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1886.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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PROGRESS OF TASMANIA, 1881-1885:

REPORT.

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.

PROGRESS  
OF  
T A S M A N I A,  
1881-1885.

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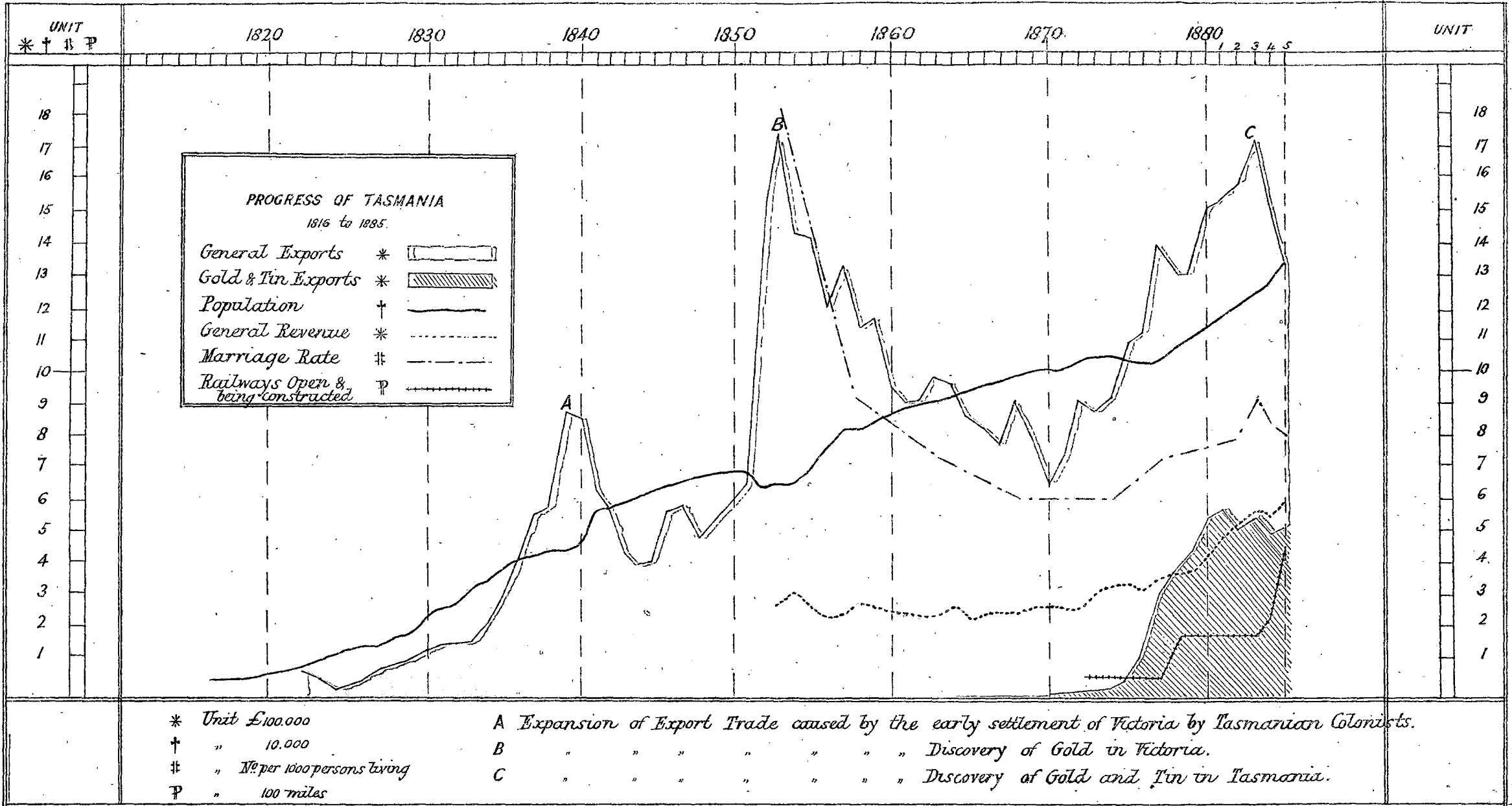
Subjects.

(Coloured Progress Diagram.)

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APPENDIX—Statistical Summary showing general particulars at the close of each of the three last Quinqueniads; viz.—1875, 1880, and 1885.

# PROGRESS OF TASMANIA (1816 to 1885)





REPORT ON TASMANIA DURING THE QUINQUENNIAL PERIOD,  
1881-1885.

A BRIEF account of the progress made by the Colony during the last five years is herein contained. The Statistical Summary forming an Appendix to this Statement will supplement whatever may now be said of matters under the various heads.

**Population.**

First, it will be seen that the population of the Colony has considerably increased during the five years ending 31st December, 1885.

In this space of time 19,029 persons have been added to the population, raising the number from 114,762 on 31st December, 1880, to 133,791 on 31st December, 1885, corresponding to an increase of nearly 17 per cent., or nearly  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. per annum. Should this rate continue we may expect the population of Tasmania to number at least 224,000 at the close of the present century.

As regards the past, it will be seen from the following summary that the increase during the last five years is much greater than it has been in a corresponding period within the last quarter of a century :—

*Progress of Population by Quinquennial Periods.*

	Population.	Increase in 5 years.	Per cent. 5 yearly increase in relation to Total.
1860.....	87,775		
1865.....	95,201	7426	8.46
1870.....	100,765	5564	5.84
1875.....	103,663	2898	2.87
1880.....	114,762	11,099	10.70
1885.....	133,791	19,029	16.58
Increase between 1860 to 1885	...	46,016	

This sudden acceleration of the rate of increase during the last quinquenniad undoubtedly indicates increased prosperity within the country, due in a large measure to the great impulse given to trade and industry by the important discoveries of tin and gold, and the wonderful success of such mines as Mount Bischoff Tin Mining Company and the Tasmania Gold Mine, Beaconsfield.

