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HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS

OF

NEW SOUTH WALES,

QUEENSLAND,

SOUTH AUSTRALIA,

TASMANIA,

VICTORIA, AND

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.



COMPILED EXPRESSLY FOR

The Year-Book of Australia.

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IN THE*

COURT OF "THE YEAR-BOOK OF AUSTRALIA,"
CENTENNIAL INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION,
MELBOURNE.

EXTRACT FROM THE SPEECH OF THE HON. SIR HENRY PARKES, G.C.M.G., PREMIER OF NEW SOUTH WALES, AT BEGA, ON THE 7TH JANUARY, 1888.

"I know that I forecast no shadowy picture when I tell you that these young Australian States will in the course of a very short time—another generation will do it—take their rank among the nations of the world. I, for one, fervently hope—I pray so earnestly as I pray for myself—that our connection with the grand old State from which we sprang may long continue. I can conceive of no higher distinction for the young Australian commonwealth than that of being affiliated to old England by some delicate but sufficiently binding ties, taking a noble, world-embracing course of progress under the same grand old flag. But, whether that be so or not, one thing is beyond all doubt—namely, that we shall be a great power, and it is for you to see that the foundation of a great national fabric is laid in solid rock, and by pure and elevated motives to see that the spirit which inspires your legislation and your administration in every act of your political life is pure and durable."

Historical Account of New South Wales.

(Compiled expressly for The Year-Book of Australia.)

ALTHOUGH other portions of the Australian continent were visited by Europeans much earlier, it was not until the year 1770 that the coast of what is now New South Wales was discovered, when Captain Cook entered Botany Bay in the "Endeavour" on the 28th April, landing on the same day in company with Mr. Banks, Dr. Solander, and others. On May 1, Forby Sutherland, one of the seamen of the "Endeavour," was buried near the watering place, the south point being named Point Sutherland by Capt. Cook from this incident. A few days later, on May 6, Capt. Cook set sail from his anchorage in Botany Bay, and at noon was abreast of a harbor which he named Port Jackson, after Sir George Jackson, Secretary to the Admiralty.

Coasting along the eastern seaboard, he finally reached the northern extremity of the continent at Cape York, and on the 21st August of the same year landed on a small island in its vicinity, and took formal possession of the whole eastern coast, from lat. 35° to lat. 10° 50' S., on behalf of H.M. King George III., at the same time bestowing on it the appellation of New South Wales.

It having been determined upon by the British Government to send a number of convicts to Botany Bay, six transports carrying 564 male and 192 female criminals, and three storeships, sailed from Portsmouth on the 13th May, 1787, accompanied by the warships "Sirius" and "Supply," the whole expedition being under the command of Capt. Phillip, of the "Sirius," who was authorized by the Government to found a colony. The fleet of eleven ships, with 1,030 persons, arrived in Botany Bay on the 20th January, 1788, having lost 32 souls by death during the voyage, and six days later came to an anchor in Port Jackson, when formal possession of the territory was taken by Governor Phillip, and the British colors hoisted. On the same day, the French ships "Astrolabe" and "Boussole," commanded by La Pérouse and L'Angle, anchored in Botany Bay.

On the 13th February, Norfolk Island was established as a dependency of the colony, under Lieut. King, afterwards Capt. King and Governor of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land. The entire live stock of the colony in May of this year was found to consist of 2 bulls, 5 cows, 1 horse, 3 mares, 3 colts, 19 sheep, 19 goats, 74 pigs, 5 rabbits, 18 turkeys, 29 geese, 35 ducks, and 210 fowls. June 4 being His Majesty's birthday, a grand dinner was given by the Governor, when the name and boundaries of the first county in the colony were fixed. It was called Cumberland.

In June, 1789, the Hawkesbury River was discovered by Governor Phillip, in company with Capt. Hunter, Collins, Johnston, and others; and detachments of some companies arrived which had been raised in England for the service of the colony, and were called the New South Wales Corps. In November, an observatory was commenced at the west point of Sydney Cove, together with a residence for Lieut. Dawes, the officer in charge. The first harvest in the colony was reaped at Rose Hill (Parramatta) in December of this year.

On the 26th September, 1791, Lieut.-Governor King, who had left the colony for England the previous year, arrived in the "Gorgon" in charge of the Territorial Seal, and His Majesty's gracious permission to grant pardons, absolute or conditional. Shortly after, on November 1, Governor Phillip was dangerously wounded in the breast by a spear thrown by one of a party of natives he was endeavoring to conciliate. On February 24, 1792, Lieut.-Governor Grose arrived from England, and on December 11, Governor Phillip departed thither, handing over the Government of the colony to the late arrival.

Meanwhile, building and agriculture were being carried on apace, and in 1793 the Government purchased from the settlers 1,200 bushels of wheat, this being the first sale made. In December, 1794, Lieut.-Governor Grose sailed for England, handing over charge of the colony to Captain Paterson, of the New South Wales Corps, who was superseded by Governor Hunter on the arrival of the latter on the 7th September, 1795. The chronicles of the next year record the important discovery of coal at Port Stephens. In August, 1797, the colonial ship "Cumberland" was piratically seized and carried off by convicts. The three years 1796, 1797, and 1798, were remarkable for successful explorations of both the coast and the

interior, Flinders and Bass distinguishing themselves by their discoveries.

On Governor Hunter embarking for England on the 28th September, 1800, the Government of the colony devolved upon Capt. Phillip Gidley King, late Lieut.-Governor of Norfolk Island. Property of all kinds had rapidly been increasing in value during the last three years, and now reached such ridiculously high prices as £90 for a horse, £80 for a cow, £7 10s. for a Cape sheep, £1 1s. for a goose, 16s. per lb. for tea, &c., &c. These rates were not caused by the scarcity of the commodities, but through the movements of a ring of traders, mostly of the official, civil, and military classes, who obtained the control of most of the goods which arrived, as well as the agricultural produce of the colony which was for disposal, and were then able to demand arbitrary prices from the consumer.

In 1803, the first Australian newspaper, the *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, was instituted and published by Mr. George Howes. In 1804, there was an *émeute* among the convicts at Castle Hill, which was put down by the military, when many of the leading insurgents were hanged. The year 1806 is memorable for a most disastrous flood at the Hawkesbury on March 20, which inundated nearly the whole of the settlement, many persons perishing, and whole families being ruined. The consequences to the colony were little short of a famine. Food of all kinds rose rapidly in price, bread of very inferior quality selling for 2s. 3d. per lb.

On the 6th August of this year Captain William Bligh arrived, and relieved Governor King of his rule, the latter at once taking his departure for England. At this time the population of New South Wales numbered 7,200, with 1,084 more at Norfolk Island; the area of land occupied was 48,855 acres, of which 12,860 acres were under crop; and the live stock consisted of 438 horses, 3,264 cattle, 16,501 sheep, 14,300 pigs, and 2,900 goats. Governor Bligh's tenure of office was marked by great antagonism between himself and the wealthier class of free settlers, as well as the military officers, and he was specially severe with Capt. MacArthur, the first introducer of sheep to the colony for wool-growing. This state of things finally led to the arrest and deposition of the Governor on January 26, 1808, by Major Johnston, commanding the 102nd or New South Wales Corps, who as senior military officer then took upon himself the duties of government. As soon as this had occurred, Capt. MacArthur was appointed Colonial Secretary, and the other responsible posts under Government were filled by those who were favorable to the chief actors in this small rebellion, the former occupants being superseded.

This condition of affairs only continued until July 28th, when Lieut.-Colonel Foveaux returned from England with the appointment of Lieut.-Governor, and at once superseded Major Johnston. Not wishing to identify himself with either party, Foveaux simply carried on the government of the colony until Colonel Pearson arrived from Van Diemen's Land on January 1st, 1809, and superseded him. He also kept aloof from the late party quarrels, deeming it wiser to await the instructions of the Home Government, and meanwhile keeping Governor Bligh under arrest at Government House, in default of his accepting the offer of the command of the "Porpoise," and agreeing to proceed to England with the utmost despatch. On the 4th February, Governor Bligh signified his willingness to leave in the "Porpoise" and sail for England as demanded; and the following month saw the departure of Major Johnston for England, to meet any charges that might be laid against him, and he was accompanied by Captain MacArthur. Bligh, instead of sailing directly for England, went to Van Diemen's Land, with the view of arousing popular feeling in his favor; but finding himself thwarted by the Lieut.-Governor, Colonel Collins, continued to hover off the coast until the arrival of Colonel Lachlan Macquarie as Governor on December 28th of the same year, accompanied by the first battalion of the 73rd Regiment, under the command of Colonel O'Connell, who had been appointed Lieut.-Governor.

The new Governor's first work was to re-instate all the officers who had been removed when Bligh was placed under arrest, and to order the officers and men of the New South Wales Corps to hold themselves in readiness

to proceed to England. Despatches were sent inviting Bligh to return to Sydney, and in a few weeks he did so, when he was received according to his naval rank of commodore. He finally left the colony on the 7th May, and the result of the enquiry at home was that Lieut.-Colonel Johnston was cashiered the service, and Captain Macarthur debarred from returning to the colony for eight years, for the part which they respectively took in connection with the deposition of Bligh.

Under Governor Macquarie's rule, the material progress of New South Wales was very great. Roads and bridges were constructed with vigor, the work of exploration was carried out in an able and steady manner, and Sydney was transformed from a mere collection of huts into a busy town.

In 1813, the expenditure of the colony amounted to £235,000, and in 1814 to £231,362, which was reduced to £150,000 in 1815. In this year (1813) the first successful attempt was made by Blaxland, Wentworth, and Lawson to cross the Blue Mountains, which had hitherto baffled all efforts in this direction. They reached a point about 1½ mile beyond what is now known as Katoomba, the spot being marked by a tree, which is still in existence. In this year also, a market and half-yearly fairs were established in Parramatta, and in 1816, the foundation-stone of the Macquarie tower and lighthouse was laid by the Governor; while the Bank of New South Wales was established on April 8th of the following year. The Benevolent Society of New South Wales was brought into existence on June 4th, 1818, and in the same year the Governor visited Newcastle on a tour of inspection. In 1819, the Sydney Savings Bank was established, and the country west of the Blue Mountains received the name of Westmoreland. In 1820, the foundation-stone of the Georgian Public School was laid by Governor Macquarie, who also visited Bathurst, and marked and named Campbelltown on the 1st December.

The population of Sydney had risen this year to upwards of 7,000, about a third of the entire population of the colony; and several thriving manufactures, such as woollen cloths, earthenware, salt, candles, soap, hats, &c., were being carried on there. The next year saw the opening of the Sydney Benevolent Asylum by the Governor on the 1st October, after which he sailed on a tour of inspection to the northern settlements on the 1st November. Some idea may be formed of the prosperity and increase of the colony by the following returns for October, 1821, which include Van Diemen's Land as part of New South Wales:—Population, including the military, 38,778; cattle, 102,939; sheep, 290,158; pigs, 33,906; horses, 4,564; land cleared and in tillage, 32,267 acres.

Six days after the departure of Governor Macquarie from Sydney, Major-General Sir Thomas Brisbane, K.C.B., arrived, and his commission as Governor of New South Wales and its dependencies was published and read in the capital on the 1st December, 1821. Macquarie and his family did not, however, take their departure for England until February 12th, 1822, the late Governor employing his time meanwhile in making a tour of the colony. Major-General Sir Thomas Brisbane, the sixth Governor of New South Wales, entered upon his duties under most favorable circumstances. He found the colony in a flourishing condition, its productions rapidly increasing, and its population receiving accessions of men of capital and energy almost daily, while his advent was hailed by the colonists of all classes with the greatest satisfaction. Unfortunately, however, he showed himself to be totally unfitted to cope with the exigencies of a young and thriving colony, in which there were two classes bitterly antagonistic to each other, and each striving to gain the ear of the Governor by every expedient possible. On the one side he was beset by a petty oligarchy of exclusives, who regarded themselves as the only persons whose claims to grants of land, convict labor, or social recognition by the Governor ought to be considered at all, while on the other side he was worried by the demands for legal rights and social recognition on the part of numbers of wealthy emancipists, backed up as they were by the public voice, whenever the last could make itself heard. So uncongenial did Sir Thomas Brisbane consider his position in Sydney, that he made Parramatta his head-quarters, where he spent most of his time superintending the erection of an observatory, and devoting himself to scientific pursuits, much to the satisfaction of the small class of exclusives above-mentioned, who now did pretty much as they liked.

On the 13th August, 1823, the Australian Religious Tract Society was instituted at Sydney, and on the 29th of the same month, the 3rd Regiment (the Buffs) arrived in the capital; while the Royal Veteran Company was disbanded on the 24th September. Governor Brisbane's administration, however, was marked by events of the deepest importance to the colonists and their descendants—events, the effects of which will continue to be felt for ages. These were as follows:—the concession of the first instalment of self-government by the institution of a Legislative Council on August 11, 1824; the formal acknowledgment of the liberty of the press on October 1 of the same year; the discovery of an overland route to Port Phillip, and the formation of settlements at Moreton Bay and other places; and the commencement of a steady flow of emigration from the United Kingdom, owing, in a great degree, to the steps taken by a native of the colony, Mr. William Charles Wentworth, to disseminate in England information relative to the condition and prospects of Australia.

On March 5, 1824, Francis Forbes, Esq., the first Chief Justice of New South Wales, arrived in Sydney, and the 48th Regiment embarked for Madras, while one month later Sax Banister, Esq., the first Attorney-General, and William Balcombe, Esq., the first Colonial Treasurer, reached the capital. August 1 saw the arrival of the first Solicitor-General, Mr. John Stephen, as well as that of Mr. William Carter, the first Master in Chancery; on the 18th, the Rev. Thomas Reddall was appointed Director-General of Public Schools, and on the 28th of the same month, Mr. G. G. Mills, Registrar of the Supreme Court, arrived in Sydney. On October 14, the *Australian* newspaper was first published, and during this year an exploring expedition towards the south was undertaken by Messrs. Hume and Hovell, who penetrated to Port Phillip and subsequently returned.

Sir Thomas Brisbane's administration lasted somewhat less than four years, and, early in December 1825, he sailed for England, after having resigned the reins of government into the hands of Colonel Stewart, of the Buffs. The Returns for this year for the colony show a Revenue of £71,682; and Expenditure of £82,000; value of Imports, £300,000; population, 33,675; sheep, 237,622; cattle, 134,519; land under cultivation, 45,514 acres; wool exported, 411,600 lb. In whaling alone, the merchants of Sydney had this year nearly thirty ships engaged, whilst many others were employed in the island trade, and the pearl and seal fisheries.

On the 18th December, 1825, the seventh Governor of New South Wales arrived in the person of Lieut.-General Ralph Darling, relieving Colonel Stewart of the position he had held for about three weeks. The new Governor inaugurated his tenure of office by purging all the departments of the public services of the emancipist and convict elements which had been introduced by Macquarie, and continued to a considerable extent by Sir Thomas Brisbane. This measure, of course, raised up a bitter feeling among the large class of emancipists, and the Governor and his policy were assailed in very strong terms in the columns of the "*Australian*" newspaper, whilst the organ of the Government lauded both to the skies.

The extraordinary success which had attended those engaged in pastoral pursuits served to attract the envy and emulation of both other colonists and new arrivals, the consequence being that a perfect mania set in for the possession of live stock. Unfortunately for the speculators for rapid fortunes, the weather was beyond their control, and, from the close of 1826, a drought of three years' duration commenced, which caused a financial crash of the most disastrous character. Distress and ruin fell upon scores of respectable people who had been considered wealthy but a few months before. Owing to these untoward circumstances, the free male adults who arrived in 1828 and 1829 did not exceed 250 in each year, whilst the number fell in 1830 to 166. In 1831, again, there was a slight increase to 185. But, unfortunately for the colony, it so happened that these years which brought so few free emigrants saw the introduction of a larger number of convicts than had ever been previously sent in a like time; fully 3,000, of whom five-sixths were men, being poured into the country.

In 1828, an expedition of discovery left Sydney in charge of Captain Charles Sturt and Mr. Hamilton Hume, and on the 4th of February of the next year reached the bank of a fine river, which was named the

Darling. A few months after the return of this band of explorers, Captain Sturt set out on another expedition, accompanied this time by Mr. George Macleay, as second in command, and struck the Murrumbidgee, which they sailed down until its junction with the Lachlan was reached, and finally until they were shot into the broad and noble Murray River, which they so named after the then Secretary to the Colonies, Sir George Murray. They at length found themselves on the shores of Encounter Bay, and not being able to reach St. Vincent's Gulf, where succor awaited them, they determined to retrace their route by the Murray, and started on their return journey on the 14th January, 1830, reaching Sydney on the 25th May following, after having undergone almost insuperable privations and labors.

The introduction of steam navigation into Australian waters took place in 1831, when the steamer "Sophia Jane," 154 tons register, was brought out from England by Lieutenant Biddulph, R.N., and two small colonial-built steamers, named the "Surprise" and "William the Fourth," were launched. Shortly afterward, the first colonial steam company was formed, under the title of the Australian Steam Conveyance Company. In 1831, also, the system of free grants to private individuals was finally put a stop to by orders from the Imperial Government, by which in future no lands were to be disposed of except by public auction, at an upset price of not less than 5s. per acre. The population of the colony this year was 51,155; export of wool, 1,401,284 lb; value of total exports, £324,168; imports, £490,152; Expenditure, £103,225; Revenue, £121,066.

On the 22nd October, 1831, Governor Darling embarked for Canton, on his way to England, his term of office having expired, and was succeeded by Major-General Richard Bourke, who arrived in Port Jackson on the 2nd December following, Colonel Patrick Lindsay having assumed the office of Lieut.-Governor pending his arrival. During this year, Major (afterwards Sir Thomas) Mitchell, the Surveyor-General, undertook an expedition to the northward in search of a great river, said to exist in this direction, and reached the rivers Gwydir, Namoi, and Peel. He set out from Sydney on the 24th November, his drays and men having preceded him some time before towards the river Hunter. Three hundred miles had to be traversed ere the expedition would pass the line to which the squatter population had already extended itself in that direction. In due course he reached the Hunter, and overtook his party of about fifteen souls, which consisted of convicts with the exception of a soldier or two. Besides these he had two gentlemen, assistant surveyors, to accompany him, Mr. White and Mr. Finch. In addition to a supply of muskets, pistols, and sky-rockets, Mitchell says:—"Of tilted carts we had two, so constructed that they could be drawn either by one or two horses. They were also so light that they could be moved across difficult passes by the men alone. Three stronger carts or drays were loaded with our stock of provisions, consisting of flour, pork (which had been boned in order to diminish the bulk as much as possible), tea, tobacco, sugar and soap. We had, besides, a number of pack-saddles for the draught animals, that, in case of necessity, we might be able to carry forward the loads by such means. Several pack-horses were also attached to the party. I had been induced to prefer wheel-carriages for an exploring journey, first, from the level nature of the interior country; secondly, from the greater facility and certainty they afforded of starting early, and as the necessity for laying all our stores in separate loads on animals' backs could thus be avoided. The latter method being further exposed to interruptions on the way by the derangement of loads, or galling the animals' backs, one inexperienced man being thus likely to impede the progress of the whole party. For the navigation of rivers, two portable boats of canvas had been prepared by Mr. Eager, of the King's dockyards at Sydney. We carried the canvas only with models of the ribs, and tools, having carpenters who could complete them as occasion required." Arrived at the Peel River, Mitchell engaged a black guide at the last squatter's station, and then crossing over to the further bank, entered on the yet unexplored region, the Peel stretching away westward, its course traced by the lines of large blue gum-trees. On the 16th December they reached the Namoi, and ranged along the northern boundaries of the Liverpool Plains. Having in vain attempted a course northwards, past a rocky hill which they called

the Pic of Tangulda, and having passed a small river which they named the Maule, they returned to the Namoi, and, leaving the cattle and drays under a guard at a camp, embarked on this river in their canvas boats, only to discover their total unfitness for sailing on Australian waters. They were quickly stove in by snags, so that the party was compelled to send back for the cattle and drays. Following the course of the river in a north-westerly direction, they passed the western extremity of the Nandewar Range on their right, and then holding a northern route, they reached the river Gwydir on the 9th January, 1832. Determining to follow down the Gwydir to its junction, they set out again a week later, after Major Mitchell had explored the way some distance on horseback. Mr. Finch, who was far behind, bringing up fresh additions to their stores, was left to find his way by the tracks of their wheels. Hastening forward north-west, Mitchell's party soon came upon another deep and rapid river, the Karaula; crossing which Mitchell went on with a reconnoitering band to trace the course of this new river. After about twenty miles of travel, they came upon the Gwydir again, falling into a large river, which they at once recognised as the Darling, or rather in that latitude, the Barwon. "Thus," says Mitchell, "I now overlooked, from a bank of seventy feet high, a river as broad as the Thames at Putney, on which the goodly waves, perfectly free from fallen timber, danced in full liberty. Thus terminated our excursion to explore this last-discovered stream. Into this river we had traced the Gwydir; the junction of the Namoi also could not be far distant; and even that of the Castlereagh was only about seventy miles to the south-west." Intending to proceed still farther north in the exploration of the country, they returned to the camp, where they were met with news which completely changed their intentions. They found that a party of natives had been there, who were much inclined to steal, and had evidently been watching the expedition ever since it had entered the district. Shortly after their return, Mr. Finch, who had been bringing up further supplies, arrived, and, as Major Mitchell says, announced that "two of his men had been killed, and all the supplies, cattle, and equipments had fallen into the hands of the natives. This catastrophe occurred at the Ponds of Gorolei, beyond Mount Frazer, which Mr. Finch had reached after having been distressed, even more than our party had been at the same place, for want of water. This privation had first occasioned the loss of his horse and several other animals, so that his party had been able to convey the supplies to the ponds, by carrying forward from the dry camp only a portion at a time on the remaining bullocks. Mr. Finch at length succeeded in thus lodging all the stores at these ponds, but being unable to remove them farther without the assistance of my cattle, he left them there, and proceeded forward on foot along our track with one man, in expectation of falling in with my party at no great distance in advance. After ascertaining that we were not so near as he hoped, and having reached the Gwydir, and traced our route along its banks, until he again recognised Mount Frazer, he returned at the end of the second day, when he found neither his tents nor his men to receive him, but a heap of various articles, such as bags, trunks, harness, tea and sugar, canisters, &c., piled over the dead bodies of his men, whose legs he at length perceived projecting. The tents had been cut in pieces, tobacco and other articles lay about, and most of the flour had been carried off, although some bags still remained in the cart. The two bullocks continued feeding near. This spectacle must have been most appalling to Mr. Finch, uncertain, as he must have been, whether the eyes of the natives were not then upon him, while neither he nor his man possessed any means of defence. Taking a piece of pork and some flour, he hastened from the dismal scene, and, by travelling all day, and passing the nights without fire, he providentially escaped the natives, and had at length reached our camp. Thus terminated my hopes of exploring the country beyond the Karaula, and I could not but feel thankful for the providential circumstance of Mr. Finch's arrival, at the very moment when I was about to proceed on that undertaking, trusting that I should find, on returning to this depot, the supplies which I expected him to bring. We had now, on the contrary, an additional demand on our much-exhausted stock of provisions. The season when the rain might be expected was approaching, and we had behind us 200 miles of

country subject to inundation, without a hill to which we could, in such a case, repair. The soil was likely to become impassable after two days' rain, and our cart wheels were represented by the carpenters to be almost unserviceable. These considerations, and the hostile disposition of the natives in our rear, not only deterred me from crossing the Karaula, but seemed to require my particular attention homewards." As they proceeded homewards, Mitchell saw fires kindled, and strong bodies of natives again and again came into view. On arriving at Finch's camp, they found a single cart and the two dead bodies of their companions now in a high state of decomposition. The bullocks were no longer there; the natives had revisited the camp, and carried away the remainder of the flour and the canvas of the tent. The bodies lay under a heap of saddles, yokes, harness, pack-saddles, trunks, canisters, &c. The savages appeared to have been ignorant of the uses of tea, sugar, and tobacco, as these were scattered about, destroyed by the late rains. A spade, a steelyard, and a hammer were left, although iron had been so much in request that they had drawn one of the iron pins of the cart. Having buried the bodies, conscious that they were being watched by the natives, smoke arising from various parts around, they continued their route. The rains having set in, the plains thence to the Namoi were deep in mud, and made it difficult to advance, but on the 26th February they reached that river, and crossed it on the 28th. The remaining distance to Sydney was through a tolerably well-settled country.

Wine was also received in Sydney from the Bathurst district, made from the grapes grown there, and the coal works at Newcastle were opened in December, 1831. In 1833, the right of emancipists to sit as jurors was legally determined in their favor. In April, 1834, new assignment regulations were published, resulting in the overthrow of a monopoly by which, heretofore, the proprietors and lessees of large tracts of land had engrossed a disproportionate amount of convict labor, to the prejudice of those of smaller means. During the next year, Sir Thomas Mitchell set out at the head of another exploring party, and reached the river Darling. One of his followers, Mr. Richard Cunningham, botanist, was murdered by blacks after having lost himself in the bush, whilst in pursuit of those products of nature which enriched his science. In 1835, also, seventeen counties were proclaimed, and the agitation which had existed for some time in favour of Representative Government greatly increased. Governor Bourke was knighted in the course of this year, Archdeacon Broughton created Bishop of Australia, and the Right Rev. John Bede Polding, Bishop of Hiero-Cæsarea and Vicar-Apostolic of the Australian colonies, arrived in Sydney.

