

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STAPLE PRODUCE 1876 – Extract from

SOUTH AUSTRALIA :

ITS HISTORY, RESOURCES, AND PRODUCTIONS.

EDITED BY

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ILLUSTRATED FROM PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN IN THE COLONY.

WITH MAPS.

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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:—

STAPLE PRODUCE EXPORTS.

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

From the foregoing statement, it appears that out of £4,442,100 worth of staple produce, the value of breadstuffs amounted to £1,680,996, or thirty-six per cent. of the whole; that wool represented £1,833,519, or forty-two per cent.; and copper £762,386, or twenty-eight per cent.; the balance of £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:—

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

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 £5,698,081; of wheat, 2,270,909 quarters, of the value of £4,466,549; and of bran and pollard, 28,121 tons, of the value of £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 furnished on page 370, showing the export of wool during the last ten years.

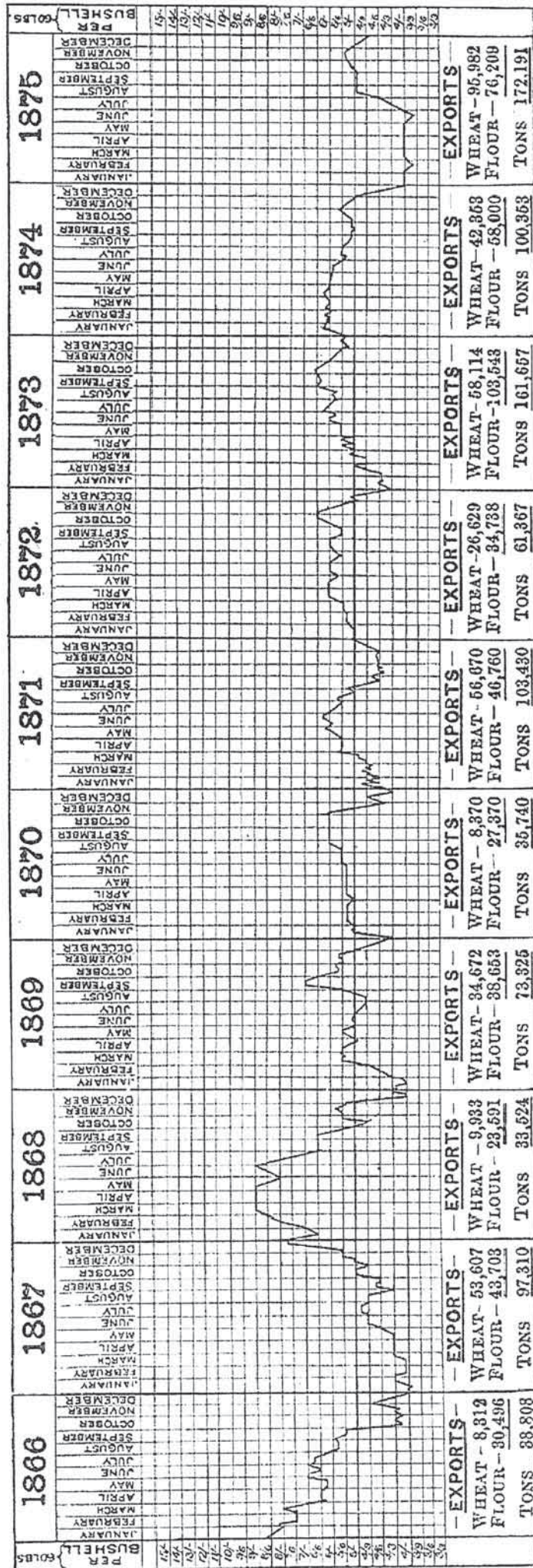
It will be remarked that the export of wool has increased fifty per cent. during the past five years, and doubled during the decade. The total value of South Australian wool shipped

