

This page was added on 03 December 2012 to included the Disclaimer below.
No other amendments were made to this Product

DISCLAIMER

Users are warned that this historic issue of this publication series may contain language or views which, reflecting the authors' attitudes or that of the period in which the item was written, may be considered to be inappropriate or offensive today.

SECTION XXXII.

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

§ 1. Area and Population.

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

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

3. **Population.**—(i.) *Character.* In 1861 there were 670 Europeans in the Territory, and at the end of 1913 the number was estimated at 2143. The Chinese population, at its maximum during the years of railway construction, 1887 and 1888, has gradually dwindled, the estimate for 1913 being 1177. Japanese, first recorded in 1884, increased up to the year 1898, falling again after five years. The highest recorded population, excluding aborigines, was 7533 in 1888; the estimate for 1913 was 3672. 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 1913.**

| Year ended 31st December. | Male. | Female. | Total. | Year ended 31st December. | Male. | Female. | Total. |
|------------------------------|-------|---------|--------|------------------------------|-------|---------|--------|
| 1901 ... | 3,999 | 674 | 4,673 | 1908 ... | 2,963 | 609 | 3,572 |
| 1902 ... | 3,847 | 627 | 4,474 | 1909 ... | 2,927 | 576 | 3,503 |
| 1903 ... | 3,582 | 652 | 4,234 | 1910 ... | 2,738 | 563 | 3,301 |
| 1904 ... | 3,514 | 692 | 4,206 | 1911 ... | 2,662 | 586 | 3,248 |
| 1905 ... | 3,368 | 678 | 4,046 | 1912 ... | 2,854 | 621 | 3,475 |
| 1906 ... | 3,248 | 656 | 3,904 | 1913 ... | 2,995 | 677 | 3,672 |
| 1907 ... | 3,095 | 642 | 3,737 | | | | |

The census population (3rd April, 1911) was 2734 males, 576 females; total, 3310. The estimate for 31st December, 1913, was 2995 males, 677 females; total, 3672.

(ii.) *Movement of Population.* The following is a summary of movement of population in 1913 (excluding overland migration):—

MOVEMENT OF POPULATION, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1913.*

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-------|-------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| Europeans— | | Europeans— | | Excess— | |
| Inwards, oversea | 855 | Outwards, oversea | 642 | Immigration over | |
| Births ... | 22 | Deaths ... | 23 | emigration ... | 127 |
| Others— | | Others— | | Births over deaths | 2 |
| Inwards, oversea | 127 | Outwards, oversea | 213 | | |
| Births ... | 37 | Deaths ... | 34 | | |
| Increase ... | 1,041 | Decrease ... | 912 | Net gain ... | 129 |

The immigration and emigration of the Territory in five-year periods from 1881 to 1910, and for 1911, 1912, and 1913, is shown in the following table:—

MIGRATION, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1881 to 1913.*

| Year. | Immigra- tion. | Emigra- tion. | Year. | Immigra- tion. | Emigra- tion. | Year. | Immigra- tion. | Emigra- tion. |
|---------|-------------------|------------------|---------|-------------------|------------------|-------|-------------------|------------------|
| | | | 1896- | | | | | |
| 1881-5 | 3,683 | 3,787 | 1900 | 2,538 | 2,259 | 1911 | 412 | 440 |
| 1886-90 | 9,208 | 7,250 | 1901-5 | 2,211 | 2,932 | 1912 | 840 | 625 |
| 1891-5 | 1,958 | 2,353 | 1906-10 | 2,559 | 3,125 | 1913 | 982 | 855 |

* A variation in the method adopted by the Northern Territory administration and that used in the Statistical Bureau, of allocating the crews of departing vessels, is responsible for the difference between the figures here shown and those given on the previous page.

(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 aborigines in the employ of whites, and those who were living in a civilised or semi-civilised condition in the vicinity of European settlements, were enumerated—the males being 743, females 480; total, 1223. Estimates of the total black population of the Territory vary from 20,000 to 50,000.

§ 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. District Councils are authorised to assess land values and levy rates on unimproved value. Custody and control of aborigines with extensive powers of supervision are vested in the Chief Protector. Birds protected during the whole or part of the year, are scheduled. Crown lands are classified, and their mode of acquisition, entry and holding defined. Shop assistants are to have a weekly half-holiday, and the establishments must be closed at a certain time. Mining is encouraged by the provision of rewards for the invention of new processes, and the discovery of valuable deposits and of new mineral fields; 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. A Board is constituted for the purpose of making advances to settlers who intend to improve and stock their holdings, to purchase farm implements, plant, etc., or to pay off mortgages, the rate of interest and terms of repayment being set out.

