

NEW SOUTH WALES.

DESCRIPTION.—This was the first British colony established in Australia, and originally embraced the counties now known as Tasmania, Victoria, and Queensland, which are now thriving independent colonies possessing Governments of their own. Its area is about three times the size of Great Britain. In 1882, New South Wales contained a population of 758,000 souls, including 223,554, which is the population of Sydney, the capital, on the shores of Port Jackson.

LAND.—Land may be purchased at or under 20s. an acre, and is generally sold by auction, the sum mentioned being the upset price; if, however, it should not be sold, it can be bought afterwards at the upset price. Again, land may be purchased by what is called "conditional sale," by which anyone can make a written application to purchase not less than 40 nor more than 340 acres; a deposit of 5s. per acre must be sent with the application. The ground selected for purchase must be within some distance from a town or suburbs, say from two to ten miles, according to the number of the inhabitants of the nearest village or town; at the end of three years and three months the purchaser may pay off the whole sum due upon the ground, or he can defer the payment as long as he chooses by paying 5 per cent. upon the money due. He is bound to make certain improvements upon the land within a given time, that is to say he cannot purchase the land and allow it to remain totally uncultivated. Leases of pasture land may be had in the settled districts at £2 per square mile. The land under farm cultivation is about 636,000 acres, about 20,000 acres being devoted to gardens and orchards.

CLIMATE, SOIL, AND PRODUCTIONS.—This colony possesses a fine climate, and (except in a few localities) it is unnecessary to house live stock at any season of the year. The soil is generally good, and, beside the ordinary farm products, Indian corn, sugar-cane, arrowroot, grapes, oranges, and various other kinds of fruits grow freely.

MINERALS.—Gold has been obtained in very large quantities, and it is to its auriferous deposits that the colony principally owes its rapid increase. There are large areas of coal-beds along the sea coast, much of it lying near the surface. Copper mining is also profitably worked.

EXPORTS.—The chief exports of New South Wales are gold, copper, coal, wheat, wool, wine, and fruits.

AVERAGE RATE OF WAGES, COST OF LIVING, &c.—The average rate of wages for carpenters, smiths, wheelwrights, bricklayers, and masons was from 9s. to 11s. per diem without board and lodging, and from £80 to £126 per annum with board and lodging. Farm labourers and shepherds receive from £35 to £45 per annum, with board and lodging. Female domestic servants from £20 to £30; and good cooks from £35 to £52, with board and lodging. Clothing and house rent is somewhat dearer than in England, but great facilities are offered to steady men for acquiring houses of their own. Single men can board respectably at £1 per week.

New South Wales is reached by the Orient Line of steamers, carrying passengers from London to Sydney at the same fares as to Melbourne.

Assisted passages are granted to farm labourers and their families, to certain classes of mechanics and female domestic servants, respecting which full particulars may be learnt on application to the Agent-General for New South Wales, 3, Victoria Chambers, London, S.W.