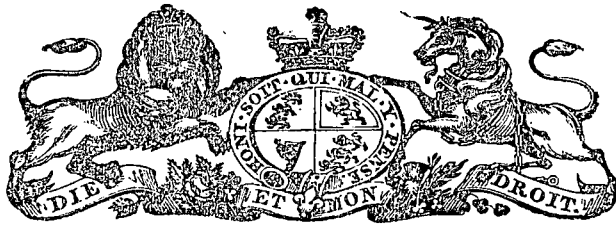


(No. 7.)



1863.

T A S M A N I A.

T H E T R A D E O F T A S M A N I A.

LETTER FROM THE SURVEYOR-GENERAL.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, 16 January, 1863.



Survey Office, 14th November, 1862.

SIR,

I TAKE permission to present you a Paper which I have written to illustrate the Trade of Tasmania with the Colonies of New South Wales and Victoria, to which is appended a Table showing the quantities and declared value of twenty-four articles of Commerce which *are* in most cases (and *may be* in all) largely produced by ourselves.

Of these articles there are about twelve in which, though a very large business is doing in the above-named Colonies, we take very little part, though I believe we are in a condition to produce them on a very considerable scale.

It is to point out to our own people where there is a good opening for an increase of business that I have written the accompanying Paper. Information such as it contains must always be beneficial, especially to a community so capable as our own is of supplying the articles enumerated,—but to about half of which it contributes little or nothing, simply (as I believe) from ignorance of the extent of the demand for them, and of the enormous sums yearly disbursed on account thereof.

I have taken the liberty of adding some remarks on the advantages of opening a larger trade than we now carry on with the Colonies of South Australia, New Zealand, and Queensland.

I remain,
Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

J. E. CALDER.

The Hon. the Premier.

In the present prostration of trade, it has occurred to me that some good may result from the publication of an *exposé* of the state of the Markets around us, from which we may learn whether they offer us no inducement for enlarging our business transactions with them,—as it is to Trade alone that we may look, with a rational hope, for reviving the declining prosperity of Tasmania.

With this view, I have extracted from the official Trade Returns of New South Wales and Victoria *their own* statements of their traffic in twenty-four articles, nearly all produced on the farm,—many of which I believe *we* could supply them with on a much larger scale than we do at present.

These Extracts (which I have thrown into a Tabular form) represent the *entire* Trade of these two great Colonies, in the articles referred to, with *all countries*; but a separate column has been kept, to show the transactions of Tasmania in the same,—which, if published, may I hope be of some little advantage to the community.

Our farmers, who within the last few years have much increased their dairy establishments (and tillage generally), will hear, I doubt not with surprise, that even now they do not contribute a fortieth part of the supplies of Butter and Cheese that are bought by these two Colonies, whose consumption of them is enormous.

Taking New South Wales first, it appears she has spent £73,663 in Butter and Cheese in the three years 1859, '60, and '61, of which Tasmania has taken only £75.

In the same space, she has purchased £64,197 worth of Bacon and Hams,—only £55 of which sum was paid to Tasmania, and not one *solitary farthing* for Salt Pork, of which she has required £12,081 worth.

Of Barley we have provided her with no more than £101 worth, though she has taken £11,771 of the same from all countries.

Of Oats she has bought £47,496 worth, of which she has received only £1046 from hence.

In Wheat we have done better, (though hardly what we might have done,) having contributed to her three years' supplies—valued at £533,561—the respectable amount of £83,194 worth; but not so in Flour and Bread, on which she has spent £551,459,—Tasmania taking only £21,522 of the same.

Notwithstanding what we have lately heard of the demand our Brewers have created for Tasmanian Beer in the Markets I am writing of, the Returns of those Colonies show that what we call *much* is in truth *very little*. Taking Draught Beer only, I find that, though the three years' purchases of New South Wales have reached no less than £441,333, she has paid Tasmania only £127 for her share of it. And though our trade is a *little better* in Victoria, it is nothing to boast of even there, it being scarcely $\frac{1}{270}$ th part of the whole.*

There are some other items in which our trade with New South Wales might undergo improvement,—Malt, Hops, Bran, Oatmeal, Pork, Barley, and Oats for example, all the particulars of which may be found in the Table.

Turning from the Markets of New South Wales to those of Victoria, facts of a similar nature are revealed to us; namely,—an enormous trade in several minor articles of farm produce, in which we take a very inconsiderable part, apparently sacrificing everything for a fair share in the chief products of the field, forgetting that greater profits are often made from those little commodities which are produced on almost every farm, but which are too often turned to no better account *here* than being wastefully consumed at home.

The yearly expenditure of Victoria for Bacon and Hams exceeds the *entire ordinary Revenue* of Tasmania. Taking the two years 1859 and 1860 together, it reached the very formidable sum of £383,992, of which only £786 reached us.

For Pork she paid the lesser (but still respectable) sum of £36,197,—of which we took for our share an amount so ludicrously small that one is almost ashamed to name it. It was *Three Pounds*.

