

ERRATUM.

On page 11, line 22, instead of 19 *read* 192.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

ALTHOUGH the existence of the "Great Southern Continent" had been proved by previous explorers of various nationalities many years before Captain Cook re-discovered the Eastern coast in 1770, it was not until the return of this navigator from his famous cruise in the "Endeavour" that the attention of the British Government was directed towards the possibility of founding a settlement in the new land. The loss of the North American colonies by their successful rebellion made it an imperative necessity that some fresh outlet should be found for the disposal of the criminal population; but, besides this, there seems ample proof that the idea of colonial expansion was at that time strong in the minds of the British people.

In 1778 Viscount Sydney, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, resolved on the foundation of a colony in that portion of the Great Southern Continent which Cook had rather inaptly termed New South Wales. In May the "First Fleet," which was to convey the expedition, was got together. It comprised the 20-gun frigate "Sirius," with its tender the "Supply"; the storeships "Golden Grove," "Fishburn," and "Borradale"; and six transports—the "Alexander," "Scarborough," "Lady Penrhyn," "Prince of Wales," "Friendship," and "Charlotte." The largest of these vessels measured not more than 450 tons, whilst the smallest was not more than 270 tons. The six transports had on board 564 male and 19 female convicts; 178 marines, officers and men; 5 medical men, a few mechanics, 40 women, wives of the marines; and 13 children. The command of the expedition was entrusted to Captain Phillip, R.N., to whom was also granted a commission appointing him Governor and Captain-General of New South Wales. Captain Hunter, of the "Sirius," was second in command, while Mr. David Collins accompanied the expedition in the capacity of Judge-Advocate.

In January, 1788, the fleet arrived in Botany Bay. A very short examination proved that the place was ill-suited for the settlement about to be founded. The soil was everywhere poor, while there was a dearth of fresh water, and in addition to these disadvantages to settlers, the depth of water was not sufficient to admit of ships of fair tonnage approaching the shore. The land northward appeared to promise bolder indentations, and Captain Phillip, taking with him three boats, proceeded in that direction, and after going a few miles, he found himself abreast of Port Jackson, marked by Cook as a boat-harbour. He entered the inlet, and found to his great surprise that he had discovered

a port in every way suited for his purpose, and, indeed, as he speedily realised, one of the most beautiful as well as most convenient harbours in the world.

The fleet now sailed round to Port Jackson, and on the 26th January, 1788, the vessels anchored in Sydney Cove, the colonists were disembarked, and Captain Phillip formally proclaimed the new colony. As only a limited supply of provisions was available from the stores, it was necessary for the settlers immediately to devote their attention to agriculture. Land was therefore cleared at the head of Farm Cove, and wheat was sown, but owing to the unsuitability of the soil in this vicinity the crop was a failure. This was a contingency against which provision had not been made, and affairs were becoming very serious, when the arrival of a ship with a fresh batch of convicts, but without stores, brought them to a head. In this emergency Captain Phillip despatched the "Sirius" to Cape Colony and the "Supply" to Batavia to procure provisions, but only a very moderate quantity could be obtained, so that within a few weeks the community was on the verge of starvation. Under these circumstances it was necessary for everyone to be placed on short allowance, while the cattle and sheep, which were introduced for breeding purposes, were slaughtered for food. To relieve the pressure on the stores at Sydney, a detachment of 200 convicts, with a guard of 70 marines, was despatched to Norfolk Island, where Lieutenant King had been sent to establish a branch colony, and had been successful in raising an abundant crop. To add to the colony's misfortunes, the "Sirius," in which the detachment sailed, was wrecked on a reef near the Island, and the prospect of relief from this source was for the time frustrated. The colony seemed to be threatened with extinction by famine, when three storeships providentially arrived and rescued the settlers from their privations. Trouble seemed, however, persistently to follow the young settlement. Several shiploads of convicts arrived, and in consequence of overcrowding and insanitary conditions on the voyage, it was found that out of a total of 1,700 who had been placed on board in England, 200 had died on the voyage, while hundreds of others were in an enfeebled or dying condition when they reached Port Jackson. Trouble was also occasioned by successful and unsuccessful attempts of convicts to escape.

After a particularly arduous administration of four years, Governor Phillip returned to England in 1792, and subsequently received a pension from the Imperial Authorities in recognition of his services. During the period elapsing till the arrival of Captain Hunter, who succeeded him, the government was administered by Major Grose and Captain Paterson, the senior military officers in the colony.

Governor Hunter arrived in 1795, and brought with him some free settlers, mainly agricultural labourers. These turned their attention to the fine alluvial land on the banks of the Hawkesbury, and before very long upwards of 6,000 acres were under crops of wheat and maize. In the following year a herd of 60 cattle was discovered at the

“Cowpastures,” near Camden. These animals were the descendants of cattle that had strayed away from the settlement some years previously, and besides being a welcome addition to the available food supply, proved the adaptability of the colony for stock-raising purposes.

During Hunter’s term of administration the river named after him was discovered, and the existence of workable seams of coal in its vicinity was demonstrated, and led to the foundation of the city of Newcastle. Bass and Flinders carefully examined and charted the coast line to the south of Sydney, and the former proved the insularity of Tasmania by his discovery of Bass Strait. Governor Hunter left New South Wales in 1800, the population at the time being slightly in excess of 6,000. His successor was Philip Gidley King, who had been previously appointed to the control of the branch settlement at Norfolk Island.

The new Governor soon found himself embroiled in serious trouble with the New South Wales Corps. This body had been specially recruited for service in the colony, as it was impossible to find officers of regular army regiments in England who would willingly accept virtual banishment to a far distant land to act as a sort of prison guard over convicts. Some of those who were induced to accept commissions by grants of land in the colony had never before seen service in the army, while the general idea of most of the officers seemed to be to amass fortunes as quickly as possible and return to England. It was found that the rum trade offered the speediest means to this end. Not only did the officers of the Corps import large quantities, which they retailed at enormous profits, but some of them, in defiance of Government orders, went so far as to set up stills on their own account. The Governor resolutely set his face against the traffic, and refused to allow the landing of thousands of gallons of wine and spirits. The strong stand taken by the Governor roused the bitterest opposition amongst the officers, who found themselves likely to lose their chief source of emolument by reason of his action.

Governor King had also to face serious trouble in the shape of a mutiny amongst the convicts. It was customary to set the most refractory of the prisoners to work on the roads in chain-gangs, while those who merited better treatment by consistent good conduct were assigned as servants to the free settlers. On one occasion over 300 convicts were working in chain-gangs on the road at Castle Hill, between Parramatta and Windsor, under a very small force of soldiers. The prisoners overpowered the guard, and freeing themselves from their chains, marched towards the Hawkesbury, where they counted on the assistance of the men employed near Windsor. The insurgents, however, were speedily routed by Major Johnston, who had a force of only 20 men with him. The ringleaders were hanged, and the others were allowed to return to work under strict surveillance.

The initiation of wool-growing, one of the most important events in Australian history, took place during King’s administration. Captain John Macarthur of the New South Wales Corps had received a grant

of 10,000 acres of land on the Cowpasture River, near Camden, and with praiseworthy enterprise secured a small flock of Spanish merinos and commenced the experiments in wool-growing which eventually resulted in material gain not only to the originator of the idea, but also to Australia generally.

After six years of constant labour King was glad to give up the reins of office, and was succeeded in the administration of the colony by Captain Bligh. The new Governor, who assumed office in 1806, had previously won for himself a reputation for coolness and daring by his noteworthy voyage after the mutiny of the "Bounty," and subsequently at the bombardment of Copenhagen in 1798 had gained the publicly-expressed encomiums of Lord Nelson. The Imperial Authorities therefore thought that their choice had fallen on the right man to correct the abuses which King had been powerless to deal with, especially in regard to the traffic in rum. The Governor immediately on his arrival issued a stringent proclamation forbidding the bartering of strong liquors in exchange for commodities, and applying the injunction to all persons without distinction. This drastic action was viewed with the deepest resentment by a large section of the colonists, who, in spite of all authority, maintained the illicit trade throughout the whole of Bligh's term of administration. The affair which resulted in the deposition of Bligh was not directly connected with his dispute with the officers on the traffic in rum, but there can be no doubt but that Bligh's interference with the lucrative business which the officers carried on led to his downfall. Macarthur had received a summons from Atkins, the Judge-Advocate, calling upon him to answer a complaint preferred by the crew of a vessel of which he was part owner for non-payment of wages. Macarthur did not obey the order, but sent a letter defining his position in the matter. A warrant was therefore issued for his arrest, and he was brought before the Judge-Advocate and a jury of six officers of the New South Wales Corps—such being the composition of the Supreme Court at the time. Macarthur objected to the Judge-Advocate's presiding at the trial on the ground that Atkins bore him personal ill-will, and the six officers sustained his objection. Bligh refused to remove the Judge-Advocate, as indeed he had not the power to do, Atkins having been appointed by the Imperial Government.

