

South Australia :

A

Sketch of its History & Resources.

A HANDBOOK

Compiled By

JOHN FAIRFAX CONIGRAVE

For The

Colonial and Indian Exhibition,

LONDON, 1886

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PREFACE.

THIS Handbook has been prepared by instructions from the South Australian Commissioners for the use of visitors to the Colonial and London Exhibition in London during the present year. When honored with the task of preparing a Handbook, I was instructed to compile such a work as would enable a person who contemplated emigrating to South Australia to obtain, as he rode home from the Exhibition, some general idea of the country to which he wished to go. Necessarily, therefore, the information supplied is given in general terms. I have assumed the possession of some prior knowledge of South Australia on the part of those into whose hands this book may come, and have endeavored mainly to give information on those matters which would be sought for by intending emigrants. In the hope that this Handbook may prove of interest to all who read it, and may be specially helpful to those who contemplate settlement in one of the Australian Colonies, it is now submitted to the public.

An International Exhibition is to be held in Adelaide in June, 1887, to celebrate the jubilee of the foundation of the Colony as a British Province, and to commemorate, also, the completion of the fiftieth year of the reign of Her Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria. This record of what the Colony has achieved will, it is hoped, be of service to manufacturers in Europe, America, and elsewhere, who may see in the Exhibition a favorable opportunity of placing their goods before the Australasian public, and, in the expanding trade of the Australasian Colonies, an inducement to open up these promising channels of commerce.

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THE aim of this handbook is to give to the British public, in a concise manner, some information respecting one of England's great antipodean Colonies. The importance of the Australian settlements is apparent to anyone who has visited them, or who from a distance

has had occasion to make himself acquainted with their advancement in national wealth, or to contemplate their immense natural resources—which at present are only in the infancy of development. The vast proportion of the British public, however, know little of Australia—the “ Greater Britain ” of the southern seas—and it is hoped that the following pages will be helpful in disseminating practical information that will be of service to all who are interested in the triumphs of British colonisation ; but particularly those who may contemplate a removal from the crowded populations of the United Kingdom to the attractive fields presented by Britain’s Colonies. It will not be the privilege of the writer to draw upon a rich historic past for the story he has to tell. There may be open to him no daring military achievements to invest his story with the glory of national renown ; there may be no venerable institutions or relics, with inspirations of reverence and wonder ; and there may be no magnificent literature to command the attention or awaken the interest of the student and the scholar. Scarcely fifty years have passed since South Australia was proclaimed a British Colony, and yet the record of this half century is full of interest to all who care to see the advancement of the Anglo-Saxon stock. The bold enterprise, the indomitable pluck, the dogged perseverance, and the love of freedom, which form such striking characteristics of the English race, have been called into full operation in the peaceful subjugation of the primeval wastes to the service of man, and, their rapid transformation into a hive of human industry. Few pages in the history of British colonisation are fuller of interest than those which record the establishment and growth of these countries in the Southern Hemisphere, that are vaguely known in Europe under the generic name of “ Australia.” The story of how a handful of Britons have, within the cycle of a century, founded countries that are rivalling Old World nations in wealth and power, and the elegancies of advanced civilisation, is instructive and inspiring. It speaks of the vigor and genius of the old stock reasserting itself in the younger strength and ardent effort of the off-shoots ; and it shows how the same characteristics of courage, sagacity, perseverance, industry, and prudence, which have made England what she is, are operating in the development of these daughter-nations under the Southern Cross. In the following pages special attention will be drawn to one of the seven Colonies that form the Australian possessions of Great Britain—the Province of SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

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Chapter II.—HISTORY.

