

Victorian Year-Book, 1940-41.

PART I.

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION, AREA, AND CLIMATE.

Area of Victoria. Victoria is situated at the south-eastern extremity of the Australian continent, of which it occupies about a thirty-fourth part, and contains about 87,884 square miles, or 56,245,760 acres. The following islands, together with a number of small islands around the coast and in the bays and inlets, are included in its territory:—Phillip, French, Churchill and Elizabeth islands in Western Port Bay; Snake, Little Snake and Sunday islands at Corner Inlet; and Lady Julia Percy island off the coast near Port Fairy. The areas in acres of these islands are—Phillip, 24,320; French, 42,000; Churchill, 140; Elizabeth, 64; Snake, 11,500; Little Snake, 1,240; Sunday, 2,640; and Lady Julia Percy, 650. Victoria is bounded on the north and north-east by New South Wales, from which it is separated by the River Murray, and by a straight line running in a south-easterly direction from a place near the head-waters of that stream, called The Springs, on Forest Hill, to Cape Howe. The total length of this boundary, following the windings of the Murray River from the South Australian border along the Victorian bank to the Indi River, thence by the Indi or Murray River to Forest Hill and thence by the straight line from Forest Hill to Cape Howe, is 1,175 miles. The length of the Murray River forming part of the boundary is 997 miles, of the Indi or Murray River, 68 miles, and of the straight line from Forest Hill to Cape Howe, 110 miles. On the west it is bounded by South Australia, the dividing line being about 280 geographical miles in length, approximating to the position of the 141st meridian of east longitude, and extending from the River Murray to the sea. On the south and south-east its shores are washed by the Southern Ocean, Bass Strait, and the Pacific Ocean. It lies approximately between the 34th and 39th parallels of south latitude and the 141st and 150th meridians of east longitude. Its greatest length from east to west is about 493 miles, its greatest breadth about 290 miles, and its extent of coast-line 980 miles, including the length around Port Phillip Bay 164 miles, Western Port 90 miles, and Corner Inlet 50 miles. Great Britain, inclusive of the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, contains 89,041 square miles, and is therefore slightly larger than Victoria.

The southernmost point in Victoria, and in the whole of the Australian continent, is Wilson's Promontory, which lies in latitude 39 deg. 8 min. S., longitude 146 deg. 26 min. E.; the northernmost point is the place where the western boundary of the State meets the Murray, latitude 34 deg. 2 min. S., longitude 140 deg. 58 min. E.; the point furthest east is Cape Howe, situated in latitude 37 deg. 31 min. S., longitude 149 deg. 59 min. E. The westerly boundary lies upon the meridian 140 deg. 58 min. E., and extends from latitude 34 deg. 2 min. S. to latitude 38 deg. 4 min. S., a distance of 280 miles.

Climate. From its geographical position, Victoria enjoys a climate more suitable to the European constitution than any other State in Australia. During the eighty-five years ended with 1940, the maximum temperature in the shade recorded at the Melbourne Observatory and at the Weather Bureau was 114.1 deg. Fahr., on the 13th January, 1939; the minimum was 27 deg., on the 21st July, 1869; and the mean 58.5 deg. Upon the average, on only four days during the year does the thermometer rise above 100 deg. in the shade, and on only nineteen days does the temperature reach 90 deg. or over; generally, on about two nights during the year, it falls below freezing point. Sultry nights are of rare occurrence. The minimum reading approximates to 70 deg. on an average on only two nights in any one year. The maximum temperature in the sun ever recorded (i.e., since 1859) was 178.5 deg., on the 14th January, 1862. The highest temperature in the shade on record in the State was 123.5 deg. at Mildura on the 5th January, 1906, and the lowest 0.0 deg. at Hotham Heights on the 4th July, 1925. The mean atmospheric pressure noted, first at the Observatory 91 feet above sea level, and later at the Weather Bureau 115 feet above sea level, was during the eighty-five years ended with 1940, 30.013 inches; the average number of days on which rain fell each year was 140, and the average yearly rainfall was 25.57 inches. The mean relative humidity of the atmosphere is 67 per cent.; on very warm days it is often 12 per cent., and it has been as low as 2 per cent. The severity of the heat is not felt so much as it would be if there were a relatively high wet bulb, as the temperature by such bulb seldom exceeds 75 deg. The average number of hours of sunshine daily is 6.1; fogs occur, on an average, on only 21 days in the year.

Further information in regard to climatic and weather conditions will be found in part "Production" of this volume.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY OF VICTORIA.

An article on the "Physical Geography and Geology of Victoria," by Mr. W. Baragwanath, Director of Victorian Geological Survey, was published in the *Year-Book* for 1927-28 on pages 20 to 30. and addenda thereto appear in subsequent issues of the *Year-Book*.

MOUNTAINS AND HILLS, RIVERS AND LAKES.

Mountains and Hills.

The highest mountain in Victoria is Mount Bogong, situated in the county of the same name, 6,509 feet above sea-level; the next highest peaks are—Mount Feathertop, 6,306 feet; Mount Nelson 6,170 feet; Mount Fainter 6,160 feet; Mount Hotham, 6,100 feet; Mount McKay, 6,030 feet; and Mount Cope, 6,027 feet; all situated in the same county; also the Cobboras, 6,030 feet, situated between the counties of Benambra and Tambo. These, so far as is known, are the only peaks which exceed 6,000 feet in height, although, according to a list which appears in the *Year-Book* for 1915-16, there are 39 peaks between 5,000 and 6,000 feet high, and 40 between 4,000 and 5,000 feet high. It is known, moreover, that there are many peaks rising to upwards of 4,000 feet above the level of the sea whose actual heights have not yet been determined. Although the peaks and higher plateaus are covered with snow during the winter, it is not perpetual and disappears during the spring.

Rivers.

The Rivers of the State form two main systems—those flowing north into or toward the Murray River and those flowing south toward the sea. The chief use of these streams is as suppliers of water for irrigation to towns and townships, and for domestic and stock purposes, either by direct diversion or after storage in reservoirs. Owing to the variability of the season and the absence of perpetual snow, the flows vary greatly from season to season and year to year. The longest stream in Australia is the Murray, which forms the northern boundary of the State and has a total length of 1,520 miles, of which 1,065 miles are along the border. Its waters are under an Interstate agreement shared by New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. The longest and one of the most reliable streams in Victoria is the Goulburn, which enters the Murray near Echuca. The average annual flow of the Goulburn is 2,300,000 acre feet, and it has varied from 6,000,000 acre feet in 1917 to 567,000 in 1914. Other streams show more variation, thus the Loddon which is next in length to the Goulburn, has an average flow of 186,000 acre feet but has varied from 600,000 acre feet in 1893 to 11,700 in 1938.

Prior to the construction of railways throughout the State, the Goulburn and the Murray in the north and the Latrobe, Mitchell, Tambo and Snowy in Gippsland were used to some extent for navigation in their lower reaches, but the only remaining river traffic is that on the Murray below Swan Hill. The tidal portion of the Yarra River, which forms part of the port of Melbourne, is used extensively by shipping.

Lakes. Victoria contains numerous lakes and lagoons. These have been added to by the aforementioned water supply reservoirs, several of which, both in size and beauty, compare most favourably with the natural lakes. The lakes have various origins, some, such as Corangamite and Colac in the south west, are of volcanic origin; others, such as the Kerang Lakes, form part of old river courses and are filled at flood periods. The Gippsland Lakes on the other hand form an estuary for a number of rivers, and are separated from the sea by only a narrow belt of sand dunes.

The main lakes formed by reservoirs are at Eildon, Nagambie, and Waranga in the Goulburn River system, at the Hume, Yarrawonga, Torrumberry, and Mildura on the Murray River, and at Lonsdale and Wartook in the Grampian Mountains.

In addition there are five main reservoirs (Yan Yean, Toorourrong, Maroondah, O'Shannassy and Silvan No. 1) forming part of the Metropolitan water supply system.

A list of mountains and hills, rivers and lakes in Victoria was published in the *Victorian Year-Book* for 1915-16. This list contains information in regard to heights, lengths, and areas respectively.

THE HISTORY OF VICTORIA.

An article on this subject contributed by Professor Ernest Scott, late Professor of History in the University of Melbourne, was published in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 1 to 31.

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF LEADING EVENTS.

A chronological table of leading events connected with the discovery and the history of Victoria for the years 1770 to 1934 inclusive, was published in the *Year-Book* for 1933-34. Since then the principal happenings of the year in the State have been recorded in the *Year-Book* relating thereto.

Some of the principal events in Victorian and Australian history from 1st July, 1940, to 30th June, 1941, were as follow:—

1940—13th July	..	Mr. C. Mutton elected at by-election as member for Coburg in the Legislative Assembly.
18th July	..	Announced that Judge Wasley, senior County Court judge, had retired.
13th August	..	Three senior Federal Ministers (Hon. G. A. Street, M.C., Hon. Sir H. S. Gullett, K.C.M.G., and Hon. J. V. Fairbairn), the Chief of the General Staff (Lt-Gen. Sir Brudenell White, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., D.S.O.), and six others were killed when an R.A.A.F. bomber in which they were travelling crashed about two miles from the Canberra aerodrome.

23rd August	Mr. A. M. McDonald, M.L.A. for Polwarth, resigned from the State Parliament for the purpose of contesting the election for the Federal Parliament, to which he was subsequently elected.
27th August	.. The Premier (Hon. A. A. Dunstan) in presenting the State Budget announced that there had been a surplus for the year 1939-40.
29th August	.. Death announced of Dr. W. Maloney, M.H.R., for Melbourne since 1904.
21st September	.. The general elections for the 16th Federal Parliament were held.
1st October	.. To conserve supplies and preserve exchange, petrol rationing was introduced throughout Australia.
24th October	.. The Melbourne Harbour Trust Commissioners announced that a new three-mile channel with a low-water depth of 40 feet will be dredged at Port Melbourne at a cost of about £400,000.
27th October	.. Reconstruction of the Federal Government, involving creation of a new Ministry and extensive reshuffling of portfolios, was announced by the Prime Minister (Rt. Hon. R. G. Menzies, K.C.).
2nd November	.. Mr. E. F. Guye elected at by-election as member for Polwarth in the Legislative Assembly.
8th November	.. Announced that a British cargo ship sank off the coast of Victoria after an explosion believed to have been caused by a mine. One life was lost.
8th November	.. The American freighter <i>City of Rayville</i> sank after striking a mine in Bass Strait. One life was lost.
9th November	.. Announced by Navy Office that Bass Strait temporarily closed to shipping owing to presence of an enemy minefield.
20th November	.. Rammed by a large outward-bound liner, the Australian minesweeper <i>Goorangai</i> sank inside Port Phillip Heads with the loss of the entire crew of 24.
21st November	On a trip from Sydney to Melbourne the interstate liner <i>Orungal</i> went aground on a reef off Barwon Heads. No lives were lost. The vessel later caught fire and was reduced to a total wreck.
23rd November	.. Death announced of Hon. Sir S. S. Argyle, K.B.E., M.R.C.S., leader of the State Opposition and former Premier.
18th December	.. Officially announced that Australian troops were engaged in action against the Italians in the western desert of North Africa.
31st December	.. Of the nine vessels sunk by enemy raiders in or close to Australian waters, the Navy Minister announced the rescue of the 496 survivors who were marooned by the Germans in the Pacific on 21st December.

