

1946.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA:

REPORT

on the operations of

THE FORESTS DEPARTMENT

for the

YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1946

by

T. N. STOATE, M. Sc. (Adel.), Dip. For. (Oxon.)

CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS

PERTH:

BY AUTHORITY: WILLIAM H. WYATT, GOVERNMENT PRINTER,
1946.

Annual Report of the Operations of the Forests Department for the Year ended 30th June, 1946.

INTRODUCTION.

Although it is almost a year since hostilities ceased, the activities of the Forests Department are still, of necessity, restricted to a maintenance schedule. It has not yet been possible to undertake any of the works such as regeneration cleaning in the jarrah and karri forests, mallet sowing, pine planting and tending, and the extension of fire protection, which have been suspended during the war years.

Measures involved in the regulation of the cut and control of the timber industry, continued protection of the protected area from fire, maintenance as far as possible of tracks of access, and the rendering of assistance to sawmillers in timber falling and hauling, construction of railway lines, etc., have comprised the activities of the Department.

Production of sawn timber during the year, amounting to 8,883,888 cubic feet and valued at £1,700,000, does not yet reflect the return of more normal conditions to the industry.

Following the lifting of manpower control after hostilities ceased, the timber industry lost a number of men who had carried on to advanced age during the war, and some to other occupations. It was not for a time that the resultant shortage of mill staff was overhauled by the return of service men to the industry, so that in the latter half of 1945 production of sawn timber dropped, hence the very small increase of 120,000 cubic feet for the year as compared with production for the previous year. The industry remains still seriously undermanned.

Due to shortages of labour and material, little progress has been made in working areas in the lower South-West which were made available to sawmillers two years ago. With existing mills fully manned, the output which for the current financial year was approximately nine million cubic feet should be in the vicinity of 10 million cubic feet per annum. The establishment of the new mills should raise the production level to more than 12½ million cubic feet per annum.

Timber control, which had been in operation since 1940, ceased on 31st December, 1945. The Commonwealth Forestry Bureau, Canberra, became the Forestry and Timber Bureau, and its functions were extended to include timber planning for the Commonwealth in addition to its former field in research and education. The Conservator of Forests in this State acts as liaison with the Commonwealth Bureau.

With the closure of the Timber Control Office, the responsibility for keeping the industry supplied with tools and machinery passed to hardware merchants supplying through normal trade channels. Sawmillers report that at the end of the financial year the shortage of plant and equipment for maintenance and new construction has been more acute than at any time during the war.

The immediate post-war period, bringing problems of housing supply, changing organisation in industry, fruit case shortages, to mention but few, entails a high degree of planning and control, responsibility which devolves largely upon this Department.

The Department has been placed in a serious position through losses of its professional staff to private enterprise and other appointments in the Eastern States. A most serious loss occurred through the appointment of the Conservator, Mr. S. L. Kessell, to the Australian Newsprint Mills. A reorganisation has had to be effected to enable the Department to carry on with the greatly reduced staff remaining.

During the year, two officers were loaned by the Department to the Australian Forestry School, Canberra, for specialist lectures in forest engineering and fire control.

In the light of dry conditions experienced, the 1945-46 fire season was remarkable for the limited extent of fire damage. Protective burning operations were severely curtailed by late winter rains, heavy falls being recorded even in late December. From then until March, however, only fifteen points of rain fell at the main Forest Meteorological Station at Dwellingup, and the degree of fire danger was maintained at a high level although no extreme temperatures were experienced. The area burned was one of the lowest yet recorded.

The organisation in this State for "Fire Prevention Week," proclaimed in early December by the Governor General, received varying degrees of support from local authorities and business firms. Through them were distributed and displayed slogans and posters and two bulletins, the first, a well-prepared brochure embracing effects of fire on the nation's economy and aspects of fire prevention and control; the second, issued by the Rural Fires Prevention Advisory Committee, containing speeches and radio talks made during the "week." This Department, in support of the campaign, staged successful demonstrations of fire equipment and technique at several country centres.

In clearing much of our wheatbelt, too little attention has been paid to the retention of shelter belts, woodlots, and in some instances, even shade trees. Farmers and country Road Boards are now faced with the task of repairing to some extent, the damage wrought, and in this connection applications are frequently

Export Overseas.—A limited quantity to keep open the markets which were so important to the sawmilling industry prior to the war, and which, particularly for Karri, it is necessary to retain against the time when increased production will be possible from the permits already granted but not yet being worked.

At the request of the sawmillers interested in exporting sawn timber to the Eastern States and overseas, the Assistant Conservator of Forests acts as Chairman of the Sawmillers' Advisory Committee, which was appointed during the war to consider and recommend details in connection with particular orders. This Committee now deals with:—

- (a) Applications from South Australian timber merchants, agents and consumers ;
- (b) The distribution of orders received from Victoria and South Australia amongst sawmillers according to their production capacity ;
- (c) Allocation of shipping space on vessels made available by the Australian Shipping Board for the Eastern States ;
- (d) The allocation amongst sawmillers of sleeper orders for the Commonwealth, South Australia and Western Australia authorised by the Commonwealth Controller of Timber.

This Department has, during the past year, rendered assistance to the Sawmilling Industry by making available a number of men for falling and bush tramline construction.

CASES AND CRATES.

Timber for the manufacture of cases and crates for the packing of fresh and dried fruits, processed foods and other manufactured goods became increasingly important under the impact of war demands.

Case production in this State amounts to 10 per cent. of the total timber production.

Following a request by the W.A. Fruit Case Distributors Association for assistance in planning fruit case supplies for the 1947 season, a survey was prepared of the overall case requirements for fresh fruit for the next twelve months.