§ 3. Physiography.

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

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

The principal features of the coast line are enumerated in Year Book No. 1, p. 66; the rivers in Year Book No. 2, p. 76; the mountains in Year Book No. 3, p. 67; the lakes in Year Book No. 4, p. 77; the islands in Year Book No. 5, pp. 71, 72, and the mineral springs in Year Book No. 6, p. 65.

Inland, the country is generally destitute of conspicuous landmarks. From the coast there is a general rise southwards to the vicinity of the 17th or 18th parallel of south latitude, where the higher lands form the watershed between the rivers that flow northwards to the sea, and those that form the scanty supply of the interior systems. Towards the centre of the continent the land over a wide area is of considerable elevation, and there are several mountain ranges, generally with an east and west trend.

§ 4. Climate, 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 season. 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 freshwater 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 tropical, many of the forms belonging to the Malayan and Oceanic regions. The timber trees are not of great commercial value, but in the coastal regions tropical vegetation grows luxuriantly to the water's edge. On the wide expanses of plain country of the interior, there is little vegetation. The principal orders represented in the Territory are:—*Euphorbiaceæ*, *Compositæ*, *Convolvulacæ*, *Rubiaceæ*, *Goodenoviaceæ*, *Leguminosæ*, *Urticææ*.

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

§ 5. Production.

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

1. **Stock.**—The spacious, well-grassed “runs” of the Territory are suitable for horse and cattle breeding. It is anticipated that the cattle trade with the East will develop. Large numbers are overlanded to neighbouring States, which also take considerable quantities of horse hides. The estimated number of stock on 31st December, 1913, was:—

LIVE STOCK, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 31st DECEMBER, 1913.

| | | | | | | |
|---------|-----|---------|-----|--------|-----|-------|
| Horses. | ... | Cattle. | ... | Sheep. | ... | Pigs. |
| 22,792 | | 417,643 | | 67,109 | | 1,018 |

Dairying as an industry is not developed. The abundant indigenous herbage is, however, well suited for stock, and the making of hay and ensilage would ensure a progressive industry. It is proposed to establish a dairy factory.

2. **Mining.**—Considerable quantities of the precious and commercial metals are mined. The discovery of gold and tin in various localities, and the measure of success that has attended their working, indicate scope for development. An important discovery of tin at Maranboy Springs was made in 1913.

(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 shews the total mineral production for the last five years:—

VALUE OF MINERAL PRODUCTION, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1909 to 1913.

| Year. | Gold. | Tin Ore. | Wolfram. | Silver Lead Ore. | Copper Ore. | Smelter Product (C'pp'rBase) | Total Value. |
|----------|--------|----------|----------|------------------|-------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 1909 ... | 24,148 | 32,741 | 4,105 | ... | 1,400 | 2,342 | 64,736 |
| 1910 ... | 21,711 | 31,113 | 6,686 | ... | 1,196 | ... | 60,706 |
| 1911 ... | 30,910 | 22,900 | 4,048 | ... | 1,470 | ... | 59,353* |
| 1912 ... | 20,150 | 27,001 | 3,330 | 820 | 3,998 | ... | 55,299 |
| 1913 ... | 13,250 | 25,526 | 3,140 | 2,228 | 482 | ... | 44,626 |

* Includes bismuth valued at £25.

(ii.) *Employment of Miners, 1909 to 1913.* The following table shews average number employed in mines annually for five years, distinguishing Chinese:—

MINERS, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1909 to 1913.

| Year. | | | | Europeans. | Chinese. | Total. |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|------------|----------|--------|
| 1909 | ... | ... | ... | 190 | 630 | 820 |
| 1910 | ... | ... | ... | 140 | 602 | 742 |
| 1911 | ... | ... | ... | 101 | 575 | 676 |
| 1912 | ... | ... | ... | 84 | 542 | 626 |
| 1913 | ... | ... | ... | 90 | 530 | 620 |

(iii.) *Mining Accidents, 1900 to 1912.* In 1911 five mining accidents were recorded, four resulting in death. There were no serious accidents in 1910, 1912, and 1913. 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.