- 1941—15th January .. Mr. H. E. Thonemann declared elected as member for Toorak in the Legislative Assembly.
- 7th February .. Reflecting their grave doubts about the future impact on the Australian economy of war developments, judges of the Full Arbitration Court unanimously refused to grant an increase in the basic wage in the light of the then situation.
- 3rd March .. Mr. Justice Lowe appointed Chancellor of Melbourne University in succession to Sir John Latham, who had been appointed Australian Minister to Japan.
- 8th April .. Mr. R. H. Beers, P.M., appointed by the Governor in Council as Rent Controller for the metropolitan area. The appointment was made under amended Commonwealth regulations which pegged rents at the level at which they stood on 31st December, 1940. In the country, local Police magistrates were appointed to act as Fair Rent Boards.
- 10th April .. Over 100 Victorian soldiers—casualties of the Libyan Campaign—returned to Melbourne.
- 5th May .. Assembled from components imported from England, the first Australian—built Beaufort bomber made a successful experimental flight.
- 6th May .. The Commonwealth Government's £35,000,000 War Loan officially launched in Victoria by Mr. Fadden (Acting Prime Minister).
- 11th May .. Under the leadership of the Premier (Mr. Dunstan) the State Government established a new record for length of office.
- 13th May .. The Governor-in-Council approved of the appointments of Mr. J. Harnetty as Chairman, for a term of one year, and Mr. W. A. W. Kell as a "Member" of the Public Service Board, for a term of five years. Elections were held for members to represent the General Service, Teachers, and Mental Hygiene. The first meeting of the Board was held on Monday, 19th May, 1941, at 10.30 a.m.
- 24th May .. The second session of the 34th State Parliament opened by His Excellency the Governor (Sir Winstan Dugan).
- 27th June .. At a conference in Canberra the State Premiers rejected the Federal Government's proposal that the States vacate the income tax field.
- 30th June .. The Commonwealth Government Printer issued the first all-Australian *Hansard*. Australian materials and machinery were used in every stage of its production.

FLORA OF VICTORIA.

An article on the "Flora of Victoria," by Mr. J. W. Audas, F.L.S., F.R.M.S. (National Herbarium, Melbourne), was published in the *Year-Book*, 1927-28, on pages 3 to 19, and addenda thereto in subsequent issues of the *Year-Book*.

FURTHER ADDENDA TO THE ABOVE ARTICLE.

The following list gives the native and introduced plants recorded for the first time in Victoria, together with new records of regional distribution and the changes in botanical nomenclature during the year 1940-41.

Twenty-two native species not previously recorded for this State have been added to the Victorian Flora :—

POLYPODIACEAE (FERNS).

- Asplenium adiantoides* (L) C. Christ "Handsome Spleenwort".
Blechnum filiforme (A. Cunn) Etting "Climbing Blechnum".
Diplazium japonicum (Thunb) Bedd "Tender Spleenwort".
Lindsaya microphylla, Swartz "Small Wedge Fern".

GRAMINEAE (GRASSES).

- Echinopogon caespitosus*, Hubb. "Tufted Hedgehog Grass".
Echinopogon intermedius, Hubb. "Slender Hedgehog Grass".

CYPERACEAE (SEDGES).

- Carex Blakei*, Nelmès "Snow Plain Sedge".
Carex hebes, Nelmès "Little Torch Sedge".
Carex Raleighii, Nelmès "Cobungra Sedge".
Carpha nivicola, F.v.M. "Broad-leaf flowered rush".
Cyperus victoriensis, C. B. Clarke "Fish-bone Leaf-rush".
Eleocharis minuta, Boeck. "Variable Spike-rush".
Eleocharis pallens, (Benth) S. T. Blake "Pallid Spike-rush".
Scirpus australiensis, (M & B) S. T. Blake "Keeled Club-rush".
Scirpus congruus (Nees) S. T. Blake "Hyaline Club-rush".
Scirpus platycarpus, S. T. Blake "Glistening-fruited Club-rush".
Uncinia flaccida S. T. Blake "Buffalo Hook-sedge".

ORCHIDACEAE (ORCHIDS).

- Pterostylis Baptistii*, Fitz "Majestic Green-hood".
Pterostylis reflexa, R.Br., "Small Autumn Green-hood".

CHENOPODIACEAE (SALTBUSHES).

- Arthrocnemum Iylici* (E & W) J. M. Black "Lyle's Glasswort".

MYRTACEAE (MYRTLES).

Eucalyptus Yangoura, W. Blakely "Yangoura Gum".

CAMPANULACEAE (BLUEBELLS).

Laurentia rivalis, Wimm "River Laurentia".

NEW REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION.

Pultenaea prostrata, Benth., add North East.

Thelymitra Mattheusii, Hook f (syn. *T. D'Altonii*, Rogers), read South West, South and East.

EXOTICS.

Four new alien plants have been recorded:—

Euphorbia terracina, L. "Terracina Spurge".

Panicum capillare, L. "Witch Grass".

Polygonum lanigerum, R.Br., "Woolly Knotweed".

Psilocaulon bicornis (Sond) Schwantes "Glasswort Moonflower".

THE FAUNA OF VICTORIA.

An article on the "Fauna of Victoria," by the late T. S. Hall, M.A., D.Sc. (University of Melbourne), and Mr. J. A. Kershaw, F.Z.S., Curator of the National Museum, Melbourne, was published in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, and addenda thereto by Mr. Kershaw in the *Year-Books* for 1918-19 and 1920-21. Additional notes on this subject by Mr. D. Mahony, M.Sc., Director of the National Museum, Melbourne, were published in the *Year-Book* for 1931-32.

Other articles on the fauna of Victoria by members of the Museum staff have appeared in previous issues of the *Year-Book*. The titles of the articles, the names of the contributors, and the year of publication are as follow:—

1932-33, "Mammals of Victoria", Mr. C. W. Brazenor.

1933-34, "Birds of Victoria", Mr. George Mack.

1934-35, "Reptiles of Victoria", Mr. C. W. Brazenor.

1935-36, "Fishes of Victoria", Mr. George Mack.

1936-37, "Freshwater Crayfishes and Yabbies of Victoria",
Miss Ellen Clark.

1937-38, "Insects of Victoria", Part I. (Ants), Mr. J. Clark.

1938-39, "Insects of Victoria", Part II. (Bees and Wasps),
Mr. J. Clark.

1939-40, "Insects of Victoria", Part III. (Butterflies),
Mr. J. Clark.

INSECTS OF VICTORIA.**PART IV. (TERMITES).**

By J. Clark, Entomologist, National Museum, Melbourne.

Termites are widely distributed throughout the warm regions of the world, and are abundant in Australia. More than one hundred species are recorded from the Commonwealth, and over a dozen species are found in Victoria, but they are not as abundant or troublesome as in the northern States. Timber and other vegetable matter are the food of Termites. Some feed only on dead and decaying wood, some on dry seasoned wood, a few on living trees, and a large number on grass.

Although frequently called "White Ants" these insects have no relationship with the Ants, but, like ants, live in large nests and have, as a rule, various castes or phases in each nest. Three castes are found in a Termite nest; the workers, the soldiers, and the winged forms, males and females. The workers, as the name suggests, do all the work in constructing the nest and securing food. They too are responsible for the damage to timber, as their strong jaws enable them to bite through the hardest wood and to tunnel galleries in wood or in the ground.

The soldiers do little if any of the work in the nest. Their duty appears to be to defend the other members from the attack of ants and other probable invaders to the nest. Unlike the workers, they have a very large head and very long, powerful jaws. Most species have an organ on the head from which they exude a fluid which is repellant to other insects and, at the same time, helps in their defence. Both workers and soldiers are blind, having no traces of eyes.

The winged males and females are abundant in the nests during spring and summer, and on suitable evenings, usually before or just after rain, they swarm out in huge masses. The wings are broken off after the flight, but very few survive to start a new nest.

All Termites live in permanent nests, which are of different types and are constructed by the workers. The most commonly known nest is the mound which, in Victoria, may range in height from a few inches to several feet, while, in Northern Australia, there are giant mounds some of which are twenty feet high. Most of our mounds are low and dome-shaped, but a few rise to about five feet and are conical. All are constructed on a somewhat similar plan. The interior is composed of a huge series of galleries, while the shell or outer portion is composed of earth and fine particles of debris and chewed wood cemented together with a salivary secretion by the workers. Some species do not make a conspicuous mound, but construct a large series of galleries underground; others live in logs and a few in growing trees. Termites which nest in the ground

will die soon if cut off from access to the ground, but those living in logs and trees can continue their existence without ground connexion. In ordinary nests there may be upwards of a million inhabitants.

The largest of our Termites is *Porotermes grandis*; the soldier is fully half an inch long, and has a very large, brownish head and long, powerful jaws. The worker has a much smaller head and shorter but powerful jaws. This Termite is found in rotten logs on the hills. The soldiers and workers of *Porotermes adamsoni* are somewhat similar but much smaller and live under the same conditions.

Stolotermes victoriensis is common in old stumps and logs in the bush; the soldiers are one-fourth of an inch long with dark head and jaws, while the workers are slightly smaller; the males and females are brown and the wings almost black.

Three species of *Calotermes* are known here; they are large Termites found generally in growing trees and frequently without indications of their presence until the tree has been cut. The largest species is *Calotermes insularis*, which measures almost half an inch long; the soldier has a large, yellowish, polished head and strong, brown jaws, while the worker is the same size but has a smaller head and jaws.

The large Family MESOTERMITIDAE contains most of our destructive species which do so much damage to the woodwork of buildings, bridges and fences. One of the commonest and most abundant species is *Coptotermes lacteus*: it is yellowish white with brown head and strong jaws; the soldier is fully one-fourth of an inch long, while the worker is similar in length but the head is not darker than the rest of the body. This species build a conical mound sometimes four feet high and four or five feet wide at the base. From this mound, or nest, the workers construct, or tunnel, underground galleries in all directions in search of food. The galleries extend to roots, old stumps and logs sometimes three hundred feet from the nest. Some of the galleries are close to the surface of the ground and others are ten or twelve inches underground. Frequently the presence of Termites in wooden buildings can be traced by these galleries to the mounds. It has been demonstrated that one ounce of Paris Green injected into the mound will destroy the Termites. Other two species *Coptotermes sedulus* and *Coptotermes flavus* are found here although they are not so plentiful and not so commonly seen. Their habits, however, are similar.

Heterotermes ferox is a widely distributed pest which lives in small colonies. The nests are found in various situations, often in the walls of *Coptotermes* mounds, but more frequently in or under decayed logs and under large stones. They attack all kinds of timber. This is a small Termite, the largest soldiers measuring less than one-fourth of an inch long, with long, slender, sharp jaws.

The worker is slightly smaller with more powerful jaws. The species of *Microcerotermes* are similar in general appearance to those of *Heterotermes*, but appear to feed mainly on the surface of the timber. Their presence is indicated by small, external, covered ways or galleries composed of chewed wood and small particles of debris. They attack wooden buildings, bridges, fences and timber lying on the ground. As a rule painting the wood will prevent this Termite from attacking as they will not penetrate the paint.

The Family TERMITIDAE is represented by some very destructive species. *Eutermes exitiosus* is a small, mound-building species which was described from Western Australia in 1925, but has since been recorded from many places in Southern Australia and is widely distributed. The soldier, less than one-fourth of an inch long, has a dark, very sharp pointed head, while the worker is smaller and the head is not sharp pointed as in the soldier. This Termite builds a low mound generally about ten or twelve inches high and about three feet in diameter and containing upwards to two million individuals. They construct underground galleries outwards in all directions in search of food and travel two hundred to three hundred feet. They attack all timbers and are of considerable economic importance. The genus *Hamitermes* contains about thirty-five species throughout Australia, but is poorly represented in Victoria. Some of the species are wood-eaters and are of economic importance; other species feed on grass and others on vegetable debris. Generally the grass-eaters emerge from the nest during the night and cut the grass into short lengths, usually about half an inch long. This cut grass is carried into the nest and stored in the galleries. Two grass-eating species are found here, *Hamitermes neogermanus* and *Hamitermes victoriensis*. They construct their nests underground. Frequently there is little evidence on the surface to indicate the nest. Some species build very large mounds. The well known compass, meridional or magnetic mounds of North Australia belong to this group. These mounds are sometimes fifteen to twenty feet high.

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT.

Constitutional History.

Regular Government of the district of Port Phillip, then part of the Crown Colony of New South Wales, was first established in 1836, when Captain Lonsdale was sent from Sydney to act as Resident Magistrate. On 1st July, 1851, following upon an Act of the Imperial Parliament, dated 5th August, 1850, and entitled "An Act for the better Government of Her Majesty's Australian Colonies", the district of Port Phillip was separated from New South Wales and erected into and formed a separate colony known and designated as the Colony of Victoria.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Act afore-mentioned, the Governor and Legislative Council of New South Wales passed the Victoria Electoral Act of 1851, which provided that the Legislative Council of Victoria should consist of 30 members, ten to be appointed by Her Majesty and twenty to be elected.