On the 15th March, 1836, Sir Thomas Mitchell started on a second exploration of the Darling, from which he subsequently returned on the 3rd November following, having discovered the river Glenelg and added largely to the previous knowledge of the country generally. In this year the Legislative Council passed the important Church Act of New South Wales, by which religious equality was firmly and permanently established in the colony.

In September, 1837, Sir Richard Bourke's resignation, which he had previously tendered, was accepted with deep regret by the Imperial Government, and Sir George Gipps became his successor, arriving in Sydney on the 23rd February, 1838, Colonel Snodgrass having undertaken the duties of Lieut.-Governor in the interim. To show their appreciation of Governor Bourke's many and important public services, the colonists determined to erect a statue of him, and large subscriptions at once poured in for the purpose. 1837 saw the completion of the aqueduct from Botany to Sydney, commenced in 1827, and showed a total population of 76,000, of which 55,000 were free, and 21,000 convicts. In 1838, reporters for the press and the public generally were first admitted at the proceedings of the Legislative Council, which were now published at large in the newspapers; while the system of assigning convicts terminated with the close of the year.

The year 1839 opened with the publication of the report of the Parliamentary Committee on Transportation, wherein it was recommended that the transportation of convicts to New South Wales and the settled districts of Van Diemen's Land should cease; that convicts should only be sent to settlements where there were no free people, and that such settlements should be used ex-

clusively for this class of criminals; and that convicts who were punished abroad should be compelled to leave the settlement to which they had been sent, after the expiry of their sentence, the Government furnishing them with the means of doing so. At the same time that a section of the colonists advocated the continuance of transportation, it was generally considered and petitioned that one-half the expenses of the maintenance and coercion of the convicts should be contributed by the Home Government.

During this year Governor Gipps propounded a scheme of public instruction, based on the "Irish National System," and a sum of £3,000 was placed on the Estimates for the purpose of carrying the same into effect. A severe drought prevailed in the colony, and the necessities of life became so scarce and dear, that a public subscription was raised with which to purchase food, and distribute the same amongst the poorest and most distressed classes. Bushranging was very rife, and statistics showed an increase of crime to the extent of fifty per cent. In the commencement of 1840, Mr. John Kennedy Hume, resident in the Yass district, was shot dead in cold blood by one of a party of bushrangers, who were afterwards attacked by a number of settlers, headed by Mr. Henry O'Brien, when some were shot, and the principal of the gang taken prisoner and executed at Goulburn. In this year an Act was passed appointing a Commission under the title of a Court of Claims, to revise the claims put forward by some individuals to large tracts of land in New Zealand, the results of which were that the claimants were either found to be entitled only to a small fraction of the area they asserted they had purchased, or, in some instances, the claims were altogether disallowed. The colony was also divided into three districts; the northern, comprising all the country in the neighborhood of Moreton Bay; the middle, consisting of New South Wales proper; and the southern, contained in the newly-settled district of Port Phillip, where, moreover, the price of land was fixed at £1 per acre without competition, whilst in the other two the minimum was twelve shillings, with sales by auction. The entire revenue of the colony was £682,473; total disbursements, £561,023; value of imports, £3,014,189; exports, £1,399,692; while 17 vessels, with a total carrying capacity of 1,196 tons, were built and registered in the colony during the year.

In 1841, the Governor announced at the opening of the Council that, henceforth, New Zealand formed a separate Government. A general census was completed in the course of this year, from which it was shown that the total population of New South Wales, including the province of Port Phillip, was 130,856; of which number 87,298 were males, and 43,558 females.

In February, 1842, a petition to the Imperial Government praying for representative government, was adopted at a meeting in Sydney, presided over by the sheriff, and on the 11th April following, the statue of Governor Bourke was inaugurated in the presence of a vast public assemblage of all classes. In the following month, the Legislative Council assembled, during the sitting of which a bill was passed incorporating the town of Sydney, when the qualification of voters was made to consist in the occupancy of a house or warehouse of the annual value of £25, for twelve months preceding the enrolment, no person being entitled to vote, however, who was not a resident householder in the city, or within seven miles of its boundaries. The qualification of an alderman, councillor, auditor, or assessor was real estate of the value of £1,000, or property rated in the annual value of £50. In November the municipal elections took place, the first aldermen chosen for the city being Robert Owen, John Hosking, George Allen, Thomas Broughton, Francis Mitchell, and J. R. Wilshire, of whom Hosking was elected Mayor. The Richmond River was discovered in this year, and the term "squatter" was first used in its present significance as applying to those owners of extensive flocks and herds who rented lands from the Crown for grazing purposes. Tobacco was also first manufactured in the colony. An earthquake shock was experienced in various parts of the colony on the 28th October, and towards the close of the year the new Imperial Act, regulating the disposal of waste lands, was received at Sydney. By this measure the auction system was universally brought into operation; the lands were divided into town, suburban, and country lots; and £1 per acre was fixed as the minimum price for country lots in all parts of the colony.

On the first day of 1843 the new Act to provide for the Government of New South Wales, whereby the right of representation was conceded to the colonists, was received in Sydney, having passed the Imperial Parliament and received the Royal assent the previous July. The new act provided for the establishment of a Council, to consist of thirty-six members, of whom twenty-four were to be elected by the people, including six members for Port Phillip, and of the remainder, six were to be Government officers, and the other six Crown nominees. On the 1st August, the first Representative Legislature of New South Wales met, when Alexander Macleay was elected Speaker. The monetary distress which had for some time weighed down the energies of the colony, was now increased by the failure of the Bank of Australia, and a select committee of the Council reported that there were thirteen hundred mechanics and laborers out of employment in Sydney alone. At this critical time, Mrs. Caroline Chisholm commenced her philanthropical labors in aid of the poorer classes, by making arrangements for locating thirty families at Illawarra, on land granted to them on clearing leases, the proprietor of the soil supplying the tenants with provisions for the first five months of their occupancy.

The year 1844 saw the commencement of the contest between the Executive Government and the squatters, the former having issued a proclamation in April, altering the terms on which licenses to occupy Crown Lands were granted, and declaring that parties occupying stations in separate districts, notwithstanding that the same might be contiguous, should not only be required, in future, to take out separate licenses for each such district, but also to pay the established fee of £10 for the same. A meeting of squatters was then held at the Royal Hotel, for the purpose of protesting against the proposed regulations, when a society was formed under the designation of the "Pastoral Association of New South Wales," to secure the due protection of the pastoral interests; and at the annual meeting of the Council, Wentworth opened the subject of Colonial Grievances. In the course of the Session, the Hon. Francis Scott, M.P. for Roxburghshire, was appointed parliamentary agent to represent the colony in the House of Commons, at a salary of £500 a year. During the year the first Jewish Synagogue in Sydney was opened and consecrated. Sir James Dowling, the Chief Justice, died, and was succeeded by Sir Alfred Stephen. The government of Norfolk Island passed from New South Wales to Van Diemen's Land, and the value of the exports exceeded that of the imports for the first time in the history of the colony.

In September of this year, Dr. Ludwig Leichhardt undertook an expedition of exploration from Moreton Bay to Port Essington, in the course of which the rivers Mackenzie, Cape, Burdekin, Clarke, Lynd, Condamine, Dawson, Van Diemen, Macarthur, Wickham, and Roper, were met with and named, the little band of explorers finally reaching Port Essington on the 17th December, 1845, and returning to Sydney by sea on the 29th March, 1846, with the loss of one man, Gilbert, who had been mortally speared in an attack on the camp by aborigines on the 28th June previous. To reward the explorers, a public subscription amounting to more than £1,500 was raised, which was supplemented by a vote of £1,000 by the Legislative Council, and all classes pressed forward to testify their joy at the re-appearance of men whose safety had long been doubted. At the latter end of 1845, another campaign was undertaken for the purpose of further exploring the Australian wilds, and Sir Thomas Mitchell was, for the fourth time, chosen to lead the party. During the thirteen months' absence of the expedition, Sir Thomas penetrated so far north as lat. 24° 12' 37", reaching the banks of a fine river, which he judged to fall into the Gulf of Carpentaria, and naming the same the Victoria, in honor of Her Majesty. He brought to light a vast extent of new and fertile country, traversed the Fitzroy Downs, and increased his knowledge of the waterways of the continent by exploring the rivers Barwon, Narran, Balonne, Culgoa, Maranoa, Salvator, and Claude.

In May, 1846, a company was formed for constructing railways from Sydney to Goulburn, to the Hawkesbury, and to the Nepean, under the title of the Great Southern and Western Railway Company, the capital of which was to be one million, in fifty thousand shares, three-fourths of which were to be reserved for sale to British capitalists. In the same month the Legislative Council met for

the despatch of business, and rejected the Crown Lands Bill, when the Governor prorogued the House till the 25th August, meanwhile retiring from the colony and the contest on the 10th July, when he was presented with a farewell address, bearing five thousand seven hundred and fifty-five signatures. Thus retired a Governor, a worthy successor to him who preceded him.

Gipps was succeeded on the 2nd August by the new Governor, Sir Charles Fitzroy, shortly after whose advent the question of transportation was brought before the Council, a despatch having been received by the Governor from the Secretary of State, in which it was proposed to renew the introduction of convicts. Whilst the Council was in favor of the measure, the prevailing sentiment throughout the country was one of detestation; and anti-transportation meetings and memorials were got up all over the colony, so that, finally in the month of August, 1847, Cowper, in his place in the Council, carried a resolution by eleven to seven, disapproving of a return to the system of transportation and assignment. In July, 1847, the new squatting regulations were received in the colony, by which the public lands were divided into three classes—the settled, the intermediate, and the unsettled. The settled lands comprised the nineteen original counties, together with the counties of East and West Macquarie, all land within twenty-five miles of Melbourne, fifteen miles of Geelong, and ten of several other towns, including Bathurst, all lands within three miles of the sea, and within two miles of the Glenelg, the Clarence and the Richmond rivers. The intermediate districts comprised, with the exception of those parts included in the settled areas, the counties of Bourke, Normanby, Grant, and Auckland, the district of Gippsland, and any counties which might be fixed and proclaimed before the 31st December, 1848. The unsettled districts comprehended all the remaining portions of New South Wales. The Governor was empowered to grant, in the unsettled districts, leases for pastoral purposes for terms not exceeding fourteen years; in the intermediate districts, for eight years; and in the settled, for one year, subject to different provisions in each of the three cases. In October of this year, Dr. Leichhardt set out for Moreton Bay to proceed on that expedition of exploration from which he never returned, his intention being to endeavor to reach the Swan River in Western Australia; and on the 7th December, Lady Mary Fitzroy, the wife of the Governor, was thrown out of her carriage at Parramatta, and killed almost instantaneously. The population of the colony was 205,009; number of acres under crop, 164,784; value of imports, £1,982,022; and of exports, £1,870,046.

In the early part of 1848, Edward Kennedy returned to Sydney, after completing the exploration of the Victoria, one of the rivers discovered by Sir Thomas Mitchell in his last expedition. He traced it as far as lat. 27° 56', lon. 142°, where the stream became lost amid sandy, barren ground. His party had been absent about twelve months. He set out again about the beginning of May, at the head of an expedition, with the view of exploring Cape York Peninsula, for which purpose he went by sea to Rockingham Bay, and on the 1st June commenced his land journey towards Cape York. Early beset with the impracticability of the country, he had first to leave part of his supplies behind, next part of his men, and finally attempted to make his way to Port Albany in company with one black named Jacky Jacky. When in sight of the sea in the neighborhood of this settlement, he was attacked by blacks and speared so badly that he died within an hour or two, Jacky Jacky finding his way to Port Albany thirteen days later. Of the expedition, only two white survivors were rescued, Mr. Carron, the naturalist, and another, who had been left at Weymouth Bay by Kennedy in his onward march.

On the 8th June, 1849, the "Harkaway" arrived in Sydney with two hundred and twelve male convicts on board, when an immense anti-convict demonstration was made at the Circular Quay, and a protest drawn up for presentation to the Governor, in which it was requested that the prisoners in the "Harkaway" be immediately sent back to England. Finding the Governor deaf to this application, another meeting was called, when a petition to the Queen was adopted, praying that the Right Hon. Earl Grey, Secretary of State for the colonies, might be removed from Her Majesty's Councils, and that the government of the colony might be carried on by Ministers chosen from, and responsible to, the colonists themselves.

On the 4th September, a bill to incorporate the Sydney Railway Company was read a second time. In April, 1850, a despatch was received by the Governor from the Secretary of State, in which he was informed that no more convicts, after those which were already on the way, would be sent to any part of New South Wales, in consequence of the address from the Legislative Council. During the session of the Council, which was prorogued in October, the act for the establishment of the Sydney University was passed, a project of which Wentworth had been the originator, and in which he was, from the initiation, the prime mover. In July, the first sod of the Sydney and Goulburn Railway was turned by the Hon. Mrs. Keith Stuart, the Governor's daughter. The Governor became very unpopular towards the close of the year, when his despatches to the Imperial Government on the anti-transportation demonstrations were seen by the colonists, and further large and enthusiastic meetings were held to protest against any further influx of criminals to any part of the colony. In December, the "Act for the better government of Her Majesty's Australian Colonies" was received in Sydney, in which Port Phillip, now named Victoria, was granted colonial independence.

At the final session of the Legislative Council in 1851, the Electoral Bill was passed, by which the new apportionment of members was effected, the number of the representatives being fixed at thirty-six, shortly after which, on the 2nd May, the first representative legislature of New South Wales came to a termination after an existence of eight years. This last month was also remarkable for an event which was destined to effect a complete revolution in all the interests and relations of the colony. Edward Hammond Hargraves at this time succeeded in discovering gold in the vicinity of Bathurst. The consequent rush to the auriferous regions, and the general unsettling of the population, affected the price of provisions, and in a fortnight flour rose from £20 to £30 per ton. Towards the end of June, the first gold to the value of £3,500, was sent home in one ship. The effect of this discovery on the question of transportation was naturally to strengthen the hands of those inimical to the measure, inasmuch as, doubtless, hundreds of men in the United Kingdom would not hesitate to undergo a brief term of punishment in order to find themselves later on settled in a country where the precious metal was to be found in large quantities; and when, in July, a report was received of a recent speech of Earl Grey in the House of Lords in favour of a continuance of the measure, the Council of the Australian League met and drew up a petition to the Queen, giving forcible expression to the wishes of the colonists, and praying her to dismiss that nobleman from her Councils.

At the inauguration of the new Legislature on the 14th October, Fitzroy, in his opening speech, announced that he had been appointed Governor-General over all Her Majesty's Australian possessions. On the 10th December, the Governor-General transmitted to the Council a copy of a despatch which he had just received from the Secretary of State, forwarding an Order in Council revoking, so far as New South Wales was concerned, the Order in Council of the 4th September, 1841, appointing places to which felons and other offenders might be conveyed. The distemper, known as the "Cumberland disease," made great ravages among the cattle in the course of this year. In March, the first railway contract was accepted, being for the sub-structure of a portion of the line between Ashfield and Haslem's Lock. With regard to the discovery of gold, the Rev. W. B. Clarke, the well-known geologist, proved that he had at various times publicly stated that the colony contained auriferous deposits, and claimed the credit of being the first to announce the existence of the precious metal in Australia. A census was taken this year, showing the population of the colony, exclusive of Port Phillip, to be 187,243, of whom 108,691 were males, and 78,552 females; 184,550 free, and 2,693 bond.

In the month of January, 1852, an expedition, under Mr. Hovenden Hely, set out in search of the missing explorer, Leichhardt, but returned after an unsuccessful search of some six months. In June, the village of Gundagai was almost totally destroyed by a flood, in which seventy-seven of the inhabitants lost their lives; and in October the Sydney University was inaugurated, the Rev. E. T. Hamilton, M.A., being elected Provost. The first mail steamer, the "Chusan," arrived in the colony, *via* the Cape of Good Hope, in August, having

made the passage in 79 days. This was the first result of an engagement between the Home Government and the P. and O. Company for a bi-monthly communication. Port Jackson was now made a free port, an act for abolishing harbor dues, entry and clearance fees, light-house and water-police dues having become law. The gross revenue this year was upwards of half a million.

In 1853 the new goldfields regulations came into operation, and caused very great dissatisfaction. On the 21st December, 1853, the new Constitution Bill passed the Council. This measure established two deliberative chambers, a Legislative Council of not less than 20 naturalized or natural-born English subjects, and a Legislative Assembly to consist of 54 members. During this session, the Council voted Hargraves £10,000, as a reward for the discovery of gold, and £1,000 to the Rev. W. B. Clarke, as a mark of the appreciation in which the country held the geological reports addressed by him at various times to the Government. A pension of £100 a year was also voted to the mother of the explorer Leichhardt. In the course of this year, Her Majesty's Government sanctioned the establishment of a branch of the Royal Mint at Sydney, and the new works for the defence of the harbor at Pinchgut Island, Lady Macquarie's Point, and elsewhere, were commenced. The sum of £200,000 was also appropriated this year for the purposes of immigration.

In the early part of 1854, the new Constitution Bill was sent home in charge of Wentworth, the author of it, and Thomson, the Colonial Secretary, one of its warmest supporters, who were charged with the duty of conciliating for the Bill the favour of Parliament and the Government. At the meeting of the Council in June, the Governor announced that Her Majesty had been pleased to sanction the establishment of a branch of the Royal Mint in Sydney, as prayed for in the address of the House of the 19th December, 1851, and in the course of the session the endowment was provided for any affiliated colleges that might be established in connection with the Sydney University. The question of immigration was also dealt with, and further sums remitted for that important object, while a sum of £6,000 was voted the Governor in augmentation of his salary, to defray the increased expenses of his office from the 1st June, 1851, to 1st June, 1854; and a series of resolutions were carried laudatory of the Governor's success in his administration, extending over a period of more than eight years, and which was now fast drawing to a close. Among the Acts passed during this session was one empowering the Government to treat with the several railway companies for the purchase of their works. During this year the Sydney Grammar School was founded and endowed, the Governor-General made a voyage to Port Curtis, and Alexander Cutbush, an old-established and much respected medical practitioner of Sydney, who was shot by an insane person, left a legacy of £10,000 to the Asylum for Destitute Children.

The year 1855 opened with the departure of Fitzroy and the installation of his successor, Sir William Denison. Before embarking on the 28th January, Fitzroy was presented with an address from the inhabitants of the colony at large, accompanied by a munificent testimonial of £2,000 in money. As a consequence of the Russian war, then raging, steam communication with the colony ceased, the company which had the contract for carrying the mails alleging that, after the commencement of hostilities, they lost by their contract at the rate of £40,000 a year; while, at the same time, the House voted £50,000 for the new defence works, projected by the Governor, at Kissing Point and elsewhere. In October, the new Constitution, which returned with the confirmation of the Imperial Parliament, was received in the colony. The mode in which the contract for the performance of the sewerage works of the City of Sydney was carried out occupied a good deal of the attention of the Council and the public during this year, and the report of a select committee proved beyond question a large amount of fraud and corruption in the affair. In the course of the session of the House, a resolution was passed increasing the Governor-General's salary from £5,000 to £7,000, and on the 19th December the Council was prorogued, and the new Constitution formally inaugurated by the Governor-General being newly sworn in under a commission from Her Majesty, revoking that under which he had held his authority, and re-appointing him Governor-in-Chief of New South Wales.

In July of this year a new exploring expedition set out under the leadership of Mr. Gregory, the expense of which was borne by the Imperial Government. His instructions were to sail for the Victoria River, and ascend as far as navigable, after which they were to land and proceed as far as practicable towards the head of the river, when further movements were left to the discretion of the leader. In September the railway to Parramatta was formally opened, the Sydney Mint having been started in the previous May, in which month, also, Dr. Barker arrived as second Bishop of Sydney and Metropolitan of the Protestant Episcopal Church, in succession to Dr. Broughton, who had died in England in the beginning of 1853. Sir Thomas Mitchell, the indefatigable and successful explorer, the historian, the poet, and the man of science, died in October from bronchitis, produced by exposure during a recent surveying expedition. The total revenue of the colony was £1,643,403, and the gross expenditure £1,660,688.

The year 1856 opened with the establishment of responsible government, and Stuart Alexander Donaldson became Chief Secretary and Premier; Manning, Attorney-General; Darvall, Solicitor-General; Nichols, Auditor-General; and Thomas Holt, Treasurer. Sir Alfred Stephen assumed the position of President of the Council, and Mr. (now Sir) Daniel Cooper was elected Speaker of the Assembly. The Ministry, however, was very short-lived; for, owing to what they considered a want of support, they tendered their resignations on the 21st August, and Cowper was entrusted with the task of forming a new administration, which he speedily did by taking the position of Chief Secretary himself, and associating with himself Robert Campbell as Treasurer, Murray as Minister of Lands and Works, Martin (now Sir James) as Attorney-General, and Lutwyche as Solicitor-General. The new Ministry was even more unfortunate than its predecessor, as a vote of want of confidence was carried against it in September, and it thereupon resigned, when Parker essayed his hand, his colleagues being Donaldson, Treasurer; Hay, Minister of Lands and Works; Darvall, Attorney-General. Deas Thomson was appointed Vice-President of the Executive Council. A census taken in the course of the year showed the population of Sydney proper to be 53,118; that of the suburbs, 28,209.

In September, 1857, the Parker Ministry resigned, having been defeated on their Electoral Bill, and made way for Cowper as Premier; Jones as Treasurer; Murray, Secretary for Lands and Works; and Martin, Attorney-General. This was the first strong ministry which had taken office, but owing to their defeat on a bill to increase the assessment on stock and the rent of the Crown Lands, the House was dissolved by proclamation in the following December. During this year the Pitcairn islanders, the descendants of the mutineers of the "Bounty," were finally established at Norfolk Island, their late island abode being no longer adequate to the maintenance of the increased numbers of the community. Extensive floods took place about the middle of the year at the Hunter, the Hawkesbury, and other parts of the colony; and two dreadful shipwrecks occurred in the immediate neighborhood of Port Jackson Heads. The first, on the 21st August, was that of the "Dunbar," from London, when out of a total number of 120 souls, only one man came ashore alive. Many of the passengers belonged to the most respectable class in the colony, and the obsequies of all those whose bodies were recovered at once took the form of a public funeral, when business was suspended throughout the city. The second wreck was that of the "Catherine Adamson," also from England, when twenty-one lives were lost, including several persons well known and much respected in the colony. The live stock this year amounted to 180,000 horses; 2,148,700 cattle; 8,139,000 sheep; and 109,000 swine.

The new parliament assembled in March, 1858, and the session was soon after marked by a collision between the Legislature and the head of the Executive, the opening speech of the latter mentioning his intention of sending some of the troops away from the colony, in order to be of service in assisting to quell the Indian Mutiny, and the House adopting a reply deprecating the removal of this force as inexpedient and injudicious. At the end of the year the new Electoral Bill became law, wherein vote by ballot was instituted, the number of members of the Assembly was increased to eighty, and the franchise extended to every adult male of six months' residence in

any electorate. In October, telegraphic communication was established between Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide, *via* Albury; and, in November, a mixed flock of 280 llamas, alpacas, and vicunas was landed in Sydney from South America, the importer of this new stock being Mr. Charles Ledger, an Englishman established in Peru. The Murrumbidgee was for the first time traversed by a steamer as far as Gundagai, an important step towards opening up the interior of Australia. In April, 1859, Parliament was dissolved preparatory to the elections under the new Electoral Act, and shortly after the opening of the subsequent session the Ministry resigned, a resolution of Parkes declaring that the duties on tea and sugar ought to be forthwith repealed, having been carried against them. No one else being able to form a Ministry, the former Government kept their seats on the ministerial benches, and succeeded in carrying a motion rescinding the resolution relative to the tea and sugar duties.

This year saw the separation of Moreton Bay from the colony of New South Wales. The Cowper Ministry, being defeated on their Education Bill, resigned, and Forster formed a weak government, which went out of office in February, 1860, giving way to Robertson as Secretary for Lands, with Cowper as Chief Secretary, with a seat in the Upper House. In 1859, Captain Cadell ascended the Darling in a steamer for a distance of 500 miles, and telegraphic communication with Van Diemen's Land was effected. The early part of 1860 was marked by most disastrous floods in all parts of the colony, causing immense losses in stock and crops; but the discovery of a rich goldfield at the Snowy River tended somewhat to lighten the gloomy prospect.

On the 22nd January, 1861, Sir William Denison relinquished the reins of government and left the colony, leaving Colonel J. F. Kempt as *locum tenens* until the arrival of Sir John Young on the 22nd March following, when the latter was sworn in as Governor-General. In January of this year, a great rush took place to Lambing Flat, which was discovered to be a gold-field; and the Volunteer movement was first initiated. Shortly after the occupation of Lambing Flat by the miners, the white diggers and the Chinese came into violent collision, the former being desirous of driving the latter from the ground, and matters became so grave that a force of military and police was despatched to the spot, when a series of encounters took place between the representatives of law and order and the rioters, in which serious loss of life and injury to the person ensued before any kind of tranquillity was restored to the locality. During this year the Land Bill of Mr. (now Sir John) Robertson, popularly known as Robertson's Land Bill, passed the Legislature and became law. A despatch was also received from the Imperial Government in October, declining to confer the title of Governor-General upon any future Governor of New South Wales.