In the year 1831, Captain Sturt—one of the earliest Australian explorers—discovered the great River Murray, which runs down into South Australia, and empties itself into the Southern Ocean ; and, on his return to Sydney, gave such a glowing report of the fertile country which he had seen at a distance, but was unable to explore, that an adventurous band of pioneers took ship from Sydney, and landed on the shores of St. Vincent’s Gulf. These are supposed to have been the first white men who scaled Mount Lofty—a high elevation which overlooks the wide-stretching plain upon which the city of Adelaide now stands. In the early part of that same year, a few gentlemen met in London to discuss the propriety of founding, on the southern shores of Australia, a colony upon principles which at that time were advanced principles of Political Economy. The promoters opened up negotiations with the Imperial Government, but were not successful, and the project fell through. It was not, however, allowed to slumber very long. In 1834 the project was renewed, and in June of that year a meeting of gentlemen was held at Exeter Hall, London, to discuss the principles upon which the proposed settlement should be founded. Just at that time, a scheme of colonisation, propounded by Mr. Edward Gibbon Wakefield, was attracting attention. That gentlemen, thoughtfully observing the course of events in the other Australian colonies, had come to the

conclusion that land without the operation of capital and labor was useless. He sought to give a fixed price to land ; to provide that land should only be sold, and not be disposed of by free grants ; and to apply the proceeds of waste lands to the cost of importing labor from the crowded cities and towns of the United Kingdom. These principles commended themselves to the promoters, who, in 1834, secured the passing of an Act by the Imperial Legislature, authorising the Sovereign to erect one or more provinces in that part of Australia lying between the 132nd and 141st meridians of east longitude, and between the Southern Ocean and the 26th degree of south latitude. The persons residing within the said province or provinces were accorded freedom of action—they were not to be subject to the law or constitution of any other part of Australia ; and furthermore it was provided—and the sagacity of the originators in this respect is worthy of mention—that no criminals should at any time or under any circumstances be transported to any place within the limits described. The curse of convictism, therefore, has never attached itself to the Province of South Australia.

The first Commissioners appointed under the Act were eight in number, viz. :—Colonel Torrens, F.R.S. (chairman), and Messrs. W. A. Mackinnon, M.P., Jacob Montefiore, W. Hutt, M.P., Geo. Palmer, Jun., John Wright, Geo. Fife Angas, and Samuel Mills. Only one of these Commissioners survives, and it is an interesting circumstance that this survivor—Mr. Jacob Montefiore—is one of the Honorary Commissioners for South Australia at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in London in 1886. To him—in his advanced age—it must be a source of deep gratification that he has been spared to see a colony, in the inception of which he took so deep and personal an interest, qualified to honorably take her position among the daughter-nations of Britain in the interesting and important Exhibition before referred to.

The project of colonisation, however, almost proved abortive. The Imperial Act provided that a sum of £35,000 must be raised before the powers given under the Act could be exercised, and the scheme hung fire. Just then, however, the late Mr. George Fife Angas, who was one of the Commissioners, came to the rescue. He formed an association known as “ The South Australian Company,” and, resigning his commissionership, he assumed the chairmanship of the company. This company subscribed the balance of capital required, and the scheme of colonisation proceeded. The late Sir James Hurtle Fisher was appointed Resident Commissioner in the Colony, and the late Colonel Light was sent out, as first Surveyor-General, to choose a site for the capital, and push on the survey of the land for the settlers. In August, 1836, Colonel Light arrived at Kangaroo Island, and thence he proceeded to the mainland east of St. Vincent’s Gulf, where he commenced his work, and selected the present site of the capital—Adelaide.

In the following December, the first Governor of South Australia—Captain Hindmarsh, R.N.—arrived, and took possession of the land in the name of the Sovereign of England, on the 28th December, 1836, the anniversary of which day is always closely kept as a public holiday.

Since the proclamation of the Province, South Australia has witnessed many changes in fortune, but through all her vicissitudes she has made substantial advancement. Some of the other Colonies have attained wealth and importance by the discovery of rich goldfields, the development of which has enormously increased their natural resources, besides attracting—as few other discoveries have the power of doing—a large and able-bodied male population from a distance. These resources of wealth and population, springing from adventitious circumstances, have made the progress of some of the other Australian provinces quite phenomenal in its character. The advancement of South Australia, on the other hand, has been

achieved by patience, endurance, industry, and enterprise. Although rich goldfields have not been discovered, gold is found in many parts of the Colony, and a number of productive copper mines have poured out great mineral wealth. Indeed, on more than one occasion. South Australia has been saved from impending disaster and collapse by the rich yields of copper from the far-famed Kapunda, Burra Burra, Moonta, Wallaroo, and other mines.

