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SECTION XXXII.

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

§ 1. Area and Population.

1. **Introductory.**—Upon the extension of New South Wales westward to the 129th meridian in 1827, the Northern Territory was comprised within that colony (see Year Book No. 4, page 16), and in 1863 was annexed by Royal Letters Patent to the province of South Australia. With the adjacent islands, it was transferred to the Commonwealth on 1st January, 1911.

2. **Area and Boundaries.**—The total area of this Territory is 523,620 square miles, or 335,116,800 acres. Its length from north to south is about 900 miles, while its breadth from east to west is 560 miles. Its eastern boundary, dividing it from Queensland, is the 138th meridian of east longitude; and its western boundary, separating it from Western Australia, the 129th meridian. Its southern boundary is the 26th parallel of south latitude, dividing it from South Australia. The northern boundary is the coast line of those parts of the Indian Ocean known as the Timor and Arafura Seas, Near the mouth of the Wentworth River, in the Gulf of Carpentaria, the coast line is met by the eastern boundary; at Cape Domett, near Cambridge Gulf, the western boundary cuts the northern coast line. The length of coast line is about 1040 miles, or 503 square miles of area to one mile of coast line; an exact survey has, however, not yet been made.

3. **Population.**—(i.) *Character.* In 1881 there were 670 Europeans in the Territory, and at the end of 1911 the number was estimated at 1730. The Chinese population, at its maximum during the years of railway construction, 1887 and 1888, has gradually dwindled, the estimate for 1911 being 1302. Japanese, first recorded in 1884, increased up to the year 1898, falling again after five years. The highest recorded population, excluding aborigines, was 7533 in 1888; the estimate for 1912 was 3475. The year 1911 was the first in which the population was dominated by the European race. A thirty years table of population, distinguishing races, will be found on page 1154 of the Commonwealth Official Year Book, No. 4. Subsequent to the census of 1911, a revision of the estimates, back to 1901, was made. The results are shewn in the following table:—

**POPULATION OF NORTHERN TERRITORY (EXCLUSIVE OF ABORIGINES),
1901 to 1912.**

Year ended 31st December.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Year ended 31st December.	Male.	Female	Total.
1901 ...	3,999	674	4,673	1907 ...	3,095	642	3,737
1902 ...	3,847	627	4,474	1908 ...	2,963	609	3,572
1903 ...	3,582	652	4,234	1909 ...	2,927	576	3,503
1904 ...	3,514	692	4,206	1910 ...	2,738	563	3,301
1905 ...	3,368	678	4,046	1911 ...	2,662	586	3,248
1906 ...	3,248	656	3,904	1912 ...	2,854	621	3,475

The census population (3rd April, 1911) was 2734 males, 576 females; total, 3310. The estimate for for 31st December, 1912, was 2854 males, 621 females; total, 3475.

(ii.) *Movement of Population.* The following is a summary of movement of population in 1911:—

MOVEMENT OF POPULATION, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1911.

Europeans—		Europeans—		Excess—	
Inwards, oversea	272	Outwards, oversea	231	Emigration over	
Births ...	12	Deaths ...	22	immigration ...	28
Others—		Others—		Deaths over births	11
Inwards, oversea	140	Outwards, oversea	209		
Births ...	45	Deaths ...	46		
Increase ...	469	Decrease ...	508	Net loss ...	39

The immigration and emigration of the Territory from 1880 to 1911 is shewn in the following table:—

MIGRATION, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1880 to 1911.

Year.	Immigra- tion.	Emigra- tion.	Year.	Immigra- tion.	Emigra- tion.	Year.	Immigra- tion.	Emigra- tion.
1880* ...	2,759	273	1891 ...	442	657	1902 ...	354	543
1881 ...	354	1,135	1892 ...	505	549	1903 ...	421	701
1882 ...	949	616	1893 ...	335	381	1904 ...	520	575
1883 ...	762	582	1894 ...	223	410	1905 ...	578	758
1884 ...	763	790	1895 ...	453	356	1906 ...	457	623
1885 ...	855	664	1896 ...	553	362	1907 ...	595	637
1886 ...	2,795	2,416	1897 ...	541	611	1908 ...	510	652
1887 ...	3,667	1,409	1898 ...	637	522	1909 ...	544	592
1888 ...	1,563	1,025	1899 ...	461	372	1910 ...	453	621
1889 ...	695	1,514	1900 ...	346	392	1911 ...	412	440
1890 ...	488	886	1901 ...	338	355			

* From 17th August to end of year.

