

## Some Features of Progress in Australia

The following statement will give a general idea of the area and yield of some of the principal Australian field crops:

Crops.	1911-12. acres.	1912-13. acres.	1913-14 acres.	1911-12. bush.	1912-13. bush.	1913-14. bush.
Wheat .....	7,427,834	7,339,651	9,287,398	71,636,347	91,981,070	103,344,132
Oats .....	616,794	874,284	859,020	9,561,771	16,116,712	15,232,048
Corn .....	340,065	314,686	331,879	8,939,855	8,356,158	9,175,321
Barley .....	116,466	181,387	222,564	2,056,836	3,859,116	3,920,425
Potatoes .....	130,463	128,889	170,233	11,255,589	15,618,064	16,095,931
Hay .....	2,518,288	3,217,041	2,754,672	2,867,973	3,955,311	3,372,596

Amongst a variety of other crops grown in Australia, chiefly tropical products, may be mentioned 161,000 acres of sugar cane, mostly in Queensland, 61,000 acres of vineyards, 216,000 acres of orchards and fruit gardens and 30,000 acres of market gardens for the growth of mixed vegetables for sale.

The dairying industry in Australia has made great progress during recent years, and there has been a general increase in the number of dairy cows since the drought year of 1902. In 1913 the number of dairy cows was 2,068,195, and the total number of all cattle 11,483,882. In the same year the production of milk was 582,785,215 gallons, an average of 282 gallons per cow. The production of butter in 1913 was 198,758,238 lbs. and of cheese 19,743,415 lbs. In Canada the estimated number of dairy cows in 1913 was 2,740,434, and in 1910 the production of butter was 64,698,165 lbs. and of cheese 199,904,205 lbs.; so that whilst cheese is the main dairy product in Canada, in Australia more attention is devoted to the production of butter.

### Forestry, Fisheries and Minerals.

The total forest area of the Australia Commonwealth, according to carefully made estimates, is about 102 million acres; but this is exclusive of large areas of wooded land. An area of 28,665,973 acres is specially reserved for timber. Expressed in square miles, the forest area is 159,375, representing 5.35 per cent of the total area. In Canada the total forestry area is placed at a figure between 812,500 and 937,500 square miles, representing from 21 to 25 per cent of the total area. In 1913 timber was exported from Australia to the value of \$4,923,769; but imports were of the value of \$14,251,938; so that the excess of timber imports over exports was \$9,328,169. Timber is imported principally from the United States, New Zealand, Japan, Canada, Russia, Norway and Sweden. The value of timber from the United States being in 1913 \$6,909,361, and from Canada \$264,777. In 1913 the total value of the fish taken in Australian waters was \$2,382,579, and of lobsters \$159,381. Oysters were also taken to the value of \$332,373. There is a valuable industry in diving for pearls, pearlshell, beche de mer and tortoiseshell, these reaching in 1913 the value of \$2,317,925.

Australia is rich in minerals, the chief mineral products being gold, silver, copper and tin. There are also large coal deposits and quantities of iron ore. The mineral exploration of the country is regarded as being still in its infancy. For the year 1913 the total value of the Australian mineral production was \$135,682,801, the corresponding value for the same year in Canada being \$144,031,047. In 1913, the value of the production of gold in Australia was \$45,632,655, of silver \$29,564,937, of copper \$15,911,007, of tin \$6,820,979, of zinc \$7,533,537, and of coal \$4,628,063. The total mineral production of Australia, from the earliest discoveries in paying quantities to the end of 1913, was of the value of \$4,069,165,056, of which \$2,703,206,945 was gold.

### Manufactures and Trade.

Comparable statistics of manufactures in Australia are available annually since 1908, and they show a progressive increase during the five years ended 1913. Although there are, of course, differences in the manner of collection and presentation of statistics of manufactures as between Australia and Canada, the following table showing the principal

data for the manufacturing statistics of both countries will serve to indicate their respective importance, it being understood that the Canadian statis-

Items.	Canada. (1910).	Australia. (1913).
Establishments .....	No. 19,218	15,536
Employees .....	No. 515,203	337,101
Capital .....	\$ 1,247,583,609	360,764,433
Salaries and wages .....	\$ 241,408,416	163,549,623
Value of Raw Materials .....	\$ 601,509,018	469,183,055
Value of Products (total output) .....	\$ 1,165,975,639	786,262,380

Australian manufactures are classified under 19 different headings, the most important being: (1), those connected with food and drink; (2), metal works, machinery, etc.; (3), clothing and textile fabrics; (4), raw material of agricultural and pastoral pursuits, and (5), working in wood; great growth has also recently taken place in Australian trade with other countries. For the year 1913 the total external trade of the Commonwealth was of the value of \$770,497,587, as compared with the following yearly averages for previous quinquennial periods: 1908-12, \$650,975,553; 1903-07, \$501,142,138; 1898-1902, \$407,442,146; 1893-97, \$292,219,842. In 1913 the Australian trade with the United Kingdom constituted about 52 per cent and with the rest of the Empire about 64 per cent of the total. Of foreign countries the principal trade was with France, Belgium, Germany and the United States. Trade with Canada in 1913 was of the total value of \$6,463,060, not more than 0.8 per cent of the total.

