

TASMANIA IN 1901.

All About the Lowermost State of the New Australian Federation.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

(Copyright, 1901, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

Hobart, Tasmania.—I write this in the lowermost city of the lowermost state of the new Australian federation, and in one of the lowermost towns of the globe. Hobart is 2,500 miles south of the equator, on the edge of the southern ocean, that mighty sea which flows between the Pacific and the Antarctic. It is now late in the fall, but the grass is as green as old Ireland in June, and although Mount Wellington, back of the city, has a coating of snow, the sheep are everywhere feeding out doors, and the sun is as warm as Ohio in May.

THE TASMANIA OF TODAY.

As I look about me I cannot realize that this is Tasmania, the country I studied about years ago as Van Dieman's Land. I knew it was an island floating about somewhere between the south pole and Australia. I had an idea that it was bleak, bare and inhospitable and supposed it about the dumping off place of creation. I had read of its criminals sent out from England who were about as cruelly treated as are those of China today, and it hardly seemed that the trip here would be worth the time and expense.

I have changed my opinion. Tasmania is the Switzerland of the southern Pacific, and it is really one of the most beautiful and beautiful lands of the globe. It is a heart-shaped island, with its top toward Australia, and its tail toward the pole. It is all mountains, valleys and glens, covering an area three times as great as Massachusetts, almost as great as Ireland, and about the size of West Virginia. It is populated by 200,000 English-speaking people, and the tourist agencies have turned it into a great health resort. The whole country is spotted with boarding houses and hotels, and from December until May, which are the summer months here, it is swarming with tourists. You can go almost anywhere by coach, horseback or on rail, and there is lots of good company. There are waterfalls, brooks noted for fishing, hunting parks and everything that the sportsman desires. There are guide books, following which you can go on foot over the country and, indeed, the land is a little like Switzerland, away down here below the equator.

THE TASMANIAN CAPITAL.

Hobart is the Tasmanian capital. The colony still has a governor, although it has already elected its members of the federal parliament and from now on will belong to the great colonial empire of Australia. It will, however, maintain its state government, much as our states do theirs, and its parliament will continue to meet in the government house here.

Hobart is the largest city on the island. It contains about 40,000 people, and it is as nice a town of that size as you will find anywhere. It lies on a narrow strip of land, a few miles long, between the River Derwent, backed by a mountain, the rocks of which look like the pipes of an organ. The town is laid out as a square, and its wide streets cross each other at right angles, but it runs up hill and down and takes a jump here and there out into the country.

THE HOBART STREET CAR LINE.

I went from one end of the capital to the other one day on the street car line. This run by electricity, and the people pride themselves on having established the first electric railroad system in their latitude. I wish I could show you the cars. There is nothing like them in the United States. They were made in England and they looked as though they had been pounded out by crossroads blacksmiths. They are enormous double-deckers, their sides plastered with advertisements. I rode on the roof right under a great steel bow, which, pressing against the electric wire, takes the place of our trolley. The electrical machine is under the bow of the car in a box made for that purpose. I kept time and found that the only speed we made was going down hill. The motion was a succession of jerks, as though the electricity was spitting out its force in spasmodic fits. The fare is 6 cents a trip.

TRANSNANTIA NEWSPAPERS.

Tasmania has its daily newspapers. There are several published in Hobart and also in Launceston, the chief town

on the north side of the island. Bulletins with the headlines of the news are put out daily in front of the offices and the reporters come around and interview you much as they do in America.

There are good book stores, a fair number of business buildings and a lot of government offices. Indeed, all these southern cities run to government offices, spending a great deal on such structures. At Hobart they are of a fine yellow sandstone and are fairly well built. The most of the residences are of brick and stone, with gardens about them, and the stores are not unlike those of a town of the same size in the United States.

The names on the stores are queer ones. I am told that many of them have been adopted within the past few generations, and that the names of the oldest inhabitants have been changed from those under which the founders of the family were sent out as penal convicts.

IN CONVICT DAYS.

