

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

DISCLAIMER

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

SECTION XXXII.

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

§ 1. Area and Population.

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

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

3. **Population.**—(i.) *Character.* In 1881 there were 670 Europeans in the Territory, and at the end of 1910 the number had increased to 1182, the proportion of children having also become much larger. The Chinese population, at its maximum during the years of railway construction, 1887 and 1888, has gradually dwindled, the total in 1910 being 1387. Japanese, first recorded in 1884, increased up to the year 1898, falling again after five years. The highest recorded population, excluding aborigines, was 7533 in 1888; that for 1910 was 2846. The following table shews population for thirty years, distinguishing Europeans, Chinese, and Japanese:—

**POPULATION OF NORTHERN TERRITORY (EXCLUSIVE OF ABORIGINES),
1881 to 1910.**

Year.	Europeans.				Chinese.				Japanese.		Other Nationalities.				Total Population
	Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Adults.		Children.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1881 ...	550	85	23	12	2,730	4	—	—	—	—	31	—	—	—	3,435
1882 ...	607	123	39	28	2,569	10	4	3	12	—	48	—	—	—	3,443
1890 ...	714	165	71	59	4,048	45	27	21	33	10	137	13	16	7	5,366
1891 ...	728	124	190	102	3,461	43	106	48	27	6	39	5	13	6	4,898
1895 ...	630	112	95	43	3,338	52	28	25	40	11	35	27	17	14	4,467
1900 ...	609	147	160	87	2,790	58	41	39	158	21	140	21	18	13	4,302
1901 ...	604	156	180	115	2,471	57	79	83	134	15	121	25	30	26	4,096
1902 ...	606	159	166	107	2,341	41	65	69	174	13	92	14	15	11	3,873
1903 ...	600	169	169	115	2,097	31	59	67	151	14	93	15	17	13	3,610
1904 ...	630	182	167	118	1,987	31	58	67	161	21	91	15	15	14	3,557
1905 ...	641	188	170	124	1,867	22	44	50	141	11	79	14	13	10	3,374
1906 ...	630	170	162	113	1,767	20	47	44	121	10	86	13	14	11	3,208
1907 ...	650	174	158	128	1,724	20	46	43	108	9	74	9	13	10	3,166
1908 ...	577	188	175	141	1,518	18	55	38	115	8	102	10	15	13	2,973
1909 ...	804	170	169	131	1,396	8	43	28	126	7	93	11	15	13	3,014
1910 ...	739	166	157	120	1,315	10	37	25	125	7	107	10	15	13	2,846

(ii.) *Movement of Population.* The following is a summary of movement of population in 1910 :—

MOVEMENT OF POPULATION, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1910.

Europeans—		Europeans—		Excess—	
Inwards, oversea	290	Outwards, oversea	383	Emigration over	
Births ...	17	Deaths ...	42	immigration ...	168
Others—		Others—		Deaths over births	17
Inwards, oversea	163	Outwards, oversea	238		
Births ...	42	Deaths ...	34		
Increase ...	512	Decrease ...	697	Net loss ...	185

The census population (3rd April, 1911) was 2734 males and 576 females, total 3310; the estimate for 31st December, 1911, was 2662 males, 586 females, total 3248.

The immigration and emigration of the Territory from 1880 to 1910 is shewn in the following table :—

MIGRATION, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1880 to 1910.

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

* 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 native, 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 has not been 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 purchase 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.* (a) *Ordinances passed.* The following Ordinances have been made :—

1911—No. 1, Northern Territory Government; No. 2, Council of Advice; No. 3, Sheriff; No. 4, Tin dredging; No. 5, Marine; No. 6, Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths; Nos. 7 and 15, Interpretation; No. 8, Stamp Duties Abolition; No. 9, Supreme Court; Nos. 10 and 12, Registration; No. 11, District Council Assessment; No. 13, Fisheries; No. 14, Land Acquisition; No. 16, Aborigines.

1912—No. 1, Native Birds' Protection; No. 2, District Council Assessment; No. 3, Crown Lands.

(b) *Main Provisions of the Ordinances.* The powers and duties of the Administrators 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. A Sheriff and a Registrar-General are provided for, also the registration of births, marriages and deaths, and of deeds and documents. Stamp duties are abolished. 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. Native birds may be declared protected. Crown lands are classified, and their mode of acquisition, entry and holding defined.

§ 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; and the islands in the present volume, pp. 71, 72.