A great part of the increased prosperity is no doubt also due to the progressive policy adopted within the period in largely opening up the country for settlement by the construction of Roads, Bridges, Harbours, Jetties, and Railways.

#### Construction of Roads, Railways, and important Public Works.

No better indication of the vigour with which important Public Works have been carried out within the last progressive quinquenniad can be given than that a sum of £2,148,000 was added to the Debt of the Colony during this period solely for the purpose of carrying out such a scheme of Public Works throughout the Island as would enable new settlements to be made on the good lands of the Colony formerly cut off from communication with markets and established centres by lack of roads, bridges, or other means of communication.

The result of this policy has been marked by an improvement in various directions: *e.g.*, the assessed annual value of Property has risen from £705,032 in 1880 to £850,306 in 1885, *i.e.*, an increase of 20·61 per cent.; Bank Deposits (ordinary) have increased from £2,122,091 to £3,640,428, or an increase of 71·54 per cent.; Savings Banks, a still better index, have increased from £310,081 to £436,414, or an increase of 40·74 per cent.; and the wages of skilled artizans and labourers in the same period have increased about 7½ to 10 per cent., notwithstanding that the hours of labour per day have generally been reduced from 10 hours to 8 hours.

In the latter instance there is a guarantee that the large body of the people have shared in the general prosperity; for it can also be shown, in conjunction with an improvement in the demand for labour throughout the quinquenniad, that the price of food and clothing is much about the same now as it was at the commencement of the period.

#### Marriage Rate as an Index of material Prosperity.

Another curious index of the advance in material prosperity within the period is to be found in the considerable increase in the Marriage rate; for it has been clearly shown by the Registrar-General of England "that the Marriage rate does really reflect with considerable accuracy the condition of the public welfare; is not a mere *a priori* assumption, but a conclusion founded on the observed correspondence of its fluctuations with those of indisputable measures of commercial activity, such as the total value of imported and exported merchandise."—(P. VI., Annual Report, 1880.) That Tasmania reflects the truth of this general law is most clearly borne out by the following curious contrast, covering a period of 35 years:—

Period.	No. of Marriages per 1000 persons.	Total Value Export and Import Trade per head.
Average of 5 years, 1851-55.....		£
Ditto, 1856-60.....	18·85	44·17
Ditto, 1861-65.....	9·40	28·51
Ditto, 1866-70.....	7·24	19·66
Ditto, 1871-75.....	6·30	16·78
Ditto, 1876-80.....	7·51	24·01
Ditto, 1881-85.....	8·02	25·70

Thus it is most interesting to note how faithfully, notwithstanding difference in degree, the Colony's Marriage rate corresponds with the relative variations of external trade during this long series of years while at the same time it establishes the fact that the relative prosperity of individuals has been greater during the last quinquenniad than during any other similar period since the years 1851-1855, when, owing to the discovery of gold in Victoria, an extraordinary impulse was given to the trade with Tasmania, in which it is apparent social and material prosperity were intimately associated.

#### Settlement on Crown Lands.

In 1880 there were only 167½ miles of Railway open or being constructed, valued at £1,541,272.. At present the number of miles open or being constructed is 442 miles, being an increase of 163·88 per cent., valued at £2,996,712. Of course, as the greater part of these railways are not yet completed, it is premature to point to the natural results arising out of their construction in promoting:

settlement and increasing production; but already, in anticipation of the time when certain areas will be opened up by new railways and roads, selection of Crown Lands has received a wonderful impulse, as shown by the Deputy-Surveyor General's Report for 1885, as follows:—

*Crown Lands.—Acreage sold and Revenue derived for years 1880–1885.*

	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.
Acres sold and selected...No.	38,890	32,684	26,631	38,093	74,133	58,914

Thus it is apparent that the land sold and selected during the two last years of the period is nearly equal to the whole of the land sold and selected during the four previous years.

Apart, therefore, from the fact that the Public Debt increased from £1,943,700 in 1880, to £3,357,000 in 1886, it must be borne in mind that, unlike the debts of old European States, it is an index of profitable investment, not the waste of war; and it is noteworthy that the Railways alone (442 miles, value £2,996,712), as a valuable asset covers nearly 90 per cent. of the total indebtedness of the Colony.

**Progress in Trade and Commerce.**

The best index of the Colony's progress in respect of Trade and Commerce is seen from a comparison of the values of external trade as at the close of the last four quinquennials; viz., in the years 1870, 1875, 1880, and 1885:—

*External Trade.*

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Imports and Exports per square mile of area.
	£	£	£	£
1870.....	792,916	648,709	1,441,625	54.99
1875.....	1,185,942	1,085,976	2,271,918	86.67
1880.....	1,369,223	1,511,931	2,881,154	109.90
1885.....	1,757,486	1,313,693	3,071,179	117.15

It is apparent from these figures, indicating an increase of over 113 per cent. in fifteen years, that the Colony's external trade has been making rapid progress during the last few years.

The last year would even show a much larger increase in the ordinary course of events; but the fall in the price of our principal export (wool) during 1885 caused many shippers to defer exporting at least 31 per cent. of the year's produce until prices improved in the present year. The Colony's produce as a whole was really greater in 1885 than in any former year.