The Governor now ordered the six officers to appear before him to justify their conduct, but they refused to obey. He also sent several messages to the Commandant, Major Johnston, requesting him to confer with him respecting the conduct of his subordinates, but that officer pleaded ill-health as his excuse for not complying with the Governor's request. Nevertheless, on the same evening Major Johnston arrived in Barrack Square, paraded his regiment, and marched in full military array to Government House, where he placed Governor Bligh in close confinement. Johnston then assumed control of affairs, and dismissed the Judge-Advocate and other prominent officials, appointing deputies in their stead.

Lieutenant-Colonel Foveaux shortly afterwards superseded Major Johnston, and he in turn was succeeded by Colonel Paterson, who came over from Tasmania to administer the government. This was about twelve months after Bligh's deposition, and although Paterson in a general way approved of Johnston's action, he nevertheless set the imprisoned Governor at liberty on condition that he proceeded home in a vessel then about to sail. Bligh promised to sail direct to England, but when he was at liberty he refused to be bound by a promise given under compulsion, and remained off the coast of Tasmania. When the Imperial Authorities became apprised of the turn affairs had taken in New South Wales they immediately despatched Lieutenant-General Macquarie to assume control of the colony. He was directed to reinstate Bligh for one day, and despatch Major Johnston under close arrest to England. He was unable, of course, to carry out his instructions with reference to Bligh, but Johnston was arrested and sent to England, where he was subsequently tried and punished with dismissal from the army.

During Macquarie's term of office a great improvement manifested itself in the moral and industrial condition of the colony, and the illicit traffic in spirits was rigidly suppressed. Education, hitherto neglected, received special attention, churches and public buildings were erected, and the work of exploration was pushed on. For the purpose of making himself personally acquainted with the conditions of life in the colony, the Governor undertook periodical journeys throughout the various districts, and no important event happened in the settlement of which the Governor was not made cognisant. In his efforts towards the amelioration of social conditions in the young colony the Governor was ably assisted by his wife, who specially devoted her attention to improving the lot of the women and children.

The Blue Mountains had hitherto formed an impassable barrier to extension of colonisation towards the west, and many attempts had been made to find a practicable route across them. In 1813, however, Messrs. Blaxland, Lawson, and Wentworth succeeded in crossing the range, and opening the way to the vast plains of the interior.

Macquarie showed great kindness to the "emancipists," as those settlers were called who had served their sentences as convicts and remained in the colony. Many of these were leading useful and honorable lives, and it was the Governor's constant effort to remove the social ban under which they laboured and to encourage them to persevere in the path of useful citizenship. The Governor also showed a large-minded tolerance in religious affairs, removing, as far as possible, the unfairness which in this respect had for some time prevailed. After the longest term of office enjoyed by any vice-regal representative, Macquarie returned to England in 1821, carrying with him the affectionate esteem of the community, with the exception of a minority who were irreconcilably opposed to his policy of toleration. He was succeeded in the administration by Sir Thomas Brisbane.

During Brisbane's term of office the work of exploration was steadily continued. In 1823 Surveyor-General Oxley was sent to survey Moreton Bay, Port Curtis, and other portions of what is now the Queensland coast. From information given by a castaway named Pamphlet, Oxley discovered the river discharging into Moreton Bay, which he named Brisbane in honour of the Governor. Hume and Hovell were despatched with an exploring party in a south-westerly direction overland from Sydney. After opening up much new country they discovered the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers, which, rising in the Great Dividing Range, flow westward, ultimately unite, and discharge into the sea on the South Australian coast, over a thousand miles from their respective sources.

The new Governor also encouraged the introduction of free settlers, with the result that numbers of wealthy young men came to the colony and took up land, and this in time led to the abolition of the costly Government farms. It was found also that supplies could be raised from the soil at a much lower rate than was possible under the previous conditions of Government control.

The Governor gave evidence of liberal views in other directions. Up till this time there had been a rigid censorship over newspaper articles published in the colony, but in 1824 liberty of the press was affirmed by proclamation. About this time also the old method of dispensing justice in a Court composed of a judge, assisted by assessors drawn entirely from officers of the army, was dispensed with, and trial by jury was instituted, the first properly empanelled jury sitting at the Quarter Sessions of November, 1824. To Sir Francis Forbes, the first Chief Justice, is mainly due the credit of introducing this much-needed reform. Up to this time the Governor had possessed practically absolute power over the affairs of the colony, the only restraining influence being the force of public opinion amongst the colonists, and the far-distant authority of the Secretary of State. But the colonists were granted a certain measure of self-government in 1823, when, under an Act passed by the British Parliament, it was provided that the Governor should nominate a Legislative Council of seven members, by whose advice he was to be guided.

Sir Thomas Brisbane was succeeded in 1825 by Major-General Ralph Darling, who before very long found himself involved in serious disputes with the colonists and the press. On account of some very severe strictures by the latter with reference to the conduct of public affairs, the Council passed several Acts which temporarily curtailed newspaper criticism. An indirect result of the enforcement of these Acts was that the number of members of the Council was increased from seven to fifteen in 1828. About this time the Bushranging Act was passed by the Council with the idea of putting a stop to the depredations of the bushrangers, as the desperadoes were called, who either singly or in gangs roamed over the highways, and robbed travellers indiscriminately.

During Governor Darling's administration the work of exploration was vigorously pushed forward. In 1823 Allan Cunningham made his way northwards from Bathurst towards the head waters of the Castlereagh, discovering the gap in the mountains known as the Pandora Pass, by which access was opened to the country beyond. In 1826 he penetrated northwards to the country round the Upper Darling. In 1827, crossing the Namoi and Dumaresq Rivers, he reached the Darling Downs. Next year, working inland from Moreton Bay, he discovered the practicable pass from the coast to the Downs which still bears his name. The most famous explorer of the time, however, was Captain Sturt. In his first journey Sturt discovered the Darling and traced both the Castlereagh and Macquarie to their junction with it. At the time when he passed over the country a prolonged drought had left its effects, the Darling being quite salt, while the bed of the Castlereagh was destitute of water. The inland sea which Oxley had affirmed his belief in was also proved to be non-existent. In his second expedition, on which he was accompanied by George Macleay, Sturt descended the Murrumbidgee and discovered the Murray, which he followed down to the sea.

At this time there were persistent rumours to the effect that the French contemplated the formation of settlements on the Australian Continent. Steps were therefore taken to occupy the threatened points in advance, and expeditions were despatched to Western Port and King George's Sound. At King George's Sound the township of Albany was founded, but Western Port, which the French had left in disgust, was shortly after abandoned.

Governor Darling left the colony in 1831, and was succeeded in the administration by Sir Richard Bourke, one of the most popular of the Governors who have ruled in New South Wales. It was to Bourke's suggestion that the policy of assisted immigration was due, the British Government doubling the amount voted by the Legislative Council to give effect to it. The first immigrants to arrive under this system were fifty young women from an orphan school in Ireland, and fifty-nine mechanics brought from Scotland by Dr. Lang to assist in building the Australian College.

Bourke's tenure of office was also made noteworthy by the valuable explorations conducted by Sir Thomas Mitchell, the Surveyor-General. In his first expedition Mitchell made a careful examination of the country northward from the Liverpool Plains. His second expedition had for its object the closer exploration of the districts between the Bogan and the Darling. On this occasion he found the country far different from what Sturt had experienced, for the river banks were now well-grassed, while the Darling was no longer a salt stream, but a stately river. Mitchell established the depôt of Fort Bourke, and explored the river's course for some three hundred miles. He had now established the fact of its connection with the Namoi, Gwydir, and Condamine, and therefore determined to make certain whether it joined the Murray or

flowed away westward. Next year, therefore (1836), he proceeded down the Lachlan basin to the Murrumbidgee, and thence along the Murray till he met the stream which Sturt had taken to be the Darling. This idea he proved to be correct, and then turned back with the object of ascertaining the connection between the Murray and Hume's series of rivers. But near Swan Hill he reached the Loddon, and ascending Mount Hope and Pyramid Hill, obtained the first vision of a country which so charmed him that he gave it the name of Australia Felix. Passing through this district, he crossed the Loddon and Avoca Rivers to the head waters of the Wimmera, and later on reached the Glenelg. This stream he followed down to its estuary, and then turned eastward to Portland Bay, where he came upon the settlement of the brothers Henty. On his return journey Mitchell ascended Mount Macedon, whence he viewed the grassy plains stretching away to Port Phillip; then retracing his steps to his camp near Castlemaine, he proceeded from this point to the river Murray, which he crossed a little below the present site of Albury. Mitchell soon afterwards made a triumphal entry into Sydney, after an absence of seven months' duration.

Governor Bourke left the colony in 1837, carrying with him the esteem of the colonists over whom he had so ably ruled. As some recognition of his many services, particularly in regard to the question of religious equality, it was decided to erect a statue of him in Sydney, and in 1842 the statue was completed and placed at the Macquarie-street entrance to the Domain, where the ceremony of unveiling took place on the 11th April of the same year.