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

south latitude, where the higher lands form the watershed between the rivers that flow northwards to the sea, and those that form the scanty supply of the interior systems. Towards the centre of the continent the land over a wide area is of considerable elevation, and there are several mountain ranges, generally with an east and west trend.

§ 4. Climate.

On the northern coast, as in the tropics generally, there are two main climatic divisions—the wet season, November to April; and the dry season, May to October. The changes of season are uniform and regular. Immediately after the vernal equinox, the wet season is heralded by the cessation of the east-south-easterly monsoon, which gives place to calms and light variable winds. Intensely hot weather prevails for a few days, thunder-clouds gathering and increasing daily until they burst in heavy thunderstorms accompanied by hurricanes, and increasing in strength and frequency until the end of November, when they become of almost daily occurrence, about an inch of rain falling during each storm. During December the north-west monsoon sets in gradually, with rain nearly every day, and increasing in force until about the end of January. At this period of the year the wet season penetrates into the heart of the continent. This monsoon dies away at the autumnal equinox, and is succeeded by light and variable winds till the end of April, when the dry season commences with the setting in of the south-east monsoon. Nearly the whole of the rainfall occurs in the summer months.

§ 5. Fauna and Flora.

1. **Native Animals.**—The ordinary types of Australian fauna inhabit the territory. As elsewhere on the continent, the higher *Theria* are rare. There are many genera of marsupials, and individuals are numerous. The birds also are typically Australian, having brilliant plumage, and not generally gifted with song. Crocodiles and fresh-water tortoises frequent the northern rivers. There are some species of snakes, mostly non-venomous, the most numerous being the harmless python. Frogs abound, the water-holding frog being common in Central Australia. The rivers contain many varieties of freshwater fish. The molluscan fauna of the coast are mostly carnivorous, the vegetable feeders being very poorly represented, probably on account of the dearth of seaweed. Land and freshwater shellfish are not abundant. Among insects, many beautiful butterflies thrive in the warm damp atmosphere. Beetles also are strongly represented. The white ant is a pest, very few timbers being immune from its ravages. Anthills in the Territory sometimes attain a height of twenty-five feet and a diameter of ten feet. Another destructive insect, particularly active and mischievous inland, is the borer. Mosquitoes and sandflies are very troublesome, particularly from January to April. There are not many crustaceans.

2. **Imported Stock.**—Buffalo thrive in the Territory. At Port Essington they are numerous, and there are large herds on Melville Island. Timor ponies have also been introduced. Imported sheep and horned cattle thrive on the stations.

3. **Protection of Fauna.**—Ruthless destruction of native birds is prohibited. An ordinance (No. 1 of 1912) gives the Administrator power to declare that any bird is protected; and provides that permits to export protected birds, or the skins or eggs of such birds, will only be issued subject to such conditions as the Administrator directs.

4. **Flora.**—The vegetation is tropical, many of the forms belonging to the Malayan and Oceanic regions. The timber trees are not of great commercial value, but in the coastal regions tropical vegetation grows luxuriantly to the water's edge. The indented arms of the coast are thickly fringed with the mangrove. On the ranges, pines, fig trees, and orange trees flourish. The Roper River drains extensive forest lands. Leichhardt

pinces and palms form the vegetation of the tableland, which stretches across the Territory about the 14th degree of south latitude. On the higher steppes there are a few varieties of eucalyptus, and many fibre plants are also indigenous. On the wide expanses of plain country of the interior, there is little vegetation, tree growth being very scanty, consisting chiefly of stunted eucalypts, such as the gimlet gum, black box, and desert sheoak. In the north-western districts there is an almost entire absence of lichens and mosses, though ferns are plentiful in the vicinity of the Victoria River. The following orders are well represented:—*Euphorbiaceæ*, *Compositæ*, *Convolvulaceæ*, *Rubiaceæ*, *Goodeniaceæ*, *Leguminosæ*, *Urticæ*.

§ 6. Production.

The table of exports hereunder indicates the principal productions of the Territory, since there is no great home consumption.

1. **Stock.**—The spacious, well-grassed “runs” of the Territory are suitable for horse and cattle breeding. It is anticipated that the cattle trade with the East will develop. Large numbers are overlanded to neighbouring States, which also take considerable quantities of horse hides. The number of stock on 31st December, 1910, was:—

LIVE STOCK, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 31st DECEMBER, 1910.

Horses.		Cattle.		Sheep.		Pigs.
24,509	...	513,383	...	57,240	...	996

Dairying as an industry is non-existent. The abundant indigenous herbage is, however, well suited for stock, and the making of hay and ensilage would ensure the development of the industry.

