

# Government Land Regulations.

The present Land Regulations, which were passed by the Legislative Council in 1886, came into force on the 2nd of March, 1887.

For the purposes of the Regulations, the Colony is divided into six Divisions:

## The South-West Division.

"	Gascoyne	"
"	North-West	"
"	Kimberley	"
"	Eucla	"
"	Eastern	"

### 1.—THE SOUTH-WEST DIVISION.

This Division contains 67,000 square miles, and comprises, as regards climate, the most temperate part of Western Australia. It was the portion of the Colony first settled, and is that in which about four-fifths out of the whole population now reside.

The South-Western corner is heavily timbered, and is well watered and capable of supporting a large population. It is generally an undulating country, and, with the exception of the Darling Range and a few others, has no extensive mountain ranges.

Numerous rivers enter the coast within this Division, but they are all very short, and merely drain the country within 100 miles of the coast.

The work and expense of clearing the land has proved very laborious and very great, but, when once the ground is properly prepared, a good crop can be depended upon.

In its natural state it takes about 10 acres to keep a sheep, but with clearing and improving it will keep a sheep to two acres, and in choice places a sheep to one acre.

The climate is very good, and the rainfall varies from 19 inches in the Northern and 15 inches in the Eastern, to 43 and 32 inches respectively in the South-Western and Southern portions of the Division.

The average temperature in the North is about 66deg., to the Eastward 63deg., on the West Coast 63deg., and on the South Coast 58deg.

The average temperature, however, for the Division, taken as a whole, is 61deg., while the average rainfall amounts to 26.50 inches.

The rent required by the Crown per 1,000 acres for pastoral purposes is £1 per annum.

### 2.—THE GASCOYNE DIVISION.

This Division contains an area of 133,000 square miles.

The country is, in its present state, only suitable for pastoral purposes, and has been proved to be healthy for all kinds of stock. It is fairly well watered, and is capable of much improvement by fencing the land and conserving and sinking for water. It is generally a very flat country.

Included in this division is the rich Murchison Goldfield.

The climate is good, though the heat is great in the summer.

The average temperature is 72deg., while the average rainfall is 7.50 inches.

The Murchison and Gascoyne Rivers, and their tributaries, drain this important Division.

The rent required per 1,000 acres is 10s. per annum.

### 3.—THE NORTH-WEST DIVISION.

This Division contains 81,000 square miles. It is a rich pastoral Division consisting of well grassed plains intersected by bold ranges and hills covered with triodia in most cases. It is capable in the best portions, when fenced in, of carrying a sheep to two acres.

It is fairly well watered, and stock thrive and increase satisfactorily.

The climate is healthy, but the heat in summer is great.

Average temperature 76.5 deg.; average rainfall 9.60 inches.

The Pilbarra Goldfield is within this Division, and is yielding an increasing quantity of gold.

Land rents are for 1,000 acres 10s. per annum.

### 4.—THE KIMBERLEY DIVISION.

This Division contains an area of 144,000 square miles. The two principal rivers are the Fitzroy, emptying into King Sound, and the Ord emptying into Cambridge Gulf.

The coast line between King Sound and Cambridge Gulf has been lately surveyed by the Admiralty but the country bordering the coast is unknown.

The Kimberley Goldfields, situated at the watershed of the Fitzroy and the Ord, have attracted considerable notice, and it is certain will eventually prove to be very valuable; owing, however, to their distance from either of the two Ports, Wyndham and Derby, and the great expense of transport, provisions, and the want of suitable labour, they have not thus far had a fair chance of development.

A telegraph line connects Derby and the Goldfield with Perth, and the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company's alternative Cable lands at Roebuck Bay.

There is magnificent country in this division for both sheep and cattle, which, especially the latter, thrive remarkably well, and in the future this portion of the Colony is likely to be a great source of a meat supply for export or home consumption.

The climate is fairly good, though trying, on account of the heat. The land on the alluvial plains is very rich, and, with irrigation, suitable for tropical culture.

Average temperature 83.5 deg.; average rainfall 18.75 inches.

Land rents are similar to those in the North-West Division.

### 5.—THE EUCLA DIVISION.

This Division contains 59,000 square miles, and is almost unoccupied. That portion eastward of Point Culver is very badly watered, and, with the exception of a few places along the coast, it is altogether destitute of permanent water.

The country between the Fitzgerald River and Point Culver is fairly watered and moderately grassed.

The country North of Eucla is an elevated plateau, splendidly grassed and well suited for stock if permanent water could be obtained.

With the exception of a small fringe along the coast this Division is unoccupied, and, unless water is conserved, must remain so.

Average temperature 61deg.; average rainfall 15.90 inches.

Rents in this division are, as follows: For lands West from Point Culver 10s. per annum; and East from Point Culver 5s. per annum for 1,000 acres.

### 6.—THE EASTERN DIVISION.

This immense Division contains 491,920 square miles, and comprises the interior of Western Australia.

The Yilgarn Goldfields, which lie within this Division are amply fulfilling the hopes originally entertained as to their permanency and richness.

Average temperature 63deg., and rainfall 10.19 inches.

The land rent required is 2s. 6d. per 1,000 acres for first seven years, 5s. for the remainder of the lease.