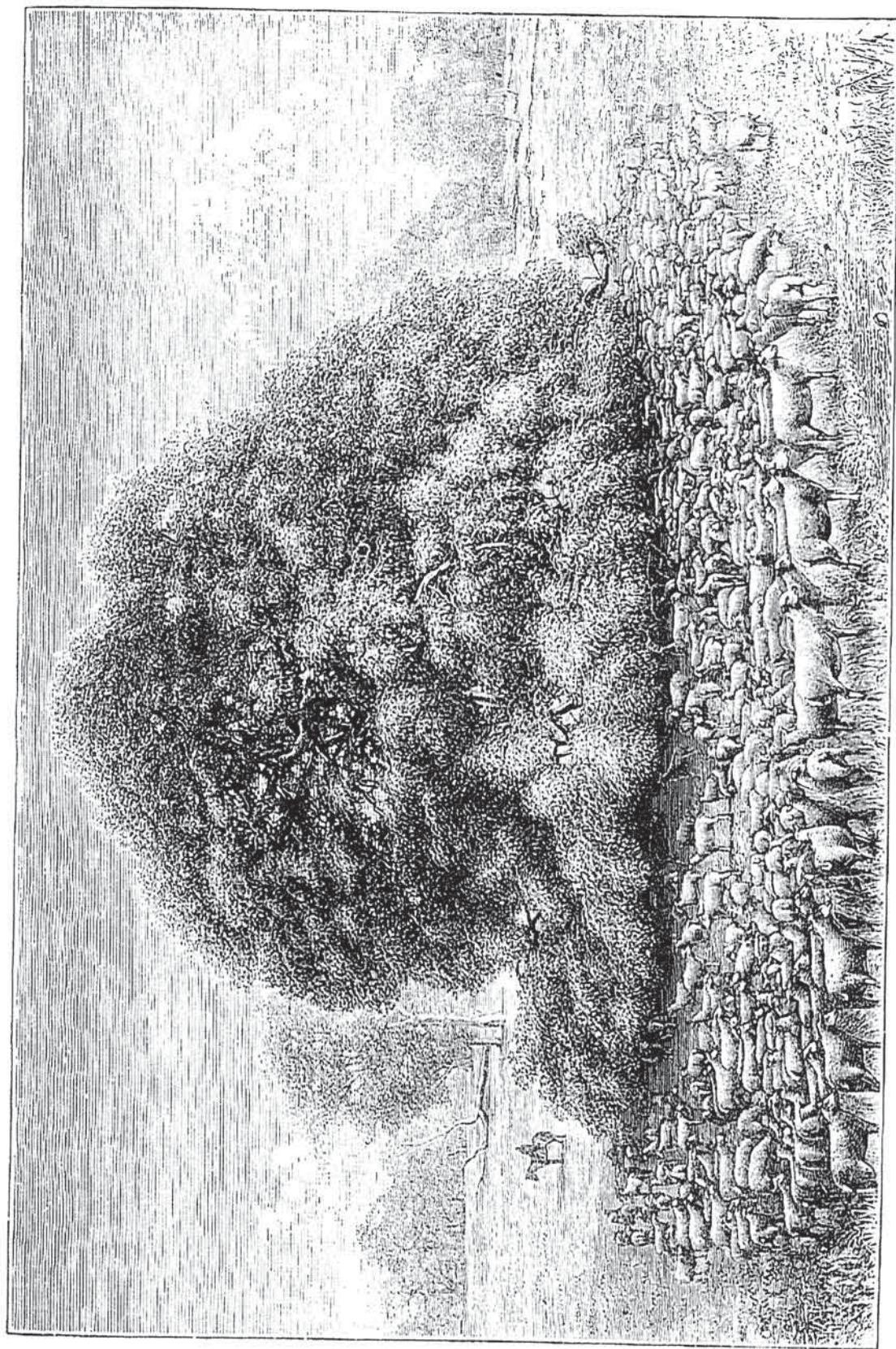


VICTORIA MILL, GAWLER. (The Stack contains 200,000 Bushels of Wheat.)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

DIAGRAM SHOWING WHEAT PRICES AT PORT ADELAIDE FOR TEN YEARS.





FLOCK OF SHEEP UNDER A GUM TREE.

been 26,000 tons. The Moonta mines were discovered in 1861, since which year 255,000 tons of ore have been raised, realizing £2,760,000. A profit of £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 £6436; in 1851 it reached to £310,916; in 1861 it amounted to £454,172; in 1871, to £648,569; and in 1875, to £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 Copper.		Copper Ore.		Total Value, all Minerals.
	Cwt.	£	Tons.	£	£
1866	129,272	584,500	16,824	225,683	824,501
1867	156,863	627,384	11,430	113,409	753,413
1868	104,227	400,691	20,725	207,519	624,022
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.

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

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

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