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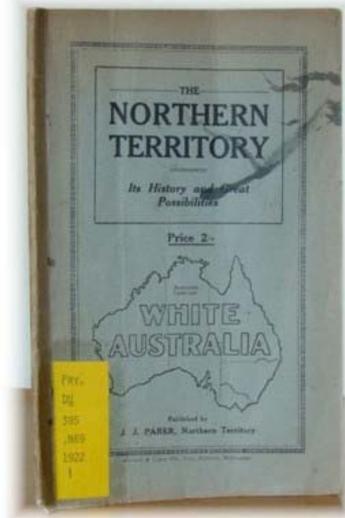
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Northern Territory: Its History and Great Possibilities

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THE
NORTHERN
TERRITORY

*Its History and Great
Possibilities*



—PUBLISHED BY—

J. J. PARER
NORTHERN TERRITORY

1922

MITCHELL & CASEY PTY. LTD., PRINTERS
25 Tattersall's Lane, Melbourne

PREFACE

IN publishing the History and Great Possibilities of the Northern Territory, I do so in the hope of letting, not only the rest of Australia know, but the outside world also, the magnificent opportunities pertaining to this vast area of Country.

I am indebted to various publications and newspapers acknowledged herein, for certain extracts and articles, and trust this little booklet will be the means of gaining many members to our Association, and also add considerably to our steadily increasing population.

J. J. PARER

The Northern Territory of Australia

Its Resources and Possibilities.

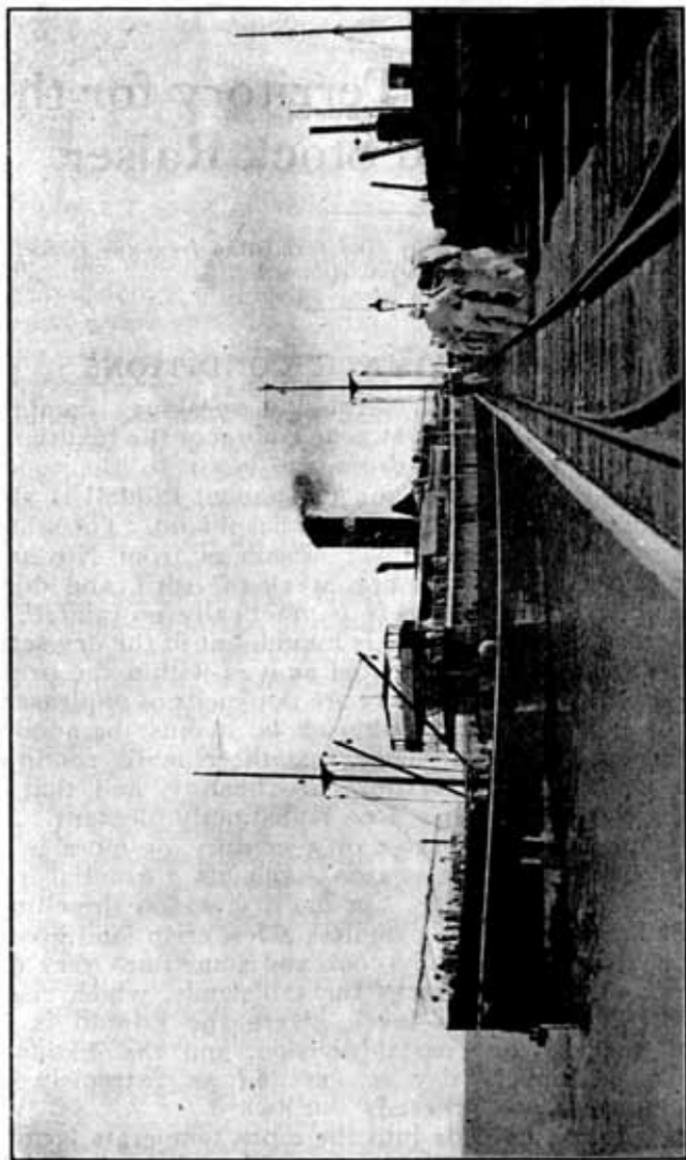
Compiled by Fred Thompson, formerly Editor "Northern Territory Times," for N.T. Progress Committee.

Despite the proud position achieved by the Australian Commonwealth among the civilised nations of the world, it is a matter for very profound regret that such a large proportion of her population is centred in the six large capital cities of Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Hobart. It is, furthermore, deplorable that this population, together with a similarly large proportion of the residents of smaller towns and the rural or agricultural districts, should be practically concentrated or centralised in the southern part of this large island continent.