The year 1862 opened with considerable excitement in the colony, caused by the arrival of the first English cricketing team, which culminated on the last days of January, when the visitors played against twenty-two of the colonials in the Domain in Sydney, and came off victorious by forty-eight runs. In January, the new Publican Act also came into operation, and the Chinese Immigration Restriction Act in the following February. In July, a movement was instituted in Sydney for raising subscriptions for the relief of the distressed operatives in the manufacturing districts in England, and by the following September £17,100 had been remitted home, whilst at the final meeting of the committee of this Lancashire Relief Fund, held in January, 1864, it was stated that the contributions sent from the colony for the relief of the sufferers amounted to the handsome total of £22,288. In October, 1862, the lessee of the Pitt-street Tramway commenced running passenger cars and goods trucks, and in the following January, the Sydney Money Order Office was established. The first colonial-built screw steamer was launched in Sydney in February, 1863, and named the "Commodore Burnett;" and in May the Volunteer Naval Brigade was organized. On the 8th October the Cowper Ministry tendered their resignations, having been defeated on a vote in Committee of Ways and Means, and Mr. (the late Sir James) Martin formed a new Government on the 20th following, his colleagues being Messrs. W. Forster, Eager, Wilson, Holroyd, and Faucett. Numerous bands of bushrangers had long harassed the country districts, especially in the west, with their depredations, often accompanied by murder; and strenuous efforts were made by the authorities to cope

with the desperadoes, a number of whom were shot at different times by those they attacked, while others were captured and brought to the scaffold. The value of total imports this year was £3,319,576; exports, £6,936,839; revenue, £1,550,047; expenditure, £2,064,299.

In January, 1864, the Free Trade Association of New South Wales was formed, and in the next month the northern districts were visited by disastrous floods, followed by others later on in the year, which ruined the crops and caused the loss of several lives. In November, the Martin Ministry was defeated on a motion of want of confidence moved by the Hon. Charles Cowper, whereupon the House was dissolved on the recommendation of the Premier (Mr. Martin), who was subsequently rejected by the electors of East Sydney, together with his colleague, Mr. W. Forster.

In January of 1865, the Fifth Parliament of New South Wales was opened by the Governor, when Mr. Cowper moved an amendment to the address in reply to His Excellency's speech, expressing a want of confidence in the Martin Ministry, which was carried; whereupon the Ministry resigned, and Mr. Cowper undertook the task of forming a new one, with himself as Colonial Secretary; Mr. Robertson, Secretary for Lands; Mr. Arnold, Secretary for Public Works; Mr. Smart, Colonial Treasurer; Mr. Darvall, Attorney-General; and Mr. Hargrave, Solicitor-General. In July the Stamp Duties Act came into operation, and in December the Premier proposed an *ad valorem* duty of 5 per cent., which was accepted by the Assembly. St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral was burnt down in June of this year, and in the following October there died at Bathurst the gifted Daniel H. Deniehy, orator and critic. During the year bushranging was carried on with as much audacity as ever, in spite of the violent deaths of such prominent desperadoes as Ben Hall, Gilbert, Morgan, and others, who were shot by the police at various times when resisting capture. The Mayor of Sydney was allowed £1,000 towards the expenses of his office for the first time this year.

A few days after the opening of 1866, the Cowper Government resigned, having been defeated on a motion for declaring the seat of Mr. Burdekin (who had accepted office as Treasurer) vacant; whereupon Mr. Martin once more formed a Cabinet, having for his associates Messrs. Parkes, Byrnes, Wilson, Eager, Isaacs, and Docker. The principal legislative measure of the year was the Public Schools Bill of Mr. (now Sir Henry) Parkes, which passed both Houses in December. In the previous month, a bill to authorize the Government to take up the Pitt-street Tramway had passed the Assembly, and still earlier (in April), a despatch was received from the Imperial Government making the Sydney sovereigns a legal tender. Terrific gales of wind visited the coast during July, causing many shipwrecks and distressing loss of life.

The year 1867 commenced with the appointment of the Council of Education under the Public Schools Act, consisting of the Honorables George Allen, W. M. Arnold, James Martin, Henry Parkes, and Professor Smith; and the removal of the Pitt-street Tramway rails. A few days later, news arrived in Sydney that the bodies of four police constables had been found in the bush at Jindera, who, it was subsequently ascertained, had been murdered by two bushrangers named Clarke. These latter were captured in April, and suffered the extreme penalty in the June following, rewards amounting in the aggregate to £5,000 having been offered for their apprehension. In May, the ship "Vernon" was declared by proclamation to be an Industrial School, and on the 24th December His Excellency Sir John Young, who had governed the colony for six years and nine months with great acceptance to all classes of the community, left Sydney for Europe, General Sir Trevor Chute taking the oath of Administrator of the Government until the arrival of his successor, Earl Belmore. This year was marked by the occurrence of most disastrous floods in many parts of the colony, entailing immense losses and widespread distress. The Revenue was now £2,034,490; Expenditure, £2,249,521; value of total Imports, £6,599,804; Exports, £6,880,715.

On the 7th January, 1868, Earl Belmore arrived in Sydney, and on the 21st of the same month H.R.H. Prince Alfred entered Port Jackson, in command of the "Galatea," and was the subject of numerous entertainments of welcome, until he finally left for England on the 6th April. Unfortunately, the round of festivities was sadly marred by the dastardly attempt at his assassina-

tion by a man named O'Farrell, who shot the Prince in the back on the 12th March, whilst he was attending the Sailors' Home picnic at Clontarf. The ball was successfully extracted two days later, and the Prince was happily able to re-appear in public on the 27th of the same month, whilst his would-be murderer was executed, after trial and condemnation, in the following April. On the 13th October, Parliament re-assembled, and the Martin Ministry tendered their resignations a week later, Mr. Robertson having moved an amendment to the Address in reply to the Governor's speech, which, on division, was only lost by the casting vote of the Speaker in favor of the Government. The Governor having sent for Mr. Robertson, that gentleman accepted office as Premier, his colleagues being Messrs. Samuel, W. Forster, Sutherland, Josephson, Eager and Sir W. Manning.

Shortly after the opening of 1869, St. Mary's temporary R.C. Cathedral, in Sydney, was totally destroyed by fire; and on the 11th March following, the Duke of Edinburgh paid his second visit to the city in H.M.S. "Galatea." His stay, however, was only a short one, as he took his departure on the 3rd of the succeeding month for New Zealand and other ports, but returned seventeen months later, and finally left on the 16th November, 1870. On the 30th September, the Free Public Library was opened as a Government Institution, the books of the Australian Library having been purchased for the purpose from the proprietors and shareholders of the latter, which now ceased to exist. Parliament was dissolved on the 15th November of the same year, and the first session of the new Legislature opened on the 27th January, 1870, Mr. Robertson having meanwhile retired from the Government, and Mr. Cowper having accepted the position of Colonial Secretary and Premier. On the 7th December, this Ministry resigned, and Sir James Martin succeeded in forming an Administration, which was sworn in nine days later, and comprised Sir James Martin, John Robertson, G. W. Lord, W. C. Windeyer, J. B. Wilson, J. Byrnes, and J. Docker. August of this year saw the withdrawal of the Imperial troops from doing duty in Sydney, and on the 23rd of that month they left the colony, two days before which event the Intercolonial Exhibition at Prince Alfred Park was opened by the Governor. Floods of a very disastrous character again devastated large portions of New South Wales, causing immense loss of property and widespread distress in the country districts. One of the most noted bushrangers of the colony, Thunderbolt, was shot dead by a constable in May.

On the 2nd April, 1871, a census of the colony was taken, which gave the population at 503,981 souls; on the 13th of the same month a meeting of citizens was held, and a petition drawn up for presentation to the Governor and both Houses of Parliament, praying for the annexation of the Fiji Islands; and two days later the Governor opened the Great Northern Railway to Scone. In May, the Military and Naval Forces Regulation Bill and the Stamp Duties Amendment Bill were passed, and the next month saw the passage of a vote of £30,000 for works of fortification and defence. The returns were now:—Revenue, £2,908,153; expenditure, £3,006,576; value of imports, £9,609,508; exports, £11,245,032.

The commencement of 1872 was signalled by the destruction of the Prince of Wales Opera House by fire, and on the 21st February the governorship of Earl Belmore came to an end, and he embarked for England, Sir Alfred Stephen being sworn in as Administrator, which office he held until the arrival of the incoming Governor, Sir Hercules Robinson, on the 3rd June. On the 29th April, the Martin Ministry handed in their resignations, and on the failure of Mr. W. Forster to form a new one, Mr. Parkes was entrusted with His Excellency's commission, and successfully performed the task by the 14th May, his colleagues being Messrs. Samuel, Piddington, Farnell, Sutherland, Lloyd, Butler, and Innes.

Towards the end of June, the first telegrams were sent from Sydney for direct transmission to England across the continent of Australia; and on the 1st July, the Governor opened the Great Western Railway to Macquarie Plains, making a tour of the northern districts a little later on. Two men, named Nichols and Lester, were executed in June of this year for the perpetration of several cold-blooded murders, their victims having been enticed by them on board a small boat by promises of employment at places up the Parramatta River, and then deliberately put to death for the sake of their personal property.

At the close of February, 1873, Sydney and its suburbs were visited by unprecedentedly heavy rains, flooding the lower portions of the city. The remains of Mr. W. C. Wentworth, which had been brought from England, were accorded a public funeral on the 6th May, in pursuance of a resolution of the Assembly, when all the principal houses of business were closed. In June, the President of the Legislative Council, Sir Terence A. Murray, died; and in the following October, the Newspaper Postage Abolition Bill was passed, and the House approved of the course the Government had taken in entering into an agreement by which a mail service to England *via* San Francisco was arranged. Sir Alfred Stephen having retired this year from the Chief Justiceship, Sir James Martin was appointed his successor, and took his seat in the Supreme Court for the first time on the 19th November. On the 27th of the same month, a series of resolutions, submitted by Mr. Parkes, passed the House, providing for a Department of Justice and Public Instruction, with a responsible Minister at its head, and for the abolition of the office of Solicitor-General.

On the 28th November, 1874, Parliament was dissolved, the Government having been defeated three days earlier on the Governor's minute respecting the release of the bushranger Gardiner; and on the 27th January, 1875, the first session of the eighth Parliament was opened, the Government being defeated on the following day on the address, whereupon Mr. Parkes tendered the resignations of himself and colleagues. After Sir William Manning had failed to form an Administration, Mr. Robertson was sent for, and succeeded in his endeavours, his associates in the Ministry being Messrs. W. Forster, Docker, Dalley, Lackey, Garrett, Burns, and J. Lucas. During this session the principal measures passed were the Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, and the Lands Act Amendment Bill. The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. W. M. Arnold, was accidentally drowned in the Paterson River in the beginning of March, and Mr. G. W. Allen was chosen to fill the vacancy. On the 20th August, Captain Goodenough, R.N., Commodore on the Australian Station, died from the effects of a poisoned arrow wound received from a native while on a visit to Santa Cruz Island, on the 12th of the same month, and was buried at the St. Leonards Cemetery, in the presence of about ten thousand people; and on the 20th October, Sir Charles Cowper, Agent-General of the colony, died at his post in England. The following month saw the arrival in Sydney of the "Vasco da Gamma," the first temporary vessel of the new Pacific Mail Service. On the 20th February, 1876, the English mails were conveyed for the first time overland from Melbourne to Sydney, the time occupied in transit being 42 hours; and in the following April a ten months' drought broke up with rainfall.

The Robertson Government came to an end on the 15th March, 1877, having been defeated on two or three motions, and Mr. Parkes formed a new Ministry, comprising himself, Messrs. Piddington, Driver, Hoskins, Samuel, F. B. Suttor, Lloyd, and Windeyer. This did not, however, last five months, but gave way in August to a return of another Robertson Administration, the members of which, besides the Premier, were Messrs. Docker, Long, Combes, Baker, Garrett, Lackey, Davies, and Dalley. On account of the Assembly refusing to suspend the Standing Orders to grant Supplies, this last Ministry resigned on the 20th of the following month, when Mr. Stuart was sent for by the Governor to undertake the formation of a cabinet. Being unsuccessful in his endeavours, recourse was had to Mr. S. C. Brown, who also failed, so Parliament was dissolved on the 12th October, with the view of obtaining the verdict of the country. The result of the elections was that the Robertson Ministry retained office, being in a measure reorganized by Mr. Baker's acceptance of the Lands Department in place of Mr. Garrett, resigned, Mr. Jacob becoming Minister for Mines. The dead-lock, however, continued, and after Sir Henry Parkes had resigned his commission to form a Government on the 13th December, Mr. Farnell successfully accomplished the task, his colleagues being Messrs. Fitzpatrick, Sutherland, W. H. Suttor, Leary, J. F. Burns, and W. J. Foster. In June of this year, Messrs. Parkes and Robertson received the Order of K.C.M.G. from Her Majesty.

The year 1878 was notable for the decision of the Assembly to open the Museum and Free Public Library on Sundays; the death of the Rev. W. B. Clarke, M.A.,

one of the first geologists of the day, on the 16th June, and that of Dr. Lang, a man identified with the fortunes of the colony for forty years, on the 8th August, a public funeral being accorded his remains two days later; and, finally, the agitation against the employment of the Chinese. The Government Land Bill having been negatived on the second reading on the 5th December, the Farnell Administration resigned the next day, the result being the formation of a coalition Ministry by Sir Henry Parkes, with Sir John Robertson in the Upper House, with them being Messrs. Watson, Hoskins, Baker, Samuel, F. Suttor, Lackey, and Windeyer, after Sir John Robertson had failed in his endeavors to form a Government himself.

On the 19th March, 1879, Sir Hercules Robinson, the most popular Governor the colony had ever had, left Sydney on the termination of his Administration, to the great regret of all classes of the community, and Sir Alfred Stephen was sworn in the next day as Lieutenant-Governor, which position he held until the arrival of Lord Augustus Loftus on the 3rd August following. The present tramway system was inaugurated on the 16th September, steam instead of horse traction being substituted about a week later, and on the next day the Sydney International Exhibition was opened in the Garden Palace, and had a most successful run until the 20th April, 1880, when it was finally closed. On the 1st September, the Great Southern line was opened to Gerogery. The Legislative Assembly was dissolved on the 9th November, and the new Parliament opened on the 15th of the ensuing month.

A census was taken throughout the colony on the 3rd April, 1881, but owing to the untoward destruction of the Garden Palace by fire, with all its contents, on the 22nd September, 1882, and the fact that the compilation of the census was being undertaken in that building, the detailed records in connection with the same were unfortunately destroyed in the conflagration. This census gave the population of the colony at 751,468, of which number 411,149 were males, and 340,319 females. Small-pox made its appearance in 1881 in Sydney, spreading with alarming rapidity, so much so that most stringent rules of isolation were carried out, with the view of stamping out the fell disease. It was not, however, until the following year that the city could be declared free from the scourge, whilst for some considerably further length of time it was introduced into the port by shipping from Hongkong, although, happily, it has been confined to the quarantine grounds. The Chinese Restriction Bill and the Licensing Bill were passed in the last month of 1881, which also saw the departure of the Premier, Sir Henry Parkes, on a visit to England. The detached squadron arrived in Port Jackson on the 14th of the previous July, with the two eldest sons of the Prince of Wales, who were serving as midshipmen on board the "Bacchante," and left again on the 10th of the next month for Brisbane and other ports of call.

In 1882, New South Wales commenced to have a navy of her own, H.M.S. "Wolverene" being presented to the colony by Her Majesty the Queen on the 16th January. On the 1st August, Henry Kendall, *facile princeps* the bard of Australia, died in Sydney. The Garden Palace was destroyed by fire, as before mentioned, on the 22nd September, the estimated loss being about £250,000; but as many of the most valuable public records and the magnificent collection of minerals belonging to the Department of Mines were sacrificed in the conflagration, no money value can properly assess a loss which is in some respects irreparable. On the 26th of the same month, Mr. Copeland's motion for throwing open the Art Gallery on Sundays was carried in the Legislative Assembly, and on the 11th November following the magnificent steamer "Austral," belonging to the Orient Company, sank whilst at her moorings in Sydney Harbour, five lives being lost on the occasion. She was raised again, however, in March, 1883, and shortly after left for England, practically nothing the worse for her submergence. At the latter end of November, 1882, Parliament was dissolved, the Government having been defeated on their Land Bill; and the result of the subsequent appeal to the country showing that the Ministry was not in accord with public opinion, the members thereof tendered their resignations after the assembling of Parliament on the 3rd January following, when Mr. Alexander Stuart formed an Administration, with Sir Patrick Jennings and Messrs. G. H. Reid, Dalley, Cohen, Dibbs, Copeland and J. P. Abbott as colleagues.

The commencement of 1883 was marked by continued controversy in Parliamentary circles—the land question proving itself to be one of paramount importance. Among the more decisive actions which preceded subsequent amendments in the law was a sudden withdrawal from auction of about a million acres which had been advertised for sale. Agitations of various kinds ensued, and it became apparent that the country was dissatisfied with the Land Law of 1861, and with its amendments. The question of extending education to all classes also found force during the early months, and initiative steps were made with respect to the establishment of a system of popular technical instruction, which was finally established in July. On 27th April the Statute Book of the Colony received the addition of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act, which repealed many flagrant penal provisions, and, upon the whole, effected a radical change in the New South Wales code. The colony was connected by rail with Victoria on 14th June; upon which occasion it was shown that during the ensuing few years direct railroad communication would be established between Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane. In view of the increasing population and of the demand for breadstuffs, the Sydney Corn and Produce Exchange was shortly afterwards inaugurated. During October the third session of the eleventh Parliament was opened, and one of its first acts was to invite a supply of 150,000 tons of colonial-manufactured steel rails, with a view of opening up the local industries of the colony. The latter months of the year are chiefly memorable on account of unprecedented heat, continued drought, and for numerous discoveries of minerals and precious stones in parts of the territory which had been hitherto looked upon as comparatively barren.

Sir John Robertson was elected leader of the Opposition during February, 1884, and acrimonious debates succeeded for a considerable time, although but little Parliamentary progress was made. The opening of this year was chiefly remarkable for a continuance of the great mineral and precious metal discoveries of 1883—particularly at Silverton and Broken Hill. The yields proved to be of fabulous extent; assaying from 60,000 to 20,000 ounces of silver to the ton. A census was taken showing that there were 214,016 names of adults on the electoral rolls. A universal depression threw thousands of persons out of employment, and the force of public clamoring resulted in a reduction of the assisted immigration vote from £75,000 to £50,000. On 24th September the Colonial Treasurer propounded the startling proposal of loan estimates of no less than £14,688,808, including £13,313,000 for railways, railway works, and trial surveys. In keeping with views which had been expressed some years previously by Governor Sir Hercules Robinson, schemes were laid down which would open up a network of trunk and branch lines throughout the colony. A temporary lull took place, however, in Parliamentary matters owing to the forced retirement for a time of the Premier, Mr. Stuart, from severe illness. Attention was turned to British interests in New Guinea, and Sir Peter Scratchley left Sydney as High Commissioner in Papua on behalf of Great Britain. The colony appeared, from statistics, to have steadily developed, in spite of all depression and bad seasons, and an improved state of affairs was confidently looked for by reason of the drastic amendments which had been effected in the Land Act.

The leading opening event of 1885 was the publication of the new Crown Lands Regulations, from which so much good was anticipated; but which, subsequent events proved, were not equal to the country's requirements. The Government, under the Hon. G. R. Dibbs' leadership, followed with the memorable action of discontinuing the Bank of New South Wales' monopoly of the public banking account, and in lieu of it they transferred the colony's deposits to the Associated Banks; a step, which though seemingly of but little significance, has not been without a permanent effect. The 97th anniversary of the colony's foundation was celebrated with much enthusiasm on 26th January; and on 12th February, the Hon. W. B. Dalley made the memorable offer of a contingent of New South Wales armed and mounted troops to aid the Imperial forces in the Soudan. The offer was accepted by England, and the contingent left Sydney on 3rd March on board of the troopships "Iberia" and "Australasian." This event marked an era in the colony's history, and from that period the spirit of

military ardor has been kept actively alive, and has spread to the sister colonies. Attention from time to time was, during the middle of the year, turned to the future prospects of New Guinea, and several expeditionary forces were despatched to explore the country with a view of opening it up for Australian enterprise. The number of colonists had increased in New South Wales from January to March, nearly 23,000 over those in Victoria, and the immigration question again sorely taxed public consideration. In July, Archbishop Moran, the Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, was elevated to the position of the first Australasian Cardinal. Lord Augustus Loftus having completed his term at Government House, his successor, Lord Carrington, arrived in Sydney and was publicly welcomed on 12th December, 1885, with much enthusiasm.

The year 1886 opened with evidences of increasing activity in mining matters in several parts of the colony.

On the 25th of January the first Federal Council was held at Hobart, in Tasmania, and, although New South Wales declined to send a representative, some interest was evinced in its proceedings.

Parliament met for the transaction of business on the 27th of the same month, and the new Government formed by Sir John Robertson at the close of 1885 gave a brief outline of its intended policy. Early in February the Ministry was subjected to a motion expressing want of confidence, and was defeated. An attempt to form a coalition Government was unsuccessful. Sir Patrick Jennings managed subsequently, however, to construct a Cabinet from his own party.

On the 31st of May of this year a terrible shipping disaster occurred on the coast near the southern extremity of the colony. The Ly-ee-moon, one of the Australasian Steam Navigation Company's fleet, while on the voyage from Melbourne to Sydney with a full complement of passengers, struck the rocks at Green Cape, and almost immediately afterwards became a complete wreck. A loss of over 70 lives resulted, which caused considerable sensation throughout the colonies.

The announcement by the Treasurer in October that the deficit in connection with the revenue had been increased during the year to over two millions sterling, created a large amount of uneasiness in the community, and led to meetings inimical to the Government.

Early in January 1887 the Jennings Ministry resigned, a result due ostensibly to a dispute between the Premier and one of his Cabinet. Sir Henry Parkes was invited by His Excellency to form a Ministry. This he carried into effect, and finding the condition of the Assembly such that the work of legislation would be unnecessarily impeded advised a dissolution. The appeal to the country which followed was decisive and unmistakable. The previous administration had favoured a protective tariff, and had even carried a measure, the incidence of which was entirely in this direction. The question, therefore, to be decided by the electorates was whether such was to continue or a return to be made to the principles of freetrade. By an overwhelming majority the electors asserted that freetrade represented the voice of the people, and the newly formed Government returned triumphant in all the important districts. On the 8th March the first session of the thirteenth Parliament was opened, and towards the close of the month the Treasurer submitted a statement of the public accounts to the Assembly explaining the Government proposals for getting rid of the large deficit.

On the 23rd of this month the most appalling accident that has ever taken place in connection with mining in Australia occurred at the Bulli Company's colliery in the Illawarra district, and resulted in the loss of over 80 lives. The catastrophe was subsequently found to have been caused by an explosion of gas in one of the more dangerous sections of the mine.

In May an address of congratulation to Her Gracious Majesty the Queen on the attainment of the Jubilee year of her reign was adopted in both Houses of Parliament, and on the 20th and 21st of June public rejoicings were held throughout the colony. The metropolis and the more important townships were brilliantly illuminated, and on the second evening a display of fireworks on a magnificent scale was given on the harbour in connection with the shipping, men-of-war and batteries.

As the year drew to a close one of the principal subjects of interest was the near approach of the Centenary of Australian Colonisation, and the various preparations for its due celebration.

Historical Account of Queensland.

(Compiled expressly for The Year-Book of Australia.)

ALTHOUGH it is most probable that both Dutch and Portuguese navigators touched on the coast of Queensland before the visit of Captain Cook, who earned undying fame by bringing the vast Australian Continent under the parental wing of England, it was his discovery at least which drew attention to this unknown land, and was the immediate forerunner of the rapid movement of colonization which makes it at the present day one of the most rising and valuable dependencies of the British Empire. It was on the 17th May, 1770, that he opened up the waters of a large bay on the eastern coast of Australia, and dropped anchor therein on board his ship the "Endeavor," giving it the name of Moreton Bay, in honor of his great patron, the Earl of Moreton, at that time President of the Royal Society, through whose assistance and countenance, indeed, he had been enabled to set out on, and prosecute his voyage of exploration. Flinders, again, in July, 1799, entered Moreton Bay whilst exploring the north-eastern coast of Australia, but, singularly enough, he failed to discover the existence of the Brisbane or any other rivers, although he was under the impression that he had made a minute examination of the coast-line; but when it is remembered that in his journey northward he had, shortly before, passed the Clarence River, in perfect ignorance of it, our surprise must be considerably lessened. It is to Governor Hunter that the credit of Flinders' expedition must be given, as he was desirous of gaining further and more accurate information with regard to two inlets which had been marked by Captain Cook on his chart, so the sloop "Norfolk," of only 24 tons, was manned by volunteers from the naval ships then in Port Jackson, and despatched under the command of Flinders. Entering Glasshouse Bay, he anchored about two miles from the shore, and met the first natives, who, from being friendly at first, at length became so troublesome as to draw the fire of the explorers, from which circumstance Flinders named the locality Point Skirmish. After a short stay, sail was again made, and Hervey's Bay reached, the vicinity of which he explored, and then retraced his course to Sydney, without having procured any really important information. He made a further, better, and more protracted journey round the Queensland coast in 1802, in the "Investigator," under the direction of the Admiralty authorities, during which he ascertained that the navigation of Torres Strait was thoroughly practicable, and arrived at Sydney again in June, 1803, in possession of much valuable information, which was further supplemented by the explorations of Lieutenant King in 1817, who examined and mapped the eastern coast of Queensland, also by Imperial instructions.

