

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

(PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 1841.

[NUMBER 265]

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth.
August 3, 1841.*

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct the publication of a letter received from Edward John Eyre, Esq., by the Resident Magistrate at Albany, containing a Report of the country within the limits of Western Australia, traversed by him in his journey from Fowler's Bay to King George's Sound.

*By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.*

*Albany, King George's Sound,
July 10, 1841.*

SIR,—I have the honor to report to you, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, my arrival in the Colony of Western Australia overland from Adelaide; and, though I regret exceedingly that my labors have not been productive of any discovery likely to prove beneficial to either colony, I am induced to hope that a slight outline of my route, and of the country I have been traversing, may not prove uninteresting to his Excellency in a geographical point of view.

On the 25th of February last I left Fowler's Bay with a party consisting of an Overseer and three native boys. I was provided with ten horses, and provisions calculated to last nine weeks. Upon entering upon the limits of Western Australia I found the country extending round the Great Australian Bight for upwards of five hundred miles, to consist entirely of the fossil formation, with a considerable elevation above the level of the sea, varying, perhaps, from two hundred to six hundred feet, and forming for the most part, a country which presented the appearance of an elevated and almost level table land. This extensive region was of the most desolate and barren character imaginable, almost entirely without grass, destitute of timber, and in many parts covered by an impenetrable scrub. There was no surface water, neither were there creeks or water courses of any description. The only supply of water procured by the party throughout this dreary waste was obtained by digging in the drifts of pure white sand found along the coast at places where the great fossil bank receded a little from the margin of the sea. The supply thus obtained was very precarious; and, during the progress of our journey, we crossed over, at various times, intervals of sixty and one hundred miles in extent throughout which it was impossible to procure a drop of water in any way. In this fearful country our horses suffered most severely, and, on two different occasions, were seven days at a time without water, and almost without food also. From this cause we lost many valuable animals; and our progress was impeded by the frequent and long delays necessary to recruit those that were still left alive. Our journey thus became protracted to a period far beyond what had been calculated upon, and it became necessary, not merely to economize most strictly the provisions we had brought with us, but eventually to destroy two of our horses, as an additional supply of food to the party. In the midst of these difficulties, and when only half-way across the Great Australian Bight, my very small

party was broken up by an event as distressing as it was tragical, and I was left alone with a native of King George's Sound.

This melancholy occurrence, added to the weak and jaded condition of the few remaining horses, effectually prevented my examination of the country beyond the line of my immediate route. In fact, from the time of our entering the colony of Western Australia, such was the dreadful nature of the country that the whole party had been obliged to walk, and it was only on our arrival at East Mount Barren, that myself and the native boy could venture to ride. The first improvement observed in the face of the country was the finding a narrow strip of grassy land immediately to the eastward of Point Malcolm; but it was not until we had passed to some distance beyond Cape Arid, that we met with the first permanent surface water in the shape of a small fresh water lake.

The character of the country was now changed, and consisted of open elevated sandy downs, covered by scrub and underwood, and generally based upon an oolitic foundation, with a few granite bluffs at intervals. We now crossed in our route many salt water creeks or inlets, most of which received a drainage of either brackish or fresh water from the interior. The first of these occurs immediately east of Cape Arid, but it is very small, and separated from the sea by a bar of sand; others, as we advanced further to the westward, were of a more considerable size, and bore the appearance of being connected with the sea. These might possibly afford secure harbors for boats, but the circumstances under which I was travelling did not admit of any delaying to examine them, and for the convenience of crossing I usually kept so far inland as to intercept them above the termination of the salt water reaches. The streams of brackish, or sometimes of fresh water connected with these creeks were, however, usually very small; nor did we pass a single one of importance. The high downs upon which these water courses wind are, as I before remarked, sandy, and covered with shrubs, and the soil poor and destitute of grass, but in the valleys themselves, and on small portions of the slopes immediately above them, we found some patches of good, and, occasionally, of rich soil, upon which the herbage was abundant and luxuriant.

These tracts, however, as far as I could judge, were of very limited extent, nor was there any timber in their vicinity beyond the few small stunted tea trees growing along the banks of the water courses. At intervals, between the various creeks, we met with many lakes, sometimes of salt, and at others, of fresh water. A few tea trees, and, occasionally, a few straggling Eucalypti, grew around their margins, but I seldom succeeded in finding any grass. Passing behind Lucky Bay to the lagoons west of Esperance Bay, I traversed a considerable extent of grassy land, consisting for the most part of sandy undulations, but with many patches of rich soil in the flats and vallies. Water appeared to be abundant, but there was still a total absence of all timber but the tea tree. From the salt

lagoons we crossed a very barren country, and had much difficulty in procuring any grass for our horses. The water was generally very brackish, and there was much scrub. The rock formations consisted principally of quartz, ironstone, and sandstone, with much grit on the surface.