Chapter III.—SITUATION AND EXTENT.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA is, with the single exception of Western Australia, the largest in area of the Australian Colonies, and it stretches across the whole island continent from south to north. Its southern shores are washed by the Southern Ocean, whilst the waters of the Indian Ocean lave its northern coasts. It touches all the mainland Colonies of Australia, being contiguous to New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland on the east, and is bounded on the west by the extensive Colony of Western Australia, extending from lat. 38° to 26° between the 129th and 141st meridian of east long., and from lat. 26° to the northern coast, between the 129th and 139th meridians. Running right up through the centre of Australia, it covers an area extending from latitude 38° to latitude 11° , and from the 129th to the 141st meridians of east longitude. Twice since the establishment of the Colony its limits have been extended. In 1861, a strip of land between the boundaries of South and Western Australia, south of lat 26° , was detached from New South Wales and annexed to South Australia by the Imperial Legislature (*vide* P.P. 180 of 1861) ; and in 1863, after the adventurous journey of the gallant explorer, John McDouall Stuart, across the heart of the Australian continent, the northern boundary of the Colony, which was originally the 26th parallel of latitude, was shifted to the northern coast-line, thus bringing within her borders the large area now known as “ The Northern Territory.”

The area of South Australia (including the Northern Territory) is 578,361,600 acres, an area which affords “ ample scope and verge enough” for an extensive population. At the present date (January, 1886) 10,642,963 acres have been alienated ; the remainder being available for agricultural, pastoral, and mineral settlement. The area of mineral land, or land held under mineral lease, is comparatively small, so that, roughly speaking, the whole Province may be divided into country of two classes—agricultural and pastoral land. Of the alienated land, a very large proportion is devoted to agriculture, horticulture, viticulture, market gardening, and like purposes, whilst the balance is used almost exclusively for raising sheep and cattle. The liberalisation of the land laws, some years ago, gave an enormous stimulus to agricultural settlement, so that the area now under wheat is immensely larger than it was.

Chapter IV.—GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COLONY.

THE southern coast-line of South Australia (including Kangaroo Island) is very extensive, being 2,300 miles in length, and a glance at the map will show that the seaboard is indented by two large gulfs, called Gulf St. Vincent and Spencer’s Gulf. Glenelg, at which the P. & O. steamers call on their way to and from England, and the Semaphore (near Port Adelaide), at which the Orient steamers touch, are on the eastern shores of Gulf St. Vincent. Between these indentations is a peninsula known as Torke’s Peninsula, which, a few years ago, was all held by squatters, for raising sheep, but has now almost entirely passed into the hands of agriculturists. Generally speaking, the colony—within the limits of settlement—may be described, in its physical features, as consisting of hill and plain. A fine rich plain stretches eastwards from the coastline till it is intercepted by a succession of hills known as the Mount Lofty Range ; and beyond this broken country, occur other wide undulating plains called the “

Murray Flats," which slope down towards the Murray River. The Mount Lofty Range, as it goes northwards, merges into the Flinders Range, which gives place in turn to other ranges, altogether extending hundreds of miles up the centre of the Province. This mountain range forms an extensive watershed and numerous watercourses—more or less permanent—flow from the hills, and fertilise the lower lands. For years past the coast plain has been under cultivation. For many miles, you travel through a succession of farms. Here and there are farmers' homesteads, with an occasional more pretentious-looking building, indicating the residence of one of the gentry. Dotted over the plains, too^ are the towns and hamlets ("townships" they are called in Australian parlance), in some of which may be observed the conveniences, and even the elegancies, of city life. Some portions of the mountain range are very fertile, and numerous orchards and vegetable gardens, besides ordinary farms, may be seen upon the hill sides, or nestling snugly in some of the rich valleys. The "Murray Flats" are being rapidly brought under cultivation.