(iii.) *The Aborigines.* An account of the Australian aborigines, by Dr. W. Ramsay Smith was given in Year Book No. 3 (pp. 158-176). The interior of the continent is the most thickly populated by the natives, but it is believed that they are rapidly dying out. In these regions, remote from contact with other races, the native has maintained his primitive simplicity, and furnishes an interesting subject of study to the anthropologist and ethnologist. At the census of 1911, full-blooded aboriginals in the employ of whites, and those who were living in a civilised or semi-civilised condition in the vicinity of European settlements, were enumerated—the males being 743, females 480; total, 1223. It has been estimated that the total black population of the Territory is upwards of 20,000.

§ 2. Historical.

1. *Exploration and Colonisation.*—(i.) *Coastal Surveys.* The coast was surveyed by King in 1817, and by Wickham and Stokes in 1838 and 1839. Port Darwin, the site of Darwin, the present capital, was discovered in the latter year.

(ii.) *Exploration of Interior.* Leichhardt traversed a great deal of the country in 1844-5, journeying from Queensland to Port Essington. Gregory started from Point Pearce in 1855, and reached Brisbane. Minor explorations were also successfully undertaken.

(iii.) *Crossing the Continent.* In 1861, Stuart began his transcontinental journey from Adelaide, and reached the north coast in July, 1862. His track has become the main route, and along it the telegraph line is constructed.

(iv.) *Demarcation of Boundaries.* Upon the extension westwards of New South Wales, in 1827, the Territory was included in that colony, and remained so until 1863, when it was added to South Australia, which in 1836 had been created a separate province.

(v.) *The Military Settlement.* A military post was formed on Melville Island in 1825. This was transferred in 1827 to Raffles Bay, and a few years later to Port Essington. Little public attention was given to the station, and no attempt at colonisation was made. It was abandoned in 1849.

2. Control by South Australia.—(i.) *Transfer.* As a result of representations to the Imperial Government by South Australia, the Territory was incorporated with that State in 1863, and administered through a Government Resident located at Port Darwin up to 31st December, 1910. Early attempts at settlement failed. Ultimately, Port Darwin was chosen for the site of the capital, and Palmerston founded.

(ii.) *Land Legislation.* The South Australian Government's land legislation was framed to attract settlers, viz., low rents with easy entry and unencumbered holding over long periods; or grant of fee simple at low price. Special arrangements were made to foster tropical agriculture, including the establishment of botanic gardens at Port Darwin, for observation and experiment. Large "runs" were established on the northern well grassed and watered pastures.

(iii.) *Mining.* The survey and construction of the overland telegraph revealed the auriferous nature of the country, and gold and other minerals were discovered in various localities. The Government regulated the area of claims and the conditions upon which they were held.

(iv.) *Cessation of Supervision by South Australia.* Progress was not as marked as was desired, the Territory being thought capable of more rapid development. Accordingly the Federal and State Governments agreed upon a surrender by the latter as from 1st January, 1911, since which date the Territory has been a dependency of the Commonwealth.

3. Transfer to Commonwealth.—(i.) *The Agreement.* An agreement of transfer, afterwards ratified by the respective Parliaments, was made between the two Governments. In accordance with a proclamation issued in the terms of the Commonwealth Acceptance Act (No. 20 of 1910), the transfer was effected on 1st January, 1911.

