgium	400	96
Other States of Australia .. .. .	..	36	Germany	4,500	176
	..	2,197		4,900	272
<i>Rims and Felloes of Hickory:</i>					
United Kingdom .. .. .	..	9			
United States of America .. .. .	..	585			
	..	594	Total .. .. .	..	139,829

TIMBER IMPORTS—continued.

Year ended 31st December, 1915.			Year ended 31st December, 1915.		
Articles and Countries.	Quantity.	Value.	Articles and Countries.	Quantity.	Value.
<i>Timber—Mouldings, etc.:</i>	sup. ft.	£	<i>Rims (N.E.I.):</i>	No.	£
Commonwealth of Australia, other States .. .. .	..	753	Commonwealth of Australia, other States	566	147
<i>Bent or cut, dressed or partly dressed, N.E.I.:</i>			<i>Shafts (N.E.I.):</i>		
United Kingdom .. .. .	..	81	United States .. .. .	..	257
United States .. .. .	..	103	Commonwealth of Australia, other States .. .. .	..	1,054
Norway .. .. .	..	39		..	1,311
	..	223	<i>Spokes, dressed (Hickory):</i>		
<i>Dressed (N.E.I.):</i>			United States	22,080	446
United States	38,100	714	Commonwealth of Australia, other States	5,216	159
Norway	29,600	299		27,296	605
Commonwealth of Australia, other States	96,590	1,555	<i>Spokes, dressed (not Hickory):</i>		
	164,290	2,568	Commonwealth of Australia, other States	46,010	861
<i>For Boxes or Doors, cut, shaped, and dressed:</i>			<i>Staves (Undressed):</i>	No.	
United Kingdom	16,200	233	United States	6,000	192
Sweden	21,500	226	<i>Undressed, less than 7ft. x 2½in.:</i>	sup. ft.	
Straits Settlements	800	15	United Kingdom	90,800	937
Commonwealth of Australia, other States	58,835	726	United States	363,600	2,968
	97,335	1,200	Japan	31,000	492
<i>For Boxes or Doors (Undressed):</i>			Straits Settlements	33,800	282
United Kingdom	8,200	75	Sweden	3,800	40
Straits Settlements	201,900	1,038	Norway	21,700	191
Norway	59,600	725		544,700	4,910
Sweden	843,000	8,144	<i>Undressed, 7ft. x 2½in. upwards, and less than 12ft. x 6in.:</i>		
	1,112,700	9,982	United Kingdom	2,600	28
<i>Hickory (Undressed):</i>			United States	374,500	2,628
United States	1,700	57	France	3,000	20
<i>Hubs (Elm):</i>	No.		South African Union	2,500	5
United States	308	105	Straits Settlements	16,700	166
<i>Laths for Blinds:</i>			Japan	3,600	44
Commonwealth of Australia, other States .. .. .	..	114	Sweden	1,700	19
<i>Laths (N.E.I.):</i>			Norway	34,300	255
United States	65,540	104	New Zealand	21,200	176
Commonwealth of Australia, other States	18,000	19		460,100	3,341
	83,540	123	<i>Undressed, (N.E.I.) 12ft. x 6in. and over:</i>		
<i>Logs, not sawn, and Spars in the rough:</i>	sup. ft.		United States	284,800	1,163
Norway	511	22	Commonwealth of Australia, other States	644,004	8,898
<i>New Zealand Pine:</i>				928,804	10,061
New Zealand	221,000	1,744	<i>Veneers (3-ply):</i>		
Commonwealth of Australia, other States	21,457	242	United Kingdom	54,700	2,191
	233,457	1,986	United States	200	10
<i>Picture and Room Mouldings:</i>				54,900	2,201
United Kingdom .. .. .	..	83	<i>Veneers (N.E.I.):</i>		
United States .. .. .	..	1,057	United Kingdom .. .. .	..	17
Norway .. .. .	..	124	Commonwealth of Australia, other States .. .. .	..	255
Commonwealth of Australia, other States .. .. .	..	125		..	272
	..	1,389	Total .. .. .	..	42,829
<i>Rims and Felloes:</i>					
United States .. .. .	..	406			

From the foregoing return, it will seem that for the year ended the 31st December, 1914, the value of the timber imported into Western Australia amounted to £139,829, while for the same period ended the 31st December, 1915, the imports amounted to £42,829, being a decrease of £97,000.

7

TIMBER EXPORTS.

The following return shows the quantity and value of the timber exported from Western Australia during the years ended the 31st December, 1914 and 1915, respectively, and the various countries to which same was sent:—

Year ended 31st December, 1914.			Year ended 31st December, 1915.		
Countries.	Quantity.	Value.	Countries.	Quantity.	Value.
	sup. ft.	£		sup. ft.	£
<i>Timber—Dressed (Other):</i>					
Commonwealth of Australia, other States	43	2			
<i>Undressed (Other):</i>			<i>Timber (Undressed):</i>		
United Kingdom	18,641,588	124,691	United Kingdom	8,083,745	54,890
Ceylon	1,077,540	7,871	Ceylon	4,804,518	33,163
India	20,696,743	134,060	India	2,423,376	16,157
South African Union	42,738,014	292,590	South African Union	21,958,443	152,360
Mauritius	388,344	2,539	Mauritius	654,895	4,366
New Zealand	12,351,169	81,803	New Zealand	7,099,637	49,186
Belgium	1,801,876	12,054			
Egypt	86,360	577			
Portuguese East Africa	317,484	2,116			
Uruguay	1,334,632	8,971	Straits Settlements	599	4
Germany	128,685	861			
China	2,582,441	17,764			
Commonwealth of Australia, other States	50,402,737	334,614	Commonwealth of Australia, other States	38,563,803	258,295
<i>Spokes, Rims, Felloes, Hubs (Undressed):</i>			<i>Spokes, Rims, Felloes, Hubs (Undressed):</i>		
Commonwealth of Australia, other States .. .. .	..	144	Commonwealth of Australia, other States .. .. .	..	107
Total	152,547,613	1,020,705	Total	83,589,016	568,528

From the above statements it will be seen that for the year ended the 31st December, 1914, the value of the timber exported from the State amounted to £1,020,705, while the exports for the same period ended the 31st December, 1915, amounted to £568,528, being a decrease of £452,177.