**Direction of Trade.**

In the Statistical Report for the year 1885 it is stated that "it is difficult to estimate the exact value of the Exchange Trade between Tasmania and any one country, as the values referred to in Customs returns merely indicate the last port of clearance and the first port of entry respectively. These values embrace four distinct elements,—viz. (1) goods actually consumed or produced by the particular country; (2) unaltered re-exports from or for other countries; (3) products of other countries increased in value by local additions or manufactures; (4) transshipments to or from other countries. If, for illustration, we take the stated imports from Victoria,—viz., £722,027,—we would by this process of investigation come to realise that (1) and (3) together represent only about 23 per cent; (1) and (3) separately cannot be well ascertained; (2) represents about 48 per cent.; and (4) represents about 29 per cent. of the total amount stated. These proportions, however, are in different years subject to much variation, according as shipments are made more or less between the United Kingdom and Tasmania.

"Melbourne and Sydney being the great centres of shipping, cause a large proportion of the trade of Tasmania and Queensland to be again included in the Exports and Imports of Victoria and New South Wales.

"This practice artificially increases the total nominal value of the trade of Australasia, as the value of the same article is reckoned two or three times. The real trade of the Colonies in the aggregate may best be roughly approximated by doubling the value of exports which are stated to be the produce or manufacture of each colony. Of course the manufactures may, again, include:

much that belongs to the produce of other countries ; but it would be difficult to attempt to obtain general results with any degree approaching to precision."

The following Table, taken from the Statistical Report, gives proportionally a synopsis of the general direction in which the trade of Tasmania has been moving during the years 1875, 1884, and 1885. The selection is made of the first and two last years of the decade for the purpose of more satisfactorily marking the progress over a larger period :—

Imports.			Country.	Exports.		
1885.	1884.	1875.		1885.	1884.	1875.
£	£	£	<i>Numerical.</i>	£	£	£
659,225	642,102	505,101	United Kingdom (direct).....	191,018	359,708	510,757
722,027	773,017	529,710	Victoria .....	489,469	474,618	270,632
149,329	118,022	60,647	New South Wales .....	548,448	536,570	159,405
210,407	101,955	84,901	Other British Colonies.....	84,758	104,961	144,991
16,498	21,022	5583	Foreign Countries.....	—	—	191
1,757,486	1,656,118	1,185,942	TOTAL .....	1,313,693	1,475,857	1,085,976
			<i>Centesimal.</i>			
37·51	38·77	42·60	United Kingdom (direct) .....	14·54	24·37	47·03
41·08	46·67	44·66	Victoria .....	37·26	32·16	24·92
8·50	7·13	5·11	New South Wales .....	41·75	36·36	14·68
11·97	6·16	7·16	Other British Colonies.....	6·45	7·11	13·36
0·94	1·27	0·47	Foreign Countries .....	—	—	0·01
100·00	100·00	100·00	TOTAL .....	100·00	100·00	100·00

#### Nature of External Trade.

The nature and relative importance of the external trade of the Colony may be ascertained from the following abstract of percentages relating to the years 1884 and 1885 :—

	1884.	1885.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
<i>Exports.</i>		
1. Animal and Vegetable Substances (including Wool, Timber, and Bark) .....	43·56	33·19
2. Minerals, Metals (Gold and Tin).....	29·50	38·35
3. Food, Drinks, and Stimulants .....	19·23	20·65
4. Live Animals and Plants .....	5·64	5·80
5. Art and Mechanic Productions .....	1·77	1·62
6. Textile Fabrics and Dress .....	0·16	0·21
7. Miscellaneous.....	0·14	0·18
	100·00	100·00
<i>Imports.</i>		
	1884.	1885.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
1. Textile Fabrics and Dress.....	29·70	28·80
2. Art and Mechanic Productions .....	20·82	20·90
3. Food, Drinks, Stimulants .....	18·53	24·56
4. Minerals and Metals.....	17·51	10·29
5. Animal and Vegetable Substances .....	5·95	5·96
6. Miscellaneous.....	5·30	5·21
7. Live Animals and Plants .....	2·19	4·28
	100·00	100·00

This comparison, especially as regards 1884, readily expresses the chief characteristics of our exchange trade ; textile fabrics and dress taking the first position as regards imports, and animal and vegetable substances, principally wool, timber, and bark, taking the corresponding position in respect of exports. It will be observed, as regards our own exports, that fully 97 per cent. represent raw or natural products, and that art, mechanics, and manufactured products scarcely exceed 2 per cent. of the whole.

The percentages as regards exports for the year 1885 are abnormal, as they are affected by the detention of 31 per cent. of the year's produce of wool until the beginning of the following year, as already explained.

#### Comparison of Trade at different Periods.

It is difficult by the aid of figures alone to trace the exact effects of various influences which combine to form the aggregate trade of any one year, and I have therefore caused a diagram to be prepared showing the progress of the Colony since the year 1816, so far as records are available. The indices of this progress have been confined to Export Trade, Population, General Revenue, Railways, and the Marriage Rate.

No figures that might be selected could better exhibit or more sensitively indicate the changes affecting the prosperity of each succeeding year.

Glancing over the curves of Export Trade, colored red, the eye is at once arrested by three bold prominences indicating the height to which the nominal value of export trade had attained at successive periods in Tasmania. The first peak, in 1838, marks a partial exodus of the stock and population of Tasmania to form the first settlement in the now vigorous Colony of Victoria. The second peak, culminating in the years 1853-54, marks a sudden brief expansion of trade, but chiefly a second considerable exodus of stock and population drawn to Victoria in consequence of the discovery of gold in that colony. The third prominence, still ascending, began in the year 1870, and marks the period of the discovery and development of the gold and tin mines of Tasmania.