In Butter and Cheese her outlay is incredibly vast, namely, £1,127,022 for the two years named above, of which Tasmania carried off £30,442.

I do not suppose it is generally known that even in the small commodity Eggs there is a considerable trade doing in Victoria, her present outlay for the same being about £12,000 a year, of which sum a very small part finds its way here. The trade is increasing. In 1856 and the four following years this article has cost her £38,584, of which New South Wales and South Australia have carried off the lion's share of the spoil.

Our trade with Victoria is much more respectable than that which we carry on with New South Wales, (being indeed a very substantial affair in most of the *chief* products of the farm); still there is very great room for improvement in several directions,—in Hops for example, as well as in Beer, Malt, Oatmeal, Preserved Meat, Starch, and Coal.†

In compiling the accompanying Table I have thought it right to introduce a statement of the trades of New South Wales and Victoria in Timber and Coal, not only to show their magnitude, but what an opening Victoria affords for the sale of the latter, which I trust may yet compensate us in some little degree for the declension of the other; and though some have thought that much of our Coal is not well suited for gas and steam purposes, none will doubt its adaptability for domestic use, which, after all, is the service in which Coal is chiefly consumed.

To such as would object to extending our trade in the articles enumerated in the accompanying Table, on the score of its involving our farmers in extensive clearings of a costly nature, I would reply that their objections are not entitled to all the weight they may claim for them. We possess already at least 34,500 acres of land formerly in tillage but now thrown out of culture (nearly equal to a seventh of the cultivated lands of 1861‡); all of which might be speedily recovered and put into grass at least. Of this quantity Richmond (including Sorell) may claim about 13,800 acres, while the rest lies chiefly, though not entirely, in the Districts of Bothwell and Brighton in the south, George Town, Morven, and Campbell Town in the north; and if need were, are there not numerous large tracts of plains, and nearly open lands, on the private

* The Victorian Returns for 1861 are not yet published; but, for 1859 and 1860, her consumption of Draught Beer cost her £630,062,—of which Tasmania sold her £2383 worth.

† Taking the Tasmanian Statistics for our guide, we buy about 8500 tons of Coal per annum more than we sell, probably for gas and steam. Of Barley, Hops, and Malt we do not sell much more than we purchase.

‡ I derive this information from the Official Returns of the tillage of the different Districts, comparing those of the present day with those of past times, extending back to 1841; and in all cases where the Returns of any former time show any excess over the present, I have deducted them, which has given this result:—That in eight Districts there are 34,515 acres less in cultivation now than formerly; in several others there has been a great increase; in Westbury, for example, of 47,505 acres, in Hobart of 21,339, Norfolk Plains 11,499, New Norfolk 4404, &c. Hamilton, which is the greatest grazing District of Tasmania, has been the most stationary in her agriculture, having, in 20 years, barely increased it by a thousand acres. Things have greatly changed since 1841—the seats of agriculture were then in the south; and I suppose I shall hardly be believed in saying that Richmond then cultivated more land for wheat, by over 2000 acres, than even Westbury itself does now. The Official Statist of 1841 thus directs attention to the great productive capacity of the Richmond District, (which in those days included Sorell):—“Our largest wheat-growing District is Richmond, next to which, but at a humble distance, stand Norfolk Plains and Morven.” The breadth of its land in wheat was 17,786 acres, Norfolk Plains 8826, Morven 8288, Westbury 2447 acres. The same places stood thus in 1861,—Richmond and Sorell together 5989, Norfolk Plains 12,026, Morven 5672, Westbury 15,502 acres.

estates of the colonists, capable of yielding anything for which our climate is suited, that now produce nothing but the dry indigenous grasses of Tasmania? The cultivated grounds of the Colony could therefore be largely increased at no very great outlay.

In studying the Trade Returns of New South Wales and Victoria, one's attention is perpetually arrested by the large quantities of Produce that these two Colonies import from the United States, particularly of Corn and Breadstuffs, and Timber. But this great trade must be interrupted by the present war; and if so, the withdrawal of these supplies must do something to advance the prices of some of our chief exports. The following statement of the quantities and values of the above-named articles, supplied by the States for 1859, '60, and '61, is taken from the Official Import Tables of New South Wales and Victoria:—

1859.	FLOUR.		BARLEY.		OATS.		WHEAT.		TIMBER.	
	Tons.	£	Bushels.	£	Bushels.	£	Bushels.	£	Various denominations.	£
New South Wales.	700	14,011	<i>Nil.</i>	—	30,976	7,177	117,466	42,263		
Victoria	2,396	50,707	<i>Nil.</i>	—	—	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	—	95,378	
1860.										
New South Wales.	3,208	84,430	1,399	436	8,555	1,485	346,260	95,016		58,974
Victoria	5,108	104,185	800	190	113,049	24,202	67,465	24,000		92,987
1861.										
New South Wales.	3,852	54,402	31,997	7,634	49,524	10,806	195,336	58,782		36,037
Victoria					No Returns	published.				
TOTALS	15,264	307,735	33,196	8,260	202,104	43,670	726,527	220,061		326,472

