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CHAPTER XXVIII

THE STORY OF THE CITIES, TOWNS AND SHIRES

(continued)

The Lower Central Coast, the Downs, the near West, and the South-west

MARYBOROUGH DIVISION

To the north of the Moreton Division, with an area of 17,372 square miles, lies the Maryborough Division, with a population of 126,750 (65,075 males and 61,675 females).

In the field of secondary industry Maryborough possesses only 7 per cent. of the State total. In agriculture, however, the Division has 13 per cent. of the State's area under crop. This area produces nearly 70 per cent. of the State's peanut crop, 35 per cent. of its maize, and 16 per cent. of the Queensland sugar crop.

Holding a position equally important in the Division is the dairy and pig industry, which is the source of 24 per cent. of the State's dairy production, and 27 per cent. of the pig-raising in Queensland. Other sources of income are the timber industry (17 per cent. of the State total), beef cattle (7 per cent.) and coal production from the Burren coalfields, approximately 8 per cent. of the State's total.

There are three cities in the Division—Bundaberg, Maryborough and Gympie.

The city, with a population of 23,000. In 1847 Surveyor J. C. Burnett discovered the river which to-day bears his name.

The history of Bundaberg really began on Christmas Day 1866, when John and Gavin Stewart, two brothers, timber-getters from Baffle Creek, pitched their camp on a site near the present railway station at North Bundaberg. In 1865 Samuel Johnston came from Rockhampton and took up Waterview Estate.

The first settlers depended on ships to bring in their supplies and take away timber cargoes, sawn timber being sent to Rockhampton. A township was surveyed on the south side and by 1871 there were 200 people living in Bundaberg, and 500 in the district. In 1876 trees were still growing in Bourbong Street, and were used by farmers as hitching posts. In 1888 the railway connecting Bundaberg to Maryborough was completed. The Woongarra district (then covered by dense scrub) was opened for settlement in 1868 and, by the end of March 1878, 240,000 acres had been selected. The sugar industry began about 1875, and Millaquin Refinery was established in 1881-1882. Millaquin developed a complete system of piping for bringing the juice from the various crushing mills to the refinery; there were nearly twenty miles of pipe underground and some of the juice was pumped a distance of seven miles. In 1878 Horace and Ernest Young came from New Zealand, purchased land from the Browns of Barolin Station, and established the famous Fairymead Station. In 1881, William Gibson and his four sons, Angus, William, James and John, in partnership with Nathaniel, Harold, and John Howes, purchased the Bingera Estate, fourteen miles west of Bundaberg, to-day covering over 2,000 acres of cultivation and served by an extensive irrigation system. Fairymead and Bingera are to-day the only mills in the State still operating their own plantations.

Bundaberg is the centre of a prosperous agricultural district of 3,000 square miles. The manufacture of sugar at six sugar mills in the district, supplied by more than 1,500 cane growers, is worth more than £7 million annually. The Millaquin Sugar Company's mill and refinery is one of the two refineries in Queensland. Other rural industries include cattle-raising, dairying, pig and poultry raising, fruit and vegetable growing, tobacco growing, and timber-getting. Bundaberg also has a rum distillery, an iron foundry, timber mills, and a butter factory.

A new deep-water port has been constructed about a mile inside the mouth of the Burnett River by deepening and widening the river channel. Extensive wharves and bulk sugar loading facilities to handle the district's sugar output have been provided.

THE CITY OF GYMPIE

Gympie (pop. 10,000), 123 miles north of Brisbane, on the banks of the Mary River, is the centre of one of the richest and most productive farming areas in South-eastern Queensland. Gold was discovered on the banks of the Mary River, on portion of the Widgee cattle run, in October 1867, by James Nash, within 100 yards of the site of the present Town Hall in Mary Street. As a mining centre Gympie produced £85 million in gold. Cobb and Co.'s coaches were soon running from Brisbane to Gympie, taking two days to do the journey. Coach services also plied between Gympie and Maryborough and between Gympie and Tewantin.

