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CHAPTER XIV

SEPARATION AND SELF-GOVERNMENT ATTAINED

In the forties and fifties of last century the squatters dominated the political scene (such as it was) as obviously as the trade unions dominated the first half of the present century. A table of exports from Brisbane quoted by J. J. Knight is illuminating in this regard. For the year ending 31 July 1844 the exports were: 150 tierces of beef, 450 hides, 1,998½ bales of wool, 296 casks of tallow, 3,458 sheepskins; with nothing additional except 3,418 feet of pine boards and a small quantity of fruit. The pastoral invasion crept steadily forward year by year.

In the Central District, the first squatters had been the Archers, originally of Durundur, close friends of Leichhardt, who told them of the Fitzroy River. They decided to trek overland from Coonambula to Gracemere, in the Fitzroy Valley, July 1855, and they took up 900 square miles of the best country there, rejecting possibilities in the Maranoa area.

They were followed at once by two big groups of squatters, one trekking overland with their flocks, as Charles Archer had done in 1855, and the other party arriving at the Fitzroy River by boat—as Colin Archer had done in that same year.

By 1861 all the best land in the district was taken up.

The first to come after the Archers were William Elliott and his nephew George Elliott, who trekked north in 1855 with 4,000 sheep and camped on the Gracemere run, where, incidentally, their camp was attacked by aborigines. It was not until April 1856, however, that the Elliotts took up the Canoona and Tiptal runs for themselves.

Before this, William Young had taken up his Mount Larcombe Station (29 May 1855); and in 1855 Colin Campbell Mackay with his partner Mackenzie put 10,000 sheep on Morinish—at the northern end of Gracemere holding. In 1857 P. F. MacDonald went up river as far as Yamba and took up Yemanappoo. (Not all squatters took up runs permanently.) Dan Conner, formerly of Rio, took up Marlborough, Princhester, and Willangie Stations, and finally Collaroy, but Henning purchased Marlborough from him, and Van Wessem purchased Princhester, and Willangie was sold to Angus and George Hurst. At Canoona, the Elliotts retained Tiptal, but by 1858 had sold Canoona Station to J. B. P. Hamilton Ramsay and Harry Gaden. J. A. Macartney purchased Waverley from Campbell in 1858 and remained there until 1896; J. A. Macartney also took up Glenmore in December 1858, but sold it to Ker and Clark in 1860, who in July 1861 sold it to the Birkbeck family. In 1838 the Atherton family arrived in the district, first taking up Rosewood, which they sold in 1865 to Archer & Co. They then crossed the river and John Atherton took up Mount Redlow; while James Atherton formed Adelaide Park. About the same time, the Ross family arrived, and Andrew Ross took up Balnagowan (named from his Scottish homeland). One of his sons, Robert, took up Cavaerl and, later, Tarangang on Keppel Bay; and another, James, bought Raspberry Creek from Huish (the blacks had been very troublesome there) and later took over Mulambin. These properties had a long and beautiful coastline from Yeppoon south, and extended 12-15 miles inland. Cavaerl (native name "Whoopai" meaning "emu") was later (1869) compulsorily resumed to the extent of 2,560 acres to establish "Emu Park" as a seaside resort for Rockhampton. Ross retired to Tarangang in 1870. By 1860 James Landsborough and his wife were at Raglan Station, and in 1862 they took up Langmorn, but by 1869 Thomas and George Creed had bought Langmorn. (93)

In the Mount Perry District Tenningering Station was taken up by J. and J. Landsborough in 1849. They were succeeded by Webber, who was accidentally shot by Kenneth MacKenzie, the first Clerk of Petty Sessions at Cayndah. After his tragic death the station passed to a syndicate consisting of Sanderson, Livingston, Lamont, Story and Lawson. The station then passed to H. D. Caswell, who owned Cannindah. Mount Perry Station was secured by Robert Wilson of Yenda Station when he was granted a pastoral lease in 1858.

In the Port Curtis District, Gin Gin Station, originally known as Tirroon, was taken up by William Forster and Gregory Blaxland in 1847. The latter was the youngest son of the famous Gregory Blaxland who crossed the Blue Mountains with Lawson and Wentworth. He was also uncle of Wm. Forster. Gregory Blaxland, after several encounters with the aborigines, finally lost his life to them, and Tirroon was sold to Arthur and Alfred Brown in 1850, who named it Gin Gin. Stowe was established in 1855 by Robert Bell, who also took up Downlee on Bell's Creek—called after him. Robert Bell died in 1864 and Stowe was carried on by J. S. Bell (brother) and J. Bell (son). Stowe was first a sheep station, but later when spear grass overspread the station, it was stocked up with cattle. Mount Larcom was taken up by Capt. O'Connell in 1855 and named Riverstone. The wool was shipped from the Calliope River to Gladstone. The name was later changed to Mt. Larcom after the mountain adjacent.

