AUSTRALIA THE VIRGIN

By JAMES O'ROURKE

The air raid on Port Darwin on February 19 opened the first military attack of Australia's history. The Battle of Australia is about to begin. Many have been the recent indications in the press that Australians are facing this battle with determination but in a pessimistic mood. It is not the quality of the individual Australian nor their lack of raw materials which is responsible for this apprehension, but the realization of their dreadfully small number of 7 million inhabitants from which the defenders of an entire continent must come.

It is with this problem of underpopulated Australia that the following article deals. The author is an American, who, after having studied at universities in California and Europe, has traveled extensively in Central and South America as well as many European countries. For the last two years he has been living in the Far East.—K.M.

Australia: an empty continent. Overhead flies the British flag.

Three million square miles, a climate ranging from temperate to tropical, fertile soil, unequaled pasture lands, limitless mineral wealth: coal, iron, gold. But a country with a formidable deficit: that of population. Three million square miles inhabited by scarcely seven millions, a colony without colonists, a whole continent without people.

Is it British Empire policy that has made Australia today an empty continent, virtually without inhabitants to defend it?

Take a Royal Mail liner to Sydney. Suez, Africa, the Indian Ocean. Our first glimpse of the Australian coast line, low mountains which form the brim of the continent whose interior is like a vast dry basin. The cities, the wealth, even the natural resources, are found near the coast, on the coast, within easy reach of the sea.

Hundreds of miles of coast line, virtually uninhabited. A climate along this border of the continent much like that of the South of France, Spain, Italy, Greece: the climate of the world's great civilizations, though exposed to Antarctic winds and sudden changes in temperature.

DISEMBARKING IN SYDNEY

In the dazzling sunlight of midsummer—although midsummer is Australia's midwinter—we enter the harbor of Sydney—one of the world's finest ports. We see a colossal bridge, until lately the biggest in the world. We are impressed when we tie up at the dock and disembark without clatter, without confusion. All the passengers are British, you see. All the dock workers are British too. No "natives." No clamor, no confusion. Only self-respecting workingmen, very calm as they go about their work, some of them perhaps a little too fat. All of them British.

Sydney: a magnificent city. The bustle of a city of millions—actually the population is 1,300,000—Americanized buildings, an underground railway. Streams of motorcars, high-priced American cars, especially luxurious cars in impressive numbers. We imagine this is the metropolis for a hinterland of more millions of people, the port of a vast area dotted with cities, towns, and villages. We find out differently later. Sydney is only facade. Behind it a whole continent lies empty.

Like a pearl necklace strung along the coast are a series of Brightons,
holiday and bathing towns, where we see the national sport, “surfing.” On hot days the big rollers bring in the surf riders by the hundreds, while on the beaches thousands more are “getting browner and healthier every minute.”

Play is a very British characteristic, and there is much play in Australia. Nearly every day of the week there are horse races and pony races. The enthusiasm for the “Melbourne Cup” unquestionably exceeds that for England’s Derby.

THEY ARE SO ENGLISH

Despite the geographical anomaly and growing Americanization, the towns are so English in character that they might almost have been taken up from some place in the British Isles and dumped down in Australia, without any regard for the strangeness of their new surroundings. Anyone familiar with the inside of a “Golden Lion” hotel in an English village will find himself quite at home in the “Royal” at Wagga Wagga. No cafés of the Continental type, but of course there is the English pub, and cool drinks you find at the American soda fountain in shops which are exact replicas of the fruit, sweets and miscellaneous refreshment shops in English towns.

A great personage from the home country comes on a visit to faraway Australia. He is asked: what does he think of the Australian people? “They are so English,” he answers. It is the correct answer. It is the only answer. It makes the Australians feel very proud. Australians want to remain Englishmen. Australia must be kept British, Australia with its incalculable treasures, its limitless space.

INTELLIGENCE TESTS

But what if, say, some non-Britisher wishes to go to Australia? Perhaps we
have said something shocking. Yet the question is asked. And it is answered:

There are no immigration laws in Australia discriminating against any nation or race. Anyone and everyone is free to enter. But—each immigrant must pass an intelligence test which consists in transcribing a text that is dictated to him. So far so good.

The law does not specify in what language this test is to be made. So, for example, when a Polish immigrant tries to pass the impassable barrier that is raised by the English against foreigners of every color, race, or creed, he may be dictated to in Gaelic. An Italian immigrant is kept out because he cannot pass a test in Welsh. It is fantastic. But it has admirable results. There are no immigration laws discriminating against foreigners in Australia, but 98 per cent of the population of Australia is British.