First-comers in the Tewantin district were cedar-getters from Mooloolah, who came to Noosa with the intention of shipping cedar to Melbourne. In the late 1860's, McGhie, Luva and Co. began a sawmill at Elandra Point on Lake Coorahbarra. The sawn timber was loaded on to pontoons and towed down the river by flat-bottomed paddle steamers to Coolooli Wharf, just below Goat Island, where it was loaded on the steamer "Culgoa" and taken to South Brisbane. (She was wrecked on the Noosa Bar in 1891.) In the 'Seventies, Dath, Henderson and Co. carried on sawmilling at Tewantin, their mill being located on the east side of the river. Their steamer "Adonis" ran between Brisbane and Tewantin for many years. An old stern-steered
steam, the “Gneering,” carried the first cargo of pine logs from Noosa to Pettigrew’s mill at Brisbane. One of the worst disasters in Tewantin’s colourful history was the Cootharaba sawmill explosion on 29 July 1873, as a result of which five lives were lost.

**Gympie** is the hub of the Mary Valley district. The warm hillsides grow pineapples, papaws, tomatoes, bananas, and many other small crops in profusion. In an average year the Gympie-Mary Valley district produces 20,000 tons, or 700,000 cases, of pineapples. The district also produces more than half of the beans sent interstate each winter. There are 65,000 dairy cattle in the district.

The Wide Bay Dairy Association’s butter factory, the largest in Queensland, and Nestle’s Condensery pay farmers £2,5 million annually, and the butter factories at Cooroy, Pomona, and Eumundi, and a Kraft-Walker cheese factory at Kenilworth have an annual payout of over £1 million to suppliers.

Gympie (the name is the aboriginal name for the broad-leaved stinging tree) became a municipality in 1880. At the height of the mining boom its population reached 17,000. The adjoining Widgee Shire has an area of 1,135 square miles and a population of 3,350. Noosa Shire (338 sq. miles) has a population of 6,500.

**THE CITY OF MARYBOROUGH**

An important industrial city and the centre of an extensive agricultural, dairying, fruit-growing, sawmilling, and coalmining district, Maryborough (pop. 19,000) is 169 miles north of Brisbane by railway. The discovery of the Mary River, on which the city stands, was made in 1842 by an exploring party led by Andrew Petrie and Henry Stuart Russell.

In 1843 the Edward (87 tons) brought stores for Eales’ sheep station on the Burnett, and landed them at Tinana Creek, the largest tributary of the Mary. The Burnett pastoralists soon realised it was much more convenient to ship their wool from Maryborough than to haul it by bullock team round through Nanango to Ipswich. In 1848, 1,400 bales were loaded at Baddow, on the north bank of the Mary. As sheep growing declined, the timber industry increased in importance. Pine was shipped first in the log to Sydney. In 1861, a sawmill was erected; to-day Maryborough is one of the State’s leading timber centres. A considerable acreage of sugar was grown in the Seventies and Eighties, and twelve mills operated; a large refinery was located at Yengarie, nine miles from the city. Later, dairying largely superseded sugar growing. By 1892, when Brisbane and Gympie were linked by the North Coast Railway, Maryborough had become the “capital” of a tract of country larger than Belgium or Holland. In 1868, the manufacture of sugar-mill machinery was commenced by Walkers Ltd., and their foundry and mills, covering 12½ acres under roof, are now among the largest in Australia. The first of many locomotives built by Walkers was employed hauling pine logs from the Tinana scrub to the Mary.

Maryborough became a municipality in 1861. A deep sea port is located at Urangan, on the shores of Hervey Bay, twenty-nine miles from the city.

**SHIRES**

There are nineteen shires in the Maryborough division.

The oldest of them is Gayndah, which was a town as early as 1867. Gayndah (1,045 sq. miles, pop. 3,400) is ninety miles from Maryborough, on the Burnett River, and 230 miles by road from Brisbane.