This falling off is accounted for by the unsatisfactory condition of the timber industry during the year under review. Trade with the Eastern States diminished considerably, and the export of timber overseas fell off tremendously, owing to the war and consequent scarcity of ships.

Nearly all the mills had to close down, and hold very large stocks of timber, which it was impossible to get rid of owing to the shortage of tonnage.

The hewing industry also was seriously affected by the above mentioned causes, with the result that there are now very few hewers left, and large quantities of hewn sleepers are lying stacked throughout the South-West awaiting shipment.

SANDALWOOD EXPORTS.

The following return shows the quantity and value of the Sandalwood exported from this State during the years ended the 31st December, 1914 and 1915, respectively:—

Countries to which Exported.	Year ended 31st Dec., 1914.		Year ended 31st Dec., 1915.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	cwt.	£	cwt.	£
Hong Kong	111,067	46,891	106,867	47,034
India	8,240	4,109	11,680	6,524
Straits Settlements	6,921	4,041	15,720	9,456
China	26,142	10,716	40,650	20,437
Japan	240	162	120	78
United Kingdom .. .. .	..	..	3	2
Commonwealth of Australia and other States .. .. .	..	..	160	123
Total	152,610	65,919	175,200	83,654

From the above it will be seen that for the year ended the 31st December, 1914, the value of the Sandalwood exported from the State amounted to £65,919, while the exports for the same period ended the 31st December, 1915, amounted to £83,654, being an increase of £17,735 over the previous year. The revenue derived from royalty on this wood during the year under review amounted to £2,048 17s. 4d.

MALLET BARK EXPORTS.

The following returns show the quantity and value of the Mallet Bark exported from Western Australia during the years ended the 31st December, 1914 and 1915, respectively:—

Countries to which Exported	Year ended 31st Dec., 1914.		Year ended 31st Dec., 1915.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
United Kingdom	cwt. 113	£ 46	cwt. 1	£ 1
Java .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	3,640	£ 1,547
Belgium	21,636	8,774	.. .. .	.. .. .
Germany	15,196	5,831	.. .. .	.. .. .
Commonwealth of Australia and other States	16,081	8,172	11,156	5,784
Total	53,026	22,823	14,797	7,332

From the above returns, it will be seen that for the year ended the 31st December, 1914, the value of the Mallet Bark exported from the State amounted to £22,823, while the exports for the same period ended the 31st December, 1915, amounted to £7,332, being a decrease of £15,491.

FIELD STAFF.

At the commencement of the year the field staff consisted of 24 permanent and five temporary rangers.

Owing to the closing down of sawmills and the cessation of sleeper hewing on Crown Lands, it became necessary to reduce the staff, which at the end of the year consisted of 20 permanent Rangers; the services of all the temporary rangers having been dispensed with.

SAWMILL PERMITS.

The following return shows the Sawmill permits in existence up to the 31st December, 1915:

Name.	Number.	Area.	District.
Bunning, Robert	8/11	4,700	Wellington.
Bunning Brothers	9/11	10,000	do.
Preston Valley Sawmills, Ltd.	10/11	19,800	Nelson.
Swan Saw Mills, Ltd.	13/11	2,633	Preston.
Swan Saw Mills, Ltd.	14/11	9,000	do.
Bunning, Robert	15/11	5,300	Wellington.
Adelaide Timber Co., Ltd.	16/11	15,775	do.
Swan Saw Mills, Ltd.	19/11	1,000	do.
Bunning Brothers, Ltd.	25/11	10,000	do.
South-West Timber Hewers' Co-operative Society, Ltd.	27/11	20,001	Collie.
Port & Co., Ltd.	34/11	28,510	Murray.
Timber Corporation, Ltd.	35/11	6,800	Nelson.
Bunning Brothers, Ltd.	36/11	10,000	Wellington.
Lewis, F. J. and Reid, F. W. S.	37/11	19,730	do.
Wilgarrup Karri and Jarrah Co., Ltd.	42/11	23,000	Nelson.
Buckingham Brothers	44/11	18,000	Wellington.
South-West Timber Hewers' Co-operative Society, Ltd.	60/11	38,000	do.
The Kauri Timber Co., Ltd.	61/11	58,000	Nelson.
Bunning, Robert	63/11	8,000	Wellington.
Wandoo Timber Co., Ltd.	68/11	35,800	Collie.
South-West Timber Hewers' Co-operative Society, Ltd.	69/11	4,997	Murray.
Trees, Ltd.	71/11	20,023	Wellington.
Young, F. M., Power, C., Steer, F. W.	72/11	1,500	do.
Nelson Co-operative Timber Society, Ltd.	73/11	7,000	Palgarup.
Behsmann, George	75/11	5,670	Murray.
Whittaker Brothers	76/11	20,000	do.
Denmark Timber Co., Ltd.	77/11	31,000	Denmark.
Commissioner of Railways	78/11	81,500	Dwellingup.
Minister for Works and Industries	79/11	36,870	Murray.
Minister for Works and Industries	80/11	25,740	Wellington.
Minister for Works and Industries	81/11	25,878	Murray.
Minister for Works and Industries	82/11	4,750	Wellington.