(ii.) *The Northern Territory Acceptance Act.* By the Commonwealth Act, the agreement is ratified and approved, the Territory is accepted together with the Palmerston and Pine Creek Railway; laws and courts of justice remain in operation, powers and functions of magistrates and officials remain vested; estates and interests continue upon the same terms; trade with Australian States is declared free. The Commonwealth assumes responsibility for the State loans in respect of the Territory, paying the interest yearly to the State, providing a sinking fund to pay off the loans at maturity,

and paying off the deficit in respect of the Territory. It also purchases the Port Augusta to Oodnadatta railway, and agrees to complete the construction of the trans-continental railway from Port Darwin to Port Augusta.

(iii.) *The South Australian Surrender Act.* The State Act approves and ratifies the agreement surrendering the Territory.

(iv.) *The Northern Territory (Administration) Act 1910.* The Act provides for Government authorising the appointment of an administrator and officials. South Australian laws are declared to continue in force as laws of the Territory and certain Commonwealth Acts to apply. Power is given to the Governor-General to make Ordinances having the force of law.

(v.) *Administration.* A Resident Administrator, vested with supreme authority in internal affairs, was appointed in the Department of the Minister for External Affairs in February, 1912. Many other important administrative offices have also been filled.

(vi.) *Legislation.* The main provisions of the Ordinances passed are as follows:—The powers and duties of the Administrator vested in the appointee, include custody of the public seal, appointment and suspension of officials, and execution of leases of Crown lands. He is assisted by a council of advice, not exceeding six, and meeting monthly. A Supreme Court with original and appellate jurisdiction is instituted, the method of appointment of the Judge is prescribed, and provision is made for trial by jury, and for the registration and summoning of jurors. A Sheriff, a Registrar-General, and a Health Officer are provided for, also the registration of births, marriages and deaths, and of deeds and documents. District Councils are authorised to assess land values and levy rates on unimproved value. Custody and control of aborigines with extensive powers of supervision are vested in the Chief Protector. Birds protected during the year, and during part of the year, are scheduled. Crown lands are classified, and their mode of acquisition, entry and holding defined. Shop assistants are to have a weekly half holiday, and the establishments must be closed at a certain time. Mining is encouraged by the provision of rewards for the invention of new processes, and the discovery of valuable deposits and of new mineral fields; subsidization of the industry and the issue of prospecting licenses are also provided for. Licences to search for mineral oil, and leases of land for the working of the industry are available. A Board is constituted for the purpose of making advances to settlers, who intend to improve and stock their holdings, to purchase farm implements, plant, etc., or to pay off mortgages, the rate of interest and terms of repayment being set out.

§ 3. Physiography.

1. **Tropical Nature of the Country.**—The Territory is within the torrid zone, with the exception of a strip $2\frac{1}{2}$ degrees wide, which lies south of the Tropic of Capricorn.

2. **Contour and Physical Characteristics.**—The low flat coast line seldom reaches a height of 100 feet. Sandy beaches and mud flats, thickly fringed with mangroves, prevail. Sandstone, marl, and ironstone form the occasional cliffy headlands. The sea frontage of more than 1000 miles is indented by bays and inlets and intersected by numerous rivers, many of which are navigable for considerable distances from their estuaries.

The principal features of the coast line are enumerated in Year Book No. 1, p. 66; the rivers in Year Book No. 2, p. 76; the mountains in Year Book No. 3, p. 67; the lakes in Year Book No. 4, p. 77; the islands in Year Book No. 5, pp. 71, 72, and the mineral springs in the present volume, p. 65.

Inland, the country is generally destitute of conspicuous landmarks. From the coast there is a general rise southwards to the vicinity of the 17th or 18th parallel of

south latitude, where the higher lands form the watershed between the rivers that flow northwards to the sea, and those that form the scanty supply of the interior systems. Towards the centre of the continent the land over a wide area is of considerable elevation, and there are several mountain ranges, generally with an east and west trend.

§ 4. Climate.