In 1848 Thomas Archer’s bullock dray, drawn by ten bullocks, passed over the site of Gayndah on his way through the Burnett River basin, to the Upper Burnett. In 1849, a bullock dray link was established between Gayndah and Maryborough. In the heyday of Gayndah, as many as 1,000 teams used this road, hauling wool and supplies. Gayndah was a flourishing social centre in the ‘sixties, the squatters being keen sportsmen and hunters. Annual meetings of the Queensland Jockey Club were held there, and in 1868 the first Queensland Derby Stakes of one and a half miles was run, the winner being W. E. Parry-O’Keoden’s Hermit, ridden by Powell. In 1861 the first mail coach ran from Maryborough to Gayndah; the trip occupied two days, Degilbo being the half-way stage.

In recent years citrus growing has become a major rural industry in the Gayndah district. More than 1,350 acres of land, mostly along the Burnett River, which is the source of irrigation, are under citrus, representing about 100,000 trees.

Eidsvold (1,855 sq. miles, pop. 1,350).

Eidsvold, the central town of the shire, became a canvas town with a population of 1,200 in 1868, following the discovery of gold.

Kingaroy (935 sq. miles, pop. 8,000).

Kingaroy is the “capital” of the South Burnett. Beef cattle still hold a place in the district’s economy, but pig-raising and agricultural crops, particularly maize and peanuts, have great economic significance.

In the past thirty years there has been a spectacular development of the peanut industry in the South Burnett, which grows 90 per cent. of the Queensland crop, the Kingaroy Shire being the leading producer in Queensland. The series of large silos, with a total storage capacity of some 15,000 tons, are landmarks in the centre of the town.

Kolan Shire (1,020 sq. miles, pop. 2,550), which owes its name to the native word “Kolan” or “Kallan,” meaning “good,” has as its principal town Gin Gin, which is said to be derived either from the word “Kuin Kuin,” meaning “red soil,” or “Chinchin,” meaning “thick scrub.”

The first settlement in the Kolan Shire was at Gin Gin Station, which was settled by Gregory Blaxland and his nephew William Forster in 1849. Each owned a property in the Clarence River district of New South Wales and they left that area in 1847 with 30,000 sheep and 800 cattle.

Gregory Blaxland (who was the seventh and youngest son of the explorer of the same name) was killed at Gin Gin Creek in August 1850; William Forster ultimately became Premier of New South Wales. Two subsequent owners of Gin Gin Station, Sir Thomas Mcllwraith and Sir Arthur Palmer, both became Premiers of Queensland.
The principal industries in the Kolan Shire are sugar growing, cattle raising, dairying. There is also a considerable amount of hardwood and pine timber cut annually for milling. The “Goodnight Scrub” (a State Forest in the Shire) is the largest self-regenerating pine forest in the Commonwealth.

Much of the sugar cane grown in the Shire is crushed at the Gin Gin Co-operative Sugar Milling Association’s mill at Wallaville on the bank of the Burnett River, which was erected in 1893. Other cane is sent for milling to Bingera Sugar Mill situated about mid-way between Gin Gin and Bundaberg.

The Central Western Section of the Shire is rich in minerals: much mining was carried out in the early days, principally for gold, copper and molybdenite.

Although when the area was first settled sheep-raising predominated, there are now no sheep in the area; coastal conditions and the replacement of natural grasses by spear grass caused sheep to be replaced by cattle. Large numbers of prime fat cattle are marketed annually, mainly for the overseas market.

During Centenary Year the Kolan Shire Council proposes to erect a memorial to the early pioneers Forster and Blaxland at Gin Gin Creek, close to the place where Blaxland was murdered and buried.

NANANGO (670 sq. miles, pop. 4,000).

The town of Nanango grew from the hostelry of Goode’s Inn, established by Jacob Goode in 1850 at the junction of the two roads to Gayndah.

One of these roads led up the Brisbane Valley, meeting at Goode’s Inn the road from the Darling Downs via Rosalie Plains, Cooyar Creek, and the Ranges. Because of its situation, Goode’s Inn became a favourite halting place for teamsters and coach travellers.