Carrara on the north side of the Calliope River was taken up by Charles Clark and Dugald Graham in the late 1850's. Later they bought from one of the Archers, the property known as Calliope. Rosedale Station was occupied about 1850 by the Little family, who had hoped to take up Monduran, but that was successfully claimed by William Landsborough. Further north Gwynne selected country, part of which was occupied and named Miriam Vale in 1854 by Arthur Chauvel (who was the uncle of the famous Australian soldier, Sir Harry Chauvel). The official records show that Chauvel's partner was J. Sharpe, but local records claim the name was Tolson.

The aboriginals soon attacked the station, Tolson being speared through the shoulder, and another man killed. (Bloomsfield and Cox purchased Miriam Vale in 1856, and the partnership remained intact until 1875, when Cox took Eversham Station on the Thompson River as his share of the partnership. The Bloomsfield family retained its interest in Miriam Vale until 1896.)

In the Dawson District early settlers included James Taylor in Wooleebee, February, 1849; Salvay (or Soloway) and Stephenson in the same year in Juandah; and R. Miller and John Turnbull in Kinnoull

(93) "Early Pastoral Settlement in the Coastal District of Central Queensland," thesis by V. R. de Vaux Voss—Sydney University.
in 1851. W. and C. R. Haly of Taabinga reached out as far as the head of the Dawson in 1852 and occupied Injune (then spelt Ingon). This fine property was afterwards known as Mount Hutton. Baroonah was secured by Ernest Henry (later of Cloncurry prospecting fame) in 1860. Westgrove, at the head of the Dawson River, came into the possession of John Collins and Sons about 1864, who held it until very recent years. The first occupier of Camboon was James Reid (1856). For many years it was in possession of Bell and Hyde; later it was owned solely by the Bell family. Boxvale, at the extreme head of the Dawson River (then called Baffle Creek), was taken up for Gordon Sandeman in 1862 by W. E. Parry-Okeden. Sheep were brought from Burrandowan in the Burnett district in charge of W. Biddulph, who took charge of the property. (Biddulph was related to the Hennings and Mount Playfair at the head of the Nogoa River is to-day owned by a descendant.) Later John Collins, who owned the adjoining property (Westgrove), acquired Boxvale and kept it till quite recent years.

The tender of James and Norman Leith-Hay and Thos. Holt was accepted for Banana on 2 February 1855. Walton was taken up by Joseph Thomson on 19 May 1857, who transferred it to Alex Ferguson (1858). Alex McNab secured Kianga on 31 January 1861; and John Ross, Cracow on 13 May 1856. Rannes, another property of the Leith-Hays mentioned previously, was transferred in turn to Towns and Stewart in 1859; to Andrews and J. B. Watt together in 1864; to J. B. Watt in 1866, and to J. B. Watt and M. W. Cunningham in 1884. (94)

Leichhardt’s track through what is now Taroom was shortly followed by Kingsford and Haly, who selected all the available land, calling their property “Glenhaughton.” The present “Glenhaughton,” on the Robinson River, with an area of 650 sq. miles, is one of the largest holdings in the district. It has been owned by the McConnell family of Cressbrook for seventy years and is famous for its fine Hereford cattle.

Goongurry (afterwards called Hornetbank) was taken up by Andrew Scott on 8 September 1853. His tender was not accepted until 1 April 1858 and in the meantime, in 1854, he leased the station to John Fraser. Three years later it gained a gruesome notoriety when on 27 October 1857 aboriginals massacred the Fraser family and their servants.

In the Peak Downs Area, the Archer brothers had applied for Capella, Retro and Abor in September 1854, and W. F. Kennedy was as far north as Drummond in May 1855. The Archer brothers relinquished their claim to these stations to Gordon Sandeman, who in turn sold his holding to Oscar de Satye in 1861.

Cullin-la-Ringo was taken up by P. F. MacDonald in 1859, who, in 1860, selected Emerald Downs, on which the town of Emerald now stands. Cullin-la-Ringo was sold in 1861 to H. S. Wills, a Victorian pastoralist, and this station was the scene of the most dreadful massacre of settlers by aboriginals in Australian history.

