


Royal Visit

Western Australia

1954






BRITISH settlement at the Swan River dates back only to 1829. In that year Captain James Stirling, R.N., came as first governor of the colony and selected the site of Perth, capital of Western Australia. His choice of site was a wise one. Today Perth is acknowledged to be the most picturesquely situated of all Australian capitals.

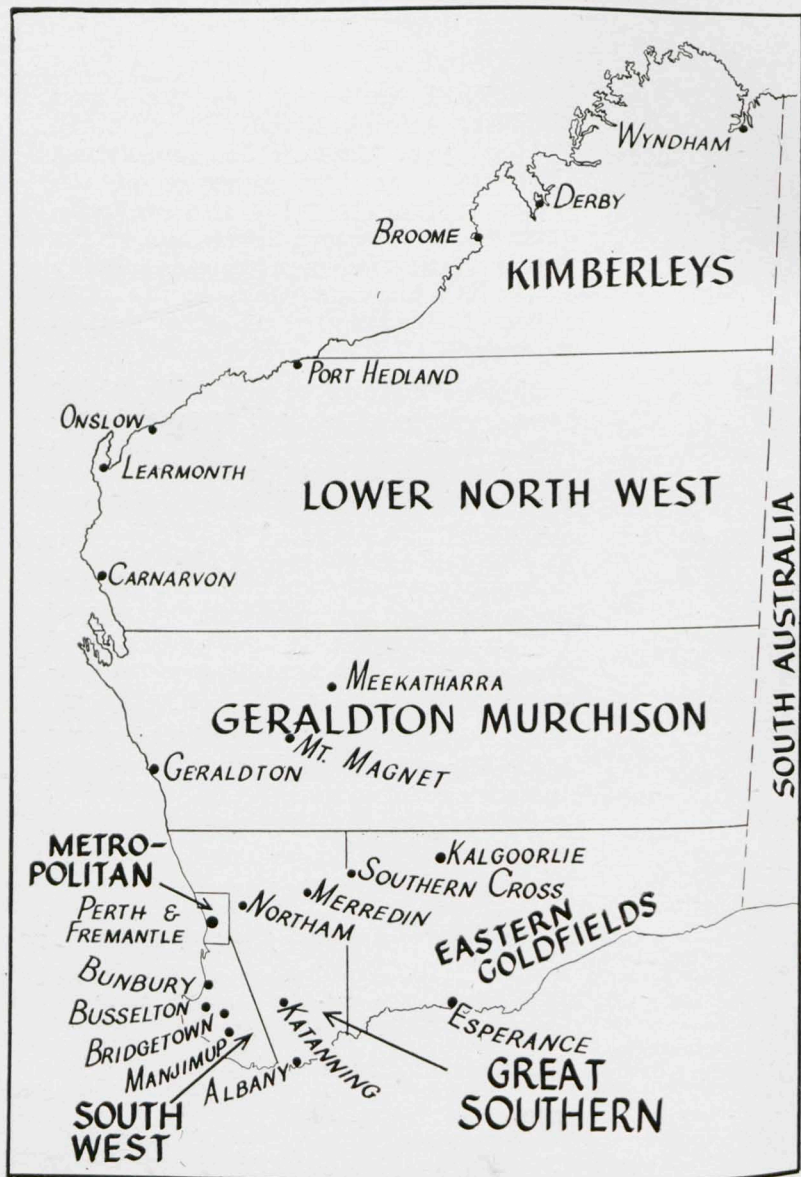
The first fifty years in the life of the young colony were years of great hardship. Real expansion began only with the discovery of gold, particularly the rich finds at Coolgardie in 1892 and Kalgoorlie in 1893. Population rose quickly and for the next decade a period of great prosperity was experienced. The decline of gold mining was accompanied by an expansion in agriculture and Western Australia became a great producer of wheat.

After World War I agriculture became more diversified and many secondary industries were established. Oil was discovered in the North-West towards the close of 1953.

Western Australia is destined to become a great State.

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Aerial view, Perth

Metropolitan

THE population of Perth (metropolitan area) for 1953 was 350,000. In 1848 when the first official census was held the full list recorded 2,500 names. Of recent times the nearest census was in 1947 when the population was 272,528. During the 99 years between these counts Perth's total increased 109-fold, making it surely one of the fastest-growing cities of the world. Were this rate to continue for the next 99 years the metropolitan area would contain about 30,000,000 people. Not the least of Perth's many attractions is its glorious Mediterranean climate. Of its 36in. average annual rainfall, 28in. are recorded in the winter period, May to September.

Fogs are rare. Perth is Australia's sunniest capital. The average annual total sunshine is 2,835 hours (7.8 hours a day). Second to Perth is Brisbane with 2,713 hours. June is Perth's dullest month, averaging 4.8 hours of sunshine daily. The average annual temperature is 64.5 degrees which is five degrees warmer than Rome, and 15 degrees warmer than London. The hottest months in the year are January and February, and the coldest month is July.

The Swan River on the banks of which the city of Perth and many of the suburbs are situated is continuously praised by world travellers for its charm and beauty. Its tributaries get most of their volume from the Darling Range, the nearest foothills of which are about 20 miles from the capital. The largest streams joining the Swan are the Avon River which connects with it in the vicinity of Bullsbrook, and the Canning River which empties into it at Canning Water. The waters from the Avon and other tributaries pass along through Guildford as the Swan River and continue for about 20 miles before they reach the sea at the port of Fremantle. In a 10-mile stretch between the Perth Causeway and Blackwall Reach the Swan broadens out into three magnificent "lakes"—Perth Water, Melville Water, and Freshwater Bay. Melville Water extends for five miles and is two and a half miles wide. These "lakes" provide ideal settings for yachting and rowing and in the summer months on weekends and holidays the Swan is alive with yachts, launches, and ferries. It is exclusively a river for pleasure purposes. All cargo between Perth and Fremantle is freighted either by rail or road. Abounding with bays and coves and nooks it offers irresistible inducement to picknickers and bathers thousands of whom, in warm weather, are to be seen sharing its many delights.

Mt. Eliza, which for about two miles hugs the right bank of the river west of the city, towers steeply up and forms a natural

Wellington Street, Perth





Royal Perth Hospital

grandstand more than 200 feet high overlooking Melville and Perth waters. From the mount it is customary for spectators in their thousands to watch rowing and yachting carnivals. Through field glasses the races can be seen from start to finish against a panoramic background of blue waters, green trees and red-roofed houses, purple hills in the distance, and over all a clear benign sky relieved by occasional patches of white cloud.

A progressive policy of dredging and river reclamation has been in operation for many years, and very gratifying results have been obtained. Miles of shallow boggy foreshore near the city and across Perth Waters at South Perth have been reclaimed by filling in, and the erection of uniform retaining walls of stone faced with concrete. The new areas have been grassed, planted with ornamental trees, intersected with roads, and provided with modern street lighting. One such large section is known as Langley Park. On Saturday afternoons it is now the resort of hundreds of players of baseball, softball and other games.

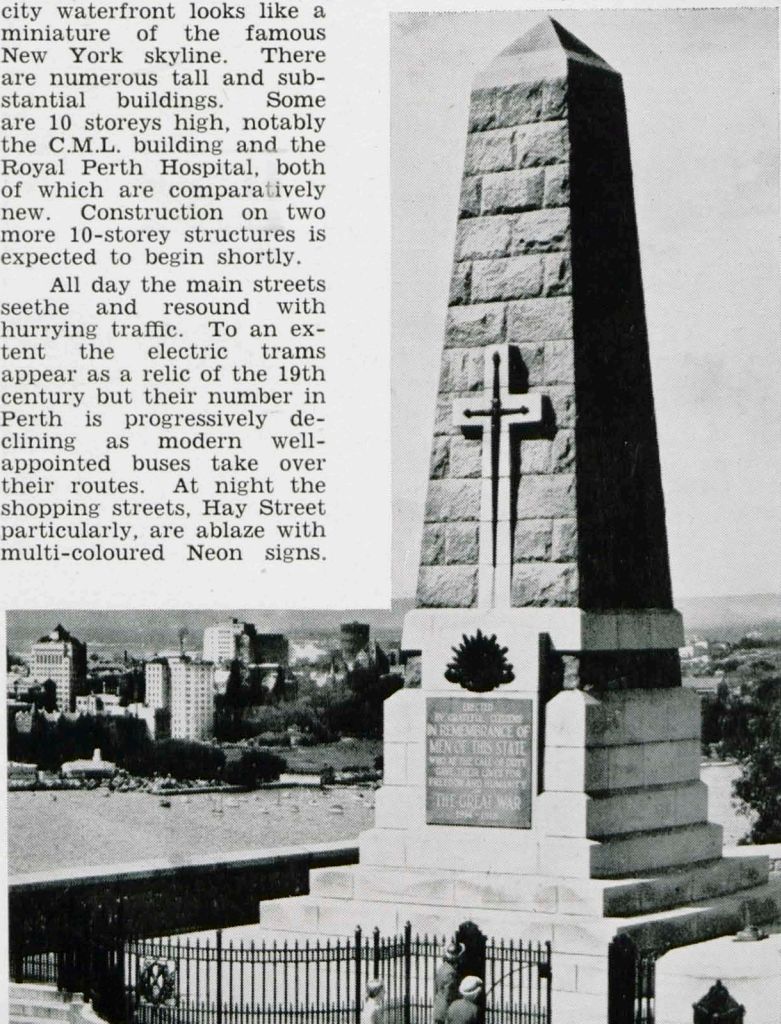


London Court, Perth

Heirisson Island, across which lies the Causeway, has been remodelled to conform with a big plan of beautification for the Causeway zone, and farther up-stream what was once known as Burswood Island has been joined to the mainland on the left bank and the portion which was formerly used as Goodwood Racecourse has been resumed, added to by reclamation, and grassed off, on the highway which winds around the river bank at the foot of Mt. Eliza, the city waterfront looks like a miniature of the famous New York skyline. There are numerous tall and substantial buildings. Some are 10 storeys high, notably the C.M.L. building and the Royal Perth Hospital, both of which are comparatively new. Construction on two more 10-storey structures is expected to begin shortly.

All day the main streets seethe and resound with hurrying traffic. To an extent the electric trams appear as a relic of the 19th century but their number in Perth is progressively declining as modern well-appointed buses take over their routes. At night the shopping streets, Hay Street particularly, are ablaze with multi-coloured Neon signs.

*State War Memorial,
King's Park*





St. George's Terrace, Perth

Intensely illuminated shop windows offer the world's merchandise in the most artful and enticing ways devised by craftsmen of advertising and display. From a shopper's point of view Perth is delightful because the various department stores are situated in a compact area and access from one to another can be made quickly through arcades. These arcades themselves make shopping a pleasurable adventure. They are bazaars in the modern sense—riots of contrasting colour with their artificial lighting, Neon signs, gleaming plateglass, chromium and metalware, special paving, and variegated consumer goods. All throughout beautifully clean, fresh, and orderly. Small-scale, closed-in, decorated streets they are through which during shopping hours goes an endless procession of pedestrians. One arcade, London Court, which unlike the others is open to the sky, is unique in the Commonwealth in that its architecture and construction are wholly in the Elizabethan style, producing on a person the effect of passing suddenly out of the 20th century into a framework of the 16th.

Among buildings of note in the city the first to command attention is the Town Hall, at the corner of Hay and Barrack Streets, almost in Perth's commercial centre. It was built by convict labour and was officially opened in 1870. Architecturally it reflects a Tudor

influence. As originally constructed the ground floor was a market place, with arches opening on to the streets. Subsequently the arches were bricked in and the space was used for municipal offices. Later the municipal offices were transferred to another building, and the ground floor was converted into shops. Visitors may be rather startled by the sight of shops as a foundation or street-level fringe for an historic, dignified, and graceful building, but Perth's citizens have got used to it, and in any case it should be remembered that from the very inception of the structure, beauty and barter went hand-in-hand. Civic pride, however, has made

Aerial view, Perth



provision for a new town hall to be erected at some future date, out of reach of cash registers and retailing, in the seclusion of portion of Stirling Gardens off St. George's Terrace.

Close by the Town Hall is the Treasury Building which follows the French Renaissance style of architecture. It houses the Premier's Department and other departments besides the Treasury. The site is historic. In the early days of military administration it was part of the barracks square, and erected on it were the military officers' quarters and the guard house. At a spot between where the Treasury and the Town Hall now stand the ceremony took place on August 12, 1829, of cutting down a tree (in lieu of setting a block of stone) to mark the foundation of Perth. Another striking link with the past is The Barracks on a hill at the western extremity of St. George's Terrace. This building now provides offices for a number of Government departments, but less than a century ago it was occupied by English soldiers and their wives and families. The men's duties were concerned chiefly with the surveillance of convicts. The colony was 30 years old before the construction began of the present Government House in St. George's Terrace. Resemblances it bears to the Tower of London suggests that its architect drew inspiration from that source. An outcome of the sudden growth of the colony during the last decade of the 19th century was the addition of a beautiful ballroom and supper-room in 1897.

The two Houses of the State Parliament met separately until 1904, one in Hay Street and one in St. George's Terrace, but in that year the present Parliament House, on an eminence facing Harvest Terrace, was ready for occupation, and the sessions have

Royal Show, Claremont



been held there since. In its present unfinished condition the rear of the building faces the city but is hidden by The Barracks. The original idea for a much larger Parliament House with an attractive facade to the east embraced also the demolition of The Barracks with the intention of affording to people in the city a glimpse over terraced lawns and gardens of an imposing structure. A short distance from Parliament House and close to the main entrance to King's Park is the Perth Observatory which was founded in 1896. It undertakes astronomical and seismological work and the State's time service. Visitors are admitted by appointment. From the Observatory tower a magnificent view of Perth and its suburbs is obtainable.

The Art Gallery, the Museum, and the Public Library in James Street are each of considerable interest. The art gallery holds over 200 oil paintings and 150 water colours; the museum, a wonderland of birds, beasts and fishes, includes a most interesting geological collection; the library contains about 200,000 volumes. The central railway station, facing Wellington Street, was built on reclaimed land and was opened in 1881. An idea of the traffic passing through its turnstiles is gained from the fact that suburban passenger journeys for a year total over 10,000,000, of which Perth would handle the big majority. Within easy distance of the station are two of the city's best structures, the General Post Office and the Commonwealth Bank.

Church life has always been vigorous in Western Australia as numerous church buildings testify. Outstanding among these are the Anglican Cathedral, just off St. George's Terrace, and the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Victoria Square. Returned servicemen have their own club premises, Anzac House, with a frontage to St. George's Terrace. Its main hall has seating for 600.