Immigrants who succeed in getting into Australia are not immigrants—they are "nominated persons." That is to say, someone in Australia writes to someone in Great Britain that there is an opening. The formal signature of papers nominating the candidate follows, and when all the formalities are done, the new arrival in Australia is sure to be the right kind of person.

80 per cent of the "migrants" are nominated persons. ("Immigrant" implies "foreigner" and is therefore to be avoided as a derogatory term.) The other class of migrants is the English boy settler, who comes to Australia under the supervision of the "Little Brother" organizations: Church of England boys, Wembley scholars, Salvation Army lads. The "Little Brother" and "Big Brother" organizations, like that of the "nominated persons," work smoothly and well.

WHERE ARE THE PIONEERS?

The nominated persons are drawn from the unemployed of British cities. Are these men fit to become the pioneers who will open up the interior of Australia? The migrant arrives from Great Britain and finds that men working at his own trade and leading the kind of life he is used to, do not care to face the hardships of pioneer life. The social conditions of the Australian cities and the very high standard of living of even the manual workers, satisfy him perfectly. Instead of settling on the land, he too stays in the city. So Australia, with its total population of barely seven millions, has two cities—Sydney and Melbourne—with over a million inhabitants each. Three smaller cities—Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth—with Canberra, the brand-new capital, constitute the rest of the facade of English colonization in Australia. What lies behind?

Behind the city-ports lie three million square miles, an area as large as that of the United States of America, a region larger than that of the whole of China, with less than one inhabitant per square mile. And all of Australia is not a desert. Far from it. 69 per cent of the whole territory is adaptable to cultivation. How large a population then could Australia sustain?

SUSTENANCE FOR TENS OF MILLIONS

The 40 per cent of Australian territory which has a climate suitable for habitation by white men would support a population of perhaps sixty millions. Without industrializing this virgin continent, without creating competition for the factories of Europe or America, Australia has sufficient resources to sustain at least a hundred million people. Desert regions and savanna lands taken into account, and supposing the introduction of Asiatic labor, Australia should be able to sustain a population density of more than fifty to the square mile, which would mean a potential population of one hundred and fifty millions.

And Australia, instead of being offered as a possible solution to the world's menacing problems, continues to be the exclusive empire of seven million Britshers. Why are there hundreds of miles of coast line virtually uninhabited, why a whole continent,
greater in extent than China, with scarcely the population of one large city such as London, New York, or Tokyo to defend it?

In this brief survey of Australia there is no room for surmise. What we need are concrete facts and figures.

ELIMINATION OF THE NATIVES

When the British began their colonization of Australia a hundred and fifty years ago, they did not find a continent completely uninhabited. Every navigator who touched on the Australian mainland told of encounters with the natives. There is no record of any serious effort made to preserve this original race. The only use civilized Europe found for these aborigines was for its studies of the primitive life of man.

It was observed that they wore no clothes, built no houses, that they were omniverous, without religion as we understand it, and that they did not cultivate the soil. Their spears and their boomerangs were objects of curiosity. The scientific facts were noted, and then the aborigines were driven back into the bush. If they made trouble they were hunted down like the dingoes.

The imagination of some early chroniclers, fired by the fact that Australia was destined originally as an English penal colony, has elaborated tales of convicts shooting bushmen for sport. We need not go into that. The fact remains that in Tasmania there has not been a single native since 1876; in Victoria there are still fifty-five; in New South Wales the number in 1932 was exactly 1,197. On the whole continent there are no more than perhaps 50,000.

The British complain that the natives are given to drunkenness and prostitution. And yet these natives might have been capable of surviving contact with any race other than the white. Dr. Charles Pickering, the American naturalist, wrote of them: "Strange as it may appear, I would refer to an Australian as the finest model of the human proportions I have ever met; in muscular development combining perfect symmetry, activity and strength, while his head might have compared with the antique bust of a philosopher." Some ethnologists venture the theory that they may be related to the original Ainu inhabitants of Japan.
VAST RESOURCES
AND NO LABOR

The whole of northern Australia is tropical. Climatic conditions make it out of the question for the British to do manual labor in areas that comprise well over half the continent. Black men, Asians, even southern Europeans who might do the work are not admitted.

What if there are vast stretches of desert and savanna which could be transformed into fertile land? What if the copper, the zinc, is left where it is in the ground? The British Empire has a superabundance of undeveloped land and raw materials. And the Australians so far have been living extremely well, without having to kill themselves in the hot North or in the mines.

