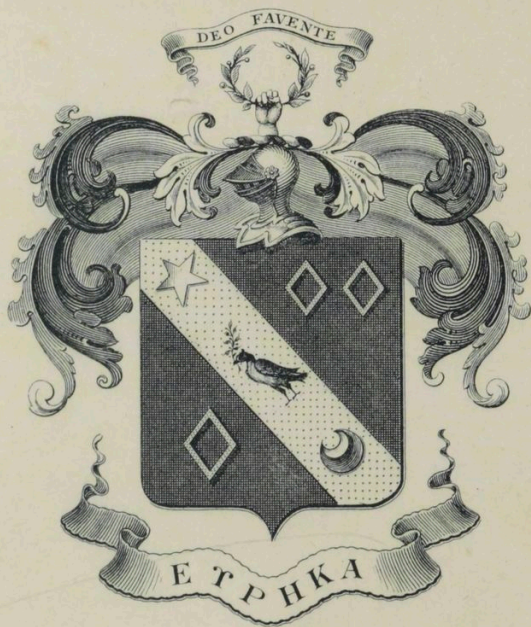


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David Scott Mitchell.

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NOTES

ON

WESTERN AUSTRALIA,

WITH STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

1885.

(THIRD YEAR OF ISSUE)

BY

THE HONORABLE JOHN FORREST, F.M.G.,

F.R.G.S., F.L.S., F.G.S., ETC.,

GOLD MEDALLIST OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON,

COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS AND SURVEYOR GENERAL

OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

WITH A MAP.

PERTH:

BY AUTHORITY: RICHARD PETHER, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1886

J. Mitchell

NOTES

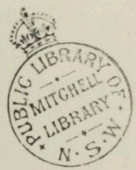
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## PREFACE.


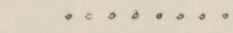

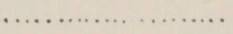
MY "Notes on Western Australia, 1884," are now out of print, and in this third edition I have added and altered them so as to bring them up to 31st December, 1885. They are intended to supply, in a concise form, information often inquired for, respecting the Colony as a field for immigration and investment, and are purposely very short, in order that they may be read in a few minutes. I can only hope that intending immigrants and others may be able to derive from them some of the information they require.

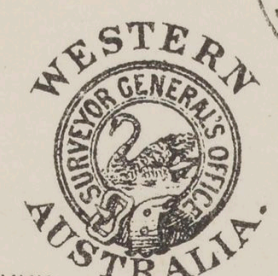
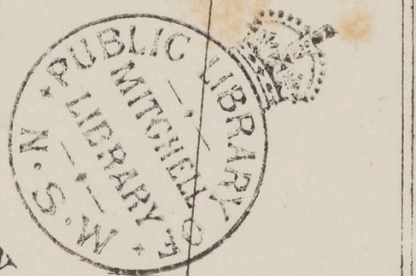
The short "Introduction," giving a record of the Discoverers and Explorers of the Western Coast of Australia from the earliest times, may be of interest to some.

JOHN FORREST.

Perth, W.A., March, 1886.

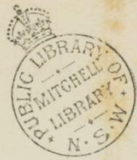
# WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Railways shown thus   
 Telegraphs   
 Boundaries of Land Districts   
 Routes of Steamships 



Hon. J. Forrest CMG.  
 Surveyor General





## INTRODUCTION.

THE first discovery of the Western Coast of Australia of which we have a fairly authentic account was made by Dirk Hartog in the ship "Endracht," and Dirk Hartog's Island, on the Western side of Sharks Bay, was so named in consequence. A tin plate, having the following inscription upon it, was left at the North end of the island, afterwards named Cape Inscription:—

"25th October, 1616.—Arrived here the ship "Endracht," of Amsterdam. The first merchant Gillis Miebaïs of Luik; Dirk Hartog, of Amsterdam, captain. Sailed for Bantam 27th of same month."

This plate was seen by Vlaming in 1697, and by Baudin in 1803, but had disappeared in 1838, when it was searched for by Sir George Grey.

In 1619 Van Edels visited the coast near what is now known as Champion Bay, and gave his name to it.

In 1622 the South-west corner of Australia was discovered in the ship "Leeuwin," and the South-west Cape still bears the name of Cape Leeuwin.

In 1627 the South coast from Cape Leeuwin eastward towards the Great Australian Bight was discovered in the ship "Gulde Zeepart," and was named Nuyts Land. The magnificent flowering tree *Nuytsia floribunda*, commonly called the "Christmas or Cabbage tree," was named by Robert Brown, the great naturalist, in honor of Nuyts.

In 1628 the coast between Sharks Bay and Champion Bay was discovered by De Witt, and was named "De Witt's Land."

In 1629 Pelsart, in the ship "Batavia," was wrecked on Houtman's Abrolhos. The story of this shipwreck, and of the adventures of the immigrants, the mutiny, the supposed treasure, the marooning of two of the mutineers on the mainland near Champion Bay in 1629, are well known to all readers of early voyages. Captain Wickham, R.N., in 1839, found on an island of the Abrolhos, named by him Pelsart Island, a part of the ship "Batavia," with a coin dated 1620, besides several fragments of corroded iron, &c.

In 1644 Tasman examined the North-western coast from the Gulf of Carpentaria to De Witt's land.

In 1688 Dampier visited the North-west coast near Roebuck and Beagle Bays, and gave an interesting account of the aborigines, whom he describes as the "miserablest people in the world."

On Christmas Day, 1696, Vlaming discovered Swan River (so named by him on account of black swans being first seen on it), and Rottneest Island. He captured and took away with him several of the black swans, and, proceeding northward, examined the coast as far as the North-west Cape, passing Sharks Bay, where he recorded his visit on the tin plate left by Dirk Hartog in 1616, near what is now called Cape Inscription.

In 1699 Dampier again visited the Western coast, examined Sharks Bay, so named by him, though it had formerly been named Dirk Hartog Bay by Dirk Hartog, in 1616. He also discovered and mapped Dampier Archipelago, and added largely to the knowledge of the habits and customs of the aborigines and the natural history of the country.

In 1726 the ship "Zeephyk" was wrecked on Houtman's Abrolhos, in lat. 28° 53' S. near Gun Island (so named by Captain Wickham, R.N., in 1839, as he found a gun upon it besides many relics of the wrecked ship). The crew were able to build a boat from the fragments of the wreck, and reached Batavia in safety. In 1882 I visited Gun Island and found a large number of common clay pipes, a large quantity of broken bottles, wine glasses, corroded iron, &c., as well as two coins bearing date 1720 and 1722.

In 1772 it is stated that Captain St. Alouarn anchored near Cape Leeuwin, and no doubt St. Alouarn's Island, near the Cape, is so named in consequence.

In 1791 Vancouver discovered King George's Sound and Oyster Harbor, and a tablet near a well he dug has recently been erected recording his visit.

The following year D'Entrecasteaux, in search of Count La Perouse and his officers and crew, who had not been heard of since 1788, examined the South coast, naming Esperance Bay, the Recherche Archipelago, &c. The celebrated botanist, Labillardiere, accompanied this expedition, and he has left us an account of the voyage.

In 1802 Flinders, in the ship "Investigator," examined and carefully mapped King George's Sound, Princess Royal Harbor, and the whole of the South coast. He was accompanied on this expedition by Robert Brown, the great naturalist, and William Westall, the famous landscape painter.

In 1803 Baudin and Hamelin, in the French ships "Geographe" and "Naturaliste," in search of Count La Perouse expedition, examined the West coast from Cape Leveque to Cape Leeuwin, naming the Naturaliste Channel and many other localities in Sharks Bay, Leschenault Inlet, Geographe Bay, Cape Naturaliste, Cape Hamelin, and many other places, the names of which are now familiar to all West Australians. Baudin was accompanied on this expedition by the naturalist Leschenault.

In 1818 Captain Freycinet examined the Western coast and visited Sharks Bay, and the naturalist Gaudichaud has left an account of this voyage in his "Botanique Voyage autour du Monde, par Freycinet."