### Australian Defence.

Finally attention may be drawn to the steps taken by Australia towards the organization of adequate forces for defence both naval and military. Under the Defence Acts of the Commonwealth Parliament, all male inhabitants of Australia between the ages of 18 and 60 are made liable to serve in the defence forces in time of war, and the more recent Acts make training and service compulsory in time of peace. By an Act passed in 1909 the principle of universal liability to be trained was made law for the first time in any English-speaking community. The training now in force is in three categories; viz., for junior cadets from 12 to 14 years of age; for senior cadets from 14 to 18 years, and for the citizen forces from 18 to 26 years of age. A Royal Military College is established at Duntroon, in the Federal Territory, for the purpose of providing trained junior officers for the permanent forces. Admission to the College is by open competitive examination, and no fees are charged for maintenance and instruction. For naval defence it was decided, in 1909, to create an Australia naval force to replace the squadron theretofore maintained under agreement with the British government. The Australian Navy now comprises one battle cruiser, the "Australia," of 19,200 tons, and four light cruisers, in commission, including the "Sydney," by which the German cruiser "Emden" was destroyed at the Cocos Islands on November 9th, 1914. Gunboats, torpedo-boats, supply ships and submarines complete the Australian naval complement. Additional vessels are being built either at Sydney, N.S.W., or in England. Naval cadets are trained for the supply of officers at a Naval College established at Captain's Point, Jervis Bay, the course being similar to that of the English naval training colleges. In April, 1915, 87 cadet midshipmen were undergoing training. As in the case of the military cadets the Commonwealth Government bears the whole expense of uniforms, victualling and travelling as well as that of the educational course.

### CUNARD STEAMSHIP CO. TO BUILD BOATS.

Tenders for eight new steamers of large capacity for Cunard Steamship Co. are to be submitted during present week, according to Liverpool newspapers.

### COMMERCIAL FAILURES.

Failures in Canada last week as reported by R. G. Dun & Co. number 53, against 40 last week, 38 the preceding week, and 87 last week.

### BRITAIN'S FINANCIAL EFFORTS.

Great Britain in 1915 raised more than \$6,500,000,000 in new capital, of which only \$435,000,000 was in issues other than war loans.

Prior to the war, 1913 (when nearly \$1,250,000,000 was subscribed), was the record for the obtaining of fresh capital.

Last year for home purposes the British public took \$1,865,000,000 of government securities exclusive of treasury bills. In 1914, for the same end, \$1,445,000,000 was subscribed, and in 1913, a normal year, only \$255,000,000.

The item "loans to India, the Colonies and Foreign Countries," was \$1,750,000,000 in 1915, \$1,250,000,000 in 1914 and \$985,000,000 in 1913.

Comparisons of capital subscribed in 1915 and 1914 follow (in pounds):

British government loans:	1915.	1914.
Treasury bills .....	£297,087,000	£82,850,000
Ways and means advances .....	63,005,500	7,041,000
3½ p.c. war loan, 1925-28 .....	229,798,408	102,000,000
3 p.c. exchequer bonds, 1920 .....	31,546,845	.....
4½ p.c. war loan, 1925-45 .....	586,316,000	.....
5 p.c. exchequer bonds, 1920 .....	18,200,000	.....
Total war loans .....	1,225,953,753	191,891,000
Other issues .....	86,812,883	206,580,884
Total .....	1,312,766,636	398,471,884

### NATIONAL DEBTS.

Rudolph Dramant in New York American figures the principal national debts before the war and the increase since as follows (ooos omitted):

	Debts before the war.	Estimated amount.	Inc. to date.
German Empire .....	\$4,800,000	\$7,167,000	150%
Austria-Hungary .....	3,840,000	3,695,000	96
Total .....	8,640,000	10,862,000	125
France .....	6,513,000	6,019,000	77
England .....	3,390,000	*6,616,000	170
Russia .....	4,590,000	3,626,000	78
Italy .....	2,957,000	938,000	32
Total .....	17,450,000	16,199,000	92
Grand total .....	26,090,000	27,061,000	100

\*Considerable amount due to advances to other countries.

### NEW BANK BUILDING FOR WINNIPEG.

Within a month, work on the wrecking of the present Bank of Hamilton buildings, McDermot Avenue and Main street, will be begun. Temporary offices in which the bank's business will be carried on until a new building is put up, have been secured in the Curry block, and they will be occupied shortly. J. P. Bell, general manager of the Bank of Hamilton, arrived in Winnipeg recently, and completed arrangements for the change. Owing to damages to the present bank building, which was erected fifteen years ago, it has been deemed advisable to tear it down. The new building will be a fine structure and a credit to the institution.—Commercial.

### MONTREAL TRAMWAYS AND POWER CO., LTD., NOTES.

The new issue of \$7,000,000 6 per cent Montreal Tramways and Power Co., Limited, notes being sold in Boston is the obligation of the holding company and not the Montreal Tramways Co., the operating company. The operating company is controlled by the holding company through stock ownership.

### CAPTURING SOUTH AMERICAN TRADE.

European war has put United States first in Brazil's foreign trade. During first nine months of 1915 exports to the United States increased from \$67,000,000 to \$71,000,000, while imports from the United States decreased from \$39,500,000 to \$30,000,000. United States is now using half the material that Brazil is exporting and is furnishing about 30 per cent of her imports.

### ELECTRIC STEEL FURNACES.

With 73 electrical steel furnaces, 32 of them constructed in 1915, United States has passed Germany, which has led the world in number of electrical steel furnaces since 1910. 303 furnaces is estimate of world's total; 8 of these are in Canada.

### SHELLS FOR HUNS VIA LONDON.

Adriatic sailed Thursday from New York with \$10,000,000 of freight, including 18,000 tons of munitions for England. These included shells, parts and forgings, fuses, bayonets, cartridges, automobiles, oil, rifles and metals.

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