It was not, however, until 1823 that any attempt was made to take advantage of the vast virgin tracts of country which lay to the northward of Port Macquarie, which at that time constituted the northernmost line of settlement of the colony of New South Wales. In this year, in consequence of the Commissioner, Mr. Bigge, having recommended that some new convict settlement should be formed, either at Port Bowen, Port Curtis, or Moreton Bay, to relieve those convict establishments in the colony which were overburdened with prisoners, an expedition was fitted out and despatched from Sydney on the 23rd October, under the leadership of Mr. Oxley, the Surveyor-General, with instructions from the Colonial Government to select a suitable site for the purpose. Arrived safely in Moreton Bay in the "Mermaid," Mr. Oxley entered the Brisbane River on the 2nd December following, and explored its course in a boat for some fifty miles from its mouth, naming it at the same time in honor of the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Thomas Brisbane. Although it appears that some runaway convicts had found out the existence of the river at an earlier period, and indeed one of them accompanied Oxley when he reached it from the sea, the latter may fairly be called the discoverer of this fine piece of water. The Surveyor-General also prosecuted his researches northward, discovering the river Boyne, and entering Wide Bay and Port Curtis (the last of which Flinders had named), and having explored and named the river Bremer, a tributary of the Brisbane, he returned to Sydney to report progress.

His report favoring the establishment of a penal settlement in Moreton Bay, he was entrusted with the

undertaking, which he succeeded in carrying out to a successful issue in September, 1824, by forming a station at Redcliffe Point. This position not being found suitable, a more eligible spot was selected on the bank of the river Brisbane, and a convict establishment was commenced on almost the present site of the city of Brisbane. Here it was that, in 1825, the first batch of the most desperate and incorrigible felons was landed, placed in charge of military commandants, and rigorously governed up to the period when the district became open to free immigration and colonization, their principal occupation consisting in making roads and improving the means of inland communication.

Although the aborigines were hostile, and ever on the alert to cut off stragglers, exploration of the surrounding country was carried on by the successive military officers in charge, and by means of their enterprising investigations much valuable information was collected as to the adaptability of the land for free industrial settlement. In 1825, an officer of the 57th Regiment, then in Sydney, was commissioned to thoroughly explore the river Brisbane, from which undertaking most favorable reports of the country resulted, and, in 1827, the noted traveller, Allan Cunningham, journeyed overland from Sydney to the latitude of Brisbane, and discovered those magnificent rolling downs to which he gave Governor Darling's name, whither the pioneer squatters, three years later, drove their flocks of sheep and speedily took it up and occupied it as pasture land. Again, in 1829, Allan Cunningham further supplemented his discoveries by connecting the penal settlement at Brisbane with the Darling Downs by means of a route he traversed, in which he had to cross the great Dividing Range of Mountains, and the first drays carried supplies to these pasture lands *via* Cunningham's Gap in 1840. In the same way that, to the enterprise of the squatters is due the opening up of the country between the Darling Downs and the coast, so was it in the more northerly districts in later days, when practical routes had to be found out for the transit of their supplies to their stations, and the result of their industry—the wool—to points of embarkation, and, further, that the ports of Maryborough, Rockhampton, Port Curtis, and others, were established and settled, leading finally to the adoption of every favorable inlet of the coast-line as a maritime township, of yearly increasing importance. To carry the history of colonization still further, it was to these very men in charge of the drays that we owe the selection of many of the inland townships, first chosen by them as their camping-grounds by the side of water, followed quickly by the inevitable grogshop, with a general store perhaps attached, then a post-office, lock-up with its guardian trooper, and an irregular growth of wooden cabins.

The first commandant in charge of the convict dépôt was Captain Miller, who was succeeded by Captains Bishop, Logan, Chenil, Fyans, Major Cotton, and Lieutenants Gravett and Gorman. These officers possessed almost absolute power, and from the character of the men in their charge, the history of the settlement is of a uniform turbulent description, without being of any particular historical value. In August, 1837, the first steamer, the "James Watt," cast anchor in Moreton Bay, and two years later convict immigration was brought to a close. In 1842 the country was thrown open to free settlement, and the first steamer belonging to the Australasian Steam Navigation Company arrived. The removal of the convict establishment led to the influx of many who had been settlers in the southern portions of New South Wales, who were attracted by the opportunities which such a new field of enterprise opened out for successful venture. In the following year, the first land sale was held in Brisbane, and the Moreton Bay district was permitted a share of representation in the Legislative Council at Sydney, by being included in an electorate which contained more than 500 miles of coast-line, with a proportionate distance inland, and the head polling-place of which was at Raymond Terrace, on the Hunter River.

Among those whose names may be mentioned as having done the greatest services towards the exploration of the colony at various times during the early days, and in different directions, are Sir Thomas Mitchell, Surveyor-General of New South Wales; Kennedy; Leich-

hardt, who never returned from his last expedition; and Augustus Gregory, who, in 1858, succeeded in making his way overland from the Leichhardt district in Queensland to Adelaide, and afterwards became the Surveyor-General of the former colony. In 1846, Moreton Bay was surveyed and defined by Captain Wickham, R.N., the representative of the New South Wales Government in the district; and the first newspaper, called the *Moreton Bay Courier*, was established in the squatting interest to advocate a return to the convict system, in opposition to the bulk of the settlers, who were totally opposed to the same; whilst an attempt was made, at the instance of the Imperial authorities, to establish a colony at Port Curtis, which resulted in a complete failure. A body of officials was sent up from Sydney in the "Lord Auckland," and when they had made all their preparations to land, which they intended to do in a most imposing manner, the ship struck on a reef, and the water made such rapid inroads that their disembarkation resolved itself into a very sorry affair. After a stay under canvas of some three or four months, on short supplies and exposed to the incessant hostility of the natives, this expedition was recalled on a change in the home government, and nothing further came of the attempt. In this year the entire population of the Moreton Bay district was 2,257, which increased to 10,000 in 1851, and to 17,082 in 1856.

In 1849, three ships arrived in Moreton Bay with a number of superior immigrants, sent out under the auspices of Dr. Lang, and this stimulated the settlers to endeavor to obtain separation from New South Wales, as they had long had to complain bitterly of the neglect they suffered from at the hands of the Sydney authorities, whose policy was one of centralization. But while the whole community was united in the desire for a separate government, the squatters desired to see the district return to a convict one, when they would have better opportunities of supplying themselves with that labor of which they were so much in want for the proper conduct of their stations; whereas the larger body—the settlers—were totally opposed to a movement which would throw large numbers of the criminal classes in their midst, and lead to unknown social degradation. The fight between these two factions was long and bitter, and petition after petition was drawn up to the Queen by both sides, but the settlers' cause slowly but surely progressed in strength and vitality, and the presence of Dr. Lang in the district at the beginning of 1851 added a large amount of moral force to the advocacy of those who cried out for separation, free from the convict element. The squatters, foreseeing the hopelessness of their scheme, struck their colors a little later, and joined their forces to the other side, when the united pressure was brought to bear to break down the vehement opposition of New South Wales, where the chief bones of contention were the squaring of accounts and the adjustment of the line of boundary.

In 1850, the first bank was opened at Moreton Bay, and in 1854 the first shipment of cotton from Brisbane took place. In 1856, just when the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Labouchere, had declared he considered it was now time that a partition of New South Wales should take place, and the Moreton Bay district be allowed separation, a change in the home cabinet took place which prevented him from giving effect to his inclinations. Meanwhile, the colonists neither abated their efforts for the accomplishment of the end they had in view, nor ceased to progress in prosperity and in the development of the country, and in 1858 Rockhampton was made a port of entry, Brisbane being proclaimed a municipality in April of the following year.

Towards the close of the latter year, the colonists were overjoyed to receive the good news that the new colony of Queensland, which the Queen had herself so named, had at length been proclaimed in London on the 3rd June, and, further, that the first governor, Sir George Ferguson Bowen, was on his way out. He arrived in Sydney in November, and the separation of Moreton Bay was formally proclaimed there on the 1st December, although the ceremony did not take place in Brisbane until the 10th December, 1859, on which date Governor Bowen landed there from H.M.S. "Cordelia." The rejoicings in the colony were most enthusiastic, testifying to the intense pleasure and satisfaction with which self-government was received, as well as to the loyalty of the colonists to the throne. The first Colonial Secretary was the Hon. R. G. Wyndham Herbert, who had come out with

Sir George Bowen; Mr. Ratcliffe Pring, who had for some time been Crown Prosecutor, being made Attorney-General; and Mr. Robert Ramsay Mackenzie, an old colonist, Colonial Treasurer.

In January, 1860, the Queensland electorates were proclaimed, and in the ensuing April, the first parliamentary elections for Queensland took place, the Order in Council providing that a form of Government should be adopted on the same lines as that of New South Wales, as far as circumstances would permit. There was, therefore, to be an Executive Council, the members of which were to be nominated by the Governor but responsible to the Legislature, and two Legislative Chambers—the Council, nominated by the Governor on behalf of the Crown, and the Assembly, a purely elective body composed of twenty-six members, whose sole qualification should be that their names were recorded on one of the electoral rolls of the colony. The elective franchise was so low as to be, practically, one of manhood suffrage and a six months' residence, for all natural-born or naturalized Englishmen of the age of twenty-one and upwards.

The first Parliament commenced its sitting on the 22nd May, and continued for the three following years, the three members of the Executive Council being returned to the Legislative Assembly and becoming responsible ministers. The following list of the Acts and Ordinances of the Parliament of Queensland will show the amount of business transacted by that body during the first session, and their fitness for the work:—

- No. 1.—An Act to provide a suitable Quorum for the Legislative Assembly of Queensland. (Assented to, 11th June, 1860.)
- No. 2.—An Act to indemnify the Collector and Officers of Customs in respect to the omitting to collect the Duty payable upon Gold in the Colony of Queensland, and to repeal an Act of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, intitled "An Act for granting a Duty upon Gold." (Assented to, 10th July, 1860.)
- No. 3.—An Act to limit the Number of Persons holding Office under the Crown, who, under the Constitution Act, 17 Vic., No. 41, may be declared capable of being elected Members of the Legislative Assembly. (Assented to, 17th July, 1860.)
- No. 4.—An Act to discontinue Grants from the Revenue in Aid of Religion. (Assented to, 7th August, 1860.)
- No. 5.—An Act to appoint Commissioners for the Adjustment of Accounts with the Colony of New South Wales. (Assented to, 25th August, 1860.)
- No. 6.—An Act for taking an Account of the Population in 1861. (Assented to, 25th August, 1860.)
- No. 7.—An Act to provide for Primary Education in Queensland. (Assented to, 7th September, 1860.)
- No. 8.—An Act to provide for the Establishment of Grammar Schools in Queensland. (Assented to, 7th September, 1860.)
- No. 9.—An Act to authorize the Appropriation out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland of certain Sums to make good the Supplies granted for the Service of the Year 1860. (Assented to, 11th September, 1860.)
- No. 10.—An Act to abolish the Collection of Electoral Lists. (Assented to, 11th September, 1860.)
- No. 11.—An Act to give a Lien on Wool, and to make Mortgages of Sheep, Cattle, and Horses. (Assented to, 11th September, 1860.)
- No. 12.—An Act for regulating the Occupation of Unoccupied Crown Lands in the Unsettled Districts. (Assented to, 17th September, 1860.)
- No. 13.—An Act to regulate the Occupation of Land applied for by Tender. (Assented to, 17th September, 1860.)
- No. 14.—An Act for the Prevention of Scab and other Diseases in Sheep. (Assented to, 17th Sept., 1860.)
- No. 15.—An Act to regulate the Exportation of Gunpowder and Warlike Stores from the Colony of Queensland. (Assented to, 17th September, 1860.)
- No. 16.—An Act to provide for the leasing of Crown Lands previously occupied. (Assented to, 17th September, 1860.)
- No. 17.—An Act to provide for the Alienation of Crown Lands. (Assented to, 17th September, 1860.)
- No. 18.—An Act to authorize the Appropriation out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland of certain sums to make good the Supplies granted for the Service of the year 1860-1. (Assented to, 18th September, 1860.)

The first of these Acts and Ordinances which requires to be noticed is the Act to discontinue grants from the revenue in aid of religion. Fortunately, this most important question presented itself to the Legislature of Queensland in a very simple form. Under the previously existing system of New South Wales, the whole burden upon the revenue for the salaries of ministers of the Roman Catholic, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, and Wesleyan Methodist communions did not exceed £750 a year; and while all were willing that the recipients of that amount should retain the salaries they were respectively receiving under the previous system during their lives, the voice of the public strongly demanded the entire discontinuance of State support for religion for the future. A preliminary motion had been made by one of the members who advocated the system of State support, to the effect that the sum appropriated for distribution among the clergy of the different communions should be increased to £4,000 a year; but, this motion having been lost by a large majority, whereby the pulse of the Assembly was felt, the Government made a virtue of necessity and introduced the bill, which was passed almost without opposition, as a Government measure. The Acts to provide for primary education and for the establishment of grammar schools enacted that a Board, to be presided over by a minister of the Crown, was to be incorporated, to carry out a system of national education, similar to the one established in New South Wales; with a provision, however, for the assistance of schools under denominational management, and of which the property might not be vested in the Board. As regards grammar schools, it was enacted that, in the event of not less than £1,000 being raised in any locality for the establishment of such a school, the Government should grant double that amount for the same purpose; and that when fees for three years had been pledged to an amount of not less than £250 per annum, the Government should grant £500 per annum for the general support of the school. Under these arrangements, there would be a primary school, partially endowed by the State, for the common branches of an English education, in every small centre of population; and in every town with a population of from 2,000 to 4,000 souls there would be, in due time, a grammar school for superior education under popular management.

In August, 1860, an expedition, at the head of which were Mr. G. E. Dalrymple, Commissioner of Crown Lands, and Mr. J. W. Smith, R.N., set out with the object of surveying the embouchure of the Burdekin River, which Leichhardt had come across in one of his journeys, when they discovered the harbor of Port Denison, besides accomplishing the purpose for which they had been despatched. On the 7th April, 1861, the first census of Queensland took place, when the population was found to be 30,059, consisting of 18,121 males, and 11,938 females, and on the 29th of the previous October the first exhibition was opened at Brisbane.

On the 22nd May, 1863, the first Parliament of Queensland was dissolved, and the second opened in the following July, Mr. Herbert continuing in office as Colonial Secretary, and his colleagues being Messrs. R. Pring, T. de L. Moffatt, A. Macalister, and J. Bramston.

In February, 1864, the sod of the first Queensland railway was turned, and in the ensuing July the pastoral district of Cook was proclaimed.

The principal Acts which passed the Legislature during this year were the Additional Members Bill and the Immigration Act. On the 1st January, 1864, the second census was taken, which gave the population at 61,467, of which number 37,425 were males, and 24,042 females. These figures are exclusive of the black aborigines, and show an increase of 31,408 persons above the population when taken at the census of 1861.

On the 31st July, 1865, the first Queensland railway was opened, and the spread of colonization had increased so much that there were sheep stations as far as 700 miles west of Brisbane, and 800 miles to the north of Rockhampton. On the 1st February, 1866, the Herbert Ministry was merged into one formed by Mr. A. Macalister, which lasted only until the following July, when Mr. Herbert came back to power for three weeks, after which Mr. Macalister formed an administration, his colleagues being Messrs. C. Lilley, J. D. McLean, J. P. Bell, J. Watts, G. Raff, and St. G. Gore. The principal legislative measure passed this year was "The Leasing Act of 1866,"

which offered further inducements for the occupation of the public lands. During this year the young colony suffered from a severe monetary depression, causing many bankruptcies, great losses among the pastoral classes, and the failure of the local bank. The Revenue for the year was £592,968, and the Expenditure, £696,898. The second Parliament was dissolved in May, 1867, and the third opened on the 7th August following, the first Royal Agricultural Exhibition having been opened at Toowoomba on the 11th of the previous month. Shortly after the opening of the third Parliament, the Macalister Government retired in favor of a Ministry at the head of which was Mr. R. R. Mackenzie, associated with Messrs. A. H. Palmer, R. Pring, E. W. Lamb, and T. L. M. Prior. On the 4th January, 1868, Sir George Bowen, the first Governor of Queensland, left Brisbane at the termination of his tenure of office, and Colonel Maurice Charles O'Connell acted as Administrator until the arrival of Colonel Samuel Wensley Blackall, the succeeding Governor, on the 14th August following. The Duke of Edinburgh visited Brisbane in February, in H.M.S. "Galatea," of which he was in command, and laid the foundation-stone of the Brisbane Grammar School on the last day of the month. Parliament having been dissolved by the new Governor shortly after his arrival, the new Chamber met on the 18th November following, and the Mackenzie Ministry was replaced a week later by another, which held office until May, 1870, at the head of which was Mr. C. Lilley, and the remaining members of which were Messrs. T. B. Stephens, T. H. Fitzgerald, A. Macalister, R. Pring and J. Douglas. On the 1st February, 1869, the Brisbane Grammar School was opened, and during the second session of the Parliament "The Pastoral Leases Act" was passed, by which an extended and more secure tenure was granted to the Crown lessees, for the encouragement of pastoral enterprise. The population of the colony, on the 31st December, 1870, was estimated at 115,567; the Revenue for the year was £743,058; Expenditure, £764,491; value of Imports, £1,577,339; Exports, £2,533,732; number of horses, 83,358; cattle, 1,076,630; sheep, 8,163,818; pigs, 30,992; while the total extent of land under crop was 52,210 acres. Governor Blackall died on the 2nd January, 1871, having been taken ill in the latter part of the previous year, and was succeeded by the Marquis of Normanby in the following August, Col. Sir Maurice Charles O'Connell having filled the position of Administrator during the interim. The sixth Parliament of Queensland assembled on the 7th November, 1871. Opals were discovered in the northern part of the colony in April of the following year, and the Queensland National Bank was opened on the 2nd of June. In 1874, the Marquis of Normanby was relieved of his functions on promotion to New Zealand, and Mr. (now Sir) W. W. Cairns took the oath of office on the 23rd January, 1875, Sir Maurice O'Connell having again acted as Administrator in the interval. On the 8th September the Education Act passed the Legislature.

On the 14th March, 1877, Governor Cairns left Brisbane to take up his appointment as Governor of South Australia, and on the 10th April Sir Arthur Kennedy arrived as his successor and took the oath. In October of this year the first woollen factory in Queensland was opened, and on the 31st December the population numbered 203,084; the Revenue for the year was £1,559,111; Expenditure, £1,566,723; and the value of Exports amounted to £4,361,275. There was a very severe drought throughout the colony in the years 1877 and 1878, which caused great depression, not only among the pastoral and agricultural classes, but also in the mining districts. In November of 1878, a general Parliamentary election commenced, and in November, 1880, Governor Kennedy returned to Brisbane from a trip to England on private affairs. In August, 1881, the two sons of the Prince of Wales, Prince Edward and Prince George, arrived in Brisbane, while serving as midshipmen on board H.M.S. "Bacchante," of the detached squadron, and were heartily welcomed and made much of.

In April of the year 1883, New Guinea was annexed to the colony, pending the confirmation of the Imperial Government, which was, however, withheld; and on the 2nd of May, Sir Arthur Kennedy retired from the Government of the colony and left Brisbane, dying on the voyage to England, Sir Arthur Palmer being sworn in as Administrator, which office he held until the arrival of Sir Anthony Musgrave, who had been nominated as the succeeding Governor.

In the early part of 1884, the continuous and heavy rainfall caused floods in several of the northern rivers; in February, severe gales were experienced on portions of the coast, doing much damage to shipping and other property.

Satisfactory results from some of the goldfields tended this year to bring mining matters more prominently before the public mind, and led to increased speculation throughout the community.

In March, the railway line to Clermont was opened, and in April, the first sod of the new line from Cooktown was turned.

The Polynesian labour question received the attention of the Government in April, and more stringent regulations were issued to meet the various abuses that had gained a place in the system.

During this year, the effects of continued drought in many parts of the interior, especially in the Downs district, were very marked, causing much loss to pastoralists.

At a sale of property in the metropolis, in July, the amount realised reached a value at the rate of £47,500 per acre.

The attention of the Legislature during the greater part of the year was given to the consideration of a new Land Bill, and the passing of it into law.

Heavy rains visited the northern and central portions of the colony during the early part of 1885, dissipating, in many places, the effects of a somewhat protracted period of dry weather.

In May, the first sod of the extension of the southern railway line, from Stanthorpe to the New South Wales border, was turned, amid rejoicing, at the near prospect of direct communication between Sydney and Brisbane.

A loan of £2,750,000 was projected by the Government, this year, and floated on the London market, the average price obtained being £97 18s. 4d., a result exceeded only in former years by that of 1870.

A committee was formed, in London, in October, to promote, and bring about, the separation of the northern part of the colony.

During the last month of the year, a branch of the Australian Geographical Society was successfully established in Brisbane.

In March, 1886, a loan of £1,500,000, bearing interest at 4 per cent., was successfully floated in London; the average price realised being £105 7s. 9½d., a result much more favorable to the colony than any monetary transactions of previous years.

Among the subjects which claimed a share of public attention during the year, and received consideration from the Legislature, was the movement for separation on the part of the North. The matter was also brought

under the notice of the Imperial authorities, but, so far, without result.

The discovery of gold in the northern part of Western Australia, gave rise to some excitement among the mining population, and a rush of diggers from some of the goldfields took place.

A noticeable feature in connection with mining matters during this year, was the decided inclination on the part of the English public to invest in colonial gold-mining speculations—a result, doubtless, brought about by the Colonial and Indian Exhibition.

At the beginning of the last quarter of the year, heavy rains were experienced in the south part of the colony, west of the Dividing Range, and many of the rivers were in flood.

The population on the 31st December of this year was estimated at 343,768.

Towards the close of January, 1887, the south-eastern portion of the colony suffered from very disastrous floods. Homesteads were overwhelmed, stock swept away to perish, and several lives lost. Many of the settlers in the valleys of the Brisbane and Logan rivers, who had by their industry risen to positions of comparative independence, were reduced, by this sudden calamity, to poverty and want. The lower parts of the city of Brisbane, and its suburbs, were completely submerged, the waters attaining a higher level than the flood of 1864. Heavy rains visited the eastern seaboard generally about this time, extending into various parts of the interior. The change led, subsequently, to a break-up of the drought, which had prevailed to a greater or less extent throughout the colonies of the east coast.

At an influential meeting, held in Brisbane, on the 23rd May of this year, it was decided, in furtherance of a proposal agreed to in April, 1886, to inaugurate the erection of an Anglican Cathedral for the city and diocese, as a memorial of the Queen's Jubilee.

The movement for the establishment of a University came before the public mind in June of this year, numerous petitions being up to prove its desirability. It received the support of a large number of graduates, undergraduates, and others.

The Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen was observed amid great rejoicing. Brisbane and many of the principal towns were illuminated at night and the school children throughout the colony entertained in various ways.

Towards the close of the year the near approach of the Centenary of British colonisation of the Continent attracted some attention, and the representation of the colony officially, at the Melbourne Centennial Exhibition, was determined upon.

Historical Account of South Australia.

(Compiled expressly for The Year-Book of Australia.)

THE settlement of South Australia as a British colony was consequent upon the discoveries of Captain Sturt, who found himself, in 1830, in sight of the beautiful range of hills which skirt the plains of Adelaide, having proceeded from New South Wales down the Murray River, with a party of fellow explorers, in two small boats. The next year a committee of gentlemen in London opened negotiations with the Imperial Government with the view of obtaining certain concessions, but, the attempt failing, it was not until 1834 that an Act passed the Imperial Parliament, giving to an association, called the "South Australian Association," power to frame laws, establish courts, appoint officers, chaplains, and clergymen of the Church of England or Scotland, and to levy duties and taxes. Three or four Commissioners were to be appointed by the Crown to carry the Act into execution, and the Crown Lands in the colony were to be surveyed and open for purchase by British subjects, or let on rent for three years, the purchase-money and rent to be employed in conducting the emigration of poor people from Great Britain or Ireland to the South Australian territory. The first Commissioners appointed were Colonel Torrens (Chairman), and Messrs. G. F. Angus, E. Barnard, W. Hutt, J. G. Shaw Lefevre, W. A. Mackinnon, S. Mills, J. Montefiore, G. Palmer, G. Barnes, and R. Hill.

The first Governor of South Australia was Captain (afterwards Sir John) Hindmarsh, R.N., whose appointment was gazetted in London on the 4th February, 1836. Mr. (afterwards Sir) James Hurtle Fisher being appointed Resident Commissioner for the sale of Crown Lands, and Colonel Light, Surveyor-General. The Governor reached Holdfast Bay on the 28th December of the same year, and, landing the same day, read the Orders in Council constituting South Australia a British Province, and his own commission as Governor.

In consequence of dissensions which arose between the Governor and the Resident Commissioner, as to their relative powers, Captain Hindmarsh was recalled in July, 1838, and succeeded by Colonel Gawler in October of the same year, Mr. Fisher's services being at the same time dispensed with. Under Colonel Gawler's administration the infant colony fell into great financial embarrassment, owing to the labor being all employed in the city, instead of in the development of the resources of the land, and to the commencement of immense public works, to pay for which the Governor drew his bills on Her Majesty's Treasury. These were dishonored, as the primary understanding had been that the colony was to be self-supporting, but the money was subsequently advanced as a loan, and thus the difficulty was overcome. The result, however, of Colonel Gawler's management was that he was superseded, without notice, by Captain George Grey, on the 10th May, 1841.

With the appointment of Captain Grey, the management of the colony by the South Australian Commissioners in London ceased, the Home Government taking it entirely into their own hands. Under Governor Grey, the expenditure which, in 1841, had been £100,000, was reduced in 1842 to £34,000. At the beginning of 1843, 300,000 acres of land had been selected; the population in the town and suburbs was about 8,500, and in the country districts upwards of 6,000; there were 360,000 sheep, 2,000 horses, and 24,000 cattle in the colony.