Wolfgang (1859), Logan Downs (1861) and Kilcummin (1861) were quickly settled, the two former by Charles Augustus Ker, while Kilcummin was taken up by J. A. Macartney and G. E. Mayne. Greenbush (P. F. Sellheim), Durang (C. W. Toussaint), Bungie (Hugh Robinson and Edward Wood), and Newland (Ernest Henry) were all selected in 1861. Bathampton, which is now the site of Blair Athol, was taken up by James McLaren in 1863. Bowen Downs and Budgegaga were selected by William Landsborough in October 1861. In 1862 the first cattle were brought to the Thomson River by Nat Buchanan, William Landsborough, and Cornish to Bowen Downs.
In 1844 (Bonwick) Darling Downs and Moreton Bay had respectively 26 and 17 stations with 471 free settlers, 650 horses, 13,295 cattle, and 184,651 sheep. In 1845 (Coote) the population of the County of Stanley was 2,210 (Brisbane 812, Ipswich 103, resident on stockates 452, the Darling Downs 658 and military men and officials 185). In 1846 (Lang) the number of animals had grown to 1,128 horses, 29,795 cattle, 1,158 pigs and 339,753 sheep.

The occupations of those listed in 1845 are given as: 69 commerce and trade, 213 shepherds, 54 stockmen, 54 male and 51 female “domestics” (i.e. hut-minders and hut-keepers for the shepherds and stockmen, living miles from head stations and from safety. The “domestics” were cooks, guards, night-watchmen, etc.); 182 labourers, 23 agriculturalists, 8 horticulturalists, 165 mechanics or artisans, 14 clergymen, 6 lawyers, 6 doctors, 13 “other educated persons” and 108 “miscellaneous” types; with a “residue” of 631!

Only 56 qualified for a vote, that is to say, had freehold property worth £200 clear, over encumbrances; or house rental worth £20 per annum or over. Of the 255 houses recorded, there were 41 of brick or stone, the rest being wood, and shacks, huts, and sheds were doubtless unrecorded though freely used. Of the 255 houses, however, 50 were in course of erection and 6 were empty.

The dominance of the pastoralists and their hostility to Brisbane, coupled with the indifference of Sydney, made Moreton Bay at that time like Darwin up to the ’thirties of this century. The people of Brisbane saw that unless they took united action, the recognised headquarters of the Settlement would possibly dwindle to desertion point. A few, who deserve lasting commemoration, formed the “Moreton Bay District Association,” without aid or the expectation of aid from the Government. From their subscribed funds, they fought the pastoralists (of whom Bigge alone spent £10,000 in propaganda against Brisbane!); and paid rewards for the discovery of new routes and roads, and for bridges and culverts along their course. They employed Captain Wickham and paid for the survey of Moreton Bay, mentioned previously. Their efforts were assisted by the “Moreton Bay Courier” which first appeared on 20 June 1846. The publisher, James Swan, a friend of Dr. Lang, threw his energies into the anti-transportation issue and speedily provided very vigorous public support in opposition to the squatters. On July 1846 the Government, with awakening interest, defined the boundaries of “Moreton Bay” as extending:

“from the 30th degree of south latitude in the south to the 26th degree of south latitude in the north, including with each port all inlets, rivers, bays and harbours within the same, and one league to seaward.”

This was, in fact, the seacoast extent of Dr. Lang’s “Cooksland”; it included the New England area from Grafton and Lismore, and extended as far north as Port Curtis, where the colony of North Australia was to commence (1847).

As far south as Melbourne-to-be (the Port Phillip Settlement) Moreton Bay, under the stimulus of Swan and Lang, attracted attention. The Port Phillip Patriot—itself urging separation for Victoria—reported for example:

“We observe in the shops of some of the confectioners in town, pineapples and bananas of a very superior description; these fruits are grown at Moreton Bay, to the northward of Sydney. The price demanded for the pineapples is a guinea per couple.”

As Knight says, this paragraph (that well might stir feelings of envy in present-day pineapple growers) certainly suggested that the capabilities of local soil and climate were far beyond the propaganda of pessimism of those pastoralists of Queensland, who found it expedient to declare that neither would “grow a cabbage”; and that these vast areas were fit for sheep and cattle culture exclusively.

By 1847 products for export had grown to: Bales of wool (average 350 lb. each), 3,593½; casks of tallow (4 cwt.), 968; hides, 3,129; tiersces of beef, 142; sheepskins, 12,560; staves, 27,500; cedar, 28,000 feet; pine, 54,900 feet; and bones, 2 tons.

But as primary products grew in number and quality, immigration failed to keep pace with them in either respect. Of the 7,000 assisted immigrants who came to “New South Wales” in 1848, for example, only 130 reached Moreton Bay. How history repeats itself!

As an experiment, fifty-six Chinese were tried as shepherds but they were as unreliable as the free immigrants and disappeared south. Indians were also unequal to the needs of the community and here, political delays and difficulties intervened as well.