It was right near here that the chief penal colony was. Its name was Port Arthur, and you can reach it by a short boat ride down the river. Some of the buildings in which the convicts were confined are still standing, and one can get a guide there who will describe the terrible tortures they underwent. They were so punished that many committed suicide. They were flogged, tortured with dripping water and loaded with heavy chains. They were kept in the cells, were used to pull the cars on the convict railway and were subject to all sorts of inhuman treatment. Today there are many good families in Tasmania who are the descendants of these convicts. Some of them will acknowledge it, but if you ask them the crime for which their ancestors were transported they will invariably reply that it was for stealing a loaf of bread. Indeed, it would take a good-sized bookhouse running steadily to supply the many leaves which are said to have been stolen by those early Tasmanians.

A PIOUS COUNTRY.

The Tasmania of today is rather pious than otherwise. The great majority of the people are either honest immigrants or the descendants of such immigrants from England, Ireland and Scotland or Australia. Transportation ceased in 1853, and since then the land has been populated by the descendants of these people, who have come of their own accord. There are today as many churches in Tasmania to the population as in any English colony, and the proportion of crime is no greater than in any other. The total number of prisoners before the criminal courts in 1898 was just about 4,000, the most of whom were arrested for fraud.

The public order is as good here as in Zealand, and the saying that it is excellent. I referred to the orderly condition of Hobart when in conversation with a person who was passing through here the other day. He was an Englishman off for a tour, and he evidently had a poor opinion of the Tasmanians, for he said:

"These people are not so good as they seem. They are lax in their enforcement of the laws, and a crime that would imprison a man in England is often winked at here. If you think the people are angels you had best leave your money at home."

I would say that this person is a dyspeptic; that my money is still safe, and that I do not believe him.

Since then I have made inquiries and learn that Tasmania has Episcopalians, Roman Catholics, Methodists, Presbyterians, Independent and Baptist churches. Nearly all the people go to church, and there are 5,000 Sunday school scholars in one denomination alone. The Roman Catholics have 4,000 boys and girls in their Sunday schools, the Presbyterians about 2,000 and the Methodists 4,000. It is discreditable here not to go to church or Sunday school, and the average workman has his own pew.

THE SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS.

The Tasmanians are not backward in educational matters. I have not written of the schools of New Zealand, but I would say that there and in Tasmania you can have about as good tuition as in the United States. In both countries education is compulsory. Here the man who does not send his children to school can be fined \$10 per child, and he will be fined again and again until he does send them. The schools are supported by the state. The chief secretary is the minister for education, and he has a corps of officers under him. The system of instruction is non-sectarian. There is a university in Hobart, and there are also three schools, called "ragged schools," supported by private subscriptions and government aid. Hobart has

a well-equipped museum and scientific institutions.

There are public libraries in many of the Tasmanian towns. The largest is that of the Launceston institute, which has 20,000 volumes, and the next is the Hobart library which has 18,000.

Another evidence of the intelligence of the people is seen in the excellent book stores which you find in the larger towns. The prices are quite as low as in England or the United States, and the best of books can be had almost as quickly here as at home. The postal service, both foreign and local, is excellent. Books are sent from England to Tasmania at the rate of two ounces for a cent. There are mails about once a week, several of the largest steamship lines calling at Hobart. Newspapers printed in Tasmania can be sent to any part of the island free of postage, and you can send them to any part of Australia or New Zealand at the rate of ten ounces for a cent. I do not know of any government which gives such advantages to its newspapers.

THEY HAVE MONEY IN THE BANK.

Connected with the post office department are postal savings banks, which pay 3 per cent interest on all deposits up to \$50. Wherever you find a money order office you find one of these banks, and it is remarkable what an influence they have on the thrift of the people. A large proportion of the inhabitants are depositors, almost a half million dollars being annually received in this way at Hobart alone. There are now 26,000 savings accounts in the two towns of Hobart and Launceston, and this in addition to a large sum deposited in private savings banks.

The general banking system is done by four institutions, the heads of which are in Hobart and Launceston, with branches covering the whole country. The banks are fairly good. They pay interest upon deposits at the rate of 4 1/2 per cent for six months, or 3 per cent for twelve months. The money is in pounds, shillings and pence, and all accounts are kept in the English way. Some notes are issued, but there is considerable gold and silver in circulation.