The total value of all articles supplied by the States for the above years was £2,652,486; namely,—

	£
<i>New South Wales.</i> —1859	201,102
1860	423,101
1861	254,999
TOTAL	£879,202
	£
<i>Victoria.</i> —1859	789,180
1860	984,104
1861	No Returns.
TOTAL	£1,773,284

These markets (New South Wales and Victoria), to which I desire to attract the attention of the colonists, seem to me to offer a grand opening for the enterprise of our farmers and the exporters of produce if they choose to avail themselves of it. The restoration of the prosperity of the country is in their own hands; and it is their own fault if they neglect the opportunity which is presented to them, an opportunity which the American War has increased the value of.

If they are dismayed at the idea of a competition with the English exporter who supplies the chief wants of our neighbours, let them remember that, having beaten him out of their own markets which he so long commanded, he cannot undersell them elsewhere. However, this is not my business. I have shown them the enormous requirements of our neighbours in articles that they can produce more largely than they do; and it is for them to decide whether they will help to supply them or not.

There are some other articles whereon the expenditure of New South Wales and Victoria is enormous, but which Tasmania does not appear to be in a condition to supply. Thus, of Bottled Beer they require pretty nearly four hundred thousand pounds worth a year; of Boots and Shoes a million; of Saddlery a hundred thousand pounds worth; with also other things, the cost of which is on a scale so vast that the figures which represent their value seem almost fabulous, and which all their gold is scarcely enough to pay for the half of.

In conclusion, I must take permission to say that it is to be hoped that such of our colonists who have the means of supplying even any single article, whereby our trade may be improved, will lend a hand to push forward the good cause in view. It is not by the great efforts of a few that success is to be so fully achieved, as by the lesser ones of the many. From the continuous efforts of all in this direction, we have more to hope for, than from the discovery of those supposititious treasures, which we have so long sought after in vain. If we pursued what is really rational, with only half the ardour we display to overtake a phantom, Tasmania would not now be in so depressed a state as that in which ourselves have placed her.

J. E. CALDER.

RETURN of Twenty-four Articles imported by NEW SOUTH WALES in the Years 1859, 1860, and 1861, with the Quantities and Value of same supplied by TASMANIA,

RETURN of Twenty-four Articles imported by VICTORIA in the Years 1859 and 1860, with the Quantities and Value of same supplied by TASMANIA.

RETURN of the Total Quantities of Twenty-four Articles imported by NEW SOUTH WALES and VICTORIA in the Years for which this Table is compiled; showing also the Total Quantities supplied by TASMANIA.