The unemployed of English cities who come to Australia have never had any experience in farming. The interior is no place for the Britisher, so he stays in the city. The great majority of Australians have never seen a kangaroo except in the zoo.

WORKINGMAN'S PARADISE

The ordinary man's life in urban Australia is unparalleled in the world. We can name tentatively three terrestrial paradises: the United States of America for women; Japan for the traveler; and Australia for the workingman.

Travelers in Australia have noticed that the workingman sits down as much as possible while at work. If there are bricks to be lifted, or planks to be heaved on a crane, he counts the number very carefully, for his syndicate does not permit him to go too fast with the work, or to make an effort that might endanger his health.

We have already been struck by the corpulent dock workers, their placid humor, the excellent state of their health. Wages, hours, and conditions of labor are fixed by an arbitration court whose awards have the force of law. Due to high tariffs and limited production, the tendency is for wages to rise and hours to be reduced.

When Sydney's giant bridge was built, the riveters received pay in proportion to the increasing height at which they had to work: up to £1 an hour. The Sydney bridge was not only the longest but also the most costly that had ever been built.

There is little demand for servants—everyone in Australia polishes his own boots, and there is nothing disgraceful in the son of a high officer being a mason or tram driver. In short, the conditions and standard of living in Australia are ideal. A great deal of space for a few people, no excessive work, no mad overproduction—but a calm, democratic existence, with a good life for everyone. As an Englishman approvingly remarked in Australia, those who have great tasks to do in the world should live in homes in which there is sufficiency, security, and quietness. And it is true. Australia is a paradise. But a paradise reserved for the British.

FOREIGNERS NOT WANTED

It is no wonder the Australians are self-satisfied. Even a trifle provincial and exclusive. Nowhere does race prejudice run higher. Even in England there was some apprehension expressed when the "Aussies" had to be sent to Singapore. Singapore is a city of Chinese, and it was feared the Australians might arouse hostile feelings by their inconsiderate conduct. The natives in Australia itself are called "nigs."

The term "Dagos" is applied to the handful of Italians and southeastern Europeans in Australia. Once you may want something to eat out of meal hours: the regular restaurants will not serve you—the syndicate fixes the hours for serving meals. So you go to a "Dago" restaurant where you can enjoy your food any time of the day or night. The term really implies nothing other than the contempt of the Anglo-Saxon for south-European races, but it is significant that the "Dagos" do not belong to the syndicate.
By the thousands Italian immigrants have sought to escape from their crowded homeland, where forty-five million people are compressed into an area of 131,000 square miles. They are vinegrowers, fruit growers, as well as the best manual laborers in Europe. The Australians do not want them.

German colonists in search of lebensraum, German buyers in search of raw materials, German technicians in search of work, all applied for admittance. The Australians did not want them.

Australia: "Private Property—Keep Out."

**COAL AND IRON FOR THE ASKING**

What were the conditions in Europe which led to the outbreak of a second world war? We have not forgotten the order of events: economic warfare first. Armed conflict after. There was the need of certain industrialized countries for access to natural resources outside their own boundaries. There was the fantastic war of heavy industries—coal, cotton, rubber, wool, iron.

Take iron first.

The iron ore deposits of South Australia and Queensland are inexhaustible. But they are not exploited. At one place, on the Yampi Sound, the ore is so conveniently located that it could be loaded from the mines directly onto ships. But this Kimberley district is very far away from any settlement: no Britisher will work there in the damp tropical climate. So the ore is there, right on the coast, for anyone to come and take it.

Then coal. The brown coal in Victoria, the pit coal in the vicinity of Newcastle. The Australians are proud of Newcastle, from where all the iron was furnished to build the big bridge for Sydney.

Newcastle is on the coast too. A splendid port. Delightful residential district for the mine workers on the shore of Lake Macquary. But the methods of work!

The miners take out only the coal which is practically on the surface. There is no need to do otherwise—there are layers of coal five and six feet high, deposits similar to those of the Ruhr and the Saar districts in Europe, which are not even touched. The mining equipment is antiquated. There is inefficiency, neglect, waste. Still the mines are so rich that the miners are paid £2 a day.

With such wages, and such methods, the price of the coal extracted is of course too high for the foreign market. The territory of Newcastle, which could be one of the richest coal regions of the world, does not produce for export. The people of any nation which needs the coal of Newcastle need not send buyers to get it. They must send soldiers.

