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SECTION XXXII.

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

§ 1. Area and Population.

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

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

3. **Population.**—(i.) *Character.* In 1881 there were 670 Europeans in the Territory, and at the end of 1913 the number was estimated at 2143. The Chinese population, at its maximum during the years of railway construction, 1887 and 1888, has gradually dwindled, the estimate for 1914 being 1033. Japanese, first recorded in 1884, increased up to the year 1898, falling again after five years. The highest recorded population, excluding aborigines, was 7533 in 1888; the estimate for 1915 was 4563. The year 1911 was the first in which the population was dominated by the European race. A thirty years table of population, distinguishing races, will be found on page 1156 of the Commonwealth Official Year Book, No. 5. Subsequent to the Census of 1911, a revision of the estimates, back to 1901, was made. The results are incorporated in the following table:—

POPULATION OF NORTHERN TERRITORY (EXCLUSIVE OF ABORIGINES).
1901 to 1915.

Year ended 31st December.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Year ended 31st December.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1901 ...	3,999	674	4,673	1909 ...	2,927	576	3,503
1902 ...	3,847	627	4,474	1910 ...	2,738	563	3,301
1903 ...	3,582	652	4,234	1911 ...	2,662	586	3,248
1904 ...	3,514	692	4,206	1912 ...	2,854	621	3,475
1905 ...	3,368	678	4,046	1913 ...	2,995	677	3,672
1906 ...	3,248	656	3,904	1914 ...	3,252	721	3,973
1907 ...	3,095	642	3,737	1915 ...	3,687	876	4,563
1908 ...	2,963	609	3,572				

The census population (3rd April, 1911) was 2734 males, 576 females; total, 3310. The estimate for 31st December, 1915, gives 3687 males, 876 females, a total of 4563.

(ii.) *Movement of Population.* The following is a summary of movement of population in 1914 (excluding overland migration):—

MOVEMENT OF POPULATION, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1914.

Europeans—		Europeans—		Excess—	
Inwards, oversea	922	Outwards, oversea	598	Immigration over	
Births ...	28	Deaths ...	43	emigration ...	152
Others—		Others—		Births over deaths	—20
Inwards, oversea	97	Outwards, oversea	269		
Births ...	30	Deaths ...	35		
Increase ...	1,077	Decrease ...	945	Net gain ...	132

The immigration and emigration of the Territory in five-year periods from 1881 to 1910, and for the four years 1911 to 1914, are shewn in the following table:—

MIGRATION, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1881 to 1914.

Year.	Immigra- tion.	Emigra- tion.	Year.	Immigra- tion.	Emigra- tion.	Year.	Immigra- tion.	Emigra- tion.
1881-5	3,683	3,787	1896- 1900	2,538	2,259	1912	840	625
1886-90	9,208	7,250	1901-5	2,211	2,932	1913	982	855
1891-5	1,958	2,353	1906-10	2,559	3,125	1914	1,019	867
			1911	412	440			

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

§ 2. Legislation and Administration.

1. **Transfer to Commonwealth.**—(i.) *The Northern Territory Acceptance Act.* A short historical sketch is given in Year Book No. 6, pp. 1113-4. On 1st January, 1911, the Territory was transferred by South Australia to the Commonwealth, upon terms previously agreed upon by the respective cabinets, and ratified by the Commonwealth *Northern Territory Acceptance Act* (No. 20 of 1910). It is enacted that laws and courts of justice remain in operation, powers and functions of magistrates and officials remain vested; estates and interests continue upon the same terms; trade with Australian States is declared free. The Commonwealth assumes responsibility for the State loans in respect of the Territory, paying the interest yearly to the State, providing a sinking fund to pay off the loans at maturity, and paying off the deficit in respect of the Territory. It also purchases the Port Augusta to Oodnadatta railway, and agrees to complete the construction of the transcontinental railway from Port Darwin to Port Augusta.

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

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

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

(v.) *Legislation.* The main provisions of the Ordinances passed are as follows:—The powers and duties of the Administrator vested in the appointee, include custody of the public seal, appointment and suspension of officials, and execution of leases of crown lands. A Council of Advice is provided for, not to exceed six in number, to whom the Administrator may submit questions for consideration and advice. The Administrator may, if he think fit, act in opposition to the advice given, but in such case must report to the Minister. 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. Provision is made for the control of fisheries. Birds protected during the whole or part of the year are scheduled. Crown lands are classified, and their mode of acquisition, entry and holding defined. Shop assistants are to have a weekly half-holiday, and the establishments must be closed at a certain time. A town council has been constituted for Darwin, and provision made for assessments, rates, etc. Mining is encouraged by the provision of rewards for the invention of new processes, and the discovery of valuable deposits and of new mineral fields; subsidisation of the industry and the issue of prospecting licenses are also provided for. Licenses to search for mineral oil, and leases for working, are available. A Board is constituted for the purpose of making advances to settlers who intend to improve and stock their holdings, to purchase farm implements, plant, etc., or to pay off mortgages, the rate of interest and terms of repayment being set out. Reference to the Liquor Ordinance will be found hereunder.

