REPORT ON TRADE CONDITIONS IN AUSTRALASIA, PP. 5-47(NOT COMPLETE)

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649273980

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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Trieste

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR
BUREAU OF MANUFACTURES
JOHN M. CARSON, Chief

REPORT ON TRADE CONDITIONS IN AUSTRALASIA

By
HARRY R. BURRILL
Special Agent of the Department of Commerce and Labor

TRANSMITTED TO CONGRESS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE ACT OF JUNE 22, 1906, AUTHORIZING INVESTIGATIONS OF TRADE CONDITIONS ABROAD

WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1908

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LETTER OF SUBMITTAL.

WASHINGTON, *September 2, 1907.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith a report on Trade Conditions in Australasia, supplementing various preliminary reports made on the same subject.

My investigations, which covered a period of several months, were especially directed toward the position occupied by the United States in the markets of the Commonwealth of Australia and the colony of New Zealand, and the opportunities afforded for closer and more profitable trade relations between our manufacturing interests and those countries. A careful study of existing conditions leads to the conclusion that the commerce of Australia and New Zealand is capable of enormous expansion in the near future, and that American manufacturers may participate in the benefits of that expansion if they will defer to the requirements of the market.

In the appended report may be found information and suggestions which, it is believed, will be of use to manufacturers and exporters of the United States in their efforts to maintain and develop the markets of Australasia.

Respectfully,

HARRY R. BURRILL,
Special Agent of the Department of Commerce and Labor.

To Hon. OSCAR S. STRAUS,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

TRADE CONDITIONS IN AUSTRALASIA.

INTRODUCTION.

Australasia's growing importance as a market for the manufactures of the world can not be accurately measured by published statistics showing the commerce of the great "island continent," for her industrial and commercial progress is still in its infancy, and it is inevitable, because of her limited population, vast area, and inadequate water supply, that the development of her splendid natural resources, should be, to a regrettable extent, retarded. These conditions, however, will unquestionably improve far more rapidly in the near future than in the past through the intelligent efforts directed toward the solution of the problems of immigration and irrigation.

The Australasian colonies have made haste slowly in the direction of increasing population by means of immigration, for they have demanded desirable residents, and legislation has been framed with a view to admitting those only. By extending government aid to intending settlers and spreading broadcast information regarding the opportunities existing in the Commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand, the governing powers of those colonies now confidently expect to overcome the handicap of distance and attract people who will prove of substantial benefit in building up the country.

A growing population means greater production, increased wealth per capita, and a corresponding expansion in the consumption of manufactured articles, all of which should benefit the United States as much, if not more proportionately, as any other competing nation.

EXTENT OF AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES.

The Australasian colonies comprise the continent of Australia, the adjacent island of Tasmania, and the islands of New Zealand. The group was formerly subdivided politically into seven colonies, but in January, 1901, the five mainland States and Tasmania became the Commonwealth of Australia, New Zealand retaining its position