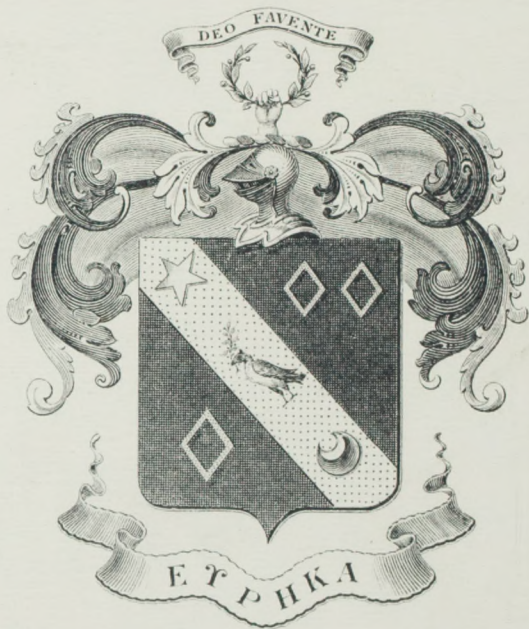


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David Scott Mitchell.

TERRITORIAL
SEPARATION.

SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND IN 1859-60,

AND

NORTHERN QUEENSLAND IN 1884,

*SHOWING THE RELATIVE POSITION BETWEEN
NORTH AND SOUTH.*

Townsville;

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF T. WILLMETT,
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TO THE PUBLIC OF N. QUEENSLAND.

THE advocates for Territorial Separation in Queensland desire to secure the co-operation of all the residents north of Cape Palmerston.

The reasons for Separation are briefly as follows:—

The enormous extent of the present colony renders it very difficult to deal fairly with all parts.

That a seat of Government situated at Brisbane is too remote, and therefore most unfavorable to the progress and welfare of this portion of Queensland, as experience has shown that rulers resident in the extreme South, whose sympathies, interests, and surroundings are essentially influenced by Southern proclivities, cannot understand, and are, therefore, unable to assist and to adequately provide the immediate as well as the growing requirements that the enterprising spirit and energies of the people of the North demand. The progressive history of North Queensland, through the courage, enterprise, and spirited exertions of its occupants, presents an illustration of energy without a parallel in modern colonisation. The published statistics amply prove this, and testify to the reasonable right herein claimed for a separate Government which shall truly represent each and every interest, enterprise, and industrial pursuit of the colonists who are devoting their energies and their lives to the establishment of permanent homes for themselves and their little ones in this far North.

The members of the Separation League maintain, as the basis of their action, that a territorial division is desirable for the general benefit, and their position is supported by the fact that many public men in the South, whose interests are entirely confined to that part of the colony, recognise the mutual benefit that would accrue to both North and South by the erection of Northern Queensland into a separate colony. Statistics have been amply afforded in support of the claims of the Separation League, many of which are reproduced here. It may be mentioned that the adult male population of the North bears a much greater proportion to the census of the North than the adult male population of the South bears to the census of the South, and as adult males consume by far the

larger proportion of dutiable goods, notably spirits and tobacco, the Northern contribution to Customs revenue is proportionably larger per head. In the event of the object of the League being obtained, the benefit of this proportion would be correspondingly felt.

The objection is raised by many who otherwise are favorable to the movement, that the cost of government would entail additional taxation on the community. There is no substantial ground for such apprehension. The immense resources of Northern Queensland are abundantly adequate to meet any extra cost that would thus be entailed, and the stimulus that would be given to all industries by the new departure would place any consideration of that character entirely in a secondary position. It should also be borne in mind that in accepting our proportion of the public debt, for which the Colony is responsible, the railways already built in the North would constitute a valuable and continuously enlarging asset. Even at the present time our lines are paying an interest in excess of the rate at which the money for their construction was borrowed, and this source of revenue must greatly improve, for as population increases traffic will expand, and revenue will proportionably multiply.

Our actual mineral wealth is positively unknown, and in the fulness of time will far exceed the wildest anticipations at present entertained. Our resources are practically illimitable, and the enterprising character of the population justifies our claim for self-government, and, briefly, to summarise, quoting from the *Gulf of Carpentaria Times*, "We are old enough, wealthy enough, strong enough, and have ability enough to carry on the government of a new colony successfully, and as we are a free and independent people, why should we not have the right to do so?"

It is necessary in this agitation to sink all minor vexed questions and particularly political questions that only create dissension and jealousy. For as the new Parliament will be the choice of the colonists, it is only reasonable to apprehend that all and every industry, enterprise, trade, and calling will be fully and fairly represented, and that the legislation that will ensue from such a representation will help to develop the whole of the best interests of the whole of this great people North of Cape Palmerston, and that in the settling the burning questions of the day the voice of the people will be truly and notably heard.

JOHN MARSHALL,

Secretary Northern Separation League.

Townsville, Dec. 10, 1884.

SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND IN 1859 AND 1860.

Compiled by T. Willmet from the Statistical Register of 1860.

SINCE the discovery of Australia by Captain Cook, and the settlement of New South Wales, it has been found necessary, from time to time, to subdivide (and re-subdivide) Australia into separate colonies as each portion became populated, and its inhabitants petitioned for Separation and its own Government. It is now about twenty-five years since Separation was granted to Queensland, since which North Queensland has become populated to such an extent, and its trade and commerce have grown into an importance which, in the interest of the Northern colonist, it is considered that the time has arrived when some steps should be taken to secure the privileges given to Victoria in 1851 and to Queensland in 1859.

The reader, from the perusal of the following facts and figures, will be able to judge from the comparison between the years 1860 and 1883-4 if we have really reached the condition required, and, after taking all the various comments into consideration, if we are right in asking the Imperial Government the boon which was so justly accorded to others in past years.

On the 1st of July, 1851, Victoria was declared a separate colony from New South Wales. In the course of the same year the agitation for Separation commenced in Moreton Bay, Brisbane, the first meeting being held on January 8th. There was then no settlement north of Maryborough, then struggling for existence, but there was still great disunion between the people of the towns and of the interior, and the then Secretary of State for the Colonies was ready to grant Separation if it were clogged with the condition that the new colony would receive a certain proportion of reforming convicts. In the contest against this the late Dr. Lang rendered great help, but for some time the obstinacy of Sir Wm. Denison, then Governor of New South Wales, in sending the instructions to Earl Grey, impeded the movement. At length the urgency of the case overpowered every personal consideration, and all parties united in a cry for

Separation, in which Dr. Lang was a great aid, as he had before been to the colony, in bringing a very superior class of immigrants here. The proclamation declaring Queensland a separate colony appeared in the *New South Wales Gazette* on the 1st day of December, 1859, and Governor Bowen landed in Brisbane on the 10th of the same month, now twenty-five years ago. Suffice it to say that, except on a portion of the coast, Northern Queensland was then for purposes of settlement, unknown and uninhabited; but a subsequent Imperial Act provided for further divisions of the vast territory into separate colonies, as their populations became sufficiently large to govern themselves, right being reserved to them to petition Her Majesty the Queen for Separation into distinct colonies as they became ripe for it. It is not my intention to traverse what has led up to the desire on the part of the Northern people to agitate for Separation from time to time, or to say anything on the subject of neglect of any former Government, or to attribute any blame to the present one. I take it for granted that the various changes brought about during the last twenty-five years have been such that it is only natural that we should think the time had come when we would be called upon to ask for self Government, and that the NORTH should be independent of the SOUTH. What I now wish to point out is that the time has arrived when we should petition Her Majesty the Queen for Separation, in accordance with the Imperial Act made and provided for the purpose, for which I refer my readers to Mr. Coote's remarks on the subject in the appendix.