About 16 miles N.E. of Cape Richie we fell in with a considerable salt water River from the N.N.W., which appears to join the sea at a gap left by Flinders in the coast line, and marked as "a sandy Bight not perfectly seen." We found several permanent pools of fresh water not very far distant, in deep narrow gullies, by which the country hereabouts is much intersected. From the depth of this river, and the boggy nature of its bed, we were obliged to trace its course for about ten miles from the sea before we could cross. Here the water-course was obstructed by a ledge of rocks, and its channel appeared to become more contracted and rocky. The water was, however, still brackish, and the soil for the most part of an inferior description; along its immediate banks there was a little grass and more wood than we had previously seen anywhere. The trees were, tea tree, casuarina, and Eucalypti. Beyond the point at which we crossed the river, the country (as far as I was enabled to judge from a distant view) appeared to improve somewhat. Many clear and seemingly grassy patches were seen on the slopes toward the river, and good runs for cattle or sheep might probably be found in this direction. After crossing the river, we met, for the first time, with stunted trees of the kind called mahogany; but it was not until we had passed some miles to the westward of Cape Richie that we saw any large trees, or entered upon a country that could properly be called a timbered one. Here the mahogany, red gum, casuarina, and other trees common at King George's Sound, abounded, and formed a tolerably dense forest nearly all the way to that settlement. From the head of Doubtful Island Bay, I had kept some distance from the coast, cutting off the various corners as circumstances admitted, and I cannot give an opinion therefore of the country immediately upon the coast line. That portion, however, which lies between Cape Richie and King George's Sound is, I believe, already too well known to require any further examination.

On the 2nd of June we had met with a French whaler, the "Mississippi" of Havre, commanded by Capt. Rossitre. To this gentleman I am much indebted for the very kind and hospitable reception I experienced during a residence of 12 days on board, whilst my horses were recruiting after their severe toils, and for the very liberal manner in which I was furnished with supplies upon prosecuting my journey to King George's Sound.

At the latter place I arrived on the 7th of July instant, after having travelled over an extent of country which, from sinuosities of the coast line and other obstructions, had exceeded upwards of 1,040 miles in distance from Fowler's Bay; and, for the last 590 miles of which, I have been unaccompanied by any but a native of King George's Sound, known by the name of "Wylie," and whose

I would respectfully recommend to His Excellency the Governor as deserving of the favor of the Government for services rendered under circumstances of a peculiarly trying nature.

I regret exceedingly, that the very limited time of my stay in Albany has not permitted me to prepare a copy of the chart of my line of route for the information of His Excellency the Governor.

I have omitted to state that, during the progress of our journey, we met with very few natives, and those for the most part were timid, but well disposed. The language spoken by them is exactly similar to that of the natives at King George's Sound as far as the Promontory of Cape "Le Grand," and this similarity may probably extend to the commencement of the Great Cliffs, in about longitude 124½ degrees E. A little beyond this point the language is totally different, and the boy "Wylie" could not understand a word of it.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

EDWARD JOHN EYRE.

To J. R. PHILLIPS, Esq.,
Gov't Resident, Albany. }

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
July 31, 1841.*

HIS Excellency the Governor is pleased to direct the publication of the following Acts, which have, during the present Session, passed the Legislative Council—

**ANNO QUARTO ET QUINTO,
VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.**

- No. 1. An Act to revise, renew and amend an Act entitled "An Act to impose certain Duties on imported Spirituous Liquors, Wines and Tobacco." March 12, 1841.
2. An Act to renew and amend an Act entitled "An Act for the Regulation of the Customs of Western Australia." March 12, 1841.
3. An Act to revise, renew and amend an Act entitled "An Act to amend an Act to regulate the sale of Spirituous and Fermented Liquors by retail, and for the issuing of certain Licenses connected therewith." March 12, 1841.
4. An Act to continue for a limited time "An Act to enable the inhabitants of any Township to assess themselves for the Improvement of the Town." March 12, 1841.
5. An Act to Naturalize Johann August Ludwig Preiss. April 15, 1841.
6. An Act to Naturalize Frederick Waldeck. April 15, 1841.
7. An Act to revive, renew and continue for a limited period an Act entitled "An Act to amend an Act for the Regulation of Pilotage and Shipping in the Harbours of Western Australia." May 3, 1841.
8. An Act for repealing the laws now in force relative to the Licensing and regulating of Public Houses, and for better regulating the granting of Licenses for the sale of Ale, Beer, Wine, Spirits, and other Liquors in Western Australia in future. May 14, 1841.
9. An Act to provide for the Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in the Colony of Western Australia. May 27, 1841.
10. An Act to regulate the solemnization of Matrimony in the Colony of Western Australia. May 27, 1841.
11. An Act for applying certain sums arising from the Revenue receivable in the Colony of Western Australia to the service thereof, for the Financial Year

commencing 1st April, 1842. June 10, 1841.