Gold mining and timber-getting played their part in Nanango’s development. Closer settlement began about 1877, and cattle-raising, dairying, and agriculture are leading primary industries.

MURGON (270 sq. miles, pop. 4,350). This shire is part of the Barambah Valley in the South Burnett. The principal town is Murgon, 180 miles by rail and 173 miles by road from Brisbane. The industries include the manufacture of butter, cheese, and pasteurised milk by the South Burnett Co-operative Dairy Association. Four miles east of Murgon is Cherbourg aboriginal settlement.

WONDAM (1,390 sq. miles, pop. 5,000) has Wondam and Proston as its principal towns. The industries of the shire comprise peanut, maize and grain growing, milk, butter, and cheese, pig-raising and stock fattening, brick-making, timber, and small manufacturing. It was not till 1880 that the vast areas of red soil scrubland, peculiarly adaptable, which grows cane prolifically, were first pioneered and cleared for grain growing and dairying.

ISIS (660 sq. miles, pop. 4,400) is famous for its fertility.

The first mill began crushing about 1890. To-day the main mill is the Isis Central, a co-operative concern which also operates a large retail business. It crushes a third of a million tons of cane each year for about 40,000 tons of sugar. Also in the district is the Gin Gin mill at Wallaville, another co-operative, crushing about 100,000 tons of cane each year.

CHILDERS (pop. 1,500) is the principal town and the shire headquarters.

PERRY (910 sq. miles, pop. 450) is in the Upper Burnett, and is significant historically because it was an important copper producer from the ’Seventies until 1912 when the New Queensland Copper Company closed down the mines at Mount Perry.

The population of Mount Perry, the centre of the Shire, was then 2,000. Mount Perry was connected by railway with Bundaberg in 1884; this was the first branch line to be opened in Queensland, Mount Perry becoming the railhead for the whole of the Upper Burnett district. When mining operations began, the first road opened was to Maryborough. All the ore mined was taken by dray or waggon, and many teamsters were engaged in hauling. To-day, the cattle industry is well established.

GOOBURRUM (483 sq. miles, pop. 4,300) and WOONGARRA (270 sq. miles, pop. 3,770) are in the Bundaberg district. In the Gooburrum Shire are two modern sugar mills, Bingera and Fairy-mead. Large areas of land are under pineapples.

DARLING DOWNS DIVISION

More than 75 per cent. of all grain crops produced in Queensland are obtained from the Downs Division, an area of 27,584 square miles, which includes the Darling Downs and the southern Granite Belt. The population of the area is 137,700 persons (70,852 males and 66,848 females).

This Division, representing 4 per cent. of the State’s area, includes 53 per cent. of the State’s area under crop. Among the chief agricultural crops of the division are wheat (92 per cent. of the State figure); sunflower seed (44 per cent.); linseed (92 per cent.); green forage (63 per cent.); and orchard fruit (63 per cent.), chiefly in the “Granite Belt” shires of Stanthorpe and Rosenthal.

Inglewood Shire is the centre of the Downs tobacco growing district which produces just over 32 per cent. of the State’s tobacco crop. As would be expected from the percentage of green forage grown in the area, the dairy and pastoral industries also hold positions of importance in the division. Twenty-five per cent. of the State’s dairy wealth is produced here; while pigs total 27 per cent. of the State’s total.

In the pastoral sphere, the division contains 17 per cent. of Queensland’s sheep, and 9 per cent. of its beef cattle. The value of secondary-industry production, however, is only 6 per cent. of the State’s industrial wealth.
Toowoomba, the second city of Queensland and headquarters of the State Wheat Board, and WARWICK, on the southern portion of the Darling Downs, are the cities in the area. The majority of the larger towns are dependent upon the wheat and dairy industries, e.g. Chinchilla, Dalby, Inglewood, Jandowae, Killarney, Miles, Oakey (which is also the airport for Toowoomba), and Pittsworth, all of which have a butter or cheese factory.

In the south-west, Goondiwindi and Inglewood stand as commercial centres for the surrounding sheep and cattle areas. Inglewood and Texas are also important towns in the tobacco-growing districts.

