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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 1,040 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 1913 the number was estimated at 2,143. The Chinese population, at its maximum during the years of railway construction, 1887 and 1888, has gradually dwindled, the estimate for 1914 being 1,033. Japanese, first recorded in 1884, increased up to the year 1898, falling again after five years. The highest recorded population, excluding aborigines, was 7,533 in 1888; the estimate for 1919 was 4,706. 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 1156 of the Commonwealth Official Year Book No. 5. Subsequent to the Census of 1911, a revision of the estimates, back to 1901, was made. The results are incorporated in the following table:—

POPULATION OF NORTHERN TERRITORY (EXCLUSIVE OF ABORIGINES),  
1901 TO 1919.

Year ended 31st December.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Year ended 31st December.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1901 ..	3,999	674	4,673	1911 ..	2,662	586	3,248
1902 ..	3,847	627	4,474	1912 ..	2,854	621	3,475
1903 ..	3,582	652	4,234	1913 ..	2,995	677	3,672
1904 ..	3,514	692	4,206	1914 ..	3,252	721	3,973
1905 ..	3,368	678	4,046	1915 ..	3,687	876	4,563
1906 ..	3,248	656	3,904	1916 ..	3,839	928	4,767
1907 ..	3,095	642	3,737	1917 ..	3,886	1,022	4,908
1908 ..	2,963	609	3,572	1918 ..	3,677	1,104	4,781
1909 ..	2,927	576	3,503	1919 ..	3,578	1,128	4,706
1910 ..	2,738	563	3,301				

The census population (3rd April, 1911) was 2,734 males, 576 females; total, 3,310. The estimate for 31st December, 1919, gives 3,578 males, 1,128 females, a total of 4,706.

(ii) *Movement of Population.* The following is a summary of movement of population in 1919 (excluding overland migration):—

MOVEMENT OF POPULATION, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1919.

Inwards .. ..	1,159	Outwards .. ..	1,255	Excess of immigration over emigration ..	-96
Births .. ..	106	Deaths .. ..	85	Excess of births over deaths ..	21
Increase .. ..	1,265	Decrease .. ..	1,340	Net result ..	-75

Note (-) signifies decrease.

The immigration and emigration of the Territory in five-year periods from 1881 to 1910, and for each of the years 1911 to 1919, are shewn in the following table:—

MIGRATION, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1881 TO 1919.

Year.	Immigration.	Emigration.	Year.	Immigration.	Emigration.	Year.	Immigration.	Emigration.
1881-5 ..	3,683	3,787	1906-10	2,559	3,125	1915 ..	1,904	1,278
1886-90 ..	9,208	7,250	1911 ..	412	431	1916 ..	1,389	1,137
1891-5 ..	1,958	2,353	1912 ..	846	585	1917 ..	1,501	1,366
1896-1900	2,538	2,259	1913 ..	1,033	824	1918 ..	1,259	1,417
1901-5 ..	2,211	2,932	1914 ..	1,102	778	1919 ..	1,159	1,255

(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 are living in a civilised or semi-civilised condition in the vicinity of European settlements, were enumerated—the males being 743, females 480; total, 1,223. Estimates of the total black population of the Territory vary from 20,000 to 50,000. The interests of the natives are looked after by a Protector of Aborigines, with head-quarters in Darwin. There is also an aboriginal station at Oenpelli.

§ 2. Legislation and Administration.

1. *Transfer to Commonwealth.*—(i) *The Northern Territory Acceptance Act.* A short historical sketch is given in Year Book No. 6, pp. 1113-4. On 1st January, 1911, the Territory was transferred by South Australia to the Commonwealth, upon terms previously agreed upon by the respective Cabinets, and ratified by the Commonwealth *Northern Territory Acceptance Act* (No. 20 of 1910). It is enacted that 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 transcontinental railway from Port Darwin to Port Augusta.

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

(iii) *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.

(iv) *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.

(v) *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. 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. Custody and control of aborigines, with extensive powers of supervision, are vested in the Chief Protector. Provision is made for the control of fisheries. Birds protected during the whole or part of the year are scheduled. Crown lands are classified, and their mode of acquisition, entry and holding defined. The prevention and eradication of diseases in plants have been provided for. Under the Stock Diseases Ordinance the Chief Inspector of Stock has wide powers in regard to the movements of stock, prevention and control of diseases, etc. Shop assistants are to have a weekly half-holiday, and the establishments must be closed at a certain time. A town council has been constituted for Darwin, and provision made for assessments, rates, etc. 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; subsidisation of the industry and the issue of prospecting licenses are also provided for. Licenses to search for mineral oil, and leases for working, are available. Provision has been made for the granting of leases for oyster culture. 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. Advances in aid of the erection of workmen's dwellings have also been provided for. A Council of Advice has been appointed, consisting of a chairman and seven members—four being non-official—the object of the Council being to advise the Minister on matters affecting the welfare of the Territory. Reference to the Liquor Ordinance will be found hereunder.

