

VICTORIAN YEAR-BOOK,

1910-11,

BY

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P R E F A C E.

THIS is the thirty-first issue of the *Victorian Year-Book*.

The general arrangement adopted in former years has been continued, but it has been necessary to make many alterations in the text owing to changes in conditions. Much fresh matter has been added, and the sections relating to several subjects which were dealt with in recent issues have been entirely remodelled. The matter which formerly appeared in two folding sheets is now contained in a paged supplement. The volume is somewhat larger than that of last year.

The main object of the work is to show the progress made by the State during the year under review, and with this end comparisons are instituted with former years and with other States and countries. An endeavour is made to present such information as will enable investigators to ascertain the results of past legislation, and as will assist legislators, publicists, and others in forming an opinion as to the most suitable methods to be adopted in the future in developing the natural resources of the State, and promoting the social welfare of the people.

The first part deals principally with the past history of the State and its constitutional progress. Its natural features, geology, fauna, and flora are also described. Parts II. to IV., VII., and IX. deal with the wealth and progress of the community as indicated by the growth of population, by increases in bank deposits, in amounts assured with life offices, in volume of trade, &c., and details are given of the revenue and expenditure of the Government, and of municipalities. In Parts V., VI., and VIII. attention is given to matters affecting primarily the daily lives of the individuals of whom the community is composed, rather than the collective interests of the community itself. In these latter portions of the book will be found statistics relating to births, marriages and deaths, education, charitable institutions, crime, and other cognate subjects. In Part X. a detailed account is given of the agricultural and other production of the State, and of its manufactures. The various parts were distributed as soon as completed, the first being issued in June, and the last in November.

The information in all the parts has been brought up to the latest possible date—in many instances to the middle of the year 1911.

Among the new features of the present volume, the following may be specially mentioned:—

A list of outstanding events in Victorian history from the date of its first colonization to the year 1900; a description of the new naval and military defence schemes; a statement of the taxation imposed by the recent State and Federal Land Tax Acts; a number of new tables showing the increase or decrease of crimes of various kinds during the last forty years, the degree of education possessed by prisoners, and the religions professed by them; and a table showing the extent to which the reduction in the death-rate of Melbourne in recent years has been due to a decline in the mortalities from certain diseases.

The information relating to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works which appeared last year in part "Municipal Statistics" has been recast. An investigation was made this year for the first time into the cases of phthisis reported to the Board of Health, and valuable information was thereby obtained in regard to the prevalence of the disease in various areas of the State, the incidence of the attack at different ages, and the probability of recovering from the disease. The results are given in part "Vital Statistics."

A census of the Commonwealth was taken on 2nd April, 1911, but at the date of going to press the only complete results available are the populations of the various States. Approximate populations of the principal cities in the Commonwealth, and of the different portions of Melbourne, are given in part "Population."

An appendix has been added which contains information received after the parts dealing with the subjects referred to therein were sent to press.

The Commonwealth Government has discontinued keeping records of goods passing between the States since September, 1910, and in consequence of this it is unfortunately no longer possible to give the total imports and exports of the State. The oversea imports and exports are recorded as formerly.

The publication includes two maps. The first is an ordinary geographical map; the other has been introduced as a convenient method of showing the live stock, the production of wheat and wool, and the average rainfall in different divisions of the State during the past five years.

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

The figures and other matter contained in each part of the book have been carefully examined and checked. If, however, any error should be detected, I shall be pleased to receive information as to its nature and position.

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Government Statist.

Office of the Government Statist,
Melbourne, 23rd November, 1911.