(vi.) *Liquor Traffic.* By the Liquor Ordinance of 1915, the Commonwealth Government assumed the control of the importation, manufacture, and sale of liquor in the Territory. The hotels in Darwin and Pine Creek have been taken over, and a supervisor of hotels has been appointed to oversee the liquor business generally.

(vii.) *Schedule of Ordinances.* A schedule of the ordinances promulgated up to the end of 1915 is given hereunder:—

1911.—1, Northern Territory Government; 2, Council of Advice; 3, Sheriff; 4, Tin Dredging; 5, Marine; 6, Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths; 7, Interpretation; 8, Stamp Duties Abolition; 9, Supreme Court; 10, Registration; 11, District Council Assessment; 12, Registration; 13, Fisheries; 14, Lands Acquisition; 15, Interpretation; 16, Aborigines.

1912.—1, Native Birds Protection; 2, District Council Assessment; 3, Crown Lands; 4, Supreme Court; 5, Health; 6, Thorngate Estate; 7, Jury; 8, Crown Lands; 9, Early Closing.

1913.—1, Mineral Oil; 2, Birds Protection; 3, Registration of Births; 4, Encouragement of Mining; 5, Advances to Settlers; 6, Public Service; 7, Crown Lands; 8, Marriage Validating.

1914.—1, Brands; 2, Crown Lands.

1915.—1, Licensing; 2, Birds Protection; 3, Roads; 4, District Council; 5, Health; 6, District Council Amendment; 7, Darwin Town Council; 8, Liquor.

§ 3. Physiography.

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

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

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

Inland, the country 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 season. Nearly the whole of the rainfall occurs in the summer months. Fuller particulars will be found in Year Book No. 6, p. 1116.

2. **Fauna.**—The ordinary types of native Australian fauna inhabit the territory. As elsewhere on the continent, the higher *Theria* are rare, but marsupials, birds, crocodiles, fresh-water tortoises, snakes (mostly non-venomous), and frogs abound. There are many varieties of freshwater fish and littoral mollusca. Butterflies and beetles are strongly represented. The white ant is a pest, anthills in the Territory sometimes attaining great dimensions. Mosquitoes and sandflies are very troublesome, particularly in the wet season. Native fauna are in some cases protected. The domesticated animals have been introduced, and buffalo also exist in large herds.

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

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

§ 5. Production.

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

1. **Stock.**—(i.) The spacious, well-grassed "runs" of the Territory are, with adequate water supply, suitable for horse and cattle breeding. Large numbers of cattle are overlanded to neighbouring States, which also take considerable quantities of horse hides. The Government has a small experimental sheep station at Mataranka on the head waters of the Roper River, the flock consisting of about 1800 merino sheep. The estimated number of stock on 31st December, 1914, is given in the appended statement:—

LIVE STOCK, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 31st DECEMBER, 1914.

Horses.		Cattle.		Sheep.		Pigs.
21,985	...	414,558	...	70,200	...	1,240

The dairying industry has not been developed, although it has been shewn that it is possible to make butter of good quality. Fresh milk is procurable in Darwin from the Government dairy, which was leased to a private supplier in 1914. It is found that the rank indigenous grasses in some localities are greatly improved by constant stocking, and become largely replaced by shorter and sweeter varieties.

Herds of wild buffaloes are found on the mainland and on Melville Island, and are descendants of swamp buffaloes, introduced in the early part of last century. They have no value beyond that of their hides, of which large quantities are exported annually.

(ii.) *Freezing Works.* Extensive freezing works capable of dealing with all the stock available for export have been established in the vicinity of Darwin. Although the works are privately owned, the Government has arranged reasonable terms under which the proprietors have agreed to treat with stock owners. It is hoped that the works will be in operation in 1916, and will materially assist in the development of the Territory.