RAISING APPLES FOR ENGLAND.

I should think our fruit farmers might get points from Tasmania as to how to work the European markets. This is more than a month by sea from England, and the fruit is packed up in boxes and put in cold storage on the great steamers, not to be taken out until they reach London. The steamers are especially fitted up for the purpose, and it has been found that they can successfully carry the apples this distance. The apple crop now amounts to a half million bushels a year, and it brings in several hundred thousand dollars annually. In the neighborhood of two hundred thousand cases were shipped last year, a great part of them coming from the southern section of the island. It would surprise our people to see how closely the Tasmanians plant apple trees. The average orchard is set out ten feet apart, instead of twenty feet or forty feet, as with us, and it is said that as much as 600 bushels are sometimes gathered from a single acre, and that from trees thirty years old. The trees begin to bear in their third or fourth year, and keep on bearing for many years.

Tasmania ships green fruit to Australia and New Zealand. It raises quantities of peaches, plums, cherries, and within the past few years has been exporting about \$150,000 worth of jam annually. This latitude gives the strawberries, raspberries, grapes and other small fruits an excellent flavor and the Tasmanian jams go as far north as the Philippines.

FARMING ALONG THE SOUTHERN OCEAN.

These people are excellent farmers. Nearly every crop yields more than elsewhere. The wheat fields cover only about eighty-five thousand acres, and the average production is twenty-nine bushels per acre. A large amount of barley is grown, and several million bushels of oats, the latter averaging thirty-eight bushels per acre.

I find that some of our farming machinery is sold here, but the trade might be pushed at a profit. The farms are of such a nature that some implements cannot be used. There are many farm engines, mowing machines and reapers and mowers combined. There are some patent binders, a couple of hundred threshing machines and many force pumps. I doubt, however, whether as good freight rates could be secured as are given to the English exporters on account of the close connection between here and London.

There are many sheep here which are worth a thousand dollars apiece. They

are taken to Australia and sold there for breeding purposes, full-bred rams bringing sometimes as much as \$500 each. The greatest care is taken in the breeding of sheep. The holdings are smaller than in Australia or New Zealand, where single men have flocks of hundreds of thousands, and the Tasmanian sheep breeders show therefore take better care of their stock. Tasmania is an excellent turnip country, and in this part of the world a good turnip country is a good sheep country. There are fields about Hobart which have produced as much as sixteen tons of turnips to the acre, and in northern Tasmania twenty-five tons per acre have been grown. At present in the neighborhood of 5,000 acres are sown every year in turnips, yielding more than 50,000 tons. The bulk of this stuff goes to the sheep, which speedily grind it up into mutton and wool.

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST TIN MINE.

There is a great mining boom now on in Tasmania. Up until 1873 the minerals were not thought to amount to much, but in that year tin mines were opened on Mount Bischoff, in the northern part of the island, and these have proved to be the largest tin mines of the world. They paid their first dividend in 1878, and since then have been paying regularly, having distributed in dividends more than \$8,000,000. The total exports of minerals now amount to \$5,000,000 annually, and there are about 6,000 men at work in the mines. Not only tin but also gold, silver, copper, iron and coal are taken out, as well as small amounts of other metals.

One of the most wonderful mines is the Mount Lyell gold mine, which was discovered in 1881. This was thought to be of iron mixed with gold. It was first worked as a gold mine, but was afterward found to contain copper, gold and silver, and the mine was reduced after modern processes of smelting copper. The results were so great that the company was reorganized with a capital of about \$4,500,000, a railroad was built from the mines to the smelting works and within a short time the company had five smelters treating 11,000 tons of ore a month. This company paid its first dividend in 1897 and by the middle of the year following had been standing five years, and the holders more than a million dollars. It now pays out about \$10,000 a month in salaries and is making money right along out of copper, silver and gold.

THE KLONDIKE TASMANIA.