Colonel Robe succeeded Captain Grey on the 25th October, 1845, and his administration was marked by a complete want of sympathy between himself and the colonists, so that it was a relief for both sides when he was followed by Sir Henry Edward Fox Young in August, 1848, who entered heartily into all those schemes which were likely to benefit the colony, and under whose government the Murray River was opened for navigation in 1853 by Captain Cadell in the steamer "Lady Augusta," which safely pursued her course to Swan Hill, 1,300 miles distant from Adelaide. During Sir Henry Young's period of office, the gold discoveries in New South Wales and Victoria took place, the immediate result to South Australia being the almost complete evacuation of the colony by the adult male population, who sold all they possessed, and started off for the diggings. The banks in Adelaide were nearly drained of all the gold they held in reserve, and at the culminating point of the crisis, it is understood that the amount of specie held by them,

unitedly, did not much exceed £20,000. Shortly after this, a vessel arrived at Port Adelaide from Melbourne with a number of returned diggers on board, who had brought back with them to the colony gold-dust to the value of £50,000. In order to grapple with the difficulties at once, the Government established an escort for the conveyance of gold from the diggings to Adelaide, and passed the celebrated Bullion Act, which provided for the appointment of an assayer, whose duty it should be to receive, melt, assay, and stamp all crude gold brought to him for that purpose; that the gold, when assayed, should be delivered to one of the banks, to the order of its owner, at a standard of purity equal to that of gold coined by the English Mint; that the banks might issue their own notes against such gold, calculating it at the rate of £3 11s. per ounce, and that such notes should be a legal tender; that the banks might redeem such notes by the tender of the stamped ingots; and that the Act itself should cease at the expiration of twelve months. This Act was followed within the year by a Bill for the coining of gold tokens, until sovereigns from home could be substituted. The Bill was passed, a local mint was established, and the tokens were issued in due form. They represented twenty shillings each, the standard being fixed, as in the case of the ingots, at £3 11s. per ounce. From the opening of the Assay Office in February, 1852, to December of the same year, the gold sent in to be converted into ingots amounted in value to £1,395,208.

In 1851 the first constitution was granted to the colony, and on the 20th August of that year the new Council, consisting of eight persons nominated by the Governor, and sixteen persons elected by the country, was assembled by Sir Henry Young. The qualification for membership was freehold property of the annual value of £200, or of the total value of £2,000. The voting qualification was also founded upon a property basis, and persons holding property in different districts were entitled to vote in each district in which the same was situated. The new Act reserved a Civil List of £13,000 to Her Majesty, and the Council was to last for five years, subject to prorogation or dissolution by the Governor. No further control was given to the Legislature over that part of the land revenue which was administered by direction of the Queen.

Sir Henry Young was succeeded in the government in June, 1855, by Sir Richard Graves MacDonnell, before whose arrival and after the departure of Young, Mr. B. T. Finnis, for many years Colonial Secretary, assumed the position of Acting-Governor. During Sir Richard MacDonnell's administration the colony made rapid strides of progress. Roads were improved and bridges formed; surveys for railways were carried on to a large extent and railway traffic inaugurated; telegraph lines throughout the country were established, as well as telegraphic communication with Sydney and Melbourne; the city of Adelaide was supplied with water; numerous buildings for public purposes were constructed by the Executive, including a new hospital, Parliament house, Government house, Government offices, mounted-police barracks, and an Institute with a free library; the Murray was navigated as far as Albury, and the first steamer taken a considerable distance up the Darling by Captain Cadell, with whom was Sir Richard MacDonnell; the new mining district of Wallaroo, on Yorke's Peninsula, was discovered; and the far north was explored by Sir Richard MacDonnell, Major Freeling, Major Warburton, Messrs. Stuart, Goyder, Babbage and others. Besides, and, perhaps, above all these advantages, a new Constitution was granted to the colony in 1856, the leading feature of which was a Parliament consisting of a Legislative Council and House of Assembly. The former was composed of eighteen members, six of whom had to retire every four years, their successors being elected for twelve years. The House of Assembly consisted of thirty-six members, who were elected for three years; the qualification of a voter being that he should be twenty-one years of age, and on the electoral roll for six months, the qualification for membership being the same. The Council was also elective, and not subject to dissolution by the Governor; the qualifications for a member being that he should be not less than thirty years of age, a natural-born or naturalized British sub-

ject, and a resident in the province for three years; whilst those for a voter were that he must be twenty-one years old, a natural-born or naturalized subject, have been on the electoral roll for six months, and have a freehold of £50 value, or a leasehold of £20 annual value, with three years unexpired, or a dwelling-house of £25 annual value.

The first responsible Ministry (which took office on the 24th October, 1856,) consisted of B. T. Finnis, Chief Secretary; R. D. Hanson, Attorney-General; R. R. Torrens, Treasurer; C. Bonney, Commissioner of Crown Lands and Immigration; and Captain Freeling (the Surveyor-General), Commissioner of Public Works. James Hurtle Fisher was appointed President of the Council, and George Strickland Kingston, first Speaker of the House of Assembly. Parliament did not meet until April 22nd, 1857, and on the 11th August following, the Finnis Ministry resigned, and the Hon. J. Baker formed a new one, his colleagues being Messrs. E. C. Gwynne, J. Hart, W. Milne, A. Blyth, and J. T. Bagot. This administration only lasted for ten days, and was succeeded by one of which R. R. Torrens was Chief Secretary, and his colleagues Messrs. R. B. Andrews, J. B. Hughes, M. McDermott, and S. Davenport. This Ministry was almost as short-lived as the preceding one, its existence terminating at the end of twenty-nine days, when it made way for a combination Government of Messrs. Hanson and W. Younghusband, associated with Messrs. J. Hart, F. S. Dutton, and T. Reynolds, which held office uninterruptedly from September 30th, 1857, until May 9th, 1860.

In 1857, the Real Property Act of Mr. (afterwards Sir) R. R. Torrens was introduced into the House of Assembly, and came into operation on the 2nd July, 1858. Besides the especially favorable feature of economy in its *modus operandi*, its great principle is the conveying of title by registration, and not by the accumulation of deeds. Another important principle of the system is, that a certificate of title issued out of the Lands Titles Office is indefensible to a *bonâ fide* purchaser, except in case of misdescription of boundaries; and in the event of loss or destruction of a certificate of title, the Registrar-General may, on satisfactory evidence being given of such loss or destruction, issue a fresh certificate, which shall be an exact copy of the original in the registry book, and this is valid and available for all purposes.

And having now brought the history of the colony down to 1860, the same would not be complete without mention being made of the several exploring expeditions which were undertaken during the twenty years before. On July 18th, 1840, Edward John Eyre, who occupied the position of Resident Magistrate and Protector of the Aborigines at Moorndee, set out from Adelaide at the head of a party, with the view of exploring the unknown country lying between South Australia and Western Australia, and encountering unexpected difficulties, he sent his party back from Streaky Bay, and formed the bold resolution of attempting to push his way through to King George's Sound, in Western Australia, his companions being one white man (Baxter) and three blacks. After almost insurmountable sufferings, he crossed the Great Australian Bight, and reached King George's Sound with his black boy Wylie on the 8th July, his white follower having been murdered at the end of April by two of his black companions, who then deserted. Eyre's perilous journey was almost barren of result from a commercial standpoint, the country which he traversed being totally useless for pastoral or agricultural purposes, although the land to the eastward of Fowler's Bay has since been occupied for grazing pursuits. But however unremunerative the exploration may have been, the pluck, perseverance, and dogged obstinacy which Eyre displayed are none the less worthy of admiration. Some thirty years after Eyre's feat, John Forrest, a hardy young West Australian explorer, accomplished it from the opposite direction, traversing the distance at the head of a little band with but small trouble or privation. He camped over and over again on the same ground as Eyre had formerly done, and which he recognised at once, as it appeared just as if it had not been in any way disturbed since Eyre and his black boy left it. In August, 1844, Captain Sturt took the field, his intention being to solve the question of an existence of a central sea in the continent, and returned on the 19th January, 1846, after an absence of eighteen months, in which he had penetrated as far as latitude 24° 40' S., and longitude 138° E., and had discovered what is now known as Cooper's Creek, stretching away to the south-east farther than the eye could see. Several exploratory

expeditions were undertaken by the South Australian Government during the years 1857 to 1859, but they all converged upon the same region that had been previously visited by Eyre and Sturt—Lake Torrens—beyond which it seemed impossible to penetrate.

In the beginning of May, 1859, Mr. Stuart, Sturt's former companion and draughtsman, commenced the first of those expeditions into the northern interior, which eventually led him right through the middle of the continent to the shores of the Indian ocean. After three unsuccessful attempts, in which he had added greatly to the geographical knowledge of the interior at the expense of almost superhuman difficulties, the Government placed £2,500 on the Estimates to fit Stuart out for a further attempt to cross from sea to sea, but although he reached as far north as 17° 40' S., in fine rich alluvial country of great extent, to which he gave the name of Sturt's Plains, he had to write, "It certainly is a great disappointment to me in not being able to get through; but I believe that I have left nothing untried that it has been in my power to do. I have tried to make the gulf and river (Victoria, of Gregory) both before rain fell, and immediately after it had fallen, but the results were the same—unsuccessful." He was compelled to return, and arrived again in Adelaide on the 23rd September, 1861, having been absent about ten months. Undaunted by his past want of fortune, in less than two months another expedition was equipped, the Government and the public not being slow to appreciate his enthusiasm, and he was ready to enter upon his fifth, and, as it proved, his successful attempt to cross the continent. Leaving Adelaide on the 26th October, after months of hard toil and privation, he was delighted and gratified at beholding the waters of the Indian ocean in Van Dieman's Gulf on the 24th July, 1862. His second in command of the expedition was Mr. W. Keckwick. On Stuart's return, the South Australian Government awarded him £3,000, having, in 1859, granted him a lease of 1,000 square miles of pastoral country in the north free of rent for a period of seven years.

On the 16th August, 1861, McKinlay was despatched from Adelaide by the South Australian Government in search of Burke and Wills, the Victorian explorers, but having been anticipated by Mr. Howitt, who brought their remains to Melbourne, he made a dash to the northward, and succeeded in crossing over to the Gulf of Carpentaria, from whence he proceeded to Port Denison, and returned by sea to South Australia.

Resuming our thread of the constitutional and general history of the colony which we had brought down to 1860, on the 9th May of that year Mr. Reynolds displaced Mr. Hanson's Ministry, the colleagues of the former being Messrs. Waterhouse, Strangways, Bagott, and Hay, the last seeking retirement from political life the following year in the Chief-Justiceship of the colony. This government lasted until October, 1861, Mr. Waterhouse having retired in the previous February in consequence of ill-health, which, however, did not prevent him from undertaking the responsibilities of forming a new ministry, which consisted of Messrs. Stow, Reynolds, Strangways, and Lindsay, with himself at the head. Sir Richard MacDonnell left the colony in 1862, and was succeeded in March of that year by Sir Dominic Daly, a man of great official experience, an excellent administrator, and a very popular governor. The year before, a census of the population had been taken, giving a total of 126,830 (not including aboriginals), of which 65,048 were males, and 61,782 females. The Waterhouse Ministry resigned in July, 1863, in consequence of a vote of censure having been carried against them, on the motion of Mr. Dutton, who now became head of the new administration, which, however, was compelled to resign after having been only ten days in office, when Mr. Ayers essayed his hand, his associates being Messrs. Andrews, Hart, Glyde, and Santo. This government lasted until July, 1864, when it was reconstructed by the substitution of Messrs. Stow and Milne in place of Messrs. Andrews and Glyde. At this period, considerable excitement prevailed in the Legislature and the colony on the squatting question. Many of the early leases of the squatters were about falling in, and had to be renewed in conformity with the provisions of a local Act. The Government had appointed the Surveyor-General to value the pastoral runs, in order to fix the rent for the renewed term, and his valuations were thought by the squatters to be greatly in excess of what was fair and reasonable. The consequence was that several administrations followed

each other in rapid succession, none of which obtained the confidence of the House for any length of time, and in October, 1865, Mr. Hart became Chief Secretary, with a Ministry composed of Messrs. Boucaut, Duffield, Glyde, and English.

In consequence of the success of Mr. Stuart in crossing the Australian continent, and the favourable report given by him of the character of the country upon the northern coast, the South Australian Government having obtained the protectorate of the new territory, resolved to undertake the experiment of colonizing it, and on the 24th April, 1864, an official staff took their departure from Port Adelaide to prepare the way for the settlement of the new colony, with Mr. B. T. Finnis as Government Resident. The expedition resulted in a pronounced failure, the site of the proposed town being fixed at Escape Cliffs, in Adam Bay, against the protests and remonstrances of Mr. Finnis' officers, and gentlemen who represented the selectors. Mr. Finnis having been recalled to Adelaide, the undertaking lingered on in a most unsatisfactory condition until Mr. Goyder, the Surveyor-General, was despatched at the head of a surveying expedition in 1869, and he selected the site of Port Darwin as the headquarters of the settlement, shortly after which Captain Douglas was appointed Government Resident of the territory.

Sir Dominic Daly having died on the 19th February, 1868, whilst administering the government of the colony, Lieut.-Colonel Hamley became Acting-Governor, in virtue of being senior officer in command of Her Majesty's forces, until the arrival of the Right Honorable Sir James Fergusson, Bart., who assumed the government in February, 1869. During Governor Fergusson's administration, the overland telegraph between Adelaide and Port Darwin became an accomplished fact; it was commenced in 1870 and completed in August, 1872, the work having been placed in the hands of Mr. Todd for execution. At the same time the British-Australian cable was laid between Singapore and Port Darwin, *via* Java, thus bringing the continent of Australia into telegraphic communication with the rest of the civilized world. In April of 1871, the census of the colony was again taken, when it was found that the population numbered 185,626, of which 95,408 were males, and 90,218 females. These returns did not include the aborigines, of whom there numbered 3,369, as far as could be ascertained.

In the year 1872 an Act was passed (amended in 1874), under which the whole of the waste lands of the colony south of the 26th parallel of south latitude formed one area, from which, as fast as it was surveyed and declared open to the public, intending purchasers could make their selections. All waste lands, other than township and suburban, had a fixed value put upon them by the Commissioner of Crown Lands of not less than £1 per acre, and no one could select more than 640 acres, or one square mile. In this year the revenue of the colony was £697,442, and the expenditure, £700,200, the value of imports being £2,801,571, and exports, £3,738,623, whilst the amount of land alienated was 414,745 acres.

In the interval between the departure of Sir James Fergusson in December, 1872, and the arrival of his successor, the administration of affairs was in the hands of Sir R. D. Hanson, the Chief Justice, who resigned to Sir Anthony Musgrave, the incoming Governor, on the 9th June, 1873.

In 1874 an Act was passed to incorporate and endow the University of Adelaide, and in the following year an Act to amend the law relating to Public Education received the Royal assent, as well as another declaring Port Darwin to be a free port. In June of the latter year Mr. Blyth's Ministry, which had held office since July, 1873, went out, making way for Mr. Boucaut, with his colleagues Messrs. W. Morgan, S. J. Way, John Colton, W. A. E. West-Erskine, and E. Ward. This administration lasted until March, 1876, when Mr. Boucaut re-constructed it, by substituting Messrs. G. C. Hawker, C. Mann, A. Blyth, T. Playford, and W. Everard for the former cabinet, but only succeeded in keeping his Ministry together until the ensuing June, when Mr. J. Colton's came into power, with him being associated Sir Henry Ayers and Messrs. J. C. Bray, R. D. Ross, J. Carr, and E. Ward. In March of this year the usual census was taken, when the population of the colony (exclusive of aborigines) was shown to be 213,271, of which number 110,491 were males and 102,780 females. The revenue for this year was £1,320,205; the expenditure, £1,323,337;

value of imports, £4,576,183, exports, £4,816,170; number of acres of land under cultivation, 1,514,916; while the live stock consisted of 106,903 horses, 219,441 cattle, and 6,133,291 sheep. Sir Richard Davies Hanson, Chief Justice, died on the 4th March, and was succeeded by Mr. Samuel James Way on the 18th of the same month.

On the 29th January, 1877, Sir Anthony Musgrave retired from the government of the colony, and the Hon. Samuel James Way became Administrator until the arrival of the incoming Governor, except for a period of about seven weeks, during which time Sir William Wellington Cairns wielded the authority. Sir William Francis Drummond Jervois, a distinguished officer of Engineers, took the oath as Governor on the 2nd October, 1877; shortly after which (26th October), Mr. Colton's Ministry went out of office, and was succeeded by another of Mr. Boucaut's Cabinets, the remaining members of which were Messrs. W. Morgan, C. Mann, T. Playford, G. C. Hawker, and N. Blyth. During the Colton Administration, the line of telegraph from Adelaide to Western Australia was completed, an improved national system of education was initiated, and there was a greatly increased activity in the construction of railways and other important public works. An Act was also passed to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the Crown lands in the colony, which widely liberalized the terms upon which agricultural, pastoral, and mineral lands could be acquired. Soon after Sir William Jervois' arrival, he drew up a report on the defences of the colony, with proposals for carrying out a system of fortification, which was thereupon adopted and the work commenced.

On the 25th September, 1878, Mr. Boucaut was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court, and Mr. W. Morgan was then charged with the reconstruction of the Cabinet, when Mr. N. Blyth gave way to Mr. R. Rees (who was shortly followed by Mr. T. King), and Mr. W. H. Bunday became the other fresh minister. The principal legislation of the late Government consisted in an Act to amend the Crown Lands Consolidation Act, an Act for the establishment of a permanent Military Force, and an Act to amend the Real Property Act of 1861.

In 1879 the foundation-stone of the University was laid, and the Academy of Music opened. Among the principal legislative measures of 1880 were the Public Trustee Bill, providing for the care and management of estates of deceased persons; the amended Land Bill, granting further time to selectors to complete their purchases; the Settled Estates Bill, providing means for dealing with entailed land, which had hitherto, in many cases, been vacant and unproductive through inability to grant leases thereof, or to give good titles to intending purchasers; and a Bill providing for a retiring allowance to such judges of the Supreme Court as might become infirm after serving a period of twenty years on the bench.

On the 4th January, 1881, a special session of Parliament was convened in order to pass a Bill authorizing the making of agreements with the colonies of New South Wales and Victoria relative to the Borders Duties, and later on in the year an Act was passed to regulate and restrict Chinese immigration, and another to further amend the Constitution Act. The National Art Gallery in Adelaide was opened in this year, and the Torrens Dam completed. In the census taken on the 3rd April, the population of South Australia (including the Northern Territory), was found to be 279,865, of which number 149,530 were males, and 130,335 females, these figures not including aborigines. The revenue of the colony for the year ending December 31, 1881, was £2,171,987; expenditure, £2,054,284; value of imports, £5,224,064, exports, £4,407,757; total number of acres of land under cultivation for the years 1881-82, 2,613,903; while the live stock on April 3rd, 1881, consisted of 148,219 horses, 283,315 cattle, 6,443,904 sheep, and 126,654 pigs.

In July of 1881, the Morgan Ministry gave way to another, the members of which were Messrs. J. C. Bray, L. Glyde, J. W. Downer, A. Catt, J. G. Ramsay, and J. L. Parsons. In April, 1882, the University was opened, and in the following October, the National Picture Gallery; whilst January of the year 1883 saw the retirement of Sir William Jervois from the government of the colony, which was assumed on the ensuing month by his successor, Sir William Cleaver Francis Robinson, late Governor of Western Australia.

In the early part of this year the conservation of water in the drier portions of the colony received the attention of the Government, and operations to this end were initiated in the direction of the New South Wales border about forty miles east from Terowie. By this means routes were to be opened to the Mount Brown gold-fields and the country on the banks of the Diamantina, in Queensland. Investigations were also started in the Gambier District and inland from Denial Bay.

During the first half of the year the preliminary meetings in connection with the proposed Jubilee Exhibition were held, and received influential support. Railway construction was pushed forward with energy, and, before the close of the year, two sections of the line from Adelaide to Nairne were opened for traffic.

On the 5th June, 1884, the eleventh Parliament since the passing of the Constitution Act was opened. The Colton Government took office on the 16th June, 1884.

In the year 1885 a marked commercial depression existed. Cumulative effects from previous years seemed to converge and produce stagnation throughout the land. The low price of copper, which at one period of its history was the staple product of the colony, also added to the general effect. In this year South Australia, following the example of New South Wales, offered to the mother country a contingent for service in the Sudan campaign, and enthusiastically welcomed the Contingent of the latter colony when it called at Port Adelaide on its way to the Red Sea. England gracefully declined the proffered assistance of South Australia.

At this period a very distinct advance was made by Parliament towards increased restrictions in the tariff, with the view of providing work for the unemployed.

Among works of a public character carried out during 1885 were railway extension, chiefly in the direction of the Victorian border; the construction of works in connection with the water-supply of several townships, notably Burra and Crystal Brook; the maturing of schemes for additional conservation of water in the valley of the Torrens, to augment the metropolitan supply, and for a similar purpose in the more populous portion of Yorke's Peninsula; the boring, with the aid of the diamond-drill, for an artesian supply in some of the worst-watered portions of the colony; and the progress made with the new parliamentary buildings.

Though no advance of a phenomenal nature in any one of the departments representing public interests can be pointed to, sufficient was done during the year to maintain the reputation for progress borne in the past.

The navigation of the Murray was somewhat improved. The defences of the colony received the attention of the military authorities, and the placing of these on a more satisfactory basis furnished employment to many who were previously without work.

In the early part of 1886 a severe shock was felt by the community generally through the sudden collapse of the Commercial Bank of South Australia.

At the end of April a loan of £1,332,000, at 4 per cent. interest, was placed on the London market at a minimum of £99. Tenders were received for over two millions sterling, the average being about £99 9s. 6d. At this time tenders were accepted for the erection of the Jubilee Exhibition Building.

The discovery of gold in the Kimberley District in the early portion of the year produced excitement in the mining population throughout Australia. That section of the population, ever on the watch for chances of making rapid fortunes, as in the golden times following the first discovery of the precious metal in New South Wales and Victoria, was attracted by the exaggerated rumors from the new El Dorado, and an exodus to the gold-field, but only to a limited extent, was the result. Gold was undoubtedly obtained, the auriferous character of the country having been previously favorably reported upon by Mr. Hardman, the Government Geologist of Western Australia. As a gold-field, however, it has not, up to the present, been a success. The complete exploration of this portion of the western colony remains for future pioneers. The majority of those drawn to the diggings returned before the end of the year.

In October of 1886 gold was found on the Teetulpa run, a few miles east from Wankaringa. The reports of the warden on the discovery were of a very encouraging nature, and soon a straggling population was collected in the vicinity eager to secure leases in the auriferous

territory. The mining district of Silverton and Broken Hill, in New South Wales, which lies a short distance to the east, added considerably to the rush. For a short time the silver-mining of the Barrier country was comparatively deserted. This field, though not comparable with some of the gold-producing areas of the adjoining colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland, has, nevertheless, produced very fair results, and maintains a small mining population. Phenomenal finds of gold were not frequent, but the general effect on trade and business throughout the colony was beneficial. Enterprise was stimulated, and a healthy vigor imparted to various industries.

The fiftieth anniversary of the proclamation of South Australia as a colony was observed on the 28th December with more than ordinary rejoicings, the chief scene of interest on the occasion being at Glenelg and around the shores of Holdfast Bay.

The year 1887 opened with evidences of continued activity on the part of those entrusted with carrying out the preliminary arrangements for the Jubilee Exhibition.

Among the first acts of the Government in January of this year was the appointment of a Land Board as provided by the Crown Lands Act, passed during 1886. The principal duties of this body lie in dealing with all applications for, and leases of, unoccupied Crown Lands. In the early part of the same month railway communication was established between Adelaide and Melbourne, thus creating a permanent bond of union and a rapid means of conveyance between not only the capitals of South Australia and Victoria, but even between that of the former and Sydney. There is no doubt that this was an event of immense importance, and one the benefits of which will become more apparent with the advancement of the various colonial interests. It was fitting that the achievement of this object should have been effected in the Jubilee year of the colony, and those who look into the future will see in it one of the evidences of a tendency towards that massing of forces which at no remote period will place federated Australia in the front rank of nations.

Parliament was dissolved in the early part of the year, and an appeal made to the various constituencies. The principal questions discussed and determined by the voice of the people were whether the revenue could be increased by protection or not, and the result of the election clearly proved that the protectionist party is fast gaining ground in South Australia. Many of the old members lost their seats through their pronounced views in opposition to a protective policy. Another question was whether there should be payment of members, and on this matter South Australia appears to have declared in the affirmative.

Amongst other important events which mark this year may be mentioned the visit of the Premier of the colony, Hon. J. W. Downer, Q.C., Attorney-General, to England, to attend a meeting of delegates from all the colonies, at which most important matters to Australasia, and South Australia in particular, were discussed. The Premier's action was most severely criticised during the recent election campaign by the various candidates, and his leaving his own election as a positive certainty was unique and unprecedented in parliamentary history, but, when due weight is given to the great importance of the occasion, and to the zeal displayed by the Premier in all things since his arrival in the old country, as evidenced by the almost daily cablegrams in the public press, in all matters affecting the welfare of South Australia, no one can say but that his actions throughout have been most patriotic and loyal, and Her Majesty the Queen has thought well to confer the honor of knighthood upon him for his work in the past and his zeal and earnestness displayed at the conference now sitting, and it is an honor which every South Australian will candidly admit is only a fitting and suitable ending to such an important year, not only in the life of Sir John Downer, but in the history of the colony at large.

