SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STAPLE PRODUCE 1876 – Extract from SOUTH AUSTRALIA:

ITS HISTORY, RESOURCES, AND PRODUCTIONS.

EDITED BY

WILLIAM HARCUS, Esq., J.P.

ILLUSTRATED FROM PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN IN THE COLONY.

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WITH MAPS.

PUBLISTED BY AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AND DEDICATED (BY PERMISSION) TO HIS EXCELLENCY SIR ANTHONY MUSCRAVE, K.C.M.G., &c., GOVERNOR AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE COLONY.

${\bf L} \ {\bf O} \ {\bf N} \ {\bf D} \ {\bf O} \ {\bf N}$:

SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON, SEARLE, & RIVINGTON, CROWN BUILDINGS, 188 FLEET STREET.

1876.

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STAPLE PRODUCTS.

It will be necessary, however, to refer more particularly to the chief sources of the material wealth of the country, which may be classified under the heads of agricultural, pastoral, and mining produce. The following abstract shows the progress made in the exports of staple products from 1851 to the present time, stated at intervals of five years :—

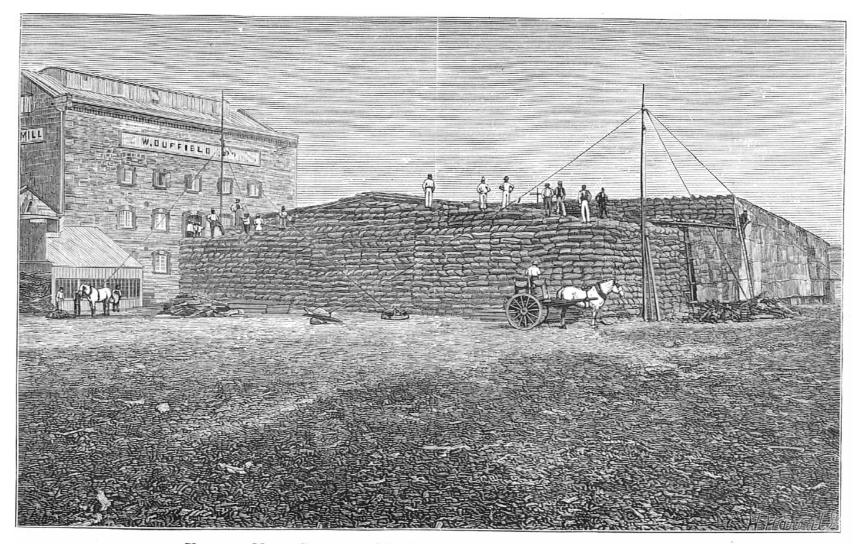
Years.	Total.	Breadstuffs.	Wool.	Minerals.	
	£	£	£	£ 310,916	
$ 1851 \\ 1856 $	$540,962 \\ 1,398,867$	$\substack{73,359\\556,371}$	$148,036 \\ 412,163 \\ 222$	408,042	
$1861 \\ 1866$	$1,838,639 \\ 2,539,723$	$712,789\\645,401$	$\substack{623,007\\990,173}$	$452,172\\824,501$	
$ 1871 \\ 1875 $	3,289,861 4,442,100	$1,253,429 \\ 1,680,996$	1,170,885 1,833,519	$648,569 \\ 762,386$	

STAPLE PRODUCE EXPORTS.

From the foregoing statement, it appears that out of $\pounds 4,442,100$ worth of staple produce, the value of breadstuffs amounted to $\pounds 1,680,996$, or thirty-six per cent. of the whole; that wool represented $\pounds 1,833,519$, or forty-two per cent.; and copper $\pounds 762,386$, or twenty-eight per cent.; the balance of $\pounds 165,199$, or four per cent., being miscellaneous products.

BREADSTUFFS.—The exports of wheat, flour, and other breadstuffs, constitute thirty-six per cent. of the total exports of South Australian produce, and have increased from a total value of £73,000 in 1851 to £1,680,000 in 1875. The exports of breadstuffs during the last twelve months were as follows :— Flour, 76,209 tons, value £819,395; wheat, 479,882 quarters, value £831,266; and bran and pollard, 5,512 tons, valued at £27,888, or together a total of £1,678,549 sterling.

The following table exhibits the remarkable development of this the most important branch of local industry. Giving the quantities exported will prove more useful than a statement merely showing the value, and furnish a more correct basis upon which to estimate the extent of substantial progress made by the agriculturists during the past decade:—



VICTORIA MILL, GAWLER. (The Stack contains 200,000 Bushels of Wheat.)