The number of new fruit cases required for the twelve months to June, 1947, has been estimated as follows:—

Required for.	Class of Case.				Remarks.
	Dump.	$\frac{3}{4}$ flat.	Half Dump.	Dried fruit and other.	
Apple	1,500,000	...	...	...	Quantity as accepted by conference, 10-5-46. Deliveries, October to May. Provision of 200,000 desirable Seasoned case Packing, March to July, but some cases required earlier for making up.
Dried Vine Fruit ...	...	...	...	150,000	
Tomatoes ... ..	...	270,000	180,000	...	Allows 300,000 for Geraldton. Balance difficult to estimate as some second hand cases used. Geraldton crop May to October.
Stone Fruit and Pears ...	...	330,000	20,000	...	
Citrus	150,000	50,000	...	...	Allows for use of some second hand. Required May to December. Many second hand used. No provision for export grapes.
Grapes ... ..	...	50,000	...	...
Other Fresh Fruit ...	...	...	...	50,000	Bananas, etc.
Total	1,650,000	700,000	200,000	200,000	
		2,750,000			

According to the estimated output of the various mills, it appeared that there would be a considerable deficiency of dump cases for the year. In an endeavour to meet the anticipated shortage, forest areas for the sawmilling of cases exclusively were submitted to tender at a number of centres.

Unless additional small mills can be induced to operate on areas which are available for case production, it does not seem likely that the demand for dumps for fresh fruit can be fully met until additional mills for which provision has already been made in the general Working Plan are in full production.

The consumption of cases of other forms is estimated at 1,250,000 annually. These are produced largely in the small mills of the Metropolitan Area, but also at a number of other mills close to Perth. The total requirements of cases is therefore 4,000,000 per annum.

FIREWOOD PRODUCTION.

The total consumption of firewood for the year is estimated at 665,000 tons made up as follows :—

	tons.
Metropolitan Area	210,000
Goldfields Area	213,000
Mill Waste used for fuel at bush sawmills	131,000
Goldfields Water Supply Pumping Stations	45,000
Country centres	66,000
Total	665,000

The principal sources of supply were :—

	tons.
Goldfields Firewood Licenses issued by Department over Crown Lands	242,200
Mill Waste <i>ex</i> Bush Mills	175,600
Firewood Permits issued in South-West by Department over Crown Lands	99,500
Supplied by Forests Department, <i>ex</i> Alien, P.O.W. and Departmental Camps	74,900

The quantity of firewood being supplied to the Metropolitan Area by private contractors was insufficient to meet the requirements and it was found necessary for the Department to continue its assistance throughout the year. Most of the firewood supplied was produced in Civil Alien and Prisoner of War Camps. The Civil Aliens ceased operations in October, 1945, and the Prisoner of War Camp under the control of the Department in the Jarrahdale District closed down at the end of April. One P.O.W. Camp under the control of the Military Authorities continued to cut firewood for the Department until the end of the year. The total quantity produced for the Forests Department was 107,900 tons of which 69,500 tons were cut by P.O.W., 12,600 tons by Civil Aliens, 20,300 tons by Forests Department employees, and 5,400 tons were obtained from other sources. Stocks of firewood held in the bush at the close of the year amounted to 48,600 tons.

Since June, 1942, when the Forests Department was obliged to undertake the supply of firewood to assist in overcoming the shortage, the following quantities (excluding wood to No. 1 and No. 2 Goldfields Water Supply Pumps) have been supplied :—

Year ending—	tons.
30th June, 1943	30,302
30th June, 1944	57,799
30th June, 1945	59,619
30th June, 1946	62,299
Total	210,019

The labour offering for firewood cutting during the past year was very limited and without the assistance the Department was able to render, the Metropolitan Area would have been in a serious position regarding supplies. The shortage of rail transport made regular deliveries difficult and seriously affected the supply of mill waste. Over 50 per cent. of the Departmental firewood had to be brought to Perth by road.

On the Goldfields there was considerable disorganisation and loss of production following the lifting of manpower restrictions, but there was an easing in the labour position towards the end of the year when the trade presented a much more healthy appearance than it had for some time.

SANDALWOOD.

Following the cessation of hostilities, there was a revival of the Sandalwood industry both for export and the local distillation of sandalwood oil. During the year orders were placed with 70 sandalwood getters for 1,492 tons of wood, 835 tons of which was for export and the balance for oil distillation within the State.

The quantity of wood delivered is set out in the following statement :—

	For Oil Distillation.	For Export.
From Crown Lands	568 tons	207 tons
From Private Property .....	.....	9 tons
Total	568 tons	216 tons

Included in the wood supplied to Distillers were 51 tons of roots and butts sawn from the logs pulled for export. No sandalwood had been pulled for some time prior to the placing of these orders and consequently deliveries were somewhat slow in coming forward as most of the men previously engaged in the industry had disposed of their plant and those receiving orders had to re-equip themselves for the work and locate new areas on which to operate.

The price to the getters was increased by 30s. per ton.

Sandalwood exported for the year amounted to 143 tons valued at £7,584.

The quantity of sandalwood oil produced by local distillers during the year totalled 23,239 lb. and 19,937 lb., were exported.

OTHER FOREST PRODUCE.

An increase of 22,000 lineal feet is noted in the supply of piles and poles for the year. The production of mallet bark, 758 tons (528 tons last year) has been sufficient to meet local requirements. Tanning extracts to the value of £111,614 were exported.

FOREST PRODUCE NOT ELSEWHERE INCLUDED IN PRODUCTION TABLES, OBTAINED DURING YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1946.

Description of Forest Produce.	South-West Division and Agricultural Areas.	Northern Central and Eastern Goldfields.	Total.
Mining Timber* tons	10,062	8,775	18,837
Sleepers for Goldfields Woodlines cub. ft.	...	17,746	17,746
Firewood tons	213,787	59,901	273,688
Mill waste sold as firewood* tons	38,864	...	38,864
Mining Firewood tons	...	182,333	182,333
Mill waste used as fuel by sawmills* tons	131,285	...	131,285
Charcoal tons	304	854	1,158
Blackboy tons	28	...	28
Piles and Poles* lin. ft.	221,262	...	221,262
Fencing Posts and Rails No.	80,769	7,656	88,425
Mallet Bark* tons	758	...	758
Wandoo Timber for Tanning Extract* tons	39,332	...	39,332
Bean Sticks No.	188,340	2,100	190,440
Stone cub. yds.	3,668	...	3,668

* From Crown Lands and Private Property.

