

VICTORIAN YEAR-BOOK

1923-24.

A. M. LAUGHTON,

GOVERNMENT STATIST.

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Victorian Year-Book

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By

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P R E F A C E .

THIS is the forty-fourth issue of the *Victorian Year-Book*.

The main object of the work is to show the progress made by the State during the year under review, and with this end the particulars appertaining to that year are compared with those relating to previous years. An endeavour is made to present such information as will assist legislators, publicists, and others in forming an opinion in regard to the most suitable methods to be adopted in the future in developing the natural resources of the State and promoting the welfare of the people.

The first part shows the progress of the State since the early days of settlement, and contains a description of the Constitution, as well as an epitome of Acts passed during 1923 by the State Parliament, lists of members of Parliament, &c. Parts II., III., V., VI., and IX. deal with the wealth and progress of the community, as indicated by the growth of population, and by increases in bank deposits, in amounts assured with life offices, in volume of trade, &c., and details are given of the revenue and expenditure of the Government, and of municipalities. Parts IV., VII., and VIII. contain statistics relating to births, marriages and deaths, crime, education, charitable institutions, and other cognate subjects. In Part X. a detailed account is given of the agricultural, mineral, manufacturing, and other productions of the State. The various parts were issued as soon as completed.

The information in all parts has been brought up to the latest possible date—on many subjects to the middle of the year 1924, and in a few instances to a later date.

In those tables in part "Vital Statistics" in which localities are mentioned births and deaths have been allotted to the usual place of residence of the mother and the deceased respectively. This was done to a partial extent in a few immediately preceding years.

The statistics which appear on the map relating to "Production" have been extended so as to include information in regard to the principal products of the various divisions of the State.

I have to thank the heads of Government Departments and the various experts who have supplied information and in other ways assisted in the preparation of the book. I also take this opportunity of thanking the members of my staff for their hearty co-operation and for the valuable assistance received from them.

The figures and other material in each part of the book have been carefully examined and checked. If, however, any errors be detected, I shall be pleased to receive information as to their nature and position.

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Office of the Government Statist,
Melbourne, 10th March, 1925.