For many years these eastern plains were held chiefly as sheep-walks, but the liberalisation of Land Laws has led to the selection of large tracts of this country for agricultural settlement. Farming operations have been carried as far north as Beltana, but the rainfall is uncertain in the more northern districts, and, consequently, the results are somewhat precarious. The Far North consists largely of what is known as myall or saltbush country, names given to it from the characteristic timber or shrubs which grow upon it. This country is of a lacustrine character, many of the lakes being of great extent, others forming chains of lagoons, or waterholes. Almost all the lakes are salt and low-lying. Lake Eyre being thirty feet below sea level. West and north-west of Lake Eyre the country rises to a considerable elevation, the Musgrave and MacDonnell Ranges being several thousand feet above the sea. The whole of this Far North country, lying north and east and west of Port Augusta, is only suitable for pastoral or mineral occupation. Lying between the River Murray and the Victorian boundary is a large area which is known as "The South-Eastern District." Wide tracts of this district comprise sterile sandy land, of little use even for pasturage, but here and there are spots of great richness. These have been eagerly selected, and have proved the centres of thriving agricultural populations. This district was formerly volcanic, and the craters of extinct volcanoes, in the neighborhood of Mount Gambier, are a feature of the district. The country around Mount Gambier is exceedingly rich. The climate also is mild and temperate, and English plants and flowers grow luxuriantly there.

The absence of rivers is very noticeable in Central Australia. In that part of South Australia there is only one really navigable river, the Murray by name. This river, taking its rise near the boundary of Victoria and New South Wales, empties itself into the Southern Ocean at Encounter Bay. The Murray and its tributaries are navigable for many hundreds of miles, but the navigation of the mouth is rendered hazardous by the shifting nature of a sandy bar, which presents serious obstacles to shipping. Adelaide stands upon the River Torrens, which, although not navigable, is the source of the supply of water to the city and suburbs. There are a few other permanent streams, but none of them call for special notice. In the Northern Territory, however, there are several fine rivers, among them the Victoria, Roper, Daly, Adelaide and other large streams.

Chapter V.—CONSTITUTION.

THE Sovereign is represented by a Governor, who is appointed by the Imperial Government. The present Governor is Sir W. F. C. Robinson, K.C.M.G. ; and His Honor the Chief Justice (the Hon. S. J. Way) holds a dormant commission, which empowers him to assume office

during the absence of the Governor from the Province, or on other specified contingencies arising. The Executive Council of Government consists of the Governor, the Chief Justice, and the members of the Ministry for the time being. There are two Houses of Legislature—one called the Legislative Council, and the other the House of Assembly. The Legislative Council is composed of twenty-four members, who are returned by four Electoral Districts. Members of the Council must be natural-born or naturalised subjects of Her Majesty the Queen; of thirty years of age, who have resided for not less than three years in the Colony. The qualification of electors for the Legislative Council is the possession of a freehold of the value of £50, or a leasehold of £20 annual value, or the occupation of a dwelling-house of £25 annual value. The elector must also be twenty-one years of age, a natural-born or naturalised English subject, who has been a registered voter for not less than six months. Formerly, the Council consisted of eighteen members, who were returned by the whole Colony as one Electoral District, and retired in batches of six members every four years. By “The Constitution Act Further Amendment Act, 1881”—Her Majesty’s assent to which was proclaimed April 11th, 1882—however, the constitution of the Council, or “Upper House,” as it is termed, was altered as indicated above—six new members were elected to bring up the number of the members to twenty-four; and thenceforward eight members will retire every three years—two members in each of the new Electoral Divisions. In the first Constitution Act, the elections for the Legislative Council took place quadrennially, and, except on the occasion of the periodical retirement of members, the House could not be influenced by current popular opinion. In order to save the Colony from the disasters of a deadlock similar to that which has occurred in the history of other Colonies, the Legislature passed an Act altering the constitution of the Council by making it more amenable to the influence of public opinion. Whenever any Bill for any Act shall have been passed by the House of Assembly during any Session of Parliament, and the same Bill, or a similar Bill with substantially the same objects, and having the same title, shall have been passed by the House of Assembly during the next ensuing Parliament—a general election having taken place between such two Parliaments—the second and third readings of such Bill having been passed, in the second instance, by an absolute majority of the whole number of members of the said House of Assembly, and both Bills shall have been rejected by, or fail to become law in consequence of any amendments made therein by the Legislative Council, the Governor is empowered, though not obliged, to dissolve the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, and, thereupon, all the members of both Houses of Parliament vacate their seats, and members shall be selected to supply the vacancies so created. The House of Assembly, or “Lower House,” is under Act No. 278 of 1882, composed of fifty-two members, who represent twenty-six districts. Elections are triennial, but the House is subject to dissolution by the Governor when circumstances arise to warrant such a course. The only qualification of a member of, or an elector for, the Assembly is that he must be a subject of Great Britain, twenty-one years of age, who has been on the electoral roll for six months. The elections are by ballot, the voting being taken between eight o’clock a.m. and six o’clock p.m. The President of the Council and the Speaker of the Assembly are elected by the respective Houses. The present President is Sir Henry Ayers, K.C.M.G. (one of the early colonists); and the Speaker is the Hon. Robert Dalrymple Ross, M.P., formerly an officer in the Imperial army.

