

significant index to be noted in this connexion. From a price-level of 2,803 for all classes of exports in 1924, the price fell to 2,152 in 1925, and to 2,080 in 1926, pre-war level being reckoned at 1,000.

Thus each and every one of the indices examined moves in sympathy; and apparently, in response to the operation of some factor which commences to function in 1925. Cost of living,

TABLE LIII

*Unemployment, Wages, and Trade Activity, Australia*<sup>1</sup>

<i>Month.</i>	<i>Unemployment. per cent.</i>	<i>Nominal wages.</i>	<i>Effective wages.</i>	<i>Exports per head.</i>	<i>Export price-level.</i>
1924					
Mar.	7.5	1,848	1,060	£27.588	2,803
June	8.3	1,840	(for year)	(for year)	(for year)
Sept.	9.4	1,838			
Dec.	10.1	1,839			
1925					
Mar.	9.3	1,840	1,095	£24.792	2,152
June	10.3	1,846	(for year)	(for year)	(for year)
Sept.	7.9	1,869			
Dec.	8.1	1,887			
1926					
Mar.	8.2	1,892	1,080	£23.712	2,080
June	6.8	1,904	(for year)	(for year)	(for year)
Sept.	7.6	1,922			
Dec.	5.8	1,938	1,070 (for 1927)		

wages, unemployment, and export activity all tend to corroborate the contention that the return to gold was not a negligible factor in the adverse Australian situation which developed in the period immediately following the 28th of April 1925.

Something further must now be said concerning the steps taken by the British Government at the time of the restoration to prevent any excessive export of gold owing to the adverse trade balance.

'The first remedy was to put obstacles in the way of our usual lending abroad by means of an embargo on foreign loans, and recently on colonial loans also; and the second remedy was to encourage the United States to lend us money by maintaining the unprecedented

<sup>1</sup> Commonwealth Labour Reports, Nos. 15, 16, 17.