W.A. University

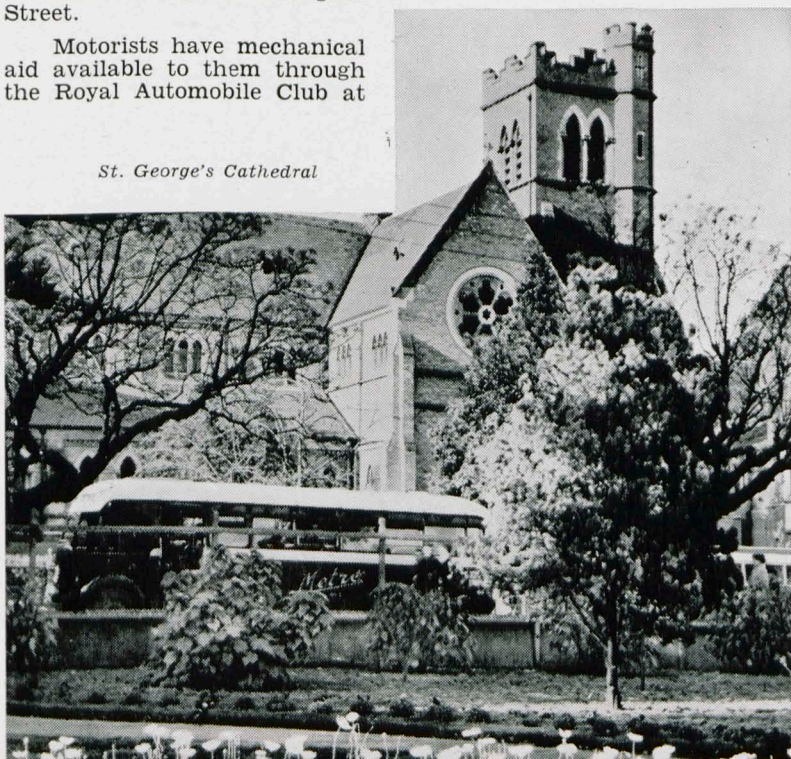


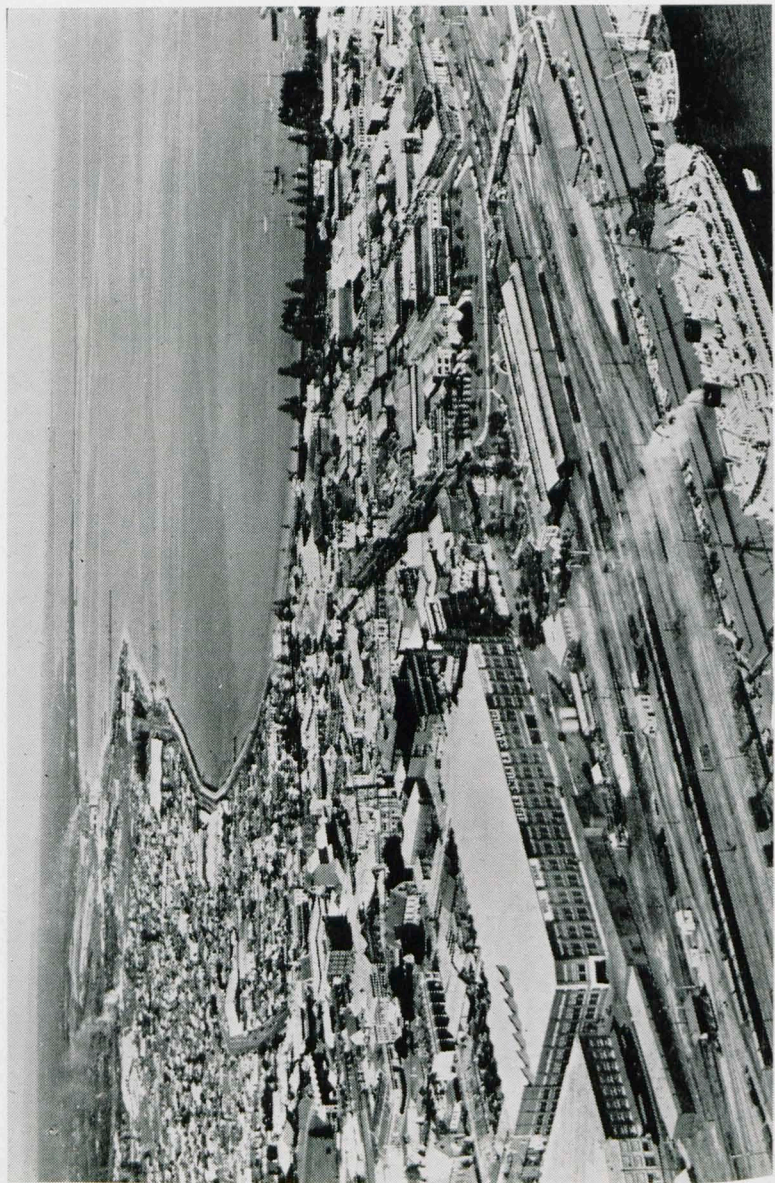
Although there is traffic congestion at peak periods, the city's transport services compare favourably with those of other capitals in the Commonwealth. Included in the system is a ferry service to South Perth. A striking feature is the new Causeway which links Perth with Victoria Park and other suburbs and three highways carrying heavy traffic. Approaches to the Perth end of the Causeway involving a good deal of reclamation will take some time yet to complete.

The water supply for the metropolitan area is derived largely from the Canning Dam which is 26 miles away and has a capacity of 20,550 million gallons. In summer the city's average daily consumption is 50 million gallons. The picturesque drive to Canning Dam is high on the list of tourist attractions. Two power houses, one at East Perth and a larger and more modern one at South Fremantle, give Perth an adequate supply of electricity. Food supplies to the city are well organised and in this connection the Metropolitan Markets at Marquis Street, which were established by the Government, play an important part as the distributing centre. Fire services are conducted strictly and efficiently, the headquarters of the brigade being in Irwin Street. Another excellent service is that of the St. John Ambulance which owns a fleet of vehicles and a modern building in Wellington Street.

Motorists have mechanical aid available to them through the Royal Automobile Club at

St. George's Cathedral





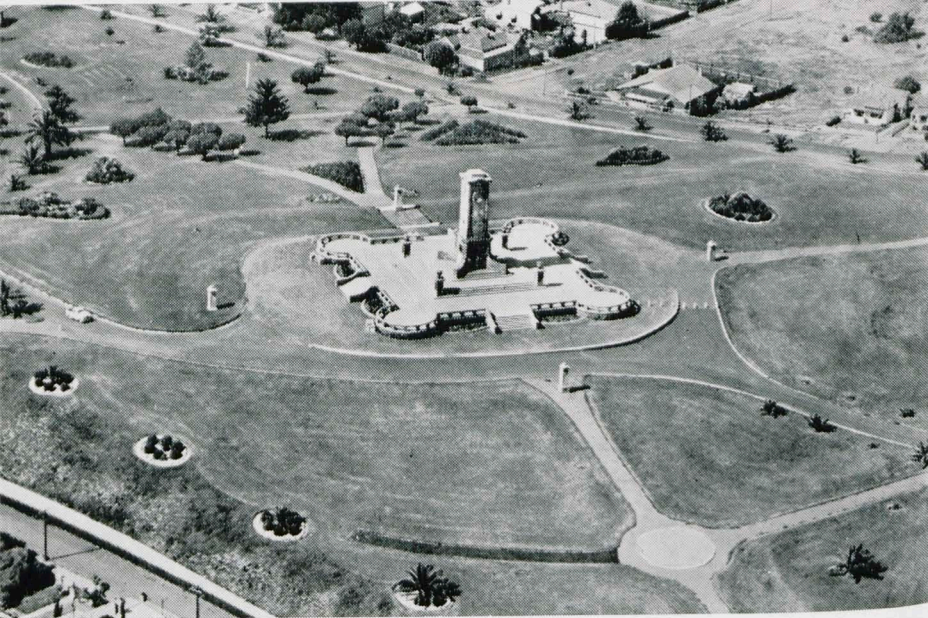
Fremantle

any time of the day or night. Sightseers are catered for by the State Tourist Bureau, which arranges tours for both town and country. Education is free and compulsory for all children up to 14 years of age. Kindergarten teaching is subsidised by the Government, but from six years onward the children are taken through, without fees, from the primary schools to the University which is also free. The University, at Crawley, in beautiful spacious grounds, is one of the show places of the State. Special attention is given to children in the country and every effort is made by means of consolidated schools and high schools to ensure that a high standard of education is available to them. For children in remote areas a comprehensive course of correspondence tuition is provided. Denominational (private) secondary schools are also an important factor in the State's educational facilities.

As is to be expected in a country where Christianity is as well grounded as it is here, there is a big network of charitable organisations which, in conjunction with the Government, provides orphanages, homes for delinquents, for the physically handicapped, for the incurably sick, and for the aged in straitened circumstances. A recent development, the provision by the State Lotteries Commission of a home for aged women at Mt. Henry on the Canning River, is one of particular interest because the standard of comfort and attention at the home represents a great advance on anything previously known in Western Australia and perhaps in the Commonwealth.

In the field of entertainment there has not during the last few decades been as much enterprise shown in the building of new theatres as was shown formerly. Three of Perth's theatres have large stage space, and in their heavy solid construction these theatres are representative of the old order—the others are designed more for the cinema than for stage shows. Of recent years repertory has been greatly on the increase, and a new theatre for repertory shows is planned. Another decline, due to the changing times and changing tastes, relates to dancing. There are nowadays many dancerooms but few ballrooms. In the arts Perth offers very little scope due perhaps to its newness and lack of leisured wealthy class. Writers, poets, artists, singers, musicians, composers, and actors are with few exceptions unable to give art their full time unless they have private means.

Night life, as known in continental cities and in the United States, is unknown here owing to the fact that it is illegal to sell liquor to the public except between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Hotel accommodation could be better, and an improvement may be expected soon because severe building controls which have existed since the outbreak of war in 1939 have recently been removed. Being a city strongly influenced by English custom and sentiment it is not surprising to find Perth equipped with a number of well-established residential clubs for men. The news requirements of citizens are met by a morning daily and an afternoon daily six days a week, and a Sunday paper. These are competent comprehensive publications giving a world news coverage, and doing it



Fremantle War Memorial

with zest and enterprise. Radio news sessions are presented at various times during the day and night by the Australian Broadcasting Commission from its West Australian headquarters in St. George's Terrace. General radio programmes are conducted by the ABC and by a number of private companies, and are on the air continuously each day from early in the morning till late at night.

As in all Australian cities sporting plays a big part in the lives of Perth citizens. There are three metropolitan racecourses, and two trotting grounds at which night trotting is conducted. Football played under Australian rules has a big hold on the public, and huge crowds attend the matches which are held in the winter and cooler months. Cricket, tennis and bowls are all well-established sports, each of which has a large following; interstate carnivals of each are periodically held in Perth, and sometimes there are international games. There are nine first-grade golf courses and a number of smaller suburban courses. Numerous yachting and rowing clubs have club houses on the river foreshore, and competitive swimming is catered for at the Crawley Baths. These baths are reputed to be the largest in the southern hemisphere and provide seating accommodation for approximately 1,500 people. In amateur athletics West Australians have achieved international honours, notably Shirley Strickland who holds an Olympic record for hurdling, John Winter who won the Olympic high jump event in London in 1948, and Don Keane (walker) and Verna Johnston (sprinter) who represented Australia at the last Olympic Games at Helsinki, Finland. During the hot summer months although the river resorts are thronged with families of



Loading export flour, Fremantle

young children, the ocean beaches (of which there are eleven from Waterman's Bay to Rockingham) are heavily patronised. Members of the Surf Life Saving Association supply patrols for the main beaches, and contribute much to the public's safety and enjoyment.

In addition to its many sports grounds and playing grounds Perth is well endowed with parks, squares, and reserves. Among these Hyde Park, Queen's Gardens, Supreme Court Gardens, and Stirling Square make a special appeal because of their floral and horticultural beauty. King's Park, a magnificent reserve of a thousand acres of native bush and wildflowers on Mt. Eliza, is one of the jewels of the State. On its summit facing the city is the State War Memorial which is floodlit at night. Another glorious expanse of bush and mountain scenery is National Park, spread over 4,000 acres in the Darling Ranges, 16 miles from Perth. Among its many attractions are a swimming pool and tearooms. The Darling Range which extends south for a hundred miles contains scores of delightful and interesting spots. One of these is Mundaring Weir on the Helena River. The weir has a capacity of 15,000 million gallons and from it a pipeline extends about 350 miles to supply water to Kalgoorlie. Other attractions in the ranges include Araluen, a famed beauty spot, the youth camp of the Young Australia League; and Camp Pickering, the youth camp of the YMCA.

Throughout the Darling Range and at King's Park wildflowers abound, particularly in the springtime. Many of the varieties are unique, and are the talk of botanists the world over. Yanchep, 32 miles from Perth, in the direction of the coast, is noted for its caves and the standard of accommodation provided at Yanchep Inn. Visitors also appreciate the swimming pool, tennis courts, boating on Loch Ness, and other amenities. One of the State's leading tourists resorts is Rottneest, an island 12 miles off Fremantle. At Christmas and other holiday periods it is crowded with pleasure seekers including a big percentage of yachtsmen.

In its natural state Fremantle, the chief port of Western Australia, was merely the open mouth of the Swan River and afforded small protection to shipping. An engineering genius, Mr. C. Y. O'Connor, converted it by the erection of moles into its present condition, and thus made a vast difference to the organisation and welfare of the State. Fremantle, which is 12 miles from Perth, is now rated as a city. Cargoes handled on the wharves total 2,500,000 tons annually. South of Fremantle, across seven miles of water, is Garden Island on which the pioneer settlers who came out from England had to spend some miserable days and nights in makeshift camps in wintry weather prior to setting foot on the mainland. Their vessel, the *Parmelia*, under the command of Captain Stirling, had grounded on a sandbank nearby on June 1, 1829. On June 18, Captain Stirling and a party landed on the mainland at Rous Head, Fremantle, and by proclamation effected the official settlement of Western Australia.

The Upper Swan district, which was picked out by the pioneer English settlers as containing rich soil, has since fully justified their judgment because today it is one of the most closely settled areas under vineyard in Australia. Wines made in Western Australia and entered for competition in royal agricultural shows in the Eastern States have won numerous awards. The State's royal agricultural shows are held each October at the Claremont show-grounds, and on People's Day there is an attendance of over 70,000. The grounds are constructed to provide a magnificent amphitheatre which at show time is completely encircled with exhibits and various attractions. The show brings entries of live-stock and produce from many parts of the State.

Almost every child from Wyndham to Eucla regards a visit to the Zoo at South Perth as a great treat. The children see lions, tigers, bears, and monkeys, a giraffe, a hippopotamus, a crocodile, pythons, and most of the other "regulars" of a zoo. Rides are provided on an elephant, and on a miniature railway. Unlike some zoos which are bare and dusty the zoo at South Perth, with an amplitude of trees and lawns, is refreshingly green. The main cemetery for the metropolitan area is at Karrakatta. Park-like in appearance it comprises 257 acres and contains about 100,000 graves. Among the illustrious dead who lie there are Lord Forrest (W.A. born explorer and statesman), Sir Winthrop Hackett (whose real monuments are the University, King's Park, the Public Library, etc.), and John Curtin (Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, 1941-1945).

The Basin, Rottnest





Yachting on the Swan River

The Perth airport at Guildford, seven miles out of the city, is the base for a network of commercial planes throughout the State, and for the interstate service. It also accommodates the planes engaged in the South Africa-Australia run, and some of the Singapore planes. The Royal Australian Air Force (defence) aerodrome is at Pearce, 26 miles from Perth. An aerodrome at Maylands, near the Swan River, is used by several charter flight companies, and by the W.A. Aero Club for training flights.

Iron trades establishments and a wide variety of manufacturing industries are scattered throughout the city and suburbs. The Government's largest undertakings are the railway workshops at Midland Junction, which employ 2,600 men, and the State Engineering Works at North Fremantle, which employ 400. Among big enterprises at Welshpool is one which produces tractors. At some engineering shops machine tools are made for export. To meet the demands of such a huge State as this big fertiliser works are in operation in the Bassendean area. At Rocky Bay is a sugar refinery. There is a match factory at West Perth, cement works at Rivervale, and so on. During 1951/1952 there were 45,071 workers in 3,266 factories, and the net value of their production was £42,692,911. Within the last few years new enterprises of great magnitude have been launched in the Kwinana area. These include an Anglo-Iranian oil refinery to cost £40,000,000, a steel rolling mill for the BHP Co. to cost £4,000,000, and a cement works for an English company to cost £2,000,000.

Yanchep Park



John Forrest National Park

Because Perth is still young there is ample land available in all directions for shops and offices, homes and industries. There is little need for the city to grow skywards, in fact, owing to its narrow streets (planned in 1829 to meet horse and buggy traffic) skyscrapers would produce intolerable congestion. Because land has been plentiful and cheap Perth, though it has today a number of buildings that are considerably the worse for age and wear, has no crowded slum terraces such as are known in older cities in Australia. Within a 25-mile radius of the Town Hall there is ample room available for expansion, but if the present building rate is maintained the prospect within a generation will be very different.

Under existing conditions the Citizen Military Force (similar to the British Territorial Army) provides the bulk of the servicemen in Western Command, the control of which is exercised from Swan Barracks in Francis Street. In World War I West Australian military units made their mark, and in World War II units from this State were prominent in actions in Greece, Crete, the desert in the Middle East, and in Pacific campaigns. In any future struggle for the preservation of the Commonwealth it is certain that, as in the past, a good percentage of Australians will be seen wearing the black swan of the West.