(vi) *Liquor Traffic.* By the Liquor Ordinances of 1915–17–18, the Commonwealth Government assumed the control of the importation, manufacture, and sale of liquor in the Territory. There is a liquor store at Darwin and three hotels, and a hotel at Pine Creek. The Department directs its energies to the minimising of excessive drinking and the prevention of illicit trading in intoxicants.

(vii) *Schedule of Ordinances.* A schedule of the ordinances promulgated up to the end of 1919 is given hereunder:—

- 1911.—1, Northern Territory Government; 2, Council of Advice; 3, Sheriff; 4, Tin Dredging; 5, Marine; 6, Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths; 7, Interpretation; 8, Stamp Duties Abolition; 9, Supreme Court; 10, Registration; 11, District Council Assessment; 12, Registration; 13, Fisheries; 14, Lands Acquisition; 15, Interpretation; 16, Aborigines.
- 1912.—1, Native Birds Protection; 2, District Council Assessment; 3, Crown Lands; 4, Supreme Court; 5, Health; 6, Thorngate Estate; 7, Jury; 8, Crown Lands; 9, Early Closing.
- 1913.—1, Mineral Oil; 2, Birds Protection; 3, Registration of Births; 4, Encouragement of Mining; 5, Advances to Settlers; 6, Public Service; 7, Crown Lands; 8, Marriage Validating.
- 1914.—1, Brands; 2, Crown Lands.
- 1915.—1, Licensing; 2, Birds Protection; 3, Roads; 4, District Council; 5, Health; 6, District Council Amendment; 7, Darwin Town Council; 8, Liquor.
- 1916.—1, Liquor Amendment; 2, Eradication of Noxious Weeds.

- 1917.—1, Crown Lands Amendment; 2, Darwin Town Council Amendment; 3, Marriage; 4, Appointment of Acting Administrator; 5, Education; 6, Crown Lands Amendment; 7, Prevention and Eradication of Diseases in Plants; 8, Liquor Amendment; 9, Stamp; 10, Darwin Pound; 11, Crown Lands Amendment.
- 1918.—1, Supreme Court Amendment; 2, Crown Lands Amendment; 3, Darwin Town Council Amendment; 4, Darwin Pound Amendment; 5, Plant Diseases; 6, Liquor Amendment; 7, Oyster Culture Leases; 8, Liquor Amendment; 9, Aboriginals; 10, Stock Diseases; 11, Liquor Amendment; 12, Supreme Court Amendment; 13, Real Property; 14, Crown Lands Amendment; 15, Closing of Roads.
- 1919.—1, Interpretation (Amendment of No. 2, 1911); 2, Bush Fires; 3, Jury Amendment; 4, Bank Holidays; 5, Workmen's Dwellings; 6, Supreme Court Amendment; 7, Jury Amendment (No. 2); 8, Council of Advice Amendment; 9, Justices' Appeals; 10, Deputy Administrator; 11, Deputy Administrator, No. 2; 12, Justices' Appeals, No. 2; 13, Supreme Court, No. 2.

### § 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 1,000 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 Year Book No. 6, p. 65.

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

1. **The Seasons.**—There are two main climatic divisions—the wet season, November to April, and the dry season, May to October, with uniform and regular changes of weather. Nearly the whole of the rainfall occurs in the summer months. Fuller particulars will be found in Year Book No. 6, p. 1116.

2. **Fauna.**—The ordinary types of native Australian fauna inhabit the territory. As elsewhere on the continent, the higher *Theria* are rare, but marsupials, birds, crocodiles, fresh-water tortoises, snakes (mostly non-venomous), and frogs abound. There are many varieties of fresh-water fish and littoral mollusca. Butterflies and beetles are strongly represented. The white ant is a pest, anthills in the Territory sometimes attaining great dimensions. Mosquitoes and sandflies are very troublesome, particularly in the wet season. Native fauna are in some cases protected. The domesticated animals have been introduced, and buffalo also exist in large herds.

3. **Flora.**—The vegetation is North Australian in type, but a number of the forms belong 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. On the wide expanses of plain country of the interior, there is little vegetation. The principal orders represented in the Territory are:—*Euphorbiaceae*, *Compositæ*, *Convolvulaceæ*, *Rubiaceæ*, *Goodeniaceæ*, *Leguminosæ*, *Urticæ*.