Note.—Except where otherwise stated, this statement includes only forest produce obtained from Crown Lands under permit or license.

FOREST OFFENCES.

Fifty-five forest offences were reported to Head Office by Field Officers, etc., during the year.

Convictions were recorded in the seven cases where proceedings were taken against offenders and fines, costs and damages amounting to £131 were imposed.

Warnings were issued in sixteen cases and the remainder were dealt with by the collection of royalty, forfeiture of deposit, damages, or confiscation and sale of the timber illegally cut. The amount received by the Department in this way totalled £283.

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure from Consolidated Revenue Fund covering cost of general administration of the Forests Act and Regulations amounted to £28,349.

In addition to this an amount of £118,690 was provided from Consolidated Revenue to meet expenditure on firewood production for Goldfields Water Supply Pumps and metropolitan industrial and domestic requirements, and £3,986 to cover cost of conversion of pine timber into a marketable product.

A large quantity of pine is now becoming available from thinnings from plantations and finds a ready market for peeler logs for plywood production, case making and other softwood requirements.

An average number of 260 wages employees were engaged in general forest work and fire control during the year. The Department has been called upon to assist the sawmilling industry by providing labour for falling and tramline construction.

The Civil Aliens Corps firewood camp and the Prisoner of War Camp were closed down during the year and it is anticipated that private enterprise will again be in a position to meet metropolitan firewood requirements next winter.

The Treasury Department system of deducting interest and sinking fund charges on Loan money from the gross revenue of the Department before making the apportionment of the three-fifths of the net revenue as provided under Section 41 of the Forests Act, 1918, was discontinued as from 1st January, 1946, and in future the only deductions will be the expenditure provided from Consolidated Revenue Fund to meet the cost of administering the Forest Act and Regulations, the Conservator's salary and expenditure on Pine conversion.

The following table sets out the position of the Reforestation Fund for year ended 30th June, 1946 :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Gross Revenue for year 1945-46				244,408	6	3
Less Firewood Revenue, 1st January, 1946, to 30th June, 1946				37,959	2	7
				<u>206,449</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>
Consolidated Revenue Fund Expenditure	151,025	4	4			
Less Firewood Expenditure, 1st January, 1946, to 30th June, 1946	48,930	13	0			
				<u>102,094</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>4</u>
Less Timber Industry Regulations—Salaries and Incidentals	1,260	8	8			
				100,834	2	8
Interest on Loans	22,619	7	6			
Sinking Fund	1,130	19	0			
Conservator's Salary	1,149	18	10			
Audit Fees	100	0	0			
				<u>125,834</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Revenue				£80,614	15	8
Three-fifths Net Revenue				<u>£48,368</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>5</u>

REFORESTATION FUND.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance as at 30th June, 1945				6,423	9	5
Motor Vehicle Depreciation Account				2,219	4	4
Three-fifths Revenue transferred (a)				48,375	2	8
Treasury Grant (b)				45,000	0	0
Federal Aid Roads Grant				4,000	0	0
Direct Credits, Rents, Refunds, etc.				4,701	13	2
Recoups—						
Railway Fares	112	0	0			
Assistance to Mills and other Government Departments	4,200	5	6			
Salaries, Officers on Loan	1,308	19	0			
Beanstick Cutting	396	4	6			
Potato Digging	476	12	9			
Firewood Production	2,230	10	10			
				<u>8,724</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>7</u>
Transfer to Motor Vehicle Depreciation Account				2,000	0	0
				<u>£121,444</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
Less Expenditure, 1945-46—						
Reforestation and Afforestation	109,244	5	11			
Replacement Motor Vehicles charged to Depreciation Account	2,073	1	3			
Assistance to Mills and other items	8,724	12	7			
Balance in Fund, 30th June, 1946 :						
Reforestation Fund	Dr.	744	0	8		
Motor Vehicle Depreciation Account	Cr.	2,146	3	1		
				<u>1,402</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>
				<u>£121,444</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
				<u>£121,444</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

(a) Three-fifths Revenue overcredited in Treasury Books by £6 5s. 3d. To be adjusted during year 1946-47.

(b) Treasury Grant includes an amount of £1,173 18s. 2d. being three-fifths of £1,956 10s. 4d. royalty due to Forests Department from Railway Saw Mills and adjusted in Treasury Grant.

REFORESTATION.

The wartime restriction of forest operations to a purely maintenance schedule has of necessity continued during the immediate post-war period. A comprehensive programme of essential developmental work in management and silviculture, held in abeyance during the war years, has been prepared for attention in the near future. Although maintenance of roads and firelines essential for access and adequate protection of the forests has been given all possible attention, valuable forest areas are jeopardised unless all roads and tracks are kept trafficable by a more intensive programme of these works.

Although road construction was in general suspended as during the war years, a further 97 miles of roads and firelines built, brings the total to 11,506 miles, most of which are trafficable. The programme of accrued essential works provides for construction of an additional 5,000 miles as a basis for intensive management and protection of largely undeveloped forest areas.

Necessary repairs and adjustment of the 1,256 miles of telephone line now in use was carried out wherever required.

As no regeneration operations in either Jarrah or Karri have been undertaken since 1941, the areas remain as at that time, viz., 450,000 acres and 25,000 acres respectively.

Assessment and classification was carried out over 3,600 chains of line permanently pegged for periodic re-measurement. Three miles of other assessment was completed. There is need for an early wide extension of this work.

AFFORESTATION.

Mallet.

