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CHAPTER XV.
THE TERRITORIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH.
GENERAL.

The Territories under the control of the Commonwealth are :—The Northern Territory; the Federal Capital Territory; Papua (formerly British New Guinea); Norfolk Island; the Territory of New Guinea (by Mandate of the League of Nations); Nauru (under joint Mandate of the Commonwealth, Great Britain and New Zealand).

Information regarding forms of government, etc., will be found in Official Year Book No. 22, pages 587–588.

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 incorporated in that colony 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. The total area is 523,620 square miles, or 335,116,800 acres.

2. *Population.*—(i) *Europeans.* At the census taken in 1881 there were only 670 Europeans in the Territory. The total increased slowly, reaching its maximum in 1919 with 3,767 persons. At the census of 1921 the white population had decreased to 2,459. In 1929 it was about 3,250.

(ii) *Asiatics.* With the exception of a few Japanese, Filipinos and others, the Asiatics in the Northern Territory consist mainly of Chinese. These numbered at one time over 4,000, but have gradually dwindled and now barely exceed 700. (See Year Book No. 22, p. 589).

(iii) *Total Population.* The highest recorded population of all races, except aborigines, was 7,533 in 1888, while at the end of 1929 it was 4,470. The estimated population for the last five years is given in the following table :—

**NORTHERN TERRITORY.—POPULATION (EXCLUSIVE OF ABORIGINALS),
1925 TO 1929.**

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1925	2,550	1,106	3,656
1926	2,773	1,125	3,898
1927	3,137	1,224	4,361
1928	2,739	1,243	3,982
1929	2,945	1,525	4,470

The Census population (4th April, 1921) was 2,821 males, 1,046 females, total 3,867.

(iv) *Movement of Population.* The following is a summary of movement of population in 1929 (excluding overland migration) :—

NORTHERN TERRITORY.—MOVEMENT OF POPULATION, 1929.

Immigration ..	1,079	Emigration ..	579	Excess of immigration over emigration ..	500
Births	53	Deaths	65			Excess of births over deaths ..	-12
Increase ..	1,132	Decrease ..	644	Net Increase ..	488

The immigration and emigration of the Territory for the five years ending 1929 are shown in the following table:—

NORTHERN TERRITORY.—IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION, 1925 TO 1929.

Year.				Immigration.	Emigration.
1925	..	..	..	567	511
1926	..	..	..	731	498
1927	..	..	..	1,163	692
1928	..	..	..	710	1,101
1929	..	..	..	1,079	579

(v) *The Aborigines.* A special article contributed by Dr. W. Ramsay-Smith on the subject of the Australian aborigines, was incorporated in Year Book No. 3 (pp. 158–176). The chapter “Population,” in Year Book No. 17, contained information regarding the number and distribution of aborigines and the measures taken by the States (in the case of the Northern Territory, by the Commonwealth) to protect and preserve the aborigines. In the Northern Territory large numbers of the aborigines are still outside the influence of Europeans. The total number of full-blood and half-caste aborigines in the Territory at 30th June, 1929, was estimated at about 21,700, of whom 2,625 were in regular employment. (See also Chapter XXIV.—Population, hereinafter.)

§ 2. Legislation and Administration.

On 1st January, 1911, the Territory was transferred by South Australia to the Commonwealth. The terms were outlined in Year Book No. 15, p. 940. Regarding administration, see Year Book No. 22, p. 590. The Territory elects a member to the House of Representatives, who can take part in the debates, but may not vote.

§ 3. Physiography.

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

2. *Contour and Physical Characteristics.*—The low flat coast line seldom reaches a height of 100 feet. Sandy beaches and mud flats, thickly fringed with mangroves, prevail. Sandstone, marl, and ironstone form the occasional cliffy headlands. The sea frontage of more than 1,000 miles is indented by bays and inlets, and intersected by numerous rivers, many of which are navigable for considerable distances from their estuaries.

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

Inland, the country generally is destitute of conspicuous landmarks. From the coast there is a general rise southwards to the vicinity of the 17th or 18th parallel of 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 weather. Nearly the whole of the rainfall occurs in the summer months. Fuller particulars will be found in Year Book No. 6, p. 1116.

2. **Fauna.**—The ordinary types of native Australian fauna inhabit the Territory. As elsewhere on the continent, the higher *Theria* are rare, but marsupials, birds, crocodiles, fresh-water tortoises, snakes (mostly non-venomous), and frogs abound. There are many varieties of 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. Buffalo formerly existed in large herds.

3. **Flora.**—The vegetation is North Australian in type, but a number of the forms belongs 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 in the interior there is little vegetation. The principal orders represented in the Territory are:—*Euphorbiaceæ*, *Compositæ*, *Convolvulaceæ*, *Rubiaceæ*, *Goodeniaceæ*, *Leguminosæ*, *Urticæ*.

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

§ 5. Production.

1. **Agriculture.**—Up to the present agriculture has made little progress in the Territory, although it has been proved that rice, tobacco, coconuts, mangoes, bananas, cotton, various fodder plants, and peanuts can be successfully grown. Expense of harvesting is, at present, an obstacle to the economic production of rice, and until labour-saving machinery is procured it cannot be produced with profit. Some 5 miles from Darwin a coconut plantation, about six acres in area, is thriving, and at a small plantation at Shoal Bay the palms planted along the sea-shore are giving excellent results. There is a large stretch of first-class coconut land on the coast, but hitherto planting has not been attempted on a commercial scale. Peanuts are becoming the principal crop, and in 1929 about 150 tons were produced, compared with 38 tons in the preceding year. Some 70 settlers are now engaged in peanut growing.

2. **Pastoral Industry.**—The pastoral possibilities of certain parts of the Northern Territory were recognized at an early date, and in 1866 stock was brought into the Macdonnell Range country from South Australia. Six years later cattle were brought from Queensland to the northern parts of the Territory, and in 1879 Mr. Giles reached the Katherine River with 2,000 head of cattle and 12,000 sheep from South Australia. For various reasons sheep-raising did not succeed. The cattle industry progressed and has become the mainstay of the Territory. A great impetus was given to this industry in 1917 by the opening of extensive meat works at Darwin. Unfortunately the works closed down in 1920, and are still standing idle. The number of cattle exported by land during the year 1928-29 was 26,725, and by sea (to Manila) 6,185. The cattle industry has been retarded by the ravages of ticks and by the difficulty of travelling stock through waterless country. These difficulties are however, gradually being overcome, the former by the introduction of the practice of "dipping," and the latter by adding to the number of wells on the various stock-routes and the creation of stock reserves. Horses thrive well. Buffaloes thrive in the coastal districts, but their number has been greatly reduced by indiscriminate shooting for the sake of the hides, of which 12,618 were exported during 1928-29.

The estimated number of live stock in the Territory in the last five years is given in the table hereunder:—

NORTHERN TERRITORY.—LIVE STOCK, 1924 TO 1928.

Year.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Goats.	Camels.	Donkeys.	Mules.
1924 ..	45,059	855,285	6,914	1,000	30,000	1,000	500	300
1925 ..	46,380	970,342	8,030	382	21,859	452	1,113	280
1926 ..	42,801	863,597	6,407	343	22,318	410	1,062	413
1927 ..	40,108	835,390	9,589	292	20,103	402	1,137	499
1928 ..	37,452	768,751	7,635	407	16,499	603	1,112	496

The stock in 1928 was distributed between North Australia and Central Australia as follows :—

Area.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Goats.	Camels.	Donkeys.	Mules.
North Australia..	26,786	676,528	354	394	10,952	195	544	467
Central Australia..	10,666	92,223	7,281	13	5,547	408	568	29

3. Mining.—(i) *General*. Alluvial gold-digging in the Northern Territory commenced in 1869, and up to the end of 1880 gold to the value of £79,022 had been produced. In 1881 the gold production reached its maximum, the value for that year being £111,945. During the following years it fluctuated considerably, but as long as the alluvial deposits lasted the output was satisfactory. In the transition period from alluvial to reef mining the industry declined considerably. The production of metals other than gold has suffered from vagaries of prices, and from the disadvantages of high cost of transport and of white labour. The year 1928–29 showed a considerable increase in the production of mica and a corresponding decrease in tin ore. The only mineral produced in Central Australia was mica, but the opening of the railway to Alice Springs is expected to give a fresh impetus to gold mining there.

(ii) *Mineral Production*. The following table shows the total mineral production for the last five years :—

**NORTHERN TERRITORY.—VALUE OF MINERAL PRODUCTION,
1924–25 TO 1928–29.**

Year.	Gold.	Tin Ore.	Silver- Lead Ore.	Copper Ore.	Mica.	Tantalite.	Total Value all Minerals.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1924–25	1,939	15,966	617	15	2,835	..	21,715
1925–26	593	15,852	447	60	2,132	..	19,085
1926–27	468	18,754	379	..	2,596	8	22,205
1927–28	431	10,828	22	..	3,280	65	14,626
1928–29	552	6,958	79	..	10,548	207	18,344

(iii) *Coal and Mineral Oil*.—Five licences for mineral oil and coal were in existence in 1928–29, covering an aggregate area of 5,000 square miles. No prospecting for oil was carried on during the year.

4. *Pearl, Trepanng, and Other Fisheries*.—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. During 1928–29, 31 boats were operating, employing 247 Japanese and Timorese, and a few aborigines. The increase in the pearling fleet during the year, from 19 to 31, was due to the arrival at Darwin of a number of pearling luggers from Western Australia. The year's output was 204 tons, valued at £37,238, compared with 119 tons in the previous year. The territorial waters teem with fish, but the hope of establishing a salt and dried fish trade has not materialized. In the procuring of trepanng, 4 boats and 10 persons, beside aborigines, were engaged.

§ 6. Land Tenure.

A description of the system of land tenure in force in the Territory will be found in Chapter V.—Land Tenure and Settlement, Official Year Book No. 22.

§ 7. Commerce and Shipping.