After this the next record is that of Captain (afterwards Admiral) P. P. King, R.N., between the year 1818 and 1822, who carefully surveyed the whole Western coast from King George's Sound to Cambridge Gulf. King's charts and sailing directions, with additions by Wickham and Stokes and others, are for the most part in use at the present time. In these surveys he was assisted by Lieutenant (afterwards Commander) Roe, R.N., the first Surveyor-General of this Colony, as well as by Allan Cunningham the naturalist.

In 1826 the Government of New South Wales despatched a detachment of the 39th Regiment, under Major Lockyer, to King George's Sound to form a settlement.

In 1828 Captain (afterwards Sir James) Stirling, R.N., in H.M.S. "Success," surveyed the coast from King George's Sound to Swan River, and on the 1st of June, 1829, the Colony of Western Australia was founded by Captain Stirling, who was appointed Lieutenant-Governor.

From 1829 to 1884 the Colony has steadily progressed, though sometimes at a slow rate. To those who would wish to trace its history through these 55 years, the following notes will not be sufficient, their object being merely to show its position at the present time. Its explorers have traversed nearly the whole of its immense territory, and have proved that the portion lying between the coast and the watershed of the rivers falling into the sea is well suited for settlement. At the present time 150 millions of acres are leased from the Crown, and the revenue derived from land is about £100,000 a year.

The policy of building Railways on what is termed the "Land Grant System" has recently been approved; and contracts have been entered into for the construction of a line of Railway from Beverley to Albany (a distance of 240 miles), and from Guildford to the Greenough (a distance of 260 miles) during the next seven years, in consideration of a land payment of 12,000 acres a mile and the introduction of a number of immigrants.

No payable gold field has yet been discovered in the Colony, but recently most encouraging reports have been received as to the auriferous character of a large area in the Kimberley District. The future prospects of the Colony are good, and it can be confidently stated that it offers a fair field for capital and enterprise.

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# WESTERN AUSTRALIA

On 31st December, 1885.

**W**ESTERN AUSTRALIA is about one third of the Australian Continent, and comprises all that portion lying to the Westward of the 129th Meridian of East Longitude. Its area is about a million square miles, and is therefore about eight times the size of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and as large as the combined areas of Spain, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Denmark, Holland, Portugal, Greece, and Belgium.

## CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT.

The constitution is what is called "Representative." The Government is administered by a Governor appointed by the Crown and assisted by an Executive Council, appointed also by the Crown, consisting of the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney General, the Colonial Treasurer, the Commissioner of Crown Lands and Surveyor General, and the Director of Public Works and Commissioner of Railways; under the Royal Instructions, power is given to the Governor also to appoint two unofficial members to the Executive Council. There is a Legislative Council consisting of the members of the Executive Council, with the exception of the Colonial Treasurer, 4 nominees of the Governor, and 16 elected members. This Council is presided over by a Speaker.

The franchise for electors is £100 freehold, or householders of £10 annual value, or lessees of Crown Lands to the same amount annual rent. The qualification for members is the possession of £1000 freehold beyond encumbrances.

There are 13 electoral Districts,—Perth, Fremantle, and the North District return two members each, and the remaining Districts one member each.

## POPULATION.

The population is only 35,186, and is generally scattered along the whole seaboard and within 100 miles of it. In a few cases, however, settlement extends nearly 300 miles inland.

During 1885, the population from all sources increased by 2,228, and recently a tide of immigration has set in from South Australia of over 100 persons a month. Added to this, the Immigration Board is introducing immigrants from England, both nominated and selected, so that during 1886 it is expected that a large increase to the population will take place.

New-comers as a rule expect to find employment and have a desire to remain in the towns, but this must soon come to an end, and it must clearly be understood that what is wanted is a class of immigrants ready and able to undertake the improvement and cultivation of the soil. Under any circumstances, however, Towns are certain to attract more than are actually required.

## PRODUCTS.

The principal products are wool, timber, lead, copper, pearls, pearl shells, wheat and other cereals, guano, sandalwood, wine, fruits, horses, cattle, &c., &c. The export of wool for 1885 was valued at £248,400, timber £67,850, lead ore £3,255, copper ore £1,792, pearls and pearl shells £58,496, sandalwood £36,216, horses £10,475, cattle and sheep £1,242, dogs £117, guano £3,432, gum £1,091, provisions £8,905, skins £2,259, &c., &c.

## PASTORAL.

To the north of latitude 28° South, the country is used almost exclusively for pasturage, and is eminently suited for horses, cattle, and sheep. The largest squatting properties are now to be found in the Northern districts of the Colony; and pastoral pursuits are successfully followed there, by enterprising colonists. At the end of 1885 there were 1,702,719 sheep in the Colony, and the estimated value of the export of wool was £248,400, the average price being 1s. per pound.

The Southern portion of the Colony is suited not only for pasturage but also for the growth of cereals, and most other extra-tropical products.

The following is the return of the number of Stock in the Colony, from the last official returns\* :—

| District.                                                                                             | Horses. | Horned Cattle. | Sheep.  | Goats. | Pigs. | Camels. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------------|---------|--------|-------|---------|
| 1. Southern Districts, including Wellington, Sussex, Plantagenet, Williams, Murray and Blackwood. ... | 10927   | 27999          | 283392  | 576    | 5149  | ...     |
| 2. Central Districts, including York, Toodyay and Swan                                                | 12320   | 15489          | 248604  | 1286   | 14327 | ...     |
| 3. Victoria District, including Geraldton, Greenough and Irwin ...                                    | 4481    | 6684           | 310357  | 1266   | 4521  | ...     |
| 4. Gascoyne District ...                                                                              | 1005    | 3004           | 246806  | 325    | 63    | 27      |
| 5. North District ...                                                                                 | 5276    | 15110          | 557963  | 1069   | 213   | ...     |
| 6. Kimberley District ...                                                                             | 383     | 2122           | 55597   | 7      | 7     | ...     |
| Total ...                                                                                             | 34392   | 70408          | 1702719 | 4529   | 24280 | 27      |

\* Blue Book, 1885.

## TIMBER.

The Colony is celebrated for its timber and especially for the *Eucalyptus Marginata*, locally called "Jarrah." This timber is almost inexhaustible, and is celebrated for piles for jetties, wharfs, and bridges, for buildings, railway sleepers, and all purposes requiring durability and imperviousness to the white ant and the *teredo navalis*. It is an easy wood to work and is in request for all purposes of engineering and building throughout Australia, New Zealand, and in India.

The Karri, *Eucalyptus diversicolor*, abounds along the south coast, west of Albany, and grows to a magnificent size. It is very highly spoken of and obtains a place with the Jarrah in South Australia and elsewhere for all engineering purposes.

During 1885 the export of timber was 16,962 loads, estimated value being £67,850, or an average of about £4 a load.

There are a great many other woods, Eucalypts, Banksias, and Acacias, which are very valuable for certain purposes. A description of these timbers is given in Baron von Mueller's excellent work on "Forest Resources of Western Australia, 1879."

## MINERALS.

In the neighborhood of Northampton, and in other localities, splendid lodes of lead and copper are found, and have been for

many years worked on a limited scale. During 1885, only 465 tons of lead ore valued at £7 a ton, and 119 tons of copper ore valued at £15 a ton, were exported. Owing to the depressed state of the lead market, the industry is at present not in a flourishing condition, but if the price improves, the supply seems almost inexhaustible. A railway connects Northampton with its seaport, Geraldton, a distance of 34 miles.

### PEARLS AND PEARL-SHELLS.

All along the north-western coast to the north of latitude 25° South, the pearl oyster abounds, and pearls and pearl-shells are obtained by native divers. The industry is a very remunerative one, and the value of the export for 1885 was £58,496, viz., pearl-shells £41,216, the average price being about £145 a ton, Sharks Bay shells £2280, the average price being £5 a ton, and pearls £15,000, estimated value. The coast north of King Sound has scarcely been as yet examined for this industry, but there is no doubt that vast treasures of pearls and pearl shells exist between there and our Eastern boundary. Single pearls have realised nearly £1,000, in some instances.

There is an export duty of £4 a ton on pearl-shells, with the exception of Sharks Bay and dead shells, upon which £1 per ton is charged.