On the northern coast, as in the tropics generally, there are two main climatic divisions—the wet season, November to April; and the dry season, May to October. The changes of season are uniform and regular. Immediately after the vernal equinox, the wet season is heralded by the cessation of the east-south-easterly monsoon, which gives place to calms and light variable winds. Intensely hot weather prevails for a few days, thunder-clouds gathering and increasing daily until they burst in heavy thunderstorms accompanied by hurricanes, and increasing in strength and frequency until the end of November, when they become of almost daily occurrence, about an inch of rain falling during each storm. During December the north-west monsoon sets in gradually, with rain nearly every day, and increasing in force until about the end of January. At this period of the year the wet season penetrates into the heart of the continent. This monsoon dies away at the autumnal equinox, and is succeeded by light and variable winds till the end of April, when the dry season commences with the setting in of the south-east monsoon. Nearly the whole of the rainfall occurs in the summer months.

§ 5. Fauna and Flora.

1. **Native Animals.**—The ordinary types of Australian fauna inhabit the territory. As elsewhere on the continent, the higher *Theria* are rare. There are many genera of marsupials, and individuals are numerous. The birds also are typically Australian, with brilliant plumage, and not generally gifted with song. Crocodiles and fresh-water tortoises frequent the northern rivers. There are some species of snakes, mostly non-venomous, the most numerous being the harmless python. Frogs abound, the water-holding frog being common in Central Australia. The rivers contain many varieties of freshwater fish. The molluscan fauna of the coast are mostly carnivorous, the vegetable feeders being very poorly represented, probably on account of the dearth of seaweed. Land and freshwater shellfish are not abundant. Among insects, many beautiful butterflies thrive in the warm damp atmosphere. Beetles also are strongly represented. The white ant is a pest, very few timbers being immune from its ravages. Anthills in the Territory sometimes attain a height of twenty-five feet and a diameter of ten feet. Another destructive insect, particularly active and mischievous inland, is the borer. Mosquitoes and sandflies are very troublesome, particularly from January to April. There are not many crustaceans.

2. **Imported Stock.**—Buffalo thrive in the Territory. At Port Essington they are numerous, and there are large herds on Melville Island. Timor ponies have also been introduced. Imported sheep and horned cattle thrive on the stations.

3. **Protection of Fauna.**—Ruthless destruction of native birds is prohibited. An ordinance (No. 1 of 1912) gives the Administrator power to declare that any bird is protected; and provides that permits to export protected birds, or the skins or eggs of such birds, will only be issued subject to such conditions as the Administrator directs.

4. **Flora.**—The vegetation is tropical, many of the forms belonging to the Malayan and Oceanic regions. The timber trees are not of great commercial value, but in the coastal regions tropical vegetation grows luxuriantly to the water's edge. The indented arms of the coast are thickly fringed with the mangrove. On the ranges, pines, fig trees, and orange trees flourish. The Roper River drains extensive forest lands. Leichhardt pines and palms form the vegetation of the tableland, which stretches across the Territory about the 14th degree of south latitude. On the higher steppes there are a few varieties of eucalyptus, and many fibre plants are also indigenous. On the wide

expanses of plain country of the interior, there is little vegetation, tree growth being very scanty, consisting chiefly of stunted eucalypts, such as the gimlet gum, black box, and desert sheoak. In the north-western districts there is an almost entire absence of lichens and mosses, though ferns are plentiful in the vicinity of the Victoria River. The following orders are well represented:—*Euphorbiaceæ*, *Compositæ*, *Convolvulaceæ*, *Rubiaceæ*, *Goodeniaceæ*, *Leguminosæ*, *Urticææ*.

§ 6. Production.

There is no great home consumption of the articles produced in the Territory, the greater part being exported oversea and to the States of the Commonwealth.

1. **Stock.**—The spacious, well-grassed “runs” of the Territory are suitable for horse and cattle breeding. It is anticipated that the cattle trade with the East will develop. Large numbers are overlanded to neighbouring States, which also take considerable quantities of horse hides. The number of stock on 31st December, 1911, was:—

LIVE STOCK, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 31st DECEMBER, 1911.

Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
21,407	459,780	50,983	1,500

Dairying as an industry is non-existent. The abundant indigenous herbage is, however, well suited for stock, and the making of hay and ensilage would ensure the development of the industry.