Perth, from King's Park



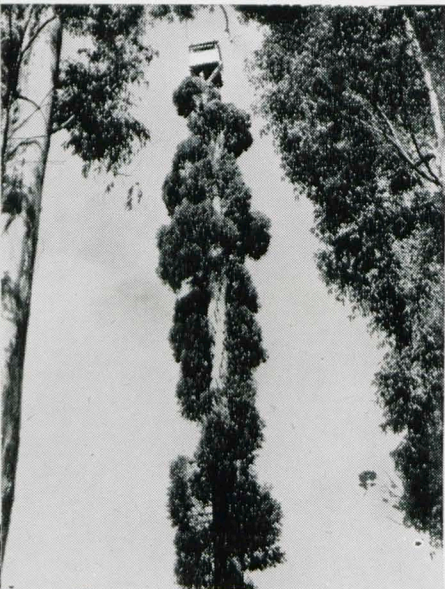
South-West

APART from the coastal plain, bounded by the ocean on the one side and by the Darling Ranges on the other, which extends from Perth to Bunbury, most of the South-West's 10,000,000 acres is heavily timbered. In a new country land seekers naturally give preference to ground that is inexpensive to clear, so in the early days of Western Australia, except for some scattered dairy farms along the plain, agriculture in the South-West was largely neglected. Another factor was that during the first 60 years of the colony the population was small (the total by the year 1890 was less than 50,000), and as the colony was isolated from the Eastern States by over a thousand miles of desert and ocean it lacked a market as an incentive to agricultural production. When due to the gold rushes the population reached 100,000 by 1895 and the market for dairy products, fruit, potatoes, etc., was comparatively sizeable, all thoughts were directed to finding nuggets of gold instead of to tillage and cultivation. Even after the gold fever abated the neglect of the South-West continued because the main stream of land settlement went to the easily prepared prairie lands of the Great Southern and the Wheat Belt. Few relished the idea of tackling forest country, the clearing of which called for exceptional physical and financial resources. Nevertheless the South-West commanded a great deal of

Karri forest, Pemberton



Gloucester Tree Lookout, Pemberton



attention because of its hardwood forests, its coal, its cavelands, and other scenic beauties. The forests of jarrah and karri are world famous. These trees are eucalypts and grow only in Western Australia. Jarrah (called mahogany at first) extends from the metropolitan area to a little beyond Manjimup. The karri belt lies to the extreme south in the 40in rainfall area between the jarrah and the coast. There are about 3,000,000 acres of jarrah country and 500,000 acres of karri.

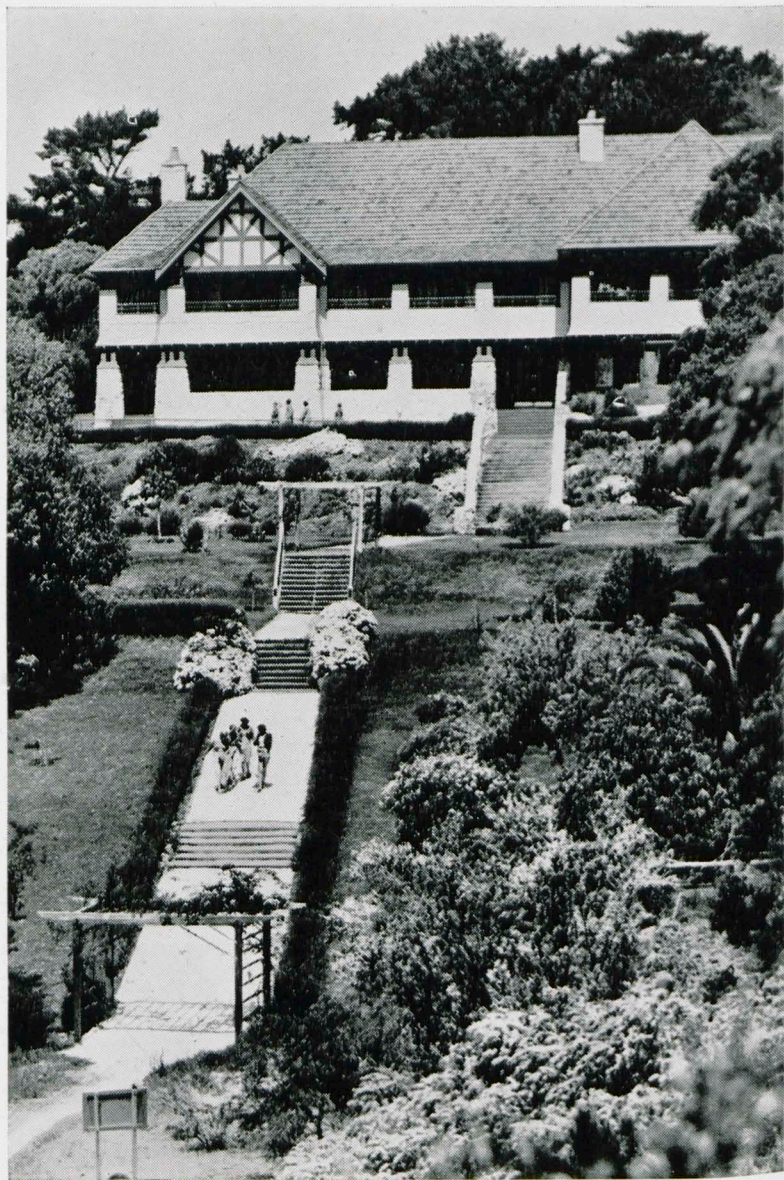
Pioneer settlers soon realised that in these trees the colony had a marvellous asset, and cutting for export began early. Official statistics of shipments extend

Trout fishing, Pemberton





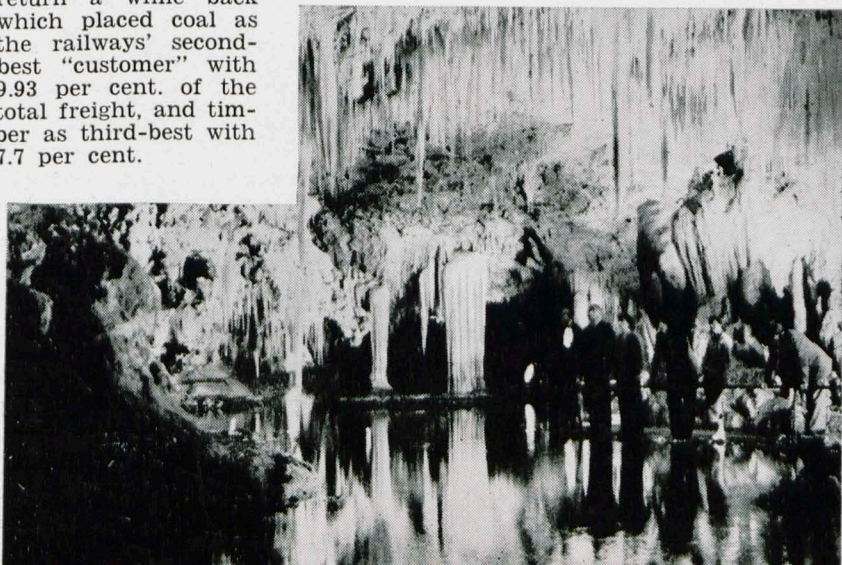
Open cut coal mining, Collie



Caves House, Yallingup

back to 1850. Exports since then have totalled tens of millions of £'s. Among the better type of jarrah trees, heights of 130ft. with circumferences of 16ft. are common, but these are surpassed by the karri which towers to over 200ft. with circumferences of 24ft. Among record karri trees was one 275ft. high. Another had a circumference of 51ft. Besides their majestic proportions, the karris have beautiful clean, smooth, grey-green boles. No tourist who drives through a karri forest will ever forget its grandeur and enchantment. Among towns in the South-West which owe their existence to the timber industry, and in which milling operations may be witnessed, are Jarrahdale, Jarrahwood, Nannup, Manjimup, and Pemberton. The coal industry which the South-West has also provided for the benefit of the State, is of supreme importance. With production now reaching up to 1,000,000 tons a year and coal at £3 10s. a ton, little imagination is required to realise what the industry means to the people of Western Australia. Coal was discovered at Collie, 124 miles from Perth, in 1883. The coalfield, the town, and the river, were all named after Alexander Collie, a Royal Navy surgeon, who discovered the river in 1829. Though Collie's coal is sub-bituminous and non-coking, the deposits there, spread over 48 sq. miles, are in quantity and quality easily the best in the State. It is estimated conservatively that the coalfield contains over 750,000,000 tons. Twelve mines and four open-cuts provide employment for about 1,500 miners. The prettily situated township is growing rapidly. Its enlarged and modernised power house is supplying current to an increasing list of country towns under the South-West Power Scheme. Its railway marshalling yards are to be expanded at a cost of £750,000. The value to the railways of the South-West's timber and coal trade was shown in a return a while back which placed coal as the railways' second-best "customer" with 9.93 per cent. of the total freight, and timber as third-best with 7.7 per cent.

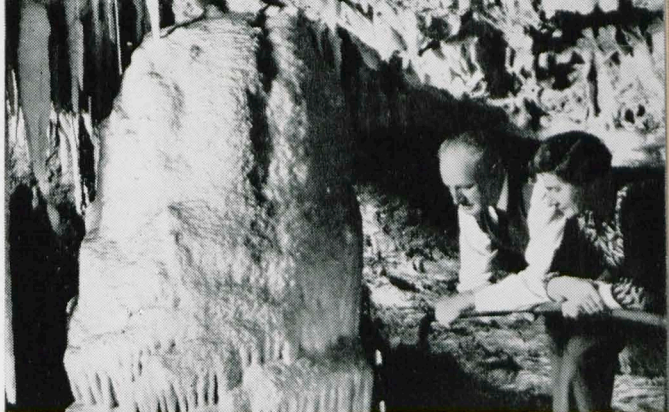
Lake Cave, Margaret River





Canal Rocks, Yallingup

*Yallingup
Cave*



Nature's generosity to this portion of the State did not stop with the provision of enormous ready-made wealth in the form of coal and timber, but went a great deal further by lavishing on the coastal tip between Busselton and Augusta a whole series of underground treasure-houses (caves) of astounding beauty and variety. Throughout the Commonwealth no other caves, except those at Jenolan, New South Wales, can compare with them. For the past 50 years they have been amazing tourists from all parts of the world, and as yet the organisation for providing access to them, and for displaying them to their best advantage with special lighting effects, etc., is but introductory. There are several hundred known caves in the area, but only three main caves are lit by electricity and open to the public. The Yallingup Caves, 169 miles from Perth, are 150ft. below the surface. They were discovered in 1899. A visitor is soon entranced with their novelty and beauty. The glistening limestone formations present a dazzling iridescence. Surprisingly too, they offer many resemblances to objects on the earth's surface, such as The Arab's Tent, The Jewel Casket, Egyptian Mummies, variegated shawls, etc. Thirty-four miles southward are the Lake Cave and the Mammoth Cave of the Margaret River area. They were discovered in 1872 and 1900, respectively. The Mammoth Cave contains similarities to the Yallingup Caves, but the Lake Cave is unique not only in Western Australia, but possibly in the world. It is the nearest thing to fairyland that any human is likely to see. The lake itself is a glistening sheet of clear ice-cold water. On its mirror-like surface it reflects stalactites of such ethereal delicacy, beauty and variety as to leave the onlooker spellbound. One has the feeling in that subterranean space, 198ft. below the earth's surface, of being in a supernatural museum of art. In short, it is an indescribable wonder. Caves House at Yallingup is a modern and commodious guest house. It is set in glorious bushland, close to the caves and to the Indian Ocean. A 10-minute walk takes one to a beach where there is a reef-locked swimming pool, and farther along, to the delight of strong swimmers, there is good open surf. There are the usual amenities, tennis, fishing, boating, forest rambles, and so on. Within easy range are many interesting spots such as Meelup Springs, Dunsborough Beach, Cape Naturaliste lighthouse, Canal Rocks, and Torpedo Rocks.



Jarrah forest



The "cave country" is notable also because of its relationship to the Group Settlement Scheme. The main concentration of the new farms in 1921 was in this area. The scheme represented the first really determined and State-financed effort to raise the output of the dairying industry. During 1913 the acreage under wheat in Western Australia had topped the million mark and the State instead of being a substantial importer of flour became a substantial exporter. It was desired to effect a similar improvement in dairy produce, Eastern States imports of which then amounted to about £1,000,000 a year. Nevertheless costs of clearing suitable dairying country were formidable, making for excessive farm capitalisation, and prices for milk, butter, and cheese were low. Progress in solving these problems was interrupted by the outbreak of World War I. Early in the post-war period a scheme of group settlement was decided on by the Government. In the year of its commencement (1921) the output of factory butter was 684 tons. Last year's output was approximately 6,700 tons, of which about 25 per cent. came from group settlement holdings. While this dramatic improvement was being effected, the manufacture of condensed milk was also put on a sound basis, and now sufficient is being made to meet the State's needs and provide a net export. Cheese production has been expanded from less than a ton in 1921 (there were no factories then) to 878 tons last year. About 90 per cent. of Western Australia's total dairy production is derived from the South-West. Most of the State's fruit is also grown there, and practically all of its potatoes, flax, and tobacco. The main fruit towns in the South-West are Bridgetown, Donnybrook, and Manjimup.

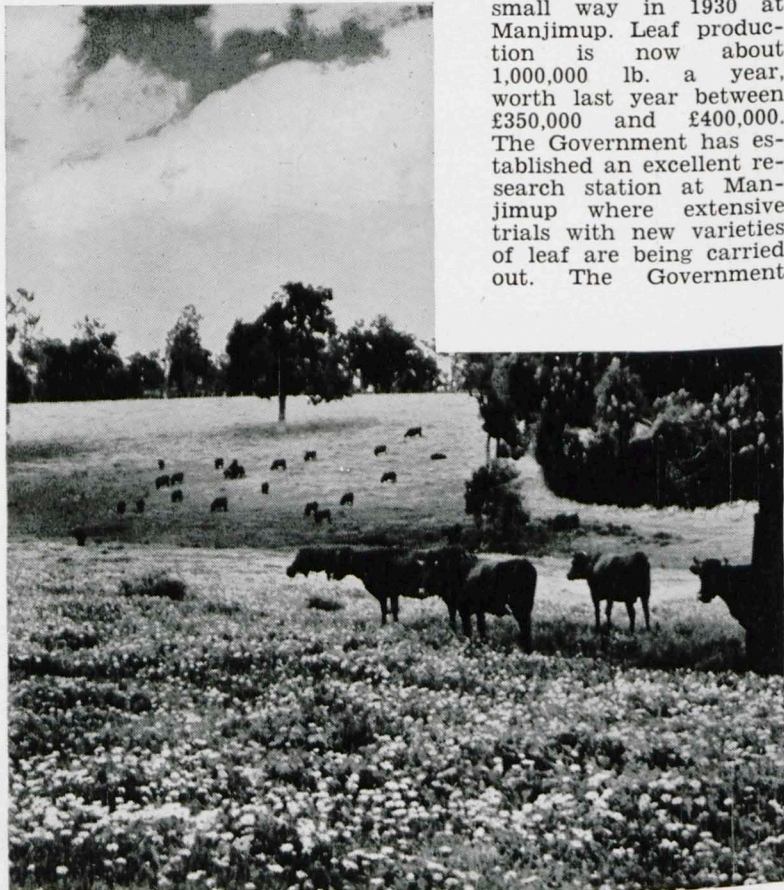
Apple orchards, Bridgetown





Four-fifth's of the State's fruit exports consist of apples, and their export value last year was close upon £2,000,000. About 90 per cent. of the apple crop is raised in the South-West. Potatoes are almost exclusively a product of this area. Production totals 50,000 tons a year worth about £1,500,000. Besides meeting local requirements there is a surplus for export. The bulk of the potatoes are grown in the irrigation districts between Waroona and Brunswick; at Harvey production totals 15,000 tons a year. Centres farther south with good production figures are Donnybrook 3,000 tons, and Manjimup 7,000 tons. Two infant industries are tobacco and flax.