In 1852 the Imperial Government decided to invite each of the Australian Colonies to frame such a Constitution for its government as its representatives might deem best suited to its own peculiar circumstances.* The Constitution framed in Victoria, approved by the British Parliament and proclaimed in Victoria on the 23rd November, 1855, was avowedly based upon that of the United Kingdom. It provided for the establishment of two Houses of Legislature with power "to make laws, in and for Victoria in all cases whatsoever" subject to the assent of the Crown as represented generally by the Governor of the Colony; the Legislative Council, or Upper House, to consist of thirty, and the Legislative Assembly, or Lower House, of sixty members: members of both Houses to be elective and to possess property qualifications: electors of both Houses to possess either property or professional qualifications, the property qualification of both members and electors being lower in the case of the Assembly than in that of the Council: the Council not to be dissolved, but five members to retire every two years and to be eligible for re-election: the Assembly to be dissolved every five years, or oftener, at the discretion of the Governor: certain officers of the Government, four at least of whom should have seats in Parliament, to be deemed "Responsible Ministers": any member of either House accepting an office of profit under the Crown to vacate his seat, but to be capable of being re-elected.

Modifications of the Constitution to meet changing conditions or to improve the machinery of government were made from time to time up to 1900, the more important of which may be summarized chronologically as follow:—

- 1856. The ballot as a means of electing members of both Houses of Parliament prescribed by Act 19 Vict. No. 12.
- 1857. The property qualification of members of the Legislative Assembly abolished by Act 21 Vict. No. 12.
- 1857. Universal manhood suffrage for electors of the Legislative Assembly made law by Act 21 Vict. No. 33.
- 1858. Number of members of the Legislative Assembly increased to 78 and of electoral districts to 49.
- 1869. Property qualification of members and electors of the Legislative Council reduced by Act 32 Vict. No. 334.

* *Vide* article on the Constitution of Victoria by Edward Carlile, Esq., Barrister at Law, Clerk Assistant of the Legislative Assembly and formerly Parliamentary Draftsman of Victoria, p. 610, *et seq.*, *Year-Book 1883-84.*

1876. By the *Electoral Act Amendment Act* 1876 (40 Vict. No. 548) the number of electoral districts for the Legislative Assembly was increased from 49 to 55 and the number of members thereof from 78 to 86.
1881. Property qualification of members and electors of the Legislative Council further reduced, number of Provinces and members increased, and tenure of seats shortened by Act 45 Vict. No. 702.
1886. Reimbursement of the expenses of members of the Legislative Assembly in relation to their attendance in the discharge of their Parliamentary duties of £300 per annum provided for by Act No. 888.
1888. The number of members of the Legislative Council increased to 48 by Act 52 Vict. No. 995. The number of members of the Legislative Assembly increased to 95 and boundaries of Electoral Districts altered so that their number should be 84 and so that—with a few exceptions—only one member should represent each Constituency, by Act 52 Vict. No. 1008.
1899. Plural voting in the Legislative Assembly abolished by Act No. 1606.
1900. Voting by post introduced by Act No. 1701. The Act was to apply for a term of three years: subsequent Acts continued the measure to 31st December, 1910, when the Electoral Act (No. 2288) of that year made permanent provision for voting by post.

The Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act (63 and 64 Vict. Chapter 12) which constituted the Commonwealth as from the 1st January, 1901, was given the Royal assent on 9th July, 1900. This Act may be regarded as the culmination of the labours of the Federal Council constituted by the *Federal Council of Australasia Act* 1885 (48 and 49 Vict. Cap. 60). The Acts passed by the Council had force only in those colonies which were specially legislated for, until repealed by the Federal Council.

Section 106 of the *Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act* provided that, subject to that Constitution, the Constitution of each State of the Commonwealth should continue as at the establishment of the Commonwealth until altered in accordance with the Constitution of the State.

Following the inauguration of the Commonwealth, the need for reducing the numbers of members in the States' Houses and for the reform of their constitutions was made manifest. Accordingly, in Victoria, there was passed the *Constitution Act* 1903, which provided for a reduction in the number of responsible ministers from ten to eight, and their salaries from £10,400 to £8,800; in the number of

members of the Legislative Council from 48 to 35, but an increase in the number of electoral provinces from 14 to 17, each being represented by two members elected for six years—one retiring every three years by rotation, except at a general election when one half of the members were to be elected for only three years. The property qualification of members of the Council was reduced from £110 to £50 as the annual value of the freehold, and that of electors qualifying as lessees or occupying tenants from an annual value of £25 to one of £15. A reduction was also made in the number of members of the Legislative Assembly from 95 to 68 and in that of the electoral districts from 84 to 65.

Power was given to any Minister who was a member of the Assembly to sit in the Council—or *vice versa*—in order to explain the provisions of any measure connected with any department administered by him. The Council was empowered to suggest alterations in any Appropriation Bill, viz. (a) when in Committee, (b) on the report of the Committee, (c) on the third reading. The remedy provided to meet disagreements between the two Houses was the simultaneous dissolution of both after a Bill had been twice submitted to and rejected by the Council—viz. once before, and once after a dissolution of the Assembly in consequence of such first rejection.

Although modifications of the Constitution of 1903 have been made from time to time, its essential framework is very little changed. A detailed description of the present Constitution will be found in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, pages 9 to 16. The principal modifications since 1903 are as follow :—

- The present Constitution.**
1908. The *Adult Suffrage Act* 1908, No. 2185, conferred the suffrage on women aged 21 years and upwards for all elections of the Assembly, and also placed them on an equality with men at elections of the Legislative Council.
1910. The *Electoral Act* 1910, No. 2288, now incorporated in The Constitution Act, provided (a) that every person of the full age of 21 years, a natural born or naturalized subject of His Majesty, and who had resided in Victoria for the six months and in any district for one month immediately preceding the date of any electoral canvass or of his claim for enrolment was entitled to be enrolled as an elector for the Legislative Assembly; and (b) for voting by post at elections for the Legislative Council or Assembly.
1911. The preferential system of voting at elections for the Assembly was provided for by Act No. 2321. (In 1921, by Act No. 3139, this system was made applicable at elections for the Council.)

1920. *The Constitution Act Amendment Act 1919* (No. 3044) provided for the payment to any member of the Assembly who is for the time being the Leader of His Majesty's Opposition (in addition to reimbursement of his expenses in relation to his attendance in the discharge of his parliamentary duties) of any sum provided by Parliament as an allowance in consideration of his services as such leader.
1920. *The Constitution Act Amendment Act, 1920* (No. 3118) (a) increased the amount for Ministerial salaries to £10,000; (b) increased the amount of reimbursement of expenses of each member of the Assembly to £500 per annum.
1922. *The Constitution Act Amendment Act 1922* (No. 3218) provides for reimbursement of expenses of each member of the Council at the rate of £200 per annum.
1923. *The Parliamentary Elections (Woman Candidates) Act 1923* (No. 3337) provided that no woman by reason only of sex or marriage should be disqualified or disabled from or be incapable of being a candidate at any election whether for the Council or the Assembly or being elected a member of the Council or the Assembly or voting therein if elected.
1926. *The Compulsory Voting (Assembly Elections) Act 1926* (No. 3488) made it compulsory for every elector to record his vote at every election for which he is entitled to vote. (The compulsory provision was extended to elections of the Legislative Council by the *Legislative Council Elections Act 1935* (No. 4350)).
1927. *The Electoral (Absent Voters) Act 1927* (No. 3525) provided for the voting by absent voters at elections for the Assembly. (This provision was extended to elections of the Council by the *Legislative Council Elections Act 1935* (No. 4350)).
1935. *The Parliamentary Elections (Railway Employés and Civil Servants) Act 1935* (No. 4334) allows Railway Employés and Civil Servants to contest any parliamentary election without having first to resign from the service.
1936. *The Responsible Ministers of the Crown Act 1936* (No. 4367) increased the maximum number of salaried responsible Ministers of the Crown from eight to nine, and the maximum total amount of salaries paid to such Ministers from £10,000 to £11,250.

1937. The *Constitution (Reform) Act 1937* (No. 4533) altered the procedure to be adopted in the event of a disagreement between the two Houses of Parliament. In addition, the qualifications of members of the Council were widened by reducing the age of qualification from 30 to 21 years, and the property qualifications from £50 to £25. The deposit required from a candidate for election to the Council was reduced from £100 to £50.
1940. The *Statute Law Revision Act, 1940* (No. 4726) by amendment of section 27 of *The Constitution Act Amendment Act, 1928* (No. 3660), as amended by section 3 of the *Members of Parliament (Disqualification) Act 1939* (No. 4718) provided that it shall be lawful for the holders of the offices of (a) the Unofficial Leader of the Council and (b) "the Leader in the Assembly of any recognized party which consists of fifteen members at least of the Assembly of which party no member is a responsible Minister of the Crown," to receive (in addition to reimbursement of their expenses in relation to their attendance in discharge of their parliamentary duties) any sum provided by Parliament as an allowance in consideration of their services in such offices.

GOVERNORS OF VICTORIA.

The following statement shows the names and periods of office of Governors and Acting Governors of Victoria since the first appointment of Mr. Charles Joseph La Trobe as Superintendent, in 1839 :—

Name.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office.
Charles Joseph La Trobe	30th September, 1839 ..	5th May, 1854
John Vesey Fitzgerald Foster (Acting)	8th May, 1854 ..	22nd June, 1854
Captain Sir Charles Hotham, R.N., K.C.B.	22nd June, 1854 ..	31st December, 1855*
Major-General Edward Macarthur (Acting)	1st January, 1856 ..	26th December, 1856
Sir Henry Barkly, K.C.B.	26th December, 1856 ..	10th September, 1863
Sir Charles Henry Darling, K.C.B. ..	11th September, 1863	7th May, 1866
Brigadier-General George Jackson Carey, C.B. (Acting)	7th May, 1866 ..	15th August, 1866
The Honorable Sir John Henry Thomas Manners-Sutton, K.C.B.	15th August, 1866 ..	2nd March, 1873
Sir William Foster Stawell, Kt. (Acting)	3rd March, 1873 ..	19th March, 1873
Sir George Ferguson Bowen, G.C.M.G.	31st March, 1873 ..	22nd February, 1879
Sir Redmond Barry, Kt. (Acting) ..	3rd January, 1875 ..	10th January, 1875
Sir William Foster Stawell, Kt. (Acting)	11th January, 1875 ..	14th January, 1876
The Most Honorable George Augustus Constantine Phipps, Marquis of Normanby, G.C.M.G., P.C.	27th February, 1879 ..	18th April, 1884
Sir William Foster Stawell, Kt. (Acting)	18th April, 1884 ..	15th July, 1884
Sir Henry Brougham Leach, G.C.M.G., K.C.B. }	15th July, 1884 ..	8th March, 1889
	18th October, 1889 ..	15th November, 1889

* Died on this date.

GOVERNORS OF VICTORIA—continued.