Oil has been found in various districts. But the conditions of exploitation in Australia are here again such as to make it not worth while to dig wells. Settlements too far away, no railways, the heat, not enough technicians, no workers. And anyway, England has access to oil the world over, without Australia.

**MINERALS AND "WHITE GOLD"**

In the high plateaux of Queensland there are unheard-of riches in minerals of every sort. Tin, asbestos, copper, zinc. The same haphazard methods in mining, and the same shortage of labor. The minerals which are of such vital need to other nations are there. Are there enough men to defend them from others?

The world deprived of the fabulously rich natural resources of a whole continent. Australia playing the dog in the manger. Yet England will not abandon this "continent of the future" of which she is custodian. There are things worth defending.

Enormous fortunes have already been made out of the wool of Australia. Australia is the greatest producer of wool, and Australian wool is the best in the world. Sheep were introduced into Australia by England well over a hundred years ago. The raising of sheep in an arid territory practically without water
requires tremendous capital and involves huge risks. In the years 1926-28, Queensland alone lost ten million sheep out of a total of seventeen million, due to the droughts. Despite such recurrent setbacks, the Australians persevered. Sheep-raising is firmly established as the foundation of Australia's economy. Wool is the cornerstone of Australia's prosperity.

Australia's wool is of vital importance to England. In 1933, 58 per cent of Australian exports went to the British Empire, 47.8 per cent to Great Britain alone—mostly wool for Britain's factories.

**RAILWAYS AND EMPTY SPACES**

But Britain's "Australia for the British" policy has provided only seven million inhabitants to defend a continent 10,000 miles from home.

Today the outposts are still deserted wastes, the lines of communication to reach them pitifully scarce. The railways of Australia are owned by the individual states. The seven states, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland, New South Wales, and Tasmania, developed their railway systems independently. They even laid their rails with different gauges. To travel across the continent requires changing trains and transferring freight a number of times, varying according to the number of state boundaries crossed.

We have seen the city-ports. What impresses one on first going inland are the enormous distances between the towns. Hundreds and hundreds of miles from one inhabited point to another.

**STRANGE BEAUTY**

Whatever may be our purpose in going into the interior of Australia, what remains longest in our memory is the marvelous bird and plant life we see.

The welter of orchids in the jungles of the North of Australia, where great lianas a hundred feet long hang from giant trees, the brilliant jadegreen parrots with vermillion-stained breasts, the white cockatoos with exquisite porcelain tints. In the bush of Queensland we listen to the mysterious notes of the laughing jackass, and on the tropical beach of Coolongatta we watch the long green rollers come in from the Pacific and spread their foam over the white sand.

If we journey inland to visit the sheep stations, we see eucalyptus trees which, with their aerial branches, are perhaps the most beautiful trees in the world; we go where the rock wallabies, or kangaroo, play at the hour of sundown, and where the stillness of night is broken by the mournful howls of the dingo. We go into the swan lands where the furnace heat of the sands is so great that in time of drought the hooves of the cattle fall from their feet, and where parched crows can be seen dropping dead from the trees.

**DINNER JACKETS IN THE BUSH**

The big sheep stations can usually be reached only after a journey of several days, in part by rail, the rest in private motorcars. You may pass on the fringe of unexplored lands, skirt regions where the aborigines live almost as they did in the Stone Age. Yet in Sydney we were advised not to neglect taking our dinner jackets along with us.
In Queensland, New South Wales, and South Australia there are gigantic stations—a million acres is the limit for leased land. The sheep station we visit may be built like a substantial English country house, and here breakfast, lunch, and dinner are served with the pleasant decorum of a real English home. Usually there is a lack of servants, which seems a pity, as the British servants are made so comfortable and are so well paid.

Some of these stations have flocks of over 50,000, even 100,000 sheep; others are so extensive they run one sheep to twenty-five acres. In the Northern Territory, where the total population is only 6,975 humans for an area of 523,620 square miles—two and a half times as large as France—the cattle stations average one beast to the square mile. These are the kind of enterprises which demand a very big investment to make them profitable.

Some idea of the inaccessibility of the northern part of Australia can be gained by the surprising fact that at Port Darwin—famous for its deepwater harbor—people sometimes get their London newspapers before those of Melbourne and Sydney. Likewise some idea can be gained by this and similar facts of the difficulties the Australians, with their total population smaller than that of Greece, will be up against if they have to defend their enormous continent against enemy landings. Does not the policy of “Australia for the British,” ignoring the world’s pressing demographic problems, appear today as improvident?