1. Trade.—No record is kept of the direction of trade between the Commonwealth States and Territories. The value of the direct oversea trade for 1901 and for each of the years 1924-25 to 1928-29 is given hereunder :—

NORTHERN TERRITORY.—VALUE OF DIRECT OVERSEA TRADE, 1901 AND 1924-25 TO 1928-29.

Items.	1901.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	37,539	20,636	34,168	36,814	30,387	32,069
Exports	29,191	41,944	35,902	29,786	29,265	53,720
Total	66,730	62,580	70,070	66,600	59,652	85,789

The principal items of overseas export in 1928-29 were cattle, £30,330 ; pearl-shell, £21,013 ; trepang, £1,148.

2. Shipping.—The Territory is dependent for its shipping facilities chiefly on the services of vessels trading between Sydney and Singapore. Other vessels make occasional visits, while a sixty-days' service between Fremantle and Darwin is carried out by the "Koolinda," belonging to the West Australian State Shipping Service.

NORTHERN TERRITORY.—SHIPPING, 1924-25 TO 1928-29.

Period.	Arrivals.		Departures.	
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1924-25	56	124,715	52	124,564
1925-26	48	118,478	49	118,665
1926-27	50	126,765	50	126,999
1927-28	54	125,533	45	121,451
1928-29	61	129,997	48	129,218

The foregoing figures are exclusive of particulars of coastwise shipping. During 1928-29, 26 vessels of 445 tons net were entered as coastwise.

§ 8. Internal Communication.

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

The Northern line from Adelaide terminated at Oodnadatta, about 100 miles south of the southern boundary of the Territory, but has recently been extended to Alice Springs, an addition of 292 miles. The line from Darwin to Katherine River, about 200 miles, has been extended as far as Birdum, 316 miles from Darwin. The completion of the remainder of the gap would permit of the development of the broad belts of pastoral and mineral country towards the centre of Australia. The Commonwealth also acquired on 1st January, 1911, the property in the line from Port Augusta to Oodnadatta (478 miles), and on 1st January, 1926, the control of the line was transferred to the Commonwealth Railways Commissioner. (See under Federal Railways).

2. Posts.—Postal communication is maintained by vessels belonging to Burns, Philp and Co., who carry on a monthly service between the Territory and the Eastern States. In addition, the vessels belonging to the State Steamship Service of Western Australia give a service once every 60 days between Fremantle and Darwin. Inland, the northern part of the Territory receives its mail via Darwin, while the southern districts are served via Adelaide.

3. **Telegraphs.**—The transcontinental telegraph line, covering a length of 2,230 miles, was completed on the 22nd August, 1872, at a cost of nearly half-a-million sterling. The line runs in a northerly direction from Adelaide to Darwin, whence telegraphic communication is provided with Asia and Europe, via Banjoewangie (Java), Singapore, and Madras. Between Darwin and Banjoewangie the submarine cable is duplicated.

High-power wireless stations have been constructed by the Federal Government at Wave Hill, in the Territory, and at Camooweal, just over the eastern boundary, in Queensland.

§ 9. Finance.

1. **Revenue and Expenditure, 1928-29.**—In the Commonwealth finance statements separate accounts are given for Northern Territory administration. Receipts and expenditure for 1928-29 are given below:—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.—NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1928-29.

REVENUE.	£	EXPENDITURE.	£
Customs and Excise ..	10,170	Administrative Staff ..	87,367
Postal, Telegraph, and Telephone ..	10,354	Northern Territory Railways	252,910
Darwin-Katherine River Railway ..	50,259	Interest and Sinking Fund, Northern Territory Loans..	400,163
Central Australia Railway ..	185,811	New Works, Artesian Bores, Roads, etc. ..	16,694
Territorial ..	458	North Australia Commission	56,988
Land and Income Tax ..	3,999	Miscellaneous ..	73,544
Lighthouses and Light Dues..	851		
North Australia Commission	18,223		
Miscellaneous ..	31,517		
Deficiency on year's transactions ..	576,024		
Total ..	887,666	Total ..	887,666

2. **Northern Territory Debt.**—The items making up the total debt of the Territory as at 30th June, 1930, are as follows:—

	£	£
Debt at date of transfer to the Commonwealth, 1st January, 1911 ..		3,931,086
Redeemed under Commonwealth Loan Acts ..	2,358,212	} 2,818,962
Redeemed from Consolidated Revenue ..	460,625	
Redeemed from Sinking Fund ..	125	
Balance, 30th June, 1930 ..	..	1,112,124

In addition, the balance of the Port Augusta—Oodnadatta Railway Loans taken over from South Australia amounted at the same date to £921,046, making a total of £2,033,170.

THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY.

1. **Introductory.**—In Year Books Nos. 4 and 5, information was given in Section XXXI., in regard to the events leading to the selection of the Federal Capital Territory and the necessary legislation and the progress of operations in connexion with the establishment of the capital city. The physiography of the Territory was dealt with *in extenso*, and topographical and contour maps accompanied the letterpress, as well as reproductions of the premiated designs for the laying out of the city. Considerations of space, however, preclude the repetition of this information. On the 12th March, 1913, the official ceremony to mark the initiation of operations in connexion with the establishment of the Seat of Government was carried out. At this ceremony the selection of "Canberra" as the name of the capital city was announced.

2. **Transfer of Parliament.**—On 9th May, 1927, Parliament House at Canberra was officially opened by His Royal Highness Albert, Duke of York, the occasion being the 26th anniversary of the opening of the first Parliament of the Commonwealth at Melbourne by His Royal Highness George, Duke of Cornwall and York—now His Majesty the King—on the 9th May, 1901. (For particulars of the opening ceremony see Year Book No. 21, page 604.)

3. **Administration.**—In Year Book No. 18, a summary was given of the development of the administration up to the taking over of the control of the Territory by the Federal Capital Commission.

The administration of the Territory entered upon a new phase when the Federal Capital Commission, consisting of three members appointed by the Government took over the control of its affairs at the beginning of 1925 in accordance with the provisions of the Seat of Government (Administration) Act 1924. This Act was amended in 1926 with the object of further defining the powers and functions of the Commission. A new Act in 1928 provided that the third Commissioner should be elected by the people of the Territory. (See Year Book No. 22, p. 596.) This Act was repealed, the Seat of Government (Administration) Act 1930 taking its place. The powers and functions of the Commission reverted to the Government, being taken over by the Ministers for Home Affairs, Works and Railways, and Public Health respectively. Subsequently an Advisory Council was established by an Ordinance under the Act.

The Advisory Council consists of:—the Secretary, Department of Home Affairs; the Director-General of Health; the Secretary, Department of Works and Railways; the Civic Administrator; and three residents of the Territory elected for twelve months.

4. **Progress of Work.**—The general progress of the work of construction up to the time when the Territory was taken over by the Commission was outlined in Year Book No. 18. The progress made under the Commission is described in Year Book No. 22, p. 597.

Structures to be completed in 1930 comprise the Australian Institute of Comparative Anatomy with laboratories and accommodation for a museum of Australian fauna; the Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research; a public bath; and a small number of additional residential buildings.

5. **Lands.**—(i) *In the Federal Territory Proper.* Reference has been made in previous issues to the general conditions of land tenure in the Territory for the Seat of Government and to the area of alienated and leased land.

As considerable portions of the Territory lands are not required in connexion with the establishment of the city, large areas have been leased under special improvement conditions in regard to the extermination of noxious weeds and the destruction of rabbits and other noxious animals. The lands are classified into three grades of agricultural and three grades of grazing land. About 167,632 acres, comprising 332 holdings, are at present held under lease for periods varying from quarterly tenure to 25 years.

Regarding auction sales of city leaseholds see Year Book No. 22, p. 599.

Seven leases for church purposes have been granted under the *Church Lands Leases Ordinance* 1924–27, which require the lessees to submit a definite building programme within a specified period, and a further seven leases have been granted for church and scholastic purposes under the *Leases (Special Purposes) Ordinance* 1925–29.

The total number of leases granted under the City Areas Leases Ordinance, not including surrendered leases, at the end of the financial year 1928–29 was 299, representing a capital value of £183,135. During the year 14 new leases were granted, and 134 business and residential blocks surrendered to or determined by the Commission.

Under the terms of the *City Area Leases Ordinance* 1924–29, each block is leased for a period of 99 years at a rental of £5 per centum per annum of the unimproved capital value as assessed by the Commission or bid at auction.

(ii) *Land at Jervis Bay.* The Commonwealth has acquired from the State of New South Wales sovereign rights over the area comprising about 28 square miles of land and water at Jervis Bay for possible use as a port in connexion with the Federal Capital. The Royal Australian Naval College was established in this area on a site known as Captain's Point, but was removed in 1930 to Flinders Naval Base. Portions of the remaining lands have been leased.

6. **Railways.**—Canberra is connected with the railway system of New South Wales by a line 4½ miles long to Queanbeyan. This line was opened for goods traffic on the 25th May, 1914, and for passenger traffic on the 15th October, 1923, and is being worked by the New South Wales Railways Commissioners for, and on behalf of, the Commonwealth.

A public railway station has been established at Kingston, and is the terminus of the existing line.

A direct and convenient passenger service is in operation connecting Canberra with Sydney and Melbourne, and trains leave both cities for Canberra daily except Saturdays. Improved facilities for goods traffic have also been provided.

A trial survey of the Canberra—Jervis Bay line has been completed, and plans prepared to enable an estimate of the cost of the line to be obtained, but no action in regard to this project is contemplated at present.

Under the provisions of the *Seat of Government Surrender Act* 1909 of New South Wales, and the *Seat of Government (Acceptance) Act* 1909 of the Commonwealth, an agreement exists between the Commonwealth and the State of New South Wales in relation to the construction of a railway from Canberra to Yass—a distance of, approximately, 43 miles, of which about 32 miles extend through New South Wales. The State is required to construct its portion of the line as soon as the Commonwealth builds a line to the boundary of the Territory.