31 acres were sown to Brown Mallet (*Eucalyptus astringens*) in the Narrogin Division, bringing the total established area of this species to 17,065 acres. 124 acres of eroded areas were resown.

Conifers.

The planting programme of 1,000 acres per annum in this State was suspended during the war and current activities restricted to the refilling of failed areas and to small plantation extensions totalling 27 acres. The total area of plantations is now 12,892 acres.

The area of established conifers, last year shown as 13,609 acres, has been adjusted by the deduction of areas cleared, felled, and burned.

Thinning operations were continued at the Mundaring Weir, Ludlow and Gnangara plantations. The total volume of thinnings removed and marketed from Departmental plantations was 214,260 cubic feet (69,788 cubic feet last year). Of this quantity, 17,300 cubic feet was supplied as peeler logs for the manufacture of plywood.

Since 1937-38, when the amount of sawn pine timber produced was 44,366 cubic feet, the production has steadily increased to the present figure of 348,154 cubic feet, the increase being mainly due to thinning of Departmental plantations.

RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATION.

During the war there has been little opportunity for specific research in problems of silviculture and management. Periodic observation and remeasurement of earlier experiments in pine nutrition and plantation thinning has been continued and the resultant data examined statistically. The statistical section has also carried out analyses of experiments for the Department of Agriculture. A further report on pine establishment was printed as a bulletin during the year and information on recent work in pine nutrition will be published in a subsequent report.

To examine the possibility of introducing the flexibility of radio communication as a supplement to the present telephone system in the detection and control of fires, preliminary field tests were made of wireless apparatus loaned to the Department by the R.A.A.F.

Some progress has been made in the classification of forest types of the lower South-West by stereoscopic examination of aerial photographs.

Although lack of staff has limited the extent of forest assessment, some further data relative to yield regulation has been gathered.

The Utilisation Officer, recently returned from a period with Commonwealth Timber Control, is now principally engaged with problems of production and the best distribution of the limited timber supplies available for housing, fruit cases, etc. There is a wide field for profitable investigation in utilisation and the Department has given consideration to a programme calling for extended activities in the field of saw-milling investigation and forest products research generally.

FIRE CONTROL.

Following an exceptionally wet winter, the 1945-46 fire season was generally mild, with few extremes of temperature, although the average fire hazard was higher than that for any of the three previous years. The Dwellingup Fire Weather Station classed 112 days as above "moderate" hazard, representing 67 per cent. of the total. One day of "dangerous" hazard was recorded. Few fires attained serious proportion, remarkable in view of the fact that for six weeks in mid-summer no rain fell in the Jarrah Forest region and the rainfall from January to April in the lower South-West was well below average. The area burned was one of the lowest yet recorded.

The extent of protective controlled burning of firebreak belts and of tops and debris resulting from trade cutting operations was much restricted by the prolonged wet weather and by the inadequacy of available manpower and transport. The latter factors have made the adequate protection of large areas of State Forest increasingly difficult in recent years. The completion of the programme of controlled burning each year is essential to ensure continuity of future timber yield, as these protective belts not only safeguard valuable areas of forest but form the basis for the attack and suppression of fires occurring in the forest.

The system of fire detection by an interconnected chain of look-out towers continued to effectively cover almost the whole of the protected forest area.

Departmental fire gangs gained further experience in the handling of heavy duty mobile equipment. Heavy power pumps and larger water tanks have greatly increased the availability of water at the seat of the fire. Improved technique in the application of water at high pressure, particularly in rendering safe trees alight, has on numerous occasions saved the expenditure of considerable time and labour.

During "Fire Prevention Week," before gatherings representative of growers and local authorities the Department staged effective demonstrations of equipment and technique at Pinjarra, Bridgetown and Kojonup, and later by request at Narrogin. The light mobile unit (five men, pack spray and rake), commonly used in the forest, was used to illustrate the most effective use of limited water supplies. The handling

of various power pumps with a range in lifting power of from 60 to 600 gallons per minute strikingly demonstrated important advances in the supply of water to the site of the fire. Heavy power units, mounted on a good water supply, may be used to deliver water directly to a fire or to refill mobile units at distances of from two to three miles under forest conditions.

The Fire Prevention Week Organisation issued a well-prepared brochure ("Fire, the Nation's Enemy") embracing the effects of fires on the forest and on the nation's economy and all aspects of fire prevention and control. This publication was made available to local authorities and to schools. A second pamphlet, issued by the Rural Fires Prevention Advisory Committee, presented speeches and radio talks made during the "Week."

Departmental fire gangs attended 356 fires which occurred in or menaced State Forest. Of the total area (1,072,000 acres) of closely protected Zone A forest, 1,620 acres, less than one-sixth of one per cent., was burned over during the year by 192 fires, of which 155 were restricted to an average of less than five acres. Fifty-two fires were attended in Zone B (865,000 acres of forest not fully protected as it is yet only partially developed and difficult of access). A small area of pines (23 acres) of low average age was lost due to incendiarism.

The remaining 112 fires caused no loss of forest.

The causes of fires are here tabulated and do not vary greatly from those of previous years:—

W.A.G.R. Locomotives	62
Mill Locomotives	79
Bush Workers	18
Mill Navvy Gang	1
Hunters and Fishers	21
Travellers in the Forest	11
Stock Owners and Lease Holders	3
Private Property	52
Firewood Cutters	14
Lightning	1
Deliberately Lit	17
Escaped from controlled burning by Departmental employees	37
Mill Surroundings	1
Mine Surroundings	1
Employees of other Government Departments	6
Householders	1
Children	4
Gas Producers	1
Unknown	26
	<hr/>
	356

It is again desired to place on record appreciation of the ready co-operation of the sawmilling firms in making employees available for fire control, even where this has meant a temporary suspension of mill production.

ARBORICULTURE.

Hamel.

The Hamel Forest Nursery, during the season ended 31st August last, suffered considerable damage from abnormal winter floods, which, besides causing the loss of many trees and erosion of nursery beds, provided most unfavourable conditions for spring planting.