Lang’s Timely but Thankless Struggle

In this situation Dr. Lang’s efforts at immigration were particularly timely. In the two years of his crusade in London (1846-48) he succeeded in arousing great interest among the people; great resentment among the officials; and great activity among the immigration agents, whose activities had previously led to marked abuses of the “Bounty System” and a general discrediting of unofficial schemes. Lang had brought home samples of Brisbane-grown cotton, and Manchester merchants had reported most favourably upon them, and indicated that large profits could be made by conscientious cotton growers. A sort of contest for priority of delivery of the first shipload of immigrants now began between the Land and Emigration Commissioners (supported by Lord Grey), and the “clerical agitator with the acid tongue” supported only by his enthusiasm and his private funds.

The Commissioners won by a month: on 13 December 1848 the “Artemisia,” 558 tons, Capt. Ridley, arrived in Moreton Bay with 240 souls, after a journey of 120 days: and disembarked her
emigration when properly conducted under the superintendence of the Commissioners.”

The “Chaseley” (1 May 1849), with 225 passengers, including Dr. Hobbs, Mr. and Mrs. David McConnel and many others who later contributed greatly to the advancement of the colony, was treated slightly better than the “Fortitude,” though the land grants of her passengers were similarly repudiated; and the “Lima” (34 immigrants; 3 November 1849) was the last of the ships bringing Lang’s freely selected immigrants.

Lang, himself, to whom Queensland owes so much was almost ruined financially.

J. J. Knight most truly says it was: “the one great scheme that may fairly be claimed to have set Queensland on a firm footing and which, unfortunately, at the same time, greatly helped to ruin its philanthropic projector. Indeed, the only person who lost anything at all was Dr. Lang himself though, like many others, he had accusers, who declared that he had become rich by the enterprise!”

Meanwhile a huge exodus of people to the goldfields of California (“the Forty-Niners”) had begun, and not only were Lang’s 600 immigrants—who included a large proportion of excellent artisans of varied trades—immediately employed, but 200 more were asked for! A revival of transportation was again suggested as a remedy for the labour shortage, but was violently rejected in Melbourne and Sydney where the “Randolph” and the “Hashemy” narrowly escaped dangerous rioting. The ships were sent on, and forty-five of their prisoners arrived in Brisbane and were snapped up by the squatters. A mass protest from the local anti-transportationists was ignored, and was followed by the arrival of the “Mt. Stuart Elphinstone” with 225 more convicts; while Earl Grey, the narrow-minded autocrat “with the built-in sneer,” stated that:

“Moreton Bay would be declared a place to which transported offenders would be sent, and would be separated from New South Wales for that purpose.”

Violent disputes between transportationists and anti-transportationists continued, but, in fact, Lang and the latter won, and the last vessel with convicts, the “Bangalore,” arrived in Moreton Bay on 30 April 1850. Among other things, the wrangling had made Separation a very live issue, as strongly supported in Moreton Bay as it was opposed in Sydney.

(96) Eight deaths in all had occurred among the 253 immigrants aboard the “Fortitude” in her journey of 128 days; and of these one only was from “fever.” Nemesis decreed that, on the first vessel sent by the Commissioners after the publication of this eulogistic cant concerning them (the “Emigrant”), there were to be 17 deaths from typhus on the voyage, and after 14 days in quarantine, 56 were to be found stricken and 63 convalescent. The total death-rate being some 40. Among them was Dr. Ballow himself (29 September 1850), who contracted the disease from the patients. Earl Grey, whose first vindictive letter to Sir Charles Fitzroy had hinted that the Governor should encourage any immigrant who thought he had a case, to commence an action against Dr. Lang, was oddly silent as regards comment and condolence on this occasion.

(95) One of the first fixed sites was near what is now the Rex Theatre and a tablet at the E.S. & A. Bank there commemorates the settlement.
Gold and "Gold Fever"

The discovery of gold at Bathurst in 1851 and the enormous finds at various sites in Victoria astounded the world, and almost depopulated Brisbane. The population of "New South Wales," including Victoria, on the other hand, grew, doubled, and quadrupled; Separation for Victoria followed, in 1851; and in 1855 self-government was granted to New South Wales, Tasmania, Victoria, and South Australia.

The mania for mining meanwhile had spread everywhere. Gold in traces was discovered near Brisbane and as far north as settlement went. In July 1858 W. C. Chapple, a prospector, who had extended his search across the Fitzroy River, discovered gold in payable quantities. Capt. Maurice O'Connell, sent Dr. A. C. Robertson (one of the medical men with interest and initiative who played so large a part in every aspect of pioneering in Queensland) to inspect, examine and report. Robertson returned with seven specimens of gold easily won at Canoona and stated that many other tracts lying between the Boyne (south of Gladstone) and the Fitzroy (ninety miles north of Gladstone) were auriferous to some degree. The result was fantastic—a "prodigious influx of adventurers" crowded the field and overwhelmed its resources. Sir William Denison, who had succeeded Sir Charles Fitzroy as Governor of "New South Wales," said that there were 16,000 people in Canoona, at its peak. The early comers won easy fortunes; the late comers lost everything they had; the governments of Victoria and New South Wales had to arrange with shipping firms to repatriate this destitute and near-starving remnant. Strangely enough, the discovery of gold, which might have been expected to establish Gladstone firmly, led to its permanent eclipse by a new-born rival. The city of Rockhampton grew from a nucleus on the south bank of the Fitzroy, where a rocky bar prevented navigation further upstream for the larger types of vessels. It was a point for entry and exit, more easily accessible to squatters and settlers and Gladstone was struck down, in its favour—its second misfortune.

