



OF THE PROVINCE OF

South Australia.

Surveyed by the General Survey
of the Province of
South Australia
1852

PARLIAMENTARY PAPER NO. 15 & 1867

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

SURVEYOR-GENERAL'S REPORT ON DEGRADATION OF
SOUTHERN RAINFALL

Ordered by the House of Assembly to be printed with
Expenditure, 1867.

Surveyor-General's Office, 5th Dec-

970-65.

Sir - I have the honor to report, for the information of the Honorable the Commissioner, that agreeably to instructions contained in your letter of the 3rd ultimo, I proceeded to make the necessary examination of the country lying to the north of Adelaide, to enable me to determine and lay down on the map, as nearly as practicable, the line of demarcation between that portion of the country where the rainfall is extended, and that where the drought prevails.

Had the drought, which unfortunately still generally prevails, been of an ordinary nature, there had been no necessity for my leaving Adelaide on this duty as the line of demarcation might have been shown from information previously in my possession, and especially referred to in my report on the visitation of some of the northern rivers. The drought, however, being of an unusually severe nature, and extending more generally than any previously known, it became indispensable to add to my previous experience the knowledge of the state of the country in its present state. To obtain this information, I adopted the following general route - starting in various directions over the intermediate country - viz., north-west to north-east to the Murray, generally and north-west to north-east, north to Gottlieb's Wells, and to Ketchoula, north to Teluk, south to the northwest by Smith Creek, Macpherson, and Roggehead to Pekin, south-west and north-west through Adelaide to Mount Remarkable, north-easterly over plain to north of Kangaroo, south-westerly by Western Plains to Fort Augusta, and by Roggehead to Teluk to Crystal Brook and Broughton, and thence by Clare to the sea.

The result of my investigation shows the line of demarcation extending considerably further south than I anticipated. The change from the country suffering from excessive drought to that where its effect has only an slightly experienced being palpable to the eye from the nature of the country itself, and may be described as bare ground, destitute of grass and herbage, the surface soil dried by the intense heat, in places broken and pulverized by the passage of stock, and covered by the action of the wind into miniature hummocks, surrounding the closely cropped stumps of salt, blue, and other dwarf bushes, whilst those of greater elevation are denuded of their leaves and smaller branches as far as the stock can reach. This description generally holds good of all country upon which stock has been depastured and where the drought prevails. The change from that to where the drought has had a less serious effect being shown by the fresher and more leafy appearance of the bushes, gradually improving to those in their ordinary state, and the gradual increase of other vegetation from bare ground to well grassed country.

During my visit, I observed that places upon which stock runs pretty well grazed during the drought of 1852, are now utterly destitute of grass or herbage.

The line of demarcation I found to extend from Swan Reach, on the River Murray, in a north-westerly direction to the Barra Hill; and thence north to Oak Hises, east of Ulocko, and by the last-named Hill to Mount Sly, and in a northerly and westerly direction as shown by plan herewith forwarded by the Roggehead and Farnside, to Mount Remarkable; thence southerly by the Bluff and Ferguson's Range to the Broughton; and south-westerly to the east shore of Spencer's Gulf, crossing the Gulf to Franklin Harbor; and thence north-westerly to the west end of the Oxley Range.

Should the Commissioners wish for any further information on this subject or desire suggestions as to the mode of meeting the distress caused by the said visitation, which my knowledge of the subject and experience may enable me to offer, I shall be happy to supply such additional information as may be required.

I have, Sir,
G. S. COLLIER, Surveyor-General.

To the Secretary of Crown Lands.



REFERENCE
 Mountain Land marked
 Lowland Pastoral Land
 High Land

B.
 From Clark's line showing
 demarcation between
 suffering from drought and
 that which drought has
 not extended
 W. Wright
 Secy Secy
 1867/5

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