The Northern Territory of Australia covers an area of 623,629 square miles, and its population, according to the last census figures, consisted of less than five thousand white people. The sparse population of the Northern Territory is mainly due to its isolation and its lack of railway communication with the southern States. At present a steamer calls once a month at Darwin on its way from Sydney to Singapore, and also calls on its way back.

The movement recently inaugurated in Darwin with the object of endeavouring to influence the investment of capital from the United States of America, and elsewhere, in the development of the natural resources of the Northern Territory, was largely actuated by the knowledge, painfully and bitterly apparent, that, unless something is done, and that speedily, to populate the empty spaces of Northern Australia,

and on the average very low. In this zone are the McDonnell Ranges, which reach an altitude of over 4000 ft., and in which there are tracts of splendid country enjoying climatic and other conditions comparable in every respect but that of isolation to the best portions of Southern Australia.



The Wharf, Darwin.

Plate 1.

A Vast Irrigation Project

A recent American magazine states:—"Millions of acres of desert land in the Colorado River Basin are to be irrigated and reclaimed if a plan advocated by the League of the South-west is adopted. This territory of 250,000 square miles, said to contain seven to nine million acres of rich agricultural land, now has a population of but two persons to the square mile. The men who are pushing the reclamation plan say that, properly irrigated and developed, it could support ninety million people. Congress is to be asked to enact laws that will enable the people of the South-west, at their own expense, to take the first step in this important project, by building, under Government supervision and control, a great dam at Boulder Canon, near Las Vegas Nevada. This monster dam to harness to the uses of man the mighty Colorado River, would be 700 feet high—as high as the Woolworth Buildings in New York!—and 300 feet wide. The reservoir formed by the dam would be the largest artificial lake in the world, with an area of 1400 square miles, and an average depth of 350 feet. The dam's estimated cost is one hundred million dollars, and its building would support between twenty-five and fifty thousand people for twenty-five years. In addition to furnishing water power and irrigating land now arid, the building of the dam would each year save communities along the lower reaches of the Colorado River millions of dollars of property loss caused by spring floods.

A scheme of this kind successfully carried out would at once solve the problem of the Northern Territory. It would also do much to safeguard the "White Australia" policy by establishing in our midst a large and thriving white population and thereby bringing about means towards the ultimate salvation of one-fifth of Australia by giving the needed justification for a vigorous policy of railway construction and a more satisfactory steamship service to the Southern States and to the Orient.—"The Northern Standard."

Conclusion

Having travelled extensively in the Northern Territory, from South to North, and from West to East, as a member of the Federal Public Works Committee, I must say that the country traversed is, generally speaking, a really good country. The general impression that the Territory is a dry and sandy area is entirely groundless, and the opportunities that I saw for water conservation and irrigation are almost boundless.

Since my return I have delivered a number of lectures on our trip, and, without exception, I have been told by those who have seen the pictures and heard the story that their ideas of the Territory have been turned right over. When one considers the boundless possibilities from a pastoral point of view, and, coupled with that, the enormous tracts of mineral country extending from the Macdonnells to Tennant's Creek, a distance of 400 miles, and in the far North at Pine Creek and Maranboy, one must realise what a great heritage is ours.

In addition, rice and cotton growing are within easy possibility. But the Territory needs a bold policy. It is one for the engineer and the scientist, and it is the duty of the Federal Government to see that such a scheme is initiated. I have no hesitation in saying, after meeting so many people resident all over its area, that the Territory is a white man's and a white woman's country, and that we are capable of its development.

From a mineral standpoint, we have only scratched its surface, and, with our experience in practically all the other States, it is most reasonable to suppose that almost untold wealth awaits a future generation. Let us strain every effort to let the world know what a wonderful opportunity awaits the pioneer in an area of over half-a-million square miles; let us denounce at every turn those who decry the Territory, giving the facts which we know to combat the statements of those who, in most instances, speak of that which they do not know.

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- Don't just search for names. Search the book for other names, places and subjects of interest:
 - look for others of the same name
 - look for others who lived in the same place or street
 - who was the postmaster or police officer in the town?
 - how often and at what time did the coach arrive in town?
 - what churches were there and what time were services held?
 - what other activities were there in the community?
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