The No-Man's Land North of Brisbane

Last of all in the pre-Separation period, the "prohibition area"

(97) Capt. (later Sir) Maurice O'Connell was the son of Sir Maurice O'Connell and Mary O'Connell (nee Bligh—a daughter of Bligh of the "Bounty"), and was born in Sydney in 1812. He joined the 73rd Regiment and served in Spain with the British Legion with the rank of Colonel. In 1859 he became nominee member of the first Legislative Council of Queensland, and its President in 1860. He died in 1879. Several times he was Actg. Governor.

(98) The Rev. Haussmann was left alone when his companion Gerler was called suddenly to Nundah by notice of the sickness of his wife. Dundalli, a notorious murderer, appeared, followed by a number of aboriginals. Haussmann's dog attacked Dundalli as he approached threateningly; Haussmann pulled the dog off and was struck down by a waddy but managed to reach the shelter of the hut, though wounded by two spears. The attention of the natives was distracted by a bag of flour, and while they wrangled over it, he managed to hide, and to escape in the dusk. He waded the north and south Pine Rivers about midnight and reached home, exhausted, at 4 a.m. After the mission closed Haussmann went to Geelong, but later returned to Beenleigh where he lived for many years.

(99) "Wild White Men of Queensland" by Cilento & Lack: Read before the Royal Historical Society of Queensland 19 March 1959.
Bowen area. All these contributed to discovery in the districts they roamed in, but by the late 'forties their day was done. The natives no longer believed they were "dokkai," i.e. resurrected black men, re-born white; and the white explorers, selectors, etc., no longer needed their help. So when the last of them, John Fahey ("Gilberri"), who had absconded from a chain gang in New South Wales and reached the Bunya Mountains (thirty miles north of Brisbane), was captured, in 1854, after eleven years with his tribesmen, an unromantic government simply sentenced him to a year on the roads in chains, and forgot him. The hoof beats of the horses of the selectors and surveyors had flushed these queer fugitives from their thickets like hares from their squats.

Parcelling out the "Prohibited Area"

In 1845, William Joyner took up Samson Vale on the North Pine River. It was a vast property twenty miles square; its boundaries were the d'Aguilar Range and the North Pine River itself! Its neighbouring "runs" were Samford, Mt. Brisbane, Durundur, and Whiteside. (Joyner, himself, lived in Sydney, and in 1847, returning from a visit to his manager, was drowned when the ship "Sovereign," was lost at the South Passage.)

The old Samson Vale house was built entirely of cedar which was most abundant in the early days. Stable racks, bins, mangers, and saddle trees were all of cedar; even the coachhouse was floored with it. Samson Vale was sold in 1946, after having been in possession of the Joyner family for a hundred years.

Whiteside was taken up in the 1840's also on the North Pine River. It belonged to Captain Griffin.

In 1855 "young Tom" Petrie (son of Andrew Petrie, former Superintendent of Works in Brisbane) heard of the excellence of the North Pine country, from an old native named Dalaipi, Chief of the North Pine tribe; and set out on horseback (with Dalaipi's son Dalngang as guide) to seek land there for himself. The country he liked best on North Pine was part of the Whiteside run, though he and Dalngang searched as far as Caboolture. On their way back to Brisbane they met a bullock dray loaded with cedar, making down a river towards the sea. Riding alongside the team was John Griffin, with a horse pistol at either side of the pommel of his saddle and a carbine hanging at his side. Learning of Petrie's mission, he told him that his mother would be glad to sell him land at the mouth of the Pine River, as they could not keep a beast down there because of the blacks who ran the stock into the swamps and speared them for their feasts.

Mrs. Griffin transferred ten sections of her land to Tom Petrie; the boundaries being from Sideling Creek right down the coast to Humpybong (Redcliffe). Petrie called his property "Murrumba" ("beautiful"), the head-house being on the outskirts of the present Petrie township.