The position of Queensland the first year of Separation was as follows:—The area of the colony, as at first proclaimed, was, as estimated by Mr. A. C. Gregory, the veteran captain, and then Surveyor General, 560,000 square miles. Subsequently in 1861 a large area which had been left between the western boundary of Queensland and the eastern boundary of South Australia, containing 118,600 square miles, was added, and thus the total area became 678,600 square miles. The approximate area of occupied pastoral stations in 1861 was 195,000 square miles, fully two-thirds of which were taken up after December, 1859. The population of the district of Moreton Bay at the census of the 1st March, 1856, was returned at 17,082, and considering that there was little immigration in the following three or four years, and none across the border, there could not have been more than from twenty to twenty-one thousand souls in Moreton Bay on the 1st of December, 1859. Even in 1861 the total number

The wealth of the colony was not represented by the agricultural interest, which had, in 1860, under cultivation, 3,351 acres, the product of which was consumed in the colony. The exports, as I have said, were chiefly those of the pastoral interest. The returns for live stock for 1860 were:—horses, 23,504; cattle, 432,890; sheep, 3,166,802; pigs, 7,147. The quantity of gold set down among the exports is 4,127 ounces, valued at £14,576. This represented the mineral wealth of Queensland in 1860.

Sundry exports of merchandise were made to Sydney, to the amount of £15,339 18s., which makes up the total to £523,476 18s. 3d. It will thus be seen that the squatter was the principal contributor to the exports, his product forming 93-53 of the whole of the exports from the colony, and that the agriculturist or miner did not then call for any particular attention. This was the position of Queensland during the first year of its existence. At this stage I cannot do better than quote a portion of the Registrar-General's Report for 1860, where, speaking of the trade, he says:—

To understand this statement thoroughly, it is necessary to look upon money as merchandise, and to bear in mind that, as merchants always seek to make a profit in all their transactions, they will, to the best of their abilities, select such articles, as remittances, as are likely to return them the greatest profit. Unless, therefore, money be in that position, it will not be remitted. It must also be admitted, as a general rule, that merchants always do make profits, and that an occasional loss is the exception, and in no way affects the general argument. Also, that one merchant's gain is by no means necessarily, or even usually, another merchant's loss, and the result will be, as indeed is found to be the case all over the world, that the country which is driving a profitable trade with its neighbours, and in which, as a consequence, wealth and capital are increasing, will always seem to export less than it imports. Facts bear out this statement, and if an excess of exports over imports were a loss, it would be a difficult matter to say from what fund the annual aggregate amount of national losses could be made good.

To return to the trade of Queensland. Another cause has tended to throw it into the hands of the Sydney merchants; a cause removeable, indeed, but which the Government of New South Wales cared not to remove so long as Queensland remained her dependency. I allude to the absence of a safe commodious harbour for sea-going ships of large tonnage, and to the forced necessity of an intermediate shipment of our exports intended for the English market. The three principal shipping ports of Queensland are situated on three rivers, each of which, it is confidently believed, may, by the labours of a moderately powerful steam dredge, be rendered accessible to ships drawing twenty feet of water, and even should this prove not to be the case, the long line of sea coast offers several natural harbours with every convenience that ships require, though these, from the absence of roads, are at present unavailable for shipping purposes.

That no attempt should ever have been made either to clear the rivers, or, in failure of that scheme, to open communication with the pastoral country and some of the natural harbours north of the 29th parallel, is perhaps hardly to be regretted, as a more liberal policy on the part of New South Wales would, in all probability, have indefinitely deferred the creation of the Colony of Queensland.

I may add that the last paragraph, which is given as the opinion then of Southern Queensland towards New South Wales, somewhat expresses the position we find the North in to-day. Such was the exact position of Queensland in 1859-1860, and the statistics for the latter year were considered very satisfactory from every point of view, the then Registrar-General being unanimously complimented on them. The pastoral interest was the main stay of the colony, as it nearly provided all the exports, as shown by the figures. Manufactories were only represented by four steam saw-mills, two soap and candle manufactories—one turning out 5 tons of soap, and the other 5,000 lbs. of candles—the rest, except the boiling down establishments, being too insignificant to mention. Agriculture was in its infancy, although considered favourable in proportion to the population.

As to mining, I cannot do better than repeat the Registrar-General's Report of 1860 on that industry:—

The same may be said of mining, to which little attention has been paid, beyond sinking a few shafts into one or two of the most accessible coal seams for the supply principally of steam boats plying on the River Brisbane. The colony is, however, well known to be possessed of great mineral wealth. Coal is abundant near the surface, and in many instances close to water carriage. Rich iron and copper ores also exist, and in spite of the sudden failure of the gold-fields near the town of Rockhampton, those persons best acquainted with the geological formation of the country are confident in their belief that rich deposits of gold will still be found.

Trade and commerce were considered good, and the imports and exports fully up to the expectations of the Government. The imports were equal to 26-44 per head, and the exports to 18-66 per head. Financially, the revenue more than covered the disbursements by £14,872 10s. 3d. Under this head, the report goes on to say:—

The financial transactions for 1860 must be considered very satisfactory; the ordinary revenue has been more than sufficient to cover the ordinary expenditure. The expenses of Government in a country of vast extent, and in which even within what are called the proclaimed districts, there is hardly an average of one white inhabitant to every fifty square miles, must of necessity be heavy in proportion to the population; bearing in mind, moreover, that the first year of self-government may be presumed to be an expensive one, and that the New South Wales Government took good care that Queensland

should commence her career without one shilling in her chest, it must be admitted to be a singular proof of prosperity and good government that the colony should from the first have been in a position to provide liberally for the ordinary services of the year, not only without incurring debt, but with a sum on hand to the credit of the Consolidated Revenue.

The statement of revenue and expenditure is so clear as to require no comment; the absence of statistical records takes away from me the power of showing, by comparison with other of Her Majesty's colonial dominions, the prosperity with which Queensland has been blessed during the past year. The following tables are little more than a record of things as they were on 31st December, 1860, but they show unmistakeably that we are possessed of all the elements of national wealth and greatness, and that assisted by a wise and judicious legislation, our rich natural resources have been so developed, as even in one year to evince, in proportion to our population, a larger power of consumption of British manufactures, than that, I believe, of any other of Her Majesty's colonial dominions; a revenue more than equal to all the ordinary requirements of Government; and a population small, but rapidly increasing in numbers and wealth.

Such were the maiden statistical reports of the first month and first year's existence of Queensland when the bulk of its population was settled in Moreton Bay and on the Darling Downs, when Queensland was unknown north of Rockhampton, and the now inhabited portion of Northern Queensland was a country for explorers, without a white man in it.

Between the positions of Southern Queensland in 1860 and Northern Queensland in 1884 there is no comparison, whether we take the population, trade, commerce, the mining, agricultural and pastoral interest, or the financial positions of the former, and compare them with the figures which I will give to show the position of Northern Queensland in the present year of 1884, twenty-five years after Separation. After reading and weighing them, consider if the supporters of the Separation Movement are not justified in saying that the time has arrived when we should petition for, and have, the privileges of self-government extended to this once unknown portion of Her Majesty's dominions.

The salient points in favor of Separation are—That the population warrants it; that the imports, exports, and amount of trade are sufficient to raise the necessary revenue which justify our action. From its geographical position the ports north of Cape Palmerston are so favorably situated as to command the trade *via* Torres Straits, being the shortest route for the English and Eastern Mail Service. From the establishment of its Parliament and Government in a central position, the services of our best local men for the Legislature can be secured, without cost to the country, and thus gain the pure independence of

Parliamentary representation. We would secure the sole control of our revenue, loans, and expenditure, which would be confined to narrower limits within the radius of the new colony. That the expenses of self-government will be infinitely less than what the present annual loss is supposed to amount to, by our contributing to the support of a Government with its staff situated over 1,000 miles away from the centre of the northern part of the colony. That under a Separate Government its resources in mineral, pastoral, and agriculture will be more satisfactorily developed than it could otherwise be, while the trade and commercial prosperity of the North will be better secured. That the administration of justice would be facilitated, and the jurisdiction spread and extended all over the North to much better advantage. That the northern people would have the control of its own legislation, which, for climatic reasons, must always differ from that of Southern Queensland, while the inconvenience at present arising from the Capital being at one extreme end of the country would be removed. That in view of the enormous mineral wealth of Northern Queensland we shall have the opportunity of conserving our lands, and causing them to produce a revenue that would materially have the effect of reducing taxation on all necessary articles of consumption, so as to reduce the cost of living to the working man to a minimum. Finally, we should have the making and administration of our laws in our own way in a manner the best calculated to serve the interest of all Northern Queenslanders.