Tobacco was started in a small way in 1930 at Manjimup. Leaf production is now about 1,000,000 lb. a year, worth last year between £350,000 and £400,000. The Government has established an excellent research station at Manjimup where extensive trials with new varieties of leaf are being carried out. The Government



Dairy herd, Serpentine

Tobacco picking, Manvimup

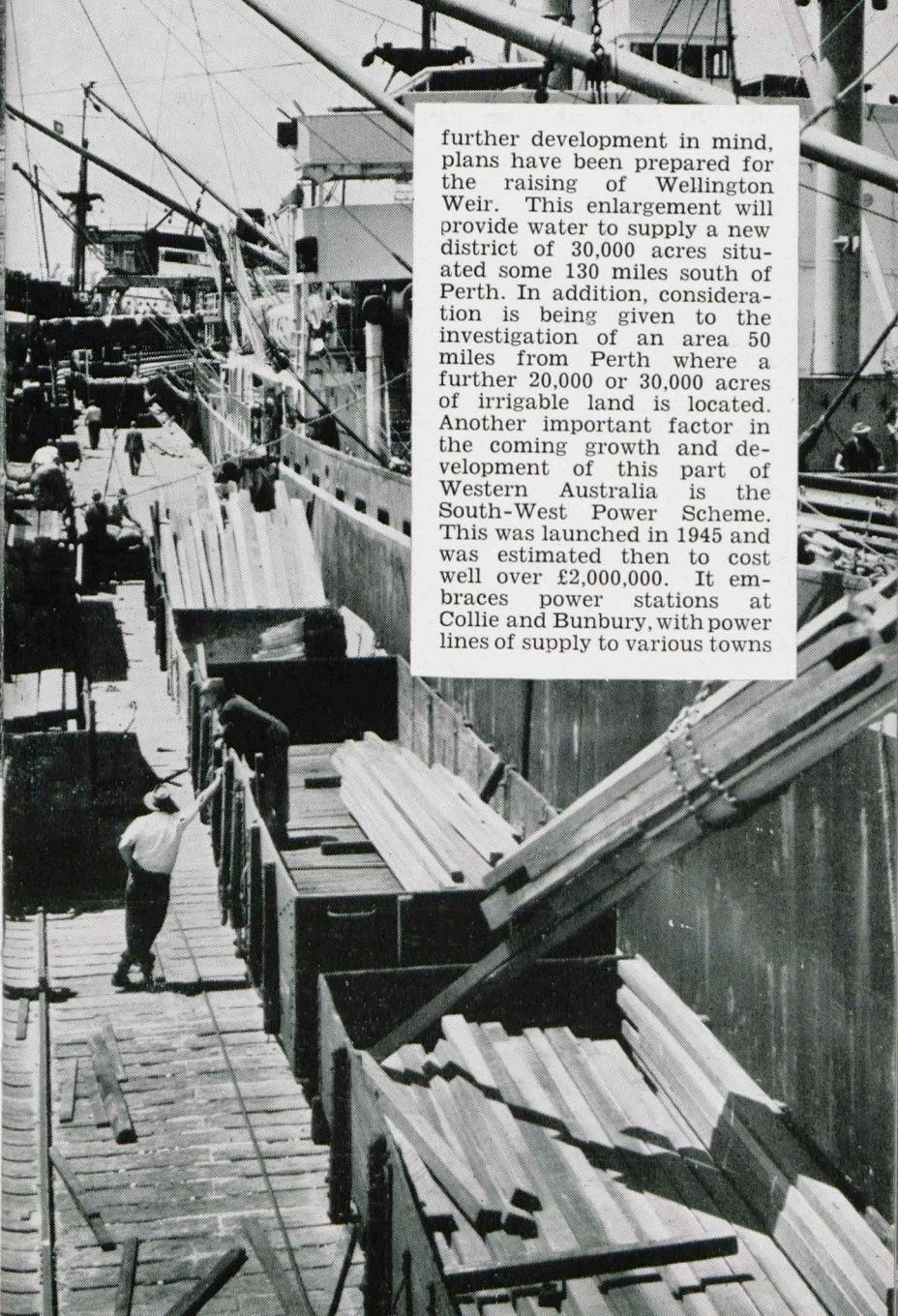


Potato digging, Wokalup



Apple packing, Bridgetown

also has experimental plots at Northcliffe. This year's crop will be heavier than last year's. The need for flax during the Second World War led to Commonwealth and State encouragement in 1940 for flax growing at several centres in the South-West. There is now a complete water-retting flax mill at Boyup Brook, with 80 employees. Last year from 2,400 acres under crop about 3,000 tons of straw was produced worth approximately £150,000. Rich returns from South-West soil are in part explained by the fact that the rainfall averages from 30in. to 50in. per annum, and is one of the most reliable rainfalls in Australia. A big irrigation scheme however operates along the coastal plain. It has cost so far over £2,000,000. Started in 1916 at Harvey to serve 3,000 acres of citrus land it had increased by 1935 to 54,000 acres, mostly used for dairying and potatoes. The present reticulation network in all areas serves 72,000 acres from a total water storage of 25,000 million gallons. The total water resources of this portion of the State, if fully used, are capable of irrigating approximately 200,000 acres, assuming one acre in every three being watered. Considerable development is still to take place. With this



further development in mind, plans have been prepared for the raising of Wellington Weir. This enlargement will provide water to supply a new district of 30,000 acres situated some 130 miles south of Perth. In addition, consideration is being given to the investigation of an area 50 miles from Perth where a further 20,000 or 30,000 acres of irrigable land is located. Another important factor in the coming growth and development of this part of Western Australia is the South-West Power Scheme. This was launched in 1945 and was estimated then to cost well over £2,000,000. It embraces power stations at Collie and Bunbury, with power lines of supply to various towns

over a big area. Ultimately the Collie station will be linked through Northam with the East Perth power station and Bunbury will be linked through Pinjarra with the South Fremantle power station. The availability of ample electricity is expected to stimulate the establishment of many new industries throughout the South-West. All the coastal towns—Mandurah, Bunbury, Busselton, Augusta, Nornalup, and Denmark—are popular tourist resorts. Bunbury, in addition, is the biggest town (population 9,800) and is the commercial centre for the South-West. The main exports passing through the port of Bunbury are wheat, timber, and oats. Fifty-four miles from Perth is Pinjarra. Its district contains some of the best farmland in the State. Pinjarra dates back to the early days of white settlement. Aborigines there were particularly fierce and dangerous, and were not subdued until after a battle with a force of police in 1834. A few miles out of Pinjarra is the Fairbridge Farm School in which under-privileged English children of 15 to 16 years of age are given all-round training so that unhandicapped they can take their place in the community life of Western Australia.

Bunbury





Sheep fording the Avon River, Muresk

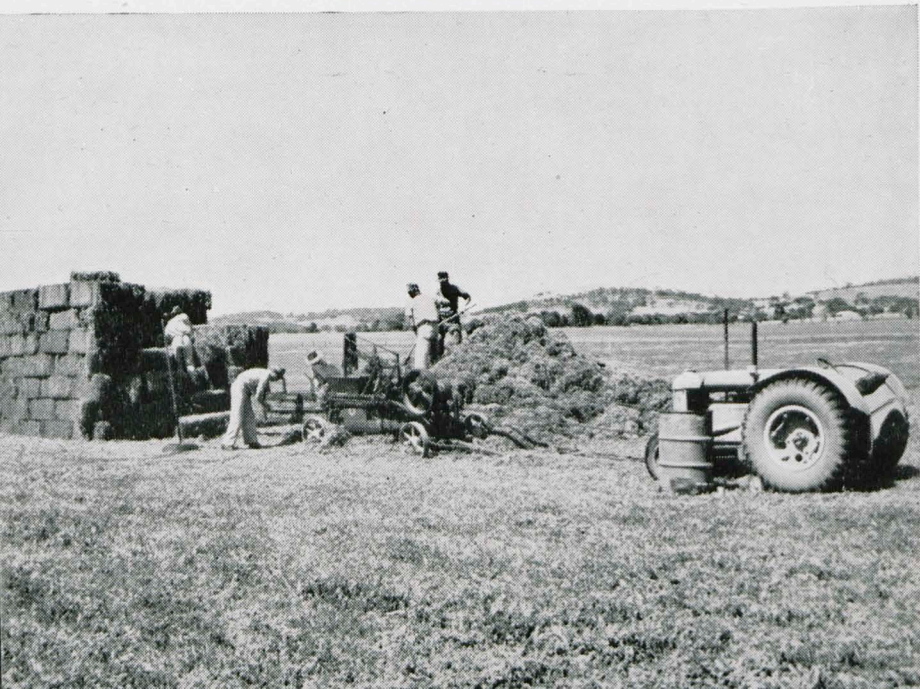
Great Southern — Eastern Wheatbelt

THE two greatest industries of Western Australia are wheat and wool, and it is over the wide acreage of the Great Southern and the Wheatbelt that almost all the wheat and most of the wool is grown. Visitors from Europe must find it thrilling to be able to drive a car for about 600 miles past wheat crops, especially with the realisation that 120 years ago not one of these farms was in existence, as the country was then in the hands of the aborigines. For various reasons Western Australia's progress after its foundation in 1829 was disappointing, so much so that after 71 years of settlement its annual wheat production was less than 1,000,000 bushels. Contrast that with 1952 when the wheat yield was over 40,000,000 bushels. The value of the State's crop at the beginning of the century, 1900-1901, was £179,000, that of the 1951-52 crop, £29,000,000. The story in regard to wool is much the same. The clip for 1900-1901 was 15,000,000 lb. worth £414,000; that for 1951-52 was 116,000,000 lb. worth £32,000,000. It would be within the mark to say that during 1951-52 the Great

Southern-Eastern Wheatbelt area produced wheat and wool worth £45,000,000. Prior to the discoveries of gold in 1892-93 agriculture in Western Australia had not substantially been pushed eastward of the Darling Ranges, and production had barely kept pace with the modest requirements of the small population. After the 1892-93 influx it was necessary until 1907 to import flour.

When the gold boom subsided during the first decade of the present century there was marked unemployment on the goldfields, on the wharves, and throughout the State. To counteract the slump in goldmining serious attention was directed to farming, particularly to the growing of wheat. It became Government policy to make Crown land available cheaply and to finance men of limited means to obtain farms provided they were willing and able to work. The Government's objective was briefly expressed as follows: "To bring together the idle men and the idle land, and to employ the credit of the State to finance their operations up to the stage of production." Good results followed, but more was necessary. In much of the farming prior to this era wrong methods had been pursued mainly because of insufficient realisation of the widespread phosphorus deficiency of the soils and of means by which the deficiency could economically be rectified. About this period big changes in farming practice took place. The use of superphosphate, the adoption of dry-farming techniques, and the production of new

Baling hay, Northam





Farm lands



ROYAL
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IN

WESTERN
AUSTRALIA

◦ 1954 ◦

**Summary of Programme for Visit to Western Australia of
Her Majesty The Queen and
His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh**

FRIDAY, 26th MARCH, 1954

- 2.35 p.m. Arrive by air at Kalgoorlie
- 2.50 p.m. Civic Reception, Kalgoorlie Oval
- 3.25 p.m. Civic Reception, Boulder Oval
- 3.50 p.m. Depart for Perth
- 5.30 p.m. Arrive Perth Airport, Guildford
Inspection of Guard of Honour
- 6.05 p.m. Arrive Government House, Perth
- 7.00 p.m. Reception State Royal Visit Staff, Government
House

SATURDAY, 27th MARCH, 1954

- 10.15 a.m. Investiture at Government House
- 10.40 a.m. Executive Council Meeting at Government House
- 11.00 a.m. Inspection of Guard of Honour, Government House
- 11.10 a.m. Royal Progress commences
- 11.25 a.m. Her Majesty will place a Wreath on the State
War Memorial
- 11.50 a.m. Perth Civic Reception at Esplanade
- 12.15 p.m. Royal Progress concludes at Government House
- 3.15 p.m. Parade of Ex-Servicemen and Women, Perth
Esplanade
- 4.15 p.m. Arrive Government House
- 8.00 p.m. Parliamentary Dinner, Government House Ballroom

SUNDAY, 28th MARCH, 1954

- 11.00 a.m. Divine Service at St. George's Cathedral, Perth

MONDAY, 29th MARCH, 1954

- Morning** No Official engagements
- 2.00 p.m. Depart for University of Western Australia, Crawley
- 2.15 p.m. Arrive at University
- 2.30 p.m. Her Majesty will attend a Women's Reception at
the University
His Royal Highness will inspect the University
- 3.15 p.m. Arrive Government House
- 4.00 p.m. Garden Party, Government House
- 6.45 p.m. Parade of Youth Organisations
- 9.30 p.m. Trotting Meeting and Log Chop, Gloucester Park,
Perth

TUESDAY, 30th MARCH, 1954

- 10.35 a.m. Depart Government House for Perth Airport.
- 10.55 a.m. Emplane for Busselton
- 12.15 p.m. Civic Reception, Busselton Oval
- 1.00 p.m. Emplane for Albany
- 2.30 p.m. Civic Reception, Albany Oval
- 3.00 p.m. Scenic Drive, Albany Harbour
- 3.40 p.m. Emplane for Perth
- 5.20 p.m. Arrive Perth Airport
- 5.40 p.m. Arrive Government House
- 9.30 p.m. Lord Mayor's Ball at University, Crawley

WEDNESDAY, 31st MARCH, 1954

- 10.20 a.m. Depart by road for Northam
- 12.20 p.m. Civic Reception, Northam Oval
- 1.15 p.m. Civic Luncheon, Northam Town Hall
- 2.15 p.m. Depart by road for York
- 3.00 p.m. Civic Reception, York Oval
- 3.30 p.m. Depart by road for Perth
- 5.20 p.m. Arrive at Government House
- 8.30 p.m. Official Dinner, Government House

THURSDAY, 1st April, 1954

- 10.15 a.m. Depart Government House for King's Park
- 10.25 a.m. Tree Planting at King's Park
- 10.38 a.m. Visit to Repatriation General Hospital, Hollywood
- 11.15 a.m. Children's Review at Claremont
- 12.20 p.m. Arrive Government House
- 2.15 p.m. Farewell to Press and Tour Officials, Government House
- 3.40 p.m. Depart for Fremantle by road
- 4.35 p.m. Civic Reception at Fremantle Oval
- 4.50 p.m. Arrive at Wharf. Royal Salute. Inspect Guard of Honour. Farewells.
- 5.00 p.m. Embark S.S. "Gothic"
- 5.10 p.m. Departure from Australia
S.S. "Gothic" sails
Aquatic Farewell
Royal Salute
R.A.A.F. Escort

KALGOORLIE AND BOULDER

KALGOORLIE, 375 miles from Perth and principal gold town of Australia, was founded on the site of Paddy Hannan's gold discovery in 1893, and developed in a decade from a rough mining camp to a town of wide streets and substantial public and private buildings.

Kalgoorlie and its sister town of Boulder, three miles to the south, depend almost entirely on gold which is mined principally in the famous Golden Mile.

The Golden Mile is at present being worked by nine of the largest gold-mining companies in Western Australia, the deepest shaft descending 4,150 feet.

The gold industry has fluctuated, disabilities being the fixed price of gold and increased production costs. The total value of gold produced in Western Australia to the 31st December, 1952, is £336,672,000.

Water, pumped 370 miles through a pipeline from Mundaring Weir in the hills near Perth, is vital to Kalgoorlie, the construction of the Goldfields Water Scheme, 50 years ago, being a triumph of engineering skill. Not the least of the town's attractions is the modern Olympic Swimming Pool, opened in 1938.

Temperature (late March): Average mean 70.4 degrees.

Hours of sun (26th March): Sunrise 6.1 a.m.; sunset 5.58 p.m.

Annual rainfall: 9.69 inches.

Height above sea level: 1,234 feet.

District population: 24,000.

PERTH

PERTH, the capital of Western Australia, fringes the Swan River, 12 miles from Fremantle. It was founded on the 12th August, 1829, by Captain James Stirling, R.N.

Development in the first 60 years was slow, but rapid expansion followed the rich gold discoveries in Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie in 1892 and 1893.

Since 1900, Perth's prosperity has depended largely on the State's thriving farmlands. Recent years have seen a strong drive to foster secondary industries, many having been established in the metropolitan area, with consequent rapid increases in building and population.

Perth has a river ideal for aquatic sports, a free University and 50 parks, reserves and recreational grounds, including the 1,000-acre King's Park.

The metropolitan area has an excellent climate, with a warm dry summer and a cool wet winter. Most of the annual rainfall occurs during April-October, inclusive.

Temperature (late March): Average mean 69.8 degrees.

Hours of sun (27th March): Sunrise 6.24 a.m.; sunset 6.20 p.m.

Annual rainfall: 34.96 inches.

Height above sea level: 38 feet.

Population (metropolitan area): 346,000.

BUSSELTON

BUSSELTON, 148 miles from Perth by road and on the southern shores of Geographe Bay, is one of the oldest settled districts in Western Australia, and takes its name from the Bussells who first settled there in 1833.

American whalers were then hunting in Geographe Bay and the Bussells found a brisk market for butter, cheese, fresh fruit and vegetables. With the decline of whaling, timber cutting became increasingly important, the W.A. Jarrah Company opening its first mill five miles from Busselton. The South-West is famous for its hardwood forests of jarrah and karri.

The town became the centre of a group settlement scheme under which British migrants were assisted on dairy farms after the first World War. Dairying has since become a very important industry.

Busselton is a very popular seaside resort, with the added attraction of being the nearest town to Yallingup and other wonderful limestone caves, which are world famous.

Temperature (late March): Average mean 64.7 degrees.
Hours of Sun (30th March): Sunrise 6.28 a.m.; sunset 6.16 p.m.
Annual rainfall: 32.48 inches.
Height above sea level: 10 feet.
District population: 4,000.

ALBANY

ALBANY, the site of the first British settlement in Western Australia, was established by Major Lockyer on Christmas Day, 1826.

Albany is 254 miles by road and 340 miles by rail from Perth. It is situated between Mt. Clarence and Mt. Melville on the northern shore of Princess Royal Harbour, a magnificent harbour which is almost landlocked, its narrow entrance from King George Sound being protected by islands.

