

The circumstance of a Colony's revenue exceeding the expenditure by £11,000 per annum, after having been founded only ten years, is unprecedented in the annals of Colonial history.

The quantity of land sold, and the purchase-price during the same years were as follows :—

1841,	7,651	acres	cost	£7,651.
1842,	17,081		„	17,081.
1843,	598		„	613.
1844,	3,428		„	5,666.
1845,	69,658		„	72,902.
1846,	31,000		„	75,000.

A considerable proportion of the land bought in the last two years was known to contain minerals, and therefore realised higher prices; but no insignificant quantity was purchased solely for agricultural purposes—a very gratifying fact, as proving that the mining operations have not been carried on to the neglect of the cultivation of the soil. In April last, 4,327 acres of land were sold at Adelaide for £4,652 8s., the buyers of which were nearly all engaged in agricultural and pastoral pursuits.

A moiety of the funds arising from land sales is applied to the conveyance of labouring emigrants thither, and the remaining half to local improvements, such as making roads, bridges, &c., so that on the continuance of these sales depends, in some measure, the progress of the Colony.

The exports and imports, as declared by the Custom-house returns, demonstrate the commerce of South Australia to be in a healthy state. The very large shipments of copper ore, together with the increasing exports of wool, wheat, and other commodities, have effected this very desirable result.

From the subjoined table, it appears that both the imports and exports have largely augmented since 1841, and that at 31st December, 1846, the latter nearly equalled the former.

	Imports.	Exports.
1841 . . .	£229,925 . . .	£40,561
1842 . . .	169,533 . . .	29,079
1843 . . .	93,148 . . .	66,160
1844 . . .	106,660 . . .	82,268
1845 . . .	168,161 . . .	131,800
1846 . . .	304,321 . . .	287,059

Provided the activity at present prevailing in the commercial and productive interests of the Colony continue, we think it not improbable that the return of exports for the current year will exceed the imports.

This was the Colony, in regard to which, when Lord Stanley, on the 5th July, 1842, proposed a resolution for liquidating various debts connected with the establishment of the province, Mr. Williams (then M.P. for Coventry) said, he “really thought it would be better to give up the Colony altogether, than thus incur any further expense.”

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