Fuller particulars regarding fauna and flora are given in Year Book No. 6, pp. 1116-7.

### § 5. Production.

1. **Agriculture.**—Up to the present, agriculture has made little progress in the Territory, although it has been demonstrated that rice may be grown as an ordinary crop suitable for chaff as fodder, and in certain situations for milling; while maize, cowpeas, sorghum, amberscane, millets of various kinds, and sugar-cane can also be cultivated. The drawbacks to success at the present are lack of suitable labour, and deficient means of communication. Purely tropical products such as cotton, tea, coffee, sisal hemp, and cigar tobacco can also flourish, but their profitable cultivation depends on a supply of cheap labour, which is unobtainable. The Commonwealth Government has established demonstration farms at Daly River and Batchelor. During the dry season considerable trouble is caused by the depredations of white ants in the Daly Country, particularly in connexion with such crops as sugar cane and peanuts.

2. **Stock.**—(i) The spacious, well-grassed "runs" of the Territory are, with adequate water supply, suitable for horse and cattle breeding. Large numbers of cattle are overlanded to neighbouring States, which also take considerable quantities of horse hides. The Government has a small experimental sheep station at Mataranka on the head waters of the Roper River, the flock consisting of about 3,000 merino sheep. The total area fenced in with dingo and marsupial proof fencing is about 8,000 acres, including two small home paddocks. The fencing of a large horse and cattle paddock comprising about 45 square miles has also been completed. The total area of the Mataranka Station is about 770 square miles. The estimated number of stock in the Territory on 31st December, 1918, is given in the appended statement:—

#### LIVE STOCK, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 31st DECEMBER, 1918.

Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
31,436	570,039	58,620	1,200

In 1917 there were 8,686 goats, 314 camels, 29 mules, and 316 donkeys.

The dairying industry has not been developed, although it has been shewn that it is possible to make butter of good quality. A sample from Oenpelli has been very favourably reported on by the Chief Dairy Produce Expert. Fresh milk is procurable in Darwin from the Government dairy, which was leased to a private supplier in 1914. It is found that the rank indigenous grasses in some localities are greatly improved by constant stocking, and become largely replaced by shorter and sweeter varieties.

Herds of wild buffaloes are found on the mainland and on Melville Island, and are descendants of swamp buffaloes, introduced in the early part of last century.

(ii) *Meat Preserving Works.* Extensive Meat Preserving works capable of dealing with all the stock available for export have been established in the vicinity of Darwin. Although the works are privately owned, the Government has arranged with the proprietors to treat stock from other station holders. In his Report for 1918, however, the Administrator states that owing to cost of treatment private owners find it more advantageous to overland their cattle to Queensland or even to South Australia. The works commenced operations in April, 1917.

3. **Mining.**—Small 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. An important discovery of tin at Maranboy Springs was made in 1913, and this field is now the most productive in the Territory. It is stated that better results could be obtained by amalgamating the smaller properties, and working on a larger scale, with more modern methods.

The copper mining industry was hampered in 1918–19 by the decline in the price of the metal.

Wolfram is produced at the Wauchope and Hatches Creek fields in the Davenport Ranges and at Tenberrie.

Two salt areas have been taken up, and are being worked at Darwin and the Foelshe River respectively.

(i) *Mineral Production.* Both alluvial and reef gold are found, and there are several batteries and cyanide plants. Other minerals are also raised. The following table shows the total mineral production for the last five years :—

VALUE OF MINERAL PRODUCTION, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1914 TO 1918-19.

Year.	Gold.	Tin Ore.	Wolfram.	Silver-Lead Ore.	Copper Ore.	Total Value.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1914 .. ..	10,757	15,200	4,025	545	4,860	35,807*
1915 .. ..	4,182	13,245	5,278	1,073	10,710	34,498†
1916 .. ..	2,554	27,120	20,269	275	5,517	55,780‡
1917-18 .. ..	2,229	41,432	38,788	200	9,648	92,730§
1918-19 .. ..	3,521	30,021	34,805	132	2,349	70,984¶

\* Includes mica valued at £420. † Molybdenite, £10. ‡ Molybdenite, £45.  
§ Scheelite, £350; molybdenite, £58; bismuth, £25. ¶ Mica, £150; molybdenite, £6.

The falling off in 1918-19 is more apparent than real, as large parcels of dressed and bagged wolfram ore from Wolfram Creek, Hatches Creek, and Wauchope Creek fields were unsold at the end of the year.