7. **Population.**—The census return of population on the 30th June, 1930, was 8,493 in the Federal Capital Territory and 348 in Jervis Bay Territory, or a total of 8,841 persons.

8. **Live Stock.**—The live stock, according to the latest return, comprises:—

Horses	..	..	..	924
Cattle	..	..	..	5,269
Sheep	..	..	..	207,211

9. **Educational Facilities.**—Arrangements have been made with the New South Wales Education Department to continue for the time being the administration of education in the Territory, the expenditure involved being refunded annually to the State. There are fifteen schools in the Territory, including one at Jervis Bay. The largest of these is Telopea Park Intermediate High School, which is situated on the south side of the city area. It has accommodation for 1,000 scholars, and its curriculum provides a standard of education comparable in range of subjects with that provided at the best of the Government High Schools in New South Wales, thus permitting scholars to qualify for entrance to the Universities.

The School also provides for Junior Technical, Commercial, and Trades School Branches, as well as Evening Commercial and Matriculation Classes.

The Trades School, which is excellently equipped, supplies the necessary training for apprentices and to journeymen who are desirous of improving their respective trade qualifications.

Provision at the School has also been made for Domestic Science and Dressmaking Sections.

An Infants' School, to accommodate 450 children, has been erected on the north side of the city, where for the present scholars of the primary standard on the north side of the river are being catered for. Apart from three other smaller schools in the temporary section of the city settlement, the balance are small rural schools serving the needs of leaseholders settled in the Territory.

Reference to the establishment of a University College at Canberra will be found in Chapter IX., Education, herein.

There are at present three private schools in the Territory. The Canberra Grammar School for boys under the direction of the Council of the Monaro Grammar School, St. Gabriel's Church of England Grammar School for Girls, and St. Christopher's Convent—all of which provide for primary and secondary education.

10. **Finance.**—Receipts and Expenditure from the date of selection of the Federal Capital site were as follows:—

Receipts.—Advances, £5,845,000; Revenue from various assets, £1,129,421; Revenue from Local Government, Municipal, and State Undertakings, £385,447; Receipts from Sale of Goods, Transport, &c., £535,371; Total, £7,704,618. Initial liabilities taken over by Commission on 1st January, 1925, £2,966,600.

Expenditure.—Acquisition of lands, £893,801; Engineering Works, £3,143,168; Architectural Works, £3,419,622; Other capital expenditure, £534,243; Total, £7,990,834. Maintenance, £2,130,488. Administration not capitalized, £476,593. Other expenditure, £79,179. (See also Year Books Nos. 18 and 19.)

NORFOLK ISLAND.

1. **Area, Location, etc.**—Norfolk Island, discovered by Captain Cook in 1774, is situated in latitude 29° 3' 45" south, longitude 167° 58' 6" east. Its total area is 8,528 acres, the island being about 5 miles long and 3 miles wide. From Sydney it is distant 930 miles, and from New Zealand 400 miles. The coast line is 20 miles, and its form that of an irregular ellipse. Except on the south-west, inaccessible cliffs rise from the water's edge. The climate is equable, the temperature ranging between 56° and 82°, with a mean of 68°. The average annual rainfall is 55 inches. It has been said that the salubrious climate, coupled with the beauty of its land and sea scapes, should combine to render Norfolk Island "the Madeira of the Pacific." At present the island is visited annually by a fair number of tourists, but with improved shipping facilities the traffic would considerably increase.

2. **Settlement.**—The first colonization, in 1788, was by Lieutenant King, who in H.M.S. *Sirius* established a small penal station as a branch settlement of that at Port Jackson. The settlement was abandoned in 1813, and for 13 years thereafter its chief use was as a whaling station and place of call for British warships.

From 1826 to 1855 it was again made a penal station. In 1844 it was annexed to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania).

The descendants of the *Bounty* mutineers, having become too numerous to subsist on Pitcairn Island, were removed thence to Norfolk Island in 1856. The new community numbered 193 males and 99 females—and were the descendants of British sailors and Tahitian women.

3. **Administration.**—In 1856 the island was created a distinct and separate settlement under the jurisdiction of New South Wales. In 1896 it was made a dependency under the Governor of that Colony. In 1913, however, the Federal Parliament provided for the taking over of the island as a territory of the Commonwealth, and since the 1st July, 1914, the island has been administered by the Department of Home and Territories, through an Administrator and Chief Magistrate. (See also Official Year Book No. 22, p. 604.)

4. **Population.**—The population on 30th June, 1929, was 490 males and 442 females, a total of 932. In the year 1928–29, 23 births, 11 deaths, and 14 marriages were recorded.

5. **Live Stock.**—The latest returns of live stock show that there are on the island 1,590 cattle, 645 horses, 279 sheep, and 65 pigs. In addition, there are 5,772 head of poultry.

6. **Production, Trade, etc.**—The soil throughout is rich, and is specially suitable for the cultivation of citrus fruits, bananas, and (in parts) coffee. The banana industry is making rapid progress and over 25,000 cases were shipped in 1928–29, as compared with about 11,000 cases during the preceding year. Various other sub-tropical fruits thrive well. During 1928–29, the export of oranges was 901 cases; bananas, 25,155 cases; passion fruit and pulp, 859 cases; lemon juice and pulp, 214 casks; and lemon peel, 10 cases; mixed fruit, 785 cases; potatoes, 838 cases. There are many thousands of lemon trees and guavas growing wild throughout the island.

Large numbers of whales pass the island throughout the season but whaling has now practically ceased. The preserved fish industry also offers a field for commercial energy; such fish as trevalla, kingfish, schnapper, and many others, are plentiful. The "all-red" cable from Great Britain via Vancouver, Fanning Island, and Fiji, bifurcates at Norfolk Island, one line connecting with New Zealand, the other with Brisbane. A monthly steamship service between Norfolk Island and Sydney is carried on by Burns, Philp and Co., while the New Zealand Government steamer *Mauī Pomare* has established a regular service with Auckland.

Imports and exports for the last five years are given hereunder :—

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, 1924-25 TO 1928-29.

Heading.			1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.
			£	£	£	£	£
Imports	..	..	17,190	18,882	27,869	42,756	55,894
Exports	..	..	3,961	6,156	13,578	19,254	33,027
Total	..	..	21,151	25,038	41,447	62,010	88,921

7. **Social Condition.**—Education is free and compulsory up to the age of fifteen years. The school is under the New South Wales Department of Public Instruction, with standards corresponding to the State public schools, but the salaries and allowances of the teachers are paid by the Norfolk Island Administration. A Parents and Citizens' Association has been formed in connexion with the school, and a school-paper is printed. The number of scholars enrolled at the end of 1929, was 135.

The Magistrates' Court has criminal jurisdiction in all crimes except capital offences, civil jurisdiction in all matters, and authority to grant probate and letters of administration.

8. **Finances.**—The receipts and expenditure for the year 1928-29 were as follows :—

NORFOLK ISLAND.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1928-29.

Heading.		Receipts.	Heading.		Expenditure.
		£			£
Brought forward	..	2,923	Salaries	..	4,305
Commonwealth Subsidy	..	4,000	Miscellaneous	..	2,092
Tariff Collections in Sydney	..	1,538	Purchase of Liquor	..	1,704
Sale of Liquor	..	3,573	Balance carried forward	..	4,505
Miscellaneous	..	572			
Total	..	12,606	Total	..	12,606

Traffic in intoxicating liquor is prohibited, and the item "Sale of liquor" in the table refers to liquor dispensed under medical prescription.

PAPUA.

§ 1. General Description.

1. **Early Administration.**—Particulars of the early administration of Papua were given in Official Year Book No. 19, p. 576, but owing to limitations of space have not been included herein.

2. **Administration by Commonwealth of Australia.**—The Territory was placed under the authority of the Commonwealth on 1st September, 1906, by proclamation issued in pursuance of Letters Patent of the 18th March, 1902, and was accepted by the Commonwealth by the Papua Act 1905, which came into force by virtue of the proclamation aforesaid. The transfer was made under the authority of section 122 of the Constitution. The Territory is now under the administration of the Commonwealth, but not included within it, and is divided into eleven magisterial districts.

3. Area, etc.—Papua lies wholly within the tropics. The northernmost point touches 5° S. latitude; its southernmost portion, comprising Sudest and Rossel Islands, lies between 11° S. and 12° S. latitude. It is separated from Australia by Torres Strait. The length of Papua from east to west is upwards of 800 miles; towards either end the breadth from north to south is about 200 miles, but about the centre it is considerably narrower. The Territory comprises also the islands of the Trobriand, Woodlark, D'Entrecasteaux and Louisiade groups. The length of coast-line is estimated at 3,664 miles—1,728 on the mainland, and 1,936 on the islands. The total area is about 90,540 square miles, of which 87,786 are on the mainland, and 2,754 on the islands. A reference to the physical characteristics of the Territory appears in previous issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 18, p. 633).

§ 2. Population.

The white population of Papua on 4th April, 1921, was 1,343, made up of 961 males and 382 females. Included in these figures were 79 persons, who were passengers and crew of the s.s. *Marsina*, which was at Samarai at the taking of the Census. The following table gives the white population in each of the last five years :—

WHITE POPULATION OF PAPUA, 1925 TO 1929.
YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE.

1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
1,371	1,452	1,366	1,428	1,523

The chief occupations of the non-indigenous population at the taking of the Census were :—Government officials and employees, 132; commercial pursuits, 150; shipping, 124; tropical agriculture, 266; missionary work, 144; mining, 159.

It is not possible to give exact data regarding the number of natives, because a large area of the interior is not yet under Government control. The official estimate is 275,000. Such censuses of the native population as have been taken during recent years point to a slight increase. The coloured population, other than Papuans, numbered on 4th April, 1921, 577, and included many mission teachers from Samoa, Fiji, and other Pacific Islands. On the same date, half-castes, with one of the parents a European, totalled 158. An Immigration Restriction Ordinance prohibits the immigration of persons who fail to pass the dictation test, or who are of bad character, or likely to become a charge upon the public. Exemptions may, however, be granted by the Lieutenant-Governor to persons of special skill required for employment as overseers or foremen.