2. **Mining.**—Considerable quantities of the precious and commercial metals are mined. The discovery of gold and tin in various localities, and the measure of success that has attended their working, indicate scope for development.

(i.) *Mineral production.* Both alluvial and reef gold are found, and there are several batteries and cyanide plants. The quantity and value of gold produced during 1911 was 7277 fine ounces, valued at £30,910. Other minerals raised during 1911 were:—163 tons of copper ore, valued at £1470; 49 tons of wolfram ore, valued at £4048; and 239 tons of tin ore valued at £22,900. Bismuth valued at £25 was also produced. The total value of minerals raised during 1911 was £59,353.

(ii.) *Mineral Production, 1894 to 1911.* The following table shews the total mineral production for 18 years.

VALUE OF MINERAL PRODUCTION, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1894 to 1911.

Year.	Gold.	Tin Ore.	Wolfram.	Silver Lead.	Copper Ore.	Smelter Product (Copper Base)	Total Value.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1894 ...	109,699	1,251	...	115	1,204	...	112,269
1895 ...	102,816	1,815	...	...	410	...	105,041
1896 ...	81,210	590	...	1,230	...	...	82,970
1897 ...	81,210	10	...	...	...	...	81,220
1898 ...	84,789	100	...	...	...	...	84,889
1899 ...	63,565	180	...	...	...	...	63,745
1900 ...	67,988	774	...	522	14,095	...	83,379
1901 ...	76,609	2,105	175	20	2,345	...	81,254
1902 ...	70,325	5,985	...	...	1,813	...	78,123
1903 ...	61,600	10,773	...	...	55	...	72,428
1904 ...	3,983	27,360	2,500	1,886	...	27,029	62,258
1905 ...	30,971	25,877	2,573	1,303	6,677	9,659	77,060
1906 ...	54,225	33,837	7,144	2,355	13,154	35,606	146,665*
1907 ...	21,928	41,365	11,451	2,093	13,143	1,888	91,868
1908 ...	23,943	35,876	1,925	30	5,413	2,555	70,042†
1909 ...	24,148	32,741	4,105	...	1,400	2,342	64,736
1910 ...	21,711	31,113	6,686	...	1,196	...	60,706
1911 ...	30,910	22,900	4,048	...	1,470	...	59,353‡

* Includes santalite valued at £140, and amblygonite valued at £204. † Includes bismuth valued at £300. ‡ Includes bismuth, valued at £25.

(iii.) *Employment of Miners, 1894 to 1911.* The following table shews employment in mining for eighteen years, distinguishing Chinese:—

MINERS, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1894 to 1911.

Year.	Europeans.	Chinese.	Total.	Year.	Europeans.	Chinese.	Total.
1894 ...	65	2,055	2,120	1903	91	1,202	1,293
1895 ...	111	2,032	2,143	1904.	189	1,158	1,347
1896 ...	193	1,678	1,871	1905	161	1,077	1,238
1897 ...	153	1,633	1,786	1906	179	1,018	1,197
1898 ...	107	1,456	1,563	1907	208	958	1,166
1899 ...	114	1,372	1,486	1908	150	674	824
1900 ...	72	1,432	1,504	1909	190	630	820
1901 ...	58	1,280	1,338	1910	140	602	742
1902 ...	47	1,160	1,207	1911	101	575	676

(iv.) *Mining Accidents, 1900 to 1911.* In 1911 five mining accidents were recorded, resulting in the deaths of four Chinese and serious injury to one Chinese. There were no serious accidents in 1910. During the ten years preceding, ten fatal accidents and eight cases of serious injury were recorded, the majority of the victims being Chinese.

3. Pearl Shell.—In 1884 mother-of-pearl shell was discovered in the harbour of Port Darwin. Difficulty in working, principally through heavy tides and muddy water, retarded the development of the industry for many years. Latterly, however, the opening up of new patches has led to a revival. In 1911, thirty-one boats were engaged, valued, with their equipment, at about £10,000; 138 men were employed. Seventy-one tons of pearl shell were obtained, valued at £15,666. Bêche-de-mer valued at £1451 was also raised.