It will be noted that the nominal values of export trade, and the marriage rate alone are favourably affected, as shown by the two first prominences. Population declined, or its increase was seriously arrested solely owing to the exodus referred to.

The distinction marking the third expansion of trade, commencing in 1870, as compared with the two previous ones, is that it is solely due to internal progress or attraction, or prosperity within the Colony itself, and not, as in the two other cases, to external progress or attraction and prosperity beyond the Colony of Tasmania.

This is also indicated by the fact that between the years 1836-40 there was a loss to the Colony in the shape of exported breeding stock alone equal to nearly half a million sterling, or more exactly £442,970; while in the period 1870-85 the capital of the Colony was actually augmented to the extent of about £3,429,000 sterling in respect of Railways, Telegraphs, Roads, Bridges, &c. alone. These, and other qualifications already commented upon, require to be borne in mind when comparisons of the nominal values of exports are being considered as regards the two periods.

#### Comparisons with different Countries.

In young countries differing in size and development, and whose industries and external trade are mainly connected with raw or natural products, comparisons between them can only be made satisfactorily on the basis of area.

Comparisons on the basis of population are misleading where arts and manufactures do not form the principal part of a country's industry. This is at once apparent by comparing the trade of densely populated countries, whose trade is largely composed of manufactured products, with thinly populated countries, whose trade is mainly composed of raw or natural products. The following illustrations of these important qualifications are taken from the Government Statistician's Report:—

#### CLASS I.—Countries densely populated, whose Trade is mainly composed of Arts and Manufactures.

	Area, square miles.	Population.		Export of Domestic Products.		
		Persons.	Per sq. mile.	Amount.	Per sq. mile.	Per head.
		No.	No.	£	£	£
United Kingdom..... 1884	120,832	35,961,540	295·54	233,025,242	1928·5	6·49
Germany ..... 1882	212,028	45,222,113	213·2	163,610,500	771·6	3·62
France ..... 1883	204,177	38,865,918	190·3	138,074,880	676·2	3·55



*CLASS II.—Countries thinly populated, whose Trade is mainly composed of Raw or Unmanufactured Products.*

	Area, square miles.	Population.		Export of Domestic Products.		
		Persons.	Per sq. mile.	Amount.	Per sq. mile.	Per head.
		No.	No.	£	£	£
United States of America, 1883	3,501,404	54,500,000	15.56	160,842,725	45.93	2.95
Dominion of Canada ..... 1883	3,470,392	4,500,000	.771	20,434,543*	5.60	4.54
Colonies of Australasia.....1885	3,161,389	3,334,325	1.054	{ 51,553,486* 43,248,148	16.31 13.68	15.74 13.20
(1) Victoria ..... 1885	87,884	991,869	11.286	12,452,245	141.69	12.77
(2) New Zealand..... 1885	104,403	575,226	6.000	6,591,911	63.14	11.67
(3) Tasmania ..... 1885	26,215	133,791	5.103	1,299,011	49.55	9.83
(4) New South Wales... 1885	310,700	957,914	3.156	12,957,881	41.7	13.92
(5) Queensland..... 1885	668,497	326,916	.489	5,116,293	7.65	16.07
(6) South Australia..... 1885	903,600	313,423	.346	4,385,599	4.85	13.73
(7) West Australia..... 1885	1,060,000	35,186	.033	445,208	.42	13.07

\* The Total Exports are indicated in this place.

The above comparisons clearly show that Tasmania takes high rank among the Australasian Colonies as a producing centre, and takes *third* position as regards density of population.

#### Agricultural and Pastoral Industries.

The Agricultural industry in Tasmania cannot be said to be in a satisfactory condition, for, notwithstanding the rapid progress made in population and in various industries, the acreage under crop during 1886—viz., 144,761 acres—only exceeds that of 1875 by 2114 acres. This stationary condition is difficult to account for. There can be no doubt, however, that there has been a tendency for years past to divert lands from agricultural to pastoral purposes.

This is borne out by the following statement regarding the relative extent of land devoted to crops and grass lands respectively :—

	1875-6.	1880-1.	1885-6.
Acres in crop .....	142,547	140,788	144,761
Ditto in artificially sown grasses .....	102,023	132,969	181,203
Total land in cultivation.....	332,824	373,299	417,777

Thus, as regards relation to total land in cultivation, acres in crop which represented about 42 per cent. in 1875-6 fell to about 35 per cent. in 1885-6; while the proportion for grass lands in the same period rose from about 30 per cent. to nearly 43 per cent. relative to total lands under cultivation: that is, the position of agriculture was inverted as regards Pastoral industries.

It certainly seems to be far from creditable to agricultural enterprise in Tasmania that Victoria, with less fertile soil, showing a very much lower average yield per acre, should, during the last season, have produced 9,170,538 bushels of wheat, equal to 9.41 bushels per head, while Tasmania, with its much higher yield per acre, only produced 524,353 bushels, or 3.87 bushels per head. This is inexplicable, when it is considered that Victoria during 1884 exported a surplus of breadstuffs, principally to England, equal to about 126 per cent. above that which is found to be necessary for her own local requirements for food and seed, while Tasmania, on the other hand, shows that her total produce of breadstuffs for the same period is nearly 40 per cent. below the average local consumption for food and seed.

To convert lands devoted to agriculture to pastoral purposes may be forced upon our farmers by the greatly reduced prices for wheat, &c., so far as a surplus for export is concerned; but surely the home market should be supplied by local agriculturists!

It is certainly a great injury to the Colony to diminish in any way its agricultural areas in favour of pastoral pursuits, and thereby deprive the Colony of its agricultural population.