WHEAT TO BURN

Thirty years ago Western Australia did not supply sufficient wheat for its own consumption. In 1928 the yield for Western Australia alone was 34 million bushels. Traveling by rail to the wheat country one experience may be worth noting. On certain lines it may be necessary to interrupt one’s journey and pass the night in some town: the hours of work of the train crew are fixed by the union, and there may be only one shift to run the train.

From an airplane the wheat fields, a mile, two miles, square, look like infinitesimal patches. Vast uncultivated areas of good earth extend for hundreds of miles in every direction. This is no figure of speech. It is estimated that on the continent of Australia, 300,000 square miles—twice the area of Germany—are available for wheat-growing alone.

And besides Australia, Great Britain has Canada, which supplies hundreds of millions of bushels every year.

In a world of starving people, Australia’s actual and potential supply of the precious grain may yet bring the English to realize that, as history shows us, armies are frequently merely the forerunners of agglomerations of starving human beings.

At the same time Australia must let her grain rot because of manipulations of the stock market to keep up the price, throws her oranges into the sea—180 tons at Brisbane, July 12, 1932, 1,900 tons at Sydney, August 1933, 5,700 tons at Wellington, September 12, 1933—destroys her cotton, and eats only 19 per cent of the meat of livestock slaughtered, because the rest “does not have the required quality.”

MECHANIZED FARMING

What are the agricultural methods which give Australia her prosperity?
The rural life of the old European type does not exist there. The migrant city-unemployed of England have instituted mechanized farming in Australia. They obtain the highest profits possible from the land by mechanized means, replacing men by machines, and placing themselves in the role of manufacturers of farm products. The conditions of this new machine industry are good. The profits are good. The standard of living of the farmers is good.

The capital required to bring a fifteen-acre block in the irrigated fruit-growing area into bearing is £2,000. The Australians can afford it. There is the State to help. The best of it, we are told, is that the mechanized agriculture of the irrigation settlements has provided homes and prosperity for over 50,000 people. Homes and prosperity for a handful of people, who altogether would make only a small town, on a continent where the rural population could be tens of millions!

But for England to have allowed an exodus of surplus populations from Europe to Australia would have necessitated the revision of Australia's economy from top to bottom.

Australia's prosperity is based on the premise of a very few people to a great deal of space. Not too much production. Above all an easy, democratic life, with the maximum of wellbeing for all—all the British, of course.

Ignoring the vital, pressing needs of the world, England sterilizes a whole continent in order to maintain a high degree of prosperity.

UNTOUCHED TROPICAL WEALTH

All of northern Queensland remains more or less unexplored. A few sugar plantations along the coast. Sheep stations scattered here and there in the interior. Otherwise nothing. Queensland is four times as large as France, with a population of 800,000 where millions of people might flourish—millions, that is, of whites and Asians. But not whites alone.

The climate is tropical. The uniform heat intolerable. The heavy moisture of the coastal region, due to the extraordinarily long rainy season, renders it unfit for European labor.

The planters tried at one time to exploit these dreadful regions of Queensland. It began by trafficking in Kanaka natives of the South Sea Islands. The method of recruiting the natives depended more or less on subterfuge when not on actual violence. In 1904 the government itself perpetuated an outrage greater than the ones it sought to repress. In that year Australians decided that they wanted a continent exclusively and entirely white. Millions were spent on deporting all the natives. But the captains of the vessels which had the unfortunates aboard did not know exactly to which islands to repatriate them. Accordingly many of them were put off on islands inhabited by their enemies, who forthwith massacred and devoured them.

Now the whole northern part of the continent is practically empty, the number of whites amounting to barely 7,000. Since the expulsion of the Polynesians and Chinese who had gained a foothold there, the development of this fertile savanna country has not only stopped but there has been retrogression. Where the Chinese once had flourishing fruit plantations, today there is nothing but neglected fields overrun by the jungle.

TWICE AS DEAR—
BUT AUSTRALIAN

Another example of the effects of the all-British policy in Australia: in 1924 and 1925, the British put 275 square miles of this coastal region of Queensland under cultivation for cane. The work on these sugar plantations is done by white British labor.

These workers demand such high wages that the sugar-growing cannot be carried on profitably. Since the Dominion, in keeping with her socialist outlook, has guaranteed the British planters an adequate income and
has made up the deficits in case of crop failure, the sugar is 100 per cent dearer than Java sugar, which is kept out by an extremely high protective tariff.