Name.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office.
Sir William Cleaver Francis Robinson, } G.C.M.G. (Acting)	9th March, 1889 ..	17th October, 1889
The Right Honorable John Adrain	16th November, 1889 ..	27th November, 1889
Louis Hope, Earl of Hopetoun, G.C.M.G.	28th November, 1889 ..	12th July, 1895
The Honorable John Madden, LL.D. } (Acting)	26th January, 1893 ..	11th May, 1893
The Right Honorable Baron Brassey, K.C.B.	27th March 1895 ..	24th October, 1895
The Honorable Sir John Madden, K.C.M.G., LL.D. (Acting)	25th October, 1895 ..	31st March, 1900
The Honorable Sir John Madden, K.C.M.G., LL.D., Lieutenant- Governor (Acting)	29th December, 1896 ..	16th February, 1897
Sir George Sydenham Clarke, K.C.M.G. F.R.S.	27th September, 1897 ..	10th October, 1897
The Honorable Sir John Madden, K.C.M.G., LL.D., Lieutenant- Governor (Acting)	23rd March, 1898 ..	21st October, 1898
Sir Thomas David Gibson Carmichael, Baronet, K.C.M.G.	15th January, 1900 ..	10th December, 1901
The Honorable Sir John Madden, K.C.M.G., LL.D., Lieutenant- Governor (Acting)	10th December, 1901 ..	24th November, 1903
Major-General Hon. Sir Reginald Arthur James Talbot, K.C.B.	24th November, 1903 ..	25th April, 1904
The Honorable Sir John Madden, G.C.M.G., LL.D., Lieutenant- Governor (Acting)	25th April, 1904 ..	6th July, 1908
Sir Thomas David Gibson Carmichael, Baronet, K.C.M.G.	20th March, 1907 ..	18th November, 1907
The Honorable Sir John Madden, G.C.M.G., LL.D., Lieutenant- Governor (Acting)	6th July, 1908 ..	27th July, 1908
Sir Thomas David Gibson Carmichael, Baronet, K.C.M.G.	27th July, 1908 ..	19th May, 1911
The Honorable Sir John Madden, G.C.M.G., LL.D., Lieutenant- Governor (Acting)	19th May, 1911 ..	24th May, 1911
Sir John Michael Fleetwood Fuller, Baronet, K.C.M.G.	24th May, 1911 ..	31st January, 1914
The Honorable Sir John Madden, G.C.M.G., LL.D., Lieutenant- Governor (Acting)	28th August, 1913 ..	23rd February, 1914
Sir Arthur Lyulph Stanley, K.C.M.G.	23rd February, 1914 ..	30th January, 1920
Sir William Hill Irvine, K.C.M.G., LL.D., Lieutenant-Governor (Acting)	30th July, 1919 ..	24th February, 1921
The Right Hon. the Earl of Stradbroke, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.V.O., C.B.E.	24th February, 1921 ..	7th April, 1926
Sir William Hill Irvine, K.C.M.G., LL.D., Lieutenant-Governor (Acting)	1st April, 1923 ..	24th October, 1923
Lieutenant-Colonel The Right Hon. Arthur Herbert Temyson, Baron Somers, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., M.C.*	8th April, 1926 ..	27th June, 1926
Sir William Hill Irvine, K.C.M.G., LL.D., Lieutenant-Governor	28th June, 1926 ..	23rd June, 1931
Captain The Right Hon. William Charles Arcedeckne, Baron Hunting- field, K.C.M.G.†	26th April, 1929 ..	27th October, 1929
Sir Frederick Wollaston Mann, K.C.M.G., Lieutenant-Governor (Acting)	3rd October, 1930 ..	21st January, 1931
Major-General Sir Winston Joseph Dugan, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.	24th June, 1931 ..	14th May, 1934
	14th May, 1934 ..	5th April, 1939
	20th May, 1937 ..	28th September, 1937
	29th March, 1938 ..	24th September, 1938
	5th April, 1939 ..	17th July, 1939
	17th July, 1939 ..	

NOTE.—Captain William Lonsdale, formerly of the 4th Regiment, was appointed Police Magistrate of the District of Port Phillip on 9th September, 1836, and assumed office on the 29th of the same month. In that capacity he was in charge of the District until the appointment of Mr. C. J. La Trobe as Superintendent. Subsequently, Captain Lonsdale acted as Superintendent during the temporary absence of Mr. La Trobe, who was called on to administer the Government of Tasmania from the 13th October, 1846, to the 24th January, 1847.

* On leave from 26th April, 1929, to 27th October, 1929, and administered the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia from 3rd October, 1930, to 21st January, 1931.

† Resigned on 1st January, 1936. The commission was given to Sir Frederick Wollaston Mann, Kt., on 12th May, 1936.

‡ On leave from 20th May, 1937, to 28th September, 1937, and administered the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia from 29th March, 1938, to 24th September, 1938.

MINISTERS PRIOR TO RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

The names of Ministers who held office from the date of Victoria's separation from New South Wales in 1851 to the establishment of responsible Government in 1855, together with the office held and the date of their assumption thereof, is shown on page 29 of the *Year-Book* for 1928-29.

MINISTRIES SINCE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

During the period 28th November, 1855, to 22nd November, 1928, there were 45 Ministries. A statement showing the name of the Premier, the date of assumption of, the date of retirement from, and the duration of office of each of these Ministries appears in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, pages 30 and 31. Similar information in regard to the forty-sixth and subsequent Ministries is as follows:—

Number of Ministry and Name of Premier.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office.	Duration of Office.
Forty-sixth—Sir William Murray McPherson, K.B.E.	22nd November, 1928	12th December, 1929	Days. 385
Forty-seventh—Edmond John Hogan	12th December, 1929	19th May, 1932	889
Forty-eighth—Sir Stanley Seymour Argyle, K.B.E., M.R.C.S.	19th May, 1932	2nd April, 1935	1,048

The forty-ninth and existing Ministry, in which the Hon. Albert Arthur Dunstan is Premier, assumed office on 2nd April, 1935. It comprises the following members:—

The Hon. Albert Arthur Dunstan, M.L.A.	Premier, Treasurer, and Solicitor-General.
„ „ Albert Eli Lind, M.L.A.	President of the Board of Land and Works, Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey, and Minister of Forests.
„ „ Francis Edward Old, M.L.A.	Minister of Water Supply and Minister in Charge of Electrical Undertakings.
„ „ Edmond John Hogan, M.L.A.	Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Mines, and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works.
„ „ Henry Stephen Bailey, M.L.A.	Chief Secretary and Attorney-General.
„ „ Edwin Joseph Mackrell, M.L.A.	Minister of Labour.
„ „ Herbert John Thornhill Hyland, M.L.A.	Minister of Transport and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works.
„ „ Sir John Harris, K.B.E., M.L.C.	Minister of Public Instruction and Minister of Public Health.
„ „ Sir George Louis Goudie, M.L.C.	Commissioner of Public Works, Minister in Charge of Immigration, and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works.
„ „ George Joseph Tuckett, M.L.C.	Minister without Portfolio.
„ „ Henry Pye, M.L.C.	Minister without Portfolio.
„ „ Norman Angus Martin, M.L.A.	Minister without Portfolio.

MEMBERS OF THE STATE PARLIAMENT, 1941.

The names of members, the constituencies which they represent, and the name of the clerk of Parliaments are given below :—

VICTORIA—THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

President: Hon. Sir F. G. Clarke, K.B.E.

Name of Province.	Name of Member.	Date of Retirement.
Ballaarat ..	Hon. A. J. Pittard	1943
	Hon. G. Bolster	1946
Bendigo ..	Hon. J. H. Lienhop	1943
	Hon. Lieut.-Col. G. V. Lansell, C.M.G., V.D.	1946
Doutta Galla ..	Hon. P. J. Clarey	1943
	Hon. P. Jones	1946
East Yarra ..	Hon. W. H. Edgar (Chairman of Committees)	1943
	Hon. C. H. A. Eager, K.C.	1946
Gippsland ..	Hon. W. MacAulay	1943
	Hon. J. M. Balfour	1946
Higinbotham ..	Hon. J. A. Kennedy	1943
	Hon. J. S. Disney	1946
Melbourne ..	Hon. D. L. McNamara	1943
	Hon. W. J. Beckett	1946
Melbourne North..	Hon. H. H. Olney	1943
	Hon. A. M. Fraser	1946
Melbourne West ..	Hon. J. H. Disney	1943
	Hon. P. J. Kennelly	1946
Monash	Hon. Sir F. G. Clarke, K.B.E. (President) ..	1943
	Hon. A. Crofts	1946
Northern ..	Hon. G. J. Tuckett (Minister without Portfolio)	1943
	Hon. R. Kilpatrick	1946
North-Eastern ..	Hon. P. P. Inchbold	1943
	Hon. Sir John Harris, K.B.E., (Minister of Public Instruction and Minister of Public Health)	1946
North-Western ..	Hon. Sir G. L. Goudie (Commissioner of Public Works, Minister in Charge of Immigration, and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works)	1943
	Hon. H. Pye (Minister without Portfolio) ..	1946
Southern ..	Hon. G. L. Chandler	1943
	Hon. Sir W. Angliss	1946
South-Eastern ..	Hon. C. P. Gartside	1943
	Hon. C. E. Isaac	1946
South-Western ..	Hon. G. S. McArthur	1943
	Hon. A. E. McDonald	1946
Western ..	Hon. L. R. Rodda	1943
	Hon. R. C. Rankin	1946

Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Council: P. T. Pook.

MEMBERS OF THE STATE PARLIAMENT, 1941—*continued.*

VICTORIA—THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Speaker: Hon. W. Slater.

Name of Electoral District.	Name of Member.
Albert Park	W. C. Haworth.
Allandale	P. L. Denigan.
Ballaarat	T. T. Hollway.
Barwon	Hon. T. K. Maltby.
Benalla	F. A. Cook.
Benambra	J. R. Paton.
Bendigo	A. E. Cook.
Boroondara	T. D. Oldham.
Brighton	Hon. I. Macfarlan, K.C.
Brunswick	J. R. Jewell.
Bulla-Dalhousie	H. O. White.
Carlton	W. Barry.
Castlemaine and Kyneton	W. D. Hodson.
Caulfield	Colonel Hon. H. E. Cohen, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., V.D.
Clifton Hill	H. M. Cremean.
Coburg	C. Mutton.
Collingwood	Hon. T. Tunnecliffe.
Dandenong	F. Field.
Dundas	Hon. W. Slater (Speaker).
Essendon	J. C. Dillon.
Evelyn	W. H. Everard.
Flemington	J. J. Holland.
Footscray	J. M. Mullens.
Geelong	Mrs. F. E. Brownbill.
Gippsland East	Hon. A. E. Lind (President of the Board of Land and Works, Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey, and Minister of Forests).
Gippsland North	A. H. Borthwick
Gippsland South	Hon. H. J. T. Hyland (Minister of Transport and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works).
Gippsland West	M. Bennett.
Goulburn Valley	J. G. B. McDonald.
Grant	F. C. T. Holden.
Gunbower	Hon. N. A. Martin (Minister without Portfolio).
Hampden	W. R. Cumming.
Hawthorn	L. H. Hollins.
Heidelberg	H. P. Zwar.
Kara Kara-Borong	F. A. Cameron.
Kew	Hon. W. S. Kent Hughes, M.V.O., M.C.

MEMBERS OF THE STATE PARLIAMENT, 1941—*continued.*

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—*continued.*

Name of Electoral District.	Name of Member.
Korong-Eaglehawk ..	Hon. A. A. Dunstan (Premier, Treasurer, and Solicitor-General).
Lowan	H. Lamb.
Maryborough-Daylesford ..	G. C. Frost.
Melbourne ..	T. Hayes.
Mildura	A. G. Allnutt.
Mornington ..	A. J. Kirton.
Northcote ..	Hon. J. Cain.
Nunawading ..	Mrs. I. L. Weber.
Oakleigh	S. H. Reid.
Ouyen	K. Dodgshun.
Polwarth	E. F. Guye.
Port Fairy-Glenelg ..	E. E. Bond.
Port Melbourne ..	J. L. Murphy.
Prahran	J. McD. Ellis.
Richmond ..	E. J. Cotter.
Rodney	W. Dunstone.
St. Kilda	A. Michaelis.
Stawell and Ararat ..	A. McDonald.
Swan Hill	Hon. F. E. Old (Minister of Water Supply and Minister in Charge of Electrical Undertakings).
Toorak	H. E. Thonemann.
Upper Goulburn ..	Hon. E. J. Mackrell (Minister of Labour).
Upper Yarra ..	Lieut.-Colonel Hon. G. H. Knox, C.M.G., V.D.
Walhalla	W. A. Moncur.
Wangaratta-Ovens ..	L. V. Diffey.
Waranga	E. A. Coyle (Chairman of Committees).
Warrenheip-Grenville ..	Hon. E. J. Hogan (Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Mines, and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works).
Warrnambool	Hon. H. S. Bailey (Chief Secretary and Attorney-General).
Williamstown ..	Hon. J. Lemmon.
Wonthaggi	W. G. McKenzie.

