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GOLD MINING INDUSTRY OF AUSTRALIA.

Some interesting details of the gold mining industry of Australia have been made available by the Commonwealth Statistician (Dr. Roland Wilson).

PRODUCTION

The production of gold in Australia during the month of October, 1936, amounted to 105,266 fine ounces, valued in Australian currency at £A.922,026 or £stg.737,621. This represents an increase of 2 per cent. over the production during the previous month, which amounted to 103,062 fine ounces, and an increase of 24 per cent. over the figures for the corresponding month of last year.

In the following table details are shown of the quantity and value (in Australian and British currency) of the gold produced in each of the main gold-producing States during the months of October, 1935, and 1936:

PRODUCTION OF GOLD - AUSTRALIA - OCTOBER, 1935, AND 1936.

State	October, 1935			October, 1936		
	Quantity fine ozs.	Value		Quantity fine ozs.	Value	
		£A.	£stg.		£A.	£stg.
New South Wales ..	4,514	39,461	31,569	5,979	52,370	41,896
Victoria ..	6,766	59,148	47,318	9,610	84,174	67,339
Queensland ..	7,845	68,581	54,865	10,282	90,060	72,048
Western Australia	64,141	560,719	448,575	76,859	673,209	538,567
Other States ..	2,003	17,510	14,008	2,536	22,213	17,771
TOTAL:	85,269	745,419	596,335	105,266	922,026	737,621

In the next table the quantity and value of gold produced in Australia during the ten months ended October, 1936, are compared with the quantity and value for the corresponding period of last year. Comparison between the two periods is affected, however, by the industrial dispute which occurred on the gold fields of Western Australia during February and March, 1935:

Ten months ended October	Production in fine ounces	Value	
		£A.	£stg.
1935	719,560	6,307,651	5,046,122
1936	942,646	8,138,140	6,510,513
Increase:	223,086	1,830,489	1,464,391

The production of gold in Australia declined without interruption from a maximum output of 3,898,000 fine ounces in 1903 to 427,000 fine ounces in 1929. In 1930, due mainly to the increased production of Western Australia, the output increased to 468,000 fine ounces. Following the heavy depreciation of Australian currency in terms of gold which occurred in 1930 and 1931, the production of gold increased during 1931 to 595,000 fine ounces. The extent of the expansion during the years following is shown in the next table:

PRODUCTION OF GOLD - AUSTRALIA

Month	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936(a)
	fine ounces	fine ounces	fine ounces	fine ounces	fine ounces
January	50,674	55,613	68,487	68,594	78,693
February	52,195	58,314	65,700	(b) 42,063	81,581
March	55,469	62,242	69,868	(b) 42,923	84,126
April	57,134	74,908	74,775	77,116	92,283
May	60,494	66,281	71,749	74,554	89,991
June	57,490	70,627	79,235	81,644	101,861
July	61,041	69,855	75,225	77,497	105,345
August	59,910	70,744	76,362	83,536	100,438
September	63,370	78,110	76,536	86,364	103,062
October	59,536	71,869	72,090	85,269	105,266
November	67,279	74,987	77,711	94,805	
December	69,290	76,782	79,752	100,372	
TOTAL:	713,882	830,332	887,490	914,737	

(a) Subject to revision. (b) Industrial dispute, Western Australia.

TRADE.

The following tables show particulars of the imports and exports of gold during the months of October, 1935, and 1936 and during the ten months ended October, 1935 and 1936:

IMPORTS OF GOLD.

Country of Origin	October, 1935			October, 1936		
	Sovs.	£stg.	£A.	Sovs.	£stg.	£A.
<u>GOLD SPECIE</u>						
United Kingdom	356	582	729	-	-	-
<u>Importing State:</u>						
New South Wales	356	582	729	-	-	-
TOTAL:	356	582	729	-	-	-
TOTAL IMPORTS:	10 months ended October 1935	10 months ended October 1935	10 months ended October 1936	10 months ended October 1936	10 months ended October 1936	10 months ended October 1936
	463	746	934	-	-	-

GOLD - BAR, DUST, INGOT AND SHEET.

	fine oz.	£stg.	£A.	fine oz.	£stg.	£A.
Fiji ..	213	1,509	1,890	2,431	17,249	21,604
New Zealand	2,795	19,792	24,789	2,347	16,650	20,854
Papua ..	1,315	9,310	11,661	955	6,775	8,486
Solomon Is.	42	297	372	-	-	-
Territory of New Guinea	28,694	203,216	254,528	22,075	156,647	196,201
United States of America	-	-	-	13	92	115
<u>Importing State:</u>						
New South Wales	29,432	208,439	261,070	24,934	176,930	221,605
Victoria ..	3,627	25,685	32,170	2,887	20,483	25,655
TOTAL:	33,059	234,124	293,240	27,821	197,413	247,260
TOTAL IMPORTS:	10 months ended October 1935	10 months ended October 1935	10 months ended October 1936	10 months ended October 1936	10 months ended October 1936	10 months ended October 1936
	199,246	1,417,535	1,775,463	214,593	1,499,971	1,878,714

GOLD - CONTAINED IN MATTE.

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EXPORTS OF GOLD.