Within a radius of 80 miles, a million acres of land is being developed and will offer additional opportunities for land settlement and associated industries. A Government scheme of outport development includes the provision of new shipping berths.

Secondary industries include a large woollen mill (over 200 operatives), meatworks, a fishing cannery and a shore-based whaling factory. A superphosphate works is under construction.

Albany is a popular tourist resort offering aquatic and other sports, and picturesque drives varying from rugged coastal scenery to quiet beach and river retreats.

Temperature (late March): Average mean 63.6 degrees.
Hours of sun (30th March): Sunrise 6.19 a.m.; sunset 6.5 p.m.
Annual rainfall: 37.62 inches.
Height above sea level: 6 feet.
District population: 8,600.

NORTHAM

NORTHAM, situated on the Avon River 61 miles by road from Perth, was first reserved as a townsite in 1830 and was first settled by John Morrell.

Northam developed rapidly when the Perth-Kalgoorlie railway was built in 1897. It became an important railway junction, though its stability now rests largely on the surrounding prosperous wheat and sheep farms. The district has 51,000 acres under crop and 132,000 sheep.

The pipeline, 30 inches in diameter, which carries water pumped from Mundaring Weir to Kalgoorlie, serves agricultural towns en route, including Northam and York.

The late Sir James Mitchell, G.C.M.G., an ex-Premier, also Lieutenant-Governor and Governor of the State from 1933 to 1951, represented Northam continuously in the Legislative Assembly from 1905 until 1933. The present district representative is the Premier (Hon. A. R. G. Hawke).

Nine miles from Northam is the Muresk Agricultural College, opened in 1926 and regarded as one of the finest in Australia.

Temperature (late March): Average mean 70 degrees.

Hours of sun (31st March): Sunrise 6.23 a.m.; sunset 6.10 p.m.

Annual rainfall: 17.11 inches.

Height above sea level: 494 feet.

District population: 9,700.

YORK

YORK, 18 miles from Northam and 60 miles from Perth by road, is one of the oldest and most fertile agricultural centres in Western Australia and is charmingly situated on the River Avon.

The York district was first explored by Ensign R. Dale in 1830, its name being chosen because of its resemblance to the Yorkshire wolds.

The discovery of gold at Southern Cross and Coolgardie brought temporary prosperity to York as a centre for stores and supplies. With the opening of the Perth-Kalgoorlie railway, in 1897, however, the trade declined.

York district is noted for mixed farming, the mild winter climate making it suitable for cereals, clovers and pasture grasses, citrus fruit, vines and most livestock. Fat lamb production flourishes and, on the rich river flats, quantities of vegetables are grown for the Perth market.

York district has 69,000 acres under crop and 170,000 sheep. It has an old-world charm which has a special appeal to English visitors.

Temperature (late March): Average mean 68.8 degrees.

Hours of sun (31st March): Sunrise 6.23 a.m.; sunset 6.10 p.m.

Annual rainfall: 17.72 inches.

Height above sea level: 583 feet.

District population: 2,800.

FREMANTLE

FREMANTLE, chief port of Western Australia and first Australian port of call for overseas vessels, lies at the mouth of the Swan River, 12 miles by rail from Perth. It forms part of the metropolitan area of Perth and was founded in 1829, a few months before the capital.

Its harbour has a depth of 36 feet and it can accommodate the largest vessels regularly visiting Australia. It is well equipped, employing some of the most modern cargo handling facilities. Plans for an extensive upstream expansion of the harbour have been prepared.

Both British and American submarines operating against Japan during World War II were based at Fremantle.

Since World War II, a number of industrial firms hitherto unrepresented in Western Australia have established branch factories in the Fremantle district. A new Government electric power station has been built on the sea coast a few miles south of the city. Fremantle is destined to become a highly industrialised area.

Quantity of cargo handled, 1952-53: Imports, 1,607,537 tons; exports, 952,647 tons; fuel bunkers, 290,552 tons.

Temperature (early April): Average mean 68.8 degrees.

Hours of sun (1st April): Sunrise 6.28 a.m.; sunset 6.13 p.m.

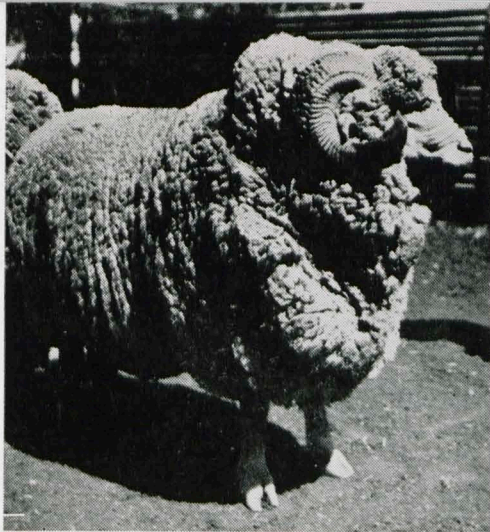
Annual rainfall: 30.26 inches.

Height above sea level: 10 feet.

Population: 30,700.



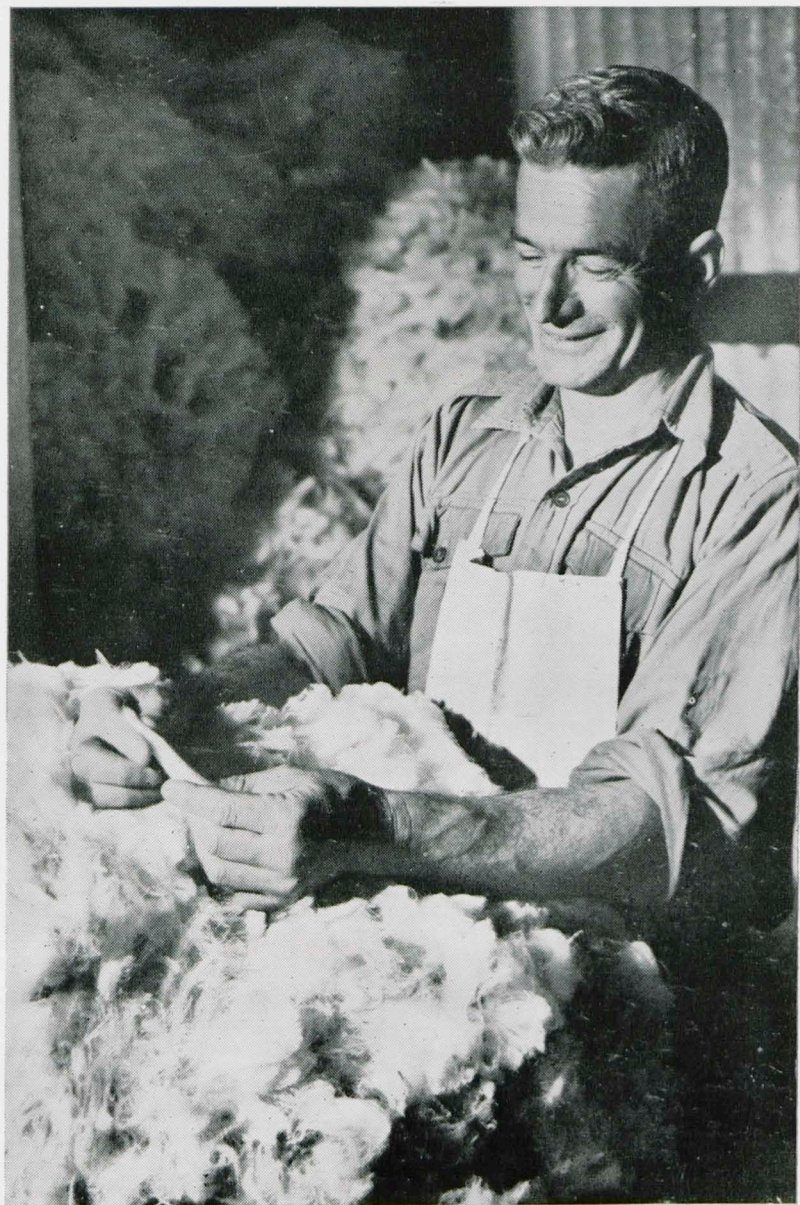
*Merino stud ram,
Cranmore Park*



Pigs at Muresk

drought-resisting wheats enabled agriculture to push eastwards into the low rainfall areas with spectacular success. Since World War II the introduction of bulldozers for land clearing and the correction of deficiencies of trace elements, e.g., copper and zinc, in some of the soils, have given further stimulus to land development. The wheat-belt in shape resembles a Wellington boot. At its top is Ajana (in the Geraldton-Murchison area), at its heel Cranbrook, and at its toe Salmon Gums. The width of the "boot" in its middle runs from Northam to Southern Cross, a distance of about 180 miles. Climatically the belt—which is practically a plateau devoid of perennial rivers—is well favoured. The rainfall ranges from 10in. to 20in. annually. In some districts the fall may be light, but it is regular and—an element of vital importance—about 70 or 80 per cent. of it occurs during the autumn, winter

and spring, when it is most needed by cereal crops and for the preparation of the seed bed. Droughts are rare because the wheatbelt is within 200 miles of the moist sea breezes, and no high mountain ranges intercept the moisture. The bright dry summer minimises the risk from rust, and renders harvesting easy and cheap. A handicap is that the region is rather poorly off for water. Underground supplies are usually variable in quantity and quality. The chief sources of supply are scooped out earthen tanks or dams, and wells. Some areas are cared for by the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme, others get water reticulated from rock catchments. A Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme jointly financed by the State and Commonwealth Governments has been undertaken for the



Woolclassing

benefit of considerable areas and is making steady progress. On most wheat farms sheep were first introduced as a sideline, but with the steady extension of subterranean clover into lower rainfall areas, sheep raising has grown in importance. Also, the movement towards sheep was greatly accelerated as a result of the boom prices for wool in the 1950-51 season. In the eastern districts wheat growing is still the major activity, but in the wetter western areas where more productive pastures are possible, sheep are the first consideration on most farms, and the revenue from them is greater than that from cereals. The quantity of wheat grown in the wheat-belt is about the same today as it was five years ago, but the number of sheep shorn has increased from about 7,500,000 to well over 9,000,000. The growing popularity of sheep in this region is shown by the fact that it now contains two-thirds of the State's total, and that of the increase in flocks during the last five years it had been responsible for nine-tenths.

In relation to the prices for wheat and wool it is of interest to note that for 1947-48 wheat was 17s. 6d. a bushel and wool 39.24d. lb.; for 1952-53 wheat was 17s. 3½d. a bushel and wool 75.99d. lb. This great El Dorado of wheat and wool is now gridironed by railways and roads, but it is an amazing fact that at the end of the first 50 years of settlement in Western Australia not one mile of railway was open to traffic in what is now called the wheatbelt. By the year 1890 there was marked progress. A line was operating from Albany to Beverley,

A country sheep sale





York, one of W.A.'s oldest towns

and from there through Spencer's Brook to Perth. This big advance was due to the efforts of Mr. Anthony Hordern of Sydney, who contracted to build the Albany-Beverley line in return for land grants by the Government. Unfortunately, before construction work began, Mr. Hordern died. A company which he had formed in London proceeded with the undertaking, and the line was opened to traffic in 1889. Seven years later the company sold out to the Government for £1,100,000. The building of the Great Southern Railway gave this part of the State a flying start over the remainder, and proved to be an instance of coming prosperity casting its shadow ahead. The example of the Great Southern district being opened by a privately-owned railway was followed in the Midland district, which was opened by the Midland Railway Company. This company, with English capital, built a line on the land-grant principle in 1894, connecting Geraldton with the metropolitan area, and still operates the line, which is the only non-Government railway in the State.



Wheat harvesting, Wongan Hills

To make up for its slow start, Western Australia now has over 4,000 miles of railways, and its proportion of line per 1,000 of population is probably the highest in the world. The gauge is 3ft. 6in., the same as Queensland, Tasmania and portion of South Australia, but differing from New South Wales, Victoria, and the Commonwealth. The narrow gauge was adopted for this State because of cheapness of construction, equipment and operation, and in the early days of the colony, with such a vast area to be catered for, and with such a small population to bear the expense, cost was the dominant consideration.

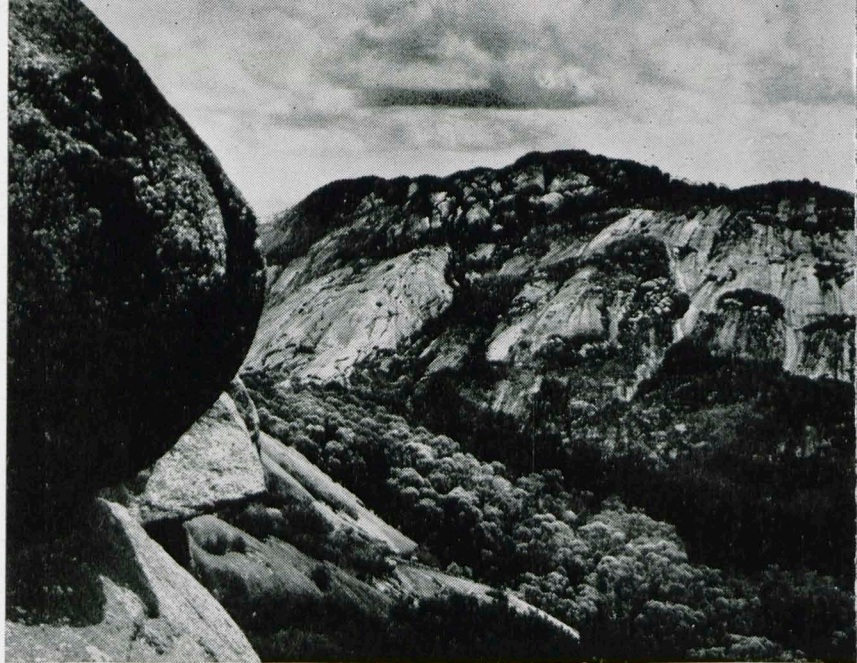
Albany, the principal town in the Great Southern and port for its trade, prides itself on the fact that it was the first place in Western Australia to come under the British flag. Two and a half years before Captain Stirling arrived in the "Parmelia" and founded Western Australia and Perth, Major Lockyer, in the role of a caretaker for the British Crown, arrived at King George Sound with a detachment of soldiers and 24 convicts, on December 26, 1826. As instructed by Governor Darling of New South Wales, he established a military post and formally took over possession of the country. Major Lockyer's mission was not to arrange for the foundation and settlement of a colony, but to forestall an attempt at annexation which it was suspected the French then had in mind. In 1831 the Albany post was taken over by the Government at Perth. By a coincidence, when Lockyer arrived he found King George Sound

Northam, a prosperous agricultural centre





The Gap, Albany



Porongorup Range, near Albany

being used as a base by some American whalers, and today whaling is still being carried on there. Albany is a substantial town, with some fine public buildings and a population of 7,000. As its summer temperature is about 10 degrees cooler than Perth, it enjoys a big tourist trade. Its attractions, in addition to its agreeable climate, include Princess Royal Harbour, rivalled in the Commonwealth only by Sydney Harbour; two adjacent mountains, Mt. Clarence and Mt. Melville; a wonderful safe beach for family swimming, Middleton Beach; two delightful rivers, the King and the Kalgan; and many coastal beauty spots. Commercially, it is making big advances at present. In preparation for the aftermath of a huge land settlement scheme now under way in the locality, harbour improvements, costing over £1,000,000, are being made, and a superphosphate works is being established.

Sixty-six miles from Perth, Northam, with a population of 5,600, is the wheatbelt's main town. It is one of the oldest centres east of the Darling Ranges. The townsite was declared in 1833. A railway was built to it in 1886. Running through the town is the Avon River. Surrounding it is one of the finest agricultural districts in the Commonwealth. Nine miles out is the State's Agricultural College, Muresk, which was founded in 1926. In addition to its wool, wheat and fat lambs, the Northam district is noted for its hay production. It is also one of the principal railway junctions and depots in Western Australia. Among the many towns servicing this predominantly wheat and wool territory, are two that deserve special mention—Mt. Barker, famous for apples, and Gingin, for oranges.



The Golden Mile, Kalgoorlie

Eastern Goldfields—Esperance

COMPARED with other portions of Western Australia the Eastern Goldfields-Esperance area is rich in history. By many years it precedes the foundation of the colony in 1829 by Sir James Stirling with settlers from England.