The next Governor was Sir George Gipps, who assumed office in 1838, and immediately found himself called upon to grapple with questions of very serious import. One of the most pressing of these was the abolition of the transportation system. For a long time the feeling had been growing in the colony that the day was past when New South Wales should be called upon to receive convicts, and as early as 1830 a league had been formed to ensure cessation of transportation. The Parliamentary Committee of 1837-8 had collected a volume of evidence which fairly horrified public opinion in England when it became known. In spite of the opposition of those landholders who feared that loss of convict labour would mean the destruction of their interests, an Order in Council was passed in 1840 entirely abolishing the system as far as it affected New South Wales. During the fifty-three years when transportation was in operation 82,250 convicts, of whom 70,040 were males, and 12,210 females, had been landed in Sydney. Some nine years after the passing of the Order in Council an attempt was made to revive the system, but without success. Another very important event which took place during the administration of Sir George Gipps was the granting of a new Constitution providing for the appointment of a Legislative Council consisting of thirty-six members, twelve of whom were to be nominated by the Crown, while the remainder were to be elected. The franchise

qualification was a £20 rental, or a freehold of £200 in value, and the qualification for elective members was property to the amount of £2,000, or of £100 yearly value. The first meeting of the newly-constituted Council took place on the 1st August, 1843.

In 1844 a movement was begun by the settlers in the Port Phillip district to have that portion of the continent proclaimed a separate colony. At this period the total population of what is now New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland was not more than 150,000, the residents of the Port Phillip district numbering about 30,000. It was claimed by these settlers that the distance which separated them from the seat of government was too great to permit of their requirements receiving attention, and their claim for separation was eloquently supported by Dr. Lang, one of the six members representing the Port Phillip district in the Council. After seven years of agitation their petition was granted, and in 1851, when the population numbered 77,345, the country south of the Murray was formed into a separate colony under the name of Victoria.

Sir George Gipps retired from office in 1846, and was succeeded by Sir Charles Augustus Fitzroy. During Fitzroy's term of office, which expired in January, 1855, occurred some of the most important events in the annals of the colony. Chief amongst these was the discovery of gold in 1851. For some years before this time there had been rumours of the existence of the precious metal. In 1839 Count Strzelecki found traces of gold in iron ore at Hartley, in the Blue Mountains, but Governor Gipps, fearful of its effects on the convict community, persuaded Strzelecki to keep the matter secret. Again, in 1841, the Rev. W. B. Clarke found grains of gold in a creek near Bathurst. Speaking in England in 1844, Sir Roderick Murchison stated it to be his belief that the Great Dividing Range of Australia would be found as rich in gold as the Ural Mountains of Europe. But it was not till the Government Geologist had confirmed Edward Hargraves' discoveries in 1851, and nuggets of gold began to arrive in Sydney, that the teachings of the geologists were remembered. Almost in an instant all classes of the community were infected with the most intense excitement. The immediate result of the discovery was extremely unpleasant. The squatters were deserted by their shepherds and labourers, work in the various trades was paralysed for want of hands to attend to it, while a general suspension of ordinary business seemed about to result from the wild rush to the diggings. However, in a few years matters resumed a more sober aspect, and gold-mining took its place among the settled industries of the colony.

The year 1851 was also a memorable one through the passing of an Act by the Imperial Government providing for the granting of a larger measure of self-government for New South Wales. The desire for a free Constitution had been strong for some years before the discovery of gold, and now that the colony had received such a large

accession of free settlers consequent on the discovery, its position as a Crown dependency was becoming still more irksome. In pursuance of the powers granted by the Act, a Select Committee of the Legislative Council was appointed in 1852 to draw up a Constitution. As a result of the deliberations of this body, a remonstrance was despatched to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in which objection was taken to the form of Constitution which the Imperial Authorities proposed to grant, and after some negotiation the demands of the colonists were practically agreed to. In the report submitted by this Committee there was one extraordinary proposal. In their desire to copy as far as possible the British model, the Committee agreed to recommend an elective Assembly to represent the Commons and a nominated Council to represent the House of Peers. To provide for this Upper House the Committee recommended the establishment of an hereditary order of colonial nobility, from amongst the members of which the Upper House was to be chosen. The publication of this report raised a storm of indignation and ridicule in the metropolis. Numerous attended public meetings were held, and strongly-worded resolutions unanimously adopted denouncing the proposed establishment of a colonial peerage. Nevertheless, the Council proceeded to discuss the Committee's report in the ordinary course, but at length the tide of public opinion grew so strong that the objectionable aristocratic clause was removed, and the Constitution Act as it now stands was finally passed on the 21st December, 1853. Messrs. Wentworth and Deas-Thomson were deputed to proceed to England in order to facilitate the acceptance of the measure by the Imperial Parliament, and in July, 1855, Royal Assent was given to the necessary Bill, making the Constitution operative. The formal inauguration of the Constitution was performed by Governor Denison on the 19th December. Sir William Denison, who had just succeeded Governor Fitzroy, was sworn in under a commission from the Queen which revoked his former credentials and appointed him Governor-in-Chief of New South Wales. The writs for the first Parliament were issued on the 22nd May, 1856.

It was unfortunate that the introduction of the new Constitution should have been coincident with the arrival of Sir William Denison. His unpopular reputation had preceded him from Tasmania, and his appointment to the Governorship of the colony was viewed with a considerable amount of distrust which his subsequent conduct seemed to justify.

The outbreak of the Crimean War in 1854 had caused no little apprehension in the minds of the people of New South Wales lest they should receive an unwelcome visit from some armed Russian cruiser. It was in consequence of this that Sir William Denison decided on making some attempt at fortifying the harbour of Port Jackson. Several forts were erected and guns placed in position; the forts and guns remain to this day, monuments of the want of foresight which led to their construction and of the ease with which public money can

be thrown away in times of scare. To modern eyes the value of these preparations seems peculiarly ludicrous.

The first Ministry under Responsible Government, short-lived though it was, is worthy of record as marking a new stage in the Colony's progress. Its personnel was as follows :—Stuart Alexander Donaldson, Colonial Secretary ; Thomas Holt, Colonial Treasurer ; William Montagu Manning, Attorney-General ; John Bayley Darvall, Solicitor-General ; George Robert Nichols, Auditor-General ; and William C. Mayne, Representative of the Government in the Legislative Council. Nichols was also Secretary for Lands and Works in this Administration. Donaldson, Manning, and Darvall were appointed Members of the Executive Council on the 29th April, 1856, but they did not take office until the 6th June, as some preliminary arrangements were necessary before they vacated their seats as Members of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Alexander Warren was also appointed a Member of the Executive Council on the 21st May, 1856, but resigned without entering upon the duties of the office.

Early in 1857 a Bill was reserved for the Royal Assent, which had for its object the repeal of so much of the Constitution Act as required the concurrence of two-thirds majorities in both Houses of Parliament in the passing of measures for the alteration of the Constitution, or of the number and apportionment of representatives in the Legislative Assembly. In the same year the public mind was greatly disturbed by the spread of a rumour to the effect that the Moreton Bay district was to be separated from New South Wales with a view to a revival of transportation to that settlement. A series of motions embodying the popular sentiment on the subject was moved by Mr. Parkes, and carried by the Assembly without division.

The subject of Federation had received considerable attention from the framers of the Constitution, and it was again brought up by Mr. E. Deas-Thomson, who moved in the Legislative Council for a Select Committee to bring up a report on the matter. This Committee subsequently met and brought up a report embodying various resolutions, but prorogation of Parliament stopped further progress.

In the year 1855 steam communication was renewed with England. It had been interrupted by the outbreak of the Crimean War, when all the available means of transport were pressed into service for the conveyance of troops and stores to the seat of operations. But so far as the colony was concerned, this year was marked by a much more important event, namely, the opening of the railway line which connected Sydney and Parramatta. On the 26th September, five years after the first sod was turned, and nine years after the railway project was mooted, the first train that ever ran in New South Wales left the Redfern Railway Station.

The year 1856 saw the erection, at the instance of Sir William Denison, of the Sydney Observatory, a great number of the instru-

ments therein being those which were originally used in the old Parramatta Observatory. The first observatory in the colony existed as far back as 1788, a view of Port Jackson at the time showing it as on the shore of Sydney Cove. On the 29th October, 1858, the telegraph line between Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide was opened for communication, while extensions to Bathurst and Maitland were completed two years later.

The year 1857 was marked by an unprecedented number of casualties. In many districts of the colony disastrous floods occurred, resulting in much loss of life and property. The valleys of the Hunter and Hawkesbury Rivers in particular were the scenes of much devastation. Another awful catastrophe was the wreck of the "Dunbar" at the Gap, near Sydney Heads, when, out of 120 persons, mostly colonists returning to New South Wales, only one was saved. This disaster was shortly afterwards followed by another, the wreck of the "Catherine Adamson" near the Heads, resulting in the loss of twenty-one lives. In consequence of the latter tragic occurrences, steps were taken to improve the coastal lighting in the vicinity of Sydney Heads, and a fine lighthouse was erected on outer South Head.