### WHEAT AND CEREALS.

During the last few years the small population of the Colony has had so many outlets for its energy, in the prosecution of the timber industry, pastoral pursuits in the new districts to the North, pearl fisheries, &c., that there have not been sufficient people left to conduct the cultivation of the soil. As a consequence, cultivation and farming employments, being the least tempting and requiring the greatest amount of manual labor, have had the least attention.

With increase of population, liberal land laws, and improved means of communication, there is a certainty that the cultivation of the soil will proceed, and as there is abundance of land in the Central Districts of the Colony suited for the growth of cereals, there is no doubt but that the industry will be followed with advantage, and that in the future a large peasant population will be settled upon the land.

Nearly everything that is required by the working man can be easily grown, and by perseverance and frugality he can be certain of securing a good living for himself and his family.

There are at present 77,728 acres of land under cultivation, and the yield per acre for 1885 was, wheat  $11\frac{1}{2}$  bushels, barley  $14\frac{1}{2}$  bushels, oats  $14\frac{1}{2}$  bushels, maize  $12\frac{1}{2}$  bushels, hay 1 ton, potatoes  $2\frac{1}{2}$  tons. Agriculture is confined entirely to the portion of the Colony South of Latitude  $28^{\circ}$  S. The following is a comparison of the produce of crops per acre between Western Australia and the other Colonies of Australasia between 1873 and 1884:—\*

| Colony.                  | Bushels per acre of |       |         |        |                | Tons per acre of |      |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------|---------|--------|----------------|------------------|------|
|                          | Wheat.              | Oats. | Barley. | Maize. | Other Cereals. | Potatoes.        | Hay. |
| Western Australia ... .. | 11·36               | 15·87 | 14·79   | 29     | 11             | 2·75             | 1·19 |
| South Australia ... ..   | 7·90                | 12·99 | 12·52   | —      | 14·71          | 3·32             | 1·11 |
| Victoria ... ..          | 12·52               | 20·83 | 20·22   | 45·64  | 25·48          | 3·37             | 1·26 |
| New South Wales ... ..   | 14·93               | 20·31 | 20·38   | 36·71  | 14·28          | 2·89             | 1·39 |
| Queensland ... ..        | 11·33               | 14·38 | 17·42   | 28·68  | —              | 2·54             | 1·54 |
| Tasmania ... ..          | 18·19               | 25·36 | 23·84   | —      | 18·88          | 3·47             | 1·27 |
| New Zealand... ..        | 26·28               | 32·32 | 27·28   | —      | —              | 5·14             | 1·29 |

Hayter's Victorian Year Book, 1884-5.

## GUANO.

Licenses to remove deposits of guano existing on any island within the territory can be obtained from the Commissioner of Crown Lands; the ordinary royalty is 13s. per ton on the registered tonnage of the ship. A reward of 10 per cent. of the amount actually received by the Government as royalty will be paid to the discoverer of any new deposits, over 2,000 tons, during five years after the discovery and report. No royalty is charged on Guano intended for use in the Colony. During 1885, 528 tons were exported, valued at £3,432.

## SANDALWOOD.

The sandalwood tree, *Santalum Cynnorum*, has a wide range throughout South-Western Australia. A large export has hitherto gone on annually, that for 1885 being about 4,527 tons, estimated value being £36,216, or an average of about £8 a ton. It is by no means an inexhaustible product, but the export will continue for several years to come. There is a duty of 5s. per ton on all sandalwood exported.

## WINE.

The vine grows luxuriantly throughout the Southern portions of the Colony, and it is merely a question of planting, to ensure an abundant crop of grapes. Owing to the small population and the numerous industries requiring attention, there are but few large vineyards; but as population increases, there will no doubt be a large export of wine, raisins, &c. At the end of 1885 there were 624 acres of vines in the Colony.

## FRUITS.

Fruit trees are easily grown, and bear abundantly. The following are among those most commonly seen:—Apples, pears, apricots, nectarines, peaches, grapes, figs, plums, mulberries, quinces, almonds, guavas, currants, English and Cape gooseberries, oranges, lemons, citrons, bananas, strawberries, loquats, pomegranates, olives, melons, &c., &c.

## HORSES AND CATTLE.

The number of horses exported during 1885 was 838, and the estimated value was £10,475, or an average of £12 10s. each. During the last 20 years, horse-breeding has been neglected, owing to its not being considered sufficiently remunerative, but recently more attention is being given to it, especially in the Northern portion of the Colony, and it seems pretty certain that the Indian Market will in the future look to North-Western Australia for its principal supply. Horses and cattle thrive well everywhere throughout the Colony.

## LAND REGULATIONS.

The head of the department of lands is the Commissioner of Crown Lands, who also is Surveyor General of the Colony. The Land Revenue, from all sources, during 1885, amounted to £100,550.

The Colony is divided into five land districts, viz., Central, Central-Eastern, South-Eastern, North, and Kimberley; the limits of these districts are shown on the accompanying map.

In the Central or Home District, land is alienated to the first applicant at 10s. an acre, in lots of any size not less than 40 acres, except for garden purposes, when as little as 10 acres can be bought, or on Special Occupation, with certain improvements, by annual

instalments for 10 years of 1s. an acre. When the improvements, which consist of fencing the whole and cropping one quarter, are completed, and 10s. an acre is paid, a Crown Grant issues; but until the improvements are completed the annual instalment of 1s. an acre must be continued even after the full 10s. has been paid. The minimum size of blocks under Special Occupation is 100 acres; there is no maximum. Free selection before survey is permitted. Crown Lands are leased for pasture in the Central District in blocks of not less than 10,000 acres, to the first applicant, at £1 per thousand acres, and on annual license for areas not less than 3,000 acres, at the same rate. The termination of all leases in this district takes place at end of 1887.

In the Central-Eastern, South-Eastern, and North District land is sold in blocks of not less than 400 acres, at 5s. an acre, and is leased for pasture at 5s. per thousand acres for the first half, and 10s. per thousand acres for the second half of the lease, in blocks of not less than 20,000 acres. All such leases terminate at the end of 1893. A lessee may at any time during the first seven years of his lease select from his run any land, not less than 1,000 acres, which he desires to hold under an unconditional preemptive right, at an annual rental of £5 per thousand acres. All such unconditional pre-emptive rights may be redeemed in fee on the following terms:—In the Northern District, if within the first seven years of the lease, by payment of five shillings; and during the remainder of the term of ten shillings for each acre redeemed. In the Central-Eastern and South-Eastern Districts, if within the first seven years of the lease, by payment of two shillings and sixpence; and during the remainder of the term of five shillings for each acre redeemed.

In the Kimberley District land is sold at 10s. an acre to the first applicant, in blocks of not less than 200 acres, and leased for pasture at 10s. per thousand acres, in blocks of not less than 50,000 acres on frontages, and 20,000 acres where there is no frontage. Leases in this district terminate also at the end of 1893. A Stocking Clause provides that one head of large stock or ten head of sheep for every one thousand acres held by a Lessee shall be kept in the district after the first four years of the lease, or double rent paid until such time as the required number of stock are within the district. In the event of the required number of stock not being in the district at the end of 7 years, the lease will be forfeited.

Leases and licenses can be transferred with the approval of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, and on payment of a fee of 10s.

Lessees are entitled to receive from the purchasers of land within their leases the actual value of any improvements they have made on the land purchased.

Town Lands are sold by public auction, the upset price being fixed by the Government.

**TIMBER.**—Licenses to cut timber are issued at 5s. a month for each man employed. Special licenses, at £20 per annum for each 640 acres, are also issued. To encourage timber companies on a large scale, special concessions are given.

**MINERALS.**—Leases for areas not less than 20 acres are granted for 7 years, on certain conditions, at a rental of 5s. an acre, and the land can be purchased by the lessee at £3 an acre, provided certain machinery has been erected, and that the mine has been properly worked.

**NEW LAND REGULATIONS.**—A new code of Land Regulations are now being considered, and will probably be proclaimed early in 1887.