Name of Article.	Total Quantity imported from all Countries.	Total Quantity imported from Tasmania.	Total Value of Imports from all Countries.	Total Value of Imports from Tasmania only.	Total Quantity imported from all Countries.	Total Quantity imported from Tasmania.	Total Value of Imports from all Countries.	Total Value of Imports from Tasmania only.	Total Quantities imported from all Countries.	Total Quantities imported from Tasmania.	Total Values of Imports from Tasmania.	Total Values of Imports from Tasmania only.
1859.												
Bacon and Hams	4809½ cwts.	13 cwts.	£ 25,378	£ 55	1747½ tons	4½ tons	186,784	557	1988½ tons	4½ tons	£ 212,162	£ 612
Beer, draught	1,059,106 gallons	157 gallons	139,952	14	2,141,883 gallons, 5492 hhds., 3 cases, 47 barrels, 4 kegs	9338 gallons	395,292	1937	3,200,989 gals., 5492 hhds., 3 cases, 47 barrels, 4 kegs	9495 gallons	535,244	1,951
Bran	38,499 bushels	Nil.	2883	—	593,003 bushels	69,251 bushels	60,597	6769	631,502 bushels	69,251 bushels	63,480	6,769
Butter and cheese	13,548 cwts.	Nil.	29,414	—	447½ tons	127 tons	595,906	20,260	5148½ tons	127 tons	625,320	20,260
Coal	7039 tons	Nil.	18,329	—	105,342½ tons	966 tons	191,576	1631	112,381½ ditto	966 ditto	209,905	1,631
Eggs	8 packages	Nil.	15	—	1284 packages	56 packages	10,574	253	1292 packages	56 packages	10,589	253
Flour and Bread	3302½ tons	132 tons	77,050	3445	30,722½ tons	4000 tons	720,660	115,688	34,025 tons	4132 tons	797,710	119,133
Fruit, green	4017 cases	1265 cases	4436	1496	182,946 bushels	93,654 bushels	176,548	89,821	186,963 bushels and cases	94,919 bushels and cases	180,984	91,317
Grain—Barley	10,273 bushels	Nil.	1884	—	90,059 bushels	749 bushels	18,759	210	100,332 ditto	749 ditto	20,643	210
Oats	116,901 bushels	361 bushels	23,609	79	1,879,914 bushels	432,690 bushels	447,832	112,367	1,996,815 ditto	443,051 ditto	473,441	112,446
Wheat	289,370 bushels	48,320 bushels	111,149	18,472	463,470 bushels	114,049 bushels	208,678	58,046	752,840 ditto	162,369 ditto	319,827	76,518
Hay	210½ tons	156 tons.	1160	753	1301½ tons	506½ tons	11,307	3963	1511½ tons	662½ tons.	12,467	4,716
Honey	7 packages	Nil.	510	—	22,040 lbs.	200 lbs.	637	20	22,040 tons, 7 pkgs.	200 lbs.	1,147	20
Hops	689 pockets	Nil.	3953	—	558,976 lbs.	4292 lbs.	34,561	abr. 300†	689 pockets, 558,976 lbs.	4292 ditto	38,514	about 300
Horses	65 head	4 head	4861	1100*	3065 head	815 head	83,285	40,710	3130 head	819 head	88,146	41,810
Malt	47,274 bushels	5 bushels	18,684	1	198,791 bushels	12,221 bushels,	96,164	6343	246,065 bushels	12,226 bushels	114,848	6,344
Oatmeal	2955 casks	40 casks	5547	95	901½ tons	1 cwt.	21,768	1	2955 casks, 901½ tons	40 casks, 1 cwt.	27,143	96
Onions	1488½ cwts.	1283 cwts.	984	803	421½ cwts.	366½ tons	5041	3626	496½ tons	430½ tons	6,025	4,429
Pork	1345 cwts.	Nil.	3782	—	292½ tons	2 cwts.	17,361	3	360 ditto	2 cwts.	21,143	3
Potatoes	3394 tons	1474 tons	17,709	8277	6482½ tons	5782½ tons	34,136	26,884	9876½ ditto	7256 tons	51,845	34,661
Preserved Meat	1569 cases	2 cases	4957	1	41,701 packages	4 packages	57,200	10	43,270 packages and cases	6 cases and packages	62,157	11
Starch and Blue	8491 cases	Nil.	14,736	—	11,105 packages	96 packages	16,576	135	19,596 ditto	96 ditto	31,312	135
Timber (Sandal Wood excluded)	Various kinds	Various kinds	94,928	16,078	Various kinds	Various kinds	466,333	102,762	Various kinds	Various kinds	561,261	118,840
Vegetables	751 packages	493 packages	40	216	218½ tons	113½ tons	3267	733	751 packages, 218½ tons	493 packages, 113½ tons	3,672	949
1860.												
Bacon and Hams	4984 cwts.	Nil.	24,771	—	2011½ tons	1½ tons	197,208	171	2240½ cwts.	1½ tons	221,979	174
Beer, draught	1,178,018 gallons	50 gallons	149,532	6	1,506,688 gallons, 100 barrels, 9790 hhds., 1108 casks	3963 gallons	304,770	546	2,684,706 gals., 100 barrels, 9790 hhds., 1108 casks	4013 gallons	450,302	552
Bran	16,826 bushels	404 bushels	1976	87	417,750 bushels	61,085 bushels	33,914	5420	434,576 bushels	61,489 bushels	35,890	5,507
Butter and Cheese	5245½ cwts.	10 cwts.	29,291	75	4349½ tons	67 tons	531,116	10,182	5111½ tons	67½ tons	560,407	10,257
Coal	9742 tons	Nil.	10,726	—	88,614½ tons	1048 tons	181,808	1145	98,356½ ditto	1048 ditto	192,534	1,145
Eggs	Nil.	Nil.	—	—	1262 packages	19 packages	12,437	42	1262 packages	19 packages	12,437	42