About the middle of 1858 reports came down the Queensland coast of the discovery of gold at Port Curtis. The find was made at a cattle station called Canoona, some seven miles from the landing-stage of what is now the city of Rockhampton, on the Fitzroy River. The discovery was greatly magnified, as was, and is, so often the case with respect to new "rushes"; and a great exodus set northwards, especially from Sydney and Melbourne. During the month no less than 4,000 miners left Sydney for Rockhampton, and the excitement grew with every shipload that left the port. A township sprang into sudden existence, and by the end of October some 10,000 miners were assembled at the scene of the "rush." But the Canoona field was as short-lived as it was famous. The area of payable workings was confined to some two and a half acres, and even in this limited space the gold was all on the surface. Deep digging was rewarded with disappointment, and the field was proved a failure. The miners flocked to Sydney, and it became necessary for the State to relieve their destitution. By the end of the year 1858 the Port Curtis field was practically abandoned, but, strange to relate, the surrounding district has since developed into one of the richest fields in the Northern Colony. Fortunately, shortly after the failure of the Canoona "rush," gold was found at Kiandra, in the neighbourhood of Snowy River, and a number of miners quickly collected on the spot, though anything like systematic exploitation was not possible during the winter months. The Kiandra field was quickly worked out for the time being; though the workings at New Chum Hill, and other places in the vicinity, have since been profitably reopened. Discovery followed upon discovery in various parts of the colony about this time, one of the most famous being that of Burrangong, or Lambing Flat, which was subsequently to give the

Government no little trouble in connection with the rioting of the diggers over the influx of Chinese.

In 1859 assembled the new Parliament, which had been elected under Cowper's measure providing for increased electoral representation, universal manhood suffrage, and vote by ballot. Every Parliament since then has been elected on the same basis, with the extension of manhood suffrage by the adoption of the principle of "One-man-one-vote"; the adjustment, from time to time, of electoral representation of population, and a few minor changes.

The first half of the year 1860 was marked by heavy and greatly destructive floods, and the Legislative Assembly was impelled to vote the sum of £3,000 for the relief of the sufferers. The gold-fields at Kiandra and Burrangong were gradually absorbing the disappointed men who had returned from the Port Curtis "rush," and considerable activity in the exploitation of the precious metal was everywhere exhibited. But if the mining industry was in a prosperous condition, so much cannot be said of the pastoral interest. About this time a new sickness broke out among the stock in the colony; this was anthrax, called locally the "Cumberland Disease," and many stock-owners were heavy losers.

The presence of large numbers of Chinese at Lambing Flat gave rise to a serious disturbance towards the close of 1860. Matters had reached such a pitch that bodies of police and military had to be despatched to the locality to maintain order. There is no doubt that the action of the Premier, Mr. Cowper, in personally proceeding to the diggings, and promising on behalf of the Government to give the miners' claims every consideration, averted what might have proved to be far more serious developments.

After the first excitement of the rush for gold had died out, the question of land settlement had to be dealt with in an entirely new spirit, to meet the requirements of a class of immigrants different to that contemplated by previous enactments. In September, 1860, Mr. Robertson introduced two Land Bills—the Crown Lands Alienation Bill and the Crown Lands Occupation Bill. The main principle of the latter Bill was that of "free selection before survey," but after a protracted debate the measure was defeated. Soon afterwards a vote of want of confidence in the administration was carried, and Parliament was dissolved.

One of the last official acts of Sir William Denison gave rise to much criticism and parliamentary attack. After a lengthy correspondence between the Imperial and Colonial Governments, the Governor made a re-grant to the heirs of a person named Tawell of certain property escheated to the Crown. Tawell was a returned convict who had been executed in England for a murder he had committed there. The grant had been drawn up in the office of a private solicitor, and the Governor demanded the Great Seal of the Colony from Mr. Cowper in order to impress the grant with it. The Premier refused to hand it over, and

pointed to a previous decision of the Cabinet on the subject. But Sir William Denison had received the command of the Secretary of State and was determined to obey it, notwithstanding the protests of the Colonial Ministry. He, therefore, insisted on the surrender of the Seal, and the Ministry handed it over, but tendered their resignations at the same time. His Excellency having completed the deed of grant, returned the Seal, but declined to receive the resignations of the Ministry. This led to a proposal in Parliament by Mr. Cowper that a Committee should be appointed to prepare an address to Her Majesty praying that she might be pleased to direct that the Great Seal of the colony should not be used except with the advice of a responsible Minister, or of the Executive Council for the time being. After some debate, however, no further action was taken in the matter.

An event of the greatest importance during the régime of Sir William Denison was the separation of the Moreton Bay district in the year 1859, and its erection into a separate colony under the name of Queensland. The agitation for separation had continued on the part of the northern settlers for many years; but they encountered a determined opposition at the hands of the representatives of the southern communities. The Imperial Government requested Governor Denison to draw up a report on the advisability of granting self-government to the residents of Moreton Bay district, and in his reply the Governor strenuously opposed the idea. When the text of the Governor's despatch was published it raised a storm of indignation in the breasts of the northerners. But the indignation was transformed into delight when Her Majesty's Government informed His Excellency that the time had arrived when "separation would be desirable," despite vice-regal arguments to the contrary; and at length, on the 13th May, 1859, Royal Letters Patent were issued creating the Colony of Queensland, and appointing Sir George Ferguson Bowen as its first Governor. The new colony was formally proclaimed on the arrival of Bowen in the month of December following, and separation from the mother-colony was an accomplished fact.

Sir William Denison surrendered office on the 22nd January, 1861. From the 23rd January to the 21st March, the Government was administered by Lieutenant-Colonel John F. Kempt, of the 12th Regiment. On the 22nd March, the Right Hon. Sir John Young arrived in the colony, but was not immediately sworn in as Governor-in-Chief, as he had reached the colony in advance of his credentials. He, therefore, took office as Administrator, and as such remained until the 15th May, when he assumed the position of Governor-in-Chief, and held it until the 24th December, 1867.

Throughout the whole of the period during which Sir John Young presided over the Government of the colony a great deal of democratic legislation was attempted, and some carried into effect. About this time the gold-miners made their influence felt as a political factor in the colony, and brought sufficient pressure to bear on the Government to

ensure the passing of a Gold-fields Bill, with especial reference to aliens. The labour market was starved through the withdrawal of hundreds to the diggings, and the Assembly voted the sum of £5,000 for the despatch to Great Britain and Ireland of lecturers and immigration agents, the choice falling upon Messrs. Parkes and Dalley, who accordingly left the colony to carry out this mission.

Early in 1861, Mr. Robertson again introduced his Land Bills, and to ensure their passing the Upper House resigned his seat in the Assembly, and on the 3rd April was sworn in as a member of the Legislative Council. In order to counteract the determined opposition which the measures aroused in the Upper House, twenty-one new members were appointed to the Council. The effect of these appointments was to bring about a parliamentary crisis, the President of the Council together with a number of the members withdrawing from the House, and, as the new members could not be sworn in, the Legislative Council ceased to exist. Under any circumstance the Council had not long to live, as its members were nominated for a term of five years only; and as no legislation had been passed in regard to a new Council, it devolved on the Governor to choose a Council whose members would hold seats for life. The nominations gave the Governor's advisers much trouble and anxiety, and the Premier, Mr. Charles Cowper, called to his aid the experience of the most capable man in the political arena of the colony—William Charles Wentworth. The Governor, on his part, was also extremely anxious in the matter of the nominations, and selected some twenty-seven names for the life period, or six above the minimum number, being advised in the matter by Edward Deas-Thomson, the most experienced person in the official life of the colony, and its virtual ruler in the days of Sir Charles Fitzroy. But there were other men of tried experience and high position, and His Excellency was in daily consultation with a little council privileged and able to advise him. Of those proposed for appointment several declined the honour, but on the 24th June, 1861, the following list of the first "life" Council was published in the *Government Gazette*. From an historical standpoint it possesses an especial interest—George Allen, William Byrnes, John Campbell, John Bayley Darvall, Robert Fitzgerald, John Fletcher Hargrave, George Kenyon Holden, Charles Kemp, John Macfarlane, Alexander Macarthur, Sir William Montagu Manning, Francis Lewis Shaw Merewether, James Mitchell, John Hubert Plunkett, John Robertson, Ralph Meyer Robey, Bourn Russell, William Russell, Alexander Walker Scott, Edward Deas-Thomson, Edward Wolstenholme Ward, John Brown Watt, and William Charles Wentworth—the appointment of the last-named as President of the Legislative Council being announced in the same number of the *Government Gazette*.

The first matter to engage the attention of the new Parliament was Robertson's deferred land legislation. At last, on the 18th September, 1861, the Crown Lands Alienation Bill and the Crown Lands Occu-

pation Bill were introduced to the Assembly by Mr. Cowper. Both Bills were passed through all their stages, and transmitted to the Legislative Council on the following day, and soon afterwards became law. A Chinese Immigrants Regulation and Restriction Bill was introduced on the 25th September, 1861, and practically embodied the legislation of Victoria on the subject. It provided for a penalty of £10 upon the owner, charterer, or master of any vessel, for every Chinese passenger arriving at the port in excess of one to every ten tons of the ship's tonnage; and likewise for the payment of £10 by each Chinese before being permitted to land. It also provided for an annual payment of £4 by each Chinese during his residence in the colony, and there was a clause against the naturalisation of Chinese. After some differences with the Council and several amendments made in the Upper House, the Bill got through its final stages, and was assented to on the 27th November, 1861.