### LAND TRANSFER ACT.

This Act, sometimes known as the "Torrens Act," has been in force several years, and is of great importance as affording an easy and cheap means of dealing with land. All Crown Grants are issued under its provisions.

### KIMBERLEY DISTRICTS.

These new districts comprise that portion of the Colony lying to the North of 19° 30' South Latitude, and are now divided into East and West Kimberley, by a North line from that parallel of Latitude to Mt. Barrett, and from thence to the mouth of the Prince Regent River.

The area of the two districts is about 134,000 square miles, of which 55,100 are leased from the Crown, and the remainder (about 78,900 square miles) is open to selection on Pastoral Lease, at 10s. a thousand acres per annum, in blocks not less than 50,000 acres when on a frontage, nor less than 20,000 acres when any part of its boundary shall not be on a frontage, and for a term not extending beyond the 31st December, 1893.

Free selection to purchase, subject to approval, is allowed, and land in any quantity over 200 acres can be bought at 10s. per acre.

A townsite "Derby" has been surveyed on the Eastern shore of King Sound, and a Government Resident for West Kimberley is stationed there; it is becoming rapidly built upon. When the last returns were sent in there were 55,597 sheep, 2122 cattle, and 383 horses on the Fitzroy and Lennard Rivers, in West Kimberley, and on the Upper Ord River, in East Kimberley. All this country has been surveyed and the leading features laid down on the plans of the Colony.

At the head of Cambridge Gulf, the natural outlet of East Kimberley, there is a magnificent harbor, which was visited in 1884 by Staff-Commander Coghlan, R.N., and his interesting and valuable report on it can be obtained at the Survey Office, Perth.

Near this anchorage a townsite "Wyndham" is being laid out, and the Government Resident for East Kimberley stationed there. It will probably soon become a place of considerable importance.

The country on the Ord River has been surveyed, and an extension of the survey to the westward in progress; a considerable number of stock have been sent to this part of the district, and it is being speedily settled.

Running streams are numerous in the Northern portions of this district, and splendid alluvial plains exist in the valleys of the rivers, which it is hoped may be suitable for tropical culture.

A very great deal of attention has been drawn to it from the Eastern Colonies, and extensive areas are held on lease by outside capitalists.

Horses, cattle, and sheep thrive well, and it is believed, by all those best qualified to judge, that it will be a large wool-producing country.

The Government have already expended £10,000 in surveying the district and examining its geology. In his report on the geology of the district, Mr. Hardman, the Government Geologist, states:—

"I am glad to be able to report that I have discovered a large area of country which I believe will prove to be auriferous to a payable degree. This country is traversed by the Margaret, Mary, Elvire, Panton, and Ord Rivers, and comprises an area of at least 2000 square miles so far as observed, but it doubtless

"continues over a much greater extent of country. The formation  
 "is principally Lower Silurian slate and schist of various kinds  
 "traversed by an enormous number of quartz reefs. In some  
 "localities many of these occur in the space of a few hundred yards,  
 "and it was quite usual to notice 25 or 30 large reefs while riding  
 "over a mile of ground, without taking into account the smaller  
 "reefs or veins. The quartz constituting these reefs is of a very  
 "promising character. It is a dull yellowish and grey quartz,  
 "very cellular and vuggy, containing quantities of black and other  
 "oxides of iron, together with casts of, and often crystals of iron  
 "pyrites. From most of the surface quartz the enclosed minerals  
 "have been washed away however, although their traces are still  
 "apparent. Minute specks of gold have been noticed in a few  
 "cases, and I have very little doubt that many of these reefs, when  
 "properly examined and tested, will prove to be auriferous. These  
 "quartz reefs have a general bearing of N. 10 E. to N.E. Many  
 "run due N. & S. Some of them can be traced for several miles.  
 "It is most probable that these quartziferous rocks are a spur or  
 "continuation of the gold-bearing Metamorphic rocks of the  
 "Northern Territory of South Australia, now being worked with  
 "some success. The river valleys and flats are in many places  
 "covered with deposits, sometimes very extensive, of quartz-gravel,  
 "and drift; the quartz being derived from denudation of the reefs  
 "referred to above. I have prospected these gravels over many  
 "miles of country, and I have rarely failed to obtain good colors of  
 "gold; in many localities of a very encouraging character. Very  
 "often good colors were obtained in every pan washed, in different  
 "trials in the same locality. I have thus found gold to be dis-  
 "tributed over about 140 miles along the Elvire, Panton, and Ord  
 "Rivers, &c.; as well as on the Mary and Margaret Rivers, where  
 "the indications were very good, and the appearance of the country  
 "most favorable. In several instances I obtained good colors of  
 "gold at considerable distances from the quartz-bearing rocks from  
 "which the gold could only have been derived. This to my mind  
 "seems to indicate that there must be large quantities of gold in  
 "the quartz-bearing rocks, and in the drifts immediately overlying  
 "them. The gold-yielding country is well watered by numerous  
 "rivers, creeks, and gullies, which even in the driest part of the  
 "year are never wholly without water. And although during the  
 "dry season water is scarce, there would be no difficulty in con-  
 "serving water anywhere in sufficient quantity for all mining  
 "purposes. On the whole, the indications I have met with point,  
 "as I believe, to the great probability of payable gold being  
 "obtained in this part of Kimberley, and are I consider sufficient  
 "to justify the expenditure, either by the Government or private  
 "individuals, of a reasonable sum of money in fitting out a party to  
 "thoroughly test the country, and I should strongly recommend  
 "such an undertaking. I would also suggest the advisability of

“parties going up for this purpose providing themselves with some simple apparatus for crushing and washing some of the reef quartz, as in one very rudely conducted experiment of this kind I obtained a small quantity of gold.”

Recent discoveries have proved that the opinion expressed in this report was correct. Several prospecting parties have been at work in the upper tributaries of the Ord River, and although, owing to the roughness of the country, the distance from both ports, and the great difficulties that were experienced by them, work could only be carried on for a short time, over two hundred ounces of gold have already been sent to Derby, and enough has been done to show the accuracy of Mr. Hardman's conclusion, *i.e.*, that gold exists in considerable quantities, principally in the quartz, but also in the alluvium.

A word of caution might not be amiss to those that may think of going to these districts:—It is not a country that can be “rushed,” as in the old days of Victoria. The gold has at present only been found 300 miles from a port, at neither of which (in 1886) exist any large supplies of provisions, the route lying over very rough country, which will not in itself supply much food except in the dry season, when game might be obtained. The natives are numerous, and have on many occasions shown themselves hostile. A strong party, well-equipped, is absolutely necessary to do anything in these districts, not only with any chance of success, but with any reasonable safety.

### RAILWAYS.

The gauge of Railways in Western Australia is 3 feet 6 inches. There are 124 miles of Government Railway at present working, *viz.*, from Fremantle to York, 90 miles, and from Geraldton to Northampton, 34 miles—there are also 20 miles in course of construction, *viz.*, between York and Beverley.

The Timber Companies have nearly 100 miles of railways or tramways for bringing timber from the ranges to the sea.

In addition to the above, the Government has called for tenders to construct the following lines of railway:—Cossack to Roebourne (Tramway), 7 miles; Geraldton to Greenough, 20 miles; Clackline to Newcastle, 13 miles; Spencer's Brook to Northam, 5 miles; and Bunbury towards the Blackwood, 20 miles. These works will be of great advantage to the Colony.

The revenue received for 1885, from 124 miles of Government Railways then working, was £27,179.

### LAND GRANT RAILWAYS.

Western Australia is the first of the Australian Colonies that has embarked in the policy of building railways on what is termed the "Land Grant System."

A contract has been entered into with Mr. Anthony Hordern to build a railway from Beverley to Albany, a distance of about 230 miles, on condition that for every mile constructed a land payment of 12,000 acres is made. The Contractor binds himself to finish the contract in seven years, to introduce 5,000 immigrants, and to keep the line working when it is completed.

The Railway, when built, is to be the property of the Contractor, but it has to be worked in accordance with certain regulations.

A similar contract has been entered into with Mr. John Waddington, to construct a railway from Guildford to the Greenough, a distance of 260 miles.

