

(No. 28.)



1877.

SESSION II.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

STATISTICS, 1876.

INTERIM REPORT OF GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN:

(Return to an Order of the Council of April 24, 1877.)

WITH CORRESPONDENCE.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Crowther, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
April 25, 1877.

Colonial Secretary's Office.

MEMO.

THIS Document was seen by me for the first time at 11:30 A.M. to-day.

THOS. REIBEY.
25 April, 1877.

Copy of Correspondence herewith.

The Hon. W. L. CROWTHER, M.L.C.



TO THE HONORABLE THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Legislative Council, Hobart Town,
April 20, 1877.

SIR,

THE early date at which Parliament will meet makes it impossible to complete the general Statistics for presentation to Parliament in the coming Session. I therefore present you this interim Report, containing the most important part of such information relating to the Statistics of 1876 as has been furnished to me.

I.—POPULATION.

This is estimated to have been—

On Dec. 31, 1875	103,663
Ditto 1876	105,280

The increase being 1617. The mean Population, that is, as it stood at the *middle* of the year, was 104,471.

By balance of births over deaths we gained 1419 souls: by immigration, 198. I believe the gain by immigration to have been really greater than this. The number of passengers from Victoria to the North-west Coast as given in the official returns furnished to me was so manifestly deficient, that, in the absence of any better means of information, I had to correct it by reference to the shipping reports of the Melbourne *Argus* and *Australasian*; and since these take no account of passengers from Melbourne to that part of Tasmania by sailing vessels, our returns must be defective to that extent. I am still, however, in communication with the Customs Officers on the subject, and the Returns of Population and Immigration may have to be revised.

Under the Bounty System 48 persons were introduced in 1876, against 16 in 1875.

II. TRADE, COMMERCE, AND NAVIGATION.

The Imports in 1876 were valued at £1,133,003, against £1,185,942 in 1875, £1,257,785 in 1874, and £1,107,167 in 1873.

Deducting the value of Railway Material, the Imports in those years would be, in 1876, £1,107,154; in 1875, £1,129,430; in 1874, £1,142,992; in 1873, £1,081,591.

The Exports in 1876 were valued at £1,130,983, being in excess of those of 1875 by £45,007. The Exports have never been so large since 1859, when they reached £1,193,898.

The differences in the value of goods exported to the different Countries in 1876 as compared with the preceding year were as follows:—

	More.	Less.
	£	£
United Kingdom	38,993	—
Victoria	17,716	—
N. S. Wales	16,072	—
New Zealand	—	26,563
Queensland	—	953
S. Australia	—	2947
Foreign States	2689	—

There were increases in the quantity of Bark exported, of Butter and Cheese, of Skins (Rabbit), of Oatmeal, and of Oil. On Gold the increase was 6787½ ozs.,—the excess itself being nearly twice the total Export of 1875; on Jam, 521,812 lbs.; on Hops, 80,961 lbs.; on Tin (Ore), 544 tons (none in 1875), smelted, 705½ tons; and on Wool, 649,269 lbs. The quantity of Wool was never so large before. On the value of Bran and Pollard there was an increase of £1957.

The Exports of Flour, Grain, Hides, Skins, and Leather (except Rabbit Skins), Live Stock, Timber, and Vegetables were less than in 1875, the decreases being as follows:—

On Flour, tons.....	1008	On Hides, Skins, &c., cwts.* ...	1106
Green Fruit, bushels ...	23,872	Live Stock, viz.—	
Grain, bushels, viz.—		Horses	74
Wheat	152,521	Sheep	374
Oats	112,583	Timber, value	£23,494
Barley	25,951	Vegetables, tons	1847

The tonnage of Shipping entered in 1876 was 141,181, in 1875, 129,102, showing an increase, as regards the former year, of 12,079. The tonnage outwards was—in 1876, 136,303; in 1875, 133,107; the increase in 1876 being 3196.

The tonnage at the Outports in 1876 and 1875 was—

		1876.	1875.
<i>Inwards.</i>	Stanley	8032	8270
	Wynyard	3142	3568
	Leith	5287	6573
	Torquay	3267	2755
		<u>19,728</u>	<u>21,166</u>
<i>Outwards.</i>	Stanley	6558	8538
	Wynyard	3251	3795
	Leith	5648	6984
	Torquay	3634	3112
		<u>19,091</u>	<u>22,429</u>

Showing a decrease on the tonnage—

Inwards	1438
Outwards	3338

On the registers on the 31st December, 1876, there were 199 vessels, with a tonnage of 19,968. On the corresponding day of the previous year there were 187 vessels, measuring 18,317 tons. There was therefore an increase of 12 vessels, with a capacity of 1651 tons.