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: F. E. Wanke.

During the period 1856 to 1927 there were 28 Parliaments. A statement showing the duration in days of each Parliament, the number of days in session, and the percentage of the latter to the former was published in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, page 21. Similar information in regard to the twenty-ninth and subsequent Parliaments is shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—DURATION OF PARLIAMENTS AND SESSIONS,
1927 TO 1940.

Number of Parliament.	Period.	Duration of Parliament.	Days in Session.	
			Number.	Percentage to Duration.
		Days.		
Twenty-ninth	1927-29	850	542	63·8
Thirtieth	1929-32	864	596	69·0
Thirty-first	1932-35	963	471	48·9
Thirty-second	1935-37	902	506	56·1
Thirty-third	1937-40	848	403	47·5

THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR VICTORIA.

An Article on the "Agent-General for Victoria" was published in the *Year-Book* for 1937-38, pages 21 and 22.

The present Agent-General for Victoria in Great Britain is the Hon. Sir A. L. Bussau, Victoria House, Melbourne Place, Strand, London, W.C.2.

VICTORIA—STATE ACTS PASSED DURING 1940.

The following is a synopsis of each Act passed by the State Parliament during the year 1940:—

Act No.	Date (1940).	
4721 ..	13th May	.. The <i>Freezing Works (Overdraft Guarantee) Act</i> 1940 authorizes the Treasurer of Victoria to guarantee the payment to the Commonwealth Bank of Australia by the Amalgamated Freezing Company (Victoria) Proprietary Limited of moneys advanced by the said Bank to the said Company by way of overdraft for the purposes of its undertakings at Ballarat and Bendigo during the financial year 1940-1941, and the payment of interest on such moneys.
4722 ..	13th May	.. The <i>Public Works Loan and Application Act</i> 1940 authorizes the raising of money for Public Works and other purposes and sanctions the issue and application for such purposes of the money so raised or of money in the State Loans Repayment Fund, and for other purposes.

Act No.	Date (1940).	
4723	.. 13th May	.. The <i>Grain Elevators (Financial) Act 1940</i> increases by £500,000 the amount that may be borrowed under the Grain Elevators Acts.
4724	.. 13th May	.. The <i>Railways (Sick Leave) Act 1940</i> authorizes the Governor in Council to make regulations for the granting to daily paid employés who have been employed continuously in the railway service for not less than two years of six days sick leave with pay in respect of each financial year.
4725	.. 13th May	.. The <i>Melbourne Harbor Trust (Tolls) Act 1940</i> . The object of this Act is to clarify by the amendment of Section One hundred and ten of the <i>Melbourne Harbor Trust Act 1928</i> the law as to what goods of the Crown and of State instrumentalities are exempt from tolls and rates chargeable by The Melbourne Harbor Trust Commissioners.
4726	.. 13th May	.. The <i>Statute Law Revision Act 1940</i> makes corrections and drafting amendments in various Acts, and provides for the incorporation of such amendments in subsequent issues of such Acts.
4727	.. 13th May	.. The <i>Dairy Produce Act 1940</i> , by amendment of section 4 of the <i>Dairy Produce Act 1935</i> , permits the Minister to take into account reports by Commonwealth officers as well as by State officers as to the quality of butter and cheese produced when he is considering the cancellation of a butter or cheese factory licence.
4728	.. 13th May	.. The <i>Mildura Irrigation and Water Trusts Act 1940</i> amends provisions of the Mildura Irrigation and Water Trusts Acts relating to the election of Commissioners and to the enforcement of charges by the sale of land, debentures, sinking funds, and depreciation funds.
4729	.. 13th May	.. The <i>Fisheries Act 1940</i> prohibits fishing without a licence by means of long lines or for non-indigenous salmon, and amends provisions of the Fisheries Acts relating to penalties, inspectors, and the protection from pollution of waters containing fish and oysters.
4730	.. 13th May	.. This Act applies out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of £1,320,201 to the service of the year One thousand nine hundred and forty and One thousand nine hundred and forty-one.
4731	.. 1st August	.. This Act applies out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of £2,977,546 to the service of the year One thousand nine hundred and forty and One thousand nine hundred and forty-one.

Act No. Date (1940).

4732 .. 26th August .. The *Survey Co-ordination Act 1940* provides for the establishment in the Department of Crown Lands and Survey of a Central Plan Office and a Central Plan Register.

All Government Departments and public authorities are required to forward to the Surveyor-General lists of all plans of surveys in their possession and notice of all surveys intended to be made; the Surveyor-General may require any such new survey to be connected to an existing survey or to any specified permanent marks, and may require any plan of any survey to be forwarded to him.

The Central Plan Register is to contain a record of such of the lists and plans forwarded to the Surveyor-General as appear to him to be of general value, and the Surveyor-General may require any plan of special general value to be lodged in the Central Plan Office.

Provision is made for safeguarding plans of surveys, for access to inspection of and taking copies of plans of surveys, and for the co-ordination of plans lodged in the Office of Titles with plans registered in the Central Plan Office.

Where the Commonwealth survey authority has completed a tertiary triangulation or basic standard traverse of any area the Surveyor-General may establish a standard traverse for the convenient connexion of local or general surveys with the Commonwealth survey, and thereafter all local or general surveys in the area are to be connected with the standard traverse.

The Surveyor-General is charged with taking steps to avoid duplication of surveys, and is empowered to carry out any surveys necessary for the purposes of the Act.

Provision is made for the establishment maintenance and protection of permanent marks, for standards of measurement and accuracy, for an annual report by the Surveyor-General on the administration of the Act, and for the exemption (where secrecy is desirable) of plans of surveys from the operation of the Act.

4733 .. 9th September .. The *National Security (Emergency Powers) Act 1940* continues for a further period of twelve months the operation of the *National Security (Emergency Powers) Act 1939*.

4734 .. 9th September .. The *Melbourne Harbor Trust (Chairman) Act 1940* protects the rights under the Public Service Acts and Superannuation Acts of any public servant appointed Chairman of the Melbourne Harbor Trust Commissioners.

- | Act No. | Date (1940). | |
|---------|------------------|--|
| 4735 | .. 9th September | .. The <i>Connewarre Land Act</i> 1940 provides for the revocation of the reservation of certain Land in the Parish of Connewarre permanently reserved as a site for public purposes. |
| 4736 | .. 9th September | .. The <i>Farm Produce Agents Act</i> 1940 exempts certain persons from lodging a fidelity bond with the Director of Agriculture when applying for the grant or renewal of a farm produce agent's licence. |
| 4737 | .. 9th September | .. The <i>Farmers Protection Act</i> 1940 provides that any action execution process or proceeding in respect of any debt of a farmer (whether incurred before or after the commencement of the Act) which is commenced proceeded with or put in force against the farmer or his property during the period of two years after the commencement of the Act shall be void and of no effect unless the creditor has given 21 days' notice thereof to the farmer. |

A copy of every such notice is to be delivered by the creditor to the Farmers Debts Adjustment Board which on the application of the farmer may issue to the farmer a temporary protection order of not more than three months' duration in relation to the debt if incurred before the commencement of the Act. During the operation of the temporary protection order the farmer is not to dispose of or encumber his assets without the consent of the Board, and the Board is to endeavour by negotiation to secure an adjustment of the farmer's debts to the creditor.

Failing such an adjustment the Board may issue to the farmer a conditional protection order of not more than twelve months' duration in relation to the creditor subject to such conditions as to the maintenance of the assets of the farmer, the meeting in whole or in part of the debt to the creditor, and such other material matters as the Board thinks proper.

During the operation of any protection order any action execution process or proceeding commenced proceeded with or put in force against the farmer or his property in respect of the debt in relation to which the order was issued or in respect of any security therefor shall be void and of no effect, but the time prescribed by any statute of limitations shall not run against the creditor.

Act No. Date (1940).
4737 .. 9th Sept.—*contd.*

Provision is made for the extension cancellation gazettal and registration of protection orders, for inquiries inspections and valuations, for the protection of guarantors predecessors in title trustees and statutory corporations, and for nullifying agreements designed to prevent farmers from obtaining the benefits of the Act.

The Act is expressed to bind the Crown.

- 4738 .. 9th September .. The *Local Government (Rates) Act 1940* extends to lands held under contract of sale under Part IV. of the *Closer Settlement Act 1938* or any corresponding previous enactment the provisions of the *Local Government (Rates) Act 1938* which remitted payment of municipal rates accrued on certain lands and provided that subsequent municipal rates in respect of such lands should be charged on such lands.
- 4739 .. 16th September .. The *Boilers Inspection (Air and Gas Receivers) Act 1940* extends provisions of the *Boilers Inspection Act 1928* to air receivers and gas receivers.
- 4740 .. 16th September .. The *Water (Rates and Charges) Act 1940* provides for the remission of interest on accrued arrears of rates and charges payable to the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission in respect of lands not in any urban district, and for the payment by instalments of such arrears.
- 4741 .. 16th September .. The *Margarine Act 1940* prohibits the manufacture of margarine otherwise than by the holder of a licence granted under the Act and in accordance with the conditions of such licence. Licences may be for the manufacture of either table margarine or cooking margarine.

The amount of table margarine to be manufactured in Victoria in any year is limited to 1,196 tons, and the annual production by each holder of a table margarine licence is limited accordingly, but permits may be granted to manufacture additional table margarine for export beyond Australia.

Both table margarine and cooking margarine are not to be manufactured at the same premises, but the holder of a cooking margarine licence is permitted to manufacture a specified type of table margarine for sale only in bulk to prescribed classes of persons such as pastry-cooks.

The Act makes provision with respect to the granting transfer and cancellation of licences, fees for licences, the manufacture packing and labelling of margarine, the inspection of margarine and premises where margarine is manufactured, stored or sold, the inspection of books and accounts, returns by manufacturers of margarine, and the seizure of margarine manufactured or packed in contravention of the Act.

Act No.	Date (1940).	
4742 ..	16th September	This Act applies out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of £134,969 to the service of the year One thousand nine hundred and thirty-nine and One thousand nine hundred and forty.
4743 ..	30th September	The <i>Melbourne Orphanage Act 1940</i> extends the objects of the Melbourne Orphanage to the maintenance of destitute children other than orphans.
4744 ..	30th September	The <i>Superannuation (Life Assurance Policies) Act 1940</i> . Section 60 of the <i>Superannuation Act 1928</i> provides that any officer whose life is assured on the 29th November, 1925 may, with the consent of the Superannuation Board, transfer the policy (if unencumbered) to the Board, which will pay the premiums and will on maturity pay to the officer or his personal representatives the sum received on the policy less the premiums paid by the Board and interest thereon. This Act extends the operation of that section to the case of policies taken out after the 29th November, 1925, and to certain temporary employes who are not officers. The Act also enables policies to be re-transferred by the Board before maturity on receipt of moneys equivalent to the premiums paid by the Board together with interest.
4745 ..	30th September	This Act applies out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of £2,840,201 to the service of the year One thousand nine hundred and forty and One thousand nine hundred and forty-one.
4746 ..	30th September	The <i>Local Government (Chelsea Street Construction) Act 1940</i> makes provision for payment by the owners of certain Lands in the City of Chelsea of certain sums in respect of the construction of certain streets in the said City, and to make the payment of the said sums a charge upon the said Lands and to validate the raising of a certain Loan for the purposes of the construction of the said streets and to make provision with respect to the redemption of the said Loan.
4747 ..	30th September	The <i>Ordinary Life Assurance Act 1940</i> affords to holders of ordinary life assurance policies which have a surrender value protection against forfeiture of the policies for non-payment of premiums or of interest on money advanced on the security of the policies.

Act No. Date (1940).

4747 .. 30th Sept.—*contd.*

The Act prescribes the conditions on which holders of ordinary life assurance policies are entitled to be granted paid-up policies or surrender values of policies, and the method of calculating the amount of such paid-up policies and surrender values. The provisions of the Act with respect to surrender values may be suspended during any time of financial emergency, and the provisions of the Act with respect to calculating the amount of paid-up policies and surrender values may be modified with respect to any particular policy or class of policies.