Stanthorpe, the main town on the Granite Belt, though it originally owed its importance to tin mining, now derives its wealth from the thriving apple and stone fruit orchards of the district.

Pittsworth is situated on the Darling Downs, 128 miles by rail west of Brisbane and 1,702 feet above sea level. It is the centre of a fertile district given principally to dairying and the growing of wheat and maize. A butter and cheese factory in the town is co-operatively owned. (The name Pittsworth is derived from a family called Pitt who took up the pastoral holding of Goombungee in 1854. By government proclamation in 1915, it was substituted for the older name of Buaraba.)

THE CITY OF TOOWOOMBA

Toowoomba, Queen City of the Darling Downs, with a population of 46,000 (at 30 June 1957), is 84 miles by road and 101 miles by rail from Brisbane, and crowns an escarpment of the Great Dividing Range. It was proclaimed a town on 19 November 1860 and a city on 20 October 1904, and has an area of 44 square miles.

In the Forties of last century, a little settlement had sprung up at Drayton, five miles to the south of Toowoomba (see page 112). For many years Drayton was the most important centre on the northern section of the Darling Downs. It was known as “The Springs,” when Thomas Alford and his wife settled there in 1842 and opened a store, which, in 1845, also housed the first country post office in Queensland. The same year a licence for an inn was granted to Alford. Meanwhile, in 1844, a son, Thomas Alford, Jnr., was born, one of the first children born in the Darling Downs area.

On the recommendation of Surveyor J. C. Burnett to the New South Wales authorities in 1849, the township was called Drayton, after a parish in Somerset, England, of which a relative of Alford’s was rector and the appropriate similarity to “Dray Town” (it was the entrepôt for all drays from the east). In 1847, William Horton opened the Royal Bull’s Head Inn, and in 1848 Edward Lord and his wife settled there. Lord, who was a wool expert, opened a general store and a wool store for the Downs squatters. The establishment of a town at “The Swamp” was proposed to the New South Wales Government later by Assistant Surveyor Moriarty, and as a result Surveyor

Burnett was instructed to survey a town on the “eastern side of the West Swamp,” which was to become Toowoomba. In 1852 the Alfords moved to “The Swamp” where the only resident was Josiah Dent, a bush worker employed on the Westbrook run, of which “The Swamp” was then a part. The attempt of the aboriginals to pronounce “The Swamp” resulted in the euphonious “T’wamp-bah” written by the Alfords (who thought it a native word) Toowoomba. (165)

The first sale of Toowoomba land was held, in 1853, in Drayton; it comprised blocks of from 2 to 20 acres. Four years later Toowoomba had a population of 700. It was proclaimed a municipality on 24 November 1860; William Henry Groom was elected the first mayor. Toowoomba had the first Town Hall in Queensland, the foundation-stone being officially laid by the first Premier of Queensland (Sir R. W. G. Herbert) on 24 January 1862. On 12 August 1862 the people of Toowoomba showed their appreciation of the work of W. H. Groom for the town, by electing him to Parliament. (165)

Toowoomba forged ahead upon the completion of railway communication with Ipswich in 1867. To-day, Toowoomba is not only one of the State’s largest rail and industrial centres, but has become the commercial metropolis of the South and West and focus of its primary industries.

Toowoomba and the Darling Downs are assuming an increasingly important position in the industrial activity of the State. As the Darling Downs is one of the richest areas of agricultural land in the world, many of the industries are based on primary production. An extensive dairying region, there are seven butter and cheese factories; and thousands of gallons of milk are transported to Brisbane by tanker for distribution through the bottled-milk trade.

Grain of practically every description is grown on the Downs and two malt works have been established in Toowoomba to treat a big percentage of the high quality barley grown in the district. Two flour mills also operate in Toowoomba. Bacon factories at Willowburn and Toowoomba produce hams, bacon, small goods, and canned processed meat foods for local and export markets.