It was in 1791 that Captain George Vancouver from England en route to the Pacific on a special mission for the British Government explored a section of this coast, and took possession of the country in the name of King George III. Vancouver traced the coastline eastward as far as an island which he named Termination Island, and then broke away to attend to his main assignment. Ten years later the whole of this coast was followed and chartered by the celebrated Matthew Flinders (the man who first circumnavigated Australia, and gave that name to the continent). Until Flinders disproved it the idea was entertained that possibly a number of rivers from an inland sea emptied into the Great Australian Bight.

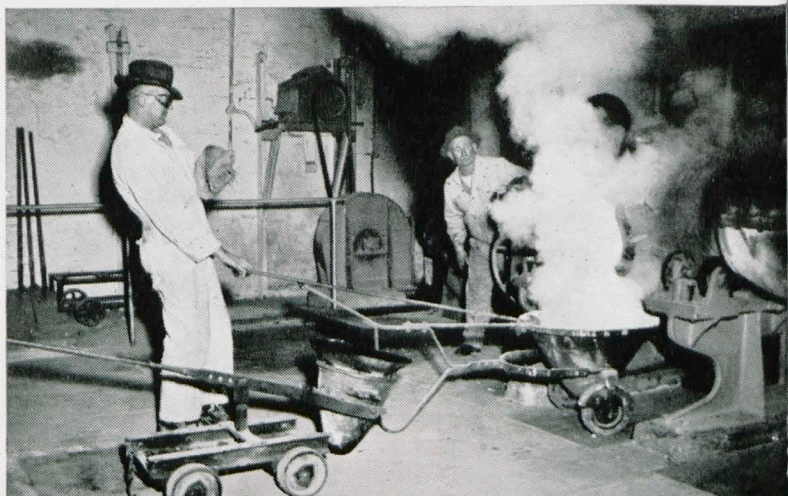
The next big event was the overland exploration trip of Edward John Eyre from South Australia along the coast to Albany in 1841. Lack of water and lack of game for food made the trip an extremely



Drilling underground

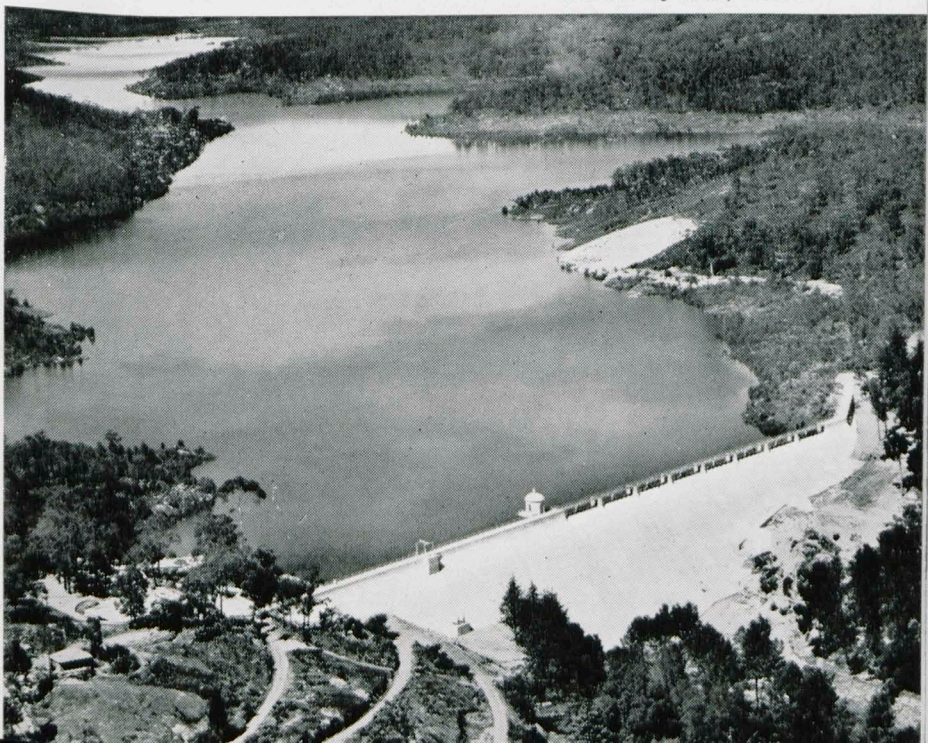
perilous one. Eyre was accompanied by one white man, John Baxter, and three natives. At one stage the famishing party was saved by the discovery of a soak well at what is now called Eucla. Later they had the same experience at a spot now called Eyre. After leaving here two of the natives murdered Baxter and made off with most of the provisions. Eyre and the remaining black, named Wylie, pushed on and were at the point of exhaustion and death when they reached a bay where luckily for them was a French whaling ship captained by an Englishman named Rossiter. The bay is now called Rossiter Bay. Refreshed and strengthened Eyre and Wylie resumed their journey and reached Albany safely. Eyre, who had previously driven a herd of cattle from Victoria to Adelaide, thus gained the honour of being the first man to cross Australia from east to west.

*Pouring
gold*



Twenty-nine years later the reverse trip as far as Adelaide was accomplished without loss by John Forrest and his party, which included his brother Alex., and an aboriginal named Tommy Windich, who became famous through his constant association with Forrest. When the party from Perth reached Esperance a schooner met them with fresh supplies, and similarly at Eucla. The trip took five months, and Forrest discovered that inland from the coast there was a great deal of good pastoral country. In 1875, five years after Forrest's successful crossing a South Australian, Ernest Giles, and party, using camels, made one of the most remarkable journeys in Australian history. They left Adelaide primarily to explore the Great Australian Desert. When west of Lake Eyre they took a route some hundreds of miles north of that followed by Forrest. Perth was reached safely, and after resting for a couple of months, they struck north as far as the Ashburton River, and from there proceeded due east right back to the South Australian border. It was a 5,000 mile journey over a great deal of waterless and arid country. These various expeditions were the first links in the chain of communication by land between Western Australia and the Eastern States. Principally as the result of Forrest's trained observations a telegraph service was established between South Australia and Western Australia.

Mundaring Weir, near Perth





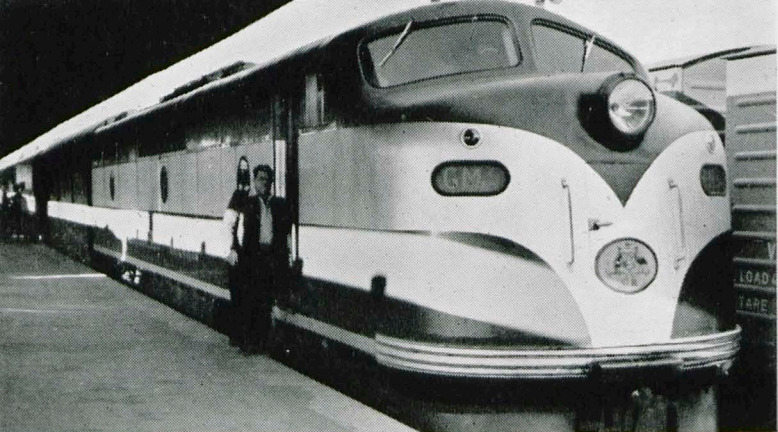
Post Office and Public Buildings, Kalgoorlie

Eucla, nine miles inside the Western Australian border, was the junction. On December 8, 1877, the first messages went through. In those days there was no Federal system of Government, and the postal services were State-owned. Besides the service Forrest rendered this portion of the State as an explorer and in breaking through the silence barrier by forging a telegraphic link with Adelaide, and the rest of the world which was already linked with Adelaide, he was destined to do much more for it. When the goldfields were discovered at Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie in the early 1890's he was Premier, and he provided these fields with a railway and with a water supply—two achievements which in the light of the State's small population at that time and the ephemeral nature of goldmining were really tremendous. Forrest's final special service for the Goldfields-Esperance area was to lead the demand which secured for it the construction by the Commonwealth of the Trans-Australian railway which, crossing the Nullarbor Plain, links Kalgoorlie with Port Augusta, South Australia. All these great development moves have in the course of time been amply justified because, apart from their bearing on population, settlement, and trade throughout Western Australia, the Eastern Goldfields have produced gold worth over £200,000,000, and are still of vital importance.



CENTENARY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
1929
THIS MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN
WAS ERECTED BY
PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION
IN HONOUR OF THE LATE
PATRICK HANNAN
WHO FIRST DISCOVERED GOLD
AT KALGOORLIE, 15TH JUNE 1893

Hannan Memorial, Kalgoorlie



The Overland at Kalgoorlie

As a preliminary to the sensational gold discoveries at Coolgardie in 1892, and at Kalgoorlie in 1893, gold was found at Southern Cross in 1887. A rich show, Fraser's Reef, established the town and stimulated general prospecting in the locality. Prospecting spread later for more than a hundred miles eastward through dreary mulga bush, desolate salt lakes, spinifex and intense heat. Two men who had ventured into this wilderness, Bayley and Ford, were responsible for the Coolgardie discovery which changed the whole course of Western Australia's history. They found prolific alluvial gold, and in addition: "They attacked the cap of a reef with a tomahawk and it seemed as if they had broken the seal that kept the secret of King Solomon's mines. In a few hours they chopped off solid chunks of bullion weighing in one instance 50oz., and giving them a parcel of 500oz. of almost pure gold as the result of their evening's work." One of the greatest gold rushes in the world's history followed. The effect of the news on Perth was reported in a newspaper as follows: "Everyone seems to be carrying either tents,

Esperance





Salmon fishing near Esperance

picks, shovels and dishes, or otherwise preparing for the road." In a brief period Coolgardie grew into a cosmopolitan mining city—its inhabitants having come from all parts of the globe. Next year (1893) most of them deserted it for Kalgoorlie where alluvial gold had been found by Pat Hannan. It was soon evident that Hannan had located a bigger field both for surface gold and at depth. A strip of the new ground was so rich as to be named The Golden Mile and time has proved the name to be well-deserved.

Today it would be more apt to refer to it as four golden miles, because over that length big mines are still operating profitably. One of the Lake View and Star Co.'s mines contains a shaft known as Chaffers which is 4,000ft. deep—the deepest vertical shaft in the State and probably in Australia. As showing the magical effect which the Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie discoveries had on the State, gold production rose in value from £86,663 in 1890 to £2,564,977 in 1897, and in the same period the State's population increased from 46,290 to 161,694. The water supply scheme which the Forrest Government provided earned for the Government world-wide admiration. From a reservoir at Mundaring water was pumped through a 30in. main to Kalgoorlie, 351 miles away. It took the water four weeks to complete the journey. Since the '90's Kalgoorlie and district have

flourished and maintain a population of about 20,000 whereas Coolgardie has dwindled to less than a thousand. Southern Cross has even fewer. In the vicinity of the latter centre wheat crops are nowadays to be seen. To the miners of 60 years ago an attempt to grow wheat as far east as Southern Cross would have seemed like madness. South of Kalgoorlie a railway runs to Esperance on the coast. About half way is the busy mining town of Norseman, which is now second in importance to Kalgoorlie. Two big mines, both with expensive modern plant, are operating, one in the production of gold and the other in the production of pyrite. Norseman's pyrite ore is of high grade and is heavily in demand for the production of sulphuric acid essential to the manufacture of our superphosphate. Norseman also profits from the trade of tourists and others, as it is the starting point in Western Australia of the east-west highway which as a tribute to the explorer's memory is named Eyre Highway. At this end its course runs through Balladonia, Cocklebiddy, Madura, and Eucla. Pastoral and agricultural possibilities of the coastal plain that were pointed out by Forrest in 1870 have not been overlooked. A Government agricultural research station was established at Salmon Gums in 1926 to test the heavy mallee lands, and a few years ago a research station was provided to serve the light lands of the Esperance coastal sand plain. Farmers have gone in for sheep raising, with some wheat. Along the coast, of recent times, salmon canneries flourished for a while at Hopetoun and Esperance, but shortage of fish compelled the canneries to close. Local fishermen look forward confidently to a revival of this industry. Another example of Time's changes is that at one time ships called at Hopetoun to load copper from Ravensthorpe. A State smelting plant was erected at Ravensthorpe to treat the ore, but production slumped and the plant fell into disuse. Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun have suffered accordingly.

Southern Cross





Geraldton

Geraldton-Murchison

INLAND goldfields and large coastal stretches of excellent wheat and wool country are the predominant features of the Geraldton-Murchison region occupying about 200,000,000 acres. Here, as a glance at a map will show, is a wide band running across the middle of the State. About the centre of this band is Laverton, and to get the region in perspective it needs to be realised that eastward from Laverton is the Great Victoria Desert, which can be said to be devoid of white population.

The principal town is Geraldton on Champion Bay. It is a busy clearing port for wool, wheat, minerals and fish, and a holiday resort for goldfielders particularly. Also of recent years, because of its mild climate, it has become popular with dwellers from the south in search of a winter vacation. In a reserve off the main street is a stone memorial relating to the most notable exploration feat in West Australian history—that performed by the Forrest party in 1874. The leader was John Forrest (afterwards Sir John Forrest, and later Lord Forrest), who was accompanied by his brother Alex., two other white men, and two natives. They

left Geraldton on April 1, and spent the next six months traversing 2,700 miles almost due east across Western Australia and across South Australia to the overland telegraph line. It was a hair-raising trip and proved John Forrest to be a man of great sagacity and courage. Horses were considered to be unsuitable for such an expedition yet Forrest won through with the loss of nine of a total of 21. How the party managed to get water for themselves, let alone for horses, on such a long, dry and terrible journey borders on the supernatural. Three times they were attacked by aboriginals. The worst episode was at Weld Springs where some 60 or 70 armed natives charged down a hill towards their camp.

Bagging wheat, Midlands Wheat Belt





Along the Greenough River Flats



Bird life, Abrolhos

Dutch merchant ship, the *Batavia*, off its course on a voyage from Holland to the Dutch Indies, was wrecked. Passengers, crew, and some of the cargo were landed safely. Then in one of the small boats Captain Pelsart sailed for Java to get help. While he was away the supercargo, Jerome Cornelisz, set himself up as a pirate dictator and slaughtered everyone within reach who refused to join him. The deaths totalled 125. It was one of the most ghastly and frightful massacres in sea history. Pelsart returned in a Dutch warship and dealt out summary justice to Cornelisz and to all his confederates except two. For these was reserved the refinement of being marooned on the coast of the mainland which was waterless, and practically bare of vegetation. A further insurance against the possibility of the murderers living to a ripe old age was the fact that the black-fellows thereabouts were positively hostile. In these days the Abrolhos Islands are noted for their crayfish, and a large industry has been built up on the export to the United States of crayfish tails. Each year the trade is worth in the vicinity of £200,000. Another export from Geraldton of

Using guns the explorers beat off the attack. Forrest, 27 years old, by occupation a surveyor in the Lands Department, carefully noted and plotted every detail of the country. His trip proved that there was no inland sea (as was popularly supposed), but that instead there was a large dead heart of uninhabitable desert and spinifex. The expedition's contribution to geographical science resulted in Forrest being awarded the gold medal of the Royal Geographical Society, London, and in various other honours being conferred on him. Geraldton, as the starting point of that famous trip, basks in reflected glory.

Seaward from Geraldton, however, hangs the dark shadow of a 17th century tragedy. Forty to 50 miles off are the Abrolhos Islands where in June, 1629, a



R.S.L. Headquarters, Geraldton



Geraldton Wharf



Roman Catholic Cathedral, Geraldton

more than ordinary interest is that of tomatoes. This vegetable thrives there during the winter, while in other parts of the Commonwealth the plants suffer severely from frosts. The result is an Australia-wide demand for the Geraldton product which has an especially big sale in Melbourne. Thirty-four miles by rail north of Geraldton lies Northampton which shares with Geraldton the distinction of having been a terminus of the first Government railway built in Western Australia. It was opened to traffic in 1879, its chief freight being copper and lead from the mines at Northampton for shipment ex Geraldton.

As a mining centre Northampton ranks as perhaps the oldest of importance in Western Australia. Records of production go back to 1842. About 40 years ago it went into a decline, but the recent revival of lead mining has restored some of its old-time activity. The railway runs on north to Ajana, a wheatgrowing district. Another important wheat centre north of Geraldton is Yuna, which is served by a spur from the Geraldton-Ajana line. Geraldton's



Baling hay on Greenough River Flats

reputation for wheat is largely founded on the yields from Greenough—the flats of which are remarkably fertile and attracted settlement in the early days of the colony.

South along the coast is Dongara, which nowadays is known for its crayfish. It seems to be widely accepted that there are no better “crays” in Western Australia than those that come from here. South of Geraldton, and linking it with the capital, Perth, about 300 miles away, are two railway systems, one owned by the Midland Railway Company, and the other by the Government.