It is too soon to express an opinion on the result of these schemes, but it can be stated that if they succeed they must prove of great advantage to the Colony.

The Promoters have sent their own agents to inspect the country, and will no doubt be guided by their advice; they are said to be practical business men, and will therefore no doubt be guided by the one main principle of how best to make money.

### POSTAL.

Postal arrangements embrace the whole of the settled portion of the Colony, both by inland services and by steamers on the coast. There were at the end of 1884 sixty post offices in the Colony; over a million of letters and a million of newspapers were forwarded or received. The postage within the Colony is one uniform rate of 2d. for the half-ounce (letters posted in towns for delivery therein 1d.), and newspapers are free within a week of the issue, after which 1d. is charged. The postage to the Eastern Colonies is 2d. per  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce and  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for newspapers, and to the United Kingdom 6d. per  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce and 1d. for newspapers. The revenue from the Post and Telegraph Office for 1885 was: Postages £10,006, Telegraph

Messages £4,985, Fares by Mail Coach £2,032, or a total of £17,023; and the expenditure £29,851.

### TELEGRAPHS.

Electric Telegraphs are erected throughout the settled portions of the Colony. At the end of 1885 there were 2288 miles of poles, and 870 more miles are about to be erected, 500 miles of which are between Roebourne and Derby; the cost of sending ten words between any two places within the Colony (excepting Perth and Fremantle, which is 6d.) is 1s. The number of telegrams forwarded during 1885 was 116,977, and the revenue received £5,535. There is telegraph communication with South Australia and the world.

### TARIFF AND STAMP ACT.

The revenue derived from Customs during 1885 was £134,116. The duties levied under the Act 46 Vic., No. 5, are either specific or *ad valorem* of from 5 to 12½ per cent. The Stamp Act, 46 Vic., No. 6, produced during 1885 the sum of £6,575. There is a duty of 2 per cent. on bank notes.

### IMMIGRATION.

A sum of £20,000 has been voted by the Legislature to encourage immigration. Free passages are provided from London to the Colony by the Crown Agents to nominated persons, provided certain formalities are complied with. There is a Board of Immigration appointed for the purpose of carrying out the wishes of the Legislature, to which all communications should be addressed. The Office of the Board is in St. George's Terrace, Perth.

381 immigrants were introduced by the Board during 1885, and the expenditure was £5,826.

### EDUCATION.

Government Schools exist all over the Colony and are governed by District Boards working under a Central Board. Compulsory clauses exist in the Act and are enforced.

Assisted Schools by different denominations are also subsidised by the State. The amount expended on Education for 1885 was £10,244. A High School is also subsidised by the State. There is a High School for Girls under the direction of the Anglican Bishop, and another conducted by the Sisters of Mercy.

The following is a comparison as regards Education between Western Australia and the other Australasian colonies, from which it appears that we are a little better than Tasmania and nearly on an equality with New South Wales\* :—

| Colony.               | Proportion per 100 children between 5 and 15 years being who |              |                 |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
|                       | Could read.                                                  | Could write. | Could not read. |
| Western Australia ... | 78                                                           | 61           | 22              |
| Victoria ...          | 91                                                           | 80           | 9               |
| New South Wales ...   | 78                                                           | 65           | 22              |
| Queensland ...        | 81                                                           | 67           | 19              |
| South Australia ...   | 81                                                           | 69           | 19              |
| Tasmania ...          | 76                                                           | 61           | 24              |
| New Zealand ...       | 83                                                           | 68           | 17              |

\* Hayter's Victorian Year Book, 1884-5.

## SHIPPING.

During 1885, the number of ships outwards and inwards together numbered 461, and carried a tonnage of 468,035 tons. Of this number 229 were steam vessels.

Steamers run monthly from Melbourne *viâ* Adelaide, Albany, and the out-ports to Fremantle. P. & O. Steamers arrive at Albany fortnightly from England *via* Colombo and from Sydney *via* Melbourne and Adelaide, making almost a weekly mail service from the Eastern Colonies.

There is a fortnightly steam service between Albany and Champion Bay (Geraldton), touching at Busselton (the Vasse), Bunbury, and Fremantle; also a monthly steam service between Fremantle and Cossack, one almost every month between Fremantle and Derby (King Sound), and also one quarterly, in the months of March, June, September, and December, to Cambridge Gulf (Wyndham); all these services touch at Geraldton, Sharks Bay, Gascoyne (Carnarvon), Ashburton (Onslow), and Cossack.

In addition to these, there is a steam service every two months from Fremantle to Singapore *viâ* Geraldton, Sharks Bay, Carnarvon, Ashburton, Cossack, and sometimes Derby; and a direct steam service every three months from London to Fremantle.

## BANKS.

There are four banking institutions, viz., the Western Australian Bank, the National Bank of Australasia, the Union Bank of

Australia, and the Bank of New South Wales. Branches or Agencies of these banks are established in several of the country towns.

### VOLUNTEERS.

In most of the principal towns Volunteer Companies are found, and the total number of officers and men in the Colony is 578; the total expenditure, during 1885, on account of the force, was £3,605.

### TOWNS.

The principal towns in the Colony, and the number of their inhabitants are—Perth, about 7000; Fremantle, about 5000; Albany, about 1000; Geraldton, about 1000; York, about 800; Bunbury, about 600; Guildford, about 600. About one-third of the entire population of the Colony is therefore located in Perth and Fremantle. There are smaller townships scattered throughout the Colony, viz., Northampton, Busselton, Bridgetown, Pinjarra, Beverley, Northam, Newcastle, Gingin, Chidlow's Well, Carnarvon, Cossack, Roebourne, Derby, Dongara, Denison, Kojonup, Moorumbine, Rockingham, &c., &c., at all of which small centres of population exist.

Perth, the capital of the Colony, is beautifully situated on the right bank of the Swan River estuary, 12 miles from Fremantle, where the river debouches into the sea. A railway connects Perth with Fremantle.

### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

The Supreme Court is presided over by the Chief Justice and one Puisne Judge. In the country districts there are Quarter Sessions, presided over by a Magistrate; and, when occasion requires, the Judges go on circuit. There are also Local Courts of civil jurisdiction in most of the districts monthly, and Police Magistrate's courts daily. Justices of the Peace have jurisdiction over the whole Colony, and not for particular districts.

### MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

The city of Perth and the towns of Fremantle, Geraldton, and Albany have corporations, presided over by a mayor; and in most of the towns there is a municipal council, presided over by a

chairman. The management of the areas within their jurisdiction is entirely entrusted to these bodies, who are elected by the ratepayers. The roads of the Colony are likewise managed by roads boards, elected by the people; and the votes of the Legislature for roads and bridges are entrusted to them.

## PUBLIC DEBT.

Western Australia has now fairly begun to borrow money for the construction of Public Works. Up to the end of 1884, the public debt amounted to £765,000, or an indebtedness per head of the population of £23 4s. 3d. During 1885, a sum of £525,000 was added to the debt, whilst debentures from the loan of 1878 to the amount of £1,900 were redeemed; therefore, on 31st December last, the total amount of the Public Debt was £1,288,100, or an indebtedness of £36 12s. 2d. per head of the population.

The new loan of £525,000 has been raised for the construction of harbor works, railways, jetties, and other works of urgent necessity, and the expenditure of this money will no doubt not only be the means of advancing the Colony by the increased facilities for trade, but will also prove attractive to intending immigrants. Before the amount is expended it is to be expected that the circumstances of the Colony will have greatly improved.

The following table shows the indebtedness of Western Australia as compared with the other colonies of Australasia on the 31st December, 1884; since that time Victoria, New South Wales, and Western Australia have increased their indebtedness\* :—

| Name of Colony.    | Total Amount of Debt. | Indebtedness per head of the Population. | Number of years Revenue Debt is equal to. |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
|                    | £                     | £ s. d.                                  |                                           |
| Western Australia  | 765,000               | 23 4 3                                   | 2·64                                      |
| Victoria ... ..    | 27,526,667            | 28 12 9                                  | 4·64                                      |
| New South Wales    | 30,101,959            | 32 13 6                                  | 4·23                                      |
| Queensland ... ..  | 16,419,850            | 52 19 6                                  | 6·14                                      |
| South Australia... | 15,473,800            | 49 9 5                                   | 7·64                                      |
| Tasmania ... ..    | 3,202,300             | 24 10 7                                  | 5·83                                      |
| New Zealand ... .. | 32,860,982            | 58 4 8                                   | 8·86                                      |

\* Hayter's Victorian Year Book, 1884-5.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOANS.

