

# Know Your Country

## OURS IS A MIGHTY STATE

This State of ours, New South Wales, is a mighty place with an area of 309,433 square miles. But how many of us know very much about it? This article will tell us all just a few of the things about the State in which we live.

New South Wales, which has 907 miles of coast, has 38.1 per cent. of the entire population of our Commonwealth or 3,423,887 people. 1,861,685 of these people live in the capital, Sydney, which is also easily the largest city in Australia, and one of the largest white cities in the British Commonwealth. The next largest city in New South Wales is Newcastle with 178,086 people, then Wollongong with 90,811.

Every year there are approximately 28,000 weddings and approximately 36,000 children are born. There are approximately 401,629 children attending public schools and another 134,521 enrolled at private schools. Last year we exported 2,031,000 pounds of butter, 6,005,000 dozen eggs, 7,905,000 bushels of wheat, 534,369,000 lb. of flour and 65,677 cwt. of fresh vegetables. Enough to supply the average householder for quite a long while! We also exported 5,723 tons of sugar, 4,325,000,000 lb. of wool, 378,138 tons of coal and 29,515,000 super feet of timber.

There are 527,396 telephones in New South Wales—and thousands of people waiting for new phones—while 769,478 people have radio licences. We are getting so many vehicles on the road these days it looks as if we will soon have to build double-decker roads. We have 393,591 motor cars and 42,451 cycles. Unfortunately, the more vehicles we have the greater number of accidents, and it is terrible to realise that last year 728 people were killed in road accidents in New South Wales and another 14,660 injured. That casualty rate is terrible. Indeed, more people are killed in road accidents these days than in warfare.

More and more people are becoming air-minded, and this is borne out by the fact that last year 1,061,013 people travelled by air in New South Wales compared with 278,904 rail passengers. There is an acute housing shortage in our State, although many thousands of new homes are being built every year. We already have a total of 732,510 dwellings in this State, 2,026 hotels, 508 schools and 567 hospitals. According to the latest figures available, 346,067 of these are built of brick, 266,171 of timber and 67,277 of fibro. Last year we produced 58,046 tons of potatoes, 1,325 tons of onions, 1,540,751 bushels of tomatoes, 436,381 dozen

cabbages, 370,056 cases of lettuce and 6,223 tons of carrots. What a terrific salad we could make from all that!

And now the animals! What a terrific number we have! No less than 280,063 horses (unfortunetelay there were just twice that many in 1939), 3,554,016 head of cattle, 59,639,000 sheep and 371,608 pigs. Sydney averages 2,463.7 hours of sunshine a year (although you would never think it some of these dreary days) and has an average yearly rainfall of 46.99 inches. The heaviest rainfall month on record was in June, 1950, when 25.30 inches fell. On an average it rains 151 days a year in New South Wales. So you see this is rather an amazing State we live in, a State that offers terrific opportunities for any man or woman who is prepared to work and take his or her place in the community. In fact, the opportunities are only limited by one's own efforts.



### Pen Friends

Pen friends,

Florence Layton of "Towal Creek," Comana, Upper Macleay River, wants some pen friends.

In her letter to *Dawn*, Florence said: "I am working on a cattle station and it gets very lonely sometimes, so I would like some pen friends, particularly from Caroonia. I love the bush life and horse riding".

How about some pen friends for Florence?

Elva Lang (I'm sure you've all seen her photos in *Dawn* many times) is 16 years of age and lives at Burnt Bridge, Kempsey.

Elva also wants some pen friends.

She said: "My hobbies are a little of everything and I love all kinds of sports and dancing. I would like some pen friends from Boggabilla, where I have so many relatives, at Tingha and Cabbage Tree Island".

So now, a lot of letters for Elva.