

FOREWORD

THE Author of this book, Sir Charles Wade, K.C., writes with singular authority on Australia and Australian problems. At present Agent-General in London for the State of New South Wales, he was Premier of that State for three years, and for a much longer time a foremost figure in its public life. In addition to being a distinguished Australian, he is an Oxford man and a barrister of the Inner Temple. He therefore thoroughly understands the conditions of the Mother Country as well as those of his native land; he brings legal training and knowledge to bear upon constitutional and industrial questions, and his high character and fair-mindedness are a guarantee for the accuracy of his statements and the sincerity of his views. His predecessor, Sir Timothy Coghlan, has lately given us, in his most valuable four volumes on *Labour and Industry in Australia*, an exhaustive and standard history of the island continent from the first British settlement in New South Wales to the establishment of the Commonwealth. The present book is an excellent complement to the longer work, giving in compact form what may be called an Imperial study of the main features of latter-day Australia, as it has been shaped by the colonizing British race, and of that race as it has been shaped by Australia. The problems which Australians have handled are the problems which are now facing us in the United Kingdom—social and industrial questions, State utilities, land settlement, and so forth. It is true that they present less difficulty in a new country unhampered by centuries of law, custom, and tradition, and that the great spaces of Australia afford infinitely more elbow-room for experiments in living