Table showing the total amount of the Western Australian Loans, and the purpose for which they were raised:—

| Year authorised. | How Expended. |             |        |                    | Discount on sale of Debentures. | Total amount raised. | Debentures redeemed. |
|------------------|---------------|-------------|--------|--------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|                  | Railways.     | Telegraphs. | Roads. | Other Public Works |                                 |                      |                      |
|                  | £             | £           | £      | £                  | £                               | £                    | £                    |
| 1872             | 1675          | 13870       | ...    | 19455              | ...                             | 35000                |                      |
| 1873             | 88061         | 10884       | ...    | ...                | 1055                            | 100000               |                      |
| 1875             | 26000         | ...         | ...    | ...                | ...                             | 26000                |                      |
| 1878             | 137144        | ...         | 48980  | 9796               | 4080                            | 200000               | 1900                 |
| 1881             | 97046         | 48523       | ...    | ...                | 4431                            | 150000               |                      |
| 1882             | 194139        | 48535       | ...    | 3883               | 7443                            | 254000               |                      |
| 1884             | 282000        | 48150       | ...    | 185007             | 9843                            | 525000               |                      |
|                  | 826065        | 169962      | 48980  | 218141             | 26852                           | 1290000              |                      |

## ABORIGINES.

The native population is not large, and in the more settled districts they are fast disappearing. They are very useful to the pioneer settlers, as shepherds, stock-riders, and general station hands, and settlement is very much assisted by their aid. In the Northern Districts they are largely utilised as pearl-shell divers.

As a general rule they are not hostile, though very troublesome when they take to sheep-stealing.

Owing to their innate liking for a roving vagrant life, it has not been found possible to do much for them, except to teach them to be useful. Attempts to make them lead civilised lives have not been attended with much success. They are splendid bushmen, trackers, &c., and are excellent companions for a journey through their country.

## CLIMATE.

The climate of the South-Western portion is said to be one of the finest in the world, and, throughout, the Colony is exceptionally

healthy. In a country extending from  $13^{\circ}$  to  $35^{\circ}$  of south latitude, there is a great range of climate, but even in the farthest North, there is almost an absence of the malarial fevers common to the tropics; the heat is dry, though very oppressive in the Kimberley District, but the nights are tolerably cool; and as far as the present experience extends there is no portion of the Colony that is considered unhealthy. The South-Western corner is, however, the most salubrious, being seldom too hot or too cold, and having regular and temperate seasons. Throughout Western Australia, the traveller camps out at night, generally without any covering but a rug, and never seems to receive any injurious effects. The following is the mean annual death rate of Western Australia from 1865 to 1883, compared with the other colonies of Australasia, some other British possessions, and some of the countries of Europe—for every 1000 of the population\* :—

|                      |     |     |     |       |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Western Australia... | ... | ... | ... | 15·37 |
| New Zealand          | ... | ... | ... | 12·20 |
| South Australia      | ... | ... | ... | 15·11 |
| Tasmania             | ... | ... | ... | 15·35 |
| New South Wales      | ... | ... | ... | 15·54 |
| Victoria             | ... | ... | ... | 15·67 |
| Queensland           | ... | ... | ... | 17·77 |
| Ceylon               | ... | ... | ... | 21·62 |
| Straits Settlement   | ... | ... | ... | 19·96 |
| Hong Kong            | ... | ... | ... | 28·00 |
| Mauritius            | ... | ... | ... | 28·34 |
| Bermudas             | ... | ... | ... | 24·07 |
| Jamaica              | ... | ... | ... | 24·10 |
| Bahamas              | ... | ... | ... | 22·60 |
| Trinidad             | ... | ... | ... | 34·14 |
| Barbadoes            | ... | ... | ... | 23·76 |
| Denmark              | ... | ... | ... | 19·30 |
| Great Britain        | ... | ... | ... | 21·40 |
| Switzerland...       | ... | ... | ... | 23·40 |
| Italy                | ... | ... | ... | 29·50 |
| Spain                | ... | ... | ... | 31·80 |

\* Hayter's Victorian Year Book, 1884-5.

Annexed is a tabular statement showing the general range of the barometer and thermometer at Perth, and the rainfall at various places in the Colony (for which see map).

*Mean and Extreme Results for the year 1885, from Observations taken at Perth Observatory.*

BAROMETER :

|                  |     |     |     |     |                        |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------------|
| Highest reading  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 30·570 on 30th August. |
| Lowest do.       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 29·499 on 12th June.   |
| Range for year   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1·071                  |
| Average for year | ... | ... | ... | ... | 30·057                 |

THERMOMETER :

|                                              |     |     |     |     |                                             |
|----------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------------------------------------|
| Maximum in shade                             | ... | ... | ... | ... | 112° on 1st February.                       |
| Minimum do.                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 34° on 12th July.                           |
| Range for year                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | 78°                                         |
| Highest mean Maximum daily reading for month | ... | ... | ... | ... | 90° March.                                  |
| Lowest mean Minimum daily reading for month  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 48° June, July, August, and September.      |
| Mean temperature for year                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 65°                                         |
| Maximum mean monthly temperature             | ... | ... | ... | ... | 75° January and December.                   |
| Minimum do. do.                              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 59° May, June, July, August, and September. |

SOLAR RADIATION THERMOMETER :

|                 |     |     |     |     |                        |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------------|
| Maximum reading | ... | ... | ... | ... | 165° on 26th December. |
| Mean for year   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 127°                   |

HUMIDITY :

|                                         |     |            |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|------------|
| Mean Maximum for month (saturation=100) | 79° | May, July. |
| Mean Minimum do. do.                    | 56° | March.     |
| Mean for year do. do.                   | 71° |            |

RAIN :

|                            |     |     |     |     |                       |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------|
| Total for the year         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 33·44 inches.         |
| Total number of rainy days | ... | ... | ... | ... | 110.                  |
| Maximum fall for one month | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8·69 inches May.      |
| Do. on any one day         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1·64 inches 20th May. |
| Minimum do. do.            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0·00 inches February. |

*Mean of Monthly Observations taken at Perth for ten years from beginning of 1876 to end of 1885.*

|           | Barometer. | Temperature. | Rain. |
|-----------|------------|--------------|-------|
| January   | 29·917     | 76           | 0·57  |
| February  | 29·937     | 76           | 0·43  |
| March     | 29·998     | 72           | 0·80  |
| April     | 30·088     | 66           | 2·28  |
| May       | 30·070     | 60           | 5·30  |
| June      | 30·118     | 56           | 6·56  |
| July      | 30·142     | 55           | 5·59  |
| August    | 30·107     | 56           | 5·65  |
| September | 30·111     | 60           | 2·24  |
| October   | 30·075     | 64           | 1·65  |
| November  | 29·956     | 69           | 1·12  |
| December  | 29·945     | 71           | 0·59  |
| Mean      | 30·039     | 65           | 32·78 |