#### Mining Industries.

The Mining industries of Tasmania, although comparatively new, are already of considerable importance, for during the last year the Exports of Gold and Tin alone represented £498,906, or

nearly 38 per cent. of the total Exports of the Colony. The following abstract by quinquennials shows the rapid way in which these industries are making progress:—

		Quinquenniad ending—		
		1875.	1880.	1885.
Tin Exports—				
Tons Metal	No.	468	15,706	19,671
Value	£	38,863	1,357,796	1,772,277
Gold Exports—				
Ounces	No.	19,648	122,206	213,023
Value	£	77,164	475,267	819,053
Total Value Gold and Tin	£	116,027	1,833,063	2,591,320

That is, the total Exports of Gold and Tin for the last quinquenniad is equal to £2,591,320, and exceeds the value of the two previous quinquennials taken together by £642,230. During the last quinquenniad the importance of the yearly export of Tin may be estimated by the fact that it averaged 79,682 cwts. of metallic Tin, equivalent to nearly 16 per cent. of the whole supply imported by England from all countries.

It is probable that this form of industry will greatly improve, for there are extensive fields of a very promising character in the Western and North-Eastern parts of the Colony remaining still undeveloped.

Besides Tin and Gold, the Colony is rich in other minerals,—viz., Iron, Coal, Silver, Lead, Bismuth, &c.; but, with the exception of the fine deposits of Coal at Mount Nicholas and elsewhere, now being opened up by the new railways, little has been done to develop them. An attempt was made to work the extensive iron deposits at Ilfracombe, but the industry failed owing to the iron ore having too large a percentage of chromium. This defect, however, does not apply to equally extensive iron deposits in other parts of the country, which as yet await development.

#### Progress in Railways, Roads, and Telegraphs.

As it has been stated that much of the progress within the last quinquenniad is due to the opening up of the lands of the Colony by Railways, Roads, &c., it may be of interest to take a passing glance at the progress of Railway construction.

Prior to 1871 there was not a single mile of Railway open for traffic. In 1871 the first Railway, the Launceston and Western, 45 miles long, was opened for traffic by a private company, although the greater part of the capital was provided by the Government.

In 1872 this line was transferred to the Government, and ever since has been worked successfully by a Government Railway Department. The line runs through one of the finest agricultural tracts of country in Australia.

In 1876 the Main Line of Railway between Hobart and the Evandale Junction of the Launceston and Western was opened,—thus connecting the two principal centres of population, Hobart and Launceston. This Line, now working satisfactorily, was constructed by an English company, under a guarantee that the Government should secure to the company a yearly sum, not exceeding £32,500 in one year, which, together with profits of the undertaking, would make a yearly profit of £32,500, or 5 per cent., on a capital sum of £650,000.

These Lines have proved to be of such great service to the Colony that the Government introduced, during the last few years, several important measures giving powers to extend the existing lines into important districts, and to construct new lines opening up other parts of the country.

In this way Railway extension is making rapid progress; for, at the present time, in addition to 185 miles in course of construction, there are 257 miles (mostly 3 in. 6 ft. gauge) open for traffic,—making a total of 442 miles.

The following abstract shows more clearly the rapid progress made during the last quinquenniad as regards Railways, Roads, and Telegraph Lines:—

	1870.	1875.	1880.	1885.
Miles of Railway open	<i>Nil.</i>	45	167½	257
Ditto being constructed	45	122½	—	185
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>167½</b>	<b>167½</b>	<b>442</b>
Telegraphs—				
Miles of Wire open, including Cables	379	640	1143	2130
Roads—				
Miles open	2900	3481	4079	4805

The time has not yet come when the full benefit of the expenditure upon Railways and Roads will be appreciated, as 185 miles of the lines are not yet completed, and only 167½ miles of the 442 were open for traffic during the whole of the year 1885. Now that the important coal-bearing district of Fingal is about to be connected with the principal centres of population, together with the fine agricultural tracts of country in the North-West, North-East, and South-West, we may hope to see a still further acceleration of the progress which has specially marked the last five years.

#### Postal Communication.

In no other way can the development of the trade of the country be so sensitively indicated as by the returns of the Post Office. These show a remarkable expansion within the last 10 years. The increase of business within the last five years alone is fully equal to 56 per cent. Since 1875 the number of offices have increased from 170 to 246, and Letters, Packets, Newspapers, &c. from 3,118,684 to 7,858,870.

#### Finance.

Although the Expenditure of the Colony has been largely increased during the last 10 years, mainly on account of Interest on Loans raised for Railways, Roads, &c., the Revenue has more than sufficed to meet the increasing demands made upon it; for during the years 1880-1885, such was the buoyancy of sources of revenue that the Government actually reduced the imposts upon tea and many other articles of consumption without seriously impairing the finances necessary for carrying on the greatly expanding affairs of the State.

The following statement shows the manner in which the General Revenue and Expenditure have increased during the last decade:—

#### Public Revenue.

	1875.	1880.	1885.
	£	£	£
Raised by Taxation—			
Customs .....	181,212	217,717	276,100
Other Taxes .....	26,639	82,523	90,018
Raised by Crown Lands—			
Sales .....	33,363	35,366	48,820
Rental.....	10,922	17,778	17,658
Other sources of revenue .....	90,570	88,874	138,801
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>342,606</b>	<b>442,158</b>	<b>571,397</b>

#### General Expenditure.

	£	£	£
Departmental and other expenditure	248,824	317,594	437,169
Interest Loans.....	87,266	97,602	148,598
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>336,090</b>	<b>415,196</b>	<b>585,767</b>

#### Crime.

It is unfortunate that the classification of minor offences in the British Colonies and in other countries are not based upon the same plan. Favourable as has been the position of Tasmania for many years past in freedom from crime generally, it has artificially been unfairly represented in the Statistics appearing in the Victorian Year Book and other publications, inasmuch as no indication was given that minor offences, such as petty debts or nonpayment of rates, constituting a very large proportion of the minor cases in Tasmania, have hitherto been classed as minor offences under the criminal cases; while in Victoria and other Colonies such cases were classed separately under "Civil Cases," and hence in unqualified comparisons made in such publications, the minor cases in Tasmania were erroneously made to appear relatively high in contrast. The Government Statistician of Tasmania has for three years continuously drawn attention to this matter in order that those making comparisons should not be misled.