4748 .. 30th September

The *Police Offences (Raffles) Act 1940* makes legal raffles in aid of patriotic or Red Cross funds if conducted with the consent of and in accordance with any conditions imposed by the Attorney-General.

4749 .. 8th October

The *Factories and Shops (Butchers' Shops) Act 1940* alters the hours during which butchers' shops in the Metropolitan District may remain open.

4750 .. 15th October

The *Marketing of Primary Products Act 1940* amends the interpretation of "producer" for the purposes of the Marketing of Primary Products Acts; permits larger deductions to be made for reserve funds from the sale of commodities by marketing boards; lowers the qualification for voting by producers of eggs; and makes special provision with respect to payments by buyers to producers of eggs egg pulp and other commodities which are not the produce of seasonal operations, and with respect to the vesting in marketing boards of commodities produced by producer agents.

4751 .. 28th October

The *Public Service Act 1940*, provides for the appointment of a Public Service Board to be the successor in law of the Public Service Commissioner whose office is to be abolished. The Board will consist of three members of whom two are to be appointed by the Governor in Council. The third member is to be one of three persons each of whom is to be elected by a different section of the Public Service. The Act prescribes which of these three persons is to sit as a member of the Board on any particular occasion according to the nature of the matter on which the Board is engaged and the section of the Public Service principally affected.

Provision is made for the saving of public service and superannuation rights of members of the Board, payment to members, suspension of members, the term of office of members, the filling of vacancies on the Board, deputies of members, and proceedings of the Board.

Act No.	Date (1940).	
4751	28th Oct.— <i>contd.</i>	The Director of Mental Hygiene is superseded by the Public Service Board in respect of the administration of the Public Service Acts in relation to officers and employes of the Department of Mental Hygiene.
		Certain officers appointed under the <i>Milk and Dairy Supervision Act 1928</i> and the <i>Vermin and Noxious Weeds Act 1928</i> are brought into the Public Service as temporary officers.
4752	28th October	The <i>Country Roads Board Fund Act 1940</i> continues for a further period of twelve months the provisions of the <i>Country Roads Board Fund Act 1932</i> (No. 2). That Act provided temporarily that fees for licences to drive motor cars should be credited to Consolidated Revenue instead of to the Country Roads Board Fund, and also suspended temporarily the annual payment of £50,000 from Consolidated Revenue into that fund.
4753	28th October	The <i>Transport Regulation (Compensation) Act 1940</i> enables certain holders of commercial goods vehicle licences under the Transport Regulation Acts who have been engaged in long distances motor road transport for some years to make application to the Transport Regulation Board for compensation in consideration of the surrender of their licences. The compensation is to be fixed by the Governor in Council, and if the holder of the licence is satisfied with the amount thereof he may notify the Board accordingly, whereupon the surrender of the licence is to be accepted and the amount of the compensation paid out of the Consolidated Revenue.
4754	28th October	The <i>State Forests Loan Application Act 1940</i> is an Act to sanction the issue and application of certain sums of money available under Loan Acts or in the State Loans Repayment Fund for State Forests.
4755	28th October	The <i>Public Trustee Act 1940</i> empowers any person who is entitled to a grant of administration or probate to authorize the Public Trustee to obtain such grant; authorizes executors administrators trustees and others to appoint the Public Trustee to act in their stead or to discharge their duties; and empowers the Public Trustee, where he is entitled to a grant of probate or administration of an estate which he estimates to be worth less than £400, to proceed by the alternative method of an election to administer.
4756	4th November	The <i>Administration and Probate (War Service) Act 1940</i> provides that, where any person who has enlisted for service overseas with the naval military or air forces dies while on service and his estate or any part thereof passes to his widow or any lineal descendant or ancestor, probate duty shall not be payable on the first £5,000 of the estate or part of the estate so passing.

Act No.	Date (1940).	
4757	.. 4th November	.. The <i>Financial Emergency (Grants and Funds) Act</i> 1940 provides for the transfer, as on 30th June, 1941, to the Consolidated Revenue of the surplus of the Licensing Fund, and continues for the financial year 1940-41 the suspension of payments out of the Consolidated Revenue for the endowment of municipalities and the reduction by 20 per cent. of the amount to be paid into the Forestry Fund out of the Consolidated Revenue.
4758	.. 4th November	.. This Act declares the rates of Income Tax (including Special Tax) for the year beginning 1st July, 1940.
4759	.. 4th November	.. This Act declares the rate of Land Tax for the year ending the 31st December, 1941.
4760	.. 4th November	.. The <i>Melbourne (Widening of Streets) Act</i> 1940 empowers the Melbourne City Council to widen the footways of certain streets by acquiring land from owners of adjoining premises. Provision is made for the cantilevering of the upper stories of buildings so as to project over the footways.
4761	.. 18th November	.. The <i>Water Act</i> 1940 adjusts as between the State and certain districts the liability for the cost of certain water works. The Carrum waterworks district is created a drainage district and its capital liability is transferred to the State. Amendments are made to provisions of the Water Acts relating to registers of lands in irrigation and water supply districts, the alteration of water rights, the subdivision of land in irrigation and water supply districts and in drainage districts, depreciation funds for machinery plant and perishable structures in irrigation and water supply districts and in drainage districts, the constitution of flood protection districts, officers of waterworks trusts, the alteration of boundaries of urban districts urban divisions and flood protection districts, and the provision of moveable plant for use in various districts.
4762	.. 18th November	.. The <i>Workers' Compensation Act</i> 1940 amends provisions of the Workers' Compensation Acts relating to certified schemes of compensation, appeals from medical practitioners as to questions of disablement by industrial disease, agreements as to the amount of compensation payable or as to the amount of any lump sum payable in redemption of weekly payments, and the investment of moneys payable by way of compensation to dependants or infants.

Act No.	Date (1940).	
4763	.. 18th November ..	The <i>Public Works Loan and Application Act</i> 1940 (No. 2) authorizes the raising of further money for public works and other purposes and to sanction the issue and application for such purposes of the money so raised or of money in the State Loans Repayment Fund, and for other purposes.
4764	.. 18th November ..	The <i>Hawthorn Returned Sailors and Soldiers Trust Act</i> 1940 vests in the City of Hawthorn the real and personal property governed by the trusts contained in a certain trust deed relating to a club for the use of Hawthorn returned sailors and soldiers and to provide for the carrying out of the said trusts by the Council of the said city, and for other purposes.
4765	.. 18th November ..	The <i>Stamps (Increased Duty Continuance) Act</i> 1940 continues for a further period of twelve months the increased stamp duties on bills of exchange payable on demand (cheques, &c.), receipts, conveyances and transfers on sale of real property, partitions of real property, leases, sub-leases, deeds of settlement and gift, and annual licences in relation to insurance business.
4766	.. 18th November ..	The <i>Administration and Probate Duties Act</i> 1940 extends for a further period of twelve months the provisions of Part III. of the <i>Finance Act</i> 1930 which temporarily imposed additional duties on the estates of deceased persons and on certain settlements.
4767	.. 18th November ..	The <i>Public Service (Commonwealth Elections) Act</i> 1940 empowers the Governor in Council to re-appoint to the Public Service or Railway Service any person who (whether before or after the commencement of the Act) has resigned therefrom to contest an election for the Commonwealth Parliament and has not been elected thereat, and preserves the public service and superannuation rights of any person so re-appointed.
4768	.. 26th November ..	The <i>Education (Patriotic Ceremonies) Act</i> 1940 requires the regular observance by State School pupils of a prescribed patriotic ceremony and loyal declaration.
4769	.. 26th November ..	The <i>Police Offences (Dog Racing) Act</i> 1940 limits the number of grounds on which dog races may be held and the number of days on which and the hours during which dog races may be held on such grounds, and requires the licensing of promoters of dog races on such grounds. Provision is made in the Act for the issue renewal and transfer of licences, fees for licences, penalties, and the lodging of returns.

- | Act No. | Date (1940). | |
|---------|------------------|--|
| 4770 | .. 26th November | .. The <i>State Electricity Commission (Trading) Act 1940</i> enables the State Electricity Commission of Victoria and Undertakers under the <i>Electric Light and Power Act 1928</i> to trade in electrical apparatus and to instal electrical wiring and fittings and service lines. |
| 4771 | .. 2nd December | .. The <i>Water Supply Loans Application Act 1940</i> sanctions the issue and application of certain sums of money available under Loan Acts or in the State Loans Repayment Fund for irrigation works, water supply works, drainage and flood protection works in country districts, and for works under the River Murray Waters Acts. |
| 4772 | .. 2nd December | .. The <i>Unemployment Relief Tax (Rates) Act 1940</i> declares the rates of Unemployment Relief Tax for the year ending on the 30th June, 1941. |
| 4773 | .. 2nd December | .. The <i>Industrial Life Assurance Act 1940</i> prevents the avoidance of industrial life assurance policies on the ground of any incorrect statement written by any agent or servant of the insurance company in any proposal for assurance, unless the company proves that the proponent in fact made such statement; requires the insertion in industrial life assurance policies of certain statements as to bonuses, forfeiture, and rights to paid-up policies and to surrender values; and requires premium receipt books to be issued, and prescribes the entries to be made therein and the conditions on which any such book and certain other documents may be taken possession of by the company. |

The Act also provides for the cancellation of industrial life assurance policies on prompt objection being taken thereto; renders void agreements whereby the guarantors of agents of a company are required to pay the amounts of commissions repayable by agents on account of lapsed policies, as well as provisions in agreements whereby the production of a certificate signed by an officer of a company is deemed conclusive evidence of the amount of the indebtedness of any agent to the company; provides for the prohibition of the issue of industrial life assurance policies by companies whose financial affairs or arrangements are unsatisfactory; regulates accounts, financial statements, and the distribution of profits of industrial life assurance companies; and requires information with respect to industrial life assurance business to be furnished to the Minister.

Act No. Date (1940).

- 4774 .. 2nd December .. The *Fitzroy Land Act* 1940 provides for the closing of a portion of a certain street and of a portion of a certain right-of-way in the city of Fitzroy and for the vesting in His Majesty of the Lands upon which the said portion of the said street and the said portion of the said right-of-way are set out and for the grant of the said Lands to the Mother Rectress of St. Vincent's Hospital and certain other members of the religious order known as the Sisters of Charity administering the affairs of the said Hospital.
- 4775 .. 2nd December .. The *Superannuation Act* 1940 repeals the *Superannuation Act* 1938 which, because of the abandonment by the Commonwealth of its National Insurance legislation, never came into operation.
- Amendments are made to provisions of the Superannuation Acts relating to the number of units for which officers are to contribute and the rate payable for certain units ; and provision is made with respect to the increase of units of contributors absent on war service.
- The Act empowers the Superannuation Board to make a payment to the widow of an officer who dies after absence from duty on the ground of incapacity, and amends provisions of the Superannuation Acts relating to payment in cases of desertion by a male pensioner of his wife or child and the transfer of life policies to the Board.
- 4776 .. 2nd December .. The *Police Offences Act* 1940 amends provisions of the Police Offences Acts relating to the prevention of soliciting for prostitution and the suppression of brothels.
- 4777 .. 2nd December .. The *Stock Foods Act* 1940 extends the definition of "Stock" in the *Stock Foods Act* 1928 to include birds kept in captivity.
- 4778 .. 2nd December .. The *Cemeteries (Spring Vale Necropolis) Act* 1940 increases the borrowing powers of the trustees of the Spring Vale Necropolis.
- 4779 .. 2nd December .. The *Fire Brigades (Financial) Act* 1940 empowers the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board to spend money, borrowed by it for certain purposes, on purposes other than that for which it was authorized to borrow money.
- 4780 .. 2nd December .. This Act applies out of the Consolidated Revenue the sum of £1,412,710 to the service of the year 1940 and 1941.

Act No. Date (1940).

4781 .. 9th December .. The *Bendigo Land Act* 1940 provides for the revocation of the reservation of certain land at Bendigo as a site for public baths and public convenience and for the revocation of the Crown Grant of the said land to the Mayor Councillors and Citizens of the City of Sandhurst and for the closing of portions of certain streets adjacent to the said land, and to authorize the borrowing of certain money by the Council of the City of Bendigo for the purchase of the said land and the said portions of streets, and to provide for the Crown Grant thereof to the said City, and for other purposes.