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

(i.) *Mineral Production.* Both alluvial and reef gold are found, and there are several batteries and cyanide plants. Other minerals are also raised. The following table shews the total mineral production for the last five years:—

VALUE OF MINERAL PRODUCTION, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1910 to 1914.

Year.		Gold.	Tin Ore.	Wolfram.	Silver Lead Ore.	Copper Ore.	Total Value.
		£	£	£	£	£	£
1910	...	21,711	31,113	6,686	...	1,196	60,706
1911	...	30,910	22,900	4,048	...	1,470	59,353*
1912	...	22,671	27,001	3,330	820	3,998	57,820
1913	...	13,250	25,526	3,140	2,228	482	44,626
1914	...	10,757	15,200	4,025	545	4,860	35,807†

* Includes bismuth valued at £25.

† Includes mica valued at £420.

(ii.) *Employment of Miners, 1910 to 1914.* The following table shews average number employed in mining annually for five years, distinguishing Chinese:—

MINERS, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1910 to 1914.

Year.		Europeans.	Chinese.	Total.
1910	...	140	602	742
1911	...	101	575	676
1912	...	84	542	626
1913	...	90	530	620
1914	...	136	462	598

(iii.) *Mining Accidents, 1900 to 1914.* In 1911 five mining accidents were recorded, four resulting in death. There were no serious accidents in 1910, 1912, and 1913, and only one, resulting in death, in 1914. During the nine years preceding (1901-1909), nine fatal accidents and seven cases of serious injury were recorded. The majority of the victims were Chinese.

3. **Pearl Fishing.**—In 1884 mother-of-pearl shell was discovered in the harbour of Port Darwin. Difficulty in working, principally through heavy tides and muddy water, retarded the development of the industry for many years. Latterly, however, the opening up of new patches has led to a revival. In 1914, 42 boats were engaged, valued, with their equipment, at about £6500; 250 men were employed. Twenty-five tons of pearl shell were obtained, valued at £6110. The value of pearls produced was not stated in 1914, but was given as £1415 in the preceding year. 312 lbs. of tortoise-shell, valued at £265, and bêche-de-mer, valued at £2969, were also raised. The above figures give only a partial view of the value of the fishing industry, as large quantities of pearlshell and bêche-de-mer are sent away unrecorded.

§ 6. Commerce and Shipping.

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

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

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

No record is now kept of the direction of trade between the Commonwealth States and Territories. It is, therefore, impossible to give the total imports and exports of the Northern Territory for years later than 1910. The value of the direct oversea trade for 1901, and for each of the years 1911 to 1914-15 is given hereunder:—

VALUE OF DIRECT OVERSEA TRADE, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1901, and 1911 to 1914-15.

Items.	1901.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914-15.
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports ...	37,539	14,284	18,130	20,977	83,708
Exports ...	29,191	44,662	59,106	67,911	13,319
Total ...	66,730	58,946	77,236	88,888	97,027

The principal items of oversea export were tin, £5830; wolfram, £1030; buffalo hides, £2050.

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

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

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

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

SHIPPING, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1881 to 1914.

Period.	Arrivals.		Departures.	
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1881—1885 (Annual)	72	71,814	72	71,692
1886—1890 (Average)	95	94,452	103	94,724
1891—1895 "	75	81,128	73	81,090
1896—1900 "	71	88,284	70	88,244
1901—1905 "	63	93,751	63	91,556
1906—1910 "	87	128,502	88	128,408
1911 ...	71	130,178	71	130,178
1912 ...	74	138,052	74	138,052
1913 ...	83	171,504	84	171,594
1914 ...	82	173,943	81	172,482

§ 7. Internal Communication.

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

The Northern line from Adelaide terminates at Oodnadatta, about 100 miles south of the southern boundary of the Territory. The only line at present in the Territory is one from Darwin to Pine Creek, a length of $145\frac{1}{2}$ miles, of 3 ft. 6 in. gauge; and Pine Creek is distant about 1100 miles from Oodnadatta. The extension of this line southwards from Pine Creek to Katherine River ($54\frac{1}{2}$ miles) is being proceeded with. In November, 1913, the field survey work, begun in December, 1912, was completed, and the line is now under construction; while the line to connect Katherine River with Oodnadatta (about 1030 miles) is in course of survey. It is stated that this transcontinental railway would bring London within seventeen days of Adelaide. The Commonwealth also acquired on 1st January, 1911, the property in the line from Port Augusta to Oodnadatta (478 miles).