Unfortunately, these observations and qualifications escaped the notice of the accomplished Statist of Victoria (Mr. Hayter), and also of other eminent Statisticians in Europe who have easually referred to the subject, and consequently the Colony of Tasmania has been most unjustly

dealt with. This is all the more to be regretted when comparisons upon a common plan of classification clearly show that both serious and petty crimes in Tasmania are far less than in England; and, indeed, Tasmania can now proudly proclaim by appeal to unmistakable facts that she has far less crime relative to her population than any other Colony within the British Dominions. The only Colony standing near to Tasmania in this respect is New Zealand, which, though slightly better than Tasmania as regards minor offences, is not so favourably circumstanced as Tasmania as regards freedom from serious offences.

*Extent of various Offences dealt with in each Colony in relation to Population.*

Offences.	Victoria, 1883.	New South Wales, 1883.	Queens- land, 1883.	South Australia, 1882.	W. Australia, 1882.	New Zealand, 1883.	Tasmania, 1884.	Tasmania, 1885.
Arrests or Summonses per 1000 Population for—								
Offences against Person...	4.22	12.69	8.76	3.29	12.01	2.98	4.33	4.23.
Offences against Property	4.97	8.20	4.96	3.58	15.10	4.49	4.95	4.70
Drunkenness .....	13.52	27.57	16.81	16.26	} 14.034	{ 13.83	12.28	11.12
Other Offences.....	30.66	37.46	20.91	27.48			{ 21.21	27.28
All Offences.....	53.37	85.92	51.44	50.61	167.45	42.51	48.86	45.26

Thus it is clearly shown that Tasmania vies with New Zealand in showing a much smaller number of offences than the remainder of the Colonies of Australia.

*Serious Crimes.*

If Tasmania takes up a creditable position as compared with other Colonies as regards freedom from minor offences, the following Table in respect to serious crimes—dealt with in Superior Courts—proves that Tasmania stands unrivalled in the British Empire for comparative freedom from crimes of a serious nature. No other country can show Commitments in Superior Courts as low as in Tasmania, viz.,—4.39 per 10,000 persons.

*Crimes in various Countries compared.*

Countries.	Year.	Per 10,000 persons.		Percentage Convictions to Commitments.
		Commitments.	Convictions.	
United Kingdom.....	1884	5.54	4.13	74.03
Victoria .....	1883	6.67	3.82	57.75
New South Wales .....	1884	17.31	10.35	59.81
Queensland .....	1884	18.58	9.17	49.37
South Australia .....	1884	9.51	4.12	43.34
Western Australia .....	1882	29.62	15.14	51.11
New Zealand .....	1884	8.16	3.96	48.56
Tasmania.....	1884	5.14	3.04	59.10
Tasmania.....	1885	4.39	2.35	53.45

**Prisoners and Paupers.**

It has already been shown that Tasmania is remarkably free from crime.

It may here be stated that in relation to the past the old inmates of Gaols and Pauper Establishments are fast dying out, and with respect to these it is necessary to say they are of foreign importation, as may be inferred from the mean age of Male Paupers being 68 years, and more clearly still from the fact that the natives of Tasmania and Australia together do not amount to 5 per cent. of the foreign element. Apart from these considerations, it is creditable under any circumstances to find that all inmates of prisons only average per year 1 to every 636 of the population, while the total number of Paupers, mostly belonging to another part of the Empire, only represents 1 to every 172 of the relatively small population of the Colony with which, as a contrast, it has no natural relation. The following figures show how remarkably fast the old foreign element in our Gaols and Pauper Establishments is dying out:—

Year.	Prisoners.		Paupers.	
	No.	Per 10,000.	No.	Per 10,000.
1873 .....	644	62·17	1113	107·46
1874 .....	546	52·40	1081	103·75
1875 .....	466	44·84	1084	104·31
1876 .....	394	37·67	1046	100·03
1877 .....	328	30·85	994	93·51
1878 .....	356	32·80	980	90·30
1879 .....	351	31·56	917	82·46
1880 .....	337	29·66	864	76·05
1881 .....	293	24·97	895	73·29
1882 .....	286	23·69	827	68·52
1883 .....	249	20·02	801	64·41
1884 .....	219	17·06	808	62·94
1885 .....	216	16·14	780	59·09

That the inmates of Prisons and Pauper Establishments have declined in a most remarkable manner during the last 13 years is clearly shown by these tables. As regards prisoners, the relative decline is as much as 75 per cent. in the 13 years.

What better proof could be given of the fact that pauperism and crime are simply noxious foreign plants, which find no congenial soil in Tasmania for their propagation! Tasmania's advance in material progress is not half so cheering as this indication of her power to eliminate from her social system the noxious poisons of pauperism and crime.