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Flour and Bread	-	10,349 tons	565 tons	234,659	12,513	24,514 tons	1452 ³ / ₈ tons	504,302	31,161	34,907 tons	2017 ¹ / ₄ tons	738,961	43,674
Fruit, green	-	10,642 cases	6412 cases	11,924	6900	186,901 bushels	104,775 bushels	136,313	65,813	197,543 cases and bushels	111,187 cases and bushels	148,237	72,713
Grain—Barley	-	2652 bushels	52 bushels	888	16	14,963 bushels	3064 bushels	5447	1197	17,615 bushels	3116 bushels	6,335	1,213
Oats	-	47,844 bushels	315 bushels	9321	115	1,033,411 bushels	549,054 bushels	215,245	118,152	1,081,255 ditto	549,369 ditto	224,566	118,267
Wheat	-	763,563 bushels	102,760 bushels	227,334	45,258	483,156 bushels	61,957 bushels	186,928	27,773	1,246,719 ditto	164,717 ditto	413,362	73,031
Hay	-	192 ¹ / ₈ tons	79 tons	1473	653	267 ¹ / ₈ tons	136 ³ / ₈ tons	1874	798	460 ¹ / ₂ tons	215 ³ / ₈ tons	3,347	1,451
Honey	-	6 packages	Nil.	25	—	37,000 pounds	1881 pounds	1326	123	6 packages, 37,000 pounds	1881 pounds	1,351	123
Hops	-	1560 pockets	50 pockets	12,190	469	492,339 pounds	50,162 pounds	26,450	3196	1560 pockets, 492,339 pounds	50 pockets, 50,162 lbs.	38,640	3,666
Horses	-	120 head	13 head	11,823	285	3845 head	780 head	76,154	36,512	3966 head	793 head	89,977	36,797
Malt	-	60,280 bushels	552 bushels	16,172	174	251,946 bushels	17,207 bushels	134,709	9610	312,126 bushels	17,759 bushels	150,881	9,784
Oatmeal	-	3361 casks	Nil.	8576	—	796 ³ / ₈ tons	1 cwt.	16,902	1	3361 casks, 796 tons, 2 cwts.	1 cwt.	25,478	1
Onions	-	67 tons	48 tons	1793	1356	237 ¹ / ₈ tons	227 ¹ / ₈ tons	5734	5365	444 ³ / ₈ tons	275 ⁷ / ₈ tons	7,527	6,721
Pork	-	2739 ¹ / ₂ cwts.	Nil.	6483	—	230 tons	Nil.	18,836	—	416 ¹ / ₈ ditto	Nil.	25,313	—
Potatoes	-	3561 ¹ / ₈ tons	1293 tons	29,671	11,845	6146 ³ / ₈ tons	5677 ¹ / ₈ tons	59,135	54,525	9707 ¹ / ₈ ditto	6970 ¹ / ₈ tons	88,806	65,870
Preserved Meat	-	178 cases	Nil.	792	—	7756 packages	3 packages	23,363	8	7934 cases and packages	3 packages	24,155	8
Starch and Blue	-	5708 cases	Nil.	11,260	—	8354 packages	51 packages	12,364	52	14,062 ditto	51 ditto	23,624	52
Timber (Sandal Wood excluded)	-	Various kinds	Various kinds	106,318	11,778	Various kinds	Various kinds	345,175	78,915	Various kinds	Various kinds	451,493	90,693
Vegetables	-	104 packages	42 packages	89	28	137 ¹ / ₈ tons	84 ³ / ₈ tons	3529	1123	104 packages, 137 ¹ / ₈ tons	42 packages, 84 ³ / ₈ tons	3,618	1,151
1861.													
Bacon and Hams	-	2792 cwts.	Nil.	14,048	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Beer, draught	-	871,363 gallons	786 gallons	121,849	107	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bran	-	58,703 bushels	5915 bushels	4433	375	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Butter and Cheese	-	2766 cwts.	10 cwts.	14,958	75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coal	-	786 tons	Nil.	1027	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eggs	-	Nil.	Nil.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Flour and Bread	-	15,118 tons	327 tons	239,750	5564	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fruit, green	-	8432 packages	3120 packages	10,078	5615	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grain—Barley	-	36,119 bushels	226 bushels	8999	85	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oats	-	56,968 bushels	3334 bushels	12,566	852	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wheat	-	557,314 bushels	55,111 bushels	195,088	19,464	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hay	-	602 tons	327 tons	4369	2595	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Honey	-	Nil.	Nil.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hops	-	883 pockets	21 pockets	12,456	600	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Horses	-	91 head	9 head	8011	1135	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malt	-	24,764 bushels	15 bushels	10,813	18†	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oatmeal	-	1481 casks	Nil.	3299	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Onions	-	5275 cwts.	4352 cwts.	2327	1801	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pork	-	800 ¹ / ₂ cwts.	Nil.	1816	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Potatoes	-	3621 tons	1829 tons	22,778	11,302	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Preserved Meat	-	324 cases	Nil.	1597	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Starch and Blue	-	12,330 cases	259 cases	18,588	57	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Timber (Sandal Wood excluded)	-	Various kinds	Various kinds	69,854	13,178	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vegetables	-	101 cases	90 cases	121	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Victorian Returns not yet published.

* Probably a mistake.

† Returned as £12,229, but this must be a mistake, for if valued at the price of the whole supply (14d. per lb.) £300 is the value.

‡ Probably a mistake, in excess of value.

A D D E N D A.

ROUGH Notes on the Import Trade of the other Southern Colonies in Articles produced by Tasmania.

WITHOUT particularising the items of the trade of the other Colonies in this quarter of the world, in the detailed form in which I have treated those of the two principal ones, I may mention, in general terms, that a very considerable and *increasing* business is doing in all of them.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Of bread stuffs South Australia is a much larger exporter than ourselves; but there are many articles that *we* pique ourselves on being able to produce, of which she receives from us a very meagre supply, and pays us only £20,000 a year altogether for what she buys of us of both home and foreign produce; nearly all of which is sent from Hobart Town,—Launceston holding almost no intercourse with her.*

Of dairy produce, including bacon, she purchased £12,515 in 1861; of beer, porter, cider, and perry, she took £339,895 worth. For coals she paid £51,133; for malt £16,541; and for hops £10,739, all in the same year. Of these large disbursements our share was no more than what I have stated. We received in return much less from her than she did from us; which, somewhat strange to say, is the case with all countries we deal with except England and Mauritius; a proof that this Colony, though suffering under a temporary difficulty, is more self-reliant than any of them.