The Midland line is the only privately-owned passenger railway in the State. In consideration of land grants by the Government the line was financed by English capital and opened for traffic in 1894. It passes through some magnificent wheat and sheep country, in which have been established such thriving towns as Dongara, Mingenew, Three Springs and Carnamah. The extension eastwards of the wheatbelt, and the growing traffic between the Murchison Goldfields and Perth, led the Government to construct a line from Goomalling to Mullewa in 1911. The average distance separating the two railways for most of their length is between 30 and 40 miles. Substantial towns that have sprung up on the Government line are Morawa, Perenjori and Wubin.

The Murchison Goldfields, which cover a vast area, lie north-east of the wheatbelt, and have been responsible for about 25 per cent of Western Australia's gold production. Over 200,000 ounces

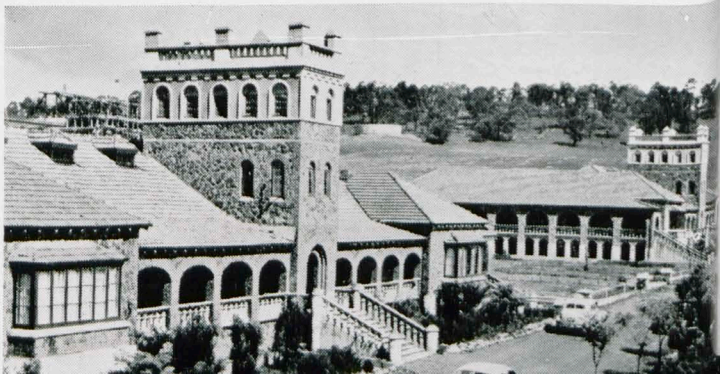


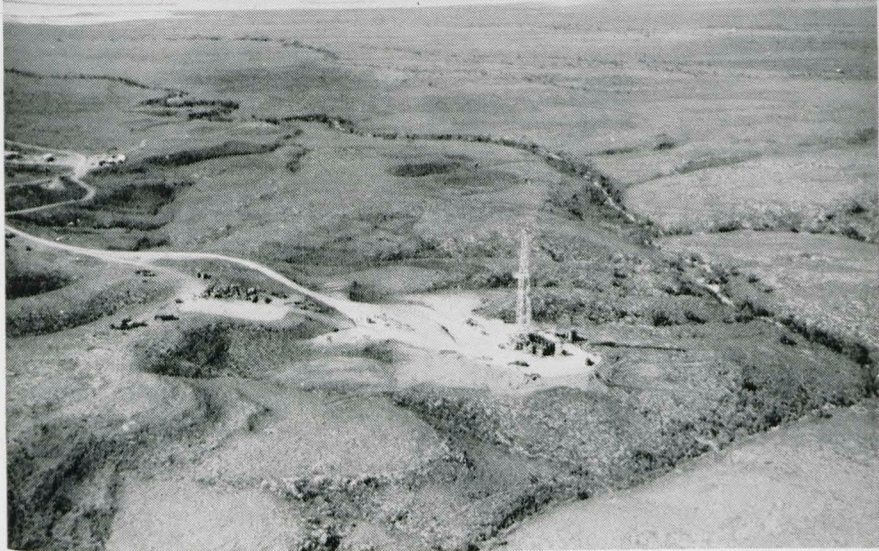
Fishing boats, Geraldton

have come from the Yalgoo district where gold was first discovered at Yuin in 1890. Mt Magnet, once an important centre, is undergoing a revival, the chief activity in this area being operations at the Hill 50 Mine, Boogardie. North of Mt. Magnet is Cue. At the beginning of the century some big mines existed in this locality. The Great Fingall at Day Dawn, three miles away, was one of the State's most famous mines. Fifteen miles out from Cue is the Big Bell mine, working one of the largest reefs in the State on the open-cut principle. Nannine yielded gold as far back as 1891, but is now like Sandstone, Wiluna, and Meekatharra only a shadow of its former self. Mining is an industry that suffers extremely from the whirligigs of time. Meekatharra, which produced nearly a million ounces of gold, is now dependent on the pastoral industry, and Wiluna, which produced a million and a half ounces, is now devoting attention to the growing of peanuts. Across from the Murchison Goldfields, in the orbit of the Eastern Goldfields, are the well-known old mining towns of Leonora, Laverton and Menzies.

At Leonora is the Sons of Gwalia, probably the most famous mine in the State. This mine has been worked continuously since 1897. Its shaft is of record length for Western Australia being nearly 5,000ft. on the underlay. Laverton's principal mine is the Lancefield. In the boom days of the early 90's Menzies was an important and prosperous centre, now it is but a small place with a few prospectors working in the district.

*Boys'
Town,
Bindoon*

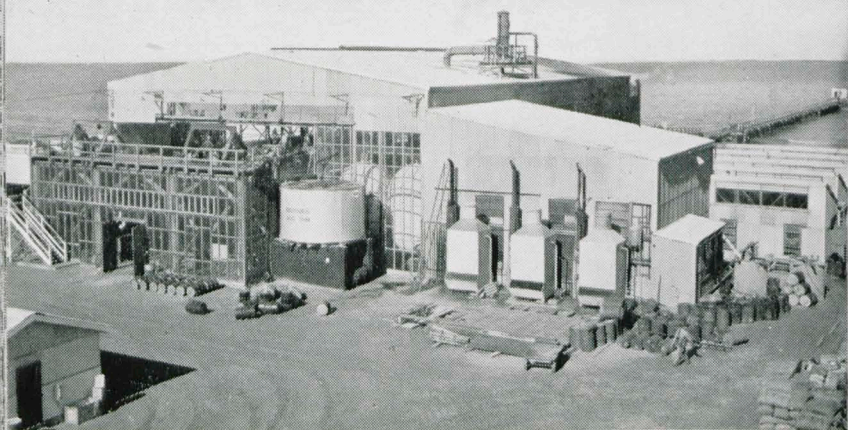




Learmonth, scene of Australia's first oil discovery

Lower North-West

OF the entire Australian coastline the stretch between the 26th and 20th parallels relating to the Lower North-West has a richer history than any other. A visit by a Dutchman, Dirk Hartog, in 1616, is an established fact, but there is evidence—although not sufficient to satisfy historians—of calls by Portuguese and others during the previous century. Dirk Hartog Island, south of Carnarvon, was discovered and named by the celebrated Dutch navigator. This island helps to form Shark Bay which was named by Dampier when he landed there on his second visit to Western Australia in 1699. Just off the mainland is Babbage Island, which is connected by bridge with Carnarvon—the principal town on this coast. A whaling station is established on the island, and each season about 600 whales are processed. In addition to whaling, Carnarvon—an airport on the Perth-Darwin route—is the outlet for the Gascoyne pastoral areas and banana plantations. Twenty or thirty years ago Western Australia imported its bananas from the Eastern States. The Carnarvon fruit however has captured this trade and now provides the Gascoyne growers with an annual income of over £250,000. Carnarvon handles more wool than any of the northern ports, and the district provides some of the finest merino wool grown in the Commonwealth. The next place of interest northwards, Point Cloates, is a well-known whaling station. It was first established on a modern basis in 1913



Australian Whaling Commission's station, Carnarvon

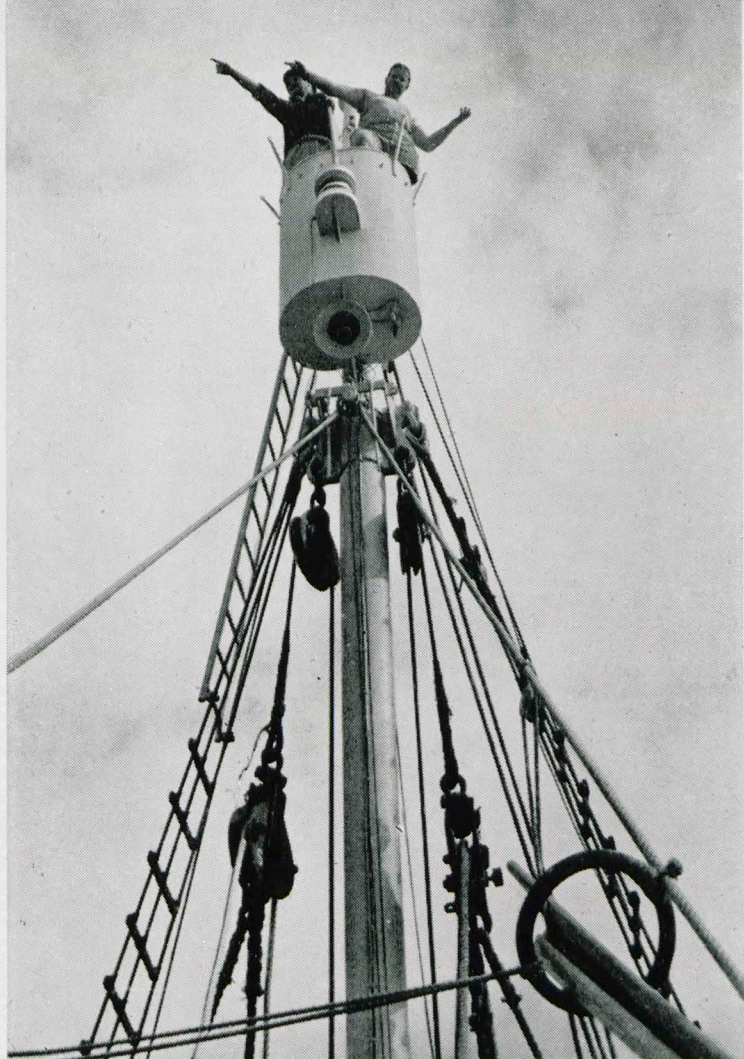
by a Norwegian company. The whales seen in these parts are of the humpback species, and migrate for a season along this coast from their home waters in the Antarctic.

Learmonth, on Exmouth Gulf, played an important role in World War II as an American base. Known as "Potshot," it was bombed by the Japanese.

It is now in the limelight because of discovery of oil in the first bore put down. American interests, with State and Commonwealth backing, are drilling at Learmonth, and if the expectations of the oil experts and investors are realised, Learmonth will boom and all Australians will experience a new sense of independence and nationhood. Further along the coast is Onslow, now world-famous as the port which Britain used as a base to prepare for the explosion at the Monte Bello Islands on October 3, 1952, of its first atomic bomb. The islands are 85 miles to the north-west of Onslow. In its early history Onslow was a pearling centre, and with the growth of the pastoral industry it developed as a shipping port for wool. It also serves the Ashburton Goldfields which produce gold, copper, and lead. Of recent times old mines have been re-opened and new ones discovered. The next spot of interest in a

Whale flensing, Carnarvon





Whale spotting, Carnarvon

northerly direction is Point Samson, which has superseded Cossack as the port for Roebourne which is 13 miles inland. Cossack was only a lighterage port—ships' passengers sometimes were landed in coal baskets—but Point Samson has a jetty which extends into deep water. Roebourne, like Learmonth, is a place that may suddenly expand. It is the gateway to an extensive pastoral area, and to the Hamersley Ranges. Throughout the West Pilbara Goldfield, for

*Whales
near
Carnarvon*



which Roebourne is the port, there is optimism regarding its mineral resources which include gold, copper, lead, and asbestos, and to which it is hoped uranium will some day be added. Beyond Roebourne is Whim Creek, an early mining centre from which a large amount of copper was produced. The original mine was on a location alienated in the very early days when all minerals were sold with the land, and is therefore one of the very few "private" mines in Western Australia. The last port of the Lower North-West is Port Hedland, an airport on the Perth-Darwin route and a base for the Flying Doctor service. Some maps show a railway running inland to the mining town of Marble Bar. This was the only railway in the northern half of Western Australia, but of recent years it was discontinued and its place taken by a well-made road. Port Hedland serves the big woolgrowing and cattle-raising De Grey district, the mining towns of Marble Bar and Nullagine, and the Pilbara Goldfield generally. Marble Bar, which has the reputation of being the hottest town in Australia, is the centre of mining activities of great variety. Among minerals mined are gold, tin, tantalite, columbite, beryl, and tungsten. The Pilbara field, like the West Pilbara, is a pegmatite area with prospects of radio-active minerals being found there.

*Banana
plantation,
Carnarvon*





Bananas, Carnarvon

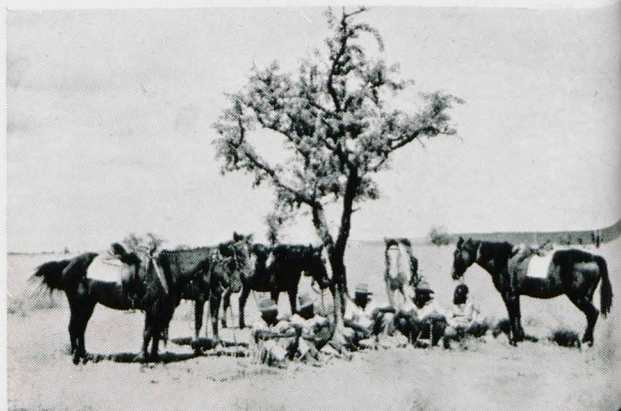


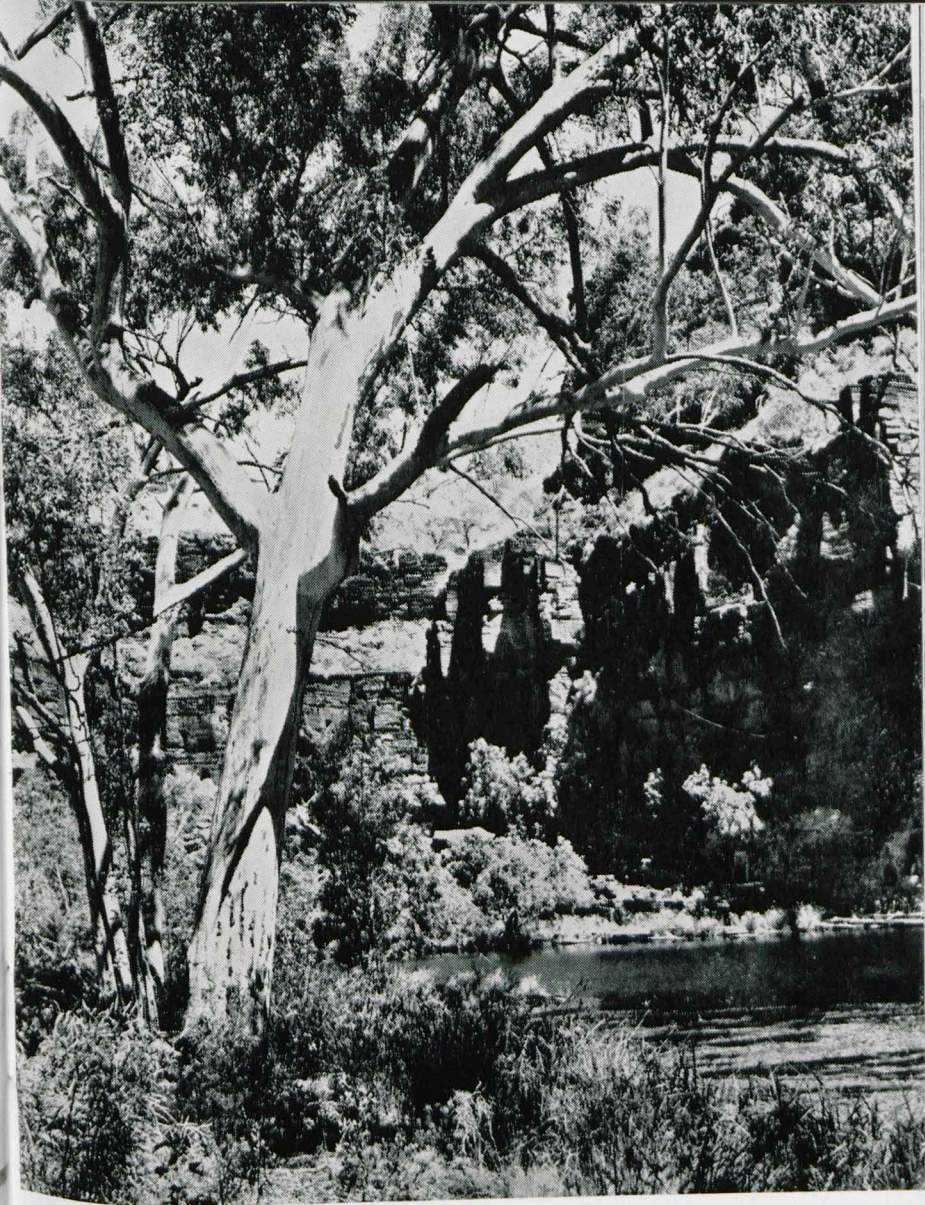
Carawire Pool near Marble Bar, Australia's hottest town

Braeside, a mining locality about 100 miles east of Marble Bar, is producing silver-lead and manganese. Nullagine, one of the old names in mining annals, has a landing ground, and aircraft call there on the route from Port Hedland to Perth. Minerals found in this district are gold, antimony, wolfram, and tungsten.