Conondale, at the head of the Mary River, was occupied on 6 October 1851 by Donald Tuach McKenzie, who had been sheep-overseer for some years to John Balfour at Colinton. This run was transferred to M. R. Goggs in 1861, and to James Gibbon in 1867. The next run downstream was Camroon which was officially tendered for by John C. McDonald, who sold in 1856 to David Mander-Jones of Boonara (Burnett District); from him it passed to B. Tooth (1856); J. D. Bergin (1859); and to Isaac Moore in 1864. On the east bank of the Mary River a run known as Kenilworth was taken up by Richard Joseph Smith, who submitted a tender in August 1850. Mrs. Smith was reading Scott's novel "Kenilworth" at the time application was made. Though officially known as Kenilworth, the name appears in old official records as "Obee Obee," "Obie Obye," "Ubi Ubi," and "Obi Obi" as the creek by that name is spelt to-day. On 12 August 1858, R. J. Smith sold the Kenilworth properties to Charles Frederick Parkinson, who transferred them to W. Gray in 1860; they were acquired by Isaac Moore in 1863.

A McConnel (in 1924) gave the reasons for names in the Brisbane River district, in a letter to the Historical Society of Queensland. "Cressbrook" and "Monsildale" were named by Donald McConnel after the property of his eldest brother Henry, in Derbyshire. The original Cressbrook house was in Monsildale. "Colinton" was called after a place of the same name near Edinburgh by the Balfours. "Eskdale" was named by the Ivory family after their home in Scotland. Donald MacKenzie called "Conondale" after the Conon, a village near his home in the Highlands.

It is strange to think that the Sandgate area was virtually neglected for settlement until 1853. The "Thomas King" was wrecked on 17 April 1852, and after landing at Double Island point (and after four others were murdered at Point Arkwright—Eurungunder—by the Tewantin blacks) Captain J. H. Walker and a sailor named Sherry separately reached Toorbul; from which point, together, they tried to find their way to Brisbane. They lost themselves in the neighbourhood of Deception Bay and Cabbage Tree Creek, but were ultimately brought in by the blacks, \(^{(100)}\) from Toorbul, to which they managed to return.

Indignation that two white men might have died within a few miles of the proposed capital for lack of any beach outpost, caused a demand for the opening of the area. Sandgate was surveyed and soon settled, though the first people who arrived had great trouble with hostile local aboriginals.

Across Australia with Gregory

Exploration, meanwhile, had extended hundreds of miles inland, aided quite a lot by repeated searches for Leichhardt, whose fate

\(^{(100)}\) There was open hostility between the Toorbul, Bribie and the Brisbane blacks at this time, and the quieter natives were in terror of the "gangster" blacks, who threatened them as well as isolated white settlers.
remained a mystery, after his departure from Cogoon outpost in 1848. Hovenden Hely in 1852 had scoured the country near the Warrego. Now, into the field came one of the outstanding explorers of the period—A. C. (later Sir Augustus) Gregory, who was one of three competent brothers. From August 1846, with modest equipment and seven weeks’ provisions, they had explored 1,000 miles of the back-country of unknown Western Australia in forty-seven days.

Two years later, A. C. Gregory, with a party of six, set out from a point eighty miles west of Perth to explore the Gascoyne area. (After 350 miles they found, among many other things, a galena lode on the Murchison). In 1855 he headed an expedition organised through the Royal Geographical Society of London, to search for Leichhardt, and this brought him to Queensland, with which he was destined to be linked permanently, to his advantage and ours. He was to land on the north-west coast of Australia and, after certain work there, to establish connection, if possible, with the areas explored by Mitchell on the Barcoo and, in any case, to make easterly to find a route more direct than that of Leichhardt between any settlement that might be established in the Northern Territory and the Gulf of Carpentaria, on the one hand, and the east coast of Australia, on the other. With Baron von Mueller as botanist, Dr. Wilson as geologist, and eight others, Gregory made his landfall in N.W. Australia; in six days, reached the Macadam Range and, in two weeks, the Fitzmaurice. The party forced its way with many hardships to the head of the Victoria River and, 300 miles further, reached Sturt’s Creek which they followed until it ended in a salt swamp at Termination Lake. Returning to a depot on the Victoria (N.W. Australia) and then pushing north and east, he crossed Arnhem’s Land, along and below the line of the Roper River, and traced Leichhardt’s route as far as he could, but without success. Turning further east, he came out on to the Queensland coast near Port Curtis.

In 1858, Gregory was commissioned a second time to search for the missing explorer and, with one brother, C. F. Gregory, seven experienced bushmen, and forty horses (each with 150 lb. of provisions), set off from Sydney on 12 June. In April 1859 they reached the Barcoo, but the whole country was gripped by a fierce drought and was almost a desert, and the watercourse itself was dry. In lat. 24° 25′ S., long. 145° E., Gregory found what may have been traces of the lost explorer. Pushing on, he reached the Thomson, also sun and drought-blasted (Landsborough the following year found it a charming spot — so rapidly do appearances change with our weather!); and, pushing down Cooper’s Creek to the point where Sturt had met it south of the Stony Desert, in 1845, he then made south by Strzelecki’s Creek to Adelaide, which he reached on 31 July 1858.