2. **Mining.**—Considerable quantities of the precious and commercial metals are mined. The discovery of gold and tin in various localities, and the measure of success that has attended their working, indicates scope for development.

(i.) *Mineral production, 1910.* The gold production in 1910 was:—

GOLD RAISED, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1910.

From Batteries.		From Cyanide Works.		Alluvial and Dollied Gold.		Total.	
Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
ozs.	£	ozs.	£	ozs.	£	ozs.	£
3,614	12,649	2,424	4,662	1,100	4,400	7,138	21,711

The principal other minerals raised in 1910 were:—

OTHER MINERALS RAISED, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1910.

Copper Ore.		Wolfram Ore.		Tin Ore.	
Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
97	1,196	70	6,686	364	31,113

(ii.) *Mineral Production, 1894 to 1910.* The following table shews the total mineral production for 17 years. No company mined for tin, silver lead or wolfram during this period:—

VALUE OF MINERAL PRODUCTION, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1894 to 1910.

Year.	Gold Bullion.	Tin Ore.	Wolfram.	Silver Lead.	Copper Ore.	Smelter Product (C'pp'rBase)	Total Value.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1894 ...	107,708	1,251	...	115	1,204	...	110,278
1895 ...	101,325	1,815	...	...	410	...	103,550
1896 ...	73,679	530	...	1,230	...	...	75,439
1897 ...	63,266	10	...	...	...	...	63,276
1898 ...	79,988	100	...	...	...	...	80,088
1899 ...	60,648	180	...	...	...	...	60,828
1900 ...	61,089	774	...	522	14,095	...	76,480
1901 ...	61,187	2,105	175	20	2,345	...	65,832
1902 ...	61,379	5,985	...	...	1,813	...	69,177
1903 ...	41,629	10,773	...	...	55	...	52,457
1904 ...	40,926	27,360	2,500	1,386	...	27,029	99,201
1905 ...	47,246	25,877	2,573	1,303	6,677	9,659	93,335
1906 ...	33,637	33,837	7,144	2,355	13,154	35,606	126,077*
1907 ...	18,279	41,365	11,451	2,093	13,143	1,888	88,219
1908 ...	21,095	35,876	1,925	30	5,413	2,555	67,194†
1909 ...	24,148	32,741	4,105	...	1,400	2,342	64,736
1910 ...	21,711	31,113	6,686	...	1,196	...	60,706

* Includes Santalite valued at £140, and Amblygonite valued at £204. † Includes Bismuth valued at £300.

(iii.) *Employment of Miners, 1894 to 1910.* The following table shews employment in mining for seventeen years, distinguishing Chinese:—

MINERS, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1894 to 1910.

Year.	Europeans.	Chinese.	Total.	Year.	Europeans.	Chinese.	Total.
1894 ...	65	2,055	2,120	1903	91	1,202	1,293
1895 ...	111	2,032	2,143	1904	189	1,158	1,347
1896 ...	193	1,678	1,871	1905	161	1,077	1,238
1897 ...	153	1,633	1,786	1906	179	1,018	1,197
1898 ...	107	1,456	1,563	1907	208	958	1,166
1899 ...	114	1,372	1,486	1908	150	674	824
1900 ...	72	1,432	1,504	1909	190	630	820
1901 ...	58	1,280	1,338	1910	140	602	742
1902 ...	47	1,160	1,207				

(iv.) *Mining Accidents, 1900 to 1910.* There were no injuries received in mining in 1910. During the ten years preceding, ten fatal accidents and eight cases of serious injury were recorded.

3. **Pearl Shell.**—In 1884 mother-of-pearl shell was discovered in the harbour of Port Darwin. Difficulty in working, principally through heavy tides and muddy water, retarded the development of the industry for many years. Latterly, however, the opening up of new patches has led to a revival. In 1910, thirty-six boats were engaged, valued, with their equipment, at £10,900; 216 men were employed. Fifty-five tons of pearl shell were obtained, valued at £10,030. Bêche-de-mer valued at £1303 was also raised.

§ 7. Commerce and Shipping.

1. **Trade.**—The following table shews the total trade of the Territory for the past 10 years :—

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

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Imports ...	108,886	107,217	125,244	113,461	86,878	74,659	78,996	68,905	57,994	52,398
Exports ...	302,931	191,558	178,266	235,650	216,279	254,222	345,721	241,028	278,555	269,063
Total Trade	411,817	298,775	303,510	349,111	303,157	328,881	424,717	309,933	336,549	321,461

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

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

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

2. **Principal Exports.**—The principal articles of export during the last three years were :—

PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF EXPORT, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1908 to 1910.