The practice of the Houses of the Legislature is based upon that of the Imperial Parliament, the Constitution Act empowering each branch to frame Standing Orders for the regulation of proceedings and the orderly conduct and despatch of business. When approved by the Governor, these rules are binding and of force. The Legislative Council and House of Assembly alike provide that the usages of the House of Commons shall, be observed, unless

other provision is made ; and the Standing Orders of each House are based upon a manual of “ Rules, Orders, and Forms of Proceeding of the House of Commons Relating to Public Business,” drawn up, under the direction of the Speaker, by Sir T. Erskine May, in 1854. Hence, the practice of the House of Commons requires to be regularly observed and mastered by those charged with the business of Parliament, and more especially in the case of the House of Assembly—the branch of the Legislature which is analogous to the House of Commons.

By what may be termed a modified system of the Cloture, the business of the House has been greatly facilitated ; and, while its application has in no case restricted the just rights and liberties of individual Members, it has prevented those scenes which of late years have so embarrassed the House of Commons, paralysed its legislative functions, and subjected the House at large to the oppression of a minority organised to carry out obstruction. Thus, motions to adjourn the House in the middle of a debate, to adjourn the debate, or to divide, which, if debated, might easily be converted into instruments of obstruction, though always in order, if made without interrupting a Member in possession of the Chair, must be moved and put without debate, while, if negatived, they cannot be again put until an interval has elapsed.

If a Member has any matter of urgent importance to bring before the House, he can do so by a motion, made before the regular business of the day is called on, to adjourn the House to some time other than the period fixed by the sessional order. But only one such motion can be made at one sitting, the discussion is limited to the matter brought under the notice of the House, and, on any Member objecting, the discussion immediately ceases. In this way the House can relieve itself from frivolous motions which might delay business, while, if the matter is of evident urgency and importance, a Member is always allowed the opportunity to ventilate it.

By the Privilege Act, No. 14 of 1872, both Houses enjoy the same privileges as were possessed by the House of Commons at the time of the passing of “ The Constitution Act” (No. 2 of 1855-6) ; and these privileges are not confined to the Houses in their corporate capacity only, but attach to the Committees and Members of each respectively.

The Ministry consists of six members of Parliament, and the practice is to take five from the House of Assembly and only one from the Legislative Council ; but there is no rule in this matter ; it is regulated by the discretion of the gentleman who may be entrusted with the formation of the Ministry.

Municipal institutions flourish in the Colony. In the city and many of the provincial towns there are corporations, with mayors, aldermen (in the case of the City of Adelaide), and councillors ; and in the country districts there are bodies for local government, called “ District Councils,” which possess rating powers, and are charged principally with the execution of works of local improvement and development. The money expended by these councils on public works is supplemented from the general revenue. The operation of this system of self-government has been most beneficial in opening up means of communication throughout the country, and carrying out other important works.