Demand for trees, though still well below pre-war level, is rising sharply and this year called for the distribution of 43,354 trees. With the return of more normal conditions it is anticipated that the demand will further increase during the coming season. 36,562 trees were sold and the balance supplied to other Departmental centres for ornamental and experimental planting. As has been the case in recent years no large quantities of pines were raised for Departmental planting.

Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*) headed the list of sales and was almost equalled by Sugar Gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*). The Cluster Pine (*Pinus pinaster*) and Victorian Ti-tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*) were next in demand whilst Brush Box (*Tristania conferta*) and Pepper Tree (*Schinus molle*) also sold well.

Wheat Belt—Experimental.

Owing to technical difficulties, mainly associated with the high rainfall experienced at the State Nursery at Hamel, the raising of trees suitable for wheat belt planting has presented a problem.

Experimental work was carried out at Kalgoorlie during the year and six hundred young trees, embracing twenty-four species, eighteen of them Eucalypts, suitable for dry country planting have been raised. This work was sufficiently successful to warrant larger scale sowings and arrangements are in hand to raise six thousand trees, mainly Eucalypts, for 1947 distribution.

STAFF.

Mr. S. L. Kessell, Conservator of Forests since 1923, was appointed Commonwealth Controller of Timber in 1941, and in December, 1945, without resuming duty with this Department, resigned to accept the position of Managing Director, Australian Newsprint Mills, Pty., Ltd.

The present Conservator of Forests, who deputised in the absence of Mr. Kessell, was appointed to the position on 1st February, 1946.

Mr. A. C. Shedley, Assistant Conservator, resumed duty with the Department after nearly three years as Deputy Controller of Timber in this State.

Mr. F. Gregson, Utilisation Officer, released from duty as Assistant to the Deputy Controller of Timber, returned to this Department after a period of leave spent investigating logging and milling operations in the Eastern States on behalf of Australian Newsprint Mills, Pty., Ltd.

Mr. G. W. M. Nunn, Divisional Forest Officer, was granted leave of absence for 12 months to enable him to take up a position with U.N.N.R.A. in China.

Mr. A. C. Harris, Divisional Forest Officer, resigned to assume a position with the Department of Industries.

Mr. G. W. Chandler, on his release from military service with the rank of major, was appointed Divisional Forest Officer. In May, 1946, Mr. Chandler resigned to accept the position of Forestry Officer with the State Electricity Commission, Victoria.

Mr. J. C. Meachem was appointed Assistant Divisional Forest Officer on resuming duty in October, 1945. As Navigator (Wireless), R.A.A.F., he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Mr. P. H. Barrett, Assistant Divisional Forest Officer, was granted 12 months leave of absence in order to lecture in Forest Engineering at the Australian Forestry School, Canberra.

It is recorded with regret that Mr. J. O'Donnell, who left the Department last year to take up an appointment as Assistant Conservator of Forests, Tasmania, lost his life on the 10th March, 1946, when an airliner crashed into the sea near Hobart.

Mr. J. H. Harding, Assistant Biometrician, Research Branch, on discharge from the Navy with the rank of Lieutenant Commander, resumed duty in March last.

Mr. J. Wood, Draftsman—1st Class, who, in January, 1942, was seconded to the Design Directorate of the Commonwealth Government, resumed duty on 15th October, 1945, and was then transferred to the Lands Department.

Foresters M. J. O'Sullivan and R. Maslen retired and J. Giblett and F. Collins resigned, all after long periods of service.

Assistant Foresters A. S. Lepper, R. Yardley, F. T. Tucker, C. J. Postans, J. L. O'Toole, and Mr. M. Kafcaloudes resigned.

Mr. W. F. Brown, Assistant Forester, resumed duty in November, 1945, after discharge from the 2/2nd Forestry Coy, R.A.E., with the rank of Lieutenant.

Two "D" Grade Assistant Foresters and one Forest Assistant were appointed.

Of the clerical staff, Mr. W. F. Hooton was transferred to the Electoral Department, Mr. N. G. Hagan took up the position of Secretary of the Civil Service Association and Mr. L. J. Parks resumed duty as Clerk in Charge of the Government Tourist Bureau.

Messrs. L. A. Brown, D. T. Connor, S. Kikiros, J. Tondut, J. Vague, R. L. J. Weedon and G. H. Yewers resumed duty with the Department on discharge from the Forces. Six temporary officers and one permanent officer resigned or were transferred or retrenched.

The staff under the Forests Act was reclassified as at 1st January, 1946.

I wish to record appreciation of the loyal and efficient co-operation of all members of field and office staffs in the difficult transition period since war ceased.

Perth,
3rd September, 1946.

T. N. STOATE,
Conservator of Forests.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

	Page
No. 1A. Consolidated Revenue Fund, Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for Year ended 30th June, 1946	13
No. 1B. Statement of Afforestation and Reforestation Expenditure for Year ended 30th June, 1946	13
No. 2A. Exports of Timber, Tanning Substances, Sandalwood, and Essential Oils during the Year ended 30th June, 1946	14
No. 2B. Imports of Timber, Tanning Substances and Essential Oils during the Year ended 30th June, 1946	15
No. 2C. Summary of Exports of Forest Produce since 1836	16
No. 3. Timber Industry Regulation Act, 1926—Annual Report, 1945	16

APPENDIX 1A.

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND.

Consolidated Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for year ended 30th June, 1946.