§ 7. Commerce and Shipping.

1. Trade.—The following table shews the total trade of the Territory for 10 years from 1901 to 1910:—

VALUE OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1901 to 1910.

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
Imports ...	£ 108,886	£ 107,217	£ 125,244	£ 113,461	£ 86,878	£ 74,659	£ 78,996	£ 68,905	£ 57,994	£ 52,398
Exports ...	£ 302,931	£ 191,558	£ 178,266	£ 235,650	£ 216,279	£ 254,222	£ 345,721	£ 241,028	£ 278,555	£ 269,063
Total Trade	411,817	298,775	303,510	349,111	303,157	328,881	424,717	309,933	336,549	331,461

No record is now kept of the direction of trade between the Commonwealth States and Territories. It is, therefore, impossible to give the total imports and exports of the Northern Territory for years later than 1910. In 1911 the imports from places outside Australia were valued at £16,920, an increase of £3966 on the previous year. The exports to oversea countries were valued at £48,468, a decrease of £12,983 as compared with 1910.

From 1881 to 1910, the annual average trade in five-year periods was :—

VALUE OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1881 to 1910.

Period.	Average Annual Imports.	Average Annual Exports.	Period.	Average Annual Imports.	Average Annual Exports.
	£	£		£	£
1881-1885	125,600	92,727	1896-1900	127,489	158,978
1886-1890	236,099	113,156	1901-1905	108,337	224,937
1891-1895	109,704	177,463	1906-1910	66,590	277,718

2. **Principal Exports.**—The principal articles of export during the three years 1908 to 1910 were :—

PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF EXPORT, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1908 to 1910.

Year.	Wolfram		Copper.		Cattle.		Bêche-de-mer.		Tin Ore.		Gold.		Dried Fish.		Horses.	
	Qua.	Val.	Qua.	Val.	No.	Value.	Qua.	Val.	Qua.	Val.	Qua.	Val.	Qua.	Val.	No.	Val.
	tons	£	tons	£		£	tons	£	tons	£	ozs.	£	lbs.	£		£
1908	8	542	413	5,020	31,636	142,998	24	1,272	447	35,930	7,074	22,425	53,944	1,697	1,459	14,395
1909	44	4,294	143	2,357	26,783	121,172	38	1,906	416	32,306	7,164	23,526	63,605	1,091	83	525
1910	65	7,081	124	1,113	33,326	161,605	30	1,303	351	34,308	6,713	21,632	33,672	591	829	14,070

Year.	Pearl Shell.		Hides and Horns.	Wool.		Tortoise Shell.		Copper Matte.		
	Qua.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Qua.	Value.	Qua.	Value.	
	tons.	£	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	tons.	£	
1908	...	58	7,578	4,831	148	6	251	159	78	1,949
1909	...	58	10,085	6,586	142	3	376	350	11	300
1910	...	55	10,030	3,816	213,964	5,915	222	160	124	2,989

The total exports for 1911 are not available, only the articles sent beyond the Commonwealth being now recorded. The value of principal articles exported oversea for the years 1910 and 1911 are as follows:—Bêche-de-mer, 1910, £1303; 1911, £1451. Gold, 1910, £3508; 1911, £1320. Tin concentrates, 1910, £33,566; 1911, £23,475. Wolfram, 1910, £6899; 1911, £5791. Pearlshell, 1910, £10,030; 1911, £15,666.