NOTE.—In view of the constant reference to the practice of the House of Commons, the Clerk Assistant of the House of Assembly (Mr. E. G. Blackmore), has compiled from *Hansard*, and published in convenient form, the decisions given from the Chair of the House of Commons on Points of Order, Rules of Debate, and the General Practice of the House, by Mr. Speaker

Denison (1857-1872) and Mr. Speaker Brand (1872-1882). These collections have been highly commended by Mr. Speaker Brand, Mr. Speaker Peel, Dr. Lyon Playfair (late Chairman of Committees, House of Commons), Sir T. Erskine May, E.C.B., the Clerk of the House, and other authorities, and have been favorably reviewed in *The Times*. The same writer has also completed an exhaustive work on the whole practice and procedure of the House of Assembly, as governed by its Standing Orders and the practice of the House of Commons, illustrated by precedents from the journals of the House of Assembly and the House of Commons. In the Dominion of Canada, Mr. Todd and Mr. Bourinot have published standard works on Constitutional and Parliamentary Law, History, and Practice ; but the works above referred to are the only ones of their character published in the Australasian Colonies.

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STATISTICS.

The following information is gleaned from the Statistical Register for 1884, the latest official record : —

POPULATION.

The increase of population during the year was, by births 7,058, by immigration 1,208, making the total number on the 31st of December of 312,781 persons, composed of 164,877 males and 147,904 females. In 1875 the population was 210,442, and in 1880 it was 267,573. During the year 1884, 356 foreigners obtained letters of naturalisation, and thereby became British subjects ; of these 44 were Russians, 136 Germans, 114 Chinese, and the others made up of various nationalities. The proportion of births per thousand of the population was 37·69, the proportion of marriages 9·40 per thousand, and the proportion of deaths 15·24 per thousand.

PRODUCTION.

The area of land alienated from the Crown in 1884 was 10,767,605 acres. In 1875 it was a little over 6,000,000 acres. The area under cultivation was, in 1875, 1,444,586 acres ; in 1884, 2,785,490 acres. The area of land enclosed in 1875, 20,286,007 acres ; in 1884, 53,444,411 acres. The production of wheat, the principal crop, was, in 1875, 10,739,834 bushels ; in 1884, 14,621,755 bushels. In 1884 there were in the colony—horses, 162,420 ; horned cattle, 389,726 ; sheep, 6,696,406 ; goats, 8,159 ; pigs, 163,807 ; poultry, 927,909. The shipment of wool amounted in 1875 to the value of £2,066,227 ; in 1884 to £2,618,626. The shipment of minerals amounted in 1875 to £762,386 ; in 1884 to £491,950. The production of wine in 1884 was 473,635 gallons.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The value of imports amounted in 1875 to £4,203,802 ; in 1884 to £5,749,353. The value of exports amounted in 1875 to £4,806,060 ; in 1884 to £6,623,704. The proportion of imports from the United Kingdom in 1884 was £2,983,296, the balance being from other places. The combined import and export trade of the colony was, in 1875, £9,008,861 ; in 1884, £12,373,057.

SHIPPING.

The arrivals of shipping were, in 1884—British, 768,301 tons ; foreign, 141,034 tons ; total, 909,335 tons. The number of vessels belonging to Port Adelaide were, in 1875, steamers, 75, tonnage, 7,443 ; sailing vessels, 212, tonnage, 24,948. In 1884, steamers, 88 ; tonnage, 10,665 ; sailing vessels, 220; tonnage, 27,931.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

In 1875 the general revenue of the colony amounted to £1,143,312, in 1880 it was £2,027,963, and in 1884 it amounted to £2,024,928. The expenditure in 1884 upon public works was £2,163,149, a large proportion of which was provided from loan funds. The amounts expended by Corporations and District Councils was £114,537. The receipts from Government railways were, during 1884, £424,416.

RELIGION.

The number of churches or chapels existing in 1884 was 928 ; the number of sittings provided, 200,123 ; the number of Sunday schools was 727; teachers, 6,729 ; scholars, 57,311.

EDUCATION.

The number of public schools in 1884 was 227 ; scholars, 42,758 ; persons employed in teaching, 1,000. Cost of department, exclusive of expenditure on buildings, £76,879. In addition to these there are 287 private schools with 11,296 scholars. There are over 112 country institutes, which have libraries attached to them containing an aggregate of 98,688 volumes.