There is a government mining bureau here at Hobart, from which I learn the following concerning this new mining region of western Tasmania, which may be called the Klondike of the south. So far much of the minerals have come from the northeast, a great deal of tin and gold having been taken from the right end of this heart-shaped island. In the west but little mining was done in early days, and the development there has been comparatively recent. Within the past decade towns have been springing up almost as fast as in our mineral regions of the west, and new townships are being applied for every few weeks. Several railroads have been built, and a great deal of gold, tin and copper have been found.

NO CHANCE FOR AMERICANS.

I have made some inquiries about lands, both mineral and agricultural, and find that the chance here for Americans either in mining or farming. Nearly every bit of good land has been taken up. There are many men who own large tracts and some who are very rich farmers. The government sells the public lands in blocks of from fifteen to 500 acres at \$5 per acre in cash, or for a little more on installments. I have looked over the real estate sales and it seems to me that farmers and city property being almost as much and in many cases more than in the United States.

Living is, if anything, cheaper in Tasmania than with us, but wages are lower. Farm hands get from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per week, with board. Shepherds are paid about \$200 a year, and common laborers receive about \$1 or \$1.50 a day. As to clerks and bookkeepers, they are poorly paid, and there are few such places even. Domestic servants are in demand and their wages are about the same as with us, the lady help being a feature of Tasmania as of New Zealand.

One of the troubles about clearing the government lands is the dense growth of timber which must be cut down before they can be used. The climate here is rather moist and the undergrowth is thicker than in most parts of our country. Much of the timber is the eucalyptus, but there are also beeches, dogwoods, oaks and other hard woods. There are millions of acres of virgin forests, containing excellent timber. Some of this is being cut down and shipped as railway ties to South Africa, and some is being cut up into paving blocks for exportation to England.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

Electro-chemical printing has been so far developed that William Friese-Greene, of London, claims to have printed 25,000 pamphlets per hour on an ordinary press without the use of inks. In this inventor's process, any paper or textile fabric is impregnated or incorporated with the photographic developer like the amido or hydroquinone, and the passage of an electric current gives an instantaneous production in black of any conducting surface in contact with the prepared paper or fabric. It is held to be essential that the impregnating material be an oxygen derivative, of benzene that will reduce a haloid salt of silver. The ordinary printing, the type or plate is connected with the negative pole of a direct-current source of electricity, and the prepared paper fed upon it passes in front of slightly moistened cloth or blotting paper, behind which is the conducting surface connected with the positive pole. A direct current of four amperes at a voltage of 100 has been found sufficient.

Light radiation, as a rule, increases with the temperature. An attempt to improve the electric arc has been made by Ewald Rasch, of Potsdam, by producing it between the most refractory oxides of the earth metals—magnesium, thorium, zirconium, etc.—and he has obtained a brilliant sun-white light with about half the expenditure of energy per candle-power of the ordinary arc light. A difficulty—as in the Nerst incandescent lamp—is that the electrodes must be heated before they become conducting.

For a ship-railway planned by James B. Eads nearly twenty years ago, it was proposed to have a wheeled cradle in which vessels should be shored up for transportation across the isthmus of Panama. The new plan of A. B. An-



6,000
Years Old

If we live in deeds, not years, then Ayer's Cherry Pectoral must be six thousand years old. For sixty years it has been curing coughs and colds, from a slight cold in the head to the most desperate diseases of the lungs.

It is a hundred times as old in deeds as in years, or a thousand times, for where can the limit be placed when it has done such work as this:

"My wife had a deep-seated cough on her lungs for three years. One day I happened to think how Ayer's Cherry Pectoral cured my sister after she was given up to die. So I purchased two bottles and it cured my wife completely. It took only one bottle to cure my sister. So three bottles (\$1.00 each) saved two lives."
—J. H. BURGE, Macon, Col., Jan. 13, 1899.

Three sizes:
25c, 50c, 1.00.
All druggists.

To keep on hand you will like the \$1.00 size best, and you will need this amount to cure a chronic or very severe case. The 50c. size is just about right for bronchitis, hoarseness, la grippe, croup, etc. The 25c. size is convenient when traveling, and is enough to break up a fresh cold.
J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.

person, a Brooklyn engineer, substitutes an immense wheeled tank in which vessels could be hauled overland while resting in water.