Toowoomba also has at least one brewery, one large and several
small foundry and engineering workshops, a railway workshop, sawmills, joinery works, a tannery, and several clothing factories, furniture factories, pottery works, and brick works.

In all, 385 factories operate in the district, employing over 4,400 men and women. Of this number 236 factories are in the Toowoomba area, with an annual output valued at more than £10½ million.

THE CITY OF WARWICK

Warwick, 159 miles by rail from Brisbane on the main southern railway line, is situated on the Condamine River, in the Darling Downs, and has a population of 10,000 (at 30 June 1957). It is a modern city, well planned, with wide streets, many of them tree-lined.

To the Warwick district belongs the honour of being not only the pioneer settlement on the Darling Downs, but also the first pastoral settlement in Queensland.

Warwick was proclaimed a town in 1861.

The pioneer family of Warwick, the Walkers, arrived in 1848 from Morpeth, near Maitland, by bullock dray. George Walker built the first store (a bark hut) in the township. His second son, George Augustus, was born on 9 January 1849—the first white child to be born in the town of Warwick. The first white child born on the Darling Downs was McDonald McInnes. He was born at Glengallan Station on 6 January 1843 and died in Toowoomba in November 1911. (His mother, Mrs. Kate McInnes, wife of Allan McInnes, Mrs. Arthur Hodgson, and Mesdames Patrick and George Leslie, were the first four white women to set foot on the Darling Downs.)

The rough and ready houses of early Warwick had round posts set three feet into the ground; split slabs for walls; round saplings for rafters; and stringy bark for roofing; “antbed,” mixed like mortar, made the floor. A round hollow log, split in two, provided the spout beneath the chimney, and the gable end of the building. The fireplaces in these huts were usually 8 ft. long by 5 ft. deep, and 6 ft. in height; and were often lined with zinc taken out of old cases. After sundown these humble dwellings were principally lighted by the fire in their huge fireplaces, or by the aid of “fat lamps,” i.e. tins filled with tallow taken out of old cases. After sundown these humble dwellings were principally lighted by the fire in their huge fireplaces, or by the aid of “fat lamps,” i.e. tins filled with tallow taken out of old cases. After sundown these humble dwellings were principally lighted by the fire in their huge fireplaces, or by the aid of “fat lamps,” i.e. tins filled with tallow taken out of old cases.

On 24 March 1860 Sir George Bowen, Queensland’s first Governor, paid his first official visit to the town. He crossed through Cunningham’s Gap on horseback, by a rough bridle track, and horsemen formed a mounted escort to meet him near Sladeville.

As Sir George was an Irish gentleman who had frequently followed the fox hounds in his native land the horsemen donned fox-hunting costume: black cap, red coats, boots, and breeches. To give His Excellency a salute, an anvil battery was organised in lieu of cannon. (The anvils were charged with gunpowder, the wads being pegs of wood driven home by sledge-hammers and weighed down by heavy weights. As the imposing cavalcade came into the town the salute was fired in perfect time, and great enthusiasm prevailed.)

In the ’Eighties and ’Nineties of last century, wheat, other primary crops, and dairying were ousting wool production. The leading primary industry is dairying. Production of wheat on the Downs dates back to 1843.

Warwick’s first flour mill was erected on the Condamine in the early sixties by Charles Clark and James McKeachie. Immense stones were used to grind the grain and excellent flour was produced. Taken over by Jacob Horwitz, and finally bought by Barnes and Co., it was pulled down with the advent of steel rollers and more up-to-date machinery. Charlie Cocks, an Englishman, erected a flour mill in 1864 on the site of the present Toowoomba foundry. Wheat grown on the Downs was gristed at the mill until 1884, but there were many other early flour mills. Recently the late Messrs. G. P. Barnes, former M.L.A. for Warwick, and R. J. Archibald were (for many years) prominently associated with the milling industry.

Warwick is an important railhead for the fertile south-west Queensland district which extends to Goondiwindi, Thallon, St. George, and further west.