DR.			CR.
To Log Royalties—General Mills ...	£	s. d.	
Sleeper Mills ...	99,218	11 1	
Hewn Timber Royalties ...	14,656	19 4	
Sandalwood Royalties ...	62	12 3	
Pile and Pole Royalties ...	3,261	2 9	
Miscellaneous Royalties ...	617	3 11	
Goldfields Revenue ...	7,064	5 7	
Rents ...	8,589	14 10	
Inspection Fees ...	1,278	19 11	
Miscellaneous Sales ...	2,654	10 8	
Sales Pine Timber ...	3,262	12 9	
Sales Firewood ...	9,656	4 5	
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	82,437	14 9	
	11,647	15 0	
	<u>£244,408</u>	<u>6 3</u>	
By Salaries ...	£	s. d.	
Incidentals ...	24,953	17 3	
Firewood, Nos. 1 and 2 Pumps ...	2,938	3 11	
Metropolitan Firewood, Potato Digging, etc. ...	14,258	14 7	
Timber Industry Regulations ...	104,430	15 9	
Pine Conversion Costs ...	457	2 10	
	3,986	10 0	
Total C.R.F. Expenditure ...	<u>151,025</u>	<u>4 4</u>	
Excess Revenue over Expenditure ...	93,383	1 11	
	<u>£244,408</u>	<u>6 3</u>	

APPENDIX 1B.

Consolidated Statement of Afforestation and Reforestation Expenditure for year ended 30th June, 1946.

DR.			CR.
To Division No. 1 ...	£	s. d.	£
Division No. 2 ...	6,841	3 9	105,244
Division No. 3 ...	3,988	13 2	5 11
Division No. 4 ...	9,554	15 9	2,073
Division No. 5 ...	10,573	11 2	4,000
Division No. 6 ...	9,780	11 0	
Division No. 7 ...	12,123	16 6	
Division No. 8 ...	6,235	19 6	
Division No. 9 ...	5,153	7 1	
Division No. 10 ...	5,897	2 5	
Division No. 11 ...	9,735	12 2	
	6,317	5 7	
Total Divisional Expenditure ...	<u>86,201</u>	<u>18 1</u>	
By Reforestation Fund General Account ...			
Reforestation Fund Motor Depreciation Account ...			
Federal Aids Roads Grant ...			
Training of Staff ...	101	18 9	
Research and Investigation ...	730	19 0	
Preparation of Working Plans and Topo Surveys ...	1,286	16 8	
Salaries and Allowances ...	6,455	2 5	
General Equipment and Incidentals ...	1,794	1 9	
General Silviculture, Arboriculture ...	120	1 4	
Motor Vehicle Depreciation ...	2,000	0 0	
Establishment ...	1,657	6 9	
Fire Equipment ...	5,938	7 11	
Pay Roll Tax ...	715	15 5	
Purchase of Vehicles ...	1,939	4 4	
Cash Orders Outstanding ...	302	13 6	
Replacement Motor Vehicles, Depreciation Account ...	2,073	1 3	
	<u>25,115</u>	<u>9 1</u>	
	<u>£111,317</u>	<u>7 2</u>	
			<u>£111,317</u>
			<u>7 2</u>

APPENDIX 2A

Exports of Timber, Tanning Substances, Sandalwood and Essential Oils during the year ended 30th June, 1946.

Item and Country of Destination.	Quantity.	Value.	Item and Country of Destination.	Quantity.	Value.
<i>Wicker, Bamboo and Cane and all Manufactures thereof—</i>		£			
Commonwealth States—South Australia	.....	2			
TIMBER.					
<i>Logs not sawn (including merely hewn or squared with the axe)—</i>	cubic ft.			cubic ft.	£
Commonwealth States—			WOOD MANUFACTURES.		
South Australia	28,234	5,093	<i>Articles of Wood (except Furniture), N.E.I.—</i>		
United Kingdom	49,687	18,066	Commonwealth States :	£	
	77,921	23,159	N.S.W.	715	
			Victoria	353	
			South Australia	19	
<i>Railway Sleepers, hewn or sawn—</i>			United Kingdom	.....	1,087
Commonwealth States—			Malaya, British	.....	10
Victoria	7,110	1,440	Union of South Africa	.....	355
Queensland	56,511	8,414	Christmas Island	.....	13
Sth Aust.	742,687	149,913			1,466
	806,308	159,767	<i>Furniture—</i>		
United Kingdom	41,400	14,034	Commonwealth States :	£	
Ceylon	45,028	12,902	N.S.W.	94	
New Zealand	69,523	18,320	Victoria	13	
Union of South Africa	70,045	23,975	South Australia	14	
Cocos Island	11,315	2,749	United Kingdom	.....	121
	1,048,619	231,747	Malaya, British	.....	900
			Union of South Africa	.....	102
			Christmas Island	.....	10
					17
					1,150
<i>Palings—</i>	Number.		TOTAL WOOD MANUFACTURES		2,616
Commonwealth States :			TOTAL WICKER, TIMBER, AND WOOD MANUFACTURES		732,263
Victoria	3,200	36			
<i>Undressed N.E.I.—Beams, Baulks, Joists and other sawn timber—N.E.I. (except Boards and Planks less than 2 inches in thickness)—Hardwood—</i>	cubic ft.		<i>Sandalwood—</i>	cwt.	
Commonwealth States :			Ceylon	256	584
N.S.W.	1,244	238	Malaya, British	1,700	4,750
Victoria	396,019	69,466	Hong Kong	900	2,250
Sth Aust.	708,107	124,410		2,856	7,584
	1,105,370	194,114	<i>Tanning Bark—</i>		
United Kingdom	300,187	111,191	Commonwealth States :		
Ceylon	3,997	1,537	Victoria	7,193	4,872
New Zealand	21,627	5,326	<i>Tanning Extract—</i>		
Union of South Africa	81,119	24,663	Commonwealth States :	cwt.	£
Mauritius	7,884	2,507	N.S.W.	13,377	20,371
	1,520,184	339,338	Victoria	13,635	19,280
			Queensland	1,514	2,338
			Sth Aust.	2,475	3,752
			Tasmania	120	182
<i>Undressed N.E.I.—Boards and Planks Sawn, less than 2 inches in thickness—Hardwood—</i>			United Kingdom	.....	31,121
Commonwealth States :			United States of America	.....	45,923
Victoria	235,284	38,914	Netherlands	.....	3,030
Sth Aust.	478,545	76,561	Norway	.....	11,991
	713,829	115,475	Sweden	.....	12,274
United Kingdom	79	29	Denmark	.....	3,021
Ceylon	588	219	Greece	.....	8,661
New Zealand	14,379	4,142	Portugal	.....	3,952
Union of South Africa	104	24			5,837
Christmas Island	572	132			1,833
Mauritius	386	102			597
	729,937	120,123			75,430
					111,614
<i>Pickets—Undressed or Dressed—</i>	Number.		ESSENTIAL OILS.		
Commonwealth States :			<i>Eucalyptus—</i>		
Victoria	7,580	78	Commonwealth States :	gal.	£
<i>Staves—Undressed, Dressed or Partly Dressed—</i>			N.S.W.	9,689	7,467
Commonwealth States :			Victoria	508	349
N.S.W.	112,701	4,433	United Kingdom	.....	10,197
Victoria	6,252	192	Malaya, British	.....	*
Queensland	61,496	2,074	Union of South Africa	.....	*
Sth Aust.	17,861	585			*
	198,310	7,284	<i>Patchouli</i>		10,514
					nil.
<i>Timber cut to Size for making boxes (box and crate shooks)—</i>	cubic ft.		<i>Sandalwood—</i>		
Commonwealth States :			Commonwealth States :	gal.	£
South Australia	290	81	N.S.W.	95	1,219
<i>Timber—Tongued or Grooved or Tongued and Grooved—Weatherboards—</i>			Victoria	154	1,876
Commonwealth States :			United Kingdom	.....	249
Victoria	36	17	Malaya, British	.....	*
Sth Aust.	1,038	156	New Zealand	.....	*
	1,074	173	Union of South Africa	.....	*
			United States of America	.....	*
<i>Timber—Bent or cut into Shape, Dressed or Partly Dressed, N.E.I.—</i>					20,973
Commonwealth States :			<i>Essential Oils—Other—</i>		
South Australia	.....	42	Commonwealth States :	gal.	£
			N.S.W.	3,729	48,101
TOTAL TIMBER EXPORTS		722,061	Victoria	2,817	30,272
			Queensland	5	89
			Sth Aust.	695	7,828
			Malaya, British	.....	7,246
			Union of South Africa	.....	*
			Hong Kong	.....	*
			United States of America	.....	*
					96,563
			TOTAL ESSENTIAL OILS		123,050
			TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS SHOWN ON THIS RETURN		976,799

