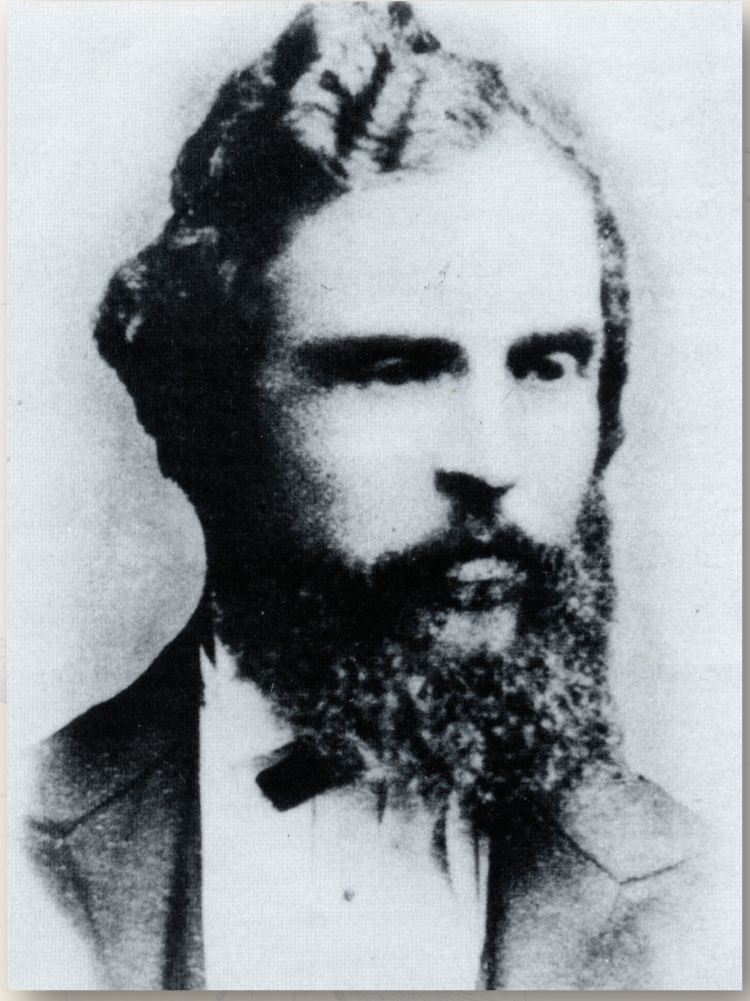


Geology of Queensland

Establishment of the Geological Survey of Queensland — the RL Jack years — 1877–1900

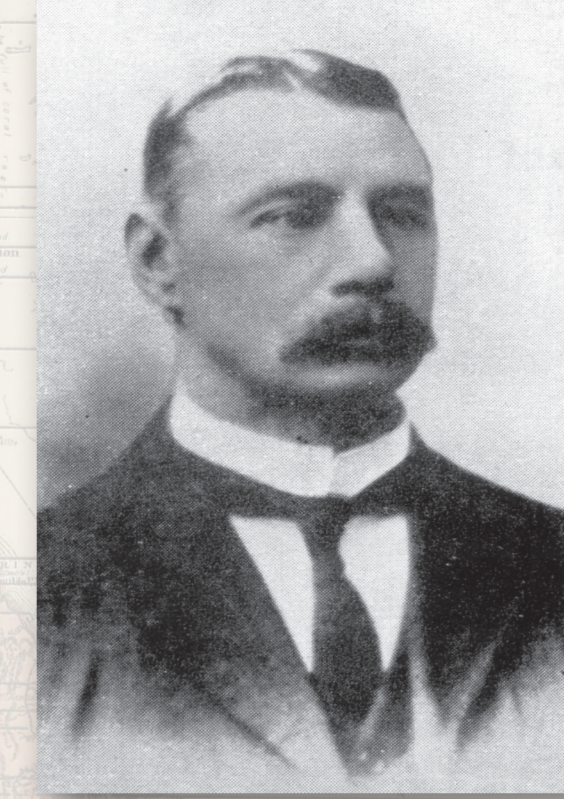


Robert Logan Jack

Robert Logan Jack, who had 10 years experience with the Geological Survey of Scotland, was appointed to the north in 1877. He immediately began to make significant contributions to the geology of Queensland, but the emphasis remained firmly on exploitation of economic resources, with detailed surveys carried out on known deposits or fields of economic significance, such as his surveys of the Bowen Coalfield and Charters Towers Goldfield in 1878–79. Perhaps his greatest contribution was his recognition of the Great Artesian Basin that subsequently led to the establishment of the pastoral industry in inland Queensland.