THE TOWNS OF DALBY AND GOONDIWINDI

Dalby and Goondiwindi are the only two towns in the Downs division. DALBY (pop. 6,600), on the main western line, 153 miles west of Brisbane, became a municipality in 1863, the eighth in the Colony. It soon became the centre of the Northern Downs, and of the large tract extending towards the Maranoa, which was settled in the ’Sixties. Much of the traffic and the supplies for the settlers passed through Dalby, and the opening of the railway in 1868 enhanced its importance.

Here, too, the last two decades of the 19th century witnessed a transition from sheep and cattle to agriculture and dairying. Large quantities of wheat are also grown, but Dalby continues to be a considerable stock centre. Thirty miles to the north lie the famous Bunya Mountains, with an elevation of 3,000 feet, although Big Mowbullan (Mobolgon) reaches 3,611 feet.

GOONDIWINDI (pop. 2,950) is on the border of Queensland and New South Wales in South-east Queensland. 294 miles by rail from Brisbane. The town is on the Macintyre River and is the headquarters of the Waggamba Shire (5,440 sq. miles, pop. 3,040).

It derives its name from “Gundawinda,” a run taken up by Sampson Marshall about 1838 on the south side in New South Wales. By 1846 several runs on the Queensland side had been occupied, Callandoon being the first official centre. Goondiwindi is the centre of a considerable pastoral and dairying district, and the bridge over the Macintyre is the chief border crossing place for stock moving from Central Queensland to New South Wales.

SHIRES

There are seventeen shires in the Downs division. First among them is STANTHORPE (1,035 sq. miles, pop. 3,500). The town of Stanthorpe (pop. 4,000) is thirty road miles from Warwick; is

(167) T. L. Adamson, Darling Downs Centenary Souvenir, 1940.
2,662 feet above sea level; and is the centre of the “Granite Belt,” Queensland’s great (stone) fruit-growing district. The total State apple and pear yield comes from this district, including areas from Dalveen to Wallangarra. Tin mining originated Stanthorpe in 1872, when that mineral was found on the banks of Quart Pot Creek, a tributary of the Severn River.

MURILLA (2,334 sq. miles, pop. 3,250) has Condamine as the oldest town in the shire. In its prime it was a “four-hotel town.” In 1930 most of the Condamine town allotments were removed from the rate book as “valueless” because of prickly pear infestation. However, with the introduction of the Cactoblastis insect predator, all these valuable lands in the shire have come back into productivity.

CROW’S NEST (640 sq. miles, pop. 3,700).
The township of Crow’s Nest (pop. 800) is the main centre. Dairying, pig-raising, timber, and cattle-grazing are the main industries.

GLENGALLAN (673½ sq. miles, pop. 4,700).
Killarney is the largest township in the shire; industries are dairying, grain of all descriptions, lucerne, sheep, cattle, pigs, timber, and coal. There is a large and modern butter factory at Killarney.

ROSENTHAL (767½ sq. miles, pop. 1,590) has as its main townships Leyburn, Karara, and Dalveen. Leyburn is the second oldest surveyed town in Queensland, dating from 1850. For many years it was the main centre of South-west Queensland, with its own Courthouse, and Miners’ and Licensing Courts.

Dairying, wheat, barley, lucerne and sorghum growing, stone fruits, the fattening of cattle, wool growing, and fat lamb raising are the principal primary pursuits.

TARA (4,372 sq. miles, pop. 3,280).
The first official record of occupation dates from 1848, when Weranga (320 sq. m.) and Wambo Forest (356 sq. m.) were settled. Place names on old maps suggest earlier penetration and indicate the condition of the times—Starvation Camp, Burning Thirst, Vexation, Wild Horse Paradise, and Retreat. Tara Station was taken up in 1852 by Henry S. Schofield. The products of the shire are wool, meat, and wheat.

THE ROMA DIVISION

With an area of 34,660 square miles, and a population of 19,410 (10,842 males and 8,568 females), Roma is one of the western divisions which derives the majority of its wealth from the pastoral industry.