* Quantity for Oversea Exports not recorded.

APPENDIX 2C.

Summary of Exports of Forest Produce since 1836.

Year.	Timber.		Sandalwood.		Year.	Timber.		Wood Manu- factures.	Sandalwood.		Tanning Bark.	Essential Oils.*	Tanning Extracts.	
	Cub. ft.	Value.	Tons.	Value		Cub. ft.	Value.		Value.	Tons.				Value.
1836a	10,000	£ 2,500	...	£	1891	1,273,950	89,179	...	3,760	37,600	...	...	...
1837	...	...	...	...	1892	1,082,650	78,419	...	5,716	42,870	...	...	...
1838	...	...	...	...	1893	512,950	33,888	...	3,893	32,160	...	...	...
1839	...	...	...	...	1894	1,063,700	74,804	...	2,784	23,430	...	...	...
1840	...	...	...	...	1895	1,255,250	88,146	...	3,851	30,863	...	...	...
1841	...	...	...	...	1896	1,545,600	116,420	...	6,848	65,800	...	...	...
1842	...	...	...	...	1897	2,393,300	192,451	...	5,852	49,480	...	...	...
1843	...	...	...	...	1898	4,086,195	326,195	...	4,349	31,812	...	...	...
1844	b	163	...	...	1899	6,913,550	553,198	...	4,084	29,719	...	...	...
1845	...	...	...	...	1900	5,725,400	458,461	...	5,095	39,038	...	...	...
1846	2,550	255	32	324	1901	7,150,600	572,354	...	8,864	73,931	...	...	...
1847	12,200	1,120	370	4,444	1902	6,256,750	500,533	...	7,995	61,771	...	...	...
1848	3,350	333	1,335	13,353	1903	7,748,450	619,705	...	4,406	37,913	...	859	...	
1849	...	...	...	...	1904	8,072,300	654,949	...	4,510	25,417	...	32,876	...
1850	10,500	1,048	...	...	1905	8,709,500	689,943	...	5,521	38,817	...	177,007	...
1851	1,250	268	219	1,593	1906	c 8,830,700	708,993	...	8,848	70,958	...	140,720	...	
1852	7,050	806	...	...	1907	c 6,409,550	511,923	...	9,212	65,999	...	98,773	...
1853	52,200	5,220	...	...	1908	c 9,889,500	813,591	...	9,564	76,668	...	79,934	...
1854	58,500	7,023	...	...	1909	c 10,830,450	867,419	...	4,805	37,456	...	59,633	...
1855	76,900	12,076	...	...	1910	c 12,074,100	972,698	...	8,228	70,775	...	93,733	...
1856	70,500	9,671	...	...	1911	c 12,449,500	986,341	...	6,907	65,506	...	83,470	...
1857	69,200	9,449	280	2,524	1912	c 11,297,100	903,396	...	3,154	27,533	...	49,094	...	
1858	29,250	2,340	745	7,455	1913	c 13,619,850	1,089,481	...	6,260	47,589	...	47,377	...	
1859	67,250	6,051	1,278	17,259	1914d	c 6,279,750	502,153	...	4,702	39,800	...	18,197	5	
1860	54,800	4,932	1,687	16,360	1915e	c 9,968,500	808,392	...	8,375	78,926	...	6,127	...	
1861	27,750	2,497	2,558	24,945	1916e	5,432,100	441,991	...	6,271	61,381	...	10,208	381	
1862	68,800	7,151	2,393	21,541	1917e	3,890,650	310,893	...	7,230	72,669	...	18,959	2,060	
1863	32,900	2,963	2,807	25,265	1918e	3,436,250	274,141	...	6,504	81,834	...	16,886	3,995	
1864	58,300	5,508	2,724	24,520	1919e	4,135,750	332,554	11,535	8,998	117,072	...	18,875	3,987	
1865	183,950	15,693	1,686	13,490	1920e	5,065,300	465,731	21,935	14,355	240,579	...	22,121	3,704	
1866	85,650	6,849	2,965	23,722	1921e	9,816,250	1,187,819	24,916	10,839	181,801	...	23,073	10,107	
1867	56,750	4,541	2,305	18,442	1922e	8,309,750	1,041,047	22,248	3,990	54,769	...	13,328	6,878	
1868	8,000	638	3,256	20,045	1923e	7,911,310	997,454	12,377	7,623	102,913	...	21,161	20,075	
1869	179,900	14,273	4,124	32,998	1924e	11,126,861	1,367,517	11,505	14,081	348,713	...	29,606	39,877	
1870	157,200	17,551	6,112	48,890	1925e	11,844,303	1,477,997	13,928	6,243	186,775	...	40,136	42,057	
1871	218,500	15,304	3,366	26,926	1926e	12,001,384	1,522,958	10,072	7,771	238,203	...	15,056	47,819	
1872	37,000	2,590	3,942	31,536	1927e	12,580,262	1,651,149	8,727	6,821	199,754	...	15,318	26,454	
1873	68,150	4,771	6,292	62,916	1928e	10,384,784	1,265,383	7,783	4,829	177,426	...	27,662	39,131	
1874	345,600	24,192	7,057	70,572	1929e	7,635,237	960,435	6,603	7,582	225,208	...	35,850	63,307	
1875	342,350	23,965	6,046	66,465	1930e	6,579,743	807,425	4,687	943	22,228	...	40,628	77,510	
