

penditure of £80,000, the total cost of completing the works which have been planned by the Engineer-in-Chief being £800,000. The present jetty is also being considerably extended, an independent work, and this will afford much extra berthing room, and it will be well protected by the breakwater about to be constructed. Large extra accommodation for the Customs Department has been provided in the shape of stores, sheds and offices. The shipping business is rapidly increasing, one of the surest evidences of the commercial advance being made by the colony.

Fremantle possesses several very large and excellent buildings, notably its Town Hall and Anglican Church. The population of Fremantle and district is about 10,000 souls. There is a large

### COUNTRY

THE SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION covers the best part of the colony and it is here that the greater part of the population is settled. It has three natural divisions. Firstly, we have on the East the line of elevated watershed of the rivers of the West and South coasts, dividing the more settled parts of the colony from the unoccupied region of the interior; secondly, the great forest lands, extending to within from 10 to 15 miles from the sea; and lastly, the coast districts of South and West. The first is the course taken by the great Southern Railway, extending from Albany to Beverley; the second contains not only a vast expanse of the finest timber, but also land rich in stream-tin and believed to be rich in coal, besides the mineral wealth of the hills which await development; the third is well suited for agricultural settlement, and is the outlet for the export of the staple products of the whole district. Indeed, the land is well suited for both agriculture and pasturage.

The whole of this district, nearly the size of France, is mainly level but often undulating. The Darling Range runs parallel

commercial section of the community, and there are also some good hotels and places of business.

Fremantle has its club, a very well conducted social institution, and there are two flourishing musical societies—the Western Liedertafel and the Fremantle Orchestral Society. It is also able to boast of one of the largest private schools in the colony—the Fremantle School, conducted by Mr. H. Briggs. There are several Masonic Lodges, including a Royal Arch Chapter, which are well accommodated in a handsome Masonic Hall. There is also a local Building Society, which is flourishing, and the various Friendly Societies are well represented. Fremantle has water and gas services, and is presided over by a Mayor and Corporation.

### DISTRICTS.

to the West Coast, at a distance of 10 to 25 miles, and rises to a height of between 1,000 and 2,000 feet. The Western Coast is generally rather flat country, of a sandy character, but this sand is singularly fertile, with irrigation. The country, from North to South, except where it has been cleared for agriculture, is heavily timbered with trees and bushes. There are occasional open sandy plains, covered with shrubs and flowering plants of infinite variety and beauty; in fact, in spring-time Western Australia is a garden of glowing flowers. In the North and East low scrubby trees and bushes often take the place of timber. There are good roads and bridges in most parts, and railway construction is being rapidly pushed ahead in the settled portions of the colony. There is plenty of agricultural land available for settlement, the system of survey before selection being carried out in many agricultural areas.

In the northern part of the South-Western Division, between the Murchison and the Irwin Rivers, is situated the Victoria District. The district contains some of the richest pastoral, agricultural and mineral

land in the colony, and there is generally a fair supply of water. Wheat also grows well, and from Geraldton to Dongarra, at the mouth of the Irwin, and for some distance beyond, is a succession of good farms. The chief towns in the Victoria District are Geraldton, Northampton, Greenough and Dongarra.

GERALDTON, population 1,500, is the centre of the Champion Bay District, and is about 200 miles from Perth, with which it is connected by the Midland Railway. It is the chief port of the district, and the principal exports are gold and wool. Other leading exports are sandalwood and lead and copper ore. There is a good harbour here, which has been considerably improved, according to the plan of that eminent engineer Sir John Coods. A railway, 34 miles in length, extends from Geraldton to Northampton, and another line, about 20 miles in length, to the agricultural district of Greenough, which consists of rich alluvial flats. From Greenough the Midland Railway Company have constructed a line which connects Champion Bay with the capital, Perth, in fact with the railway system of the colony. Another railway line recently constructed is that extending from Geraldton to Mullewa, in an east-north-easterly direction, and about 60 miles in length. This bridges the Mullewa Sand Plain, and greatly conveniences the settlers on the Murchison Goldfields, whither the line is being extended. The Murchison Fields are considered to be among the most extensive and richest in the colony.

NORTHAMPTON is the mining centre of the Victoria District. Lead is the chief mineral that is worked, and the galena, in which form it is chiefly found, is as rich as it is abundant, and is easily obtainable. Mining is at present almost at a standstill here, on account of the low price of lead. There are also several copper mines in the Northampton district, which should yet

be one of the richest mining centres in Australia. The Narra Tarra Lead Mines are 20 miles east of Northampton. Greenough and the Irwin and Dongarra and district has a population of over 2,000, and is the centre of a fine agricultural and pastoral district, tapped by the Midland Railway.

GUILDFORD, the chief town in the Swan District, with a total population of about 600, is a remarkably pretty town at the confluence of the Swan and Helena Rivers, and is surrounded by fertile fields, flourishing farms and extensive vineyards. It is 8 miles from Perth, and forms the junction of the Eastern and Midland Railways. The Swan District is amongst the most fertile in the colony, and is specially adapted for dairy farming and fruit farming.

THE EASTERN DISTRICTS are extensive and fertile, and are well served by the Eastern Railway and its branches, extending to the agricultural centres of Northam and Newcastle. The chief town is York, which is picturesquely and pleasantly situated. Here and there are wide extents of land under cultivation, chiefly with cereals, and there are large flour mills in York, Northam and Newcastle. The land is also well adapted for the growth of the vine and for fruit culture generally, and there are many thriving agriculturists in various parts of the Eastern Districts, especially along the banks of the Avon. Bacon curing is carried on in York and Northam, also sandalwood cutting in the outlying country.

To the East of these districts, and 250 miles from Perth, are situated the Yilgarn Gold Field and its famous extension Coolgardie. This has so far proved the richest field in the colony, and a line of railway is about to be extended to it from the present Southern Cross terminus. At the time of writing, December, 1894, there are about 3,000 people in the township of Coolgardie,