The question of Church and School Lands, which had been before the country for many years, again came up for discussion. In 1826 a Corporation styled the Trustees of the Clergy and School Lands in the Colony of New South Wales was empowered, amongst other things, to sell and grant leases of such lands as should be granted by the Crown, the rents and purchase money to be paid to the Treasury. The net revenue obtained was to be applied to two funds—the Improvement and Building Fund, and the Clergy and Schools Account—the former fund being devoted to the improvement of churches, parsonages, school-houses, &c., and the latter to the support of the clergy of the Established Church of England and the maintenance of schools and schoolmasters. All lands which had been set apart for the maintenance and education of orphans and all moneys pertaining thereto were also vested in this Corporation. In 1833 the affairs of the Corporation were transferred to a Board of Commissioners, and all property belonging to the Corporation at the time of its dissolution was vested in the Crown. The annual income arising from sales and leases of property was blended in one fund and paid to the Colonial Treasurer, and was applied in accordance with instructions received from the Secretary of State in the proportion of five-sevenths in payment to ministers of the Church of England, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, and Wesleyan Methodist Churches, and two-sevenths to the purposes of public instruction. In 1864 it was urged in Parliament that, on the dissolution of the Corporation previously alluded to, the Clergy and School Lands became waste lands of the Crown, and the revenue arising from them should be paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund, but by a decision of the Supreme Court it was held that these lands were not so disposable, but had reverted to and become vested in the Crown for the promotion of religion and education in the colony.

The matter of an elective Legislative Council, with a modified franchise on the basis of the Assembly's membership, was again brought forward in 1861. A Bill dealing with the question had

passed the Assembly in the preceding session and had not been proceeded with, and a similar Bill was introduced by the Attorney-General into the Council and referred to a Select Committee. At the close of the session this Committee brought up a progress report, wherein they stated that they had discussed the subject, but had not had time to mature their views. All through this particularly active legislative period the question of an elected Upper House was a burning one. Wentworth, disappointed with the failure of his proposed nominee chamber, lent the weight of his approval to the measure of reform. In June, 1862, the Attorney-General again introduced a Bill, which, after argument, was referred to a Select Committee. The property qualifications recommended by this Bill were—Freehold or leasehold for an unexpired term of at least 21 years, or of the value of £300, or £20 per annum; leasehold if for a less term, of £50 per annum; household occupancy paying rent of £50 per annum, or pastoral tenure of Crown Lands at £20 per annum. The Hare system of voting for election was advocated. It was also proposed to introduce a principle which provided for the appointment of nominated members selected for special services, who should hold their seats for life. After passing through all its stages in the Council, this Bill was sent to the Legislative Assembly on the 8th October, where, after being debated for some time, it was allowed to drop. Another measure which aroused a good deal of controversy was the Bill to prohibit future grants of public money in aid of public worship. Prior to the third reading, requests were put forward by the clergy of the Church of England for permission to represent their case by Counsel, and later Mr. Gordon was heard at the bar of the House. The Bill passed the Assembly and was transmitted to the Legislative Council, where various protests were lodged against its acceptance. The Council made certain amendments in the measure, which, however, were not insisted on, and having passed through its remaining stages, it was reserved on the 10th December for the signification thereon of Her Majesty's pleasure, which was given in due course.

The question of cotton cultivation was one of extreme interest during the early sixties, when the American Civil War was at its height. Members had curious visions of a second America, white with a wealth that should replace that of the gold-field days, already drifting into a memory. On the 27th June, 1862, Mr. Hay obtained leave to introduce a Bill for the encouragement of cotton-growing. The Act provided that grants of portions of waste lands might be made on certain conditions to associations and responsible persons who would undertake cotton culture. The Bill passed both Houses and received the Royal Assent.

On the 9th October, 1862, Mr. Wentworth vacated the President's chair in the Legislative Council, and was succeeded by Mr. Terence Aubrey Murray, formerly Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. In the meanwhile Messrs. Parkes and Dalley, emigration agents and lecturers, were recalled from their mission to Great Britain and Ireland

in pursuance of a resolution of the House of Assembly, adopted on the motion of Mr. Robertson.

During the interval that elapsed between the session of 1862 and that of 1863, an Intercolonial Conference was held in Melbourne to discuss the existing tariffs, and certain other matters affecting the interests of the colonies. A more extended reference to the deliberations of this Conference will be found in the chapter dealing with the history of Victoria.

On the 19th August, 1863, Mr. James Martin (afterwards Chief Justice of the Colony) moved:—"That, in the opinion of this House, the alarming insecurity for life and property which has so long prevailed throughout the country districts is in a high degree discreditable to Her Majesty's Ministers in this colony; and, secondly, that the conduct of Her Majesty's Ministers in this colony, in the appointments to the Magistracy, and generally in connection with the administration of justice, has been such as to call for the strong condemnation of this House." Indeed, the condition of the country districts had grown to be alarming in the extreme. Acts of bushranging (or of "robbery under arms") were of daily occurrence, and the police appeared powerless to cope with the evil. Highway robbery is an invariable practice in young countries where means of communication and transit are limited. From the earliest times it had been the experience of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, where a large prison population and the scattered nature of settlement made it an extremely difficult task effectively to deal with criminal escapees. Victoria drew several highwaymen to her country districts as soon as gold discoveries had made it profitable to "stick up" escorts and mail coaches. It was not until the colonies were traversed by railroads and threaded by telegraph wires that life and property could be considered as being at all safe. It was by no means the first time in the history of New South Wales that extraordinary legislation had been demanded to combat the great evil of bushranging; and Van Diemen's Land was also obliged to make strenuous efforts to put down this pest. The Bushranging Act of New South Wales, one of the most remarkable measures known in the colony, was passed by the old Legislative Council in 1830, at a single sitting. The debate on Mr. James Martin's resolutions concerning bushranging, moved on the 19th August, 1863, continued until the 27th of the same month, when the resolutions were negatived by 44 to 18. On the first of the month following Mr. William Forster moved that the proceedings and results of the recent Intercolonial Conference held at Melbourne had been highly unsatisfactory, and his resolution was lost by 27 to 16.

The year 1863 witnessed the initiation of the long-protracted Riverina district trouble. On the 2nd September Mr. Morris presented a petition from the inhabitants of that part of the colony praying for the establishment of their district as a distinct one, with defined boundaries, on the same footing as that of Port Phillip before separation, and

with a superintendent or sub-governor. The petition was received, and on the same evening a similar petition to the Governor, with the reply of the Colonial Secretary thereto, was laid on the table. The letter of the Colonial Secretary was to the effect that the Government were not prepared to recognise the necessity of defining any portion of the existing colony of New South Wales as a distinct province; and that the appointment of a Government superintendent would impede rather than expedite the transaction of public business. Amidst their arduous duties the members of the Assembly found time to attend to their own particular affairs, and, on a resolution moved by Mr. Stewart, affirmed, by 19 to 13, that it was desirable that members of Parliament should be entitled to travel by railway free of charge.

Sir John Young retired from the Government of New South Wales on the 24th December, 1867, and Sir Trevor Chute, K.C.B., administered the Government till the arrival of the Earl of Belmore, who entered office on the 8th January, 1868. About a week after the installation of the new Governor, the Duke of Edinburgh arrived in the colony, and was received with great demonstrations of loyalty. A feeling of widespread horror pervaded all classes when news respecting his attempted assassination on the 12th March became known. The party feeling, aroused by the suggestions—very widely believed—that this unfortunate occurrence was instigated by a certain section of the community, forms one of the most regrettable incidents in the annals of the colony.

On the 18th March Mr. Martin moved, and Mr. Robertson seconded, a motion for the suspension of the Standing Orders, with a view to the passing through all its stages in one day of a "Bill for the Better Security of the Crown and Government of the United Kingdom, and for the Better Suppression and Punishment of Seditious Practices and Attempts." The Bill passed through all its stages in both Houses in one day, and assent thereto was reported on the next day. The Treason Felony Act, brought in by Mr. James Martin, was, in its scope and language, according to the reported words of that gentleman, "sufficiently large to include any attempts at deposing the Queen, establishing a Republic, putting down the Courts of Law, or any designs which may exist here or elsewhere for any such purposes as those."

Shortly after the departure of the Duke of Edinburgh for England, Mr. Henry Parkes, in a speech delivered at Kiama, stated that he held conclusive proof that the attempted assassination of the Prince was the result of a deliberate plot, and further, that someone who had a guilty knowledge of the secret, and whose fidelity was suspected, had been foully murdered. These statements created a profound impression throughout the country, and in the early part of 1869 formed the subject of an inquiry by a Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly. This Committee, in its report, practically declared that the statements made by Mr. Parkes were unsupported by the evidence adduced. However, when the report came before the Assembly, Mr. Parkes

secured its rejection by a substantial majority, and had it expunged from the records. The Assembly then adopted resolutions condemnatory of the methods employed by the Select Committee in conducting the inquiry.