(ii) *Employment of Miners, 1914 to 1918-19.* The following table shows the average number employed in mining during the last five years, distinguishing Chinese :—

MINERS, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1914 TO 1918-19.

Year.	Europeans.	Chinese.	Total.
1914 .. ..	136	462	598
1915-16 .. ..	137	371	508
1916-17 .. ..	141	350	491
1917-18 .. ..	194	282	544*
1918-19 .. ..	194	260	470†

\* Including 68 aboriginals and other coloured men. † Including 16 aboriginals.

(iii) *Mining Accidents, 1911 to 1918-19.* In 1911 five mining accidents were recorded, four resulting in death. There were no serious accidents in 1910, 1912, and 1913, and only one, resulting in death, in 1914, and one in each of the years 1915, 1916, and 1917-18. No mining accidents were recorded in 1918-19. During the nine years preceding (1901-1909), nine fatal accidents and seven cases of serious injury were recorded. The majority of the victims were Chinese.

4. *Pearl Fishing.*—In 1834 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 led to a revival, but the outbreak of war has given the industry a setback for a time. The latest figures available refer to the year ended 30th June, 1919, when 16 boats were engaged, and 83 men were employed, all of whom, with the exception of 3 Europeans, were Japanese and Koepang natives. Forty tons of pearl shell were obtained. About 39 tons of bêche-de-mer were also obtained.

## § 6. Commerce and Shipping.

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

VALUE OF TOTAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1901 TO 1910.

Items.	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	52,898
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	321,461

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. The value of the direct oversea trade for 1901, and for each of the years 1914 to 1918-19, is given hereunder:—

**VALUE OF DIRECT OVERSEA TRADE, NORTHERN TERRITORY,  
1901 AND 1914 TO 1918-19.**

Items.	1901.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Imports .. .. .	37,539	83,708	74,424	82,775	32,287	25,140
Exports .. .. .	29,191	13,319	20,953	13,251	268,419	377,258
Total .. .. .	66,730	97,027	95,377	96,026	300,706	402,398

The principal items of oversea export in 1918-19 were beef, preserved by cold process, £262,379; tinned meats, £64,302; potted meats, £6,133; tallow, £35,152; and pearl shell, £7,000. The large increase as compared with previous years is due to the operations of the meat preserving works at Darwin.

2. **Shipping.**—The Territory is dependent for its shipping facilities chiefly on the services of the "Montoro" and "Mataram," trading between Sydney and Singapore. The vessels of the Eastern and Australian Co. make occasional visits, while a quarterly service between Fremantle and Darwin is carried out by the "Bambra," belonging to the West Australian State Shipping Service.

**SHIPPING, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1881 TO 1918-19.**

Period.	Arrivals.		Departures.	
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1881-1885 (Annual Average) ..	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
1914-15 .. .. .	82	173,943	81	172,482
1915-16 .. .. .	91	208,441	91	208,441
1916-17 .. .. .	70	161,636	68	161,313
1917-18 .. .. .	51	115,288	50	107,497
1918-19 .. .. .	43	88,928	42	88,806

### § 7. 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 Katherine, a length of 200 miles, of 3 ft. 6 in. gauge. The line to connect Katherine River with Oodnadatta (about 1,010 miles) has been surveyed, the greater part of the survey being exploratory in character. It is stated that this transcontinental railway would bring London within seventeen days of Adelaide. The completion of the gap would also permit of the development of the broad belts of pastoral and mineral country towards the centre of Australia. The Commonwealth also acquired on 1st January, 1911, the property in the line from Port Augusta to Oodnadatta (478 miles).



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

(i) *Marine.* Postal communication is maintained between Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, *via* North Queensland ports. There is also a service four times a year between Darwin and Boroloola by Government auxiliary vessel, calling at Roper River (this is not largely availed of owing to the more frequent inland service); and a service every sixty days between Darwin and Wyndham, on the estuary of Ord River, in the north-east of Western Australia, by the Western Australian Government steamers.

(ii) *Inland.* Posts are also despatched into the interior of the Continent. One route is from the Katherine Telegraph Station southwards as far as Alice Springs; others are from Katherine to Boroloola, from Camooweal to Boroloola, from Katherine to Victoria River and Wave Hill, from Oodnadatta to Alice Springs, from Alice Springs to Arltunga, from Horseshoe Bend to Hermannsburg, and from Katherine to Marranboy.

3. *Telegraphs.*—The transcontinental telegraph line, covering a length of 2,230 miles, was completed on the 22nd 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.