During the Premier's visit to England he negotiated successfully with an English syndicate to take up large tracts of country for wattle-planting. This will be of lasting benefit to South Australia, using as it will country, until lately, looked upon as utterly useless and non-productive in every way. Coupled to this, and also largely influenced by the untiring zeal of the Premier, may be added the taking of large tracts of country for irrigation purposes by the American firm of Chaffey Brothers.

The first session of the twelfth Parliament was opened on June 2nd, and shortly afterwards the Government, under the premiership of Sir W. J. Downer, came to an end, being replaced by one formed under the leadership of the Hon. Thomas Playford. The remaining members of the administration were, Chief Secretary, J. G. Ramsay; Attorney-General, C. C. Kingston; Commissioner of Public Works, A. Catt; Commissioner of Crown Lands, J. Coles; Minister of Education, J. C. F. Johnson,

On the 16th June the Narracoorte and Mount Gambier railway was formally opened in the presence of His Excellency the Governor.

The jubilee of Her Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria and of the foundation of the colony coincided within a few months. Both events were celebrated on the 21st of June, by the opening at Adelaide of the Exhibition, for which so much preparation had previously been made. The event which had been looked forward to by thousands, not only within the colony but throughout Australia, reached and even surpassed the expectations of its most ardent supporters. It marks a distinct page in the history of South Australian colonisation, and has served to a large extent to neutralise the effects of the great wave of depression that has left its imprint throughout the commercial world. The proceedings were attended by a considerable amount of ceremony, and in the presence of a large and brilliant assemblage. His Excellency, Sir William Robinson, declared the Exhibition open. A message by cable from the building to Windsor Castle announced the fact to the Queen. A history of the enterprise, with the difficulties which had to be encountered, together with brief references to

the events being celebrated, was contained in an inaugural address, by Mr. E. T. Smith, Vice-President of the Commission. It was also noticed that from the unfurling of the British flag on the shores of Holdfast Bay, by the pioneers of the colony fifty years before, its progress had been steadily onwards, until at the present time there is all the evidence of substantial prosperity, and a prospect of even a brighter career in the future. The celebration of the colony's jubilee included also a very pleasing ceremony at Glenelg, on the site of the old gum tree under which the proclamation of the colony was read in December, 1836. Here some young plants of the eucalyptus tribe were placed in the ground to commemorate the historical tree. Among those present were a few who had stood there half a century before, and saw the infant colony launched upon the bosom of time.

Among matters which engaged the attention of the Legislature during 1886, were a revision of the tariff, irrigation, retrenchment in the public service, amendment of the land laws, naval defence, and railway management.

Throughout the year, but more particularly towards its close, an increased tendency was manifest in the community to speculation in mining enterprise. These were for the most part of a genuine character, the bubble element, which in former years had wrought so much disaster among the unsuspecting and unwary, being conspicuously absent.

The rising tide of prosperity which came with 1887 continued into 1888, and gave an impetus to commerce and trade that will make the centenary of Australian colonisation more than a numeral landmark in the history of the colony.

Historical Account of Tasmania.

(Compiled expressly for The Year-Book of Australia.)

IN November of the year 1642, Abel Jans Tasman, who had set out from Batavia at the head of an expedition fitted out to explore the "Great South Land," as New Holland was called, sighted Tasmania, and named it Anthony Van Diemen's Land, in honor of the Governor-General of Batavia. To Tasman, therefore, is due the honor of discovering the island. Anchoring in Frederick Hendrik Bay on the 1st of December ensuing, parties went ashore on the two following days, and left a flag on a staff to commemorate the visit; after which Tasman's expedition left the newly-discovered land.

The next visitor was Captain Marion, of the "Mascarn and Castries," who arrived from Mauritius in search of the "Southern Continent" and anchored on the 4th March, 1772, in the same Frederick Hendrik Bay in which Tasman had taken shelter. On landing, Captain Marion's party was opposed by the natives, and in the collision which ensued, the French fired their muskets, with fatal result to one savage.

A year later on, Captain Tobias Furneaux touched at Van Diemen's Land in the "Adventure," when forming part of an expedition under Captain Cook, which had left Great Britain for the purpose of exploring the ice-bound Antarctic regions. The visit was purely accidental, the vessels having become separated during a fog; shortly after which the "Adventure" made the South-West Cape on the 9th March, afterwards naming Adventure Bay, and sailing along the eastern coast to latitude 40° 50'. From Furneaux's observations, his conviction was "that there was no strait between New Holland and Van Diemen's Land, but a very deep bay."

Captain Cook paid a short visit to the island in the "Resolution," on his third and last voyage to the Pacific in 1777; and again, in July, 1789, Captain John Henry Cox, in the brig "Mercury," discovered Oyster Bay on the eastern side; whilst Captain William Bligh, afterwards Governor of New South Wales, entered Adventure Bay in 1792 with the "Providence" and "Assistant" under his command, having previously touched at the island in 1788, when on his voyage to Tahiti to procure the bread-fruit tree for conveyance to the West India Islands.

In 1792 there were also other visitors beside Bligh, as Rear-Admiral D'Entrecasteaux in the "Recherche," and Captain Huon Kermadec in the "Esperance" discovered the channel which bears the former officer's name on the 20th April, and left after a month's stay, but returned in the first month of the following year to complete their observations, which included the entry and naming of the Rivers Huon and Derwent and an examination of the different harbors.

Proceeding on to the year 1794, Captain John Hayes then entered Storm Bay and D'Entrecasteaux's Channel in the private ships "Duke" and "Duchess," and sailing up the Derwent much farther than the Frenchmen, named and surveyed various places along the littoral. In October, 1798, Flinders and Bass examined a large portion of the coast in the sloop "Norfolk," of 25 tons, which had been lent to them for the purpose by Governor Hunter, of New South Wales; in the course of which they sailed round from Cape Portland to the Derwent, naming Port Waterhouse, Port Dalrymple, Circular Head, Cape Grim, Mount Heemskirk, Mount Zeehaan, Point Hibbs, and other prominent coast marks, and surveying and charting the whole of their discoveries. Lastly, in 1802, Captain Baudin in the French ship "Géographe" and Captain Hamelin in the "Naturaliste" visited the island, and made a careful survey of the eastern coast; determining many hitherto doubtful positions, and adding largely to the previous general knowledge of the country.

The establishment of a settlement in Van Diemen's Land was at first chiefly intended to relieve Port Jackson of the most turbulent and unruly of her convict classes, the numbers of which had become so large as to endanger authority; and in August of 1803, Lieutenant Bowen, in the "Lady Nelson," landed at Risdon on the east bank of the Derwent; his party consisting of a few soldiers and prisoners, and Dr. Mountgarret, as surgeon. This small band was increased in the following year by the arrival of Lieutenant-Governor Collins at the head of a body of officials, and in charge of 367 male convicts from Port Phillip, which had been abandoned as unsuitable on Collins's representations. They landed at Sullivan's Cove, the situation of the camp at Risdon having

been found undesirable, whilst a small party of prisoners, under Colonel Patterson, was sent from Port Jackson to the Tamar, and formed a settlement at York Town. The names of the principal persons in Collins's party were Lieutenant-Governor Collins; Rev. R. Knopwood, chaplain; E. Bromley, surgeon-superintendent; W. Anson, colonial surgeon; M. Boden and W. Hopley, assistant surgeons; P. H. Humphrey, mineralogist; Lieutenant Fosbrook, deputy-commissary-general; G. P. Harris, deputy-surveyor; John Clarke and William Patterson superintendents of convicts; and Lieutenants W. Sladen, J. M. Johnson, and Edward Lord, with the military guard. Such were the pioneers of this important colony.

Collins, the first Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land, and previously judge-advocate of New South Wales, fixed on Hobart Town as the site of his settlement, naming it after his patron, Lord Hobart; while Colonel Paterson, in 1806, removed the greater part of his establishment from York Town to the country above the North and South Esk, where there were extensive plains suitable alike for tillage and pasture, and almost without a tree. Paterson traced the Tamar and investigated the valley of Launceston, both of which names he bestowed in honor of Governor King, who was of Cornish family, and he proposed to establish a seaport town for the northern section of the island, which was called Port Dalrymple. In 1808, the greater part of the settlers in Norfolk Island were removed to Van Diemen's Land, much against their wish, 254 arriving on the 15th October. On the determination of the Government being announced, the Norfolk Islanders manifested the greatest repugnance; indeed, the elder people declared they would not leave the country, although they soon found they were powerless to contend against the official fiat. They were offered the choice of a settlement in Van Diemen's Land or New South Wales, and the large majority selected the former country, receiving from the Government whatever would best reconcile them to the change. Vessels were sent for their transport, their land holdings were doubled and freed from all conditions and reservations, they obtained cattle on loan, and received rations from the public stores, as new settlers. That the rising generation were benefited by the change can hardly be doubted; but the effect, generally, on the parents was painful. Compared to Norfolk Island, Van Diemen's Land seemed blank and barren; besides which, the cultivation of the soil had to be begun anew. Divided into three classes, according to their origin or wealth, the new settlers were located partly in the vicinity of Hobart Town, at Pittwater and New Norfolk, and partly at Norfolk Plains. The ordinary grant was thirty, forty, or fifty acres, until a later period; a large holding was neither possessed nor desired. Many cared for nothing but those immediate benefits which they could claim as immigrant farmers; and whilst they drew their rations from the Government stores, they sold their newly-acquired property for a few bottles of rum, so that it was a current remark that a keg of spirits was then of more value than an ordinary farm. The hopeless and dissipated state of these people is marked in every document of those times. Their frail houses soon showed every sign of decay, and their ground was exhausted by continual cropping. Thus those exhilarating influences of youth and vigor, which are usually the first steps in colonization, were here wanting, and any civilizing agency rarely counteracted the social evils which were prevalent. The transactions of those early days are scarcely colonial. Full of debauch and outrage, they mark a period of social disorganization—the dark ages in the history of every country in which the lower man has been his own master, and far removed from the directing influences of public opinion, which cannot be corrupted nor controlled. There were, however, amongst the settlers from Norfolk Island, a few who rose to affluence, and were distinguished from the great majority by their diligence and enterprise; but in glancing down the list of names it is remarkable how few have retained their position. The settlement was early involved in great difficulties. Looking, as it did, to the elder colony of Port Jackson for supplies, these were at first forwarded in small quantities, but were soon altogether interrupted, in consequence of floods in New South Wales, which brought the poor to extreme destitution. The kangaroo hunters were now

the chief purveyors of food, for which the Commissariat allowed 1s. 6d. per lb., and the foundations of some fortunes were laid by persons whose servants were faithful and expert. A few coarse biscuits were distributed as long as they lasted, but the substitute for bread was the dried and pounded flesh of the kangaroo. This state of things led to a lax supervision over the convicts, and was the initiation of those lawless habits which later on brought the colony to the verge of ruin.

Collins died in Hobart Town on the 24th March, 1810, having administered the government for a little over six years, during which period the progress of the colony was barely perceptible, mainly owing to the trials through which it had had to pass. Early in the year in which he died, the Governor established a newspaper called *The Derwent Star and Van Diemen's Land Intelligencer*, which, though but a quarto leaf, was much too large for the young settlement. On the death of Collins, Lieutenant Edward Lord administered affairs until the arrival of Captain Murray, who gave way in February, 1812, to Colonel Geils, who acted as Lieutenant-Governor until the arrival of Colonel T. Davey, the second Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land, on the 4th February, 1813. During this year the ports were opened for general commerce, and houses of trade were established; while the succeeding seasons saw the resources of the colony gradually developed, Macquarie Harbor and Port Davey discovered, the whale fishery considerably enlarged, corn exported, the plough introduced, a mill erected, and in 1816 the issue of the first number of the *Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter*.

In February of 1817, the foundation of St. David's church was laid, and in April of the same year Colonel William Sorrell, third Lieutenant-Governor, landed in Hobart Town and relieved his predecessor of his duties. On assumption of office, Sorrell set himself so vigorously to work to put down bushranging, which had increased to an enormous extent, that in less than three months the greater number of the evil-doers were either put to death or made prisoners. The arrival of many immigrants, among whom were numbers of settlers direct from Great Britain, now led to the exploration of the country, in which the Governor took an active part, and the interior of the colony being quiet, tickets of occupation were granted to settlers, who were thus enabled to establish large herds and flocks on the lands of the Crown. In 1820, meat to the value of £10,000, and wheat valued at over £20,000, were exported to Sydney by the Crown, at a purchased rate from the owners of 6d. per lb. and 10s. per bushel, respectively. At the close of 1821 the population of the island numbered 7,400, who possessed 15,000 cultivated acres of land, 35,000 cattle, 170,000 sheep, 550 horses, and 5,000 pigs.

During this year, Macquarie, whose administration of New South Wales was drawing to a close, paid a visit to Van Diemen's Land, from Sydney, and made a tour of inspection through a large portion of the island, giving names to many settlements and townships on his route. In 1819, Van Diemen's Land wool became an article of export, but it was not until 1823 that any large quantity was sent away, when five hundred and fifty bales were shipped in the "Deveron," and a like quantity in other vessels. The establishment of the Van Diemen's Land Bank in this year was an effectual remedy for the many financial difficulties which had long beset the colonists, owing to the want of circulating coin, and which each trader had in a certain measure supplied by the issue of his own notes or bills. Sir Thomas Brisbane gave a charter to the projectors of the Van Diemen's Land Bank, the capital of which was divided into shares of 200 dollars, and its direction committed to a local board; and the issues of individuals were finally suppressed by Act of Council.

On the 12th May, 1824, Colonel George Arthur, fourth Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land, arrived in the Derwent, and inaugurated his government by setting himself to raise the moral standard of the settlers, and by a steady discouragement of all violations of social decorum. Coincident with the arrival of Arthur, the Chief Justice, John Lewes Pedder, brought from Great Britain the charter of the Supreme Court, which was opened for business on the 24th May following, when Joseph Tice Gellibrand presented his commission as Attorney-General. During the next year General Darling, the Governor of New South Wales, visited Hobart Town, and proclaimed the independence of Van Diemen's Land on the 3rd December, Arthur thus becoming the first Governor of the colony, and Legislative and Execu-

tive Councils being appointed, consisting of officers of the Government.

Towards the close of 1825, the Van Diemen's Land Company and the New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land Establishments were formed. By the charter of the former, they were authorized to employ their capital in cultivation and sheep-farming; to lend money on mortgage and to persons engaged in fisheries; and to undertake public works on security of tolls; but they were debarred from banking and commerce. The Company received a grant of 250,000 acres, to be taken on the north-west coast in one square block; bounded by Bass's Strait on the north, on the westward by the ocean, and by a line drawn from shore to shore. This land was valued to the Company at 2s. 6d. per acre, and the whole quit-rent charged was £468 16s., redeemable at twenty years' purchase—£9,575. In the measurement one-fourth was allowed for useless land. The employment of convicts entitled the Company to remission of quit-rents; £16 annually for each man. The stated objects of the Company were not, however, carried out fully in practice, as, by a presumed oversight in drawing up the covenant with the Imperial authorities, the rule which made the outlay of capital the condition of a grant was omitted. The public works promised by the proprietors were never undertaken, and their establishment was but a larger farm than others in the island. The New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land Establishment received a grant of 40,000 acres; their engagement being to improve the stock of Van Diemen's Land, and to introduce valuable horses. But although these two Companies did not fully carry out the original intention, there is no doubt that to them the colony is chiefly indebted for the introduction of high-class stock, and the opening up of new country.

On the 25th July, 1828, the Constitutional Act became law, superseding that which had been passed by the British Legislature in 1823. Under this later Act, the number of members of the Council was increased from five or seven to ten or fifteen; the oath of secrecy was abolished; drafts of Acts were to be gazetted; a law could not be made by the Crown or the Governor alone; two-thirds of the Council had to be present; although previous duties were confirmed, no new tax could be imposed, except for local purposes expressed in the bill; ordinances had to be conformable to English laws; all statutes in operation at the date of the Act were applied to the colony, all others might be adopted; a member might draft a bill, which the Governor had to lay, *verbatim*, on the Council table, with his reasons, if any, for refusing to propose it; a member might record his protest, and a majority was necessary to pass a measure; the members were to be appointed by the Crown, and vacancies filled up by the Governor; they had to be resident; *ex officio* they were magistrates.

In 1827, a Mechanics' Institute was formed in Hobart Town, Dr. James Ross, called the "Birkbeck of Tasmania," delivering the first lecture on the 17th July, on the Science of Mechanics. In 1828, the King's Orphan School was established; and in 1829 the Van Diemen's Land Society was projected, for the purpose of collecting and diffusing information respecting the natural history produce, mineral wealth, statistics, condition, and capabilities of Van Diemen's Land. The projector of this association was John Henderson, a surgeon, from Calcutta. During these last two years, the Van Diemen's Land Bank became a joint-stock company, the Tasmanian Bank and the Derwent Bank were inaugurated at Hobart Town, and the Cornwall Bank was established by the merchants of Launceston. The cultivation of wheat in Van Diemen's Land increased from twenty to thirty thousand acres during this same period, and the average price of the grain at Hobart Town was 8s. per bushel.

In order to prevent the increase of dogs, of which there were large numbers which had formerly belonged to the aboriginal tribes, a tax of 5s. to £1 on each was imposed in 1830. In January, 1831, a modification in the land laws took place, by which all land was to be sold by public sale, at an upset price of 5s. per acre, precious metals being reserved, and indigenous produce for public works.

Owing to the numerous atrocities committed by the aborigines, and their systematic destruction of premises by fire, the Governor determined, in 1830, to enter upon a series of operations with the object of ultimately securing the whole of the black population, and the campaign commenced on the 7th October of that year with an effort to drive the Oyster Bay and Big River tribes within the County of Buckingham, and to capture them

there. The forces consisted of nearly five thousand men, composed of the military, the constabulary, and a large number of settlers and convicts, but after weeks of harassing marches and countermarches, the plan turned out a complete failure, and the force was disbanded at the end of the following month, nearly £30,000 having been expended, with the result of two prisoners captured. Thus ended what was called the Black War. After this, Mr. Robinson, a builder at Hobart Town, offered to secure the aboriginal tribes by means of peaceful persuasion only, and being warmly encouraged by Governor Arthur, was completely successful, and brought them into Hobart Town at different times, after which they were conveyed to Flinders Island. During the year 1830, an ordinance was passed permitting the judge to allow a jury in civil cases, whenever it was desired by either party, in which case twenty-four names were to be submitted, from which each party struck out six, and the remaining twelve constituted the jury.

In October, 1836, Governor Arthur left Van Diemen's Land after an administration of the colony of twelve years' duration, and in evidence of the progress that had taken place, the population was now 40,000; the revenue, £106,639; value of imports, £583,646; value of exports, £320,679; and the number of colonial vessels, 71.

On the 6th January, 1837, Sir John Franklin assumed the reins of Government, Lieutenant-Colonel Kenneth Snodgrass, C.B., having acted as Lieutenant-Governor in the interim. Franklin's administration was not noticeable for any remarkable events in the progress of the colony, and, owing to a disagreement between himself and Mr. Montagu, the Colonial Secretary, in which the latter was much in fault and was in consequence dismissed from his post, but on his arrival in England gained the ear of the Secretary of State, Lord Stanley, who sent out Sir John Eardley Eardley-Wilmot, Bart., to succeed him, and he arrived in Hobart Town in August, 1843, before Franklin had received his official notice of recall.

Charged with the development of a gigantic scheme of penal discipline, founded on erroneous data, and imperfectly sustained by material resources, Wilmot was involved in the discredit of its failure. The colonists objecting to the enormous burden cast on them by the maintenance of the large number of convicts transported to their shores, their six representatives in the Council refused to vote the Estimates, and finally resigned their seats. The duties on sugar, tea, and foreign goods were raised from 5 to 15 per cent., but for some time produced less than they had realized before, and the finances of the colony came to a very low ebb. The result was the recall of Eardley-Wilmot, who, however, died soon after his retirement, in February 3rd, 1847, and was accorded a public funeral in Hobart Town.

Charles Joseph Latrobe, Esq., superseded Wilmot, as Administrator, on the 13th October, 1846, and was relieved of his duties on the 26th January, 1847, by Sir William Thomas Denison, who then took the oath as Governor; and during the next year the Queen reinstated the "Patriotic Six" who had resigned their seats in the Council under Wilmot. In 1850 a Bill, authorizing a Legislative Council to consist of one-third nominees and the remainder chosen by the people, received the Royal assent, and on the 30th December, 1851, the new legislature met for the first time. Mr. Dry being unanimously elected Speaker, when it pronounced the unchangeable opposition of the House to transportation, which had been largely continued in spite of the repeated remonstrances of the colonists, and contrary to the promise of Earl Grey in 1847. These persevering efforts were at length crowned with success in 1853, and transportation to the island ceased from the 10th February of that year, by the declaration of the Secretary of State, the Duke of Newcastle. In the following year the name of the colony was changed from Van Diemen's Land, with all its convict associations and penal memories, to its present title, after its discoverer, on an address of the Legislative Council to the Imperial authorities.

On the 8th January, 1855, Sir H. E. Fox Young, Knt., first Governor-in-Chief, relieved Sir W. T. Denison of his gubernatorial office, and shortly after this event, the colony was accorded the privileges of Responsible Government, and the election of representatives took place. The first Ministry entered office on the 1st November, 1856, and lasted until the 26th February, 1857. Mr. W. T. N. Champ was Colonial Secretary and Premier, and Mr. T. D. Chapman, Colonial Treasurer. On the 12th March of the last-named year, gas was first used in

Hobart Town. The next Ministry was that of Mr. T. G. Gregson, Colonial Secretary and Premier, with whom Mr. C. Meredith was associated as Colonial Treasurer. Their term of office was of the briefest, however, as they were followed by Mr. W. P. Weston as Premier on the 25th April following, Mr. F. M. Innes being the Colonial Treasurer. On the 12th of the next month Mr. Smith succeeded Mr. Weston as Premier and Attorney-General, and his administration continued in power until the 1st November, 1860, when Mr. W. P. Weston came back as Premier, without office, Mr. Henty filling the position of Colonial Secretary. This continued until the 2nd April, 1861, when Mr. Weston resigned, and Mr. Chapman accepted the position of Premier, without office, until the 1st November, 1862, when he became Colonial Treasurer also, in succession to Mr. F. M. Innes.

On the 10th December, 1861, Sir Henry Young retired from the government of the colony, and Colonel (now Sir) T. Gore-Browne, C.B., became his successor. During Governor Young's term, the colony was divided into municipalities, the electric telegraph wires were brought into use, and railway enterprise was initiated. In 1862, the first issue of the *Hobart Town Mercury* took place. Mr. Whyte's Ministry followed that of Mr. Chapman on the 20th January, 1863, and continued its administration until the 24th November, 1866. Mr. Whyte holding the office of Colonial Secretary, and Mr. C. Meredith that of Colonial Treasurer. Sir Richard Dry then came into power as Colonial Secretary and Premier, with Mr. Chapman as Treasurer, and held his office until the 1st August, 1869, when he died. Meanwhile Governor Gore-Browne had retired from his post on the 29th December, 1868, when Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. Trevor, C.B., became Administrator, a position which he held until Mr. (now Sir) C. Du Cane was sworn in on the 15th January, 1869. After the death of Sir Richard Dry, Sir J. M. Wilson became Colonial Secretary and Premier.

Mr. F. M. Innes's Ministry succeeded that of Sir J. M. Wilson on the 4th November, 1872, Mr. Innes taking the office of Treasurer as well as of Premier, and Mr. J. R. Scott that of Colonial Secretary. An alteration took place on the 4th August following, however, when Mr. A. Kennerley became Premier.

On the 28th November, 1874, Governor Du Cane retired, and was succeeded by Mr. (now Sir) Frederick A. Weld on the 13th January, 1875, Sir F. Smith, Chief Justice, having administered the government in the interim. During Du Cane's period of office, the Launceston and Western Railway was opened to traffic. The Kennerley Ministry retained office until the 10th July, 1876, their last year being rendered memorable by the opening of the Hobart Town waterworks on the 23rd February. Mr. T. Reibey followed as Premier and Colonial Secretary, his associates being Messrs. C. Meredith, Treasurer; C. H. Bromby, Attorney-General; and C. O'Reilly, Minister of Lands and Works. Their term of office was only a year, as they had to resign soon after the general elections and the meeting of the new Parliament in July, 1877. Mr. P. O. Fysh then became Premier on the 15th August, his colleagues being Messrs. W. Moore, Colonial Secretary; W. R. Giblin, Treasurer; A. Dobson, Attorney-General; N. J. Brown, Minister of Lands and Works; and Dr. J. W. Agnew in the Legislative Council. On the 9th August, 1878, Mr. W. R. Giblin assumed the position of Premier, as well as that of Treasurer, but this Ministry was superseded on the 20th December following by an administration composed of Dr. W. L. Crowther, Premier; Mr. T. Reibey, Colonial Secretary; Mr. D. Lewis, Treasurer; Mr. J. S. Dodds, Attorney-General; and Mr. C. O'Reilly, Minister of Lands and Works. On the 30th October, 1879, Mr. W. R. Giblin formed a Coalition Ministry consisting of himself as Premier and Attorney-General; with Mr. W. Moore as Chief Secretary.

A census of the population of Tasmania was taken on each of the following dates, with the results as appended thereto:—January 1st, 1842—50,216; January 1st, 1848—70,164; March 1st, 1851—70,130; March 31st, 1857—81,492; April 7th, 1861—89,977; February 7th, 1870—99,328; April 3rd, 1881—115,705.