On the 15th December, 1868, the Triennial Parliaments Bill was introduced by Dr. Lang. On the 22nd January following, the second reading of the Bill was negatived by 20 to 18, and it was then discharged by the casting vote of the Speaker. It was, however, subsequently reintroduced and passed in 1874.

In the months of June and July, 1870, an Intercolonial Conference was held in Melbourne, at which representatives from New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia were present, the New South Wales delegates being the Hon. Charles Cowper, Colonial Secretary, and the Hon. Saul Samuel, Colonial Treasurer. Information respecting the deliberations of this body will be found in the chapter of this work dealing with the history of Victoria.

The year 1870 was the hundredth anniversary of the discovery of the eastern coast of the Continent by Captain Cook, and it was felt that it would be a peculiarly appropriate year for an Intercolonial Exposition. Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, and Victoria furnished exhibits illustrative of their resources, but New Zealand was not represented. The Exhibition was held in a building erected in Prince Alfred Park by the City Corporation at a cost of £20,000, and, in spite of various drawbacks, was a pronounced success.

During the elections following immediately on the dissolution of Parliament in 1872, considerable feeling was displayed in the Southern Border Electorates over the separation question. Mass meetings were held at Albury, and attempts were made to revive the agitation for the separation of the Riverina from the mother colony.

The Earl of Belmore retired from the Government of New South Wales on the 22nd February, 1872, and an interval of about four months elapsed before the arrival of Sir Hercules Robinson, during which time the Government was administered by Sir Alfred Stephen. On the 3rd June, 1872, the new Governor assumed office under a Commission appointing him Governor and Commander-in-Chief of New South Wales.

On the 7th May, 1873, Sir James Martin announced in the Legislative Assembly the death of Mr. William Charles Wentworth, and moved that as a fitting tribute of respect the House should adjourn, which was accordingly done. On the meeting of the Legislative Council, on the day following, that House also adjourned in token of respect to Mr. Wentworth's memory.

Legislative activity at about this period concerned itself most particularly with the Border duties. A Bill to make provision for free intercourse across the boundary-line of the river Murray was introduced by Mr. Parkes on the 12th June, 1873, and passed the Assembly by a

large majority. The Bill was, however, shelved by the Legislative Council by a majority of one in a very small House. The action of the Council caused much irritation in the Assembly, and the Premier announced his intention of taking steps to reform the Upper House. About this time the Government introduced a public works policy of an expansive character involving the construction of four separate lines of railway, as well as various harbour works and public buildings, the whole involving an expenditure of £1,562,000; and in order to have labour for the construction of these works, it was proposed to set apart £50,000 for immigration purposes. This public works policy was continued for a little over fifteen years under various administrations.

Towards the close of 1874 the Governor announced to the House the intention of the Imperial Authorities to take over the Fiji Islands in the South Pacific, and in pursuance of this policy he proceeded to the islands, and formally took possession of the group in the name of Her Majesty.

During Sir Hercules Robinson's term of office the first "through" cable message was received from England; railway communication with Melbourne was carried on within the Victorian territory from the metropolis of that colony as far as Wodonga; the cable from La Perouse to Wakapuaka was opened, and direct telegraphic communication between New South Wales and New Zealand thereby established; the railway from Sydney to Bathurst was opened to traffic; the overland telegraph line from Adelaide to Perth was completed, and the "Seven Colonies" were thus brought within sympathetic earshot.

But, perhaps, the most important event marking Sir Hercules Robinson's term of office was of political and not of material significance. This was the institution in New South Wales of Triennial Parliaments. The first Parliament elected under the Constitution Act met on the 22nd May, 1856; and the duration of Parliament, unless it should be previously prorogued, was originally fixed at five years; but in 1874 an Act was passed establishing Triennial Parliaments, and this Act has ever since remained in force.

On the day following the departure of Sir Hercules Robinson (the 20th March, 1879), Sir Alfred Stephen took up the duties of Administrator, and discharged them until the 3rd August, when Sir Augustus William Frederick Spencer Loftus, P.C., G.C.B. (commonly called Lord Loftus), entered on his term of office as Governor.

The holding of the first International Exhibition was a great event in Lord Loftus' régime. The previous Intercolonial Exhibition having proved so successful, it was determined that this one should partake of an international character. The management of the affair was originally in the hands of the Agricultural Society, but it assumed such large proportions that the Government determined to take it over, and entrusted the work to an honorary Commission. The Exhibition was held in a commodious building called the Garden Palace, and was in

every respect a pronounced success. On the advantage to commerce resulting from it there is little need to dwell. Unfortunately the building was burnt to the ground in 1882, and many valuable documents were destroyed.

The colony gave further proof of its power and its resources in the despatch of a military contingent to the British Army which had been working its way up the Nile in an endeavour to rescue General Gordon. The prevailing uncertainty as to the fate of the gallant Governor of Khartoum caused profound anxiety in the colony, and the Acting Premier, the Hon. William Bede Dalley, with the sanction of the Ministry, offered the armed assistance of New South Wales. It was thought that an expedition from Suakim to the Nile was about to be undertaken, and under this impression the New South Wales Government suggested the despatch to Suakim of a force of infantry and artillery, together with the necessary supply of horses. The offer of the colony was accepted. On the 3rd March, 1885, the Australian Contingent, as it was called, although it was really the New South Wales Contingent, sailed from Sydney to Suakim in two large steamships, the "Iberia" and the "Australasian," which left Port Jackson amid the wildest enthusiasm. This was the first military support ever tendered by any of these colonies to the mother country. The day of departure was proclaimed a public holiday, and no more brilliant and exciting spectacle had ever been seen in Sydney than was witnessed on the day of departure of the troops. The military plans for the Egyptian campaign were subsequently modified, and the little army returned in safety on the 24th June, nearly four months from the date of their setting forth, without having seen much service; but the impression produced in England by the spontaneous loyalty of the colonies was extraordinary, and this impression has been accentuated by the presence of Australian troops at the Jubilee Celebrations, the subsequent visit of a squadron of the New South Wales Lancers to England, and lastly, by the despatch of troops from the various Australasian colonies to assist the British forces in the Transvaal. The Soudan Contingent gave rise to a new estimate of the value of the Colonial Empire, and stimulated greatly the discussion of the whole question of Imperial Federation.

During Lord Loftus' term of office, a leading topic of conversation in social and political circles, and a source of Ministerial trouble and worry, was the celebrated Millburn Creek Copper-Mining Company scandal, which involved the reputation and probity of several persons occupying leading positions in the community. Among other events deserving of record, His Excellency's period of administration was marked by the successful sinking of the first artesian bore in Australia at Killara, New South Wales; and by the first issue of silver coin at the Sydney Mint. During this year the National Park, the largest of the metropolitan pleasure-grounds, was dedicated to the people of New South Wales, and it is intended that this locality shall, as far as possible, preserve for all time its distinctive scenery.

One of the most important measures passed in the colony since the introduction of Responsible Government, was the "Bill to make more adequate provision for Public Education," introduced by Sir Henry Parkes in 1879, and assented to in 1880. This Bill, known as the "Public Instruction Act of 1880," repealed the Public Schools Act of 1866, and dissolved the Council of Education, the powers of which were entrusted to the Minister of Public Instruction. The Bill abolished State aid to denominational schools and established a secular and compulsory system with free education for the children of those who were not in a position to pay the small fee imposed by law.

Another important enactment in 1879 was the Electoral Bill. This Bill, assented to in 1880, repealed the Electoral Act of 1858, divided New South Wales into 68 electoral districts, and increased the number of members to serve in the Assembly to 103.

Allusion has been made to the vexed question of Church and School Lands. This was finally disposed of by a measure called the Church and School Lands Dedication Act, which was assented to in 1880, and vested the control of the Church and School Lands in the Legislature of New South Wales, and applied the income arising therefrom to the purposes of public instruction. An Intercolonial Conference commenced its sitting in Melbourne on 26th November, 1880, the colonies represented being New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia. Various matters of intercolonial concern were discussed, such as concerted action with respect to the influx of Chinese, the appointment of a Federal Council to deal with questions affecting the colonies in common, Border duties, &c.

On the 7th July, 1881, Sir Henry Parkes introduced his Chinese Restriction Act, and it received the Royal Assent on the 6th December. Provision was made for the payment of £10 by every Chinese entering the colony by sea or land, and restrictions were placed on the number which could be introduced by any one vessel. Severe penalties were provided for any infringement of the law.

The year 1883 witnessed the completion of the railway from Sydney to Melbourne. The line from the Southern capital to Wodonga had been opened in 1875, but it was not till eight years afterwards that the Southern line from Sydney reached this part of the border. Two years later the massive railway bridge crossing the Murray at Albury was completed, thus joining the colonies by an iron link. An important feature of the year 1883 was the discovery of the rich silver deposits at Broken Hill. In 1885 the Broken Hill Proprietary began operations, and during the period extending from that year to 1899 silver to the value of £20,561,000 was produced.