In 1879, Jack became Government Geologist for the whole colony. In 1879–80, he undertook a traverse of Cape York Peninsula from south to north, undergoing the rigours and dangers of travel in unknown country during the wet season, and facing the hostility of the aboriginal inhabitants, including being speared through the neck.

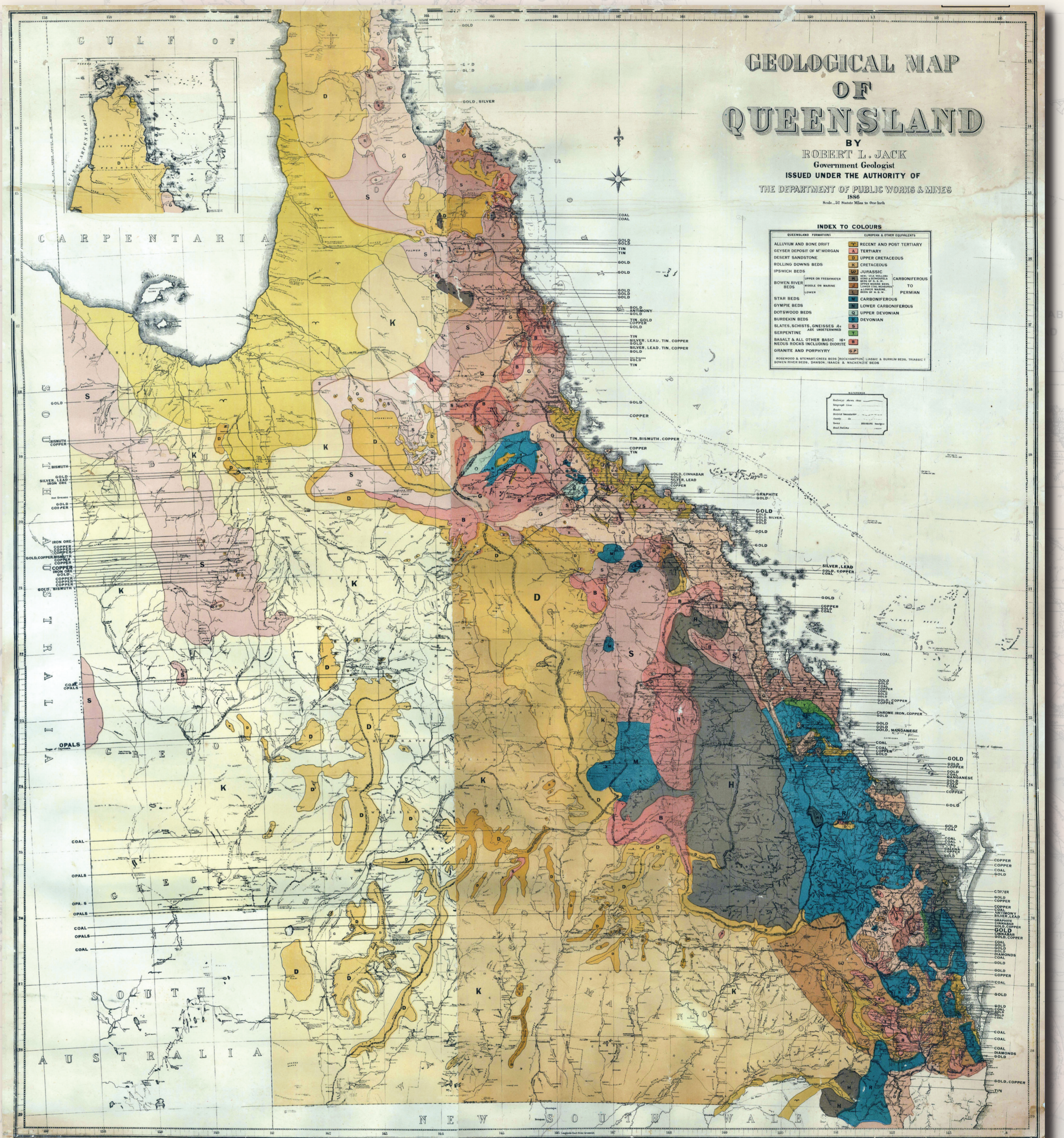
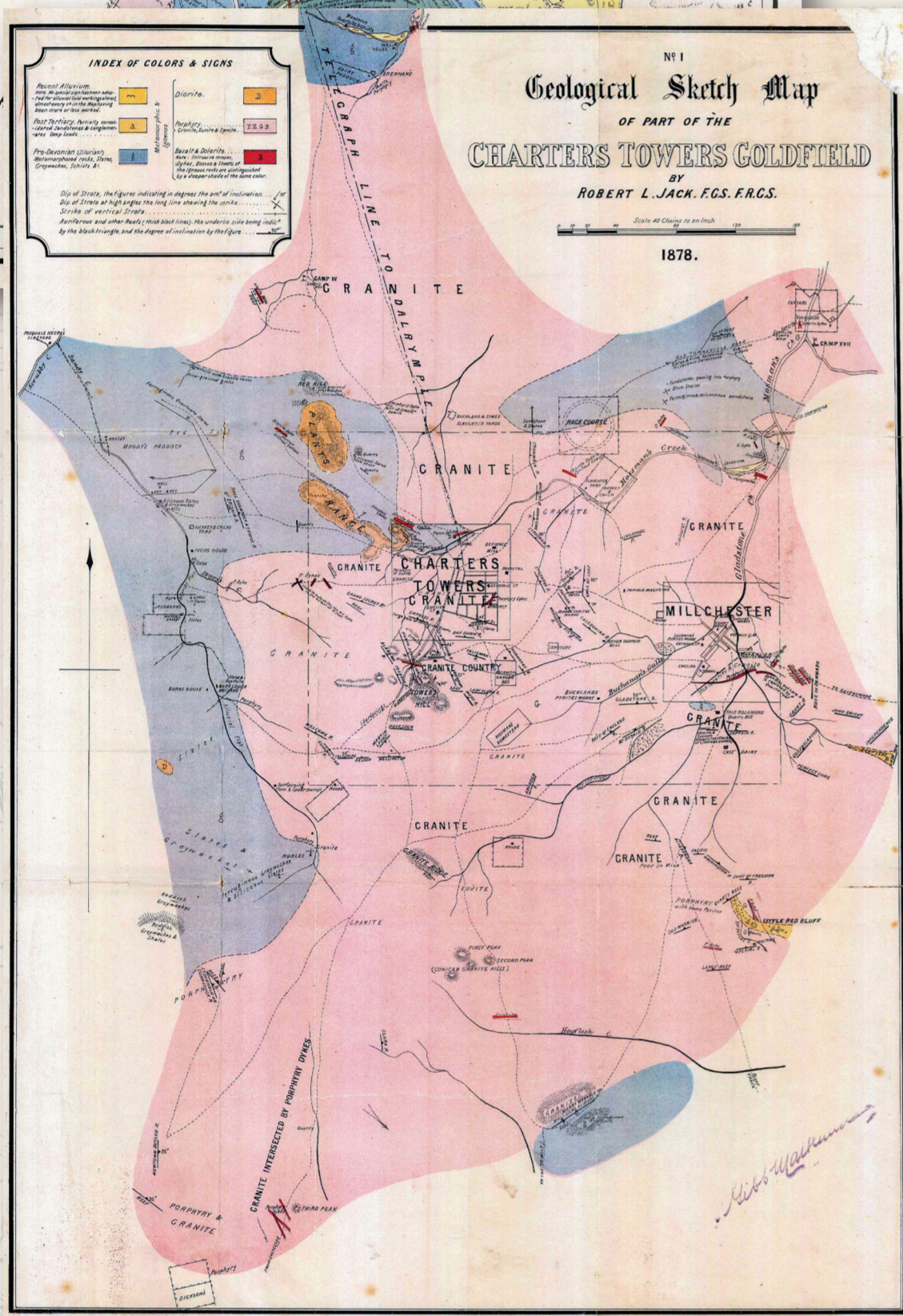