Pineapples and bananas are also grown; the latter cannot compete with those from the Fiji Islands, but here again the tariff has ensured the disposal of the limited domestic product. Similarly the raising and preserving of oranges, lemons, peaches, apricots, plums, apples, and pears, suffer from the fact that if the fruit is to be reasonably priced there must be large orchards. The yield of a large fruit industry, however, cannot be consumed by the relatively small population, and export is impossible on account of the excessive cost of production.

**FISH AND BUTTONS**

Whoever computes the length of the coast line of Australia, a continent entirely surrounded by sea, will find it runs into astronomical figures. Yet in one year, 1926-27, for example, Australia imported fish to the value of over three-quarters of a million pounds sterling.

From their islands in the Carolines, heavy Japanese fishing sampans used to make the voyage across the equator, across the Coral Sea until they arrived at the "Great Barrier." In the shallow waters off northern Australia, abode of the giant man-eating clams, they found certain mollusks, the "trochus," the shells of which are used in Japan for the manufacture of buttons. No Australian takes the trouble to fish in these waters, much less to bother with these mollusks. But because the Japanese fished along these deserted coasts, in Australian waters, London protested to Tokyo. And to make still surer their rights to keep poachers off their reserve, they constructed in 1913 a fleet of powerful speedboats to chase the trespassers away.

Is it really a crime for China and Japan to attempt to pour their surplus populations into the empty spaces of Australia?

**EMPIRE ECONOMICS**

Australia prides herself on the scientific nature of her socialistic enterprises. Before any development project is actually undertaken, great care must be exercised not to endanger the already satisfactory economic situation. For example, the large areas where ideal conditions prevail for the cultivation of tobacco have been under investigation by Australian government committees for years. Meanwhile, in a single year such as 1926-27, Australia imported £2,700,000 worth of tobacco. It seems that Australians think in terms, not of the present generation of humanity, but of future generations of Britishers—those unborn Britishers for whom the continent is being held in waiting.

There is also the delicate problem of always adjusting the Dominion's production and trade to the exigencies of Empire economy. Certain agricultural products may be encouraged, others, such as cotton and tobacco, not. The same applies to those manufactures for which conditions are highly favorable, particularly of leather and woollen yarns. These are sternly discouraged. In 1934 Australia decided to give an added impetus to the development of her manufacturing industries and introduced a protective tariff on cotton goods. Feeling ran so high in England that in Lancaster there was actually a boycott of Australian food products in retaliation.
Australian factories are under the burden of the dearth of skilled workers, the small population, and the socialistic outlook of Australia which makes the country incapable of competing in the world market, in other words, which makes the continent incapable of producing to supply the world.

AUSTRALIA, THE USA, AND JAPAN

What are Australia’s relations with the United States of America? In 1938, Australian products sent to the USA amounted to 6.9 per cent of Australia’s exports. The United States in the same year furnished Australia with 15.9 per cent of Australia’s imports, mostly in the form of high-priced motorcars. However, Australia’s relations with the United States, in all fields other than economic, are much more extensive.

And Australia’s relations with Japan? The Dominion has erected prohibitive barriers against Japanese-manufactured articles, and this in face of the fact that Japan would naturally be Australia’s best customer for wool, as would China for wheat. As it is, Japan, in 1938 for example, took some 83 million yen’s worth of Australian exports and was allowed to contribute 69 million yen’s worth of Australian imports.

For many years the population of Japan has been increasing at the appalling rate of more than a million a year. With an area of 148,756 square miles, Japan has a population of 70 millions, 375 inhabitants per square mile, 2,000 inhabitants per square mile where the soil can be cultivated.

In Japan proper, only 17 per cent of the earth is cultivable. In Australia, 69 per cent. Three fourths of the Australian continent today has less than one inhabitant per square mile.

As long as there are habitable empty spaces on the globe within reach of compressed populations, the demographic pressure will break through the political barriers.

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For years during peace time the question arose time and again whether the moment had not come for Australia to put her trading policy upon a broader basis and to strive to adapt herself to the changes taking place in the East. But peace-time efforts to wrest concessions from the British Empire by means of typewriters, secretaries, speeches, and statistics were without avail. Now we hear the heavy artillery, we watch the siege of fortresses, and are given accounts of the exploits of airplanes, submarines, and cruisers.

No such change of policy as was sought by the aspirants to Australia’s favors is conceivable as long as the Dominion is bound hand and foot by her traditional dependency on England.

No peaceful change is possible as long as Australians abide by their decision to keep Australia, and everything on, in, and around Australia, for now and for all time to come, exclusively for the British.