The import trade of South Australia is an increasing one. It fell from £2,236,290 in 1853 to £1,366,529 in 1856, when it took another turn and reached £1,976,018 in 1861.

The chief profits of this great trade went into the pockets of England, Victoria, New South Wales, and Mauritius, by whom the following sums were taken:—

	£
England.....	1,104,252
Victoria.....	360,008
New South Wales.....	206,819
Mauritius.....	140,447

compared with any of which, the share of Tasmania is hardly respectable.

NEW ZEALAND.—I have no Returns to refer to of a later date than 1860 to enable me to touch on the New Zealand trade; and such Returns as she does publish are not kept in the form adopted by other Colonies,—which tell us from what Countries they derive their supplies—whereon the New Zealand Tables are silent. Her import trade is, however, a fast increasing one, and was valued at £1,548,333 for the year 1860. Of this sum £51,718 was paid for beer. Of butter there is no account, from which we may infer that she supplies her own wants of this article; and for cheese she paid only the moderate sum of £1271. But of coal she bought £37,554 worth; of wheat £13,090; but of barley and oats a mere trifle; of hops she took £2509 worth; of malt I can find no return. A large sum was furthermore paid for *grass and clover seeds*; namely, £7070 for which she obtained 64 tons and 215 packages, thus showing us that she, at least, is in earnest in improving her pastures. But these are articles which our farmers could retain very profitably for the improvement of their own, if they intend to try for a better share of the great trade that is going on around them, than they enjoy at present.

QUEENSLAND.—The import trade of this Colony, like the rest, is a rapidly increasing one, having risen from £742,023 in 1860 to £967,950 in 1861; showing an increase of no less than £225,927 in a single year. This trade is almost wholly engrossed by New South Wales, which pocketed £680,864 of the first-named sum, and £836,507 of the second one, for articles of trade, nine-tenths of which (so the Registrar-General of Queensland tells us) she is incapable of producing herself.

To illustrate the advantages of trading more with this rising Colony than we do, I have thought it right to reprint a letter written by me and published in the *Mercury* just twelve months ago, altering it a little to suit time and circumstances. In that letter I informed the public of Tasmania how very little part we took in direct trade with Queensland; and that while the name of New South Wales occurred no less than 241 times in the long list of her purchases, that of Tasmania was only mentioned *five* times; the former selling for the handsome sum £680,864, and the latter for only £1344. In the last Returns, however, we are mentioned just 20 times, and the somewhat more respectable sum of £7782 is placed to our credit; but this is not a tenth of what it might be, for she is in no manner of condition to supply herself with the most ordinary necessaries of life. Nor can New South Wales help her from *her own* resources.

The following Table of the present tillage of Queensland (that is for 1861, for the growth of bread and stable stuff, will prove her dependent condition better than a dozen volumes of mere description could.

I will premise by stating that by the end of the year 1861 her population had increased to 34,316, and that at the same date she possessed 28,983 horses.

*There was a faint indication of trade between them last year, as also in 1857 and 1858, for about £3500 in all; but nothing is recorded in other years.

	A.	R.	P.
There were then sown for Barley.....	12	3	20
Maize.....	1913	3	20
Oats.....	60	2	20
Wheat.....	392	2	0
Hay (dry fodder).....	280	0	0
Potatoes.....	512	2	33

Which areas represent the breadth of land in culture for the above-named articles for the *entire* province; a breadth of tillage which the Registrar-General truly styles "a most miserable one."

Such a population as that of Queensland would require (according to the best authorities on wheat consumption) 274,936 bushels a year, of which they cannot themselves have reaped more than about 8000; leaving a balance of nearly 267,000 to be carried to them, either in flour or grain: but, as there is still but one flour mill in the entire province, their supplies reach them chiefly in the form of flour.

Of stable stuffs they must also be very dependent on foreign supplies, even though we take it for granted that nine-tenths of their horses are running in the bush.

A few words, in conclusion, on the declension of oat-growing in Tasmania which it seems is taking place. The breadth of land under this crop has diminished since 1859 from 36,209 to 29,022, or more than 7000 acres. So say our Agricultural Returns at least; but how truly it would be rash to do more than conjecture, particularly when our Custom Tables show a larger exportation by 55,000 bushels in 1851 than took place in 1859. The Agricultural and even the Commercial Records of Tasmania are very doubtful at present times. The last-named ones are, indeed, a positive libel on the trade of the Colony, which they greatly misrepresent, (thanks to the apathy of the shippers of produce, who seem to give themselves very small concern about registering their shipments correctly). The Statistics of other Colonies always report the receipt of much larger quantities of merchandise from us, than our own credit us with. Similar errors are to be found in the official Returns of all Countries, but not, I think, in the same degree as in our own. But the misstatements in our Agricultural Tables are referable to the Legislature, which now votes nothing but a pittance of £125 for obtaining the intelligence we want on this momentous topic, and which, if it were acquired with reasonable correctness, would require a far larger sum than that allowed. A thoroughly good return of the stock and crops of the Colony would be, indeed, a very valuable accession of information.