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

(i.) *Marine.* Postal communication is maintained between Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide, *via* North Queensland ports. The service extends to China and Japan. There is also a quarterly contract service between Darwin and Boroloola, calling half-yearly at Roper River; and a service every two months between Darwin and Wyndham, on the estuary of Ord River, in the north-east of Western Australia. These are subsidised according to agreement for three years, the amount for the first service being £350, and for the second, £125 per voyage.

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

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

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

Between Darwin and Banjoewangie the submarine cable is duplicated.

§ 8. Finance.

1. **Revenue and Expenditure, 1914-15.**—In the Commonwealth finance statement for 1914-15, separate accounts are given for Northern Territory administration. The following shews the receipts and expenditure for the financial year named:—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1914-15.

REVENUE.		£	EXPENDITURE (CHIEF ITEMS.—cont.		£
Customs and Excise...	...	13,466	Administrator's Office	...	76,441
Postal, Telegraph & Telephone	...	8,922	Port Augusta Railway Loans	...	73,958
Railways	...	21,082	(Interest)	...	30,232
Territorial	...	12,210	New Works	...	28,705
Land and Income Tax	...	5,522	Railways and Transport—	...	20,360
Miscellaneous	...	14,211	Salaries, etc.	...	19,319
Quarantine	...	11	Gold Fields and Mining—	...	16,009
Port Augusta - Oodnadatta	...		Salaries, etc.	...	20,226
Railway	...	7,641	Land and Surveys—Salaries,	...	61,540
Deficiency on year's transactions	...	391,862	etc.	...	
		474,927	Loss on Railway Working	...	
EXPENDITURE (CHIEF ITEMS).		£	Postal Department...	...	
Northern Territory Loans (ex-	...		Miscellaneous	...	
cluding Port Augusta Rail-	...				
way)	...	128,137	Total	...	474,927

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

Railway—Pine Creek to Katherine River	...	£94,392
Redemption of Port Augusta Railway Loans	...	15,077
Total	...	£109,469

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

2. **Loans.**—The first loan on Northern Territory account was floated in London in 1876; the nominal amount was £75,000, at 4 per cent., due date 1st January, 1916. The public debt on 30th June, 1915, was £3,359,891. The following is a summary:—

PUBLIC DEBT, NORTHERN TERRITORY, 30th JUNE, 1915.

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

§ 9. Land Tenure.

1. **Present Policy.**—A description of the system of land settlement in force in the Territory will be found in the chapter "Land Tenure and Settlement," see pages 246, 247 *supra*. Prior to the transfer of the Territory to the Commonwealth on 1st January, 1911, the sale and occupation of lands were regulated by the South Australian Legislature in Statutes applying particularly to the Territory. Under the Commonwealth Government, a complete reorganisation was effected, and the system adopted was embodied in the Crown Lands Ordinances of 1912, 1913, and 1914. A leasehold system only is provided for, and no further alienation of Crown lands is permitted, except in pursuance of existing agreements. The land is classified and appraised, and leased in blocks, the maximum areas ranging from 300 square miles of first class pastoral, to 1280 acres of first class agricultural land. The terms of pastoral leases are for Class 1, 21 years; Classes 2 and 3, 42 years; and for any miscellaneous lease, 21 years. All other leases are to be in perpetuity, making them almost equivalent to freeholds, but with re-appraisal of rent values every 14 years in the case of town lands, and every 21 years in the case of agricultural and pastoral lands. The conditions are of a very favourable nature, with low rents and elastic conditions of tenure. In order to provide for cases where allottees on inspection of their blocks have reasonable grounds for preferring another block, the Administrator is empowered to revoke leases, under certain conditions. Under the Advances to Settlers Ordinance 1913, provision was made for giving settlers financial assistance in the pioneering years. Repayment of loans can be extended over a period of 30 years. Owing to the high evaporation rate, the surface waters in the Territory dwindle rapidly during the dry season, and, except in favoured localities, sub-artesian supplies must be resorted to where obtainable. In order to encourage the provision of water supply, it is proposed, in granting leases, to allow minimum rentals in the case of lessees who make satisfactory provision by means of bores, wells, or dams.

2. **Number of Holdings.**—The table on page 243 *supra* shews the total area under lease, license, and permit in 1901 and in each year from 1910 to 1914. At the end of 1915 there were in existence, under South Australian Acts, 231 pastoral leases covering over 64,000,000 acres, and 94 pastoral permits covering 14,000,000 acres. Under the Crown Lands Ordinance of 1912, there were 142 grazing licenses covering nearly 29,000,000 acres, and 25 pastoral leases covering nearly 5,000,000 acres.