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

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

MOVEMENT OF POPULATION, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1911.

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

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

MIGRATION, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1880 to 1911.

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

* From 17th August to end of year.

(iii.) *The Aborigines.* An account of the Australian aborigines, by Dr. W. Ramsay Smith was given in Year Book No. 3 (pp. 158-176). The interior of the continent is the most thickly populated by the natives, but it is believed that they are rapidly dying out. In these regions, remote from contact with other races, the native has maintained his primitive simplicity, and furnishes an interesting subject of study to the anthropologist and ethnologist. At the census of 1911, full-blooded 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. It has been estimated that the total black population of the Territory is upwards of 20,000.

§ 2. Historical.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

§ 3. Physiography.

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

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

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

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