1876	219,050	23,743	6,577	65,772	1931e	4,127,856	507,382	26,615	1,606	43,790	...	25,333	56,170	
1877	336,150	36,979	4,247	31,551	1932e	3,062,673	361,700	35,488	1,386	40,546	...	42,016	59,301	
1878	580,900	63,902	4,675	35,064	1933e	2,235,540	262,617	30,382	3,068	88,846	...	33,352	26,331	
1879	627,250	69,742	4,667	35,001	1934e	4,060,830	487,248	76,107	2,508	75,424	...	20,904	26,720	
1880	662,550	66,252	5,197	51,970	1935e	5,326,117	636,466	65,494	2,223	66,474	...	15,284	35,363	
1881	792,750	79,277	7,716	77,165	1936e	5,598,180	679,522	50,665	1,592	44,916	...	12,237	27,526	
1882	936,500	93,650	9,605	96,050	1937e	5,673,903	699,884	52,333	2,513	75,670	...	14,491	38,185	
1883	997,000	79,760	7,031	56,250	1938e	7,545,744	932,420	47,934	747	22,884	...	13,865	53,294	
1884	861,700	68,936	2,620	20,960	1939e	5,704,250	722,310	43,513	1,106	34,571	...	17,842	48,329	
1885	845,150	67,850	4,527	36,216	1940e	5,049,585	634,359	62,796	1,058	41,596	...	19,485	47,736	
1886	626,150	50,092	3,431	27,450	1941e	6,091,187	790,876	74,935	1,167	47,613	...	13,636	59,867	
1887	354,800	28,334	4,317	34,533	1942e	5,224,634	700,474	64,454	400	17,481	...	6,896	74,904	
1888	525,750	42,080	4,470	33,525	1943e	3,516,566	605,327	32,426	2	80	...	1,598	70,253	
1889	788,500	63,080	6,385	57,465	1944e	3,645,354	613,994	25,324	...	...	...	1,294	72,704
1890	1,172,200	82,052	5,136	51,355	1945e	2,851,475	570,028	27,307	...	...	...	2,795	103,055
					1946e	3,373,025	722,061	f 2,616	143	7,584	...	4,872	128,050	
					Total	371,881,653	33,322,024	974,845	425,966	5,382,878	1,470,197	1,275,292	899,130	

a The exports up to the year 1834 consisted only of supplies to shipping, of which no record is kept.
b Not available. c Approximate figures only. d Six months ended 30th June.
e Year ended 30th June. f Excludes Casks (principally empty returns) previously included in this item. * Principally Sandalwood Oil.

APPENDIX 3.

TIMBER INDUSTRY REGULATION ACT, 1926-37.

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1945.

The number of mills operating under the provisions of the Act at the close of the year totalled 128. The average number of persons employed on timber holdings throughout the year was 2,876, or 83 more than last year. The District and Workmen's Inspectors made 263 inspections of timber holdings and investigated and reported on 553 notifiable accidents, four of which were fatal.

The number of accidents per 100 persons employed was 19.2. The total period of incapacity as a result of accidents was 13,504 days, an average of 24.4 days per injured person (compare 21 days last year).

Returns as listed hereunder have been prepared, but are not included in this report:—

1. Number of notifiable accidents reported in accordance with section 14 of the Act, according to months, and indicating the age and nationality of the injured person, the period of incapacity, the number of cases on which the first-aid outfit was used.
2. The number of accidents reported during 1945, and their classification according to location and nature of injury.
3. The number of accidents classified according to cause of accident and location of injury.
4. The number of accidents classified according to cause of accident and nature of injury.
5. The number of accidents classified according to the months and days of the week on which the accident occurred.
6. The number of hours worked on the day and up to the time of injury, by the person injured.
7. A return showing by months the time at which the notifiable accidents occurred.
8. A return showing the personal cause of accidents as determined by the Inspectors.

30th August, 1946.

T. N. STOATE,
Controlling Officer.

By Authority: WILLIAM H. WYATT, Government Printer, Perth.