Years.	Flo	our.	Bran and	Pollard.	Whe	eat.
rears.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
1866 1867 1868 1869 1870 1871 1872 1873 1874 1875	$\begin{array}{r} {\rm Tons.}\\ 30,496\\ 43,703\\ 23,591\\ 38,653\\ 27,371\\ 46,842\\ 38,319\\ 57,170\\ 58,635\\ 76,209 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} \pounds \\ 498,924 \\ 498,222 \\ 405,982 \\ 495,589 \\ 354,012 \\ 594,482 \\ 510,826 \\ 737,160 \\ 783,489 \\ 819,395 \end{array}$	Tons. 2,500 3,274 1,787 2,847 2,167 3,816 2,220 1,477 2,461 5,512	$\begin{array}{c} \pounds \\ 18,517 \\ 14,549 \\ 10,841 \\ 15,303 \\ 12,210 \\ 14,495 \\ 9,525 \\ 7,906 \\ 15,563 \\ 27,888 \end{array}$	$\begin{matrix} \text{Qrs.} \\ 46,756 \\ 301,543 \\ 55,876 \\ 195,031 \\ 47,079 \\ 315,054 \\ 157,678 \\ 479,702 \\ 192,308 \\ 479,882 \end{matrix}$	$\begin{array}{c} \pounds \\ 126,601 \\ 521,690 \\ 148,603 \\ 371,221 \\ 99,600 \\ 639,348 \\ 333,890 \\ 965,577 \\ 428,753 \\ 831,266 \end{array}$

The total exports of colonial produce in breadstuffs and grain during the period referred to was—of flour, 440,989 tons, of the value of $\pounds 5,698,081$; of wheat, 2,270,909 quarters, of the value of $\pounds 4,466,549$; and of bran and pollard, 28,121 tons, of the value of $\pounds 146,797$. Diagram C (page 372) shows the prices of wheat at Port Adelaide in each month during the past ten years.

The quality of South Australian wheat and flour is of such excellence as to command the highest price in the markets of the world. The great bulk of the crop is shipped to the United Kingdom, the daily fluctuations in whose markets are made known here by telegram. New South Wales, Queensland, Cape Town, Mauritius, New Caledonia, and several Eastern ports also receive considerable consignments of South Australian flour.

The harvest of 1875–6—now in course of being garnered is expected to yield 230,000 tons of breadstuffs beyond local requirements for food and seed; or an excess, available for export, of the value of two and a quarter millions sterling.

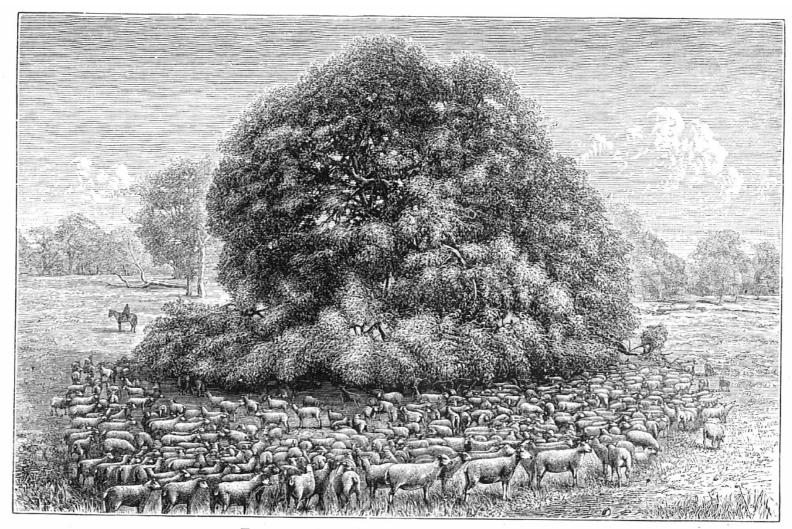
WOOL.—That pastoral pursuits are being conducted with great success in South Australia is illustrated by the statement furnish on page 370, showing the export of wool during the last ten ars.

It will be remarked that the export of wool has increased fifty per cent. during the past five years, and doubled during the decade. The total value of South Australian wool shipped SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

DIAGRAM SHOWING WHEAT PRICES AT PORT ADELAIDE FOR TEN YEARS.

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FLOCK OF SHEEP UNDER A GUM TREE.