## § 8. Finance.

1. *Revenue and Expenditure, 1918-19.*—In the Commonwealth finance statement for 1918-19, separate accounts are given for Northern Territory administration. The following shews the receipts and expenditure for the financial year named :—

### REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1918-19.

REVENUE.	£	EXPENDITURE.	£
Customs and Excise ..	7,210	Salaries and Contingencies, Ordinary .. .. .	182,579
Postal, Telegraph, and Telephone .. .. .	10,333	Melbourne Administrative Services, &c. .. .. .	3,004
Darwin-Katherine River Railway .. .. .	45,725	Buildings, Roads, Bridges, Farms, &c. .. .. .	20,971
Territorial .. .. .	18,842	Interest and Sinking Fund, Northern Territory ..	161,559
Land and Income Tax ..	14,187	Interest and Sinking Fund, Port Augusta Railway ..	85,748
Miscellaneous .. .. .	28,648	Interest on Cost of South Australian Rolling-stock ..	5,720
Quarantine .. .. .	27	Loss on working Port Augusta Railway, including Interest Darwin to Katherine River Railway Construction ..	25,792
Lighthouses and Light Dues ..	880	Miscellaneous .. .. .	7,568
Stamp Duties .. .. .	762		4,360
Capital Expenditure Repayment Account .. .. .	12,927		
Deficiency on year's transactions .. .. .	357,760		
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>497,301</b>	<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>497,301</b>

The sum of £28,648 set down as miscellaneous receipts includes an amount of £17,334 which had accumulated in the Trust Fund to the credit of the Hotels Insurance Account of the Northern Territory, and was transferred to revenue. Capital Expenditure Repayment £12,927, represents payment made by the North Australia Meat Company on account of the construction of Vestey's Siding.

2. **Northern Territory Debt.**—The items making up the total debt of the Territory as at 30th June, 1919, are as follows :—

	£	£
Debt at date of transfer to the Commonwealth, 1st January, 1911 .. ..		3,931,086
Redeemed under Commonwealth Loan Acts ..	1,037,353	1,497,978
Redeemed from Consolidated Revenue ..	460,625	
Balance, 30th June, 1919 .. ..		2,433,108

To this balance must be added the £1,037,353 shown above as having been raised under the General Loan Acts of the Commonwealth. The total amount (included in the debt of the Commonwealth) incurred on account of the Northern Territory on the 30th June, 1919, was, therefore, £3,470,461. At the same date, the credit balance of the Sinking Fund, established under the *Northern Territory Acceptance Act* 1910, was £75,970.

### § 9. Land Tenure.

1. **Present Policy.**—A description of the system of land settlement in force in the Territory will be found in the chapter "Land Tenure and Settlement," see pages 283 and 284 *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 reorganisation was effected, and the system adopted was embodied in the Crown Lands Ordinances of 1912 to 1918. A leasehold system only is provided for, and no further alienation of Crown lands is permitted, except in pursuance of existing agreements. The land is classified and appraised, and leased in blocks, the maximum areas ranging from 300 square miles of first class pastoral, to 1,280 acres of first class agricultural land. The terms for pastoral leases are for Class 1, 21 years; Classes 2 and 3, 42 years; and for any miscellaneous lease, 21 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. In order to provide for cases where allottees on inspection of their blocks have reasonable grounds for preferring another block, the Administrator is empowered to revoke leases, under certain conditions. Under the Advances to Settlers Ordinance 1913, provision was made for giving settlers financial assistance in the pioneering years. Repayment of loans can be extended over a period of 30 years. Loans granted during the year amounted to £695, of which £116 was repaid. Up to the 30th June, 1918, the total amount outstanding was £7,765. Owing to the high evaporation rate, the surface waters in the Territory dwindle rapidly during the dry season, and, except in favoured localities, sub-artesian supplies must be resorted to where obtainable. In order to encourage the provision of water supply, it is proposed, in granting leases, to allow minimum rentals in the case of lessees who make satisfactory provision by means of bores, wells, or dams.

The revenue from pastoral leases and permits for the year 1918-19 was about £12,000, and from grazing licences £1,600.

2. **Number of Holdings.**—The table on page 284 *supra* shews the total area under lease, license, and permit in 1901 and in each year from 1913 to 1918. At the end of 1918 there were in existence, under South Australian Acts, 224 pastoral leases covering 63,998,080 acres, and 54 pastoral permits covering 9,034,240 acres. Under the Crown Lands Ordinance of 1912, there were 86 grazing licenses covering 16,465,230 acres, and 115 pastoral leases covering 24,703,360 acres.