In April, 1880, Governor Weld retired, and was succeeded on the 7th December, 1881, by Major Sir Geo. Cumine Strahan; Sir Francis Smith, Chief Justice, and Lieutenant-General Sir J. Henry Lefroy having administered the government during the interval, the former to the 21st October, 1880, and the latter for the remainder of the time.

During Governor Strahan's administration of the Government, the colony advanced more perceptibly in material prosperity than at any former time; but this condition was in a great measure the result of previous mineral discoveries which were now producing large returns. The tin mine at Mount Bischoff, in the north-western part of the island, and the "Tasmania" gold mine on the west side of the Tamar River, proved exceptionally prolific, yielding immense treasure to the fortunate shareholders. Mr. James Smith, subsequently a M.L.C., discovered tin at the celebrated Bischoff mine in December, 1871. It was the first tin mine worked in Tasmania; but lying far back from the settled country, without roads to facilitate operations, some years elapsed before the mine came to be practically developed. It is now connected with the harbour of Emu Bay by a railway 48 miles in length, constructed by the Van Diemen's Land Company as a private undertaking. About 30,000 tons of tin ore have been obtained from the Mount Bischoff mine, and nearly three-quarters of a million sterling have been distributed in dividends. In June, 1877, the famous quartz reef now known as the Tasmania Gold Mine was discovered on the West Tamar, near Launceston. The value of the gold produced is about equal to the value of the tin taken from Mount Bischoff. Both of these mines are still in active operation, with an undiminished annual yield. Altogether, during the last 15 years, the gold raised in Tasmania from various sources amounted in value to upwards of £1,000,000; and the value of tin raised and exported during the same period amounted to something over £5,000,000. The mining industry has, therefore, been a considerable factor to the present prosperous condition of the colony. In the north-eastern division of the island are extensive deposits of tin, which are worked with profit by a considerable number of miners, and a few gold-mining companies are also at work there. There are extensive coal deposits in the Fingal district, where several companies are starting operations. The coal is used on the railways and for household purposes. Recently the Linda goldfield, near the West Coast, has attracted much attention. It is said to be very similar in quality and productiveness to the Mount Morgan deposits.

It was not until a very late period in the history of Tasmania that the Legislature of the country gave its assent to a Public Works policy, similar to that which had been adopted years before with successful results in New Zealand and the colonies of Australia. An English company had constructed the main line railway, which runs from Launceston in the north, to Hobart in the south; and a local company had constructed the Western line, from Launceston to Deloraine, by means of capital partly subscribed by the shareholders and partly supplied by the Government, who held a lien on the owners of property in the districts through which the railway ran as security for the interest involved, but the line was subsequently taken over by the Government. Beyond these two lines, none were constructed in the colony until 1883-4, when the Western line was extended to Formby, at the estuary of the Mersey River. Since that period, a line was opened to St. Mary's, near the east coast; and railways to Scottsdale in the north, and up the valley of the Derwent in the south, are in course of construction, while several others in various parts of the colony are being surveyed, the money for their construction having been granted by Parliament. At the same time, during the last few years, good macadamised roads have been made into many parts of the interior, but more especially into the agricultural districts, which lie in the northern parts of the island, and in the Huon district, south of Hobart. These roads are being extended annually into the rich forest lands of the Crown, where settlement is now rapidly advancing. Consequent upon such progressive measures as these, the public debt increased from £1,589,705, in 1877, to £4,269,970, in 1887, of which latter amount there is, however, a considerable sum unexpended—available for the railways and other public works which are now being executed.

The Coalition Ministry, formed by the Hon. W. R. Giblin, in 1879, enjoyed the confidence of both the Parliament and the people for several years; but changes in the *personnel* of its members frequently occurred. In December, 1882, the Hon. C. O'Reilly retired, and was succeeded in the Lands and Works Office by the Hon. N. J. Brown. In August, 1884, Mr. Giblin resigned the Premiership in consequence of failing health, and the Hon. Adye Douglas was called upon to reorganise the

Cabinet. Mr. Douglas carried out his important mission while Parliament was in session. He accepted the appointment of Premier and Chief Secretary; Mr. W. H. Burgess was appointed Treasurer, in place of Mr. Dodds, who became Attorney-General; and Mr. Brown retained his portfolio of Lands and Works. The Ministry, thus reconstructed, followed on the lines of Mr. Giblin's administration, taking up the measures that were before the Houses at the stages to which they had advanced prior to the brief adjournment which had been rendered necessary for the re-election of the new members of the Cabinet. Thus the progressive measures initiated by Mr. Giblin's Ministry were not disturbed. Again, in March, 1886, Mr. Douglas resigned the Premiership in consequence of a general desire that he should go to London as Agent-General. This change resulted in the appointment of the Hon. Dr. Agnew, as Premier and Chief Secretary, while the other members of the Cabinet remained undisturbed, and the Government still retained a good working majority in Parliament.

In 1886 there was a general election for the House of Assembly, in order to bring into operation a new law relating to the franchise, whereby the voting power of the people was increased to an extent almost amounting to manhood suffrage; and, at the same time, there was a redistribution of seats provided for, with a small increase of members. The Legislative Council was increased from 16 to 18 members, and the House of Assembly from 32 to 36 members. The Government (still known as the Coalition Ministry) commanded a majority in the new Parliament, nearly half of whom were fresh members. On two occasions the Opposition attempted to oust Ministers on distinct motions of want of confidence, but failed. Other events, however, materially weakened the hands of the Government. Mr. Douglas, an able supporter, was absent in England; Mr. Giblin had retired from political life, on his appointment as Judge of the Supreme Court; and, lastly, Mr. Dodds, the Attorney-General, resigned his seat, having been appointed to represent Tasmania at the Imperial Conference held in London in 1886. The latter move proved fatal to the Agnew Administration. There were only three lawyers left in the House of Assembly, one of whom belonged to the Opposition party, and another was a young man only recently admitted to the Bar. There was, therefore, no choice available in the selection of a new Attorney-General. Mr. R. J. Lucas was the only remaining lawyer in the House. The Attorney-General's portfolio was offered to him, but he declined to accept office except on certain conditions, which Ministers could not agree to. The Premier was at the same time most anxious to be relieved from the cares of office, and the Minister of Lands and Works was about to be appointed Agent-General in succession to Mr. Douglas. Under these adverse circumstances, Ministers resolved to call their supporters together in order to consider the situation. It was now discovered that Mr. Lucas' hesitancy to accept the Attorney-Generalship arose from a misunderstanding, which was at once put right, and he was appointed to the vacant office. The Hon. H. I. Rooke was also appointed Chief Secretary, while Dr. Agnew retained the Premiership. When Mr. Lucas sought re-election, as Minister of the Crown, his constituents rejected him. This unfortunate circumstance ended in the resignation of the Agnew Ministry, during the Parliamentary recess, in March, 1887. Mr. Braddon, who had been leader of the Opposition, was sent for, and the following Cabinet was formed:—Hons. P. O. Fysh, Premier and Chief Secretary; B. S. Bird, Treasurer; E. C. N. Braddon, Minister of Lands and Works; and A. I. Clark, Attorney-General. The latter had not been a member of the House for some years, until he was elected to the seat for South Hobart, vacated by Mr. Dodds.

Governor Sir G. C. Strahan left Tasmania rather suddenly, on the 28th October, 1886, in consequence of impaired health. He died in England shortly afterwards. On His Excellency's departure, His Honor Judge Giblin became administrator of the Government, Chief Justice Dobson being absent in the home country. This was the first instance in which a native-born Tasmanian held office as the Queen's representative. Mr. Giblin continued to do duty as Acting-Governor, and sole Judge of the Supreme Court, until the Chief Justice, Sir William Lambert Dobson, returned in November, 1886, when His Honor Mr. Giblin had to obtain leave of absence in order to restore his mental and physical energies, which had been severely overstrained by an excess of official work.

His Honor never regained strength, and died at his home in Hobart, on 17th January, 1887, at the early age of 46 years. Mr. Giblin's retirement from political life was felt as a national misfortune—and now his premature death, involving the loss of his faithful services on the Bench, was still more keenly felt. He was a man who had endeared himself to a wide circle of friends, and to the community generally, for his many public services and private virtues.

Sir Lambert Dobson continued to administer the government of the colony until the arrival of Governor Strahan's successor, Sir Robert George Crookshank Hamilton, well known in the United Kingdom as Under-Secretary for Ireland, after the ill-fated Mr. Burke had been assassinated in Phoenix Park. His Excellency Sir Robert and Lady Hamilton arrived at Hobart, with their family, on 11th March, 1887. The new Governor was received at the capital, and throughout the country, with the warmest demonstrations of personal esteem, on account of the fame he had acquired as the friend of freedom in connection with the government of Ireland. Numerous addresses and replies were exchanged between His Excellency and the public bodies, many of whom expressed this sentiment, coupled with that of devoted loyalty to the Throne. Governor Hamilton arrived in the colony at a time of slight depression—but it was only the result of too much activity in 1882 and 1883. In those years the mining industry had been strained to such an extreme point, and money for public works had been so liberally granted by Parliament, that a glow of prosperity shed its influence on all branches of trade and commerce. Landed property advanced in price to a remarkable extent, especially in the towns. Allotments were sold for building purposes at hundreds per cent. more than their value two or three years before; houses of a superior description went up rapidly at Hobart and Launceston; and, altogether, the country was in a flourishing condition. In 1883, the revenue derived from a very moderate Customs tariff, had increased 50 per cent. in four years, and most of the other sources of revenue had increased in the same proportion; so that the Treasurer found himself with such a substantial balance that he was forced to exclaim, "What shall we do with it?" During the two prosperous years, large reductions were made in taxation. The carriage tax, and stamp duties on certain instruments, were abolished; the real estates duty was reduced from 9d. to 6d. in the £ on the annual value of property; and reductions were made in the Customs duties on various items, equal to about £30,000 a year. As matters turned out, it would have been better policy to allow the surplus to accumulate, or to expend it on public works; for, while the expenditure increased yearly, it was found that the revenue, reduced as it had been by such large remissions, was inadequate to cover increasing liabilities. The property tax was again raised to 9d. in 1885, and still, at the close of 1886, there was a deficit of £20,533.

The deficiency in the revenue did not represent a falling off. On the contrary, the returns were steadily increasing each half-year, until that for the six months ending 30th June, 1887, exhibited the largest revenue that had ever been collected in the colony; but the expenditure had advanced at a more rapid rate—and this caused a balance on the wrong side. The general

revenue had increased in ten years from £327,016, in 1876, to £568,924 in 1886. The expenditure had increased during the same period from £341,889, in 1876, to £584,756, in 1886. In 1876, the imports were £1,133,003; in 1886, they were £1,756,567. In 1876, the exports were £1,130,983; in 1886, they were £1,331,540—thus showing an increase during the decade of £623,564 in the one, and of £200,557 in the other. In 1876, there were 332,558 acres of land in cultivation in the colony; in 1886, there were 446,391 acres in cultivation, or upwards of a third more in ten years. The population had increased from 105,484 in 1876, to 137,211 in 1886. Under these circumstances, it is generally believed that the little island colony is in a highly prosperous condition at the present time. The newly-formed Government, however, held a different view; and when Parliament was called upon to meet in July, 1887, Mr. Bird, the Treasurer, startled the country by announcing, in his financial statement, that, at the close of the financial year, there would be a deficit of some £160,000. In order to bring the revenue up to the expenditure, Ministers proposed measures which aroused the indignation of the country. These included duties on certain salaries; on income, the amount to be arrived at by an estimate of the value of the house in which the taxpayer lived; on absentees, double the amount of property tax paid by residents; on commercial travellers, selling for business houses outside the colony, £25 a year; on doctors and lawyers of less than five years' standing, £10 a year; on merchants, shopkeepers, tradesmen, manufacturers, and farmers, a direct duty per annum, varying from £25 to £2 10s.; a poll-tax of £10 on every Chinese; an increased tax upon the real and personal estate of deceased persons; a tax of 3d. in the pound upon pensions; a change in the real estate duties from annual to unimproved capital value; and other direct taxes, so as to secure contributions from every person in the community, except the actual pauper. In addition to these taxes, the Customs duties were to be raised—on tea, from 3d. to 6d. per lb.; on opium, from 10s. to £1 per lb.; and on spirits, from 12s. to 15s. per gallon. It was contended that there was nothing in the financial condition of the colony to warrant such excessive taxation; and that, with an increasing revenue, a certain amount of economy, and the proposed increase of Customs duties, with a tax on the capital value on property, the Treasurer would be able to balance his accounts at an early date. Ministers, however, supported by a majority of members in the House of Assembly, carried all their measures, with slight alterations. But, when the Bill providing for the above-named direct taxes went to the Legislative Council, it was all but unanimously thrown out. Ministers then hastily withdrew their Customs Bill, much to the regret of those who opposed the other measures, for it was considered that no hardship would be inflicted thereby. Thus, an increase of about £25,000 in the Customs revenue was abandoned by the Government, although both Houses were willing to pass the Bill. Upwards of £300,000 were voted for public works, and the session of 1887 closed without any effort on the part of the Government to augment an inadequate revenue—created, not by depression, but excessive expenditure. The Bill for restricting Chinese immigration, by a licence fee of £10 per head on landing, has passed both Houses, and is now in operation.

Historical Account of Victoria.

(Compiled expressly for The Year-Book of Australia.)

THE date of the earliest discovery of any part of the present colony of Victoria, is 19th April, 1770, when Captain Cook came upon the coast at Ram Head, close to Cape Howe, at the extreme eastern boundary, whilst on his journey northward, when he visited Botany Bay. It was not until the 15th February, 1802, that Port Phillip was discovered by Lieutenant Murray, in the government brig "Lady Nelson," when he named the inlet Port King, in honor of the then Governor at Sydney, a name which was subsequently changed to Port Phillip at Governor King's request, in compliment to his predecessor, the first Governor. The following year a convict settlement was formed under the charge of Lieut.-Colonel Collins, but abandoned the next on account of its unsuitability for the purpose, and it was not until the exploring expedition of Hume and Hovell to Port Phillip in 1824, that any part of the interior of the country was visited by white men. No further attention appears to have been paid towards the colonization of the land until 1833, when Mr. Thomas Henty, of Launceston, visited the Portland Bay district and occupied it for sheep-farming purposes in the following year. In 1835 two colonizing expeditions set out from Launceston, Van Diemen's Land, for Port Phillip, one under the leadership of John Batman, the other under John Pascoe Fawkner, and arrived at their destination in the order named, when the former adventurer entered into an agreement with the aborigines of the country, under which he was to become the possessor of some 600,000 acres of land for about £200 worth of merchandise. Unfortunately for himself and the association of landowners he had formed, the Imperial authorities were altogether deaf to his claims, except in the remission of purchase money for land to the extent of £7,000, by way of compensation; and a proclamation was issued by the Sydney Government, dated 26th August, 1835, claiming all the territory in dispute, and declaring all bargaining with the natives for land to be illegal. In remarking above that no white man had visited the country before the expedition of Hume and Hovell, exception must be made with respect to William Buckley, a convict soldier, who, forming one of the party under Lieut.-Colonel Collins, escaped into the bush in 1803, and lived with a tribe of aborigines until 1835, when he made himself known to Batman's party and recounted his strange adventures. He appears to have all but despaired of ever again meeting his own countrymen, and had lost all reckoning of time's flight since he and they had parted company. With the marks of age and infirmity, which were the only reminders of the many years which had passed away, he felt he could scarcely hope to live the remainder of his life otherwise than among the aborigines of the soil. He made his escape with two other prisoners, the total of their possessions being a small quantity of rations, a gun, several tin pots and a kettle. This last, however, being found too heavy to carry about, was thrown away on the evening of the first day's journey—a circumstance which becomes invested with a certain amount of interest when it is stated that this utensil was found many years later by some colonists who were clearing the land for agricultural purposes. Directing their course along the eastern coast of Port Phillip, the escaped prisoners crossed the river Yarra, rounded the head of the harbor, and toiled over the plains westward to the Yowang Hills, or Station Peake Range of Flinders. Impelled by hunger, from thence they descended to the sea-coast of Geelong Harbor, in the hope of securing a meal of shell-fish, at least. Supplied with food in this precarious manner, they passed round to Indented Head, and from Swan Island came in view of the ship "Calcutta," which had brought them to Australia, as she lay at anchor on the opposite side of the harbor. Exhausted as they were with hunger and fatigue, they determined, if possible, to give themselves up, and vainly endeavored to attract the attention of some one on board. Failing this, Buckley's two companions determined to attempt a return, he himself electing to remain where he was, although his solitary position was far from enviable. His companions were, however, never seen again after they bade him adieu, and, doubtless, perished either from hunger or at the hands of the aborigines. Shortly after the first summer of Buckley's wanderings, he was seen and taken possession of by a tribe of natives, who

appear to have treated him with some consideration, owing to an accident of fortune. It was a superstitious belief among the aborigines of Australia that white people were the embodied spirits of deceased members of their own race, and shortly before Buckley's appearance a chief of the tribe which seized him had died and been buried near a rude hut which Buckley had built, a piece of a native spear being left to mark the grave. Buckley having seen and appropriated this weapon, was carrying it in his hand when first observed by the tribe, and was, consequently, joyfully hailed as being no other than their deceased chief come to life again. With short intervals of solitude, Buckley remained with this one tribe during the whole period of his exile, learning their language and taking one of the females for his wife. Thus the years rolled on until 1835, Buckley losing all accurate note of time, although he inferred that a long period must have passed, as he noticed the young native children of his earliest days with the tribe grown up to manhood. In this last year he was told that some white people had been seen, and a plan had been arranged to murder them for the sake of their possessions. Resolving to counteract this nefarious scheme, Buckley made his appearance at the encampment of the whites, who turned out to be a portion of John Batman's band of adventurers.

In 1836 Sir Thomas Mitchell, the Surveyor-General of New South Wales, set out on an exploring expedition into the northern and western interior of the new country, and named it Australia Felix, in recognition of the beautiful scenery he had met with in almost continuous succession throughout his journey. On the 1st October of the same year, Captain Lonsdale arrived in Port Phillip from Sydney, with authority as Police Magistrate; and in March, 1837, Governor Sir Richard Bourke paid the infant settlement a visit, naming and planning the towns of Melbourne, Geelong, and Portland; whilst the first sale of allotments in the first-named township took place on the spot on the 1st June following, the prices averaging about £35 per half-acre lot.

In the year 1839, Captain Lonsdale was superseded, as local head of the community, by Mr. Charles Joseph La Trobe, who, under the new title of Superintendent, arrived at Melbourne on the 1st October, and continued the administration for the following fifteen years, Lonsdale becoming Secretary of the new Local Government, and, like his chief, holding office during all the colony's transactions from its small to its great developments. The jurisdiction of the new Government was restricted to an area but little more than half that of the present colony; namely, the territory lying to the southward of 36° S. latitude, and between 141° and 146° E. longitude. Meanwhile, the first census of colonists had been taken in 1836, which gave the population as 177 persons, 142 of whom were males, and 35 females; but in 1841, these numbers had increased to 11,738 persons.

By an Imperial Act for the Australian colonies, which came into operation in 1843, the Port Phillip settlement was officially recognised as the Southern District of New South Wales, and as such, was allowed to send six representatives to the Legislative Assembly at Sydney. The boundaries which were on this occasion fixed for the Port Phillip district are the same which constitute those of the present colony of Victoria. In October of this year, Sir George Gipps, the Governor of the colony, paid a visit to Melbourne, which city and Geelong now entered upon municipal existence. The measure of representation which the Southern District had been given had not, however, by any means satisfied the colonists, and each succeeding year was marked by agitation for complete separation from New South Wales, to which Dr. Lang threw in the weight of his support; and no doubt the colonists viewed with satisfaction the arrival of the first Bishop of Melbourne in the year 1848, who had been appointed from England. Soon, however, their most ardent wishes were to be fulfilled, for, on the 1st July, 1851, the Australian Colonies Act of 1850 came into operation, and the Southern District of New South Wales ceased to exist, only to re-appear as a separate colony bearing the name of Victoria, by the express wish of the Queen. The census of the 2nd March preceding showed that it contained at that time above 77,000 colonists, of

whom Melbourne possessed 23,000; while the import and export commerce, collectively, for the preceding year (1850), amounted to nearly £2,000,000.

No inconsiderable amount of ceremonial attended the inauguration of the new colony, the principal of which was the swearing in of the late superintendent, La Trobe, as Lieut.-Governor and, to make the year a still happier one, Ballarat was discovered to be a goldfield in September, although the precious metal had been found a month earlier at Anderson's Creek, a short distance to the eastward of Melbourne. The first Legislative Council for the colony assembled in November of the same year, the official members of which were W. Lonsdale, Colonial Secretary; W. F. Stowell, Attorney-General; R. Barry, Solicitor-General; C. H. Ebdon, Auditor-General; and E. W. Pohlman, Chairman of the Court of Requests; the total number of members being 30, of which J. F. Palmer was elected Speaker. The electoral franchise was now £10, instead of £20, as heretofore.

The first effect of the discovery of the gold mines was to reduce the value of real property, every one being desirous of disposing of his possessions in order to provide for a journey to the Eldorado; whilst, on the other hand, merchandise and food substances rose to abnormal prices. The rates of carriage to the Bendigo goldfields, 100 miles from Melbourne, reached successively £80, £100, and £120 per ton; and contracts were said to have been freely made at still higher rates, even up to £150 per ton. Flour, which could be purchased in Melbourne at £24 per ton, was sold at Bendigo for £20 per bag of 200 lbs., or at the rate of £200 for the ton of 2000 lbs. in weight. A great accession of population also took place, many of the new arrivals belonging to a most undesirable class, being ticket-of-leave and conditional-pardon men from Tasmania. To protect the colony from this calamity, the Legislature passed the Convicts' Prevention Act in 1852, ordaining that no holder of a pardon of any kind, other than a perfectly free one, should be admitted to Victoria; and also, that all persons arriving from Tasmania must prove themselves to be free, otherwise they would be assumed to be convict, and be treated accordingly. On the 21st June, 1854, Sir Charles Hotham succeeded La Trobe as Governor of Victoria, and, in the following December, a riot took place among the diggers at Ballarat, who resisted the collection of the gold mining license fee of £1 10s. per month, and erected a stockade on Bakery Hill, which necessitated the despatch of a body of military from Melbourne to storm and take it. This *émeute* led to the adoption of new and more liberal regulations as regards mining, and the issue of a Miner's Right to each digger, at a cost of £1 a year, conferring upon him both the mining privileges and the franchise. On the 12th September, the first railway in the colony, from Melbourne to Hobson's Bay, was opened for traffic, and on the 23rd November, 1855, the new constitution for self-government was proclaimed, Sir Charles Hotham dying on the last day of the year. The population had now risen to 330,000, and the import and export commerce to no less than £25,000,000 for the year.

On the death of Sir Charles Hotham, Major-General Macarthur, commanding the military forces in Victoria, became Acting-Governor, a position which he occupied until the arrival of Sir Henry Barkly, the succeeding Governor, in November, 1857. But, ere the appointment of Sir Charles Hotham, the Legislature, in view of the enormous income of the colony, and the consequent high importance of the office, raised the gubernatorial salary to £15,000 per annum, an amount second only to that of the Governor-General of India, although a sum not more than was demanded by the extravagance of those expensive times.

The year 1856, which is notable as the date on which the first Parliament under the new Constitution assembled for the despatch of business, saw the inauguration of the Melbourne University, which had been founded in 1853, at the instance of Mr. Childers, then a member of the colony's administration. The Legislature of Victoria now consisted of two elective chambers, with responsible ministers, and met on the 21st November. Membership of the Upper House was based upon the high qualification of £5000 of real estate. The Ministry which, with Mr. Haines as Premier, had continued in office from the old form of government until after the opening of the new Constitution, had only a short life, as it was defeated in March, 1857, over a vote of £270,000 for immigration purposes, and made way for an administra-

tion under Mr. O'Shanassy, which, however, only lasted for six weeks, after which Mr. Haines resumed his former position, and kept it for almost an entire year, when he had to give way again for the opponent he had ousted. Meanwhile, in 1856, the first elections under the Ballot Act had taken place, and in 1857 manhood suffrage was passed, and the number of members of the Assembly was increased from sixty to seventy-eight. In 1860, during the premiership of Mr. Nicholson, the Land Sales Act was passed, which prevented any further operations of the "Orders in Council," although not expressly repealing them. In the following year, Mr. O'Shanassy became Premier in succession to Mr. Heales, and set about the final settlement of the long protracted Public Lands question, which finally blossomed into a comprehensive measure, the Land Law of 1862, which took out of the squatting category all the land of the colony suitable for agriculture. Of the total area of Victoria, four and three-quarter millions of acres had been already sold, and one million six hundred thousand acres appropriated for commonage. There were still ten and a half millions of acres suitable for agriculture, and of the remaining thirty-eight and a half millions of acres, about twenty-five millions were suitable for pasturage. In 1861, Australia was first crossed, from sea to sea (Port Phillip to the Gulf of Carpentaria), by Burke and Wills, who unfortunately died of starvation, at Cooper's Creek, on their return journey.