Amongst the remaining events of importance during the administration of Lord Loftus were the establishment of the Board of Technical Education, and the completion of the railway line to Bourke, on the river Darling. Lord Loftus' term of office came to a close on the 9th November, 1885, and his successor, the Right Hon. Baron Carrington,

did not arrive in the colony till the 12th December following. In the meantime Sir Alfred Stephen discharged the duties of Lieutenant-Governor.

On the 23rd March, 1887, a terrible disaster occurred at the Bulli Colliery, when 83 miners lost their lives through an explosion of gas in the workings of the mine. As a result of the inquiry following on the catastrophe, the Legislature took steps towards minimising the possibility of such accidents occurring in the future.

The close of the year 1887 witnessed the completion of the present scheme of waterworks for the metropolitan district. In the early days of settlement the colonists had to be content with the waters of the "Tank Stream." At a later date a supply was obtained from the natural reservoir at Botany, but as this proved inadequate for the ever-increasing population, the present scheme, which is among the most perfect in the world, was initiated. The sources of supply are the waters of the Nepean, Cataract, and Cordeaux Rivers, draining an area of 354 square miles, the catchment area enjoying a copious and regular rainfall. The off-take works are built at a height of 437 feet above sea-level, and the water flows through a series of conduits, partly tunnel, partly open canal, and in places wrought-iron aqueducts, to Prospect Reservoir, a distance of 40 miles from the farthest source of supply. Here a storage reservoir has been constructed, capable of holding 11,000 million gallons, of which nearly 7,000 millions are available for supply by gravitation. From Prospect the water flows into various distributing and pumping reservoirs. During the year ended 30th June, 1899, the total amount of water supplied was 6,860,146,000 gallons, but this quantity by no means adequately represents the capacity of the available supply.

Early in 1888 the public mind was much exercised by the large influx of Chinese immigrants, who, in spite of the "Chinese Restriction Act of 1881," had been arriving in rather alarming numbers. In the preceding twelve months no fewer than 4,436 Chinese subjects had arrived in the country. Early in May two vessels arrived in Port Jackson bringing a large number of the aliens, but they were not allowed by the Premier, Sir Henry Parkes, to land. However, this action on the part of the Premier was contrary to law, and the matter was brought before the Supreme Court, with the result that he had to give way. Feeling still ran high in the colony, and at length, on the 11th July, 1888, Parliament voiced the sentiments of the people by passing a drastic "Chinese Restriction Act." Under the provisions of this measure, which is still in force, no vessel is allowed to carry more than one Chinese passenger to the colony to every 300 tons; such Chinese as land are required to pay a poll-tax of £100; they are not permitted to engage in mining without authority from the Minister of Mines; nor are they permitted to take advantage of the Naturalisation Act. An exception is made in the case of Chinese who, by birth, are British subjects. Provision is made for a penalty of £500 for a breach of the

Act. This measure has, of course, tended greatly to reduce the number of Chinese immigrants, but it is believed that not a few manage to elude the vigilance of the police, and enter the colony by the landward borders. In 1887 the number of Chinese immigrants into New South Wales was 4,436; in 1888 it had fallen to 1,848, and in 1889 to 7. During 1899 the number recorded was 36, of whom 31 were British subjects.

From the year 1885 the colony began to suffer from a stoppage in the tide of prosperity, which people had fondly accustomed themselves to regard as permanent. In 1886 employment became difficult to obtain, and wages consequently fell. In the years 1886-7 work was suspended in some of the Southern collieries by strikes and disputes. On the 24th August, 1888, 6,000 coal-miners in the Northern district collieries laid down their tools. Ill-feeling between the owners and men ran high, and was further accentuated by the arrest of several miners on a charge of rioting. However, the sentences passed on these men were afterwards remitted by the Governor. This strike ended in November, but, after a short intermission, was renewed. In the years 1888-9 the completion of various large public works, and the depletion of the Treasury of loan money, threw out of employment some 12,000 men, no inconsiderable portion of the unskilled labour of the colony. In September, 1890, the Broken Hill silver-mines closed down through a renewal of the strike. Soon after this a conference of employers issued their manifesto. The Intercolonial Labour Conference held its first meeting on the same day (12th September), and on the next issued a manifesto in reply to that of the employers. Fully 40,000 men left off work in response to the demands of the Conference, and on the 16th these were joined by various trolly and dray men. This was in the height of the wool season, and the carriage of wool through the city had to be undertaken by volunteer drivers. Shortly afterwards a shearers' strike took place, involving some 20,000 men. Again, in 1892, the miners at Broken Hill turned out on strike, and the silver-mines had to lie idle for over four months. On the 4th July, 1893, a general strike of seamen on the intercolonial steamers began, and ultimately ended in the defeat of the workers.

From 1872 to 1886 the Government of the colony had pursued what was popularly termed a spirited policy of public works. The completion of the works undertaken in pursuance of this policy threw large numbers of men on the labour market, and thus tended to reduce the wages of those who remained in employment. This cessation of public works also brought about the practical discontinuance of State-aided immigration, which had been the policy of the country for over fifty years. In 1883 the number of immigrants assisted to the colony by the State was 8,369; in 1886 it had fallen to 4,081, in 1887 to 1,362, and in 1888 it was only 528.

Lord Carrington's term of office was marked not alone by strikes and industrial disturbances, but by droughts, bush-fires, and floods. Early in March, 1888, immense loss was caused by the raging of bush-fires in

many parts of the country, and further devastation was wrought by fires in the month of October, 1890. In May, 1889, the greater portion of the low-lying suburbs of Sydney was under water through excessive rains, while the Hawkesbury River was in flood. In September following heavy floods occurred on the Murray. In January, 1890, the Clarence and Richmond Rivers overflowed their banks, working great havoc in the lower portions of their courses. February and March, 1890, were noted for excessive rains, causing disastrous floods on most of the Northern coastal rivers. In April the towns of Bourke and Louth, in the far west, were inundated. Shortly afterwards the basins of the Darling and Murrumbidgee were the scenes of devastating floods.

From the 6th to the 14th February, 1890, the Federation Conference sat in Melbourne, and determined the preliminary details for the holding of a National Convention, such as was advocated by Sir Henry Parkes in the month of October preceding; and on the 7th May Sir Henry Parkes moved the Federal Convention resolutions in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly. Later on, the National Convention was arranged for in all its various details, and was held in due course in the first year of the Jersey régime.

Amongst other matters of importance which characterised Lord Carrington's term of office in the colony were the inauguration of a weekly mail service to England on the 1st February, 1888; the completion of the railway line from Murrumburrah to Blayney; the opening of the Centenary Universal Exhibition on 14th March, 1888; the completion and opening of the final section of the Illawarra railway; the completion of the great iron railway bridge over the Hawkesbury River; the laying of a duplicate cable between New South Wales and New Zealand; and the passing of a Payment of Members' Bill, which received Royal Assent on 20th September, 1889.

Lord Carrington left Sydney on 1st November, 1890, and on 15th January, 1891, his successor (the Earl of Jersey) arrived, the affairs of the colony being in the interval administered by Sir Alfred Stephen. Two days after the Governor's arrival the coastal district was visited by a terrific storm, and heavy rainfall. The severity of the weather delayed the completion of the Parliamentary elections of 1891 in various districts of the colony.

The year 1891 was also distinguished by the appearance of Labour as an element in practical politics. New South Wales was the first country in the world which endeavoured to settle labour grievances through the ballot-box, and to send a great party to Parliament with a direct representation of Labour. Several attempts had been made by Labour candidates to enter Parliament at by-elections; and although in one or two cases they were successful, the persons elected were not labour members in the sense in which the term is now understood. In June, 1891, a concerted effort was made by the Labour organisations, when the following manifesto was put forth:—(1) Electoral reform to provide for the abolition of plural voting; the abolition of money deposits in Parlia-

mentary elections ; extension of the franchise to seamen, shearers, and general labourers by means of a provision for the registration of votes ; extension of the franchise to policemen and soldiers ; abolition of the six months residential clause as a qualification for the exercise of the franchise ; single member electorates and equal electoral districts on adult population basis ; all Parliamentary elections to be held on one day, and that day to be a public holiday ; and all public-houses to be closed during the hours of polling. (2) Free, compulsory, and technical education, higher as well as elementary, to be extended to all alike. (3) Eight hours to be the legal maximum working day in all occupations. (4) A Workshop and Factories Act, to provide for the prohibition of the sweating system ; the supervision of land boilers and machinery, and the appointment of representative working men as inspectors. (5) Amendment of the Mining Act, to provide for all applications for mineral leases being summarily dealt with by the local wardens ; the strict enforcement of labour conditions on such leases ; abolition of the leasing system on all new gold-fields ; the right to mine on private property ; greater protection to persons engaged in the mining industry ; and inspectors to hold certificates of competency. (6) Extension to seamen of the benefits of the Employers' Liability Act. (7) Repeal of the Masters and Servants Act and the Agreements Validating Act. (8) Amendment of the Masters and Apprentices Act and the Trades Union Act. (9) Establishment of a Department of Labour, a national bank, and a national system of water conservation and irrigation. (10) Elective magistrates. (11) Local government and decentralisation ; extension of the principle of the Government as an employer, through the medium of local self-governing bodies ; the abolition of the present method of raising municipal revenue by the taxation of improvements effected by labour. (12) The Federation of the Australasian colonies upon a national as opposed to an Imperialistic basis ; and the abolition of the present Defence Force and the establishment of our military system upon a purely voluntary basis. (13) The recognition in our legislative enactments of the natural and inalienable rights of the whole community to the land—upon which all must live, and from which by labour all wealth is produced—by the taxation of that value which accrues to land by the presence and needs of the community, irrespective of improvements effected by human exertion ; and the absolute and indefeasible right of property on the part of all Crown tenants in improvements effected on these holdings. (14) All Government contracts to be executed in the colony. (15) Stamping of Chinese-made furniture. (16) Any measure that will secure for the wage-earner a fair and equitable return for his or her labour. At the general elections in June, 1891, the Labour Party's candidates plunged into the battle with their platform of the foregoing sixteen clauses. For the first, or metropolitan, batch of elections, fifty-two members were required, and the Labour Party scored heavily. Twenty-seven candidates were nominated, and eighteen seats out of the fifty-two