§ 3. Native Labour, Taxation, Health, etc.

1. Native Labour.—Information regarding the conditions connected with the employment of native labour will be found in Official Year Book No. 22, p. 607.

PAPUA.—NATIVE LABOUR, 1925 TO 1929.

Year ended 30th June—	Natives Engaged.	Natives paid Off.		
		Number.	Wages Paid.	Average Annual Wage per Native.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1925	6,817	4,661	46,019 14 5	9 17 5
1926	6,716	6,317	63,082 17 5	9 19 8
1927	5,566	6,666	62,086 12 8	9 6 4
1928	6,485	6,269	62,246 17 2	9 18 7
1929	5,355	5,101	50,736 0 0	9 18 11

The average number of natives under contract of service in 1929 was 6,729, as compared with 8,411 in the foregoing year. Approximately 1,333 were employed as free and casual labourers. Hitherto the supply of native labour has been sufficient to meet the demand. The smaller number employed in 1929 was due to a fall in rubber and copra prices, a slump in mining, and cessation of the *bêche-de-mer* industry.

2. **Native Taxes.**—Under the Native Taxes Ordinance, passed in 1918, a tax not exceeding £1 may be imposed on natives, excepting native constables, mission teachers, natives unfit for work, and those who have not less than four living children. The proceeds of the tax must be expended on education, or devoted to purposes directly benefiting the natives, as may be prescribed.

The taxes collected in 1928–29 amounted to £15,726, of which £7,089 was transferred to the Native Education Fund, and £6,413 to the Native Benefit Fund. The Native Education Fund during the year 1928–29 disbursed to primary and technical education £4,550 and to agricultural education £744. A sum of £2,000 was transferred to the Native Benefits Fund, leaving a credit balance of £29,230. From the Benefit Fund the expenditure included:—Anthropology £1,495, health £5,038, village improvements £314, family bonuses £1,338.

3. **Care of Half-caste Children.**—An Ordinance was passed in 1922, to provide for the care and maintenance of neglected half-caste children. The Ordinance provides that a sum of £26 per annum shall be paid to the Commissioner for Native Affairs by the adjudged father of the child until the child, if a boy, shall reach the age of 16 years, or, if a girl, 18 years.

4. **Health.**—During the year natives to the number of 1,438 were admitted to the native hospitals in Port Moresby and Samarai. The chief complaints treated were yaws, ulcers, lung affections, and gonorrhœa. Two travelling medical officers and five European medical assistants were employed, and native medical assistants are being trained by them. Two qualified doctors and a number of nurses are now employed by mission societies, and these have assisted greatly in improving the health of the natives. The work done consisted chiefly of dealing with cases of yaws by means of the latest arsenical drugs, the distribution of hookworm treatment, and the control of venereal diseases. Out of an average of 6,729 native labourers employed by Europeans, 57 died, as compared with 94 during the previous year.

§ 4. Land Tenure.

1. **Method of Obtaining Land.**—Information under this heading is given in Official Year Book No. 22, p. 608, but limitations of space preclude its repetition in the present volume.

2. **Holdings.**—(i) *General.* On the 30th June, 1929, the lands of the Territory were held as follows:—

PAPUA.—HOLDINGS, 1929.

Description.	Area.
	Area.
Land held by the natives	56,926,650
Crown land	825,589
Freehold land	22,934
Leasehold land	170,427
Area of Territory	57,945,600

Private sales of land in the Territory have now practically ceased. The Government buys from the natives, and then leases to planters, who are forbidden to have direct dealings in land with Papuans.

(ii) *Leaseholds*. The position as regards leasehold tenures may be seen from the following table :—

PAPUA.—LEASEHOLDS, 1924-25 TO 1928-29.

Year ended 30th June ..	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.
Land held under lease .. acres (as recorded)	188,348	186,966	169,956	170,427	180,685

Of the total area of 180,685 acres shown above, agricultural leases accounted for 164,438, pastoral leases for 14,570, special leases for 881, mission leases for 508, and other leases for 288 acres.

The area of land acquired by the Crown in 1928-29 was 345 acres.

The total area surveyed in the Territory is 21,694 acres of freehold, and 260,972 acres of leasehold.

§ 5. Production.

1. *General*.—The products of the Territory are obtained from its agricultural, forestal, fishing, mining, and manufacturing industries. For many years gold-mining yielded the largest returns, but the production has dwindled considerably owing to the exhaustion of the alluvial deposits. There is a possibility of obtaining petroleum in marketable quantities. Amongst plantation products, copra occupies the foremost place, but little planting has been done in recent years. Portions of the Territory appear well suited for cotton cultivation.

2. *Agriculture*.—(i) *Soil and Rainfall*. The physical features of Papua are favourable to agriculture. Rich soils at varying elevations, and heavy and evenly distributed rainfall favour the cultivation of a variety of tropical products including sugar cane, coconuts, sago palm, bread fruit, dyewoods, spices, ginger, nutmegs, bananas, and other fruits. There are large areas of rich alluvial and volcanic soils along the coast, and fertile land is found at elevations up to 6,000 feet. Heavy rainfalls occur, except over a belt of country which runs back from the coast to the hills, and which has its dry season from May to November. This "dry" area is admirably suited for the production of tobacco, fibres, cotton, etc. There are 23 meteorological stations throughout the Territory, and an economic museum and agricultural library have been established.

(ii) *Plantations*. On 31st December, 1928, there were 330 plantations. Agricultural settlement has been mostly in the Central and Eastern Divisions, and the area planted was 60,136 acres, as against 61,370 in 1927. The principal plantation crops are coconuts, rubber, and sisal hemp. There is also some cultivation of bowstring hemp, kapok, coffee, tobacco, cotton, vanilla, cocoa, tapioca, cinnamon, tea, rice, and maize. The natives are compelled by an ordinance to plant coconuts for food supply. In addition to the coconuts in these plantations, many more are planted over small and widely scattered areas by the older natives in accordance with custom. A recently promulgated ordinance, the *Native Plantations Ordinance*, is an attempt at establishing plantations in which the Government and the natives are joint partners. The following table shows the areas under the different cultures at the end of December, 1928 :—

PAPUA.—AREA OF PLANTATIONS, 1928.

Description.	Area.
	Acres.
Coconuts	48,363
Rubber	8,804
Hemp	1,750
Kapok	315
Coffee	103
Rice	25
Cotton	53
Other cultures (including fruit trees)	723
Total	60,136

The quantities of copra and rubber exported during the year ended 30th June, 1929, were:—Copra, 12,480 tons; rubber, 470 tons. There has been a slight decrease in the acreage under coconuts, and an increase in the acreage under rubber. The acreage under hemp shows a considerable decline.

(iii) *Government Plantations.* There are two Government plantations, the Orangerie Bay coconut plantation, and the Kemp Welch rubber plantation. The profits from these plantations last year were £3,382, as against £4,362 in 1927–28.

3. *Forestry.*—According to the Commonwealth Forestry Adviser the principal softwood timber is known as “ilimo,” while among satisfactory timbers of the lowlands are “nara,” “medobi,” and “melila.” There is a large number of woods, varying from the softest to the hardest, including beautiful cabinet woods, but research is necessary to determine their usefulness. The development of a coniferous belt at the higher altitudes offers great possibilities. It is believed that teak and sandalwood are well suited for cultivation.

4. *Live Stock.*—On 31st December, 1928, the live stock in the Territory consisted of 880 horses, 6,347 head of cattle, 136 mules, 26 donkeys, 4,038 goats, and 871 pigs. A Government stud-farm has been established for the breeding of horses. The introduction of rabbits, foxes, hares, and monkeys is prohibited.

5. *Fisheries.*—Pearl-shell fishing occupies an important place in the industries of Papua. A considerable number of luggers is licensed, but the returns are mostly credited to Queensland, whose boundary approaches to within a few miles of the Papuan coast. The species of tortoise which supplies the commercial tortoise-shell is also a native of the Territory. Bêche-de-mer and trochus are found along the shores and reefs, and form valuable articles of export.

6. *Mining.*—(i) *Variety of Minerals.* Minerals have been found over a wide range of country. Those discovered so far are—gold, copper, tin, lead, zinc, cinnabar, iron, osmiridium, gypsum, manganese, sulphur, graphite, chromite, brown coal, lignite, and petroleum. The existence of petroleum has been traced at scattered intervals over a large area.

Of precious stones, only the topaz and beryl have been obtained. Large beds of apparently good coal also exist.

(ii) *Gold.* In 1888 the first gold was discovered, and the search gradually spread over every division, finds being reported wherever the explorers went. The yield in 1923–24 was the lowest recorded since 1895; it then improved, but last year again shows a considerable decline.

The total quantity, in fine ounces, and the value as returned of the gold yield for the last five years are given below:—

PAPUA.—GOLD YIELD, 1924–25 TO 1928–29.

1924–25.		1925–26.		1926–27.		1927–28.		1928–29.	
Quantity.	Value.								
fine ozs.	£								
4,153	17,042	6,388	27,135	6,150	26,124	1,704	7,240	1,625	6,901

Most of the rivers, with the exception of those flowing into the Gulf of Papua, have been declared open to gold-dredging, and good yields have been obtained. The total value of gold won to 30th June, 1929, was £1,747,477.

(iii) *Copper.* Owing to the very low prices ruling for copper in the world's market, the copper mines in Papua have suspended operations. The total value of the copper exported to the 30th June, 1929, was £366,489.

(iv) *Osmiridium*. The existence of osmiridium had been known for several years, but for some time no serious attempt was made to collect it, the alluvial gold miner often picking out the larger slugs of the metal from his gold parcel and throwing them away. The production in 1928-29 amounted to 29 ozs., valued at £375.

