

C.W.A. PIONEERS.

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES
OVEREND GARBUTT.

Of Woodleigh and Tirrabella Stations
North Queensland.

The late C. O. Garbutt, arrived in Australia in 1864, a youth of 16, with his widowed mother and two brothers from Marton Hall, Middlesbrough-on-Tees, Yorkshire, a fine old English home that had been in the family for generations.

Mrs. Garbutt brought into Australia and invested for her three sons about £50,000 in the Logan district in cattle stations, and they carried on together there for a period of years. Their experience, like that of many other pioneers who brought money to Queensland, was disastrous, through lack of knowledge of the precarious seasons, low prices, distance from markets etc. As years passed away, his mother and two brothers died. In the meantime Mr. C. O. Garbutt had been to England twice, the second time to marry and bring out his bride, the young daughter of John Watson M.I.C.E., a prominent civil engineer and railway contractor of that era, her mother being the daughter of a noted Quaker, James Overend. In 1878 they decided to try their fortune in the new lands being opened up back from Port Douglas, on the upper Herbert River watershed. Mr. Garbutt came and inspected and bought Woodleigh, and took up adjoining country. He named Tirrabella and for many years carried them on as cattle stations, starting with cattle from Lolworth and Salisbury, and from time to time bringing well bred bulls from noted herds. His wife and four little children had come North with him by boat to Port Douglas, and from there the journey was on horseback. They had four little children, one a baby, whom Mrs. Garbutt carried with her on horseback all the way, her husband and others taking charge of the other three.

The years went by, always prosperity in view, but evading them, battling with difficulties most of the time, low prices and no demand for fat bullocks, then droughts, pleuro, and worst of all the wave of ticks that came along in the late nineties, causing heavy losses and financial disaster. Mr. C. O. Garbutt died in Herberton in the year 1906, leaving his wife and eight surviving children to begin again to rebuild their fortunes. During all these years Mrs. Garbutt endured all the disadvantages of a pioneer; even educating the younger children as times became harder, and our admiration goes out to this cultured Englishwoman, who so well illustrates the courage, endurance and enterprise of the well-born Britisher.

It is an inspiring story to trace how she and her family have won through to become good and prosperous citizens. Her four sons are all well-known, respected and popular business men of to-day in Townsville, having interests in also both North and South from there. Of her daugh-

and South from there. Of her daughters one is the wife of Mr. Walter Jordan, of Woura Park. He was a well known cattle man on the Tableland before going over to sheep. Another is Mrs. Frank Alston, of Stoneleigh, whose parents played a leading part in Ingham for many years. Another married Mr. N. Mills, of Dalgety and Co., Ltd., Townsville, but recently died. The fourth, Mrs. Harvey Tice, with her children living in Devon, England, and loving the beauty of it. Her husband, late of Rees and Tice, a motor firm in Townsville, is now supervising motor transport through Arabia. And Mrs. Garbutt herself survives, beloved and honoured among her family of sons and daughters, and grand and great grandchildren.