4782 .. 9th December .. The *Drought Relief Act* 1940 provides for the application by the State of Victoria and the ultimate repayment (with interest) to the Commonwealth of certain moneys to be advanced to the State by the Commonwealth to enable advances to be made to farmers who are in necessitous circumstances and have sustained loss in the drought of 1940.

The advances to farmers are to be made by the Board of Land and Works for the purchase of live stock implements and machinery for replacement and of other goods necessary for farming operations, for the agistment of live stock, for the payment of wages for essential labour, and for the provision of living allowances to farmers and their families. Advances to farmers are to be free of interest for 12 months and thereafter are to bear interest at the rate of 1½ per cent. per annum, and are to be repaid within such time and in such amounts as the Board of Land and Works determines.

The Act contains the necessary financial provisions and applies with modifications the provisions of the *Farmers Advances Act* 1935.

4783 .. 9th December .. The *Income Tax (Assessment) Act* 1940 exempts from liability to income tax the pay and allowances of members of the naval military and air forces who serve outside Australia; and adds to the list of gifts which under the *Income Tax (Assessment) Act* 1936 are allowable deductions from income, gifts to public institutions or funds established for the comfort recreation or welfare of the Commonwealth naval military or air forces, and gifts to the Commonwealth for defence purposes.

The State is authorized to make arrangements with the Commonwealth for the use of tax stamps, issued by the Commonwealth, in the joint collection by instalments of State and Commonwealth income tax, and for the allocation between the State and the Commonwealth of the proceeds of the sale of such stamps and such joint collection and for other matters incidental thereto; and consequential amendments and modifications are made to the *Income Tax (Assessment) Act* 1936.

Act No. Date (1940).

4784 .. 9th December .. The *Factories and Shops (Bread) Act* 1940 alters the provisions of the *Factories and Shops Acts* relating to the days and hours on which bread may be carted and baked.

4785 .. 9th December .. The *Pawnbrokers Act* 1940 amends the provisions of the *Pawnbrokers Act* 1928 relating to the issue of pawnbrokers' licences; doubles the fee payable on the issue of a pawnbroker's licence; reduces the maximum rate of interest chargeable by pawnbrokers; amends the provisions of the *Pawnbrokers Act* 1928 relating to the period for which pledges are to be kept by pawnbrokers for redemption, and the sale by auction or other disposal of unredeemed pledges; and makes provision for the entry by authorized persons without warrant upon pawnbrokers' premises, the inspection of articles and documents therein, and the seizure and return of such articles.

4786 .. 9th December .. The *Soil Conservation Act* 1940 provides for the constitution of a Soil Conservation Board with the objects of the prevention and mitigation of soil erosion, the promotion of soil conservation, and the utilization of lands on such a manner as will tend towards the attainment of these objects.

The immediate functions of the Board are to carry out surveys investigations experiments and demonstrations in respect of soil erosion and reclamation, to record and publish the results thereof, to give information instruction and assistance to landholders in respect of soil erosion soil conservation and reclamation, and to co-ordinate the policies and activities of Government departments and public authorities with respect to the alienation occupation and utilization of Crown lands and with respect to soil conservation and reclamation. The Board, so far as practicable, is to carry out its functions through the Agriculture, Lands, Water, Forests and Mines Departments, all of which are represented on the Board.

The Act provides for an annual report by the Board, and requires the Board within two years after the commencement of the Act to make a special report containing a detailed recommendations as to any further legislation required to carry out the objects for which the Board is constituted.

Provision is made for inquiries and inspections; for the appointment and functions of regional advisory committees; and for the invitation of experts to attend meetings of the Board.

- | Act No. | Date (1940). | |
|---------|-----------------|---|
| 4787 | .. 9th December | .. The <i>Nurses Act 1940</i> increases from nine to eleven the number of members of the Nurses Board, and alters the representation of the various bodies represented thereon.

The representatives of nurses and the midwives' representative on the Board are to be elected by nurses and midwives respectively, instead of being nominated as previously provided. |
| 4788 | .. 9th December | .. The <i>Financial Emergency (Mortgages) Act 1940</i> makes it clear that the reduction under the <i>Financial Emergency (Mortgages) Acts</i> of the rate of interest on any mortgage continues during the whole of the period for which the mortgage in fact continues. |
| 4789 | .. 9th December | .. The <i>Railway Loan and Application Act 1940</i> , authorizes the raising of money for railway purposes and sanctions the issue and application of the money so raised and of other money available for railways under Loan Acts or in the State Loans Repayment Fund. |
| 4790 | .. 9th December | .. The <i>Companies (Special Investigations) Act 1940</i> which is of unlimited duration, is similar to two previous Acts of limited duration which have ceased to operate.

The Act authorizes the Governor in Council, without any application made in that behalf, to appoint inspectors to investigate and report upon the affairs of certain companies. Provision is made for payment from consolidated revenue of the costs of investigations, for the conduct of investigations, and for penalties for hindering investigations.

During the investigation of the affairs of any company certain actions and proceedings by the company and certain actions and proceedings on instruments negotiated by the company are suspended. The Supreme Court is empowered to wind up any company on the petition of the Attorney-General at any time after a report has been made in respect of such company by inspectors appointed under the Act. |
| 4791 | .. 9th December | .. The <i>Carriages Act 1940</i> provides that the power to make by-laws under the Carriages Acts for licensing hackney carriages and owners drivers and conductors thereof shall be deemed to include a power to make by-laws for cancelling revoking or suspending such licences. |

- | Act No. | Date (1940). | |
|---------|-----------------|---|
| 4792 | .. 9th December | .. The <i>Local Government Act 1940</i> relaxes in the case of municipal councillors who are on war service certain requirements of the Local Government Acts relating to the time within which the oath of office must be taken, the forfeiture of office for non-attendance at council meetings, and the signing of candidates' nomination papers. Councils are empowered to remit rates and also interest on private street construction charges in the case of persons on war service, to construct or provide air-raid shelters and borrow money for that purpose, and to expend a limited amount on tourists' resorts and facilities. |
| 4793 | .. 9th December | .. The <i>Supreme Court (Officers) Act 1940</i> amends the provisions of the <i>Supreme Court Act 1928</i> relating to the qualifications necessary for appointment to the offices of Acting Master-in-Equity and of Clerk of the Supreme Court. |
| 4794 | .. 9th December | .. The <i>Farmers Protection (Amendment) Act 1940</i> provides that proceedings by municipal councils to recover rates or other moneys by taking possession of or selling the land concerned shall not be deemed to be proceedings for the purposes of the <i>Farmers Protection Act 1940</i> (No. 4737 <i>ante</i>); and authorizes the making of regulations under that Act prescribing methods of service (including substituted service) of notices under that Act. |
| 4795 | .. 9th December | .. The <i>State Relief Committee Act 1940</i> provides for the constitution of the State Relief Committee. The Committee is empowered to collect money and commodities and to distribute commodities to benevolent societies, to public assistance committees and (but so as not to compete with benevolent societies and public assistance committees) to persons in distress in Victoria owing to sickness unemployment fire flood drought or any other emergency.

The Act makes provision with respect to collections by the Committee, the accounts to be kept by the Committee, and the audit of such accounts. |

Act No Date (1940).

4796 .. 9th December .. The *Local Government (Building Regulations) Act 1940* provides for the constitution of a Building Regulations Commission with the objects of the provision of standard specifications and uniform regulations in connexion with the construction of buildings, the reduction of the cost of construction of buildings, and the improvement of buildings and living conditions and of the methods of construction of buildings. The functions of the Commission are to investigate and report to the Minister on how these objects can best be attained, and on any matter with respect to buildings referred to the Commission by the Minister for inquiry, and to prepare (in co-operation with Government departments, the Municipal Association of Victoria, municipal councils, and public authorities) draft regulations for submission to the Minister.

The Governor in Council, after consideration by the Minister of any report and draft regulations submitted by the Commission to the Minister, may make regulations with respect to regulating restricting restraining or prohibiting the construction pulling down and removal of buildings and any matters connected therewith.

The regulations are to have effect in all cities and towns and in any other district to which their operation is extended, and are to over-ride not only conflicting by-laws and regulations made under any other Act but also any conflicting provision of any Act relating to local government; but the regulations are not to permit the construction of any building contrary to the provisions of regulations under the *Slum Reclamation and Housing Act 1938*. The regulations are to be administered by municipal councils or, where expressly so provided, by Government departments and public authorities. Provision is made for the enforcement of the performance by municipal councils of their powers and duties under the regulations.

4797 .. 9th December .. This Act applies a sum not exceeding £7,820,485 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year ending on the thirtieth day of June, 1941.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

Elections for the Legislative Council, 1940.

The triennial elections for the Legislative Council, were held on 15th June, 1940, when eight of the seventeen provinces were contested. The following table shows the number of electors on the rolls for each province and also the number and proportion who voted in each province where an election was held.

VICTORIA—NUMBER OF ELECTORS AND VOTES POLLED AT THE TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON 15TH JUNE, 1940.

Province.	Number of Electors on Rolls.	Number of Electors who Voted.	Informal Votes.	Number who Voted by Post.	Proportion of Electors who Voted.
					%
Ballaarat*	20,787	..	..	..	..
Bendigo*	22,382	..	..	..	..
Doutta Galla	39,001	27,565	457	254	70·68
East Yarra*	38,897	..	..	..	..
Gippsland*	19,198	..	..	..	..
Higinbotham	35,924	26,107	544	500	72·67
Melbourne*	33,717	..	..	..	..
Melbourne North	42,435	32,993	536	853	77·75
Melbourne West	34,227	26,431	422	205	77·22
Monash*	40,599	..	..	..	..
Northern	19,237	15,641	118	274	81·31
North-Eastern*	17,025	..	..	..	..
North-Western*	19,135	..	..	..	..
Southern*	24,319	..	..	..	..
South-Eastern	23,059	16,319	236	1,108	70·77
South-Western	22,331	17,605	185	599	78·84
Western	19,570	16,005	325	320	81·78
Total number of electors ..	471,843	..	..	..	..
Less uncontested provinces (9)	236,059	..	..	..	..
Total contested provinces ..	235,784	178,666	2,823	4,113	75·78

* Uncontested.

Elections, Legislative Assembly, 1940.

At the elections for the Legislative Assembly, held on 16th March, 1940, there were contests in 44 of the 65 constituencies. The number of electors on the rolls was 1,162,967—565,002 males and 597,965 females. In contested districts 93·41 per cent. of the electors recorded their votes, the proportion for males being 93·65 per cent. and for females 93·19 per cent.

The following table shows the number of electors, the votes polled, and the percentage of the latter to the former in the different electoral districts.

VICTORIA—NUMBER OF ELECTORS AND VOTES POLLED
FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AT THE GENERAL
ELECTION ON 16TH MARCH, 1940.