None of the southern Colonies (Victoria and Tasmania excepted) do much in the oat-growing line. Victoria raises *seven* times more than we do, yet, strange to say, she imports more largely than all the other Colonies put together. South Australia, our great and successful competitor in wheat, neglects the culture of stable stuffs almost entirely; still her imports of the same are on a most insignificant scale, notwithstanding that her stock of horses more than doubles our own, numbering, at the end of 1861, no less than 52,596 head.

Our chief competitors in the oat trade of the Australian Markets are Great Britain, the United States, and Calcutta. The demand at the principal market, Victoria, is declining.

The oatmeal of Tasmania is said to be very superior; and if so, might possibly find favour in those colonies where such large purchases of this article are made: but I do not profess to be qualified to give an opinion on the advantage of converting the unequalled grain of Tasmania into meal, and therefore only submit the idea as a suggestion to the judgment of the trade.

QUEENSLAND AND TASMANIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MERCURY.

SIR,

In the present depressed state of trade, when most of our staple products are somewhat dull of sale, it may be as well to look about us and to see what our neighbours are doing, as to sit idle at home. Let us take a glance at what they are about, and it is just possible we may discover something in their transactions that we may imitate with advantage: for when our own business is getting slack, it is excusable enough to keep an eye on that of others, and thus learn if we can by what means it is that they keep on going a-head, while we are drifting the other way; in other words, to what markets they carry their wares, and how it is they manage to sell at a profit what we can hardly sell at all, and not only of what they grow themselves, but also that which they have to buy from us and others. In looking round, we may perhaps discover that we have not yet tried every market that is open to us, and that there are places where even *our own* wares are sold at a profit *by others* where we scarcely ever think of trading ourselves.

What think you of Queensland as a field for mercantile enterprise to expand itself in? You may rest assured that it is not such a poor place as you may think. True it is that the Census of last April enumerated only 30,115 persons in the whole province; yet such are the wants of this incipient community that her imports are said to be more than one-sixth of those of our North American Colonies, which contain 3,000,000 of persons.

Queensland is almost entirely given over to wool-growing. Yet such is her commerce that it rose last year to £1,265,499, made up of £742,023 of imports, and £532,476^a of exports. The former are carried to her almost exclusively by Great Britain and New South Wales,—the latter, however, having the lion's share of the business, namely seventeen-eightieths of it. In fact, in a commercial point of view, Queensland is not so much a colony of England as of New South Wales.

Being at present a pastoral country only, her wants are necessarily supplied from abroad; New South Wales being her principal caterer, to whom she paid, in 1860, £680,864, but of which (so her own Registrar-General states) "nine-tenths at least" represented goods that were not originally produced by N. S. Wales.

Of bread stuffs and horse corn N. S. Wales supplied her with £95,426 worth; but, as the breadth of land in tillage in the older colony is *not even yet* three-fourths of an acre for each of her people,^b it will be pretty evident that she grows little of this herself. Indeed her own statistics inform us that she is obliged to purchase largely from others for home use and foreign trade, namely, four to one more than she sells^c; in other words she is not able to supply her own wants, though what she purchases enables her to sell largely to others.

It looks a little strange that we, who cultivate three times more land per head than N. S. Wales does, and who are always able to produce more bread-stuff and horse-corn than we know what to do with, have never thought of sending a little of it to Queensland, where we could surely get rid of it quite as profitably as those who first buy from us and others to sell there again.^d

Of timber also New South Wales sends to Queensland almost five times as much as we do, though her own Customs returns prove that not a fourth of it is either grown or manufactured by herself. Doubtless much of it is our own, for New South Wales receives very large supplies from hence. In fact she buys cheaply here to sell dearly elsewhere.^e It is just the same with everything else that she sends to Queensland—it is all, or nearly all, produced in other countries, which seem to have forgotten that there is such a place as Queensland, where three-fourths of a million is spent annually.

With this market Tasmania has scarcely any direct trade. In the import returns of last year her name is mentioned but five times, and then only for the shabby sum of £1344 altogether, when that of New South Wales is down 241 times, for the magnificent share of £680,864. But as one of the actual producers of the wares that the latter deals in, we could surely compete with her successfully in any market she sells at.

It seems more than probable that Queensland must for a long time be dependent on others for the necessaries, as well as for the luxuries of life. At present she imports to the immense extent of about £24 a head, all round; for her cultivation has not yet reached one-ninth of an acre, or under 18 rods for each of her inhabitants. The cultivated land of the whole province is only 3353 acres; whereof there are but 196 in wheat, 13 in barley, and not quite 7 in oats. Hence it was that she had to purchase last year 4210 tons of flour from New South Wales and 10 more elsewhere. Of wheat her import was small, not reaching 17,000 bushels. Indeed it may be said that wheat is not of much use to her, as there is but one mill in the whole colony for the manufacture of flour.