3. **Shipping.**—The Territory's oversea commerce is carried in British and Japanese bottoms. One of the British lines maintains a monthly service, other lines are irregular. Coastal shipping is chiefly in Australian vessels. There is a small local trade, a steamship running between Port Darwin, Port McArthur, Daly River, Victoria River, and Wyndham (Western Australia). The shipping of the Territory in 1911 was:—Entered, 71 vessels, tonnage 130,178; cleared, 71 vessels, tonnage 130,178. Of the former, 4 vessels of 5848 tons arrived from Hong Kong; 12 vessels, of 20,934 tons, from Straits Settlements; 3 vessels, of 5718 tons, from Dutch East Indies; 13 vessels, of 33,160 tons, from Japan; and 39 vessels, of 64,518 tons, from the Commonwealth States. The nationality of 65 of the vessels was British and of 6 foreign. Four of the vessels outward cleared for Hong Kong, the tonnage being 5848; 12, of 20,934 tons, departed for Straits Settlements; 3, of 5718 tons, for the Dutch East Indies; 12, of 31,321 tons, for Japan; and 40, of 66,357 tons, for other Commonwealth ports.

4. **Shipping, 1881 to 1910.**—The average annual shipping of the Territory from 1881 to 1910 is shewn below in 5-year periods :—

SHIPPING, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1881 to 1910.

Period.	Arrivals.		Departures.	
	Average Yearly No. of Vessels.	Average Annual Tonnage.	Average Yearly No. of Vessels.	Average Annual Tonnage.
1881—1885 ...	72	71,814	72	71,692
1886—1890 ...	95	94,452	103	94,724
1891—1895 ...	75	81,128	73	81,090
1896—1900 ...	71	88,284	70	88,244
1901—1905 ...	63	93,751	63	91,556
1906—1910 ...	87	128,502	88	128,408

§ 8. Internal Communication.

1. **Railways.**—Under the agreement ratified by the Act the Commonwealth is to construct the Northern Territory portion of the transcontinental railway line (connecting Adelaide and Darwin, *via* Port Augusta).

The Northern line from Adelaide terminates at Oodnadatta, about 100 miles south of the southern boundary of the Territory. The only line at present in the Territory is one from Darwin to Pine Creek, a length of 145½ miles, of 3 ft. 6 in. gauge; and Pine Creek is distant about 1140 miles from Oodnadatta. It is stated that this transcontinental railway would bring London within seventeen days of Adelaide. The Commonwealth also acquired on 1st January, 1911, the property in the line from Port Augusta to Oodnadatta; but the line is at present being worked under the control of the South Australian Railway Commissioner, by agreement between the Commonwealth and South Australian Governments.

2. **Posts.**—The principal mail services are as follows:—

(i.) *Marine.* Postal communication is maintained between Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide, *via* North Queensland ports. The service extends to China and Japan. There are three lines of service—two of the shipping companies being British, and one Japanese. The two former are subsidised at poundage rates, the latter at Postal Union rates. One of the British services is monthly, the others are irregular. There is also a quarterly contract service between Darwin and Boroloola, calling half-yearly at Roper River; and a service every two months between Darwin and Wyndham, on the estuary of Ord River, in the north-east of Western Australia. These are subsidised according to agreement for three years, the amount for the first service being £350; and for the second, £125 per voyage.

(ii.) *Inland.* Posts are also despatched into the interior of the Continent. One route is from the Katherine Telegraph Station southwards as far as Renner Springs, and then eastwards to Anthony Lagoon, where the Queensland mailman is met. The service is maintained with difficulty, on account of the many hardships caused by the alternations of extreme drought and flood.

Other inland routes are served, and there is a frequent service in Darwin.

3. **Telegraphs.**—The transcontinental telegraph line, covering a length of 2230 miles, was completed on 2nd August, 1872, at a cost of nearly half-a-million sterling. The line runs in a northerly direction from Adelaide to Darwin, whence telegraphic communication is provided with Asia and Europe, *via* Banjoewangie (Java), Singapore, and Madras.

Between Darwin and Banjoewangie the submarine cable is duplicated.

§ 9. Finance.

1. **Revenue and Expenditure, 1911-12.**—In the Commonwealth finance statement for 1911-12, separate accounts are given for Northern Territory administration. The following shows the receipts and expenditure for the financial year named:—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1911-12.