Try honey instead of secret nostrums, is the advice of Sir J. Sawyer. This is not only a nutritious food, but an efficient soothing and softening agent and evacuant.

The first of a number of paper buildings erected by Prof. A. W. Bickerton near Christchurch, New Zealand, has been standing five years, and the builder believes it will last half a century, or as long as the best wooden houses. The cost is less than a fifth of that of the cheapest wooden buildings. A wooden lattice frame work is first erected, and on this are stretched long rolls of thick brown paper, which is first tarred on both sides and afterward sprinkled with sand. For the walls the paper is simply nailed to the frame-work, wire netting being necessary to support the paper of the roof. The outside is tarred and sanded, and the interior is painted in some light shade. An air space of four inches between the hardened inner and outer walls ensures remarkable warmth. The forest fires of the plains are withstood, and the paper houses have even remained tight and dry when wooden houses have let in water. The secret of success with these unique structures rests in the correct treatment of the paper, which can only be achieved with care in summer.

A tour over Canada in quest of snow waves has been made by a British physicist, who has succeeded in photographing and measuring good examples on frozen rivers and lakes and on the open prairie. Trains of as many as 100 successive ridges sometimes occur, and their movement is sufficiently rapid to be visible. True ripples, similar to sand ripples, are formed also under certain conditions. The steeper face of both ripples and waves is on the lee side, but in moist snow the wind forms ridges whose steeper side is the windward.

Experiments have proven that in the ordinary modeling clay used by school children the bacillus of typhoid may survive thirty-two days; that of diphtheria eighteen days, or more; and that of tuberculosis, at least eighteen days. The only effective means of sterilizing the clay was found to be the use of superheated steam under a pressure of fifteen to twenty pounds for forty-five minutes.

At Prussian blast furnaces a mixture of one part of granulated slag with eight parts of slag cement is being compressed into bricks weighing 7½ pounds, which can be cut into any desired shape when newly made, and are

suitable for building purposes after two or three months of hardening in the air.

That nations have their seasons of fever, anemia and other derangement has been already recognized, and a striking instance is now being studied by Dr. J. Mallison. The learned French physician regards the uprising of the Boxers in China as a remarkable massing of hysterical patients. An investigation just begun at the time of the troubles in Peking has given him an impression that nervous diseases are exceedingly common among the Chinese, notwithstanding their apparent calm, and he finds reason for believing that suggestion and hysteria have been leading factors in their conduct to the unprincipled leaders of the Boxer movement. The more simple-minded people the greater has been the effect of the mystical doctrines taught.

Stepped Into Liv Cask.

"When a child I burned my foot frightfully," writes W. R. Eads of Jonesville, Va., "which caused leg sores for 30 years, but Buckle's Arnica Salve wholly cured me after everything else failed." Infallible for Burns, Scalds, Cuts, Sores, Bruises and Piles. Sold by Z. C. M. I. Drug Department, 25c.

We have laid in a stock of

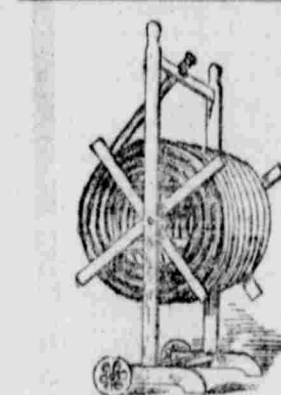
HARDWARE

Suitable for the Spring and Summer Season

THAT IS JUST ABOUT RIGHT.

You'll Say So When You See It.

The quality is good, and that's the main thing, if you don't want to buy again next spring. The designs are the latest and most improved, and the prices, well, we don't give things away, but it comes pretty near it.