*Rainfall in Western Australia for 1885, as compared with mean for previous years :—*

| Station.            | 1885.     |              | Mean.   |              | Years for Mean. |
|---------------------|-----------|--------------|---------|--------------|-----------------|
|                     | Rainfall. | No. of Days. | Amount. | No. of Days. |                 |
| Albany ... ..       | 29·68     | 107          | 31·56   | 88           | 9               |
| Augusta ... ..      | 41·36     | 125          | 44·89   | 123          | 4               |
| Beverley ... ..     | 11·60     | 47           | 14·01   | 39           | 4               |
| Belvoir* ... ..     | 19·34     | 69           | ...     | ...          | ...             |
| Bremer Bay ...      | 18·00     | 112          | ...     | ...          | ...             |
| Bunbury ... ..      | 38·97     | 101          | 35·15   | 97           | 9               |
| Carnarvon ... ..    | 7·33      | 35           | ...     | ...          | ...             |
| Cossack ... ..      | 6·29      | 21           | 8·78    | 18           | 5               |
| Derby † ... ..      | 12·29     | 14           | ...     | ...          | ...             |
| Dongara ... ..      | 19·48     | 68           | 17·67   | ...          | 4               |
| Eucla ... ..        | 9·99      | 95           | ...     | ...          | ...             |
| Esperance Bay ...   | 20·53     | 128          | 23·03   | 128          | 3               |
| Eyre ... ..         | 12·49     | 80           | ...     | ...          | ...             |
| Fremantle ... ..    | 30·28     | 140          | 24·92   | 79           | 9               |
| Geraldton ... ..    | 19·73     | 60           | 18·08   | 42           | 9               |
| Greenough ... ..    | 19·60     | 71           | 19·36   | ...          | 4               |
| Guildford ... ..    | 28·29     | 94           | 32·48   | ...          | 6               |
| Hamelin Pool ‡      | 7·43      | 38           | ...     | ...          | ...             |
| Israelite Bay ...   | 16·04     | 88           | ...     | ...          | ...             |
| Jarrahdale ... ..   | 38·80     | 101          | 38·54   | 95           | 4               |
| Jayes ... ..        | 25·71     | 118          | ...     | ...          | ...             |
| Kojonup ... ..      | 19·00     | 90           | ...     | ...          | ...             |
| Newcastle ... ..    | 19·56     | 102          | 17·78   | ...          | 7               |
| Newmerracarra †     | 16·91     | 62           | ...     | ...          | ...             |
| New Norcia ... ..   | 22·86     | 63           | 18·78   | ...          | 4               |
| Northam ... ..      | 19·31     | 119          | 14·55   | ...          | 5               |
| Northampton ...     | 25·64     | 56           | 22·75   | 61           | 4               |
| Nookawarra ... ..   | 3·79      | 14           | ...     | ...          | ...             |
| Pinjarrah ... ..    | 36·84     | 97           | 35·03   | 91           | 7               |
| Perth ... ..        | 33·44     | 110          | 32·80   | 111          | 10              |
| Pyramid ‡ ... ..    | 2·12      | 5            | ...     | ...          | ...             |
| Rottnest ... ..     | 25·77     | 90           | 27·53   | 99           | 7               |
| Table Mt.    ... .. | 4·91      | 36           | ...     | ...          | ...             |
| Vasse ... ..        | 28·108    | 123          | 39·61   | ...          | 18              |
| Woodbridge ‡ ...    | 24·34     | 76           | ...     | ...          | ...             |
| Walebing ... ..     | 18·12     | 91           | ...     | ...          | ...             |
| Yangedin ... ..     | 13·20     | 61           | ...     | ...          | ...             |
| York ... ..         | 22·19     | 86           | 18·28   | 82           | 9               |
| Yatheroo § ... ..   | 22·72     | 94           | ...     | ...          | ...             |

\* Seven months only. † Seven months only, June to December. ‡ Eight months only, May to December.  
 || Eleven months only, January to November. § Six and a half months only, 16th May to end December.



## CONCLUSION.

Western Australia offers advantages to men with small as well as to those with large capital, and taking into consideration the varied industries in which capital can be employed, it is very probable that, as the opportunities for investing in station properties, in freehold and leasehold land from the Crown or from private individuals, becomes less easy in the more crowded Eastern colonies, more attention will be paid to the vast Western colony, containing a million square miles and peopled by only 35,186 persons.

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## GOVERNMENT.

|                                                             |                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Governor and Commander-in-Chief                             | } His Excellency Sir F. Napier Broome,<br>K.C.M.G. |
| Administrator of the Government during absence of Governor. | } His Honor Alex. C. Onslow, B.A., Chief Justice.  |

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

|                                                       |                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Governor ... ..                                       | { His Excellency Sir F. Napier Broome,<br>K.C.M.G.                     |
| Colonial Secretary ... ..                             | The Honorable Malcolm Fraser, C.M.G.<br>(absent on leave).             |
| Acting Colonial Secretary ...                         | The Honorable Matthew Skinner Smith.                                   |
| Attorney General ... ..                               | The Honorable Alfred Peach Hensman, B.A.                               |
| Colonial Treasurer ... ..                             | The Honorable Anthony O'Grady Lefroy,<br>C.M.G.                        |
| Commissioner of Crown Lands and Surveyor General      | } The Honorable John Forrest, C.M.G.,<br>F.R.G.S., F.L.S., F.G.S., &c. |
| Director of Public Works and Commissioner of Railways | } The Honorable John Arthur Wright,<br>M.I.C.E.                        |
| Un-official Member ... ..                             | The Honorable James George Lee Steere.                                 |

## JUDICIAL.

|                      |                                 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Chief Justice ... .. | His Honor Alex. C. Onslow, B.A. |
| Puisne Judge ... ..  | His Honor Edward A. Stone       |

## STATISTICS FOR 1885.†

|                                                      |                     |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Area of Colony ... ..                                | 1,060,000 sq. miles |
| „ alienated in Fee Simple ... ..                     | 2,749 sq. miles     |
| 1. Population—Males ... ..                           | 19,989              |
| „ —Females ... ..                                    | 15,197              |
|                                                      | } 35,186            |
| Births—Males ... ..                                  | 623                 |
| „ —Females ... ..                                    | 577                 |
|                                                      | } 1200              |
| Deaths—Males ... ..                                  | 406                 |
| „ —Females ... ..                                    | 194                 |
|                                                      | } 600               |
| Marriages ... ..                                     | 256                 |
| 2. Revenue ... ..                                    | £323,213            |
| 3. Expenditure ... ..                                | £308,849            |
| 4. Imports ... ..                                    | £650,391            |
| 5. Exports ... ..                                    | £446,692            |
| 6. Imports, value per head of mean population ... .. | £19 1s. 9½d.        |
| 7. Exports, do. do. ... ..                           | £13 2s. 2½d.        |
| 8. Land Sales—amount realised ... ..                 | £24,874             |
| 9. Guano Licenses ... ..                             | £312                |
| 10. Land Revenue—Rents ... ..                        | £75,364             |
| 11. Leases & Licenses from Crown in existence... ..  | 153,775,473 acres   |
| 12. Land in cultivation ... ..                       | 77,728 acres        |
| 13. Average produce per acre—Wheat ... ..            | 11½ bushels         |
| „ „ —Barley ... ..                                   | 14½ bushels         |
| „ „ —Oats ... ..                                     | 14½ bushels         |
| „ „ —Maize ... ..                                    | 12½ bushels         |
| „ „ —Hay ... ..                                      | 1 ton               |
| „ „ —Potatoes ... ..                                 | 2½ tons             |

STATISTICS FOR 1885—*continued.*

|                                             |     |     |     |     |                   |
|---------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|
| 14. Live Stock—Horses                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 34,392            |
| "    —Sheep                                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,702,719         |
| "    —Horned stock                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 70,408            |
| "    —Pigs                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24,280            |
| "    —Goats                                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4,529             |
| "    —Camels                                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27                |
| 15. Public Debt                             | ... | ... | ... | ... | £1,288,100        |
| 16. Indebtedness per head of the population | ... | ... | ... | ... | £36 12s. 2d.      |
| 17. Shipping: Inwards—Steam                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 113 } 232         |
| "    "    —Sailing                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 119 }             |
| "    Outwards—Steam                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 116 } 229         |
| "    "    —Sailing                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 113 }             |
| "    Tonnage inwards                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 231,761 } 468,035 |
| "    Tonnage outwards                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 236,274 }         |

*General Exports of Western Australia during 1885.\**

| Articles.                          | Value.  |
|------------------------------------|---------|
|                                    | £       |
| Horses                             | 10,475  |
| Cattle                             | 448     |
| Sheep                              | 794     |
| Dogs                               | 117     |
| Guano                              | 3,432   |
| Hides                              | 279     |
| Gum                                | 1,091   |
| Leather                            | 510     |
| Ore, Copper                        | 1,792   |
| "    Lead                          | 3,255   |
| Provisions, &c.                    | 8,905   |
| Pearls                             | 15,000  |
| Sandalwood                         | 36,216  |
| Shells, Mother of Pearl            | 43,496  |
| Skins                              | 2,259   |
| Tallow                             | 389     |
| Timber                             | 67,850  |
| Wool                               | 248,400 |
| Miscellaneous                      | 1,984   |
| Total value of exports during 1884 | 446,692 |

\* Blue Book, 1885.