NORTHERN QUEENSLAND IN 1884.

Compiled by T. Willmet from the Statistics of 1883.

IT must be borne in mind that we are now dealing with Northern Queensland after a lapse of twenty-five years, which we pass over without any comment or following its growth, since it sprang into activity a few years after the foundation of the colony.

Northern Queensland I assume to comprise all that portion of Queensland lying to the north of Cape Palmerston, and on the west to the one hundred and thirty-eighth degree of longitude, and its area to be something under 220,000 square miles, with a seaboard of about 1,600 miles. Its area is divided into six Electorates, returning eight members, as follows:—1 Mackay, 1 Bowen, 1 Townsville, 2 Kennedy, 2 Cook, and 1 the Bourke District. In these electorates there were registered on the electoral rolls 12,080 electors for 1883, at the last General Election. The total population of the North is computed at between 55,000 and 60,000 souls; a large portion settled on the gold-fields, many of whom have become of the nature of a manufacturing industry; a large number on the sugar plantations, in which some millions have been invested, and the balance being employed on the numerous pastoral runs and in the coast towns, the importance of which I shall hereafter attempt to give you an idea. There are now five municipalities, namely, Mackay, Bowen, Townsville, Charters Towers, and Cooktown, with rateable property valued at £2,600,000. Thus—annual value, £133,333; at a four per cent. valuation of rental, £2,666,660—at the colonial value of money much more. The returns of the Divisional Boards are not given so as to arrive at the Northern proportion.

Electric Telegraph communication extends all over the North from Mackay to Normanton.

The number of vessels which entered inwards at the principal Northern port, Cleveland Bay, or in other words, Townsville, for

the nine months ending September 30th, 1884, gave an average for the twelve months of 1,000 vessels, representing 410,000 tons. The Imports for the year ending 30th June, 1884, were £1,382,284, and the Exports, £1,221,143: these were taken from those actually passed through the Customs, and do not represent goods conveyed coastwise, which may be calculated at one-third advance on the imports and somewhat under on the exports.

There are now seven banks in the North, viz., the Australian Joint Stock, the Bank of Australasia, Bank of New South Wales, Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, Queensland National Bank, Union Bank of Australia, and the London Chartered Bank.

The financial position of the North may be considered in much better condition now than Queensland was in 1860.

The returns show that the deposits in the Banks averaged £21 8s. 9d., and the loans and discounts £29 1s. 2d. per head of the population. Taking the customers' floating balances into account, and the value of securities on which loans are granted, this must be considered a favorable state of affairs. The contribution per head of the population to the General Revenue of the colony amounted to £8 18s. 6d. At a rough calculation the North contributed about £600,000, a sum amounting to five times the revenue of the colony in 1860.

In the absence of specific financial Northern accounts, it is almost a matter of impossibility to trace what proportion of the revenue collected from the North has been returned to it in the shape of expenditure without a careful analysis of the accounts, which are not at present obtainable here. It is to be deeply regretted that the method of adjustment of accounts recommended in 1876 by a Royal Commission, and adopted until 1879, by which the particulars of receipt and expenditure were accurately recorded for each district, was abandoned. It has, however, been asserted by good authorities, that a fair proportion of the revenue has not, or is not being expended in the North. If it were otherwise, the North would be in a much more prosperous condition than it is. There ought to be no objection on the part of the Government to publish a statement of accounts, showing the receipts and expenditure, say in the three divisions of the colony—South, Central, and Northern Districts. We may get two-thirds of its revenue by way of carrying on the business of the Northern country, the balance being absorbed South, but we do not have our fair proportion back of the £600,000

contributed. I believe that is generally admitted by all parties.

I now come to our proportion of the indebtedness on Loan—that is, the portion of the Public Debt which can be rightfully charged to us, and is connected with that injustice which we suffer in paying interest on that which we derive no benefit from. The Loan Account of the whole colony amounts to £16,150,850, or at the rate of nearly £54 per head of the population, which figures give the result that we are paying interest of the principal sum of £3,240,000. Whether that sum has been set aside for expenditure on Loan Account I am hardly in a position to state authoritatively. The following, however, represents some of the sums voted:—

Northern Railway	..	..	..	..	£115,000
Mackay	..	..	..	..	90,000
Bowen	..	..	..	..	150,000
Cooktown	..	..	..	..	180,000
Herberton	..	..	..	..	200,000
Proportion on Rolling Stock and extension of Surveys, say					50,000
					£1,485,000

The sundry other items, comprising Electric Telegraphs, Harbors and Rivers, and Northern Ports, Loans to Local Bodies, Public Buildings, Water Supply to Townsville, &c., Roads and Bridges, including our proportion of one-fifth of miscellaneous expenditure—say about £735,000—these, added to the principal sum on Railway account, bring up the total to £2,220,000. The reader will observe that we are paying interest on a sum exceeding £1,000,000 of the Loan more than the North has had.

It will thus be observed that it was only in the last Loans borrowed during the past few years that the North has had any allotted to her, notwithstanding the fact that the pioneer settler has had to bear his share of taxation on that account since Northern settlement began.

At the end of 1883, there appears to have been the sum of about £861,000 remaining as unexpended balances, a portion of which will not now be expended as originally provided, and will no doubt be absorbed in the South on other works not of any benefit to the North. Now, it must be clear that Northerners are burdened, not only with heavy taxation, but also on Loan account, to a considerable extent above what they should be.

The present Loan Estimates disclose that we are about to borrow a further sum of £10,000,000, which will bring the total of Loan indebtedness up to over £26,000,000, and the question

arises, how far we are justified in becoming parties to such a debt. Over £2,000,000 is allotted to various works in different parts of the North, but what guarantee have we that that sum will be actually expended in the districts to which it is allotted. For instance, the late Government on the occasion of the last Loan set down £150,000 for railway works at Bowen, which has never been carried out. Now £100,000 is down in the next Loan for similar purpose. What has become of the first sum, and what may become of the second, it is hard to say. Separation will at least enable us to get rid of a liability which does not belong to us, and give us the sole control of our Loan monies, while we shall have the satisfaction of retaining any unexpended balances in the North, and be secure against their being absorbed by the Southern districts, which are of no benefit to us.

Although the Colonial Treasurer's Financial Statement for 1883-84 shows the credit balances on Loan account as £1,938,768, still we find in the face of this that they have been all absorbed, and the next Loan anticipated by the sum of £1,752,648 9s. 9d., of which only the sum of a little over £20,000 is set down for the Northern Railway. The balance is entirely appropriated in Southern works, principally railways.

The administration of justice is provided for by a Resident Judge of the Supreme Court at Bowen, and by a District Court Judge who resides at Brisbane. At all principal towns Stipendiary Magistrates are provided. At the chief ports the Sub-Collector of Custom acts as Water-Police Magistrate. Still, the provision for the administration of justice is totally inadequate to the actual requirements of the Northern people. Much loss and expense is incurred in obtaining justice, from the simple fact that the chief courts and members of the bar are all in Brisbane, beyond our reach, while many have to abandon their cases altogether for the want of means; whereas the Law Courts should be placed within the reach of the poorest and most humble of the colonists. There is one gaol in the North, and it is situated in Townsville, almost in the heart of the town. A great many prisoners with the longer term of sentences have to be sent to the South.