Garden Hose of a good quality can be had at our store for 10c per foot and up to 20c

Steel Lawn Rakes from 75c to 1.00

Whitewash Brushes from \$4.00 to 5.00

Feather Dusters from \$1.75 to 2.00

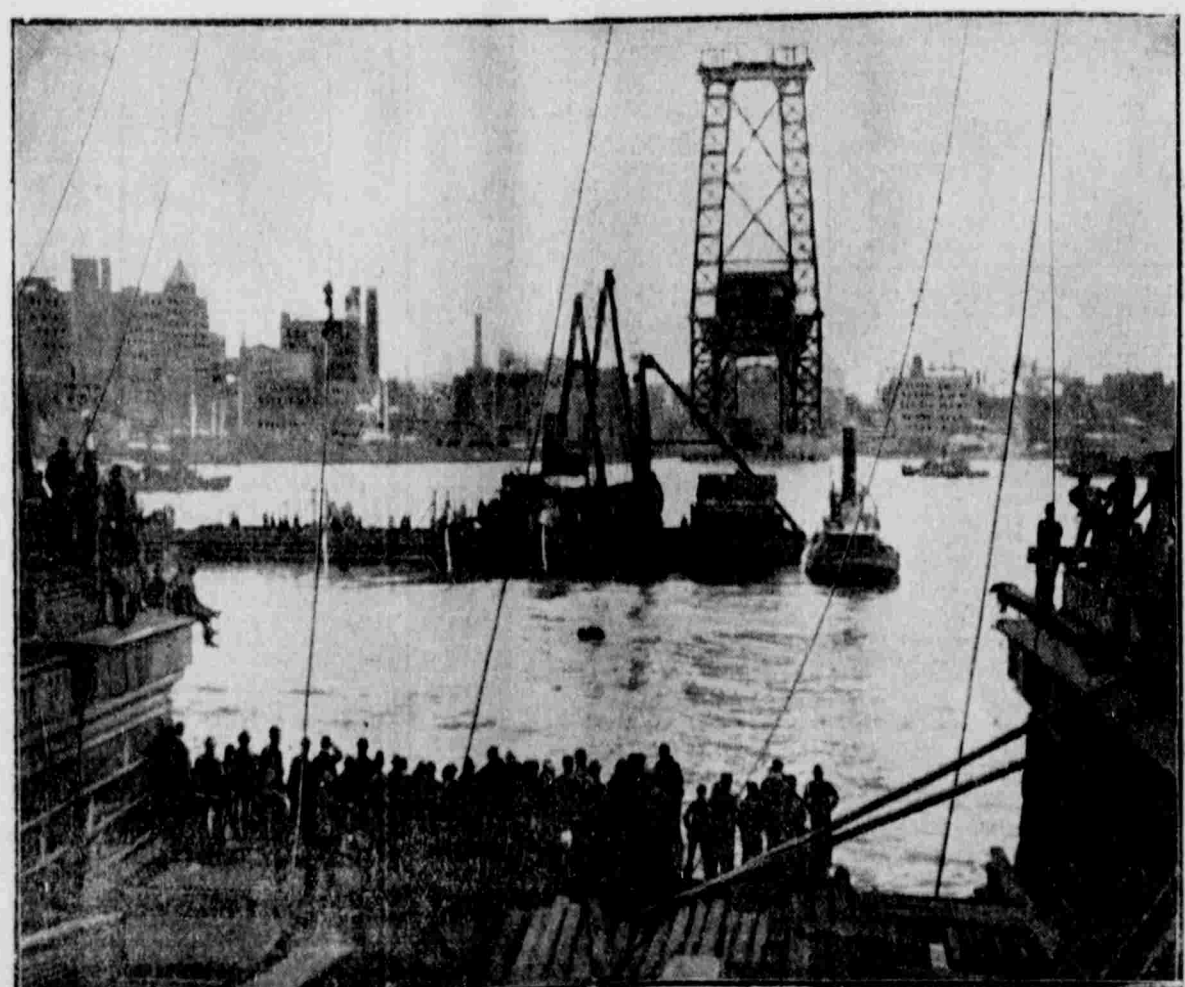


Good Hoes from 25c to 50c
Garden Rakes from 15c to 75c

UTAH STOVE & HARDWARE CO.,

34-36 East First South St.

P. W. Madsen, Manager.



Work on the big suspension bridge over New York's East river proceeds apace. When completed this bridge will replace the Brooklyn bridge as a engineering feat. It will cost \$12,000,000 and will be 7,200 feet long. The above exclusive snapshots shows the placing of one of the four cables which will stretch from terminal to terminal.