REVENUE.	£	EXPENDITURE.—cont.	£
Customs and Excise... ..	12,562	Marine Office—	
Postal, Telegraph & Telephone	2,895	Salaries and contingencies...	816
Railways	13,483	Stock and Brands—	
Territorial	11,328	Salaries and contingencies...	1,420
Land and Income Tax	1,678	Botanic Gardens—	
Miscellaneous	4,736	Salaries and contingencies...	756
Deficiency on year's transactions	364,368	Survey—	
		Salaries and contingencies...	2,384
	411,050	Goldfields and Mining—	
		Salaries and contingencies...	10,682
		Education—	
		Salaries and contingencies...	721
		Railways—	
		Salaries and contingencies...	18,768
		Public Works Staff—	
		Salaries and contingencies ...	1,441
		Works and Buildings	3,180
		Miscellaneous	10,444
		Administrative Office—	
		Salaries and contingencies...	1,629
		Interest and Redemption (ex-	
		cluding Port Augusta rail-	
		way)—	
		Interest on loans	159,662
		Contribution to sinking fund	8,869
		Interest on loans Port Augusta	
		railway	107,824
		Contribution to sinking fund,	
		Port Augusta railway	8,400
		Extraordinary maintenance ...	3,202
		Buildings, roads, farms, etc.	22,326
		Port Augusta railway	401
		Launch	1,100
		Audit	60
			411,050

The Commonwealth received £151,513 from South Australia, being the credit balance of Northern Territory funds, but assumed responsibility for interest on loans and redemptions.

2. **Loans.**—The first loan on Northern Territory account was floated in London in 1876; the nominal amount was £75,000, at 4 per cent., due date 1st January, 1916. The public debt on 30th June, 1912, was £3,431,836. The following is a summary:—

PUBLIC DEBT, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 30th JUNE, 1912.

Principal.	Rate.	Annual Interest.
£	%	£
27,216	3	817
154,992	3½	5,425
71,945	£3 12s. 3d.	2,599
1,798,383	3½	67,439
1,379,300	4	55,172
Total ... 3,431,836	—	131,452

§ 10. Land Tenure.

1. **Present Policy.**—The system of land settlement in the Territory will be found fully described in the chapter "Land Tenure and Settlement," see pages 293, 294 *supra*. Prior to the transfer of the Territory to the Commonwealth on 1st January, 1911, the sale and occupation of lands were regulated by the South Australian Legislature in Statutes applying particularly to the Territory. Under the Commonwealth Government a complete reorganization is being effected. Two Lands Ordinances of 1912 declare the present land policy and define the conditions. A leasehold system only is provided for, and no further alienation of crown lands is permitted, except in pursuance of existing agreements. A Board, consisting of the Director of Lands, the Director of Agriculture, and the Chief Surveyor, classifies the lands and fixes the rents. The land thus classified and appraised is leased in blocks, the maximum area ranging from 300 square miles of first class pastoral to 1280 acres of first class agricultural land. The term of pastoral and miscellaneous leases is 21 or 42 years, all other leases are to be in perpetuity, making them almost equivalent to freeholds, but with re-appraisal of rent values every 14 years in the case of town lands, and every 21 years in the case of agricultural and pastoral lands. The conditions are of a very favourable nature, with low rents and elastic conditions of tenure. Twenty-six farms have already been surveyed on the Daly River, varying in size from 290 to 620 acres. Applications from intending settlers have been received, and the allocation of the leases is proceeding. The Board is dealing also with an area in the vicinity of the Pine Creek railway, about 70 miles from Darwin.

2. **Number of Holdings.**—The table on page 294 *supra* shews the total area under lease, license, and permit in 1901 and in each year from 1907 to 1911. At the latter date 92,045,540 acres were held under pastoral leases and permits; 667 acres under right-to-purchase leases; and 1,698,754 acres under other leases. The other leases include coal and oil permits, 1,666,560 acres; agricultural leases, 8417 acres; mineral leases, 1290 acres; mixed farming permits, 1280 acres; gold leases, 745 acres; tin-dredging permit, 400 acres; and approved applications under the Tropical Products Act 1904 (of South Australia) 20,000 acres.