Years.	S. A. Wool.	Other Wool.	No. of Bales.	Total Weight.	Total Value
$1866 \\ 1867 \\ 1868 \\ 1869 \\ 1870 \\ 1871 \\ 1872 \\ 1873 \\ 1874 \\ 1875$	Lbs. 19,739,523 19,350,195 28,899,190 27,022,671 24,169,256 31,250,677 33,709,717 32,967,941 35,593,805 39,723,249	Lbs. 1,168,562 3,283,597 730,335 3,510,141 2,049,028 1,405,750 940,914 3,005,493 4,250,219 4,785,425	61,977 66,395 86,913 87,150 87,394 97,532 100,017 105,306 114,845 126,046	Lbs. $20,908,085$ 22,633,792 29,629,525 30,522,812 26,218,284 32,656,427 34,650,631 35,973,434 39,844,024 44,508,674	$\begin{array}{c} \pounds \\ 1,064,486 \\ 1,144,341 \\ 1,346,323 \\ 1,128,568 \\ 1,000,344 \\ 1,350,689 \\ 1,692,609 \\ 1,808,622 \\ 1,998,939 \\ 2,066,227 \end{array}$

in 1856 was £412,163; in 1866, £990,173; and in 1875 it reached £1,833,519 sterling.

The aggregate number of bales shipped last year was 126,046, as against 87,394 in 1870, and 61,977 in 1866.

Considering the vast extent of available territory at present unoccupied in South Australia, there would appear to be little doubt that the extraordinary progress already made in the production of wool will steadily continue. The excellent quality of the staple, the great suitability of the climate, giving almost complete immunity from scab, fluke, and other diseases peculiar to sheep, taken together with the security of tenure enjoyed by the pastoral lessees, conduce to the rapid development of this profitable industry.

COPPER.—South Australia owes no little of its prosperity to the employment of a large number of its people, directly and indirectly, in the working of her copper mines, several of which, whilst supporting a very considerable section of the colonists, have been exceedingly profitable to the proprietors. The principal mines are the Burra, the Wallaroo, and the Moonta. From the first of these, 215,000 tons of ore were raised during 31 years from the commencement of operations, producing four millions sterling. The total amount expended by the company was £1,982,000, of which £1,568,000 represented wages, the gross profits being £882,000. Since the opening of the Wallaroo Mines, the total quantity of ore raised therefrom has been 290,000 tons, and the average of the past five years has been 26,000 tons. The Moonta mines were discovered in 1861, since which year 255,000 tons of ore have been raised, realizing $\pounds 2,760,000$. A profit of $\pounds 928,000$ has been divided amongst the shareholders of this magnificent property.

In 1844, shortly after the discovery of copper in South Australia, the total value of the minerals exported was $\pounds 6436$; in 1851 it reached to $\pounds 310,916$; in 1861 it amounted to $\pounds 454,172$; in 1871, to $\pounds 648,569$; and in 1875, to $\pounds 762,386$.

The following table exhibits the steady productiveness of South Australian mines, distinguishes the quantity of fine copper shipped from the quantity of ore exported in its crude state, and gives the estimated value of each.

	Years.	Fine C	Copper.	Coppe	Total Value, all Minerals.	
		Cwt.	£	Tons.	£	£
1	1866	129,272	584,509	16,824	225,683	824,501
	1867	156,863	627,384	11,430	113,409	753,413
1	1868	104,227	400,691	20,725	207,519	624,022
1	1869	92,788	371,566	26,835	250,259	$627,\!152$
	1870	109,421	394,919	20,886	173,861	574,090
	1871	127,911	518,080	20,127	119,903	648,569
	1872	149,050	680,714	26,964	122,020	806,364
	1873	141,744	635.131	27.382	133,371	770,590
	1874	132,587	557,306	22.854	136,530	700,323
	1875	136,835	578,065	26,436	175,101	762,386

The smelting works in connection with these mines are of a very extensive and costly character, employing a large amount of skilled labour.

MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTS.—In addition to the chief staples above referred to, a variety of minor articles of produce are annually exported, last year amounting in the aggregate to the value of £174,634, including the following principal items, viz.:—Tallow, 25,670 cwt., £38,511 value; Preserved Meats, 1,259,820 lbs., £28,241; Leather, £4410; Hides and Skins, £16,139; Wine, 59,174 gallons, £19,240; Bark, 2650 tons, £14,552; Eggs, £7987; Dried and Fresh Fruits, £4977; Jams and Preserves, £3216; Potatoes, 735 tons, £3178; Soap, 1533 cwt., £1804; Salt, 80 tons; Gum, £1251; Slate, £1253; and other articles of less value.