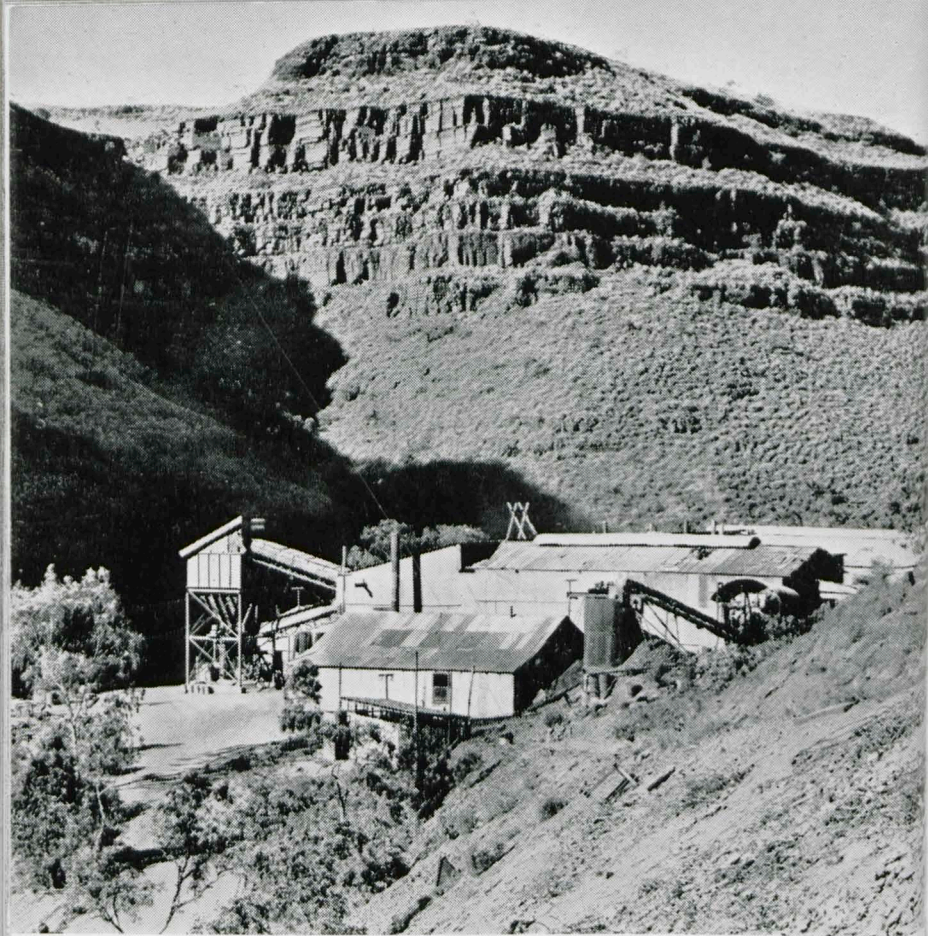
South-west of Nullagine are the Hamersley Ranges which contain the highest peak in the State—Mt. Bruce (4,024ft.). Situated in these ranges is Wittenoom, a new town with a population of about 800. A good road of about 200 miles connects it with Roebourne, which is the nearest port. It is also connected to Perth by air-route. The explanation for Wittenoom's sudden development is that in a nearby gorge is one of the world's largest deposits of blue asbestos. Mining operations last year yielded 2,940 tons of asbestos valued at over £500,000, and even better results are indicated for this

*Native
stockmen
take a spell*





Hamersley Range



Blue asbestos workings, Eamersley Range

year. Well down south, a long way inland and near to the 26th parallel is Peak Hill, which in its heyday was the centre of a flourishing goldfield. It is now more notable for a huge manganese deposit some 20 miles away, and for a chromite deposit at Coobina, about 175 miles north-east.

The Lower North-West covers 242,000,000 acres, and although probably two-thirds of it—the central and eastern portions—are arid desert country there is enough left to sustain a great population when people are ready to go there. It's a land of heat and occasional cyclones, of rivers that are dry for most of the year and flooded in the wet season, but it is a land of riches and alluring resources.



Aerial view of Kimberleys between Glenroy and Wyndham

The Kimberleys

THE Kimberleys, picturesque, romantic, challenging, are spread over a hundred million acres and lie to the north, more than a thousand miles from Perth.

Overlanding cattle in the Kimberleys



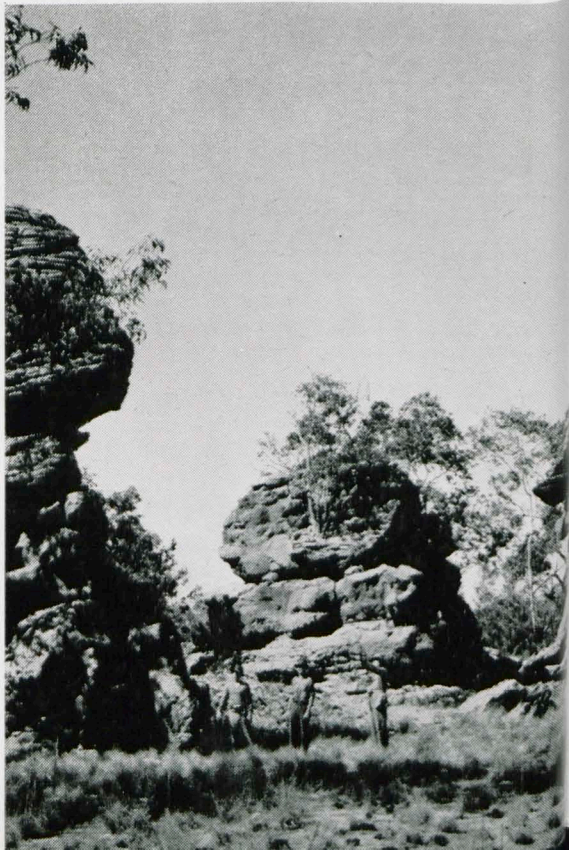
To their coast in 1688, under pressure of circumstances, came the first Englishman to set foot on Australia—William Dampier, adventurer and navigator. (Nearly a hundred years passed before Captain Cook discovered the eastern coastline of the continent.)

In commemoration of Dampier's visit there is at Broome, the pearling port and the best-known town in the Kimberleys, a monument in the form of a granite sea-chest.

The ship which first bore Dampier to this coast was a private vessel named "Cygnet." The bay in King Sound, near Broome, where the ship went into hiding and was careened is called Cygnet Bay; islands off the Sound are known as Buccaneer Archipelago.

Explorers who traversed the Kimberleys during the last century and made possible the settlement and progress of today included Lieut. George Grey, who afterwards was knighted and became in turn Governor of South Australia, of South Africa and of New Zealand.

*Rock formation on
Cockatoo Sands, a
plain 80 miles
from Wyndham*



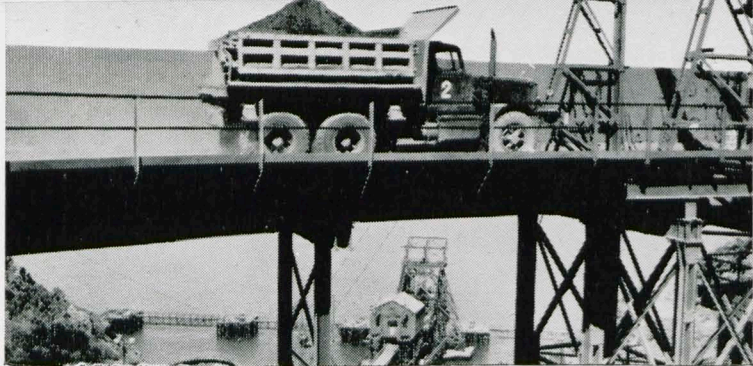


Windginna Gorge, Napier Range

Another notable was Mr. Alexander Forrest, brother of Lord Forrest, who crossed from Beagle Bay to Daly Waters in the Northern Territory and reported the existence of 250,000,000 acres of attractive pastoral country between the Fitzroy and the Ord Rivers.

Publicity given to Forrest's views and impressions of the Kimberleys led to big-scale settlement by cattlemen who came from all over Australia.

For instance, about 1880, two brothers named McDonald left Goulburn, New South Wales, with 700 head of cattle which they drove overland to the Fitzroy River. They covered 3,500 miles and took three and a half years to complete the journey.



Transporting iron ore to the crusher at Yampi

The best known of the Kimberley pioneers were the Duracks, who left their properties in Queensland early in 1883 with mobs totalling 7,000 head of cattle. Four parties, led by John, Patrick, and Michael Durack, and Thomas Kilfoyle, took two years and eight months to travel the 2,500 miles to the Ord River.

The arrival of surveyors, cattlemen, and others led to gold discoveries. During the height of the gold boom, 1886, about 2,000 miners were at work in an area which had the town of Hall's Creek for its headquarters.

As a result of the goldfields activity Wyndham was established as a port and Government officials were stationed there. Although the field did not come up to expectations, it proved that Western Australia was a gold bearing country and greatly encouraged prospecting in other parts of the State, notably in Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie—now known throughout the world as The Golden Mile.

Pearling, one of the most glamorous and fascinating of industries, was for many years the principal activity at Broome. In fact, Broome was a pearl's city, the base, at one time for about 300 luggers and schooners.

Pearl diving at Broome





Loading beef for transport from Glenroy to Wyndham

At its height the industry attracted to Broome a population of over 6,000, mostly Asiatics—all the races of the Orient being represented there. Over the years pearling has brought millions of pounds to Western Australia.

Geological reports favour the Kimberleys as a source of petroleum. The Ord River basin and the Bonaparte Gulf basin are considered to have possibilities. Some showings of oil were reported in a shallow water well 200 miles south-east from Derby in 1919, and bituminous residues were reported in rock outcrops in the Ord River Valley a few years later. For some years an oil company has been drilling for oil at Nerrima, about 50 miles south-east of Derby.

One of the greatest enterprises in the Kimberleys is the working of the deposits of iron ore at Cockatoo Island, Yampi Sound. About £1,000,000 was spent on installing machinery, constructing a jetty, and building a township on this island. These preparations took four years. Today the ore is blasted down from a quarry face and transported to a crushing plant, it then goes to a storage bin and by means of conveyor belts to a jetty where it is loaded on to ships. Ore from Cockatoo Island ultimately finds its way to blast furnaces at Newcastle and Port Kembla, New South Wales.

At Glenroy Station in the heart of the Kimberleys, an experiment in meat supply is attracting international attention. An inland abattoir has been established and chilling chambers erected. Cattle are slaughtered, dressed, chilled, and sent by plane to the Wyndham meatworks, from where the carcasses are shipped overseas.

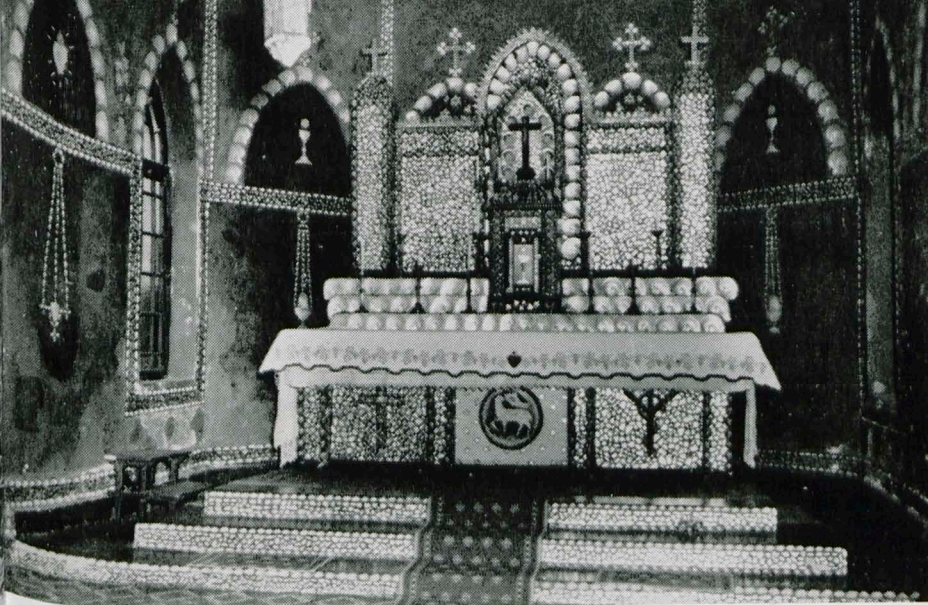


Cutting sugar cane on the Kimberley Research Station

This arrangement takes the place of the old practice of droving cattle from the stations overland to the meatworks on the coast. The chief disadvantages of droving were that cattle lost weight, and only matured animals were able to stand the journey.

Because of the Kimberleys lack of development and population, the Government about 40 years ago had to ensure transport, and so a publicly-owned shipping service was established. There are now four State vessels on this run.

Another Government enterprise in the interests of the cattle industry was the construction of State meatworks at Wyndham. Among modern developments of great value to the people of the Kimberleys is the Flying Doctor Service. It has meant that though living in isolation, without telephones or good roads, persons can, in case of sickness or accident, use a "transceiver" radio and get in touch with the Flying Doctor base at Wyndham.



*Mother-of-pearl altar at
Beagle Bay Native Mission*

The Dampier Memorial, Broome

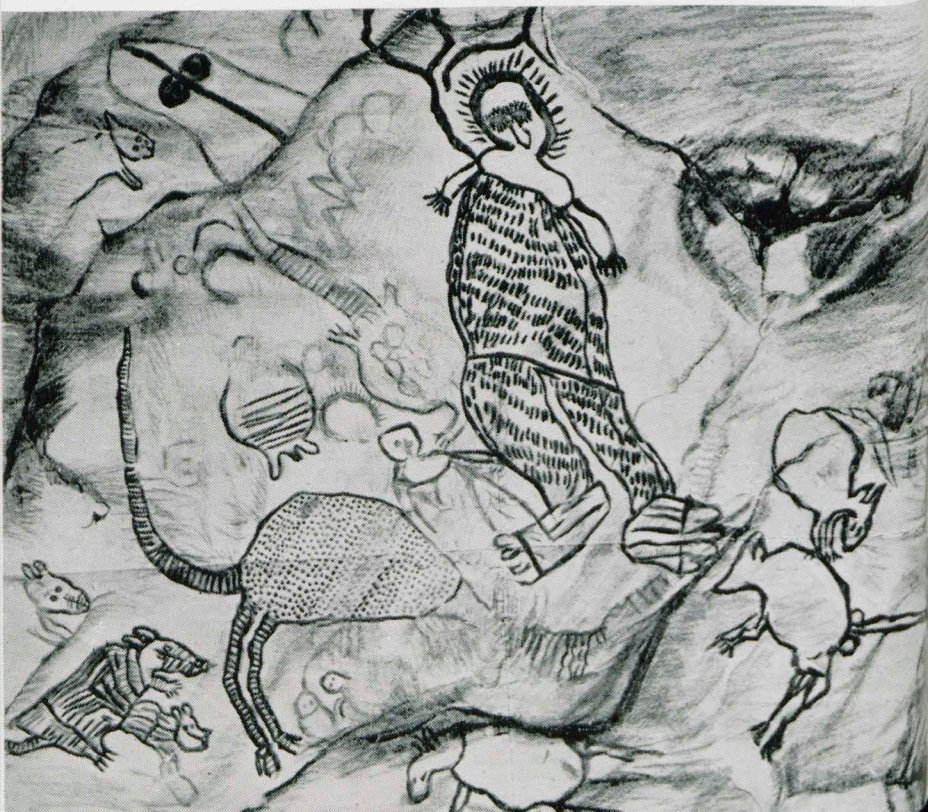


At each of the stations where there is a "transceiver" there is also a medicine chest, the contents of which are numbered. From Wyndham, upon a case being described and diagnosed, medicine is prescribed. If the case is not one for this kind of treatment the doctor flies to the patient and if necessary the patient is taken back in the plane to the hospital at Wyndham.

Of recent years the aeroplane and the radio have spread to every part of the Kimberleys, breaking the isolation and loneliness. These benefits—immeasurable as they are—also serve to highlight the courage and endurance of the pioneers of the Nineteenth Century who entered this untamed tropical land, bred cattle and sheep, mined for gold and other minerals, won pearls from the seas, and established outpost towns and settlements for later generation to occupy and expand.

During World War II the Kimberleys experienced air attacks by the Japanese.

Aboriginal rock and cave drawings



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