

# Victorian Year-Book, 1936-37.

## INTRODUCTION.

### THE HISTORY OF VICTORIA.

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

### 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 it 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 most westerly point is the line of the whole western frontier, which 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 upon the Continent of Australia. During the eighty-one years ended with 1936 the maximum temperature in the shade recorded at the Melbourne Observatory and the Weather Bureau was 111.2 deg. Fahr., on the 14th January, 1862; 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 nineteen days the temperature reaches 90 deg. or over; generally, on about two nights during the year it falls below freezing point. Sultry nights are of rare occurrence. It is only occasionally that a high minimum is recorded. 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 mean atmospheric pressure noted, first at the Observatory 91 feet above the sea level, and later at the Weather Bureau 115 feet above sea level, was during the eighty-one years ended with 1936, 30.013 inches; the average number of days on which rain fell each year was 140, and the average yearly rainfall 25.70 inches. The mean relative humidity of the atmosphere is 65 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, and 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 issue.

## 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, appears 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 the 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; but, 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.

**Rivers** With the exception of the Yarra, on the banks of which the metropolis is situated; the Murray; the Goulburn, which empties itself into the Murray about eight miles to the eastward of Echuca; and the La Trobe and the Mitchell, with, perhaps, a few other of the Gippsland streams, the rivers of Victoria are not navigable. They, however, drain the watershed of large areas of country, and many of the streams are used as feeders to permanent reservoirs for irrigation and water supply purposes. The Murray, which forms the northern boundary of the State, is the largest river in Australia. Its total length is 1,520 miles, and for 1,065 miles it flows along the Victorian border. Several of the rivers in the north-western portion of the State have no outlet, but are gradually lost in the absorbent tertiary flat country through which they pass.

**Lakes.** Victoria contains numerous salt and fresh-water lakes and lagoons; but many of these are nothing more than swamps during dry seasons. Some of them are craters of extinct volcanoes. Lake Corangamite, the largest inland lake in Victoria, covers 90 square miles, and is quite salt, notwithstanding that it receives the flood waters of several fresh-water streams. It has no visible

\* The highest mountain on the Australian Continent is Mount Kosciusko in New South Wales, one peak of which is 7,328 feet high.

outlet. Lake Colac, only a few miles distant from Lake Corangamite, is a beautiful sheet of water,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  square miles in extent, and quite fresh. The Gippsland lakes—Victoria, King, and Reeve—are situated close to the coast, and are separated from the sea by only a narrow belt of sand. Lake Wellington, the largest of the Gippsland lakes, lies to the westward of Lakes Victoria and King, and is united to the first-named by a narrow channel. South-east of Geelong is Lake Connewarre, which is connected with the sea at Point Flinders.

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

### CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT.

**The Present Constitution.** An article containing full information regarding the Present Constitution of Victoria appears in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, pages 9 to 16.

### GOVERNORS OF VICTORIA.

**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 Mac- arthur (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 Jack- son 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

\* Died on this date.