(In 1859 Gregory was invited to become Surveyor-General of Queensland, and accepted that post. In 1862 he selected the site for Roma, named for Lady Bowen who was the Countess Diamantina Roma of the Ionian Islands. The main street of Roma was named Gregory Street in 1867. He became a member of Parliament and was knighted later.)

William Landsborough

Another explorer who did much to fill in the outline of north and west Queensland at this time was William Landsborough. He had selected a run in the Wide Bay area and from 1856 he made many exploratory trips north and west, at his own expense, pressing deep into the interior.

Among other places he discovered Mt. Nebo and Fort Cooper; explored, in 1859, the Peak Downs and Nogoa areas and, in 1860, the head of the Thomson River. In 1861, he traced the Gregory and the Herbert Rivers to their sources and named both, and in 1862, on formal invitation, he headed one of the expeditions that were sent out to search for Burke and Wills. Starting from the Albert River in the Gulf of Carpentaria (Burketown), he travelled right across Queensland southerly and, indeed, across the continent to Melbourne. Later he discovered the Western river on which Winton is situated and traced the Diamantina to its source. (He died at Caloundra on 16 March 1886.)

Omitting a number of local men, who did excellent work filling in detail, it may be appropriate to add here a note on the Burke and Wills expedition; and, the overland explorations of John McDouall Stuart.

The Tragic Trip of Burke and Wills

In 1857 the Philosophical Institute (later Royal Society) of Victoria decided to subsidise the discovery of a route from the Darling to Cooper’s Creek (the Barcoo) and to establish a depot there, which might serve as a base for further surveys—preferably by camel.

Robert O’Hara Burke (a superintendent of police), W. J. Wills, a brilliant young scientist, a camel expert, a doctor, an artist, ten other white men, and three Hindu camel drivers made up the party. They were to explore the triangle between the tracks of Sturt, Leichhardt, and Gregory; and additionally, or alternatively, the areas as far west as the Victoria River. Burke’s impatience, obstinacy and foolhardiness led to tragedy. They reached the Diamantina, then the Cloncurry, and so, the Flinders and, ultimately, reached the Gulf of Carpentaria on 11 February 1861. Pushing on beyond the
strength of the camels, Burke had founndered them and they had
died; the packhorses being too slow for his fiery temperament he
had left behind also, and, by the time he and Wills (he had left
Gray and King behind!) reached tidal waters near the coast they
were too weak from scurvy to push on to actual sight of the sea, and
crept back to rejoin the others. On the return journey, Gray died;
Burke and Wills starved and perished also; only King found refuge
with friendly aboriginals where he was discovered, months later,
by Howitt's party.

The expeditions in search of Burke and Wills—Landsborough's,
Howitt's, and McKinlay's—produced notable results as explorations.
Landsborough's track has already been mentioned. Walker hit the
Barcoo, swerved northerly on to the head of the Flinders and, so,
reached the Gulf, returning up the eastern side of the Flinders
watershed and across the main range to the Burdekin. McKinlay,
after finding an unknown white man's grave in the desert north of
the Barcoo, made north to the Diamantina, followed Burke to the
mangrove swamps near the Gulf, and then turned east to come out
also on the Burdekin.

From Adelaide to Darwin

Meanwhile, John McDouall Stuart, who had been draftsman with
Sturt, made a series of journeys from Adelaide, that ultimately took
him right across the continent to Darwin.

In 1859 the South Australian Government offered a reward of
£2,000 for just such a journey. Stuart reached the centre of Australia
on 22 April 1860, proudly naming there "Central Mount Stuart," and
finding not an "inland sea," nor a "dead heart," but a fine stretch of
fertile grass country. Turned back by scarcity of provisions, and of
water, illness, and attacks by blacks, he tried again next year with
twelve men, but failed. He had passed the Neale, the Stevenson, the
Finke, the Hugh—then the McDonnell Range (he named it after the
Governor of South Australia). Next year Tennant's Creek and Attack
Creek fell behind, and finally, he bore away easterly—baffled else-
where. The Strangways River took him to the Roper, and another of
its tributaries led him to the Adelaide. On 24 July 1862 his party
rode through tropical forest to the waters of the northern ocean. It
was done.