12. An Act to Naturalize Benjamin Franklin Simmons. July 22, 1841.
13. An Act to impose a duty upon the transfer of landed property. July 29, 1841.
14. An Act to remove the annoyance occasioned by dogs in the Colony of Western Australia.
15. An Act for the Regulation of Pilotage and Shipping in the Harbours of Western Australia.

*By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
August 4, 1841.*

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Robert Neill of Albany, Esquire, Deputy-Assistant-Commissary-General, to be a Magistrate of this Territory.

*By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
July 29, 1841.*

TENDERS in triplicate will be received in this Office until 12 o'clock on Tuesday, the 10th of August next, for "Lining a Cell, and other Repairs at Fremantle Gaol."

For specification and particulars reference to be made to the Superintendent of Public Works, Perth.

*By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
August 4, 1841.*

**SALE OF ALLOTMENTS AT
BUNBURY.**

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct the publication of the following notices, which have been issued by the Resident Magistrate of Leschenault, respecting the sale of certain Allotments in the Town of Bunbury.

*By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.*

Bunbury, July 13, 1841.

THE Sub-Collector of Revenue will put up for sale by public auction, on Tuesday, the 17th of August next, at One o'clock, the undermentioned Town Allotments—

Bunbury No. 6
Do. No. 11
Do. No. 59

For further particulars application to be made to the Sub-Collector or Assistant-Surveyor.

G. ELIOT,
Resident.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
July 28, 1841.*

HIS Excellency the Governor is pleased to direct it to be notified for general information that the undermentioned Allotments in the Town of Perth have reverted to the Crown in consequence of the non-performance of the conditions of Assignment—

Perth Building lot W No. 7
Do. W " 22
Do. Y " 16

*By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
July 22, 1841.*

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Francis Corbet Singleton, Esq., to the office of Resident Magistrate of the Murray River District, vice Captain R. G. Meares, resigned.

*By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
July 28, 1841.*

SURRENDER OF LAND.

THE undermentioned application for the Surrender of Land having been received in conformity with the public notice issued on the 29th September, 1837, His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct the same to be notified for the information of parties who may be in any way interested—

Henry Edward Henderson—Two-thirds of Location No. 26 Plantagenet, containing 2,000 acres, formerly assigned to the applicant.

*By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
July 19, 1841.*

WITH reference to a notice bearing date the 11th May last, addressed to the Holders of Land in Occupancy whose licenses of occupation have expired, requiring them without delay to prove to the satisfaction of the Government whether or how far the conditions of assignment have been performed: Notice is hereby given, that all such lands, as are above described, for which no schedule of improvements actually effected, or notices of the necessary improvements being in progress, may be sent in within three months from this date, will be considered as having reverted to the Crown for non-performance of the conditions of assignment.

*By His Excellency's command
PETER BROWN.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
July 15, 1840.*

**SALE OF ALLOTMENTS AT
BUNBURY.**

HIS Excellency the Governor is pleased to direct the following Notice, which has been issued by the Government Resident of Leschenault, relative to the sale of two allotments to be published for general information.

*By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.*

Bunbury, July 5, 1841.

THE Sub-Collector of Revenue will offer for sale by Public Auction, at Bunbury, on Monday, the ninth day of August next, at one o'clock, the undermentioned allotments, subject to the existing regulations—

Bunbury No. 5
Do. 3

For further particulars application to be made to the Government Resident and Assistant-Surveyor.

GEORGE ELIOT,
Government Resident.

GENERAL ROAD TRUST.

TENDERS will be received on Monday, the 9th of August next, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, for making good the approach from the end of St. George's Terrace to the bridge on the Flats.

For particulars apply to the Superintendent of Public Works, who will receive the tenders.

By order of the Chairman of the General Road Trust,

EDWARD PICKING,
Clerk to the Trust

Perth, July 20, 1841.

*Printed by CHARLES MACFAULL,
Government Printer*