

**Australia's Development.**

Official estimates of the population of the Australasian colonies, based on the last census, with the addition of the excess of births over deaths and arrivals over departures, show a total of 3,426,562 inhabitants June 30 last. New South Wales, which had lagged behind Victoria for thirty-three years, took the lead in 1887, having a calculated population of 1,022,767, as against 1,019,106 in Victoria. New Zealand ranks third with 589,386 people. It is noteworthy that in 1885 New South Wales had an excess of 39,793 immigrants and in 1886 an excess of 28,492 immigrants, as against an excess of immigration in Victoria amounting to 14,082 the former year and 25,302 the latter.

Though wool has been for several years unusually cheap the world over, the size of the Australasian flocks is steadily increasing. The gain has not been so marked since 1881 as it was in the preceding decade, but yet has been considerable. Australasia now contains about twice as many sheep as any other region save the Argentine Republic, being credited with 86,352,020 last year, as against 75,000,000 in the Argentine Republic in 1885, 47,508,960 in European Russia in 1882, 44,759,314 in the United States in 1887, and 28,955,240 in the United Kingdom in 1886. The sheep of the Australasian colonies have increased in number 73 per cent. within sixteen years. The flocks aggregated 49,773,584 in 1871; 78,063,426 in 1881; 82,169,364 in 1886, and 86,352,020, as above, in 1887. The gain last year was 5 per cent.

The colony of New South Wales has a long

lead in the industry, its sheep numbering over 39,000,000, or toward one-half of the aggregate in Australasia. New Zealand comes second with about 16,700,000 and Victoria third with 10,700,000. Almost all of the flocks in New South Wales are merino sheep, and 27,915,000 out of the total of 38,067,000 of this breed are set down as producers of coming wool. A free trade policy, on the whole, has prevailed in New South Wales since 1852. Wool manufacturing has had an extensive development also in the adjoining colony of Victoria.

Sheep thrive in almost every part of Australia. The climate is exceedingly favorable, no shelter being required. Consul Griffin, of Sidney, in a report on last year's wool clip, ascribes the high degree of perfection reached in Australasia in the production of blooded animals to the climate, together with the unparalleled richness of the natural grasses. The summers are not excessively hot and the winters are never severe. The condition of the last crop was better than usual.

Railroad building is going forward steadily, but has reached no very extensive proportions. Australasia has now about 11,000 miles of line, including 8,891 miles in operation at the end of 1886 and 1,992 constructed last year. Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria each have approximately 2,100 miles. A noteworthy event of the year has been the opening of a continuous line from Adelaide to Brisbane, passing through Melbourne, Sydney and Newcastle, and skirting the southeastern coast for nearly 1,800 miles. The *Railroad Gazette* calculates that the cost per mile of the roads in Victoria has been a little greater than the average in

the United States, that in New South Wales about the same, viz., \$62,000, and that in New Zealand much less. In either case, the difference in cost appears to be about proportionate, to the difference in equipment.

In volume of foreign trade, both imports and exports, New South Wales is ahead of the other colonies. Her imports in the year ended December 31, 1886, amounted to £20,073,548, as against Victoria's imports of £18,530,575, and her exports to £15,556,213, as against £11,795,329 in the other colony, making the total trade of New South Wales £36,529,761 and of Victoria £30,325,896. New Zealand, the third on the list, had a total trade of less than £13,500,000. The entrances and clearances of shipping in New South Wales aggregated 4,258,604 tons in 1886, as compared with 3,735,387 tons in Victoria. In agricultural products, with the exception of wool, Victoria leads, though the average product of New South Wales per acre is larger.

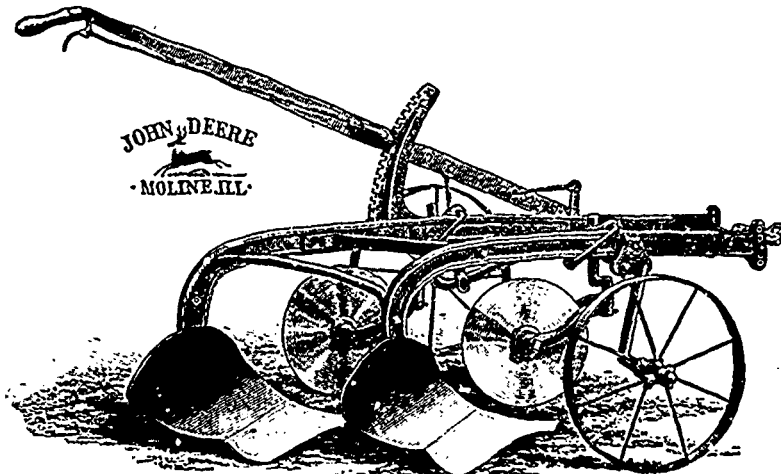
The changes made in the tariff in New South Wales last year abolished ad valorem duties and added a considerable number of articles to the free list. Specific rates are continued on a large number of articles usually imported from the United States, among them lumber, with some exceptions, tobacco and cigars, beer, pork products, corn and flour, kerosene oil, sugar and fish. The imports of kerosene, however, are steadily increasing. There is a considerable demand in Australia for American dried and canned fruit. Oranges and lemons are exported. The former are sent in a business way, directly to London, a distance of 14,000 miles. American locomotives are preferred by the Australian

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