In June of 1863, the O'Shanassy ministry resigned, and Mr. McCulloch was entrusted by the Governor with the formation of a new one, in which he was successful, his colleagues being Messrs. Heales, Higinbotham, Verdon, Hervey, Francis, Sullivan, Grant, Michie, and Fellows. Shortly after this, on the 9th September, Sir Charles R. Darling succeeded Sir H. Barkly, but only to two-thirds of his salary, the same having been reduced by the Colonial Legislature from £15,000 to £10,000, in consideration of the greatly reduced expense of living from that of a few years earlier. Meanwhile, the bodies of Burke and Wills, the explorers, had been recovered from the bush, and brought into Melbourne, and on the 21st January they were accorded a public funeral. In April of 1865, the boundary disputes between Victoria and New South Wales, which had been carried on since the former had been given her independence, were amicably settled, and in the month previous an important Land Act was passed. During the McCulloch ministry there was continued strife between the Legislative Council and the Assembly, the latter passing the new Government Tariff, in January, 1865, which was rejected by the former, whereupon the Governor, in July, raised money for the public service in what was deemed by the Imperial authorities an unconstitutional manner, and which led to his recall in April, 1866. The crisis continuing, an appeal to the Queen was proposed in October, 1865, and the Parliament was dissolved in the December following, with the view of obtaining the verdict of the country. McCulloch coming into power again, in the new House, the Assembly voted a sum of £20,000 to Lady Darling, just previous to the departure of Sir Charles, in May, 1866, when Brigadier-General Carey administered the government until the arrival of the new Governor, Sir John H. T. Manners Sutton (afterwards Viscount Canterbury), on the 13th August following. In October, of the same year, His Excellency opened the Intercolonial Exhibition, in Melbourne, and, in August of 1867, the Legislative Council refused its assent to the vote of £20,000 to Lady Darling, which caused further acrimonious disputes between the two Houses of the Legislature, and led to the dissolution of Parliament in the following December.

Meanwhile, the Duke of Edinburgh had arrived in Hobson's Bay, in command of H.M.S. "Galatea," on the 23rd November previous, when everybody forgot their differences in giving a hearty welcome to the Queen's second son, who was the object of much feasting, and during whose stay Melbourne was *en fête*.

Shortly after the opening of the new Assembly, in March, 1868, the Ministry tendered their resignations, as the Governor objected to the insertion of the grant to Lady Darling in the Appropriation Bill, and a new administration was formed, with C. Sladen as Chief Secretary, and Messrs. T. H. Fellows, M. A. Macdonnell, E. Langton, D. Gillies, M. O'Grady, W. Bayles, and G. B. Kerferd, his associates, which assumed office on the 6th May, but had to retire in the following July, in favor of McCulloch, with Messrs. J. M. Grant, J. F. Sullivan, G. Higinbotham, W. M. K. Vale, G. P. Smith, J. J. Casey,

C. E. Jones, and G. V. Smith, who had come to an arrangement about the Darling grant. In May of this year the first woollen and paper manufactories were established.

The McCulloch Ministry only held office until September of the next year, when they were superseded by Messrs. J. A. Macpherson, R. Byrne, J. McKean, M. A. Macdonnell, I. G. Reeves, E. Cohen, J. T. Smith, F. Longmore, and C. J. Jenner, of whom the first-named gentleman became Chief Secretary, Graham Berry succeeding Byrne as Treasurer in January of 1870. Owing to the strength of the Opposition, this Ministry was not able to carry out the Government in a satisfactory manner, so a coalition administration was formed between McCulloch and Macpherson in April, 1870, with the former as Chief Secretary, whose colleagues were Messrs. A. Michie, J. G. Francis, T. T. a'Beckett, W. Wilson, H. J. Wrixon, W. Bates, and A. Mackay. In the next month McCulloch was knighted by Her Majesty, and on the 8th September following the Industrial Museum at Melbourne was opened. During June of this year Mr. (now Sir) C. Gavan Duffy, in the Assembly, revived and discussed his scheme for the federation of the Australian colonies, which he had originally brought before the public in 1857. In January of 1871 the House was dissolved, and the new Assembly met in the following April, shortly after which the McCulloch-Macpherson Government went out of office and Mr. Gavan Duffy was charged with the formation of a new administration, in which he succeeded on the 19th June, his colleagues being Messrs. J. M. Grant, Graham Berry, M. O'Grady, F. Longmore, W. McLellan, H. Spensley, R. Walsh, and W. A. C. a'Beckett. According to the census taken this year, the population of the colony numbered 731,528, of whom 401,050 were males and 330,478 females; the aborigines amounting to only 1,330. Mr. Gavan Duffy's Ministry resigned in June, 1872, on an adverse vote, and Mr. J. G. Francis accepted the post of Chief Secretary, and completed his cabinet with Messrs. E. Langdon, J. J. Casey, J. W. Stephen, A. MacLay, D. Gillies, G. B. Kerferd, E. Cohen, A. Fraser, and R. Ramsay. This was the first year that members of the Legislature received payment for their services, a vote of £300 for each being carried.

Viscount Canterbury having relinquished the reins of Government on the 3rd March, 1873, Sir W. F. Stawell Chief Justice, became Acting-Governor until the end of the same month, when Sir George Ferguson was sworn in as the new Governor. The Francis Ministry having retired from office on the last day of July, 1874, after a general election two months earlier, which entailed a ministerial crisis, Mr. Kerferd succeeded in forming an administration, with Messrs. J. J. Casey, D. Gillies, R. S. Anderson, E. Cohen, A. Mackay, J. Service, R. Ramsay, and T. Macdormott as his colleagues. This Ministry succeeded in carrying the country with them until the Treasurer, Mr. Service, brought in his budget of 1875, in which the probable expenditure was put down at £4,500,000, and a deficit was shown of about £340,000. To meet this Mr. Service proposed a moderate free-trade policy, with reduction of taxation, and a loan, and as the Parliament refused to entertain these measures, the Government resigned in August, Sir William Stawell, the Acting-Governor, having refused to grant a dissolution. Mr. Graham Berry, the front of the opposition, and a pronounced protectionist, was summoned to form an administration, which he succeeded in doing by associating himself with Messrs. J. Munro, F. Longmore, J. Woods, W. C. Smith, Peter Lalor, J. B. Patterson, R. Le Poer Trench, J. M. Grant, and W. A. C. a'Beckett. His programme consisted in a continuance of the protectionist policy of the colony, and the intention of taxing the richer colonists heavily to supply the requirements of government. This financial *coup d'état* turned out a failure, and he was defeated, whereupon he resigned in October, and a new Coalition Ministry was formed by Sir James McCulloch, the other members of which were Messrs. J. A. Macpherson, G. B. Kerferd, D. Gillies, R. Ramsay, R. S. Anderson, J. Madden, W. McLellan, and J. Jones. In the following month, McCulloch announced the intention was to raise funds by imposing taxes on income, land, and realized property, and in June of 1876 he passed his income-tax bill by a majority of three. Between March and June of this year, the Government was involved in a series of disputes with a mercantile firm, which, it was alleged, was in the habit of undervaluing their imported goods when paying duty on them, and recourse was had to the grave measure of opening the firm's letters, with

the view of obtaining a knowledge of the original invoices they might contain.

In May, 1877, a general election took place, which resulted in a triumph for the protectionists, and necessitated the resignation of McCulloch's Ministry the same month, when Mr. Graham Berry once more became Chief Secretary and Treasurer, his colleagues being Messrs. F. Longmore, W. C. Smith, J. B. Patterson, J. M. Grant, Peter Lalor, J. Woods, and R. Le Poer Trench, the last of whom was succeeded by Sir Bryan O'Loughlin in March, 1878. In October of 1877, a Land-tax was enacted, but at the end of this month the Legislative Council rejected Mr. Berry's appropriation, defence, and Exhibition bills. The tension between the Council and Assembly continuing, the Council dismissed County Court and other judges in January, 1878, over 120 civil servants losing their appointments on the 8th of this month, a day which has since been appropriately named "Black Wednesday." The Council refusing to vote supplies, the Lower House overruled the other, and ordered public creditors to be paid on its sole vote in February, the Governor, Sir George Bowen, giving the Ministry his support. The result was in favour of the Berry Administration, and the House of Assembly and the Council had to suffer a defeat. On February 27, 1879, the Marquis of Normanby relieved Sir George Bowen of his gubernatorial duties. A change of Ministry took place in March, 1880, when Mr. James Service came to the front as Premier and Treasurer, associating with himself Messrs. R. Ramsay, G. B. Kerferd, J. Madden, D. Gillies, J. Gavan Duffy, T. Bent, R. Clark, H. Cuthbert, J. G. Francis, and R. S. Anderson; but this did not last beyond the following August, when Mr. Graham Berry came back to his old position, supported by Messrs. W. M. K. Vale, R. Richardson, J. B. Patterson, W. C. Smith, A. T. Clark, H. R. Williams, and G. D. Langridge. This Administration was in power when the Great International Exhibition in Melbourne was opened by the Governor on the 1st October, 1880, and saw its close on the 30th April, 1881, ere they gave up office in July of the last-mentioned year to Sir Bryan O'Loughlin as Attorney-General and Treasurer, with Messrs. J. M. Grant, T. Bent, F. S. Dobson, J. H. Graves, C. Young, H. Bolton, W. L. Madden, R. Burrows, J. McBain, and L. L. Smith as colleagues.

At the census taken on the 3rd April of this year, the population of the colony numbered 862,346, of which 12,128 were Chinese and 780 aborigines, leaving a balance of 849,438 people, of whom 439,754 were males, and 409,684 females. In the same year the Revenue of the colony was £5,186,011, and the Expenditure, £5,108,642.

In March of 1882, a great scare was created in Melbourne by the disclosures of a man named Henry Bryant, who falsely stated that the Russian Admiral, then on a visit to the colonies, had employed him to furnish full particulars touching the defences, &c., of the capital. Bryant's specious tale was proved to have no foundation in fact, and he afterwards came into the hands of the police for passing valueless cheques. In the August following, a man named P. A. C. O'Farrell attempted the assassination of the R. C. Archbishop Gould, but was happily unsuccessful, and in the next month a new comet made its appearance and was visible to the naked eye for three or four months. On the 30th November, the first elections under the Legislative Council Reform Act were held, and resulted in the return of the residue of the eighteen members required to bring up the body from thirty to forty-two. The last month of the year was marked by two disastrous accidents—the railway collision on the Hawthorne line, near Melbourne, and the fearful catastrophe at the New Australasian Company's mine, Creswick, in the latter of which twenty-seven lives were lost.

Parliament was dissolved in the beginning of February of the year 1883 at the solicitation of Sir Bryan O'Loughlin, the Premier, and the new House assembled on the 1st March, after the elections, which had resulted unfavourably to the Ministry. Mr. Service's amendment to the Address in reply to the Governor's opening speech having been carried against the Government, Sir Bryan O'Loughlin tendered the resignations of himself and colleagues on the 7th of the same month, when Mr. Service was sent for, and he at once formed a Coalition Ministry with Mr. Graham Berry, the other members of which were Messrs. G. B. Kerferd, D. Gillies, R. S. Anderson, A. L. Tucker, G. D. Langridge, J. F. Levien, A. Deakin, and F. T. Sargood.

was not fully carried into effect. Small efforts at immigration were made, and in 1841, in the interest both of the settler and farmer, remission on the purchase of land was granted to anyone who succeeded in training a native to be a useful farm servant. A society was also formed for diffusing knowledge concerning the colony, and, later on, the West Australian Company was started for the purpose of selling farms in 100 acre blocks at £1 per acre, at their settlement at Australind, near Lechenault. Unfortunately, this company in London soon broke up, and nothing further came of the undertaking.

Meanwhile, Colonel Clark had succeeded Mr. Hutt in the Governorship in 1846, and he again was followed by Lieutenant-Colonel Irwin in the following year, who made way in 1848 for Captain Fitzgerald.

On the accession of the last-named Governor, as the agricultural interest and trade generally were in a very depressed condition, a large portion of the colonists sent home a petition to the Imperial Government praying that convicts might be introduced into the country, as a means of bringing labor and money into the colony, and supplying a market for produce. As the Home Government was then in want of a place of transportation for this class of criminals, the request was assented to, and the first batch of convicts arrived on the 1st June, 1850. But part of the agreement under which the Imperial Government made Western Australia a convict settlement was that an equal number of free settlers to convicts should be introduced, and accordingly, a month after the arrival of the first convicts, a shipment of 219 free immigrants landed from the "Sophia," followed by a detachment of Sappers and Miners the next year. Some 176 juvenile immigrants were also sent out at this time, but, as the colonists expressed themselves averse to this plan, it was not proceeded with any further.

The introduction of convicts proved of great value to the colony at this time by reason of the money spent on their establishments and guards, and the labor in which they were employed; whilst, on the other hand, it raised the criminal statistics considerably, and later on placed a number of men in the community who, as ex-convicts, were entitled to every advantage possessed by the free settlers, with the exception that they might not sit as members of the Legislative Council, nor practise in the courts of laws. From 1860 to 1869 inclusive, the convictions in the Supreme Court show 254 of the convict class against 53 free, but still, in the face of this, the material benefit derived from the introduction of convicts must fairly outweigh the disadvantages, when it is taken into consideration that most of the roads, bridges, and public works owe their construction to the labors of this class.

Returning to the early part of Governor Fitzgerald's tenure of office, in spite of all the drawbacks from which the colony had suffered, there had been a steady increase in population and production, and the settlers then numbered 6,661; the area of land under cultivation in cereals was 4,122 acres, the imports were £45,411, and the exports £25,598; whilst the live stock consisted of 141,123 sheep, 10,919 cattle, 2,095 horses, about 3,000 pigs, and 1,431 goats. Victoria District was opened up during Governor Fitzgerald's term of office, and a convict depot formed there, and later on at Lynton, Port Gregory. The Messrs. Gregory reported the discovery of coal on the Upper Irwin (for which they received a land grant of 2,500 acres), as well as lead and copper on the Murchison River. Guano was also discovered on the islands, and shells of the pearl oyster; while the first shipment of horses to India was made in 1851, and an export trade in timber commenced.

On 20th August, 1852, the "Australian," the pioneer vessel of the Australian Royal Mail Company, arrived in King George's Sound; an overland mail service was started between Perth and Albany; the first steambot was run on the Swan River; and a Savings Bank was established.

Governor Kennedy assumed the reins of Government in 1855, and found a considerable amount of dissatisfaction amongst the colonists with the Executive, owing to interferences and restrictions, the high price of land, and an outstanding debt; and a demand for Representative Government would have been clamorously urged, had it not been feared it would have resulted in the total removal of the convicts from the colony. In spite, however, of all obstacles to prosperity, the imports for 1857 were double those for 1850, and the income was larger by £8,498. In 1859, the regular troops were withdrawn from the colony, and a force of Enrolled Pensioners or-

ganized; while companies of Volunteers were raised at Perth, Fremantle, and York.

Following Governor Kennedy came Governor Hampton in 1862—a year memorable on account of the tremendous floods which visited the country, destroying many bridges, inundating the lowlands, and causing great loss and expense. In 1864, the area of settled country was further extended, sheep being taken to Esperance Bay on the south coast, and to Shark Bay and Dirk Hartog Island on the west; while during the next year, the pear fishing industry was extended from Shark Bay to Nicko Bay. During Governor Hampton's administration of the colony, he exerted his best energies towards economizing the cost of Government, and to the carrying out of useful public works. In 1867, Messrs. J. G. C. Carr, J. G. Lee Steere, W. Bateman, S. Phillips, and J. W. Hardey, who had been selected by vote, were nominated by the Governor as unofficial members of the Legislative Council; and in the next year a petition was presented in favor of a Representative Constitution. In the latter year, the last batch of convicts arrived, some of whom were Fenians.

In 1869 Governor Weld commenced his tenure of office, and during the following year the colony was divided into electoral districts, the Legislative Council being composed of five nominee members and ten elected members, to which, subsequently, one of the former and two of the latter were added. This movement not realizing all the advantages which the settlers had anticipated, an Opposition was organized, the forms of the Imperial Parliament adopted, and the Colonial Secretary assumed the duties of Prime Minister and Treasurer. About this time a loan for £25,000 was floated, public works were being energetically carried out, bold and hardy explorers were penetrating into the hidden lands of the interior, and a material advance was being made in the prosperity of the colony.

Early in 1869, Baron von Mueller, of the Melbourne Botanical Gardens, suggested to the Government of Western Australia that an expedition should be undertaken from the colony for the purpose of ascertaining, if possible, the fate of the explorer Leichhardt. Reports had reached Perth from natives in the Eastern districts, who had stated that about twenty years previously a party of white men had been murdered; and these reports had been confirmed by a native guide of a gentleman when on a trip eastward in search of sheep-runs, who had told his white employer that he had been on the very spot where the murders had been carried out, and had seen the remains of the victims. As his story was so circumstantial, and he volunteered to conduct a party to the locality in question, the Government felt it incumbent on them to make an effort to ascertain the truth of the statement, and accepted Baron von Mueller's offer as leader of an expedition. As the equipment of the exploring party was being proceeded with, however, a letter was received from the Baron expressing his inability to take the lead as proposed, and Mr. John Forrest, who had been previously appointed second in command, was nominated to the vacant position. The party consisted of six persons altogether, made up of Mr. John Forrest, Mr. George Monger as second in command, Mr. Malcolm Hamersley as third in command, David Morgan, probation prisoner, as shoing smith, and two natives—Tommy Windich and Jemmy Mungaro, the last of whom was the native who had volunteered to lead the band to the spot where he asserted the murders had been perpetrated. The journey was begun from Perth on the 15th April, 1869, and the capital city was returned to on 6th August following, the expedition having thus been absent 113 days, during which time it had travelled by computation over 2,000 miles. The route eastwards was through Newcastle, passed Mount Churchman, Lake Barlee, then a chain of salt lakes, and as far as about lat. 25° 41' S., lon. 122° 50' E., the return being on a somewhat more westerly course from the departure from Lake Barlee, and as regarded the mystery of the fate of Leichhardt, the results were barren. Forrest's next expedition was from Perth, along the southern coast-line, to Adelaide; a route only once before travelled by a white man, when Eyre made his disastrous, but heroic, journey from Adelaide westwards in 1840-41. With John Forrest were Alexander, his brother, as second in command; H. McLarty, a police constable; W. Osborne, a farmer; and two natives. Starting on the 30th March, 1870, the party arrived safely at Adelaide five months later, completing a journey which it had taken Eyre more than twelve months to accomplish, and furnishing a mass of valuable

information on a tract of country, the physical features of which had been hitherto almost unknown. Once again, on the 18th March, 1874, Mr. John Forrest set out on an exploring expedition, having as his subordinates his brother Alexander, James Sweeney (farrier), James Kennedy (police constable), and two natives; the chief object being to obtain information concerning the immense tract of country from which flow the Murchison, Gascoigne, Ashburton, De Grey, Fitzroy, and other rivers falling into the sea on the western and northern shores of this territory. The route followed was mainly between the 25th and 27th parallels of south latitude until the Peake Station of the overland telegraph service, between Adelaide and Port Darwin, was reached on the 30th September following, whence the journey to Adelaide was made by easy stages, and the entry into the capital took place on the 3rd November. Forrest reported that the season was an exceptionally dry one, and therefore the difficulties they had to contend with were much increased; that the country from near Champion Bay to the head of the Murchison was admirably suited for pastoral settlement; but from the latter point to the boundary of the colony, the general character of the land was a gently undulating spinifex desert, lightly wooded with acacia and other small trees, and, except in a few creeks, with an absence of any large timber.

In the month of August, 1872, the advisableness of exploring the interior between Central Mount Stuart and Perth was brought before the Government of South Australia in such a way as practically to leave no course open to them except acquiescence. The public urged the matter, the press were equally determined, and in the most liberal manner Mr. (now Sir Thomas) Elder placed his camels at the disposal of the Government, and offered to provide native drivers, both free of expense. The Government accepted the proposal, and Colonel P. Egerton Warburton was named as leader of the expedition, a sufficient number of camels and horses for transport service being placed at his disposal. Through various causes the arrangements thus made broke down; but Mr. Elder, who was bent upon the undertaking, resolved to carry it out independently of the Government, and, in conjunction with Mr. Walter W. Hughes, who volunteered to share the expense with him, he entrusted Colonel Warburton with the chief command, authorizing him to organize such a party, and procure such an outfit, as he deemed necessary for the successful accomplishment of the object in view. Starting from Adelaide on the 21st September, 1872, and passing through Beltana Station, Colonel Warburton and party reached Charlotte Waters on the 25th November, where they were hospitably entertained by the official in charge of the telegraph station, and, resuming their march, they arrived at Alice Springs (1,120 miles from Adelaide) on the 21st December following, this being the point whence the journey westward was to be commenced. Owing to misapprehension regarding a rainy season, the expedition was delayed at Alice Springs for four months, and only started thence on the 15th April, 1873, the party consisting of Colonel P. Egerton Warburton, in command; his son, Richard Egerton Warburton, second in command; J. W. Lewis; Denis White, cook; Sahleh and Halleem, two Afghan camel drivers; and Charley, a native lad. They had 17 camels in all, and six months' provisions. Almost from the commencement, the explorers had great difficulties to contend with, not the least of which was a very dry season, leaving most of the waterholes empty of the necessary element. Time after time they were turned back from this cause, which also led to the breaking down and loss of several of their camels. Had their attempt, however, been made with horses, they would have been compelled to have given it up almost from the earliest days. Their route lay in a north-westerly direction from Alice Springs in lat. 23° 40' S., up to lat. 20° S., a constant battle having to be maintained against physical weakness caused by the distressing want of water, added to a journey through an inhospitable wilderness in which the principal vegetable growth was the porcupine-spinifex, uneatable even by camels, who are, moreover, compelled to tread their way painfully through its mazes, never planting a foot on the stools, if they can possibly avoid them. It is one of the most cheerless objects an explorer can meet, and it is, perhaps, unnecessary to say that the country it loves to dwell in is utterly useless for pastoral purposes. On reaching lat. 20° S., lon. 128° E., the party had to retrace their steps in a southerly direction, as no trace

of water was to be seen and nothing but an arid spinifex wilderness met the view. From lat. 20° 30', a westerly course was taken, constant search being kept up for native wells, many of which, however, were found to be dry, until the northernmost point, a little above the 20th parallel of latitude, was reached in the beginning of October, whence the final push was made to strike the Oakover River by a south-westerly route. This was accomplished on the 11th December in lat. 21° 11' 23", three camels only remaining to the party out of 17 with which they started, but without loss to human life, although the leader and his son were prostrate from weakness. From this place, Lewis and one Afghan were sent, two days later, on two camels to look out for the first station they could find where succour might be procured, and they returned on the 29th of the same month with an ample supply for all their wants, and with six horses to carry them down. The expedition reached Roebourne on the 26th January, 1874, and Perth two months later, where the members of it were accorded the same hearty reception which they had received at every town *en route*. They had travelled by land a journey of about 4,000 miles, including distances forwards and backwards, with the loss of 15 out of 17 camels, and the sight of one of the eyes of the leader of the expedition.

In 1874, a petition for Responsible Government having been presented to the Governor by the Legislative Council, the latter was dissolved, and a new one formed, wherein were three members opposed to that measure.

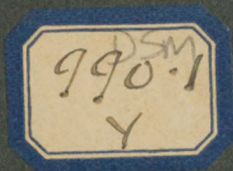
Further important extensions in the industrial and public works of the colony took place at this time, and ushered in the advent of Governor Robinson (now Sir William C. F. Robinson, K.C.M.G.), in 1875; the Imperial Government at the same time declining to concede the wished-for Responsible Government, on the ground that the colony was not yet prepared for such a change. A further sum of £26,000 was contracted for in 1876, for the completion of the Mines Railway, which had been commenced shortly before Governor Robinson's arrival; and a sum of £18,000 was appropriated out of revenue for the purpose of completing the telegraph line to Eucla.

The year 1877 saw the arrival of Major-General Sir Harry St. George Ord, K.C.M.G., C.B., as Governor, the principal events of whose administration were the opening of a railway from Geraldton to Northampton; the establishment of a fortnightly mail service with Europe; the raising of a loan of £200,000, principally for railway construction between Fremantle, Perth, and the Eastern Districts; the increase of the Volunteer Force by a company at Albany, and the formation of a Naval Artillery Corps; the occupation of the Gascoyne District; and the abandonment of the proposed harbor improvements at Fremantle on account of an adverse report from Sir John Coode.

In April, 1880, Sir W. C. F. Robinson returned as Governor to the colony. On the 21st November, 1881, the Perth International Exhibition was opened by the Governor, and finally closed on the 3rd January, 1882 about 18,000 persons having visited it during the interval. The population of the colony on the 31st December, 1883, was 31,700, of which number 18,005 were males, and 13,695 females. These returns are exclusive of the aborigines, who are estimated at about 2,000. The revenue for 1883 was £284,363 19s. 7d.; expenditure, £240,566 2s. 11d.; value of imports, £516,846; of exports, £447,010 1s.; land under cultivation, 58,111 acres; whilst the live stock at the same time consisted of 32,884 horses; 64,558 cattle; 1,315,155 sheep; and 18,512 pigs. Sir William Robinson quitted Western Australia for the Governorship of South Australia in February, 1883, leaving the reins of government in the hands of Chief Justice Wrenfordley until the arrival of Mr. Frederick Napier Broome, the succeeding Governor, who assumed the government in June, 1883, and shortly afterwards received the honor of Knighthood. His short administration has witnessed the signing of the contract for the construction of a land-grant railway from Beverley to Albany upon certain proposals made by the late Mr. Anthony Hordern, of Sydney; the raising of a loan of £525,000 for the construction of public works, among which are included harbor works at Fremantle, the extension of the telegraph from Roebourne to Kimberley, and the construction of various branches of railway. This year was specially signalized by the establishment of an Immigration Board, £20,000 having been voted for that purpose.



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