Country of Destination	October, 1935			October, 1936		
	Sovs.	£A.	£stg.	Sovs.	£A.	£stg.
GOLD SPECIE						
United Kingdom	1,833	3,772	3,018	1,555½	(a)3,235	(a)2,589
France ..	220	453	362	-	-	-
U.S. America	99,840	205,471	164,377	22,300	45,985	36,787
<u>Exporting State:</u>						
New South Wales	101,893	209,696	167,757	23,750	(a)49,003	(a)39,202
Victoria ..	-	-	-	105½	217	174
TOTAL:	101,893	209,696	167,757	23,855½	(a)49,220	(a)39,376
<u>10 months ended October 1935</u> <u>10 months ended October 1936</u>						
TOTAL EXPORTS:	181,442	(a)374,540	(a)299,773	94,287	(a)192,183	(a)153,746

(a) Includes value of gold coins other than sovereigns.

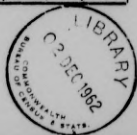
GOLD - BAR, DUST, INGOT AND SHEET.

	fine oz	£A.	£stg.	fine oz.	£A.	£stg.
United Kingdom	89,202	779,779	623,823	59,619	521,804	417,443
France ..	6,089	53,230	42,584	139	1,217	974
U.S. America	13,025	113,864	91,091	52,619	460,366	368,293
<u>Exporting State:</u>						
New South Wales	44,593	389,832	311,865	46,183	404,516	323,613
Victoria ..	10,033	87,709	70,167	5,192	44,725	35,780
South Australia	492	4,276	3,421	715	6,092	4,874
Western Australia ..	53,198	465,056	372,045	60,287	528,054	422,443
TOTAL:	108,316	946,873	757,498	112,377	983,387	786,710
<u>10 months ended October 1935</u> <u>10 months ended October 1936</u>						
TOTAL EXPORTS:	928,930	8,144,513	6,515,632	1,126,815	9,725,356	7,779,715

NET EXPORTS OF GOLD IN EXCESS OF NEW PRODUCTION.

Particulars	1934-35	1935-36	4 months ending		Month of	
			October 1935	October 1936	October 1935	October 1936
	£stg.	£stg.	£stg.	£stg.	£stg.	£stg.
Exports of gold bullion, specie and matte	7,853,546	9,604,297	3,125,594	3,468,225	925,255	826,086
Gold contents of ores, concentrates etc. ..	239,395	229,855	(a)46,364	(a)164,895	(a)19,911	(a)96,111
Total exports of gold in all forms	8,092,941	9,834,152	3,171,958	3,633,120	945,166	922,197
Imports of gold bullion, specie and matte	1,679,586	1,635,510	603,603	733,374	234,706	197,413
Net exports of gold ..	6,413,355	8,198,642	2,568,355	2,899,746	710,460	724,784
Production of gold in all forms	5,891,203	7,337,856	2,314,892	2,848,300	596,335	737,621
Net exports in excess of production	522,152	860,986	253,463	51,446	114,125	-12,837

(a) Roughly estimated.



PLANT AND MACHINERY.

When the production of gold reached its peak in 1903, the value of the plant and machinery employed in the whole industry was about £9 million; Western Australia with £4.4 million and Victoria with £2 million being the chief States concerned. In 1929, when production reached its lowest level during the present century, the total value of plant and machinery had declined to about £1.5 million. The following table furnishes particulars of the value of plant and machinery, as recorded by the Mines Department of the several States, and gives some indication of the extent of the revival in gold mining during the period shown.

VALUE OF PLANT AND MACHINERY EMPLOYED IN GOLD MINING INDUSTRY

State	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	99,177	173,681	189,701	274,108	426,144
Victoria ..	(a)	(a)	(a)	295,246	583,301
Queensland ..	88,400	416,786	339,871	541,943	(b)
South Australia	5,850	5,850	8,300	17,300	20,300
Western Australia	1,746,832	1,784,748	1,672,680	2,485,488	3,409,958
Tasmania ..	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Northern Territory	1,425	2,800	2,200	14,000	53,500
TOTAL:	1,941,684	2,383,865	2,212,752	3,628,085	(b)

(a) Not available.

(b) Not yet available.

NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED.

Particulars of the number of persons engaged in gold mining in each State during the last five years are given in the following table. The figures are inclusive of prospectors, etc., so far as they are ascertainable, and include those who may not have worked during the whole of the year. During the peak year of 1903, there were 68,573 persons engaged in the gold mining industry of Australia, but by 1929 the numbers had dwindled to 6,108 persons. The revival of the industry has led to the discovery of a number of new and important fields in many parts of Australia. With the development of these, and the further prospecting of old fields, it is expected that employment will continue to increase for some time.

NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED IN GOLD MINING INDUSTRY

State	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
New South Wales	9,944	8,154	6,913	7,080	6,652
Victoria ..	4,258	6,089	6,126	6,943	6,960
Queensland ..	2,751	3,893	4,161	3,867	3,931
South Australia	180	142	231	804	243
Western Australia	6,344	7,983	9,900	12,523	14,708
Tasmania ..	166	250	229	275	216
Northern Territory	70	89	95	115	403
TOTAL:	23,713	26,600	27,655	31,607	33,113

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18th December, 1936.