Under the head of Social Statistics we find that Schools of Arts are established in many towns throughout the North, and being popular institutions are, from local means, amply provided for. The State School accommodation is limited, as the population increases very fast, and from the fact that one fifth of the cost must be provided by public subscription to form the nucleus of

a fund before the Educational Department will take the matter up—the accommodation depending on the amount raised. As to Grammar Schools, there are five in the South, and none in the North; one is about to be erected at Townsville.

The Vital Statistics show that though the climate of the North is excessively hot during the summer months (about four), the atmosphere is tempered by the cool trade winds which always spring up as the day advances. The remaining eight months of the year are delightful and pleasant, consequently the average health of the population is good compared with other parts of Australia, where the climate is much colder and more bracing. Northern Queensland is considered healthy, and the death rate per 1,000 does not exceed what it does in other parts of Australia.

The Pastoral Interest is well represented. Out of the whole area of the colony, viz., 668,224 square miles, as at present calculated, 475,601 square miles are leased for runs in the unsettled districts, and 11,126 square miles in the settled districts; and for purposes of comparison we will assume that 175,000 square miles are so occupied in the North, so that the squatters of the North pay the annual rent of about £80,000. The returns given of the stock show that there are on the Northern portion the following:—Horses, 62,069; Cattle, 1,351,211; Sheep, 3,688,142; Pigs, 8,626. The homesteads on the gold-fields, which show the settlement of the mining population, number 185, with a total of 5,100 acres.

It will thus be seen that the North is well stocked as compared with the South in 1860. The land under cultivation in the North also exceeds the return of former years, and what was barren and uncultivated in 1860 now shows as under, taken from the returns of the undermentioned Police districts:—

TOTAL IN ACRES.			TOTAL IN ACRES.		
Bowen	..	519	Brought forward	..	29835
Cairns	..	3042	Marathon	..	11
Cardwell	..	5210	Maytown	..	222
Charters Towers	..	179	Normanton	..	14
Cook	..	445	Port Douglas	..	932
Georgetown	..	2	Ravenswood	..	27
Hughenden	..	21	Thornborough	..	455
Mackay	..	20,417	Townsville	..	4385
Forward	..	29,835	Total	..	35,881

The returns for the Sugar manufacturers are far from complete, as they only give up to December, 1883, and do not represent

the yield for 1884. The returns give the following results:—

	SUGAR MILLS.				SUGAR MANFT.	
					TONS.	
Cook	1	..	..	..	..
Johnstone ..	..	..	..	..	..
River Herbert ..	1	..	..	..	678	
Mackay	25	..	..	..	14,240	
Cairns	2	..	..	..	1750	
Burdekin	1	..	..	..	1230	
Bowen	2	..	..	..	55	
	<hr/>				<hr/>	
	32				17,953	

But since the returns for 1883 the mills on the Johnstone and Herbert Rivers have been very much increased.

The manufactories in the North are:—

Tobacco	1	Coach and Waggon ..	16
Soap and Candle ..	5	Boiling Downs	3
Brick Yards	21	Gas Works	1
Ice Works	1	Patent Slips	1
Breweries	2	Carriage	1
Iron and Tin Works ..	4	Shipbuilders	3
Foundries	2	Waterworks	2
Account Book Manufact.	1		

Under the head of Mining we find the true mineral wealth of the North, which contributes so much to the prosperity of the whole colony, and which gives Queensland a name in the Southern colonies, also in commercial circles in England. The returns up to the end of last year show that there are sixty-five crushing machines worked by steam power, driving 611 head of stampers, against seventeen crushing machines with 262 head of stampers working in the South. On the Northern fields there were issued in 1883, 4041 miners' rights and 109 business licenses, against 2432 and 22 respectively in the South. The number of Mining Companies registered in Charters Towers, Cape River, Hodgkinson, Palmer, and Ravenswood is forty-six, with a subscribed capital of £549,495, while the Southern fields have 124 companies, with a subscribed capital of £568,183. The extent of the alluvial and quartz ground worked upon, with the number of reefs are—The North, 830 reefs, and the extent of auriferous country, 5,325 square miles, while that of the Central and Southern divisions are 178 reefs and about 150 square miles. The quantity of gold returned from the Nor-

thern gold-fields, from auriferous quartz, in the year 1883, was :—

	OZS.
Palmer	24,098
Ravenswood	13,000
Charters Towers, Cape River	69,555
Hodgkinson and Mulgrave	7,595
Etheridge and Woolgar	18,967

Total for Northern Fields, 133,116 ozs. @ £3 10s. per oz., £405,906.

From the Southern Goldfields, the official return which I quote gives—

	OZS.
Gympie	64,818
Other smaller fields, in which are included Cloncurry and Normanby	14,849

Total for Southern Fields, 79,667 ozs., @ £3 10s. per oz., £278,844 10s.

The quantity of stone crushed for 1883 was :—

	TONS.
Northern Fields	75,446
Southern „	58,968

The whole returning an average of 1 oz. 5 dwts. 15 grs. to the ton.

The other mines consist of 5 copper mines, 192 tin claims, 36 galena mines, and 4 antimony mines. The total value of the products under this head for 1883 was £682,616, the Southern returns being £38,806, and coal, £44,927. The only stone quarries in the North are at Townsville, their number being five, quarrying 1250 tons of stone, valued at £950, but the real value of the granite and marble strata, which are abundant, will, as population increases, be demonstrated.

The reader will be able to draw his own conclusions from the comparative position of Queensland in 1859-60, and Northern Queensland in 1884. In doing so, it will be as well to consider Darvall's Report—

That Queensland was at the time of Separation and is still the most extensive of the British Colonies. It possesses an area nearly double the size of Canada, and, if compared with European States, is one-half larger than England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, France, and Spain, all added together; it is, in fact, nearly equal in area to one-fifth of the area of the whole of Europe and its dependencies.

Pastoral occupations have spread all over the North, and the ports in the Gulf of Carpentaria are now open as Ports of Entry. The squatter, miner, commercial man, tradesman, mechanic, and all classes are now inhabiting that portion of the territory

which was once unknown, and in exploring which some of our best men have lost their lives. From Point Danger, South of Moreton Bay, to Cape York, it is 1,550 miles, and from Cape York to the 138th degree of longitude, it is 700 miles, yet this vast colony has its Capital at the extreme Southern border, a distance of 1,600 miles from some of its inhabitants.

Western Australia, which for some time has been a Crown Colony, is now petitioning for responsible Government, the inhabitants feeling sure that they can legislate for themselves without the intervention of the Crown. Their population at the end of 1883 was 31,703; revenue, 31,719; expenditure, £240,566, with a public debt of £611,000; the imports being £516,847, and exports, £477,010. They have a railway open of 115 miles, and 68 miles in course of construction. Here is a Colony with only half of our population and without the half of our resources seeking self-government, and does not question the expense that the change will bring about.

It will be remembered that the British-India Mail Service Contract was fought out by the McIlwraith Ministry, and had it not been for their persistent conduct on that occasion, the North would have been thrown back fully twenty years. The same thing may be fought over again, perhaps on the next occasion to our loss. Every now and then a new departure is being made with some of our principal Acts, and we have no guarantee that the Torres Straits Mail Service will be continued; a majority in Parliament may at any time reverse the order of the direct Mail Service, and arrange with the Orient or P. and O. Company to work it from the South, making Brisbane the terminus, thus depriving the Northern portion of the colony of the shorter route, and cut our trade off by that route. This is only one of the worst of evils we have to guard against; we cannot be too cautious in protecting our interests against the possibility of unforeseen events. They may arise at any moment, and, inadequately as the North is now represented in Parliament, what is to prevent any Government from entering into such a contract that would have the effect of destroying every interest in the North?

Geographically, the Northern Mail Service suits every port North of Cape Palmerston better than any other, and it is well known that the Service is not looked upon with the same favour in the Southern Capital as it is in Northern Queensland.