Year.	Wolfram		Copper.		Cattle.		Bêche-de-mer.		Tin Ore.		Gold.		Dried Fish.		Horses.	
	Qua.	Val.	Qua.	Val.	No.	Value.	Qua.	Val.	Qua.	Val.	Qua.	Val.	Qua.	Val.	No.	Val.
1908	tons	£	tons	£		£	tons	£	tons	£	ozs.	£	lbs.	£		£
1909	8	542	413	5,020	31,636	142,998	24	1,272	447	35,990	7,074	22,425	83,944	1,697	1,459	14,395
1910	44	4,294	143	2,337	26,783	121,172	38	1,906	416	32,306	7,164	23,526	63,605	1,091	83	525
	65	7,081	124	1,113	38,326	161,605	30	1,303	351	34,308	6,713	21,632	33,672	591	829	14,070

Year.	Pearl Shell.		Hides and Horns.	Wool.		Tortoise Shell.		Copper Matte.	
	Qua.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Qua.	Value.	Qua.	Value.
	tons.	£	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	tons.	£
1908	58	7,578	4,831	148	6	251	159	78	1,949
1909	58	10,085	6,586	142	3	376	350	11	300
1910	55	10,030	3,816	213,964	5,915	222	160	124	2,989

3. **Shipping.**—The Territory's oversea commerce is carried in British and Japanese bottoms. One of the British lines maintains a monthly service, other lines are irregular. Coastal shipping is chiefly in Australian vessels. There is a small local trade, a steamship running between Port Darwin, Port McArthur, Daly River, Victoria River, and Wyndham (Western Australia). The shipping of Port Darwin in 1910 was :—

SHIPPING, PORT DARWIN, 1910.

Particulars.	Entered.			Cleared.			Total.		
	Vessels	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels	Tons.	Crews.
Oversea direct— Steam	47	79,767	3,652	43	72,430	3,291	90	152,197	6,943
Interstate—Steam	36	55,082	2,390	40	63,196	2,778	76	118,278	5,168
Local (within the Ter'ty)—Steam	9	560	68	8	379	59	17	939	127
Sailing	35	373	129	33	379	120	68	752	249
Total	127	135,782	6,239	124	136,384	6,248	251	272,166	12,487

4. **Shipping, 1881 to 1910.**—The average annual shipping of the Territory from 1881 to 1910 is shewn below in 5-year periods :—

SHIPPING, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1881 to 1910.

Period.	Arrivals.		Departures.	
	Average Yearly No. of Vessels.	Average Annual Tonnage.	Average Yearly No. of Vessels.	Average Annual Tonnage.
1881—1885 ...	72	71,814	72	71,692
1886—1890 ...	95	94,452	103	94,724
1891—1895 ...	75	81,128	73	81,090
1896—1900 ...	71	88,284	70	88,244
1901—1905 ...	63	93,751	63	91,556
1906—1910 ...	87	128,502	88	128,408

§ 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 Port Darwin, *via* Port Augusta).

The Northern line from Adelaide terminates at Oodnadatta, about 100 miles south of the southern boundary of the Territory. The only line at present in the Territory is one from Port Darwin to Pine Creek, a length of 145½ miles, of 3 ft. 6 in. gauge; and Pine Creek is distant about 1140 miles from Oodnadatta. It is stated that this transcontinental railway would bring London within seventeen days of Adelaide. The Commonwealth also acquired on 1st January, 1911, the property in the line from Port Augusta to Oodnadatta; but the line is at present being worked under the control of the South Australian Railway Commissioner, by agreement between the Commonwealth and South Australian Governments.

2. **Posts.**—The principal mail services are as follows:—

(i.) **Marine.** Postal communication is maintained between Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide, *via* North Queensland ports. The service extends to China and Japan. There are three lines of service—two of the shipping companies being British, and one Japanese. The two former are subsidised at poundage rates, the latter at Postal Union rates. One of the British services is monthly, the others are irregular. There is also a quarterly contract service between Port Darwin and Boroloola, calling half-yearly at Roper River; and a service every two months between Port Darwin and Wyndham, on the estuary of Ord River, in the north-east of Western Australia. These are subsidised

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

Between Port Darwin and Banjoewangie the submarine cable is duplicated.

§ 9. Finance.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1910-11.