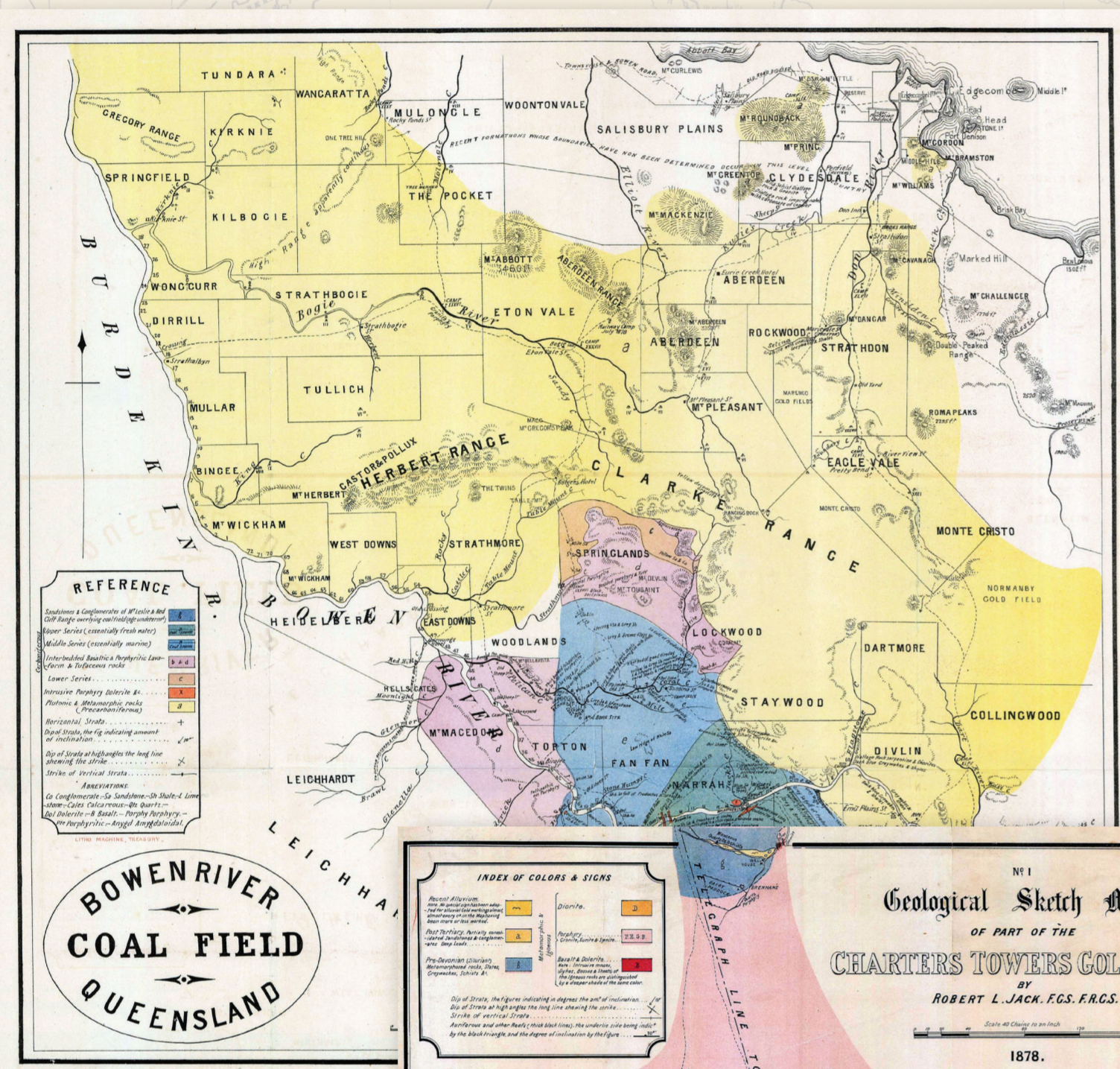
He was joined by William Rands in 1883 and Andrew Gibb Maitland in 1888. By 1892, the fledging Geological Survey had produced almost 90 reports, many illustrated with maps. In 1886, Jack produced a second Geological Map of Queensland at a scale of 32 miles to an inch (approximately 1:2 000 000), and a significant improvement on Daintree's map.



William Rands



Andrew Gibb Maitland



The first major landmark in the geological study of Queensland came in 1892 with the publication of the comprehensive *Geology and Palaeontology of Queensland and New Guinea* by Jack and Robert Etheridge Jr. The 740-page work was accompanied by a new geological map of Queensland in 6 sheets at a scale of 16 miles to an inch (approximately 1:1 000 000).