3. *Pearl Fishing.*—In 1884 mother-of-pearl shell was discovered in the harbour of Port Darwin. Difficulty in working, principally through heavy tides and muddy water, retarded the development of the industry for many years. Latterly, however, the opening up of new patches has led to a revival. In 1913, thirty-nine boats were engaged, valued, with their equipment, at about £4600; 234 men were employed. Fifty-nine tons of pearl shell were obtained, valued at £13,661. The value of pearls produced was £1415. 215 lbs. of tortoiseshell, valued at £225, and bêche-de-mer, valued at £1675, were also raised.

§ 6. Commerce and Shipping.

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

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

| — | 1901. | 1902. | 1903. | 1904. | 1905. | 1906. | 1907. | 1908. | 1909. | 1910. |
|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Imports ... | 108,886 | 107,217 | 125,244 | 113,461 | 86,878 | 74,659 | 78,996 | 68,905 | 57,994 | 52,398 |
| Exports ... | 302,931 | 191,558 | 178,266 | 235,650 | 216,279 | 254,222 | 345,721 | 241,028 | 278,555 | 269,063 |
| Total Trade | 411,817 | 298,775 | 303,510 | 349,111 | 303,157 | 328,881 | 424,717 | 309,933 | 336,549 | 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. In 1911 the imports from places outside Australia were valued at £16,920, an increase of £3966 on the previous year. The exports to oversea countries were valued at £48,468, a decrease of £12,983 as compared with 1910. In 1912 imports were valued at £18,130; exports at £59,106.

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

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

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

2. *Shipping.*—The Territory's oversea commerce is carried chiefly in British bottoms. One of the lines maintains a monthly service, others are irregular. Coastal shipping is chiefly in Australian vessels. The following table shews the shipping of the Territory:—

SHIPPING, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1881 to 1913.

| 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 |
| 1911 | 71 | 130,178 | 71 | 130,178 |
| 1912 | 74 | 138,052 | 74 | 138,052 |
| 1913 | 83 | 171,504 | 84 | 171,594 |

§ 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 Pine Creek, a length of 145½ miles, of 3 ft. 6 in. gauge; and Pine Creek is distant about 1100 miles from Oodnadatta. The extension of this line southwards from Pine Creek to Katherine River (54½ miles) is being proceeded with. In November, 1913, the field survey work, begun in December, 1912, was completed, and the line is now under construction; while the line to connect Katherine River with Oodnadatta (about 1030 miles) is in course of survey. It is stated that this transcontinental railway would bring London within seventeen days of Adelaide. The Commonwealth also acquired on 1st January, 1911, the property in the line from Port Augusta to Oodnadatta (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. The service extends to China and Japan. There is also a quarterly contract service between Darwin and Boroloola, calling half-yearly at Roper River; and a service every two months between Darwin and Wyndham, on the estuary of Ord River, in the north-east of Western Australia. These are subsidised according to agreement for three years, the amount for the first service being £350, and for the second, £125 per voyage.

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

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

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

Between Darwin and Banjoewangie the submarine cable is duplicated.

§ 8. Finance.

1. Revenue and Expenditure, 1913-14.—In the Commonwealth finance statement for 1913-14, separate accounts are given for Northern Territory administration. The following shows the receipts and expenditure for the financial year named:—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1913-14.

