

AUSTRALIA.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

DESCRIPTION.—This colony was formerly called Swan River Settlement. It comprises an area of 975,824 square miles, lying between South Australia and the Indian Ocean. The population of the country, in comparison to its area, is insignificant, containing only about 30,000 souls, of which about 7,000 live in Perth, the capital, which is situated at the mouth of Swan River.

LAND.—The lowest upset price of Crown land fit for agriculture is fixed by Act of Parliament at £1 per acre, and the lowest upset price of pastoral lands at a sum equal to 12 years' rental, but not less than 5s. per acre. Emigrants who have been selected as eligible persons by the appointed Agents in England, are allowed plots of land on very advantageous terms, inasmuch as if he pays the full cost of his family's passage out, a warrant, which will entitle the holder to receive from the Immigration Agent at Tasmania an order for Crown land to the value of £18 for each member of the family above 15 years of age, and £9 for each member above 12 months and under 15 years old; and these land-orders will be received by the Government as payment for any Crown lands that the emigrant may buy after his arrival. The Act also empowers the Immigration Board to permit any persons from Europe or India, who has paid his own and family's passage-money, to demand, within a year after his arrival in the colony, a certificate to select 30 acres of land for himself, 20 for his wife (providing he has one), and 10 for each child.

CLIMATE, SOIL, AND PRODUCTIONS.—The climate is exceedingly healthy, although varying considerably from its northern to its southern extremity: the northern portion of the colony being at times very hot, though tempered with cool and refreshing winds. The chief products are wheat, oats, barley, hay, fruits, and timber, of which there are several valuable varieties. Amongst these may be named the jarrah (a species of mahogany), tuart, kari and sandal wood. On the fertile tracts of soil the orange, peach, almond, banana, grape, olive, and figs are cultivated.

MINERALS.—Magnetic iron, lead, copper, and zinc ores are found in large quantities.

EXPORTS.—The principal exports are wool, jarrah timber, lead, copper ore, whale oil, guano, sandal wood, pearls, &c.

AVERAGE RATE OF WAGES, COST OF LIVING, &c.—The rates of wages are:—Labourers, from £18 to £50 per annum; carpenters, 7s. to 10s. per day; masons, 7s.; printers, 6s. to 8s.; boat-builders, 8s. to 10s.; brewers, 6s. to 8s.; coach-builders, 7s. to 10s.; navvies, 7s.; and painters, 7s. to 10s. Tailors and shoemakers are paid by the piece. The cost of living is low, and as there is no great influx of new settlers, houses can be rented more reasonably than in the adjacent colonies.

This colony is not represented by a resident agent in Great Britain.

Western Australia is reached either by sailing vessels direct, or by the Orient Line of steamships to Melbourne, and thence by Colonial vessels.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

DESCRIPTION.—South Australia extends from the Southern to the Indian Ocean, and contains an area of 903,690 square miles. The population is about 275,000, and Adelaide, the capital, contains about 38,000 souls.