

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS,
MELBOURNE.

OFFICIAL
YEAR BOOK
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,
CONTAINING AUTHORITATIVE STATISTICS FOR THE PERIOD
1901-1908
AND CORRECTED STATISTICS FOR THE PERIOD 1788 TO 1900.

No. 2.—1909.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS,

BY

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BY AUTHORITY.

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PREFACE.

By the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Commonwealth is empowered "to make laws for the peace, order, and good government, of the Commonwealth, with respect to," *inter alia*, "Census and Statistics." In exercising the power so conferred, a "Census and Statistics Act" was passed in 1905, and in the year following the "Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics" was created. The publication here presented is the second authoritative Year Book issued under the Federal Constitution.

This Year Book furnishes corrected statistics for the whole period of Australian settlement, viz., from 1788 to 1908. Wherever space has permitted, detailed statistics have been furnished for each year since Federation, viz., from 1901 to 1908. In the few instances where this has proved impracticable, reference will be necessary to Year Book No. 1. The inclusion, as stated, of the total available information in the more important branches of statistics enables this publication to be used wherever it is desired to make a comparative survey of the unfolding of this portion of the British Empire. Not only are the results given for the Commonwealth as a whole, but also for each component State.

The general arrangement of the publication corresponds with that of Year Book No. 1, and is shewn in the synopsis on pp. ix. to xiii. immediately following. This arrangement has been widely commended, and will be substantially adhered to in future issues.

In addition, however, to what may be called purely statistical matter, it is intended that each issue shall contain special articles dealing at length with some particular subject or subjects of more or less permanent interest. It would be undesirable as well as impracticable to repeat these year after year, seeing that it would unduly increase the size of the publication. It was stated, therefore, in the preface to Year Book No. 1 that, as a rule, only a brief condensation of the special articles would appear in subsequent issues of the Year Book, or they might be omitted altogether. Consistently with this intention considerable changes will be found to have been made. In many cases the articles in Year Book No. 1 have been reduced to synopses; in other cases matter has been wholly deleted, and new matter introduced in lieu thereof, and specially important subjects have been more exhaustively discussed.

Among the subjects on which new articles have been introduced, the following may be specially mentioned:—The Exploration of Australia, The Constitutions of the States, The Hydrology of Australia, The Development of Australia's Trade with the East, The Customs Tariff 1908, Kindergarten Education, Administrative Government, Public Lighting, Papua, and Local Option. Other sections, including those on Land Tenure and Settlement, Manufacturing Industries, Commerce, and Railways, have been considerably elaborated. A number of new maps have also been inserted, including the following:—The Progress of Exploration of Australia, Geological map, Orographical map, and Australia and New Guinea. Various additions and improvements have also been made to the graphs.

Through the co-operation of the various State Bureaux with the Commonwealth Bureau it has been possible to considerably advance the accuracy, and in general the intrinsic value, of Australian Statistics, and the collection of data is being continually improved.

It has been found desirable to deal with the subject matter from a threefold aspect, viz.:—

- (i.) The development of the component States.
- (ii.) The progress of Australia as a whole from the earliest times.
- (iii.) The statistical comparison of Australia with other leading countries of the world.

In the endeavour to supply reliable details of this character, considerable difficulties have been experienced, more particularly as regards the early years of Australian colonisation, and although assistance has been cordially rendered not only by the State Statistical Bureaux, but also by other State Departments that were in a position to help, the results obtained must in many cases be considered as roughly approximate only. No effort is spared, however, to embody the most reliable information available.

A feature of this publication is the use made of maps and diagrams. The changing boundaries of the various States, the course of exploration, the orography and geology of the territory, the distribution of the population of Australia, of its rainfall, etc., the development of its railway system, and similar facts can be properly appreciated only by the use of maps. In like manner the progress of events, the characteristics of growth and decline, can in general be grasped much more readily graphically than numerically. The diagram or "graph" is a direct picture in which the relative magnitudes are preserved and by which instantaneous comparisons are made possible. For the more accurate examinations of statistical data, however, numerical results are also given *in extenso*.

The development of Australia has been in many instances very remarkable, and this could be shewn only by tables and graphs dating back to its beginning in 1788. In most cases accurate data are not available for years much before 1860. In such cases, therefore, it seemed sufficient at present to give continuous results from that year onwards.

PREFACE.

The great mass of material embodied in this Year Book has been carefully examined, but it would be idle to hope that all error has been avoided. The Commonwealth Statistician desires to express his appreciation of the opportunity afforded him of perfecting the matter and arrangement of the Year Book, by those who have been kind enough to point out any defects or make any suggestions.

The corresponding years indicated in various sections of this book do not always necessarily refer to the same period. Though the years specified ordinarily refer to the calendar years, in certain sections—*e.g.*, the sections on *Railways*, and on *Commonwealth, State, and Private Finance*—the years indicated generally refer to the financial years ended the 30th June. Again, as regards the section on *Agricultural Production*, the year ordinarily ends on the 31st March, while in the section on *Local Government* the financial years of local bodies in the several States end at various dates.

Recent information on returns, which have come to hand since the various sections have been sent to press, may be found in the Appendix.

In conclusion, the Commonwealth Statistician desires to express his cordial thanks to the State Statisticians, and to the responsible officers of the various Commonwealth and State Departments, who have kindly, and often at considerable trouble, supplied all desired information.

G. H. KNIBBS,

Commonwealth Statistician.

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS.

31st March, 1909.

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CORRIGENDA.

- Page 55, line 33, after "recalled" insert "8th September, 1908."
- „ 223, first table, 1905 Rate of Infantile Mortality, Males, read "90.62."
- „ 319, second last column in table, Residential Lots, Insert "9" after "19."
- „ 364, first table, 1907, New South Wales, for "395,370" read "362,042;" Commonwealth, for "1,065,420" read "1,032,092."
- „ 367, last line, New South Wales, for "6,304,692" read "5,185,057;" Commonwealth, for "11,999,918" read "10,880,283."
- „ 399, line 15, for "2,237,978" read "2,287,978."
- „ 399, line 16, for "894,923," read "894,623."
- „ 772, Number of Money Orders Paid, Western Australia, 1903, for "190,155" read "100,155."
- „ 810, first table, last column, for "6034" read "7034."
- „ 969, first table, Votes recorded, total 1901, for "38,077" read "38,087."
- „ 1010, last item Loan Expenditure 1901-2, for "*4293," read "*—4293."