REVENUE.	£	EXPENDITURE.—cont.	£
Customs and Excise...	12,366	Law Officers—	
Postal, Telegraph & Telephone	2,691	Salaries and contingencies...	877*
Railways ...	5,567*	Marine Office—	
Territorial ...	3,389*	Salaries and contingencies...	353*
Miscellaneous ...	1,565*	Stock and Brands—	
Credit Balance Northern Terri-		Salaries and contingencies...	23*
tory funds at 31/12/10, paid		Botanic Gardens—	
by State of South Australia	151,513	Salaries and contingencies...	299*
Deficiency on year ...	166,856	Survey—	
		Salaries and contingencies...	176*
	343,947	Goldfields and Mining—	
		Salaries and contingencies...	5,425*
		Education—	
		Salaries and contingencies...	304*
EXPENDITURE.		Railways—	
Trade and Customs—		Salaries and contingencies...	5,882*
Salaries and contingencies ...	1,705	Works and Buildings ...	4,838*
Rent, Repairs, etc.	98	Miscellaneous ...	5,471*
Postmaster-General—		Administrative Office—	
Salaries and contingencies ...	11,360	Salaries and contingencies...	167*
Mails ...	4,412	Payment into Trust fund,	
Rent, Repairs, etc.	25	Mineral account ...	1,000*
Administrator's Office—		Interest and Redemption (ex-	
Salaries and contingencies ...	1,610*	cluding Port Augusta rail-	
Aboriginal Affairs—		way)—	
Salaries and contingencies ...	108*	Interest on loans ...	13,976*
Police—		Contribution to sinking fund	4,617*
Salaries and contingencies ...	4,388*	Redemption of loans ...	273,250*
Gaol—			
Salaries and contingencies ...	885*		
Charitable Institutions—			
Salaries and contingencies ...	2,678*		
Board of Health—			
Salaries ...	20*		
			343,947

* From 1st January, 1911, only.

The Commonwealth received £151,513 from South Australia, being the credit balance of Northern Territory funds, but assumed responsibility for interest on loans and redemptions, which, for the half-year ended 30th June, 1911, amounted to £291,844. The deficiency on the date named was thus £166,856.

2. **Loans.**—The first loan on Northern Territory account was floated in London in 1876; the nominal amount was £75,000, at 4 per cent., due date 1st January, 1916. The public debt on 30th June, 1911, was £3,657,836; the total nominal amount of loans raised being £4,611,836, and £954,000 having been repaid. The following is a summary:—

PUBLIC DEBT, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 30th JUNE, 1911.

Principal. £		Rate. %		Annual Interest. £
27,216	...	3	...	817
154,992	...	3½	...	5,423
71,945	...	£3 12s. 3d.	...	2,599
1,798,383	...	3¾	...	67,439
1,605,300	...	4	...	64,212
Total ...	3,657,836	—	...	140,490

§ 10. Land Tenure.

1. **Holdings.**—The Northern Territory was transferred to the Commonwealth on 1st January, 1911. At that date, out of a total area of 335,116,800 acres, there were alienated 473,990 acres; 103,629,497 acres (about one-third) were held under leases and licenses; and the remainder (about two-thirds) was unoccupied. The principal leases were:—

PRINCIPAL LEASES, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 31st DECEMBER, 1910.

Land Held Under—	No. of Leases.	Area in Acres.
Pastoral leases	256	69,278,000
Pastoral permits and approved applications ...	180	31,456,000
Coal permits	5	1,664,000
Special permits (mining)	2	726,400
Annual pastoral leases	10	487,040
Agricultural leases	30	8,960

The areas given in the section dealing with Land Tenure differ somewhat from those in this table, the explanation being that certain annual leases and approved applications are here included.

2. **Present Land Policy.**—The land policy of the Federal Government is embodied in Ordinance No. 3 of 1912. Only leasehold titles are to be granted, and the conditions are of a very favourable character. Rents will be low, and the general conditions of tenure elastic. All lands will be divided into three classes, as follows:—(i.) pastoral; (ii.) agricultural and farming; (iii.) city. Each of these classifications will be subdivided in turn, according to quality and situation. It is intended that the leases should be in perpetuity, making them almost equivalent to freeholds, with reappraisements of rent values every 14 years in the case of town lands, and every 21 years in the case of agricultural and pastoral lands. Exceptional cases will receive special treatment. Leases may be assigned, transferred or sublet; and licences for grazing on Crown or reserved lands may be granted. A board, consisting of the Director of Lands as chairman, the Director of Agriculture, and the Chief Surveyor, will classify the land and fix the rents.