Whatever may be the opinion of the Northern people on the subject, the foregoing figures will tend to show our position at the present time. Whether we are ripe for Separation or not, a

careful comparison of the population, imports, exports, revenue, and expenditure, and the requirements of the pastoral, agricultural, mining, commercial, and general interest in 1860 and 1884, should determine that question.

We must bear in mind that, without blaming either the past or present Governments for what would appear neglect, the colony has been growing so rapidly as to get beyond their control, and that they are pledging our credit virtually without our sanction, as we are now inadequately represented in Parliament; coupled with this is the enormous distance we are from the Capital, and how difficult is the administration of justice as at present arranged.

The whole grounds of the present agitation arose through the capital of this large colony being placed at the extreme southern boundary, which is now causing serious inconvenience to Northern residents, and the want of adequate Parliamentary representation, while we cannot ignore the fact that loans are being forced upon us, for which we are to pay more than our just portion of the interest, while we do not participate in a just proportionate share of the principal sum borrowed. Reviewing the past ten years carefully, and taking the statistics into consideration, they afford ample evidence that a change is necessary for the general and future prosperity of Northern Queensland. Our faith and reliance have been supported by the provision specially made by an Imperial Act of Parliament, which provided for further Separation, and for division of the great Continent of Australia as it became populated, and a sufficient number of resident householders petitioned Her Majesty the Queen for Self-Government. We support that petition by statistical returns, showing the grounds on which Separation will be beneficial to us. In doing this we are only asking the fulfilment of a promise held out and sanctioned by Imperial law. The question is not one on which we have to rely on the present Brisbane Government, as to whether they will permit a division of the colony, but one that will call for the adjustment by the Home Government in an equitable manner. If our claim for Separation be a fair and reasonable one, supported by a truthful statement of facts, borne out by a loyal petition to Her Majesty, and accompanied by full particulars of our position as to population, extent of territory, imports, exports, trade, and means of providing ample revenue for the administration of proper Government, we have no reason to fear failure.

Presuming that the Imperial Government receives our petition with favor, and there is no reason to think but that Separation will be granted in two years, or say by the commencement of 1887, we shall then be in a position equal to some of the other Colonies, with a population of about 80,000 persons, and an accumulative trade of £3,800,000 per annum; Importing goods to the value of 2,000,000; and exporting gold, copper, tin, silver, wool, tallow, hides, cedar, sugar, molasses, rum, &c., to the value of £1,800,000 yearly. This would give a revenue of £720,000, or nearly five times the amount raised by Queensland in 1860. This amount should provide an ample sum for expenditure in every department, including interest say on a loan of £4,000,000. With such a prospect before us, why should we hesitate to view our future prospects in any other but a favorable light? We have only to look and take into consideration the manner in which our young people are growing up around us. There is not a department in the Government Civil Service but preference is given to a Southern man for any appointment or promotion in the North. There is no hope or inducement ever held out for a Northern man, unless he is fortunate enough to have a staunch and influential friend at head quarters. These, and many other privileges, would be secured among ourselves by self-government. As a part of Federal Australia, we should enjoy all the benefits that have led to the prosperity now enjoyed by the Canadian people. To ensure this we must be firm and unanimous in our petition to Her Majesty the Queen. The Colonial office will no doubt remove any existing difficulty, and pave the way to the strengthening of the Colonial Empire.

In urging the consideration of the foregoing upon the general public, I would point out that there cannot be any particular interest to serve in any one industry more than another, or to the advantage or detriment of one district more than another. The ultimate result must be good for all throughout the North, as all over the colonies and at home the Franchise places the power in the hands of the working man, who, after a six months' residence, has a vote, and is placed on the Electoral Roll. The Electoral Rolls for the North will no doubt number 15,000 names. With that number how are we represented? It will here be noted that we are restricted to eight members, containing 12,080 electors, to more than one-third of the territory. How can we be considered to be fairly represented, when in the extreme

South there are sixteen electoral districts, with 12,056 electors returning sixteen members, or double the number returned by the North? Again, there are four Southern electoral districts, containing 5,821 electors, returning two each or eight members, while the Kennedy with 2,785 and Townsville with 2,934, or a total of 5719, have the right of returning only three members. These figures illustrate how unequal is the distribution of the Electoral districts.

It will be seen at a glance that the South has the majority of members and preponderance of voting power at all times, which they are likely to continue retaining, and which we are powerless to adjust so long as the South have the authority in their hands. It was the fact that all these various drawbacks would continue to handicap us and our industries to such an extent that our future progress must be retarded for years to come, the serious results of which were looming in the distance, that compelled several to ask the question, what is the best thing to do under the circumstances? The instinct common to all British subjects should answer that question. The perusal of all the Northern newspapers of the day points out that in the absence of an entire reform by a Redistribution Bill, extension of power to local police courts, with better provision for the administration of justice, the formation of Harbour Trust for all the principal ports, and changing the seat of Government to a more central position, there is only one alternative, and that is TERRITORIAL SEPARATION. You will see that, as there is no chance of the FIRST, consequently there is no choice for you but the SECOND.



SEPARATION MOVEMENT OF 1878.

The following appeared in the TOWNSVILLE WEEKLY HERALD, on Saturday, November 22nd, 1884, and contains many salient points in favor of Separation:—

RATHER more than six years ago, the people of Bowen commenced an agitation for the separation of North Queensland. The following statement of the facts which they advanced as a basis on which to frame a Separation petition, will doubtless be found interesting just now:—

That previous to the Act of Separation, passed in the Parliament of New South Wales in 1859, a considerable amount of excitement and disaffection was generated among the inhabitants residing at some distance to the North of Sydney, in consequence of flagrant monopoly in the appropriation of the public revenues in favor of Sydney and its suburbs, and so far prejudicial to the interests of the complainants of that time, as to stigmatise the financial dealings of that Government as a series of deliberate and arbitrary confiscations of those portions of the public funds which had been derived from the resources of the Northern districts of that colony.

That after repeated failures, arising from minority in representation, the inhabitants of the Northern districts of New South Wales at length succeeded in procuring Separation, by which they were enabled to form a Government of their own, and lay the foundation of that which is now known as the colony of Queensland.

That previous to the Act of Separation that portion of the colony upon which Brisbane now stands, had been the head quarters of a separate and distinct penal settlement, and the exigencies of the Government officials and prisoners created a trade which resulted in opening up the Brisbane River as a port of entry, and eventually, after the removal of the convicts, in the foundation of the present city as the accepted capital city of the colony.

That the Government officials, and men in power, at the time when the Government of Queensland received its first foundation, had during their period of office, under the Crown of England, acquired, some by free grant for long service, and others by purchase, at a low valuation, large areas of freehold landed property, all of which said estates were laid out and selected in the Southern parts of Queensland, some occupying the site upon which Brisbane now stands, and the others as close to that position as could possibly be obtained.

That at the time of the first formation of the Queensland Legislative Assembly, the members elected consisted of the holders of the land alluded to, and as a natural consequence, the leading efforts of that Legislature were directed towards enhancing the value of their own properties by investing the public funds in the general improvement of the district in which they were situated, and such has remained the practice up to the present time.

That from the first foundation of the colony of Queensland a considerable period had elapsed before this monopoly in the appropriation of the

public revenues began to be felt by the gradual advance of settlement in a northerly direction, but when manifested in its operations resulted in a demand for Separation by Rockhampton at a very early period of our history.

That colonisation in a northerly direction had continued to be very slow until the opening out of the Northern goldfields, which afforded inducement for the advance of Victorian and new Zealand miners in that direction.