(v) *Other Minerals*. Some good samples of galena (sulphide of lead) have been obtained, while cinnabar (sulphide of mercury), graphite (or plumbago), zinc-blende, native sulphur, and other minerals are known to exist. In 1924 a deposit of lignite was discovered on Smoky Creek, a tributary of the Era River.

A mineral laboratory and museum have been fitted up, and are available to prospectors and others interested.

7. *Water Power*.—Most of the rivers in Papua carry a large volume of water from a great height over a relatively short distance, thereby offering opportunities for the installation of hydro-electric power plants. It is estimated that there are at least 10,000,000 h.p. available for this purpose.

§ 6. Finance, Trade, Postal and Shipping.

1. *Finance*.—Owing mainly to the closing down of the New Guinea Copper Mines at Bootless Inlet towards the end of 1926, but partly to other causes, the revenue has declined during the last couple of years. The principal sources of revenue were as follows:—Commonwealth Grant, £50,000; Customs and Excise, £49,237; Government Plantations, £8,807; Fees of Office, £6,646; Land Revenue, £4,348; Post Office, £3,102; Port and Wharfage Dues, £2,981; and Miscellaneous, £12,105.

The expenditure on Public Works was £7,011 less than in the previous year.

Returns of revenue and expenditure for the last five years, exclusive of Commonwealth grants, are given hereunder:—

PAPUA.—LOCAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1924-25 TO 1928-29.

Item.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.
	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue	82,909	116,367	111,508	107,052	93,751
Expenditure	143,831	157,203	167,727	158,964	152,949

2. *Trade*.—The value of imports and exports for the last five years is shown in the table below:—

PAPUA.—VALUE OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, 1924-25 TO 1928-29.

Particulars.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	459,080	470,774	455,904	403,561	361,271
Exports	367,629	649,373	454,462	350,363	337,365
Total Trade	826,709	1,120,147	910,366	753,924	698,636

The decrease in the value of exports is due to a fall in prices for copra and rubber, and to the closing down of the copper mines.

As in all new countries, the imports consist chiefly of articles necessary for the primal needs of the community, such as agricultural products and groceries, drapery, machinery, tobacco, oils, paints, beverages, wood, wicker and cane, drugs, etc. The chief items of export during the last five years are as follows:—

PAPUA.—PRINCIPAL EXPORTS, 1924-25 TO 1928-29.

Article.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.
	£	£	£	£	£
Bêche-de-Mer	10,351	10,205	16,193	14,907	11,833
Copper Ore	41,674	201,732	35,799	208	..
Copra	172,905	204,097	186,837	194,019	214,051
Cotton	3,761	4,866	824	59	415
Gold	14,980	22,320	29,115	6,364	6,767
Hemp	13,141	7,695	33	..	..
Osmiridium	3,630	1,500	430	550	375
Pearls	19,300	13,249	8,968	827	1,861
Pearl Shell and Trochus Shell	8,773	14,317	7,576	12,537	9,144
Rubber	68,507	194,849	156,274	102,158	46,816
Natural History Specimens .. .. .	..	13	..	14	776

3. Shipping.—The following table shows the number and tonnage of oversea vessels entered and cleared at ports during the years 1924-25 to 1928-29. All the vessels except two were of British nationality.

PAPUA.—OVERSEA SHIPPING, 1924-25 TO 1928-29.

Year.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
1924-25	120	73,613
1925-26	115	129,553
1926-27	143	226,948
1927-28	159	226,784
1928-29	171	184,946

Throughout, the figures are exclusive of ships of war and Government vessels.

§ 7. Progress of Papua.

1. Statistical Summary.—As already stated (§ 2, *supra*) the Territory was placed under the Commonwealth control on 1st September, 1906. The following table indicates the progress that has been made since that date:—

PAPUA.—STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1907 TO 1929.

Items.	Year ended 30th June—	
	1907.	1929.
White population	690	1,523
Native labourers employed	2,000	6,729
Armed constabulary	185	300
Village constables	401	1,147
Territorial revenue	£21,813	£93,751
Territorial expenditure	£45,335	£152,949
Value of imports	£37,776	£361,271
Value of exports	£63,756	£337,365
Area under lease	acres 70,512	180,685
Area of plantations	acres 1,467	60,136
Meteorological stations established	3	23
Gold yield	fine ounces 12,439	1,625
Live stock in Territory—		
Horses	173	880
Cattle	648	6,347
Mules	40	136

THE TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA.

§ 1. General Description.

The present Territory of New Guinea comprises that portion of the German New Guinea Protectorate which lay south of the equator (excepting only the island of Nauru), and which was known in German times as the "Old Protectorate." The principal islands (with their German names if these differ from those now in use) and their approximate areas are as follows :—

AREA OF TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA.

Particulars.	Approximate Area.
	Square miles.
North-East New Guinea (Kaiser Wilhelm's Land)	70,000
Bismarck Archipelago—	
New Britain (Neu Pommern)	13,000
New Ireland (Neu Mecklenburg)	3,000
Lavongai (New Hanover or Neu Hannover)	600
Admiralty Islands and North-Western Islands	1,000
Solomon Islands—	
Bougainville	3,200
Buka	200
Total	91,000

Information regarding physiography and climate will be found in Official Year Book No. 22, p. 613. A map of the territory was published in Year Book No. 16, p. 665.

§ 2. Government.

1. **The Military Occupation.**—On the 17th September, 1914, the Acting Governor of German New Guinea signed terms of capitulation with the officer commanding a Naval and Military Expedition sent from Australia, and thereafter the Territory was under military administration until the establishment of Civil Government in May, 1921.

2. **Mandate.**—The Mandate in accordance with which the Territory of New Guinea is administered by the Commonwealth was issued by the League of Nations in December, 1920. The terms of the Mandate appear in Official Year Book No. 16, p. 662-3.

3. **New Guinea Act.**—In anticipation of the issuing of the Mandate, the Commonwealth Parliament had already, in September, 1920, passed the New Guinea Act 1920, by which the Governor-General was authorized to accept the Mandate when issued. The Territory was, by the Act, declared to be a Territory under the authority of the Commonwealth, by the name of the Territory of New Guinea.

The Act provided for an Administrator, while power to legislate for the Territory was to be exercised by the Governor-General, and provision was also made for the observance of safeguards in the interests of the natives as set out in the Mandate.

4. **Establishment of Civil Government.**—Official Year Book No. 19, p. 586, contains an account of the establishment of Civil Government in the Territory. Owing to considerations of space, however, the information is not repeated here.

5. **Expropriation.**—The Treaty of Peace provided that German nationals resident in her former colonies might be repatriated; and that the property rights and interests of German nationals in former colonies might be retained and liquidated by the Allies, the proceeds being credited to Germany in part payment of the reparation payable by her under the Treaty. In pursuance of these powers, in September, 1920, the property of the principal German companies in the Territory, and in March, 1921, that of a large number of German planters, was vested in the Public Trustee. (See Year Book No. 17, p. 631.) In 1926 and 1927 these plantations were transferred to private owners.

6. **Departments and Districts.**—The Administration is organized in seven Departments—Government Secretary; Treasury; Native Affairs; Public Health; Customs and Shipping; Lands, Mines, Surveys, and Forestry; and Agriculture.

For administrative purposes the Territory is divided into eight Districts. They are as follows :—New Britain, comprising New Britain and adjacent islands; on the Mainland—Morobe, Madang, Aitape, and Sepik; New Ireland, comprising New Ireland, Lavongai and adjacent islands; Manus, comprising the Admiralty Group; and Kieta, the former German portion of the Solomon Islands. Each district is under a District Officer, assisted by a small staff.

7. **Statute Law.**—The Acts of the Commonwealth Parliament do not (unless expressly so stated) extend to the Territory, but the *Laws Repeal and Adopting Ordinance* 1921 provided that certain Acts and Ordinances should be applied thereto. (See Year Book No. 17, p. 631.)

8. **Reports to the League of Nations.**—Nine reports have been rendered to the League of Nations in compliance with Article 6 of the Mandate, the latest being for the year ended 30th June, 1929.

§ 3. Population.

1. **White Population.**—The increase in the white population at various intervals since 1885 is shown in the appended tabulation. On 4th April, 1921, it was 1,288, of whom about 250 were missionaries, and 262 were persons engaged in administration, 715 were British subjects, and nearly all the remainder were nationals of former enemy countries. On 30th June, 1929, the number of Europeans was about 2,600.

TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA.—WHITE POPULATION, 1885 TO 1929.

Year.						Number.
1885	..	..	..	..	..	64
1895	..	..	..	..	..	203
1910	..	..	..	..	..	687
1914	..	..	..	..	..	1,027
1921	..	..	..	..	..	1,288
1927	..	..	..	..	..	1,800
1928	..	..	..	..	..	2,400
1929	.	..	..	..	..	2,600

2. **Asiatic Population.**—Malays seem to have been the first Asiatics brought by the Germans to German New Guinea; 37 of them are recorded on the mainland in 1885. About 1889 the New Guinea Company began to bring Chinese, Malays, and Javanese in growing numbers from Singapore and Java to work on its plantations; by 1892 there were about 1,800 on the mainland. By 1898 the number had decreased to 300 or 400, while at present it is less than 250.

About ten years later, Chinese were brought from China to the Protectorate; in 1911 there were 555; in 1914, 1,377; in 1921, 1,424 and in June, 1929, about 1,250.

In 1895 there were 2 Japanese in the Protectorate; in 1911 there were 25; in 1914, 103; in 1921, 87, and in June, 1929, about 50 residents. The total Asiatic population was 1,681 in 1914, and 1,778 in 1921. There were also, in 1921, 28 Polynesians and 69 half-castes.

The number of Asiatics has slightly decreased. In 1928-29 the births of Chinese exceeded the deaths by 18, but departures exceeded arrivals by 24. The number of Japanese remained stationary.

The Chinese provide the skilled artisans of the Territory, and many of them are small traders. Most of the Japanese residents are employed in the plantations, ship-yards, and stores.

3. *Native Population.*—As a large portion of the Territory is not under Government influence it is not possible to obtain reliable figures in regard to the number of the natives.