Electoral District.	Number of Electors on Rolls at Date of General Election.			Electors who Voted.					
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Percentage of Number on the Roll.		
							Males.	Females.	Total.
Albert Park	10,480	13,836	24,316	9,944	12,643	22,587	94·89	91·38	92·89
Allandale	5,208	4,748	9,956	4,998	4,486	9,484	95·97	94·48	95·26
Ballaarat	7,934	9,810	17,744	7,519	9,218	16,737	94·77	93·97	94·32
Barwon	6,449	6,788	13,237	..	..	..	..	..	..
Benalla	5,930	5,260	11,190	5,377	4,910	10,287	90·67	93·35	91·93
Benambra	4,934	4,188	9,122	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bendigo	8,308	9,642	17,950	..	..	..	..	..	..
Boroondara	15,313	18,885	34,198	14,291	17,411	31,702	93·33	92·19	92·70
Brighton	13,988	17,353	31,341	13,401	16,132	29,533	95·80	92·96	94·23
Brunswick	13,208	14,218	27,426	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bulla and Dalhousie	5,215	4,726	9,941	4,799	4,434	9,233	92·02	93·82	92·88
Carlton	10,389	11,143	21,532	9,209	9,916	19,125	88·64	88·99	88·82
Castlemaine .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kyneton	5,415	5,396	10,811	5,074	5,158	10,232	93·70	95·59	94·64
Caulfield	13,066	16,372	29,438	12,142	15,181	27,323	92·93	92·73	92·82
Clifton Hill	11,280	12,851	24,131	10,543	11,885	22,428	93·47	92·48	92·94
Coburg	13,265	15,833	29,098	12,468	14,651	27,119	93·99	92·53	93·20
Collingwood	11,197	11,821	23,018	10,164	10,784	20,948	90·77	91·23	91·01
Dandenong	15,991	17,167	33,158	15,211	15,867	31,078	95·12	92·43	93·73
Dundas	6,356	6,008	12,364	6,038	5,709	11,747	95·00	95·02	95·01
Essendon	12,478	14,078	26,556	11,993	13,348	25,341	96·11	94·81	95·42
Evelyn	6,160	5,713	11,873	..	..	..	..	..	..
Flemington	11,205	12,073	23,278	10,391	11,122	21,513	92·74	92·12	92·42
Footscray	14,492	14,049	28,541	..	..	..	..	..	..
Geelong	9,259	10,235	19,494	8,961	9,653	18,614	96·78	94·31	95·49
Gippsland East	4,475	3,411	7,886	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gippsland North	5,595	5,438	11,033	5,090	5,072	10,162	90·97	93·27	92·11
Gippsland South	6,644	5,404	12,048	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gippsland West	6,357	5,086	11,443	5,876	4,760	10,636	92·43	93·59	92·95
Goulburn Valley	6,712	5,984	12,696	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grant	5,921	4,937	10,858	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gunbower	6,113	5,116	11,229	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hampden	5,710	5,380	11,090	5,443	5,079	10,522	95·32	94·41	94·88
Hawthorn	11,312	14,567	25,869	10,328	13,925	24,253	91·30	95·66	93·75
Heideberg	15,393	16,672	32,065	14,749	15,813	30,562	95·82	94·85	95·31
Kara Kara and Borung	5,588	5,200	10,788	5,285	4,994	10,279	94·58	96·04	95·28
Kew	12,707	16,972	29,679	11,675	15,858	27,533	91·88	93·44	92·77
Korong and Eaglehawk	5,831	5,271	11,102	5,455	4,914	10,369	93·55	93·23	93·40
Lowan	6,360	6,038	12,398	6,053	5,718	11,771	95·17	94·70	94·94
Maryborough .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Daylesford	5,520	5,541	11,061	..	..	..	..	..	..
Melbourne	10,280	10,310	20,590	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mildura	7,056	5,978	13,034	6,590	5,531	12,121	93·40	92·52	93·00
Mornington	7,435	6,850	14,285	6,631	6,280	12,911	89·19	91·68	90·38
Northcote	11,598	13,094	24,692	10,997	12,393	23,390	94·82	94·65	94·73
Nunawading	12,069	14,184	26,253	11,299	13,249	24,548	93·62	93·41	93·51
Oakleigh	15,610	18,267	33,877	14,864	17,183	32,047	95·22	94·07	94·60

VICTORIA.—NUMBER OF ELECTORS AND VOTES POLLED FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON 16TH MARCH, 1940—continued.

Electoral District.	Number of Electors on Rolls at Date of General Election.			Electors who Voted.					
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Percentage of Number on the Roll.		
							Males.	Females.	Total.
Ouyen	5,647	4,430	10,077	5,213	4,188	9,401	92·31	94·54	93·29
Polwarth	6,279	5,603	11,882	5,902	5,313	11,215	94·00	94·82	94·39
Port Fairy and Glenelg	6,391	5,822	12,213	6,154	5,547	11,701	96·29	95·28	95·81
Port Melbourne	10,585	10,877	21,462	..	..	..	..	..	..
Prahran	11,495	14,441	25,936	10,395	13,092	23,487	90·43	90·66	90·56
Richmond	11,457	12,312	23,769	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rodney	6,279	5,714	11,993	5,824	5,318	11,142	92·75	93·07	92·90
St. Kilda	13,388	17,532	30,920	12,548	15,901	28,449	93·73	90·70	92·01
Stawell and Ararat	6,018	5,749	11,767	5,711	5,428	11,139	94·90	94·42	94·66
Swan Hill	5,335	3,841	9,176	4,996	3,634	8,630	93·65	94·61	94·05
Toorak	10,370	14,647	25,017	..	..	..	..	..	..
Upper Goulburn	5,160	4,447	9,607	..	..	..	..	..	..
Upper Yarra	8,148	7,711	15,859	..	..	..	..	..	..
Walhalla	6,643	5,310	11,953	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wangaratta and Ovens	5,978	5,437	11,415	5,560	5,008	10,568	93·01	92·11	92·58
Waranga	4,863	4,157	9,020	..	..	..	..	..	..
Warrenheip and Grenville	5,436	4,962	10,398	5,102	4,711	9,813	93·86	94·94	94·37
Warrnambool	6,408	6,198	12,606	6,142	5,836	11,978	95·85	94·16	95·02
Williamstown	12,025	12,284	24,309	11,239	11,462	22,701	93·46	93·31	93·39
Wonthaggi	5,291	4,608	9,899	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	565,002	597,965	1,162,967	..	..	..	..	..	..
Less twenty-one uncontested districts	161,733	159,370	321,103	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	403,269	438,595	841,864	377,644	408,715	786,359	93·65	93·19	93·41

The preferential system of voting was provided for by Statute in 1911 for Legislative Assembly elections, in 1921 for Legislative Council triennial elections and, in 1936, for Legislative Council general elections directly following upon a dissolution of the Council in consequence of disagreements between the two Houses. An illustration of this system of voting is given in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, page 19.

In 15 of the 44 contested districts in the Legislative Assembly election of 16th March, 1940, there were more than two candidates. In eight of these the successful candidate had an absolute majority of the total first preferences recorded, and consequently a second count was unnecessary. In one of the other seven contests the candidate who occupied the highest position on the first count was displaced after the second and subsequent preferences were distributed.

VICTORIA—PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTIONS.

By-elections held in Victoria during 1940-41 were as follows:—
Legislative Assembly—

13th July, 1940 .. Mr. C. Mutton elected for
Coburg.
2nd November, 1940.. Mr. E. F. Guye elected for
Polwarth.
11th January, 1941 .. Mr. H. E. Thonemann elected
for Toorak.

PARTICULARS OF BY-ELECTIONS, 1940-41.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Coburg Electoral District.

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number of electors on roll at date of election ..	14,643	16,061	30,704
Number of electors who voted	12,592	13,820	26,412
Electors who voted (percentage of number on roll) ..	85·99	86·05	86·02

Polwarth Electoral District.

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number of electors on roll at date of election ..	6,326	5,831	12,157
Number of electors who voted	5,635	5,339	10,974
Electors who voted (percentage of number on roll) ..	89·08	91·56	90·27

Toorak Electoral District.

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number of electors on roll at date of election ..	11,440	16,180	27,620
Number of electors who voted	8,979	13,957	22,936
Electors who voted (percentage of number on roll) ..	78·48	86·26	83·04

Proportion of voters at elections.

The first general election for the Legislative Assembly was held in the year 1856. The proportion of electors of contested districts who voted at each of the general elections held since that year is shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF VOTERS AT GENERAL ELECTIONS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1856-1940.

Year of General Election.	Proportion of Electors of Contested Districts who Voted.	Year of General Election.	Proportion of Electors of Contested Districts who Voted.	Year of General Election.	Proportion of Electors of Contested Districts who Voted.
	Per cent.		Per cent.		Per cent.
1856	*	1886	64·70	1917	54·21
1859	*	1889	66·58	1920	63·70
1861	*	1892	65·12	1921	57·26
1864	*	1894	70·99	1924	59·24
1866	55·10	1897	70·33	1927	91·76†
1868	61·59	1900	63·47	1929	93·72
1871	65·02	1902	65·47	1932	94·20
1874	61·00	1904	66·72	1935	94·39
1877	62·29	1907	61·26	1937	93·96
1880 (Feb.)	66·56	1908	53·64	1940	93·41
1880 (July)	65·85	1911	63·61		
1883	64·96	1914	53·92		

* Not available.

† The increase in the percentage of voters is accounted for by voting having been made compulsory by Act No. 3488, passed on 23rd December, 1926.

NUMBER OF ELECTORS IN VICTORIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, ON 30TH JUNE, 1940.

Electoral Province.	Number of Electors on Rolls.								
	Ratepayers' Roll.			General Rolls.			Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Ballaarat	14,827	5,910	20,737	34	16	50	14,861	5,926	20,787
Bendigo	15,337	6,894	22,231	74	77	151	15,411	6,971	22,382
Douita Galla	28,578	10,293	38,871	59	71	130	28,637	10,364	39,001
East Yarra	27,417	11,100	38,517	144	236	380	27,561	11,336	38,897
Gippsland	14,256	4,325	18,581	591	26	617	14,847	4,351	19,198
Higinbotham	26,442	9,384	35,826	53	45	98	26,495	9,429	35,924
Melbourne	23,457	10,140	33,597	44	76	120	23,501	10,216	33,717
Melbourne North	31,390	8,110	39,500	1,347	1,588	2,935	32,737	9,698	42,435
Melbourne West	25,574	8,327	33,901	88	238	326	25,662	8,565	34,227
Monash	28,183	12,299	40,482	72	45	117	28,255	12,344	40,599
Northern	14,494	4,505	18,999	107	131	238	14,601	4,636	19,237
North-Eastern	12,649	4,225	16,874	67	84	151	12,716	4,309	17,025
North-Western	14,205	4,473	18,678	265	192	457	14,470	4,665	19,135
Southern	16,745	7,489	24,234	69	16	85	16,814	7,505	24,319
South-Eastern	16,215	6,809	23,024	24	11	35	16,250	6,820	23,050
South-Western	17,021	5,266	22,287	28	16	44	17,049	5,282	22,331
Western	14,681	4,697	19,378	95	97	192	14,776	4,794	19,570
Grand Total	341,471	124,246	465,717	3,161	2,965	6,126	344,632	127,211	471,843

NUMBER OF ELECTORS IN VICTORIA ON 30TH JUNE, 1940—*continued.*

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, ON 30TH JUNE, 1941.

Electoral District.	Number of Electors on the Joint Rolls.	Electoral District.	Number of Electors on the Joint Rolls.
Albert Park	25,350	Heidelberg	34,222
Allandale	9,655	Kara Kara and Borung ..	9,859
Ballarat	17,548	Kew	31,686
Barwon	13,339	Korong and Eaglehawk ..	10,552
Benalla	10,801	Lowan	12,024
Benambra	9,323	Maryborough and Dayles-	10,763
Bendigo	17,804	ford	
Boroondara	35,741	Melbourne	18,308
Brighton	33,292	Mildura	12,547
Brunswick	27,615	Mornington	14,427
Bulla and Dalhousie ..	9,750	Northcote	25,140
Carlton	20,528	Nunawading	27,345
Castlemaine and Kyneton..	10,625	Oakleigh	35,688
Caulfield	30,451	Ouyen	9,207
Clifton Hill	24,058	Polwarth	11,921
Coburg	30,394	Port Fairy and Glenelg ..	12,264
Collingwood	20,958	Port Melbourne	21,361
Dandenong	35,407	Prahran	28,459
Dundas	12,387	Richmond	24,234
Essendon	27,926	Rodney	11,766
Evelyn	11,986	Stawell and Ararat	11,473
Flemington	23,500	St. Kilda	30,978
Footscray	30,487	Swan Hill	8,672
Geelong	19,398	Toorak	26,339
Gippsland East	7,687	Upper Goulburn	9,718
" North	10,590	" Yarra	16,278
" South	12,371	Walhalla	12,329
" West	11,507	Wangaratta and Ovens ..	11,274
Goulburn Valley	12,464	Waranga	8,738
Grant	11,015	Warrenheip and Grenville..	10,063
Gunbower	10,602	Warrnambool	12,569
Hampden	11,039	Williamstown	24,965
Hawthorn	27,129	Wonthaggi	9,868
		Total	1,177,767