That the opening out of those goldfields laid the foundation of a colony in the Northern territory, essentially distinct in its elements and consisting of men long accustomed to the laws of New Zealand and Victoria, and which, being in every respect far in advance of the legislation of Queensland, the inhabitants of the Northern territory have now determined upon appealing to the Crown of England for power to form a separate government, with a view to assimilating the rights and privileges of their Corporations to those of Great Britain, New Zealand, and Victoria, whereby a fair distribution of the public revenues will, by affording employment to the disappointed miner, place him in a position to renew his efforts in prospecting, and thus assist in developing the mineral resources of the country, and by the free circulation of its revenue become the means of inducing capitalists to approach and speculate upon the prospects of a country well known to possess a vast amount of mineral treasure, but who, under existing laws, are disparaged and deterred from enterprise.

That notwithstanding the enormous increase of general revenue which the opening out of our Northern goldfields, and the consequent opening of new ports, and the foundation of new seaport towns, has secured to the Colonial Treasury, the Brisbane Government has persisted in a most deliberate and determined confiscation of those public monies, without the least regard for the exigencies of the people, or for the wants and requirements of the localities in which these public revenues have been produced.

That the Northern Territory of Queensland contains a vast extent of most valuable mineral resources, which, under the control of a fair and impartial legislation, would open up a field for the profitable employment of many thousands of inhabitants, but which, under existing rule, must forever remain undeveloped and useless to the world.

That while the members of the present Government, representing Southern interests and consisting, as they do, of the proprietors of soil in the Southern districts, must, as a matter of necessity, continue to be returned to Parliament by Southern franchise, the Northern territory could never be able, without territorial Separation, to carry such measures as are now felt to be indispensable for the development of their own resources, or for the general prosperity of their community, inasmuch as their representative influence is, and must necessarily remain, under existing circumstances, not only a minority, but simply a party without a particle of power in the present Parliament, because although an Electoral Bill may be introduced immediately which would bestow upon Northern interests a complete balance of power, and no other would be efficacious, it would be thrown out by the overwhelming majority at present representing Southern interests.

That a territory suddenly colonised by the discovery of new goldfields, and having comparatively insignificant representation in Parliament, has no power to establish a fair representation in that Parliament so long as the interests of the men in office are antagonistic to those seeking new electoral rights; or, in fact, seeking for any measures for the amelioration of their condition, and that consequently the inhabitants of the Northern territory

of Queensland have no other legitimate means of acquiring the rights to be hereinafter particularised, and which have been obstinately refused by the Brisbane Government, than by an appeal to the Crown under which the colony holds its constitution.

That the inhabitants of the Northern territory of Queensland are not governed by laws in any way similar to those enjoyed by the inhabitants of Great Britain and Ireland, notwithstanding that, as British subjects, they are entitled to be ruled in such a manner as will afford them the same privileges, as for example the town lands in Great Britain and Ireland have, throughout time immemorial, been transferred by Charter from the Crown to the corporations of the respective townships, and all public docks and wharves in seaport towns have been likewise universally recognised, by right of old Saxon usage as the property of the corporations, for the sole and exclusive benefit of the town to which they belong; and this right to such emoluments so required by usage was confirmed by Magna Charta in the reign of King John in the year 1216; and whereas no attempt has ever been made by a British Parliament to deprive the British subjects of those emoluments, it is submitted that the conduct of the Brisbane Government in ignoring the administration of justice in England, although laid down for our special guidance, is subversive of constitutional law, and entitles the inhabitants of the Northern territory to the right of appeal to the Crown direct for Territorial Separation from a Government under which their vested interests in the colony are going to ruin, and under which the present inhabitants can never peaceably exist.

That in consequence of long-continued public clamour against the abuses of power persevered in by the Brisbane Government, a tour through the Northern territory was undertaken by the present Ministry in the latter end of 1877, who were received by deputations, which, in too many instances, consisted in part of men disposed to propitiate the Ministry for personal motives, and also in part of others who appeared to be totally ignorant of what were really the rights of the people whom they were professing to represent; thus, in one instance, a deputation asked for a transfer of the wharves to the Corporation, and were as peremptorily refused as though the wharves in question were really the private property of the Minister making that refusal, instead of the inherent right of the Corporation endeavoring to establish their claim, and with the exception of a railway from Cooktown to the Palmer goldfield promised to the inhabitants of that district, and which may be commenced at a time when its construction will be a useless waste of public money, there was really nothing conceded to the people upon that occasion, notwithstanding that their grievances were fully represented.

That with reference to said proposed railway, it is submitted that during the four years preceding—i.e., from the opening of the Palmer goldfields, the road from Cooktown to that district was never really in a fit state for traffic, and at times, through the entire absence of bridges, where bridges should have been immediately erected upon the first discovery of goldfields, the teams loaded with the requirements of the miners were detained for months upon that road before they could reach their destination, resulting in many instances in a serious amount of mortality arising from the want of mere necessaries of life, and that as late as last year the teams loaded at Cooktown for Thornborough in the month of February did not, owing solely to the absence of bridges, arrive at their destination until the month of June following, being a period of five months occupied in a journey of 140 miles.

That among the many urgent demands by Northern interests for the appropriation of their general revenue, a claim was presented to the Brisbane Government in the course of last year for the erection of a bridge across the Burdekin River, as indispensable for the opening out of the country and the advancement of commercial interests; and that, after considerable agitation, the Government consented to raise the amount required for the erection of such bridge by means of a public loan for the amount, bearing interest at the rate of four per cent. per annum.

That the necessity for incumbering the Northern territory might be easily understood if the Treasury were in a bankrupt state, but whereas the reverse is the case, and that in reality a very large amount of surplus revenue is lying idle in the Brisbane Treasury, no other motive can be assigned for such unwarranted proceedings than that the present Government, foreseeing that the separation of the Northern territory is becoming every day more inevitable, are merely making provisions to meet that contingency by the illegal retention of the surplus revenue now due to the Northern territory, and which they positively refuse to refund to the rightful owners, and which ought to be in the hands of the Corporations of the Northern territory for circulation at a time when the requirements of the people render their possession not merely desirable, but an imperative necessity.

That in the year an effort was made by the Northern territory to obtain Separation by means of a petition to the Crown, but in consequence of no resolution having been previously brought before our Legislative Assembly, the Home authorities declined to entertain the petition.

That the Customs' revenue collected at the port of Brisbane, while represented as the actual revenue of that place, and upon which Brisbane has been for many years, and is still receiving its proportion of the general revenue, yet was not, nor is it now, the actual Customs' revenue of Brisbane, inasmuch as the greater portion of the goods which paid and produced that Customs' revenue, surreptitiously placed to the credit of Brisbane, was consumed by the inhabitants in the Northern territory, and hence those goods, being consumed in the Northern territory, were paid for by their consumers; and that, as the purchase included payment of duty, the Customs' revenue produced by the consumption of said goods did not belong to the credit of Brisbane, but to that of the place in which, by consumption, said revenue was really produced; and hence it is averred that by this system the interests of Brisbane have been and are still being aggrandised at the expense of our Northern territory.

That during the number of years elapsed since the first opening of the Northern goldfields the amount of Northern revenue monopolised by Brisbane in the manner hereinbefore explained must necessarily be enormous in the extreme, inasmuch as, although a few of the merchants in the Northern territory imported direct from Sydney, yet in every seaport town there were and are to be found extensive business establishments which are merely branches of Brisbane firms, and it is the practice of such firms always to pay the duty in Brisbane upon the goods which they forward to their branch establishments in the Northern territory, and with the knowledge that such a system of misappropriation has been deliberately carried on for a number of years, it cannot be expected that the inhabitants of the Northern territory can have any confidence whatever in a continuance of such a system of legislation.