In the past year 10 vessels were sold out of the Colony, their tonnage being 552, and the value returned, £12,275. As compared with 1875 there was an increase of 1 in the number of vessels, 40 in the tonnage, and £1855 in the value.

Whaling was fairly successful, 470 tons of Sperm Oil, valued at £41,740, having been brought into Port, as against 139 tons, valued at £12,465, in 1875.

III.—FINANCE, &c.

The Finance Returns have not yet been received from the Treasury, and I have therefore no information as to the Receipts and Expenditure of the Public Revenue.

The Assets and Liabilities of the Banks in the last quarters of 1876 and 1875 were as follows:—

	1876.	1875.
ASSETS.	£	£
Specie and Bullion	256,499	245,459
Debts due to other Banks	1,357,198	1,245,215
Landed Property, and Balances due from other Banks	68,126	55,948
	<u>1,681,823</u>	<u>1,546,622</u>
LIABILITIES.		
Notes and Bills in Circulation	120,254	108,936
Deposits	1,463,008	1,277,525
Balances due to other Banks	2582	4240
	<u>1,585,844</u>	<u>1,390,761</u>

The increases on the totals were—

Assets	£ 135,201
Liabilities	195,083

*On the number of packages there was an increase of 55.

The number of Accounts open at the Savings Banks at the end of February, 1877, was 11,514; in 1876, 11,208: the amount to credit of Depositors, 1877, £302,273; 1876, £289,223: the average amount of Depositors' Balances, 1877, £26 5s.; in 1876, £25 16s. 1d. The total amount of Deposits and repayments in the two years from March to February were—

	<i>Deposits.</i>	<i>Repayments.</i>
	£	£
1876-7	177,679	164,630
1875-6	160,485	146,620
Increase.....	17,194	18,010

There are some other matters, such as Crown Lands, Gold Mining, &c., which, although of great importance, are necessarily omitted, in consequence of the returns relating to them not having yet been received.

Meagre as the present Report is, I hope that the few facts which I have been able to bring together in it may be of some use in forming an idea of the condition of the Colony during the past year.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

E. C. NOWELL, *Government Statistician.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 25th April, 1877.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Colonial Secretary to request your explanation of the circumstances under which a letter addressed by you to him, under date the 20th instant, has not yet reached him except in the form of a printed document from the office of the Government Printer, and then only this morning.

Having distinctly understood from you that the Statistics for 1876 could not be prepared in time for the opening of Parliament, the fact was stated in the Governor's Speech, but a printed document is received to-day bearing your signature and dated the 20th instant, three days before the assembling of the Legislature, purporting to be a letter addressed to the Colonial Secretary, forwarding certain important statistical information and forming an *ad interim* report upon the subjects of Population and Trade, &c. during 1876, the non-receipt of which on the date when it was written has led to injurious reflections being cast upon the Government as having withheld valuable information in their possession, and caused the Governor in His Excellency's Speech to state that which was not consistent with fact.

I am to request an early reply, so as to afford the Colonial Secretary the means of at once explaining the origin of this unfortunate occurrence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) B. TRAVERS SOLLY.

E. C. NOWELL, *Esq., Government Statistician.*

Legislative Council Office, Hobart Town, 25th April, 1877.

SIR,

IN reply to your letter of this date requesting, for the information of the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, an explanation with reference to a letter dated 20th instant, addressed to him by me, being in the nature of an *interim* Report on the Statistics of 1876, I have the honor to report as follows:—

Assuming that the Report would be presented to Parliament with other papers, to save copying, and also to save time in printing, I sent the rough draft to press on the 20th instant, intending to forward a printed copy, when received, to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary. From causes not under my control the revision was delayed, and the last proof was returned to the Printing Office only yesterday morning; and in consequence of my being incessantly occupied up to the very time of the meeting of Parliament with matters relating to Parliamentary business, I forgot to request the Government Printer to furnish me with a copy for the Hon. the Colonial Secretary; the consequence being that the Report was not forwarded to him, as it was my intention it should have been.

I can only express my great regret that my absence of mind should have led to any injurious reflections being cast upon the Government. But when it is remembered that my Parliamentary and statistical work are both going on simultaneously, and that the severe labours of the last ten years have occasioned much mental wear and tear, I hope that this unfortunate occurrence may be looked upon with indulgence.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) E. C. NOWELL, *Government Statistician.*

B. T. SOLLY, *Esq., Assistant Colonial Secretary.*