The following table shows the number enumerated in 1928-29.

TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA.—NATIVE POPULATION, 1928-29 (EXCLUSIVE OF INDENTURED LABOURERS).

Places.	Children.			Adults.			Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.
New Britain ..	16,211	13,689	29,900	23,436	23,354	46,790	39,647	37,043	76,690
New Ireland ..	7,818	6,140	13,958	11,869	12,653	24,522	19,687	18,793	38,480
Admiralty Group	2,872	2,685	5,557	3,896	4,451	8,347	6,768	7,136	13,904
Solomon Islands	7,984	6,264	14,248	11,763	12,603	24,371	19,747	18,872	38,619
N.G. Mainland ..	36,988	29,485	66,473	52,714	52,961	105,675	89,702	82,446	172,148
Total ..	71,873	58,263	130,136	103,678	106,027	209,705	175,551	164,290	339,841

The total native population in the Territory is estimated roughly at about 457,000. Whether the number is increasing or decreasing cannot yet be ascertained with certainty. The number of natives indentured as labourers, mostly for plantation work, on 30th June, 1929, was 30,325, compared with 28,253 in the previous year.

§ 4. The Natives.

1. *General.*—A brief description of the native inhabitants of the Territory was included in Year Book No. 16, p. 670. It may be noted here that the natives are divided into two main groups—Melanesian and Papuan—the former, with odd exceptions constituting the population of the Bismarek Archipelago, the Solomon Islands, and the coastal districts of the New Guinea mainland; while the latter inhabit the interior of the mainland. Odd tribes of Negritoes are known to exist in the mountains of New Guinea. In the Admiralty Islanders there is a strain of Papuan, and, possibly, of Polynesian blood, while the Western Islanders and the inhabitants of the small islands east and south-east of New Ireland are Micronesians.

2. *Land Tenure.*—Native customs in regard to the ownership and use of land may be briefly outlined as follows:—The ownership and use of the land are generally individual, although, in some rare cases, particularly in North Bougainville, the communal system exists. In districts where a great many coconut-bearing palms are growing on native lands it is often found that the land is the property of a chief or of one of the old men of the tribe, and that the coconut palms growing thereon are divided into small groves, and are the property of several members of the tribe. Customs with regard to the use of unoccupied forest lands vary. Right of inheritance to land is almost invariably through the maternal branch. (See Year Book No. 17, p. 634.)

3. **Research Work.**—During the German occupation of the Territory a certain amount of research work was carried out, partly by scientific expeditions, and partly by missionaries and by a local resident. An anthropologist has been appointed by the Commonwealth Government to consolidate the work already done, and to extend it to parts of the Territory which have not yet been covered. The results of his work appear in special reports.

4. **Education.**—The education of the natives was provided for in the "Education Ordinance of 1922" under which the Administrator was authorized to establish schools, grant money therefor, prescribe instruction, and arrange for the training of teachers and other matters. Simultaneously a Native Education Trust Fund was inaugurated, over which the Administrator was given control, and for the benefit of which he was empowered, within certain limits, to levy taxes on the natives and on employers of native labour. The expenditure on native education in 1927–28 was £10,057. Though the natives are liable to pay education tax none has been collected since 1922–23, whereas a considerable sum annually is obtained from a tax levied on employers of native labour.

Government educational establishments have been founded at Malaguna, near Rabaul and at Kavieng. For some time the Administration has been collecting details of the systems of education in force in other native countries. It is proposed later to appoint a Committee to study the question of native education as regards New Guinea, and to submit recommendations for the establishment of a system that will adequately meet the needs of the Territory. (See Year Book No. 17, p. 635.)

A considerable amount of educational work is carried out by the missions, the schools maintained being of three classes—(a) elementary schools in villages; (b) intermediate boarding schools at head-quarters; and (c) high schools and technical schools. At the end of June, 1929, the various missions maintained 1,305 schools, employing 231 European teachers, 4 Asiatic and 1,186 native teachers. The pupils numbered 36,507.

The granting of assistance to mission schools is authorized by the Education Ordinance, but no grants have hitherto been made.

5. **Health of Natives.**—In a report dealing with the health of the natives in New Britain submitted before the war, it was stated that "the natives in the districts examined are not degenerate; but they are sick." The same qualification undoubtedly applies to the native population throughout the Territory.

The diseases taking the greatest toll of native life—directly, or through lowering vitality—are:—Malaria, respiratory diseases, dysentery, frambœsia, yaws, tropical ulcer, hookworm, filariasis, and beriberi. Further reference to this subject will be found in Official Year Book No. 18, p. 647.

The Health Department in Rabaul possesses:—(i) a staff of medical officers and orderlies, including travelling doctors; (ii) Native Hospitals at Government stations and sub-stations (its staff also supervises hospitals on plantations); (iii) a laboratory; (iv) training system for natives as medical orderlies; (v) scheme of distribution of medical necessaries; (vi) a leper-station near Madang; and (vii) undertakes the general oversight of sanitary conditions.

6. **Missions.**—There is a number of mission societies working in the Territory. The Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus works in the Bismarck Archipelago, the Society of the Holy Ghost along the coast of North-East New Guinea from Sek to the Dutch border, the Marists in Buka and Bougainville. These are Roman Catholic Missions. The Protestant Missions are the Australian Methodist Mission in New Britain and New Ireland, the New Zealand Methodist Mission in Bougainville, the Liebenzell Mission in the Admiralty Group, and the Lutheran Mission (supported and staffed by the Lutheran Churches in Australia and America), which work along the coast of North-East New Guinea from Sek to the Papuan border. All these societies combine teaching and planting with their missionary work. The missionaries working in the Mandated Territory in 1927 numbered 373, comprising American, 28; Austrian, 7; Belgian, 1; British, 53; Dutch, 40; French, 25; German, 197; Italian, 2; Luxemburgese, 6; Polish, 11; Free City of Danzig, 1; Czecho-Slovak, 2. Some of the societies have small printing plants by which reading matter in one or other of the native languages is produced.

§ 5. Land Policy.

1. **Acquisition of Land.**—A short account of the modes of acquiring land appears in Official Year Book No. 19, p. 590, but considerations of space preclude its repetition herein.

2. **Land Policy of the Present Administration.**—The Land Ordinance 1922–24 provides for sale as well as leasing of land belonging to the Crown. The divergence from the policy usually adopted by the British in the Pacific (including Papua), which provides for leasehold only, was made with a view to disposing by sale of the freehold properties taken over from Germans, and which until recently were controlled by the Expropriation Board. Reference to the leasehold system in force will be found in Official Year Book 18, page 648.

A total area of 259,801 hectares (about 640,000 acres) had been alienated up to the 30th June, 1929. The area alienated in 1928–29 was 6,040 hectares (about 14,900 acres).

3. **Registration of Titles.**—Under German law there was a system of registration of titles in a "Ground Book," but registration did not confer an indefeasible title. The German system has been replaced by one modelled on the Torrens plan, embodied in an Ordinance entitled the "Lands Registration Ordinance," 1924.

§ 6. Production.

1. **General.**—The Territory possesses great natural resources, but their development has barely commenced, and progress in this direction will depend largely on the possibility of securing an adequate supply of suitable labour.

2. **Agriculture.**—(i) *General.* No estimate has yet been made of the area of land suitable for agriculture; but it is certain that the area already alienated, if planted to its full capacity, would be far greater than the present native population could cultivate.

The natives have been described as a people of peasant proprietors, and everywhere they practice a crude form of agriculture. Their gardens afforded but a small amount of produce for oversea trade, and the exports of the Protectorate grew only as European plantations were made.

Under the supervision of the Director of Agriculture, soil analyses have been undertaken in different parts of the Territory, experimental stations have been founded in Rabaul, Bitu Paka, and in the Markham Valley, and an agricultural school has been established at Kerawat, 28 miles from Rabaul, where natives are being trained in tropical agriculture. A laboratory and a herbarium have been established, and travelling inspectors appointed for the purpose of combating plant pests. Experiments are being carried on with a variety of crops; these in conjunction with the *Papua and New Guinea Bounties Act* 1926, and the preference given by the Commonwealth Tariff to certain produce grown in the Territories are expected greatly to stimulate agriculture.

(a) *Tobacco.* This crop has been cultivated with success at Astrolabe Bay in North-East New Guinea, and in the Bismarck Archipelago. Tobacco of high quality, rivalling the best Sumatra leaf, is said to have been produced. Tobacco growing is again being experimented with.

(b) *Cotton.* In 1924–25 the Government obtained 1,615 lb. of cotton seed, and experiments are being carried on at the experimental stations as well as by private planters, including a few natives.

(c) *Sisal Hemp.* There was a steady although small export of sisal hemp in German times. The quantity exported in 1913 was 10 tons, but none seems to have been exported since 1914.

(d) *Cocoa*. Cocoa has been successfully grown, principally at Vitu (French Islands); in 1913, 137 tons were exported. In 1928-29 the export was 72 tons.

(e) *Coffee*. The cultivation of coffee for export has been commenced; but progress is slow.

(f) *Rubber*. On the mainland a small area has been planted with *Ficus elastica*, but in consequence of the low price of the inferior rubber produced from this source the trees are not being tapped.

(g) *Copra*. The production of copra is the main industry. The quantity exported in 1928-29 was 60,435 tons. The area under coconuts increased from 76,845 acres in 1914 to 192,290 acres on 30th June, 1929, of which 155,000 were in bearing.

(h) *Other Crops*. The climate and soil of the Territory are suitable for the cultivation of rice, Manila hemp, cinchona, nutmeg, vanilla, peanuts, kapok and maize, but hitherto their cultivation has either not advanced beyond the experimental stage or has been attempted on a small scale only. Sugar-cane of many varieties flourishes, and the natives cultivate extensive areas for their own use; other indigenous food-producing plants include the sago palm and the cassava.

(i) *Plants Yielding Power Alcohol*. It seems probable that alcohol for power purposes will be obtainable economically from the Territory. The sago palm and nipa palm yield as much as 60 gallons a ton, and in places are very abundant.