I beg to conclude this paper with the offer of a list of some few of the articles that she takes almost exclusively from New South Wales, which Tasmania could supply her with quite as cheaply; the list states the quantities received, and declared value, from which such of your readers as have the articles enumerated to dispose of may judge whether Queensland is worth a trial or not.

Hobart Town, 23rd November, 1861.

^a Of this £444,188 was for wool, £25,628 for tallow, and for hides £10,277; all other articles except "personal effects" being insignificant.

^b 348,546 persons according to the Census of April last.

^c In 1860 New South Wales purchased 10,393 tons of flour and bread, and sold only 2413 of it, retaining nearly 8000 tons for herself.

^d New South Wales purchases chiefly from Victoria and Adelaide; Tasmania supplies a good deal, but not a tenth of what the others do.

^e Last year she bought 557,795 feet of sawn-stuff in Tasmanian markets for £4125, and sold 317,000 feet in those of Queensland for £4147, thus making a pretty good profit out of some one.

QUEENSLAND IMPORTS.

	Countries imported from.	A.D. 1860.		A.D. 1861.		REMARKS.
		Quantities.	Declared Value.	Quantities.	Declared Value.	
BARLEY	New South Wales	153 bags.	£ 99	115 casks.	£ 136	
BRAN	New South Wales	4021 bush.	418	14,301 bush.	1101	
	Great Britain	50 "	2	" "	" "	
	Victoria	" "	" "	775 "	53	
	Tasmania	" "	" "	3700 "	260	
		4071 bush.	420	18,776 bush.	1414	Demand for, quadrupled.
BUTTER	New South Wales	207 kegs.	1001	667 kegs.	2707	
	Great Britain	1 "	8	1 tub.	2	
	Victoria	" "	" "	35 kegs.	147	
	Tasmania	" "	" "	25 tubs.	15	
		208 kegs.	1009	728	2871	Ditto, trebled.
CHEESE	New South Wales	301 pkgs.	1468	497 cases.	2156	
	Great Britain	8 "	22	20 "	155	
		309 pkgs.	1490	517 cases.	2311	Ditto, increased.
FLOUR	New South Wales	4214 tons.	86,844	4377 tons.	81,111	
	Victoria	4 "	100	358 "	5316	
	South Australia	6 "	150	" "	" "	
	Tasmania	" "	" "	210 "	4399	
		4224 tons.	87,094	4045 tons.	90,826	Ditto.
FRUIT—Fresh	New South Wales	3750 cases.	2813	3831 cases.	4892	
	Tasmania	189 "	189	431 "	302	
		3939 cases.	3002	4261 cases.	5194	Ditto.
HORSES	New South Wales	412 head.	12,002	822 head.	20,210	
	Victoria	7 "	160	12 "	430	
		419 head.	12,162	834 head.	20,640	Ditto, doubled.
HAY	New South Wales	105 tons.	1241	461 tons.	2559	
	Victoria	" "	10	127 bales.	250	
	Tasmania	" "	" "	6 tons.	60	
		105 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons.	1251	467 tns. 127 bls.	2369	Ditto, quadrupled.
LEATHER	New South Wales	158 pkgs.	4795	511 pkgs.	6403	
	Great Britain	22 "	322	" "	" "	
		180 pkgs.	5117	511 pkgs.	6403	Ditto, nearly trebled.
OATS	New South Wales	983 bush.	298	3349 bush.	911	
	South Australia	" "	" "	45 "	19	
	Tasmania	" "	" "	564 "	226	
		983 bush.	298	3958 bush.	1156	Ditto, quadrupled.
ONIONS	New South Wales	18 tons.	325	31 tons.	598	
	Tasmania	" "	" "	11 "	119	
		18 tons.	325	42 tons.	717	Ditto, doubled.
POTATOES	New South Wales	260 tons.	3024	599 tons.	5441	
	Victoria	" "	" "	92 "	740	
	Tasmania	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	60	15 "	120	
		266 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons.	3084	706 tons.	6301	Ditto, nearly trebled.
RAMS	New South Wales	408 head.	4295	596 head.	2829	
	Victoria	50 "	250	55 "	400	
	Hamburgh	" "	" "	28 "	1120	
		458 head.	4545	679 head.	4349	Ditto, increased.
TIMBER	New South Wales	319,000 feet.	4147	603,196 feet.	8152	
	Victoria	" "	" "	79,065 "	1011	
	Tasmania	66,000 "	1026	130,400 shingles	409	
	New Caledonia	48,000 "	582	" "	" "	
		433,000 feet.	5755	685,261 feet and 130,400 shing.	9572	Ditto, increased.
WHEAT	New South Wales	16,882 bush.	7245	4573 bush.	1310	
	South Australia	" "	" "	25,881 bush.	9173	
		16,882 bush.	7245	30,454 bush.	10,483	Ditto, nearly doubled.