| REVENUE. | | £ | EXPENDITURE.—cont. | | £ |
|-----------------------------------|-----|---------|-----------------------------------|---------|---|
| Customs and Excise... | ... | 12,628 | Lands— | | |
| Postal, Telegraph & Telephone | ... | 5,290 | Salaries and contingencies... | 6,095 | |
| Railways ... | ... | 18,034 | Survey— | | |
| Territorial ... | ... | 9,723 | Salaries and contingencies... | 23,702 | |
| Land and Income Tax | ... | 7,491 | Goldfields and Mining— | | |
| Miscellaneous | ... | 19,545 | Salaries and contingencies... | 23,267 | |
| Port Augusta - Oodnadatta | | | Education— | | |
| Railway ... | ... | 946 | Salaries and contingencies... | 2,058 | |
| Deficiency on year's transactions | | 458,878 | Railways— | | |
| | | | Salaries and contingencies... | 22,991 | |
| | | 532,535 | Public Works Staff— | | |
| | | | Salaries and contingencies ... | 1,942 | |
| | | | Works and Buildings ... | 4,823 | |
| | | | Miscellaneous ... | 31,579 | |
| | | | Administrative Office— | | |
| | | | Salaries and contingencies... | 4,875 | |
| | | | Audit ... | 420 | |
| | | | Interest and sinking fund on | | |
| | | | C'wealth Inscribed Stock for | | |
| | | | Redemption of N.T. loans | 10,135 | |
| | | | Interest and sinking fund on | | |
| | | | C'wealth Inscribed Stock for | | |
| | | | Redemption of Port Augusta | | |
| | | | Railway loans ... | 7,465 | |
| | | | Interest and Redemption (ex- | | |
| | | | cluding Port Augusta rail- | | |
| | | | way)— | | |
| | | | Interest on loans ... | 128,856 | |
| | | | Contribution to sinking fund | 8,400 | |
| | | | Interest and Redemption, Port | | |
| | | | Augusta railway— | | |
| | | | Interest on loans ... | 86,393 | |
| | | | Contribution to Sinking Fund | 5,022 | |
| | | | Extraordinary maintenance... | 10,451 | |
| | | | Advertising and other expenses | | |
| | | | in connection with Rolling | | |
| | | | Stock ... | 529 | |
| | | | Buildings, artesian bores, roads, | | |
| | | | bridges, farms, etc. ... | 50,000 | |
| | | | Port Augusta railway ... | 115 | |
| | | | Buildings, Postmaster General's | | |
| | | | Department ... | 1,113 | |
| | | | Survey of Railway, Pine Creek | | |
| | | | to Katherine ... | 856 | |
| | | | | 532,535 | |

In addition, the following expenditure was made from the Loan Fund during the year:—

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----------|
| Redemption of N.T. Loans | ... | 126,529 |
| Redemption of Port Augusta Loans | ... | 135,627 |
| Total ... | ... | £262,156. |

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

2. **Loans.**—The first loan on Northern Territory account was floated in London in 1876; the nominal amount was £75,000, at 4 per cent., due date 1st January, 1916. The public debt on 30th June, 1914, was £3,359,891. The following is a summary:—

PUBLIC DEBT, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 30th JUNE, 1914.

| Principal. | | Rate. | | Annual Interest. |
|---------------------|-----|-------|-----|------------------|
| £ | | % | | £ |
| 27,216 | ... | 3 | ... | 817 |
| 154,992 | ... | 3½ | ... | 5,425 |
| 1,798,383 | ... | 3¾ | ... | 67,439 |
| 1,379,300 | ... | 4 | ... | 55,172 |
| Total ... 3,359,891 | ... | — | ... | 128,853 |

§ 9. Land Tenure.

1. **Present Policy.**—The system of land settlement in the Territory will be found fully described in the chapter "Land Tenure and Settlement," see pages 242, 243 *supra*. Progress in land settlement has been slow, reports indicating that a good class of Southern European immigrant is required. 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 is being effected. Lands Ordinances, recently proclaimed, declare the present land policy and define the conditions. A leasehold system only is provided for and no further alienation of Crown lands is permitted, except in pursuance of existing agreements. The land is classified and appraised, and leased in blocks, the maximum areas ranging from 300 square miles of first class pastoral, to 1280 acres of first class agricultural land. The term of pastoral and miscellaneous leases is 21 or 42 years; all other leases are to be in perpetuity, making them almost equivalent to freeholds, but with re-appraisal of rent values every 14 years in the case of town lands, and every 21 years in the case of agricultural and pastoral lands. The conditions are of a very favourable nature, with low rents and elastic conditions of tenure. 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.

2. **Number of Holdings.**—The table on page 243 *supra* shows the total area under lease, license, and permit in 1901 and in each year from 1909 to 1913. In the latter year 93,748,100 acres were held under pastoral leases and permits; 667 acres under right-to-purchase leases; and 1,762,538 acres under other leases. The pastoral leases include 378,240 acres held under annual leases; and 7,509,120 under grazing licenses. The other leases include 1,644,060 acres held under coal and oil permits; 50,880 acres under mineral oil licenses; 6000 acres under mining licenses; 594 acres under gold-mining leases; 970 acres under mineral leases; 400 acres under tin-dredging applications; 140 acres under gold-dredging applications; and 1280 acres under water leases. There are also 38,219 acres held under agricultural leases, for cultivation, mixed farming, etc.