

A

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF THE

SEVEN COLONIES OF AUSTRALASIA,

BY

T. A. COGHLAN,

GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

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WITH MAP

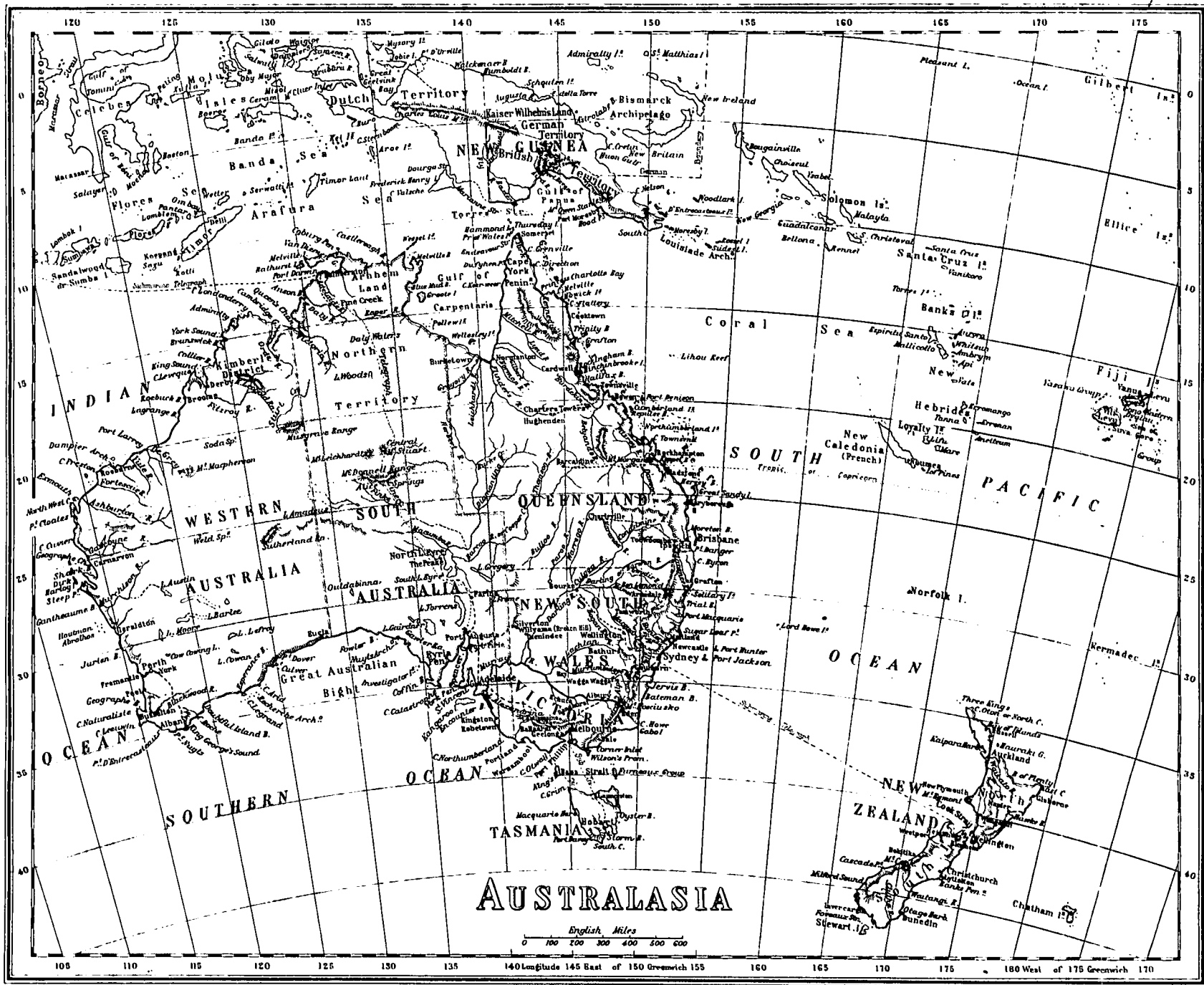
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Sydney:

GEORGE STEPHEN CHAPMAN, ACTING GOVERNMENT PRINTER.  
E. A. PETHERICK, GEORGE-STREET, AND AT MELBOURNE, ADELAIDE, AND LONDON.

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1891.



Printed at the Department of Lands, Sydney, N.S.W. 1891

Nº 146 D 6317



## PREFACE.

WHATEVER prevision of the future greatness of their undertaking may have been given to the pioneers of Australian settlement, it is doubtful whether even the most sanguine amongst them anticipated that from the humble and apparently unpromising beginnings under Captain Phillip there would arise the prosperous communities which now form the Australasian Group. To afford information by which the progress of these Colonies may be gauged is the object of the present work, which aims to exhibit at a glance the position held by each Colony individually, and by the country as a whole, with regard to all the more important elements of moral and material welfare. Such an account must be of more than passing interest—so much has been attempted in directions in which old-world experience has been of little avail, and so much has been accomplished in the development of the resources of a new land, and the social well-being of its people. In the following pages are given particulars of the area, population, commerce, and natural resources of the various Colonies, as well as information relating to the public and private wealth, and social condition of the people; their employment, educational status, form of government, cost of living, and other subjects of interest. Records of this nature

are prepared by every Colony, but this publication marks the first attempt to present such information in a collective form convenient for reference and comparison. Every care has been taken to ensure accuracy, the figures being extracted from the latest-published official records of the Colony dealt with ; and it is believed that a work of this kind will not be without a special value, now the question of Federation is so greatly exercising the public mind. Those who study the information here recorded, and note the steady and rapid progress of these vigorous communities, will hardly fail to see an augury of further prosperous development, and will fain admit the substantial basis upon which is founded Australasia's claim for recognition amongst the nations.

*Sydney, 12th February, 1891.*

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