were captured, and even in those metropolitan constituencies where the Labour candidates failed, they nevertheless obtained a large number of votes. When the contest was over, the Labour Members in Parliament numbered thirty-five; but besides these some dozen or more members were prepared to support every plank in the Labour platform. Some of the constituencies cast a block Labour vote. For instance, Balmain sent four Labour Members to Parliament, Canterbury two, Forbes two, West Sydney four, Young two, Redfern two, and Newcastle two; while seventeen other constituencies sent one each. The party did not long remain united; and on the displacement of the Government of Sir Henry Parkes and the accession to office of Mr. (afterwards Sir) George Dibbs, of the thirty-five original members eighteen voted with the Government, and seventeen with the Opposition. Later the party became further disorganised, and a new "Democratic Party" was formed out of the fragments, with a platform comprising the following planks:—Regulation of factories and workshops, regulations of coal-mines and mining on private property, repeal of the conspiracy laws, amendment of the Masters and Servants Act, an amended Land Bill, abolition of pensions, and the restriction of alien and pauper labour. The newly reorganised party was definitely pledged to a solid vote on every issue in which the existence of the party was threatened; and though now less numerically powerful than it originally was, it is still essentially a factor to be reckoned with.

On the 2nd March, 1891, the Federation Convention held its first sitting in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, under the Presidency of Sir Henry Parkes. On the 9th April the National Federation Convention, after twenty-two days of deliberation, completed its labours, and was dissolved, after having agreed upon an Australian Commonwealth Convention Bill. The delegates taking part in this historic conference had been appointed by the different Australasian Parliaments, and numbered forty-five. The Convention was called together at the instance of the Hon. James Munro, the Premier of Victoria, and the colonies represented were New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia (each sending seven delegates) and New Zealand (sending three). The Draft Bill framed by the Convention of 1891 did not, however, meet with the approval of the various Colonial Parliaments, though it afterwards formed the basis of the Bill adopted by the Convention held six years later. During the Convention of 1891, the Premiers of the colonies, assembled together as delegates from their respective provinces, met at the Colonial Secretary's office in Sydney, to discuss matters affecting their common Australian interest; and this was the first occasion of the gathering together of such a representative group.

The Australasian Auxiliary Squadron arrived in Port Jackson on the 5th September, 1891. It consisted of five fast cruisers and two torpedo gun-boats—viz., the "Katoomba," the "Ringarooma," the "Mildura," the "Wallaroo," the "Tauranga," the "Boomerang," and

the "Karrakatta." The fleet was created under the provisions of the Australasian Naval Force Act, which was assented to on the 20th December, 1887, all the Australasian colonies entering into an agreement with the British Government for the payment of a subsidy towards its maintenance.

Among other incidents and events of Lord Jersey's term of office were the entering of the colonies into the Universal Postal Union; a temporary run on the Government Savings Bank at Sydney in February, 1892; and the opening of the Women's College.

In 1893 occurred the financial crisis which shook Australia to its foundations. Reference has just been made to the temporary run on the Government Savings Bank on the 11th February, 1892. This was the result of a groundless rumour regarding its stability. Far otherwise was the banking crisis of 1893. Bank after bank operating in the Australasian colonies suspended payment. A shipment of £900,000 in gold was made from London to meet the requirements of Australia. Panic was general. The Dibbs Government endeavoured to allay the financial perturbation by declaring bank notes to be a legal tender and guaranteeing their payment by the State from the 15th May to the 13th November, 1893, after which date this expedient was no longer needed. The action of the Government had excellent effect, but public confidence had received such a staggering blow that it was long ere it recovered. The Ministry of Sir George Dibbs gave way in August, 1894, to one led by Mr. G. H. Reid. The principal Parliamentary events during Mr. Reid's tenure of office were the passing into law of the following measures:—

Land and Income Tax Act, Crown Lands Act—introducing the principle of homestead leases and settlement leases, Audit Act Amendment, Public Service Act—removing the appointment and promotion of officers from the control of political heads and placing them under independent Commissioners, Water Rights Act, Factories and Shops Act, Public Health Act, Advances to Settlers Act, and Federation Enabling Act.

Sir Robert Duff, who succeeded Lord Jersey in 1893, died on the 15th March, 1895, while still in office. Sir Frederick Matthew Darley took up the administration, and continued his duties till the arrival of Viscount Hampden on the 21st November, 1895.

In January and February, 1895, a Conference of Premiers, at which all the colonies except New Zealand were represented, was held at Hobart, for the purpose of arranging a scheme of Federation on a basis which might secure a more speedy realisation of the hopes of Federationists. It was decided to ask the Parliament of each colony to pass a Bill enabling the electors qualified to vote for Members of the Lower House to choose ten persons to represent the colony on a Federal Convention. The work of the Convention is elsewhere described.

In September, 1899, Mr. (now Sir William J.) Lyne displaced Mr. Reid, who had held office for more than five years—a longer term than

any preceding Premier. Sir William Lyne is still in office. The principal measures passed by his Government may be mentioned :—The Friendly Societies Act and the Navigation Act—which had been introduced and advanced certain stages by the previous Government ; the Miners Accident Relief Act ; the Early Closing Act ; the Gold Dredging Act ; the Reappraisement Act ; the Sydney Harbour Trust Act ; the Darling Harbour Wharfs Resumption Act ; and the Old-age Pensions Act.

Viscount Hampden's term of office ended on 6th March, 1899, and from 7th March to 18th May Sir Frederick Darley discharged the duties of Governor. Earl Beauchamp assumed vice-regal office on 18th May, 1899, and remained in the colony until 1st November, 1900, when the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Frederick Darley, again took up the duties pending the arrival of a new Governor.

In the following table will be found a list of the successive Ministries which have held office since the introduction of Responsible Government, with the duration in office of each :—

No.	Ministry.	From—	To—	Duration.	
				months.	days.
1	Donaldson	6 June, 1856	25 Aug., 1856	2	19
2	Cowper	26 Aug., 1856	2 Oct., 1856	1	6
3	Parker	3 Oct., 1856	7 Sept., 1857	11	5
4	Cowper	7 Sept., 1857	26 Oct., 1859	25	20
5	Forster	27 Oct., 1859	8 Mar., 1860	4	11
6	Robertson	9 Mar., 1860	9 Jan., 1861	10	0
7	Cowper	10 Jan., 1861	15 Oct., 1863	33	7
8	Martin	16 Oct., 1863	2 Feb., 1865	15	18
9	Cowper	3 Feb., 1865	21 Jan., 1866	11	19
10	Martin	22 Jan., 1866	26 Oct., 1868	33	6
11	Robertson	27 Oct., 1868	12 Jan., 1870	14	16
12	Cowper	13 Jan., 1870	15 Dec., 1870	11	3
13	Martin	16 Dec., 1870	13 May, 1872	16	28
14	Parkes	14 May, 1872	8 Feb., 1875	32	26
15	Robertson	9 Feb., 1875	21 Mar., 1877	25	13
16	Parkes	22 Mar., 1877	16 Aug., 1877	4	24
17	Robertson	17 Aug., 1877	17 Dec., 1877	4	0
18	Farnell	18 Dec., 1877	20 Dec., 1878	12	3
19	Parkes	21 Dec., 1878	4 Jan., 1883	48	16
20	Stuart	5 Jan., 1883	6 Oct., 1885	33	2
21	Dibbs	7 Oct., 1885	21 Dec., 1885	2	14
22	Robertson	22 Dec., 1885	25 Feb., 1886	2	3
23	Jennings	26 Feb., 1886	19 Jan., 1887	10	24
24	Parkes	20 Jan., 1887	16 Jan., 1889	23	27
25	Dibbs	17 Jan., 1889	7 Mar., 1889	1	20
26	Parkes	8 Mar., 1889	22 Oct., 1891	31	16
27	Dibbs	23 Oct., 1891	2 Aug., 1894	33	11
28	Reid	3 Aug., 1894	13 Sept., 1899	61	10
29	Lyne	14 Sept., 1899