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<http://www.bda-online.org.au>***The Cyclopedia of N.S.W. 1904, 1907 & 1909***

- (Illustrated) An Historical and Commercial Review - An Epitome of Progress.
Published by McCarron, Stewart & Co., Printers, 44 Pitt Street, Sydney. 1907.

Contents

1904 Prospectus Edition
1907 Edition
1907 Variation
1909 Edition
1909 - Another Mitchell Library copy
Capturing the Text and the Data

1904 Prospectus Edition:

In 1904 The Cyclopedia Company, Publishers, Sydney, produced a *Free Part* of this work as a prospectus for the main publication. Its Explanatory Note reads:

A copy of this specimen part of "The Cyclopedia of New South Wales" is presented to every subscriber to the work partly to indicate the general scope and character of the undertaking, and partly to enable those whose biographies appear in the following pages to forward their copy, if they wish, to friends in Europe or elsewhere, so as to give them some idea of the nature and magnitude of the occupations in which they are engaged, and of the success which has attended them.

No efforts will be spared to render the completed work worthy of the liberal patronage it has already received, and to make it of the highest value, not only for purposes of reference, but also as an accurate record of the economic and general position of the State of New South Wales in the early years of the twentieth century.

Included in the general scheme of the work is a correct classification of all biographical notices, so that each shall appear in its respective section - administrative and legislative, statistical, financial, commercial, manufacturing, pastoral, agricultural, &c. It was unfortunate that of these notices a few of them were received by the publishers a little too late to allow of them being placed in their correct places in this specimen part, but this matter will be rectified in the completed Cyclopedia.

After six preliminary pages (including the above) follows an Historical section which runs pages [1] to 24 followed by about 200 unnumbered pages commencing with the biography of Hon. Sir Francis Bathurst Suttor and with other historical sections ending with the words "years have passed."

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1907 Edition:

This is the main edition but does not mention The Cyclopedia Company, only the printers as in the 1904 edition. There are eight preliminary pages including the Editor's Preface as follows:

The publication of the "Cyclopedia of New South Wales" derives its origin, as well as much of its interest, from the fact that hitherto there has been no attempt made to weld together, in chronological order, an historical account of the crude elements of our early days with the advanced conditions of the present. It is not so much, in fact, a history of the colony, which, after all, would of necessity be but little more than a mere recapitulation of well-published data; but it is a concise narrative of the rise and progress of every phase of Antipodean life in this State - official, political, commercial and social - and as such it stands alone in its scope.

It was felt by the promoters that the longer the opportunity was delayed of taking a general survey, from the commencement of British rule in Australia, of the material development and resources of the country the greater the difficulties to encounter, They have therefore endeavoured within a comparatively short period to gather together essential material and preserve it from that oblivion which sooner or later overtakes particulars mainly entombed in the imperfect journalistic records of a century or so ago. In the prosecution of their labours the publishers have received assistance from the last and the present Government, and they desire to also acknowledge their obligations to the heads of the various official departments, who have helped them to collect materials not readily accessible also to the Government Statistician and the Government Printer.

Some compression of this varied and valuable epitome having been found necessary in conformity with the prescribed bulk and compass of the book, this work was performed under official direction it will be found that no information of general importance has been sacrificed to the necessities of abbreviation.

For easy reference a convenient system of classification has been pursued throughout, which should prove of advantage to the reader; and accompanying each section, in due order, are given short biographical notices of those amongst us most prominently connected with the subject matter of the article.

The main text of history and biographies runs from page [1] to 688. This is followed by a section headed Newcastle which runs from numbered pages N1 to N37 followed by another section headed Maitland which runs from numbered pages M38 to M48.

1907 Variation:

Mitchell Library, Sydney has a copy of the above with additional pages M49 to M54 starting with a biography of James Wolstenholme. It is possible that the above volume had these later pages included but removed before binding.

1909 Edition:

A copy in private hands is the same as the 1907 edition with extra sections:

BDA Source Description Pages

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[1] to 7 - The North Coast - Grafton to Murwillumbah.

8 to 21 - Grafton

22 to 25 - Maclean

26 to 29 - Casino

30 to 32 - Kyogle

33 to 37 - Lismore

38 to 43 - Timber Resources of the Richmond

44 - Mullumbimby

45 to 51 - Murwillumbah

1909 - Another Mitchell Library copy:

This volume contains most of Section 2 found in the above 1909 edition but some illustrations are different. In addition it contains the following extra or different pages:-
The North Coast Steam Navigation Limited - five unnumbered pages.

Timber Resources of Richmond River - the same text as above but one biography (of Dr. Carlo Franceschi) not found in the above 1909 edition, and some of the seven pages set in a different order and all unnumbered.

It contains an additional section titled Lismore on its own sub-title page followed by five pages text and pictures as pages 33 to 37 in the above 1909 edition but here they are unnumbered.

Because of all these editions it is impossible to say exactly how many variations may have been published as very few copies exist in libraries Australia wide.

Capturing the Text and the Data for the Biographical Database of Australia

Gould Genealogy www.gould.com scanned only the main 1907 edition and gave permission for the Biographical Database of Australia (BDA) to incorporate the biographical sections of it into the Database. The CD produced by Gould contains all sections from the volumes and is fully searchable. It is available from BDA Shop

<http://www.bda-online.org.au/shop>

BDA scanned the additional editions and extracted names and vital data from all the volumes so that linking could take place, which enables the user to view a biography published in these volumes, as part of a BDA Biographical Report on the selected individual.

This Information Page was written by Malcolm Sainty June 2013

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