That the discovery of new goldfields has had, as it must ever have, the effect of forming new townships, both inland and seaport, which, if allowed

to advance as in a free country, the prospects of the Northern Territory of Queensland would be very different to what they are; but instead of advancing with an encouraging hand to commercial and mining interests in the formation of those townships upon whose prosperity the lives of many hundreds of people are depending, the Government of Brisbane has adopted a course which, in itself arbitrary and tyrannical, is calculated to cripple the man of business, paralyse the energy of the miner, and completely annihilate the very enterprise which, in its free exercise, would be conducive to prosperity among a hard-working and struggling population, and with a view to illustrating this line of conduct on the part of the Government, a reference is submitted to a land sale which took place in the town of Cairns in the early part of the month of February, 1877:—thus, the opening out of the Hodgkinson goldfield rendering the discovery of a more convenient seaport than that of Cooktown desirable, the port of Cairns was selected as a place likely to be the most suitable for the purpose. The first settlement commenced with calico tents in the month of October, 1876; wooden buildings commenced to be erected in the end of November, 1876, and in the early part of February following, being a period of a little over two months, from the first surveyed formation of the streets and selection of allotments, the whole of that struggling township was deliberately forced into public auction, and the allotments held by striving, enterprising, and useful members of society, were relentlessly sold to the highest bidder by the Brisbane Government.

That at a distance of seventeen miles from the town of Cairns, a rough track was cut by the Government over the coast range, which as a means of establishing permanent traffic to the Hodgkinson proved a complete failure, and hence the necessity for a better route resulted in the opening of Port Douglas, which, being favorable to mining interests, leaves the township of Cairns without any prospect of a fair return for investment in building, and without the smallest particle of landed interest in exchange for the money paid for the purchase of allotments, or rather invested from the hands of struggling enterprise, at the very time when, as yet the success of the Hodgkinson as a goldfield remained undecided, and when the actual pretensions of Cairns as a suitable site for the port required was a mere matter of experiment, and it is submitted that the sacrifice of Northern interests exemplified in the foregoing statement must necessarily establish a conviction that Northern interests have really no claim to consideration in the estimation of the Brisbane Government, especially when its conduct with respect to said foregoing land sale is laid side by side with the fact that there were townships then in existence in the *Southern* districts which had been settled upon many years before Cairns was thought of, and which were in a prosperous state, without any interference upon the part of said Government or any indication up to a recent period, as to allotments in said latter townships, being as yet set up for public auction.

That while town lands in Queensland have been disposed of by public auction, and the proceeds lodged in the Brisbane Treasury, such has not been the practice in Great Britain and Ireland, wherein the corporations become the proprietors by Crown grant of the ground, and grant leases to the occupants of allotments in their city and towns for ninety-nine years renewable for ever, at a rent equal to five per cent. upon the estimated value of such ground, and the corporations being the recipients of those rents are in possession of an important item towards a local revenue to be invested in the erection of public buildings and the general improvement of their towns.

That the wharves in Great Britain and Ireland are recognised by Parliament as the undisputed property of the corporations of the respective towns to which they belong, and by means of the fees produced by wharfage, another important item is added to the income of the corporation.

That all hotelkeepers' and publicans' licenses are in New Zealand and Victoria the property of the Corporations.

That in the colony of Victoria it has always been the practice of Municipal Shire Councils and Road Boards to make out an estimate of the local revenue to be derived from ground rent, wharfage, licenses, fines, fees from Town Commons, and town rates, and for every pound so raised, the Shire Council or Road Board receives an additional pound from the Colonial Treasury, out of the general revenue.

That by supplementing the local revenues in the manner described, the Corporations are enabled to increase the value of their town property by the increase of population, secured by the employment of labour, and the free and unrestrained circulation of the public monies.

Note.—There are, of course, many more items of importance, which might be introduced either in the petition or, as suggested by some of our friends here, be embodied with some of the foregoing grievances, and published in the form of a pamphlet to accompany the petition when on its way round for signatures. For instance, the large amount of surplus revenue now due to the Northern territory, and lying idle in the Colonial Treasury at the very time when its circulation would rescue colonial interests from impending ruin, establishes ground for complaint which the home Government cannot possibly refuse to entertain, and in addition to the amount, presumed to be about £600,000 now due, but which will be definitely ascertained by the return of receipts and expenditure in the Northern territory, now in preparation, it must be manifest that a very large amount must necessarily remain suppressed, on account of the undue appropriation of revenue to the credit of Brisbane, on account of goods paying duty there, which were consumed in the Northern territory.

The inhabitants of Bowen district wish to propose that the petition should ask for a Royal Commissioner to select a site for the future capital of the Northern territory in the same manner as adopted for the centralisation of government in New Zealand, and that, as in that case, the gentlemen selected should be the speakers of the Legislative Assemblies of distant colonies, and would therefore suggest those of Victoria, New Zealand, and Tasmania, and by allowing or suggesting such a course with respect to what otherwise might stand in the way of unanimity, as a bone of contention, it is to be hoped that the promoters of a movement for territorial Separation, no matter where the initiation may take place, may be exonerated from any other motive than the attainment of mere territorial Separation itself as a means of saving their territory from the ruin which it is evidently the end and aim of the Brisbane Government to accomplish.

It is further submitted for consideration that the letters patent granting the Separation of Queensland from New South Wales contemplated a further division of this colony, to commence at Cape Palmerstone, whenever the condition and circumstances of the colony require it, and as the condition renders the change imperative, and the surplus revenue establishes our ability to go alone, there can be very little difficulty in coming to a conclusion as to the success of a petition at the present time to the Crown of England, and the fact that our present Premier, Mr. Douglas, is in favor of Separation, will not escape the attention of the Governor when transmitting the petition to Her Majesty.

APPENDIX.

Remarks made by Mr. Wm. Coote (Author of the "History of Queensland") at a Meeting of the Committee, held at Townsville, on the 14th of November, 1884.

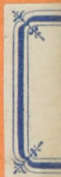
MR. COOTE, who was greeted with continued applause on rising, said that many years ago he heard a leader of the Opposition say to the Premier of England that he was indebted to him for giving certain information, but that his manner of giving it was impertinent. He hoped that the residents of the North would not think him impertinent in coming up here to give what information he could, and assist the Separation movement to the best of his ability. He had intended to come on to Townsville from Brisbane, but he had been asked by Mr. Black to call at Mackay. He acceded to the request, and while there a public meeting had been held. At that meeting there was no party nor class feeling. It was presided over by the Mayor, who was a staunch adherent of the Liberal party. Planters, business men, and working men all joined in the cry for Separation. He was naturally much pleased to notice this, and if it had not been the case he would not have taken the part he was now taking in connection with the movement. The people of Mackay were very earnest in this matter. Townsville had to complain of want of help two years ago, but they would not in future have to make such a complaint of Mackay. There was more reason to fear that like most recent proselytes, they would be more zealous than discreet. The Mackay people had, however, started in a workmanlike manner, appointing a thoroughly representative committee, and subscribing funds liberally. On the general question of Separation he would simply say that the people of North Queensland desired it, no doubt, because they wanted to follow what was a maxim with English speaking people, and govern themselves. He had, in order to show the method of procedure, drawn up a rough draft of a petition to Her Majesty, portions of which he would read them, making comments as he went. Mr. Archer had taken a petition home about sixteen years ago, but it was necessary that such petitions should reach the throne through the Governor, as Her Majesty's representative in the colony. Colonial Parliaments had nothing to do with the matter at all. They had no power to deal with such petitions. That had all been settled in 1860 and 1861. He would, of course, not trouble the meeting with the opening portions of the petition. The first important clauses, showing that the Crown had power to create new colonies, and that provision was made for the adjustment of public debts, were as follows:—
“That on the first day of December, 1859, the colony of Queensland was separated by Royal letters patent from the colony of New South Wales, of which up to that date it had formed a part. That the Western boundary of the new colony was at that time fixed 151st degree of East longitude, leaving the territory included between that line and the 138th degree, which was the eastern boundary of the colony of South Australia,