*Revenue and Expenditure during last 10 years.*

|      | Revenue. | Expenditure. |
|------|----------|--------------|
| 1876 | 162,189  | 179,484      |
| 1877 | 165,412  | 182,959      |
| 1878 | 163,344  | 198,243      |
| 1879 | 196,315  | 195,812      |
| 1880 | 180,049  | 204,337      |
| 1881 | 254,313  | 197,386      |
| 1882 | 250,372  | 205,451      |
| 1883 | 284,364  | 240,566      |
| 1884 | 290,319  | 291,307      |
| 1885 | 323,213  | 308,849      |

*Value of Imports and Exports during the last 10 years.*

|      | Imports. | Exports. |
|------|----------|----------|
| 1876 | 386,037  | 397,293  |
| 1877 | 362,706  | 373,352  |
| 1878 | 379,049  | 428,491  |
| 1879 | 407,299  | 447,983  |
| 1880 | 353,669  | 499,183  |
| 1881 | 404,831  | 502,769  |
| 1882 | 508,755  | 583,055  |
| 1883 | 516,846  | 447,010  |
| 1884 | 521,167  | 405,693  |
| 1885 | 650,391  | 446,692  |

*Total Population in 1885:*

Males, 19,989; Females, 15,197; Total, 35,186.  
 Births, 1,200; Deaths, 600; Marriages, 256.

*Average rate of Wages for Labor.*

|                                                                                   |                                   |                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Farm laborers                                                                     | ... per week, with board, &c. ... | 15s.                        |
| Ploughmen                                                                         | ... do. ...                       | 15s.                        |
| Shepherds or stockriders                                                          | ... do. ...                       | £40 to £50 <sup>p</sup> an. |
| Generally useful men on stations                                                  | ... do. ...                       | £36 to £45 do.              |
| Masons,                                                                           | ... per day, without rations      | } 8s. to 10s.               |
| Boatbuilders                                                                      | ... do. ...                       |                             |
| Carpenters                                                                        | ... do. ...                       | } 7s. to 10s.               |
| Blacksmiths                                                                       | ... do. ...                       |                             |
| Saddlers                                                                          | ... do. ...                       |                             |
| Coachbuilders                                                                     | ... do. ...                       | } 6s. to 10s.               |
| Painters                                                                          | ... do. ...                       |                             |
| Printers                                                                          | ... do. ...                       | 5s. to 7s.                  |
| Tailors and Shoemakers                                                            | ... do. ...                       | 6s. to 8s.                  |
| Brewers                                                                           | ... do. ...                       | 6s. to 8s.                  |
| Navvies                                                                           | ... do. ...                       | 5s. to 8s.                  |
| Gardeners                                                                         | ... do. ...                       | 5s. to 8s.                  |
| Married couples, servants on farms and stations, per year, with board and lodging | ... ..                            | £50 to £70                  |
| General female servants, per year, with board and lodging                         | ... ..                            | £16 to £24                  |
| House-maids                                                                       | do. do. do.                       | £18 to £25                  |
| General laborers in town, per day, without board                                  | ... ..                            | 5s. to 7s.                  |

## Average Prices of various Articles of Consumption.

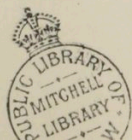
|                                                      |                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Flour, Superfine, $\text{P}$ ton of 2,000lbs. ... .. | £12 to £15.                                         |
| Bread, $\text{P}$ 2lb. loaf ... ..                   | 4d.                                                 |
| Wheat, $\text{P}$ bushel ... ..                      | 4s. to 6s.                                          |
| Barley, $\text{P}$ bushel ... ..                     | 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.                                  |
| Oats, $\text{P}$ bushel ... ..                       | 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.                                  |
| Bran ... ..                                          | 1d. $\text{P}$ lb. or £6 10s. to £7 $\text{P}$ ton. |
| Hay, $\text{P}$ ton ... ..                           | £6 to £7.                                           |
| Horses— $\text{P}$ head, draught... ..               | £20 to £30.                                         |
| $\text{P}$ head, saddle ... ..                       | £10 to £20.                                         |
| Cattle—Fat ... ..                                    | £8 to £15.                                          |
| Milch cows ... ..                                    | £6 to £10.                                          |
| Sheep—Mixed for grazing ... ..                       | 8s. to 10s.                                         |
| Fat sheep ... ..                                     | 12s. to 15s.                                        |
| Beef, retail ... ..                                  | 4d. to 8d.                                          |
| Mutton, do. ... ..                                   | 4d. to 6d.                                          |
| Veal, do. ... ..                                     | 4d. to 8d.                                          |
| Pork ... ..                                          | 6d. to 10d.                                         |
| Butter—Wholesale, $\text{P}$ lb. ... ..              | 1s. 2d. to 1s. 6d.                                  |
| Retail ... ..                                        | 1s. 4d. to 1s. 10d.                                 |
| Fresh ... ..                                         | 1s. 9d. to 2s. 3d.                                  |
| Cheese, $\text{P}$ lb. ... ..                        | 1s. 2d. to 1s. 6d.                                  |
| Milk, $\text{P}$ gallon ... ..                       | 2s.                                                 |
| Bacon, $\text{P}$ lb. ... ..                         | 1s. to 1s. 4d.                                      |
| Ham, do. ... ..                                      | 1s. to 1s. 6d.                                      |
| Eggs, $\text{P}$ dozen ... ..                        | 1s. to 2s.                                          |
| Potatoes—Wholesale, $\text{P}$ ton ... ..            | £7 to £9.                                           |
| Retail, $\text{P}$ lb. ... ..                        | 1d. to 1½d.                                         |
| Rice, $\text{P}$ lb. ... ..                          | 3d.                                                 |
| Tea, $\text{P}$ lb. ... ..                           | 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d.                                  |
| Coffee, $\text{P}$ lb. ... ..                        | 1s. 2d. to 1s. 6d.                                  |
| Sugar, $\text{P}$ lb. ... ..                         | 3d. to 5d.                                          |
| Tobacco, $\text{P}$ lb. ... ..                       | 4s. to 5s.                                          |
| Soap, $\text{P}$ lb. ... ..                          | 3d. to 4d.                                          |
| Candles, $\text{P}$ lb. ... ..                       | 10d. to 1s.                                         |
| Salt, $\text{P}$ cwt. ... ..                         | 4s. to 6s.                                          |
| Firewood, per cord of 108 cubic feet ... ..          | 10s. to 15s.                                        |
| Brandy, $\text{P}$ doz. ... ..                       | 60s. to 80s.                                        |
| „ draught ... ..                                     | 56s. to 64s.                                        |
| Rum, $\text{P}$ doz. ... ..                          | 54s. to 56s.                                        |
| Whiskey, do. ... ..                                  | 54s. to 60s.                                        |
| Port Wine, do. ... ..                                | 36s. to 60s.                                        |
| Sherry, do. ... ..                                   | 36s. to 60s.                                        |
| Claret, do. ... ..                                   | 30s. to 70s.                                        |
| Champagne, do. ... ..                                | 65s. to 100s.                                       |
| Colonial Wine (local), do. ... ..                    | 9s. to 20s.                                         |
| Ale and Porter—Imported, do. ... ..                  | 9s. to 13s.                                         |
| „ Colonial (local), do. ... ..                       | 6s.                                                 |

Specific Duties are levied on Spirits, &c., as follows:—

|                                          |      |
|------------------------------------------|------|
| Spirits, $\text{P}$ doz. ... ..          | 30s. |
| Wine, do. ... ..                         | 8s.  |
| Champagne or Sparkling Wines, do. ... .. | 12s. |
| Beer, $\text{P}$ doz. ... ..             | 2s.  |

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