(ii) *Area of Plantations*. The area of plantations and the principal crops grown thereon are shown in the table hereunder for the year ended 30th June, 1929. The figures are exclusive of native plantations. (One hectare equals 2.4711 acres).

TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA.—PLANTATIONS, 30th JUNE, 1929.

Particulars.	Government Plantations.	Privately owned Plantations.	Total.
Area of Holdings hectares	1,662	164,940	166,602
Area Cleared "	1,087	84,029	85,116
Area Cleared and Planted "	892	79,214	80,106
Coconuts—			
Area Planted hectares	872	76,982	77,854
Area Bearing "	709	62,078	62,787
Cocoa—			
Area Planted hectares	..	465	465
Area Bearing "	..	254	254
Coffee—			
Area Planted hectares	..	9	9
Area Bearing "	..	3	3
Kapok—			
Area Planted hectares	..	..	124
Area Bearing .. .. . "	..	..	40
Native Food (a) hectares	49	2,534	2,583

NOTE.—Rubber is not tapped. coconut palms not yet in bearing.

(a) Native food of all kinds is mostly grown between young

The area of plantations at various periods from 1885 to 1929 is shown hereunder. As in the case of the previous table, the figures are exclusive of native plantations:—

TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA.—PLANTATIONS, 1885 TO 1929.

Year.	Total Area.	Area under Coconuts (including Area not in Bearing).
	Acres.	Acres.
1885	148	(a)
1895	2,152	(a)
1911	58,837	51,510
1914	84,941	76,845
1924	179,163	172,373
1929	197,862	192,290

(a) Not recorded.

3. **Live Stock.**—There is little natural pasture in the Territory, but the coconut plantations are now of a sufficient area to maintain numerous live stock, the stock being depastured on the indigenous grasses growing between the rows of trees. In 1929 there were 952 horses, 13,817 cattle, 1,695 sheep, 6,400 goats, and 5,565 pigs (exclusive of the large number of pigs kept by the natives). (See also Official Year Book No. 16, page 677.)

4. **Timber.**—An investigation of the timber resources of the Territory has been made by the Commonwealth Forestry Adviser, and a report in connexion therewith was published in 1926. According to this report, while offering no prospects of immediate gain to large saw-milling interests the Territory possesses forest potentialities of a high order. The timber required for house and ship-building and for other purposes is mostly obtained locally. In North-East New Guinea the Neuendettelsauer Mission and the Holy Ghost Mission both possess up-to-date saw-milling plants, while most of the timber required in the Archipelago is supplied by the Sacred Heart Mission's saw-mill, and by a privately-owned mill, both at the eastern end of New Britain.

The Timber Ordinance 1922 provides for the issue of permits and licences to cut timber. Timber growing on native lands cannot be acquired by private purchasers directly from the natives, but must be obtained through the Administration. A royalty is to be paid on all timber exported. Eleven timber permits were issued in 1928-29.

5. **Fisheries.**—The wealth of the waters of the Territory has so far been little exploited. Fish is caught at many places along the coast to supply the small local demand of the natives and of the few resident Europeans. Pearl-shell is exported in fair quantities, while trepang, trochus-shell, and tortoise-shell also figure amongst the exports. The value of marine products exported in 1928-29 was £27,485, compared with £34,911 in the previous year.

6. **Mining.***—Except for gold there has been little mining in the Territory, and knowledge of the mineral resources is as yet but scanty. Gold has been discovered on the Waria, the Ramu, the Francisco, and the Markham Rivers, etc. Rich gold was discovered in the Morobe District in 1926; the field is not very extensive and is situated 60 miles inland. Communication has been established with the coast by a regular aeroplane service. Osmiridium is reported to have been found on the upper tributaries of the Ramu, and platinum on the Kabenau River. Copper has been discovered in the form of chalcopyrite and malachite in the Baining District. Iron occurs as magnesite and hæmatite in the Baining District, apparently in large quantities. Sulphur occurs in several localities in the volcanic regions of the Territory. Phosphates suitable for use in the making of manures are found in the Purdy Islands. Brown coal has been found on the mainland in the vicinity of Astrolabe Bay, and in the southern portion of New Ireland.

* Fuller details in regard to minerals in the Territory will be found in E. R. Stanley's Report on Salient Geological Features and Natural Resources of the Territory (printed as Appendix B. to the Report for 1921-22).

The following table shows the quantity of gold exported, and its value during the last five financial years:—

Year.	Quantity.		Value.
	Ounces.		£
1924-25	..	7,417	18,512
1925-26	..	10,067	25,169
1926-27	..	84,760	195,428
1927-28	..	113,874	256,216
1928-29	..	79,748	179,433

By the Mining Ordinance of 1923, private companies incorporated or registered in the Territory, two-thirds of whose shares are held by British subjects, became eligible to engage in prospecting and mining for mineral oil and coal. On the 30th June, 1929, 5 licences to search for mineral oil were in force.

§ 7. Trade.

1. **Total Trade.**—The value of the imports, exports, and total trade at various periods since 1887, and during each of the last five years, is given in the table hereunder:—

TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA.—TRADE, 1887 TO 1929.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1887 ..	17,133	19,580	36,713
1897 ..	36,713	31,352	68,065
1907 ..	166,585	97,563	264,148
1924-25	537,940	858,990	1,396,930
1925-26	568,339	1,105,158	1,673,497
1926-27	660,753	1,079,855	1,740,608
1927-28	811,832	1,471,026	2,282,858
1928-29	871,441	1,146,112	2,017,553

The import values are exclusive of money and Government stores. In 1928-29 the imports were distributed as follows:—From Australia, £327,716; United Kingdom, £132,755; America, £128,045; China, £34,856; Germany, £63,491; Japan, £18,805; India, £51,615; Burma, £44,138; other countries, £70,020.

2. **Principal Items of Imports.**—From Australia the principal items of imports are foodstuffs and beverages, tobacco, apparel, foot-wear, textiles, machinery, hardware, building material, etc.; from the United Kingdom textiles, apparel, machinery and hardware, whisky; from America petrol, kerosene, motor vehicles and lubricating oil, tobacco; from India rice and sacks; from Burma rice; from China rice and textiles; from Germany textiles, machinery and hardware, beverages, fancy goods, wood and wicker manufactures, motor vehicles and sewing machines; from Japan, textiles.

3. **Principal Items of Export.**—Values of the principal items of export for the last five years are shown hereunder:—

TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA.—EXPORTS, VALUE OF ITEMS, 1924-25 TO 1928-29.

Commodity.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.
	£	£	£	£	£
Copra ..	815,938	1,016,930	849,852	1,176,040	933,769
Cocoa ..	6,949	6,510	3,500	3,859	3,816
Stone and Ivory Nuts	312	456	152	..	153
Trepanng ..	1,975	8,246	13,750	11,259	4,440
Shell ..	15,009	47,434	17,000	23,436	22,695
Tortoise Shell	295	413	173	216	350
Gold ..	18,512	25,169	195,428	256,216	179,433
Miscellaneous ..	..	..	..	..	1,456
Total ..	858,990	1,105,158	1,079,855	1,471,026	1,146,112

4. Exports of Copra and Cocoa.—The next table shows the quantities of these items exported during the last five years:—

TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA.—EXPORTS OF COPRA AND COCOA,
1924-25 TO 1928-29.

Commodity.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.
	Tons. 39,151	Tons. 45,806	Tons. 47,613	Tons. 65,285	Tons. 60,435
Copra	135	113	65	73	72
Cocoa					

Most of the copra is shipped direct to European and American ports.

5. Banks.—There are two banks operating in the Territory, the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, and the Bank of New South Wales.

§ 8. Shipping and Communication.

1. General.—A subsidized mail service between the Territory and Australia is maintained by Burns, Philp and Co. Ltd. There is a regular service between the East and Australia with Rabaul as a port of call. Shipping within the Territory is regulated by the *Coastal Vessels Regulations*, 1920, and the *Wharfage and Berthage Regulations* made during the Military Administration of the Territory.

2. Oversea Tonnage in 1928-29.—The number and net tonnage of oversea vessels which entered and cleared the Territory during the year 1928-29 are shown hereunder:—

TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA.—SHIPPING, 1928-29.

Nationality.	Vessels Entered.		Vessels Cleared.		Total.	
	Number.	Net Tonnage.	Number.	Net Tonnage.	Number.	Net Tonnage.
American	4	8,551	4	8,551	8	17,102
British	54	99,711	50	97,725	104	197,436
French	9	23,260	9	23,260	18	46,520
German	3	2,784	3	2,784	6	5,568
Japanese	4	3,922	4	3,922	8	7,844
Total	74	138,228	70	136,242	144	274,470

Country from which Entered or for which Cleared.	Vessels Entered.		Vessels Cleared.		Total.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
Australia	39	68,590	31	51,323	70	119,913
Caroline Islands	3	801	3	801	6	1,602
China	8	15,336	11	22,177	19	37,513
France	5	14,895	12	33,550	17	48,445
Fiji .. .. .	..	..	1	1,201	1	1,201
Holland .. .. .	..	..	1	2,894	1	2,894
Japan	1	3,121	1	1,445	2	4,566
New Caledonia	5	12,367	..	..	5	12,367
New Zealand	2	5,999	..	..	2	5,999
Ocean Island .. .. .	..	..	1	1,922	1	1,922
Singapore	1	879	1	879	2	1,758
United Kingdom	5	7,622	1	3,597	6	11,219
United States of America	5	8,618	7	16,453	12	25,071
Total	74	138,228	70	136,242	144	274,470

3. **Local Shipping.**—A service between Rabaul and the various outports not visited by the mail steamers is maintained by small steamers and motor craft.

4. **Land Communication.**—Means of communication on land are scanty. There are no railways. Roads lead from Rabaul to places within 30 or 40 miles, and there is a road 170 miles long in New Ireland. Elsewhere there are few roads outside plantations and the stations of the District Officers. The large rivers of the mainland are as yet but little used.