unannexed and practically without government, while the principal Northern rivers and harbors on the shores of the Gulf of Carpentaria were unavailable for the new colony. That feeling the inconvenience likely to arise under such circumstances, the Parliament of Queensland did, in 1860, apply to your Majesty to permit that 'the Western boundary of Queensland shall be declared to extend at least so far as to include the Gulf of Carpentaria; in other words, that the Western boundary of that colony and the Eastern boundary of South Australia should be coincident, and such extension was recommended by the then Governor, Sir George Ferguson Bowen. That your Majesty's Government did not at once see fit to grant the extension applied for, but some difficulties having arisen as to the adjustment of the public debt and monetary affairs between Queensland and New South Wales, and as to certain constitutional points was not now necessary to be specified, an Imperial statute dealing with the whole, and being chapter forty-four of the statutes passed in Session holden in the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth years of your Majesty's happy reign, received your Majesty's Royal assent. That by such statute power was given to your Majesty to create a new colony or colonies upon the petition of the inhabitant householders of any of the territories lying North of 30th degree of south latitude; and while provision was made for the adjustment of any debt incurred by the parent colony previous to such creation, the restriction previously existing that the constitution of a new colony should be as nearly as possible assimilated to that of New South Wales was abolished. That in the year 1861, and in consequence of a renewed application on that behalf, the Western boundary of Queensland was removed to the 138th degree of East longitude, and that in the despatch announcing such extension, the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Duke of Newcastle, expressly stated and enforced the power of your Majesty's Government to deal with the districts not yet settled, as the wishes and convenience of the future settlers may hereafter require. That no portion of the colony of Queensland beyond the 22nd degree of south latitude was at that time settled, although efforts were making towards the occupation for pastoral pursuits of some portion of that country. That the population of that portion of the colony lying south of the 22nd degree of south latitude is now three times the number of the whole population of Queensland on the first day of December, 1859; that its trade in the year 1883 was, exclusive of goods received coastwise and from Brisbane, twice that of the entire colony in the year 1859; that the revenue derived from it is more than three times the receipts of the whole colony in the year named; and that from the vast mineral and industrial resources which every year's growing settlement discloses, and the advantage which its seaboard offers to a trade with the Indian Empire, and with China and Japan, there is abundant reason for believing that the present population trade and revenue will, within the next five years, be more than doubled. That in the legislature of Queensland your petitioners are, and have reason to believe may look to be for a long time to come most inadequately represented, and that in consequence of this, while in administration they have not an equitable proportion of the public expenditure, in legislation they suffer by loans which, from want of information, or from prejudice in the framers as to the real nature and requirements of the Northern portion of the colony, injure their industries, depress their trade, and thereby inflict on them grievous injustice. At the present time not one member of the Government resides in the North, or has any more than a casual or secondary knowledge of its natural or industrial requirements. That these evils are

aggravated by the distance between the principal towns of the North and the seat of Government, at present very nigh to the Southern boundary of the colony. In every matter of official or public concern requiring personal explanation, great loss of time and expense is entailed on the residents of the North. In all cases of litigation, wherein reference to the Supreme Court in its appellate jurisdiction is desirable, the costs become so large as oftentimes to defer suitors from seeking the redress to which they are entitled. Thus administrative evils are protracted, and the administration of justice is impeded, and sometimes becomes impossible. That upon all these matters some petitioners have fully informed your Secretary of State for the Colonies and furnished that Minister with verified statistics and documents from official sources as proof of their representations. That your petitioners are confident that the justice and regard to public obligation which has distinguished the Imperial Government during your Majesty's reign will be extended to them. Resting on the promises implied by the Act of Parliament cited, and impressed in the words of your Majesty's Minister, they have laid the foundation for a future colony, superior, even if created at once, to many which enjoy the blessing of your Majesty's protection, second to none in magnitude and variety of its resources, yet but slightly developed, your Majesty's humble petitioners pray for self-government in order that they may fully employ those resources, not merely to their own benefit, but to the increase and prosperity of the trade and commerce of the United Kingdom, and of that great Empire over which your Majesty so wisely reigns. In what your petitioners crave leave to look at as the just fulfilment of an obligation they recognise a further step towards that consolidation of the interests and affinities between the Empire and its dependencies, which your petitioners conceive most tend to the welfare and happiness of your Majesty's subjects throughout your dominions." With reference to the adjustment of the public debt, ample provision has been made. The Government of the parent colony and that of the new colony would each appoint an arbitrator, and the Imperial Government would appoint an umpire. It was a mere question of accounts. He had heard of a species of log-rolling by the Southern Government, by giving the railways here and there. If the Government refused a railway on account of this movement, it would be an attempt at intimidation, but if they got the railway they would have to pay for it. When the Act of Parliament referred to in the petition he had read was passed, the Duke of Newcastle, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, had expressly stated the method of dealing with a new colony. If Northern residents really wished for Separations they only need show that they were able to govern themselves. At that time there was no settlement south of Cape Manifold, now the population to the north of that point was three times as great as was that of Queensland to the south of it in 1859. That was a fact and an important one. The Separation of Queensland was celebrated on the 10th of December, but the new colony was really proclaimed on the first, the tenth being only the day on which Sir George Bowen landed. He had said in reference to the trade with Europe and the East that it would probably double in the next five years. His hearers, he knew, were as fully convinced of that as he was. All these figures he was certain of having gone through them very carefully. Coming to what he might term the sentimental portion of their reasons, there was the fact that they were most inadequately represented in the Legislature. Of the fifty-five members of the Assembly, how many were Northern representatives? About six against forty-nine Southern representatives. The consequence is an inequitable

partition of the expenditure and legislation which, from pure ignorance of Northern requirements, inflicted the grossest injustice. No member of the present Government resided in the North, or knew anything of it, except what could be gained from brief visits at long intervals. He himself had no idea of the real truth about Northern Queensland, its riches and its climate, until he visited it. These evils under which they suffered were aggravated by their distance from the seat of Government. Look at the loss of time and the expense entailed in cases of appeal in the Supreme Court. He knew an appeal case in which, in order to recover £800, a Northern suitor had to expend £600 in costs. His hearers knew of these evils, and had suffered from them. They had but to appeal to the Queen and she was under an obligation to grant them Separation. He could point out numbers of British colonies with less population and far less resources than the new colony would have. He conceived that it was better to separate at once to prevent discontent and ill-feeling between the North and the South. Look at the quarrels between Port Philp and Sydney, between Moreton Bay and Sydney. It would be better for the happiness and prosperity of everyone that they should understand that Northerners intended to govern themselves. They could not in a petition dictate the boundaries of a new colony, but they would, in their letter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, fully inform him on all particulars. He believed that one gentleman who held an important position in the Colonial Office, Sir R. G. W. Herbert, once Premier of Queensland, would prove their friend. He would recognise the injustice they were suffering, and would give them every assistance. He looked on Sir R. Herbert's aid as certain. He would like to make a suggestion as to how to proceed in order to attain that object. They wanted a basis of co-operation between the Northern towns. The best method, he thought, would be for every town to have its own Committee, and to provide for its own expenditure, and to have a central office, with a Secretary. At that office a scheme could be prepared to which the local committees could furnish from their Municipal and Divisional records statistics as to the value of property in each district. Everything should be done through the one central office, from which information as to the progress made could be sent to each local office. It was very necessary to provide facts and figures, and to be careful that they were correct. If that was done he looked on Separation as certain. This movement was not a party one, nor a class one. He looked on Sir Thomas Mellwraith as a very able man, and Mr. Griffith was—Premier. But what the North wanted was to provide its own statesmen to govern itself. Nothing raised a community more than self-respect, and taking the management of its own affairs in hand would give a wonderful impetus to the prosperity of the North. They wanted to provide facts in order to impress on the Imperial Government the justice of their claims, for the men with whom they had to deal would not be moved by empty rhetoric or sentiment. Then they could go to Earl Rosebery and other home residents who had influence, and would support their claims when put before the Imperial Government temperately and practically, and urge the fulfilment of the promise which had been made by Her Majesty in the Imperial statute recently referred to by him.

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