In all, the division provides approximately 6 per cent. of the State’s primary production. Nearly 18 per cent. of the State sheep flocks produce there almost 19 per cent of the Queensland wool clip. The beef herds in the division represent over 7 per cent. of the State figure. Although the division has 14 per cent. of the State’s productive vineyards, producing about 6 per cent. of the total grape crop, the wine grapes included in this production (roughly one-half of the production of the division) represent almost 51 per cent. of Queensland’s total. To process these grapes, the division possesses the State’s only wine-making plant.

The principal town is ROMA, 318 miles west of Brisbane (30 sq. miles, pop. 4,380, i.e. almost 23 per cent. of the population of the division). The chief industries of the town are butter-making and sawmilling. This, and the other two towns in the division—Mitchell and St. George—are important as commercial centres for the sheep and cattle areas which surround them. The township of Miles originated from the pioneer holder of Dulacca Station close by.

Roma had its beginnings at Mt. Abundance Station, a property of 500,000 acres to which Stephen Spencer trekked in 1857 with four bullock drays, 60 horses, and 1,000 head of cattle. Mt. Abundance became the chief depot for station supplies which had to be brought by bullock waggon from Ipswich, more than 250 miles away.

The site for Roma was selected in 1862, and named after Lady Diamantina Roma Bowen, wife of the first Governor, Sir George Bowen. Roma early became famous as a grape-growing centre. It was gazetted a municipality in 1862.

The late Samuel S. Bassett, founder of the celebrated Romaville vineyards in 1866 was the pioneer agriculturist. Bassett produced the first wine to be sold in Queensland. In the same year, J. G. Brumpton pioneered wheat-growing at Hodgson.

(The celebrated court trial Regina v. Redford, involving the biggest theft of cattle in world history, was decided at Roma in 1873.)

SHIRES

There are five shires in the Roma division. BALONNE (12,015 sq. miles, pop. 6,000) is devoted to the production of sheep and cattle, and the town of St. George (pop. 1,700) is a well-known stopping place for drovers taking stock from Central Queensland to southern markets. Some citrus fruits and grapes are grown.

A weir near St. George dams the Balonne, forming a lake about eight miles long, the water from which is used for irrigating farms in the district. Sir Thomas Mitchell, the explorer, crossed the Balonne at a ford near the present site of the town on St. George’s Day, 23 April 1846, and this inspired the name of the town.

BOORINGA (10,740 sq. miles, pop. 3,300) is primarily a pastoral district. Mitchell, headquarters of the shire, is the principal town. Other towns are Mungallala and Amby.
Another typical western division is the south-western. This area of 89,807 square miles with a population of 15,510 (8,919 males and 6,591 females) or 1.1 per cent. of the State's population, produces 6 per cent. of the State's primary wealth. Sheep represent approximately 22 per cent. of the State total and provide the major contribution towards the wealth of the area. The Division also possesses almost 6 per cent. of the State's beef cattle numbers.

There are only two towns of any size in the Division. The larger is Charleville with a population of 4,880 and the smaller is Cunnamulla, the terminus of the western railway line. Both these towns, on the railway which links the west directly with Brisbane, have grown as commercial centres and railheads for the sheep and cattle country of the South-western Division.

Charleville (27 sq. miles, pop. 4,790), on the banks of the Warrego, 483 miles west of Brisbane by rail, was named by the surveyor William Alcock Tully after his native town in Ireland, and was officially gazetted in 1868. The town of Charleville is established on portion of the old Gowrie run.

In the 'Seventies and 'Eighties Charleville developed into the most important pastoral distributory centre in Queensland. Between 500 and 600 teams for hauling wool and supplies were registered with the local Carriers' Association, and Charleville became what Bourke, in New South Wales, had been previously. The waggons were hauled by as many as twenty-two bullocks, and enormous loads of scoured and greasy wool, ranging as high as 15 tons, were carried.

In 1888 the railway was opened, and the line was later extended, first to Cunnamulla in 1898, and then to Quilpie.

On 21 March 1894 the town was proclaimed a municipality.