There is a high power wireless station at Bita Paka near Rabaul, and low power stations at the out-stations.

5. **Communication by Air.**—The discovery of gold in New Guinea has resulted in great aviation activity in the vicinity of the gold-fields. On account of the mountainous country and dense undergrowth between the coast and the gold-fields the task of transporting food and stores to the fields and of bringing the gold to the seaboard by land is an irksome and costly process. The fields are situated about 60 miles inland from Salamaua, and whereas aircraft cover the distance in approximately an hour, the nature of the country is such that a journey by other means occupies more than a week. (See Chapter VII.—Transport and Communication).

§ 9. Revenue and Expenditure.

1. **Revenue.**—Details of the revenue collected from various sources during each of the last two years are given hereunder:—

TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA.—REVENUE, 1927-28 AND 1928-29.

Heading.	1927-28.			1928-29.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Revenue from Taxation (direct and indirect) ..	249,550	1	5	233,969	9	11
Revenue from Public Services and undertakings ..	50,504	15	2	57,696	16	0
Other receipts	49,744	14	4	60,273	18	7
Appropriation of former years	193	16	7	..	..	..
Reimbursement by Nauru of moneys expended by the Territory in the administration of Nauru from 1914 to 1921	14,587	6	5	..	..	..
	364,580	13	11	350,967	11	8

2. **Expenditure.**—The expenditure for the financial year 1928-29 was distributed as follows:—

TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA.—EXPENDITURE, 1928-29.

Secretary and Central Administration	£18,363	Trade and Customs	£20,367
Justice	4,673	Agriculture	8,878
Treasury	38,137	Public Health	60,509
Audit	4,405	District Services	103,921
Lands and Survey	22,365	Miscellaneous	1,461
Native Affairs, Police, and Prisons	16,873		
Public Works	77,555	Total	377,507

NAURU.

1. **General.**—Nauru is an oval-shaped atoll about 12 miles in circumference having an area of 5,400 acres, of which approximately four-fifths is phosphate-bearing. It is situated in long. 166° E., and is 26 miles south of the Equator. Portion of the island between the sandy beach and the coral cliffs is fertile, and it is there that the native Nauruans have established themselves. With the exception of a small fringe round an inland lagoon, the plateau which contains the phosphate deposits possesses few food plants and is uninhabited, but portion of the area has been planted with fruit trees. The system of land tenure is governed by old custom, and, with the exception of small allotments held by the Government and Missions, the whole of the island is owned by individual natives. The climate is hot, but not unpleasant, the average shade temperature ranging between 72 and 95° F., and the average humidity between 70 and 80. The average rainfall is 120 inches, but droughts occasionally occur, and in 1916 and 1917 only 40 inches were received for the two years.

2. **History.**—The island was annexed by Germany in 1888, and prior to 1914 was part of the protectorate of German New Guinea.

In November, 1914, Nauru was occupied by a detachment from the Australian Expedition at Rabaul, and it was included in the cession of colonies made by Germany in 1919 to the Allied and Associated Powers, whose representatives agreed that a mandate over it should be given to His Majesty the King. On 2nd July, 1919, the British, Commonwealth, and New Zealand Governments agreed that the administration of the island (which, since 1915, had been in charge of an official appointed by the British Colonial Office) should be vested in an Administrator; the first Administrator was appointed for a term of five years by the Australian Government; his term of service having expired in February, 1926, it was extended for another five years. The Agreement between the three Governments was approved by the Commonwealth Parliament in the Nauru Island Agreement Act 1919, and is printed in the Schedule to that Act. The first Administrator appointed by the Commonwealth Government assumed duty in June, 1921.

The Mandate for Nauru, issued by the Council of the League of Nations in December, 1920, is in terms similar to that for the Territory of New Guinea.

3. **Administration.**—The Administrator has all the powers of government—administrative, legislative, and judicial—in the island. An advisory Council has been created which consists of two Europeans chosen by the Administrator, and two native chiefs elected by the natives. All expenses of administration are met from local revenue. Native industries such as canoe-building, fishing, mat-making, etc., are encouraged by the provision of prizes at annual competitions. A branch of the Commonwealth Savings Bank has been established. There is a co-operative store managed by the natives themselves, the books, however, being audited by Government officers. Natives are not allowed to carry firearms, and the use by them of intoxicating liquors and deleterious drugs is prohibited.

4. **Population.**—Figures for population from 1925 to 1929 are given hereunder :—

NAURU.—POPULATION, 1925 TO 1929.

Population.	31st December, 1925.	1st April, 1926.	1st April, 1927.	1st April, 1928.	1st April, 1929.
Europeans	124	117	115	131	134
Chinese	827	822	761	1,051	1,099
Nauruans (a)	1,239	1,251	1,266	1,297	1,365
Other South Sea Islanders	10	27	21	20	16

(a) The natives of Nauru are Micronesians.

5. **Health.**—There is no malaria, but cases occur of other diseases known in the Pacific. Venereal disease is rare, but at the end of 1929, 237 cases of leprosy were under treatment. An area has been set apart for the segregation of lepers, and the latest methods of treatment are applied to cope with the disease. Two hospitals are maintained on the island, one by the Administration for Nauruans, and one by the British Phosphate Commission for its employees. In common with other natives, the Nauruans are very susceptible to tuberculosis and influenza, and in 1921 an influenza epidemic caused the deaths of 230 islanders. Dysentery, both amoebic and bacillary, is endemic. The usual steps have been taken by the authorities to improve the water supply and to provide efficient sanitation generally. A baby clinic has been established to give help and advice to Nauruan mothers in regard to infant nurture.

6. **Education.**—On the 1st October, 1923, the Administration took over the education of the Nauruans and other native children, and native schools were established in four districts and at the leper station. Previously education had been looked after by the Missions subsidized by the Government. A school for European children is presided over by a teacher on loan from the Education Department of Victoria, who also supervises educational matters generally. The curriculum is similar to that of corresponding schools in Australia, and the teaching is, as far as possible, wholly in English. Education is compulsory between the ages of six and sixteen. After the termination of ordinary school attendance, twelve months are devoted to technical training. Officers from the Missions visit the schools to give religious and moral training. Three Nauruan boys are at present undergoing educational training in Australia.

7. **Religion.**—The London Missionary Society (Protestant) and the Sacred Heart of Jesus Mission (Roman Catholic) operate in Nauru.

8. **Phosphate Deposits**—(i) *General.* Since 1906 the deposits have been worked by the Pacific Phosphate Company, which also worked the deposits on Ocean Island (about 165 miles east of Nauru and part of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony administered by the Colonial Office). The quantity on the two islands has been estimated at not less than 100,000,000 tons, and the rock phosphate, as shipped, averages 85 per cent. to 88 per cent. of tribasic phosphate of lime. About 4,000,000 tons have already been removed.

The interests of the Pacific Phosphate Company in the two islands (though not in other islands in the Pacific in which it has workings) were bought by the British, Commonwealth, and New Zealand Governments in 1919 for £3,500,000, the purchase money being contributed in the proportions of 42, 42, and 16 per cent. respectively. The Agreement of 2nd July, 1919, provides for the working of the deposits by the British Phosphate Commission of three members, one appointed by each Government; and the three countries are to receive the output in the same proportions of 42, 42, and 16 per cent..

(ii) *Output.* The output from the two islands in 1913, the last year before the war, was 350,000 tons. During the five years 1923–24 to 1927–28 exports were as follows:—

NAURU AND OCEAN ISLAND.—EXPORT OF PHOSPHATES, 1923–24 TO 1927–28.

Year.	Total.	To	To New	To United	To other
		Australia.	Zealand.	Kingdom.	Countries.
	Tons.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1923–24	450,924	70.67	13.46	..	15.87
1924–25	473,647	71.11	21.01	..	7.88
1925–26	393,032	69.76	24.97	..	5.27
1926–27	594,825	77.96	22.04	..	..
1927–28	501,908	75.20	24.80	..	..

From Nauru alone, during the calendar year 1929, the export was 326,125 tons, of which 237,525 tons went to Australia, and 88,600 tons to New Zealand.

(iii) *Accounts of Commission.* A statement for the five years ended June, 1928, is given hereunder.

NAURU AND OCEAN ISLAND.—SALES OF PHOSPHATES, 1923-24 TO 1927-28.

Receipts from Sales of Phosphate, Etc.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts from sales, etc. ..	695,940	705,293	611,654	780,070	666,992
F.o.b. cost, including interest on capital, Sinking fund, etc. ..	651,102	635,675	607,256	720,439	659,122

The amount due by the Commission to the partner Governments for purchase money and other capital sums was £3,666,457 on 30th June, 1921, and at 30th June, 1928, this had been reduced to £3,411,112. The contribution to the sinking fund paid by the Commission provides for interest at 6 per cent. and extinction of the capital sum in 50 years from 1st July, 1920.

(iv) *Employees.* Apart from a limited number of Europeans and a few Pacific Islanders the employees are Chinese, engaged under a three years' contract. A few Nauruans are from time to time employed, but they are not partial to sustained labour of any kind.

9. *Trade.*—Information regarding imports and exports for years 1925 to 1929 is appended herewith:—

NAURU.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, 1925 TO 1929.

Heading.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	63,576	104,117	82,650	240,229	101,692
Exports—	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
Phosphate	224,260	274,935	318,185	318,845	326,125
Copra	170	117	263	181	..

10. *Revenue and Expenditure.*—The revenue and expenditure of the Administration during the years 1925 to 1929 were as follows:—

NAURU.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1925 TO 1929.

Heading.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue	15,175	16,424	17,041	19,903	19,936
Expenditure	15,257	13,963	17,243	18,267	17,860

Of the revenue in 1929, £8,585 was royalty on phosphate, £3,726 consisted of Customs receipts, £1,592 of capitation taxes, and £761 of harbour dues. The total credit balance on the 31st December, 1929, amounted to £17,871.