#### Health.

The Island of Tasmania is most favourably situated as regards climate, as its position in the Southern Hemisphere between the parallels of 40° 33' and 43° 39' south latitude, and between 144° 39' and 148° 23' meridian of east longitude, gives it nearly the same advantage as regards immunity from extremes of temperature as that afforded by Southern France and Northern Italy in northern latitude. It is alike free from the extremes of heat as in South Australia, Queensland, and New South Wales, and the extremes of boisterous cold weather as in the more southerly portion of New Zealand.

Although for a great part Tasmania is composed of elevated table lands, and has its surface broken in many places by bold mountain masses, its broad plains and valleys in the North-Eastern, North-Western, and South-Eastern part of the Island, where settlement of population has taken place, affords an exceptionally genial climate. The appearance of the Island throughout is wonderfully beautiful, with its open plains bordered by mountain tiers, its isolated peaks and wooded ranges covered with the prevailing gum-trees, and its many fine rivers and extensive lakes. Its coasts for the most part, especially towards the south, are bold and indented with numerous bays, (notably the estuary of the Derwent, where Hobart, the capital, is situated, affording ample shelter and safe anchorage for ships.

In the mining districts of the extreme West and in the North-East the scenery is not unlike that of the Highlands of Scotland, from the picturesque character of the blue, white, and pinkish crystalline peaks and the fantastic outlines of the mountain ranges, which often rise abruptly to a height of from 3000 to nearly 4000 feet above the prevailing button-grass and heathy *Epacris* plains.

Tasmania during the Summer season is much resorted to by visitors from the neighbouring Colonies as a refuge from the hot winds and enervating influence of their sub-tropical climate.

Its Death-rate, 15·40 per 1000 persons living for 1885, although low as compared with England, does not fairly indicate its great immunity from what are termed preventible causes of death, for as there is in Tasmania an abnormally large percentage of persons living over 60 years of age (*viz.* 8·04), and as this group alone contributes yearly fully one-third of the total deaths, comparisons with other Colonies upon the method of a total Death-rate for all ages would be entirely misleading, and would not disclose the peculiarly favourable healthful position which Tasmania occupies as contrasted with nearly all the Colonies, and especially with populous European centres.

The best manner of showing the very favourable position which Tasmania enjoys as regards health is by eliminating all deaths of persons 60 years of age and over, and comparing the deaths

under 60 with persons living under that age limit. In this way we exhibit our special advantage; for the greater number of deaths due to extreme old age, though adding very considerably to the total death-rate, is in itself the best index of the health of a community which could possibly be obtained.

The following comparative table prepared in this way indicates for Tasmania the presence of conditions peculiarly favourable to health as compared with other countries.

*Health Standard.*

	Year.	Population per square mile.	Percentage of persons living over 60 years of age last Census.	Death-rate under 60 years per 1000 persons under the same age limit.
New Zealand .....	1884	5.40	2.72	9.22
Tasmania .....	1884	4.98	8.04	10.84
Ditto .....	1885	5.04	8.04	10.60
Victoria .....	1883	10.94	4.65	11.86
New South Wales .....	1883	2.96	4.31	13.02
South Australia .....	1884	0.35	4.13	13.06
England .....	1883	463.89	7.50	15.61
Queensland.....	1883	0.46	1.87	17.74

Thus, with the exception of New Zealand, which has a greater number of persons living in the prime of life than in any other Australian Colony, Tasmania occupies by far the most favourable position as regards health.

The extraordinary circumstance that "Old Age" in itself as a specific cause of death has always headed the local list of specific causes for years, and that in 1885 this specific cause alone represents 15.47 per cent. of the total number of Deaths, fully establishes the truth of what has been said regarding the extraordinary healthfulness of the Colony.

Notwithstanding what has been said regarding the healthfulness of the Colony as a whole, it must be admitted that in some portions towards the South the rapid changes of temperature are very trying to those who suffer from bronchial complaints.

ROBT. M. JOHNSTON, *Government Statistician.*

**APPENDIX**  
**T A S M A N I A.**

**STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR THE YEARS 1875, 1880, AND 1885.**

	1875.	1880.	1885.		1875.	1880.	1885.
<b>AREA AND POPULATION.</b>							
1. Area ..... square miles	26,215	26,215	26,215	8. Public Revenue— <i>continued.</i>			
2. Population on 31 December. <i>estimated No.</i>	103,663	114,762	133,791	<i>d.</i> Land Sales Cur- { Acres alienated, No.	42,747	39,727	59,972
Ditto, Mean for the year .....ditto	103,919	113,615	132,166	rent Year .. { Nominal value .. £	46,995	56,356	80,944
3. Births—				9. General Expenditure—			
Males .....	1623	1884	2368	<i>a.</i> Departmental and other Expenditure £	248,824	317,594	437,169
Females .....	1482	1855	2269	<i>b.</i> Interest on Loans .....	87,266	97,602	148,598
TOTAL No. ....	3105	3739	4637	TOTAL .....	336,090	415,916	585,767
4. Deaths—				10. Loans Expenditure—			
Males .....	1205	1058	1159	<i>a.</i> Construction of { Current Year .... £			256,372
Females .....	874	774	877	Railways .. { Aggregate .....			1,041,562
TOTAL No. ....	2079	1832	2036	<i>b.</i> Roads, Bridges, { Current Year .... £			189,476
5. Marriages ..... No.	689	840	1054	Docks, &c. ... { Aggregate .....			1,299,074
6. Immigration { Assisted—persons .. No.	16	52	582	<i>c.</i> Defences ..... { Current Year .. £		*	14,821
{ Otherwise—ditto .... No.	6519	10,359	14,240	Aggregate .....		*	72,092
7. Emigration, persons ..... No.	8075	10,025	14,173	<i>d.</i> Otherwise ..... { Current Year .. £			4779
				Aggregate .....			506,332
				TOTAL .....			465,448
				{ Current Year .. £			2,919,060
				{ Aggregate .....			
				11. Public Debt on 31 December .....	£ 1,489,400	1,943,700	3,357,000
				<b>INTERCHANGE.</b>			
				12. Imports .....	£ 1,185,942	1,369,223	1,757,486
				13. Exports—			
				<i>a.</i> Products and Manufactures of the			
				Colony .....	£ 1,076,198	1,481,330	1,299,011
				<i>b.</i> Other Exports .....	9778	30,601	14,682
				TOTAL EXPORTS .....	£ 1,085,976	1,511,931	1,313,693 §
				14. Wool exported .... { lbs. .... No.	6,199,248	9,025,228	5,774,142
				{ Value .....	433,550	542,244	260,480
				15. Gold exported .... { Ozs. .... No.	3490	50,999	37,498
				{ Value .....	£ 13,771	201,655	141,319
<b>FINANCE.</b>							
8. Public Revenue—							
<i>a.</i> Raised by Taxa- { From Customs . £	181,212	217,717	276,100				
tion ..... { Other Taxes .... £	26,639	82,523	90,018				
<i>b.</i> Raised by Sales } Sales .....	33,363	35,366	48,820				
and Rental of } Rental .....	10,922	17,778	17,058				
Crown Lands.. } .....							
<i>c.</i> Other sources of Revenue .....	90,570	88,874	138,801				
TOTAL CURRENT YEAR .....	£ 342,606	442,158	571,397				