POSTAL.

The number of letters posted in 1884 was 12,051,482 ; of packets, 627,600 ; of newspapers, 6,890,810. The money orders issued and paid amounted to £129,355.

RAILWAYS AND ROADS.

In the year 1884 there were 1,036 miles of railway open for traffic. The total number of passengers conveyed since they have been open is 34,194,692.

BANKS.

There were nine banks in 1884, and since then a tenth has begun business. The average of coin and bullion was £1,112,250 ; the liabilities, £5,553,159 ; the assets, £11,546,828 ; the notes in circulation, £548,021 ; the value of bank premises, £376,812.

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Chapter XVI.— CONCLUSION.

In the preceding pages the writer's endeavor has been to show what has been accomplished in the Colony of South Australia during the first half century of its history, and

to indicate what are the resources of this distant dependency of the British Empire. The last two or three years have witnessed a serious financial and commercial depression, a depression which, unfortunately, has not yet passed away. The colony, however, has experienced bad times before, but the buoyancy of its resources and the hopefulness of its people have overcome the pressure of adverse circumstances ; and the position of the colony to-day is a testimony to the largeness of its resources and the energy of its citizens. In the brief space of fifty years a mere handful of the Anglo-Saxon race have, by industry, enterprise, and thrift, laid the foundations of a young nation, have subjugated the land to the service of man, have built cities and towns, extended settlement over millions of acres of land, erected imposing public buildings, constructed a network of railways and telegraphs and telephones, built reservoirs and gasworks, and extensive distributing systems of water and gas, reared warehouses, wharves, and jetties, and secured all the conveniences and even elegancies of modern civilised life. These are results which may be accepted as the promise of the future. With the acquired wealth of the past and the valuable experience which has been gained—with confidence in the productiveness of the soil, and with wise legislation to ensure the employment of the land for its best purposes, the future is full of promise. Certainly, in times of ordinary prosperity, South Australia offers an attractive field for the artisans and laborers who are being crowded out of the over-grown cities of the United Kingdom, and are compelled to seek “ fresh woods and pastures new.” Men and women who come here determined to resolutely and cheerfully adapt themselves to the new circumstances of life to which they are introduced—men and women who are sober, industrious, hopeful, will as a rule find the opportunity of attaining to positions as landowners, which they seldom or never could reach in the fatherland. Emigrants must not expect to pick up gold in the streets, or imagine that to them there will be any royal road to fortune. Fortune will be won only by manful effort, honest labor, prudent foresight, and strict temperance, as many a man now in the front ranks of society is able to testify. Small capitalists will find the colony a suitable field for the investment of their capital in land and property, or in other ways, so as to secure them excellent returns. To all, however, who contemplate shifting from the crowded populations of British cities and towns to the freer and wider fields of Britain’s colonies, the words recently spoken by Lord Carrington, the new Governor of New South Wales, may be commended to their careful consideration. His Lordship, when addressing a number of emigrants who had arrived at Sydney, said :—“ You have come to a happy country. You have left the old country behind you, where, as many of us know here, there are many and great difficulties for honest men to get work. Every honest, industrious man is able not only to gain work, but also able to obtain a fair day’s wage for a fair day’s labor. But it is my duty to inform you that wages must be worked hard for. Any man will be grievously disappointed who thinks he has come over to this colony and will be able to spend a life of idleness and be paid for it. The great thing to avoid is giving way to drink. And I can tell you that in this country no honest, upright, honorable man, who keeps himself respectable, need in any way fear getting a good day’s work and a good day’s wage for it. At the same time you must not pick and choose. You must go steadily at work—take that which comes, and earn an honest living ; and as time goes on you may be perfectly certain that you will be able to improve your position.” These words, though spoken in Sydney to emigrants who were about to settle in New South Wales, are equally applicable to all persons who may purpose to come to the Australian colonies, and they are quoted here as containing most judicious advice given by one whose position in the adjoining colony as Her Majesty’s representative, and whose high social standing in England, entitle his words to the respectful and earnest attention of all thoughtful persons.

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