Apart from the planned and formal explorations, hundreds of
brave but nameless and forgotten men, "the overlanders with their
cattle, the prospectors with picks and pannikins, the selectors, the
squatters . . . . struck out into the trackless places" and did a vast
proportion of pioneer discovery. They followed all the routes the
explorers had taken except, perhaps, that terrible trail that Kennedy
had died in blazing. Even there, in Cape York peninsula, up the
easier west Carpentarian side, the two young Jardines (Frank and
Alexander), bushmen bred, drove a herd of cattle from the Eina-
leigh River to that very Albany which Kennedy had had as his goal
and where, now, their father was posted at Somerset as police magistrate.

But they fought every mile of the way.

The whole of Queensland had been made known in its essential outlines, and men felt that it only remained for Queenslanders to develop the vast inheritance which had been won “with so much skill and courage and endurance unto death.”

The times were right for the change to responsible self-government as an independent colony.

Population had so grown that the census of 1857 gave a figure of 8,575 (6,012 males and 2,563 females), of whom the County of Stanley (excluding Darling Downs) had 1,599 (1,123 being males) and 1,156 being born in the Colony. The Darling Downs had 659 people.

In 1859, Pugh, whose Almanac first appeared that year (see Text Figure 9(b)) gives a population of about 25,000, in addition to whom there were about 100 or more ticket-of-leave people who were regarded as negligible, like the blacks, or Chinese, or Indians.

Agitation for Separation had grown increasingly and under an Act of 1850 “for the better government of Her Majesty’s Australian Colonies,” power had been reserved to constitute a new Colony “northward of 30 degrees of South Latitude”—which would have included the Clarence and Richmond areas. Powerful influences, and the whole weight of the Governor of “New South Wales” (Sir William Denison), were thrown into the scale against their inclusion.

(Dr. Lang bitterly claimed that since Denison’s two brothers held nearly a quarter of a million acres as squatters on that very frontier at a nominal rental of one twentieth of a penny an acre, he “could scarcely be expected to be a disinterested referee.”)

In June 1856, the Home Government resolved to “abstain from any measure for the purpose of Separation.” The New South Wales Government loudly demanded an account of all moneys spent on Moreton Bay: the Brisbane protagonists triumphantly demonstrated that less was spent on Queensland, than Queensland itself provided in taxes and customs. In the midst of all the wrangling a despatch announced that Separation had been decided upon; that letters patent had issued on 6 June 1859; and, that Sir George Ferguson Bowen would be first Governor and Captain General of the “Colony of Queensland” but—it lost the Clarence and the Richmond areas! They have suffered by their exclusion ever since, and their persistent endeavour to secure separation from New South Wales still continues.

Mistress in Her Own Home

Queensland was the only Colony in Australia that did not require a separate Act of the Imperial Parliament for its establishment; nor a probationary period of government under a “Legislative Council.” It was to commence its existence with two houses of legislature; a Legislative Council of appointees on the lines of the Constitution Bill of New South Wales (1855); and an elected Legislative Assembly.

The Governor, arriving in Moreton Bay by the H.M.S. “Cordelia,” transferred to the “Breadalbane” and was escorted to Brisbane. He landed amid scenes of wild enthusiasm, and went in procession via George Street, Queen Street, Petrie Bight and Ann Street to Dr. Hobbs’ house (now the Deanery of St. John’s), which had been leased for £350 per annum, as first “Government House.” There, he was sworn in by Judge Lutwyche, on 10 December 1859. On Monday, 12th, he received the loyal addresses of welcome of the citizens, the mayor and corporation (Brisbane had been incorporated a few weeks previously), the workers, and others. The Government of New South Wales had closed all accounts relating to the territory it was relinquishing reluctantly, and Sir George found 7½d. in the Treasury!

His replies to the addresses of welcome are well worth reading—they are admirable essays in tact.
On 6 December 1860 a public notice was issued in the *Government Gazette* as Queensland approached its first anniversary. It reads:

Colonial Secretary’s Office,
Brisbane
6 December 1860.

His Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified that MONDAY NEXT the 10th instant, being the ANNIVERSARY OF SEPARATION will be observed as a General Holiday and that all Public Offices will accordingly be closed.

His Excellency further directs it to be notified that the 10th of December will always be observed as a Public Holiday and that when this shall occur on a Sunday the following day shall be kept as a Holiday.

By his Excellency’s Command,
R. G. W. HERBERT.

— End of Part One —
ROBERT O'HARA BURKE

E. B. C. KENNEDY

A. C. GREGORY

JOHN McDouALL STUART

OVERLANDERS AFTER LEICHHARDT.

PLATE XXV. (Royal Historical Society of Queensland.)
The four governors who visited "Moreton Bay" while it was still part of "New South Wales"—
Sir Thomas Brisbane; Sir Ralph Darling; Sir George Gipps; and Sir Charles Fitzroy.

PLATE XXVII.