16. Tin exported .....	{ Ore—Tons.... No. Metal—Tons.. No. Value ..... £	—	3	—
		366	3951	4242
		31,325	341,736	357,587
17. Shipping—				
a. Outwards.....	{ No. Vessels ..... No. Tons .....	664	655	669
		133,107	208,086	335,061
b. Inwards.....	{ No. Vessels ..... No. Tons .....	631	654	689
		129,102	205,217	342,745
18. Railways—				
a. Miles open 31st Dec.....	No.	45	167½	257
b. In course of Construction .....	"	122	—	185
c. Miles worked .....	"	45	167½	240
d. Train Miles .....	"	89,650	400,945	532,193
e. Cost of Construction and Equipment £		429,604	1,541,272	2,009,712
f. Receipts—Current Year .....	£	19,436	73,740	126,905
g. Working Expenses—Ditto.....	£	16,213	68,487	111,167
19. Telegraphs—				
a. Miles of Line (Poles) constructed.	No.	396	925	1635
b. Ditto (Wire) ditto.....	"	468	1143	2071
c. Ditto in course of Construction (Poles) .....	No.	*	*	59
d. Offices .....	No.	32	66	135
e. Cost of Construction and Equipment £		*	*	148,643
f. Receipts—Current Year .....	£	2244	13,185	19,985
g. Working Expenses—Ditto.....	£	2677	9366	19,317
20. Tramways—				
a. Miles open .....	No.			13
b. Cost of Construction and Equipment £		*	*	9356
c. Receipts—Current Year .....	£			1994
d. Working Expenses—Ditto.....	£			1800
21. Post Office—				
a. No. of Offices .....		170	201	246
b. Ditto Letters .....		1,695,256	2,682,329	3,805,764
c. Ditto Post Cards .....		—	—	66,742
d. Ditto Newspapers .....		1,351,440	2,195,733	3,560,367

21. Post Office— <i>continued.</i>				
e. No. of Packets .....		71,998	149,967	425,997
f. Receipts .....	£	13,500	19,484	26,170
g. Working Expenses .....	£	20,002	27,154	37,503
22. Assessed Annual Value of Property .... £				
		604,347	705,032	850,306
PRODUCTION.				
23. Agricultural Statistics—				
a. Wheat .....	Acres .....	42,745	50,022	30,266
	Bushels .....	700,092	750,040	524,353
b. Oats .....	Acres .....	32,556	19,853	29,247
	Bushels .....	827,043	439,446	784,325
c. Barley .....	Acres .....	5939	8297	6833
	Bushels .....	165,357	169,158	176,466
d. Maize .....	Acres .....	—	—	—
	Bushels .....	—	—	—
e. Other Cereals ..	Acres .....	6754	6649	7774
	Bushels .....	153,313	109,238	171,600
f. Potatoes ...	Acres .....	6906	10,421	11,073
	Tons .....	24,455	32,548	53,521
g. Hay of all kinds	Acres .....	34,758	31,615	41,693
	Tons .....	49,217	35,883	51,872
h. Green Forage†	Acres	941	1687	1303
i. Other Tillage†	Acres	11,948	12,244	16,572
j. Total Land in Crop ...	Acres	142,547	140,788	144,761
k. Ditto in Cultivation .....	Acres	332,824	373,299	417,777
24. Live Stock—				
a. Horses .....	No.	23,473	25,267	28,610
b. Cattle .....	"	118,694	127,187	138,642
c. Sheep .....	"	1,731,723	1,783,611	1,648,627
d. Pigs .....	"	47,664	48,029	67,395

\* Cannot be ascertained. † Exclusive of permanent artificially sown Grasses. ‡ Exclusive of land in fallow. § See note regarding wool as affecting total Exports. || This does not fairly indicate the Wool produce of this year, as it is estimated that 2,642,150 lbs., or about 31 per cent. of the year's produce, was held back and shipped during January and February, 1886. The actual exports for these two months were abnormally large, viz., 5,443,220 lbs.

[Compiled in the Office of the Government Statistician from official records.]

ROBT. M. JOHNSTON, *Government Statistician.*